

# THE WORKER

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SECCION EN ESPAÑOL



## Miners Strike Over Shockwaves Aren't

Sunday March 26. The coal pact is ratified. It is a sellout. At a North American Coal Company mine in southern Ohio, the midnight shift arrives. But 12,000 UMWA construction workers who historically sign their contract several days after the miners have not settled. Some are picketing.

The company will pay miners a \$100 bonus to cross the lines on this first day of scheduled work. They do not cross. One says, "Hell, we lost \$5,000 in four months. We ain't crossing these lines for a lousy hundred bucks."

Monday all shifts stay out. Monday midnight is the last of the construction workers' pickets with a tentative contract expected Tuesday. But pickets or no, no-one goes in Tuesday. Wednesday they work, still angry about the sellout.

The company offers them the right to take Monday and Tuesday as "floating holidays." Only two new floating holi-

days had been added by the new contract, bringing the total to four. Most of the men refuse the days. "After this fight, we're not letting them take back the two days before we're even back to work!"

Yes, the contract is ratified, but a contract is not a truce. The battle goes on.

The 110 day miners strike was the most heroic battle of the working class in a long time. They fought the huge steel, oil and power monopolies who make up the Bituminous Coal Operators Association. The miners' defiance of union misleaders and even the federal government set a shockwave through American society. The refrain of the old miners' song, "Which side are you on?" became a national question.

The BCOA went into this contract determined to crush the miners' resistance. Driven by new demands for coal to re-

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## MIDEAST FIGHTING

### Palestinian Raid, Israeli Invasion

### Palestinians Key to Solution, Won't Be Pushed Aside

On March 11, 11 Palestinian commandos launched a daring raid deep into Israel. 34 Israelis and 9 of the Palestinians died, in good part due to the trigger-happy Israeli police. The raid was a desperate act by people thrown out of their land for 30 years. It was a response to the attempts by Israel, Egypt and the US to make a settlement in the Middle East which would leave the Palestinians permanently without a country. It was a clear statement that there can be no peace in the Middle East until Palestinian self-determination is recognized.

On March 15, the cream of the Israeli army, over 5000 troops, the most modern planes, heavy artillery, tanks, rocket-firing ships, etc., all supplied by the US for "defensive use," invaded southern Lebanon. Israeli Prime Minister Menachim Begin said the invasion was launched to "cut off the evil arm of the PLO (Palestine Liberation Organization)." But the Israelis blasted every village and refugee camp in southern

Lebanon and many other places throughout the country. They seized control of hundreds of square miles of Lebanese land. Over a thousand people were killed, only about 200 of them Palestinian liberation fighters, the rest civilians, men, women and children. Among the incidents which showed the hypocrisy of the Israelis crocodile tears about

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## 1,000s Set To March Vs Bakke Case

Washington, D.C.—Thousands of people marching in Washington denouncing racism. Hundreds of cases in the courts contesting alleged discrimination. Newspaper editorials debating what the future holds for minority Americans. Controversy in schools, factories and communities about race. 1963? No, 1978!

On April 15, thousands will march in Washington, D.C. in what is shaping up to be the biggest civil rights march of this decade. They are marching against the Bakke decision because it is the thin edge of the biggest attack on Black and other minority people of the decade.

Some time in the coming weeks the Supreme Court will be handing down a decision in this case. At issue is the legality of affirmative action, minority quotas, and special government programs that, in a limited way, have cut away at the brutal discrimination against minorities. The Bakke Case is the most prominent of the challenges by school administrations, corporations, and the press to these programs.

The Bakke case has also brought forth another opposing wave—the organized force of people of all walks of life and all nationalities to demand: Overturn the Bakke Case; Defend and Expand Minority Admissions.

### THE BAKKE CASE

The case centers around Allan Bakke, an unsuccessful applicant to the University of California Medical School who claims he was discriminated against because he was white. The problem that kept Bakke and hundreds of other ap-

plicants of all nationalities out is that med schools admit too few students, not that 16 out of 100 positions at Davis were reserved for minorities. A dozen other schools also turned Bakke down and many of these admitted white students with lower test scores. Several of the students accepted at Davis were kids of rich alumni who got special placement by the Dean.

In the recent months, the media has been preparing the groundwork and drumming up support for a pro-Bakke decision or a ruling that leaves the question unsettled. They've been raising cries of how it's an issue of "reverse discrimination" or that Blacks are pushing whites out of jobs and schools. It's become a rallying cry for those who want to reverse the gains won during the civil rights movement, the freedom marches, the Black Liberation struggle, and the ghetto rebellions.

But in cities around the country anti-Bakke forces have been in motion. Meetings and conferences have been held in schools and communities. In March, two colleges in San Francisco and Berkeley staged a sit-in and a strike to protest the case. And on numerous campuses students have jammed the administration to supply buses for the upcoming demonstration.

### DEFEND THESE PROGRAMS AND WHAT THEY REPRESENT

Affirmative action itself is a product of the great turmoil and movement among Blacks and other minorities in

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## INSIDE



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LNS/Palestine!  
Training to free Palestine.

## Editorials

### The Sleeping Giant Stirs

For 110 days the coal miners held their own—against the profit-hungry operators, hell bent on crushing their resistance forever—against their own backstabbing union leaders, peddling one sellout contract after another—against the might of the capitalists' government itself, focussed on breaking their strike.

The ruling class was sweating blood. The long strike ate up the coal they had stockpiled and began to threaten their profits. Worse still, they feared, the coal strike would inspire other workers to do likewise. And well they might tremble. As the months went by, working men and women around this country began following the miners' strike more closely. The newspapers, the T.V. and radio commentators, the politicians and other mouthpieces for the rich did their best. The miners were greedy, they said, and putting other workers' livelihoods in jeopardy.

But millions of workers couldn't help feeling a surge of pleasure and of pride as the miners voted down two sellout contracts in a row and defied the government itself to try and force them back to work. Everywhere, people talked of the miners' battle, and when the opportunity existed, contributed money, signed letters of solidarity and voted support resolutions in their unions. Even today, after the miners have gone back to work, with a contract that contains some major takeaways, but determined to keep fighting, people bring up the strike when they are discussing their own problems and struggles.

There is a giant sleeping in this land—the powerful working class which makes up the great majority of the population and produces the great wealth of society. In the surge of solidarity with the miners' strike, we saw the shock waves the giant made when it stirred slightly. This was but a taste of what can be done, of what will happen in the coming years, as the giant awakens to the tasks it faces and to its own strength.

## Introducing the Worker

*The Worker* is the newspaper of the Revolutionary Workers Headquarters. It is published to serve as a weapon in the hands of the working class. From its first issue, the *Worker* has stood with the working people in the battle against the rulers of this country. From its first issue it has set the task of bringing into the battles of the working class an understanding of the nature of the enemy, how to fight them and what the final good of that struggle is. The *Worker* stands with the working class and strives to build today's movement into an all-out offensive against the rule of capital.

The *Worker* tells the truth. It tells the truth because it is partisan to the interests of the working class, the only class in society that has no interest in exploiting others. We have no interest in covering up. We couldn't dream up anything worse than what the exploiters have done.

The *Worker* stands with the people. Our articles, our opinions, our paper all exist to promote the struggle of the working class and all the people oppressed by the capitalist system—here in the U.S. and around the world. In struggles like the miners' strike or the fight against Rizzo in Philly we work to rally support for the cause, expose the actions and nature of the enemy and spread the lessons learned in the fight.

The *Worker* learns from the people because the people are the motive force for changing the world. Would-be saviors have come and gone. Leaders have risen and fallen. The real test of their contributions to the struggle is whether or not their actions represent and advance the interests and aspirations of the people—the interests of fighting all the conditions of slavery and the aspirations not to be slaves at all.

In fighting the enemy we all come to learn their nature more deeply. In this process the *Worker* stands for socialist revolution as the goal of our present day struggle and the only final answer to the abuses and attacks we all face. We are for revolution not as a nice idea or as our private cause, but based on the

needs of the struggle of our class. The need for a revolutionary movement of the working class lies at the base of every struggle we wage and the *Worker* strives to turn this need increasingly into the reality of a working class consciously fighting not to be slaves.

These are the principles, the foundation on which the *Worker* is based. Staying true to these principles is the test as to whether the *Worker* will be a weapon in the hands of more and more workers or just one more publication that professes in word to stand with the people, but in fact stands over the people.

#### SPLIT IN THE RCP

In the past the *Worker* followed the political position of the Revolutionary Communist Party (RCP). In the recent period problems arose in the RCP because of the difficulty of combining the present workers movement with the movement for revolution. This has caused a major split. The RCP, in the face of the tasks of organizing in this period, has consolidated a position that amounts to sounding a retreat from standing with the struggle of the working people and on that basis working to lead it. To continue on in this task (which means, among other things, keeping true to the principles of the *Worker*) 40% of the members of the RCP have refused to retreat and instead formed the Revolutionary Workers Headquarters.

For 5 years the *Worker* newspapers for different areas of the country (and the papers that existed before them) took on the task of producing a paper that was a weapon in the struggle. In the beginning of this period, the *Workers* existed outside of the workers' movement, but they took up the battles that were going on: the war in Vietnam, the struggle against discrimination and the growing resistance to the attacks that were coming down on the job. As the crisis developed and more and more people were thrown into struggle, the *Workers* continued to stand

## Zionism Roadblock to Peace

Once again there is war. Once again the diplomats' fine talk of peace leads only to the sound of shot and shell and to death. It seems the more they talk of peace and the universal hatred of war, the closer a war is.

Since Israel was created in a war, war has never been far away in the Middle East: 1947-8, 1956, 1967, 1973, 1978. And always Israel expands and there are more Arab refugees.

Israeli Prime Minister Menachim Begin claims that Israel represents the Jewish people fighting for existence, although the vast majority of Jews are not in Israel. He always uses the history of anti-Semitism and especially the Nazi murder of 6 million Jews during World War 2, to justify Israel's latest attack on the Arabs.

In fact it is the Palestinians who are fighting for the right to self-determination and for their very existence as a people. It is the Zionist leaders of Israel who are trying to wipe a people out of existence. It is the Zionists who have forced 2 million Palestinians into refugee camps and made the rest second class citizens in their own land. It is the Zionists who speak of the need for "living room" and of a "Greater Israel." It is the Zionists who encourage Jews to have children and discourage Arabs. It is Zionist Israel which has only religious marriages, so that it is almost impossible for Jews and Arabs to marry.

Above all it is the Zionists who say that Jews can't live with other people but must be separated in their own country. This is the very basis of Zionism. It is the flip side of anti-Semitism.

This garbage just serves to divide people by race, by nationality, by religion. The only ones helped by this are the capitalists—the few rich who must divide the poor majority in order to rule us. Like anti-Semitism, Zionism can and must be defeated by the unity of the workers and oppressed people of the world.

This is also true for the Middle East. Zionism is not in the interest of the workers and people of Israel. Israelis face the highest taxes in the world, 40% inflation a year, and a constantly declining standard of living. At the beginning of this month, El Al, the Israeli national airline, locked out its workers in an attempt to destroy their union. And most important, the Israelis face having to continually fight wars for the interests of the Zionist leaders and the US.

Zionism preaches that the common bond of Jewish ancestry gives everyone in Israel an overriding common interest. Every crisis, every war Israel's rulers plunge into helps put the lie to this fairy tale. The struggles of Israeli workers and the demonstrations against Begin show that there are growing numbers there who are seeing this.

The situation in the Middle East is a complex one and will not be easily resolved. In the long run, the only real solution lies in Jews and Arabs uniting to defeat Zionism and the two imperialist superpowers, the U.S. and the USSR whose meddling only fuels conflicts there. Together Jews and Arabs can defeat all who would divide and exploit them, and set up a democratic, non-religious state with equal rights for all.

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with these battles, expose the nature of the bloodsuckers who were running this system and increasingly played a role in organizing the working class to fight in its own interests.

While the motion was forward, the speed was not rapid enough for some of the leaders of the RCP. They increasingly saw only one side of the motion. To them the working class was not fighting enough for revolution, its struggle was at a low level, and not much could be done until the times changed to like they were back in the late '60's.

Instead of wishing for the old days and making comparisons to justify retreat from the tasks that present themselves, the role of revolutionaries is to stand at all times with the struggle and fight to push it forward. But this is not

so according to the present leaders of the RCP, who see as their historic mission standing back from the fight and correcting people's "backward" ideas. This has come out clearly in the recent history of the RCP where it has given up on figuring out how to fight the capitalists, the class enemy, by uniting people behind a political line.

Now they take the struggle for granted and devote their main efforts to criticizing people, in and out of the RCP, for their "non-RCP" ideas. For example, in the recent miners' strike, this line of thinking led the RCP members away from the main question at hand: mobilizing the masses inside and outside the union structure to beat back sellouts and government attacks. Instead they focused on running

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# SHOWDOWN IN PHILLY

## Black Commune Prepares for Police Assault

**Philadelphia**—At 4 am on March 16, one thousand police acting under orders of Mayor Frank Rizzo moved into a four block area in West Philadelphia's Powelton Village. The blockade to "starve out" the radical commune called MOVE was on. With a court order, the cops moved in through the night, armed to the teeth with shotguns, sniper rifles, machine guns, armoured trucks, tanks, and even water cannons. It was as if this small Black neighborhood was overrun by Nazi stormtroopers.

By 6 am the barricades were up—eight foot high fences blocking off the MOVE building from the street. And fifteen supporters standing in front of MOVE's three story house, a house that looked like all the rest in the area, were hauled off to jail. One got thirty days for "disobeying the blockade order." Fifty riot-equipped cops marched in front of the house, guns cocked, clubs out, and riot-helmet visors down. "It looked like the Gestapo, all that was missing was the goose-step," said one of the members of Concerned Citizens to Insure Justice for MOVE.

That evening, plainclothes police moved in to try and provoke a shoot-out. They started throwing cherry bombs, bricks, and whatever else they could find into the MOVE house. Nothing happened, but it became clear that the blockade around the neighborhood is not a starvation blockade but rather an *annihilation* blockade.

By the end of March, the police at the scene were trimmed down to 250, with busloads on full-time standby at a barracks a few blocks away in what used to be Philadelphia General Hospital. PGH was the only city hospital in Philly until one year ago, when Rizzo and city officials closed it for good. That was a different, but equally vicious, assault on the people. Then, Rizzo said there was no money for a hospital. Now, they've managed to find enough millions for hundreds of cops around the clock, barricades, and the rest, waiting for Rizzo's order to shoot to kill. From a place to save lives, to the staging ground for mass murder—so goes the history of Philadelphia's only public hospital un-



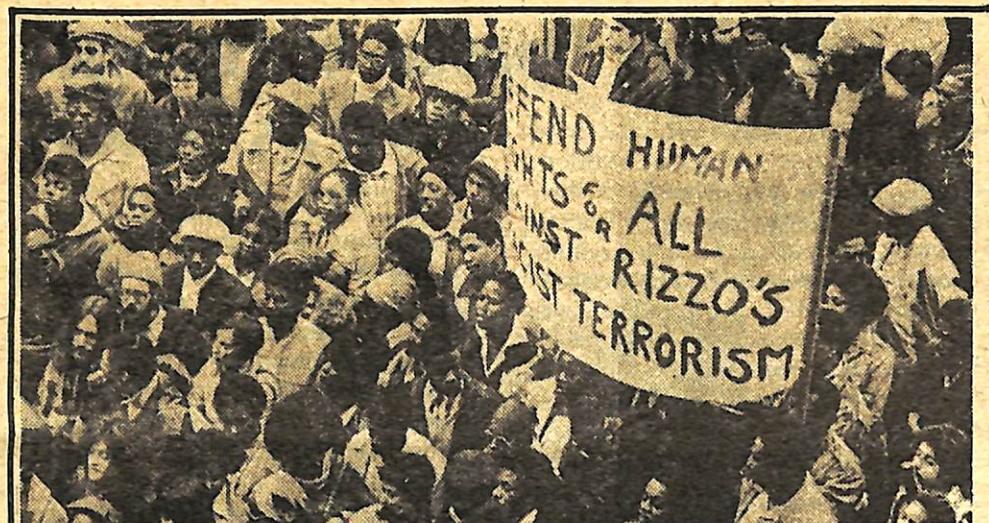
Rizzo is intent on starving or shooting these people out of their home.

der the rule of big business' Frank Rizzo.

The Powelton area is now under almost martial law. Police death squads are positioned all over neighborhood porches, and have taken over four homes for their area headquarters. To get in or out of the immediate area, local community residents have to show ID to sentries from "Philly's Finest." Then the people who live in this mostly Black neighborhood are escorted directly to their door by the cops. Anyone who wants a visitor must turn his or her name in to the police a day ahead! Shades of South Africa!

### WHY MOVE IS UNDER ATTACK

What has MOVE done to arouse the wrath of Frank Rizzo? First, they're mostly Black. Second, they've been out-



LATE FLASH: On April 4, 1200 marched against the attacks on MOVE and blockaded City Hall with their bodies. They chanted "Hey, Rizzo, ain't you heard, Philly ain't Johannesburg."

spoken critics of Rizzo and the whole system that's crushing the people. They've denounced abuses like police beatings and murders, Rizzo's racism, the rotten school system, oppression of Black and Puerto Rican communities, and the "justice" system that railroads thousands into a life of crime. As one MOVE speaker put it in early March, they are calling on people to "rebel against a corrupt, hypocritical and inhumane system—a system based on the exploitation and oppression of the many for the benefit of the few." In the six years MOVE has been around, they have been constant targets of government harassment, including over 600 arrests and numerous police beatings.

In March of 1977, a pregnant member of MOVE was kicked in the stomach by a cop. Two days later, her baby was born dead. A few weeks later, one of MOVE's infant children was murdered by cops when they attacked some members outside their house.

On May 20, 1977, 250 police attempted to storm MOVE's home and do away with them forever. However, they were met by over a dozen MOVE members armed for self-defence. The cops were forced to pull out amidst the cheers of 1500 people who had gathered to see that MOVE was not harmed. The next day, 18 warrants were issued against MOVE for inciting a riot, possession of illegal weapons and other charges. In a word, they were charged for standing up and beating back Rizzo's regime.

Other of MOVE's beliefs have led to contradictions with some of their neighbors—especially their retreat from society into a communal lifestyle and their rejection of modern technology and style of living. This provided a target for Rizzo and the media to exploit, es-

pecially after 800 people signed a petition in early 1977. Circulated by the "Powelton Human Rights Committee" (PHRC), the petition called on Rizzo to "help because of MOVE's disruption." This was just the excuse Rizzo needed to launch his vicious crusade to exterminate MOVE early last year.

### MASS SUPPORT BUILDS FOR MOVE

What little support Rizzo began with has been quickly fading away. The PHRC petition, his "mandate from the people," is beginning to look shabby. Many who signed it now want the barricades down and the police out of their community. They want to negotiate with MOVE themselves.

Since the beginning, people from all over Philly have been supporting MOVE and opposing Rizzo in many ways. From the day the barricade plans were announced to the day they were finally up, a constant parade of people brought food, clothing, bottled water and money to MOVE. In that short time, they got enough supplies to last for a year. One week before the barricades went up 300 came to a meeting called by Black community leaders to unite around a program to fight against Rizzo. Since the barricades went up, there have been weekly public meetings with up to 500. In spite of heavy police intimidation, there have been three major demonstrations. One demonstration of 200 people was threatened by 500 armed police. The barricades were changed, too—from snow fences to eight foot high steel sheets!

Throughout Philadelphia, hatred for Frank Rizzo runs deep. Especially in

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## Rizzo Calls for White Racist Movement NOMINATES SELF AS LEADER

**Philadelphia**—Mayor Frank Rizzo stunned this city when he announced he wouldn't attempt to run for a third term in office. He topped this by declaring he planned to launch a nationwide white racist movement aimed at stripping Blacks and other minorities of any gains they have won in recent years. The uproar that followed has been so great that Rizzo has had to back off a little recently.

Already infamous for his racism, Rizzo followed up his original pronouncement with a week of comments and interviews which let it all hang out in an open bid to regain his crumbling political base. The opening shot came in a speech to residents of the Whitman Park area of South Philly where a 10 year controversy over a proposed partially Black low-income housing project came to a head when the project got the go-ahead from the U.S. Supreme Court.

His calls for whites to "join hands" against Blacks came on top of Rizzo's blockade of a 4-block area around a Black radical commune complete with up to 1,000 riot equipped police and steel fencing. (See article this page.)

Rizzo said whites should "ALL STICK TOGETHER." He vowed to fight against any affirmative action hiring programs for minorities, in a city

where Black unemployment is 18%. He attacked minority admissions to colleges.

"Every day I'm besieged by (white) parents who come to me—'Mayor, help me get my son in a law school...' I can't help them. I want to help them. But in almost every class in medical school and law school, 15 to 20% are minority."

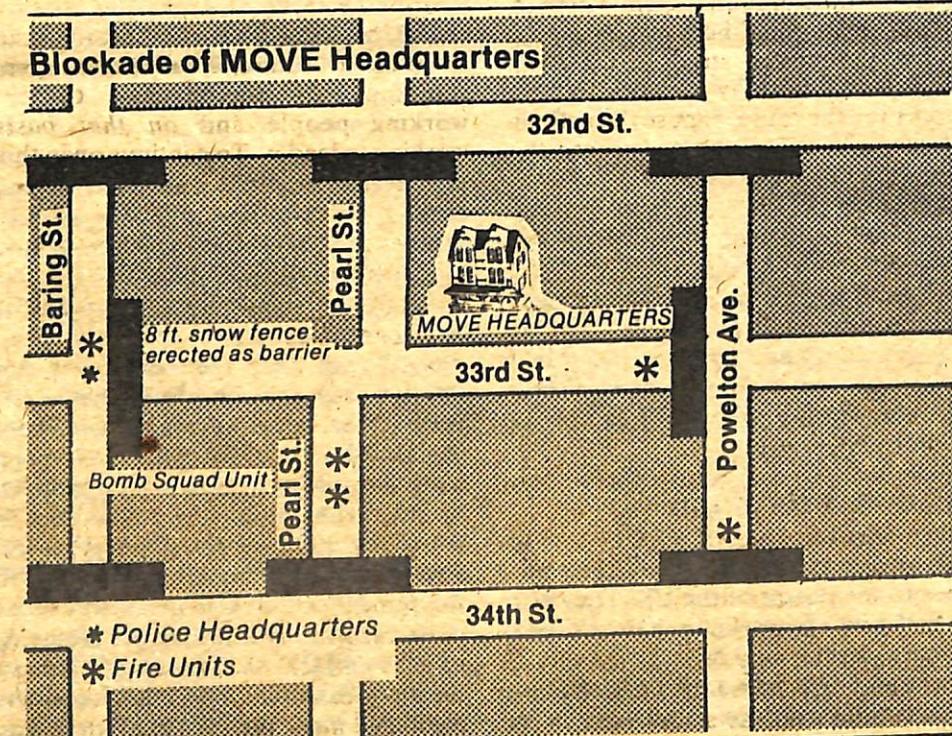
This is a racist lie. In Philadelphia, which is 38% Black, Blacks are less than 10% of all law students. (The comment was doubly ironic since a close political ally of Rizzo's, Buddy Cianfrani, recently entered a guilty plea for over 100 charges of corruption, including accepting bribes for getting sons of the wealthy into professional schools!)

Rizzo's ravings brought an immediate uproar from people, especially minorities, throughout the City. Public outrage jolted Black members of the City Council into action, calling for his impeachment.

### SAME OLD RIZZO

Rizzo's speeches, while outrageous and vicious, were not too much different from what he has been saying and doing for years. His police are infamous for harassing, brutalizing and murdering

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# TOUGH GOING FOR N.Y.C. TRANSIT CONTRACT

## Workers Oppose 'Pacesetter' Pact As Sellout

New York—On March 31, the head of the Transport Workers Union, Mathew Guinan and Harold Fisher, head of the Metropolitan Transit Authority, announced that a last minute agreement had been reached between the TWU and the MTA. The contract was the subject of front page headlines every day for two weeks and the new Mayor of NYC, Ed Koch, even went as far as announcing contingency plans for a possible strike. An electric atmosphere

### TAX COURT SHAFTS WORKERS

Washington, D.C.—With the New York City workers contract negotiations shaping up as a big battle, the US Tax Court here recently handed city officials an extra weapon to use against the city workers. The Tax Court ruled in the case of Carol Tucker, a Harrison NY schoolteacher who took part in a hard fought 21 day walkout in 1973. The notorious Taylor Law forbids strikes by public employees in New York State. It carries with it a penalty of two days pay withheld for every day on the picket line. In other words, not only are the workers fined for the time they are out on strike but for every day the strike lasts they then have to work one day free!

Now the Tax Court has ruled that she has to pay taxes on the \$1509 in pay that she never got because it was withheld under the Taylor Law. The Tax Court ruling, which can be used in other states with similar laws, is capitalist justice in a nutshell—ban strikes and if workers stand up and fight for what they need anyway, fine them, tax them, make them pay in every way possible.

had been built around the city by daily articles about the "horrors" of living in the city during the 1966 twelve day strike, and Mayor Koch was busy daily announcing that all city workers must get to work, strike or no strike. At work, on street corners, everywhere, people were talking about a possible strike. At midnight, contract expiration time, the clock was stopped till 4:30 a.m. when a settlement was finally announced. Apparently during the talks everybody got real friendly, so friendly that Harold Fisher announced that He and Mat Guinan had built a lasting friendship during the negotiations.

This lasting friendship was largely reflected in the new sell-out contract which Guinan is going to try to push through the union rank and file. For weeks before the contract, Guinan talked real tough, putting out the line, "No Contract, No Work." But what he really came up with was not much contract and a lot more work. The workers will get a 6% raise in pay stretched out over a two year period of time, a \$250 bonus which he hopes will sell the rank and file on the agreement and a 1.3% ceiling on COLA which is hardly going to make a dent in the 6% a year inflation rate.

Before the contract, Guinan was talking about how it would take a 17.6% raise in pay just to match spending power of 4 years ago. By any math, 6% is a long way from 17.6%, let alone what inflation will eat up over the next two years. And 11.6% wasn't all that was lost in the negotiations. Other TWU



Transit workers knew where they stood when the proposed contract was announced.

demands disappeared, too: increased COLA for retired workers living on set pensions, improved employer contributions to health and welfare benefits to keep up with inflation, improvement of holidays and sick days, and COLA that was agreed to in the last sell out contract two years ago but was taken away by the Emergency Financial Control Board after ratification. None of these things are in the contract.

Not only were the original demands not even mentioned in the contract, but there was an agreement made to hire 200 part time workers to man the token booths. Workers at Jamaica Inspection Yard and other places see this as an opening to attack many of the jobs in the union, especially bus drivers. During

the past three years, the number of workers running the transit system has shrunk dramatically due to layoffs and attrition. Now, with part time workers being hired to replace what were full time jobs, the city is going to be able to use this as a wedge to cut back and destroy many city union jobs.

#### CONTRACT STINKS

While Guinan, Koch, Fisher and others on the negotiating team have united around the contract, it is increasingly clear that TWU rank and file think it stinks. Momentum has been building in all the yards around the city, both against the city's outrageous attempts to

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## POST OFFICE

"We postal workers at the New York Bulk and Foreign Mail Center stand with the coal miners and we stand opposed to government strike breaking. In the next few months our own contract will be up. Already we hear the employer's cries to tighten our belts and sacrifice our jobs and working conditions. We also have fought for the right to strike and memories of Federal troops breaking the '70 PO strike are still sharp. Our stand will be that of the miners—we must fight for what we need."

The above short quote from an ad put in the *Jersey Journal*, in Jersey City, New Jersey, by rank and file postal workers is a small example of the effect of the miners strike on postal workers, whose contract expires July 20.

The miners' refusal to be crushed struck a responsive chord among postal workers everywhere. Even the *Wall Street Journal*, in its March 20 issue, took nervous notice of this:

**AFTER COAL, A DELUGE?** Postal officials fear mailmen will get ideas.

A costly settlement of the coal strike could exacerbate the already tricky task facing management bargainers in the postal labor talks, which begin about April 20. They worry that the 37% increase over three years in wages and benefits that coal bargainers have kicked around will encourage the postal union negotiators to think big.

But non-wage issues could also derail the talks. Leaders of the four postal unions, which represent 560,000 Postal Service workers, are talking tough. They're bitterly unhappy with management over closings of small post offices, transfers of employees and other moves they see as aimed at thinning employe ranks to cut costs. A strike, though,

it would be illegal, is possible.

Union presidential elections occurring near contract-expiration time could turn the talks into a "crap game," a union man warns.

What the WSJ blandly describes as issues in the negotiations are life and death matters to P.O. workers. In recent years, the Postal Service has gotten rid of 70,000 workers and has plans to dump thousands more.

There is a lot of bickering over the fate of the whole postal service among various capitalists and politicians. The Postal Service wants to go to 5 day mail delivery instead of 6, which will mean speed-up and fewer workers. Some politicians want to save 6 day service and instead cut the subsidy on parcel post and let the private United Parcel Service pick up more of it. There is a widespread Congressional sentiment for some form of postal reorganization bill to replace the semi-private Postal Service established at the start of this decade.

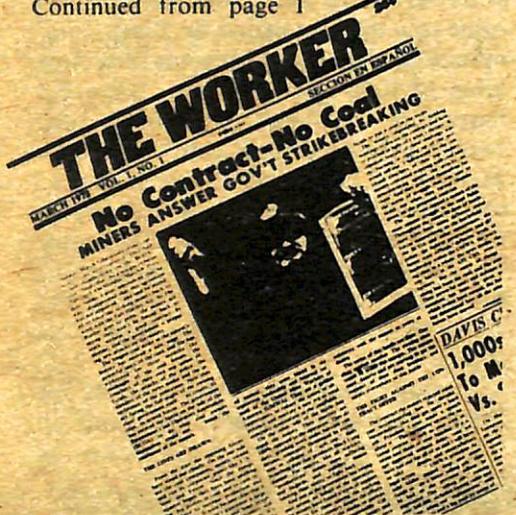
The main thing about these squabbles is that every side sees postal workers as sacrificial lambs. All agree that the Postal Service must "get tough" with workers in the negotiations which started April 1.

This means postal workers face the threat of more automation, speed-up, forced overtime and harassment. Taking a few tricks from their UPS rivals, the Postal Service is using flexible workers, especially in the bulk mail centers, to cut the work force. "Flexies" are part timers who are not covered by the contract and have no rights, so management

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## Introducing

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around trying to get people to join a small rank and file committee they were backing.

The task of the *Worker* is to stand with the people and build the battles that they are in. The RCP is bringing out papers they claim are "the Workers" but don't do this at all. These "new Workers" preach at the people from the sidelines. In doing this they now join a whole host of other preachers who enter the struggle only to try and suckerbait people to their ideas.

### THE QUESTION OF CHINA

The RCP has not confined their sermons to the people of the US. They also are hell-bent on preaching to the Chinese people as well.

In the RCP the present leadership made the key battle of their retreat over the question of the situation in China.

To them the present leadership in China and the whole direction of the country is no good because a small gang of people (named the Gang of 4 by the great leader of the Chinese people and the international working class, Mao Tsetung) got locked up when they tried to take over the country. This Gang of 4 was nothing but a bunch of self-righteous, do-nothing preachers whose every action was based on advancing their own position and the position of their small band of followers.

In harmony with their position in the US, the RCP supports these people in China, who professed to see only difficulties and the danger of setbacks in taking up the necessary tasks of building a socialist society.

The masses of people in China put the Gang down because the people were not afraid of becoming counter-revolutionaries by getting their hands dirty in the job at hand. In the same way the people in the US will not be turned around, will not stop fighting, because there is less of a mass movement now than there was in, say, 1968.

Today the struggle still outstrips the level of organization. Today the main thing is not that the people are not fighting, but that the fight that exists needs to be better organized and more consciously led. This will not happen from the sidelines, this will not happen by just being around, ready to chip in with a thought here and a thought there. Progress will be made by being true to the principles that this paper was based on for years—by rejecting the preaching of the RCP, by learning from its negative example, but most of all by standing with the working class and fighting to promote its interests.

# STAND UP, FIGHT TOGETHER, MARCH ON MAY DAY



## Fight—Don't Starve

1978. It's the year of the take aways. The cut backs. The owners and rulers are demanding more, telling us to choose between cuts or worse. The better days that were promised from our sacrifices have never come to be. Instead, we keep getting cuts and worse.

1978. The coal miners told the bosses where to shove those take aways. For over 100 days the miners struck back. Against decreased medical benefits in the most dangerous industry. Against lower pensions. Against big attacks on their right to strike. They stood up against the treadmill that's carrying everybody down. What they did was right, and we have to get organized to do more of the same.

Organizing and marching on May Day 1978 can build on the example of the resistance of the coal miners. Every worker has a tale to tell about how the owners and rulers won't solve the problems that their system has caused. How conditions are getting worse. How discrimination against Blacks and Latins and other minorities is on the rise. How there are no jobs and the government is cutting back on unemployment benefits. How contract battles today are more a fight against being set back than a chance to move ahead. How they talk about peace but all you see are moves toward war.

These are the reasons that so many workers got behind the miners strike. They stood up and fought and sent out a message that working people wanted to hear. On May Day 1978, let's put out the same message, and the promises and demands of the rich be damned. This is the way we have to go. To Hell With The Rich And Their Crisis—Learn From The Miners.

## Workers and Oppressed People Unite

**JOB OR INCOME • STOP ALL ATTACKS ON WORKING CONDITIONS AND LIVING STANDARDS • FIGHT DISCRIMINATION—SMASH BAKKE—FIGHT DEPORTATIONS • DEFEND THE RIGHT TO STRIKE • U.S. OUT OF SOUTHERN AFRICA—U.S.S.R. HANDS OFF • DOWN WITH THE SUPERPOWERS ARMS RACE—WE WON'T FIGHT ANOTHER RICH MAN'S WAR • END CUTBACKS IN SOCIAL SERVICES.**

## United May Day Committee—1978

Partial list of sponsors: National United Workers Organization, Unemployed Workers Organizing Committee, Comite de Obreros Latinoamericanos, Vietnam Veterans Against The War, Revolutionary Workers Headquarters, Revolutionary Student Brigade.

Next month, workers in many parts of the country will gather to celebrate May Day, the International Workers Day. These marches and rallies will be an organized answer by working people to the many abuses they face. May Day will be a time to pull together fighters. It comes in a time of many struggles. Taking on speedup in a hundred different shops. Fighting rents going up and the roof falling down. NYC municipal workers going against "give back" contracts. And 160,000 miners standing up on strike and sending shock waves throughout the whole country. May Day is a time to get more organized, more ready to go back to the many battles and join with every other angry working man and woman to fight back stronger. The May Day—1978 events will be celebrations of the pride, the determination and the aspirations of the working class of people who make this and every other country run.

### MAY DAY STANDS FOR FREEDOM.

For over 90 years, May Day has stood for building the biggest battles that the working class is up against, and for their aspirations for a better future. May Day came out of workers under attack, having to work for 12 or 16 hours a day. May Day meant fighting back.

It means that today. Working people are under attack. We are fed up with being crushed down by the bosses, by the rotten landlords, by the police, by the politicians. May Day—1978 speaks to a better future just like May Day 1886 did. "We have been beasts of burden. We shall be men." That's right. Freedom. That's what May Day is fighting for.

No more discrimination against people because they are Blacks or Latins. No more having our sons sent to war to kill some other worker's son or be killed. No more high unemployment when there is so damn much to do and so many people ready to do it. And no more slaving your life away just to make some boss richer and get nothing in return but the chance to send your children to slave after you. That's what May Day is talking about.

### MAY DAY—1978. RIGHT ON TIME.

When the tradition of marching on May Day was lost here in this country, it meant more than losing a big parade. May Day meant taking the offensive against the rich and powerful. That's what working people need, right now. The owning class is sure as hell on the offensive against us. We have had enough of giving ground, and of being told to give back, give up and give away by every fast talking leader who would rather join with the owners and rulers than fight them.

We need what May Day stands for. Has there been any real recovery? No. See page 6

# May Day, A Proud History

On May 1, 1886, the streets of Chicago were burning with excitement. Workers were gathered from all over the city from every trade. Poles, Russians, Finns, Germans were joined by thousands of native born workers. They joined arms and marched together in the common cause of all...the 8 hour day.

Forty thousand workers downed their tools and probably twice that many demonstrated in the parade. Throughout the country, 300,000 workers struck for a shorter work day. Twenty-five thousand marched in New York, and 11,000 in Detroit.

It was the culmination of a movement that had been building for decades. The history books don't tell us much about this tremendous struggle or how the wonders and riches of U.S. society were built by men, women and children laboring 12 or 16 hours a day, six and seven days a week, in the factories, mines and fields.

Many never saw daylight. It is not surprising that workers saw more in the struggle for the eight hour day than just a shorter work day. It became a major way to strike back at the capitalists, a chance to boldly proclaim—"We have been beasts of burden. We shall be men."

The nationwide strike in 1886 was extremely successful. 185,000 workers won the 8 hour day with no loss in pay. Hours were cut for at least 200,000 more. In 1889 workers from all over the world gathered in Paris to form the Second International Workingman's Association. In honor of the heroic battle in the U.S., they decided to proclaim May 1st as International Workers Day.

Year after year May Day demonstrations and strikes grew in size, militance and revolutionary character throughout the world. It became the day that workers of all lands rallied their forces as one army under one flag, to put forward their common demands. May Day became the day when workers took stock of their struggle—where the working class stood in the ongoing battle to free themselves from the chains of exploitation and oppression.

In the 1930's when the capitalists' system was plunged into its worst depression, the consciousness and militance of the working people developed to new heights in confronting

the new miseries and suffering. Literally hundreds of thousands of workers marched on May Day in cities across the country, together with millions more around the world. May Day in those years spoke directly to the biggest problems—unemployment, discrimination, the threat of war and moves of the fascists against Spain and China. And May Day was a time to say that working people would defend the gains they had won, including defending the first worker's state, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

Following World War 2, whole new sections of the globe were liberated from the yoke of capitalist control. In China one quarter of the world's population celebrated May Day as a day of triumph and solidarity with those still enslaved.

In the 1950's the high tide of struggle of the U.S. working class ebbed as the

U.S.'s role as top dog in the imperialist world was solidified and as the U.S. ruling class, aided by the traitors at the top of the unions, launched a full scale attack on the working class on every front. And in the Soviet Union, working class rule was snuffed out by the seizure of power by a new handful of exploiters led by Khrushchev. May Day in Red Square was no longer a celebration of workers' victory, but a military show of missiles and tanks put on by a growing imperialist power. In the U.S., the old Communist Party was also betrayed by people who threw in their lot with the capitalist, under the guise of "reforming" imperialism. They had no use for May Day. The tradition of May Day almost totally disappeared in the U.S. as a whole generation of workers were kept in the dark about the militant and revolutionary history of the working

class.

But the struggle of the working class did not disappear. Neither did the oppression and the resistance of Blacks and other nationally oppressed people. In the '60s a wave of militancy against the U.S. imperialists and their war in Vietnam rocked the country. And out of all these struggles new organization and revolutionary leadership for the class struggle developed.

The tradition of May Day as a celebration and as a fighting day of the working class was revived in the 1970s. Once more workers in the U.S. of all nationalities and ages are coming together as one army, unfurling their banner upon which has been emblazoned their demands and slogans to demonstrate their deep hope for a better future, a life free of exploitation, and their determination to fight for it.



IN THE DEPTHS OF THE GREAT DEPRESSION, MILLIONS MARCHED ON MAY DAY, THEIR ACTIONS PROUDLY PROCLAIMING THE STAND OF THE WORKING CLASS, THEN AS NOW: "TO HELL WITH THE RICH MAN'S CRISIS!"

Continued from page 5

Has unemployment been solved? No. Is discrimination being wiped out? No. Can we make ends meet? Hardly. Are conditions at work getting any better? Hell no. Are the cities getting fixed up? There is no question about which way things are going. The wrong way. Downhill for working people.

May Day is the time to stand up. If you are fed up with what the owners and rulers are handing out, then May Day is for you. If you think things have to change, and want working people to get together and be out there fighting to

change things for the better, May Day is for you. And the hell with what the bosses think about it.

What have the owners and rulers done, anyway? Make things worse. For the unemployed, they cut back benefits. For Blacks, they cut back on the gains of the 1960's. For those of us in the big cities, they cut back on everything and only give aid if it goes to pay off the banks. And for the miners, the government answer to them standing up was to throw everything they could, including Taft-Hartley, to try and push them back down. There is no doubt

which side of things all of them are on. They don't have any solutions to offer, just more problems.

They tell us we have to accept things or things will get worse. Accept them or not, things keep getting worse. So why should we accept them? Every time working people strain to gain a little ground, they come with their mouths running telling us to stop, and then scoop up the gain and more with a damn steamshovel. And every time they promise that it is the last time we will have to sacrifice. But with the rich and powerful, there never is a last time.

No matter how much of a mess they make, every time anybody stands up and complains and fights they scream bloody murder. They talk about how if you are against them, you must be some kind of radical or a Communist. Especially on May Day, because May Day doesn't hide who is to blame for all the problems and abuses—the capitalists and their way of life.

Let them cry about how this is the best the world has to offer, that we workers are lost without them running things and could never figure out anything to replace them. May Day says something different. It starts with one simple fact—Workers And Bosses Have Nothing In Common. Based on this, workers can and will decide things for

themselves, both how to fight today and what we want for tomorrow. We wouldn't let the boss in on a meeting to plan a strike. We sure as hell can't let all the bosses in when we talk about what all the workers are going to do about this whole damn mess. And you can be sure that there will be no room in any decent future for any exploiters standing over the people.

## ALL OUT FOR MAY DAY

May Day Is The Workers Day. That means that it goes right up against the bosses. The message of May Day is the opposite of what they put out. The demands of May Day are the battles we are waging against them. The strength of May Day is workers getting together to fight for their interests—right now and in the future. It is a time to say no more getting crushed down. It is a time to say to hell with the choice of bad or worse. It sounds lousy from the bosses, and lousier when the union leaders parrot it. Give up a little or give up a lot. That's their way, not ours.

May Day means we workers will be stronger, more determined and clearer on where things are going. That's what a powerful celebration will do. May Day—1978. Stand Up, Fight Together and March Together!

## May Day Plans Underway

**United May Day Committees in different cities are going full speed ahead to organize celebrations of International Workers Day.**

### EAST COAST

Workers from Boston to Washington will march and rally in New York City on Saturday, May 6. For information call N.Y. 212-564-5390 or Baltimore 301-563-1319.

### MIDWEST

The Midwest march and Rally is being held in Milwaukee on Saturday, April 29. There will be a dinner in Chicago the following evening for those who can not go to the march. For information call 312-651-1583 in Chicago or 414-445-5618 in Milwaukee.

# Moro Kidnap Spotlights Italian Crisis Phoney Communists Out For Piece of Action

Italy's Red Brigades shot into headlines around the world as they kidnapped Aldo Moro, one of Italy's leading politicians. As *The Worker* goes to Press two weeks later, Moro is still in the hands of this young terrorist group. Despite the largest search in Italian history. Despite the searching of over 50,000 homes in Rome alone. Despite police roadblocks everywhere. And despite the aid of the Mafia, who have publicly pledged to help find the kidnappers since all the police activity is hurting business.

Aldo Moro, who had served previously as Prime Minister, was about to become President, a less important but still prestigious post. He had just put an end to another of Italy's frequent governmental crises, as he persuaded the Italian Communist Party (PCI) to back the new Christian Democrat cabinet. Aldo Moro is widely recognized as being crucial behind the scenes, because of his contributions to keeping the Christian Democrats in power and the PCI together in governing Italy. And now he is in the hands of the Red Brigades, who are conducting a "people's trial" of Moro which is expected to give them many im-

portant state secrets.

Aldo Moro saw the difficulties his party was having in ruling, as the government sought to push the burden of the severe political and economic crisis of Italy's ruling class onto the backs of the Italian people. So he took the lead in permitting the "Eurocommunists" to play a larger role in the government in exchange for their support of the government. While posing as saviors of the workers, the leaders of the PCI have been impatiently demanding a bigger piece of the action in return for their role of keeping the Italian working class tried to the capitalist political system.

# ANGRY FARMERS TARGET GOV'T "I never thought I'd be doing this."

"I never thought I'd be doing this," said a Texas farmer opening his arms to encompass the thousands of farm owners who jammed the streets of the nation's capital in mid-March. The 82 goats they cut loose at the Capitol building made it clear they refused to be scape-goats in the profit crisis over food production.

On March 15 they poured into Washington, D.C. from all over the country, mobilized by the American Agricultural Movement, a loose-knit group of rebellious farmers. One Missouri farmer there said, "We aren't begging. We aren't asking for a handout. We want what we work for and we're going to get it."

The next day 50 farmers barged into the Department of Agriculture and demanded to see Agriculture Secretary Bergland, only to find he had been "removed for his own safety." So they sat in overnight until he agreed to meet with them and hear their demands. The farmers said that if their peaceful demonstrations were ignored, they'd have to do whatever was necessary to make their demands known.

## THE DEMAND FOR PARITY

Farmers are asking for "100% Par-

ity." They want an income after upkeep expenses that is enough to live on. The figure they're going for is \$15,000 a year—a far cry from their current average of \$5,300 annually.

At a Washington, D.C. demonstration last December, 700 farmers vowed to strike if the government didn't help them. They said they'd have a plowing contest in Carter's front yard if they didn't get parity.

## FARMERS SINKING IN AMBER WAVES OF GRAIN

America's small farmers are being driven off the land as large corporations take over all aspects of the food industry—the biggest industry in the country. Farms are being eliminated or merged at a rate of about 2000 a week and the farm population has dropped almost 50% in the last 15 years.

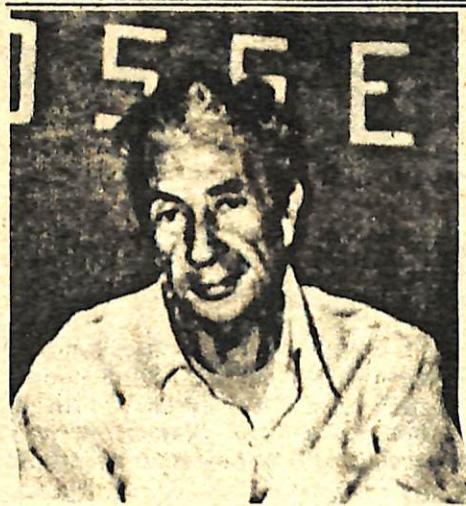
It costs farmers more to produce their goods than to buy them. Prices paid by farmers are up 23% while prices paid to farmers are down 6-10%. The average farmer has \$250,000 sunk into his farm in equipment and implements and is constantly borrowing more to compete with the mechanization of the huge farms owned by big business and banks.

Supermarket prices aren't down. So

The kidnapping of this leading capitalist has stung the rulers of Italy. They are all crying for more repression like the death penalty and forced exile. And those who are out to reach the top of the capitalist political heap, like PCI Chief Berlinguer are coming out as the strongest law and order supporters. The PCI has been calling for stronger implementation of the repressive laws, better management of the police (who they now call "our comrades"), and no more tolerance for any of the revolutionary left. The PCI's Berlinguer has been shouting "Burn the earth around the subversive elements, there is no more urgent task than that."

## WIDESPREAD DISCONTENT

But the earth around the Red Brigades cannot be burned so easily. They draw off the discontent that is widespread among most Italians at the way things are going. This is especially true among the young and the unemployed. The rich man's system offers them no future in Italy today. There are officially two million unemployed, half of them under 19. And they are joined by the thousands of part-time workers who can't find full



The ruling class can't find him.

time jobs, and young workers who are fed up with living in growing poverty as inflation hits twenty percent, and their unions stab them in the back.

This discontent is especially deep at the universities, the last chance for jobless youth. But the universities are overcrowded—Rome University for example, was built for 20,000 but now has 200,000 students! And there are no jobs for graduates. Even the university teachers call themselves "the precarious See page 11

## FARMERS ARE GETTING ORGANIZED

The low prices paid to farmers for grain and other farm products stem mainly from "overproduction." This is not to say that there is too much food—everyone knows that even in America there is hunger, malnutrition and even starvation. But there is too much food to be sold profitably.

Since the 1920's, with mechanization in agriculture, tractors, combines, etc., and with the decline of farm produce export to Europe, the American agricultural scene has been one of surplus and big reserves. This, along with the concentration of investment by the large capitalists has resulted in the smaller farmer—the "surplus" farmer in the eyes of the ruling class—being driven off the land.

Over the past few years, more and more farmers have come to see who is ripping them off. And they are getting organized. The AAM has had "tractorades" stretching up to 90 miles and demonstrations of thousands in Denver, Atlanta, D.C. and other cities. The organization has proposed a 50% cutback in spring planting and a 50% plowing under of winter crops to cut the surplus and raise prices. Farmers have nothing to lose by doing this because they've been losing money on every bushel they plant or harvest.

By taking their demands to the federal government, farmers are targeting the real enemy in this food production crisis—the representatives of the huge corporations that are driving them down.

A few years ago farmers sought representation by voting for politicians who "felt sorry" for them and promised to make the American people pay higher prices for farm produce. This time the farmers said, "We don't want pity," and they've been specific that working people shouldn't pay for the crisis because they are facing exploitation by the same giants.

One indication of this growing trend of unity against the common enemy came during the coal strike as groups of farmers from 17 states sent truck convoys of free food to the striking miners.

The farmers' experience in fighting the government, and the attention their bold actions have attracted have shone a bright light on the criminal absurdity of the whole capitalist system. Farmers, workers and scientists have given this country an incredibly efficient and productive agriculture, yet a man can't even make a decent living growing food!



Farmers are directing their fire at the government and want to unite with workers.

# GOV'T JOBS CLAIM A FRAUD

As we revealed in an investigation reported on in last month's *Worker*, the government has been systematically dismantling the unemployment insurance system, throwing thousands of workers off the collection lines. This has been done quietly, without much publicity. At the same time, much has been made of President Carter's claims to have created thousands of public service jobs as well as millions of jobs in private industry. Every small jobs program is heralded in the press, and according to the top AFL-CIO officials the Humphrey-Hawkins "Full Employment" Bill will practically wipe out joblessness forever.

One of the big figures President Carter likes to throw around is that 415,000 jobs have been created by jobs programs under his administration. Somehow, it never seems to be emphasized in news reports that this is totally inadequate when by government statistics there are about 15 million who want work! Furthermore, of this small sum of supposed new jobs, 49% are actually funding of previously existing jobs. The funds go to support already employed state and local government workers and sustain programs that already existed. In New York, for example, 28,000 public service employment jobs are used to maintain city workers.

The remaining 51% of Carter's public service jobs program is used for special projects. What's special about these projects? They are generally designed to operate outside union bargaining units and usually pay substantially lower wages than regular city and state workers receive. These jobs are so "special" that they are almost all non-union and don't pay union rates. And the effect of these jobs is that they further reduce the regular workforce, since a local government is able to get away with less union workers on the payroll by shifting to Federal funding of non-union temporaries. So it ends up that there are actually less jobs being created in the public service sector than before the jobs program began. In 1977 there were 50% fewer jobs created in the public sector than in 1975, marking one of the slowest rates of growth in the recent history of government employment.

The thrust of Carter's public service employment programs is mainly to bail out the crisis-ridden cities by shifting a portion of their employment financing onto the federal government. This program has resulted in nothing significant for employment. In fact, it has helped in cutting back on permanent government jobs and served to cover over the reductions in unemployment insurance benefits.

## PROGRAM TO BE PHASED OUT

Just as this public service employment program hit full swing this winter, Carter introduced a bill to phase out these newly created jobs starting in 1979! The phase-out will be accomplished by the introduction of a "trigger" formula based on the unemployment rate. The "trigger" is set so high that if this formula was in use today, not one of the 410,000 "new" jobs would have been funded.

In dismantling the public service employment program, Carter plans to switch its funds to finance his so-called "Better Jobs and Income" program. This is the ruling class' new welfare proposal. The funds saved by cutting public service employment jobs will be used to finance 1.4 million minimum wage jobs to force welfare recipients into the job market. By 1981 welfare payments will be cut as this "welfare" plan forces welfare mothers and the disabled to search for work or starve.

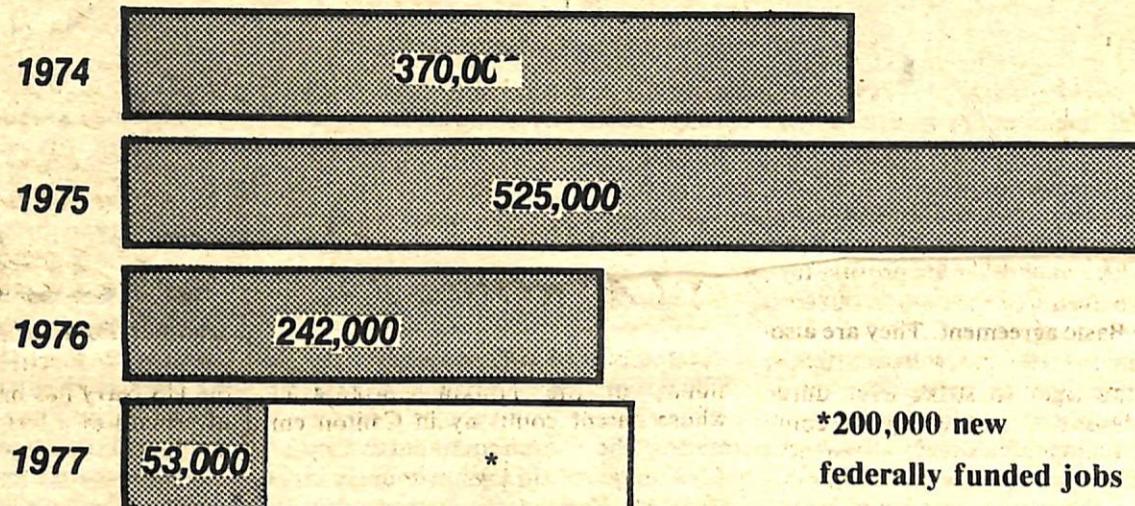
The main feature of Carter's plan is not the creation of publicly funded minimum wage jobs, but to force welfare recipients into the already overcrowded regular job market. The bill financially penalizes those who take public service jobs and will cut off people from their jobs for five weeks each year and force them to search for "regular" employment. The "Better Jobs and Income" bill is designed to further step up competition among workers for jobs and helps the bosses drive down pay, working conditions, and the standard of living for all workers.

## THE PROMISE OF FULL EMPLOYMENT

Another bill that President Carter and a lot of the ruling class is championing is the Humphrey-Hawkins "Full Employment" bill, which will probably become

This is the second in a series of articles on the unemployment situation in the U.S. and the government's policies. Next month's article will look at unemployment among Blacks and other minorities.

## Increase In State And Local Government Jobs By Year



\*200,000 new  
federally funded jobs

*The 200,000 federally funded jobs the Carter Administration has actually created have done little more than put a brake on the falling rate of increase in government jobs, let alone put a dent in actual unemployment.*

law this summer. It has already cleared the House and is awaiting passage by the Senate. This bill affirms "the right of all Americans who are able, willing, and seeking to work, the full opportunity for useful paid employment at fair rates of compensation." But there is not one provision in this bill that would actually create a single new job. Instead it supposedly "commits" the U.S. government to achieving the goal of full employment by 1983. This goal is supposed to be reached *not* by creating publicly funded jobs, but by relying on business in the private economy to create new jobs.

Carter is already celebrating, and taking personal credit for, the supposed "dynamic job creating ability" of capitalist private enterprise. According to the *Economic Report of the President* for 1978, "growth in economic activity in 1977 generated a record 4 million new jobs." Yet this 4 million jobs was just about equal to the amount of people who would normally start looking for work—kids just out of school, workers whose plants had closed, housewives returning to work from the increasing number of working class families who must have two breadwinners just to survive. This job expansion has therefore actually failed to significantly reduce the number of unemployed.

The rapid decrease of industrial jobs over the last three years reflects growing stagnation, not the dynamism Carter claims. Today there are 783,000 fewer industrial blue collar jobs than there were in 1974. During the last two decades, industrial employment, as a proportion of total employment, has declined by 30%. And since 1974 the rate of decline has increased. The lost jobs are mostly better paying, unionized ones. The loss of 500,000 members by the AFL-CIO is mostly accounted for by the disappearance of these jobs.

While accounting for only 1/4 of the labor force, blue collar industrial workers account for 40% of those unemployed. It has also contributed to the extremely high rate of unemployment among Black people, who are highly represented in the industrial working class. It has meant that working class youth are unable to get better paying industrial jobs. And it has pushed up the number of families where two people have to work to maintain a decent standard of living.

## NO "FULL EMPLOYMENT" UNDER THIS SYSTEM

The contraction of industrial employment has its roots right at the heart of the capitalist economic system. In order to increase productivity and successfully compete for profits every employer must invest more and more in machinery, plants, materials, etc., in proportion to the number of workers he employs. Generally, this is the chief means by which each individual capitalist can increase his investment. Today, with investment relatively low, rationalization of production is increasing which means the closing of older inefficient plants and speed-up on the lines, chopping away jobs. All this has combined to reduce industrial employment and reduces the ability of the capitalist economy to create new jobs. Every new job will require greater investment, and at the same time this new investment is designed to increase productivity and reduce jobs.

While employment in the industrial foundation of the economy has been dramatically falling, the service sector has been expanding. Jobs in services (such as restaurants, hospitals, gas stations, and the like), in retail trades, in clerical jobs—all these have continued to in-

crease, accounting for any increase in the total jobs in the economy. These are generally low wage and non-union jobs. Where one industrial job formerly could support a family, now one service job is totally inadequate to pay the bills. With the disappearance of so many industrial jobs, the economy is eroding at its foundations. And the expansion of the non-industrial sector of the economy to two out of every three jobs, more and more weight is being placed on this shrinking base, causing more and more problems in the economy.

## BIG INCREASE IS PHONEY

Further investigation reveals that Carter's boast that 1977 was a "record year" of employment is deceptive on a number of other counts. Compared to 1976 the rate of job expansion for workers actually declined in 1977. For Carter, this was offset by the rapid growth of self-employment, people starting their own businesses. Last year this type of employment grew by 5½ times its normal rate and accounted for almost a half million jobs. But this self-employment has become a desperate means of survival, done by most as the last resort. It includes everything from shoe-shiners to door-to-door salesmen and mom and pop stores on up. Most people in this category sink in all their savings, and have to work 14 hours a day themselves. On top of all this, the fact is that 80% of all these small businesses fail and collapse within five years after they are started. And with them go the life savings and hopes of hundreds of thousands. This sharp increase in self-employment reflects the inability of the economy to generate decent paying jobs for workers. It reflects failure, not success.

So the record of the private economy in the last three years is not that of a dynamic job creator, as Carter would have us believe. The capitalists' economy has failed to substantially create jobs and reduce real unemployment (even in the public sector, as shown before). Secondly, the jobs generated by the economy are in low wage and non-union service areas, which has only pushed more and more people into an already crowded job market. Finally, instead of working to reduce the crippling effects of the laws of the capitalist economy, Carter's policies are designed to increase the desperation of the unemployed by cutting benefits and intensifying competition for jobs. This serves to help the bosses drive down pay and benefits and enforce stricter discipline on the job.

And now the working class is being asked to have faith that the private economy can generate jobs and create full employment, in spite of what its record shows. Workers are being asked to support the Humphrey-Hawkins "Full Employment" Bill that does not create a single job. In fact, ever since the Employment Act of 1946, full employment has been on the books. That act requires the federal government "to promote maximum employment." Since that act was passed thirty years ago, unemployment has officially averaged 4.7%. An average that has progressively moved higher year after year. Now the promise of 1946 for full employment is being duplicated in 1978.

The hot-air promise of full employment by the Humphrey-Hawkins bill has come at a time when unemploy-

See page 18

**CORRECTION:** In last month's unemployment article the first graph was mislabeled. It graphed the number (in millions) of unemployed, not the unemployment rate.

# BIG STRIKES IN SMALL STEEL

**Pittsburg**—Since October of last year there have been a wave of strikes throughout the steel industry, many of them in Western Pennsylvania. The locals that went out are smaller shops with contracts more or less patterned after the one in Basic Steel. In these mills, workers used to get raises equal to those of the big steel negotiations—hence they were called "me-too" locals. Today, it is a different picture. Workers in Basic Steel got sold down the river, with a raise of 80¢ over 3 years. Many of these smaller companies are trying to go one better in their mad drive for profits, trying to give even less than what workers got in the Basic agreement. They are also attempting to take away basic rights, such as the right to strike over unresolved grievances, a move by the companies which would seriously weaken the union. This attack is heavy not only because it would cut wages, but it would isolate the smaller locals from bigger steel, making it even harder for them to catch up in the future. In the Pittsburgh area, two fairly large locals are still out, while one has just gone back victorious.

## MESTA MACHINE HOMESTEAD, PA.

Mesta Machine workers who had been out since September of 1977 went back in March, claiming a victory. The unity of the men proved rock-solid during the strike. At two meetings of over 1000 workers each they unanimously voted down the company's offer of a 40¢ raise over 3 years. They also stopped office workers and draftsmen from coming to work, despite numerous court injunctions against such militant activity.

In the face of all this, the company's propaganda team was forced to work overtime. They sent letters to all the workers wives, and even installed a special number for workers to call in and

get the "company's side" of negotiations. The workers liked the dial-in service so much, they put up a big sign advertising the number—and called it "dial-a-joke!" In the end the men were able to force a 95¢ raise over 3 years out of the company—15¢ over the basic contract. While that 15¢ is not about to make anybody a millionaire, it was a big victory over the company's attempt to bust them out of the basic contract.

## LATROBE STEEL—LATROBE, PA.

Latrobe Steel in Latrobe, Pa. is a subsidiary of the Timkin Corporation, whose parent company in Canton employs 5000 workers. Latrobe employs 1,300 workers, who have been out since October. One of the reasons for the length of the strike is the USWA International's policy of letting the Canton workers sign a separate contract, leaving the locals like Latrobe to fend for themselves. This, however, hasn't stopped the Latrobe workers.

They are fighting against 40 "changes" proposed by the company for the new contract. These changes are nothing but attacks on the workers, such as limiting the rights of grievance men to file grievances on company time, and eliminating seniority job rights and overtime. Timkin has gone all out to win—putting out a constant barrage of newspaper propaganda against the men. At one point they said the union negotiating committee didn't represent most workers, and that in fact the men wanted to go back to work. The workers answered this at a union meeting soon after—voting down the company's latest offer, 1000 to 1!

On March 19th over 1500 workers from the UAW, the Steelworkers, the Teamsters and every other union in the

area had a march through downtown Latrobe. They represented the growing solidarity of workers against the common enemy, and specifically let the Timkin Corporation know that they were behind the Latrobe strikers to the end.

## PULLMAN STANDARD—BUTLER, PA.

The 2800 workers at Pullman-Standard hit the bricks on October 1, along with their brothers in Pullman, Illinois,

Hammond, Indiana, and Alabama. On March 28th, 200 of them marched on USWA headquarters to tell their union leaders and management that they were still strongly united and that they weren't going to go back in on their knees. The company's attacks have included cutting medical benefits, and trying to cut incentive pay and institute job reevaluations (translation: have fewer workers do more work). In the course of their long strike, unity has been built with other striking workers. They had one of the largest contingents at the Latrobe support march on March 19th.

## Electric Boat Cracks Down

**Quonset Point, R.I.**—A running battle between the Electric Boat Company and the US Navy has broken out here in the aftermath of a lost union election, with the thousands of workers at the shipyard caught in the middle. Once hailed as the economic saviour of Rhode Island, Electric Boat is now being called by many "electric Joke."

Feeling confident after the recent defeat of the United Steelworkers organizing drive at its Quonset Point plant (see the March Worker), the company is attempting to hold the workers hostage as it demands \$500 million more from the Navy for work on the 688 class attack subs that are being built. The Navy had ordered many changes in the subs, and the company says the Navy should pay. The Navy, for its part, is charging the company with fraud and waste and says the changes are covered by the original contract.

But Electric Boat wants this half billion in the worst way and the interests of the workers are no obstacle. Back in November, before the union election and before the clash with the Navy blew open, they laid off 3,000 workers and brought in a new tough management team. Now, they are threatening to shut down all production on the attack subs, which would mean laying off 14,000

workers. Along with this threat, the company has unleashed heavy harassment against the workers there. Raises have been withheld, lunchtime cut for the third shift, written warnings are given for every little thing, and special harassment is reserved for the most active union organizers. Many workers have begun to look for other jobs, and some are even hoping for a lay-off so they can get away from the atmosphere of fear and uncertainty in the yards.

Although the harassment is real, many workers at the shipyard are standing up to it. Although they have no union, they realize that they can't wait until the next union election to deal with these problems. The third shift has circulated a petition demanding a meeting with the top man to protest the new rules changes. The *Shipyard Fighter*, newsletter of the Electric Boat United Workers Organization, is leading the fight for long overdue raises and to get company policies in writing so people can know where they stand. The union organizers who work at the yard are filing charges of harassment with the NLRB with help from the USWA. And attempts are being made to spread word of what is happening at Electric Boat around the state.

After holding out the carrot of good pay and conditions so workers would vote against the union, the company is coming down with the club. They are hoping to use more harassment of the workers to help them in their argument with the Navy. None of this sits well with the workers and more and more are resisting. And they won't forget what they're learning about the true nature of Electric Boat when union elections come around again.

the deterioration of services is becoming a way of life for everyone in the city, they still are scrambling to save their necks. They are still begging the federal government for money every year and they're a long way from being able to force labor costs and living standards low enough to get business to move back to the city. Only by making more cuts and shrinking the availability of services even more can they possibly hope to try to escape from their crisis.

The flip side of this pacesetter, sell-out contract is the increasing movement of the transit rank and file to fight for a decent pact. The transit rank and file have never rejected a contract in the history of the union. Now, with the inspiration of miners rejecting two sell-out contracts in a row, City Hall and union leadership are getting worried about the reaction of the rank and file to this latest sellout. The Vote No movement among transit workers is also going to be a pacesetter for all city workers. As organization begins to build and as the momentum picks up over the next two weeks to VOTE NO and not ratify the contract, other city workers are going to take note and start getting some ideas about how to beat back the lousy contracts their union leaders have already put on the board.

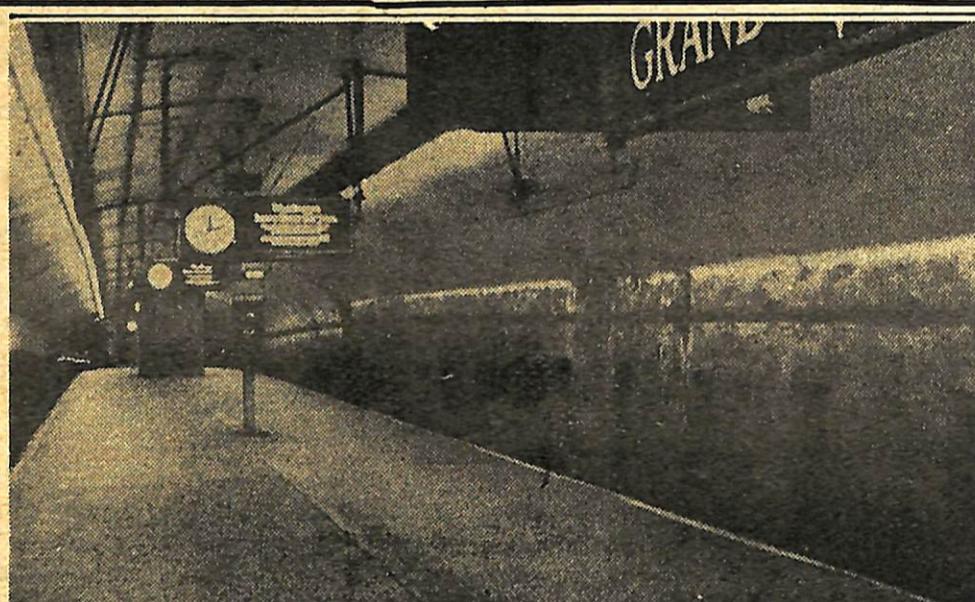
## Transit Fight

Continued from page 4

take back gains won by the TWU over the last 40 years, and against Guinan and the sell-out union leadership in the TWU which has negotiated two no-cost contracts in a row.

At a union strike vote meeting on Easter Sunday, a week before the deadline, 3,000 angry workers showed up shouting "we want money." An organized group of these workers, from the Jamaica Inspection Yard, was the most vocal, booing all the union leadership from Guinan on down. Four days later, this same group, called the Committee of Concerned Transit Workers, decided to call for a rally in front of the Hilton where negotiations were going on. In a little over 24 hours, they called together 150-200 people from yards all over the city. They organized it by making phone calls to favorable shop stewards in other yards, or by-passed the union where necessary, calling on old friends and relatives to take the thing out. As Guinan drove up in front of the Hilton, the workers held up their signs saying, "1978, here comes another screw" and shouted, "You're up there, we're down here and we want money."

This message obviously didn't get through to Guinan and as a result there is an overwhelming sentiment among TWU workers for rejecting the contract. All the moaning and groaning from the politicians about this being the best possible settlement is just not getting over. Workers are beginning to make plans to monitor union vote counting. This is real important since, in the past, mail-in



A TWU strike would leave N.Y. subways empty.

votes counted behind closed doors have always matched what the union leadership wanted, not the sentiment of the rank and file. Workers are also beginning to meet and talk about different ways to spread the vote no movement to their yards and talk about ways to get rid of sell-out union leadership.

### PACESETTER FOR FURTHER ATTACKS

Between now and June 30, the contracts for almost all city workers are going to come up. If a sell-out contract is pushed through for transit workers, it is going to be used as a pacesetter for all the city unions. For the last three years of economic crisis, the city rulers have been able to hold a tight reign over city unions. One after another, the unions have buckled under to "no-cost" con-

tracts. Like transit, city workers in other departments have received no increase in pay at all over the last three years. They have seen their pension monies used to buy city bonds which are so shaky no one else would touch them with a ten foot pole. They have seen their union leadership come up with statements like the one from Victor Gotbaum, head of D.C. 37, the largest city union, "City unions have become bigger bankers for the city than the bankers." Time and again Union leaders, politicians and the bankers who sit on the EFCB have joined hands to cut back the wages, benefits, numbers and living standards of the city workers.

The problem the bankers and politicians are facing now is that three years of attacks have not solved their crisis. While the cuts and layoffs have reduced the N.Y.C. labor force by a third and

# CHINA MAKING BIG PLANS

## Transforming the Country by the Year 2000

The People's Republic of China, a vast country of over 800 million people, was the target of plunder of no less than 5 imperialist countries just 28 years ago. It was a country of brutal poverty and starvation. Today this proud socialist country is embarking full steam ahead on the road to becoming one of the most economically advanced countries in the world.

The fact that China can house, feed and clothe every single citizen is itself remarkable. Before becoming fully independent in 1949, the Chinese people were driven down along with the people of India, Africa and other colonized Third World countries. All their economies were so backward that peasants with nothing more than a plot of land and a handplow or an ox were considered well off.

Today China has not only made huge strides in developing a fully self-reliant nation, but they are in a position to launch a massive nationwide drive to transform themselves into a powerful modern socialist country by the year 2000.

The first steps to unite the entire country and all its different nationalities were made during the first week of March at the 5th National People's Congress, China's parliament. Hua Kuo Feng, the new Premier, issued the call: "We must apply the results of modern science and technology on a broad scale, make extensive use of new materials and sources of energy and modernize our major products and processes of production. Our economic and technical norms must approach, equal, or surpass advanced world levels."

Reaching these goals will mean great changes in China. Presently over 80% of the people in China are peasants, and agricultural development is generally equivalent to the United States of 1900. While China has become fully self-sufficient and capable of feeding its huge population, it takes 75% of the population to do it.

China plans to turn this situation around completely within the next 10 years by achieving at least 85% mechanization in all major processes of farm production. The key change is that the people will be able to learn and master modern industry and agriculture. Many people who presently work the land will enter the industrial work force and those who stay on the land will have the most modern techniques, while building up culture, education and light industry throughout the countryside, thus avoiding a huge influx into a few huge overcrowded cities.

### SOCIALISM UNLEASHES THE WORKING CLASS

Are these just wild dreams and hot air promises like we hear everyday from Jimmy Carter or other two-bit politicians in the U.S.? How will China be able to actually accomplish this monumental task?

The achievements the Chinese are making are the fruits of the long struggle to revolutionize society being carried out in every village, town and city throughout the entire country. Their system is fundamentally different from the U.S., USSR, Japan, or the industrialized countries of Western Europe. Factories are owned by the working people through their government, not by some rich boss. Step by step people's standard of living is improved and there are no bosses, bankers or landlords to live like leeches off the sweat and hard work of others.

With the leadership of the Chinese Communist Party, the people have actively reorganized society. People's needs are the bottom line—not profits. So all resources, most importantly the people themselves, can be channelled into developing a thriving productive society that guarantees a decent life for all. Where once foreign coal tycoons

Scientists and technicians always consulted with the workers to see if new inventions or innovations actually made sense and improved working conditions while increasing production.

Workers at Taching have worked together and struggled together to increase oil output by six times and have steadily increased their standard of living.

While Taching is a fast growing industrial area, it's a far cry from the sprawling urban areas in most capitalist countries like the U.S., many of which

continue to free themselves through socialism, or whether the exploitation and inequities of the old society will once again be allowed to flourish. The workers of Taching have shown through relying on their own efforts, how vast inequalities and differences like those between the cities and the countryside, between workers and peasants, and between intellectuals and manual laborers can be surmounted step by step.

At Taching, the workers are mastering modern technology and production. They are mastering nature to serve the needs of the whole country. And they are mastering how to organize and build a society where the vast majority of people are free from exploitation and oppression.

### MODERNIZING THE ECONOMY AND DEFENDING SOCIALISM

China must be strong enough to defend itself against attack. As a socialist country it is the target of all the capitalist world, particularly the U.S. and the USSR, who drool at the idea of once again carving it up for their own profits. With over a million Soviet troops on the northern border and with the U.S. still occupying its Taiwan Province, China places high priority on national defense. A strong economy is need for this.

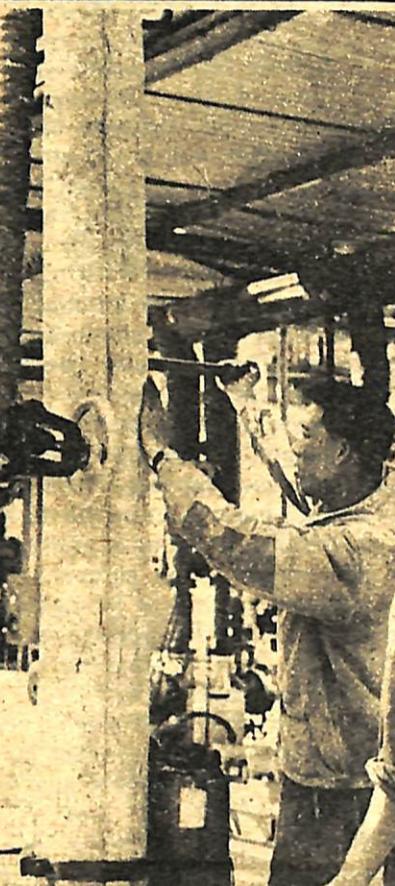
Also, there are enemies of socialism inside the country who will have more room to maneuver if China stays weak economically. A strong socialist economy along with a politically mobilized people lessens the chance of would-be capitalists inside rising up and turning China back into their own private kingdom again. The danger of this can especially be seen from what happened in the Soviet Union, when in the late 1950's Krushchev led just such a capitalist restoration there.

One such attempt was made by a handful of people who oppose the interests of the majority of Chinese people by disrupting plans to modernize China. These four high Communist Party officials, commonly known as the "gang of four," including Mao's wife, argued that modernization would have a corrupting influence on the people and turn China back into a capitalist country. They tried to stage a coup d'état, overthrow the socialist government, and set up their own dictatorial reign.

### SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

To help accomplish these demanding tasks, China is placing great stress on developing science and technology,

See page 18



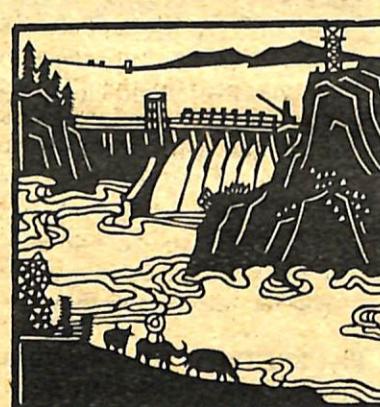
Chinese working people can work miracles because they are masters in their own country, not slaves of a few exploiters.

owned the mines, the workers themselves run the enterprises. Where rich landlords held poor peasants at their mercy, collective farms and communes enable peasants to all share their various tools and resources and work for the common good.

Overall, the economy is planned. There are no South Bronx's or other communities where landlords and businessmen milk it for all the profits they can, then abandon the area and the people for greener pastures elsewhere. Instead there is careful planning to insure development of agriculture, light industry and other sectors of the economy and profiteers and speculators are severely dealt with.

Over the past 20 years, two enterprises have emerged as models of socialist construction: the Tachai agricultural commune and the Taching oilfields. In the struggle for production, against nature, and against class enemies and their lines and policies to push down the workers and peasants, these two showed themselves successful time and time again, and are now looked to as red banners showing the way to the future.

The Taching oilfield is a good example of the strides socialist China has already taken in modernizing its industry. In 1960, Chinese workers from various parts of the country were given the crucial national task of settling an enormous barren desert area rich with oil deposits. With almost only a single drilling rig and little other machinery, the Taching workers began building up an industrial area from scratch. The workers studied Marxism to help understand the conditions they faced, and to help them get organized to make breakthroughs. The leaders labored side by side with their fellow workers and were paid on the same basis as others.



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# PUERTO RICAN WORKERS BATTLE TO WIN UNION

## Connecticut Foundry Strike 5 Months Old



The strike of mainly Latin workers at Connecticut Foundry has become an important battle, winning support from workers throughout central Connecticut.

**River Hill, Conn.**—Facing heavy odds, 140 workers, most of them Puerto Rican, are entering the fifth month of their strike against the Connecticut Foundry here. They have stayed out despite a slanderous press campaign which depicted the strikers as "crazy Puerto Ricans," the attacks of the company, and pressures from the courts and police.

The strike began November 11, when the company "laid off" 17 workers who were key to the organizing drive to bring in the International Ladies Garment Workers Union, Allied Industries Division (ILGWU). The foundry workers are demanding a union election and a union, in order to get better wages, benefits and working conditions. While the workers are mainly Puerto Rican, all the workers have been united in the course of the struggle—Black, Italian, and Cuban. All are united by the conditions they face, not only on the job but in the neighborhoods they come from in Hartford, where they all face exorbitant prices and lousy housing and social services. One Puerto Rican worker told how he was paid only \$4.35 an hour after 10 years with Connecticut Foundry, and how this only comes to \$7,000 a year after taxes. Another worker said he had worked 18 months and was getting only \$3.70.

Workers uniting to bring in a union went directly against the company's interests, and represented a threat to the profits they were making off the non-union minority workforce. The company moved quickly to smash the struggle. The Rocky Hill police came right in to attack the workers' militant picket-lines which management and scabs were having difficulty crossing. Day after day articles appeared in the newspapers playing up the company viewpoint, blaming any violence on the picketline on the strikers and never mentioning the company's refusal to deal with them. In spite of it all, the strikers kept pickets strong, wouldn't be stopped by the cops, pressed their demands, and severely crippled production. The ILGWU and the strikers got charges against a dozen strikers for violence dropped for insufficient evidence.

In the face of the strength of the

workers, the company tried an even tougher approach. They shut the plant down for two months, through late January, locking the 140 workers out. Since they were getting little production anyway, the company figured they could use the shutdown to dismantle the picketlines and scare workers into crawling back in on company terms when the plant finally opened again. The union protested to the NLRB but it did no good, as they ruled for the company. But with their blood—their profits—cut

off, the company could only hold out so long. In late January they had to open up again.

Letters were sent out telling all the men they were now "free" to return to work. The letter made no mention of meeting with the union, but said that any scabs would be "protected" if they came in through the picketline. Shortly after, the company re-opened the plant with a court injunction limiting the number and location of picketers—right after a mass picket by strikers and sup-

porters.

But the whole attack hasn't gone as smoothly as the bosses would have liked. Few of the strikers have returned to work and picketlines are always manned. The court injunctions and the cops enforcing them have enabled the Foundry to get about 65 scabs in and get some production out. They have also been hoping to use the media to isolate the strikers, along with filing NLRB charges in connection with alleged union violence on the picketlines.

In the face of all these attacks, the strikers have been stepping up their activity, too, keeping pressure on the company in various ways. The union called the State Department of Labor to the Foundry in February, and showed them kids doing jobs which are forbidden to minors by law as too dangerous. And the union is pressing the company hard for an election date, as well as investigating where the scabs have been recruited from. Key to pushing forward the fight for the union and against the discrimination the workers face is the rank and file itself. Ways have to be found to get around the court injunctions and shut the plant down tight again. The struggle of the coal miners against similar attacks has been a powerful example to the Foundry strikers. The formation several months ago of the Connecticut Foundry Support Committee has been an added boost for the strikers. It has brought other workers down to the picketlines and has been trying to collect material aid for the strikers. They have united with the strikers to call a rally April 2 outside the Rocky Hill Town Hall to build support among other working people and minorities, and demand that the Town Council support the strike and put a leash on the police. Along with shutting down production, actions like this which build support and undercut interference by the government, the courts, and the cops, all serve to strengthen the workers' hand and weaken the Foundry owners and their allies.

(Readers who want to help build support for the foundry strikers can call 527-1690 or 232-8800.)

## Italy

Continued from page 7

ones," because they have low salaries, no permanent contracts, and no job security. Revolutionary groups of all types are gaining more interest and support. In the midst of all this, the PCI is coming under more attack, the more it shows itself as part of the established order. When Luciano Lama, PCI trade union leader, appeared at the University of Rome and said that "the unemployed are parasites who don't want to work," he was forced to flee the room through a window.

Not only is its support among the young shrinking, but cracks are beginning to appear in the PCI's dominant position in the working class. Italian workers have traditionally looked to the Communist Party for leadership because for many years it was a genuinely revolutionary organization which, for example, led the fight against Mussolini's fascism. But now, as the PCI's leaders call for law and order and elbow their way higher into capitalist ruling circles, they come into more immediate conflict with the interests of the workers.

### "CROOKED BASTARD"

The PCI has no interest in leading the workers who look to it for direction into combat against those responsible for the worsening situation of the Italian masses. Layoffs in industry have soared over the last three years and the cost of necessities goes up at least 20 percent every year. About the only answer the

PCI can offer is "vote for us." The trend of worker disillusionment with the PCI was seen recently at a workers' assembly of the Unidal candy factory in Milan. When the PCI union hack reported on an agreement that would throw 2,000 out of work as a victory, he was chased from the room as hundreds of workers shouted "crooked bastard."

The Red Brigade threatened to "strike at the heart of bourgeois rule." The kidnapping of Moro showed that relying on their methods can't do the job. The kidnapping of Moro was carried off without a hitch and has unquestionably alarmed Italy's rulers, but it has not shaken their grip on the state. The Red Brigades see their attacks as steps to jolt the working class into revolutionary ac-

tion. But many workers know that terrorism and the increased repression it will bring make for more difficult conditions for organizing the working class' struggles.

Even many who were shocked by the kidnapping weren't buying the ruling class's efforts to blame all of Italy's problems on the terrorists. When the Christian Democratic and Communist Party leaders called big demonstrations to denounce the kidnapping, many workers and young people were among the thousands who attended. But many shouts coming from the crowds in the piazzas were not aimed at the Red Brigades, they were against the government and the crisis.

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# Heroic 110 Day Battle Miners' Contract Is Not A Truce

Continued from page 1

place oil as a principle energy source for the nation, the mine owners "productivity" drives have contributed to making mining the most dangerous job in the country. Miners resisted with 5,500 wildcats in three years, costing the operators 20 million tons of output in 1977 alone.

The operators were out for blood. Only the long determined strike held them back from crushing the miners. In opposition to the miners' just demand for the right to strike, the right to resist dangerous attacks of productivity, the BCOA proposed a "stability clause" under which those who participated in wildcat strikes would be fined or fired.

"The right to discharge miners who honor picket lines is an absolute must for us," declared one industry source yesterday. "It's the only way to break the mentality of the pickets," he said, observing that miners have long considered picket signs to be "almost sacred." —*The Wall Street Journal*, Feb. 21, 1978.

While miners did not win the right to strike, the BCOA was not able to ram through the clause they wanted. The disappointed owners were quick to say it was just a "psychological victory" for the miners, citing Federal Arbitration Order 108, handed down just before the strike, which contains many features of the dropped clause. This has the ring of sour grapes. If the arbitration order gave them all they wanted, they would not have fought so desperately for iron clad contract language. They knew that they'll need all the ammunition they can get to put a real dent in wildcat activity, and the strike stalled them.

Takeaways were another goal of the operators. In contrast to the miners' demands for guaranteed, raised and equalized pensions and company-paid medical coverage for themselves and their families (a benefit they won 30 years ago), the companies wanted benefit cuts.

The miners did not win their demands on either medical or pension benefits, but the BCOA was forced to reduce the amount of health deductibles from \$700 to \$200 and to give the pre-1974 retirees an increase in the first year instead of the third. Post '74 retirees still get about \$200 more than the older pensioners.

The BCOA had to drop a national absentee policy which would have raised the number of hours miners must work to be eligible for pension from 1000 to 1450.

Two other important provisions in the contract leave the way open for further attacks. It establishes a joint Board of BCOA and UMWA officials who can change the contract at will and it stipulates that work incentive proposals are to be finalized at the local level. Many miners see speedup and attacks on job rights in the making. Since they've been back, a miner in Johnstown said, "There have been changes everywhere."

## THE LAST MONTH OF THE STRIKE: FROM TAFT HARTLEY TO SETTLEMENT

By the beginning of March, the eyes of the nation were riveted to the fierce struggle in the coalfields. A second tentative agreement met 2 to 1 rejection amidst massive burning of the contract.

Jimmy Carter gave up the last vestiges of his "neutral" pose and invoked Taft Hartley, openly joining the operators in an all-out offensive to break the strike and the union. The federal order prohibited pickets at non-union mines, mines

which had been virtually shut down by the strike since December. Some coal began to get through to the dwindling stockpiles.

National Guard units in every mining state were put on active duty or alert. Vacations for all state police in those areas were cancelled. Skirmishes with state troopers were frequent. When Pennsylvania miners caravaned to a picketing site in Maryland, they were turned back at the state line by rows of cops and dogs backed up by helicopters.

The daily press, TV and radio heightened the new offensive with tales of how broke the miners were, and that the strike was losing its effect. Spring was here, they said, and the coal shortage was no longer critical.

While the main purpose of the media campaign was to demoralize the miners, there was some truth in it. Three months of toe to toe combat against the companies, added now to the direct force of

fighting in their own interests.

Nonetheless, power moves of top leaders also weakened the strike. Misleaders like Illinois District President Kenny Dawes, member of the Bargaining Council, were actively anti-Miller early in the strike only to betray the rank and file later on. Dawes negotiated the pact which became the model for the second national agreement which was rejected 2 to 1.

In the meantime a number of local presidents and officials stepped forward in the early months of the strike to head the struggle. Serving the actual needs for organized resistance, they set up mass meetings, joined militant picket lines and demonstrated in Washington.

## TAFT-HARTLEY RAISES THE STAKES

But Taft-Hartley raised the stakes. Threatened with fines and jail, many of these local officials wavered. Instead of organizing active opposition to the federal order as they had previously, they took a passive role. "I doubt if the men will go back," said some. Others said the miners were afraid to go back because of predicted violence. Many said Taft-Hartley was lousy, but federal seizure of the mines would be better.

By failing to fight Taft-Hartley in the organized, coalfield-wide manner that had characterized the months before the federal order, and by promoting federal

vote—and they resoundingly rejected the contract there.

*On March 19 a meeting of 300 miners wives in Johnstown, Pa. is addressed by members of the local strike support committee and meets enthusiastic response. 40 women join the committee. Angry about the 3rd tentative agreement just handed down, they make plans to join their husbands in a demonstration at UMWA headquarters in Washington.*

*The following week hundreds of miners and wives mass outside UMWA president Miller's office, loudly voicing their disapproval of the proposed sellout. "Where is our money?" they added, demanding that Miller release the millions in relief funds.*

*Miller makes a statement on national TV saying the funds will be released during the following week before the ratification vote (at this writing miners say they still haven't seen a cent of it.)*

*The wives follow up their Capitol action by handing out toilet paper at the contract voting places, saying, "This is what you'll be voting on."*

The contract is no good. But as the Ohio incident at the start of this article shows, a contract isn't a declaration of peace, it's a new declaration of war—it defines the terms for new battles.

Less than a week after miners returned to work, 5 men died in a mine disaster in Virginia. The black holes from which miners bring us power and light are rife with the bloody conditions that make miners' ability to fight a daily question of life and death.

What the strike pointed out was the need to fight in an organized, unified way—this characterized most of the nearly 4 month strike, and it was this strength that gave the miners the ability to beat back the all out smash and grab efforts of the BCOA. The main thing the owners failed to do was break their resistance.

Yet serious problems remain. Arnold Miller, who sabotaged the miners' fight during the strike, has proved himself unfit for union leadership. The need for rank and file mine-to-mine organization has never been clearer. The need to strengthen the union, roll over the bloated toads at the top and fight in the miners interest remains.

*In the days following the strike's end, workers around the country discussed it and what it meant. One SEPTA transit driver in Philadelphia said, "We've got a contract coming up in a year but this miners' strike has already got people thinking about it. You know, our bosses run the same sh-. They say they can't afford to give us a goddam thing. They say we got to give back.*

*"Well, the miners saw all that and said they weren't voting for a takeaway contract and they weren't voting for a contract that didn't give them the right to strike. They didn't even go back when it was federal law!"*

*"That's the spirit we want to have—that's the spirit the men are talking about—the spirit that you stand together and you don't take no sh- from no bosses."*

## SHOCK WAVES

The miners' struggle sent out shock waves which left no corner of America untouched. It had the most deep-going effects of any strike in recent years, both in the penthouses and boardrooms of the capitalists and among the ranks of the American people.

The strike did more than shatter the coal bosses' plans to crush the miners completely. As it wore on, their fellow capitalists began to feel its sting more and more. Even those who didn't need a steady flow of coal to fuel their plants became nervous. Not only was the strike



*In the last month of the strike active support for the miners' strike reached new highs. It took various forms. Demonstrations took place in the coalfields, in other cities and in Washington, D.C., like the one March 25, led by the United Workers Organization, which dumped a half a ton of coal in front of the White House. Coalitions and union locals from coast to coast held forums, donated cash and organized collections of food, money and clothing. Much of this went to the coalfields in car and truck caravans of supporters.*

the government, had taken its toll. The consistent sabotage of the UMWA had a particularly wearing effect.

After Taft Hartley was invoked, the International redoubled its efforts to get the miners back to work. While millions of dollars in relief donations poured into UMWA headquarters, these funds were not distributed in the coalfields. The International also set all the voting for one day to prevent the snowballing no vote they'd witnessed against the second offer. UMWA President Arnold Miller told the nation on TV that if this third contract offer was not accepted, the union would be destroyed. His "proof" was that the BCOA claimed they would only negotiate company by company and would not meet again for a national agreement. The owners had made this lame threat before the strike in August and after the first rejected offer in February, and it had been righteously ignored by the miners.

In addition, infighting among these high-ranking officials led media and business leaders to harp on the "splintered" UMWA. But the main rift was between the top leadership bent on sabotaging the strike and the rank and file

seizure, such local officials stepped back from their earlier role of fighting in the working class interest of the miners.

Seizure would have forced the BCOA out and replaced them with the government running the mines and conducting negotiations. Miners would still have had to work without a contract. It would have meant relying on Jimmy Carter to act in their interest—the same Carter who attacked them with Taft-Hartley. Miners had begun to see the government as clearly an ally of the companies. Some UMWA locals sent Carter telegrams telling him to take Taft-Hartley to his peanut farm and not to show his face in the coalfields for the 1980 presidential election campaign.

With the core of leadership pulling back after Taft-Hartley, there was no national cohesiveness to the active struggle. It was true that practically no one went back but in some areas activity was greatly reduced. In places where the union members were able to stick together, picketing and mass meetings continued. For instance, in some locals of western Pennsylvania and eastern Ohio there were a dozen meetings per local between the beginning of March and the

weakening the whole economy, it was an unpleasantly public example for other workers.

Other monopolists put pressure on the BCOA to lower their sights a little in the interest of a quick settlement, but their main focus was the government. Editorial columns and company spokesmen clamored that Carter should move decisively to settle the strike for the common good. After all, that's what the rich pay him for—even if it's with the people's taxes.

The government, too, was shaken by the strike. In the early stages, Carter said he had no intention of interfering with the "collective bargaining process." As the miners hung tough his tune began to change. Feeling the heat from the owning class he serves, he tried to black mail the miners back to work. While proclaiming the second sellout as a great deal, he threatened "drastic action" if it were voted down.

When the miners dumped it anyhow, he invoked Taft-Hartley against them. The problem was he couldn't make it stick. Even though it helped create the conditions for the end of the strike, Carter's showing was so limp-wristed that it deepened dissatisfaction among many capitalists with the job he is doing for them. In the wake of Taft-Hartley, scathing political cartoons in newspaper after newspaper portrayed itty-bitty Carters being humiliated by big burly miners.

And just as the forces of business, government, cops and courts kept an unholy and shaky alliance against the miners, the working class and others arose in more and more unity on the side of the miners against being crushed.

#### WORKERS STAND WITH THE MINERS

The strike sent ripples through every industry. Workers looked to the miners—massing 800 strong on one picketline, confronting state cops, blowing up bridges, picketing their own union hacks—and were inspired by their united determination.

The effects of the strike and the rumblings of the rank and file turned up the heat under the hacks who sit atop the unions. Often the challenge was open. At a benefit concert in Pittsburgh, local union officials spoke and made donations to the miners from their locals, providing concrete support to the strike. When a Steelworker rep talked without making a pledge, laid-off rank and filers from a Homestead, Pa. plant leapt to their feet, hollering at him and pulling their own money from their pockets to show their contempt!

Under this kind of fire, the union big shots started to "support" the miners, not by mobilizing the rank and file, but with fine words and a few dramatic gestures. The best publicized of these were the donation by the United Auto Workers of \$2,000,000 for relief after Taft-Hartley and the \$1,000,000 by the United Steelworkers to the pension fund. It's not surprising these two unions came up with such impressive donations. Not only were their members among the most active in support of the miners, but the hacks in both hoped to pick up the pieces if the UMW fell apart and their millions were kind of a down payment.

But many other top union officials were forced to cough up too, for example endorsing caravans of aid to the coalfields. Even George "I Never Walked A Picket Line In My Life" Meany, top dog of the AFL-CIO, was forced to squirm a little by the strike.

In February he called for federal seizure of the mines and urged the miners to obey Taft-Hartley if it were invoked. But support for the miners continued to grow. The only way left open for Meany to sabotage the strike on behalf of the ruling class was to pretend support, issuing a general call for aid collection at the very end of the strike with no plans for implementation.

#### NOT JUST WORKERS

Workers were not the only ones who stepped forward to stand with the miners. This was shown in the March 11



demonstration in Washington D.C., which included people from New York's Chinatown and representatives from a Harlem community organization.

Students held forums and film showings to build support for the strikers. Teachers joined coalitions, doctors went to coalfield areas to donate medical care. Professional organizations took up collections. Striking farmers brought huge quantities of food. Country singer Johnny Paycheck famed for "Take This Job and Shove It," and



## Clinic Breaks Medical Blockade on Miners

*Johnstown, Pennsylvania*—In their efforts to crush the miners' strike, the coal companies in the Johnstown area did everything in their power to cut striking miners off from receiving free medical care during the coal strike. The companies stopped paying medical benefits during the strike, and after 3 months, many miners and their families could no longer afford medical care.

The Medical Committee for Human Rights, a group of health professionals and workers, and rank and file miners organized free medical clinics for two weekends in March to help to meet the need for medical care and to show support for the miners' strike. These clinics, staffed by doctors, nurses, respiratory therapists, lab technicians and others, became the target of BCOA attack.

Before the first weekend, March 4-5, the boss of the local Bethlehem Steel plant pressured the local YMCA on whose board he sits, and a community center to withdraw their offers to provide facilities for the clinic. The head of the County Medical Society slandered the "outsiders" as unlicensed and unqualified. The local morning paper (also owned by Bethlehem steel) printed a story Saturday that the clinic was cancelled.

Despite this, the clinic opened in a sympathetic church and the word was spread by the miners themselves. Attendance at the clinic leaped on Sunday after miners spread the word at their church services that morning. Also on Sunday, teams of health professionals, striking miners and local steelworkers went to some of the union halls where the contract was being voted down 2 to 1. They told miners about the clinic and the growing support for the miners' fight among the American people.

The head of the County Medical Society came with a few other members of the local medical establishment, looking for something to make the clinic look bad. The wife of a disabled miner, who was being treated at the time, backed them up against the wall. She demanded to know how they could criticize the clinic, when the doctors who had been living off the miners' benefits for years hadn't lifted a finger to provide health services to the strikers. She left the doctors sputtering but speechless and they soon disappeared.

On the weekend of March 18th and 19th, MCHR returned with an even larger group, 60 people all told, from New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore and Washington. This time the County Medical Society joined with the County Pharmaceutical Society to pressure the local drug stores to refuse to sell supplies to the clinic or to honor any prescriptions written by its doctors. But one pharmacist agreed to cooperate, saying he wanted to continue to do business in the community after the strike, and the boycott was broken.

During the weekend some of the clinic staff members went to a meeting of 200 miners' wives who met to discuss how to build the fight. They were introduced and got a standing ovation. A Puerto Rican woman who works at Lincoln Hospital in New York told the crowd how the clinic had affected her. With her voice cracking with emotion she said, "For the first time in my life, I can really see the basis for Black, Latin and white people to fight together against the common cause of their problems."

The coal companies and the rest of the capitalist class were determined to crush the miners. They were willing to use any weapon, including depriving the miners and their families of the medical care they need, often because of diseases like Black Lung contracted while working in the mines.

The clinics were important, not only for the needed medical care that they provided, but also because they showed the miners that they were not alone in their fight, that there was growing support among not only other workers, but broadly among the American people.

It was also a sharp lesson to some of the health professionals who had planned to go just to provide medical care for individuals who needed it and not to get "involved" in the miners' cause. One medical student said "I could see when we got down here that just giving medical care was a political act in itself, that it was a matter of taking sides." Like thousands of other Americans, the contingent of health workers and professionals organized by MCHR, proudly chose to stand with the fighting coal miners.

other entertainers performed at benefit concerts for the miners.

The question was out there—which side are you on? Despite the efforts of the media mouthpieces of the rich to slander it, millions of Americans were inspired by the strike and took their stand side-by-side with the miners.

#### A GLIMPSE OF THE FUTURE

The miners strike was a glimpse of the future. While bosses call on workers to sacrifice, pointing to their own crisis, the miners stood up to the BCOA and said—we aren't lying down for your interests—we're fighting for our own. In these days when people are being pitted against each other by industry, and by nationality the miners stood firm together against all the faces of their

enemy—the owners, the federal government and their own union leaders. And millions stood with them.

They rejected their own president in the middle of the strike and did not splinter the union, as he predicted, because they, not the company men at the top, are the union. They answered Jimmy Carter's pleas to give up in the national interest, saying: we'll stand up for the workers' interest.

The strike was a tremendous inspiration to workers and a grim warning to the bosses. It put the BCOA and all owners on notice that a contract is not a truce, the miners have not been broken, the battle is still raging.

**TO HELL WITH THE RICH MAN'S CRISIS—LEARN FROM THE MINERS!**

# A Short Story Good For Your Health

Duane absent-mindedly pulled the pick through his Afro as he waited in front of the coffee machine. He had only been on relief for four minutes, with 31 left to go, but he glanced up at the clock by force of habit. The assembly line waited for no one. Looking down the long aisle Duane spotted a friend. It was Jon, the engine decker from his section on the chassis line.

"What's happenin', my man?" Duane called out. "Where were you when the line started up this morning?"

"Hell. I was movin' and groovin' with the labor relations. Seventeen minutes late yesterday and that bastard Dickenson was up for messin' with me."

"Ain't it the truth! That dude is a hard case if I ever saw one. The company has finally gotten the square peg in the square hole."

"Some kind of hole...." Jon muttered.

"Well," Duane offered, "at least you're here. Jackson got three days off for not showin' on Saturday."

"I hear ya." Jon pointed at the coffee machine and asked Duane if he was buying. Duane nodded, dropping another 20¢ into the slot. Then Jon and Duane walked back towards the line together, neither of them talking, each lost in his thoughts. They stopped at their usual spot and, after tossing a few empty cardboard cartons into the aisle, sat down in the stock racks, right underneath the sign that proclaimed "No Sitting in the Stock Racks."

Duane bummed a cigarette from Jon, they both lit up and took long pulls. The silence wasn't broken until Hector, another man from the section, sauntered over to join them.

"Hey," Hector called, his voice raised to be heard over the din of the line. "What you two *companeros* thinkin' about? Your heads are really far away."

"Man, I'm thinkin' about Dickenson," Duane answered. "He's gettin' out of hand."

"I'm hip," Hector responded. "A lot of the guys feel the same way."

Jon looked up at Hector closely. "You sure that's where the boys are at?" Hector nodded. Jon motioned for Duane and Hector to pull in closer. "Okay. We got to kick some slack into this mother. What are people ready for?"

Duane and Hector looked at each other, then back at Jon. "Let's walk," Duane said.

"Listen," Hector said. "This time let's pull more than section 3. At least let's get the word out on the motor line and frame line. Maybe they go and maybe they don't but let's give them a chance by lettin' them in on the thing."

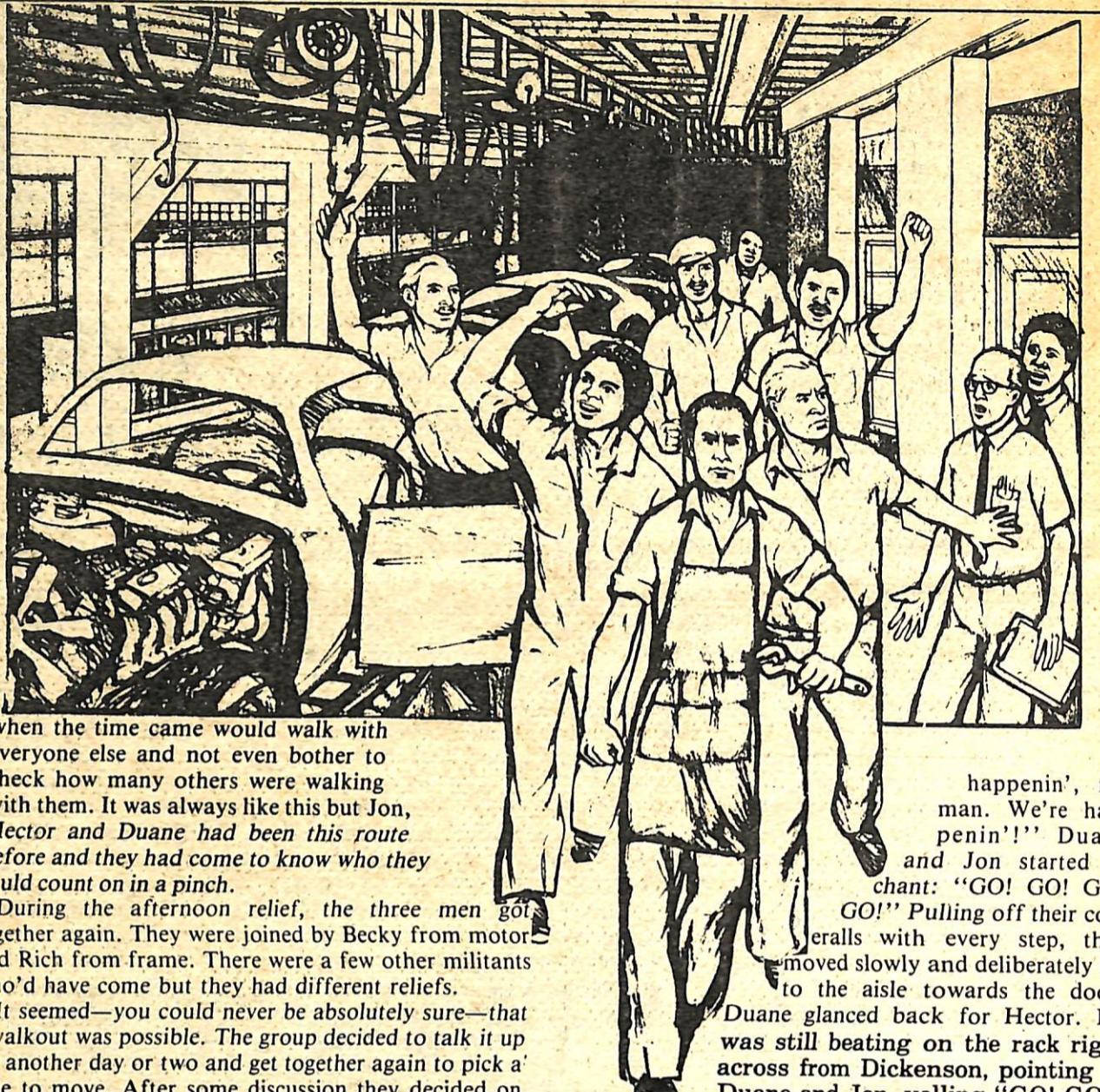
"That's cool," Jon said, looking to see if Duane approved. "Dickenson's not just our problem and I know some of the guys on frames are pretty pissed off about him, too."

"Awright!" Duane shouted, then dropped his voice again. "Let's get out there and start rappin' it down. Hector, Jon, you boys hit frame on lunch and I'll check out motor. I'm pretty tight with some folks over there. We'll all have to get this section together."

"Right on!" Jon and Hector chorused.

During the rest of the morning each of the three would work his job ahead a minute or two and then dash off to talk to one of the other workers. At lunch they went to eat and gamble with the other sections. They informed, they argued, they convinced.

Some of the men said they would walk and meant it. Others said they would walk but when the time came they would hold back, not quite willing to back their talk with action, preferring to hang back and check out how it would go down. Others would honestly say they weren't sure, yet among them there were those who



when the time came would walk with everyone else and not even bother to check how many others were walking with them. It was always like this but Jon, Hector and Duane had been this route before and they had come to know who they could count on in a pinch.

During the afternoon relief, the three men got together again. They were joined by Becky from motor and Rich from frame. There were a few other militants who'd have come but they had different reliefs.

It seemed—you could never be absolutely sure—that a walkout was possible. The group decided to talk it up for another day or two and get together again to pick a time to move. After some discussion they decided on two demands: fire Dickenson and wipe the slates clean.

The next day was a slow one. For every hour the men worked the clock only advanced 40 minutes. Here and there workers were telling their favorite stories about Dickenson, how he screwed so and so, what a sick power trip he was on and such. More experienced hands reminded others that Dickenson wasn't just some freelance shifter but that he was the company's man, first, last and always and they loved him dearly for his efforts. Everyone allowed, though, that a good swift kick at Dickenson might well put him on the street and would surely let the company know that the people wanted, and were going to get, some more breathing room.

With only three hours left of the 10-hour day Dickenson came scooting by on one of the little golf carts all the white shirts drove, probably on the way back from screwing somebody further on down the line. At first, no one noticed him park and peer around a pallet of stock. Copertino didn't have his safety glasses on. Someone spotted Dickenson and yelled out "Glasses!" but over the roar of the line Copertino didn't hear. Dickenson jumped out triumphantly, pulling out a pen and pad in a smooth, well-practiced motion, and began writing Copertino up.

Hector pulled a hammer out from the loop in his coveralls and began beating on a stock rack. Duane and two of the men around him picked it up immediately, banging on the frames with crowbars and hammers. Jon looked up. "Get down!" he cried and then, as he looked around for something to beat the line with, began shouting "Back off! Back off!" over and over again.

Dickenson began looking around frantically. The entire section was beating on the line, the racks, the frames. They were booing, chanting and taking off their safety glasses.

Barely fifteen yards away heads began to turn on the motor line. Jon searched the faces for Becky, finally spotting her walking back along the motor line beating on the stock racks with a jack handle as she went. Then his ears caught something. He looked over at frame. Dozens of men were whistling, boozing and banging on pipes, making a racket even fiercer than section 3.

Duane ran over to Jon, grinning from ear to ear. "It's

happenin', my man. We're happenin'!" Duane

and Jon started to chant: "GO! GO! GO!

GO!" Pulling off their coveralls with every step, they moved slowly and deliberately into the aisle towards the door.

Duane glanced back for Hector. He was still beating on the rack right across from Dickenson, pointing at Duane and Jon, yelling "GO! GO!"

Soon, section 3 was on the move, except for two of the men who simply sat down. About half of motor line pulled away from their work and joined section 3. Dickenson ran for a phone and foremen scurried in every direction. As the workers passed the frame line sections 1 and 2 left the line, whooping it up and banging on pipes the whole way.

The line ground to a halt. Jon looked back to see how it was going. Dozens of people were walking. Way down the line heads were sticking out into the aisles to see what the hell the commotion was all about and why the line had stopped. Many were raising clenched fists.

As they neared the doors a small group of labor relations people, materials supervisors and a few other company men management had quickly scraped up tried to stand in their way. The men hesitated for a second and then charged straight through, scattering bosses every whichaway, scampering to get out of the path of the walkout.

In a moment everyone was out the door. Jon and Hector and Duane passed the word to meet down at the union's parking lot to figure out what the next step was. As the strikers scattered throughout the company lot towards the cars, Jon looked at his two buddies and smiled. "Outtasite," he said.

\* \* \*

This time the union leadership had backed them up—halfway. Dickenson didn't get canned but he definitely showed a lot more slack in his dealings with the workers. Nobody got fired or suspended. Duane had made sure to tell the foreman to pass the word on up that "Ain't no big thing. We'll do it again if someone shows up missin'. We can be pretty damn mean when we put our minds to it."

A few days later, on afternoon relief, Jon, Duane and Hector met again in the stock racks. Celebrating, they furtively passed around a pint of Crown Royal.

"You know," Duane said, "it's like they say. Taking regular walks is good for your health."

By Lee Brach

*The Worker welcomes contributions of fiction, poetry and drawings. Working class culture has an important role to play in our struggle.*

## Tough Strike at Nat'l Black Network 'Soul Brothers' in Mgmt Out to Crush Union Workers

New York City—For six months, employees at the National Black Network (NBN) here have been out on strike. Sixteen employees, including engineers, in-house reporters and news announcers walked out on October 14, 1977, when their bosses at NBN refused to grant

wage increases and job security.

The workers are demanding an increase of \$25 a week each year for 3 years. They also want a clause stating that workers cannot be fired without just cause and without adequate compensation. In addition they're demand-

ing time and a half for holidays and no part-time hiring by the company.

In a move to divide the strikers and bust the union, Local 11 of the National Association of Broadcast Employees and Technicians, NBN is taking a hard

line in the negotiations. Even though their workers make less than half the industry average for their jobs, the company has refused to agree to the \$25 increase for all the strikers, offering this only to the announcers. They want to be able to fire anyone, any time, for any reason and are demanding per diem (part-time) hiring—a move designed to hire people for less wages and without union protection.

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# ACTIONS RIP CARTER AMNESTY DEPORTATIONS HIT COAST TO COAST

On March 18 in over a dozen cities, demonstrators took to the streets against deportations and Carter's so-called amnesty plan for undocumented workers, or "illegal aliens", as the media and politicians call them. These actions in Los Angeles, Houston, San Diego, Milwaukee, Chicago, New York, and other cities were part of the growing nation-wide resistance to the new immigration bill proposed by the Carter administration, the stepped up deportation raids, and the escalation in discrimination and oppression against Spanish-speaking people and other immigrants. The marches ranged in size from 100 to 500, mostly Latinos.

The marchers chanted "Abajo Con La Migra" (Down with the Immigration Service) and "Somos Un Pueblo Sin Fronteras" (We are a people without boundaries) as they set out with banners and flags flying high. In most cities Chicano student organizations played a big role. For example, at least 5 campus groups from around Wisconsin mobilized for the Milwaukee march, as did migrant workers in the state's fields and canneries. The unity of Chicanos, Mexicans, and other nationalities was high—in direct response to the deliberate divide and conquer strategy of US immigration policy.

## THE TERMS OF CARTER'S PLAN

The Carter plan divides the undocumented workers into 3 categories. Only the first group, those who came before 1971, are eligible for amnesty, and then only if they can prove they lived in the US continuously for 7 years, paid taxes, never got into trouble, and are in good health. If they apply and do not qualify, they will be deported immediately! Less than 3% of all undocumented workers in the US would become citizens in this way.

For the rest of the undocumented, Carter's plan means turning yourself in so the government can deport you when you are no longer needed for cheap labor. The vast majority of workers without papers came between 1971 and 1977. To get them to register, the plan offers them permission to stay for 5 years, with no guarantee after that. Those who came after 1977 would only be able to stay if they have seasonal work cards.

Not only does the plan call for registration and deportation of the vast majority of undocumented workers—it also strengthens the border patrol and increases the number of Immigration and Naturalization Service agents. It includes a clause, called for by the leadership of the AFL-CIO, that would levy a fine on employers proven to knowingly hire workers without papers. Some bosses will use this as an excuse to make it harder for any Spanish surnamed worker to get a job. But most of the employers of immigrants, the sweatshops, the fields and canneries, will use the new laws to push undocumented workers even harder. These bosses hire immigrants because they can pay them low wages, few or no benefits, and make them work in lousy conditions, because the workers are afraid of being deported. In fact the bosses often call the immigration police themselves to get rid of "troublemakers" or just to keep the rest of the workers terrorized.

## PHONEY CHARGES HIT

The capitalists have tried to blame the undocumented workers for all kinds of economic problems—and unemployment in particular. Anything to divide workers and point the struggle away from them. The AFL-CIO executive board, as usual playing the bosses game instead of uniting all working people to fight, claims that

speak to this, "How many times are we told if it weren't for them Mexicans there'd be millions more jobs. But thousands were deported last year and thousands of jobs sure didn't appear." He pointed out that the policies of ripping off the undocumented on the job and deporting them are two sides of the same coin. "They try to use the undocumented for whatever is to their advantage—whether its changing-rates, letting safety go to hell, or just keeping the people divided by language and competition for jobs. Our answer has to be unity in the fight for jobs, against discrimination, and against deportations."

The struggle against Carter's bill comes at a time when the gains of minority nationalities are increasingly under attack. Deportations have picked up in recent months. A raid at a Chicago packaging plant in early March rounded up 122 Mexican workers. Right now

gains in higher education for Latinos and all minority students are threatened by the Bakke decision. Cutbacks in bilingual social services are on the up-swing.

The serious nature of the present wave of attacks has begun to unite the Chicano movement as well as workers and student organizations to take up a national campaign against Carter's plan. The March 18 local actions were a part of this offensive which will pick up steam as anti-deportation activists strengthen the unity of their local committees and broader, winning wider sections of the people to take up the fight. This campaign will culminate in a national march now being planned for the fall.

## P.O.

Continued from page 4

The battle lines are being drawn as the July 21 contract deadline nears. President Carter has contingency plans to use the National Guard to break any strike. Rank and file workers are organizing to use this contract battle to fight for what they need. United Workers Organization members in the Postal Service in different cities are working to unite with other P.O. workers to build a fight around key demands which fall, in general, under 3 main areas: No Trade Offs, Takeaways Or Sellouts! Beat Back Attacks On Our Jobs and Working Conditions! Defend Our Living Standards! They will soon be bringing out a new newspaper, the POW (Post Office Worker).

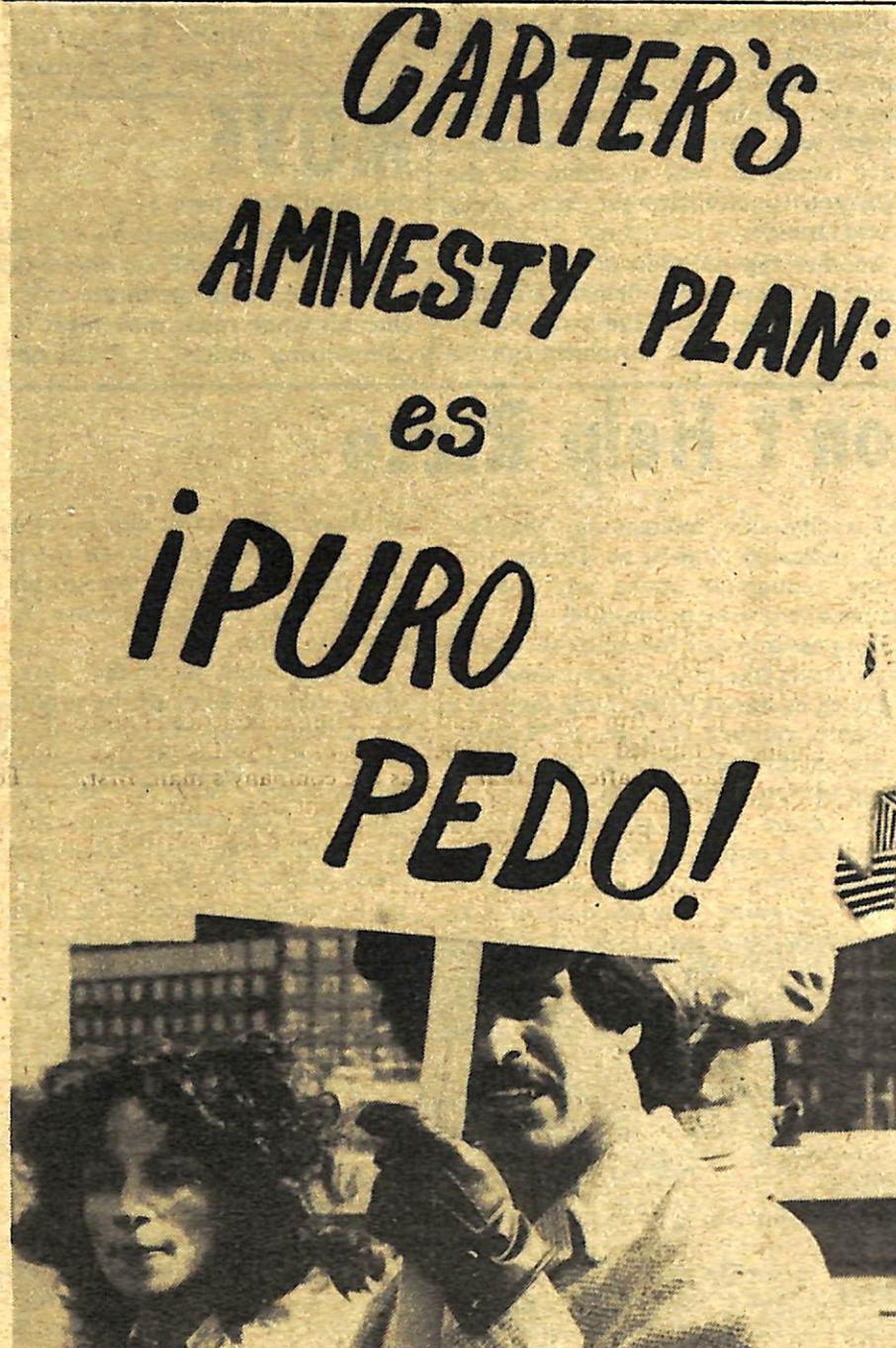
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has used every filthy tactic it could think of from scab labor to refusing to negotiate at all with the union for 2 months. Gene Jackson, NBN's president, said, "I'm not going to let a honkey union tell me what to do." He means, of course, that he'll be damned if his workers have a weapon to fight back with in their shop.

Not standing still for this garbage, the NBN workers have waged a broad campaign to win their demands. In addition to press coverage on TV and in several papers, a demonstration of 250 was called by the Central Labor Council to publicize the strike. Some of NBN's sponsors like Kraft and Metropolitan Life Insurance have gotten nervous and dropped advertising. Some affiliated stations of the National Black Network are supporting the strike by not calling in news and refusing to carry NBN programs because of poor quality. NBN has been forced to use UPI audio (tape) news which isn't exactly building its Black-oriented reputation. Recently, the union filed charges of unfair labor practices with the NLRB which lit a fire under NBN to start negotiating again. The only reason besides the UPI news that's allowed NBN to hold out this long is the continued advertising of such sponsors as McDonald's Hamburgers and Afro-Sheen Products.

Representatives from Southern African liberation movements have also joined in to back the strikers. They've refused to talk to NBN, saying they support Black workers' fight against exploitation, even if it's against black bosses.

The strikers refuse to be broken. They know that without a union in their shop and without a good contract they'll be defenseless and working for low pay. What's needed now is to build support in the Black communities. Most Black people who are "serviced" by NBN are workers; many are walking the unemployment lines. Like workers everywhere, they know about rotten conditions and being driven down by employers like NBN. They can become a powerful force to force the "brothers" who run NBN to back down.



Thousands marched in cities across the country last month to denounce the government's attacks on undocumented workers.

## NBN Walkout

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The company's stand is a real good exposure of what they're all about. National Black Network was set up 5 years ago to service the Black community with Black news and feature programs. Until the strike NBN produced in-depth programs about "Black America." It also bragged loudly about its hiring of Black technicians in an industry that, until recently, was hard for Black people to break into. But, from the start, its most important interest has been, like every other employer, to make the biggest profit off its workers. NBN has a history of keeping wages low, harassing its workers and forcing them to work outside their job descriptions—with no increase in pay. Behind all this, management was pushing the line about how everyone was "soul brothers"—management and workers alike. And, three years ago, when the technicians decided to bring in a union

what's more, it turns out that the real commitment to build a network that services the Black community lies with the NBN employees. Ricki Stevenson, shop steward for the announcers, said, "Many of us came to work at NBN to build a Black network when we could have gone elsewhere at better pay. All management cares about is the money they get from advertising. We're the ones who care about quality programs." Since the present strike began NBN

# VETS MEET, TARGET ABUSES

**Chicago**—Over the weekend of March 25-26 a national conference of veterans held here made a number of key decisions about building a powerful vets movement. One was to take up the effects of Agent Orange on Vietnam Veterans. Agent Orange is a chemical defoliant used extensively in Vietnam to clear out the jungle. Thousands of Vietnamese and G.I.'s were exposed to it. Agent Orange causes baldness, numbness in the hands and feet, reduced sexual drive, and it has been linked to birth defects. The conference, initiated by Vietnam Veterans Against the War, brought together 35 VVAW members from San Francisco, New York, Minneapolis, Milwaukee, and Chicago and delegates from several veterans clubs.

This is the latest scandal about Pentagon treatment of GI's. Recently a Chicago TV station ran a 1 hour special on Agent Orange, "The deadly Poison," and blasted the VA and the Pentagon for its use. Prior to the Chicago conference VVAW contacted the station and got major tv coverage.

The vets decided to build a fight around this latest scandal. They are demanding that the VA and the Pentagon publicize the facts about Agent Orange and contact all vets about it. They want tests and treatment for any vet suffering

ill effects, from the VA or payment for treatment from the doctor of their choice. They want compensation for vets afflicted and they want the US government to recognize and cooperate with the Vietnamese doctors doing experiments in treating its effects.

The revelations about "Agent Orange" add one more outrage to the list of abuses Vietnam veterans face. "Used once and thrown away" is the way more and more vets describe the government's treatment. Millions of American kids were ripped off in the prime of their youth to be cannon fodder in a far off war that turned out to be solely for the benefit of the corporate fat cats. They were lied to and treated like garbage in the Army—and it's been only more of the same since.

Vets face an economy without jobs, cuts in vets benefits, less than honourable discharges, lousy VA hospitals, and the physical and mental scars of an unjust war. At the recent conference vets agreed to a series of demands around these issues, as well as calling on the Pentagon to publicize the facts about Agent Orange.

Another big question at the conference is the big play the Vietnam War and veterans are getting in the mass media. With the war and the movement against



it now a respectable distance in the past, the U.S. ruling class is bent on summing it up. They are saying it was an unfortunate mistake to be forgotten about. Some, like General Westmoreland, once chief commander in Vietnam, are saying that the US could have and should have won the war if they had used more military power. Many in the ruling class believe it is important to hide the truth about the war and to cover over the situation that Vietnam vets are currently faced with, as part of preparing the

American people for new wars that are brewing on the horizon.

The participants at the conference agreed that it is crucial to expose the truth, to educate people and build struggle around the plight of Vietnam vets in the US, and to sum up the struggle of the Vietnamese people as a valiant and victorious fight for freedom.

The vets will be actively organizing against cuts in the GI bill, for jobs for vets, against US involvement in Panama, and in support of the struggle for freedom in South Africa.

In the Midwest, VVAW together with some veterans clubs will be building for a demonstration in Chicago on April 22. Dubbed "Vietnam Veteran's Day," the demonstration will raise all of these crucial issues.

VVAW and the conference also endorsed and will actively build for a national veterans demonstration initiated by the City University of New York—Veterans Action Coalition and scheduled to be held in Washington DC from June 1-10.

## MOVE

Continued from page 3

minority communities people see that his dealings with MOVE are only a taste of what he hopes for the future as he launches his white racist movement (see accompanying article). "Philadelphia is

like Johannesburg, South Africa. You have to show your passbook. Pretty soon, if we don't stand up against Rizzo, he'll have all of North Philly behind a blockade." That's how one older black woman summed it up at a public meeting.

One of Rizzo's closest allies in his crusade against MOVE has been the press, particularly the *Philadelphia Daily News*. Lies and distortion fill almost every article about MOVE, calling them "terrorists" and nothing but dirty animals who throw excrement out the windows. With these lies they hope to get people to support Rizzo. But on the day after the barricades went up, 200 people marched outside the *Daily News* denouncing their lies. The PHRC, who the *Daily News* says represents more than 650 Powelton residents, has never been able to get more than about 20 to any meeting, but the paper has blacked out proMOVE demonstrations of hundreds.

Rizzo wants to use MOVE as an example to try and show people that they can't stand up, that it's impossible to rebel. And he hopes to use the blockade as a springboard to build his racist

## Backing Off Won't Help Rizzo

From page 3

minorities. Two more police murders in a Puerto Rican area in North Philly last summer sparked months of active protest. Huge cuts in the public transit system hit the whole city hard but was particularly targeted at the Black neighborhoods.

All these outrages against the people are everyday occurrences in American cities—mayors are *supposed* to control their cities by any means necessary—Police terror in minority communities is certainly not limited to Philadelphia—every big city has its own version. And Rizzo certainly does his job of serving the rich at the expense of the people. While wrecking public transit, he channelled \$300 million in tax dollars to build an 8 block subway spur through a tunnel to connect a railroad station bringing corporate officers and customers from the suburbs with a subway stop in the main shopping and business area in Center City. This project will serve only 4,000 people a day—in the country's fourth largest city!

### RIZZO'S POWER SLIPPING

Rizzo could pull huge blunders a few years ago and get away with them—like the time he boldly volunteered to take a lie detector test to prove his integrity and failed it cold—but recently his political base has been crumbling.

Hizzoner's claim to stand for the "little people" has been increasingly shaken as one figure after another from his administration and political cronies goes to jail for racketeering, mail fraud and bribery. His police have been on trial in one brutality case after another.

Several of his important backers from the Democratic Party machine have already jumped ship—like his onetime speech-writer, Al Gaudiosi, who will probably run for Mayor himself.

### RIZZO TRIES TO RECOUP HIS LOSSES

At present, there is no way Rizzo can run for a third term. The City Charter limits any Mayor to two consecutive terms. Originally, Rizzo's plan was to change the Charter. To do this he would need the majority of the City Council

and a city-wide referendum. But the polls indicated anti-Rizzo feeling was strong enough to make any charter change a very risky proposition.

The possibility of falling by the political wayside like many other ex-mayors of big cities stared Rizzo in the face. He probably couldn't even get a TV commentator job like John Lindsay, former mayor of New York.

His answer was to try and establish himself as a public figure with an independent political base: "I want to be a voice that's going to be heard not only in Philadelphia but across the country." He decided to try and build a power base off white workers' real disgust and anger at the worsening situation they find themselves in. His message was simple: I'll save you, if you follow me in attacking Blacks.

"It seems to me whites have no rights anymore," he intoned. "But let me tell you what we're going to do. I'm going to lead this charge, across this city and across this country."

Rizzo's attacks come at a time when the government at all levels is moving to wipe out major gains won during the civil rights struggles during the 1960's and '70's. His declaration of war against minorities is right in line with the intent of the upcoming Bakke case in the Supreme Court that could wipe out affirmative action nationwide.

### RIZZO COMES UNDER FIRE

Because he was so upfront about what the rulers of this country really are doing, they were acutely embarrassed by his remarks. At this time it makes it harder for them to rule Philadelphia and control the people. His longtime buddies who own the city's biggest banks, John Bunting of the First Pennsylvania and Thacher Longstreth issued a public statement disclaiming any connection with Rizzo's blatant racism. All the local news media, including usually pro-Rizzo *Philadelphia Bulletin*, made noises of distress.

The high and mighty capitalists who rule this country know that their survival is assured as long as the people are fighting each other instead of them. They support, encourage and publicize openly racist demagogues like David Duke of the KKK. But having such an open racist

as Mayor of a major city is embarrassing, and helps break down the illusion that the government is here to serve the people. This is why they came down so heavy on Rizzo.

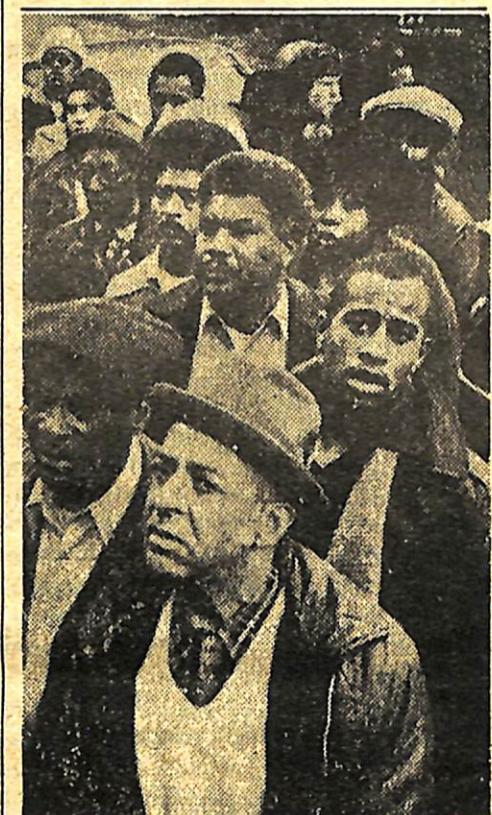
Rizzo's rabid pitch did have some sugar-coating. Some of the problems he was talking about affect working people of all nationalities. Neighborhoods are falling apart. Taxes are skyrocketing. No jobs. Kids getting lousy education. It's pretty tough for Rizzo to convince many people that Black people are single-handedly responsible for all this. So he broadened the target. He said that people also have to fight government bureaucrats who stick up for Black people and victimize whites. "Politicians—they're prostitutes," declared Rizzo, the man who raised taxes after getting elected on a no-tax-hike platform, whose cuts have made mincemeat of the public school system. Rizzo's ploy is not to organize the people against the rich who rule and rob us, it's to organize the people against Blacks. By throwing in his political enemies in the ruling class he hopes to draw in those who won't be sold on straight racism but who do hate the way things are.

Recently, the kitchen has been getting too hot for Rizzo, and he has started to backpeddle a little. First, he said his proposed movement wasn't racist: Blacks could join, too—as long as they were committed to wiping out any gains minorities have won in the last two decades! He talked about how many blacks there were in his administration—neglecting to mention that most were clerks or janitors.

And as we go to press, Rizzo appears to be edging back toward a bid for a third term. He is quietly pushing some of his more respectable followers to start a "spontaneous" movement to change the City Charter and draft him for a third term. The outrage his new career as racist demagogue provoked has apparently got him nervous enough to consider running the risks of another run for office.

But shift and fake as he may, Rizzo's move to spearhead a white racist movement has only underlined that he is a deadly enemy of the people of Philadelphia and the whole country.

STOP RIZZO NOW!



Supporters stood up for MOVE.

movement. To do this he has set himself up as the saviour in opposition to what he labels a bunch of crazed, dirty, revolutionary animals. Rizzo rode into the Mayor's office on a vicious and well-publicized attack he led on the Black Panther Party, and he now hopes to launch his new movement on the bleeding flesh of MOVE. But all his maneuvers will only bring more oppression down on all working people, especially those in minority communities. Rizzo must be stopped!

# ANGRY DEMONSTRATORS RIP DAVIS CUP MATCHES

## Apartheid Protest Leaves Stadium Near Empty

**Nashville, Tennessee**—On the weekend of March 17th-19th, thousands marched, rallied and picketed the Davis Cup tennis matches in Nashville. They were protesting the presence of a South African team in the competition. At a 9,000 seat gymnasium, barely 1500 tickets were sold, and even fewer used, for each of the 3 matches in the "world series" of tennis. Meanwhile, the anti-apartheid activities outside drew thousands of individuals and organizations from around the country. It was one of the biggest demonstrations of its kind in the South since the '60s, and one of the biggest political boycotts of a sports event this country has ever seen.

The three days of protest had been planned for months, built at Vanderbilt by Students Protesting Apartheid—who organized daily picketlines and petition drives—and nationwide by a range of civil rights and progressive organizations including Tennessee Coalition Against Apartheid, NAACP, and the American Committee for Equality in Sport and Society (ACCESS). The controversy generated by the issue of support for South Africa reached such a pitch that ACCESS' director, Dr. Richard Lapchick, was brutally assaulted by racist thugs.

These anti-apartheid activities at the Davis Cup are part of a growing



Thousands of marchers lashed out at apartheid and its U.S. backers at the Davis Cup Matches.

worldwide movement to isolate, expose and attack the South African government whenever possible. Last year tar was poured on the courts of the matches in California in a similar protest. Although sponsors of the event have tried to convince people that sports and politics

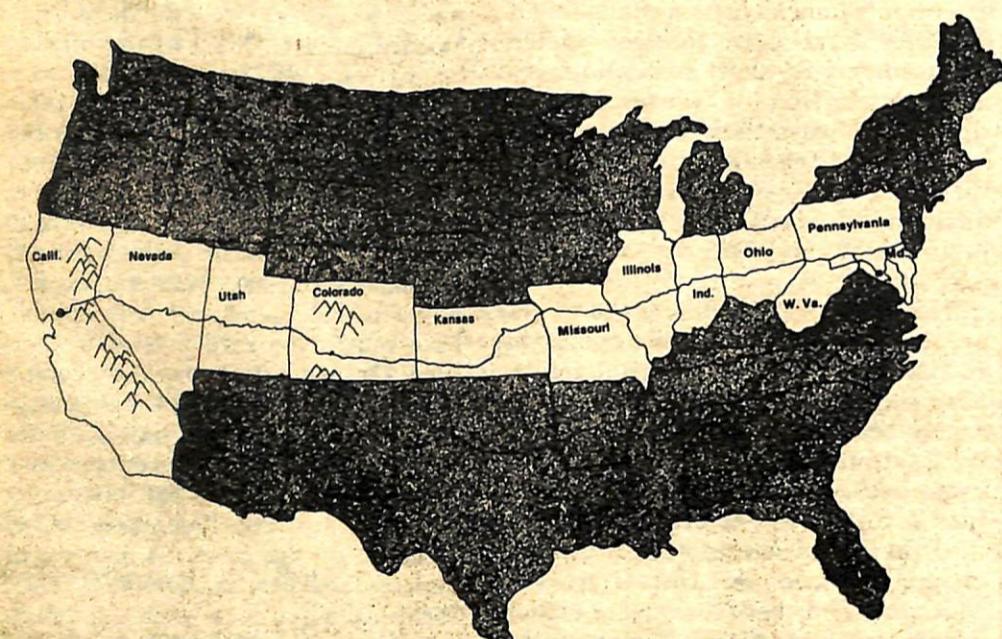
don't mix, the protests were, in the words of one demonstrator from Boston, "a dividing line, by which

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people's actions determined which side they were on". For while Vanderbilt sponsors tried to make it a question of "free speech", to Vanderbilt's students and faculty, it was clearly a question of supporting or opposing South Africa's racist regime. Spectators were harassed and taunted entering and leaving the gym, since, as one protester explained, "We want to make it as difficult as possible for these people to get in because the issue has been out there and they're not innocent—they know attending these matches means giving legitimacy to the South African government."

The three days of events began Friday, March 17th, with a march in Nashville that left Tennessee State University with about 300 people, which swelled into the thousands when it was joined by contingents from local, predominantly Black schools like Fisk University, Meharry Medical College, Scarritt and Peabody. Said one Fisk organizer who had helped turn out 1000 students there, "We rang the bell they used to ring a long time ago, and the students came out and answered it". Although a sudden snowstorm disrupted the afternoon's rally—a speak-out against apartheid—over 300 persons stayed picketing the Vanderbilt gymnasium till 8 p.m. A wall of cops lined the glass doors of the gym entrance, and with picketers forming a line of several hundred yards on the sidewalk in front of it, spectators were forced to go in by other doors. Local newspapers, which

# INDIANS AIM 'LONGEST WALK' AT GOV'T ATTACKS



"The Longest Walk"—Trail

On February 11, "The Longest Walk" began from Alcatraz Island. Later that day over 100 Indians set out on foot from Sacramento, California. Their destination is Washington, D.C., 3000 miles away. Their purpose is to build a movement against proposed legislative attacks on Indian people. Everywhere possible along the way, the Native Americans will hold educational sessions, ceremonies, and demonstrations to expose 11 bills presently before Congress. These bills would wipe out all treaties, reservations, Indian schools and clinics, as well as hunting, fishing, and resource rights. All this would be done under the name of equal opportunity.

The walk is symbolic of the many forced journeys Native Americans have

taken in the last 400 years. This march "to protest the corporate power which threatens the existence of Indian people," may prove to be the most powerful expression to date of the nation-wide unity in the Indian movement. Well over 100 tribes are expected to participate in this protest, supported by individuals and groups from all nationalities and all parts of the country.

When marchers made their way over the snowy Sierra Nevada Mountains, they received supplies and new marchers from Nevada and Southern California. Indians from the Pacific Northwest, California, and individuals from many tribes were met in Reno, Nevada by delegations from the Fort McDermont and Pyramid Lake reservations. After

the walk conquered the Rockies at the 12,000 foot high Monarch Pass, it was joined by groups of Utah, Colorado, and Southwest Indians.

The Indians stopped for several days at Pueblo, Colorado, holding a forum for local people. They also held a ceremony a few days later at Sand Creek, Colorado, the site of a massacre in 1864. On that spot an encampment of several hundred Cheyenne elders, women, and children was annihilated by the Colorado militia under the command of General Chivington in one of the most cowardly massacres in U.S. military history.

The walk through the western states is particularly significant because underneath and flowing across Indian lands are vast energy resources—coal, uranium, oil, and water power. One of the intentions behind the anti-Indian legislation is to rip this wealth from Native American control. The huge energy monopolies, under attack by everyone from the coal miners to Third World countries, and facing sharper competition, have their eyes on this untapped wealth, especially in the western states.

At Lawrence, Kansas, the walk will rally at Haskell College, a Bureau of Indian Affairs school won through

struggle by Indian people. It would be threatened by the anti-Indian legislation.

Here "The Longest Walk" will be joined by a contingent sponsored by Indian Community Schools in Minnesota.

The Minnesota forces will hold a relay "run" for survival beginning on April 15.

The 1st segment of the run will follow the path of the death march of the Santee Sioux from Mankato to a prison at Fort Snelling.

The run will pause in Mankato to commemorate 38 Santee who were hanged there on December 26, 1862.

Another symbolic moment will come when the marchers reach Marion, Illinois some time in May. There Leonard Peltier is being held. Peltier, who was framed up following the fire-fight between Indians and FBI agents on the Rosebud Reservation, will have his appeal heard in Federal Court in St. Louis on April 12.

The growing unity of Indian and non-Indian people in this struggle will reach a high point when the walk arrives in Washington, D.C. sometime in July. Before the marble monuments of this country's rulers, the Indian people will make their demands. They have had to struggle for their very right to exist for these past 400 years. That day they'll let every big shot know—they've come too far to give up now.

## China

Continued from page 10

education and culture. Both by relying on their own skills and abilities, and by drawing from the most advanced levels in the world China is encouraging scientific experiment and technological growth in many areas, especially nuclear energy, lasers, genetic engineering and electronic integrated circuits and computers.

In education, China is striving to guarantee universal eight year schooling in rural areas and ten year schooling in cities by 1985. In the colleges and universities the emphasis is on science and engineering, combined with political study and practical experience. A corps of skilled youth dedicated to building the socialist economy of China is the aim.

China is encouraging creativity and experiment under the policy of "let a hundred flowers bloom, let a hundred schools of thought contend." The pur-

pose of all science, education and art forms is to serve the people, in particular the workers and peasants. Widespread and lively development in all these fields are being called for. In the course of this, sharp debate and discussion will be waged over what forms best serve the people.

The great majority of people in China are bursting with enthusiasm over the plans and are optimistic that the goals can be reached. The whole country is uniting with everyone pitchin in to do his part to help build the new China. Workers, peasants, students, scientists, engineers and artists are all marching together as one, with a real sense of purpose and determination to build a bright future.

This stands in stark contrast to the situation in the U.S. and other industrialized capitalist countries. In these countries there is stagnation and anxiety and despair over a future that only looks gloomy. These countries are rife with division and lack a sense of unity and direction.

Despite their vast industrial wealth, the capitalist countries are crumbling physically and decaying morally. At the bottom of the heap are the millions of working people who are being driven down further each day and labor only for the profits of the rich.

### CHINA—BEACON LIGHT FOR ALL WORKERS

Since its founding, socialist China has become an example to other underdeveloped countries for how strong and well-rounded economies can be developed without becoming tied to one or another of the advanced capitalist powers. China has shown that it is not overpopulation, or superstition among the people, or lack of resources and technology that is the main obstacle to development. It is the imperialists and their system that keeps the chains on Third World countries and forces them into backwardness.



As China advances to the front ranks as an industrial power, it will increasingly become an example to workers in the capitalist countries like the U.S. China will show that working people have unlimited potential without the rich class on their backs. In fact China's development will help show that it is this very class of owners and their system that stand in the way of a decent life for the vast majority of all people.

## COPS CAUGHT WITH PANTS DOWN AGAIN

**Milwaukee, Wisc.**—Five squads from Milwaukee's 5th district police station responded to the call. They rushed the house and found three drunken men, one undressed, "partying" with one woman. The men turned out to be three of "Milwaukee's finest", the woman a police investigator, and the call for help came from the woman's husband, a police sergeant. This incident was followed by reports that the woman kept a diary with details of her "interdepartmental" liquor and sex escapades with as many as 40 different policemen. One party allegedly took place on New Year's Eve on the grounds of the Police Training

Academy.

The revelations touched off a new flurry of indignation from the people of Milwaukee who have caught abuse from the MPD for years. The response of the Police Chief, Harold Breier, was his patented "no comment" and his usual attempt to keep all police affairs strictly within his jurisdiction. At police roll calls his lieutenants ordered the men to stop spreading rumors about the case. This latest incident was reminiscent of the famous 1974 "stag party" in which most of the 3rd district night shift had sex with a young woman they took out of a home for runaways.

many local college students, urged people to go back and picket the Vanderbilt gym, the key site of the struggle—where the matches were being held, where the spectators were, where the cops were, where the press and TV cameras were. By encouraging people to stay at their hours long rally, the NAACP kept the level of struggle down by diverting it from the scene of confrontation. They further exposed themselves by playing "The Star Spangled Banner" at the beginning of the rally—in the midst of a weekend of protest against US support of South Africa's government. Many in the audience booed angrily, but when the people in the crowd began singing the Black national anthem afterwards, everybody rose, fists held high.

Several hundred people joined the Soweto Brigade and marched away from the rally site back to the front lines—the Davis Cup matches. The depth of people's anger and of their hatred for apartheid became clear when spectators were leaving the gym at the end of Saturday's matches. Then the picketers formed large groups at the edge of the sidewalk, forcing those leaving to pass through them. They angrily confronted each individual, demanding of them, "Why do you support apartheid?"

Throughout the weekend it was evident that people's anger was directed not just at apartheid but against the rich rulers who support and profit from it and who oppress people, especially minorities, here. Chants such as "Discrimination here, apartheid there/Gotta fight that system everywhere" indicated people's understanding about the nature and scope of the battle. At an open meeting Friday night led by the RSB, one of the main questions brought up was "What are we

## Unemployment

Continued from page 8

ment has remained high, unemployment benefits have been cut, and survival for working class families is difficult. The Bill is a tool that is political, not economic. It is aimed at disarming the working class in the fight for jobs. The misleaders of the AFL-CIO have spent millions of dollars in workers' dues supporting this bill. Over the last three years they have failed to organize a nationwide movement for jobs. Instead, they push this bill as the best and only means to solve unemployment. Both the bosses and Meany & Co. dangle the lure of full employment, provided we support the right politicians. But this is more than another empty promise, it is an ambush. This bill is being used to direct workers

Over the past 5 years reports of Milwaukee cops enjoying each others' wives, getting caught drunk or with drugs, or cavorting with homosexuals in after hours bars have been common. Often they have been followed by announcements of short suspensions and maybe an officer or two forced to resign. But always there's a clear double standard. The cops know that as long as they are careful, they can get away with anything from tavern shakedowns, taking bribes and "favors," to burglary and murder.

The incidents of brutality and murder are the most blatant of police crimes that consistently go unpunished. Late last year six or seven Milwaukee cops viciously beat Roger Lyons to death in a west side tavern. Lyons was an Outlaw motorcycle club member. A coroner's jury investigated the death, concluding that there was not enough evidence to charge any one cop. District Attorney McCann tried to cover for the obvious injustice saying it was "unfortunate" and that maybe someday the case would be solved.

Before Lyons, it was Charles Daily,

going to do to fight Black people's oppression here?" The answer was to build "a political movement that turns its fire on those who prop apartheid up"—for they are the very same rich who make economic and political (taking back affirmative action programs by using Bakke) attacks here.

People left Nashville prepared to continue the battle. They had exposed the South African government once again—putting it in the spotlight and focusing people's anger on it. The thousands in Nashville spoke for millions around the world. As one protester summed up: "It showed the government and the ruling class getting more isolated around the issue...it showed the strength of the people."

Jerry Brookshire, Johnny Starks, Mary Pendleton, Warren Pettis, Jackie Ford, Clifford McKissick—all Black and all murdered by Milwaukee police. Nobody was suspended or fired for these cold-blooded murders. Most of the officers involved have since been promoted.

The pent-up resentment at police arrogance and brutality is a force that the Milwaukee power structure has to reckon with. Too many everyday people have been mistreated, too many strikers have been arrested, or pushed around, too many youth have been hassled and harassed, and too many minority people have caught the hard end of a night stick. On many occasions the people's anger has taken the form of spontaneous resistance and organized protest. Twice in the past 5 years Milwaukee cops have paid with their lives for brutalizing people on the streets. (See article on Ray Mendoza on this page.) A number of marches and demonstrations in 1975, following a series of police murders, forced the cops to back off temporarily.

Often the focus of the people's hatred has been Chief Breier, who rose in the ranks of the MPD by shooting an unarmed burglary suspect and saying in 1968 that if the Blacks rose up he'd "knock 'em down." He has a lifetime appointment, on the theory that this will keep him from being tempted to be corrupt! Last February the city council was forced to pass an ordinance limiting future police chiefs' terms to 7 years. But this has not cooled out continuing demands for Breier's ouster.

Meanwhile the cops are still enjoying whatever privileges they can get away with. In return they provide faithful service to the bankers and industrialists—law and order, intimidation, terror, whatever level of repression is necessary to keep the whole rip-off system rolling. And Chief Breier is going to try to improve the quality of his boys' "undercover" work.

## Nashville Actions Rip Davis Cup

Continued from page 17

gave front page coverage to the protests, reported many ticket-holders refusing to attend due to the presence of the picketers.

The police were prepared to go on the offensive at the slightest provocation. While cops lined the doors outside, about 30 officers remained inside, facing the crowd, with plainclothes detectives constantly circulating through the stands, making the number of policemen equal to about 10% of the crowd! Despite all the precautions, two members of the Revolutionary Student Brigade (RSB) made it inside to put up a banner saying "South Africa Out of the Davis Cup—Victory Will Be Ours".

On Saturday, more than 3000 people marched from the Capital Building, through downtown Nashville, and into Centennial Park. Protester chants such as "Freedom Fighters Rising Up Strong/US Imperialism Won't Last Long!" rang out, making a strong show of support for the South African people's liberation struggle. Once at the park, debate broke out over how best to carry on the battle. The NAACP had planned a 2 to 3 hour rally, pushing it as an alternative to direct confrontation. Meanwhile, the Soweto Brigade contingent, led by the RSB and including

# Students Stand Up to Racist Slurs Academic Attack On Open Admissions

In the past month the campus of City College of New York (CCNY) has been rocked by marches, rallies and confrontations with the administration. Students have been responding with outrage to a recent series of media attacks upon City's student body. The first attack came out in an article in a respectable "liberal" journal, the *Saturday Review*. Written by Henry Gross, who holds a responsible position as Dean of Humanities at City, it chronicled how Gross feels academic standards have been falling at the college since the inception of Open Admissions 8 years ago. A series of feature articles in the widely-read newspaper, the *New York Post*, followed this up, claiming students at CCNY were "illiterates."

Students and faculty at City went on the offensive as soon as the *Post* articles appeared. Twenty students came to a meeting called by the Revolutionary Student Brigade (RSB), and their number quickly swelled to 200 for a rally three days later. After speaking out against the *Post's* allegations, they marched over to Gross' office, shouting: "Gross, You Liar! We'll Set Your Ass On Fire!" and "Stop Those Racist Lies! Students are Gonna Organize!" Gross was conveniently absent but they forced their way into his office, and made an appointment to come back the next week.

In the following days, it became clear that there was a fire burning on the City campus, a fire that was not about to die down.

## THE STAKES ARE HIGH

This is not the first time the flames of protest have raged at City College. City's whole history has been forged from the heat of constant struggles. Students had to fight to make City a college to serve the needs of the people. Minority students and Harlem residents shut it down in 1969, demanding it admit more minorities. They won the Open Admissions program—making higher education a right and a reality for tens of thousands of Blacks, Latins, and Asians. It has been hard for City College students. Most have had to work while attending school, and many have had to do extra academic work to make up for inadequate high school educations. But a large number have managed to graduate from CCNY, and they have made it a symbol of opportunity to minority youth, which it had been to poor and working-class youth for generations.

When the New York City crisis fell, the whole City University of New York (CUNY) system was targeted as one of its main victims. While black youth unemployment in New York was as high as 90%, even whites with Ph.D.'s were accepting routine office jobs. The high and mighty no longer had need for more college graduates. Thus, as part of tightening their budget, New York's rulers attacked the city-wide college system, especially City College, with massive cutbacks. They imposed tuition for the first time ever in CUNY, driving out many students who couldn't afford even the few hundred dollars it now costs to attend. Then they canned literally thousands of full-and-part-time teachers, decreasing the number of courses by 1/3 and increasing enrollment in the remaining ones. This has made City College and other schools in the CUNY system places where it is extremely difficult to get a quality education.

The kind of education students have been receiving has been of a different nature. They have been given political lessons, learning who is on their side and

fighting for their interests. They easily found where Dean Gross stands. As head of the Humanities Department, his view of the student body is that most of the students just lounge around the halls and smoke dope nowadays. He bemoans the lowering of "Anglo-Saxon" standards, which presumably has occurred since Open Admissions vastly increased minority attendance at City.

The last few years have seen one attack after another launched on education at City. Every one has been met by organized resistance from the students, sometimes successful, more often not. City students were among ten thousand students who stormed the capitol in Albany against budget cutbacks a few years ago, while in New York demonstrations frequently went on outside Board of Higher Education meetings over cutbacks and teacher lay-offs. At every campus, including City's, rallies, petitions and meetings showed active student concern for the decline of their education.

Yet now they have been dealt the final outrage. For what Gross and the *Post* articles have told the students is that this whole mess is their own fault. City stu-



Angry students confront Dean Gross over his slanders.

both Gross and the *Post* implying that City's more prestigious days were due to the fact that the school used to be mainly white. They equate the decline in the quality of education with the influx of minorities since Open Admissions. Gross' statement about the lowering of Anglo-Saxon standards explicitly makes this point. Just as the Bakke case waves the banner of equality to wipe out affirmative action programs, the city rulers and their mouthpieces like Gross use the pretext of declining standards to justify forcing more students out of school and making more cutbacks in CCNY's budget.

The ruling class is in a political and economic crisis, and with it comes an increase in attacks on minorities and an intensification of national oppression. Not only does unemployment increase and income fall, for Blacks and other minorities, they are also the first targets for most cutbacks in social services. Thus as the demand for college graduates falls in society, minority students are the first to be affected. The fact that City College has a largely minority student body has made a prime victim of the rulers' crisis. As they have done many times in the past, the students rallied to their own defense against these attacks. After their first march, they continued to speak bitterly in protest to the *Post* and *Saturday Review* articles, and to organize for a confrontation with Gross.

## TAKING ON GROSS, FACE TO FACE

On March 13th, over 100 students marched to Gross' office and forced their way in, over his protests. They demanded that he retract his statements or resign. Gross tried to pass himself off as a scapegoat during a 1 1/2 hour confrontation, playing up the fact that he hadn't been against Open Admissions (not for it—just not against it). He pleaded with the students, "Put yourself in my position." This sparked one battle-worn but still fighting City woman to retort: "I'd love to put myself in your position, man—cause you don't go through the hell we go through every day. You don't have to worry about where your next paycheck, your next meal is coming from, never mind looking for classes that don't exist. You aren't worrying about nothing but covering your own ass."

Students' anger was pointed like a knife at Gross because he clearly stood with and represented all the city's economic and political rulers. To these rulers, CUNY is not worth funding, because they have no need for better-educated minorities. But minority students want higher education, and a better higher education than what they have been getting at City. They have already proven that they are able and willing to fight for it, and their current battle is a continuation of that.

## BAKKE

Continued from page 1

this country rebelling against centuries of oppression. Starting in the late 1950's, minority people demanded their rights through militant protests, boycotts and strikes. Millions first marched peacefully and then openly rebelled as the ghettos became hotbeds of struggle. The upsurge ripped away illusions and hit hard at the very core of our system.

It was in this context of mass struggle and the political turmoil that the gains were won. Formal, legal equality was won. Blacks could sit anywhere on a bus. Schools were forced to open their doors to minorities and set up special programs to see that this actually happened. Some companies were forced to set up training programs for minorities and change their vicious discriminatory practices.

But these changes did not end the daily oppression of minorities. Far from it. And from the day these programs started, the school administration, employers and the government started chipping away at them. Programs were underfunded or cut back. Black, Latin and other minority people continued to be driven into the worst and lowest paying jobs and into unemployment lines at two or three times the rate of white workers. Ghettos today are

bleaker than they were ten years ago. The Bakke case is once again opening people's eyes and moving people into struggle for their freedom and liberation. Some forces in the anti-Bakke movement have been working against this potentially powerful resurgence. They've tried to narrow the issue strictly to the Alan Bakke case, failing to hit it as the leading edge in a broader attack on Black people and other minorities. In addition they've tried to channel the movement into being a legal pressure group only aimed at the courts without looking to how struggle can take huge steps in building the continuing fight of oppressed minorities for equality and freedom.

The demonstration in Washington will go a long way toward countering the ruling class' attempts to create a political climate that will allow continued and stepped-up attacks on minorities. It will help tear away the respectability the current Bakke case is giving to the lie that Blacks are the cause of this country's mounting problems when they are among the foremost victims. The march on April 15 marks not the end of a campaign but the beginning of a new movement against racism and the oppression of millions of people.

## P.O.

Continued from page 15

A key task will be holding the union to July 21—No Contract, No Work. While the union leaders have been talking tough, that's all it has been. No mention of what the key issues are or plans for winning them, just tough talk.

With union elections coming up right after the contract, they are very careful about standing openly in the way of P.O. workers. Instead, they've added that heavy dose of contract year rhetoric to their usual strategy, which is urging workers to get behind their lobbying for "favorable legislation." But only a can beat back the Service's attacks on jobs and working conditions.

Next month: more on the unions and the contract.

# Fighting Erupts In Mideast

Continued from page 1

"the killing of innocent women and children," Israeli commandos shot up 2 civilian taxis killing 18 men, women and children. Over 200,000 Lebanese and 50,000 Palestinians were forced to flee for their lives and seek refuge in other parts of Lebanon. The Israelis themselves admitted what the scope of the invasion made obvious—this was no simple retaliation. They were using plans made long before.

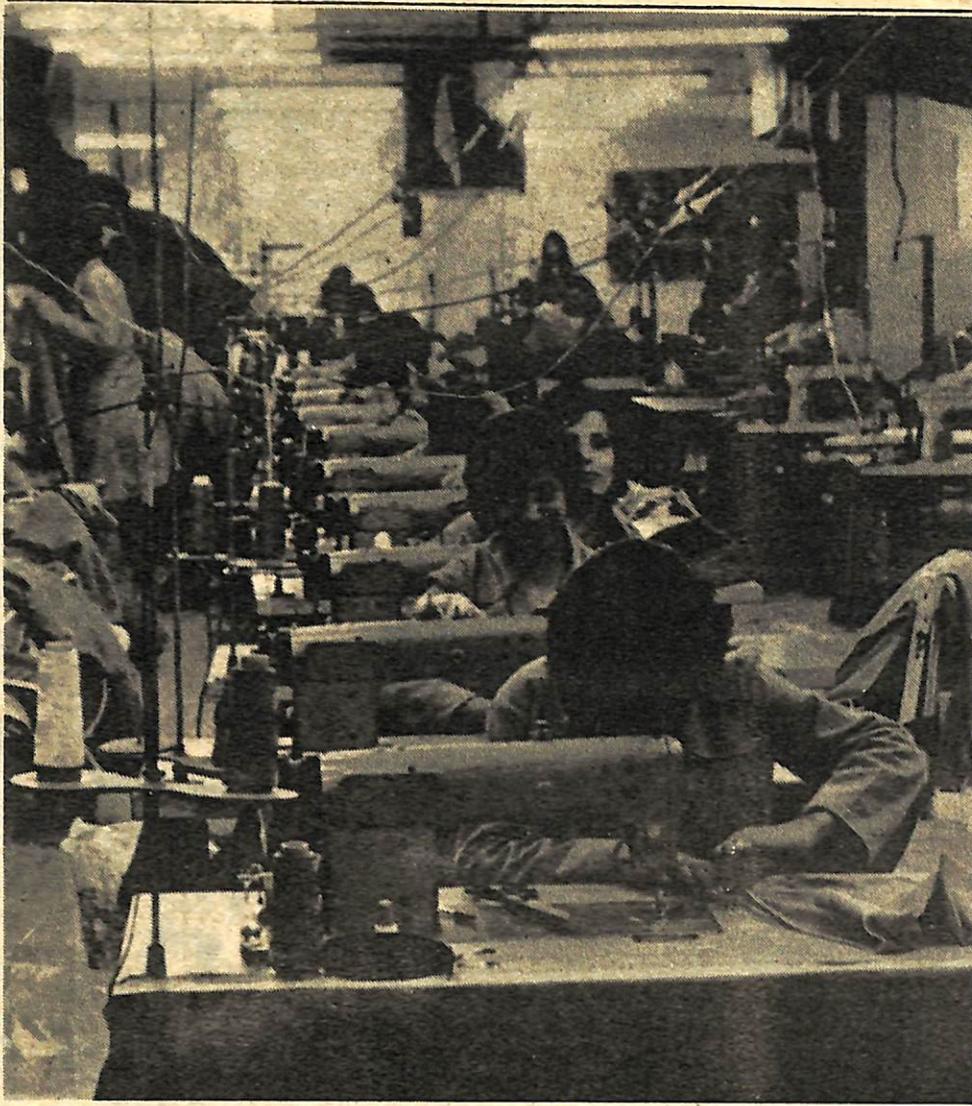
## RAID CHANGES CONDITIONS IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Ever since Egyptian President Anwar Sadat's trip to Israel last November, all the news from the Middle East has been about peace. The events of March blew all this away and exposed the real situation. The Palestinian raid put the question of self-determination for the Palestinian people on center stage. The invasion showed Israel to be an expansionist country, more interested in grabbing land than in establishing peace. Sadat was shown to be a traitor to the Arab people's struggle against Zionism and imperialism. The US was shown to be a power broker interested only in expanding its own influence and control in the area.

## ISRAELI INVASION FAILS TO SMASH PAESTINIAN STRUGGLE

The Israeli invasion had two purposes. The immediate aim was to clear the Palestinians off the only Israeli border on which they were still free to operate. The Israelis plan to set up a permanent buffer zone which they can control even if they are forced to withdraw their troops. They are strengthening the right-wing Christian militia in the area and they say they won't pull out until the UN troops and the Christians establish control and keep out the Palestinians. More fundamentally, the Israelis wanted to demoralize the Palestinian people and destroy the PLO's ability to throw a wrench into any deal with Egypt.

They failed in both goals. The 2000 lightly armed Palestinian liberation fighters in the area put up a strong fight against overwhelming odds, as even the



LNS/Palestine

The Palestinian women are sewing combat uniforms for guerillas fighting for Palestinian liberation.

Israelis were forced to admit, and were able to withdraw with relatively few casualties. They have since been reinforced and are continuing to fight the Israelis using guerilla tactics. The Palestinian people are united more strongly than ever against any "moderate" sellout and in support of the liberation fighters and the need for armed struggle to achieve self-determination. For 5 days running after the Israeli invasion, Palestinians in the occupied West Bank rose up to demonstrate and stoned Israeli police who tried to stop them.

## A SETBACK FOR THE PALESTINIANS' ENEMIES

The raid and the invasion resulted in a serious setback for the enemies of the Palestinian people. Sadat's treachery was exposed and much of the support he had gained among some Arabs was undermined. His "bold" trip to Israel came out of weakness in the first place. The Egyptian economy is on the verge of collapse. A year ago January there were massive riots against Sadat's across-the-board price increases. Sadat needs peace with Israel to save his own neck. But his

begging for peace has only made the Israelis bolder. Sadat broke Arab solidarity, which increased Israel's freedom to move militarily. By excluding the PLO from his wheeling and dealing, Sadat gave the Israelis more incentive to try to smash the Palestinians so they would be free to deal with him. Sadat bears much of the responsibility for the Israelis' latest outrages.

Israel itself was in trouble even before the raid. Sadat's trip had put pressure on them to make some concessions, but Begin was determined to tough it out and stick Sadat with the worst deal possible. The "peace plan" Begin proposed earlier this year would allow Israel to keep control of the occupied West Bank, which Begin refers to as Judaea and Samaria (the names from 2000 years ago when they were part of a Biblical Jewish kingdom). The Palestinians would have very limited self rule but the Israeli army would guarantee that Israelis could continue to settle in the area and keep Palestinians now in other Arab countries from moving back. Begin's plan even includes the Israelis keeping their settlements on Egyptian territory in the Sinai, under Israeli army protection.

In doing this, Begin has followed in the footsteps of previous Israeli governments—trying to make the land Israel has stolen the focus of any negotiations, rather than the question of the Palestinian people and their rights. He doesn't want to make *any* concessions to the Palestinians, not even setting up some sort of Israeli-controlled Palestinian puppet state in the West Bank, because the fundamental basis of the state of Israel is the denial of the rights and very existence of the Palestinian nation. From the first settlement, the Zionists pushed the Arabs off their land. In the 1947-8 war, when Israel was founded, the Zionist army forced hundreds of thousands of Palestinian Arabs to flee. The worst example was the massacre in 1948 of 250 old men, women and children in the village of Deir Yassin. The slaughter was carried out by a terrorist organization led by the now Prime Minister Begin. Since then, Israel has more than doubled its size by military conquest.

Begin's hard line (about the same as it was in 1947 only with one of the most modern armies in the world to carry it

out) has sharpened up contradictions among the people of Israel. Unsure of what the future holds or how to escape from the bind they are in, many Israelis are nonetheless sure that Begin's road means only more war, more suffering and misery. In the aftermath of the invasion, a group of 1,000 Israeli army reserve officers circulated a petition and organized a demonstration of 25,000 people demanding that Begin return the occupied lands or resign.

## THE SUPERPOWERS

Begin's hard line has also been something of an embarrassment to Israel's main backer internationally, the rulers of the United States. The U.S. government would prefer that the Israelis give a few more concessions to Sadat to make a stable separate peace on the Egyptian front possible, and that they not be so open about their intention to crush the Palestinian people for all time.

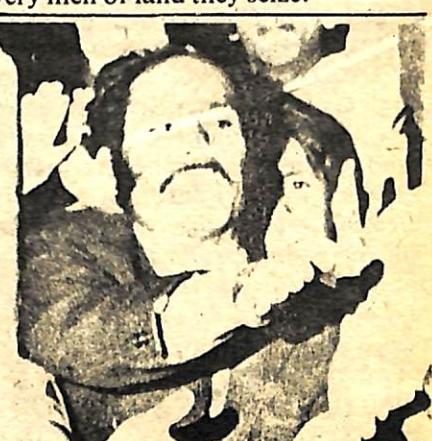
On the other hand, Carter, in particular, has made it very clear that the disagreement involves no threat to U.S. support for Israel. This support has turned "tiny" Israel into the most powerful military power in the area, whose equipment and actual numbers on the battlefield have been superior in recent wars. Since 1973, Israel has been the recipient of 53% of all arms shipped anywhere in the Middle East! Even during all the peace talk that followed Sadat's visit to Israel, Carter's main contribution to "friendly relations" in the area was to announce the sale of several dozen of the U.S.'s most modern jets to Israel, and a bunch of slightly older models to Egypt and Saudi Arabia.

The people of the Middle East are sick of war, death and destruction. But there will be no peace while the Palestinians are deprived of their rights. And there will be no peace while the two superpowers, the US and the USSR, continue to meddle in the area. Both want to control the Mid-East for its oil and for its strategic value towards controlling Europe. They have both used the continuing situation of "no war, no peace" to develop control of the economies and governments of several of the countries in the area. Israel couldn't last a minute without US support, economic, political and military. Egypt threw out the Russians because their "aid" had destroyed the Egyptian economy and they had sabotaged the Egyptian war effort. But Western "aid" has proved no solution. A year ago January there were massive riots in Egypt against across-the-board price increases demanded by the West in return for further economic aid. It was these problems which spurred Sadat to seek peace at any price to save his government.

No deal between Sadat and Begin, with the U.S. as midwife, can produce any lasting peace in the Middle East. The Palestinian people are determined to continue fighting for their rights. As one Palestinian leader said in the aftermath of Israel's attack, "It is not a question of winning or losing a battle. Rather it is a question of life or death. If we stop, we die. And we are determined to live and recreate life. We may lose territory. But as we have done in the past, we will continue to harass the Israelis inside every inch of land they seize."



Mideast "Peace" talks between Begin and Sadat helped set the stage for new fighting.



# EL OBRERO

25¢

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## MARCHAS LUCHAN DEPORTACIONES Y EL PLAN "AMNESTIA" DE CARTER

El 18 de marzo, en mas de una docena de ciudades, manifestantes marcharon por las calles en contra de las deportaciones y el plan de Carter acerca de "amnistia" por obreros sin residencia—"ilegales," como les llaman a ellos la prensa y los políticos. Estas acciones en Los Angeles, Houston, San Diego, Milwaukee, Chicago, N.Y. y otras ciudades son parte de la resistencia creciendo alrededor del país a la nueva ley de Inmigración propuesta por la administración de Carter, a las redadas y deportaciones que estan aumentando, y al aumento en discriminación y opresión contra la gente de habla hispana y otros inmigrantes. En las marchas habian desde 100 hasta 500 personas, en su mayoría latinos.

El plan de Carter divide los obreros sin residencia en 3 clases (categorias). Solo la primera clase, la gente que vino antes de 1971, es elegible por amnistia, y solo si ellos tienen prueba que vivian en los EEUU por 7 años, pagaban impuestos, nunca tenían problemas con la polifeta y estan de buena salud. Si ellos aplican y no califican, ellos seran deportados en seguida. Menos que 3% de todos los obreros sin residencia en los EEUU llegaría a ser ciudadanos en esta manera.

Para los demás de los obreros sin residencia, los planes de Carter significarian rendirse, pues que el gobierno pueda deportarlos cuando no los necesite para

labor barato. La mayoría de los obreros sin papeles vinieron entre 1971 y 1977. Para que ellos puedan registrarse, el plan les ofrece permiso para quedarse por 5 años, con ninguna seguridad despues de ese tiempo. Los inmigrantes que vinieron despues de 1977 solo podrían quedarse si tendrían tarjetas del trabajo interino.

El plan no solamente llama por registracion y deportaciones por la mayoría de los obreros sin papeles—tambien forzalece la patrulla de la frontera y aumenta el numero de los agentes del Servicio de Inmigración. Eso incluye una clausula, promovido por el liderato de la AFL-CIO, que los patronos que emplean

CARTER'S  
AMNESTY PLAN:  
es

¡PURO  
PEDO!



La Guardia

obreros sin papeles—tendrán que pagar una multa. Algunas jefes usurán esa como una excusa para hacerlo mas difícil por un obrero con un apellido hispano para encontrar un trabajo. Pero la mayoría de los patronos de inmigrantes, en las factorías donde se sudan la gota gorda, en los campos y en las plantas enlatadoras, usarán las nuevas reglas para empujar aún mas duro a los obreros sin residencia. Estos jefes emplean inmigrantes por que ellos pueden pagarles salarios bajos, con pocos o ningunos beneficios, y forzarlos a trabajar en las condiciones peores porque los obreros tienen miedo de ser deportados. En realidad, muchas veces los jefes llaman a la Migra para estar libre de "agitadores" o mantener los demás de los obreros aterrizados.

Los capitalistas tratan de echar la culpa por muchas de los problemas económicas, y el desempleo en particular, a los obreros sin papeles. Cualquier cosa para dividir los obreros y apuntar la lucha fuera de ellos. La Junta Ejecutiva

de la AFL-CIO, jugando como siempre las trampas de los jefes en vez de unir toda la gente obrera para luchar, dicen que "el numero de obreros 'ilegales' es exactamente igual al numero de desempleo en este país."

Un orador en la marcha en Milwaukee habló acerca de eso: "Cuantas veces nos dicen los jefes que si no hubiera los mexicanos habrian millones trabajos mas? Pero miles fueron deportados el año pasado y es cierto que no hay miles trabajos mas." El explicó que los planes de sacar los "ilegales" del trabajo y deportarlos son dos lados del mismo chavo. Ellos tratan de usar los obreros sin papeles por cualquiera cosa en el favor de los dueños—si sea cambiando las tareas, dejando que la salud se vaya al carajo, o manteniendo la gente dividida por la lengua y la competencia por los trabajos. Nuestra respuesta tiene que ser la unidad en la lucha por trabajos contra la discriminación y contra las deportaciones.

La lucha en contra de la ley de Carter viene en un tiempo cuando los ataques aumentan en contra de los avances que ganaron las nacionalidades minorías. Han pasado mas deportaciones en los últimos meses. Una redada en una fábrica de empacadores en Chicago en marzo agarró 122 obreros mexicanos. Ahora mismo los avances en educación por los latinos y todos los estudiantes minorias están amenazados por la decisión de Bakke. Hay mas cortes en los servicios sociales bilingües cada semana.

La gravedad de los ataques ha empeorado a unir el movimiento Chicano y también organizaciones de obreros y estudiantes para organizar una campaña nacional en contra del plan de Carter. Las acciones locales en el 18 de marzo eran una parte de esta ofensiva la cual aumentará cuando los activistas fortalezcan la unidad de sus comités locales y ganen mas secciones de la gente para apoyar la lucha. Esta campaña culminara en una marcha nacional que se están planeando por el otoño.

## Libertad para Ray Mendoza !

### LA TRAMPA DE LA CAMERA

Millares de personas van a ver el nuevo juicio. Este foco mayor en la lucha en contra la represión policiaca va a ser filmado. Esta es casi la primera vez cuando esto sea permitido. La Corte Suprema del Estado de Wisconsin ha fallado que se puede filmar los juicios como un experimento por un año.

No es por sacualidad que seleccionaron al caso de Mendoza como uno de los primeros por eso. Durante los últimos algunos años, los hechos del caso han sido una fuente de embarazo y de exposición del sistema—dos agentes de la policía que no estaban trabajando, borrachos, atacaron a un Chicano de 19 años, y mas tarde se encontraron los mismos oficiales muertos, tirados con sus propios revólveres. Entonces sucedió la redada con venganza que buscó por las casas y negocios en el lado sur, el juicio torcido durante la cual suprimieron testimonio importante y no permitieron un fallo de auto-defensa, la sentencia represiva de doble-vida, la revocación del fallo, y el apoyo continuo por Ray entre la gente de todas nacionalidades y la resistencia creciente del pueblo. La trampa de la cámara-en-la-corte es una manera de contrarrestar todo esto y dar al sistema la semblante de justicia.

Mendoza ha declarado que el no quiere que su vida sea el objeto de un experimento. No quiere ser "conejillo de India," como dijo el juez Landry acerca del proyecto de la cámara. Ray Mendoza



Milwaukee, Wisc.—El dia por el juicio segundo de Ray Mendoza es fijado por el 3 de abril en Milwaukee. Antes, le condenaron a Mendoza a la cárcel por vida, acusandole con los muertos de dos agentes borrachos de policía que no estaban trabajando durante la noche del 10 de julio, 1974. Después del tiroteo, le arrestaron a Mendoza durante una redada policiaca viciosa por toda la comunidad latina en el sur de Chicago. La defensa de Ray Mendoza llego a ser una llamamiento por el pueblo por todo el país luchando en contra de la represión policiaca y la discriminación contra las minorías. Antes de y después de la convicción, centenares se juntaron con su causa. Se levantaron la defensa en la corte y en las calles.

El estado estaba tan intento en hacer un ejemplo con Mendoza que hicieron todo lo posible para lograr una convicción. Mudaron el sitio del juicio a Sparta en el oeste de Wisconsin, tratando de separarle a Mendoza de su base de apoyo. Muchas otras maniobras legales le hizo imposible para que obtenga justicia.

En el octubre pasado, la Corte Suprema del estado revocó la convicción y ordenó un juicio nuevo. Tenían que admitir que sucedió algunas irregularidades durante el primer juicio, incluyendo la mudanza hasta Sparta y la fala de explicar al jurado que pudieran hacer un fallo de auto-defensa. El fallo de la Corte Suprema fue una victoria por Ray y toda la gente que le apoya.

ha dependido en el apoyo del pueblo para ganar su libertad. Dijo el a El Obrero en enero "Si no fuera por el movimiento, me aplastarían completamente ya. Todavía estaría en la cárcel por vida." Dos semanas antes del comienzo del juicio, un baile Mexicano para colectar fondos atrayó más de 400 apoyantes,

principalmente de la comunidad latina. Así se demuestra el sentimiento profundo en contra de la discriminación y de la represión policiaca y el deseo del pueblo para LIBERAR A RAY MENDOZA. Con una línea de piquete y con muchas personas en la corte el 10 abril, la lucha seguirá creciendo.

# Hace 5 Meses OBREROS P.R. EN CONN. LUCHAN PARA UNION

River Hill, Conn.—Enfrentando muchas dificultades, 140 obreros, casi todos puertorriqueños, están entrando en el quinto mes de su huelga contra Conn. Foundry. Ellos han mantenido su huelga a pesar de los ataques de la compañía y la presión de las cortes y la policía, y una campaña difamatoria en la prensa describiendo los huelguistas como "puertorriqueños locos."

Empezó la huelga el 11 de noviembre, cuando la compañía "despidió" 17 obreros que fueron activos organizando para traer la Unión Internacional de Obreros de Vestido, División de Industrias Aliadas (UDOV). Los obreros de la fundición están demandando elecciones sindicales y una unión para conseguir salarios mejores, beneficios y condiciones de trabajo. La mayoría de los trabajadores son puertorriqueños, pero en el curso de la lucha todos los obreros se han unido—negros, italianos, y cubanos. Se unen por las condiciones que les enfrentan, no solamente en la fábrica pero también en los barrios de Hartford—precios excesivos, casas peores, y servicios sociales malísimos. Un trabajador puertorriqueño dijo que el recibía solamente \$4.35 por hora, después de 10 años con la compañía, es decir solamente \$7,000 limpio por año. Otro hombre dijo que después de 18 meses el recibía \$3.70 por hora.

La unidad de los obreros es un golpe directo en contra de los intereses de la compañía y amenaza a las ganancias que los patrones han estado haciendo a expensas de los obreros minoritarios no organizados. La compañía no tardó en tratar de aplastar la lucha. La policía de Rocky Hill vinieron rápidamente para atacar las líneas de piquete, porque los



jefes y los esquirols tenían muchos problemas tratando de entrar en la planta. Diariamente la prensa ha publicado artículos escritos del punto de vista de la compañía, echándoles la cul-

pa de cualquiera violencia en las líneas a los obreros y nunca hablando de que la compañía ha rehusado negociar con ellos. A pesar de todo esto, los huelguistas se han mantenido fuertes, no se paran por la policía, han luchado por sus demandas y casi han parado la producción. La compañía tuvo que abandonar las cargas de violencia contra las 12 huelguistas por presión de los obreros y la unión.

Por la fuerza de los obreros, la compañía trató un curso más duro. Ellos han cerrado la planta durante 2 meses, hasta el fin de enero. Porque los patrones tenían poquita producción, la compañía pensó que un cierre de la planta les ayudaría a destruir las líneas de piquete y a dar miedo a los obreros, forzándoles a someter a las demandas de la compañía. Cuando la unión protestó al Departamento de Labor, esto decidió en favor de la compañía. Pero, sin sus ganancias, la compañía no podía esperar más. En enero la compañía tuvo que abrir la fábrica de nuevo.

que muchos de los que votaron para volver al trabajo no quisieron haberlo hecho, pero ante la confusión creada por el anuncio no sabían qué hacer.

Ahora tenemos la ofensiva en la fábrica. Y a el patrono no puede hacernos trabajar como animales por 4 días y suspendernos el quinto y tampoco cambiarnos de un trabajo o sección de la planta a otro cuando les plazca. No se atreven botar ni a los líderes ni a los compañeros de fila por temor a que todos los obreros de la planta se vayan en huelga.

Tenemos que tener claro que esta situación no durará 'para siempre.' Los patrones preparan un nuevo ataque para quitarnos lo logrado por lo que no debemos quedarnos dormidos. En lo que ellos traman sus trampas y maldades, nosotros debemos utilizar ese tiempo para organizarnos mejor y evitar que nos cojan por sorpresa. De esa organización depende que obtengamos mejores salarios y mejores condiciones de trabajo en el futuro.

La compañía mandó cartas a todos los obreros diciendo que ellos eran "libres" a volver a trabajo. La carta no dijo nada de negociaciones, pero dijo que cualesquier esquirols recibirían "protección" si ignoraran las líneas de piquete. Entonces la compañía abrió la planta de nuevo con un orden de la corte limitando la línea de piquete y el sitio—esto pasó en seguida después de un piquete masivo de huelguistas y apoyantes.

Pero todo el ataque no ha ido tan suave como querían los patrones. Pocos huelguistas han vuelto a la fábrica y las líneas de piquete son llenas siempre. Los órdenes de la corte, y la policía que los ejecuta, han permitido que la compañía usara 65 esquirols y que hiciera poca producción. La compañía ha esperado usar la TV y los periódicos para aislar a los huelguistas, y también ha puesto cargos con el Departamento de Labor contra los obreros echándoles la culpa de la violencia en las líneas de piquete.

Enfrentando todos estos ataques, los huelguistas han aumentado sus actividades, manteniendo la presión en la compañía. La unión llamó al Departamento de Labor de Connecticut al Foundry en febrero, les mostraron niños haciendo trabajos peligrosos, legalmente prohibidos para menores. Y la unión está demandando que la compañía fije una fecha para las elecciones, también está investigando de donde vienen los esquirols. La fuerza principal para la lucha por la unión y en contra de la discriminación son los obreros mismos. Tienen que encontrar otras maneras de enfrentar los órdenes de la corte y de cerrar de nuevo la planta, completamente. La lucha de los mineros en contra de ataques similares ha sido un ejemplo poderoso para los huelguistas de Conn. Foundry.

La formación, hace unos meses, del Comité de Apoyo a los Obreros de Conn. Foundry ha sido una buena ayuda a los huelguistas. El Comité ha traído a otros obreros a los líneas y está tratando de recaudar ayuda material para los huelguistas. El 2 de abril ellos se unieron a los huelguistas en una manifestación afuera de Rocky Hill Town Hall para suscitar apoyo entre otros obreros y minorías y para demandar que el Town Council apoye a la huelga y que paren los ataques policiacos. Con el cierre de la fábrica, acciones como la rally que construyen apoyo y que superan los obstáculos del gobierno, las cortes, y la policía, sirven para ampliar la fuerza de los obreros y para debilitar a los dueños de Foundry y sus amigos.

(Si Ud. quiere ayudar la lucha de los huelguistas, debe llamar 527-1690 o 232-8800.)

Desde el paro los oficiales de la unión no han querido darnos la cara. Cuando visitamos sus oficinas nos dicen que las cosas están muy paradas en la corte. Nosotros, por las malas experiencias que hemos tenido, sabemos, que no podemos confiar mucho en las cortes de donde en una ocasión buotaron a Steve.

Campañeros, tengamos bien claro, que lo que necesitamos los trabajadores de Hygiene es una organización que en todos sus niveles responda a nuestros intereses de manera que si vamos a huelga o tomamos cualquier tipo de acción sepámos con exactitud qué es lo que tenemos que hacer y cómo llevarlo a cabo. Debemos aplicar la lección aprendida; si hubiésemos estado organizados durante el paro hubiésemos permanecido fuera de los talleres hubieramos vendidos.

Firmado,  
Algunos Trabajadores de Hygiene

## Cartas

"El Obrero" quiere recibir cartas de Uds. acerca de cualquier sujeto.

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### Hermanos Trabajadores:

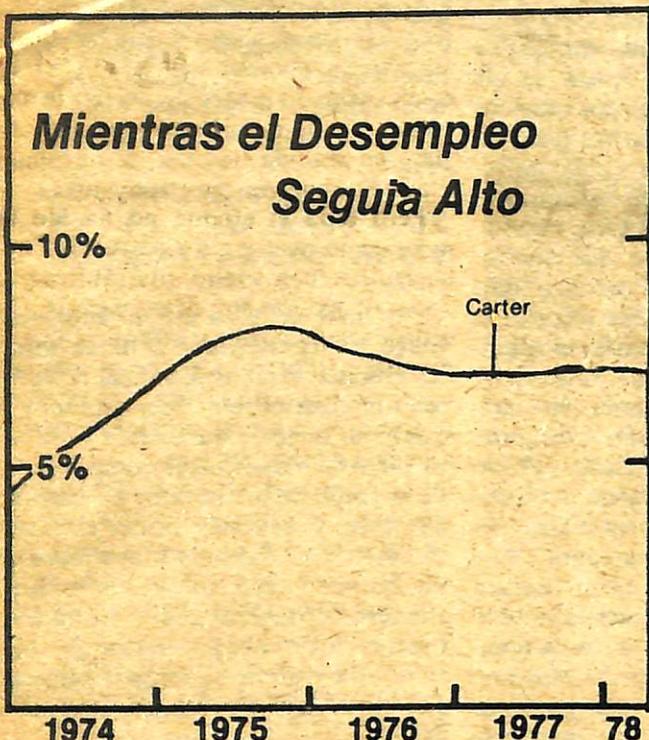
Dos años atrás los trabajadores de Hygiene Industries nos fuimos a un paro en protesta contra el tratamiento de esclavos que nos daba el patrón. Por que teníamos la razón ganamos la huelga, pero como los patrones nunca dejan de atacarnos, nos mantenemos con la guardia en alto y peleando. En este momento el peor problema que enfrentamos es que la unión que se supone nos representa, al local 98 ILGWU, nos ha vendido con los patrones, luchando a favor de ellos en vez de a favor de nosotros.

Tres meses antes de expirar el convenio nos presentamos a las oficinas de la unión a averiguar qué estaba pasando, pero no se nos dio ninguna respuesta. Prometieron venir a la planta, cosa que no cumplieron. Más tarde, dijeron que tendrían una reunión pero no dijeron cuándo ni dónde. Finalmente hubo una reunión general a donde asistieron 500 obreros de Hygiene y otros talleres. La unión trató de empujarnos su cochino convenio, lo que todos, puestos de pies nos pusimos. Los obreros de los demás talleres al ver nuestra combate actitud nos dieron su respaldo, oponiéndose también al convenio. Los oficiales de la unión respondieron de la forma más descarada, diciendo que no le importaba lo que nosotros queríamos, pues que ya ellos habían firmado el contrato con la asociación de patrones. Aunque tenemos el derecho de ratifi-

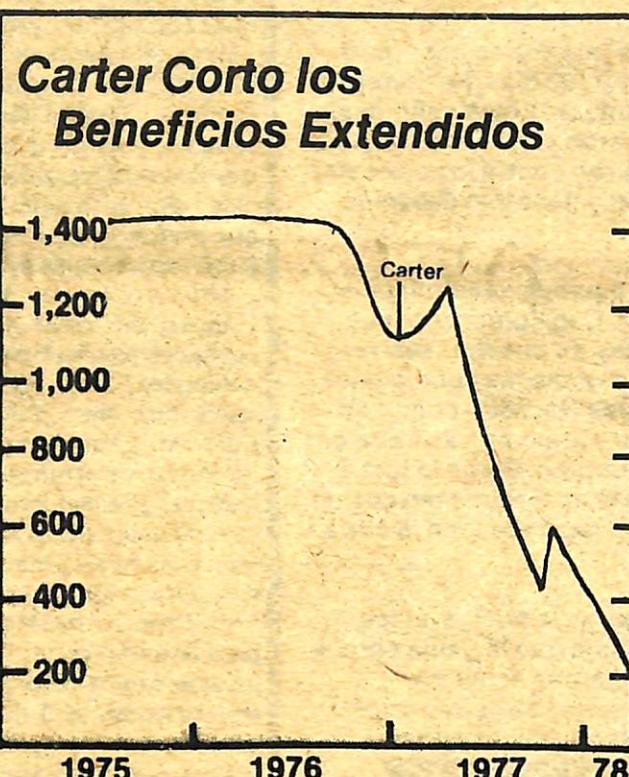
car el convenio porque no hubo ningún voto. Mientras tanto hemos ido a la local 807 de los Tronquistas para tratar de sacar de nuestro taller la IIG. Allí nos dieron tarjetas para firmar las que fueron firmadas por todos los trabajadores de las plantas 1 y 2, y 6 de los otros talleres representados por la local 98.

En marzo, nos fuimos a la huelga con la consigna: No hay contrato, no hay trabajo. Todos los obreros de las plantas 1 y 2 salieron con firmeza. Al mismo tiempo los trabajadores de una planta de Jersey abandonaron sus labores y enviaron algunos compañeros a la línea de piquetes. Los oficiales de la local 98 se presentaron en la planta y estuvieron 3 horas en las oficinas de los patrones. Al salir de esas oficinas trataron de crear con fusión entre los trabajadores tratando de dividirnos entre negros y latinos-americanos, cosa que no lograron al exigirnos que nos hablaran como lo que somos; un solo grupo, o que se largaron con sus trampas a otro sitio, que es, en realidad lo mejor que hacen. Luego se presentaron unos oficiales de la Local 807 a decirnos que a pesar de haber perdido una orden inicial en NLRB, ellos continuarían peleando el caso en corte lo que lleva un largo tiempo por lo que debíamos regresar al trabajo. Ante esta situación decidimos llevar a cabo una votación para decidir la decisión a tomar. El resultado fue 50-50 en favor y en contra de volver al trabajo. Es claro

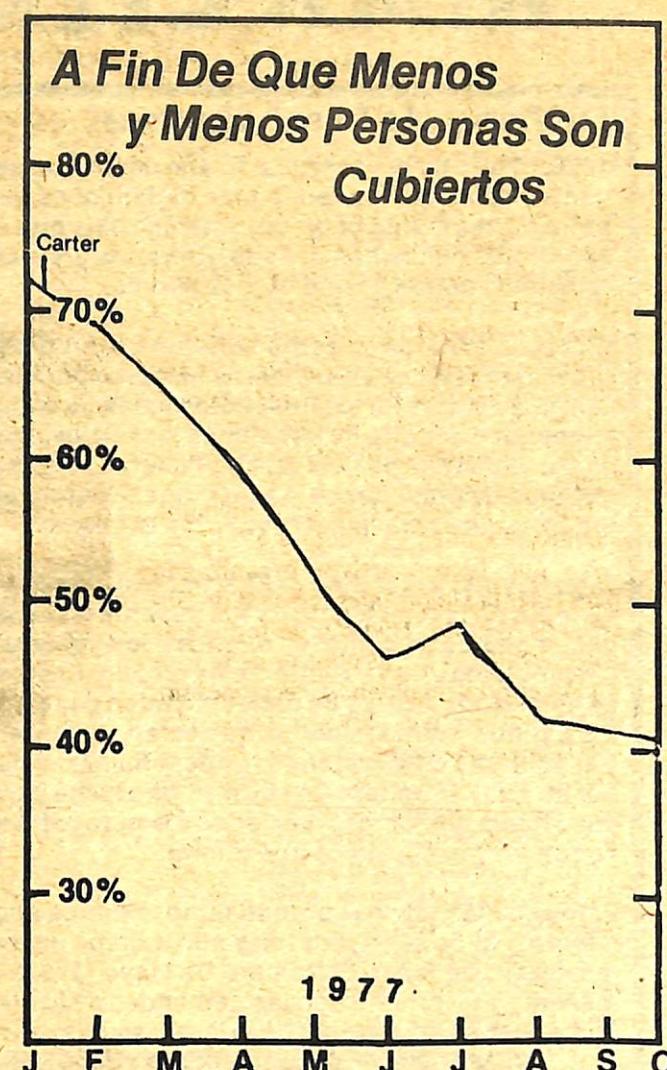
# Mayor Ataque del Gobierno En Contra de Seguro de Desempleo



el numero de desempleados, en millones (Oficina de Estadísticas Laborales, el numero real de desempleados es alrededor del doble)



el numero de personas recibiendo EB o FSB cheques (en miles)



el porcentaje de los desempleados oficiales quienes realmente colectan el seguro por desempleo

Desde que Jimmy Carter asumió la presidencia, más de un millón de trabajadores desempleados han sido echados de la lista de seguro de desempleo. El sistema entero de seguro de desempleo está siendo atacado. Una investigación por *El Obrero* ha revelado que el sistema está siendo *desmantelado* y que poco a poco están reduciendo los períodos de beneficios hasta las 16 semanas. Es el ataque mayor que ha sufrido el sistema desde su creación en los años 1930 como respuesta a la lucha aguda que cientos de miles de obreros llevaron a cabo. La destrucción del seguro de desempleo significa que el medio más importante de protección para los trabajadores desempleados desaparecería.

El ataque fue orquestado desde el principio por el mismo Carter quien como candidato proclamó piadosamente, "Veo a na América con un trabajo para cada hombre y mujer que quieran trabajar."

Carter ha tratado de mantener su imagen como un hombre del pueblo con algunos programas de trabajos insignificantes que llama la solución al desempleo. Pero la realidad es que detrás de la "sonrisa sincera" y las palabras "simpatéticas," Carter está llevando a cabo un ataque mayor en nombre de los ricos que sirve.

## CARTER CORTA LOS BENEFICIOS

En poco más de un año Carter ha cortado los programas federales que extendían las temporadas de recibir los beneficios de desempleo. Antes de que Carter asumiera la oficina muchos estados otorgaron 65 semanas de beneficios. Ahora solamente 9 estados dan beneficios para 39 semanas—los demás los dan por 26.

El programa Federal de Beneficios Suplementarios (FSB) fue establecido en 1974 por el Presidente Ford como respuesta a la ira del pueblo que resultó del aumento de la tasa de desempleo hasta el 5.6%. Proporcionó unos seis meses adicionales de beneficios después de la expiración de las primeras 39 semanas. Durante el año de 1976 un promedio de 785,000 personas colectaron los beneficios suplementarios cada semana. Pero en 1977, aunque la tasa de desempleo quedó sobre el 5.6%, Carter inició legislación para acabar totalmente con el

programa federal de beneficios suplementarios.

A la misma vez Carter y el congreso van reduciendo poco a poco el programa de Beneficios Extendidos (EB) del gobierno.

Este programa, el cual proporcionó cheques para el período entre 26 y 39 semanas en los estados con una tasa de desempleo alta, comenzó hace 16 años. Ahora quedan solamente 9 estados que dan los Beneficios Extendidos, a pesar de la continuación del alto desempleo. El 28 de enero 290,000 hombres y mujeres más fueron botados del programa de Beneficios Extendidos.

Como resultado de los ataques (vea dibujo 2) más de un millón de desempleados no están recibiendo los cheques que recibían antes—un millón de trabajadores fueron forzados a aceptar cualquier trabajo pidido a causa de la presión económica. Como muestra el dibujo 3, el porcentaje de trabajadores desempleados colectando beneficios queda reducido por la mitad. El gobierno ha ahorrado 4 billones de dólares con los cortes y está compartiendo el dinero con capitalistas individuales por reducir la contribución de ellos hacia el fondo de seguro de desempleo.

## LA ESCUSA Y LA RAZON

La excusa de la administración para estos ataques está explicada en el *Reporte Económico del Presidente—1978*. Este sostiene que el seguro de desempleo resulta en un aumento en la duración y frecuencia de las temporadas de desempleo. Esta continúa: "En las pasadas dos décadas, haciendo fácil, conseguir los beneficios ha causado un aumento en la tasa oficial de desempleo." En otros términos, que los trabajadores desempleados no quieren trabajar y que solo quieren colectar los beneficios del desempleo. Ninguna prueba ha sido ofrecida, porque ninguna existe. En realidad, un estudio hecho por el Brookings Institute desde que Carter tomó la presidencia revela totalmente lo contrario. Los trabajadores en FSB estuvieron activamente buscando trabajo sin poder encontrarlo hasta después que sus beneficios de desempleo terminaron. La conclusión de este análisis

demuestra que se hace necesario para los obreros desempleados la extensión del tiempo de los beneficios en vez de la reducción como planea Carter.

¿Qué hay realmente detrás del ataque del gobierno? El *Reporte Económico del Presidente—1978* nos presenta algunas respuestas. El mismo dice: "A pesar de nuestra ignorancia acerca de muchas partes específicas del proceso, no hay duda de que el bajo índice de desempleo implica menos competencia en el mercado de trabajo y ésto eventualmente resulta en un aumento en los salarios." Este punto es presentado por lo meno seis veces en el reporte. La conclusión que el gobierno plantea está bien claro—para mantener los salarios reducidos es necesario asegurar que hay una "flexibilidad" en el mercado de trabajo, es decir, una gran cantidad de obreros desempleados compitiendo desesperadamente uno con otro para conseguir trabajos sin importarles las condiciones o paga. Y éste gran grupo de obreros buscando trabajo (llamado en economía política el ejército de reserva de desempleo) es usado como un club por los dueños de las minas y molinos, tiendas y oficinas sobre los hombros de los obreros empleados. Quien no ha sido un foreman diciendo, "Paren de querjarse. Si ustedes no les gusta este trabajo, hay otros quienes gustosos tomarían su trabajo."

La campaña corriente del gobierno para rebajar los sueldos y las condiciones de trabajo a través de hacer que los trabajadores compitan por empleos todavía no ha resultado. En parte, esto es responsable por la bajas en los contratos de las uniones en los años recientes.

El contrato promedio firmado en 1974 proveyo un aumento de 7.3% más que en 1973 incluso las cláusulas por la costa de vida. En 1975 el aumento fue 7.8%. Pero en 1976 el aumento promedio fue solo 6.4%, y en el año pasado solo 5.8%, según la Oficina de Estadísticas Laborales.

Carter ha llevado a cabo una maniobra suave sobre el seguro por desempleo por sus dueños capitalistas. El no solamente ha estado creando estas condiciones ventajosas sino lo ha hecho con muy poca publicidad. La prensa sigue enfocando en sus varios programas por empleos, ayudandole a explotar el

deseo verdadero de los desempleados por trabajos buenos con sueldos buenos. Pero esto también ha sido un gano. El programa más grande que tiene la administración, un programa expandido por empleos públicos, CETA, que promovió 415,000 "empleos nuevos." Sin embargo, un informe reciente del gobierno reveló que de hecho 49% de este total todavía inadecuado de empleos anteriormente en existencia. Meramente se cambiaron los fondos al nuevo programa. Así es Carter, el creador de empleos.

## LOS PLANES DE CARTER: MAS DE LOS MISMO

Todo esto ha demostrado una vez más que el liderazgo más alto del AFL-CIO tiene más en común con los ricos que con los obreros que ellos pretenden dirigir. Ellos han seguido los ataques de Carter en contra los desempleados y también han aceptado su fanfarrona falso sobre empleos. En particular, ellos han pasado tres años y han gastado en moneda de cuotas para promover la ley Humphrey Hawkins, que se sabe exactamente los planes de Carter. Esta ley garantiza—en el papel—un empleo a cada americano. Pero no tiene ni una sola cláusula para producir un trabajo verdadero. Se juntaría con otras leyes "garantizando" empleos a todos que han sido en efecto desde 1946 sin resultados.

En agosto pasado Carter promovió un programa más concreto sobre empleos—la Ley por Trabajos Mejores o Ingresos para "reformar" el sistema de "welfare." Esta ley cortará los beneficios de welfare por millones de personas y creará un programa de "workfare" que forzara a más de 1.4 millon recipientes de welfare que acepten empleos con sueldos mínimos por el gobierno o por la industria privada. El propósito es aumentar la competencia entre los trabajadores por empleos y explotar las contradicciones entre los empleados y desempleados para bajar los sueldos, las condiciones de trabajo, y el promedio de vida de todos los obreros.

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# MARCHA EN EL 1º DE MAYO

## Luchen—No Pisen Hambre

1978. El año de los ataques. El año de los cortes. Los dueños y los gobernantes están demandando más, diciéndonos que nosotros debemos elegir entre cortes o algo peor. Los mejores días que se prometieron de nuestros sacrificios nunca han pasado. En vez de los mejores días, nosotros recibimos cortes y condiciones peores.

1978. Los mineros de carbon dijeron a los patronos que deben hacer con sus malas ofertas. Los mineros lucharon por más de 100 días. Lucharon en contra de cortes en los beneficios médicos en la industria más peligrosa. Lucharon en contra de pensiones más bajas. Lucharon contra los ataques en sus derechos de huelga. Los mineros se levantaron contra los que están tratando de empujarlos abajo. Ellos tuvieron razón y nosotros debemos organizarnos para hacer más sobre lo mismo.

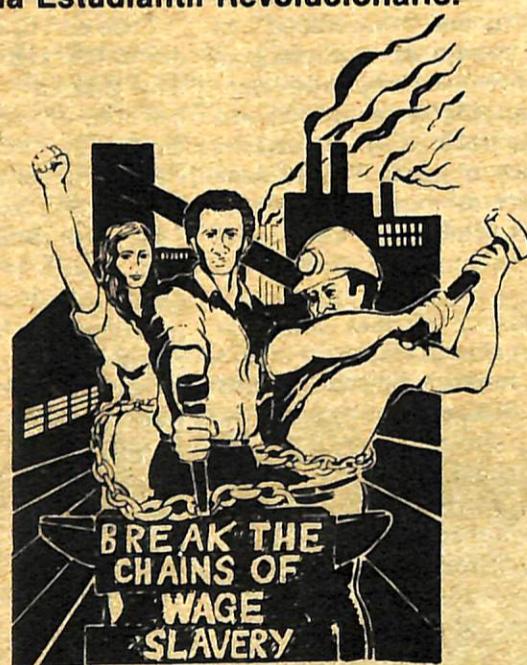
Organizando y marchando El Primero de Mayo 1978 puede construir en el ejemplo de la resistencia de los mineros de carbon. Cada obrero puede hablar acerca de como los dueños y los gobernantes no pueden resolver las problemas que su sistema ha creado. Acerca de como las condiciones se empeoran. Acerca de discriminación contra de los Negros y contra de los Latinos y otras minorías que están aumentando. Como no hay trabajos y el gobierno está cortando los beneficios del desempleo. Como la lucha por un nuevo contrato hoy es más una lucha para evitar el retroceso que un paso hacia adelante. Como ellos siempre hablan de paz pero todo lo que se ve son más pasos hacia una guerra.

Estos son las razones porque tantos obreros apoyaban la huelga de los mineros. Ellos se levantaron y nos trajeron un mensaje que la gente obrera quisieron escuchar. El Primero De Mayo 1978.—Digamos el mismo mensaje y al infierno con las demandas de los ricos. Nosotros debemos luchar así. Al infierno con los ricos y su crisis—aprenda de los mineros.

**TRABAJOS O INGRESO • PAREN TODOS ATAQUES CONTRA DE CONDICIONES DE TRABAJO Y CONTRA DEL NIVEL DE VIDA • LUCHA CONTRA DEPORTACIONES • DEFIENDAN EL DERECHO DE HUELGA • ESTADOS UNIDOS FUERA DE AFRICA DEL SUR—UNION SOVIETICA MANOS AFUERA • ABAJOS CON LA CORRIDA DE ARMAS DE LOS SUPER-POTENCIAS—NO PELEAREMOS OTRA GUERRA DE LOS RICOS • NO CORTES EN LOS SERVICIOS PUBLICOS.**

Comité Unido Para El 1 De Mayo—1978

Miembros: Organización Nacional De Obreros Unidos, Comité Organizador De Obreros Desempleados, Veteranos De Vietnam Contra La Guerra, Centro De Trabajadores Revolucionario, Brigada Estudiantil Revolucionaria.



## Desempleo

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El Secretario de Labor Ray Marshall propuso la etapa siguiente en el ataque hace unos meses durante una reunión en Detroit. Dijo a los hombres de negocios encantados que asistieron que el esperó que se cortaran los beneficios hasta 16 semanas.

No se debe dejar los ataques de Carter sin oposición. Debemos rastrearlos al campo raso donde toda la gente trabajadora pueden verlos. Y debemos combatirlos nada menos que cada pulgada.

La demanda por empleos es una demanda justa, pero luchar por trabajos quiere decir luchar en contra todas las políticas de Carter y demandar trabajo de unión con sueldo de unión. Hasta que se logren estos trabajos, el gobierno debe estar forzado a proveer el seguro por desempleo. La campaña por trabajos se lleva a cabo por la Organización Nacional de Obreros Unidos y el Comité Organizador de Obreros Desempleados. A través de resoluciones en uniones locales, peticiones, acciones pequeñas y manifestaciones grandes, los obreros, empleados y desempleados, hacen caso y se hacen parte de la campaña.

Cuando la tradición de marchar en el Primero de Mayo—día de los trabajadores—se fue perdiendo aquí en este país, ha significado más que la perdida de un gran desfile. El Primero de Mayo significa cogiendo el ofensivo en contra de los ricos y los poderosos. Ese es lo que necesita la gente obrera, ahora mismo. Es cierto que la clase dominante está en las ofensivas en contra de nosotros. Hemos tenido basta ya de someter, y de oír que nosotros tenemos que devolver, regalar, y darnos por vencidos por cada líder que habla suave, que prefiere a unir con los dueños y los gobernantes en vez de lucharles.

Nosotros necesitamos lo que el Primero de Mayo significa. ¿Ha diso cualquier recobro? No. ¿Ha resuelto el desempleo? No. ¿Han parado la discriminación? No. ¿Podemos sobrevivir? Casi no. ¿Están mejorando las condiciones de trabajo? De Ninguna manera! ¿Se mejoran las ciudades? No hay ninguna cuestión acerca de como siguen las cosas. Una manera mala. Una vida dura por la gente trabajadora.

El Primero de Mayo es un tiempo para levantarnos. Si Ud. está harto con los que dan los dueños y los gobernantes, entonces, el Primero de Mayo es para Ud. Si Ud. piensa que las cosas tengan que cambiar, y quieren que se una la gente trabajadora, y está luchando para cambiar las cosas por lo mejor, el Primero de Mayo es para Ud. Y al carajo con lo que piensan los jefes.

¿Que han hecho los dueños y los gobernantes? Las cosas empeoran. Por los desempleados, ellos cortan los beneficios. Por negros, ellos atacan provechas de los 60. Por los de nosotros en las grandes ciudades, ellos están cortando todas las cosas y solo dan ayuda si se usa para pagar los bancos. Y cuando los mineros se levantaron, el gobierno contestó por echar cualquier ataque, incluyendo la ley Taft-Hartley para tratar al empujarlos abajo. No hay duda que ellos están en el lado de los jefes. Ellos no ofrecen ninguna solución, solamente más problemas.

Las gobernadoras nos dicen que tenemos que aceptar sus soluciones o cosas van a peorar. Pero si los aceptamos o no, las cosas van a peorar. Pues, porque debemos aceptarlos? Cada vez que la gente obrera tratan de avanzar un poco, ellos nos dicen que debemos parar, y entonces ellos tratan de tomar la gana y más con una pala de vapor. Y cada vez ellos prometen que ésta será la última vez que tengamos que sacrificar. Pero con las mentiras de los ricos y de los poderosos, nunca hay una última vez.

No importa si ellos hacen a perder, cada vez que nosotros nos levantamos y nos quejamos y luchamos, ellos gritan claramente. Ellos dicen que si una persona se opone a ellos, entonces es un radical o un comunista, especialmente en el Día de los Trabajadores, porque en ese día no se esconde quienes causan los problemas y los abusos—los capitalistas y su modo de vida.

El próximo mes, trabajadores en muchas partes del país se reunirán para celebrar el Día Primero de Mayo, Día Internacional de los Trabajadores. Estas marchas y manifestaciones organizarán la respuesta de la gente trabajadora a los muchos abusos a que nos enfrentamos. El Día del Primero de Mayo será el momento para unir los luchadores de nuestra clase. Esto surge en un tiempo de muchas luchas. Enfrentándonos al empuje por más trabajos en muchos talleres diferentes. Luchando en contra del aumento de los alquileres mientras los techos se nos caen encima, a la misma vez los trabajadores municipales luchan para tratar de mantener los beneficios y adquiridos por medio del

convenio colectivo. Y cerca de 160,000 mineros se levantaron en huelga dándole un golpe rudo por todo el país. El Día Primero de Mayo es un tiempo para organizarnos más y más para volver y desarrollar múltiples batallas uniéndonos con otros trabajadores y trabajadoras encorralados para luchar más fuertes. El Primero de Mayo 1978 será una celebración orgullosa, con la determinación y la aspiración de la clase trabajadora que maneja todo en esta país y en todos los otros alrededor del mundo.

## EL PRIMERO DE MAYO REPRESENTA LA LIBERTAD

Por más de 90 años, el Primero de Mayo ha representado y ha construido las grandes batallas a la cual se enfrentado la clase obrera para aspirar y adquirir un mejor y razonable futuro. El Primero de Mayo surgió como resultado de la lucha de los obreros en contra de las doce y dieciséis horas diarias de trabajo. El Primero de Mayo representa un nuevo futuro tal y como fue el Primero de Mayo de 1886. "Hemos sido bestias de carga, seremos hombres"—lograremos nuestra libertad! Eso es el significado del Primero de Mayo.

Basta de discriminación en contra de la gente negra y hispana. Deténganos a nuestros hijos a que no participan en guerras matar a hijos de otros trabajadores. No más desempleo cuando hay tanto por hacer, cuando en realidad hay tanta gente lista para hacerlo. En otras palabras, rechazamos este sistema de esclavitud para que nuestros hijos no pasen por lo mismo. Esto es lo que significa el Primero de Mayo.

## EL PRIMERO DE MAYO 1978

Que lloran ellos acerca de como este sistema es lo mejor en el mundo, que nosotros obreros somos perdidos sin ellos y que no podríamos reemplazarlos nunca. El Día de los Trabajadores dice algo diferente. Eso día proclama un hecho simple—Los Trabajadores y los Patrones No Tienen Nada en Común. Basado en esto, los obreros pueden decidir y van a decidir cosas, como vamos a luchar hoy día y lo que queremos para el futuro. Nosotros no permitiremos que un jefe venga a una reunión para planear una huelga. Es seguro que no vamos a escuchar a los jefes cuando estamos hablando de que vamos a hacer con todo este maldito lio. Es segura que no vamos a permitir cualesquier explotadores en el sociedad del futuro.

## TODOS MARCHAN POR EL PRIMERO DE MAYO

El Primero de Mayo es el día de los trabajadores. Eso significa que da golpes contra los jefes. El mensaje del Primero de Mayo es el contrario de las soluciones de los jefes. Las demandas del Primero de Mayo son las batallas que nosotros estamos luchando en contra de ellos. La fuerza del Primero de Mayo es los obreros uniéndose para luchar por sus intereses—ahora mismo y en el futuro. Eso es un tiempo para decir al carajo con la elección de malo o peor. Es piojoso de los jefes, y peor cuando los líderes de la unión lo repitan. Someten un poco, o someten mucho—eso es su manera, no la nuestra.

El Primero de Mayo significa que nosotros obreros seremos más fuertes, más determinados, y más ciertos del futuro. Eso es lo que hará una poderosa celebración. El Primero de Mayo 1978. Levántate, Luchen Unidos, y Marchen Unidos!