

RHODESIAN ACCORDS CRUMBLING

Guerrilla Struggle Shakes Sham "Majority Rule"

Cracks are already appearing in Rhodesia's new transitional government, in office less than three months. A fired black cabinet minister declared the promised transition to majority rule was "a fraud." But the prospects for true majority rule in Zimbabwe (the African name for the country) are improving daily as the guerrilla forces of the Patriotic Front rack up new victories.

Brian Hove, a lawyer, had been appointed co-Minister of Justice in the new government. He owed his position to Bishop Abel Muzorewa, one of the three African leaders who struck the sellout transition deal (Accords) with Ian Smith.

Smith, long time head of the white settler regime in Rhodesia, fired Hove on April 28 when he called for more opportunities for Africans to advance in the court system and police force!

Stung, Hove denounced the Accords and charged that Smith "believes in the substance of power remaining in white hands, with the shadow of authority passing to blacks. That is his majority rule." Hove then left Zimbabwe for England.

Bishop Muzorewa made a lot of very irritated noises, hinting he might split from the cabinet. 1,500 angry Zimbabweans demonstrated outside a meeting of his party, the United African National Council, on April 30 chanting, "To Hell With The Agreement."

But much as Muzorewa feared alienating the masses, he couldn't afford to pull out of the sham government he had committed himself to. The transitional government will hold elections on December 31 this year and he stands a good chance of being elected to the post of titular leader of Rhodesia. On May 15 he officially announced he and his party would stay in the government.

But what happened to Hove shows the hollowness of the promised "majority

rule." Although there are 6,700,000 black Zimbabweans, under the terms of the Accord, leaders of the country's 263,000 whites will still control the economy and the military, and the masses of blacks will remain exploited workers and poor peasants.

THE STRUGGLE GROWS

As big a fraud as the transitional government and its "majority rule" plan are, their very existence shows the weakness of the white settler regime. Just a few years ago, Smith boasted that no blacks would enter the Rhodesian government for a thousand years. Now

he's scrambling for black junior partners who will help maintain the status quo in return for a piece of the action.

He found them in Muzorewa and Chirau and Sithole, the two other misleaders who signed the Accords in March.

The desperation of Smith and his like is a result of the growing liberation struggle in Zimbabwe. The Patriotic Front, made up of the Zimbabwe African National Union (ZANU) and the Zimbabwe African People's Union (ZAPU), two liberation groups which have been fighting since the 1960s, is making big gains.

Large sections of Zimbabwe have been entirely liberated—the Rhodesian Army dares enter them only in large scale operations. And an even bigger chunk of the country is contested. Patriotic Front guerrillas operate there as well as government troops.

The guerrillas educate, organize and arm the people, who in their turn have grown disgusted with tribal chiefs and other sellouts who are holding back the

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N.Y. Transit Red Light For 'Giveback' Express

New York City—On April 24, angry transit workers picketed the Federal Court building. The president of their local was hiding inside, trying to prove that there was such a thing as honest vote counting in local 100 of the Transport Workers Union. He lost.

By stalling off a vote steal and thus ratification of a sellout contract which would have gone into effect instantly, the transit rank and file upset the game plan the bankers and politicians had developed for shafting all city workers. The transit contract was supposed to be a pace-setter, which Mayor Koch would use as a ceiling for negotiations with other city workers.

Now city negotiations are in full swing and the city has already been forced to come up with an offer of an 8% pay increase over two years, 2% better than the TWU members were offered. The 8% is accompanied by a demand for \$100,000,000 in givebacks and even the hacks of AFSCME and the other city unions have said no. They're scared to try and sell this to their members.

In the meantime, however, the 8% offer makes it more likely that transit workers will smash through the hard sell by their union and city officials. It'll be pretty hard to vote "Yes" for a sellout that contains only a 6% hike, especially when the rest of the contract is at least as bad.

Two years ago, in the midst of scares of impending bankruptcy, transit workers agreed to set the pace in "helping out the city" by accepting a no-cost, no advances contract. But two years haven't helped anything. Five thousand jobs have been lost through layoffs and attrition, and safety conditions have

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Iowa Beef Strike Ends Union Busting Effort Fails

Dakota City, Nebraska—Huge carcasses of beef once more swing through the long factory at speeds that would mean certain injury to anyone in their way. Workers are back at work at Iowa Beef Products after a hard fought fourteen month strike. The contract they finally signed is a setback, but the 1500 scrappy Nebraska and Iowa meatcutters made the world's largest beef company pay for their union busting ways.

Amalgamated Meatcutters Local 222 drew the line in Dakota City in a crucial fight for all meatcutters, especially those slaving in the "new breed" of western boxed beef packers.



The Iowa Beef Strike had a major impact on the meatcutting industry.

Hey, Rizzo,
have you heard?
Philly ain't
Johannesburg!



see
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The new contract's pay and benefit provisions are worse than the national Master Packing Agreement. The four year pact provides for 35¢ raises the first three years and only 20¢ the last year. The cost of living formula is inferior to the Master Agreement. There is no pension plan.

Twenty-seven strikers remain fired for picket line militancy and 106 strikers won't be rehired until needed.

IBP's 11 plants slaughter and pack over \$2 billion worth of beef a year, and management is constantly looking to bust the union as a means to even greater profit. This was the third and longest strike at IBP's key Dakota City operation. In 1969 and 1974 the company forced 7 and 8 months strikes in a futile effort to dislodge the Meatcutters union from its highly mechanized boxed meat

processing plant.

During the '69 strike the company dug trenches around the plant, housed scabs on company property and stationed armed guards on the roof. The workers responded with IBP-wide sympathy walkouts. One of the most militant strikes of the '60s, it left one striker dead and another in jail for murder. Through it and the 1974 strike, the union gained a foothold in the IBP empire.

In this year's strike workers once again had to fight for their union. A court injunction limited pickets to three per gate but when the company began hiring scabs in December, hundreds of strikers swarmed in front of the plant.

They were hit with heavy doses of tear gas and mace, scabs who drove recklessly through their lines, and a combined force of IBP thugs, Dakota County Sheriffs and the Nebraska State Troopers. Still, they blockaded the entrances with their cars and forced authorities to call in tow trucks and make arrests.

Two weeks later they were joined by a contingent of angry Spencer packing workers who recently lost their jobs as a result of a shutdown, and by Flavorland

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Letters

The Worker welcomes letters from its readers on any subject.

Hospital makes nurses aides sick and tired

Dear Worker:

We workers at North Central Bronx Hospital want to let your readers know about the fight going on here. No sooner had we won our battle to open this hospital than the administration started attacking us workers. It comes down in many ways: they tell us to work harder, faster, they mess with our shifts, and our sick days.

Right now the main attack is on the nurses aides. We carry tremendous workloads as it is, with more patients to care for than we possibly can. On top of this, the supervisors have been pushing more work on us, which isn't part of our job duties. When we went to administration for an answer to this problem, they ignored and insulted us. Our union wasn't much help in backing us either.

We workers have decided it's time for us to take action. We're forcing our union to hold meetings and hearing about the nurses aides. We're demanding an answer from the administration. If an answer doesn't come fast enough,

we'll think of ways to show administration that we have an answer, and do only the work that we can do.

In addition to this, we and other workers have been circulating petitions around the hospital demanding re-vote of a recent steward election. We need fighting shop stewards who fight for us workers, and we're fighting to get them.

Out of all this, we formed a committee of workers to be active in building these and other fights at NCB. We think this will go over big with the workers here because everyone faces a lot of garbage and we need to be united to take on the administration.

One last thing. We're going up against (Mayor) Koch and the city in a contract battle now. He wants to keep us poorer, hungrier and less able to fight back with his contract. This is a time when we have to unite with other city hospital workers against his plans. It's a big fight, but we're fighting mad and want everyone to know it!

A group of NCB workers

Next it will be 3 absences a century

We workers at Leeds and Northrup in Pennsylvania face the same kind of discrimination, harassment, layoffs and abuses that our fellow workers face in other shops. We have another weight on our backs, no thanks to the bosses, which is a ridiculous attendance program that has led to heart attacks and guys being carried out of the plant on stretchers.

Briefly, the attendance program USED to consider a worker's attendance record over a period of six months. And if there were too many (3) absences or latenesses in a 6 month period, a worker would get warned, then suspended, and then fired if he had one other "black mark" added to it within the NEXT THREE MONTHS!

The union took the company to arbitration to fight the program—and we got a worse one! Now, the company goes back ONE WHOLE YEAR for the attendance. For example, one worker had 5 sicknesses (all with doctor's notes) and 4 latenesses in ONE year and she was to get a "letter of warning" because this was TOO MUCH time out over a year!

As a result, we come to work not just to be treated like machines, but worry ourselves to death if we're gonna punch in on time or not. One older worker,

who had always worried about the "black marks" was told one day he was to be laid off. He died of a heart attack while punching out that day. Another worker, whose car broke down on the way to work, had to get a note from the garage mechanic so that he wouldn't have a "black mark" for lateness on his record.

A few of us got together, fed up with all this bull, and put out a leaflet that said, "To Hell With The Attendance Program—Come To The Union Meeting!" They were everywhere in the plant, and the bosses went crazy. They even called in two of us to the office to frighten us and weaken our determination. But it didn't work. At the union meeting, where usually 5-10 workers show up, this time 115 angry workers showed!! And we raised hell!!

The union meeting lasted for two hours on that topic alone. After the meeting, we were determined to keep fighting around the attendance program, and really saw that when we unite and organize ourselves, we CAN change things and that we CAN stick together! To make the union fight for us! We're tired of being pushed around, driven down, and sold out!

—Workers at Leeds and Northrup

Jockeys Protest Horse Drug Death

Baltimore—One jockey was killed and two others were seriously injured in a four horse spill at Pimlico Race Course May 3rd, after the leading horse, Easy Edith, broke her left foreleg in the final stretch.

As a result, a battle is brewing over the question of pain-killing and "anti-inflammatory" drugs that are legal in Maryland. On the one side are the veterinarians and the Maryland Racing Commission who say that the drugs used on this horse had nothing to do with the death of jockey Robert Pineda.

On the other side are the jockeys and some trainers who are now threatening to stop riding horses that have received these two drugs, Butazolidin and Lasix.

"Bute is like novicane. It numbs a horse that may be sore. Without bute, if a horse starts to hurt, he'll pull back.

But if he can't feel anything he'll keep running," says Rudy Turcotte, the jockey who was riding Easy Edith when she broke her leg.

Jimmy Jones, long time trainer said that "Lasix drains the body of all fluids and enables one (drug) to mask the other. . . possibly illegal drugs."

As it turns out, no autopsy was done on the horse following the accident; she was taken directly to a rendering plant. The vet who had examined her before the race noted that she had an "inflamed ankle." He knew that she had been given both these drugs continuously for several weeks prior to the race and that on the day of the race she had received them both orally and intravenously. One jockey claims that the vets are on the take.

It's obvious that the horse shouldn't have been running in this race. Even the jockey asked the vet to strike her from the race but he refused.

Behind all of this are the big corporations and farms who are in the racing business strictly to make money. If a jockey gets killed or maimed, it's only a temporary inconvenience. Three days after this happened, the Kentucky Derby was run and it was already forgotten. We stand with the jockeys who are starting to say they will strike if they feel a horse shouldn't run and damn the owner's profits.

Business school gives students dirty deal

Dear Worker:

We are asking support for five students (Jeanette Walker, Gene Hodges, Hector Nunez, Ralph Williams and Albert DeNully) who have been waging an active campaign against obsolete education, preparation for slave wage jobs or permanent unemployment, from the racist and undermining so-called private business schools like Monroe Business Institute.

Monroe is a family owned and controlled business school (Mom 'N Pop operation) which denies students access to a quality education and treats most of the students as if they were children.

Students are not given an itemized breakdown of how much of the \$2,365 paid per so-called academic year goes towards books, courses, credits, instructions, etc.

Furthermore, if you have to take a course again you are charged again for a book you already have and paid for! Students' courses are chosen for them because the stinking administration has already submitted a course and cost analysis to the Federal and State government without any input from the students.

Out of the day enrollment, approximately 90-95% is Black and Hispanic, yet only two instructors are black and none are Hispanic. Mostly all the students are funded by some state program.

We are told that credits from Monroe are transferrable to most colleges. This is an outright lie. After our termination on Nov. 2, 1977, we found out that only two schools partially accept any credits from Monroe and then those courses had to be taken over. One of the

schools, Pace University, is now refusing credits from Monroe.

We are asking support for our struggle since it is organically linked to all struggles of workers, poor people and oppressed nationals. Also, we see the vicious and brutal attacks against oppressed minorities and women by business schools like Monroe as another form of dividing the working class and denial of our future ability to live (Treachery of the petty capitalists to supply the labor market with unorganized and mistreated workers).

One final note—Monroe terminated the five students because they thought they could stop the organizing activities of the Committee for Student Action. Unfortunately, the students' level of consciousness is low and most of their objectives are centered on immediate bread and butter issues so the school was successful in stopping any real and legitimate organizing attempts on school premises.

Plus, the Committee for Student Action had been in existence for a little more than a month when the five students were ambushed by the administration, faculty and a few student lackies and traitors.

It is the man/woman who fights who does not suffer defeat. We have been able to achieve a few political gains like bad publicity for the school which has caused them to spend extra advertising expenditures. We have been able to get support from the people (phone calls, letters, etc.) and have been able to dissuade a few prospective students.

Signed, Committee for Student Action
Monroe Business Institute
New York City

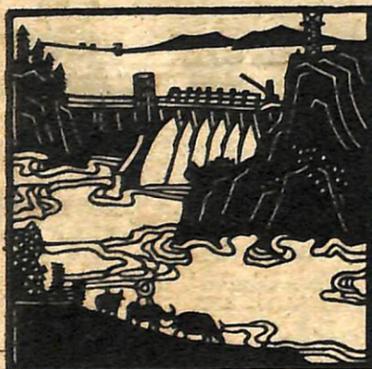
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22 Electronics Workers Rehired ADVENT BACKS OFF ATTACKS

Cambridge, Mass.—On April 28th, 21 workers from Advent Corp. refused to return to work after morning break until they got some answers about why a fellow worker had been suspended the previous day. The company responded by suspending the 21, pending possible firing.

But three days later the company was forced to put all 22 back to work. The

walkout was an important step in building the unity and organization of the Advent workers and in laying the groundwork for launching a new union drive.

Advent is a medium-sized electronics company manufacturing audio equipment and TVs. There have been three unsuccessful union drives there in the last five years.

Bruce Fleisher, whose suspension

sparked the walkout, had been active in the last two drives. He was suspended when he asked a woman who had hurt her shoulder on the job if she wanted to take a cab to the hospital. The company nurse had just told the woman, whose native language was Haitian Creole, to go home. Fleisher wanted to be sure she understood she had the right to go to the hospital at company expense.



When 21 Advent workers refused to back off from defending one of their brothers, the company had to give in.

Ken Winokur

The next morning 50 workers gathered in the cafeteria at break and demanded that the company explain its action. Supervisor Joe Ludice ordered everyone to go back to work, and refused to discuss Fleisher's suspension. Some workers went back but 21, white, Latin and Black, refused. A few minutes later, John Swenson, another supervisor, announced that he had punched everyone out and that they would have to punch back in when they went back to work. The argument heated up and the 21 walked out. The company suspended them for 3 days.

The following Monday, the suspended workers were out in front of the plant circulating a petition demanding not only that they be reinstated immediately with full pay for time lost and no disciplinary record, but also an end to harassment and intimidation at Advent. The petition was circulated in English, Spanish and French by the many different nationalities in the shop. In Fleisher's building, almost every worker who was asked signed it.

On Tuesday Fleisher had his hearing with the Company, supposedly to discuss whether he would be fired. But the company had done an about-face. Instead of their "tough-guy" stance of the week before, they kept asking Fleisher why he had raised so much hell with the workers when management was always ready to listen to any problems he might have.

The 22 are back at work, although they have not yet received back pay. The job is now to hold their group together, and find ways to build a union organizing committee and link it to on-going struggles in the shop for cost-of-living raise, for a uniform pay scale, and against company intimidation and harassment, especially of non-English speaking workers.

Co. Frames Black Workers

21 FIGHT RACIST FIRING

Londontown has turned their Eldersberg plant into a prison. Because two people have been caught with some Londontown property, Londontown has used this fact to spread a net of fear over the whole plant. The FBI is in there helping out the company in doing its dirty work. People have been called into the office and intimidated into taking lie detector tests.

Never mind that this is against the law—the company has the law on its side. The public phones were cut off for two weeks. People are being subjected to all kinds of searches just to get in and out of work. **WORST OF ALL—21 PEOPLE HAVE BEEN SUSPENDED OR TERMINATED WITHOUT A THREAD OF EVIDENCE AGAINST THEM!** They have lost their jobs on mere hearsay that they may know something about the stolen coats.

This was the opening of a leaflet handed out in the Baltimore area by the Londontown Workers Defense Committee after 21 Black workers were fired for allegedly stealing coats.

Claiming 9,000 of its London Fog coats, ranging from \$100 to \$150 each, retail, had turned up missing, Londontown began a reign of terror. Two Black workers were caught with 60 coats and

the company used this as an excuse to begin the campaign.

Management, state police and the FBI stalked through the plant, pulling workers off the job to interrogate them. The workers were forced to take lie detector tests. Everyone was told that someone else had named them—so they should name someone else. Workers were outraged by the company's actions. Many refused to take the tests—and were fired.

London Fog would obviously like to prevent thefts. But that wasn't the only reason the reign of terror occurred.

Two years ago when the plant opened in rural Carroll County, the plant manager said he "doubted that the city workers would last two years." He was referring to the Black workers who transferred from the Baltimore City Plant. And he meant they had to be gotten rid of, so the company could get a tax break for hiring only county residents who are mainly white. These 21 Black workers had to go.

The fired workers got together, with the support of other garment workers (including Garment Workers Unite, a part of the Baltimore chapter of the National United Workers Organization,) and organized a picket line at lunch time

at the plant. The company and union officials had to run around telling people not to go out to join it. One woman received a phone call threatening the safety of herself and her two kids if she spoke out publicly.

Throughout all of this time, the union has been playing footsie with the company. Their position is "Hands Off, Let These People Hang." The day after the picket, 20 workers went down to the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union office with their picket signs—to be told their business agent was out. They stood firm—and then he appeared, not too happy to see them. It turned out he was handling their case, alright, lumping their firings with the two the company claims were caught

red-handed with the goods!

The company has yet to produce evidence against the 21 fired workers. These men and women are continuing to fight to win back their jobs—from pushing the union officials to arbitrate each one of their cases, to going to the National Labor Relations Board and filing unfair labor charges.

Fellow garment workers—it's time to say enough! We can't afford to sit back while what little job security we have is being taken away, while Black workers are being discriminated against and while our union big wigs fold their hands and say: 'the company has its rights.' We have to pull ourselves together and fight for our own rights!



Demo Saves Emergency Aid

Baltimore—Over 250 people demonstrated at City Hall on April 24 to protest cuts in an emergency services program that helped over 50,000 people last year with food, rent and fuel bills. Mayor Shaefer's pleas of no money for the program flew in the face of the 1½ million dollars being allocated to keep up a tourist attraction, the ship Constellation, not to mention plans to build an aquarium and build up the inner harbor. Due to the demonstration and continual pressure that was mobilized by the coalition against the cuts, a victory was won in early May when the money came through. While the battle has been won, the amount of money allocated still falls far short of what's needed, and the coalition plans to continue the fight.



Londontown cried "thief" to cover racist attacks.

Editorial

African Liberation Day!

African Liberation Day, 1978, is above all a day of victory. In the last year, the liberation struggles in Zimbabwe and Namibia have come much closer to driving out the white settler regimes and the plundering imperialist powers like the U.S. and Britain which back them. South Africa's rulers are striking out even more viciously as they see the tide of liberation swirling towards them. But for every Steven Biko murdered, a thousand Azanian men and women swear a vow to fight until freedom is won, no matter what the cost.

African Liberation Day, 1978, is a day of solidarity. In the last year, the movement in this country to isolate the bandit South African regime has become a powerful social force. Krugerrand peddling companies have dropped the gold coin as if it were molten. Campuses around the country have seen picket lines of a dozen students suddenly blossom into building occupations by hundred and marches of thousands demanding divestment. University administrators and government officials remember the anti-war movement of the late '60s and early '70s and feel an icy hand clutch their hearts.

African Liberation Day, 1978, is also a day of learning. In the past year, more and more people have seen the relationship between the crimes of the U.S. ruling class in southern Africa and right here. Slogans like, "Hey Rizzo, have you heard?/Philly ain't Johannesburg!" and "Discrimination here, apartheid there/Gotta fight the system everywhere!" ring out at marches and rallies. People have seen the U.S. government try and stand reality on its head by posing as a friend of the guerrillas in Zimbabwe and an enemy of apartheid in South Africa. They have seen another self-proclaimed friend of the African people, the U.S.S.R., use tens of thousands of Cuban troops to fuel wars, prop up dictatorships and elbow its way toward dominance on the continent.

African Liberation Day, 1978, is a day of preparation. In the next year, the flames of revolt will spread in southern Africa, tempering the masses of people for the tasks of liberating themselves and forging their own destinies. The brushfires of solidarity in this country will blaze up as well and the heat of these mighty conflagrations will scorch all those who try and turn the freedom struggle to their own ends. There is much to do, much to learn, much to win before ALD, 1979. Fan the flames!

Conn. Workers Step Up Battle For Union

Rocky Hill, Conn.—It's not too often that workers attend a businessmen's lunch. But when local bosses held a luncheon as part of this town's official "Think Rocky Hill" campaign, workers and supporters were there—picketing.

The workers, in the 6th month of a unionization strike at Connecticut Foundry, shouted, "Yeah, think Rocky Hill... and think union!"

The strike of 140 men, most of whom are Puerto Rican, has spotlighted the opposing interests of big business and workers in the town near Hartford. The companies want to attract new business with promises of cheap land, low taxes and, especially, cheap labor. For the foundry workers this means as little as \$4.35 an hour after 10 years. Six months ago they went on strike to bring in the International Ladies Garment Workers Union (ILGWU).

The company has delayed a union vote through police harassment, court injunctions, arrests and use of scabs. They escalated the fight to outright physical attack when the foundry owner's son, Marsh Enquist, ran his car into ILGWU Joseph Danahy, on a picket line in late March.

But the workers have not been scared off. On April 2nd, ten days before the luncheon, 200 people marched from the foundry to Town Hall in support of the strikers just demands. Union organizers and rank and file workers, as well as

community and the recently formed Connecticut Foundry Strike Support Committee (CFSSC) marched together, shouting: "The strike is far from 'dead'."

In another action on April 18, a demonstration of 40 workers forced the



The strike in Rocky Hill has drawn support from workers throughout central Connecticut.

Town Council to pass a resolution condoning the workers' right to organize and urging the foundry owners to permit an election as a "speedy and just resolution to the strike."

While the resolution was a watered-down version of the workers' demands, and the Council refused to condemn the police or the foundry owners' illegal practices, the three actions have put the foundry on the defensive.

But the foundry has not given in and set an election date. Backed by the state, the courts and the National Labor Relations Board, the delays continue.

New charges filed with the NLRB against the union and strikers gave the NLRB an excuse to refuse to set an election date while charges are pending. The courts did their best for the company by postponing a hearing on an injunction which limits the number of pickets.

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On The Line in AUTO

The president of UAW Local 595 at GM's Linden, New Jersey assembly plant was assaulted by plant guards when he tried to enter the plant to campaign for re-election this month. This is just the most outrageous in a series of incidents of harassment and intimidation of union officials. Several committeemen have been thrown out of the plant. GM is planning to bring in the top of the line models next year, the El dorado, Riviera and Tornado, so they have gone on a big "quality" campaign. Workers get hams, hot dogs and other "rewards" when the quality index is high. At the same time, the company is trying to destroy the union as an effective force in the plant and whip the workers into line so they will be free to do as much speed-up and job combination as they want. The workers aren't buying the company's baloney and several fighting committeemen were selected.

The workers are also continuing to fight for the \$300 a piece that GM stole from their short week benefits pay. They voted to have the union put an ad in the local papers countering GM's current "happy worker" ads.

★ ★ ★

On June 6th at the American Motors Plant in Milwaukee, workers will frame the last Matador body and by June 17th it will reach the end of the line. The assembly line will grind to a halt that day, after decades of production in which men and women once turned out 1300 auto bodies a day.

This leaves 600 men and women, many in their 40's and 50's, without jobs. Already hundreds have been thrown out after giving as many as twenty years to the company.

For years, both AMC and the UAW have pushed "Buy American" as a way to solve workers' problems. At AMC, the company even reserved parking space close to the plant for employees who drove American Motors cars. Now many workers are saying, "Sure I bought an AMC car, but I'm still out of a job!" This joke of a campaign has become even more of a farce now that AMC has contracted to produce and sell French Renault autos!

This "Buy American" jive is typical. The union has also taken a no-fight attitude towards plant closings and layoffs. Two years ago when the company shipped a carpet department out of Milwaukee and into a non-union J.P. Stevens plant in the South, all Local 175 officials said was, "Don't worry, it's only a few jobs." Then when Gremlin production was shifted to Kenosha, union leaders refused to fight again and left 500 workers at Milwaukee without jobs.

As one disgusted worker on the line put it: "All these years the union told us 'Don't put up a fight, think about the company's business. We gave up one thing after another. Now we may be out of a job and the union won't even give out any information. They're just not doing a damn thing for us.'"

As its profits have dwindled, the company has taken it out on the workers with speed-up, shorter breaks, three men doing the work of five. The union has told the workers to go along with these and Buy American because it will "keep the company in business."

Now the union, and the company officials, along with Wisconsin's press, are proclaiming that the AMC-Renault deal will save the workers in Kenosha. Who are they kidding. Renault didn't get to be the 4th largest automakers in the world by being nice to workers. They are just a bigger, badder version of American Motors.

On Thursday, May 11, 1400 members of UAW Local 544 walked out of the plant in their first wildcat since 1958. The walkout was approved unanimously at meetings the day before. The workers had called for a three-day strike to fight back against long standing unsafe conditions and the three-day suspension of a union committeeman.

But at 6:15 that morning things got rough. A plant foreman drove through the picket line sending one man to the hospital. The local president warned the company that they were in trouble when "they deliberately tell their men to come down here and run over our men." The plant foreman said he was trying to "nudge" through the picket line and ran over the man only in "self-defense".

When the company and union met, the company "laughed" at the safety complaints. While they had their plant foreman running over their employees, they cried their usual stuff about illegal strikes and going through the grievance procedure. The judge released the plant foreman but the strikers strengthened the picket line. The plant, which produces parts for General Motors, was "dead" as one company official put it.

The men have now gone back to work along with the suspended union committeeman. But Fisher Body officials know the fight is far from over.

★ ★ ★

For months Gov. Milton Shapp of Pennsylvania crowed about his great victory for the people of his state, when Volkswagen decided to locate their first US production plant in Westmoreland County, near Pittsburgh.

For months the people of Pa. had to hear VW officials parade all over their TV sets telling how the company and the people of Pa. would grow and prosper together.

It looks nice in the headlines but not so nice for the people who are trying to work there. First it was discrimination in hiring. Even though the biggest unemployment in western Pa. is among Black people, very few of the new auto and construction jobs went to minorities. Protest pickets went up and some minority hiring was done.

For those Blacks who have been hired, Volkswagen must have watched the "Holocaust" to get their work rules. Listen to 2 Black Volkswagen workers. "If you're an alright 'nigger' and the company heads like you, then there's no telling how far you can go. But if you don't go in there talking about, 'Yes sir, Mr. Charley' like me then you're considered a militant."

Another worker said, "When you're working on the production line you have to stay within two yellow lines. If you step outside of them you are out of your area. You can't go to the bathroom. If a person walks through your area you can't return their greeting until breaktime. They say that it keeps you on your toes."

While singling out Black workers for special abuse, VW is trying to run wild over the entire work force. Working without a contract, employees at this new plant make almost \$2.00 an hour less than the national UAW contract wage. Because of this difference and other company practices, the UAW has been under pressure to organize the plant.

Now that the organizing is finally underway, company officials are crying foul. They talk about an "unofficial" agreement not to organize a union at the plant for at least 2 years. These VW officials have gone on TV threatening no new jobs will come to this country unless they can make a good profit by keeping the union out and wages down. Prosperity for all?

American workers are learning quickly that whether its Volkswagen or Ford "they've all got the same better idea."

N.J. Strike Beats Pay Cut

Acme-Hamilton Cries Bankruptcy, Locks Workers Out

Trenton, N.J.—For the first two weeks in May, 450 workers at Acme-Hamilton waged an active, organized strike against a planned 10% wage cut and the elimination of their pension plan—and won. But as we go to press the company has refused to open its doors, claiming bankruptcy.

On May 1, the first day of the strike, over 300 workers circled the plant, cheering as supporters from the local chapter of the National United Workers Organization arrived with a banner reading, "Acme-Hamilton Workers Show The Way; We Want Our Jobs And No Cuts In Pay."

This kind of unilaterally declared surprise wage cut is not new to South Jersey, which has become a virtual industrial wasteland as company after company has strong-armed workers into takeaway contracts or shut down completely.

But this strike showed a marked contrast to the no-fight response of union leaders at other plants.

On May 9 and 11, Acme-Hamilton went to federal court to get the contract thrown out altogether under Chapter 11 of the federal bankruptcy laws. Refusing to be legally disarmed, the workers packed into a bus and picketed the hearings.

The judge told the strikers they should understand that the company's interests are the same as the workers'—“like a marriage.” Workers stood up in court and declared, “Time for a divorce!”

Throughout the strike, workers held numerous mass meetings and marches to counter company deceit and attempts to force them back to work. Acme-Hamilton was never able to get an injunction even though it threatened to



Workers said if their strike was a family quarrel, “We want a divorce.”

from day one of the walkout.

In order to justify the pay cut the company president told workers it had been ordered by the Federal judge. It got him into hot water at the May 9 hearing when the judge discovered by chance that his name had been used without his knowledge.

But the story never appeared in the local newspapers! The press consistently blamed the workers for the company going bankrupt, with absurd and racist

charges of one type or another.

For example, one feature lied that the recruitment of Blacks in 1970 was a contributing cause to the company's demise. Acme-Hamilton is the only shop in Trenton where about 60% of the workforce is Black, many with 20-30 years seniority.

The article was a direct attack on affirmative action programs as well as a general racist slander. Workers have begun to see the press as company

representatives. Reporters are no longer allowed at union meetings.

In spite of company treachery and press lies, the settlement was a breakthrough which, on paper at least, guarantees that every penny taken from the workers will be returned in full.

In place of the straight 10% wage cut which the company had forced down the workers' throats for three weeks, the workers agreed to loan 5% of their pay to the company until the end of September when they will be repaid in installments at 7% interest.

The pension plan, which was to be cut for those already on pension as well as those due to retire in the future, was fully restored.

The 10% lost during the weeks of the pay cut is to be repaid by the company in an escrow account until it can be paid in full. Severance pay was set at \$400 per year of service.

The fight at Acme-Hamilton is part of an ongoing working class battle against the capitalist offensive to bust unions and drive down wages. In the Trenton area alone, Westinghouse, TRW, Bayer Aspirin and Gould threaten to shut down if workers don't bow to company takeaways.

There has been other resistance. When Roebing Steel CF&I tried to throw out the national steel contract, workers voted it down resoundingly.

But Thermiol Crane Co., American Bridge, Strick Trailer and countless others now stand empty, a testimony to the bloody profit-seeking owners who don't give a damn about jobs and to the pro-company union leaders who urged workers not to fight, even when there was nothing left to lose.

The fight against runaways and shut-downs is an uphill battle. But even when workers agree to pay cuts, there's never any assurance that the company will stay open. It only ensures that you'll have less to get by on if it does shut down.

Acme-Hamilton workers, in the words of the NUWO, showed the way. Working people have no choice but to fight.

STEEL

News and Views

Hot Strip Mill, Bethlehem Steel Burns Harbor Plant—Workers here in Local 6787 have responded to a new incentive program with a slowdown 84 days long as we go to press. The new program would mean a cut in pay of \$100.00 per pay check for many of the workers.

The company has fired fifteen workers and threatened more. Workers have organized informational picket lines to make the issues known. A union meeting attended by over 5,000 workers served to spread the word throughout the mill. Local officials have threatened to call a wildcat as the struggle spreads.

The demands are: (1) Hire back the fired workers; and (2) Down with the new incentive plan. More on this next issue.

USWA CONVENTION PLANS SET

As the 19th Constitutional Convention draws closer, steelworkers in several areas are taking steps to get people together to oppose the way our union is being run. In Homestead, Pa., 50 to 60 steelworkers from several area mills got together to set plans to make the voice of the rank and file heard at the convention.

At the meeting there was discussion about demands to be raised at the convention and about the election of delegates united behind the demands. They planned forms of outreach like rallies, beer blasts and leaflets to raise funds and spread the word.

Generally, the demands discussed were: (1) Right to ratify; (2) End the ENA; (3) Build a Strong Fighting Union—and Democracy not Dictatorship in our ranks. A rank and file group

from the Homestead Mill has developed a Draft Platform for the convention and is running a full slate of delegates in their local.

Members of the Steelworkers Newspaper were also present. This paper has put out a call for united action to stand up against “business as usual” at this convention.

Other areas of the country reported meetings similar to the one in Homestead.

SMASH THE ENA

Two recent struggles, the Iron Ore strike and Miners strike have once more graphically demonstrated the absurdity of the Basic Steel no strike deal—the so-called Experimental Negotiating Agreement (ENA).

But McBride and the rest of the USWA big shots still insist on continuing their “experiment” of cooperation and no-striking with their “Partners in Progress” at USS, Bethlehem, Republic and the rest. The example of the miners' struggle and other battles in our Union point to one thing—the need for us to step up our offensive against the No Strike deal. This is particularly important this year as the 19th Constitutional Convention looms ahead. There McBride will have to put the ENA up for a vote again. To build the movement to dump this millstone Abel and McBride have tied around our necks, we want to offer a little more evidence on why the ENA has got to go.

Where would the miners be if they did not strike back in the recent contract battle? And how come the coal bosses

fought so hard to limit the miners use of the strike weapon? It sure isn't that the coal bosses are different and just don't know how to be good partners like their brother exploiters in steel. After all, some of the biggest wheels in the Bituminous Coal Operators Association are the big steel giants.

Here's how the experiment is going down at the Sparrows Point mill in Baltimore, Maryland:

“Last week James Anderson drowned in a stinking pit of slime and oil on Steelside near the coal fields. He had brought his vacuum truck to the side of the pit which releases waste water into the Bay. A foreman directed him back while two laborers waited to help set the vacuum in motion to catch the oil on the surface. Minutes later, with the foreman still motioning him on, his truck was plunging into the 20 feet deep muck. He bailed out and came to the surface. The men extended a stick to him. It was too short. He went under and then came back up. It was too late. Another man dead. Another life wasted.

“Two hours later a scuba diver called to the scene fished out the brother's body and it was placed on a stretcher. Union officials were now in the area. Also R.R. Jones, plant manager to investigate the accident. With the man's body a few feet away, Jones said to the union officials: ‘You better get your hardhats and safety glasses on or you'll have to leave the area.’ Hardhats and safety glasses! That's all this bastard could talk about because WITHOUT A DOUBT, THIS BROTHERS' DEATH DIDN'T HAVE TO HAPPEN. FOR ALL THEIR TALK ABOUT SAFETY AND HEALTH, WHEN IT COMES TO SPENDING A BUCK ON AN IMPROVEMENT BETHLEHEM STEEL DOESN'T THINK OF MEN'S LIVES,

THEY THINK OF THEIR PROFITS.” (from a leaflet handed out by workers at the mill)

How about some evidence from Anaconda American Brass where the company offered the workers in 6 plants 20¢, 25¢, and 30¢ for three years with a cap on the COLA? Because of past militant strikes, the workers there had won concessions from the companies higher than the average for the industry. Now the bosses want to break them back down to the prevailing wage. Rejecting the “open hand of partnership,” the workers turned down the company offer and struck.

McBride's “partners” at the Hussman plant in St. Charles, Missouri have still refused to come across with a decent contract offer after a year-long strike. The chairman of the negotiating committee and the co-chairman of picketing have both been arrested for “conspiring to throw bombs.” The boycott of Pet products (the Pet conglomerate owns Hussman) is still on.

The evidence just seems to keep piling up, but the “experiment” to McBride still has not been conclusively tested in practice.

We think the main problem with McBride and his ENA is that they are set up to serve the steel companies and not the rank and file. The only ones getting any results are the steel companies. No wonder they and their servants in our union want to keep the experiment going. The miners turned down more money than we got in the last contract. How's that for results?

The ENA no strike deal is nothing but a dead weight dragging us back, limiting our fighting capacity against company attacks. It simply has to go.

On the Move in Philadelphia Against Rizzo's Racist Terror

Philadelphia, Pa.—The 54 day police siege of the MOVE radical commune is over. Mayor Frank Rizzo tried to use the blockade as a springboard to build a racist "white power" movement. But his plan to starve MOVE out or blow them to kingdom come was met with massive public condemnation.

Rizzo's four block metal and wood barricade around the Powelton Village neighborhood, where the eighteen member mainly Black household is located, had been manned by up to 1,000 heavily armed cops.

It was a "dangerous precedent—a warning to Black and minority people what will happen to them if they fight back against their oppression," said a member of the May 20th Committee. The committee will sponsor a demonstration against Rizzo's treatment of MOVE on that date.

The attention of this city was riveted on the armed confrontation. When the blockade ended on May 4, an unplanned rally of 200 MOVE supporters gathered as the walls came down. They yelled at the cops and chanted, "Hey Rizzo, have you heard? Philly ain't Johannesburg!" "Police Repression, Hell no! Cops in Powelton Got to Go!" As each piece of the barricade went by people cheered.

A few days before, MOVE and the city had negotiated a pact in which MOVE agreed to turn themselves and their weapons in and to leave their house within 90 days. The city agreed to release MOVE without bail on their own recognizance despite weapons and other charges. They will also free five MOVE members from prison.

"You could cut the tension in the city with a knife for the last few months," said one MOVE supporter. "And it ain't over yet."

MOVE's firm stand against police terror and Rizzo's arrogant declaration of war on them affected everyone in Philadelphia. Even though the barricades are down, repercussions from the outrageous blockade and Rizzo's bid for a racist reactionary movement are still widespread.

It's a no war, no peace situation. While Rizzo's right hand man, Hille Levinson said there was a "peaceful settlement," Rizzo himself announced, "If this ever happens again, we'll drop a bomb on them."

MAY 20, 1977 TO MAY 20, 1978

The confrontation which led to the blockade began a year ago on May 20, 1977 when the city tried to evict MOVE for alleged sanitary code violations. Rizzo and the media hoped to rally public opinion against the group by spotlighting MOVE's anti-technology religion and downplaying their revolutionary aspect. The organization has long rebelled against the injustices of the capitalist system.

MOVE refused to be driven out. The men, women and children who lived in the house defended themselves with a show of arms.

Unprepared for the shootout it might take to force MOVE out and the problems it would create for him, Rizzo sent in dozens of cops to watch the house and arrest anyone who left it.

An eleven month standoff followed. Supporters brought food, water and supplies to MOVE. Police harassed everyone in the area and arrested some supporters and members but MOVE did not surrender.

Then Rizzo came under fire from traditional political enemies in a section of the Democratic Party and the *Daily News* began complaining about how much the special police force in

Powelton cost the city.

Jammed to either back down or step up the confrontation, Rizzo got Judge G. Fred DiBona to OK a blockade so as to prevent further food deliveries to the group. The barricades were erected and hundreds more cops were brought in, armed with automatic weapons.

Rizzo's "tough guy" act was also aimed at establishing him as the natural leader of a "white power" movement he was calling for. The target of this was to be so-called special privileges for Blacks. His racist attempt to polarize the city spurred many forces into action against Hizzoner.

Until the barricades went up MOVE's support came primarily from some Powelton residents who were furious at Rizzo's police occupation of their neighborhood. But the blockade brought a huge public outcry.

Almost every Black civic and business organization condemned Rizzo's action. Giant mass meetings and demonstrations demanded, "Blockade Rizzo, Set MOVE Free."

Actions like attempts to break the blockade by delivering groceries brought numerous arrests, but support for MOVE grew. Many working people and minorities felt it was right to rebel against 'leaders' like Rizzo.

A people's blockade of City Hall in April encircled City Hall as 1200 Black and white people linked hands chanting, "Hey Rizzo, Have you heard? Philly Ain't Johannesburg."

The parallels between Rizzo's fence of terror around MOVE and South Africa's white minority regime's policy of forcing African people to live behind fences in enclosed ghettos called Bantustans were frighteningly clear.

Black and white residents within the blockaded area had to show ID to police to get through the barricade to their homes, not unlike the South African passbook system. Someone put up a sign that read, "Welcome to South Africa. Have you got your pass?"

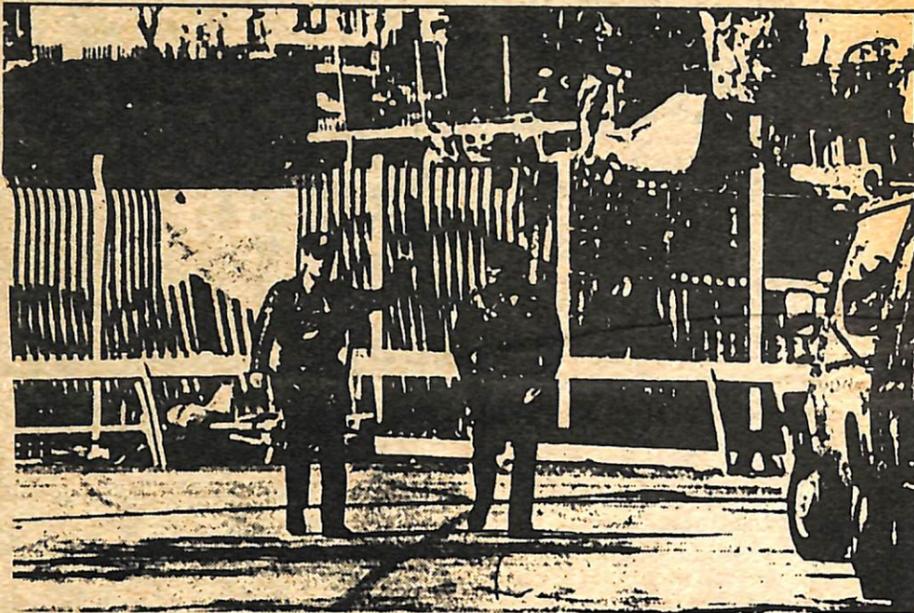
The barricades are down now but the people of this city, especially Blacks and other minorities, have no illusions that the attacks on their democratic rights are finished. Rizzo and his allies are already trying to deny the significance of the confrontation.

When the May 20th Committee sought publicity for their march, the newspapers told them it wasn't newsworthy. City Hall denied them permits or the demonstration. The church they had secured for a cultural evening turned them away at the last moment.

If there's nothing important about the issues, why is the city so scared of an orderly demonstration?

The people of Philadelphia do think the demonstration is important. When committee members leafleted in front of City Hall on May 13, hundreds of people expressed support for the struggle. In two hours the march organizers sold buttons reading, "Stop Rizzo."

THE WORKER salutes the May 20th demonstration in Philadelphia as the just outpouring of working and oppressed people everywhere against the likes of Frank Rizzo. MOVE's resistance is righteous. Like the African people who are fighting for their freedom, Black and minority people in the U.S. are fighting to throw off national oppression and to hit the powers who profit from it.



The barricades are down in Powelton Village, but the effects of the long siege and MOVE's resistance remain.

Revolt vs Rotten Housing TENANTS FIGHT GOV'T. SLUMLORDS

Chester, Pa.—You flush the toilet and it backs up in your sink. The hot water and heating pipes have no coverings. You get charged extra rent if you use a space heater, even if your kids are freezing. Rats and roaches breed in garbage that never gets collected. This is how the people of Ruth L. Bennett Homes housing project in the mainly Black town of Chester are forced to live.

Since early March, Bennett Homes tenants have been organizing and demanding action from their landlords, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the Chester Housing Authority (CHA).

They were finally promised a meeting with the HUD Regional Headquarters chief after a demonstration in early May.

But when the appointed day arrived, Bennett Homes tenant representatives were kept waiting for 2 hours, and told he wasn't available. They finally marched into his office and took it over, only to discover signs of his hasty retreat—his glasses and jacket were still warm on his desk.

"You mean to tell us we have to live in shit up to our eyeballs and you won't even so much as meet with us?" "Maybe you'll understand better if we bring the conditions from Bennett Homes right here to your office," shouted one of the leaders of the tenants to one of HUD's top lackeys.

That very same day, 50 people sat in at the offices of slumlord Frank Miller (#1 boss of the numbers racket in Chester) to protest the conditions in their houses.

Right now, the people at Bennett Homes are beginning a rent strike to show HUD, Chester Mayor Nacrelli and CHA that they mean business.

GOVERNMENT SLUMLORDS

The Bennett Homes sewer system has been a total failure ever since the project was built in 1952-53 to house Black workers who came up from the South, to work at places like Sun Ship Co. and Scott Towels. Now, while more and more Black people face layoffs in this industrial city of 49,000 the conditions get worse.

In the beginning of March, the people of Bennett Homes had enough. They blockaded the entrances to the project with trash that had not been collected for weeks.

25 years of complaints about these conditions got them nowhere so they took things into their own hands. When the people of the 390 unit project, signed complaints CHA and HUD sent inspectors around to add a tax to their rent.

CHA and HUD are the biggest slumlords in Chester. Last year, another project, Crosby Square, was declared unfit for habitation—just five years after it was built. Another, Bannacker House, supposedly built for low rent tenants, now has rents higher than the building itself. And Taylor Park makes Bennett Homes look good. CHA and HUD manages all of these properties. And there are worse.

A few days after the trash blockade went up, 50 residents marched from Bennett Homes all through the projects in Chester. They ended up with 100 people at Mayor "Crook" Nacrelli's office in downtown Chester shouting "We won't live like this."

Nacrelli b.s.'d people for 10 minutes and then ran out of his office. That night he sent the whole Chester police force to remove two bins of trash (what remained of the blockade) and try to take over the project. Hundreds gathered at the project entrance and chased the cops out.

That's the spirit of the people struggling at Bennett Homes. Recently they began to take on other struggles in the project, including running a slate for Tenant Council (TC) which won 5 out of 6 seats. Some of the seats in TC were held before by people who didn't want to fight but instead tried to cool down the struggle, telling people to do things "legally and peacefully."

25 years of "legal and peaceful" protests got them nowhere. But now as the tenants organize themselves, HUD and CHA must take notice. Big money in Chester, like the Pew family who own Sun Ship, don't give a damn how people have to live as long as they come to work and make money for the Pews. The message of Bennett Homes is clear, "WE WON'T BE FORCED TO LIVE LIKE ANIMALS!"

Campuses Flare Up In Divestment Battles

South Africa, The Vietnam of 1978

During April, 35 campuses in the Northeast alone were rocked by student demonstrations calling for divestment—universities getting rid of stock in corporations that invest in South Africa.

On May 1 at Columbia University, 300 students held a 7-hour sit-in. Earlier in the day, 1000 had marched around the campus and the community demanding that Columbia sell its over \$80 million dollars of investments in South Africa. The Transport Workers local representing campus workers took a stand supporting demands to end university complicity in apartheid. At Princeton, 200 students took over an administration building for 27 hours in April before joining a support rally of 600 outside. Daily picket lines of hundreds have been held there for over a month.

At Harvard, 4000 rallied on April 27th. 250 of the protesters blockaded an administration building and shut it down for a day, forcing administrators to work elsewhere. As he left the building, President Derek Bok was surrounded by 100 angry students demanding he justify Harvard's \$350 million worth of investments in one of the most brutal regimes ever. Deans of the school and police had to escort him into a police car, which students promptly locked up and sat on.

Similar battles have taken place in other parts of the country. The University of Illinois campus at Champaign has seen several demonstrations of over 100 students. In California, activists have led protests not only on campuses, but in the communities, demanding that the Bank of America and other companies withdraw their loans and investments in South Africa.

A BIG ISSUE

The divestment movement has become so hot that on the weekend of March 31st the Northeast Committee for the Liberation of South Africa was formed out of a divestment conference at Yale. With representatives from 48

in the US has been made by students in their divestment battles. At Cornell, 300 Black and white students rallied behind demands not only to End University Investments in South Africa, but also to Stop the Cuts in the Afro-American Studies Center and Overturn the Bakke Decision. At Columbia, students took their divestment march to Harlem, where Columbia is a notorious slumlord, and chanted, "Discrimination here/Apartheid there/Gotta fight the system everywhere."

THE BATTLE LINES ARE DRAWN

Divestment has become the cutting edge on campuses because it clearly draws the battle lines. On one side stand the university administrators and trustees. They uphold apartheid by continuing to invest in corporations which make millions of dollars of profit by paying slave wages to black South Africans, who cannot form unions or legally protest the government in any way. On the other side are students, who stand with the righteous rebellion of the South Africans for their freedom.

To keep their lucrative holdings, the universities have gone on the offensive against students calling for divestment. They arrested 295 peaceful demonstrators at Stanford, they brought in riot cops to arrest 19 in Oregon, and they maced students in Wisconsin. They have also told students it would hurt them the most, because it would drain the university financially and lead to tuition increases. The students have answered, loud, bold and clear: "Stop the Lies! Cut All Ties! Divest Now!"

They have already been victorious at schools like the University of Massachusetts and the University of Wisconsin where the university's holdings were in the hundreds of thousands. Other schools have seen partial victories. Rutgers trustees will divest stock in any corporation proved to discriminate in South Africa. Now the battle is heating up at schools that invest

African Liberation Day



"Discrimination here, apartheid there/Gotta fight that system everywhere!"

May 27th. African Liberation Day. Those words will echo off the polished glass towers of Chicago's Loop. Hundreds will march on that day in support of the African people's struggle against racism and foreign domination.

Organized by the African Liberation Day Coalition, the demonstration will unite people from throughout the Midwest region.

The march will sweep past the skyscrapers of corporations like U.S. Steel and First National Bank, corporations which back up and profit from their investments in apartheid, corporations which support and profit from discrimination against minorities, which profit from the segregation of minority ghettos—American Sowetos—like Harlem and Chicago's South Side.

To the rich few who own these corporations the march will deliver a message: The forces of freedom are on the move here and in South Africa. To the thousands of shoppers, many of them from the South Side, it will be a declaration: On May 27th when we march in support of African freedom fighters, we are also marching against the attacks on



March Set For Chicago

minorities in this country.

The demonstration is being built on campuses throughout the city by the Chicago New African Liberation Support Committee and the Revolutionary Student Brigade, members of the coalition.

As part of the build up, picket lines are planned to denounce Carter and his support for the racist regimes in South Africa when he comes to a banquet in Chicago on May 25th. The coalition will also do mass leafletting and agitation on several Saturdays in the Black community.

The coalition organized an African Liberation Day Sunday on May 14, which received the endorsement of over 30 Black congregations and featured messages from freedom fighters and cultural performances.

Midwest chapters of the National United Workers Organization, participants in the Coalition, will be taking the issue into the plants, linking up the struggle against discrimination and for freedom of the southern African masses with the similar struggle of workers, especially minority ones, in this country.

FIGHT IMPERIALISM AND NATIONAL OPPRESSION FROM THE U.S.A. (Union of South Africa) to THE U.S.A. (UNITED STATES OF AMERICA).

Zimbabwe

continued from page 1

day of liberation. As a result, the government has placed many areas under curfew which blacks can be shot for violating. Some curfews restrict people to within 50 yards of their huts 22 hours a day!

THE REGIME HAS NO FUTURE

White settlers who sense the coming collapse and are unwilling to accept the liberation forces' offer to take part in constructing a new Zimbabwe as equal citizens and not "bosses" are leaving in droves. Boycotted by most of the world's countries, the Rhodesian economy is in shambles.

Its army already has South African soldiers fighting in Rhodesian uniforms. There are reports that full South African units will be sent in because of guerrilla successes and the fear that Rhodesia's black troops will prove more unreliable in the future.

So bleak is the future for white settler rule in Rhodesia, that even the U.S. and British governments, which have done their utmost to prop Smith up, couldn't go along with the Accords.

Diplomats like Andy Young are working to try and strike some new deal which will include the Patriotic Front or at least part of it. Their goal is a stable government which will permit American

and English corporations to continue plundering the country's resources and exploiting its workers. If that means more blacks in the government and with more power than Smith wants to give up, so be it. They'll keep the pressure on.

The transitional government has gone so far as to lift some of the laws against belonging to ZANU and ZAPU and call for a ceasefire in the liberation war. But the Patriotic Front has stated repeatedly that its forces will keep fighting until real political, economic and military power is in the hands of the masses of people.

THE REAL STORY

The real story in Zimbabwe today can be seen in one incident which occurred on May 14. Rhodesian troops on patrol ambushed an educational meeting where a few ZANU guerrillas were speaking with over a hundred tribesmen about the freedom struggle.

Over 50 unarmed "curfew violators" were mowed down, according to the Rhodesian military, which admitted guerrilla counter-attacks had accounted for several of its soldiers.

The viciousness of white settler rule and its phoney transitional government show that it must be destroyed. The freedom fighters' strength and roots among the people show that the day is coming soon!



Divestment is the key issue in new upsurge on campuses like Columbia.

schools, it is the largest African liberation support group in the country.

Students are rocking the campuses with this issue as the South African struggle becomes more intense and as oppression of minorities here comes down harder every day. Even the New York Times can't keep the fact that a tremendous revolution of the people is occurring in South Africa out of their headlines.

In response to this, a broad social movement of anti-apartheid forces has been growing.

Divestment fights not only weaken the South African government economically, but even more important, they are part of the overall process of exposing and isolating the white settler government as an international outlaw regime.

The link between repression of the South African people and Black people

millions in apartheid, like Harvard and Columbia.

Students today are siding with the South African people, just as students in the '60s stood with the struggle of the Vietnamese against imperialism. At Columbia the divestment battle was fired up when leaders of the '68 Columbia Revolt told 700 people at a forum that the system remains the same as it was then, whether it is trying to quell people's rebellion in Soweto or Vietnam. One-time national secretary of SDS Mark Rudd noted how the struggle against injustices here—something that is recurring today as students have moved with the spirit of Soweto to build battles in the United States. The divestment battle is one part of a large and growing movement to fight imperialism and national oppression from South Africa to Harlem.

15,000 March Against Bakke Turning Point in Struggle of Minorities

Washington, D.C.—On April 15, in Washington D.C. 15,000 people marched against the Bakke decision, against racism and discrimination. 15,000 people full of the determination and rebellion that had opened up lunch counters, smashed segregation, won open admissions, and burnt cities. A sea of Black and white, Puerto Rican and Asian-Americans, shoulder to shoulder, with one common chant, "Beat Back the Bakke Decision." After 7 years of little organized response to discrimination, the April 15th march was a turning point.

If you watched the network news the evening of April 15, that Saturday held no special significance. The only report of a demonstration in Washington, DC was about 400 Elvis Presley fans who want his birthday to be a national holiday.

But news blackouts can only hide reality, not change it. The anti-Bakke demonstration was the biggest outpouring of protest against racism this country has seen in the 1970's.

It delivered the People's Verdict against the Bakke decision and served notice to this country's rulers, right in their seat of power in Washington, that people don't plan to let the capitalist scales of justice crush them into deeper poverty and degradation.

Without any major media build-up or coverage and without any significant financial support, word about the march was spread to hundreds of thousands in schools and communities throughout the US.

A large number of those marching came from the major urban ghettos in the Northeast. 30 busloads left from 125 St. and Lenox Ave., in the heart of Harlem.

Although predominantly Black, the

crowd included a large number of white people, exposing the myth that Bakke's "reverse discrimination" stands for the interests of white people.

Bakke says he was refused admission to the University of California at Davis medical school while "less qualified" Blacks got in through a quota system which sets aside a maximum of 16 of 100 places per class for minorities.

His case rests on the absurd assertion that there is no longer any discrimination against minorities, so special programs to upgrade their education and job opportunities are not needed. Now, claims Bakke, white people are the victims of "reverse discrimination."

While its true that the system has less to offer daily to either Black or white people by way of education or jobs,

minorities are still hit hardest. It is not in the interest of whites to fight for the few crumbs the system throws to Blacks.

DEEPER POLITICAL UNDERSTANDING

This march showed a much deeper political understanding than there had been at demonstrations in the past. While the marches of the early 60s made demands that Black people be granted rights long denied them by the legal system, there was only a beginning awareness that racism stems from the entire economic system (and supporting legal system) that we live under.

But the ghetto rebellions in the 60's, the experience of the Black Panther Party, and the rising tide of struggle against

New Case Outdoes Bakke Attack on Affirmative Action

No matter what the Supreme Court decides on Bakke, new legal challenges lie ahead in the ruling class' offensive against the gains of the 60's. Earlier this year the highest federal court in the south decided a case entitled Weber vs. Kaiser Aluminum. Weber involves an on-the-job training program adopted by the USWA and Kaiser for its Gramercy, La. plant.

This program instituted a ratio of one minority trainee for each white trainee in order to increase minority participation in craft jobs to a level reflecting the racial composition of the area. At Gramercy 2% of the craft workers are Black, while 40% of the surrounding population is. Because Blacks are generally excluded

from the crafts unions where they could gain the needed skills, very few would be able to ever get into such skilled positions without a special training program.

Weber, a white worker at Gramercy, challenged the program as discriminatory under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which prohibits discrimination based on race in employment. It would be quite possible for Bakke to lose and for Weber to win.

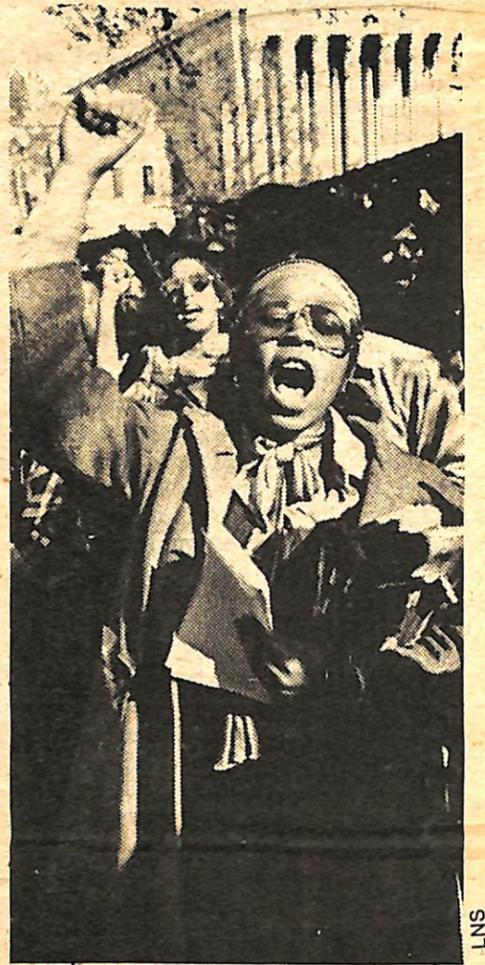
What would a Weber victory mean if the Supreme Court hears his case in the fall? The Government would have to prosecute any employer or institution which had special programs to overcome discrimination against Blacks, Latins, and even women!

US imperialism in Southern Africa has left its mark on those who marched and the many who supported them.

One of the largest and best received contingents in the march was the 600 member Soweto Brigade, marching behind a banner declaring, "Fight Imperialism and National Oppression from the USA (Union of South Africa) to the USA (United States of America)." Their chant of "Soweto" was greeted with cheers throughout the march, reflecting the widespread inspiration Black people get here from their brothers and sisters in struggle in South Africa.

The Bakke decision of the California Supreme Court (which the US Supreme Court will rule on within the next month) has the potential to wipe out all

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The Bakke demonstration was an important step in rebuilding a movement to fight discrimination and national oppression.

N.Y. Students Clash With Cops Take on Cuts, Discrimination

New York City—On the afternoon of May 3rd, tactical police, preceded by a dozen plainclothesmen, burst in upon 50 students peacefully occupying a building at Brooklyn College to protest recent attacks on minority students and the firing of a Puerto Rican professor. Brooklyn

College president John Kneller unleashed the bloody attack, which sent several students and cops to the hospital as many students fought back. One of three students arrested on trumped-up felony charges was repeatedly beaten across the face at the precinct and is in

danger of losing sight in one eye. Since the battle, 300 students demonstrated May 10th, demanding an end to police repression on campus.

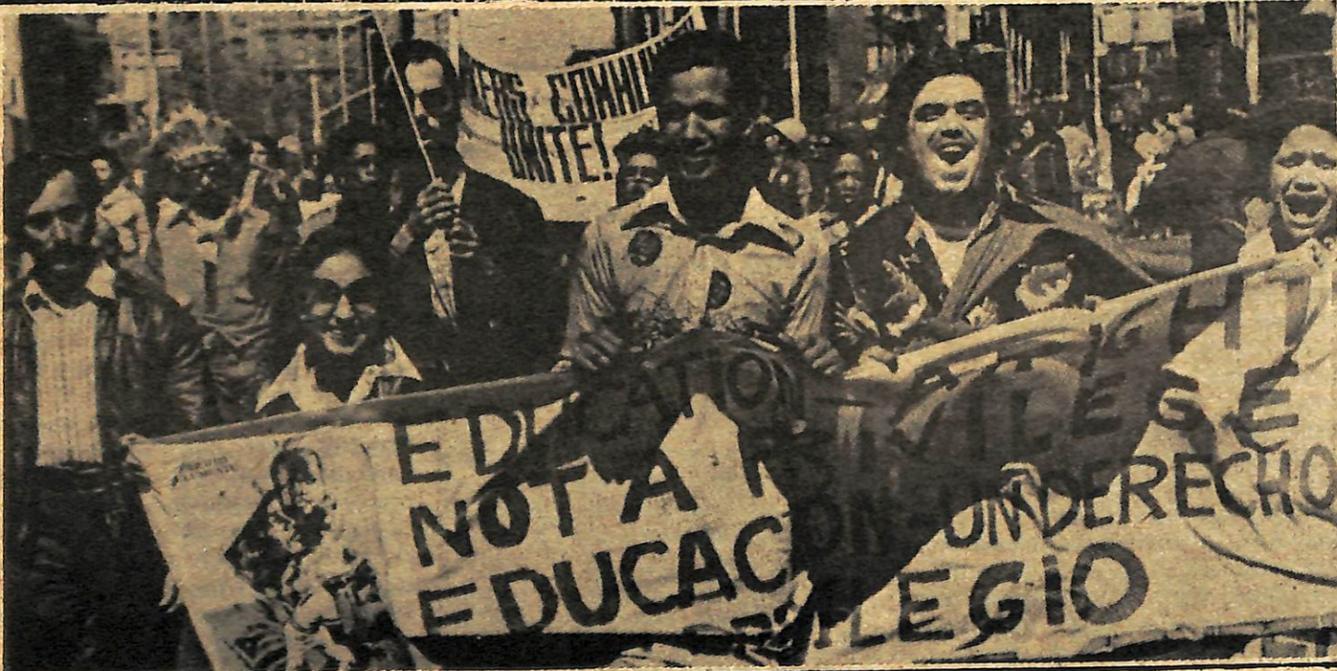
Also on May 10, police moved in to break up another occupation, arresting 15 Hostos Community College students

sitting in a building which the city has refused to open to the school. At Hostos, the only bi-lingual college for Spanish speaking students this side of El Paso, students have been forced to go to school in an over-crowded former tire factory without a cafeteria, auditorium or lounges. During last semester's finals many students actually had to take their tests sitting in the halls.

A few months ago they took matters into their own hands, and along with community residents, moved into the empty building across the street. They have fixed it up and are operating classes, cultural activities and daycare there since, saying to hell with the city's stalling. The city had purchased the building for Hostos in 1974 but never opened it due to the budget cuts.

The occupations at Brooklyn and Hostos were sparked by a growing frustration with the increasing attacks on the schools in the City University of New York system (CUNY). In the past two years there have been massive budget cuts in the CUNY system. The latest assault, which directly affects Hostos, is a "Master Plan" announced by Mayor Ed Koch in May, which would halt all new construction throughout CUNY. It would also end New York

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The predominantly Latin students at Hostos Community College have fought for the last five years to keep their school alive.

Nazism, Zionism and the Holocaust

T.V. Twists the Truth

Millions of Americans watched last April as NBC telecast HOLOCAUST, a chronicle of one of the most vicious and terrifying times in modern history. Many Americans saw for the first time the extent of the Nazi's brutalities and the murder of six million Jews. Actual pictures of some of the Nazi crimes were shown—the beatings, the torture, the "assembly line" gas chambers and crematoriums. These are things seldom talked about in American classrooms, and for many it was news.

Taking off on the popularity of "Roots," "Holocaust" was billed as the true story of the oppression and the extermination of the Jews. But for most people, it raised a lot of questions about his response to the onslaught of German fascism. The TV series didn't show what was behind those "insane" German generals. And it showed the Jews as all alone with no friends, and for the most part passively going to their graves. What actually happened was not shown.

WHO WERE THE NAZIS AND HOW DID THEY COME TO POWER

According to the program, the Nazis were demented men who rose to power simply by playing on a history of anti-semitism. This was part of the story, but it is far from the most important element.

Facism, which took the form of Nazism in Germany, is the capitalists' answer to a growing revolutionary workers movement. In the late 20's and 30's, Europe was in the grip of a worldwide depression. Germany, which had never completely recovered from the devastation of World War I, was particularly hard hit. In 1919 the mark was



"Holocaust" did show the horrors of the Nazi camps.

worth 9 to the US dollar. By 1923 it took 4 trillion to equal a dollar. In 1932, 6 million German workers were unemployed. The capitalist system was in danger. The bosses were afraid that the workers would follow the example of the workers in Russia, who in 1917 had established the first workers state. That is why some of the major German businessmen, like Emil Kirdoff, the union-busting coal baron, Thyssen and Voegler, the heads of steel trusts, Schnitzer, the chemical magnate, Krupp, the munitions king, and many bankers, supported Hitler and his little band of fanatics and put them into power.

Many British, American and French businessmen also supported Hitler, like Henry Ford, who had helped to bankroll him since the 20's. They had investments in Germany and were glad to see him beating down the German workers. But even more important, they hoped to use the Nazis to smash the Soviet Union and its example.

Hitler played on people's anger at the collapse of the system, but pointed the blame away from the real cause—the profit system itself. Instead he said the Jews were the cause of all the problems.

Most of the German workers saw the

Nazis as enemies and strongly opposed them. But the leaders of the Social Democratic Party, the largest workers party, betrayed the workers and let Hitler come to power without a fight.

"Holocaust" made it seem that the Nazis tried to conquer Europe in order to get the rest of the Jews. They did use their sick crusade to confuse and divide their opponents. But the purpose of the invasion was the conquest of markets, natural resources, and slave labor. The Nazis not only slaughtered Jews, but also millions of other "undesirables," like trade unionists, communists, people of Slavic nationalities, religious and cultural leaders, gypsies, the insane, and anyone who resisted.

HOLOCAUST WAS AN AD FOR ZIONISM

The clearest message in "Holocaust" was support for Zionism: the Jews should go live in their own country, Israel. Partly this was done by equating Nazism with anti-semitism and then showing the Jews as completely alone in facing the Nazis. Ironically, the show doesn't hit very hard at anti-semitism.

Although some resistance is shown, many people came away wondering why the Jews allowed themselves to be killed. Only the Zionists are shown as breaking with "Jewish passivity" and they are shown as leading all the resistance to the Nazis. This leads to the conclusion that not only the Jews have been abused but also that they are in fact different from and can't live with other people, and should go and live in their own country. But these conclusions are based on lies and distortions.

THE JEWISH PEOPLE DID FIGHT BACK

Holocaust shows millions walking meekly to their deaths, with only a few fighting, all alone, when it is too late. In fact, there was much more resistance than the program showed.

The Warsaw Ghetto uprising was bigger, better organized, and lasted longer than "Holocaust" implies. There were over 1000 Jews in organized armed

groups and thousands of others who helped or fought on their own. The Germans had to burn and bomb the ghetto to the ground and even then the resistance continued from bunkers and the rubble. Besides Warsaw there were many other cases of both active and passive resistance to the Nazis.

THE JEWISH PEOPLE WERE NOT ALONE

The Jewish people did not fight alone



Women—and children, too—joined in the Warsaw and other uprisings.

with little or no help as shown on TV. It is true that the Western governments did nothing to help. But there were active resistance movements in all the occupied countries, usually led by the communists. The Polish Workers Party, a communist party, sent arms into the ghetto free, supplied a map of the sewer system, took armed actions against the Germans during the uprising and helped several groups of fighters escape to join the partisans. Also, after an appeal for aid by the People's Guard, the red led Polish liberation army, the Soviet Union bombed German installations in Warsaw during the uprising.

The ghetto fighters did not see themselves as fighting alone. According to Ber Mark, in *Uprising in the Warsaw Ghetto*, "...the act of uprising was not

Survivor Speaks On Poland Under Nazis

This is a personal account by a retired Jewish worker from Queens, N.Y., who at the outbreak of WWII lived in a small village in central Poland.

When Germany occupied my village in 1939 the Nazis quickly stamped out any resistance. All patriots, Jews and Poles, were quickly shot. The Nazis set up a Jewish ghetto and let us have our own government. This government consisted of elderly, religious people and a handful of rich businessmen who were Jewish.

Life in the ghetto was extremely harsh. Many of us died from hunger or from overworking. I worked in the fields from 3 am till 7 pm every day of the week. Anyone who was suspected of doing anything wrong was shot or sent to a concentrate camp. A person did not have to do anything wrong to be sent to a camp, it was the policy of the Nazis to wipe out all of the Jews.

Despite the terror there was some resistance to them. We twice sabotaged machines used by the Nazis. We would try to hide people the Nazis were looking for and help them to escape to the Russian-occupied part of Poland. It was very difficult and dangerous to do this but we tried as best as we could.

There were always rumors of an armed resistance group in the countryside but I never found out if they really existed. Though it was illegal to have a radio, we would always gather to listen to the news from the Soviet Union. We looked to the Soviet Union as a country which would help us win our freedom against the Nazis.

Religious leaders and rich Jewish business men did not take part in this resistance. There were several communists that tried to organize but they were quickly killed as we had no guns to defend ourselves. As for the Zionists, they were divided into 2 groups. The right-wing Zionists said resistance was futile and the only solution was to go to Israel. As for the left Zionists, though they said Israel was the solution they did try to organize some forms of resistance. But overall, communists and Polish patriots were the ones we looked to for leadership in the fight against the Nazis. I was sent to a concentration camp in 1941 and I do not know what happened to my village after I left.



The real goal of Nazi invasion was economic control.

one of despair. Armed confrontations for the cadres of Ghetto prisoners was the direct result of a long process, realization of a dream not only of self-defense but also of enlisting in the fighting ranks of the local and international movement."

TRUE ROLE OF THE ZIONISTS

The Zionists were not the main organizers of the resistance. In fact the leaders of this movement usually opposed fighting back. It was the communists, Jewish and non-Jewish, who were most active in organizing and trying to unite everyone. Many rank and file Zionists also took part in the resistance.

The record of the Zionist leaders was most shameful. They were on the notorious Judenrats, puppet governments set up by the Nazis to keep order in the ghettos and to organize Jews for slave labor and for transport to the death camps. These traitors would pick those to be sent to the gas chambers, often hiding the true destination, in order to save their own skins.

The leaders of the big Zionist organizations all over the world did little or nothing to help the Jews trapped in Europe. Their main CONCERN WAS NOT SAVING Jewish lives, but creating a Zionist state in Palestine.

In 1943, in a speech in Tel Aviv, Palestine, Palestine, Yitzchak Greenbaum, the chairman of the Jewish Agency's acting committee for the rescue of European Jewry, said, "When they come to us with 2 plans, the rescue of the masses of Jews in Europe or the redemptions of the land, I vote without a second thought, for the redemption of the land. The more said about the slaughter of our people, the greater the minimization of our efforts to strengthen and promote the Hebraization of the land." The head of this "rescue" committee clearly put getting more land in Palestine ahead of saving the lives of millions.

This was not just talk. The Zionists received messages describing the atrocities, including in some cases maps of the death camps and requests to have them bombed. They did nothing, even keeping news about the murders quiet as long as possible.

Some Zionists made deals to save a handful of young Jews in exchange for closing their eyes to the thousands being shipped to the camps. But other attempts to rescue Jews were sabotaged if the Jews were not being sent to help build the Zionist state on the land of the people of Palestine. For example, in 1939, the Swedish Parliament passed a law to allow 1000's of German Jews to seek refuge in Sweden. This offer was withdrawn at the urging of leading Swedish Zionists.

This policy continues to this day.

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Veteran Fighter Looks At 40 Years of May Days

"We are in a May Day that is fighting back," said Gideon in the opening speech to the New York City rally on May 6. "That's why I marched on May Day in 1937. That's why I am proud to have marched on May Day here today in 1978."

Gideon, veteran worker and communist, compared May Day marches in the 1930's and the 1950's to 1978. The 30's he said were May Days of workers on the offensive. The 50's saw weak, defensive May Days.

In the 30's 100,000 marched in New York. "We marched on May Day because it was part of the deep anger and hatred, it was part of the deep rooted oppression we endured... To us May Day was a class expression of going on the offensive against the ruling class in our country and throughout the world."

The speaker painted a gripping picture of the conditions of the 30's "Great Depression." 19 million out of work, long soup and bread lines of people "trying to get a bite to eat," contrasted to the destruction of tons of meat and dairy products to keep prices down. "It was crazy."

"Sometimes I saw men and women angry and screaming, some crying bitter tears as they rushed trying to get whatever savings they had out of a bank before it closed down, and in desperation they would throw bricks through the windows."

He spoke of evictions, of shantytowns—"Shelters made of cardboard and sheet metal."

It was an "even harder existence" for black people who faced lynch terror and discrimination. "One of the biggest struggles was the fight to save the 'Scottsboro Boys' which drew large protest actions here and around the world."

This was the period of the rise of Hitler and Mussolini. "Everyone was

talking about the threat of war and about the oppression coming down in other countries...the Spanish Civil War against Franco and his Nazi allies...the Japanese invasion of China."

"Well, brothers and sisters," he said, "These were some of the conditions we faced, but this didn't mean we took all this lying down...We began to learn and in our learning we joined in every struggle to fight back."

"I remember my sister taking me to unemployment demonstrations...Even as a kid I knew there was something wrong. Prosperity was not just around the corner."

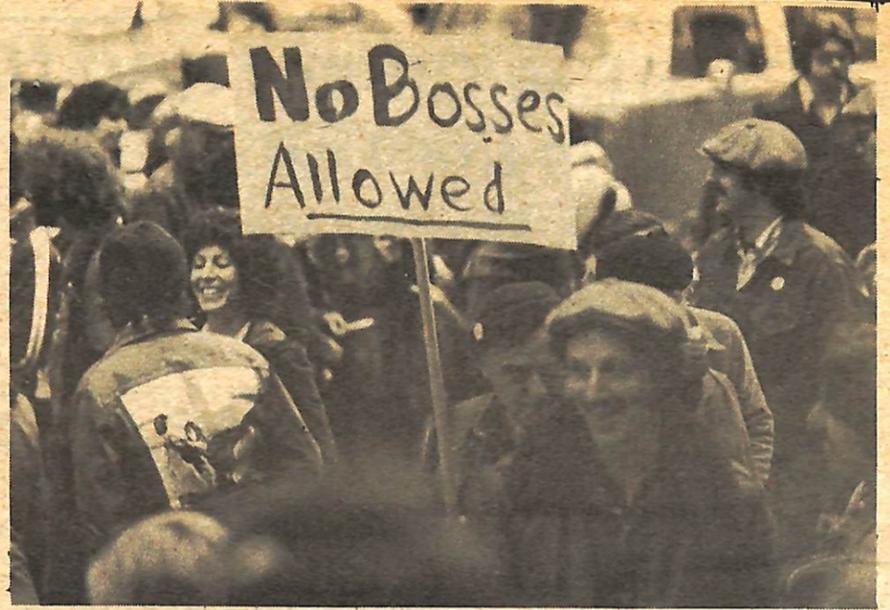
He was involved in building the CIO unions for industrial workers. He went to hear communists speak about the big corporations and their political system which were to blame for the terrible conditions.

"I listened and I asked questions and realized that what they were saying made sense...Many of us, communists and non-communists were part of the struggle to build industrial unions...part of rent strikes...marches on Washington for jobs...support for Spain and China. We were fighters."

(Continued on Page 12)

MINERS SPEECH (excerpt)

...We have been forced back to the mines but we are not on our knees, we are spitting in the faces of the bosses every step of the way...(UMWA president Arnold) Miller said this is a new dawn of labor peace, that we should (sign a sellout contract and) start cooperating with the companies...The bosses, Miller, the government...wanted to drive us back on our knees. We said, Never! Never in a million years!



In New York, it wasn't hard for the crowd to figure out where to gather. In Milwaukee, the march began with a mock funeral for American Motors' lies and demands to sacrifice.



LATINO SPEAKER FROM RACINE

I join with the march here in Milwaukee to build the fight against harassment on the job...to show solidarity with my brothers and sisters in Mexico...May Day there is a national holiday. We celebrate it with a general strike...

INTERVIEW WITH A LATHE OPERATOR FROM PHILADELPHIA

I came here because people from the May Day Committee took an interest in the problems where I work at and I wanted to see what other workers are in to.



S. African Airlines got a dose of the people's anger in the form of 3 gallons of red paint.

SPEAKER FROM THE PAN AFRICAN CONGRESS OF AZANIA (South Africa)

...Apartheid is a system of laws enacted so (the owners) will always have a source of cheap labor. General Motors expanded there because...unions and strikes are not allowed in my country...In 1976 1,674 foreign companies invested in South Africa. In 1978 there were 1,883. Everyone knows the apartheid regime only exists because it is propped up by these foreign companies.

...The (apartheid) system is rotten... but the working class will take its place in the looking glass of history, on the well-known path of removing what is rotten...We cannot be reasonable. I would rather be called radical and fanatic by our enemies than reasonable. Don't ask us to endure.

May Day is the

REVOLUTIONARY WORKERS HEADQUARTERS SPEECH

In 1968 people thought big. Thinking big in 1968 meant building organizations, building movements . . . against the war in Vietnam, against discrimination, in support of the struggle of people of color for liberation. In this country people from these struggles went out and built a movement that shook this country to its very foundations.

In 1978 we again have to start thinking big . . . May Day is an important day to do that . . . No bosses, no foremen, no bloodsuckers allowed . . . That's the blood and guts of what we are talking about. No bosses allowed on one day is fine, a just, a righteous demand. No bosses around on any day is even better. To get from one to the other is a question of conditions and thinking big . . .

1978 is too much to take . . . In NY City they just made up a new word to describe the times, GiveBack. That's what the bosses demand—more sweat and blood from us. GAINS we won in the past, now they are demanding them back. Talk to the NY Transit workers

about what the light at the end of the tunnel they talked about in 1968 really means. Talk to the Black people about the recent Bakke decision that the "Great Society" has brought to them. Talk to the miners and the 20,000 steel workers whose jobs were eliminated in 2 months about the New Frontier . . .

Promises of a better life through sacrifice has only resulted in less promises and more demand to sacrifice. Rank and file workers movements are on the rise. Struggle in the Black communities are on the rise. People in 1978 are once again seeing the importance to stand up and get organized. They are starting to think big once again . . .

We have to seize on this—and build it up. We have to build the struggle in these 2 movements and aim them strongly right at the rulers of this country. The miners strike gave a glimpse of the possibility of doing this on an increasingly larger scale. We have to seize the time—seize the hour . . .

MESSAGE FROM BALTIMORE WELFARE RIGHTS ORGANIZATION

Greetings on May Day...every day wasted is ammunition for those who would enslave us further.

SUPPORTER OF THE MOVE ORGANIZATION (Philadelphia)

We do not pretend that as an organization we have not caused quite a furor in Philadelphia...the papers say we have but they don't say why. Right now in the city of so-called brotherly love we have made a concession to Rizzo in order to stop him from killing MOVE members.

But we have not surrendered. We will never surrender...We are a revolutionary organization and like any revolutionary organization we are oppressed because of our political and religious ideas.

MAY DAY 1978

MESSAGE FROM RETIRING RAILROAD WORKER

After working all my life I won't have to work like a dog every day any longer. But I face living with nothing but a 'social insecurity' check. Take it from an older man, you can't compromise with the bosses. You're on one side or the other, there's no middle ground. And we'll always be pushed down until we take things into our own hands and build our own world.

May Day 1978 was the workers day, no bosses allowed. Arriving in twos and threes, workers talked quietly, expectantly. But as the busses rolled in and the numbers swelled, the discussions became more animated, more excited. They exchanged stories from the battle lines—here seriously summing up the victories and mistakes of their day-to-day fight against the bosses,—there joking and laughing about the stupidity of some supervisor, some landlord, some government agency.

Then as the contingents lined up to march, they became one huge voice shouting, "Fight Don't Starve!" "The workers united will never be defeated!"

Through the streets of New York City and Milwaukee, row after row of workers marched behind the bright banners of their struggles, changing their chants to encompass all their demands—against takeaway contracts, against discrimination, against U.S. imperialism the world over.

The Midwest commemoration, including 200 people of all nationalities, began with a mock funeral to "bury American Motors' lies and calls to sacrifice."

As two buglers played taps, six uniformed Vietnam veterans carried a casket to the middle of AMC's empty parking lot, where a laid off auto worker delivered the "eulogy."

"Fifteen years ago there were 100,000 workers at American Motors. Now only a handful are left. This parking lot used



to be packed full. Now it's a ghost town.

"We're tired of being driven like slaves for ten, twenty, thirty years only to be thrown out the door. And we're not going to take it."

450 workers, students and professionals joined the East Coast demonstration a week later, on May 6, which was characterized by the same fighting spirit.

The East Coast march in New York stopped at the door of the Stevens building where a young garment worker stood on a cement post and condemned J.P. Stevens Co., one of the country's largest textile manufacturers. Stevens

has become a symbol of the owning class' vicious struggle to keep unions out of the South through firing and harassment of shop floor organizers.

A bearded West Va. miner spoke out at the Exxon building against that company and all the mine owners in the Bituminous Coal Operators Association which miners fought for four bitter months in their strike this year.

When the East Coast demonstration passed a strike of the Retail Shoe Employees Local 287 on strike for a good contract at Shoecraft Exclusive Tall Girls Footwear, the first con-

tingents immediately joined the picket lines, as the strikers and the rest of the march chanted, "The workers united will never be defeated."

Both demonstrations were built by people of all nationalities, joined by people coming out of the struggles against discrimination and for national liberation. In Milwaukee there were contingents from the Ray Mendoza Defense Committee and the Native American "Longest Walk" (see articles elsewhere in this issue).

A contingent fresh from the fight against police terror in minority communities in Philadelphia carried a black banner with flaming gold and red letters reading, "Hey Rizzo, have you heard? Philly ain't Johannesburg! ON THE MOVE."

International solidarity was another theme of the celebrations.

At South African Airlines on Fifth Ave. in New York, the Revolutionary Student Brigade boldly splashed three gallons of red paint across the two-story glass windows to symbolize their hatred of the bloody apartheid system in South Africa.

In Milwaukee a representative of the Iranian Student Association explained how May Day goes on even under the dictatorship of the Shah. In Iran workers shut down their machines and turn out the lights so that when speeches are given the identity and lives of the speakers are protected.

Both demonstrations ended in militant rallies. Speakers from different workplaces and different communities spoke to enthusiastic audiences about the need to fight the millions of abuses on the job and throughout society, the need to get organized and go on the offensive against the bosses.

A speaker from the Revolutionary Workers Headquarters in Milwaukee summed up the unity and fighting determination of the march, saying, "The growing workers movement and the movements of the oppressed minorities are separate movements but they are linked in a thousand different ways. We will grow strong as we join together. As we stand up today will millions of others around the world we're saying enough!...We don't have to live this way, and as we build our unity and strength, we won't."

Workers on the march. above, New York left, Milwaukee

Workers Day

POEM FROM CHARLES W. PARKER Rhode Island worker (excerpt)

...When we fought for our liberties,
Cross those barriers that set us free,
Dignity of the working man
was only designed for a one night stand
Those dirty rich as they play their game
to break our back, to make us lame
Someday all workers will find,
United we must stand for your brother
and mine.
Damn that power that makes us slaves,
Seek the freedom that all workers
crave...

SPEAKER FROM CHICAGO AFRICAN LIBERATION SUPPORT COMMITTEE (excerpt)

It's the same coal companies that crush the coal miners in their recent strike, that import ore from South Africa, paying Black African coal miners 50¢ a day. It's the same struggle and the same fight!

MESSAGE FROM BROOKLYN BAKERY WORKERS

Solidarity on May Day...from 29 workers who can't even march with other workers on May Day because we have to work...



People of every nationality took part in the marches, rallying together under the banner of the working class.

INTERVIEW WITH TWO NYC HOSPITAL WORKERS

May Day is the holiday of the working class all over the world. I'm here to support it as a worker and also here to join fellow workers and fight for a better contract. The transit workers got a lousy 6% and now Mayor Koch says we shouldn't expect as good. We say, No More.

I honor May Day. It's the day for workers. I want to bring out some of the problems at North Central Bronx—the fight for better wages and a decent contract. We want to stop the harassment.

POSTAL WORKER SOLIDARITY MESSAGE (excerpt)

Through rain, snow, sleet and hail
The bosses could never move the mail
Through rain, snow, sleet and hail
The workers struggle will prevail

Veteran Fighter

Continued from page 10

May Day 1937, many workers had won May Day as a holiday in their union contracts. "But we were not just taking the day off. We were marching on May Day... We said we had to take the offensive against the oppressors here and everywhere, and we had to prepare for more fighting back."

May Day 1937 was "an inspiration." Workers of all nationalities, tenants and community groups "with union flags and bands playing fighting workers songs...we marched to Union Square and sang and shouted our slogans of struggle."

1950'S MAY DAYS WITH NO GUTS

The conditions of the 50s were "better than in the 30s... There was still oppression and exploitation, but the depression had ended, even if it cost the lives of millions of people in a war for it to really end."

There was an "all out war against the working class movement." Anti-labor legislation like Taft-Hartley and Landrum Griffin was passed. McCarthyism, mounting a "full scale anti-communist smear campaign... was the order of the day."

Unions got weaker, resistance grew

weaker. The Communist Party "was no longer a party of fighting the bosses, a party of revolution for the working class."

"There was no organizing going on, just capitulating. The truth is that we were not on the offensive then, and it was hard as hell to even fight on the defensive."

He laid the blame for the "empty May Days with no guts, no spirit, no fight," on the lack of correct leadership by the communists. "Even if the struggle would have been hard, and even if the numbers would have been less than the 30's, we still could have been fighting back on May Day."

He talked of the changes in the 1970's. Deep economic crisis. Rising unemployment. Cities like New York falling apart. Oppression of minorities getting worse.

It's also a "period of the working class going into action... The four month strike of the miners was a working class battle to be proud of."

He ended his speech saying, "Brothers and sisters, what kind of May Day do we have here today?"

"We are in a May Day that goes on the offensive. We are in a May Day with the working class—No bosses allowed. We are in a May Day that stands for the unity of all nationalities, that marches together with the working class around the world... Comrades, Long Live May Day, the workers' day!"



Miners fresh off the picket lines in their own strike and other marchers briefly joined the workers picketing Tall Gals shoes.

OTHER MAY DAY ACTIVITIES

On May 1 a group of workers in Baltimore commemorated the 1877 national railroad strike which had its first big blowup in that city. They hung a wooden plaque from the roof of the Camden Station which told the story of the strike and said, "We Will Never Forgive or Forget. Long Live the Spirit of the Baltimore Railroad Workers. On to May Day!"

The 1877 strike was brought on by four consecutive years of pay cuts. Finally workers on the Baltimore-Ohio Railroad refused to take anymore and this sparked a strike which drew hundreds of thousands of workers into the struggle, spread to nine states and included a general strike in St. Louis, Missouri. The whole city of Baltimore turned out to support the strikers when federal troops fired on them, killing several and wounding many others.

Ninety people attended a dinner in Chicago to celebrate May Day, the day after the Milwaukee march. Bennie

Lenard, a Black auto worker who was beaten up by Chicago cops after a traffic accident, explained how important other workers' support for him had been. "Wherever working people are fighting for what they need," he said, "I will be there."

Ninety people held a May Day dinner in Rhode Island a week before many marched in New York City. Men and women got up to speak about the struggles they're waging for unionization and good contracts. "It was in the spirit of the old May Days (of the 1930s)," said one worker who attended. "But we're also building a new type May Day for the 'seventies."

Revolutionary Student Brigade members were among 400 who marched in Madison, Wisconsin and heard speakers talk about the newspaper strike there, the fight to unionize J.P. Stevens, the struggle against apartheid and minority regimes in southern Africa, the Kent State demonstration and the fight to free the Wilmington 10.



Above, banners from dozens of plants in the streets of Milwaukee. Below, song group at N. Y. rally.

INTERVIEW WITH WELFARE ORGANIZER, NYC

The attack on welfare is a big threat. It will cause union busting and drive down wages. We want union jobs at union pay and we want the training and education to go with it. Without training for technological society your chances for a job are null and void. What's happening with workfare (forced labor) in New York is a proving ground to implement it nationwide. We want to stop it before it happens... It's harder to destroy something than to stop it before it starts.

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INTERVIEW WITH TWO STUDENTS FROM PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

...We've had daily picket lines for 50 days to get Princeton to divest its stock in companies that invest in South Africa... We came to join with others here.

MESSAGE FROM BALTIMORE SHIPYARD WORKER DYING FROM BLACK LUNG

No man can jump on your back when you stand up. On May Day give 'em hell.

Holocaust

Continued from page 9

Some Jews are not being allowed to leave the Soviet Union where they suffer intense discrimination and oppression, to go to Israel. But many of these Jews either refuse to go to Israel or leave soon after they get there. The Zionists, according to recent press reports, are trying to find some way to force the

Russian Jews to go to Israel. Once again the Zionists are more concerned with building their state than with the safety and well being of the Jews whose interests they claim to represent.

These same Zionists still dare to claim that Zionism is the answer to the oppression of the Jewish people. Perhaps most disgusting, they constantly use the murder of the 6 million Jews to excuse Israel's aggression against the Palestinians and other Arabs and try to label anyone who opposed Zionism as a "Nazi."

Conn. Foundry

Continued from page 4

The foundry owners also got the state to cut off unemployment benefits to workers who were laid off by a shutdown before the strike and then replaced by scabs when the foundry reopened.

The bosses hope to break the workers' spirit and starve them back to work under the same rotten non-union conditions that sent them on strike. But the workers and supporters are actively organizing their ranks. On May 20th, demonstrations at foundry owners' homes will press for an election date. The union has taken up the fight with the NLRB, the courts and the state unemployment office and will distribute a flyer to the 65 scabs, only five from the workers' ranks, urging them to walk out and support the strike.

The CFSSC has already raised \$150 in strike support funds, \$50 of which was collected at an all-New England May Day dinner.

As Carl Roper, an ILGWU organizer, said at a May Day dinner in Providence, R.I., "It has been an inspiration to workers and the Puerto Rican community in the Hartford area to get organized."

The strikers are determined not to give up and, although it's still a tough battle, they hope to force the company to set an election date by late June or early July.

"Holocaust" shows a group of well armed Jews surrender when trapped and meekly line up against a wall to be shot. According to Ber Mark, armed Jews fought to the death no matter what the odds. Even many unarmed Jews refused to surrender. An elderly man was captured by the Germans and interrogated about the hiding places of other Jews. He belted the SS officer and shouted, "Murdered, here are the Jews!"

In order to promote Zionism, "Holocaust" shows little fighting back and makes resistance seem futile. It seems to say only if they go to Israel, will Jews no longer be murdered.

In fact the Nazis and the rest of the Fascists were defeated by the fighting unity of the majority of the people's of the world, in the Jewish resistance fighters played a most heroic role. The fighters of the Warsaw Ghetto recognized this when, in the midst of the uprising, they took time out to join with workers and oppressed people around the world in celebrating May Day. The Zionists have no claim on the heritage of the heroic ghetto fighters. Instead, the unity of the world's people will put anti-semitism, Zionism, and all other forms of racism and national oppression—along with the capitalists who promote them—in the same garbage heap that Hitler end up in!

Longest Walk Heads For D.C.

On May 16th, The Longest Walk, a cross-country march of several hundred Native Americans and supporters, stopped to rally at the federal penitentiary in Marion, Illinois. They demanded "Free Leonard Peltier!" one of thousands of Indian activists who have struggled for justice for American Indians.

The Longest Walk was organized to unite different tribes and to gain support among the American people, with the specific intent of killing the 11 pieces of anti-Indian legislation now before Congress.

The march is part of the battle Native Americans have been waging against the U.S. government and its allies since the government first stole the Indians' land and began pushing them farther and farther West and herding them onto smaller and smaller plots of land for their reservations.

The 3,000-mile march has taken a physical toll on the participants, who have endured ailments ranging from sore feet to viral pneumonia. FBI agents have followed them every step of the way, at times provoking and harassing them.

This has only strengthened the unity among the tribes, with such traditional tribal foes as the Sioux and the Crow working together. Along the way, other Indians have made contributions to the march, from an old woman bringing a pot of beans to farmers donating whole pigs.

Reinforcements of food, medicine, clothing and supporters who walk a few miles have kept the spirits of the Indians high. They have not wavered from their desire to expose the problems of Indians, and at each point along the way they have targeted a particular abuse. The struggle to free Leonard Peltier is important because his case is being used by the government as a warning to other Indians who advocate fighting militantly for justice for Native Americans.

Peltier was charged with killing two FBI agents several years ago in an incident at Wounded Knee—historic site of Indian resistance. He was sentenced to two life sentences based on circumstantial evidence and trumped-up charges which are now crumbling. For instance, Myrtle Poor Bear, one of the witnesses, has admitted that she was coerced into signing an affidavit implicating Peltier. An appeal to the federal District Court of St. Louis is underway.

The march was joined by Indians

from another struggle in the Minneapolis-St. Paul area, where Indians are trying to defeat legislation that would bus Indian students to schools around the city.

The Native-American-Controlled Survival Schools sponsored the "Run for Survival," to protest the government's attempts to deny Indians the right to control their own lives in such areas as education. The Run opposed the busing plan because it would disperse Indian youth to other schools, thus denying

them courses in their own language and culture.

These demands and the struggle to free Leonard Peltier are symbols of a growing movement among Indians to take matters into their own hands. In early April, armed Navajos seized the oilfields on their reservation at Montezuma Creek, Utah. The government and the oil monopolies have been trying to grab Indian lands for years because the reservations rest on 30% of the Western coal reserves, 40% of the

country's uranium, and 4% of the country's oil and gas deposits.

Proposed federal legislation in Congress would abolish Indian treaties and hunting and fishing rights, and pave the way to do away with Indian schools, clinics and eventually the reservations themselves—all so the government and big oil companies can exploit the resources of the land for their own profits.

Through their three-week armed occupation of their oil lands, the Navajos won huge concessions from Texaco and other monopolies. They forced the companies to disarm their security guards, close down their alcohol outlets, compensate for Indian lands ruined by oil extraction, and establish an annual \$5000 scholarship fund for the reservation.

Such powerful actions make federal and local authorities crack down on the Longest Walk even more. The Nebraska press tried to stir up antagonism and promote attacks with articles on "hostile Indians." Then when a marcher was hit by a car there, local authorities instructed the YMCA and Boys Town to refuse to give them aid or lodging.

But the people everywhere united with the Indians' struggle. The Marion demo for Peltier brought car caravans from places as far away as Toronto, Seattle and Oklahoma. Puerto Rican organizations joined the rally at the Marion prison, where Puerto Rican liberation fighters like Oscar Collazzo are also imprisoned. Endorsements came from Black and Chicano organizations, while offers of help came from groups as diverse as anti-nuclear activists and the American Agricultural Movement.

The march is heading eastward, towards Washington, where the Native-Americans will confront Carter and the government with their demands. Throughout the course of the Longest March the Indians have gained considerable support for their just cause from the American people. Many have united with the Native Americans' movement because it is striking a powerful blow at the same rich rulers whom people have been fighting in other ways, from the coal miners to the 10,000 who marched against Bakke. The Native Americans mid-July arrival in D.C. will cause a stir, as they bring with them the militant spirit of these struggles of resistance.

Action Hits Milwaukee Cops, Demands Mendoza Freedom



Milwaukee, Wisc.—Angry citizens picketed and packed the Fire and Police Commission hearings here on April 27 to speak out against police conduct and procedures. The hearings were the result of a long string of police abuses.

One of the points at issue was the regulation which requires off-duty cops to carry their service revolvers. This rule came into focus when on July 10, 1974 two drunk off-duty cops were killed with one of their own guns. The two were beating a 19-year-old Chicano, Ray Mendoza. Mendoza was convicted of murder and given two consecutive life sentences. However, because of mass protests and blatant police repression which came out in the conduct of his trial, his conviction was overturned last October.

As in '74, a mass defense is growing against the state's attempt to re-try Ray and chase him to prison to justify and protect the rampant brutality and discrimination of the Milwaukee cops. The Ray Mendoza Defense Committee along with several other outraged community groups and individuals spoke out at the hearing.

A mother of five told how cops had broken down her door, "by mistake" they said, and leveled a shotgun at one of her young sons. Black community activists objected to the police murder of eight Blacks in as many years. Many of the speakers linked their criticisms to a demand that Police Chief Harold Breier be fired. Mendoza's trial is presently recessed until October.

Bakke

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affirmative action, be it minority admissions or minority hiring programs.

If affirmed, the Bakke decision only promises more of the hell minorities face—the rat infested ghettos and broken down tenements, the drugs and crime, the 40% youth unemployment, the killer cops—life in America for Black, Latin and Asian people.

The Bakke demonstration reflected a growing tide of discontent among this country's minorities. Though many of the people who marched were students too young to remember the marches of the 60s, they brought with them the same intense desire for freedom and liberation that inspired the civil rights movement and the Black liberation movement.

The major force in the April 15th mobilization was the National Committee to Overturn the Bakke Decision (NCOBD). Starting out as a handful of student activists less than a year ago, NCOBD moved into a void left by the inaction of the organizations that led the marches of the early 60s, like the NAACP and the Urban League.

The NAACP and the Urban League

act as if the lessons of the 60s, the ghetto rebellions, the Panthers and Malcolm X never happened. The links between oppression in Africa and the US are slighted or ignored.

The NAACP and the Urban League boast membership lists in the hundreds of thousands, but do little more than politely haggle with the upper levels of the US ruling class. They lobby, beg and plead with Congress to "fix-up" discrimination in the US.

What they don't do is organize people to fight. (It's quite possible that they can't—after their prediction of 20,000 people at an NAACP rally protesting South Africa's participation at the Davis Cup Tennis Tournament in Nashville last March, only 2,000 showed up.)

The NCOBD, made up primarily of veterans of the Black liberation movement and several left groups, recognized the possibilities and necessity for mass movement and brought people out to DC. They too, however, were held back by certain limitations.

First was their narrow focus on the Bakke decision. They made the court decision the beginning and end of the battle and aim everything at influencing the Supreme Court.

No matter how the Supreme Court decides, the struggle to defend affirmative action will continue. already "reverse discrimination" is being used to dismantle affirmative action programs. In several states (N.J., Louisiana, etc.) recent court rulings have found quotas to be unconstitutional—quotas which right now are the only guarantee that minorities will be able to get into professional programs.

Although Bakke is the main attack now coming down on minorities, the NCOBD doesn't link it to the 1001 other attacks, from the attacks on MOVE in Philly to the cuts in Black and Latin Studies departments on college campuses.

The unity against Bakke was weakened by NCOBD's failure to struggle for unity with other anti Bakke forces, particularly the Anti-Bakke Decision Coalition, a smaller group with a strong base among Chicanos (Mexican Americans) and Asian Americans.

All in all, the demonstration was an important step, a turning point in the fight against discrimination and national oppression which showed the possibility of building even broader unity against racist attacks.

The anger and discontent reflected in



Washington on April 15, will continue to spark struggle against particular instances of discrimination, against the whole system of racism and in support of the fight of the people of Southern Africa.

Iranians Revolt Vs Shah's Tyranny New Wave of Protest Sweeps Country

Only forty days after the people in over 65 cities and provinces rose in protest in Iran, the flames of rebellion are raging once again as hundreds of thousands have hit the streets in over 30 cities demanding an end to the Shah's dictatorial regime.

In the past three months over four million have participated in the illegal anti-Shah actions, over one million since May 9th. This "second revolution" has caused entire cities to shut down on strike and seen massive and militant marches, even as thousands have been killed, injured and arrested by government troops, with many more reported "missing."

In the capital city, Teheran, tens of thousands heard anti-government speeches and marched in one of the largest mass demonstrations there in years. Hundreds of students, who had shut the University of Teheran down on strike, unfurled banners declaring "Long Live the Unity of Working People, Students and Revolutionaries." Factories where the average wage is only pennies an hour, the produce markets and bazaars were also out on strike beginning May 9th. The main bazaar was the scene of running battles with the police for 9 hours, before government troops were called in and shot hundreds of the demonstrators dead.

MARTIAL LAW

In Yazd, martial law was declared as the people—with only sticks, knives and stones for weapons—killed and injured many of the government's troops. The governor of the province was fired by the Shah for "allowing" the disarming of the military to occur. In the past months the Shah has replaced many governors and generals who did not carry out the crushing of his opposition to the full. He has also had 90 of the soldiers in his army executed for in-



The Shah has more reason than ever to cry, as dozens of Iranians cities erupt with violence against his oppressive rule.

subordination—such as refusing to carry out the Shah's orders to kill protestors. Many soldiers have been turning their guns around and pointing them at the Shah's officers, police and U.S. Army advisors. Mostly from the working and peasant classes, they have joined the struggle to end the enslavement of their people.

Nearly the entire population of 250,000 marched through the city of Qum for 10 hours to commemorate the March 30th uprisings. Along the way they destroyed US banks, hotels and western movie theaters, aiming their fire at the US imperialists who prop up the Shah's regime with aid, weapons and political support. The atrocities committed against the people in Iran the past months have been under the direction and supervision of US military advisors and CIA agents. The tanks and weapons being used to crush the people's movement have been sold or given to the Shah mainly by the U.S. government, and

some by the Soviet Union which would love to pry Iran out of the hands of U.S. imperialism to dominate itself.

But the forces of the people are much deeper and greater than what the Shah can muster up. The flames of revolt are racing through the desperately poor and oppressed population. The massive uprisings sweeping the country now have gone on despite the constant presence of the Shah's troops and tanks in the streets, despite arrests for leafletting, despite the Shah's orders to shoot to kill protestors. The revolutionary forces have raised the slogan, "Arm the People!" to point the road ahead for the kind of mass insurrections that have been occurring. For despite brutal repression, the power to change everything is in the hands of the people, the millions of workers, students and peasants in Iran who will fight until they realize victory, which means "Death to the Shah!" and "Down With US Imperialism!"

Omaha where the union was strong.

Their drive toward more high speed, mechanized and profitable production has created a new kind of packing house. IBP pioneered the "disassembly line" which can slaughter and box 180 cattle an hour. The new process is a killer for workers and has caused more injuries and fewer jobs for both packinghouse workers and retail butchers.

When butchers from the Greater New York area boycotted boxed beef to protest job eliminations, IBP went all out to break them. The prostitutes in union leadership gave them a hand—3 New York officials took \$5,000 a month in bribes to sabotage the butchers' just fight. (The convicted hacks did a short stint in jail and are now back at their union posts...).

UNION POWER POLITICS

The declining membership and influence of the Amalgamated has attracted a pack of wolves who call themselves leaders of the Teamsters. At several western packing plants Teamsters have signed contracts at \$1 an hour less than Dakota City. For this sweetheart affair, the company threw them 200 construction workers who built the IBP plant at Amarillo, Texas. Now the Teamsters are ripping off dues from over 2000 meatcutters.

The tuxedo leaders of the Amalgamated handed over an IBP plant in Pasco, Washington—they actually tore up authorization cards—so they could sign a no-raiding agreement with the Teamsters. Needless to say, the Teamsters signed the same sweetheart deal at Pasco that they signed at other

Noose Tightens Around Miller's Neck

United Mine Workers of America international officials voted last week to call a special constitutional convention within the next 18 months. Sam Church, UMWA vice-president said the purpose of the convention would be to raise dues and give Arnold Miller, UMWA president, more power to control the union. What he didn't say was that this call was a desperation move to keep Miller from being thrown out of office.

While Miller issued threats from his hospital bed in Florida, vowing to go personally into the coalfields and throw out the "troublemakers," the movement against him grows. Especially since Miller's actions to sabotage the recent contract strike, sentiment has grown among the rank and file to oust him. Right during the strike miners got on TV stating to the whole nation that once the strike was over it would be time to "cut out the cancer at the top of the union." Petitions calling for his removal were signed by thousands of miners. Hundreds of miners voted for his recall at "Vote No" contract rallies.

When Miller was able to sidestep this recall movement with legal technicalities, there was a move among militant local and district union officials to call a new constitutional convention to pass by-laws making it easier to get rid of him. Many locals passed resolutions calling for this type of convention. Now Miller has been forced into action to try and deflate the movement against him with his type of convention.

Six UMWA members were already killed on the job in less than 3 weeks after the strike ended. With the coal operators moving to launch an all out production drive, miners across the coal fields are determined not only to stand firm against the bosses, but to retake their union from Miller and company.

Iowa Beef

continued from page 1

Packing strikers and other workers from the Sioux City area. These mass mobilizations continued on and off throughout the strike.

INTERNATIONAL'S TREACHEROUS NO FIGHT STRATEGY

The Meatcutters International officers publically supported the strike but behind the scenes they sabotaged it. Their whole strategy was a consumer boycott, only they never even built the boycott beyond placing monthly ads in the union magazine, *The Butcher-workman*.

Far from encouraging the strikers to keep production shut down and cut into IBP profits, the International opposed militancy. They cited a \$2.6 million fine stemming from sympathy strikes during the 1969 strike and used it as an excuse not to fight.

Most IBP products pass through other union packing plants and retail chains before they reach the public. On their own, workers in many of these places refused to touch scab meat. But union solidarity was not organized by the International, it was discouraged. And with almost no rank and file organization to counter the sellout leaders, the boycott movement ground to a halt before it could gain any momentum.

While the International calculated profits and losses like bankers rather than fighters for the workers, the strikers knew better than to let legal

threats paralyze them. And the people of Sioux City, an old-time Missouri River stockyards and packing center took a strong stand with the strikers.

SUPPORT FOR THE STRIKE

The local Labor Council brought out hundreds of local workers, many of them family or friends of the strikers, to join the picket lines. Zenith, one of the other major employers in the area, shut down and threw hundreds out of work during the strike. But the laid off electrical workers spurned ads to come scab at IBP and demanded supplementary unemployment benefits.

Striking farmers who hate Iowa Beef as one of the huge beef monopolies which keep cattle prices down, linked up with the Meatcutters and threatened to blockade the plant with tractors and combines in the last days of the strike.

When jobless Indians in the area were approached to scab at IBP, a community leader publicly stated that the company has always discriminated against his people and that they wouldn't help IBP now.

THE "NEW BREED" OF WESTERN PACKERS

The Iowa Beef strike was part of a bigger struggle than a contract fight. Over the past ten years the industry has seen big changes. The capitalists have taken their money out of old packing centers like Chicago, St. Paul and

western plants.

Packinghouse workers are already step-children in the Amalgamated. The union leaders seldom bother to pretend interest in them. The bulk of the union's membership is retail butchers, but the hacks have done nothing to build their fight either—although butchers are facing job loss and other serious attacks on their contracts.

Retail butchers are also represented by the corrupt Retail Clerks leadership who, like the Amalgamated, have failed to fight job losses due to computerized check out and have organized only in order to draw in new dues paying members.

The two unions have been talking merger since April 1977, with intentions of including yet another retail-oriented union, the Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union.

Possibly the mammoth combine will solve some ready cash problems for the top officials, but their past records make it clear that none of these guys intend to fight for the rank and file and have absolutely nothing to offer packinghouse workers.

In the long run the unity, struggle and organization of packers as well as the butchers and clerks is the only way forward. The strike at Iowa Beef was an advance.

Despite contract setbacks, the strikers' determination and mass militance helped stiffen the resistance of all who heard of it—especially in the Siouxland area and among packers. The leadership of the union became more exposed. And increasingly the rank and file saw that they must lead the fight from beginning to end.

Pullman Walkout Over

Workers Take On Moonman McDivitt

Hammond, Ind.—The six month long, bitterly fought strike at Pullman Standard is over. After 186 days, the strikers went back in with their heads up and backs straight. Pullman failed to break the strike.

The new contract retains the workers' right to strike over incentive rates—the number one issue for workers at Hammond Freight Car (although there's an 18 month moratorium on strikes).

They got twice the company's original wage offer: 80¢ minimum raise. Extra holiday and dental benefits were won but they lost benefits for probationary employees. Seniority and job classification issues were key for the Chicago local.

THE STRUGGLE STARTS EARLY

It was in the wind months before the contract came up that it would be a tough fight. Like many other battles with owners across the country, the nature of the fight is to hold on to the ground that's already been won, never mind getting more. Attacks were already coming down.

At the Freight Car plant in Hammond, Ind., a company time study re-evaluated jobs in Department 113 and they cut men's wages \$1 an hour. This was a big attack. Men there must save up since they spend up to six months a year on layoff when work is slow.

It didn't take long for the men to figure out what a dollar an hour comes to over a week, let alone a few years.

They drew up a grievance, but as quick as he saw it, local president David Glawinski threw it in the garbage.

As soon as Glawinski took his brave stand on the side of the company, Department 113 led the plant out on a wildcat. On Monday, May 23, when no one would go in but a few unsure men, "Fighting" Glawinski was the first one in the gate.

The wildcat lasted a week until Pullman got a court order to call in the police. Its success was clear when the local voted to call a legal strike two weeks later. Significantly, they used the controversial clause which makes it legal to strike over incentive rates.

When the contract came up two months after the freight car strike, 6500 workers hit the bricks at Chicago-Hammond Passenger Car, Hammond Freight, Alabama Passenger and Butler, Pa.

COMPANY TRICKS, UNION LEADERS SELL OUT

The company prepared for the contract by having little "get together" meetings with the men. Certain employees were selected to meet with *Commander McDivitt*. Yes, one of the astronauts who went to the moon!

He gave them a big tear jerking story about how bad the company had it and how "we all have to stick together like one big happy family." Foreign companies would grab up the orders during a strike, he said, and the men would be the

losers. This is a familiar line to anyone going on strike nowadays.

The union leadership, headed by USWA International President Lloyd McBride, far from building the strike, went into action on the company's side. They got things as disorganized, disrupted and demoralized as possible.

A few choice examples: they said too many pickets at the gates just gets the guys all worked up. They also echoed Pullman's lie that the company didn't want to keep the plants open anyway and liked the strike!

But the killer was the old trick of divide and conquer which they used in the last strike.

In Chicago they said, "Those dumb hillbillies in Bessemer don't give a shit about money, they want to go back to work."

In Bessemer they said, "Those dumb niggers and polacks in Chicago don't care about money, they want to go back to work."

This time it didn't work because rank and filers from the plants kept in contact with each other throughout the strike.

Any worker who spoke in favor of staying out or who criticized the union leaders' handling of the strike was called a commie or a troublemaker. Glawinski personally threatened to beat workers up.

Aside from this outright sabotage, corruption in the upper ranks of the leadership undermined the strike. One of McBride's stooges in the strike, District 31 staffman Tom Barrett, even owns stock in White Consolidated, which has a plant under his jurisdiction. Talk about conflict of interests!

Then, near the end of the strike George (Where Are You George?) Gilford, official of Local 1834 at Hammond-Chicago Passenger, ran off with \$105,000 of the local's treasury and hasn't been seen since.

Company attacks and union leaders'

sellouts were matched by the Hammond Times, a scab-oriented paper which had busted the printers union in 1976. It printed full page lies for Pullman. When strikers demanded their right to put out their side of the story, the Times told them they could have all the free speech they wanted—for \$30 an inch.

RANK AND FILE FIGHT ALL ATTACKS

The Pullman workers got organized and fought back. In response to the crocodile tears of astronaut McDivitt, when the company stopped negotiations workers held a demonstration at Pullman's Chicago offices. 60 workers from the Chicago and Indiana locals demanded that the talks reopen, chanting, "Moon Man, Moon Man, come on down or we'll run you out of town!"

Then the New York Stock Exchange declared Pullman Standard 1977's most profitable company and said that for Dec. 2 Wall Street would be renamed Pullman Street. When the men found out they loaded onto buses from Chicago to picket Wall Street on that date.

Workers in other industries supported them, like when the UAW local at the Budd Company in Gary refused to handle any work from the struck plants.

Through fighting company tricks and sellouts in the union, the rank and file united and busted through a hard and bitter strike. During the strike many men said they didn't give a damn if Pullman folded up, they weren't going back on the company's terms.

The strike's end showed what lies the company and the union hacks had told about Pullman folding up. When workers went back the big news was that the company has more orders than ever in their history. Now workers are doing lots of overtime and Pullman is hiring new men.

F.I.S.T.: Where's The Working Class Punch?

Suddenly Hollywood has re-discovered the working class. A bunch of recent films have tried to depict the lives of American working people. The latest is *F.I.S.T.*

F.I.S.T., a fictional version of the Teamsters Union, grows out of the sweatshop conditions of the late 1930s. The movie follows the life of Johnny Kovak, played by Sylvester Stallone, a Jimmy Hoffa type guy who leads the union to prominence through the 1950s.

As a young militant worker in the 'thirties, Kovak leads fellow workers in a non-union warehouse to confront their boss who works them long hours with no overtime pay and no compensation for injuries on the job. They are all fired. Johnny becomes a union organizer.

He leads a small Cleveland local to become a fighting organization. The bosses try to buy him off, the corrupt national president preaches class peace and looks around for "Bolsheviks" (communists).

Johnny fights for the men and the local grows to become the core of the union in the Midwest. The Consolidated strike scenes capture the raw energy of workers standing together as they outmaneuver company scabs armed with baseball bats.

So far the story is a basically accurate account of Teamsters organizing drives in Minneapolis. There the union was built by militant young workers who organized all the drivers despite the opposition of a corrupt national union, and became the core of the Central States Drivers Council.

Outside of that, everything in the movie is distorted or untrue. The movie's main theme is that workers can't fight and win on their own.

It shows workers losing the Con-

solidated strike until Johnny makes a deal with some gangsters who provide the muscle to intimidate the bosses into submission. In the real Minneapolis strike, no deals were made and the workers fought running battles in the streets on a much grander scale than *F.I.S.T.* shows. The Teamsters won the strike through a protracted fight which escalated into a city-wide general strike that left Minneapolis paralyzed.

In the film the union grows as a result of gangster "business agents" who sign up members in exchange for a cut of their dues. Johnny just has to "make deals." *F.I.S.T.* says this is the way it was, this is the way it is, this is the way it will always be. No, No and No!

During the 'thirties, conditions for workers were much worse than the movie lets on (although these are the most realistic and most interesting scenes in it). Workers, sometimes led by communists, fought bloody battles for unionization, often against armed scabs and police. They also fought against corrupt sellout leaders as a part of the battle to build strong democratic unions. Big victories were won in the garment,



shipping and longshore unions at that time.

After WWII the owners and the government launched a smear campaign to drive militant leaders out of the movement. This laid the basis for the dramatic growth of corruption in unions in the 1950s. More important, even where corruption was minimal, these attacks weakened the union as fighting organizations of workers and left them in the hands of company men.

In *F.I.S.T.*, the 'fifties are introduced with a camera pan of a modern plush Washington, D.C. national headquarters, leaving the audience to believe the unions went from rags to riches on the strength of racket connections.

Quite the contrary, in reality union locals tend to be the least economically corrupt and gangster-ridden, with a history of mass, militant struggle. Generally speaking, smaller craft locals have been the playground of gangsters and labor racketeers.

The movie leaves it unclear whether Kovak is personally "on the take" (he insists he's not). He's certainly not above back room deals—he gets the International presidency by blackmailing the incumbent president into stepping down and endorsing Johnny.

But whether he takes or not, implies *F.I.S.T.*, he delivers for the men. He gets them an eight percent pay hike. Again the movie makes workers out to be on the dumb side as Johnny trades away their right to strike and they cheer him 'cause he got them the money.

The only voice of opposition comes from his buddy from the 'thirties, Abe, who's honest but a wimp. When Abe tries to lead a wildcat in defiance of the no-strike pact, union goons stop it by beating them to a pulp. Still the workers love Johnny.

In real life, when the Teamsters raided United Farmworkers Union fields in the late 'sixties and union goons terrorized farmworkers, many Teamsters were

disgusted. Some even put up bumper stickers reading, "I'm a Teamster for the Farmworkers."

"He delivers" was one of Hoffa's hallmarks—and it was a lie. Corruption isn't the only way Teamsters' leaders betrayed the men. For non-drivers (farmworkers with Teamster contracts, just for starters), the "delivery" was lousy benefits and low wages. Even truckers, whose pay is among the highest in the country, have pension plans that are so hard to collect on that many never see a cent.

But the movie doesn't deal with the real demands of the rank and file. Pensions become abstract money which Johnny loans to the mob. Earlier he wheels a permanently disabled worker into a meeting and swears the union will take care of him until they win good pensions. By the fifties the workers in *F.I.S.T.* have no demands other than "Hands Off Johnny."

F.I.S.T. characterizes the union in later years as equivalent to its tuxedo leadership. The audience yawns through the final footage which drags across meeting after meeting of fatcats (in a Mafia limousine, a senate hearing, or at a bargaining table where no one in the room faintly resembles a worker.)

Workers, when they appear at all, are just spectators or groupies for Kovak's not very rousing speeches.

Like much of the movie, the scenes in the congressional rackets committee, modeled on the one that started Hoffa on the road to jail, deliver a pretty vague message. But they certainly don't show the government as the enemy of the rank and file—*F.I.S.T.* has no version of the National Guard strikebreaking during the 1970 truckers wildcat in Ohio.

In the end, Kovak becomes an embarrassment to his mob associates and they kill him. The last scene shows a truck on the road with a bumper sticker reading, "Where's Johnny?" The viewer is left to ask, "Who gives a damn?"

Spirit of Kent Commemorated May 4

Kent, Ohio—Eight years to the day after four students were killed on the Kent State campus for standing up against U.S. aggression in Indochina, their spirit of resistance was honored and carried on by Kent State students. Activities to commemorate the May 4, 1970 murders began the evening of the 3rd with a candlelight vigil of 1500. The next day about the same number, including supporters from other schools, braved chilly, drizzly weather to listen to four hours of speeches before marching through the campus. They ended up at the fence around the new gymnasium now being built over the area where the four students were slain. When the students charged the fence and tried to tear it down, they were met by pepper gas from hundreds of cops in riot gear lining the inside of the fence.

The university has to protect the site with cops because the gym has been the focus of student anger and hatred since it was first proposed. The May 4th Coalition has fought to preserve the site against the administration's attempts to bury the memory of the student upsurge of the late 60's and early 70's.

The fight began with a 62 day tent city there in the summer of '77, ending with the arrest of its 195 occupants (including the parents of one of the slain students.) That September, 300 students tore down the fence and re-occupied the area for 20 minutes. On October 22, 1500 protesters approached the site, fighting tear gas, horses and police clubs to return to it three times.

Despite such opposition, the university has managed to get the gym one-quarter built. Now their tactic has shifted to trying to co-opt and control May 4th itself.

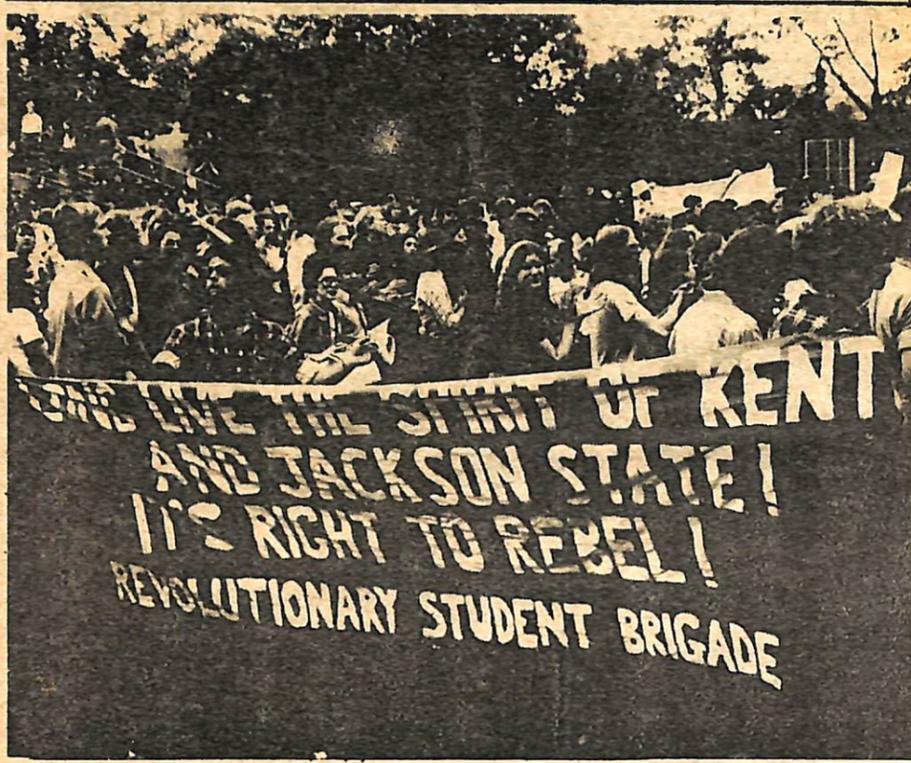
After years of student strikes on May 4, the university finally decided to of-

ficially cancel classes for the day. Now the administration is trying to cut the effect of this victory for the Coalition. Their plans for commemorating the event includes building a statue to both the slain students and their murderers, the National Guard.

While the university is out to appear sympathetic to the students' desire to remember May 4th, they've stepped up repression on campus against students who try to bring out the real significance of the day—a day of historic battle against the system.

The university has declared it is illegal for students to speak on a bullhorn or even leaflet on campus. They expelled Carter Dodge, just one semester away from his Master's degree, not long before May 4. His crime? He denounced these laws at a hearing for some students the school had up on charges.

To show his "sympathy", Kent President Brage Golding, who is carrying on the campaign of harassment and repres-



The more the Kent administration has tried to bury the memory of May 4, 1970, the more the students have fought to keep its spirit alive.

sion, tried to join the candlelight march. Despite FBI escorts, Golding's walk was cut short as students chased him to his house, threatening him—"You'll pay someday!"

The university has already paid a high price for their attempts to cover up and

now control May 4th. They keep large numbers of cops on campus and have suffered a 40% drop in enrollment.

Students are determined neither to forgive nor to forget May 4, 1970 and to continue to carry on that same spirit of resistance today.

N.Y. Students

continued from page 2

City's funding of CUNY schools—which amounts to a full quarter of their budgets.

CUNY students and faculty have been organizing against these attacks from the time they started to escalate, around

the time the New York City Crisis broke in 1975. On May 11th 1000 students from four CUNY schools brought their demands to stop the budget cuts to Mayor Koch's door, when they angrily protested the Master Plan in front of his house. Fired up students at City College forced Dean Theodore Gross to resign, after they repeatedly rallied and confronted him in outrage over his published remarks that minority students were destroying the educational standards of CUNY.

With the cuts, the hardest hit have been programs for minorities, who make up a large percentage of the CUNY population. At Brooklyn, where 15% of the campus is minority, this has meant whittling down the faculty of the African Studies Department from 12 members to 3. Similar cuts are in store for the Puerto Rican Studies Department.

THE BATTLE AT BROOKLYN

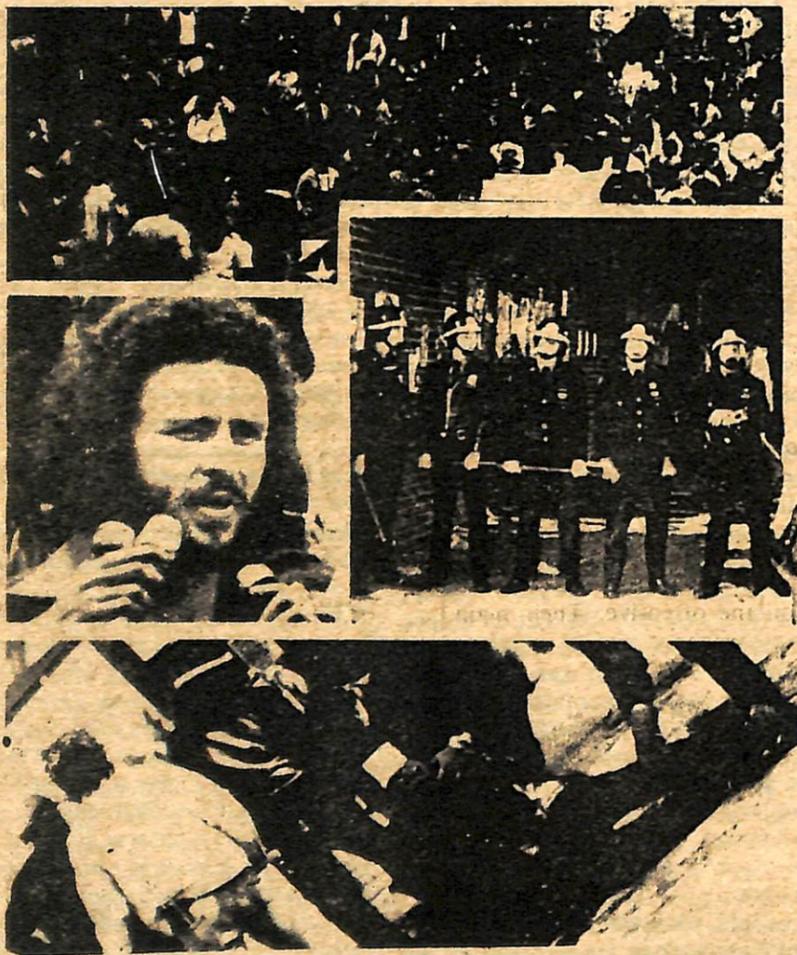
The Brooklyn College administration has traditionally led the war against CUNY students. It was the first CUNY college to institute the two-year proficiency tests. These exams are given to 2nd year students, who, if they fail them, cannot advance but must take additional courses and retake the tests until they pass them. This discriminates against minority students who come from the worst high schools and those for whom Spanish is a first language. The effect will be to slowly weaken minorities out of CUNY. Brooklyn has also spearheaded the drive to destroy SEEK, a program that helps minority students in college to make up for inadequate high school preparation.

The organized resistance against these attacks has been led at Brooklyn by the United Front, a militant coalition of campus groups. It was formed last spring in the course of building a boycott of the proficiency tests and an African Studies professors. Within the coalition, the Revolutionary Student Brigade has played an important role. They have focused on the need for all students to stand together, in order to strike the strongest blow possible at the city rulers and their allies at Brooklyn College. This has brought in to the struggle many white students who had previously seen it as exclusively a minority issue. The Brigade has also stressed holding a series of continuous actions, from weekly demonstrations to spray paint the students' demands on Kneller's door, in order to keep the heat

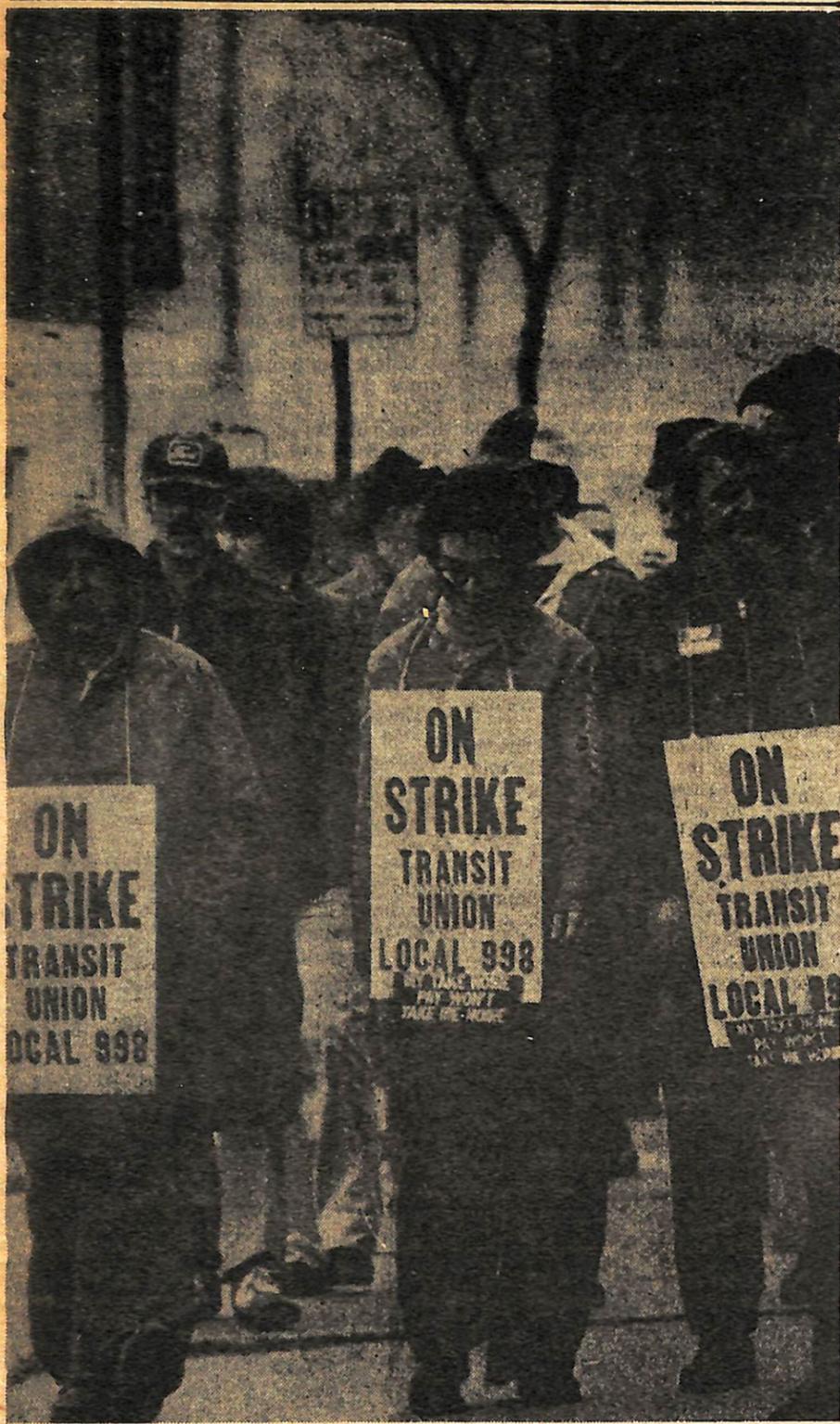
on the administration.

"The Brooklyn administration has come back with such tactics as a brutal police beating of three United Front leaders, including Puerto Rican Studies instructor Richie S. Perez, well known on the campus as a revolutionary. They have also enlisted the aid of the racist Student Government. These junior administrators repeatedly turned down the requests of students at Brooklyn for money for buses to the anti-Bakke march in Washington April 14. At an emergency meeting to deal with students' outrage over this, one Student Government member evoked shades of City College's Dean Gross, when he said: "We support Alan Bakke—minority admissions at this school is destroying quality education." When the students announced they would not leave until their demand for money was met, the Student Government instigated a scuffle. The administration promptly fingered Perez as the provocateur. They suspended him and later had him arrested when he came on campus and tried to teach his students. But the students also forced the Student Government to give them the money for the busses, and saw that by taking a strong stand together they could win their demands.

Kneller has summed up the recent actions by declaring it is "a small band of violent radical terrorists bent on destroying the college for their own ideological reasons." This absolutely contradicts the reality that thousands of CUNY students, Black and white, have struggled together for years to defend their right to a decent education. With New York City's budget a shambles, education for the working class and minorities has become a "luxury" the city cannot afford, and it has ripped the guts out of the CUNY system with wave after wave of budget cuts. The occupations at Brooklyn and Hostos are just the most recent episodes in the continuing battle of CUNY students against the destruction of their education.



When Brooklyn College students massed to protest abuses like the firing of Richie Perez, the administration called the cops on campus and unleashed them.



Milwaukee bus drivers are on strike for a better contract. Their pay ranks 14th out of the biggest 15 transit systems in the country.

Transit Union Says "Shove This Offer"

Milwaukee—Since May 7th, 1150 bus drivers, mechanics, maintenance men and clerks, members of Amalgamated Transit Union, Local 998, have been on strike against the Milwaukee Transport Company. They were forced out after working for a month without a contract. The company refused to improve a contract offer voted down by union members 832 to 250. The company's proposal included no improvement in the cost of living clause, no improvement in the pension that gives retired transport workers \$249 a month, and an insurance plan that covers less than what was in the old contract.

Milwaukee bus drivers, many of them older men with 30 years behind the wheel, are rightfully angry about the company's latest attack. They've seen their wages fall behind other workers—Milwaukee ranks 14th in wages out of the 15 largest transit companies in the country. They know that under the pay raise the company is offering their standard of living will fall further behind. One man summed up the feeling of the older drivers, "I'm getting older and I have to think about my future. We've got to have a pension we can live on; this one's no good."

Like other big city transit systems the Milwaukee Transport Company loses

money—close to \$1 million a month. The county took over the privately run company when it went bankrupt but left the same high paid company officials in charge. Although the company receives millions in government funds, the drivers are still not technically county employees. They've watched their wages and benefits slip behind many county employees while the people's tax money was going to overpaid bus company officials.

Now the bus company is crying crocodile tears over how the people of Milwaukee are suffering because of the strike. Most people are not falling for this. As a leaflet written by rank-and-file drivers points out, if the company is so concerned about the people of Milwaukee, why is the 50¢ fare one of the highest in the country? Why did the company force a strike instead of agree to a contract the drivers could live with?

In 1967 Milwaukee bus drivers went on strike for 18 days to win a new contract. Last year they walked out for a day angry over assaults on several drivers and won their demand for radios in each bus so that drivers could call for help. This time the drivers, mechanics, maintenance men and clerks of Local 998 are determined to stay out until they win a decent contract.

PITTSBURGH BUS WILDCAT BEATS CO., COURT

Pittsburgh, Pa.—On Sunday, April 23, 300 North Pittsburgh drivers refused to drive their buses in defiance of the Port Authority Transit—the agency that runs Pittsburgh area public transportation. The wildcat began after PAT bosses tried to change a bus route, without letting drivers bid on the route by seniority. This direct contract violation was too much to take. The drivers drew the line and for nine days bus transportation out of the Ross Township garage came to a halt.

For 9 days the PAT bosses used one tactic after another, trying to force the drivers back. First they used the no strike clause in the Division 85

Amalgamated Transit Union contract to get the strike declared illegal. Then the newspapers and T.V. went to work crying about the elderly and the 30,000 people who couldn't ride the busses to work. All of a sudden they were worried about how workers were getting to their jobs. When the International stepped in to force the men back to work, the drivers held strong.

Finally a Pittsburgh judge ruled that PAT had to go back to a route that the drivers had bid on. The seniority system had been upheld. The PAT bosses had been pushed back. The drivers went back strengthened by their victory!

N.Y. Transit: No Contract Yet

continued from page 1

deteriorated tremendously, especially for teams working tracks and maintenance. Transit workers die or are injured in work accidents frequently, and things have gotten worse in the last two years due to speed up. Now, the 1978 contract calls for more productivity and is certain to produce even more accidents.

As soon as the new contract was announced, with the 6% productivity clauses and a trial program to hire part-time workers who wouldn't be protected by the union, transit workers started organizing.

Rank and file organizations were formed, including the Committee for Concerned Transit Workers and the 207th Street Shop Coalition. Over one thousand workers picketed the union headquarters over the contract. Mass meetings in Brooklyn and Queens drew from two hundred to five hundred workers. At the 207 Street shop over 200 workers marched through the community chanting VOTE NO!

At the same time, the union leaders were doing their best for Mayor Koch and the city's rulers. They sent out a three page letter that talked about "under the existing circumstances it is a good contract, the best obtainable—and the alternative would be disastrous for us."

It went on to claim a No vote meant an automatic strike, a strike would force the city to bankruptcy and destroy the union—it pulled up just short of threatening the end of civilization as we know it.

The hacks also sent out letters and ran expensive full page newspaper ads slandering rank and file militants and groups like the New York-New Jersey National United Workers Organization which were helping build the struggle to reject the sellout. What they didn't send out or print in the newspapers was a copy of the contract. That would have done more to build a No vote than anything else.

While the union leaders' concession around the vote was a victory for the rank and file, the various committees leading the fight have failed to continue pressing on the offensive. Their main weaknesses center around their defensive posture on a strike and their failure to build rank and file committees and continue to organize actions at the different yards and locations. They believe that if the contract is voted down, the union should go back and renegotiate and do everything possible to avoid a strike.

Increasingly their focus has been on recalling the rotten officials of Local 100 and putting fighters in office. While this is an important part of the battle to remold the union into a fighting weapon for the workers, it is no way the main

battle at this time. Number one thing on the minds of most transit workers is getting a better contract.

As a result momentum for the No vote is somewhat weaker than the first time around. But mostly the union hacks and the Metropolitan Transit Authority are sitting back and hoping for the rank and file movement to run out of gas.

But the battle is far from over. Most transit workers are still seething over the sellout, and many are still prepared to vote NO. At this point, however, more is needed—the only way a good contract can be wrested from the fatcats running the transit system will be by striking. Transit workers are in a position to stop the city cold and deal a powerful blow to the city bosses. And this would help push forward the fight of all city workers, and make transit a "pace setter" for the working class, not the bosses.

Of course, even if it is forced to call a strike the union officials won't organize it to win. More rank and file organization is crucial, with build-up actions that will mobilize the rank and file. And such preparations must include demanding a strike fund from the union and organizing pickets, as well as uniting transit workers with other city workers. The union will have to be forced to fight for a better contract and forced to call meetings to get information out.

In the meantime, the rapid approach of the contract deadline for hospital, office, parks, maintenance and other city workers is heating things up in these areas, too. The potential exists for an outbreak of struggle that will set the bankers and the men who run the city for them back on their heels and win some real and desperately needed gains for the workers.

Mob Gives Mayor Just Desserts

Cocalco, Mexico—Four thousand demonstrators, enraged at the police murder of worker Jose Reyes, stormed the town hall on May 15 in this small town fourteen miles north of Mexico City.

They seized the commander and deputy commander of the police and stoned them.

Going straight to the top, they grabbed Mayor Jose Ramon del Cueto and forced him to sign his own resignation. Then, as insurance that he wouldn't forget his resignation, they forced him to eat twelve pounds of bananas on the spot.

Huelgistas de Conn. Foundry Aumentan La Batalla Para Union

Rocky Hill, Conn.—No es comun ver a trabajadores asistira a un almuerzo de negociantes. Pero cuando los jefes locales tuvieron un almuerzo como parte de la campana oficial del pueblo. "Piensa a Rocky Hill," los obreros y sus defensores estuvieron alli—piqueteando.

Los obreros, en el sexto mes de huelga por una union en Conn. Foundry, gritaban, Si, piensa Rocky Hill. . . piensa union."

La huelga de 140 hombres, la mayoría Puerto Riquenos, han mostrado los intereses opuestos de los grandes negocios y los obreros en el pueblo cerca de Hartford. Las companias quieren atraer nuevos negocios con sus promesas de tierra barata, impuestos bajos, y, especialmente trabajo barato. Para los trabajadores de la Foundry eso quiere decir, tan poco como 4.35 por hora despues de 10 años trabajando alli. Hace 6 meses ellos salieron en huelga, para traer la union Internacional de Trabajadoras Senoras del Agujo.

La compania ha demorado una votacion por la union otra vez de molestia policial, sometimientos de las cortes, arrestos y el uso de esquiroles. Ellos aumentaron la lucha hasta un directo ataque fisico. Cuando el hijo del dueño de la Foundry, Marsh Enquist, manejo su carro a un organizador de la union Joseph Danahy, en una linea de piquete en Marzo.

Pero los trabajadores no estan llenos de miedo. En 2 de Abril, 10 dias antes del almuerzo, 200 personas marcharon desde la fundicion hasta Town Hall en apoyo de los justas demandas de los huelgistas. Organizadores de la union y otros trabajadores, tambien como defensores de la comunidad Puerto Riquena y el reciente formado. Comité de apoyo de la huelga de Conn. Foundry marcharon unidos, gritando que la huelga no esta "muerta."

En otra accion el 18 de abril, la demostracion de 40 obreros forzo el Town Council a pasar una resolucion diciendo que los obreros tienen el derecho de organizarles y apresurando los dueños de la Foundry a permitir una eleccion como una "Resolucion justa y de prisa de la huelga."

Aunque la resolucion fue una copia muy debil de las demandas de los obreros y el Council rehusó de condenar la policia y los practicas ilegales de los dueños, las 3 acciones han puesto la Foundry a la defensiva.

Pero la compania no han sometido y elegir una fecha de la eleccion. Apoyado por el estado, los cortes y la Junta Nacional de Relaciones Laborales, sigue demorando.

Nuevas cargas con la JNRL en contra de la union y los huelgistas dio la Junta una excusa de rechazar de elegir la fecha de la eleccion mientras que las cargas estan pendiente. La corte hizo su parte por la compania por aplazar un juicio acerca de una sometimiento que limito el numero de obreros piqueteando.

Los dueños de la Foundry empujo al estado a cortar los beneficios de desempleo a los obreros que estuvieron despedidos por el cierre antes de la huelga y entonces les reemplazaron con esquiroles cuando le abrieron de nuevo.

Los jefes esperan poder romper el espiritu de los obreros y forzarles a regresar al trabajo por hambre con las

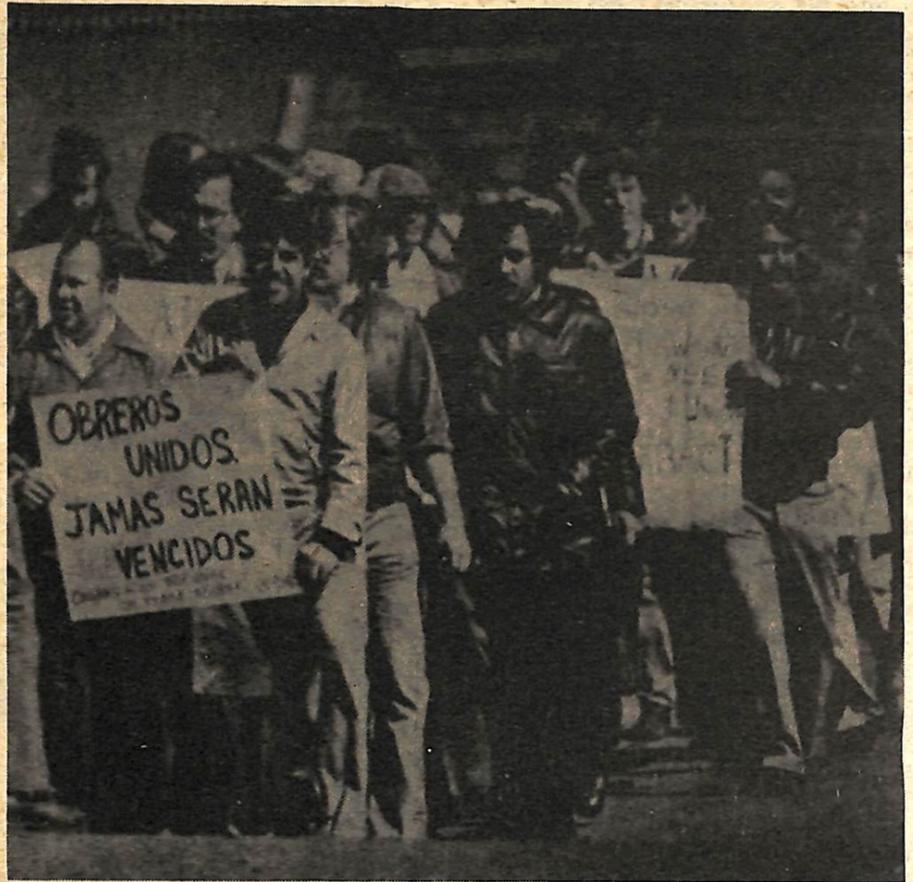
mismas condiciones podridas sin union que forzaron los obreros a salir. Pero los obreros y sus defensores estan organizando se activamente el 20 de mayo, demostraciones en frente de las casas de los jefes llamaran por una fecha de la eleccion.

La union tomo la lucha con la JNRL, las cortes y la oficina del desempleo y distribuyeran una oja a los 65 esquiroles, solo 5 de los obreros apresurandoles a salir y apoyar la huelga.

El Comité (CAHTF) ya recibio \$150 en fondos de apoyo, \$50 que colectaron en la cena por el primero de mayo en New England.

Como dijo Carl Roper, un organizador de la ILGWU en la Cena Por El Primero de mayo, "La huelga ha sido una inspiracion a los trabajadores y la comunidad Puerto Riquena en la arsa de Hartford a organizarse." Los huelgistas estan determinadas que no someteran y aunque es una batalla dura ellos piensan que forzaran a la compania a elegir una fecha para la eleccion entre fines de junio o al principio de julio. Victoria a los huelgistas!

Cientos marcharan para apoyar los huelgistas de Foundry, quienes son Puertoriquenos, en la mayoría.



EL 1º DE MAYO, 1978

El Primero de Mayo fue en verdad el día de los trabajadores. Los jefes no caben en nuestra celebracion. Llegando de dos en dos o tres en tres, los obreros hablaban tranquilamente pero se mantenían a la expectativa, pero a medida que los patrones entraron y los números crecían, la discusion se acaloraba y los ánimos se excitaban. Se contaban las experiencias en sus lineas de combate resumiendo con seriedad las victorias obtenidas y los errores cometidos en la diaria lucha contra los patrones—y a veces bromeando al recordar la estupidez de algún supervisor,

casero, o alguna agencia del gobierno.

Al alinearse el contingente de obreros para empezar la marcha se escucharon sus gritos como una sola voz: "Peleen, no pasen hambre! Obreros unidos, jamás serán vencidos!"

A través de las calles de Nueva York y Milwaukee columna tras columna de obreros marcharon tras las banderas y estandartes representativas de sus luchas, cambiando sus temas de acuerdo a sus demandas—contra contratos que pretenden robarle derechos obtenidos, contra la discriminación, contra el imperialismo americano en todo el mundo.

En el medio oeste la conmemoración incluyó un "funeral" para "enterrar" las mentiras y llamados de la American Motors (AMOC) al sacrificio. Esto fue la idea de más de 200 obreros de diferentes nacionalidades.

Para completar la burla seis veteranos de la guerra de Vietnam cargaron el ataud al centro de un "parking" de la AMOC donde un obrero desempleado de la industria automovilistica dijo la "eulogia."

Sus palabras fueron:

"Quince años atrás habían 10,000

vea pagina 3



Lea El Obrero

"El Obrero" es el periodico del Centro de Obreros Revolucionarios. Se publica para servir com arma en las manos de la clase obrera. Desde su primera edicion, "El Obrero" se unio en las batallas contra los gobernantes de este pais. Desde la primera edicion "El Obrero" ha tratado de traer a las batallas de la clase obrera un entendimiento de la naturaleza del enemigo, como debemos luchar y cual es la meta final de nuestra lucha. "El Obrero" se levanta con la clase obrera y siempre trata de guiar el movimiento de hoy a una ofensiva total contra el dominio de los ricos.

"El Obrero" dice la verdad. Dice la verdad porque es partidario de los intereses de la clase obrera, la unica clas en la sociedad que no tiene interes en explota otros. No tenemos ningun interes en cubrir la verdad. No hay verdad peop que lo que han hecho creer los explotadores.

"El Obrero" está con el pueblo. Nuestros articulos, nuestras opiniones, nuestros periodicos existen para promover la lucha de la clase obrera y todo el pueblo oprimido por el sistema capitalista—aqui en los Estados Unidos y en todas partes del mundo. En luchas como la huelga de los mineros o en la lucha contra el Alcalde Rizzo de Filadelfia, nosotros trabajamos para lograr apoyo para la causa obrera para expresar las acciones y la naturaleza del enemigo y defender las lecciones aprendidas en la lucha.

"El Obrero" aprende del pueblo porque el pueblo es la fuerza motriz para cambiar el mundo. Salvadores falsos han subido y han bajado. Lideres se han subido y se han caido. La prueba verdadera de sus contribuciones a la lucha es si sus scciones representan y avanzan los intereses y las aspiracion del pueblo—los intereses de luchan contra todas las condiciones de esclavitud y las aspiraciones de no ser esclavos nunca mas.

Quando todos nosotros luchamos contra el enemigo, aprendemos mas profundamente su naturaleza. En este proceso "El Obrero" ve la revolucion socialista como la meta de uestra lucha de hoy y la unica contestacion a los abusos y los ataques a que nos enfrentamos. Nosotros queremos la revolucion, no como una buena idea, o como nuestra causa personal, sino basado en las necesidades de la lucha de nuestra clase. La necesidad por un movimiento revolucionario de la clase obrera. Esta es la bas de cada una de nuestras luchas y "El Obrero" trabaja para cambiar esta necesidad a una realidad de la clase

obrero luchando conscientemente para no ser esclavos.

Estos son los principios, los fundamento en que se basa "El Obrero." Manteniendonos firme a estos principios es la prueba de si "El Obrero" sera una arma en las manos del pueblo, o, solamente otro periodico que dice en palabras esta con el pueblo, pero esta sobre el pueblo.

LA DIVISION EN EL P.C.R.

En el pasado "El Obrero" siguió la posicion politica del Partido Comunista Revolucionario (P.C.R.) En el tiempo reciente, habian problemas en el PRC porque habia la dificultad de combinar el movimiento presente do los obreros con el movimiento por la revolucion. Esta ha causado una division mayor. El PCR, enfrentado con los dura tarea organizar en este tiempo, se ha consolidado una posicion que es igual a un retiro de su compromiso con la lucha de la clase obrera y, en esa base, trabajando para dirigir el movimiento. Para continuar este trabajo (que significa, entre otras cosas, mantenerse firme a los prin-

cipios de "El Obrero") 40% de los miembros del PCR han rehusado a retirarse de la lucha. En lugar de eso, han formado el Centro de Obreros Revolucionarios.

Hace 5 anos que el periodico "El Obrero" por partes difirentes del pais (y los periodicos que existieron antes de ellos) empezaron a labor de producir un periodico que fuera una arma en la lucha. Al principio el periodico "El Obrero" existia fuera del movimiento de los obreros, pero ellos tomaban parte en las luchas que ocurrían: la guerra en Vietnam, la lucha contra discriminacion y la resistencia creciente a los ataques en las fabricas. Como la crisis que se desarrollo trajo como consecuencia mas participacion del pueblo trabajador en la lucha "periodicos" "El Obrero" continuo levantandose con estas batallas, dando a conocer la naturaleza parasitaria de los que controlan el sistema, y tuvo un papel mas activo en la organizacion de la clase obrera para luchar por sus propios intereses.

Aun cuando el empuje fue adelante, el progreso no fue bastante rapido para algunos de los lideres del PRC. Mayormente vieron unicamente un lado de la movida. Para ellos, la clase obrera no luchaba lo suficiente por la revolucion y la lucha se mantiene en un nivel bajo, y no se pudo hacer mucho hasta que los tiempos vuelvan a estar como en a finales de los anos 1960's.

En vez de anorar los dias viejos y de hacer comparaciones para justificar en alejamiento labores presentes. L labor de los revolucionarios es mantenerse firme todo el tiempo con la lucha y luchar para empujarla adelante. Pero esto no esta asi segun los presentes lideres del PCR quieren pretenden llevar a cabo su mision historica retrayendose de la lucha y corrigiendo los ideas "retrogradados" del pueblo. Esto se ha visto claramente en la historia reciente del PCR quienes se la pasan terzizando como luchar contra los

Cartas

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

El Obrero,

Hacen cinco meses que empecé a trabajar para Office Canteens en New York. Esto taller esta "siendo" representado por la union (Local 27 de los Teamsters). Allí estamos trabajando cerca de 22 personas en su mayoría puertorriqueños.

No hace mucho los obreros me eligieron shop steward para que los representara, un Misión que he sabido cumple con el apoyo de los trabajadores. Esto trajo como consecuencia que los patrones se encojonaran y me echaron fuera. El viernes, 12 del corriente mes, me formularon cargos de que yo no queria trabajar y me echaron fuera. *Actitud* que los obreros no compartieron y decidieron colectivamente parar el taller demandando como primer objetivo que me instalaran para atras en mi trabajo. Esto sucedio hoy, martes 16 de mayo. El patrón me desafió a elevar y trato de dividir a los trabajadores.

Pero los trabajadores en todo momento permanecieron unidos. Nos amenazaron con la policia y, mas tarde, la trajeron. En este paro que duró cuatro

horas se vió claro que la unión esta vendida con los patrones. Y que solamente descansando en nuestra fuerza podiamos ganar nuestra demanda de restablecer para atras el compañero "despedido". El la practica probamos que teniamos la razón. Unidos vencimos a los patrones. Desenmascamos al liderato de la union. Los obligamos a entrar con un Comite de Obreros discutir el caso con los patrones. El resultado de esta reunion fue que los obreros de Office Canteens ganamos el caso obligando a la compañía y a la union a que pusieran para atras el compañero que habia sido despedido irresponsablemente. Probamos tambien que la policia estaba de parte de los patrones todo el tiempo. Pero con todas la amenazas y insultos por partes de los patrones muchas personas de otros talleres nos respaldaron al igual que muchos choferes que vinieron a traer carga se la llevaron para atras en solidaridad con nuestro paro. **VICTORIA LOS OBREROS DE OFFICE CANTEEN!**

Un obrero de Office Canteens.



hacer poco. Psero que trataban de avanzar sus propias posiciones y la posicion de su grupito de seguidores.

En armonia con su posicion en los E.U., el PCR apoya la ganga de los 4 en China, que vieron unicamente las dificultades y el peligro de retroceso al realizarse las tareas necesarias para construir una sociedad socialista.

Las masas en China repudiaron la ganga porque el pueblo no tienen miedo de vorverse "contra-revolucionarios" al tomar parte en el duro riabajo que tienen pro delante mismo modo, el pueblo de E.U. no va a retroceder atras, no van a parar la lucha, porque ahora el movimiento no es tan masivo como en 1968.

Hoy dia la lucha es mayor que el muel de organizacion. No es que el pueblo no estar luchando. Hoy lo mas imp ortante sino que la lucha debe ser organizado mejor y debe ser dirigida mas conscientemente. Esto no pasara marginados de la lucha, esto no pasara porque tenemos buenos ideas, y no pasara si picanos acá y allá con nuestras ideas. Progreso se hara siguiendo los principios que dieron vida a este periodico por los anos—rehusando las sermones al PCR, aprendiendo or sus ejemplos negativos, pero mayormente revantandonos con la clase obrera y luchando constamente por sus intereses.

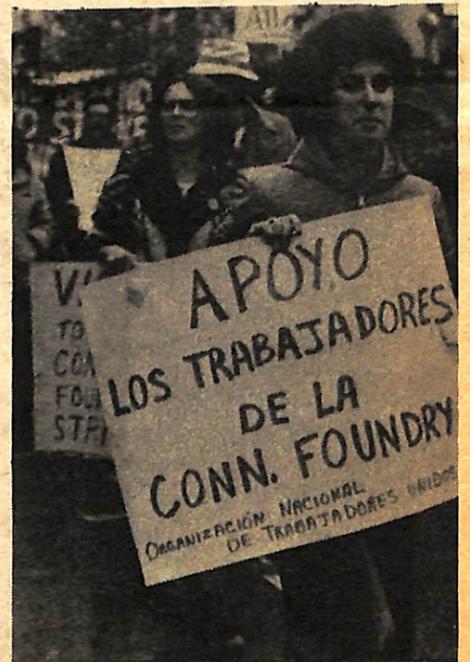
capitalistas, el enemigo de nuestra clase, uniendo pueblo con una linea politica. Toman la lucha como algo garantizado y utilizan todo su tiempo criticando al pueblo, dentro del o afuera del PCR, por sus ideas "anti-PCR." Por ejemplo, en la huelga reciente de los mineros, esta linea de pensamiento no les permitio entender a los miembros del PCR las cuestiones mas importante para el pueblo: movilizando las mesas adentro de y afuera de la estructura de la union para vencer "vende-contratos" y resistir los ataques del gobierno. En vez de esto se pasaron el tiempo tratando de unir gente para formar comite pequeno de obreros que ellos apoyaban.

La labor de "El Obrero" es levantarse con el pueblo y construir las batallas del pueblo. El PCR esta pblicando periodicos que ellos llaman "los verdaderos obreros" pero ellos no hacen nada de esto. Estos nuevos "Obreros" sermonean al pueblo. Pero se mantienen afuera de la battalla. Cuando ellos hacen esto, ellos se unen a otros grupos otros de predicadores que entran en la lucha solamente par tratar de escamotear al pueblo sus ideas.

LA CUESTION DE CHINA

El PCR no ha limitado sus sermones al pueblo de los Estados Unidos. Ellos tambien quieren sermonear al pueblo de China.

El presente liderato del PCR quiere hacer de la cuestion China su pureta de lanza y blandir la como excusa principal de su retiro de la lucha verdadera. Para ellos, el liderato presente de China y toda la direccion del pais no sirve porque una ganga pequena (llamado la Ganga de 4 por el gran lider del pueblo China y de nuestra clase internacional, Mao Tse-tung) fue arrestada cuando por tratar de tomar control del pais. Esta ganga de 4 no eran nda mas que un grupo de sermoneros que se creen duenos de la verdad pero que solo saben hablar mucho y



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El Día de los Obreros

ORADOR DEL CONGRESO PAN AFRICAN DE AZANIA (SURAFRICA)

El "apartheid" es un sistema de reglas que garantiza a los dueños mano de obra barata. General Motors se movió allá porque . . . las uniones (sindicatos) y las huelgas están prohibidos en mi país. En 1976, 1,674 compañías extranjeras invirtieron en Sur Africa. En 1978 fueron 1,883. Todo el mundo sabe que el regimen de apartheid solo existe porque esta sostenido por estas compañías extranjeras.

El sistema de apartheid está podrido . . . pero la clase obrera avanzará hasta tomar su posición en la historia, en el camino bien conocido de quitar lo que sea podrido . . . Nosotros no podemos ser razonables. Yo prefiero que mi enemigo me llame radical y fanático a que me llame razonable. No nos podrán aguantar.



ENTREVISTA CON UNO OBRERO DE HOSPITALES EN NYC

El Primero de Mayo es el día fiesta de toda la clase obrera alrededor del mundo. Yo estoy aquí para apoyarlo como obrero y también estoy aquí para unirme con mis compañeros obreros para luchar por un contrato mejor. Los obreros de tránsito recibieron una oferta podrida de 6% y ahora Koch está diciendo que nosotros no debimos esperar que nos dieran "tanto."

MENSAJE DE LA ORGANIZACION POR DERECHOS DE WELFARE (BALTIMORE)

Felicidades este Primero de Mayo . . . cada día perdido es munición por el enemigo que nos esclavizará más adelante.

Discurso del Centro de Obreros Revolucionarios (Secciones)

En 1968, el pueblo pensaba en grande. Pensar en grande en 1968 significaba construir organizaciones, construir movimientos . . . en contra de la guerra en Vietnam, contra de discriminación, en apoyo de la lucha de la gente en guerra por la liberación. Este tipo de lucha hizo temblar los fundamentos de este país.

En 1968, otra vez, nosotros tenemos que pensar en grande . . . el Primero de mayo es un día importante para hacer eso . . . No más jefes, no más chupasangres . . . De nuestra sangre y animo es de lo que estamos hablando ahora. Jefes prohibidos por un día está bien, una justa demanda. No jefes en cualquier día lo mejor—para mover de uno a otra ecuación es una cuestión de condiciones y pensar grande . . .

1978 es demasiado para aguantar . . . En NYC ahora mismo ellos inventaron una palabra nueva para estos tiempos—Retroceder—Eso es lo que demanda los jefes—mas sudor y sangre de nosotros. Cosas que ganamos en el pasado—ahora ellos están demandando que se devuelvan. Habla con los trabajadores transitos de NYC acerca de que significa la luz al final del camino que

ellos discuten. Habla con la gente negra acerca del fallo reciente de Bakke que "La Sociedad Grande" ha traído para ellos. Hablan con los mineros y los 20,000 obreros del acero los cuales trabajos fueron eliminados en 2 meses. La Nueva Frontera de 1978 es exactamente como la Vieja Frontera de 1968—solo pero—1978 es demasiado, demasiado tarde.

Promesas de una vida mejor por medio de sacrificios solo han resultado en mas promesas y más demandas por más sacrificios. El movimiento de los trabajadores esta aumentando. Otra vez la gente en 1978 están viendo la importancia de levantarse y organizarse. La gente este empezando a pensar en grande otra vez.

Esta movimiento incifrente dese su recogido por nosotros y canalizarlo hacia más grandes objetivos y trazarle la dirección correcta que no es otra que el ataque a la clase dominante. La huelga de los mineros nos dejó entrever las posibilidades reales que tiene el movimiento obrero de triunfar si tiene la línea correda. Nuestro deber es aprovechar este tiempo antes que sea tarde.

MENSAJE DE SOLIDARIDAD POR UN OBRERO DEL CORREO

A través de la lluvia, nieve, cellisca y granizo
Los jefes nunca podrían entregar el correo.

Por lluvia, nieve, cellisca y granizo
La lucha de los trabajadores prevalecerá.

Obrero Latino de Racine—
Me uno con la marcha aquí en Milwaukee para construir la lucha contra las molestias en el trabajo . . . para



DEFENSADORA DE LA ORGANIZACION DE MOVE (FILADELFIA)

Nosotros no pretendemos decir que como una organización no hemos causado bastante inquietud y furor en Filadelfia . . . los periodicos dicen que eso es lo que hicimos pero no dicen por-

mostrar solidaridad con mis hermanos y hermanas en Mexico. . . . El Primero de Mayo es un día de fiesta nacional. Le celebramos con una huelga general.

qué. Ahora mismo en esta "cuidad del amor fraternal," nosotros le hemos hecho una concesión a alcade Rizzo para evitar la muerte de miembros de MOVE, pero que no crea que nos hemos rendido; eso nunca lo haremos . . . Somos una organización revolucionaria y como cualquier organización revolucionaria estamos oprimidos por nuestros ideas políticas y religiosas.

1ero DE MAYO

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Un barbudo minero de Virginia habló frente al edificio de la Exxon contra ese compañía y todos los dueños de minas organizados en la Bituminous Coal Operators Association, la cual combatieron los mineros por cuatro amargos meses en su huelga de este año.

Cuando la demostración de la costa este pasaron por la huelga de los Detallistas de Zapato, Local 287, que luchan por un mejor contrato en su centro de trabajo localizado en Shoecraft Exclusive Tall Girls Footwear, los que marchaban y los obreros que piqueteaban se fundieron en un solo grupo para corear su consigna, "Obreros unidos, jamás serán vencidos."

Ambas demostraciones eran multinacionales, compuestas por gente provenientes de las luchas contra el discrimin y por la liberación nacional. En Milwaukee, hubo concentraciones del

trabajadores en American Motors. Ahora queda solo un puñado. Este lugar estuvo tan lleno que no cabían mas, pero hoy es un pueblo fantasma.

"Nos hemos cansado de ser tratados como esclavos por 10, 20, o 30 años para luego ser tirados a la calle y no vamos a tolerar mas esto."

En la costa este, estudiantes y profesionales unieron a la celebración juntos con los obreros el 6 de mayo manteniendo el mismo espíritu combativo.

La marcha de Nueva York se detuvo frente a la puerta del Edificio J.P. Stevens donde un joven trabajador parado sobre una muralla de cemento condenó a J.P. Stevens Cia, una de mayores fabricantes de textiles en el país, por considerarlo un símbolo de la clase explotadora en su vicioso emperio de mantener las uniones fuera de sur a través de despidos y hostigamiento de organizadores en los talleres.

Comite de Defense de Ray Mendoza y del grupo "El Gran Camino" de americanos nativos. (Vea artículo en este mismo numero.)

En Nueva York un contingente que recientemente se enfrentó al terror policiaco en las comunidades minoritarias en Philadelphia enarbolaba una bandera negra con rebates de oro y letras rojas con el siguiente mensaje: "Escucha bien, Rizzo, Philadelphia no es Johannesburgo!"

La solidaridad internacional fue otro de los temas de la conmemoración.

Para simbolizar el asco por el sanguinario sistema de apartheid en Sud Africa, la Brigada de Estudiantes Revolucionarios impregnó con tres galones de pintura roja los cristales de la oficina de la Línea Aérea de Sud Africa en la Quinta Avenida.

En Milwaukee un representante de la Asociación de Estudiantes de Iran explicó como el Primero de Mayo se celebra a pesar de la dictadura de Shah. Allá los trabajadores apagan las má-

quinas y las luces cuando un compañero hace uso de la palabra para proteger su vida y identidad.

Ambas demostraciones terminaron en mítines donde obreros de diferentes talleres se dirigieron a la entusiasta concurrencia para puntualizar la necesidad de seguir peleando contra los millones de abusos en el trabajo y en la sociedad y de organizarnos contra los patrones.

Un orador de Los Cuarteles Generales de los Obreros Revolucionarios de Milwaukee hizo un recuento de las actividades recalando su unidad y determinación de luchar al decir, "El creciente movimiento obrero y de las minorías o primidas son movimientos distintos, pero están unidos por miles de formas y maneras. Debemos crecer fuertes y unidos. Así como nosotros protestamos hoy, millones alrededor del mundo están diciendo también, "Basta! Ya es demasiado, no tenemos que vivir de esta manera y en la medida en que hagamos nuestra unidad y fortaleza dejaremos de estar como estamos."