

# THE WORKER

For the Milwaukee Area and Wisconsin

January, 1976

Vol. 1 No. 4

Seccion en Espanol 25¢

## "FIGHT FOR EVERY JOB!" Unity Built in December Marches



WORKERS FROM SEVERAL INDUSTRIES JOINED FELLOW WORKERS IN 25 CITIES ACROSS THE COUNTRY TO DEMAND JOBS OR INCOME

In a steady rain on December 13th 80 workers marched down Mitchell St., unemployed workers, steel workers, auto workers, meatcutters, veterans, and youth yelled out, "Jobs or Income, Right Now!" Across the country in 25 cities, the Unemployed Workers Organizing Committee was leading picketlines, car caravans, and other actions. For the first time in many years, workers were acting nationwide against unemployment.

The marchers took their banners of "Jobs Now!", "Extend Benefits--No Cuts!", "No Cuts in Food Stamps!", and "We won't scab, We Won't Starve--Victory to the Meatcutters Strike!" north down 7th st. toward the indoor rally. The people along the way were behind these demands. They came out on their porches despite the rain to wave and raise fists of solidarity. Afterwards at the indoor rally a worker who had joined UWOC in fighting his firing spoke for many when he told the crowd, "I tried fighting them alone for years, it doesn't work." A high school student spoke showing how the fight for jobs is growing as it affects all ages, "When you're in high school you look for work. What do you find, McDonalds! Then after 12 years of school, what do you find? McDonalds again!"

The Mitchell St. march was the high-point of months of organizing for UWOC. The Committee has been taking up the fights of the fired, the laid off, youth, those frozen out of jobs, and those frozen out of benefits. By fighting for

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## U.S. Makes Grab For Angola

Once again the U.S. government is up to its waist in a war in someone else's country. Once again the newspapers are full of talk about the "national interest," references to "aid and advisors" and "official denials." Once again it has become necessary for the American people to oppose the ruling class' military adventures.

This time it is Angola, on the west coast of southern Africa, that the American capitalists hope to keep under their control. For years the U.S. government aided Portugal to maintain its colonial rule in Angola and U.S. businesses profited. Now, they have helped stir up a civil war there between organizations which all had fought to free Angola from Portuguese colonialism.

The U.S. government admits having sent \$25,000,000 in cash and arms in the last three months alone to the groups it backs, UNITA and the FNLA. There is another \$25,000,000 on its way right now, plus more "advisors." The U.S. also has a friend - the racist settler regime in South Africa - which has invaded Angola and is taking part in the fighting there.

The U.S. capitalist class has a rival in its attempts to deny the Angolan people independence and control the country. This rival is the Soviet Union, which because it is now capitalist and not socialist, has become the U.S.'s chief

competitor in international robbery. Only after the Portuguese were beaten and had made arrangements to grant independence to a coalition government made up of all three groups, did the superpowers jump in with large-scale "aid" to play on differences between the groups.

The Soviets have been pouring "aid" to one organization, the MPLA. They have been pouring guns, tanks, rockets, even MIG jets into the Angolan capital, Luanda, which is held by MPLA. During the long war against Portugal, they had never provided the liberation forces with such weapons. They have also brought in 5,000 troops from Cuba whose economy is permanently mortgaged to the capitalists of the USSR and whose leader, Fidel Castro, has pledged "Cubans will never be disloyal or ungrateful" to Brezhnev and company.

The U.S. and USSR each point to the involvement of the other side and its sidekicks in the fighting to justify their own role. What both are after, however, is control over the tremendous wealth of Angola and its strategic location. Angola has oil, gold, diamonds, iron and other minerals in abundance and soil and climate so favorable for agriculture it is already the world's third biggest coffee producer. Its location is important both for naval ports in the south Atlantic and for influencing all of southern Africa.

As the war in Angola continues, so does the extent of U.S. involvement. There is a lot of debate within the American ruling class over how best to proceed, but one thing is clear. They are ready to sacrifice the lives of tens of thousands of Angolans to advance their interests, and depending on developments, may even send in American forces to strengthen their bid.

The only solution to the current conflict in Angola is for both of the superpowers, and the other countries they are working through, to get the hell out and let the Angolan people settle their differences. More and more the feeling of the American people is to keep our government from carving up another country. ■



U.S. BACKED SOUTH AFRICAN TROOPS INVADE ANGOLA



# WHAT'S BREWING IN BEER CITY



Some Inland workers honored one of their foreman with a "Detective of the year" award last month. He recieved this honor by tracking down a fork lift that turned up missing one morning.

When he discovered the problem, he searched the whole department. The workers tried to help. "Why don't you look in the can. That's where you always go to look when you can't find us."

Production ground to a halt while this Sherlock Holmes sniffed out every clue.

After only three and a half hours, he solved the mystery. He found the 5-ton mule just off the main aisle behind some boxes. Everyone was impressed. A few people even said he should apply for work at Scotland Yard. "Scotland Yard's good," said the man who got blamed for losing the mule. "But then, I can think of other places I'd like to see him go." ■

Workers at AOSmith feel strongly about the meatcutters strike. "We can't allow the meat packing companies to cut their wages and bust their union. If they lose we all lose."

Many of the Smith workers, like all workers around the city, are touched by the strike with a friend or relative or neighbor out on strike. And many had questions - why hadn't the union officials done anything for 10 months to support them, why was the strike going so long, what can I do?

At a membership meeting held in early November, Local 19806, Smith Steel Workers passed a motion to donate \$200 to the Wives Committee of the

Meatcutters Local 248. The Community Services Committee sent out collection sheets to the 150 stewards. The union leaders had finally gotten something important beyond a union meeting into the shop. Stewards and other active workers took up this opportunity to build more support for the meatcutters in the shop. They actively carried on the collection which spurred more discussion about the strike. The response was great with \$523.75 donated plus the \$200 from the union meeting.

Many had already donated through the buck-a-month club, a gate collection taken up by the meatcutters, or by contributing to a striking friend or relative. The money collected for the Wives Committee at Smith and other shops, helped buy Christmas toys and food for the meatcutters families, and gave an extra holiday bonus to the strikers. ■

The personal touch of the year award goes to G.T. Matthews, manager of Controls Co. of America. He sent around Christmas greetings to all the workers reading, "Dear Fellow Employees, I find that Christmas cards have taken on a rather impersonal meaning, so I hope you won't mind if I wish you and your loved ones a very Merry Christmas in this way. May the magic and blessings of the season fill your life and home. G.T. Matthews."

The workers were really touched. "Wow, that's really personal, a Xerox copy of a typewritten letter stuck in with my paycheck." ■

## Hein Werner Strikers Won't Give In

The Hein Werner strike in Waukesha is now in its fourth month and the strikers remain as determined as ever. The two hundred IAM members are full of holiday cheer, manning the picket lines day and night. They put up a Christmas tree on the line with a sign, "The Grinch didn't steal Christmas, Hein Werner did".

The workers went out demanding an end to the piecework system. Tired of years of rate cutting, they wanted a decent day rate. They also want an increase in the present \$7.50 pension rate.

The company's response has been to come back with outrageous proposals as mandatory overtime and complete freedom to schedule shifts as they please. One striker said, "They want mandatory overtime to layoff some workers and work the rest to death, before they even collect the measly pension." Another worker recalled that in the last 3 years, 6 older workers died before they retired, some during periods of long overtime.

The last few years Hein Werner has been hit hard by competition. Just before the strike, they appointed a new personnel manager, hoping to find a way out of their profit crisis. Their solution is to try to work the guys harder for

less money. But they are finding the going rough for their schemes.

The workers are taking every obstacle in stride. In December, the leadership of the International Association of Machinists, IAM, cut off strike fund benefits as of January 1st. They said when United Airlines went out, there were too many strikes and they were running low on funds. Apparently, the labor traitors sitting in the International offices got upset when they had to start paying money out instead of collecting dues every month. Strikers have started a petition demanding full payment of strike benefits.

The ten other shops in the local Lodge have voted \$20,000 into a strike fund. Strikers are now receiving \$25 a week, a cut of \$15. At Waukesha Motors the union is sending letters to the members, asking for monthly pledges. And most important, the strikers at Hein Werner are continuing their fight.

After four months, the picket lines are strong, a warning to the company if they have any thoughts about bringing in scabs. The workers are building their fight, standing up to the company's attack.

The firewood is piled high on the picket line. The strikers aren't about to give in. ■



## THE WORKER

This paper exists to build the struggle of the working class against the capitalist system of exploitation and oppression. It puts forward the political line of the Revolutionary Communist Party, USA on the major questions and struggles facing the workers.

The Worker for the Milwaukee Area and Wisconsin is one of many such

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papers across the country. The staffs of these papers are made up of members and supporters of the RCP, USA.

We want to be in touch with all the struggles of our class. We need and welcome your letters, articles, and any kind of contribution or criticism.

To contact us or for more information, write:

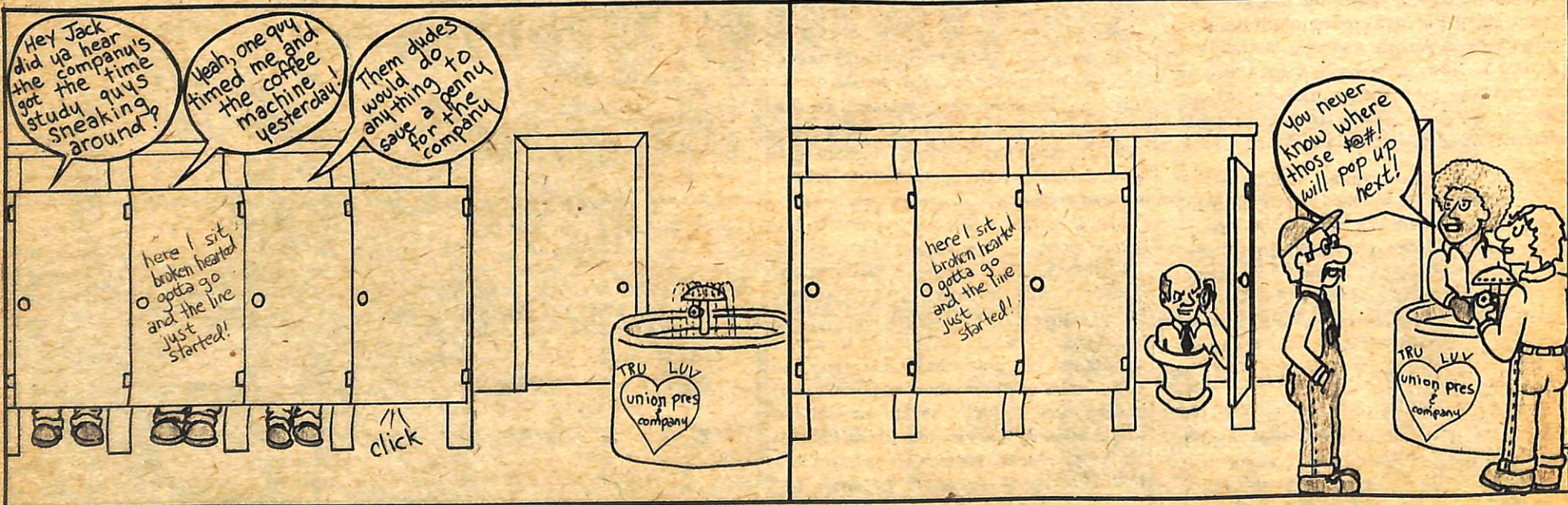
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## SUPPORT THE WORKER

The Worker is a paper that builds our fight. It gets read on the picket line, on the job and in the break rooms. It speaks for the thousands of us who get up every morning and make this country run, the thousands of us who have nothing to show for it but a pile of bills. It speaks against the way the rich capitalists deny our kids a good education, wear us out with harassment and speedup, try to turn white against Black, and take our sons and money for a war of foreign aggression. The Worker is trying to build the fights

against all these things, to link these fights together and build a mighty workers movement that can sweep away the capitalist system, the source of our oppression.

To pay the printing bills, for equipment and supplies and for the rent on a new workers center, we need money. The money from sales alone won't carry us through. People who can give a certain amount of money each month should write The Worker or call 445-5816. We are also planning a benefit party for late February. Watch for the announcement.





# Workers Strain Against the UAW's Chains GEAR UP FOR '76 AUTO CONTRACT

American Motors brought in the new year with increased attacks at both their Kenosha and Milwaukee plants. The Friday before Christmas a thousand workers on the Kenosha Pacer line recieved indefinite lay-offs. In Milwaukee, the company announced the shut-down of an entire department and 60 jobs. They reported that they would be saving \$500,000 a year by sub-contracting to a non-union shop. The lay-offs along with tightening standards and harassment are what's happening at "the motors."

But every time American Motors makes an attack, they're messing with thousands of workers-- and these are the people that make the lines move and the money roll in. In the middle of December, AMC-Kenosha announced a one week layoff for most of first shift, and that 2nd shift would have to go on days. The workers were angry at the company's blatant disregard of their schedules. "What about baby-sitting arrangements, part time jobs, school and rides?" Petitions went from hand to hand. They made plans to fight the shift change.

Thirty second shift workers came in early one day to meet the Union Executive Board. "You better fight this out with the company, or we'll put out a leaflet with each one of your names on it, showing what you did". That afternoon, AMC backed off, announcing that second shift would work their regular hours.

A few weeks later, the company was planning to hold back on holiday pay for the thousand they laid off. But fearing more action on the shop floor, AMC all of a sudden got 'the holiday spirit' and agreed to hand out the checks.

The Kenosha workers won back the shift change by building the fight themselves. They didn't go by the same old program, waiting for the next union or grievance meeting. Their unity was built through the petitions and angry talk that went up and down the assembly lines. The union leaders were forced to go along because rank and file anger was at the boiling point and the workers were organizing themselves.

The importance of rank and file organization and unity is becoming even clearer as the UAW leaders let grievance pile up on grievance and hold hands with the company, more concerned with auto profits than auto workers problems. Especially since the national auto contract will expire this fall.



**WHILE THE RULING CLASS HAS BEEN QUICK TO PUBLICIZE THE FACT THAT 80,000 AUTO WORKERS REMAIN ON LAY OFF AS A SIGN OF THEIR RECOVERY, THEY FAIL TO POINT OUT THAT THERE ARE 178,000 FEWER JOBS IN AUTO THAN IN THE FALL OF '73. ALL THE TALK OF RECOVERY MEANS ONLY RECOVERY OF CORPORATE PROFITS!**

The contract is a chance to strike back at attacks like speedup and harassment. But to make any gains, the rank and file has got to break the chains the UAW puts on them. And fight to the fullest to make the contract a weapon in their hands and not a noose around their necks.

Workers at the Milwaukee body plant have already begun to fight the UAW machine about how to prepare for the upcoming contract battle. Recently, the International called on all locals to send executive board members to a Production Workers Council meeting in Detroit. This conference is supposed to discuss the problems of production workers and help plan strategy for the national contract in auto this fall.

Right away some people at the body plant said, "If you want to know what to fight for, ask us, we're the workers catching hell every day. Send some of us, not some executive board members who haven't been on the line in years."

The stewards' body voted unanimously to send a letter of protest to the Interna-

showdown. The auto bosses have already announced they're going after everything they can. Autoworkers know that we will have to fight every inch of the way to beat back the attacks and to keep every gain we have won--steward ratio, voluntary overtime, personal relief time, right to strike and sub-pay.

tional demanding that two production workers be elected to replace the executive board members or go with them. When they got no response from the International the same letter was sent, this time by registered mail.

The demand also went out on a leaflet, "Fight for a Good Contract! PRODUCTION Workers to the Council Meeting!" It read, "We don't want this council meeting to be a time for the International to throw a big party, but a time for auto workers to plan a strategy to beat back the bosses' attacks". Workers on the assembly line posted the leaflet on their work benches and sent them on cars down the line.

The upcoming contract will be a big

All over the country, auto workers are gearing up to fight back. At Ford's Michigan Truck Plant, 50 workers picketed the International Union headquar-

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Recently the bulletin boards in the Milwaukee Body Plant had a message most everyone liked reading. Two years, nine months ago, AMC, with the aid of top union officials, had fired two workers active in fighting speedup on the assembly line. Since then, the two, along with some of their fellow workers, have gone through all kinds of changes fighting for their jobs. Finally AMC was forced to rehire them with full seniority and back pay at 6% interest.

## VIETNAM VETS FIGHT BENEFIT CASE

Paul Allen is another vet that the Veterans Administration is robbing like millions of other fellow workers. Paul spent time in the Army, an eight year hitch. He was hoodwinked into fighting in a war for the rich in Vietnam. Paul received shrapnel wounds to his right arm and was one of the many working class brothers who paid in blood for the rich to profit.

After Paul was discharged in May of '69 he received a 50% disability rating from extensive damage to his right arm, wrist and fingers.

Not until March of '75 did he know that he was eligible to file for a "Statutory Award" for loss of use of limb. He immediately filed, but the VA denied him the award. What the VA is saying to Paul or any other vet is that he should be able to live on \$208 per month and doesn't need the added \$52 for the award. Even with the added \$52 per month, \$260 per month still leaves him below the poverty level.

On December 1, thirty vets and workers picketed the VA Regional Office. The demands were that Paul receive his "Statutory Award", and that it be retroactive to May of '69; end all disability cutbacks; and an end to VA red tape that serves to deny vets their benefits. Inside the hearing, with standing room only, the VA asked that all witnesses step forward to be sworn in. At this point



**30 VETS AND WORKERS PACKED PAUL ALLEN'S HEARING TO DEMAND FULL BENEFITS, NO CUTBACKS, AND NO MORE VA RED TAPE**

half the room stood up and approached the board in a show of strength and solidarity. With this, the tone of the hearing was set.

The VA Review Board then tried to use Paul's medical record as infallible truth that Paul could use his right arm. They read his medical records, which stated that Paul can pick up a dime or

a business card with his thumb and index finger, and that he could write with his thumb and middle finger. After hearing this line of bull one vet called out, "You can be rated 50% disabled by the VA and yet be rated 100% disabled on the job market by the bosses." To prove that what the vet had said was not just idle talk, Paul gave testimony that he

had lost jobs at the Post Office, Good-year, and General Motors because of his medical disability. The Board was raked over the coals with facts and questions that backed Paul's case and attacked the VA's disability cuts campaign. This was done by vets and workers who participated in the open hearing.

At one point Paul noticed that the assistant VA director had a brace on his leg, and asked him to wager a bet that he not only received disability but also the "Statutory Award" that Paul is applying for. The director didn't bet, he admitted that yes, he was getting both. A good example of the VA's "money for the few and a shafting for the rest" policy.

In the case of Paul Allen, the VA contacted him trying to smooth things over saying that they had made a mistake. On January 6, Paul has to have another medical exam. Vietnam Veterans Against the War will be there with a picket line to continue the fight.

It's clear that across the board disability cutbacks are no mistake. With this rich man's system in an economic crisis the VA is forced to cutback anyway it can. They say "If there's no profit in it, it's expendable." VVAW along with thousands of vets across the country say "No way! We've been used and abused too long! We're fighting back!" Join us to help build the fight against all disability cutbacks. ■



# AFTER ONE YEAR ON STRIKE ATTACKS MOUNT AGAINST MEATCUTTERS

As the strike of 700 meatcutters rolls towards its one year anniversary, the Meatpackers' Association, the National Labor Relations Board, and the local press have mounted an all out effort to smash the struggle.

In mid December, the NLRB dismissed all of the union's unfair labor practice charges against the association. This opened the door for the Association to push for new union representation elections, in an attempt to de-certify local 248. An NLRB hearing has been scheduled for January 12 to determine if and when such an election will be held and who will be eligible to vote.

The recent actions of the NLRB were in keeping with their consistent efforts to break the strike. And by these actions more and more meatcutters and other workers are seeing the "Labor Board" as the ruling class tool that it is. Few strikers will be counting on the board for any favorable decisions on January 12. (See Editorial on NLRB on this page.)

Following the NLRB's decision to deny the union's charges, the union officials reduced the wage demands substantially. They are now asking for a dime, when before the demand was thirty cents a year. The response of the Association was predictable; an arrogant and ruthless effort to crush the union, cut wages and jack up their profits. In the first negotiating meeting held since August, they offered only to have the de-certification election before January 25th, so that some strikers could vote as well as the scabs.

Of course the 130 men and women, who lost their jobs when Northern and United Packing shut down last May, would be ineligible. And so would the 45 active strikers who have been fired during the strike. So even if the vote is held before January 25 and the rest of the strikers are allowed to vote (which is highly unlikely) more scabs will be eligible to vote than strikers. This type of election is like asking a man if he wants to die by hanging or poison.

The workers, who man the burning barrels in front of the packing plants, turned this sham proposal down. The attitude of the strikers remains determined. As one striker said, "We want our jobs back, and that includes all of us. There's too much at stake here."

The Association and the press have put on a huge publicity campaign aimed at convincing the people of Milwaukee that the entire battle is lost. Day after day, the Sentinel and Journal, after months of silence run articles about the strike's "certain defeat". They want workers to think that if some company wants to cut wages, we should just take it or we'll be out of a job.

All this is coming right after the highly publicized move by Mayor Maier, County Executive Doyle, and Governor Lucey. These politicians who had done nothing for the first ten months of the strike, called on both sides to be reasonable and negotiate in early December. This move got these politicians some good, cheap, election year publicity. But it did nothing to force

the Association to change its unionbusting ways. In fact, it further confused things by implying that the strikers were being just as unreasonable as the companies--when they are out there fighting to defend their union, their wages and the future for all workers.

The Milwaukee Labor Council gave the Maier, Doyle, Lucey move front page headlines in their labor press. These labor big shots dragged their feet all through the strike, calling only two support actions. But jumping to congratulate the three top public officials showed that they are more interested in winning political favors than in winning the strike.

The Amalgamated Meatcutters international was of little help. Several Amalgamated locals in Milwaukee and Chicago are working on scab meat produced in the struck Milwaukee packing houses. The Amalgamated has made no effort to mobilize meatcutters throughout the country in this fight. The potential power of our class and unions has been chained rather than unleashed by these so-called labor leaders.

As the strike approaches the one year mark, the meatcutters are closing ranks. Negotiations are set for early January but the workers are planning other ways to continue the fight. Meatcutters, along with Hein Werner strikers, unemployed workers and others will picket a speech by scab attorney, Patrick Brigden on January 7th. He will be speaking on "strike breaking" to executives of the top Wisconsin corporations.

The meatcutters strike is the sharpest local struggle against this capitalist attempt to place their profits crisis on the workers' backs. The Milwaukee area hasn't seen many strikes that lasted this long or were as violent as this one. And the meatcutters strike is an indication of what is ahead for all workers.

In these battles, big or small, our only choice is to pit our strength against theirs. To mobilize the power of the millions of people who produce the wealth of this country against the corporations and their courts, politicians and police.

In the meatcutters strike, the working class has made some important gains. For the first time in over 30 years thousands of workers have rallied in solidarity. Workers at Lindsay meats wildcatted rather than work on scab meat. Special contributions, collections, and "buck-a-month" clubs were started in shops around the city. The Unemployed Workers Organizing Committee has built strong unity through several joint actions between the unemployed and the strikers. Twelve months on the picket line, injunctions and still fighting, the meatcutters are an inspiration, an example.

In this battle and in future ones, we must use these gains and consolidate them into an organized fighting workers' movement. That's how we can defend our unions and wage levels and go on to take the offensive. ■



MEATCUTTERS, WHO HAVE BEEN MANNING PICKET LINES FOR A YEAR, ARE AN INSPIRATION TO ALL WORKERS.

## EDITORIAL NLRB: TOOL FOR THE BOSSES

The National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) is doing everything it can to undermine the strike by meatcutters' local 248. It recently dismissed union charges that the Meatpackers Assn. has refused to bargain in good faith. By doing this it has cleared the way for an election to see if the majority of packing house workers want local 248 to represent them. This means that they want to give scabs the right to vote local 248 out.

What's going on here? Wasn't the NLRB designed to protect labor's right to bargain? Isn't it one of the few places where workers can get a "fair shake"?

In fact, every action taken by the NLRB since the beginning of the strike has been against the meatcutters and for the companies. On February 3rd,

the Meatpackers' Assn. and the NLRB sought out an injunction against the strikers to stop the "catcalls" and "abuse" of autos crossing the picket lines. It was granted by Federal Judge Robert Warren.

On May 9th, the NLRB initiated its second legal action against the meatcutters. On that date, George Squillacote of the NLRB announced he would ask Warren to cite local 248 for contempt of court for recent firebombings. On June 6th, Judge Reynolds ordered a stop to local 248's boycott of McDonalds, Red Owl, Klements, Sentry and other firms buying scab meat. He used an NLRB ruling that secondary boycotts are an unfair labor practice.

And now, after the Board's injunctions have helped scabs freely cross

the picket lines, they tell us the scabs have the right to vote in elections supervised by the NLRB!

Are these the actions of a "fair and impartial" labor board? This board asked for injunctions on behalf of the companies, speedily dismissed union charges against the companies, and did nothing to protect 750 union members' jobs. All these actions expose the NLRB for what it really is--another weapon in the ruling class attack on all working people, taking its place along side the police and the courts.

The NLRB was first brought into existence in 1935. Its avowed purpose was: "safeguard the right of employees to self-organization and to select representatives of their own choosing for collective bargaining (or other mutual

protection) without restraint or coercion by their employer". This sounds good...but what good is it if "the right to select representatives of their own choosing" applies only to the scabs?

The ruling class did not pass this law out of the goodness of their hearts, or because they wanted to give workers a "square deal." It was a concession wrung from the bosses by the growing struggle of the working class in the 1930's.

In the two years before the NLRB was created a mass movement of the working class for industrial unions swept the country. From coast to coast, workers struck in a struggle for unionization that challenged both the giant companies and the reactionary leaders of

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# MEATCUTTERS HISTORY PART TWO RANK & FILE BUILD FIGHTING UNIONS

In the first installment of this three part series on the history of the packing-house workers, we saw how thousands of working men and women streamed out of Chicago's "packingtown" in 1886 to join in the historic nationwide strike for the 8 hour day.

We also saw how meatcutters stood up against US troops in 1894 to walk out in solidarity with a nationwide railroad strike.

We saw how packing house workers put up a hell of a fight in strikes against the meat bosses in 1904 and 1921. Workers in the tens of thousands closed down all the major packing centers. But both times the companies used every possible tactic to divide the workers---unemployed against strikers, skilled against unskilled, and white, Black and foreign born against each other. In both strikes, the union, with the help of the police, was broken. The workers' gains were in the unity and experience they learned from standing up and fighting as one class of people.

These bitter lessons stayed with the men and women of the packing industry throughout the 1920's. They worked long back breaking hours on the kill floors. In the freezers, on the boning lines, and in the packing rooms. The pay was about 40¢ an hour. Speedup and harassment were a way of life. Job security was non-existent.

The bosses were locked into the all-out competition of capitalism. Armour, Swift, Cudahy and Wilson had gobbled up the two other large packers. The "Big Six" was now the "Big Four". The scramble of competition was forcing the meat bosses to squeeze the workers for every last nickel of profit.

When the capitalist economy collapsed in 1929, the bosses cut wages and increased harassment. But a determination to organize and fight had been smoldering since the defeated strike in 1921. Workers started talking union again. Rank and file workers who could see the potential strength of the working class began to step forward.

At first, the workers took small actions. To come to a secret union meeting was an act of courage. One day in 1933, forty union members were outright fired from the George Hammond plant. But the workers had no choice but to keep fighting. Union buttons started appearing--not just on one cap or apron, but all across a department.

Then came slowdowns and strikes. At the Hormel plant in Austin, Minnesota, workers, angered at new payroll deductions, cleared out the foremen and executives and took complete possession of the plant, forcing arbitration. In the year of 1933, over 50,000 signed union cards. Fear that the workers would fight for union recognition forced the meat packers to give out 8% and 10% wage increases in 1933 and 1934.

The workers' struggle had many obstacles. One was the leadership of the Amalgamated Meatcutters which was claiming the right to organize all meat workers. Like the rest of the American Federation of Labor, AFL, they had a "live and let live" partnership with the companies. The Amalgamated's goal was to build up a stable dues paying membership based among retail butchers. But they did not place much importance on organizing the thousands of unorganized workers in the packing houses. They had poured millions of dollars into losing strikes in 1904 and 1921 and were not eager to risk fighting Armour, Swift, Wilson and Cudahy. Also the big packing plants were potential bases of rank and file power--something that would threaten their control of the union.

The workers also had to deal with company unions. These were "associations" run from the packing house front office. They were designed to give out privileges to a few snitches and hold down the majority of the workers. The rank and file had its own way of icing out snitches. They often showed their disgust with the phoney unions by boycotting the rigged elections.

Sick of the AFL and its policies of narrow craft unionism, relying on the government, and not fighting for the rights of Blacks and the foreign born, packing house workers began to build fighting unions of their own. These new unions included all the workers in a plant, not just butchers in one local and sausage makers in another. These new unions began to take up the fight of every worker--Black and white, native and foreign born, men and women, skilled and unskilled.

All across the country, the working class was fighting back against the hard times of the depression. When the dock workers strike in San Francisco and the trolley car strike in Milwaukee turned into city wide general strikes--the workers could feel their power as a class.



A NOON RALLY AT "CIO CORNER" IN CHICAGO'S PACKINGHOUSE DISTRICT.

The ruling class began shaking in its boots. As the struggle grew, unorganized workers began to hit back in a massive upsurge for unions, industry wide. In the auto towns of Ohio and Michigan, in the steel mills of Pennsylvania and South Chicago, in the coal fields of West Virginia and Kentucky, wherever there were industrial workers, they were organizing branches of the CIO, Committee for Industrial Organization. A mass movement of the working class for unionization swept the nation.

The spectacular gains of the CIO unions inspired packing house workers who began signing cards for the Packing House Workers Organizing Committee (PWOC-CIO). Many PWOC organizers were union men who had experience in the bitter battles in the coal fields and steel mills. Many of the organizers were communists--workers who saw that the fight between laboring people and the rich capitalists could only be resolved once and for all through revolution.

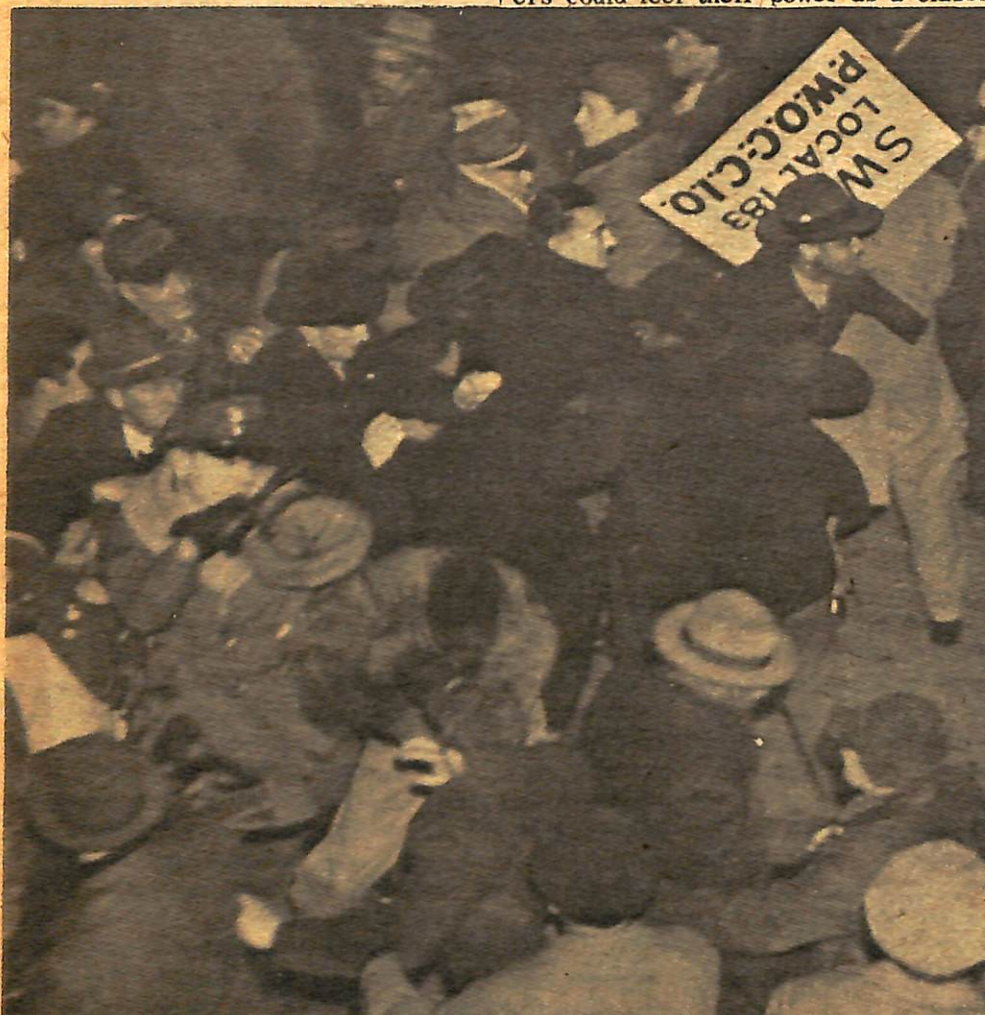
The first CIO union in the packing houses was built in the pork department of the sprawling Armour works, where seven thousand worked under one roof. About the same time in Milwaukee, the workers at Plankinton Packing threw out the old AFL chartered union and

brought in the PWOC. With the AFL, anytime Plankinton workers had a grievance, they had to call in a representative of the Amalgamated Meatcutters out of Chicago. With the new CIO, the workers strength was in their willingness to settle grievances right on the shop floor.

A striking meatcutter with 44 years of experience in the packing industry recalled the strike that brought in the first union at Plankinton, a division of Swift, "All we won was a piece of paper, but it meant a lot. I remember when we went back in there and one guy refused to join the union. One union man grabbed his tool box. And two other workers grabbed him. And we dragged him out of the plant and threw him in the street. And when he came back in, he joined the union. The strike for union recognition in 1937 was one where the workers didn't give an inch and anyone who dared cross the line, paid in blood.

By 1943, 90,000 workers had joined the CIO union which was called the United Packinghouse Workers. Only 25,000 signed up with the AFL's Amalgamated Meatcutters. And only 10,000 remained in the company unions. In Milwaukee, locals 30,40, and 50 were strong fighting rank and file organizations in the Armour, Cudahy, and Plankinton plants.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11



MILITANT STRIKES OF THE '30s WON FIGHTING UNIONS IN THE PACKINGHOUSES.

## NLRB

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

the AFL skilled unions.

Thirty thousand miners, from previously unorganized mines, struck and won. The strike of 60,000 garment workers, the majority as yet unorganized, resulted in victory. Nationwide, strikes were threatened in all the major industries--auto, textiles, steel.

In one year the total of workers involved in strikes jumped from 342,210 to 1,168,272. Altogether, during these two years, 2,583,908 workers participated in strikes.

While the creation of the NLRB was a concession to the working class, it was also an attempt by the ruling class to hold back and control the struggle of the workers. This is part of the ruling class strategy to turn the workers' gains against them, to try and take back whatever we win.

What the NLRB is saying is, "Don't organize yourself for your struggles, leave it to us." This is designed to take the struggle out of the hands of the workers themselves. Then the months, and even years, they take to come to a decision is an added guarantee that the struggle will "cool off."

When a number of workers from Thurner Heat Treating Plant were fired last year for trying to organize a union, they took their case to the NLRB. There has still been no decision, but even if they do win their jobs back, they will have lost their union drive. The NLRB, by dragging its feet, lets the company get away with separating the most active workers from the rest. At the same time, the company can harass and intimidate the workers on the job and effectively take away their right to organize. The very thing the NLRB was supposedly set up to protect.

The NLRB has shown its hand. Under the velvet glove of impartiality is the iron fist of the capitalist class, bound and determined to crush the meatcutters and all workers' struggles.

We don't want to reform the NLRB. That would be like trying to "reform" the union busting attacks of the Meatpackers Assn., like trying to "reform" the layoffs and speed-up that are hitting workers everywhere, like trying to "reform" the police to act in our interest.

The only way to deal with them is to sweep them away, along with the rest of the capitalist class, in a working class revolution. ■



# Workers March in 25 Cities for Jobs

With millions on layoff since Christmas '74 who are now spending this one with even unemployment insurance running out and jobs unavailable, the world is far from merry and bright. The newspapers carry stories about the increase of business in pawn shops--40% at the Detroit Federal Collateral Society, Inc., --the manager of the shop reports. Forty per cent in two years--and at an interest rate of three per cent per month or 36% a year.

In major cities during this holiday the Unemployed Workers Organizing Committee (UWOC) took to the streets to broadcast the demands of the unemployed for "Jobs Now!" "Extend the Extensions!" "Food Stamps, Not Cutbacks!" Marches through downtown streets, through shopping centers--caravans of cars stretching down the streets and freeways decorated with signs and UWOC insignias--confrontations at mayor's offices--picketing inside and outside of unemployment centers--all of this and more showed the stand of the unemployed.

As one woman who took the bullhorn at the Germantown, Pa., unemployment center said: "We're sick and tired of the way things are going here --we're going to deal with it, and we are going to win."

Onlookers listened at rallies and picket lines. TV and radio picked up and covered the news. They had to, it was right out there and couldn't be ignored.

Raised fists and horns greeted us. People at unemployment offices and on the street joined in the lines and rallies. In Philadelphia one unemployed steelworker came to the UWOC table and told us: "I was in line thinking--you were there organizing and we're in here doing nothing --we got to get together and build a movement."

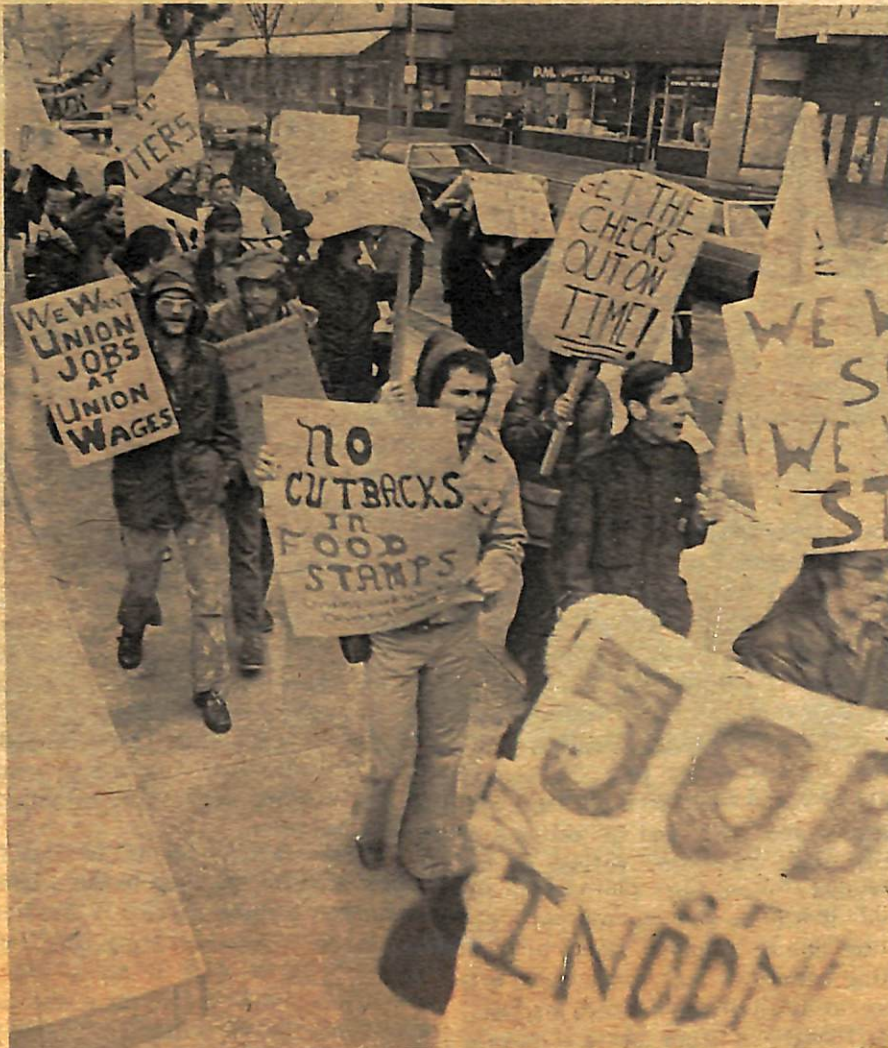
## BIRMINGHAM AND HOUSTON

In Birmingham, Alabama, some plain clothesmen tried to stop the demonstrators. One threw some hot coffee, but this didn't stop them. The pickets went on to confront the mayor at his office and the TV news went on to pick up the confrontation. In the past he was always claiming how sorry he

was about unemployment. UWOC asked: then how come he sent his cops against the pickets.

In Houston, Texas, this was the first UWOC action. Employed and unemployed did it together, marched inside the office. The hundred or so people inside the office waiting for their checks gave them a warm reception, even though officials threatened them with arrest.

of all nationalities showed solidarity with the marchers. Banners proclaimed the demands. At Chase Manhattan Bank the picket line chanted: "Working People Say No Way--Make the Banks and the Bosses Pay." And the banner they stood next to read: "City Crisis--To Hell With the Banks and the Profits--Make the Banks and the Capitalists Pay."



MARCHES LIKE THIS ONE SHOWED THE STAND OF THE UNEMPLOYED

The feeling for them was so strong that they were able to speak and sing despite the officials harassment.

## NEW YORK CITY

In New York City the march went through the 14th street shopping area to Union Square. Thousands of workers

UWOC spoke about the struggle for jobs in New York City and the layoff of city workers. "The banks have made millions and now they are trying to get out of their crisis by taking the money to invest elsewhere, Jobs! No layoffs!" Then they marched to Union Square and spoke briefly at the spot where the first hunger march assembled in the thirties.

## DETROIT

Detroit had a terrific response. People throughout the downtown shopping district were conscious of the march for jobs or income. The need for jobs is felt very strongly.

The march stopped at a small plant to support the fight of a worker who had been fired and to confront the boss, demanding that he pay the unemployment insurance. The boss yelled to his thugs to "get the gun." But UWOC pinned him down, made him listen and told him we'd fight. The 13 week penalty period for those who were fired had just been started in Detroit. UWOC says, "That's three months without income to live on."

## OHIO

Cleveland had its first UWOC action. Many leaflets were passed out and the response was excellent. People showed support and wrote letters. Workers in steel, construction, trucking and others planned and helped. The weather was snowy and rainy but many joined the line. Angry security guards were forced back. One worker on the line told them, "If you put anyone out you'll have to get me first." When the manager came people yelled at him, "Where's my check?!" He claimed he couldn't do anything. Many newspapers covered this demo.

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# Fight For Every Job

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

every job and for every benefit and by joining all these struggles together--on a nationwide basis--UWOC is helping to build a single powerful force to tell the capitalists, "We won't pay for your crisis!"

A picket line the previous Monday at the downtown unemployment office focused on the daily fights for Jobs or Income. UWOC had asked Mr. Brooks head of the unemployment office to meet about workers getting cheated out of their checks. When Brooks refused, UWOC called for the picket and on December 8th, they marched right in twenty-five strong, to get some answers. Before the UWOC spokesman could finish his first sentence, Brooks was there. Seems unity and action by the workers had changed his mind.

The crowd, swelling to over 50, surrounded Brooks out in the hall. Some workers who had come down with UWOC gave their names and explained their situations to the crowd. Several more came off the unemployment lines when they saw someone taking action.

When Brooks asked for one name, a young guy unfolded a Job Service card showing a long string of appointments. "You've got my name. I've been coming down here for 6 months. My problem is I don't have a job!"

## IN UNITY AND ACTION IS STRENGTH AND POWER

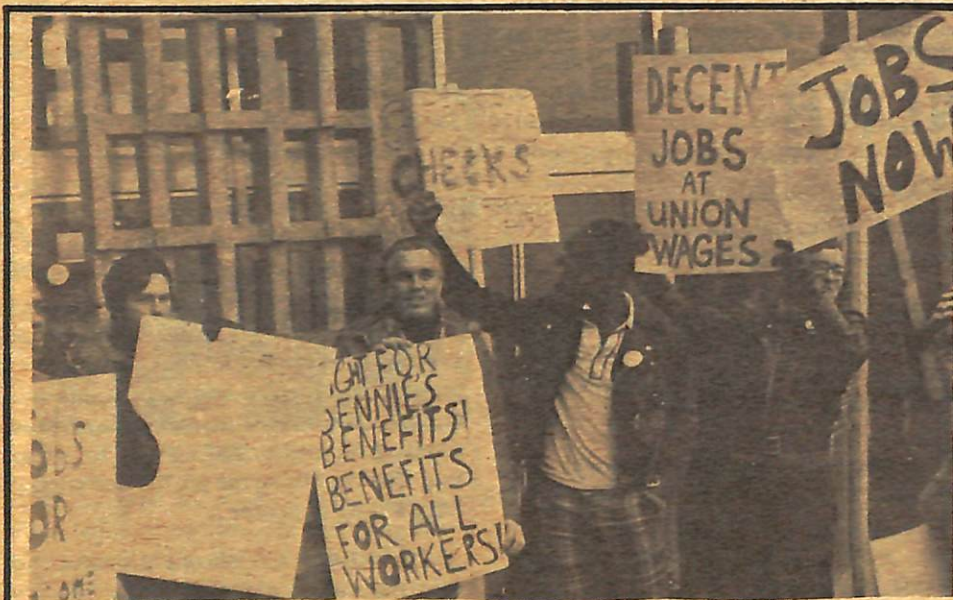
The Monday action got some results right away. A guy from Rexnord had quit his part-time job, then got laid

off from Rex. Rex used this technicality as an excuse not to come up with the benefits. For weeks he got nothing but stalling from the Job Service and he had to start working part-time again. But two days after Brooks was jammed by the angry workers, the laid-off Rex worker received two checks.

One of the guys in the crowd was a machinist fired for talking union at Scot Industries, a small job shop. He needed benefits to keep him going while fighting for his job back. He came down with UWOC to get results. "My lawyer wouldn't do anything. The NLRB wouldn't do anything. But when we went down there as a group, they called me the next day." His hearing was moved up a month.

A new member of UWOC asked Brooks "What are the thousands of guys supposed to do whose benefits are running out?" Brooks could only say, "Well, I'm dealing with a set of rules and regulations here..."

But when there's no money coming in, workers can't afford to wait on a set of rules and regulations. They are out there working to build a mass movement nationwide for "Jobs or Income." UWOC is building key day to day fights at the unemployment office, fighting firings, and for every job. The December action marked another step forward, uniting the small fights for one job here and two checks there, and beginning to make it a bigger fight, a fight of the whole working class. ■



On December 29th, 25 UWOC members and supporters jammed a Job Service hearing to demand Denny Pauley's benefits. Denny was fired from Scot Industries for voting to bring in a union. Scot claimed "misconduct" and denied Denny's benefits since Sept. 19th. Large unionized companies like Harnischfeger, Hein-Werner and Bucyrus-Erie subcontract work to Scot Industries and other small sweatshops to cut wages and increase their profits.

Scot claimed that some pictures Denny took in the shop were grounds for dis-

missal, an invasion of privacy. But a fellow worker, also fired, told how he had given permission for the pictures. And he brought in "exhibit A" from the wall of the shop: a Playboy calendar, exposing the company's case. Why were't these photos "misconduct"?

The plant manager and head of personnel, who showed up from Scot, expected to breeze through a whitewash. But the militant solidarity of the picket line and packed hearing turned the heat on them. See next month's Worker for the results of the fight.



# FORD VETOES PICKETING BILL HARD HATS HIT BACK



BOSTON CONSTRUCTION WORKERS SHUT DOWN THE RENOVATION OF A BANK TO PUT A STOP TO NON-UNION SITES

Construction workers around the country are facing union busting attacks by the contractors, and they are seeing more jobs go to non-union companies. On December 22, President Ford joined the attack when he vetoed a bill on construction unions. If one union had a dispute with their contractor, they would have been able to picket an entire construction site, shutting down the whole operation, including workers in different unions.

Ford promised the AFL-CIO leaders he would pass the bill. At the same time, he assured the construction companies he would get some concessions from the unions. But when it came time to sign, Ford vetoed the bill, making it clear that the government and companies are one ruling class.

The AFL-CIO construction union leaders played politics with Ford. In order to try and get Ford to pass the bill,

they agreed to limit workers' striking power: a second provision in the bill set up a union-employer bargaining committee to review disputes, postpone strikes and try to hold down wage settlements. This would have been no real deal for the construction workers. Working people can't afford to limit their striking power and put their fate in the hands of a "neutral" committee. We can't be tricked by promises made by the government or companies to give up anything, or to let up for one minute on organizing to fight for the things we need.

Construction companies are trying to drive down wages and keep profits up in an industry where the companies are competing for fewer contracts. Many do this by using non-union workers, and paying them lower wages. They also cut costs by pushing fewer workers harder, like using nine workers to do the job of thirteen warehousemen; paying less for overtime; using a minimum of skilled

workers; and having the same workers perform jobs that cover different work.

The result is that union workers have been getting fewer jobs. For example, between 1971-73, the National Construction Association, made up of most of the largest unionized companies, lost 78 projects to non-unionized companies.

In their drive to grind down construction workers and bust the unions, the contractors have set up a non-union association in many parts of the country called the Associated Building Contractors--ABC. The Association includes some of the biggest companies in the business and has forced pay cuts in areas with particularly high unemployment.

But hard hats have been responding with stiff resistance. When ABC tried to open their first site in Milwaukee in October on Capitol and Appleton, they were met by over 30 picketers. Team-

ster drivers supported the construction workers and refused to deliver materials. Nothing on the site moved, and ABC was beat back on this round.

In Boston construction workers shut down the renovation of the old Shawmut Bank to put a stop to non-union sites. The hard hats smashed the bank's picture windows and threw up a picket line against ZVI, a non-union company. They kept the picket line up until the end of the week when union contracts were signed. Then they moved the line ten blocks away to another ZVI non-union site. On November 12, 2,000 construction workers from several trades filled the streets around the Shawmut Bank. They rallied for an hour and made it clear their fight will continue.

These types of fights are going on in cities across the country--Atlanta, New York, San Francisco--where construction workers face unemployment, wage cuts and union busting attacks.

But many of the contractors attacks have been helped along by the top officials in the building trades unions. Increasingly, they are forcing union members to take pay cuts in the name of keeping "union labor competitive."

In St. Louis, the union leaders made an agreement with Daniel International, the fifth largest construction company in the country, to build a \$1.8 million power plant. But the agreement said the unions wouldn't stop work during the life of the project and that Daniel would be able to set crew sizes and assign work. The workers would have to give up official coffee breaks, although they could carry coffee to their work site, and work rained out during the week must be made up at regular pay on Saturday.

Trying to get jobs by giving up what construction workers have won and need is like counting on Ford to sign the picketing bill. Construction workers can only win jobs and protect their wages and unions by doing what they did in Milwaukee and Boston--fighting to keep non-union companies from opening sites and unionizing more construction workers. ■

## HOFFA: No Fighter for Working Class

Jimmy Hoffa, former president of the Teamsters, disappeared July 30. Since then, the newspapers and TV news reports have been trying to figure out where he went. CBS even got ripped off for \$10,000 by someone who said Hoffa's body could be found off the coast of Florida. The FBI is hunting for him in a dump in New Jersey.

What's all the excitement about? Let's take a look at the life of Jimmy Hoffa.

Hoffa began his career in 1937 as a member of Detroit Teamster local 299. Then the Teamster membership totalled 75,000 milk, bread and ice truck drivers. The union "leadership" at that time refused to organize workers in the growing over-the-road trucking industry, saying they weren't concerned with "rabble."

In 1934 in Minneapolis, long haul drivers were organized for the first time. Rank and file Teamsters lead a complete shutdown of the twin cities. The success of the strike lead to union organizing in other Midwestern cities. Hoffa, seeing dollar signs, moved to Minneapolis and jumped on the band wagon to organize long haul truckers.

Hoffa organized by using the "leverage" tactic. Through this tactic, leaders like Hoffa would "strike" one city at a time, tying up shipments by only letting union trucks through. Through this tactic the drivers were organized into unions--which is good--but it unionized them without really relying on and mobilizing the workers.

The success did get Hoffa an important union position. He was rewarded the job of negotiating chairman of the Central States Drivers Council (CSDC)

in 1940.

By 1955, the CSDC under Hoffa negotiated the Central and Southern States Pension Fund. The contract covered 100,000 workers and poured over \$1 million per month into the fund. But the contract never spelled out how the fund would be administered nor the level of retirement benefits. This gave Hoffa a free hand with millions of workers' dollars.

Hoffa bought banks and other financial institutions, making this self-proclaimed fighter for the working class in reality a member of the ruling class.

With all that money in a few hands, Hoffa and his partners started making loans and other deals with organized crime. Truck driver pension money was a ready source of capital for underworld investments and a way for Teamster leaders to skim off a piece of the action.

But most Teamsters never see this pension money. When they are ready to collect, retired truck drivers must submit evidence for each job they have held and prove that there was no break in their "continuity of service." The fund and union keep no records themselves. Because of the instability of the trucking industry--layoffs, job changes, firms going out of business, etc.--this "continuity of service" is almost impossible to prove. One rank and file truckers group says that 90% of eligible Teamsters are cheated out of pension money.

In an attack on unions and workers' organizations in general, the ruling class went after Hoffa with Senate investigations and federal indictments--mainly

because he was becoming too powerful.

In 1964, he was convicted of jury tampering. He bought a not guilty verdict in a trial charging him with accepting a half million dollar bribe from Fruehauf, the semi-trailer manufacturer. Fruehauf had bribed Hoffa not to unionize the workers. This was a clear example of sell-out union leadership at its best.

In 1967, Hoffa was sentenced to prison, but paroled in '71 by Nixon.



JIMMY HOFFA

While in prison, Hoffa's "trusted" friend, Frank Fitzsimmons, looked after things. Fitzsimmons liked "looking after things" so much that he took the job for real. Hoffa recently made it known that he planned on running for office again. This probably had a lot to do with his disappearance. There is a lot of power and money at stake. In order to control it, the ruling class will

go to any length--including murdering each other.

Even with Hoffa's and Fitzsimmons' mis-leadership, rank and file Teamsters have fought for themselves and other workers. This toughness, spirit and power always frightened Hoffa. He tried to keep it down, at the same time he peddled publicity about being the workers' biggest champion.

Instead of joining the workers, Teamster leaders have fought against them. They attack their own locals, and other unions, like the Farmworkers with goons, threats, sweetheart contracts, bribery, extortion--all the low, sell-out tactics necessary to keep on the "good" side of the bosses--whether they're corporation executives or syndicate leaders.

Many rank and file Teamsters stood with Farmworkers when their "leaders" tried to raid the fields. Rank and file groups have fought back--against bosses and Teamster leader corruption. This spirit caused the Madison, Wis. Teamster local to be taken over by the International.

This year, Teamsters will negotiate their master contract, covering 400,000 drivers nationwide. Already many rank and file Teamsters have made it known they are determined to fight for a contract that they want, not what Fitzsimmons and other leaders say the drivers want.

There will be more publicity about Hoffa, especially if he turns up wearing "cement shoes." But with Hoffa, Fitzsimmons, or any other sell-out, drivers and all workers have no choice but to build their own fight. ■



# 1975: A Year of Attack



WORKERS NATIONWIDE SHOWED THEIR SOLIDARITY WITH MINERS WILDCATting FOR THE RIGHT TO STRIKE

The coming of the New Year holds many things in store for us. The working class can look over the past year and look ahead to the growing struggle. '75 saw the ruling class go from asking us to bite the bullet to trying to force us to swallow the shells. We fought back against these attacks and to keep the hard won gains of the past years.

Shrinking markets, recession, inflation, overproduction-- all meant that the bosses real profits were falling. The bosses launched an all out attack on the working class to try to increase their profits: union busting, wage cuts, speed-up, lay-offs, etc.

## ATTACKS ON WORKERS MOUNT

Anger rose in the auto plants as wide-

spread layoffs and job eliminations were followed by intense speedup. But in most cases, the union leaders sat on the struggles that developed. And not only in auto, but for postal, telephone, and other workers, union leaders united with the capitalists to increase profits by cutting labor costs through job elimination.

The Meatcutters year long strike fought the Packinghouse bosses in their attempt to bust the union and drive down wages in order to stay competitive.

Workers at Stroh waged a 6 month battle for higher wages and against the bosses drive to increase productivity by cutting breaks.

Pressed Steel workers went out for 10 weeks demanding higher wages and a better pension plan. But workers at both Stroh and Pressed Steel were sold out by behind the scenes dealing by

their union leaders.

Strikes got longer as the stakes got higher. It was a question of whether the working class would be driven into the ground and made to bear the brunt of the bosses' crisis.

Unemployment rose everywhere. The Unemployed Workers Organizing Committee (UWOC), a nation-wide organization grew to 33 chapters. Milwaukee UWOC took up the fight against late unemployment checks and united workers under the slogan, "Employed, Unemployed, Same Crisis, Same Fight." UWOC forced the state to speed up mailing of checks and launched the movement for jobs.

The ruling class cut back spending for social services to shift some of the burden of the crisis. These cut-backs sparked more struggle. Over 1300 North and South Division high school students walked out and crashed a school board meeting to demand an end to school board stalling in building their new high schools. Teachers defied laws against strikes by public employees to force the school board to come up with higher wages.

December 24th marked a year since the murder of 16 year old Jerry Brookshire. His killer--cop Raymond Marlowe--went free. An organized movement against police repression and the oppression of minorities was built. This movement united workers and peoples of all nationalities, and forced an inquest to be held. When the coroners jury ruled justifiable homicide, the cops and courts were shown for what they were, tools of the ruling class to protect its rule.

## RESISTANCE GROWS

In the fight against these attacks, the working class began to flex its muscles. They rolled over the union hacks and bureaucrats that worked hand in hand with the bosses.

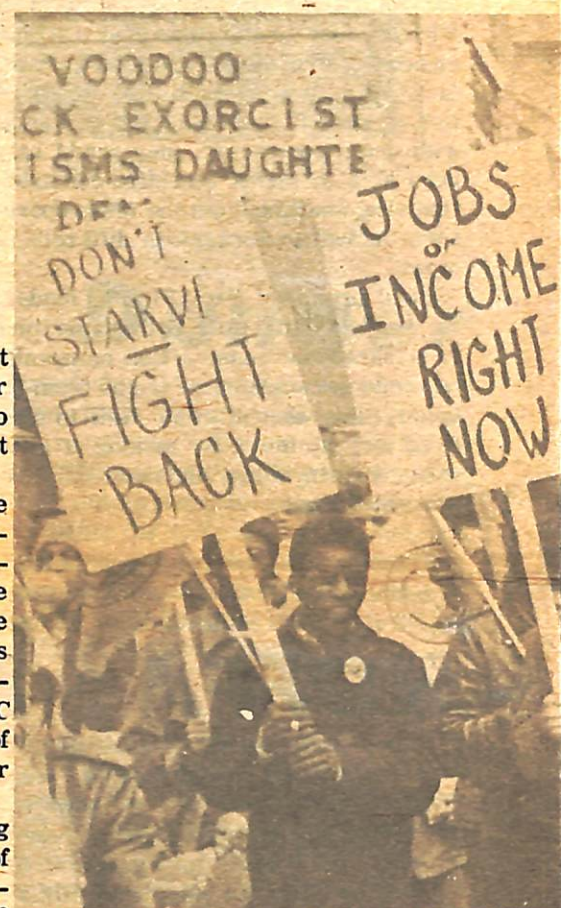
Nationally, 90,000 miners wildcatte for the right to strike and against court injunctions on wildcats. With court

injunctions the coal companies could stall grievances in the coal field. The productivity offensive by the coal companies meant more contract violations and worse safety conditions--a life and death question for the miners.

Although the month long wildcat was not able to stop the injunctions, the miners dealt the coal bosses a powerful blow. It was the first time in many years that the miners had gone out all over the coal fields. Just as important, workers all over the country demonstrated working class solidarity by sending telegrams, contributions and letters of support.

The meatcutters strike won wide support throughout the working class. For the first time in over 30 years, over 1,000 workers rallied to support their brothers and sisters. The meatcutters spoke for thousands of workers as they told the packinghouse bosses--we refuse to be slaves!

And when over 60,000 workers employ-



DEMAND FOR JOBS OR INCOME GROWS

ed and unemployed massed in Washington demanding jobs, the bosses trembled. The workers were saying loud and clear. "Many of us are out on the street and a lot of us close to the door. Promises can't buy meat and speeches alone can't stop unemployment. We demand jobs!"

It was the New York City sanitation workers that led the battle against cut-



MILITANT TAKEOVER BY MENOMINEES



PRESSED STEEL WORKERS WHO MANNED THE PICKET LINES FOR TEN WEEKS WERE SOLD OUT BY UNION LEADERS



# ks - A Year of Struggle

backs and for jobs as 3,000 wildcatted against layoffs. They returned to work after temporarily forcing the ruling class to stop layoffs. This showed that you can fight layoffs and win jobs.

## RULING CLASS DESPERATE

Unable to control the crisis and the struggle against it, the ruling class grew desperate. They tried to create confusion among the masses. School busing plans in Boston and Kentucky were designed to build up antagonisms among workers and people of different nationalities, and provide a cover for drastic cuts in education. An important question for the working class was how to fight these attacks and unite against the ruling class' divide and conquer schemes.

The crisis meant that there were less spoils to divide up and problems became



MEATCUTTER'S YEAR LONG STRIKE DREW THE LINE AGAINST  
CAPITALIST'S WAGE CUTTING, UNION BUSTING ATTEMPTS.

the masses of people these bosses hold down.

This desperation grew more intense after the defeat of US imperialism by the workers and peasants of Vietnam. In a last ditch effort to stir up patriotism behind their bloody aggression, the US imperialists ordered an attack on Cambodia to "rescue" the arms carrier Mayaguez. US marines suffered close to 50% casualties and left with a boat they could have easily got back through negotiations.

No longer top dog in the world, the US scrambled to protect itself against the gains of Russian imperialism. While Kissinger toasted detente with Soviet ambassadors, Russian and American backed troops fought it out in the Middle East, Asia, Portugal and Angola. Once again it proved that for the superpowers the battle field was more decisive than the dinner table. Despite their talk of peace, the superpowers are preparing for war---each trying to protect and expand their interests all over the world.

## LESSONS OF STRUGGLE

There's a lot we can learn from 1975. The struggles were scattered. So when powerful fights broke out in one place, they had to be spread as far as possible.

The Menominee take over on last New Year's eve was a good example of a fight that sparked others. After their victory at the abbey in Gresham, forty armed members of the Navajo Warrior Society took over the Fair chile Electronics plant in Shiprock, New Mexico. They demanded that a hundred fifty fired workers be re-hired and four hundred on lay-off be given full unemployment benefits. And then there was another takeover at a pork processing plant by the Yankton Sioux in South Dakota.

In October of 1975 the new party of the working class was founded. The Revolutionary Communist Party is a product of the struggle of the working class. The importance of a party rooted

in the working class that consciously builds and spreads the struggle was demonstrated in the miners wildcat and postal workers contract fight. The Party united with miners to help spread their wildcat across the coal fields. Across the country the Party played a role building support by spreading the news and collecting money.

In the postal workers struggle, the Party helped build a nation wide organization, Postal Workers for a Good Contract that fought wage cuts and job eliminations. This kind of nation wide organization was a big advance and a good example for the working class---especially with so many major contracts coming up in 1976.

## AHEAD TO '76

The Bicentennial promises to have a lot of fireworks. With elections in the fall, the politicians will be running around blaming each other for the crisis. The democrats will be saying how they

can bring back jobs. The Republicans will brag that they are cleaner than Nixon. Both will be trying to hide the oppression of the system behind the flag-waving of the Bicentennial.

Our job is to build and broaden our own struggle. We have to take the advances of 1975---and build on the examples set by the miners, the meatcutters, the New York sanitation workers, and the thousands who marched for jobs on Washington D.C. We'll fight the divide and conquer schemes of the busing plans and continue the fight against police repression and the threat of war. With auto, rubber, transportation, construction, and other contracts coming up this year, its time to break through the chains set by the union hacks and make some gains.

And when the bosses hoist Old Glory and calls on us to share their burdens, American workers will be standing up and shouting back, "We've carried the rich for 200 years, Let's get them off our backs!" ■



3000 NEW YORK CITY SANITATION WORKERS WILDCATTED  
TO WIN BACK JOBS LOST DURING CUTBACKS



NATIONWIDE AS WELL AS IN MILWAUKEE

harder to solve. Fighting within the ruling class increased. Exposures of FBI plots against civil rights and anti-war movements followed reports of CIA assassination plots abroad.

They played up the SLA and Patty Hearst saying that revolution was the work of small bands of crazies and terrorists and not a real solution for



SPARKED INDIAN STRUGGLE NATIONWIDE



# STEEL RANK AND FILE ON THE MOVE

For rank and file steelworkers our future has always been wrapped up with fighting the steel companies. That goes for so-called good times and bad times, although these days it's hard to distinguish between the two.

"Don't worry, steel is different," bragged the owners of the big steel companies as layoffs started hitting other industries. The leadership of the United Steel Workers of America chimed in with an article in their paper entitled "Steel--an Island of Stability." According to the USW leadership, workers should give thanks for having a job to the leadership's policy of company-union cooperation and the Experimental Negotiating Agreement (ENA) that gave away the workers right-to-strike until 1980.

But no sooner had the article in the USWA's paper Steel Labor appeared when layoffs hit full force throughout the steel industry, and the workers left in the plants were pushed that much harder.

Hardly any rank and file workers like the steel companies. Very few think that union-company cooperation policies like the ENA are super ideas, and everybody knows they haven't brought good times. But for the rank and file, the real question hinges on whether we can fight and win against the steel companies. We steelworkers have never stopped fighting the companies, but like other workers, our struggle has had its high and low points.

Right now the rank and file is beginning to build a big and powerful movement throughout the industry. It is a movement that fights for what we need, not only for what the companies say they will give us; a movement that demands unity among the ranks, between basic, nonferrous, and fabrication, between the employed and unemployed, and among the ranks of the entire US working class.

Two events are good examples of this

movement. One is the struggle that is now developing in the Bethlehem Steel Company and the other is the publication of a nationwide newspaper called The Steelworker which will be a big help in building the fight against the steel companies.

## BETHLEHEM INTENSIFIES NATIONWIDE ATTACK

The Beth Steel Corporation, the second largest steel producers in the country,

has in recent months launched a new wave of attacks on workers across the country and a growing struggle is developing against this. There are several examples of this.

They threaten to close down their four fabrication plants across the country, with almost 3,000 workers, unless the workers take an immediate \$1 an hour pay cut, plus a freeze on wages over the next couple of years. This would

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12



DEMONSTRATION AGAINST LAYOFFS AT BETHLEHEM. "IF WE STAND UP AND FIGHT, WE'LL WIN!"

## Ford's China Trip Underlines War Danger

President Ford's trip to the Peoples Republic of China in December underlines the growing danger of world war.

Since Ford's visit didn't result in any new agreements, there has been a lot of speculation as to exactly why he went there in the first place. Ford certainly had in mind "looking presidential" for the coming elections. But mainly he went because he had to recognize the growing strength of socialist China and because of sharpening rivalry between the U.S. and their chief competitor--the Soviet Union.

armed forces and carrying out armed confrontations with each other all over the world, such as in Angola today. And as part of their expansion, both superpowers have threatened China.

China used the occasion to warn of the danger of war between the superpowers and expose the real nature of the situation so as to help alert people and delay the outbreak of such a war. China also used the Ford trip to make it more difficult for either superpower to attack China, especially the USSR.

The press in the U.S. has tried to

Trips to China, unthinkable only a few years ago, now seem to have become almost a matter of course for U.S. presidents. Part of the reason is that after decades of trying to "contain" China and overthrow socialism there, the U.S. ruling class now has to face facts. Before its revolution, China was once so weak that almost half a dozen imperialist countries were able to rip off a chunk of it. Now the Chinese workers and peasants are a major force in the world.

And this change has been accompanied by others. The position of U.S. imperialism is growing weaker as the U.S. capitalist class faces a crisis at home and is battered on all sides by revolutionary struggle. Their attempts to occupy and militarily dominate Asia have led to some big defeats, such as in Vietnam.

The other major change is that the Soviet Union has become a capitalist country, even though it calls itself socialist. In the mid 1950's, Khrushchev and a small group around him were able to take power out of the hands of the Soviet workers. Since then this new capitalist ruling class has lived high on the hog at the expense of the workers. Along with the U.S. ruling class, today the new Soviet rulers have become one of the two main bands of capitalist robbers bringing misery to the people of their own countries and around the world.

Just as in the U.S., the capitalist system has caused economic crisis in the USSR. To "solve" this crisis, the rulers of both countries are trying to squeeze more than ever out of the workers at home and everywhere.

As a latecomer to the international thieve's banquet, until recently headed up by the U.S. rulers, the USSR is grabbing wildly for a big portion of investments, markets, raw materials and space for military bases in all corners of the globe. Everywhere the people's struggle has forced the U.S. to retreat, the USSR is trying to take advantage of the situation to snatch things up for itself.

These are the conditions that have

forced the U.S. ruling class to scale down their attempts to encircle and destroy China and to improve relations with China somewhat. Right now, beating back the growing Soviet challenge and extending the U.S. empire at Soviet expense is the main goal of the U.S. imperialists, and attacking China is secondary to that. That's why Ford went to China, like Nixon before him.

### CHINA'S VIEW

Besides making use of the trip to expose and help delay the outbreak of war the Chinese agreed to Ford's visit for other reasons, too. As a country where the working class has put an end to capitalism, China wants to live in peace with other countries, including the U.S. It has given support to revolutionary struggles around the world, such as their aid to Vietnam and their positions against the two superpowers in the UN. At the same time the Chinese know that revolution in each country must be made by the people of that country themselves.

But China exists in a world where there are still butchers on the loose. Part of its policy must be aimed at defending itself from attack. The rulers of the two superpowers fear each other more than they fear China right now, because China is not a rival for world domination. But as part of their attacks worldwide and against the people of their own countries, the imperialists want to attack China. They want to boost their profits by exploiting workers there, and they can't stand what China represents. The successes of socialism in China, in transforming a country so long kept poor and oppressed by the imperialists, stands as an example to people everywhere that they don't have to live the way the capitalists now force them to.

Even though the U.S. capitalist class has been forced to change its tactics toward China, they also hate it and can't help dreaming of overthrowing socialism there. The U.S. still has thousands of soldiers stationed in Chinese territory in Taiwan, against the

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CHINA WARNS OF WORLD WAR

Ford and other spokesmen for the ruling class in this country bragged about how taking this trip was more evidence of their tireless efforts towards peace in the world. But at the official banquet for Ford, the Chinese vice premier said that "detente" between the U.S. and USSR is a fake and that the conflict between them is increasingly leading the world towards a new world war.

This is the truth of the matter, despite Ford's hypocritical denial. Even while they're trying to fool people by talking peace, the rulers of both the U.S. and the USSR are building up their

turn the truth up side down on this. Calling every nation warlike except their own, they claimed that Ford went seeking peace while the Chinese urged the U.S. on to war. But the drive toward war between the superpowers is a fact "independent of man's will," as the Chinese said. It is the capitalist system and its constant drive for profits that forces both the U.S. and USSR to expand, and each other is the major obstacle to the other as long as these capitalists exist. Their test of strength can only be settled by war.

### BIG CHANGES IN WORLD



# WORKER FICTION WE'LL STAY OUT WHILE AL STAYS IN

The judge's gavel came down. "Contempt of court, 90 days. Court dismissed," Al Jackson's shoulders slumped at the verdict. Ninety days--and only a week till Christmas.

The court room was in an uproar. It was filled with guys from his shop all down there to back him up. "What kinda crap is that?" shouted Curly Phillips, one of the men in Al's department. "This is a raw deal." Others yelled out, "The courts are working with the damn company, that's the truth!" At this point the cops moved in and started shoving people out of the court room. Two big deputies led Al out a side door into a room off the court and plunked him down on a wooden bench. The shouts outside died down. Al reached for a cigarette and began to think about what came next--the drive across town to the work house, 90 days away from his family. And the strike--well, they're a good bunch. It had been only four days

since they set up the first mass picket. Al drew in on his cigarette and almost laughed out loud as he remembered the first carload of scabs that tried to go through the line. Twenty pickets surrounded their VW and started rocking it back and forth. The looks on those guys faces! Unbelievable. When they finally got put to rest they took off like bats out of hell. Nobody else tried to cross that day. But then there was the court injunction prohibiting picketing, the cops ushering in scabs and in the thick of the fighting that followed Al had been picked out and busted. He was to be an "example" as the judge said. Sack him for 90 days and watch the other strikers start shaking in their boots. Well, Al thought, I sure hope not.

The deputies got up. It was time to go. They moved down the empty corridor and down an elevator to a waiting car. As they made their way through

heavy traffic Al watched the Christmas decorations on almost every store window... "BUY HERE" they yelled. Yeah, he thought, with what--my good looks? This was to have been a special Christmas. His Mom was coming up from Kentucky. And for Donna--she was 5 now--he and his wife had saved enough to buy her the best looking bicycle in the store. Now? Well, who knows what would happen. His fists clenched inside the handcuffs.

The deputy driving the car looked back. "Here we are, sonny. Ninety days in the slam. Merry Christmas." The remark cracked up the other deputy. "And happy New Year, too." They turned the last corner in front of the work house. The deputies were still giggling like a pair of idiots. "O.K., jailbird, let's go."

Suddenly there was a roar of voices coming from up the block as a line of people turned the corner and marched

toward the car. Fifty, 100, 200--they just kept streaming from a seemingly endless source. Their voices were clearer now-- "We'll stay out while Al stays in"--over and over. The deputies paralyzed at first tried to start up the car and head for the rear entrance. But the workers had seen them by then and stormed all around the car, blocking out daylight completely. Al was laughing out loud, stomping his feet and chanting with them. There was Andy, and Big Ed up on the hood pounding the windshield with his huge fist.

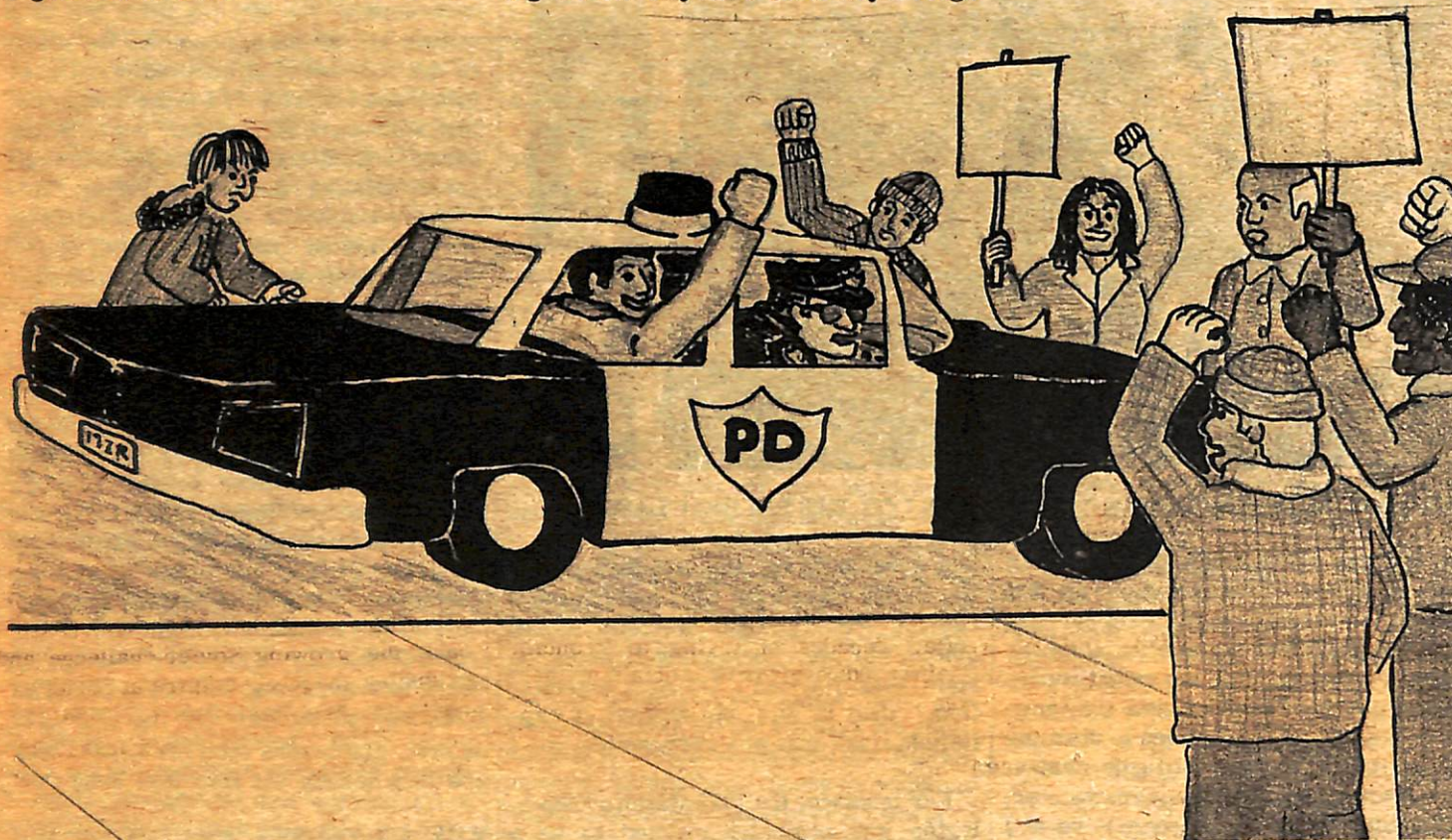
Even old man Sanders was there with a big sign yelling at the top of his lungs. It went on for 10 minutes. Al learned later that a bunch of other cops had tried to break through the crowd but had been forced to go for reinforcements.

By this time there was a small army of police on the scene and they battered their way to the car and dragged Al back to the building.

Once inside the deputies cursed and made wild threats about what they would do. But to Al they looked smaller now--and as the strikers set their pickets on the sidewalk outside all the cops did was continue to scream and bluster as the workers marched on.

They hurried Al off down a long hallway to a detention cell. But as they roughly pushed him along he held his head high and smiled to himself. The events of the day flashed through his mind and he felt a new confidence about what lay ahead. He thought of his daughter and the bicycle she wouldn't see on Christmas morning. And the present that she and the children of all the strikers would receive instead--the courage and sacrifices their fathers and mothers were making in the fight to change things for all working people. Al took in a deep breath. Yes sir, he thought, this is going to be one helluva New Year.

FROM THE CLEVELAND WORKER



SUDDENLY THERE WAS A ROAR OF VOICES COMING FROM UP THE BLOCK AS A LINE OF PEOPLE TURNED THE CORNER AND MARCHED TOWARD THE CAR.

## INDIAN STUDENTS PROTEST DISCRIMINATION AT KOSCIUSZKO

Monday, December 15th, over a hundred Indians and supporters picketed Kosciuszko Junior High School in response to some anti-Indian remarks made by a teacher. A few days earlier, Kenneth Wuerl had told his math class that Indians were always drunk, couldn't hold their liquor, and that they lived in shacks.

One student, angry at the remarks, told his parents. They contacted other Indians and groups, who organized the picket line. The school administration got very shook up by the whole thing. Students who wanted to leave Kosciuszko to join the protest were kept from getting their coats by the teachers. The demand to have the teacher fired is still being fought.

Parents and students carried signs reading "Teach Education, Not Discrimination." They were demanding that the truth be taught--not racist stereotypes about any nationality. A couple years ago the same concern for a true education prompted a take-over of the Coast Guard Station and the establishment of an Indian School. And education was a demand of the Abbey take-over of last year. On the Menominee reservation there is no high school. The fight by Indians for a decent education continues

today with the present struggle at MATC against cutbacks of special programs, and at Kozy.

These struggles are part of a broader fight by all working class parents and students for a decent education. Students walked out of North and South last year and jammed a school board meeting, demanding the new schools that were

promised, but never started due to cutbacks. It was this kind of action that got bi-lingual programs for Spanish-speaking students, and lunches for those who couldn't afford them.

Parents and students from all neighborhoods, of all nationalities will be stepping up the fight against cutbacks and for a decent education.



STUDENTS PICKET OUTSIDE KOSCIUSZKO JR. HIGH.

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## MEATCUTTERS HISTORY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

In the next installment we will see how the packinghouse workers picked up their fight after World War Two. And we will also see how the US ruling class attacked fighting unions in the 1950's through the Taft Hartley law, anti-communism, and some of the same sell-out leaders the packinghouse workers had been fighting for decades. We will also see how the "Big 4" decentralized, leaving the stockyard areas of Milwaukee, Chicago and other cities full of big empty buildings--and thousands unemployed. And how all this set the stage for the present union busting attack in the meat industry which is centered right here on the picket lines at Peck and Wisconsin packing companies. And we will go into some ideas about the continuous fight of the packing house workers.



# Why Martin Luther King Was Killed Behind the FBI Revelations

In the last months more outrageous practices by the FBI and CIA have come to light: drug experiments on innocent victims, spying on millions of people, partnerships with Mafia figures, assassination of foreign leaders, and all out attempts to infiltrate and wreck Black and anti-war groups in the late 1960's and early '70's.

Even Martin Luther King, who preached non-violence in the face of the violent repression of Black people was not safe.

actly behind the finger that pulled the trigger, then they were indirectly involved in setting up the target. The FBI made plans to have King switch hotels to the one where he was shot.

## WHY DID THE FBI DO THIS ?

These low life tactics are nothing new for the FBI or their counterparts in the CIA. While the public image promoted for these agents of the state is

lence against leaders and active workers.

But why Martin Luther King? He was far from a revolutionary. In fact, the Rockefellers, Kennedys and others like them promoted and praised King for his efforts to channel the storm of Black rebellion against generations of exploitation and oppression into pacifist attempts to reform the system. Popular songs have linked "Bobby, Martin and John" as the three great champions of civil rights

But the Kennedys also wanted to keep control of King and keep a lid on the struggle against Black oppression, so "John and Bobby" authorized wiretaps and other forms of bugging against King.

And when you cut all the bull, the U.S. capitalists could not even tolerate King's non-violent dissent. To even expose the oppression of capitalism, to so much as speak out against part of it, drives these people mad with anger. With Martin Luther King, a well-known leader, it made them determined to wreck his life, and failing that, to kill him.

## LIBERALS EXPOSED

The ruling class would like to blame all the actions of the government and its agencies on a few politicians or some bureaucratic fall guys. J. Edgar Hoover is becoming the arch villain. All of a sudden Mr. G-man, promoted for years as the folk hero, is accused of being as rotten and underhanded as the scummiest Mafia hit men. He is made out to be the power behind the Presidents and Congress, making the whole ruling class kow-tow and shake with fear, controlling all with twenty file cabinets full of dirt on everyone from Henry Ford and Nelson Rockefeller to Nixon and JFK.

There's no denying that J. Edgar gets top honors as an A-1 pig, or that the degeneracy of the ruling class provides enough factual material for a whole warehouse of sleazy novels. But it's only in science fiction movies that the ghouls and monsters can control their masters. Cops don't order around the capitalists. They do what they are told.

But if the big capitalists who control the government and its police, courts, laws, and politicians are the real saboteurs, murderers and assassins, why are they letting all this dirt hang out?

## WHY EXPOSURES ARE HAPPENING

Mainly it is because different sections of the capitalist class of bankers and owners of big industry have different interests to protect and different ideas on how best to maintain their rule and over-

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THE FBI TRIED TO DESTROY THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT OF THE 60'S FOR THE RULING CLASS

Senate investigations have shown an FBI conspiracy to discredit, blackmail and eliminate him. Few people ever felt satisfied with the explanation that James Earl Ray killed King all by himself. Many suspected the direct government involvement that is now being made clear by these FBI revelations.

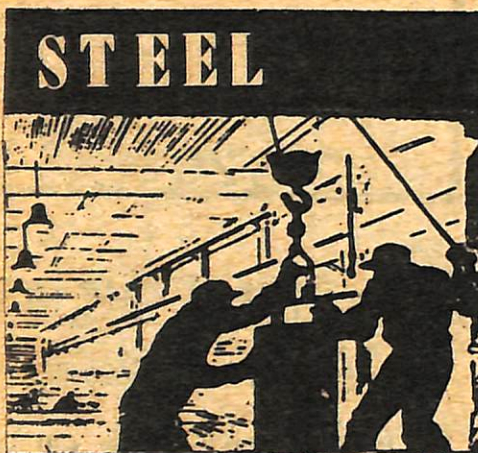
Why wasn't the FBI, which followed King everywhere he went, on the scene when he was shot? And why was King's accused assassin pressured into pleading guilty against his wishes and then denied a new trial, allowing the government to hush the whole thing up? Well, the FBI was on the scene. If they were not dir-

that of clean cut, Elliot Ness type crime fighters and patriotic warriors against foreign subversion, their main purpose has been to protect the wealth and power of the capitalists. This has meant everything from overthrowing anti-U.S. governments in many countries to disrupting all types of mass struggle against the American ruling class, in particular, attempting to destroy progressive and revolutionary organizations.

In the 30's and 40's the FBI tried to do this to the workers' movement and the old Communist Party. And they're still at it. During the recent miners' wildcat they ran all over the coal fields harassing, slandering and plotting vio-

and great buddies. But the fact is that the ruling class used King against more radical leaders like Malcolm X and others who were beginning to make the point that you can't "reform exploitation," that it was the system of capitalism itself that was responsible.

For instance, the 1963 March on Washington was originally planned to be a militant protest against the oppression of Black people. But as Malcolm X exposed in Message to the Grassroots, the Kennedys used their power to put King and other "moderates" at the head of it and to water it down to a rally in favor of the Kennedy civil rights bill.



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mean an over \$3 wage cut over the life of the present contract. The company further stated that they wanted to break the fabrication locals out of the basic steel contract so the locals would be in a weaker bargaining position.

Workers in all four fabrication shops refused to choose between poison and the noose and told the company to go to hell with their offer. In Pottstown, Pa., where the largest shop is located, workers have begun to organize against the threatened shutdown. The Steelworker ran an article on the struggle calling for resolutions of support for these fabrication locals and some of these have already been received by the workers.

In the Beth Steel Lackawana Plant in upstate New York workers have faced very heavy layoffs (over 7,000 are on the streets now), with the company intensifying the attack on the workers inside. Faced with these attacks, the workers there have asked for strike authorization to fight the layoffs, and to make the company live up to certain provisions signed in the 1973 local contract. As of this date no one has heard a word from I.W. Abel, the union president, on the question of strike authorization, but in any case workers there have begun to meet to plan to fight.

Also in the Beth Steel Mill in Seattle, Washington, where there were already over 200 workers laid off, Bethlehem attempted to cut the operator crew size from 6 to 5 on each shift. The workers responded to this with a three day walk-out in August and with a recent march and rally against layoffs and crew reductions. The workers there have formed a committee of employed and unemployed steelworkers to build the fight against the company.

The company has also come down hard in the Beth Steel Sparrow's Point plant, the scene of some heavy battles and wildcats in the coke ovens. Layoffs reached into almost every department and speed-up has increased. With many people laid off, the International union pushed the local at the Point plant to comply

with an International union by-law which removes workers from "good standing" status when they have been laid off for a year or more. This blatant company by-law was soundly defeated by the two Sparrows Point locals but union leadership there has done little to actually unite the employed and unemployed to fight both the by-law and the company attacks.

This fight, however, has been taken up among the rank and file. A petition opposing the by-law, and putting forth the need to unite together to fight, was circulated and the struggle has advanced off this. The Steelworker carried both an article on the events in Sparrows Point and a call for all steelworkers in all divisions of the union to oppose the establishment of the by-law.

A problem up until now has been that many of these struggles are isolated from each other and the company has spread lies in the vacuum. But now the new newspaper, The Steelworker, is playing an important role in communicating details of the struggle in Beth and in calling for support from all steelworkers.

The idea for such a newspaper sprang up when rank and file forces, including some members of the Revolutionary Communist Party, united to hold a picket line and rally at the last USWA constitutional convention in Atlantic City,

N.J. The event, which called together about 300 people, was called to voice opposition to the sellout ENA, no-strike deal. In building for the picket line, steelworkers in the East and some in the Midwest decided it would be a real help in the struggle if we could have better communication between the different mills throughout the country.

The first issue of The Steelworker is filled with articles from around the country--articles written by rank and file groups, individuals, or taken from local working class newspapers. Articles that talk about slowdowns being built, wildcats, strikes, and demonstrations and rallies against speedup and job eliminations. There are also editorials and calls to action in support of particular struggles, like the fabrication locals at Beth and the fight against the by-laws change.

At this point much of the struggle against the steel companies is still scattered and isolated. The key question for the rank and file still hinges on whether the steel companies can be fought and beaten. But the struggle is growing in the face of these vicious company attacks. And as these struggles become stronger and better organized and as the lessons of these struggles are spread throughout the industry, they will deal sharper and more powerful blows to the enemy. ■



# WORKERS MARCH FOR JOBS

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In Cincinnati and Dayton lots of people responded to the presence of the demonstrators. In Ohio they have cooked up a scheme where they are giving one 13 week extension now, while cutting out two extensions later. This will come down on the insurance for many and they hope to sneak this one through when people don't yet see what they are doing. UWOC is getting together on that.

## SEATTLE AND LOS ANGELES

Seattle had a good response even though the weather was poor. They added a demand of their own to stop their state's Senate bill 2373 which is a local version of several national proposals to cut back on unemployment insurance.

In Los Angeles 75 to 80 people demonstrated at the unemployment center. New people came forward to build the demonstration and participate in the action. One woman waited from 8 a.m. when she thought it started until 9:30 and went through the whole day and then asked, "When's the next one?"

There were good chants and much response. There were some questions like "Oh, that won't do anything." But as one worker said, "I've been out of work for three years now looking for work and what I found is UWOC."

## ROCHESTER, BUFFALO AND ATLANTA

In Rochester and Buffalo, New York, people went to the downtown area to the local chamber of commerce, as the leaflet said, "This is where big business gets together to carve more profit out of our hide." The speech related to the three demands and also "No Layoffs."

"To those still on the job--slow down, let things pile up, force them to rehire and hire more workers." An employed worker spoke: "One week of work and I'm laid off, I can't lay off my family or my bills. And that's why I'm here to fight this rotten system." Speeches pointed to the fact that Rochester's Unemployment Council had held its first

jobless as the stores they were working in are torn down to make way for a subway and no job arrangements are made for them. There they held a rally and spoke. As they went through the streets many unemployed and employed joined in. Some old as well as some new members of UWOC.

## BALTIMORE, PORTLAND AND CHICAGO

In Baltimore, Maryland, demonstrators went to City Hall where they demanded that long proposed subway jobs be opened for hard hit construction workers. They told the government that "We're tired of hearing you don't have the money. Your economic system is in crisis. People need jobs...people need services!" Another action was to picket the city papers in support of the striking workers of the Washington Post who are putting up a strong battle against job eliminations.

On December 15 Portland UWOC took their rally into the Unemployment Office. The supervisors were unable to stop it. They sang a song to the tune of White Christmas called "I'm Dreaming of a Full Paycheck."--"Not just the crumbs I used to know...there will be no more layoffs or weekly payoffs for making the bosses lots of dough." And another to the tune of "The Twelve Days of Christmas" called the "Five Months of Layoffs."--"In the 5th month of layoff I joined some of my friends, WE'VE HAD ENOUGH!"

In Chicago UWOC held a very spirited picket line in front of an unemployment office in the city, and hundreds of unemployed workers were wearing buttons that said, "Jobs Now" and gave the date of the rally.

At the picket line a UWOC member ran down how for years he had been worked for 12 or 16 hours a day until suddenly the plant closed down. An electronics worker spoke about the struggle against layoffs in that industry.



MEATCUTTERS AND YOUTH JOINED OTHERS IN MILWAUKEE MARCH

big rally on March 31, 1930, which was International Unemployment Day. One and a quarter million people marched in this country and many in Canada and in Europe. The unemployment insurance we won and the social security we won came from their fight.

In Atlanta a Jobs Convoy headed through town to the downtown shopping area where hundreds of workers are left

## SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA

In the San Francisco Bay Area in California UWOC had a three part caravan from San Jose, San Francisco, the East Bay. They linked up in the parking lot of a very large shopping center and then held a rally at a park. This caravan distributed thousands of leaflets and got petitions signed. UWOC fanned out and spoke to many people.

New people joined in. A young worker spoke of the trouble young people have in finding work or any kind of decent life. A veteran spoke about how hard it is to find work, especially because of the great number of "dishonorable discharges." A woman from the Electronics Workers Organizing Committee told of thousands being laid off and the low pay and poor conditions on their jobs. Prairie Fire, a working class singing couple was much applauded.

The following Monday a large picket line was held. The regional supervisor of unemployment insurance was confronted. He said he did all he could and was told that it wasn't anything. He'd better tell the companies and the government there were no jobs and we mean to have them! Also that we'd have employment insurance until they opened them up! One radio station in Oakland taped and played the spirited confrontation between UWOC and the unemployment director.

A special skit was written for the rally to the theme "Twas the Night Before Christmas" but the lines read: "But not all is quiet as one would think, with unemployment and inflation, SOMETHING STINKS!"

And "We workers are strong we'll accept no defeat. We made everything from the building above to the shoes on our feet, from the clothes that we wear to the food that we eat." And "So we stand up together as they tremble with fright, as we millions organize with all of our might. In the factories and the streets we do battle that we will have jobs or income now."

These demonstrations are building the momentum. But it is just the beginning. The fight goes on—it grows. ■

## FBI

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all U.S. power in the world. Over the past few years the size of the pie they divided among themselves has been shrinking, and they've started to fight like hell among themselves over who gets what share. There has been more and more sharp disputes over which policies will best protect U.S. interests and which politicians will best carry them out.

In addition to using their secret police to attack the struggle of the people, the different sections of the ruling class have increasingly attempted to use these agencies against each other. So when one side starts exposing the Nixon administration, others leak out some dirt on JFK. By now they are all the way back to Truman and Roosevelt, saying "they did it too".

They are also using these exposures to try and give some credibility to their government and to overcome the growing cynicism and contempt with which a lot of people look at the government. "There may have been some things done wrong", they say of all these atrocities, "but at least we expose it and try and get rid of the bad guys. It shows that American democracy really works."

Hogwash! It is not just one bureaucrat, or a handful of politicians, or abuse of power in some agencies. The problem is the capitalists themselves and their whole damn system, and you will never hear that on Walter Cronkite. They are the ones who build secret police forces and intelligence agencies to concentrate even more than their regular cops do on repressing the struggle of the working class and other people.

As much as they want to cover it up, these investigations and revelations do show just how rotten their rule is. No new agency or legislation can pretty it up. More important, they show just how scared these capitalists are of our struggle. And the fight against their repression should be strengthened and built as part of our struggle. ■

## FORD

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spirit of the agreement reached during Nixon's trip to China. Recently, the U.S. has given the Taiwan rulers new diplomatic encouragement and military aid to keep the island from being reunited with the mainland. They hope to use it as a base for more threats and aggression against China. This is only one of a whole series of recent hostile acts by the U.S.

But today, the most immediate threat of attack on China comes from the Soviet Union. The new Soviet rulers have started several battles with China by trying to snatch up Chinese territory. They've encouraged other countries, like India, to attack it, while the Soviets themselves have a million troops stationed on the Chinese border. They've also tried to overthrow socialism by using agents within China. These Soviet capitalists have a special hatred for China because China has exposed their phoney "socialism" and their real capitalism and imperialist expansion and aggression. The Soviets are counting on their fake "socialist" label to help them deceive people and take over positions once held by the U.S. imperialists.

To defend itself, as its vice premier told Ford, China depends first on its own strength—on "independence, self-reliance, and millet plus rifles," as he put it. In addition, China is using tactics, including diplomacy such as the Ford trip, to get the U.S. to back off China and even to use the U.S. as an obstacle to Soviet plans to attack China.

The necessities of capitalism itself are driving the superpowers to war. Their talk of "detente" is a smoke-screen to hide their real bloodthirsty nature. In exposing this and delaying the outbreak of war, China is helping the revolutionary struggle against these two big oppressors to gather strength. The existence of China itself is proof that the working class can break free of the system which has already caused so many wars. ■

## AUTO

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

ters demanding workers fired and suspended for leading a work stoppage be rehired. At GM's plants in Saginaw, Michigan and Wilmington, Delaware, workers have put the company on notice with strike votes as part of the fight against speedup and work standards.

Here in Wisconsin, workers at AMC in Kenosha and Milwaukee are starting to organize themselves for the important battles ahead. With a future of layoffs and speedup, there is no other choice. In the companies drive to compete for profits, they will stop at nothing. Auto workers can pay no respect to these profits, nor can we be bound by their rules.

As yet, most of these battles in auto are disconnected and many are short lived. But more and more workers are seeing through the illusion of individual solutions to the crisis and pointing out the co-operation between the company and the union leadership.

Many workers are getting organized to take matters into their own hands and keep them there. The skirmishes going on now are the beginning of more widespread and conscious struggle of the working class that is bound to be developed in opposition to the desperate profit drive, which the capitalist class calls its "recovery".

Like one young worker in Kenosha said, "We won a big victory when they couldn't make us second shift people work first shift. We've got to tell everyone how we got together and we won a victory. That's what it's all about. Just look at how many of us there are". ■



# ¿"RECOBRO"? OBREROS DE AUTO DICEN NO!

La economía se va recuperando. Ya se acaba la peor recesión desde los años 1930s. Ahora viene la prosperidad. Eso es lo que dicen los portavoces del gobierno y la industria. Como prueba, apuntan al aumento de ventas de carros.

Pero de veras es todo el opuesto. A ellos, el "recobro" no tiene nada que ver con más trabajos, menos inflación o mejores condiciones de trabajo. Cuando dicen que viene el recobro, significa que están haciendo todo lo posible para aumentar sus ganancias y echar hacia abajo aún más a la gente obrera.

Pregúntale a cualquier obrero de auto que significa el "recobro" en la industria automotriz. De hecho, en muchas plantas, la producción está subiendo al nivel de septiembre 1974, antes de la tremenda cesantía. Pero eso se alcanza mayormente por acelerar el trabajo. Las compañías están llamando a regresar a trabajar a los más pocos obreros posibles.

Tratan de usar ciertos estadísticas para esconder la verdad. Según la clase dominante, hay "sólo" 80,000 obreros de auto despididos todavía, de los 278,000 cesantes el invierno pasado. Pero lo que no dicen es que ahora hay 178,000 menos trabajos en la industria que había en el otoño de 1973. A los que han sido echados o jubilados o que han renunciado, se añade los millares de obreros que han perdido sus derechos de ser llamados a trabajar otra vez, pues que han estado tanto tiempo de layoff que los economistas no les toman en cuenta como obreros de auto.

La planta Dodge Main de Chrysler en el área de Detroit es un buen ejemplo de ese tipo de "recobro". El septiembre pasado realizaba 120 carros por hora, con 10,000 obreros. Este año, al momento de cambiar el modelo sólo acerca de 7000 obreros producían el mismo número de carros. Y ahora, después del cambio del modelo, la Chrysler ha sentado nueva maquinaria para nuevos modelos de carros los cuales requieren aún más trabajo, mientras se ha añadido el más mínimo número de obreros posible.

Junto con el apresuramiento que está pasando en todas plantas las compañías de auto también están usando todos otros metodos posibles para "recobrar" altas ganancias. No se repara bastante la maquinaria. Como resultado, durante los cuatros meses pasados se les mató a obreros en el curso de trabajo a tres plantas en el área de Detroit: La Sterling Stamping de Chrysler, la Sterling Axle de Ford y la Maintenance and Construcción Unit de Ford a River Rouge. También hay habido un gran aumento en el número de obreros perdiendo los dedos y las manos.

Además, de eso, los obreros son forzados a aguantar el ultraje de sobre-tiempo masivo en algunas plantas mientras millares de obreros de auto, incluso en el mismo local, quedan sin trabajo.

Ni la habladuría del recobro ni el frío manera de esos ataques puede esconder el hecho de que las tres grandes compañías de auto ahora se hallan en una situación desesperada. La competencia entre las compañías de auto y entre ellos y sus rivales extranjeros está creciendo más aguda. La meta más fundamental de esa riña es quien pueda producir a la taza de ganancia más lucrativa, pues que la renta de todas ha sido bajando. Les es necesario tener ganancias más altas para reemplazar la maquinaria para producir carros más pequeños, y comprar nueva tecnología para acelerar el paso de trabajo en los modelos existentes. Así tratan de expandir su porción de un mercado disminuyendo al costo de sus competidores.

Desde 1974 se han usado las grandes alzas de precios para mantener sus

ganancias. Pero esa solución ha llegado a ser menos y menos posible porque la gente ya no pueden comprar los carros de alto precio. Al fondo, la competencia entre las compañías es una competencia de explotación, de quien pueda sacar lo más del trabajo de los obreros de auto con el menos gasto.

Pero los obreros de auto no han aguantado todo eso sin resistir. Mientras crecen los ataques bárbaros, sube el enojo de los obreros de base. Batallas pequeñas han surgido en muchas plantas en Detroit y a través del país.

como parte de la lucha contra el apresuramiento y normas de trabajo.

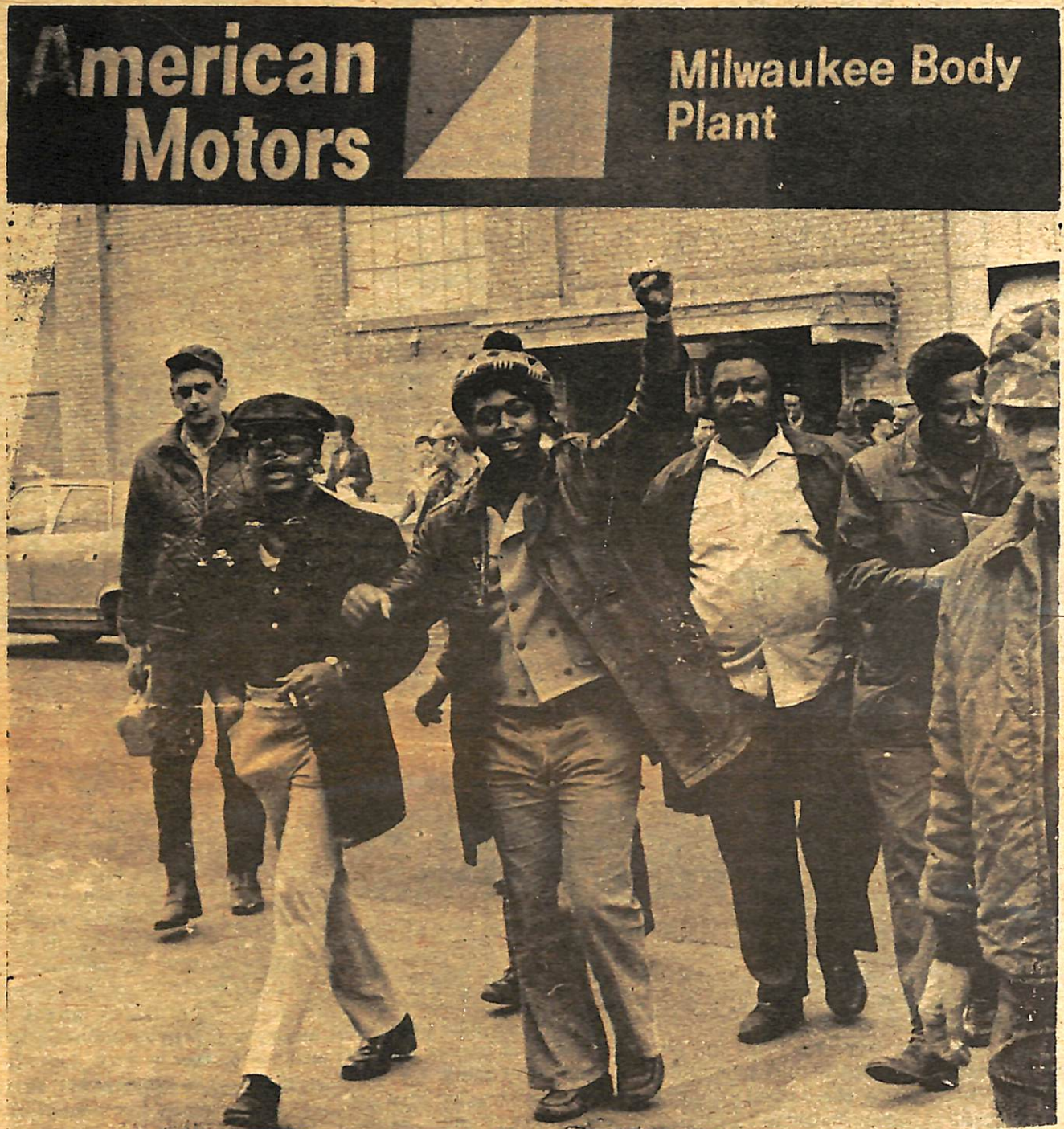
Una lucha semejante y muy significativa se llevó a cabo recientemente a la Ford en Mahwah, New Jersey. A esa planta se producen el Granada y el Monarch, dos carros bien importantes a la Ford. En un departamento los obreros tuvieron un mitín donde discutieron el apresuramiento vicioso, el atropello y la eliminación de trabajos. Pues que aprendieron las lecciones de un paro aplastado en 1973 en que participó sólo un departamento, resolvieron a

guridad.

4. Toda acción disciplinaria, incluso suspensiones, que se llevó a cabo desde el 1 de junio ya no tiene vigencia, con paga atrasada para todos los obreros efectuados.

5. La compañía acordó a suspender por 60 días, mientras se negocian otras quejas, la provision del contrato la cual prohíbe al loca' salir en huelga sin la autorización de la jefatura internacional de la unión.

Aunque la fecha vigente del punto quinto ya se ha vencido, la amenaza de una huelga



En cuanto a eso el liderato de la UAW, como los altos oficiales de todas las uniones mayores en los Estados Unidos, han jugado un papel bien importante por las compañías. Han hecho todo lo posible para llevar los obreros de fila a cajones sin salida y emboscadas. Les gustan decir, "Lo que sea bueno para la compañía es bueno para el obrero". A fin de cuentas, lo que quieren decir es que los obreros deben de apresurarse para ayudar a las compañías y el "recobro" de sus ganancias, y renir entre si mismos para las sobras.

Pero aunque esos lobos disfrazados como ovejas han sido un obstáculo difícil, no han podido prevenir que los obreros de fila se defiendan. A la planta Dodge Truck de Chrysler en el área de Detroit los obreros pusieron freno al plan de dividir y conquistar fomentado por los oficiales locales quienes querían hacer ilegales a tener puestos de union a los obreros suspendidos o despididos. Cincuenta obreros de la Michigan Truck de Ford piquetearon a la jefatura de la unión para adelantar la lucha para volver a trabajar obreros despididos y suspendidos quienes habían dirigido un paro de trabajo. A las plantas de GM en Saginaw, Michigan, y Wilmington, Delaware los obreros han votado por avisar a la compañía que son listos para irse en huelga,

llevar la lucha a toda la planta. Debido a sus esfuerzo tomó lugar un mitín de unión de la planta entera. Tres ciento gente participaron, votando unánimemente en favor de tener un voto de huelga el 9 de septiembre.

El voto resultó 2,462 en pro de declararse en huelga y 752 en contra. Aunque los oficiales de union empezaban a entorpecer las cosas, los obreros siguieron impulsandolas. Frente a la amenaza de huelga, la compañía trataba de fijar sobretiempo para aumentar el inventario. Pero eso sólo echó más coraje a los obreros y intensificaron su determinación por salir en huelga. Cada día el 90 por ciento de la mano de obra llevaban botones imprimidos con la sola palabra, HUELGA.

Enfrentada así, la compañía fue forzada a anunciar las siguientes concesiones el 1 de octubre:

1. La Ford acordó a despedir a su dirigente de la planta actual, indicando su "desacuerdo con sus prácticas de atropello."
2. No más sobrecargando de trabajos o eliminandolas.
3. La Ford acuerdo a empezar negociaciones para resolver todas las quejas tocante a las normas de trabajo y se-

local forzó a la compañía marcher atras un poco por 60 días. Fue una gran victoria, pues que una de las trampas usadas por las compañías y los oficiales de union es postergar toda acción después de un voto en favor de la huelga a un local y esperar hasta que la situación "se calma". Así los oficiales de la internacional y las compañías han trabajado codo con codo para atrasar la lucha en toda la industria. Lo que ahora se plantea es como desarrollar la lucha a base de tales victorias y no permitir que la compañía y sus lacayos de unión estasajar esas avances como ya se van tratando de hacer.

Todavía esas batallas en la industria de auto por lo más no son ligades y muchas son cortas. Pero más y más los obreros se están dando cuenta de que no hay ningun solución individual a la crisis. Más y más obreros señalan la cooperación entre la compañía y el liderato de unión.

Muchos obreros se van organizando para tomar la iniciativa en sus propios manos y mantenerla. Las pequeñas batallas actuales son el embrión de una lucha más amplia y conciente de los obreros, que seguramente surgirá en oposición al empuje desesperado para ganancias el cual los capitalistas llaman el "recobro". ■



# Trabajadores de Kraft atropellan los esquiroles y las cortes

Durante el verano, los obreros de una de las plantas de Kraft Foods en Allentown, PA., mantuvieron una lucha abierta para conseguir el derecho de reconocimiento de la unión.

En esa lucha, 1000 huelguistas demostraron como se debe tratar a los policías, sus reglas y esquiroles.

Cuando los obreros se declararon en huelga, Kraft consiguió que un juez diera una orden para limitar el piquete de los huelguistas permitiendo que los mayordomos y camiones cruzaran las líneas.

Desde el principio, los huelguistas dijeron, al diablo con los mandatos de la corte, no nos quedaremos sentados a depender de abogados, tampoco esperaremos por la NLRB.

Ellos se dieron cuenta de que necesitaban apoyo de otros obreros. Trabajadores del área respondieron contribuyendo con miles de dólares en apoyo a la huelga.

Un boicoteo local de Kraft foods se llevó a cabo en todo el valle de Lehigh y en una planta cercana de Kraft foods que tampoco tenían unión, se declararon en huelga por un día en solidaridad. En Bethlehem Steel en la ciudad de Pottstown, 1500 obreros se ofrecieron para hacer piquetes.

Este tipo de solidaridad de clase puso a los señores de Kraft muy preocupados, de manera que publicaron un artículo en un periódico local diciendo que la huelga había terminado, que los obreros debían volver a sus trabajos y que la policía estaría allí para proteger a los esquiroles, como lo expresó un obrero de Bethlehem, "Kraft está declarando la guerra a cada obrero de esta área."

Al otro día el sheriff y los esquiroles tuvieron que volverse cuando vieron a 400 huelguistas de Kraft y a otros obreros del piquete que estaban armados de gruesos palos.

Uno de los esquiroles le echó el auto encima a uno de los obreros el cual estaba en muletas, por lo que huelguistas le destrozaron el auto y le gatabatearon "ESQUIROL", en pintura roja las murallas de su casa.

Kraft consiguió una ley nueva y mejorada que ordena a los huelguistas a mantenerse a cuarto de milla de distancia de la planta.

El primer día, la ley tuvo su efecto con los oficiales de la unión diciendo "No hay nada que se pueda hacer". Pero al segundo día 150 obreros marcharon hasta las mismas puertas de Kraft,

mientras sus filas engrosaban hasta 300 obreros, marcharon decididos hasta los cuarteles de los Policías del Estado y les dieron una lección a los esquiroles antes que los policías pudieran rescatarlos.

Dos semanas mas tarde Kraft cedió a reconocer la unión UAW Local 1881, una verdadera victoria, empezando una fundación firme para lucha que viene. Los policías y esquiroles habían fallado.



POR LOS TRABAJADORES DE KRAFT FOODS, LA UNICA MANERA DE CONSEGUIR LA UNION ERA FUE NO DEAR ENTRARA LOS ESQUIROLES.

## DESEMPLEOS

CONTINUA DE LA PAGINA 1

arrestarles, la gente allí tanto les apoyaban que pudieron quedarse sueltos, cantando y haciendo discursos.

### NUEVA YORK

En Nueva York la marcha pasó por el área comercial de la calle catorce hasta la Unión Square. Millares de obreros de todas nacionalidades mostraban su solidaridad con la marcha. Frente al banco Chase Manhattan los piquetes gritaron, "Dice la gente obrera--que paguen los bancos y patrones." En su bandera tenía las palabras, "Crisis de la Ciudad--Al Diablo con los Bancos y las Ganancias--Que Paguen los Bancos y Capitalistas." Un representante de UWOC habló de la lucha por trabajos en esta ciudad y los despidos de obreros municipales. "Los bancos han realizado millones y ahora están tratando de salir de su crisis por modo de quitar el dinero de aquí para invertirlo en otra parte. Queremos trabajos, no despidos!" Después marcharon a Union Square, donde la primera "marcha de hambre" empezó en los años 1930's.

### MILWAUKEE

En Milwaukee la gente marchó en la lluvia fría. A pesar del tiempo muchos obreros juntaron la marcha, incluso obreros jóvenes y algunos estudiantes de secundaria. Al fin de la marcha hubo una asamblea en una sala, donde unos de los obreros jóvenes hablaron de como no había ningunos trabajos obtenibles a ellos menos que unos a McDonalds a un sueldo debajo del mínimo legal.

Una semana antes de la protesta el

dirigente de la oficina de desempleo había avisado que no podía reunirse con el UWOC. Le dijeron a él, "De todos modos, regresaremos." Más tarde ese cambió la mente cuando los obreros marcharon en la oficina y le confrontaron. Los obreros le quejaban de sus casos, y él respondía prometiendo resultados. El UWOC el dijo que regresaría si no fueron satisfechas sus promesas. Muchos de los esperando en las líneas le dijeron, "Bueno, apunta el nombre mío también."

El otro día había dos resultados. Se avanzó la fecha del examen de testigos de un obrero quien se había despedido por organizar una unión y ahora es miembro activo del UWOC. Otro persona recibió dos cheques que antes habían sido detenidos. Había dejados un trabajo de part-time para tomar un trabajo de tiempo completo y en seguida fue despedido. Por eso se le había negado sus beneficios de desempleo.

### DETROIT, CHICAGO

En Detroit había una tremenda respuesta a la acción. La gente en el centro fue conciente de la demanda y la marcha por trabajo, pues que se sentía mucho falta de trabajos allí.

La marcha se paró frente a una factoría pequeña para respaldar la lucha de un obrero expulsado. Confrontaron al patron para demandar que pagara el seguro de desempleo al obrero. El patron ordenó a sus gorillas a "traer la pistola." No obstante, los obreros le inmovilizaron a este, y le forzaron a escuchar. Le dijeron que el UWOC iba a pelear.

En Detroit recientemente se empezó a poner una pena de 13 semanas sin cheque a los quientes han sido echados de trabajo. El UWOC dice, "No pode-

mos vivir tres meses sin ningún ingreso!"

Se llevó a cabo un piquete muy animado frente a una oficina de desempleo en Chicago. En la semana anterior el UWOC habían repartido ojas sueltas a casi cada oficina en la ciudad, y cientos de obreros desempleados llevaban botones con la lema "Trabajos Ahorita" y la fecha de la manifestación. Al piquete un miembro de UWOC describió como desde años había sido empujado a trabajar 12 o 16 horas al día hasta que de repente la planta se cerró. Un obrero de la industria electrónica habló de la lucha contra las cesantías en esa industria.

### LOS ANGELES, SAN FRANCISCO

También en Los Angeles había una línea de piquete a la oficina de desempleo. Participaron acerca de 80 personas. Una señora había estado esperando desde las ocho de la mañana, cuando pensaba iba a comenzar, hasta las 9:30. Participaba todo el día, y al fin preguntó, "Cuando será la próxima acción?" La gente en las líneas respondió con entusiasmo a unos cantos muy buenos. Unos preguntaron, "Pues, que puede lograr cantando?" Pero como dijo un obrero, "Hey llevado tres años sin encontrar trabajo y lo que hey encontrado es el UWOC."

En el Área de la Bahía de San Francisco tres caravanas de carros desde San Jose, San Francisco y la Bahía de Este se juntaron en la playa de estacionamiento de un gran supermercado. Después tuvieron una concentración en un parque cercano. La caravana difundió millares de volantes y consiguió firmes en la petición de UWOC. Al parking, los miembros de UWOC hablaban con mucha gente y muchos se jun-

taron la protesta,

Un obrero joven habló de como era difícil encontrar trabajo y hasta vivir en una manera decente. Un veterano se dirigió a los problemas de los veteranos, a como un tercero de todos prisioneros son veteranos, y como les es tan difícil encontrar trabajo sobre todo debido al gran número de licencias deshonradas. Una mujer del Comité Organizador de Obreros de la Electronica habló de los millares de cesantes y la paga de hambre y condiciones pesimas en el trabajo en esa industria. Cantaron una pareja de clase obrera que se llama Prairie Fire, entre mucho aplauso.

El otro lunes se llevó a cabo una línea de piquete grande. Confrontaron al dirigente regional del seguro de desempleo. Este trataba de disculparse diciendo que había hecho todo lo posible. Le respondieron que no había hecho bastante, que debiera de avisar al gobierno y la industria que no hay trabajos, y estamos resueltos a tener trabajo, y hasta lo consigamos, seguro de desempleo. Una emisora en Oakland recordó y difundió la confrontación entre el UWOC y el director.

En Rochester, Nueva York, un obrero declaró, "Trabajaba una semana y de repente me despidieron. No puedo despedir a mi familia ni a mis cuentas. Por eso estoy aquí para luchar contra eso y todo el maldito sistema!" Eso fue un sentimiento común a las acciones de UWOC que también tomaron lugar en Cleveland, Cincinnati, Denver, Dayton, Portland, Seattle y otras ciudades.

Estas demostraciones están desarrollando nuestra fuerza. Pero todavía estamos empezando nomás. La lucha va siguiendo, y creciendo. ■



# EL OBRERO

Para el Area de Milwaukee y Wisconsin

enero, 1976

Vol.1

Numero 4



25¢

## La demanda resuena más fuerte: ¡Trabajos Ahora!



LOS OBREROS DESDE VARIAS INDUSTRIAS JUNTARON OTRO OBREROS EN VIENTE Y CINCO CIUDADES AL ATRAVÉS DEL CAMPO DEMANDAR TRABAJOS O INGRESOS

Ya se va agotando hasta el seguro de desempleo de los obreros despididos desde las Navidades de 1974, y todavía no hay trabajos obtenibles. En los diarios se lee las noticias sobre el aumento de comercio a las casas de empeños. Alcanza al 40 por ciento en Detroit a la Federal Collateral Society, según el gerente--40 por ciento más alto que hace dos años, y con la tasa de interés a tres por ciento por mes, o sea 36 por ciento al año! Nadie quiere dejar en prenda sus cosas, sobre todo a las Navidades, y cuando tiene que hacerlo es porque es el último recurso para conseguir un poquidito de dinero o una comida mejor para las fiestas. Eso muestra como están tratando de forzarnos a vivir.

En las ciudades principales durante las fiestas el Comité Organizador de Obreros Desempleados (UWOC) marchó en las calles para difundir las demandas de los desempleados: "Trabajos Ahora! Extiende las Extensiones! Que No Se Rebajen las Estampillas de Comida!"

Había marchas por las calles de distritos comerciales demostraciones frente a los supermercados, caravanas de carros alargando por las carreteras llevando decoraciones de carteles y la insignia del UWOC, confrontaciones a la oficina de un alcalde, piquetes adentro y afuera de las ofici-

nas de desempleo--todos mostrando la actitud firme de los desempleados. Como dijo una mujer a la oficina de desempleo a Germantown en Filadelfia, "Ya estamos harto de como van las cosas aquí. Vamos a bregar con eso, y ganaremos!"

Los espectadores escuchaban a las protestas y líneas de piquete. Aparecieron en las noticias en el radio y la TV. Pues, tenían que hacer caso, porque la gente prestaba atención.

La gente saludó a las acciones con puños alzados y tocas de bocina. A las oficinas de desempleo y en las calles muchos se juntaron a las marchas y manifestaciones.

### BIRMINGHAM, HOUSTON

En Birmingham, Alabama unos detectives trataron de impedir los manifestantes. Uno los tiro una taza de café a ellos, pero sin éxito. Los piquetes siguieron a confrontar al alcalde en su oficina, y la protesta apareció en la TV. El alcalde siempre pretende ser preocupado por el desempleo. El UWOC le pregunto--entonces porque mando la policía para atacar a la marcha?

Era la primera acción del UWOC en Houston, Tejas. Obreros empleados ya desempleados unieron, con acerca de 100 gente dentro de la oficina de desempleo. Aunque se les amenazaba a

Pase a la pagina 3

## EE.UU. Intenta Agarrar A Angola

Otra vez el gobierno de EE.UU. se ha metido en otro país donde no corresponde. Otra vez en los diarios se lee del "interés nacional" y menciones de "ayuda y consejeros militares" y "negativas oficiales". Otra vez le toca a la gente americana oponerse a las aventuras militares de la clase dominante.

Esta vez lo que los capitalistas americanos quieren tener bajo su control es Angola. Desde años el gobierno de EE.UU. ayudaba a Portugal para sostener su mando colonialista allá mientras sacaban provecho las corporaciones de EE.UU. Ahora han tomado parte en incitar una guerra civil entre las organizaciones las cuales habían luchado para librar Angola del colonialismo portugués.

El gobierno de EE.UU. ya admite que ha enviado \$25 millones en efectivo y armas durante los tres meses últimos pasados a la UNITA y el FNLA, los dos grupos que son respaldados por los EE.UU. Ya están enviando \$25 millones más, y aún más "consejeros." Los EE.UU. tiene como aliado el régimen racista y colono de Sudafrica, que ha invadido Angola y participado en la guerra.

La clase capitalista de EE.UU. tiene un rival en sus intentos para negar al pueblo de Angola su independencia y controlar el país. El rival es la Unión Soviética. Pues que ahora este

es capitalista y no socialista, es el competidor principal de los EE.UU. para el robo internacional.

Después de que se cumplió la victoria contra los portugueses y se formó un gobierno de coalición compuesto de los tres grupos, las superpotencias se metieron con motones de "ayuda" para aprovecharse de las diferencias entre las tres organizaciones. Anteriormente nunca prestaban ayuda consecuente.

Los soviéticos han llevado mucha ayuda a una organización, el MPLA. Han echado armas, tanques, cohetes y hasta aviones de MiG a Luanda, la ciudad capital de Angola. También han traído 5000 tropas de Cuba, cuya economía es gravada con una hipoteca a los capitalistas soviéticos. Su líder Fidel Castro ha prometido, "Nosotros cubanos jamás seremos desleales ni desagradecidos" a Breznev y compañía.

Para justificar lo que está haciendo cada superpotencia apunta al involucramiento de la otra y sus partidarios. Pero las dos están en busca del control sobre la tremenda riqueza de Angola y su situación estratégica. Angola tiene petróleo, oro, diamantes, hierro y otros minerales, además de una tierra y clima tan buenas que ya es el tercero productor del café en el mundo. Su situación es importante para puertos navales en el Atlántico del sur y para influir todo el cono sureño de Africa.

Mientras la guerra en Angola está siguiendo el involucramiento de EE.UU. está creciendo. Hay un gran debate dentro de la clase dominante americana tocante a como mejor proceder, pero son todos listos para sacrificar las vidas de millares de la gente de Angola para servir sus intereses. Depiende en lo que pasa, podrían mandar tropas americanas allá para reenforzar sus

intentos.

La única solución a esa guerra en Angola es que deban de quitarse las dos superpotencias y los otros países que son sus aliados. Que dejen en paz al pueblo de Angola para resolver sus discordias.

Más y más el sentimiento de la gente americana está por impedir que el gobierno nuestro taje otro país.■



LAS TROPAS AFRICA DEL SUR INVADEN ANGOLA