

# THE WORKER

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## WE'VE CARRIED THE RICH FOR 200 YEARS-LET'S GET THEM OFF OUR BACKS!

Recently over five hundred people attended two important conferences in the East and Midwest to help plan for the big demonstration in Philadelphia on July 4th. A conference for the South will take place in May. These conferences are called by the July 4th Coalition (composed of Vietnam Veterans Against the War, Unemployed Workers Organizing Committee, the Revolutionary Student Brigade and the Revolutionary Communist Party). Workers came from steel and auto plants in the Midwest, from the garment sweatshops of the East, from the coalfields of West Virginia and Kentucky, and from the Meatcutters strike lines in Milwaukee. People came out of the thick of numerous struggles of veterans, young people, the fight for jobs. Everyone left the conferences more determined than ever to organize thousands of people to go to Philadelphia under the banner, "We've Carried the Rich for 200 Years-Let's Get Them Off Our Backs!" and to hit hard at the rulers of the country around two of the most important issues facing the people: the fight for jobs or income now and the fight against new war preparations.

The kickoff speaker at the East Coast conference in Philadelphia spoke about why people had come, "Why are we going to Philadelphia? Just look around. It starts with ten million of us being unemployed and walking the streets--cast off like garbage, like used up machinery. But it doesn't end there. Look in our schools and factories--backbreaking speedup, chained to machines. And



more, cities falling apart, schools closing, discrimination, thousands of abuses that slap us in the face!"

People came to the conferences because they are involved in struggles

**DEMONSTRATE JULY 4th  
COME TO PHILADELPHIA**

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## STRIKE VOTE SCHEDULED STRUGGLE GROWS AT AMERICAN MOTORS

For the first time in 5 years a strike vote is on the agenda for workers at AMC's body plant on Richards street. And at the southside parts plant workers overwhelmingly voted to authorize a strike over unsettled grievances. These actions are part of the growing rank and file resistance to vicious company attacks.

In one of many such attacks, supervisors, I.E. men (productivity experts), and the labor relations big shots have spent 5 months breathing down the necks of the lead torchers. The torchers have been riding the line to resist an increase in their work load.

On the floor below that, a worker with 18 years seniority was written up, given a 3 day layoff and is on the road to being fired because he can't keep up with the sped-up line.

After the most recent line speed change workers with almost 20 years seniority found their jobs eliminated, and became floaters, doing whatever they were assigned each day.

At the parts plant, AMC is dishing out

harassment in the form of write-ups and disciplinary layoffs. Not long ago a worker with 29 years seniority was briefly fired for refusing to drive a jeep without a light into a dark area. Other brothers have been fired for not being in their work area 45 seconds after the buzzer.

Combined with the increase in harassment and speed up is the loss of jobs. Sub contracting or packaging work to non-union shops like E.E. & Hempe, was the issue that sparked the strike vote at the parts plant. Up at the body plant anger has been growing for five months over AMC's shipping of 60 carpet department jobs to the low wage non-union, south.

Job losses are also hitting AMC workers in Kenosha, where the company has been shipping out press dies to a lower paying stamping plant in West Virginia.

All these attacks are coming as AMC's fortunes sink in the intensely competitive auto industry. When corporate big shots at AMC's headquarters in Detroit saw that American Motors' percentage of

sales in the industry was falling, the word was passed to the top brass in Wisconsin: tighten the screws another turn. Roy Chapin AMC chairman was quoted in a newspaper article saying that "high profits performance" in the most recent quarter resulted from "cost cutting measures." The results were felt on the assembly line and in the profits charts.

In the face of all this AMC workers have fought back in many ways: a sit-down over freezing temperatures in the paint booths, threat of a wildcat over repair job eliminations, petitions against

arbitrary shift changes in Kenosha, and hundreds wearing buttons against speed up in Milwaukee.

Auto workers are fighting speed up and harassment in a thousand individual ways - from going down the line and letting work go by undone, to demanding an hour's pay by writing up a foreman caught working, and going into the lunch room to see a steward. Many more workers are coming forward at union meetings to speak out against the abuses and demand action.

Along with all the rank and file action  
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**MEATCUTTERS  
STRIKE ENDS  
SEE PAGE 3**

# WHAT'S BREWING IN BEER CITY



## JULY 4th PLANNING MEETING GREAT MEATCUTTER SAYS

The conference in Cincinnati was the greatest conference I have ever participated in. It was a great experience seeing workers unite and combine their feelings and opinions on how we are being attacked on every hand by the capitalist system and how we can do away with this system.

The tension in the school building was like water boiling in a pot with the top on it chained down. At the beginning of the first day workers from the coalfields, auto plants, steel mills, unemployed workers, and others got up to give a short statement of solidarity with the July 4th Coalition. As a meatcutter I had to announce the presence of the meatcutters at the conference. Before I could get the word meatcutter out of my mouth my class comrades were like

a standing army. A sudden burst of loud clapping rang out like I had just finished a 15 round bout with Ali. The clapping lasted 5 or 6 minutes. It was great to see so many workers realizing the struggle of the meatcutters and our whole class.

A speaker summed up and crystallized the understanding that workers brought to the conference drawing out what it means for us to carry the rich and bringing out that only the working class has the potential power to break through their system whose crisis is daily making them a heavier burden on our backs.

"We've carried the rich for 200 years. Let's get them off our backs!" rang out like a thousand cannons echoing out in Death Valley.

I believe people left the conference with a better grasp of the tasks that face us in building the campaign to demonstrate in Philadelphia on July 4th and to build all our battles and weld them into a conscious movement of the working class against capitalism.

## Demonstrate in Philadelphia, July 4th!

The July 4 Coalition has called for four days of action and a tent city of the unemployed to dramatize our demands: Jobs or Income! and We Won't Fight in Another Rich Man's War!

We will be in Philadelphia from July 1 to 4 to stand firmly in opposition to the Bicentennial charade and to strip the star spangled mask off the faces of the rich on the day they celebrate the birthday of their rule.

Join all of us who fight day to day for survival in the factories, mines unemployment centers, campuses and communities as we bring together our struggles and build a movement to get the rich off our backs.

### July 4th Coalition

Initiated by Vietnam Veterans Against the War, Unemployed Workers Organizing Committee, Revolutionary Communist Party and Revolutionary Student Brigade.

For more information call: 445-5816 On to Philadelphia!

# 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 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:

RCP, USA  
Box 3486  
Merchandise Mart  
Chicago, IL

The Worker for the Milwaukee Area and Wisconsin  
Box 08305  
Milwaukee, WI 53208

# NEW PRICING CODES COST JOBS

Many people are wondering what the small box of lines and numbers on food packages are. For the high school kids who bag groceries and mark prices on packages, for the women who stand behind the check-out counter, they mean one thing--the loss of jobs! For all working people, they represent one more attack by the rich.

The owners of the large grocery store chains are testing equipment and starting to promote the new "money saving, time saving" invention called the Universal Product Code (UPC). Instead of ringing up the price of each item, the check-out clerk will run the code on each item over a special window. The price will automatically be picked up by a computer. Cashiers will also be able to bag items at the same time they slide the food over the window, which means no baggers will be needed. The stock boys will not have to mark each item. This will cut out more than 40% of the work that stock boys do.

The new system also means that working people will have a harder time making sure they get the most for their dollar. Grocers will only have to show the price of each product on one label on the shelf. And these labels are often inaccurate and confusing. In Wisconsin grocery store chains have not agreed to continue marking prices and have lobbied to prevent legislation which would force them to.

The store owners claim that this will save shoppers money and time. The cost of installing this check-out system for an 8 lane store is \$125,000. The big chain stores like Kohls, Jewel or Pic and Save have to stay competitive with each other. So when one makes this investment the others are forced to. And who ends up paying for this investment? Working people who lose their jobs and who pay a few cents more for each grocery item.

In Boston, where this system was installed at a "Big Buy", the store has cut back from 12 check-out counters to 8, and the number of employees has been cut down. The manager says he likes the new system because it makes it easier to keep track of the level of productivity of his employees. "It used to take hours of work with a stop watch, but now it can all be done with a computer."

As long as we're living in a system where automation "frees up" workers to join the unemployment lines, this technological advance means one more attack on the working class. Now more than ever, jobs are impossible to find, especially for young people who work as stock boys. Working people want to see price tags, not those stupid lines, when they shop.

This new invention leaves us just one choice. Fight for jobs and tell the store owners what they can do with their computerized check-out machines!

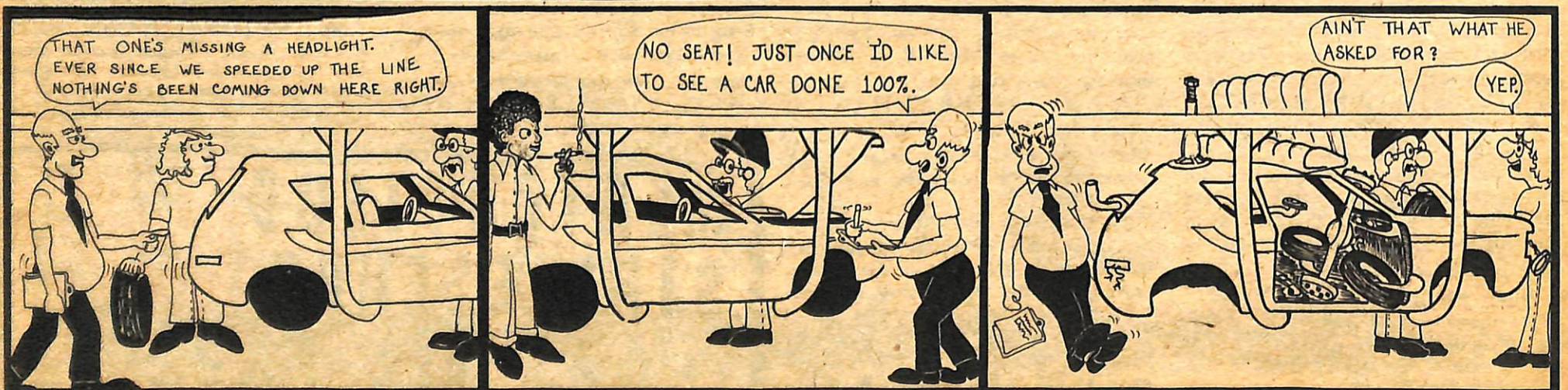


NBC recently ran a special on the Scottsboro Boys. They were nine Black youth framed in the 30's on a rape charge. Their defense became a campaign taken up by workers throughout this country and the world. The campaign to free them was led by the old Communist Party, when it was revolutionary.

In the movie, NBC told us that the

Scottsboro Boys were freed by the "courageous" actions of a judge and the eventual justice of the system. But this is far from the truth.

The Scottsboro Boys were freed because workers demanded it. This 1934 May Day march of 50,000 in New York and the many other actions taken in defense of the Scottsboro Boys are what NBC never talked about.



# THE STRUGGLE CONTINUES MEATCUTTERS STRIKE OVER

On April 25, the striking meatcutters of local 248 voted 219 to 76 to return to work without a contract and no guarantee that all the strikers would get called back. After 15 months of struggle their best choice was to go back to work. Despite the combined efforts of the Meatpacking Association, the press, courts, police, and NLRB the men and women of local 248 walked together for 15 months. Their determination and fight was an inspiration to thousands of workers throughout the area, many of whom rallied behind the strikers. While the fight to defend this union and to stop a wage cut has been temporarily set back, the working class made many gains in this struggle.

The struggle will now shift to the boning lines, trimming tables and kill floors of Peck, Wisconsin, Donner and the other houses. As the union men are called back to work, the fight will be to protect seniority, against harassment and to begin re-organizing. For those fired and those not hired back, the fight will be for Jobs or Income Now!

The day following the back-to-work vote, the strikers came out to the union hall to fill out letters of their intent to go back. The meatcutters could have said, "Forget the union, hell, I'll just go down to the plant and beg for my job." But the men and women who have struck for 15 long months weren't about to go back on their knees. Almost everyone reapplied for work through the union hall and re-signed union cards. The 248 members remember how hard it was inside those plants with a union. They know it would be impossible without one. The spirit was "We all went out together, we'll go back together."

The experience gained will be an important source of strength in the fight to re-organize. The meatcutters have seen the many faces of capitalism up close. It was the system of maximum profits that forced the men and women of local 248 to take a stand 15 months ago. It was fight or be crushed and the packinghouses choose to fight. It is the same system which causes unemployment.

In their drive for profit, the capitalists maintain a large pool of unemployed workers. They attempt to pit these jobless workers against those



MORE WORKERS RALLIED BEHIND THIS STRIKE THAN ANY OTHER LOCAL WORKERS BATTLE IN THE LAST 30 YEARS. FROM MASS RALLIES LIKE THE ONE ABOVE, TO BUCK-A-MONTH CLUBS, CLASS SOLIDARITY GREW.

with jobs to drive down everyone's wages.

And it was this same system which provided police protection to the scabs and court room enforcement to union busting through NLRB rulings and anti-worker injunctions.

The strikers saw that when you're up against an all-out attack, you have to go all out to fight back. And whenever they got a chance, they did just that. From mass militant picket lines, to boycott activity, to marches with the unemployed, the strikers knew fight was the name of the game.

But the rank and file never had leadership of the struggle. Those officials who pushed reliance on the system kept sidetracking the struggle into some court case or reliance on politicians. With the coming battles for jobs, seniority, union recognition and against harassment, meatcutters know they can't rely on the NLRB or a "good case in court". After 15 months with this losing strategy, it's clear that the working man's main strength is his own unity and action. No well dressed politician or judge is

going to keep the foreman and scabs off the strikers backs once they return to work.

Meatcutters even came up against the influence of capitalism in their own union. The top officers of the International think and act like corporation heads with the money and organization they control. They led the union to officially rely on the very same system that was attacking the workers jobs and wages. Always they advised that the best defense against union busting was the legal maneuvering of the union lawyers and negotiators.

They told the strikers to let the scabs go through the picket lines, untouched. The battle for them would be in the courtroom. While the strikers wanted to take action, and often did, the traitors at the top always put a clamp on it. They even kicked many of the most militant fighters off the line. And while the men and women walked the lines in Milwaukee, the officials allowed thousands of tons of scab meat to be worked on by members of the Amalgamated in Chicago.

The top bosses, around the city--including the local newspaper editorial writers--are using the meatcutters' strike to say that it is not worth it to fight back, you will only strike yourself out of a job. They point to the outcome of this battle, chuckle and shake their heads. But exactly the opposite point comes out of the meatcutters strike. The lesson of this battle is not that we shouldn't fight but that we must fight harder with a better understanding of our enemy and better understanding, organization and mobilization of our strength--the thousands of workers whose sweat and blood creates the wealth of the nation.

More workers rallied behind this strike than any local workers' battle in the last 30 years. From mass rallies to buck-a-month clubs, class solidarity grew.

The lessons and inspiration of this battle will go a long way toward preparing workers for what lies ahead--in the packing houses and in every

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## PRESIDENTIAL SWEEPSTAKES: A JOKE

Wisconsin's April 6th primary and city and county elections generated about as much enthusiasm as Ronald McDonald opening a new hamburger joint. And most of the campaigning was just as clownish.

Every election year, whether it's for national, state or city offices, the ruling class makes a big deal about voting. They say voting is a "right", a "duty"--even a "privilege." They say here's our chance to choose how the country is going to be run for the next four

years.

But the working class doesn't have a choice. Let's look at the candidates in '76:

In the Presidential sweepstakes on the Republican side, we could choose between tweedle dum and tweedle dee.

President Ford, alias Smiling Jerry, blew into town, ate dinner with a bunch of Milwaukee's biggest businessmen at Mader's, and visited a farm up north. At the farm, a cow took it upon herself to "speak" for most of us when she

dumped on him.

Ronald Reagan claimed to be broke and never even showed up, although he managed to have television ads on every night. Ronnie probably didn't want a repeat of his welcome in Oshkosh when he was pelted with eggs.

On the Democratic side, Jimmy Carter, Morris Udall, George Wallace, and Henry Jackson all showed up, and finished in that order.

Carter spent most of his time flashing his pepsodent smile at plant gates, especially Milwaukee, Kenosha, and Janesville auto plants, and in "small farm country." This took a lot of nerve, since he is for right to work laws, runs a non-union shop of his own in Georgia, and has an operation worth plenty in his so-called "small, family-owned" peanut farm.

Morris Udall made a big deal about once being a basketball player but had the ball stolen April 7th when he woke up and the final returns had come in--giving the victory to Carter. Mo's campaigning centered around his "four point program" --J-O-B-S. With the \$2.30 an hour public service jobs he and other members of Congress are supporting to "put America back to work", you take away the JO and get what the program really is-- a lot of BS.

George Wallace received little support for his "I'm for the little guy" routine. He conveniently showed up at Serb

Hall during the Friday Fish Fry, assuring himself a "crowd" of "supporters."

Henry Jackson, or Senator Boeing, or Senator Let's Go to War, finished fourth--and last--among the "major" candidates. So much for his being the "workingman's friend."

A lot was said during the campaign about Carter straddling the fence on issues and "not taking a stand." The fact is, neither Carter nor any other presidential candidate is a "fence sitter." All want to "appeal" to as many people as possible, and often sound like they are talking out of both sides of their mouths. But each has taken a firm stand on only one side of the fence--for and with the ruling class and its interests.

The city and county elections were just as much of a joke. Mayor Maier won against someone who didn't even campaign. A couple of alderman were up for corruption charges. One, Ted Stude, had the gall to run for re-election. Did he expect those who did vote to return him to office so he could keep on ripping off?

Another guy who got caught was Supervisor Donald Kennedy, of "they-beat-me-up-no-they-didn't- yes- they-did" fame. He claimed to be locked up somewhere "resting" and didn't have the guts to face anyone. Instead, he had his

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# EDITORIAL: WHAT "RECOVERY"?

Recently big newspaper headlines declared some nonsense about "total economic recovery" being already here. This must have been good news on Wall Street, but if you've been unemployed for six, ten or 18 months and all you can find are \$2.30 an hour jobs, or if you're an auto worker laid off one week and facing brutal speedup the next, you know this wasn't worth the paper it was printed on.

They can talk all they want about the recession "bottoming out" but the fact is that the recovery they are talking about is nothing more than a temporary slowdown in their deepening crisis. There will be no recovery.

Ruling class economists admit to a 7.5% unemployment rate and production remains at only 70-75% of capacity.

We're supposed to believe the "hard times" are behind us and "good times" are ahead while millions remain unemployed and for those who are working, wages at the end of the week barely pay the bills. According to government figures, the cost of living for a family of four has gone up \$4,600 in the last four years.

The capitalists point toward increases in auto sales and retail department store sales as proof of a turn toward prosperity. Increased consumer spending is leading to a few new orders to replenish the stocks that have been sitting on shelves and in showrooms for years. As a result, production has cranked up a bit and a few people have been put to work, even while layoffs continue elsewhere.

First of all, the increase in consumer spending has been artificially stimulated by an enormous expansion of private debt and by government tax cuts and credits. Consumer credit--what people owe for their cars, home improvements, furniture, etc.--jumped 45% in January over December.

The capitalists read this as an "expression of confidence" that people have in the economy. What it actually means is that people are locked into debt payments that are bound to restrict spending in the future.

What's more, the two million or so jobs that have been added since the low point of 1974 are less than the number needed to employ the new people who enter the work force every year, let alone absorb the millions laid off in '74 and '75. The majority of new hires are women forced to take low paying jobs, often while their husbands remain unemployed or work for lower real wages.

The overall weakness can be seen in the key area of the production of new plants and equipment. In these industries, production has declined for three years in a row and is continuing to fall off more in the first three months of 1976. By their own economists' projections, U.S. capitalists will be short several billion dollars on the amount necessary to keep up their industries. This and not the slight upswing in consumer spending points to the real state of the capitalists' crisis.

It's competition that drives all corporations to invest in more and more

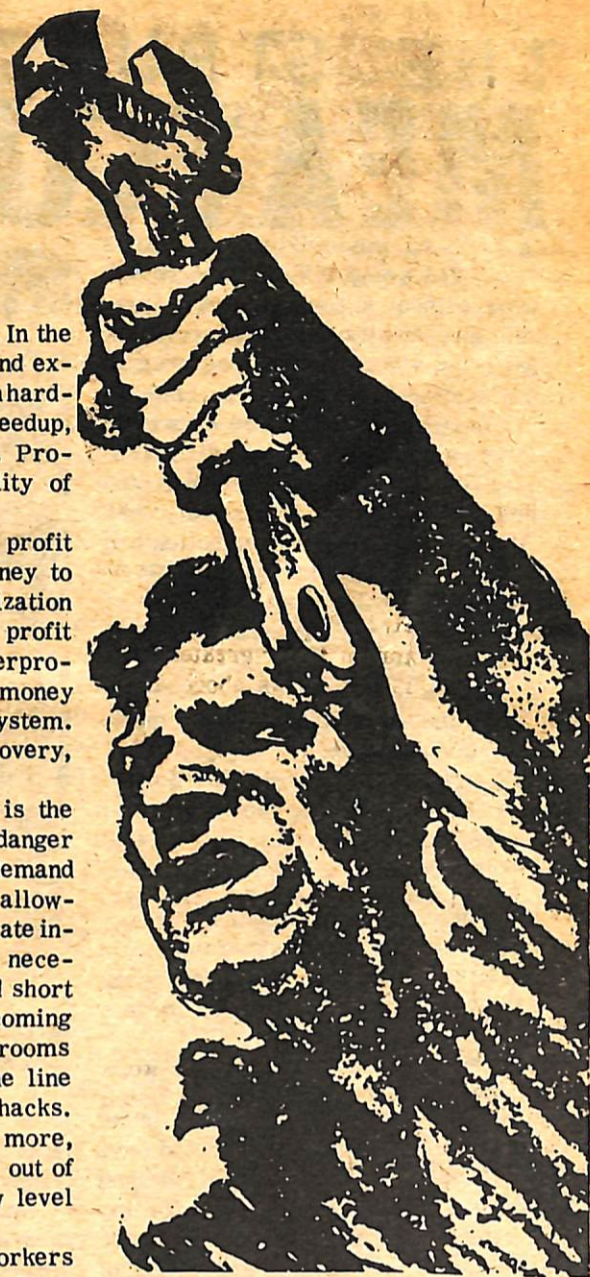
modern and expensive machines. In the drive to pay for modernization and expansion, the capitalists come down harder on the workers through speedup, forced overtime and harassment. Production races ahead of the ability of workers to purchase things.

The capitalists can't make a profit when workers don't have the money to buy. The high price of modernization continually drives the rate of profit down. Increasing competition, overproduction, and long term shortage of money for investment are built into the system. No matter what they say about recovery, the crisis is here to stay.

The capitalists claim that it is the working class that is the main danger to recovery. They warn that any demand for increased wages, cost of living allowances or job security will accelerate inflation, cut into corporate profits necessary for economic expansion and short circuit recovery. The message coming down from the corporate boardrooms is relayed by everyone from the line foremen to the international union hacks. They say work faster, produce more, and ask for less--and we'll roll out of this latest recession into a new level of prosperity for all.

But their efforts to grind workers are no solution for the working class. Sacrificing for the capitalists' profits will win nothing but increased misery.

The capitalists system is going downhill, but the working class isn't going down with it. Workers can see from daily experience that all the recovery



talk amounts to very little. And even though the "tighten your belt" propaganda of the capitalists is getting louder, the basic fact is that in this situation the working class must and will fight back. ■

## CONTINUING REVOLUTION IN CHINA

Sharp struggle is now going on in the People's Republic of China. Mass meetings are being held in factories, agricultural communes and schools. Big character posters, signs and slogans are being put up in public spots. Demonstrations and counter-demonstrations are being held, in one case at least, leading to the outbreak of fistfights and the burning of several cars and buildings. Former Deputy Premier Teng Hsiao-ping, who has been the focus of much of this struggle, has been dismissed from all his posts.

All this is just the latest battle in a massive struggle which has been going on over there for years. Ten years ago the Cultural Revolution broke out in which hundreds of millions of people from every corner of the country rebelled, kicked out Liu Shao-chi, who was the President, and greatly changed the face of China. A few years ago there was a big movement against Lin Biao, who was the former Vice-Chairman of the Chinese Communist Party and also led a coup attempt.

What does all this tremendous ferment and turmoil mean?

For thousands of years the Chinese people were enslaved by first one set of rulers, then another. Imperialist countries plundered the people leaving China a backward country. Things were so bad that in many cities carts made their rounds in the early morning to pick up the dead bodies of those who had starved the night before. Drought ravished the country side, followed many times by massive floods. Millions were unemployed.

### WORKERS AND PEASANTS RULE CHINA

The Chinese people were told by these rulers, "This is the way things were meant to be. Misery and starvation are your lot. Things will never change." But oppression led to resistance. Led



WORKERS LIKE AT THE KIANGNAN SHIPYARD ARE CONTINUING TO BUILD THE REVOLUTION IN CHINA.

by a Communist Party that applied Marxism-Leninism to the actual conditions, the Chinese people overthrew these reactionaries in 1949. In making this revolution the Chinese people refuted the idea that "things can never change."

The revolution brought the working class into power. The masses of people seized control and ownership of the means of production--the factories, mines, railroads and the land. They set up their own state, one which meant real democracy and power for the masses

of people for the first time, while at the same time enforcing a dictatorship over the old exploiters to prevent them from regaining their rule.

Standing kneedeep in the backwardness left by the capitalist world the Chinese working class led by the Communist Party, set out to transform all of society. Their goal was to overcome all the ulcers left over from capitalism; to establish a communist society, a community of workers where class distinctions are a thing of the past.

Moving step by step towards this great goal the working people in China have made tremendous advances in the last 27 years. Unemployment and starvation have been wiped out. Prices are stable, there is no inflation. Schooling is universal. Where there was once drought, there are irrigated fields. Agriculture is becoming mechanized. Industry is growing up every where. The working class is the master of its own destiny and proudly produces, for the betterment of all humanity and not for the enrichment of a handful of parasites.

But do all these tremendous changes mean that the capitalists have been eliminated? Not yet. As Lenin, leader of the workers' revolution in Russia, once said, "When a revolution takes place, it does not happen as in the case of the death of an individual, when the deceased person is simply removed. When the old society perishes, you can not nail the corpse of bourgeois society into a coffin and lower it into the grave. It disintegrates in our midst; the corpse rots and poisons us."

Although it has come a long way, the Chinese revolution is still not complete. And there is even the danger of socialism being overthrown and replaced again by capitalism. This is what happened in the Soviet Union. At the same time the working class moves forward it must still clear out the corpse of the old society. And the problems left

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# MAYDAY - A BIG ADVANCE

Fellow Workers:

Today these May Day celebrations are being held in twenty cities and more all over this country, involving several thousands of workers, just as May Day is being celebrated worldwide by millions of our class.

Today as we gather across this country in many cities, we are men and women of many nationalities and all ages. We work everywhere in many different places, and many of us spend long stretches unable to get work.

But for all these differences, what we have in common is far greater. We are members of one class above all else. In common we produce the great wealth of this country and make it run. In common we are exploited and oppressed. We face a common situation and have a common destiny. We share a determination not to be crushed, but to wipe out all oppression and bring down the system of wage slavery that gives rise to it.

And this year, reflecting the advances in the struggle toward that goal, the

working class for the first time in more than twenty years has its own party, the Revolutionary Communist Party, dedicated to the task of uniting the battles of our class and leading them toward that aim.

May Day sums up our situation, sums up our desire to fight through, and projects our plan to move forward in that fight. And this year, each May Day event across the country is being held with common demands and slogans, and will be an important step in building more united and more conscious struggle of our class nationwide.

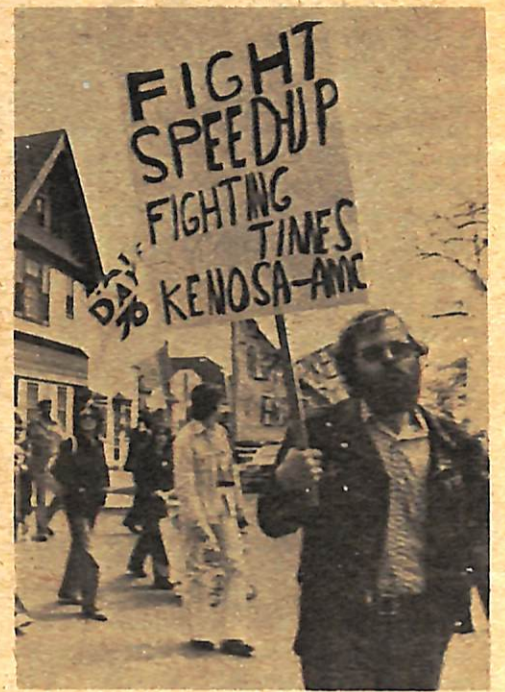
May Day is about building our working class movement. It reflects and helps to advance and unite each one of the battles we fight against the thousand outrages and abuses they heap upon us. This year, the ruling class of capitalists is bellowing out its lies on the occasion of its Bicentennial celebration. So this year, we will meet this, just as we meet all its attacks, head on and demonstrate July 4th in Philadelphia, in an action that will also proclaim and build the movement of our

class.

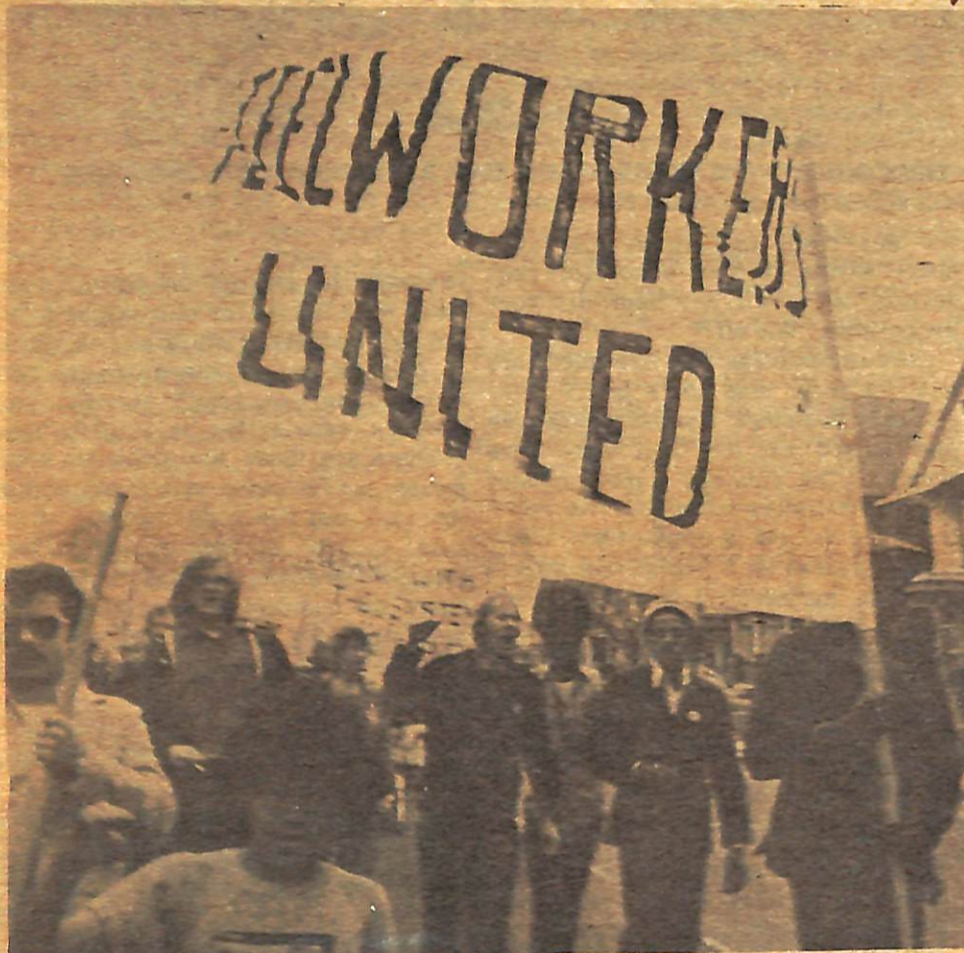
May Day has historically been a day of struggle, when workers put down their tools, struck and demonstrated in defiance of the capitalists. For that reason, the capitalists hate it. They have tried to replace it by offering the workers Labor Day, when their spokesmen the so-called labor leaders get a chance to give blow-hard speeches, pledging their allegiance to the capitalist system.

But May Day, like our struggle, can not be stopped. It has been born again and expanded. And in the not too distant future, workers in this country will be joining others around the world in making the capitalists' profit factories stop on May Day and declaring our determination not just to be masters for one day, but masters of society and creators of a bright future where class exploitation and oppression will have been finally eliminated.

Central Committee  
Revolutionary Communist Party



AUTO WORKERS FROM FIGHTING TIMES TOOK TO THE STREETS TO JOIN IN THIS YEAR'S MAY DAY.



ALL OVER THE WORLD, WORKERS MARCHED ON MAY FIRST TO PROCLAIM THE DEMANDS, UNITY, AND POTENTIAL OF THE WORKING CLASS. HERE IN MILWAUKEE OVER TWO HUNDRED WORKERS TOOK UP THE BANNERS OF "FIGHT DON'T STARVE!" "WORKERS UNITE TO LEAD THE FIGHT AGAINST ALL OPPRESSION!" AND "DOWN WITH THE SYSTEM OF WAGE SLAVERY!" MARCHING DOWN HOLTON STREET, CONTINGENTS OF STEEL, AUTO, PACKINGHOUSE, UNEMPLOYED, AND OTHER WORKERS TOOK THEIR MESSAGE OF STRUGGLE TO THE PEOPLE OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD.



THE HATERD OF THE SYSTEM AND THE DAILY FIGHTS AGAINST IT WERE ALL COMBINED IN ONE MIGHTY EXPRESSION OF WORKING CLASS POWER. MEMBERS OF THE UNITED MAY DAY COMMITTEE HAD TAKEN POSTERS, A MAY DAY SLIDE SHOW, AND OVER 25,000 LEAFLETS TO THEIR BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN SHOPS AROUND THE CITY. THESE THOUSANDS WHO FACE SPEED UP, WAGE CUTS, UNION BUSTING, AND HARASSMENT, WERE THE PEOPLE WHO MADE MAY DAY A BIG STEP FORWARD IN THE STRUGGLE.



UNEMPLOYMENT, THE CONSTANT NAGGING SORE OF CAPITALISM WAS A BIG FOCUS OF THIS YEAR'S MAY DAY MARCH. CHANTING "FIGHT, DON'T STARVE!" THE CONTINGENT OF UNEMPLOYED WORKERS LED BY THE UNEMPLOYED WORKERS ORGANIZING COMMITTEE PROUDLY TOOK THEIR PLACE ALONG WITH THE REST OF THE WORKING CLASS ON HOLTON STREET MAY FIRST.



FORCED BUSING IS A DIVIDE AND CONQUER SCHEME DESIGNED TO CUT-BACK ON THE EDUCATION OF THE WORKING CLASS. THE MAY DAY MARCH MADE THE SLOGAN "WORKERS UNITE TO LEAD THE FIGHT AGAINST ALL OPPRESSION" A LIVING REALITY AS WORKERS STOOD STRONG FOR THE UNITY OF OUR CLASS AND AGAINST ANY AND ALL ATTACKS ON THE EDUCATION OF OUR YOUTH.

ANOTHER BIG CHANT THE MARCHERS TOOK UP WAS 1,2,3,4, WE WON'T FIGHT ANOTHER RICH MAN'S WAR!

THE WEEKS OF BUILDING FOR MAY DAY, THE MARCH, AND THE RALLY AFTER THE MARCH COMBINED TO MAKE A POWERFUL STATEMENT OF OUR DETERMINATION TO FIGHT THIS SYSTEM UNTIL WE SUCCEEDED IN FREEING OURSELVES FROM THE CHAINS OF WAGE SLAVERY.

# DETROIT & N.J. WORKERS SLAM FORD CO. ON SAFETY & SPEEDUP

With the auto contract coming up in a few months, auto workers are stepping up their resistance to auto company attacks. In March, workers hit hard at the Ford Motor Company at two different plants, one in the Detroit area and the other in New Jersey. This vigorous resistance helps to heat things up and strengthen the hand of the workers as the contract expiration draws near.

Safety conditions were a key issue at the Ford Sterling Axle Plant in Sterling Heights, Mich., where five workers have lost their lives in the past few years. The most recent was just a few months ago when a new hire was run over by a train because of bad lighting and bad brakes on his forklift.

Stacked up safety violations combined with other issues--foremen working, messing with job classifications, etc.--led to the strike.

A foreman on midnight shift in Dept. 16 threw a heavy metal gear housing at a worker, hurting his legs so badly he is still on crutches. Enough was enough. The department walked, staying out for two nights. The union committee stood by the workers.

At the next union meeting on Feb. 29, nearly 400 workers jammed the hall. They made clear that they would strike--with or without the local leadership. On March 9, the workers voted 3,461 to 441 to strike, setting a deadline for Wednesday, March 24. Meanwhile, UAW International leaders stepped in to take over negotiations. On the Tuesday before, the officials broke off negotiations with Ford, intending to give them an extension.

Ford workers had seen this re-run before. They had a better idea--day shift walked at 10 A.M. Wednesday, with the union officials running behind them saying, "Oh, I guess we're on strike." After six days, and some sell-out maneuvering by the union officials, the strike brought some results. Workers forced Ford to hire on 80 more workers for production, clean up and maintenance (including 22 skilled work-



AUTO WORKERS FROM AROUND THE COUNTRY PICKETED AT THE UAW BARGAINING CONVENTION IN DETROIT DEMANDING A FIGHT FOR A DECENT 1976 CONTRACT.

ers to repair machinery), more frequent inspection and repair of forklifts and other safety measures. The company has 60 days to show improvement or the workers can give five days notice and take another walk, an important clause that will have real meaning only if the rank and file can keep the initiative they developed in the strike.

At the Ford Pinto operation in Metuchen, New Jersey, things blew after Ford laid off 400 workers the last week of February. When overtime was scheduled for the first day after the layoffs, March 1, a couple of dozen workers punched out after eight hours and headed for home. The next night, they spread the word and pretty much every-

one was ready to walk off after eight hours, saying, "If Ford wants more production, well, hell, let them hire back the guys they laid off."

Ford backed off quick--scheduled work was cut from nine hours to 7.9. Disciplinary hearings against the people who walked out the first night were dropped. The company agreed to stop using part-timers while full time workers were on the unemployment lines.

Now instead of a big all-out attack, Metuchen management is trying to chip away a little here, a little there. Extra work has gotten added to jobs bit by bit but the workers are fighting it. Overloaded jobs go down the line incomplete. In one department, the foreman got so

desperate he stopped the line for a pep talk: "Work harder for your paycheck." He got that slammed right back in his face: "I only get one paycheck. Why the hell should I do two jobs!" Two full time workers were called back on the line.

There are those who think the companies can be sweet-talked out of what the rank and file needs come contract time. But the workers at Sterling and Metuchen have been talking the only language the companies understand. When they stood up, they pushed ahead the struggle, unity and strength of the rank and file. ■

## STRUGGLE AT AMC

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

UAW local 75 leadership has called for a special meeting to take a strike vote over unresolved grievances. The fact that this meeting has been called for, on top of the 90% strike authorization at the parts plant, represents a high point of struggle and determination to fight the steadily worsening conditions.

In calling for the vote, the officials told the workers that to strike over the runaway of jobs was "illegal" according to contract. One union member took the floor and shot back, "They don't live up to the contract whenever they want to break it. We should be willing to strike them as long as it takes to keep the Carpet Department in Milwaukee." When the spray painters at the Body Plant sat down this winter, it was "illegal," but it sure as hell forced the company to turn the heat on.

There's two ways to look at a strike vote. The AMC union leaders have traditionally used the strike vote as a bargaining tactic to trade off a few grievances without really flexing the workers' muscle to make gains. But for AMC workers, whose struggle won the right to strike over grievances, the strike vote is like a club. They know you don't raise it over your head unless you're ready to swing it. The strike vote is not much more than a threat unless preparations are made to actually strike. This is the only kind of bargaining AMC understands.

The scheduling of a strike vote was a big advance for the struggle of AMC workers. Now it is crucial for the rank and file to keep the initiative in their own hands by voting strike and being prepared to use it when necessary.

out the carpet department, Fighting Times issued a call to draw the line against the runaway in its newsletter.

Under mounting pressure from growing rank and file anger and action, the



THE FIGHT TO SAVE THE CARPET DEPARTMENT IS ONE OF MANY STRUGGLES CONTRIBUTING TO THE SCHEDULING OF A STRIKE VOTE.

ivity has been the development of an organization, Fighting Times, which is trying to help organize and lead the growing struggle. Five months ago when the company announced plans to ship

## Publications

Programme and Constitution of the Revolutionary Communist Party, USA. 175 pages. \$1.00.

Our Class Will Free Itself And All Mankind Speech by Bob Avakian, Chairman of the Central Committee of the RCP, USA. 30 pages. 75 cents.

CUBA: The Evaporation of a Myth. Reprinted from *Revolution*, February 15, 1976. In English and Spanish. Footnotes in English. 48 pages. 50 cents.

How Capitalism Has Been Restored in the Soviet Union and What This Means for the World Struggle. 156 pages. \$2.50.

The Chicano Struggle and the Struggle for Socialism. 59 pages. \$1.50.

Revolution: Only Road to Women's Liberation. Reprinted from *Revolution*, March 1974. In English and Spanish. 16 pages. 25 cents.

Classes and Class Struggle. Reprinted from *Revolution*, April 1973. In English and Spanish. 8 pages. 10 cents.

Proletarian Dictatorship vs. Bourgeois "Democracy." Reprinted from *Revolution*, May 1973. In English and Spanish. 12 pages. 10 cents.

Correct Line Achieved Through Study, Struggle, Criticism. Reprinted from *Revolution*, January 1974. In English and Spanish. 12 pages. 10 cents.

Bulk rates available on request. Please prepay all orders. RCP Publications, Inc., PO Box 3486, Merchandise Mart, Chicago, IL 60654.

# "DIVIDE AND CONQUER" AND "CUTBACK" SCHEMES WORKERS UNITE -- FIGHT THE BUSING PLANS

Superintendent McMurrin laid out his plans in April for a magnet school program that would bus 7500 students this fall. Two things in his plan stand out. By proposing to bus mainly Black students, it is an attempt to pit Blacks against whites and sidetrack the fight against forced busing. It also will leave the vast majority of students in crummy schools, with larger class sizes and no improvements.

Under McMurrin's plan 5852 Black students would be bused to almost all white schools. 1680 non-Black students would be bused to alternative type schools in the inner city. Several inner city schools would be closed down including North Division. Students from North would be shipped all over the city. Parents and students, both Black and white, have opposed the plan. Students from North Division made their feelings known when they told the school board, "We will not be used as guinea pigs for your forced busing."

Judge Reynold's order is a divide and conquer scheme. The ruling class is saying to Blacks that the whites have

it great - take it from them. To the whites they are saying the little you have in your schools the Blacks are going to take.

McMurrin's plan is also a divide and conquer scheme, only coming at it from a different angle. McMurrin's proposal which leaves the majority of children in their neighborhood schools, puts the biggest burden of busing on Blacks. This is just one more example of the widespread discrimination in the school system.

People of all nationalities are fed up with this discrimination. Protests came in the same day McMurrin announced his "one way busing." Some people called for "two way busing" or making Blacks and whites bear the burden equally.

But we can't fall into this trick bag. Forced busing - one way, two way or any way - is no answer to discrimination and lousy schools. Both plans say forced busing must happen because it's the "law of the land." But the laws are made to serve the rich. We can not accept a situation which sets whites

and Blacks fighting each other, and which means cutbacks in our schools.

The fight against discrimination is a fight against a system where political hacks and the school board keep inner city schools the worst of a bad lot, where real estate agents charge higher inner city rents and keep our neighborhoods segregated, and where factory owners make extra profit off of pay-

And how many kids will take these special classes like aerospace technology and continue after high school to make it a career? How many children will be going to the junior high for the "gifted and talented"? Just a handful! All this amounts to is expanding the tracking system that will keep working class and minority students in the lower tracks.

## PICKET GRONOUSKI'S HEARINGS

Fri. May 14 10 am  
Federal Bldg. 511 E. Wis. Ave.

Build the Fight for Quality and Equal Education--Contact the Committee to Fight Attacks on Our Schools, 645-7527 or 442-5542.



STUDENTS HAVE WALKED OUT TO DEMAND NEW NORTH AND SOUTH BE BUILT.

# SCHOOL BILINGUAL PROGRAMS THREATENED

What's going to happen to the programs for Spanish speaking students if forced busing sends Latin students all over the city? The busing shake-up could help the school board cut back programs students and parents fought for years to win.

Right now only where there is a concentration of Latin students is the bilingual program even half way adequate. At South Division, where 300 students participate, the bilingual program has about 20 classes. At other high schools like Lincoln and West, where about 70 students participate, the program is a lot worse.

Under Judge Reynolds's phony "integration" order, South Division is considered segregated even though it is 25% Latin. This is because students are only classified Black or non-Black. If Latin students are split up all over the city, the bilingual program, which is always under the threat of cutbacks, would definitely be crippled.

The busing order could mean the same for Indian students who are participating in a cultural program which has a center at Allen Field School. Latin and Indian students and parents are saying they want improvements in these programs and not cutbacks.

The bilingual program was won because students and parents fought for it. Many Latin students sat in classes taught in English without understanding half of what was said, or were put

in classes for disturbed children. Parents jammed school board meetings and raised hell with the administration. Students walked out several times. Students at South Division walked out in late September to demand the recognition of 2 Latin holidays, El Grito De Delores and El Grito De Lares, and to show a growing pride in their culture and history.

Demands are still being raised to improve the program. 5 out of 100 Milwaukee students are Latin, but only 6 out of 1000 teachers is bilingual. At South Division only 4 teachers staff the program for 300 students, and the school board refuses to provide more. Demands are being raised now for an improved reading program so students can keep their reading ability up to their grade level.

The struggle of Latin people and the growing unity between students of different nationalities, put heat on the ruling class. The school board would like nothing better than to take the heat off themselves and get the working class fighting itself-- Latin and Indian fighting Blacks, Blacks fighting whites--over crumbs. Threatening the bilingual and Indian programs under the cover of a phony "integration" plan is designed to do just that.

But McMurrin, the rest of the school board, Gronouski and the rich class they serve are playing with fire when they threaten these programs. What-

ever their latest plan may be, the struggle of working people will continue

for better programs and against cutbacks in the schools. ■



STUDENTS WALK OUT TO CELEBRATE LATIN HOLIDAY

## CONTRACT DUE

# CATCH-UP TIME AT MASTERLOCK

With the contract expiring on June 1st, workers at Masterlock are talking up their main demands and trying to sum up the lessons of the strike of 1974.

The most important issues are higher wages, a cost of living, and improved insurance benefits. The cost of living has gone up over 20% in the last two years, eating up the entire wage increase gained in '74. Masterlock workers don't want to see that paycheck get any smaller. They are demanding the cost of living they fought for in '74 but didn't win. Contract time is the time to fight for more!

Right now the Masterlock workers want to keep their Blue Cross-Blue Shield medical and they want a dental program. The company is talking about shifting away from Blue Cross and bringing in a cheaper outfit. Only a fighting rank and file can force the best all-around coverage for Masterlock workers and their families.

Other demands brought up at the contract meeting of UAW local 469 include paid absence days, better eligibility for vacations, more paid holidays, and improved pension plan.

From plating to the 4th floor combination locks workers are discussing the contract struggle. After going back to work without their main demands in 1974, the almost 1,000 lockmakers are talking every day, "How can we win?" and "With the economy so slow, do we have any power?"

But Masterlock workers also remember working overtime until 2 in the morning as the company frantically tried to catch up after the last strike. They remember how many machines were broken by inexperienced scab workers and foremen during the last walkout. But most of all people realize that no company can profit without production. And without workers there is no production. Even strong workers' unity and the threat of a walkout can force Masterlock's owners, American Brands, to talk.

Masterlock especially needs production to make their machinery pay off. Recently the company brought in a giant assembly machine for one type of key locks. Right now it's in the experimental stage. That machine, which will eliminate around 25 jobs, set Masterlock back a half a million bucks. To pay back debts like this and keep turning their precious profits they need full production.

Looking back on the strike of 1974, the workers can count up a lot of gains. First of all they stood up to wagon loads of cops and threw a hell of a scare into the scabs. The mainly women workers at Masterlock won the active support of workers around the city, as hundreds massed with them at the high points of the struggle.

But the weakness was in the leadership, which refused to rely on the unity and action of the workers themselves and



WORKERS HAD THE INITIATIVE—MASTERLOCK STRIKE IN '74 BEFORE UNION LEADERS, COMPANY AND COURTS MOVED TO STOP THE MASS PICKETING.

caved in the minute a judge said the word "injunction." The mass pickets were called off, caravans of scabs rolled across the lines, and the strike was sold out.

This time around the UAW members will be up against the same all out drive for profits, and the same Masterlock

that brought in scabs in '74. But the workers also have the experience of the last strike behind them. The rank and file has to rely on themselves in the fight for wages, insurance, and cost of living. And if the company plans to take anything away, workers may have to "lock up" Masterlock all over again. ■

## MOVIE REVIEW: "ALL THE NIXON TAKES RAP FOR RULING CLASS THE BOSSES' MEN"

Two years after Nixon's resignation, the Watergate pot is boiling again. Millions of dollars and countless magazine and newspaper articles are making "All the President's Men", the movie of the year, and turning a new book, "The Final Days", into an instant best seller. The movie shows the corruption, shady deals, lying and thievery of the Watergate affair and "The Final Days" paints a vivid picture of Richard Nixon walking the White House halls talking to paintings and Henry Kissinger taking Nixon confessions on presidential rugs.

Most everybody is ready to believe anything bad about Nixon, who gave the American people a million reasons to hate him, from his slimey crookedness to the wage freeze and his role in the Vietnam War.

But what's hard to swallow is that Nixon was any different from the other politicians in Washington. And this is exactly the point of the book and movie and all the hullabaloo that has accompanied them. Nixon is supposed to be the super villain who singlehandedly is responsible for everything evil, while "courageous newspaper reporters", millionaire newspaper publishers, and a host of "honest politicians" come through as knights in shining armor.

### NIGHTMARE OR EDUCATION

After Nixon's resignation in '74, Ted Kennedy declared, "the nightmare of Watergate is over." A nightmare it may have been for the politicians and capitalists whose system was sinking in everyone's opinion. But for millions of Americans nightmare was the wrong word. Education was a lot more like it. We saw former Attorney General John "Law and Order" Mitchell indicted for obstructing justice, a Vice President forced to resign for taking bribes, and learned that Kennedy and Johnson had both done their share of "dirty tricks" like wiretaps on Martin Luther King, Jr.

What Watergate showed was not how "unique" Nixon was—but how corrupt the whole system really is. We sat through

twelve months of endless procedures as Congress looked for "evidence" when the whole country knew he was guilty. And when Nixon finally resigned one of the first things Ford did was pardon him and appoint Nelson Rockefeller, one of the biggest billionaire capitalists in the world, Vice President. With Nixon gone we're supposed to believe that the slate was wiped clean, but the whole affair just underlined the truth that millions of workers had known all along—that the rich own the government lock, stock and politician.

The image of Nixon as a lone, alcoholic weirdo is being dredged up in a clumsy attempt to pass off the whole Watergate affair as the result of one maniac getting into the White House. And then they even try to blame the American people for Nixon, saying that we put him there. But it's pretty obvious to everyone that the backing of corporations, bankers and their TV and financial contributions made him President.

It was no accident that Nixon got into office—he was bought and paid for so he could serve the interests of his backers, like Kennedy and Johnson before him, and Ford today.

### FIGHTING AMONG THIEVES

But the capitalists aren't sinking millions of dollars into promoting a book and film, or running cover stories in Newsweek and Time, because they want to expose their own system. Far from it, "All the President's Men" and "The Final Days" try to make the capitalist system come through smelling like a rose. Woodward and Bernstein, two Washington Post reporters who wrote the book and are portrayed in the movie, are made out to be the heroes who dumped Nixon through their painstaking investigative reporting.

Investigative reporting or not, it did not take too long for most people to guess that Nixon was involved in the Watergate burglary or coverup. And for sure the reporters didn't find the facts of the Watergate scandal or Nixon's freak out by combing through garbage cans and playing Sherlock Holmes. The mo-



ALTHOUGH IT'S KIND OF FUN TO THINK ABOUT DICK GROVELING AND CRUMBLING IN THE FINAL DAYS, IT REALLY WASN'T JUST ONE BAD PRESIDENT, BUT THE WHOLE SYSTEM THAT IS THE REAL CRIMINAL.

vie shows that the key source for the Watergate story was a high unnamed government official referred to only as "Deep Throat." It looks like nearly every top politician poured out material for the authors of "All the President's Men"! And it isn't too hard to guess who "leaked" the story about Nixon and Kissinger's private conversation that they swore to keep secret to themselves. People know from their own experience that the press suppresses and distorts news all the time—like the way they lied about Vietnam for years, and how they constantly distort every strike and struggle workers are involved in.

The point is all the dirt dug up in the Watergate investigations was dirt that the various capitalists knew about all along and just decided to sling at each other once it served their interests. For while all the top capitalists can unite when it comes to cracking down on the workers, the dog-eat-dog nature of the system leads them to use every weapon in their hands to pull apart their rivals—from stealing industrial secrets, to having competitors busted for various crimes, to pulling down politicians through exposure in the press and media they control.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16

# BOSTON TEA PARTY SHOWS 1776 CLEARS WAY FOR CAPITALISM

Everyone but a total hermit is being bombarded by all of the Bicentennial business going on. The government, the corporations and the media are seizing on the 200th anniversary of the American revolution to talk about "the American heritage of freedom won in battle", and to say to the people, "See how much we Americans, workers and capitalist alike, have in common-going back 200 years."

No wonder the Bicentennial smells a little funny. It just doesn't square with reality right here in 1976, where tens of millions of working people in this country slave every day just to keep our heads above water and a small handful of bankers and corporation heads own what they have never built and take it all.

What was the American Revolution all about? The 1776 revolution brought the capitalist class to power—which is why they celebrate it today. Yet at the time it occurred, the Revolution was an advance. A look at the famous Boston Tea Party in 1773, which helped trigger the Revolution, shows something of what the Revolution was about, what the interests of different classes were in it and how it set the stage for society to develop to where it is now.

## COLONIALISM A CHAIN ON PROGRESS

The basic issue over which the Revolution was fought was independence from Britain—to break the stranglehold British colonialism placed on the development of the colonies.

The British wanted to plunder the colonies for all they were worth. To do this they actively discouraged the growth of commerce and even small scale manufacturing by the Americans. Laws forbade trading many goods, such as bea-

ver hats, even from colony to colony, so that raw materials, like beaver pelts would be shipped to England, turned into hats by London firms and shipped back with British merchants raking it in all along the line. The manufacture of steel was legally prohibited, and so on.

## AMERICAN CAPITALISTS DEVELOP

Despite British attempts to prevent it, a capitalist class was growing up in the colonies. Merchants grew rich in the slave and sugar trades, and by smuggling goods like tea from France, Spain, and the Netherlands where they were cheaper than from Britain.

To regain control of the situation, the British parliament passed various tax laws, and "stamp acts" intended to raise money from American commerce. The colonies refused to honor these and the British let them lapse only to make in 1773, a test case of one commodity - tea.

In 1773, the British East India Tea Company, a vast private monopoly with British government backing, was in economic trouble. Parliament passed a law permitting it to sell tea directly in the colonies, cutting out merchants and other middlemen, and setting a tax of 3 pence per pound of tea to be paid to the British government.

## TEA LAW HURT PROFITS

For the Boston merchants, and especially wealthy tea smugglers like John Hancock this spelled disaster. Of course the masses of colonists were not concerned about the merchants' fortunes, so they could not rally the people under the slogan "Save our profits". Instead they appealed to people's hatred of British tyranny and "taxation without representation."

For their part, the majority of the



100 YEARS AFTER THE REVOLUTION WORKERS HAD NOTHING TO CELEBRATE. TRAINMEN BATTLED TROOPS IN FIRST NATIONAL STRIKE.

colonists, who were small farmers and "mechanics" (craftsmen of various sorts), could not be bribed by cheaper tea to permit the tax to go through. It was a symbol of the British oppression that hindered trade, forbade settlement of new lands and forced people to buy expensive imports instead of developing production in the colonies. Meetings were held in cities all along the coast vowing to stop the tea.

When three ships full of tea came into Boston harbor, the Sons of Liberty, a revolutionary group made up mainly of laborers and small craftsmen, posted guards so they could not unload. Determined to break this resistance, British authorities threatened to seize the tea from its owner if it were not taxed and sold, and to fire on the ships if they left without unloading.

On December 16, 1773, the day before the tea was to be confiscated and sold, 8,000 people, the largest mass meeting ever held in the colonies assembled

around Old South meeting house to denounce the tea tax. At the end of it, about 80 Liberty Boys disguised as Indians marched to the harbor followed by the rest of the crowd, hacked open the tea chests and dumped their contents in the water.

When word of this act of rebellion reached Britain, King George III declared, "The die is now cast. The colonies must either submit or triumph." The Parliament answered with stronger measures against the colonies.

Some merchants became panicky at the intensity of the British response. Many suggested backing down.

The revolutionaries of the time, including some of the merchants, went ahead, organizing a boycott not only of tea, but all British goods.

King George had been right—the die was cast. British rule imposed great barriers to the further development of production and society. The small farmers and craftsmen had a common interest with the merchants and plantation owners in getting rid of it.

## "FREEDOM" IN 1776

The freedom that the revolutionaries fought for and won was not an abstract ideal (as the Bicentennial minutes say) but was the fight for rights that grew out of the actual conditions of the time. For the farmers, blacksmiths, cobblers, fishermen, escaped slaves and so on who made up the bulk of the colonial forces the goal was freedom to live their lives out from under British tyranny. In the course of the revolution they won guarantees against manifestations of that tyranny—free speech, press and religious freedom, extension of the right to vote.

Even these gains were limited. The slaveowning planters of the country, like George Washington, would not have taken part in the Revolution unless they had been insured their "rights" to own slaves and made sure the Constitution guaranteed continuation of the slave trade and counted slaves as 3/5 of a human.

For the wealthy merchants and planters who led the colonial forces, freedom from British rule had an additional meaning—the freedom to accumulate and increase their wealth. They wanted the wealth of American "and the profits thereof" to center not in Great Britain, but in their own hands.

## SHAY'S REBELLION

From the beginning, the desire of the masses for a better life and the drive of the new ruling class came into conflict. Where things were heading became clear in a struggle that took place within three years of the treaty with Britain, the Shay's Rebellion of 1786.

Small farmers in western Massachusetts, many of them veterans of the Revolution had gone deep into debt to merchants and bankers. With the war over there were more farmers and the army was not purchasing lots of food so agricultural prices plummeted. Facing evictions and starvation, the farmers armed themselves and rose up,



WHILE THE RULING CLASS IS BUSY PARADING THEIR BICENTENIAL BALONEY, THE WORKING CLASS IS BUILDING ITS FIGHTS AGAINST THIS RICH MAN'S SYSTEM.



# DEMONSTRATE JULY 4th

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

against attacks like these, and want to build these struggles, to tie them closer to one another, to link them into a powerful force with the growing workers movement at its center a force strong enough to take on our common enemy. They came because the demands of the demonstration—"We Won't Fight Another Rich Man's War" and "Jobs or Income Now"—are crucial concerns of millions of people. And for sure the workers and others at the conferences wanted to shove all the Bicentennial propaganda about how great the country is for the workers right back in the bosses' faces. As one young worker put it, "I've been thinking about these Bicentennial minutes on TV and they always end up 'And that's the way it was.' That's all they can say. So we're going to Philadelphia to say 'This is the way it is!'"

At the conferences workshops were held of participants from different battlefronts (unemployed workers, veterans, etc.). At the workshops it was discussed how to build the demonstration

to be as big and powerful as possible, and how to link the demonstration with the struggles millions are presently involved in. The unemployed workers decided to organize a Tent City in Philly for the weekend of the Fourth. Other actions will take place for three days before the Fourth around the two demands of the July 4th Coalition.

Leaflets, posters and buttons are being printed up in the thousands and thousands to let everyone know about the July 4th plans. The word is going out in every region of the country.

People left the conference determined

to go all out to make the July 4th demonstration a big step forward in building a nation-wide movement of the American people against the ruling class of this country with the struggle of the workers at its core. As the closing speaker at the East Coast conference put it, "What will July 4th do? Think about it. We'll be standing up, the working class united, saying no, saying that the rule of the rich doesn't cut it, saying get off our backs. We'll be speaking with one voice, loud and clear across the whole country, thousands strong." ■

A COALITION HAS BEEN FORMED TO BUILD FOR THE JULY 4th DEMONSTRATIONS IN PHILADELPHIA. ACTIVITIES IN MILWAUKEE WILL INCLUDE A RAFFLE, POSTERING, UNITY NIGHTS AND FUND RAISING. ALL ARE INVITED!

JUNE 5- RECORD SPIN, 801 E CLARK, 8pm, TICKETS \$1

JUNE 26- BLOCK PARTY, CENTER & BOOTH, NOON TIL 10pm

RAFFLE DRAWING AT 7pm, 2779 N BOOTH

BUSES WILL LEAVE FOR PHILADELPHIA ON JUNE 30th & JULY 3rd. ROUND TRIP FARE - \$42.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 445-5816

COALITION MEETINGS ARE ON SATURDAYS AT 10am

# "WE WON'T PAY

## RUBBER WORKERS HIT BIG FOUR '76 CO

The current national rubber strike is important to the whole working class 68,000 workers at 47 plants of the big four rubber companies—Goodyear, Firestone, Uniroyal and Goodrich—went on strike April 21. It was the first time all four have been struck together. Up until the last minute, United Rubber Workers International President Bommarito left it up in the air as to whether all four companies would be struck. Official word didn't come until 11:40 P.M. Eastern time, but already some workers had made the strike a fact by walking out.

### ISSUES OF THE STRIKE

Workers are determined to make up losses from the 1973 sell-out contract with an increase. Historically, rubber has been up to auto workers' wage levels,

but lately it has fallen drastically behind. They insist on an unlimited cost of living that keeps up with inflation. Also at issue is workers' opposition to company proposals to pay non-tire workers less than tire workers.

Pensions are also a big issue which was sold out last time. A petition demanding no sell-out this time on pensions got 2,000 signatures just in Akron. Plant closings, job eliminations, layoffs, and dried up SUB funds have hit rubber workers hard. They demand job security.

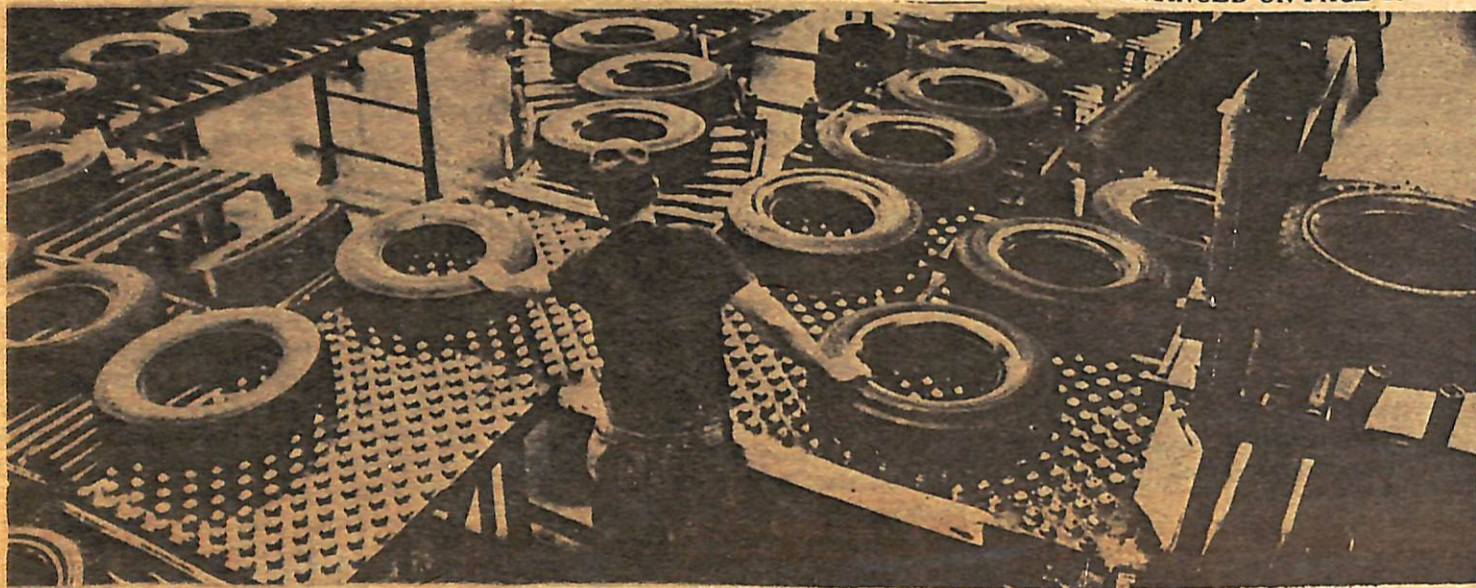
The other key demands are against company attacks, either already in effect or proposed, in the areas of schedules, work rules, speed up, job combination, seniority and health and safety. Company proposals for changes in figuring pay for downtime would eat up even a big pay raise for many workers. Piece rates

which are constantly being changed have workers caught between drastic pay cuts and killing speed up. It has just been publicized that benzene, which is widely used by tire builders and others in the industry, has caused deaths from leukemia. Yet these are the issues that the least has been said about in official negotiations.

### RANK AND FILE ACTION

From the beginning, the strike was weakened by the refusal of the officials to organize strong picketing and a black-out of information concerning negotiations and the strike. Still the strike has been marked by rank and file militancy. Workers prepared for it in some plants with slowdowns, overtime refusals, a rash of machine breakdowns,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16



WORKERS AT GIDDINGS AND LEWIS IN FO BATTLE.

Contracts for five million workers expire in 1976. With the capitalists caught in the quicksand of economic crisis, they will be going all out to make the working class pay. Sometimes this means holding down pay increases while inflation runs wild. Other times it means slicing away key gains in benefits from past contract struggles. Sometimes it means forcing a strike and trying to break the union. But on the shop floor and in the contract struggles, they are attacking the working class.

## REX WORKERS DRAW THE LINE

On April 30, workers at Rexnord ratified a new 3 year contract. They had turned back Rex's attempts to take away the COL and paid medical insurance. In the weeks before the expiration date, the vast majority were ready to strike if the company touched these things.

Rexnord was forced to make some concessions. They were forced to abandon their unit seniority system and start plantwide seniority. This will benefit all workers and it will hit at Rexnord's discriminatory practices. The old unit seniority system was designed to keep the Black workers from transferring out of the foundry to better jobs. Another victory was medical insurance which will be extended 6 months for workers who are laid off, if they have more than a year's time. Extending medical insurance had been a big demand for the many unemployed Rex workers. But they did not win SUB pay.

Pensions were raised from \$8.50 to \$12.35. A dental plan was won, although it has a big \$50 deductible. But the contract still fell short of what the workers had demanded, offering only a 3% annual wage increase.

The steelworkers were saddled with this lousy wage increase despite the militant sentiment of a large group of guys who demanded more from Rexnord. A rank and file committee at Rexnord worked to build this fighting spirit and unity for a decent contract.

The union leadership opposed fighting for a big wage hike. For months, they lectured workers at the meetings, trying to convince them they didn't need a big wage increase. They said that the COL kept them even with inflation, so all workers could expect was a 3%

increase, corresponding to the national productivity increase.

But the guys at Rexnord weren't interested in just keeping ahead of inflation, or working harder to pay for a wage increase. They could see the millions of profit that Rex was pocketing and they wanted to take back as much as they could.

Before the ratification meeting, a large number of workers in the foundry and other parts of the plant wore buttons put out by the rank and file committee saying **DECENT WAGE HIKE OR STRIKE!** 40% of the guys voted against the contract, ready to strike to force more money out of Rex.

Like the company, the bargaining committee was aware of the unity and fighting spirit Rex workers had built. After receiving a lot of heat from the guys, they agreed to put out a report on the negotiations before the ratification meeting. In the past, workers have always been kept in the dark and then given a few minutes at the meeting to accept or reject the offer. As it turned out things weren't much different this year. The leaflet issued by the bargaining committee didn't mention anything about the biggest issues—the threatened attacks and wages, so people were still in the dark until the meeting.

After the worthless bargaining committee leaflet, workers put out a leaflet that talked for the rank and file, saying **DECENT WAGE HIKE OR STRIKE!**

Because of the strong rank and file sentiment for a strike, the bargaining committee would not recommend the offer. But they never came out and called for a strike. They wanted to wash their hands of a contract they knew people would hate. Their objections to the

contract—no improvements in holidays, vacations, and the inadequate dental plan—missed the most important point, the lousy wage increase.

The contract at Rexnord follows a pattern of other contracts. The capitalists are treading a thin line, trying to keep a lid on our struggle. They are offering as little as possible, keeping our wages down to boost their profits. But they know they can't go too far and the working class has prevented them from making big attacks, like at Rexnord.

Even in slow times, they fear our power to stop production. With the cut-throat competition, they want to ride the present "mini-boom" in the economy before it fizzles out. Rex has a 3 month backlog of chains in stock so they can be ready to deliver right on time for their customers. For the companies any interruption in production will mean orders lost to the competition.

A contract struggle is a test of strength between the workers and the company. Workers fought off an attack in the contract. But the workers' strength wasn't organized well enough to move forward and make real gains. As sure as hell, Rexnord will try to attack again with more rate cuts, job eliminations, layoffs, and harassment. For the workers who fought 2 years ago for plant-wide seniority or workers who have been fighting company harassment around absenteeism, they know the fight isn't over.

Rexnord workers can take the strengths they built in this contract fight—the militant spirit of 340 workers who rejected the offer, the beginnings of rank and file organization—and move past the union ringleaders and start backing the company down in the fights ahead. ■

## TEAMSTER TRUCKIN

At the beginning of April truck drivers and warehousemen staged the first nationwide Teamsters strike in history. Despite an early settlement, wildcat strikes continued in places like Detroit, Gary, Indiana, and parts of Ohio afterwards.

After three days Fitzsimmons, the president of the Teamsters, the companies and the government, all working together, were finally able to impose a settlement, although the contract has not yet been signed as we go to press. Their agreement didn't deal with most of the important demands of the Teamsters. But the drivers won some gains, especially in wages and cost of living allowances.

The fact that nearly 400,000 truck drivers and warehousemen struck on March 31, even if for only a short while, is very significant not only for the Teamsters but for the working class all over the country. A rubber strike began on April 21 and other major contracts are coming up in electrical, construction, garment and auto. The capitalists are really worried about keeping the lid on the struggles of the working class.

They have been counting heavily on their labor lieutenants heading up the major unions—officials like Fitzsimmons and the other top leaders of the Teamsters—as their main way to keep the handcuffs on the rank and file throughout this period. The fact that the rank and file Teamsters forced Fitzsimmons to call a strike, no matter how short, and the fact that striking continued after the settlement, were both blows to this cooperation between the top union officials and the capitalists and can streng-

# FOR YOUR CRISIS!"

## ONTRACTS



DU LAC ARE FACING SCABS, ESCORTED BY COPS, IN THEIR 7 MONTH

But they are not messing with a handful of grade school kids. They are trying to crack the whip on the back of the largest and most powerful group in society. The 400,000 teamsters, the 68,000 rubber workers, and the machinery builders at places like Rexnord, Bucyrus Erie, and Giddings and Lewis have been or are in the midst of key contract battles.

The ruling class hopes to isolate each group and road block our struggles with cops, injunctions, and union misleaders.

They pit their strength against one union at a time. They are out to turn the screws on our livelihood because as a class they are strung out on the profits we create with our sweat and blood.

As workers we can hit back ONLY IF WE TOO ACT AS A CLASS AND PIT OUR STRENGTH AGAINST THEIRS. When the ruling class tries to isolate the machinists at Giddings and Lewis to break their union or enforce a big wage cut on the rubber workers, we all must stand with our brothers and sisters in struggle.

## S SHUT DOWN

## G NATIONWIDE



RANK AND FILE TEAMSTERS FORCED UNION LEADERS TO CALL A NATION-WIDE STRIKE.

then the Teamster rank and file and all the upcoming contract battles faced by the working class.

The strike took place despite tremendous pressure put on the truck drivers by the ruling class not to strike. The trucking associations pushed hard for a low settlement. The government threatened to invoke the Taft-Hartley Act to outlaw any strike for 80 days. NBC ran a special five-part series on its nightly national news program on Mafia infiltration within the Teamsters just a few days before the contract expired. Since it's news to no one that the Mafia is heavily connected with the top Teamster leadership, and the government has

never moved on this except when it has served its own interest, it's clear that all this was aimed only at putting more pressure on the union in order to stop a strike.

TRIED TO STOP STRIKE

Partly because of this pressure, on top of its constant aim of riding high and comfortable in its position of wealth and power, the Teamster leadership was very intent on stopping a strike, too. Fitzsimmons even said, "We have never had a national strike in this union and I will do anything possible to ward off any work stoppage."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16

## Sell Out at B-E

Vote No—Fight for a Decent Contract! was the message South Milwaukee Bucyrus-Erie workers had for the bosses. BE and its loyal servants, the leadership of the steelworkers union, were working overtime to cram a sellout contract down their throats four months early. BE is going all out to fill a huge backlog of orders and pay for new plants in Pocatello Idaho, and Glassport, Pa. They were talking fast and early trying to get a cheap contract and have no halts in production for the next 40 months.

The proposal itself was a slap in the face, offering 30¢, 20¢ and 20¢. No dental plan until the second year, 30 and out at age 60 in the third year. There was nothing about SUB pay for the short workweeks that have hit the foundry and the cleaning room, and there was nothing to strengthen the workers hand in dealing with working conditions, especially safety and rate cutting, and nothing about limiting subcontracting.

A rank and file newsletter, the Unity Bulletin, was passed out at the gates and in the shop exposing the sellout proposal and calling on people to come to the contract meeting and speak out against it. The meeting was a solid show of unity against the sellout. People lined up at the microphone and blasted the proposal and the union leadership for recommending it.

the walls and even on guys backs—they were everywhere. The company was ripping them down fast but the workers were putting them up faster. The fight to put the stickers up helped take individual resistance to the sellout and make that resistance part of a shop-wide movement to fight for a decent contract.

### FIGHT FOR A DECENT CONTRACT!

WE DEMAND:

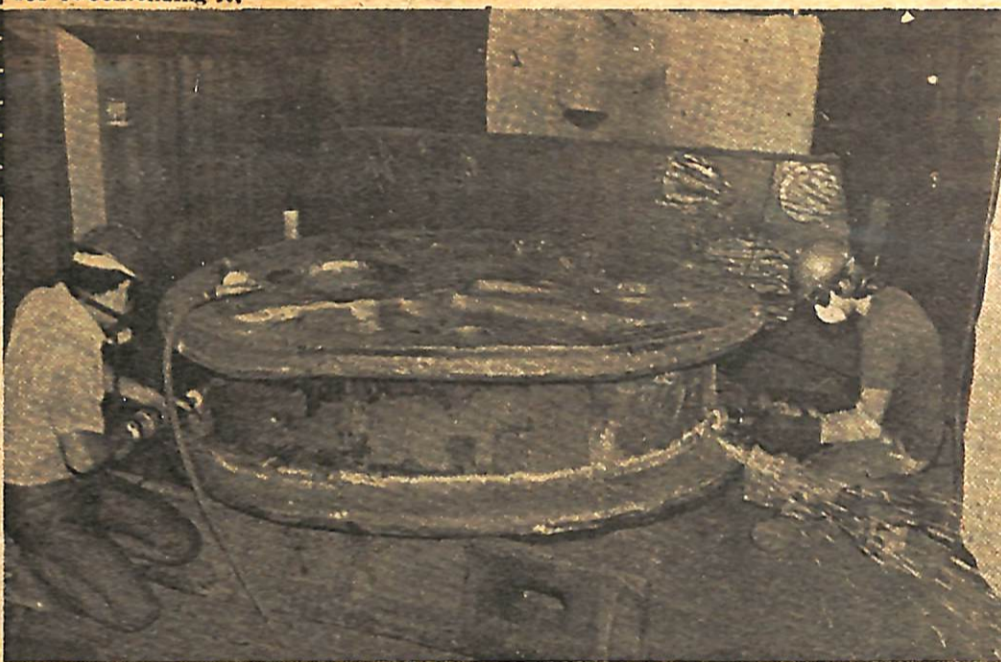
30 & out with a decent pension.  
A big wage hike.  
Sub pay for short work weeks.  
Dental plan for whole contract.  
No 3 year contract.



### VOTE NO!!

In the Fab shop, they put a sticker on the foreman's back. In the foundry, where they had already been writing "vote no" on the walls, they joined the plant-wide campaign by putting up stickers. In the cleaning room, 400 stickers were put up on one shift. The company even had to call the department superintendent back to the plant to order people to take them off their helmets.

When the vote was counted, South Milwaukee had voted it down, 646 to 521. But Erie and Evansville, the two



AN ORGANIZED RANK AND FILE LED TO A NO VOTE AT THE SOUTH MILWAUKEE BE PLANT.

"There's something wrong with the way you're trying to cram this thing down our throats" was the sentiment. Other workers expressed their willingness to fight, saying "I don't believe that the company would make their best offer 4 months early." Not only were people burning about the lousy terms of the proposal, they were burning about the union hacks doing the company's work by trying to ram it through.

Workers had been preparing for this fight. When the possibility of early negotiations was announced at a union meeting workers immediately passed a motion that any proposal had to be in written form and in the hands of the rank and file at least 72 hours before the vote. This action was the result of years of experience fighting the bosses, and was very important because it gave the rank and file a little time to organize in spite of the surprise proposal.

The day after the contract meeting hundreds of FIGHT FOR A DECENT CONTRACT-VOTE NO! stickers started going up in the shop. On helmets, on

other plants covered by the contract, had accepted it, 232-16 and 326 -117. The contract had passed. Many workers said that if they could have organized at Erie and Evansville, they could have defeated it. But without organized rank and file resistance at the other plants, BE workers weren't able to pit their maximum strength against BE.

But even though the contract was a defeat—the fact that the rank and file was able to organize a campaign around it and vote it down at South Milwaukee was a real advance. Now, as the brunt of the workers fight goes back to the shop floor over things like safety and rate cutting, BE workers will take the experience of the contract fight with them. Experience shows guys all over the shop are mad and looking for a way to fight and that the rank and file needs organization to fight well. Out of these lessons plans are being made to build a workers organization that can take up these fights in a way that will mobilize the workers in the shop and pit their maximum strength against BE.

# MENOMINEE STAND UP TO FBI RAID

On April 4, over 50 friends and neighbors of Robert "Quil" Chevalier stood up to an FBI Special Weapons Assault Team (SWAT) that was surrounding the Chevalier family home in Neopit on the Menominee Reservation. The SWAT crew was looking for Quil, who was one of four Menominee Warriors who was to go on trial for the armed takeover last year of the abandoned Alexian Brothers Monastery.

The neighbors filled the house as a human buffer to prevent the Feds from killing Quil the way Sheriff Paddo Fish killed another defendant, John Waubanasum.

The defendants all were charged with several felonies and faced up to 92 years in jail. The ruling class went all out to get convictions, to make an example out of the Warriors and to stamp out the sharp resistance of the Menominee people. One of the defendants, Waubanasum wasn't even allowed his "day in court" because Sheriff Fish gunned him down several months ago.

The other defendants, like Quil Chevalier, found themselves saddled with court appointed lawyers who were paid by the state and worked in its behalf. Quil's lawyer, Callahan, phoned Quil the day before the trial, telling him to plead guilty or there would be no defense!

Chevalier refuses to participate in this legal railroad and is considered a "fugitive." He said in a statement, "Any further infringement on my freedom, treaty rights, constitutional rights and human rights by any agents of this court, the State of Wisconsin, or the



MRS. CHEVALIER AND OTHER SUPPORTERS DURING THE ABREY TAKEOVER. RECENTLY HER HOUSE WAS STORMED BY THE FBI AND LOCAL POLICE, AND SHE AND TWO OF HER SONS ARRESTED ON ASSAULT CHARGES.

United States Government will be considered an act of war."

After the whole statement was read in court, the trial was postponed a few days. Several warrants were put out for Quil's arrest. Quil, meanwhile, went back to the reservation, and was able to remain free for a couple of days as the government moved to get the local authorities to arrest him on the reserva-

tion. On Sunday evening, however, one of the deputies, Alex Askenette, Jr., climbed into the back of Quil's truck and rode with him out to his house. At the house, Askenette approached Quil and told him he was under arrest. Quil had other ideas, though, and the deputy found himself looking down the barrel of a shotgun. Several other deputies, including the Chief, starting approach-

ing, but they were forced to back down as a crowd began to assemble. Quil escaped and immediately warrants went out charging him with assault on a federal officer.

That night, squad cars began to surround the Chevalier house after they had heard that Quil was hiding in the basement. And by 6 A.M. over 50 Feds stood outside the house armed to the teeth. The people inside, who now numbered about 50, stood strong, ready to defend themselves, and they said they would not shoot unless shot at first. After a several hour stand-off, the SWAT team broke down the door of Chevalier's house, smashed up a lot of the furniture, and arrested three people--two of Quil's brothers and John Coon, on charges of assaulting federal agents.

Several people were beaten and the cops denied them hospital treatment.

The FBI and local police continued their harassment, but were not able to learn anything about Quil's whereabouts. Several days later, they even stormed the house again and arrested Quil's mother, Jeannette Chevalier, also on assault charges.

At this point, Quil is still free. One Warrior, Michael Sturdevant, has been found guilty in the takeover, and will face sentencing next month along with John Perote and Doreen Dixon, who pleaded guilty to reduced charges.

In no way, however, have these attempts to beat back the Menominee people's struggle done what intended. All of this has made the people even more determined and united to stand up and continue their fight.

Victory to the Menominees! ■

## RICH GEAR UP FOR NEW WAR ONE YEAR AFTER VIETNAM

The war in Vietnam finally came to an end just a year ago. Working people considered the war a nightmare, because we were paying for it in blood and saw no reason for it. But the rich ruling class of this country, who gave orders but did no fighting or dying, has different kinds of nightmares about the war. Vietnam exposed a lot about the ruling class, and a lot of people's anger became focused at the ruling class.

### JUST AND UNJUST CAUSES

All their lies and appeals to patriotism could not keep more and more people from seeing that the cause of the

Vietnamese was just. Millions of people marched and demonstrated against the U.S. government's role in the war. This had never happened before in U.S. history on such a huge scale. A lot of GI's refused to fight. Vets threw their medals away in a protest on the Capitol steps, many showing a hatred for the whole system that sent them to Vietnam.

The mass movement against the war became so large and powerful that it played a big part in preventing the U.S. ruling class from carrying out its aggression in Indochina even longer.

By dealing such a blow to these parasites, the revolutionary victories of the

Indochinese people were victories for all the world's people, including the working class in the U.S.

Even before their total defeat, their aggression in Vietnam weakened the U.S. capitalists' hold on their empire, fueled inflation and accelerated the development of the economic crisis that now grips them.

### SHARPENED COMPETITION BETWEEN SUPERPOWERS

At the same time, this economic weakness and being tied up militarily in Vietnam gave other imperialist powers, especially the new capitalist rulers of the USSR, a chance to step up competition with their U.S. rivals over colonies, markets and areas of investment all over the world. Economic crisis and increasing competition--each of these feeds into the other, and this is what is driving the two super powers more and more toward war.

For awhile after the Vietnam war, because the people of this country were so sick of it, the capitalists and their pet politicians made a big deal about sounding more peace loving.

But the same drive for profits is pushing the capitalists toward war again--this time with their imperialist super power rivals in the USSR, since today each super power is the main obstacle to the other's plans to maintain and expand its empire.

All of the presidential candidates and other such types are talking about the need for military strength, increasing the military budget and so on. Indirect skirmishes between the U.S. and U.S.S.R. such as in Angola, show where all this is leading.

A war between the U.S. and U.S.S.R. would be very different from Vietnam--and our rulers shamelessly try to use this fact to make it appear that their battles with the rulers of the U.S.S.R. would be more just. They claim this time such a war is in our interests, since the Soviet rulers clearly are aggressive and armed to the teeth. And when nothing else works, they fall back on the old argument that there always have been wars and there will always be wars--that's just the way it is. And to youth and others they advertise the army as the "only job around."

### RULING CLASS GEARS UP FOR WAR--AT WORKERS' EXPENSE

But while the nature of the war now threatening has changed since Vietnam, the nature of the ruling class and its system has not. Vietnam was a revolt of people who would not be slaves. The war the ruling class is now preparing for would be a war between two sets of slavemasters --another war to make the rich richer at our expense.

Vietnam shook up this country. It helped expose that war is not just something that "happens." The wars our rulers drag us into are "rich man's wars"--for the profit of a few and the survival of a system which is the cause of all our misery.

And as much as the high and mighty who rule this country were shaken by Vietnam, if they and their counterparts in the Soviet Union launch another still more destructive war, much greater setbacks will rock their rule. ■



MEMBERS OF VIETNAM VETERANS AGAINST THE WAR  
"WE WON'T FIGHT ANOTHER RICH MAN'S WAR!"

# SEATTLE WORKERS STOP UNEMPLOYMENT CUTS

A victory has been won in the month's long battle to stop the State of Washington from cutting off unemployment compensation for tens of thousands of people. Senate Bill 2373 was killed for this session of the legislature by the action of angry, militant workers. A statewide campaign, spearheaded by the Unemployed Workers Organizing Committee (UWOC), and widely publicized by The Worker for the Northwest, mobilized thousands of people and prevented the bosses from sneaking their

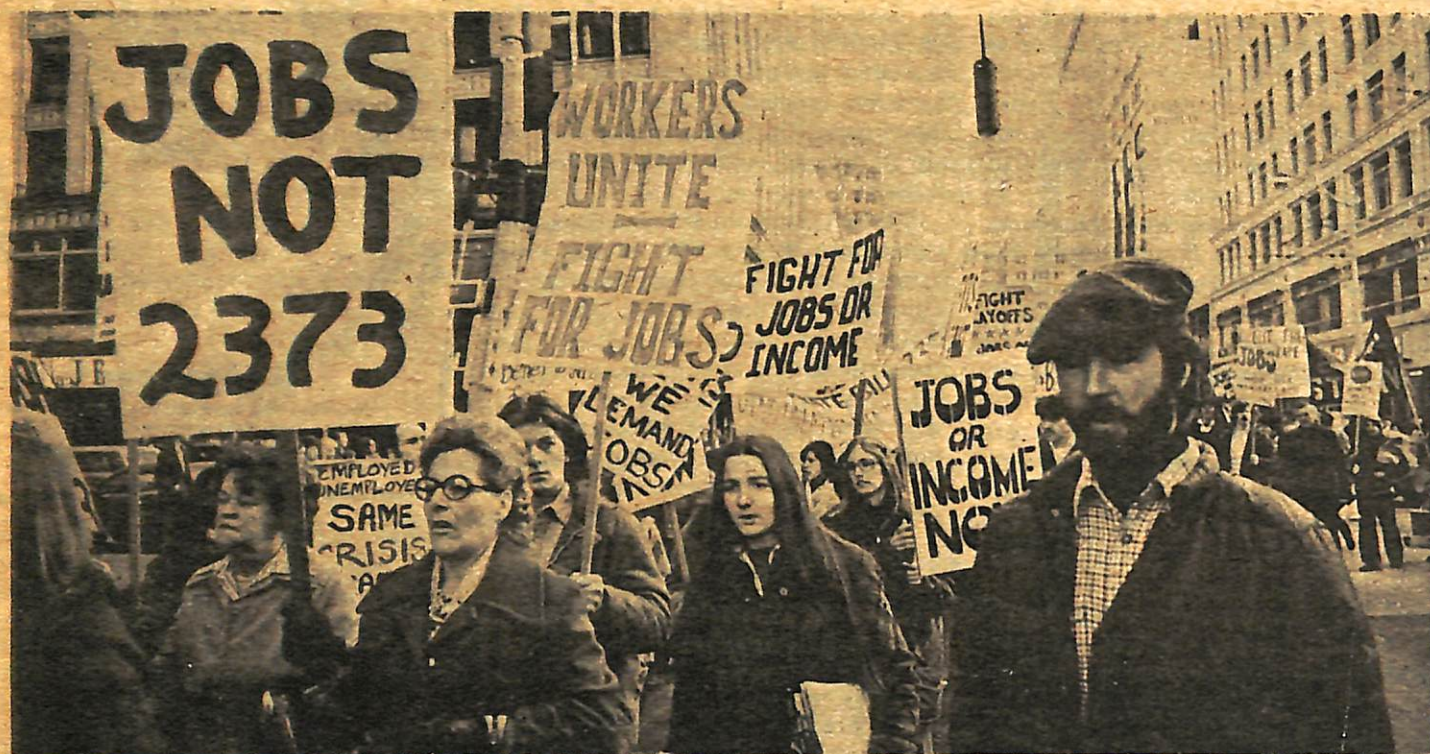
bill through.

Employed and unemployed workers were united to fight this robbery. Twenty thousand leaflets were passed out at unemployment and food stamp offices, factories and shopping centers. A march was held in the streets of Seattle on January 31. People went on radio and got TV coverage of rallies blasting the bill. Workers got resolutions passed in their unions. UWOC linked the struggle against SB 2373 with the nationwide petition campaign for Jobs or Income Now.

The capitalists are not likely to give up their efforts to slash benefits in Washington. The same kind of attacks are being made on unemployment in state after state. Georgia has already pushed through their version of SB 2373 and the Federal government has cut off second and third extensions in 19 states.

But the mass movement against these cuts is also growing across the country. Workers are not sitting still while the same people who throw us out of

our jobs try to steal the little income we get from unemployment compensation to feed, clothe, and house our families. They are still able to get through some of these measures, but not without a hell of a battle. No longer can they get over with this robbery quietly, without resistance. The victory in Seattle is important--and it demonstrates the kind of strength and organization of our class that's on the rise and the growing strength of our struggle for Jobs or Income Now.



WORKERS DEMONSTRATE AGAINST SB2373 IN DOWNTOWN SEATTLE, JANUARY 31ST.

## HELTER SKELTER

# A MANSON MYTH MAKER

"Helter Skelter" goes through a "slash by slash" description of the mass murders committed by the Manson family. The book and the TV script made a fortune for Manson's prosecutor, Vincent Bugliosi because it claimed to explain the bizarre spree of killings.

But the book and TV show never really say how or why a freak like Charles Manson came on the scene. Besides Bugliosi's portrayal of himself as a hard working investigator, championing the forces of law and order, all we get is a picture of Manson as some kind of insane revolutionary with super human powers over others.

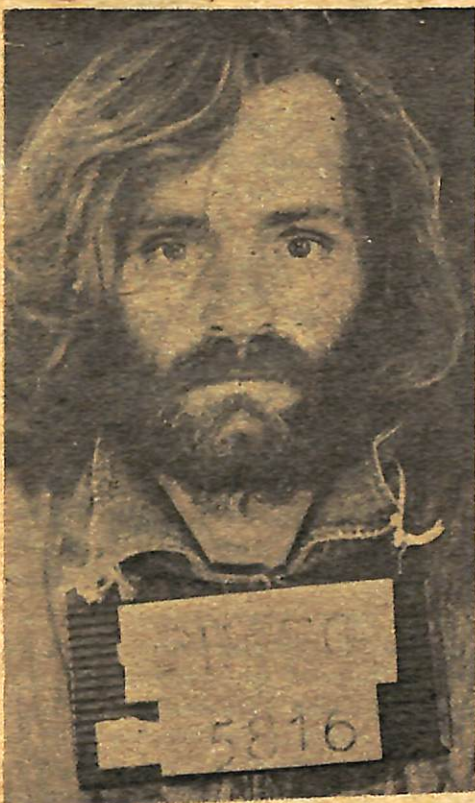
In other words, Bugliosi has become another Manson myth-maker. Now he's cashing in on the sensationalism of drugs, sex and mass murder. He's building up the very man he sent up for life. Why is the state of California and the ABC network putting Charlie right back on the front pages? What do they have in common with this little degenerate who is one of the most disgusting excuses for a human being yet?

Let's investigate the similarities between Manson and the system he claimed to reject. Let's piece together the evidence and search for a common motive.

According to Bugliosi, Charles Manson preached of a coming race war in which Blacks would destroy whites. After this race war, according to Manson, he and his clan would come out of the desert and take over, sending the Blacks back into slavery. Manson had his followers leave clues at the Tate and Labianca murder sites that would throw suspicion for the murders on the Black Panthers. He hoped this would touch off the race war.

At this same time the Los Angeles police department and the Los Angeles district attorney's office were carrying out a systematic campaign to wipe out the Black Panther Party. Frame ups and shoot outs, like the Fred Hampton killing in Chicago, were their methods. These raids led to the killing and jail-

ing of dozens of Southern California Black Panther members. Behind the scenes was another man who, also had "absolute control" over his followers - J. Edgar Hoover.



ALTHOUGH MANSON CLAIMED TO REJECT RULING CLASS SOCIETY, HE WAS THE LOGICAL EXTREME OF ALL ITS VALUES.

Both the system and Charlie had the same fear of the Black liberation struggle, which was at a high point in size and militancy at that time. Charlie was following the system's goals - to put down the Blacks and get the power for themselves.

Let's look at Charles Manson's attitude toward the young girls he recruited to his clan. He says that women are good for only 2 things - satisfying a man and bearing children. He slapped them a-

round, had them do all his menial work, went to bed with whichever he pleased, and made them think they were powerless without him.

Again evidence right below the windows of the Los Angeles county prosecutor shows the very same values. Hundreds of topless, bottomless, x-rated, and other forms of degenerate clubs line streets like Sunset Strip. The system sells sex, degrading all women. It's clear the ruling class and its flunkies like District Attorney Bugliosi have no more respect for women than Charlie Manson does.

Charlie used hallucinatory drugs in building up his island of insanity. His handful of followers turned to drugs to escape from reality. By trading the daily struggles of the real world for the world of whirling ideas and fantasy, they made themselves easy prey for an ego maniac like Manson.

The system also uses drugs to keep people from realizing their own power. Bugliosi, a big shot in law enforcement, was no doubt personally acquainted with the way top pushers are protected, dope kick backs are funneled to cops and prison inmates are kept on "downers". Drugs are used to "mellow out" the built in cruelties of the rich man's system.

In looking at the evidence, it's not hard to see why Bugliosi writes about Charles Manson. He's making a nice bundle of cash. But he's also painting a picture that he has no trouble living with. Both he and Manson are logical outcomes of the same system. Manson took every value of the rich man - oppression of women and Blacks, degenerate life style, refusal to work, and disregard of human life - all in trying to pave a road to power for himself. Bugliosi wears a three piece suit, and covers himself with moral indignation against Manson's crimes. But the system he stands for is full of the same helter skelter--go for yourself ideas that Manson took to their worst extremes. ■

## FIGHT FOOD STAMP CUTS

Under the "people to work" money" and "putting people to work" President Ford has announced major cuts in the food stamp program for June 1st. Congress has half a dozen similar plans in the works.

Ford wants to cut off 20% of all food stamp recipients, mainly those receiving minimum wages, unemployment benefits, strike benefits or working part-time. Without stamps, these people would be under more pressure to take any job they can find, many having to take wage cuts from previous jobs.

People still receiving food stamps would have to report to the Job Service and take any job over \$2.30 an hour, or get their stamps cut off.

Ford hopes to create a work force of several million people who will face a choice of starvation wages or just plain starvation. He wants to use these workers as a club to force all wages down.

On April 20 the Unemployed Workers Organizing Committee (UWOC) held a picket line at the welfare office to fight this attack. People passing through the welfare office showed their support. One woman pointed out that food stamps are a rip off as it is. She said she works part time and has to pay \$71 for \$83 dollars worth of stamps--"What am I gonna feed my family on if they cut that?"

Many people signed the UWOC petition for Jobs or Income. UWOC is hoping to have a quarter of a million signatures to take to a nationwide demonstration in Philadelphia on July 4th, to throw in the face of the ruling class during all their bicentennial celebrating.

The April 20th picket line was the latest in a long string of activities UWOC has organized to build the fight for jobs or income. A month earlier they took the food stamp fight into the lobby of the welfare building where county deputies arrested 5 UWOC members.

The politicians have been working overtime lately to put the blame for everything that's wrong with this country on programs like food stamps. New York bankrupt? Taxes too high? Too much unemployment? They say cut back "non-essential" programs like food stamps, unemployment benefits, etc. They say force the unemployed to price themselves back into the job market (work for peanuts), get the lazy bums off welfare and everything will be OK.

A leaflet from UWOC put it straight, "We want JOBS we can live on, not starvation crumbs from the government. But the way things are now, we have to have these stamps until we can find jobs." And "It's not the food stamp program that's speeding us up and throwing us out of work--it's the capitalists who own everything."

But there are working men and women who expect those food stamps to be there when it comes time to strike. Millions of underpaid and unemployed workers use these stamps to keep food in the ice box. They aren't going to accept any cuts in food stamps. ■

# GALILEE AND WEST BANK PALESTINIAN RISINGS SHAKE ISRAEL

In the past two months, Israel has been shaken by massive uprisings of Palestinian Arabs. A wave of demonstrations against Israeli occupation swept the West Bank area and then a week of militant protest rocked Galilee in the north.

The state of Israel was set up in Palestine in 1948 by Zionists, rich Jewish capitalists who wanted land and Jewish and Arab workers to exploit, and conveniently claimed God gave them the ownership of this slice of the Mideast. They were backed by various imperialists, including the U.S. ruling class, who planned to use Israel to ride herd on the Mideast and help the U.S. keep its grip on the wealthy oil reserves of the area. By force and terror, close to 90% of the Palestinians were driven from their homes. Two sections of Palestine, Gaza and the West Bank of the Jordan River, were taken over by Egypt and Jordan. In 1967, Israel attacked her Arab neighbors to rip off what she missed in 1948, incorporating the West Bank into Israel at gun point.

The land grabs of the Zionists have never been accepted by the Palestinians. Increasingly, Israel has tried to consolidate its hold on the Palestinian areas it seized, forcing Arabs to sell their land, blowing up and bulldozing their homes and killing those who resisted. The West Bank, Gaza and Lebanon have all been hotbeds of Pal-

estinian resistance to Israel and Zionism.

Palestinians who live in areas seized by Israel in 1948, like Galilee, have been made "citizens" of Israel. The majority of them are workers, exploited side by side with Jewish workers. But the Palestinians have far higher unemployment and are kept in the most marginal jobs. Until recently, they weren't allowed to join or form unions! Palestinians are forced to carry special ID cards, Nazi style. These "full citizens" are not allowed to form their own political parties or own weapons.

The uprising in the West Bank area was triggered by an Israeli judge's decision to let Jews worship on the Temple Mount, where Solomon's temple stood thousands of years ago. Presently, the Temple Mount is an important Moslem shrine and enraged Arab religious students took to the streets in protest. Quickly, the protest changed from a religious cause to a broader political action against the brutal Israeli occupation and even existence of Israel itself.

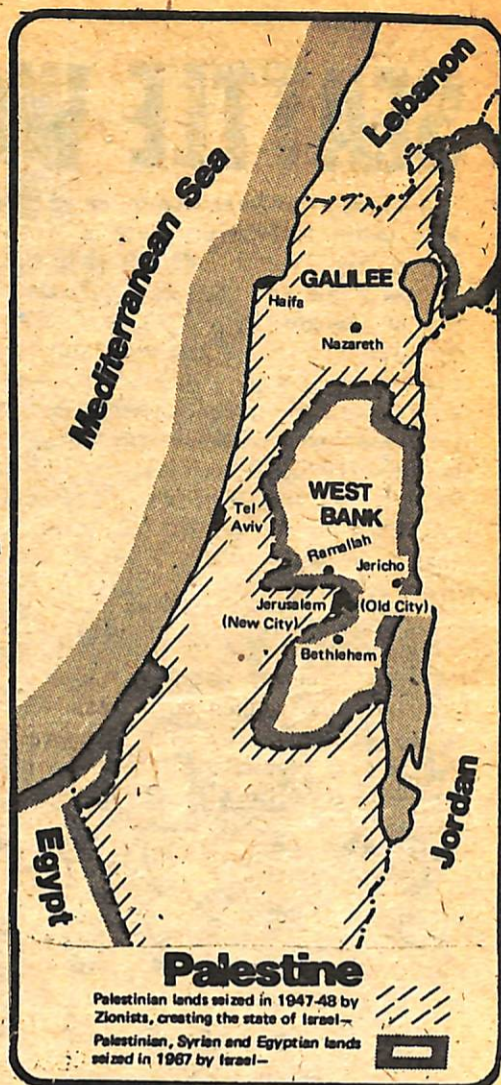
The Palestinian struggle aims at building a Palestinian state with no state religion, where Jews, Moslems and Christians can live together in equality. Thousands chanted "Free Palestine!"

By March 10, even conservative mayors of several villages resigned in soli-

darity with the struggle. Israeli security troops announced a 24 hour curfew in two towns by firing machine guns into the air. But the demonstrations grew and on March 17 a general strike was declared in Old Jerusalem, with many people joining the workers in staying home. Underlining that this was no case of "religious fanaticism," as the Israeli capitalists tried to call it, Bethlehem and other Palestinian Christian towns erupted in struggle. Over 12 Palestinians, including a ten year old boy in Jericho, were killed by the Israelis.

In recent years, Palestinians have been approaching nearly 50% of the population in the Galilee area, upsetting the Zionists to no end. In late March protests against the Israeli policy of forcing Palestinians to sell their land jumped off. On March 30, Galilee was shaken by a general strike and demonstrators, in solidarity with the struggle on the West Bank, shouted "Revolution Until Victory!" while they filled the streets.

These upsurges have panicked the Israel government. They represent a big internal threat to the continued existence of Zionist Israel and they shine a harsh light on Israel's lies that its Arabs are "happy Arabs." The U.S. ruling class, who keeps Israel afloat on a sea of dollars, is also worried. Israel has been the U.S.'s ace in the hole a-



gainst revolution in the area, a ready and willing policeman for U.S. imperialism in the oil region. The Palestinian uprisings threaten the whole structure of U.S. interests.

In late April the struggle picked up again. The Palestinians are fighting to free their nation from the grip of the Zionists and U.S. imperialists and their struggle is bound to continue to grow.

## ALL THE PRESIDENT'S MEN

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

Whether a story appears in the papers has little to do with reporters digging out "hard facts" that "All the President's Men" glorified, and everything to do with who the news (or their distortion of it) will benefit.

Nixon's departure to the San Clemente beach was a good thing for the American people. It showed that the ruling class is not as all-powerful as they would like us to think. The whole Watergate scene turned up the lights on the whole stinking mess of their capitalist system. But a change of occupancy of the White House can never mean that the government and the politicians are anything other than the tools and servants of the ruling class. The capitalists continue to try to grind more profits out of our hides; the courts continue to faithfully issue injunctions against picketlines; the FBI continues to spy on anyone it thinks might be a threat to the bosses' rule; the police continue to serve and protect the rich; and the politicians continue to take as

much as they can, and dance to the tune of the big corporations and banks.

The main efforts of the Washington Post, that great protector of the freedom and rights of the masses, in the last year have been directed at breaking an eight month strike by the pressmen at the Post, busting their union, and replacing them with a bunch of scabs. The Post and the rest of the bosses' media praises the courage and determination of Woodward and Bernstein to the skies, but they have nothing but contempt for the really courageous struggle of the Post pressmen who are waging a bitter fight for their jobs and who have now called for a boycott of the film.

The final days of Richard Nixon were great to witness as one of the high and mighty got pulled down. But we won't be satisfied with just that. No film and movie will convince us that Nixon was the only maniac who runs this country. We can't and won't be content until we've brought them all to their knees.



OVER 400 STRIKING WASHINGTON POST PRESS OPERATORS AND THEIR SUPPORTERS DIMONSTRATED AT THE PREMIERE OF "ALL THE PRÉSIDENT'S MEN TO SHOW WHAT THE POST MEANS TO WORKING PEOPLE.

## Gert Alexander A Great Loss, A Great Example



The Central Committee of the Revolutionary Communist Party announces with deep grief the death of comrade Gert Alexander, who died early April 17 at the age of 60.

Gert Alexander had been militant in the revolutionary struggle of the working class for 40 years and more. Her death is a great loss to the working class and its cause of communism.

As a youth, she joined the Young Communist League at the time of the last great depression and later joined the Communist Party. When the Communist Party betrayed the struggle of the working class and gave up the goal of revolution, she continued to organize and give leadership to the ongoing struggle of the working class and to work toward the formation of a new party that would represent its revolutionary interests. She was a founding member of the Revolutionary Communist Party, a leading member of the Central Com-

mittee and headed its work among unemployed workers.

Twice in the last six years, comrade Alexander suffered heart attacks, but she refused to allow that to stand in the way of her contribution to the struggle and, in fact, each time threw herself even more vigorously into the thick of the growing battle.

In this militant revolutionary attitude, as well as in all her life, comrade Alexander is an inspiring example for us to learn from: A determination to learn from the masses, without becoming a condescending savior.

A burning desire to master Marxism-Leninism, Mao Tsetung Thought, the revolutionary science of our class, to return it to the workers to guide the struggle forward, and a deep belief that the workers can grasp this science and on this basis change the world. A hatred for revisionism and all other forms of betraying the working class, seared deep through years of fighting them.

A fierce determination always to advance the struggle toward its revolutionary goal, and an unshakable belief that the cause of communism will eventually triumph.

Never wavering or fearful in the face of hardship or difficulty, but instead persevering in fighting to break a way through; never complacent or smug with any gain in the struggle, but always determined to build on it to make further advances.

Always putting the interests of the working class as a whole and of its Party above narrow or personal interests.

It is for these qualities that the working class and the Revolutionary Communist Party will always cherish the life and memory of comrade Gert Alexander, and which fire us with even greater dedication to fight for the great goal to which she dedicated her very life.

# KOSS WORKERS FIGHT FOR UNION

The workers at Koss Corp. put the big shots up-tight the minute they started handing around union cards. Despite the company threats, many signed, and an NLRB supervised election has been scheduled on May 14th.

In the last 15 years, Koss grew from one small building on 31st street to a big company with operations and offices in countries around the world. According to a Milwaukee Journal article, Koss credits his success to hard work and the fact that God is at the head of his board of directors. But the workers know that Koss made his millions by paying crummy wages and benefits, by driving the women on the assembly lines like slaves, by using temporary help instead of hiring all regular employees and by keeping a union out of his shop.

The women at Koss start as temporary employees making minimum wage. Every 3 months a few get hired as regular and their wages go up to a big \$2.64 an hour. After putting in several years at Koss, the wages go up over \$4.00 an hour, but on the average they are \$1.30 an hour less than other companies in the electrical industry.

Koss wants his workers to think they don't need a union because he is like a father to them and not a rich boss. The company holds meetings at least once a month to thank the workers for killing themselves and pep them up for another month of putting out up to 4 thousand stereo headphones a day.

But this "big daddy" cover is wearing thin as foremen breath down workers backs to get the lines moving faster-as one woman is made to do 2 or 3 jobs-as "merit" raises are denied-as seniority and job postings become more of a joke, and as temporary workers are fired almost as fast as they're hired. They're fired because the glue they use makes them sick or they go to the bathroom one too many times or their smile is crooked.

The day that John Koss received a telegram from the IBEW saying a drive was on, he called a plant wide meeting.

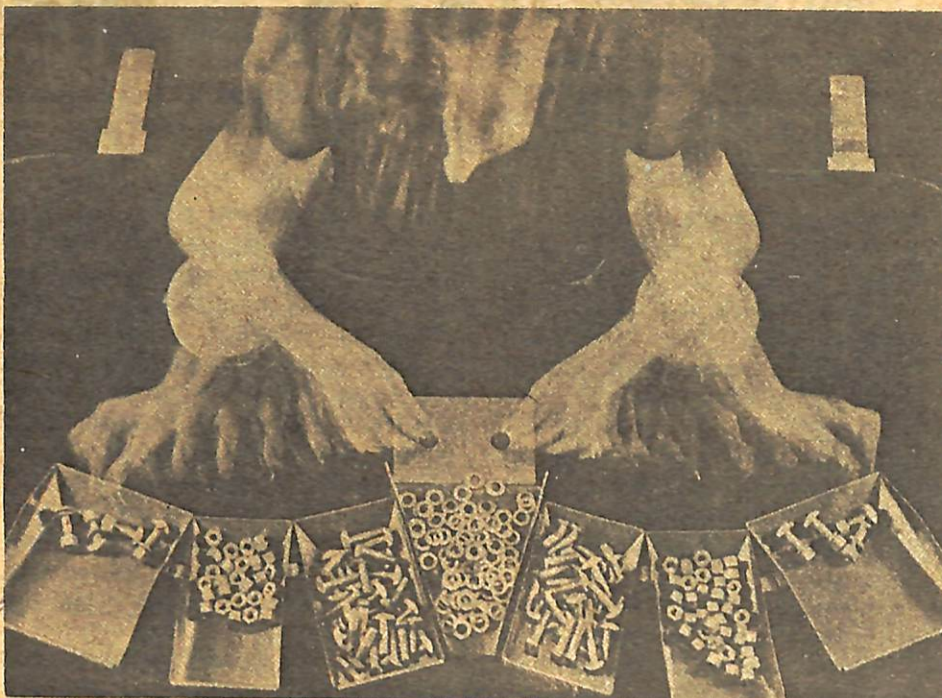
After crying a few tears of "We're so good to you, we don't understand why you want a union" the big shots started in with the threats. Koss will pack up and move out of town. Pension and profit sharing will be lost. Union dues will put all the workers in debt.

The foremen followed this act by talking to people on the lines to get information about who was behind the union drive. Temporaries who spoke in favor of the union were let go. Department meetings were held during the work day and letters were passed out, all trying to scare people and convince them the union was bad. Mrs. Koss herself came to the plant to talk down the union. These are the same dirty tricks that every company uses to try and keep a union out.

Despite all this the shop is full of talk about the union. Women handed out leaflets announcing a union meeting inside the plant and did not back down when they were told to stop. Union cards kept passing from hand to hand. Serious discussion and debating goes on at the coffee machines and tables in the lunch room, on the assembly lines and outside work.

Through its meetings and letters the company has raised questions in people's minds, "Could a union really help, could we lose what we already have?" Koss threatens he'll move the plant out of town if the union comes in. This is the first thing every company says when they hear union talk. If Koss figures they can make more profit somewhere else, they will make plans to move without a second thought of what that means for the workers here - union or no union. Many Koss workers see it this way, "What are we supposed to do, live on crumbs for ever because we are afraid if we fight they may take the crumbs away?" It is only the workers' organized strength that will keep Koss from moving the plant out of town.

Koss also claims that he gives the workers everything they need. That's not even funny when it comes time to pay all the bills out of a paycheck that is constantly falling behind the rising cost of living. No boss ever gave any-



MANY ELECTRONICS WORKERS ARE PUSHED TO WORK FAST & FASTER STILL. WORKERS AT KOSS ARE ORGANIZING A UNION SO THEY CAN FIGHT BACK AS AN ORGANIZED FORCE.

thing to the workers out of the goodness of his heart. Koss has only given the workers enough so they will come back every day to make more headphones and more profit for the company.

Another company threat is that pension and profit sharing will be lost if a union comes in. Right now pension and profit sharing don't amount to peanuts. This threat is a way of trying to divide the older white women who are closer to retirement from the others - many Black and younger women.

Only the strength and unity of the working class can force Koss to come across with better pension, profit sharing, wages and working conditions. And building a fighting union, controlled by the workers can be an important part of building this strength.

Right now when a woman is due for a merit raise the foreman can say her work is not good enough. And it is the fight of one woman alone against the company. With a union the workers can fight as an organized force.

Voting in a union can not be a guarantee of any easy victories. But unions

are built by rank and file workers like the women at Koss who passed around union cards and stood up to the bosses. And unions are an important tool in building our strength and unity to fight for the things we need. Voting in the union is not the end. The union must be used by the rank and file as a real weapon to fight Koss right down the line.

Koss wants to keep the workers divided - the Black from the white from the foreign speaking - the permanents from the temporaries - the older from the younger. But the workers at Koss all put in 8 hard hours a day on the assembly lines. They have more in common with each other than they can ever have with John Koss, who lives in a mansion and spends his time flying around Europe finding ways to make more money.

The workers at Koss have a long battle ahead if they are going to get a union shop. But by standing UNITED and letting Koss know they are ready to fight, they can win a union and build their strength in the process. ■

## PORTLAND OREGON

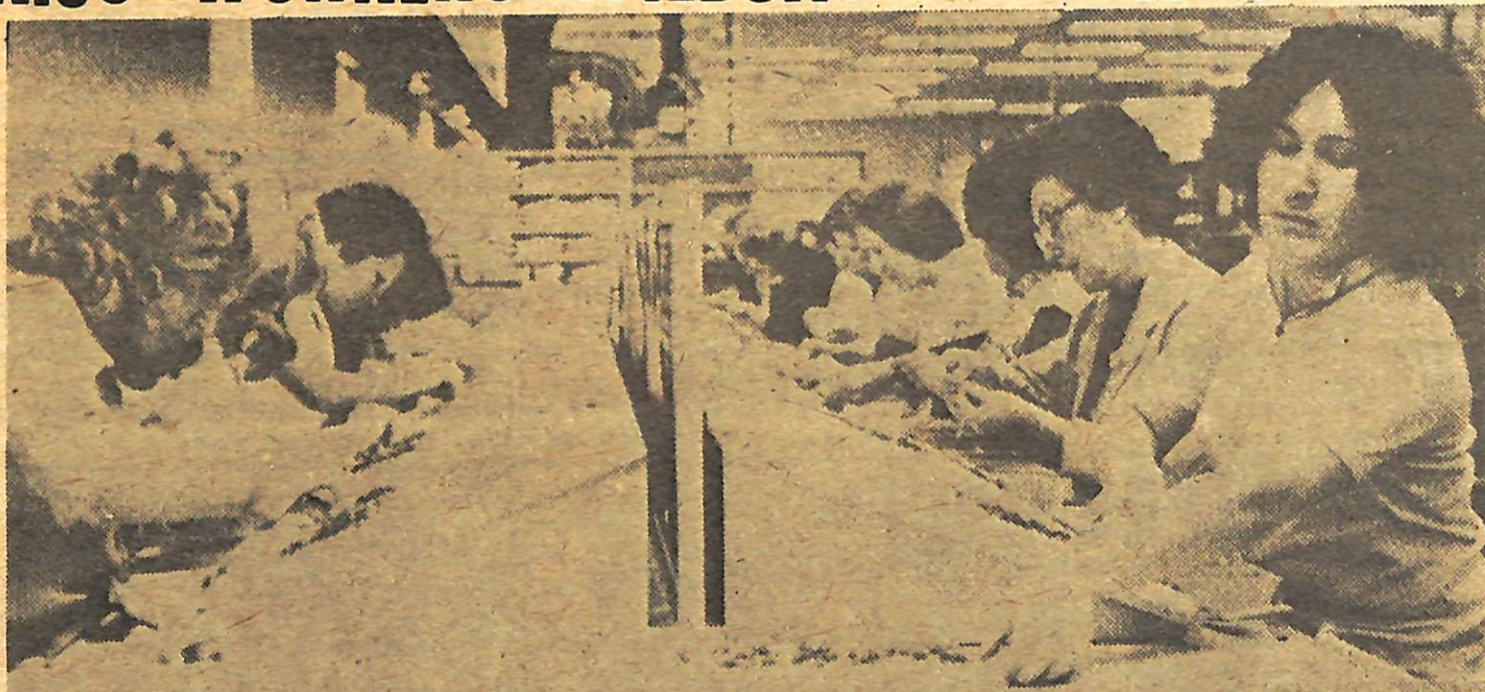
# ELECTRONICS WORKERS WILDCAT VS. PAYCUT

Tektronix runs a big electronics plant near Portland, Ore., with over 7,000 workers scattered in 20 different buildings, with many of the workers starting at \$2.50 an hour. The plant is non-union. Tek tries to hold back the workers' struggle by claiming that everyone is just like "one big, happy family." When that fails they resort to open or veiled threats - "step out of line and you're out the door." But at the end of March 100 workers stood up in the face of this and waged a successful one day strike.

Recently Tek tried a wage cut, pretending it was in the interest of "equality" for the women workers. For years they have locked the women into the poorest paying jobs, making less than the men. Instead of upgrading the women, they tried downgrading the men. This was the last straw. 100 machinists walked out over this outrage.

The one day wildcat backed Tek off. News of it had spread through the buildings like wildfire, winning many workers' support. One worker said, "Already we're finding it harder and harder to raise our families on what they pay us. And now they want to cut us back some more! Who do they think we are?" Another said, "I've worked here a long time, long enough to deserve being treated better than this."

The strike threw a big scare into the



IT WAS MACHINISTS WHO WALKED OUT AT TEKTRONIX. BUT THE WALK-OUT HAS HAD A BROAD EFFECT EVERYWHERE IN THE PLANT. THE PHOTO ABOVE SHOWS TEKTRONIX WORKERS ON THE CIRCUIT BOARD ASSEMBLY LINE.

company and inspired many workers. Tektronix had thought that in their non-union shop, they could ride high and easy, with no trouble from "their" workers. Managers called meetings all over the plant to explain that the strike hadn't accomplished anything, that it was all a big misunderstanding. But the sweat on their brows told more than their empty words.

The strike was a big victory for every-

one. But it wasn't all smooth sailing. Some of the workers in other buildings were a bit confused at the start. One woman said, "At first I was kind of jealous of those guys, because I didn't get anything. Then I started realizing that I'm never going to get anything if I wait for some boss to give it to me. They're going to pay me as little as they can, for as long as they can get away with it. Well, I'm tired

of being ripped off."

By taking the company head on, the machinists pointed the way forward. But that the walkout was confined to one department in one building pointed to some obstacles that need to be overcome, too. Tek workers are planning to go about building deeper ties and organization among all the workers so that the next time they will be prepared to hit the bosses harder. ■

# RUBBER

CONTINUED FROM CENTERFOLD

and running bad tires and scrap. In Akron and Topeka, Kansas, Goodyear workers wore T-shirts emblazoned with strike slogans at work before the strike and are continuing to wear them.

Picket actions have been strong. In Akron mass pickets formed spontaneously when the deadline hit at midnight. At Firestone workers didn't even go in for the 10 PM shift. The next morning the plants were completely blocked off. No salaried employees or trucks were allowed in.

The International headquarters offices of Goodrich, Firestone and Goodyear were shut down by pickets. At Goodyear, shoving matches broke out when gung-ho executive types tried to get in. At Goodrich, workers carried a telephone pole to block a gate. The cops jumped them, hospitalizing several and arresting six. The mass outrage was so strong that the county was forced to suspend one deputy sheriff for hitting a striker with a flashlight.

In Marysville, Ohio, mass pickets at Goodyear prevented sheriff's deputies from getting through. A company shanty was burned down. In Salinas, California, there were mass pickets at the Firestone plant. At other plants there were reports of early walkouts and militant pickets.

## GOODYEAR IN AKRON

The companies in areas of militant struggle, quickly got injunctions rubber stamped to reduce pickets to a token two to four per gate, and to keep workers from blocking or harassing anyone going in. The union officials pushed acceptance

of the injunctions. But while things calmed down in some places in others resistance began immediately as large numbers of "visitors" (unofficial pickets) joined the official pickets at each gate.

Pickets at Goodyear's Akron rim plant blocked and shut the plant gate. Although they let traffic come in after the cops read the injunction, later in the day at the Goodyear plant two pickets stopped coal trucks and later even a freight train coming into the plant. This was only the beginning. Later the strikers honored the injunction by keeping four "pickets"—50 gallon drums—blocking the way, saying, "Those are out official pick-while having 20 "visitors" off to the side.

When union officials came to plead with them to cool it, workers told one, "You're telling us the same thing as the Goodyear police, just using different words. What the hell is a picket line for if it's not to stop people from going in?"

But while the Plant 2 strikers were holding firm, the other gates were not adequately covered and trucks and cars with salaried people got through. This was largely due to sabotage by union officials who discouraged the mass pickets and blocking of traffic, and actually called large numbers of workers to picket at another plant, pulling them away from the Goodyear rim plant.

The 30 pickets at Goodyear Plant 2 took a valiant stand and fought tooth and nail, but these workers weren't able to mobilize adequate forces to win this immediate battle and keep the plant sealed off, and lack of a solid organized unity enabled the union to divide those taking a more militant stand and eventually smash the struggle for the time being.

This illustrates the overall situation facing the strikers. A burning deter-

mination to fight to win exists among the workers, and there are advanced forces that are trying to put this stand into practice and saying, to hell with the injunction. But the lack of organization to mobilize all the strikers, concentrate their forces and overcome the divisions among the workers and isolation of individual plants and areas, has worked to keep things largely in the hands of the officials—at least for now. So despite the power, fighting spirit and unity of the workers, there exists a real possibility of Bommarito and the companies engineering a sellout.

While they talk tough and say they will call worldwide actions, these officials have told workers that "the companies' pot is only so big" setting up the stage for giving up key demands. They try to play up divisions among the workers, between younger and older (saying that they can only win on wages or pension), tire and non-tire (by saying that the only choice is wage hikes for the tire workers or maintaining the same wage for both), between those

in Akron and those elsewhere (by claiming higher wages will drive plants out of Akron), and so on.

But there's also the possibility for a tremendous victory as the struggle of the rank and file builds. And however it turns out, the strike has dealt a blow to the enemy and more clearly exposed both its faces and the needs of the workers' struggles. The workers have greatly added to their strength, unity, and understanding and beginnings of organization.

As the strike goes on, support from the rest of the working class will be important. A boycott of Firestone has been called. Firestone also makes tires for Ward's and Penny's. Solidarity statements and financial contributions will help out the strikers whose strike funds are low. The ruling class is already saying the rubber workers will cause layoffs, inflation and hurt "recovery". It is important for us to answer this with a militant show of support for this struggle which is advancing the interest of all workers.

Victory to the Rubber Workers!!



# ELECTIONS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

wife hold a press conference and tell people not to vote for him.

Kennedy owes the county a couple of thousand dollars in expense money. He said he was attending out of state conferences—but it turns out these conferences never happened.

Stupid as Kennedy sounds, his humiliating defeat is what politics in their phoney "democracy" is all about. It's more than just getting caught with his hand in the till. His political opponents, representing other ruling class interest

groups, dug up dirt on him he never thought would be exposed, because everybody does it. This is one way the so-called "democratic" system works.

In the County Executive race, District Attorney E. Michael McCann lost to William O'Donnell. With traditional politician's logic, McCann didn't consider his loss a defeat. Instead, he said, "I consider it a mandate from the people to remain their district attorney."

With these "choices" it's no wonder that only 38% of eligible voters turned out April 6. And the low turn out sure isn't because of apathy.

The lack of voters really means that more and more people—especially working people—are seeing that the politicians' promises, programs and whole so-

called system of democracy are nothing but lies to keep us down.

Just look at who backs these national candidates—Rockefellers, Fords, Mellons, DuPonts, Litton Industries, Union Oil, Anaconda, Lockheed, Boeing—and more of the same. No matter how much the politicians talk about needing our one and two dollar contributions, their campaigns are mobilized by the ruling class. It's a democracy if your name is Rockefeller or one of the few other names that spell big money. And July 4 these members of the ruling class will be commemorating their rise to power in 1776.

They expect us to join them and also celebrate this democracy of theirs which the masses of people have always been

excluded from.

But we say why join in a pep rally that celebrates their rise to power 200 years ago?

Four organizations—the Revolutionary Communist Party, Unemployed Workers Organizing Committee, Vietnam Veterans Against the War, and Revolutionary Student Brigade—are calling for a demonstration in Philadelphia July 4.

This demonstration will show our strength and unity as workers who are demanding in 1976 "Jobs or Income Now!" and declaring "We Won't Fight, Another Rich Man's War!" In the midst of this bicentennial election year hoopla, our way of voting is to shout loud and clear: "We've carried the rich for 200 years. Let's get them off our backs!!"

# MEATCUTTERS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

industry as the crisis bound capitalist class tries to save itself. They are increasingly resorting to union busting brutal speed-up wage cuts, and other forms of attack. The Giddings and Lewis strike in Fond du Lac is one battle that is looking more and more like a repeat of the meatcutters strike. The

capitalists want to recover from this crisis on the backs of the working class.

The fight to reorganize will be a long and hard one. The fight just to survive with strike benefits cut off will be rough. But the men and women of local 248 who faced up to a monster for 15 months have never been afraid of hard times and will be going back to work prepared to fight. As one striker put it, "We aren't defeated. For 15 months we held our heads high, proud to carry a picket sign. When we go back to work our heads will still be high, 'cause we know who we are. This

was just one battle, not the whole war."

The packing house bosses are not having the strikers back right away. They are expected to wait until after May 14 NLRB union representation election. Then strikers and scabs will vote on whether Meatcutters Local 248 will be the workers' official representative in the Milwaukee packing houses. The Meatpackers Association lawyers now contend the strikers are "permanently replaced" and have no right to vote. So every union man the bosses call back before the election will mean one less union vote they can challenge. Every scab they keep will make chances better to

vote local 248 out of the seven packing houses for now.

But after the elections strikers are expected to be called back to the plants. At the high point of the strike they were going through scabs almost as fast as they were cattle. The scab work force was leaving bones will red meat trimmings. By-products were wasted. Customers were lost. And overall production fell. The Meatpackers drive for profit is forcing them to take back workers who fought them so hard and gained so much unity and political experience in the fight.

# TEAMSTERS

CONTINUED FROM CENTERFOLD

Up against the trucking associations, the government, the press and their own union officials, the rank and file took them all on, voted overwhelmingly for a strike and walked out across the country when the old contract expired. As one striking driver summed it up afterwards, "The only reason they (Fitzsimmons and Co.) sanctioned the strike is because they knew we were staying out. We're all fed up and this time we're beginning to stick together."

The rank and file had organized against a sellout leading up to the strike. A petition putting forward many of their basic demands was circulated throughout the country and signed by 25,000 Teamsters. There were several demon-

strations around contract demands, including in Detroit, where 600 Teamsters met before the contract expired and vowed to strike if Fitzsimmons sold out.

The bosses are fond of telling workers how weak they are. But this strike even though it only lasted three days nationwide, showed what a lie this is. Several key American Motors plants were ready to shut down. U.S. Steel, which does 50% of its shipping by truck, was affected immediately. In many places around the country the rank and file took the initiative to organize picket lines, and clear major highways and truck stops of trucks.

The Teamster leadership did everything possible to cut the heart out of the strike even though it had been forced to sanction it. During the strike they signed interim agreements with many

trucking companies in an effort to pit one driver against another and cut the power of the strike. And in Chicago the Teamster leadership didn't even call a strike.

In the face of all this, the rank and file, while it did show its potential power, was not yet organized enough to keep the initiative of the strike in its own hands and stop a sellout this time. This was especially true because many of the leaders of organizations that did develop (including ex-Hoffa cronies and the "Teamsters for a Decent Contract—TDC") had made their aim simply putting pressure on Fitzsimmons and when push came to shove they did not carry through the battle based on the anger and desire of the rank and file to fight. One TDC leader got on the radio in Detroit and said, "We've been recognized by the unions. They've talked to us.

There's a court injunction so we're going back to work."

In the final settlement, gains were won in wages—including a cost of living escalator. But even this is full of fancy language which hides the fact that it will still fall short of inflation.

Many Teamsters are angry about the continued poor grievance procedure, pension, health and welfare increases of 38% which will go to the union fund, but not a cent to the drivers, continued layoffs, abuse of part time workers and forced overtime. By forcing the strike and continuing to wildcat, the Teamsters in their hundreds of thousands strengthened themselves for future battles, dealt a blow to the class collaboration of their union leadership, and strengthened upcoming struggles in auto, electrical, construction, garment and other industries in the process.

# CHINA

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

behind include more than poverty and backwardness. There still remain the force of old habits, ideas and the division of labor by which things were produced and organized in the old society. In China there was a saying, "Those who work with their minds govern, while those who work with their hands are governed. That reflected the way the exploiters ran things.

An example of the continuing revolution against all this was the big struggle that broke out in the early 1960's at the Anshan Iron and Steel Company in China. The managers and technicians at this company were using their so-called expertise and position to lord it over the workers, holding them down with all kinds of work rules and restrictions. It was the kind of situation where a set of highly "educated" engineers came

resistance. Each inroad against the old way of life, each advance in the struggle of the workers to break down the old society's division of labor, is opposed by a few of those who see the revolution not as a continuing struggle to eliminate oppression, but as a way to find a new and comfortable position--a way to feather their own nest.

In fact, as long as there are leftover traces of the old society, they constantly give rise to a new capitalist class from among some of the managers, intellectuals, richer peasants and a few bad leaders of the Communist Party who try to protect and add to their own special position. It is this group that people like Liu Shao-chi and Lin Piao and today, Teng Hsiao-ping represent and defend. It is against this that struggles are waged like those going on in China now.

This capitalist class is not the same in form as the old one in China or like today in the U.S. Today in China the

it didn't matter if socialist or capitalist policies were followed--just as long as they got results in increasing production. He used this to attack the new, socialist ways of doing things that workers and peasants themselves had created.

What did this mean? One focus of the struggle right now is at Tsinghua University. Through the Cultural Revolution the students and teachers at this school made great strides forward in turning the school into a real weapon in the hands of the working class. Students must work at least two years in a factory or peasant commune before attending. They are then recommended by their fellow workers and peasants. At school the students study the actual problems faced in production and have even built a small factory, which they operate, at the school. After graduation students return to the factories and communes to put their learning to use in moving the society forward.

Under Teng's influence one of the main administrators at this school was completely opposed to these changes. His attitude was, "We're not training enough experts. It's a waste of time having these students in the factories all the time." He wanted to return to the old system, struggled against during the Cultural Revolution, where the school trained "professional experts" and generally separated theory from practice. He also wanted to reintroduce rigid "academic" entrance exams which would have filtered out the majority of the sons and daughters of working people. His line would have led, as in this country, back to a situation where professors who had rarely, if ever, seen the insides of a steel plant, and who certainly had never worked there would lecture on the process of making steel.

This administrator wrote a letter to Mao Tsetung, the leader of the Communist Party, complaining about the failure of the Cultural Revolution reforms and advocating a return to the old system. Instead of answering his letter, Mao sent it to the students at the University, which sparked widespread criticism and struggle against the line of "reversing the correct verdicts of the Cultural Revolution." This led to renewed struggle at Tsinghua University against those taking the "capitalist road" and has led to even further advances in dealing with the divisions between "experts" and workers.

This kind of struggle going on at Tsinghua University has broken out all over China. The fact that this struggle has broken out so broadly is a good thing. Reactionaries like Teng have had to come out more openly with their anti-working class lines and policies. In so doing they have become even more exposed and isolated from the masses of Chinese people, who through the struggle have raised their understanding and determination to march forward to eliminate the remnants of capitalist society and achieve communism.

This struggle of the Chinese working class has very important implications for workers in the U.S. The capitalists in this country try to pound it into the heads of workers about how dumb they are and how smart the rulers are. Workers must rely on us if they want a job, a raise, anything. And don't think for a minute you can change things--especially by making a revolution. This is what they want workers to believe.

But the working class in China is disproving all this. Not only have they overthrown their old exploiters and struggled to remake the face of China. But led by their Communist Party, they continue to deal sharp blows to new exploiters and build toward a society free from all the miseries of capitalism. ■



DEMONSTRATORS IN CHINA SUPPORTING THE REMOVAL OF TENG.

up with a new way to rearrange the bricks, supposedly to improve production in the open hearth furnaces, even though the workers told them that their plan wouldn't work. Sure enough it failed. Then when the workers, without consulting the plant managers, began to produce the steel, devising their own way of improving production by regulating the temperature in the furnaces, these "experts" rushed out of their engineering offices, halted production, and threw the steel out because the workers weren't following the "proper procedures."

Guided by the Communist Party, the workers revolted against this view that only the "experts" can run things. After a big struggle in which they defeated this line and re-educated many of the technicians and engineers at the plant, they wrote their own charter, which still stands as the basis for running the plant and is a model throughout China.

Under this charter administrators are required to work in the plant and workers participate in administering the plant. Outdated work rules have been tossed out. The gap between wages of the rank and file workers and managers has been progressively reduced, and workers hold mass meetings to criticize the mistakes of the administrators and come up with new ways to improve production. As a result, workers in the plant now make technical innovations on a wide scale, inventing machines, taking what had formerly been considered scrap and waste and manufacturing whole new products. These concrete steps are examples of what it means for the working class to continue its revolution by clearing out the corpse of the old society, step by step.

The revolt at the Anshan Iron and Steel Company became one of the sparks that ignited the Cultural Revolution in the mid '60's, in which hundreds of millions of people in every factory, agricultural commune, and school rose up and hit hard at those who were going down the road of becoming new exploiters of the working class.

## CONTINUE REVOLUTION

This kind of struggle, of course, meet:

working class holds power and controls the factories. In fact everyone, including the manager and Party members, must work. So "capitalist roaders" don't come right out and say, "I'm for capitalism" or openly advocate speedup and layoffs. They don't own the factories, and even more important, if they spoke out openly for a return to the old society, they would find almost no support anywhere from the people who remember very well the miseries of capitalism.

So in China's socialist society, the main form of their attack on the working class rule is to push political lines and policies aimed at holding back the class struggle of the workers, which is the main force in continuing the revolution. Instead they push policies aimed at keeping and increasing their privileges. All this, of course, is dressed up in fancy talk about "modernizing" things, and making them "efficient"--according to capitalist standards.

But the working class in China isn't putting up with these new "capitalist roaders" either. They aren't about to let their country be restored to capitalism, as happened in the Soviet Union, where a new exploiting class now rules. Just as they dealt with the old landlord and capitalist classes, to win liberation, they are dealing with these new capitalist elements to keep liberation. This is what the Cultural Revolution was about. And this, too, is what's behind the current struggles against Teng Hsiao-ping.

Teng was a leader of the Communist Party in the 1960's. He was kicked out during the Cultural Revolution, and then restored to leadership after he had criticized his previous mistakes and said he would struggle to serve the working class. But instead Teng and other counter revolutionary leaders, under the guise of "modernization" and "good management" tried to reverse the decisions of the Cultural Revolution.

For example, Teng said, "It doesn't matter whether it is a white cat or a black cat, any cat that catches mice is a good cat." What he meant was that

# 1776

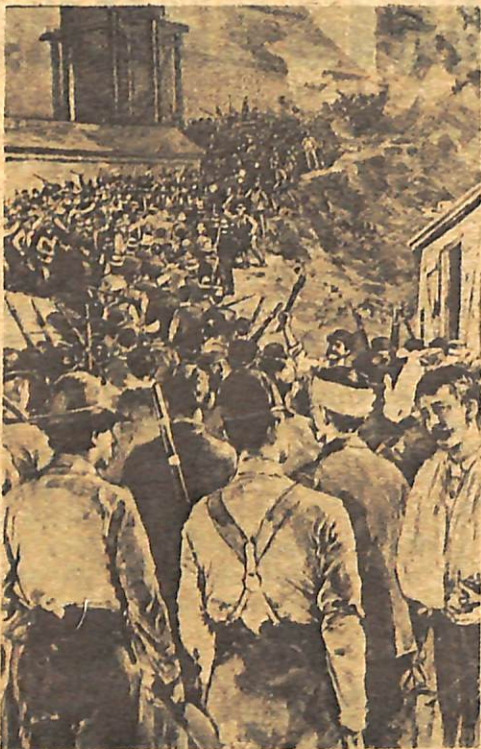
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led by Daniel Shays.

They stormed a courthouse demanding a moratorium on debts and the end of debtors' prison. An army was quickly dispatched, almost as large as the one that defeated Cornwall at Yorktown, financed by massive contributions from wealthy merchants to crush the uprising. The farmers were defeated. The fear of this rebellion struck in the hearts of the new rulers of America gave a big push to the development of the Constitution and the establishment of a strong central government instead of a loose confederation of states that could not provide the capitalists with sufficient control over the masses or defense against other nations.

## FACTORIES & MODERN WORKING CLASS

Firmly in the saddle, the capitalists began squeezing more wealth from the people all over the country. In the South the back breaking plantation slave system expanded. With the capital they accumulated, they were able in the 1800's



AS WORKING CLASS GREW, SO DID ITS STRENGTH.

to set up the factory system. This made possible the production of goods and basic machinery on a scale undreamed of before. It made possible an end to log cabins without running water, to working 16 hours a day to scratch crops from the soil at the mercy of drought or flood, to many of the particular hardships of the colonial era. But developing to serve the profit of a few capitalists all this took place at the price of great hardship and oppression.

In creating modern industry the capitalists created something else--the working class. Factory production required not the craftsmen of colonial days winding rope or blowing bottles individually or with a few apprentices and laborers, but hundreds and thousands of propertyless workers, laboring together cooperatively for the capitalists, because we have no other way to survive. It is the working class who created the great wealth since colonial times, and who have never ceased to fight the rich and powerful who steal for themselves the fruits of our labor.

The capitalists speak of the freedom won in 1776 and they really mean their freedom to exploit us. As for the workers, we too are free-free to work to make them richer or to starve, and even this "freedom" exists only when there are jobs to be had. They hark back to 1776 to talk of "national unity," but the only thing we share with them now is a battlefield, and we stand on opposite sides!

The masses of people took part in the Revolution to overthrow the British colonial system, because it was a roadblock to the development of production and society. But in the 200 years since, the capitalists with whom we united then, have ridden our backs and today it is they who are the roadblocks! They like to talk about their revolution, but today the very thought of revolution frightens them, since revolution today could only be against them and their system.

We've carried the rich for 200 years. Let's get them off our backs! ■

# El Primero De Mayo Declaracion

Companeros obreros:

Hoy día celebraciones del Primero de Mayo están tomando lugar en más que 20 ciudades a través del país, con la asistencia de miles de obreros del mismo modo que millones de nuestra clase están celebrando este día por todo el mundo.

Hoy día, nos estamos juntando a través del país, en muchas ciudades hombres y mujeres de muchas nacionalidades y todas edades. Trabajamos en muchos sitios distintos, y muchos de nosotros llevan mucho tiempo sin poder encontrar trabajo.

Pero a pesar de las diferencias, lo que tenemos en común es mucho más. Somos sobre todo miembros de la misma clase. En común producimos la gran riqueza de este país y lo hacemos funcionar. En común somos explotados y oprimidos. Enfrentamos a una situación común, y tenemos un destino común. Compartemos la determinación a no ser aplastados, pero aplastar a toda opresión y derrocar el sistema de esclavitud asalariada de donde viene.

Reflejando los avances en la lucha hacia esa meta, este año por primera vez desde hace más que 20 años la clase obrera ya tiene su propio partido, el Partido Comunista Revolucionario, dedicado a la tarea de unir las batallas de nuestra clase y dirigirlas hacia esa meta.

El Primero de Mayo resume nuestra situación, resume nuestro deseo a cumplir la lucha y proyecta nuestro plan para marchar pa'lante en esta lucha. Los actos del Primero de Mayo este año se están llevando a cabo a través del país con demandas y consignas comunes, lo que representa un paso importante hacia el desarrollo de una lucha de nuestra clase más unida y conciente por todo el país.

El Primero de Mayo tiene el propósito de adelante nuestro movimiento de la clase obrera. Refleja y ayuda a avanzar y unir cada de las batallas que estamos dando contra cada de los abusos y ultrajes que enfrentamos. Este año, la clase dominante capitalista va gritando sus mentiras con ocasión de su celebración del Bicentenario. Por eso,

vamos a hacer frente a esos como hacemos a todos sus ataques, y demostrar el 4 de julio en Filadelfia en una acción que también proclamará y adelantará el movimiento de nuestra clase.

Historicamente el Primero de Mayo ha sido un día de lucha, cuando los obreros dejaban de trabajar salían en huelga y demostraban su desafío a los capitalistas. Pero eso lo odian. Han tratado de enterrarlo, llamando esta fecha "El Día de Derecho" y tratando de sustituirlo por "ofrecernos el Día de Labor, cuando sus portavoces, los llamados líderes sindicales, tienen la oportunidad a dar discursos vanos y declarar su lealtad al sistema capitalista.

Pero nunca se puede acabar con el Primero de Mayo, al igual que jamás podían acabar con nuestra lucha. Otra vez ha renacido y crecido. Y en el futuro no muy lejos, los obreros de este país se juntarán a los por todo el mundo cerrando las factorías de ganancias de los capitalistas en el Primero de Mayo y declarando nuestra determinación a ser no sólo los dueños de un día, pero dueños de toda sociedad y creadores de un futuro brillante donde la explotación y opresión dejen de existir al fin. ■

Comité Central  
Partido Comunista  
Revolucionario

## EDUCACION

Las escuelas centrales se están desbordando. Muchas tienen clases en casas de remolque que ocupan las áreas de recreo. Treinamil estudiantes ya están siendo transportados fuera de su vecindario debido al exceso de estudiantes en algunas escuelas. Clases de artesanía usan métodos anticuados y máquinas antiguas. En las clases de inglés ni siquiera se les enseña a los estudiantes a leer bien. Las clases de historia, acontecimientos de la actualidad y civismo ocultan la verdadera historia de la clase obrera. Las facilidades de South Division son tan malas que el equipo de campo y pista se tiene que entrenar en los pasillos del tercer piso. En la escuela North, recientemente, la administración de la escuela intentó forzar a los estudiantes a que asistieran a aulas cuyos techos habían sido dañados por fuezo y derrumbes.

Mientras los hijos e hijas de los políticos, banqueros y propietarios de fábricas van a lujosas escuelas secundarias, los hijos de la clase obrera reciben su educación donde los estudios básicos se repiten año tras año. Las lecciones principales son "lleguen a tiempo" y "hagan lo que les digan." Ni siquiera adquieren suficiente capacidad en lectura, composición y matemáticas para conseguir empleo.

Con la discriminación canalizando a los negros y otros grupos minoritarios hacia los empleos de menos especialización, las escuelas que son principalmente negras están destinadas a ser las peores de lo peor.

La clase obrera no tiene nada que ganar y todo que perder a través de la desigualdad y la discriminación. La lucha contra la discriminación no consiste en quitarle lo que tiene un grupo oprimido para dárselo a otro. Trabajos juntos cada día, encaramos las mismas presiones de aceleración de producción, malas condiciones, sueldos bajos y capataces abusadores. Nuestra lucha en pos de sueldos o pagos, mejores escuelas y más. Una parte integral de esta lucha en común es el combate contra la discriminación. Exigimos igualdad en cuestiones de vivienda, empleos y educación. Donde sea posible queremos que las escuelas sean construidas en vecindarios que unan a nuestros hijos, negros, latinos, indios y blancos. Pero la mejor forma de establecer unidad es luchando contra dis-

criminación y por lo que todos necesitamos.

Otro programa amenazado por estas reducciones es el programa bilingüe que permite la educación de estudiantes de habla hispana. Si no fuera por las clases dictadas en español, muchos estudiantes puertorriqueños y mexicanos-americanos no podrían competir en clases dictadas en inglés. Además de ayudara a los estudiantes a aprender el inglés y el español, el programa les enseña a los estudiantes la cultura de Puerto Rico, México y el Sureste.

Tal como se consiguió que se construyeran nuevas escuelas para North y South, los programas bilingües fueron adquiridos a base de manifestaciones, agrupaciones asistiendo a las reuniones de la mesa directiva de las escuelas públicas, y otras formas de luchar. Pero debido a las transferencias y confusión respecto a la transportación de estudiantes y maestros, la mesa directiva intentará reducir el número de clases bilingües, especialmente al reducir el número de estudiantes de habla española en las escuelas donde se encuentran ahora concentrados.

En la lucha por una educación decente e igual, no podemos permitir que el Superintendente McMurrin nos engañe con su Plan Imán. El plan ofrece una atracción o "especialidad" para cada escuela. Supuestamente, esta especialidad atraería estudiantes de toda la ciudad a cada escuela y así se lograría la integración voluntariamente y sin problemas. El plan, sin embargo, obligaría el transporte forzado de 7,500 estudiantes, la mayoría de ellos negros. Pero estas pocas especialidades no tienen nada que ver con la calidad ni la igualdad de la educación. Su presupuesto ya está agotado, tal como admitió McMurrin, y estas especialidades serán pagadas a costas de aumentar el número de estudiantes en todas las clases.

No sólo causará el plan imán reducciones en las áreas no especializadas, sino que establecerá un sistema de controles que mantendrán a los estudiantes de la clase obrera y de grupos minoritarios más ligados que nunca a un futuro predeterminado.

La lucha por una educación decente e igual es sumamente importante en este momento. En el curso de esta lucha debemos fortalecer la unidad de la clase obrera y derrotar el esfuerzo de dividir y conquistar planeado por la clase gobernante. ■

## LA LINEA PIQUETE CONTRA LOS PLANES DEL MAESTRO ESPECIAL GRONOUSKI

### EL EDIFICIO FEDERAL 10:00 AM

pagina 3



El Primero de Mayo es un día de lucha, cuando los obreros demostraban su desafío a los capitalistas.

## GOMA

viene de la  
pagina 1

organizaban líneas de piquete y había una falta de información total sobre las negociaciones y la huelga. Sin embargo, los obreros de base han tomado muchas acciones militantes. A algunas plantas los obreros se iban preparando para la huelga por aflojar el paso de trabajo, rechazar el sobretiempo, una ola de paradas de máquinas y muchas llantas defectuosas. A las plantas de Goodyear en Akron y Topeka, Kansas, los obreros llevaban camisetas pintadas con las consignas de la huelga.

Donde había lucha militante, las compañías inmediatamente consiguieron mandatos de corte para rebajar el número de piquetes a sólo dos o cuatro a cada entrada. El liderazgo de unión empujó que se debiera de aceptar los mandatos. Pero aunque las cosas se aquietaron en unos lugares, en muchos casos la resistencia empezó inmediatamente, con grandes números de "visitantes" (piquetes no oficiales) juntándose a los piquetes oficiales a cada entrada.

Eso es un ejemplo de como es la situación general que enfrentan los huelguistas. Tienen una determinación tremenda a luchar, y hay fuerzas avanzadas los cuales están tratando de poner este sentimiento en acción, diciendo al krajo con el mandato. Pero la falta de organización para movilizar a las amplias masas, enfocar sus fuerzas y vencer las divisiones entre los obreros y el aislamiento de las plantas y áreas individuales-- todo esto ha resultado en que los oficiales de unión todavía tienen la iniciativa en sus propias manos, al menos por ahora. Por eso, a pesar de la fuerza, el valor y la unidad de los obreros hay la posibilidad de una entrega por

Bommarito y los otros caciques de unión.

Ellos tratan de hacerse aparecer como militantes. Dicen que van a organizar "acciones a través del mundo" contra las compañías. Pero a la vez van diciendo a los obreros que las compañías tienen "fondos limitados," lo que quiere decir que demandas muy importantes podrían ser descartadas. Tratan de aprovecharse de las diferencias entre los obreros, diciendo que se puede ganar mejores sueldos o mejores pensiones, que se puede ganar un aumento de paga para los obreros de llanta solo por dejar caer el nivel de paga de los otros, que si hay un aumento de paga las factorías en Akron se cerrarían.

Pero también hay la posibilidad de una tremenda victoria si desarrolla la lucha de los obreros de base. Y pase lo que pase, la huelga ya ha golpeado al enemigo y más desenmascarado su cara. También se ha desarrollado un entendimiento mejor de como avanzar la lucha obrera. Los obreros han adelantado su fuerza, unidad, y conciencia, y ahora tienen el comienzo de organización.

El apoyo del resto de la clase obrera será muy importante a los huelguistas. Se ha iniciado un boicoteo de los productos de Firestone, incluso las llantas vendidas por la Montgomery Ward y la J.C. Penney. Declaraciones de solidaridad y apoyo económico ayudarán a los huelguistas, pues que sus fondos de huelga están reducidos. La clase dominante ya dice que la huelga de los obreros de goma va a causar despidos, inflación y dañar la recuperación de la economía. Nos toca responder a esto por mostrar nuestra solidaridad con esta lucha la que está avanzando los intereses de todos obreros. Victoria a los obreros de goma! ■

# SIGUE REVOLUCION EN CHINA

Hoy en día una lucha fuerte esta desplegando en la República Popular de China. Mitines de masa están tomando lugar en las factorías, granjas y escuelas. En los sitios públicos hay pasquines con letras grandes, carteles y consignas. Suceden manifestaciones y contra-manifestaciones, lo que en al menos un caso resultó en rinas a puñetazos y la quemada de unos carros y edificios. El anterior Vice Primer Ministro Teng Hsiao-Ping quien han sido el enfoque de gran parte de esta lucha ya ha sido destituido de su puesto.

Esto es sólo la batalla más reciente en una lucha que se ha dado desde años. Hace diez años estalló la Revolución Cultural, cuando cientos de millones de gente de todo rincón de China se levantaron, botaron al Presidente Liu Shao-chi, y cambiaron China de faz. También, hace unos años, había un gran movimiento contra Lin Piao, el anterior Vice Presidente del Partido Comunista de China quien había dirigido un golpe de estado fracasado.

## QUE SIGNIFICA EL ALBOROTO?

Por miles de años el pueblo chino estaba esclavizado bajo una pandilla dominante tras otra. Los países imperialistas despojaban al pueblo, mientras China seguía siendo un país atrasado. La gente era tan pobre que en muchas ciudades carretillas pasaban por las calles al amanecer para recoger los cuerpos de los que habían muerto de hambre durante la noche. La sequía arruinaba el campo, seguida muchas veces por inundaciones. Millones andaban desempleados.

La clase alta les decía a las masas populares, "Así es la vida. Su suerte es la miseria y el hambre. Así las cosas han sido siempre, y nunca van a cambiar".

Pero la represión llevó a la resistencia. Con el liderato de Partido Comunista, el pueblo chino derrocó a esos reaccionarios en 1949. Haciendo la revolución, el pueblo chino desmintió la idea de que "las cosas no pueden cambiar nunca".

La revolución trajo a la clase obrera a poder. Las masas se apoderaron del control y la posesión de los medios de producción--las factorías, minas, ferrocarriles y la tierra. Establecieron su propio estado, la cual significó que las masas gozaron de la democracia por primera vez, mientras mantuvieron una dictadura sobre los viejos explotadores para prevenir que regresaran al poder.

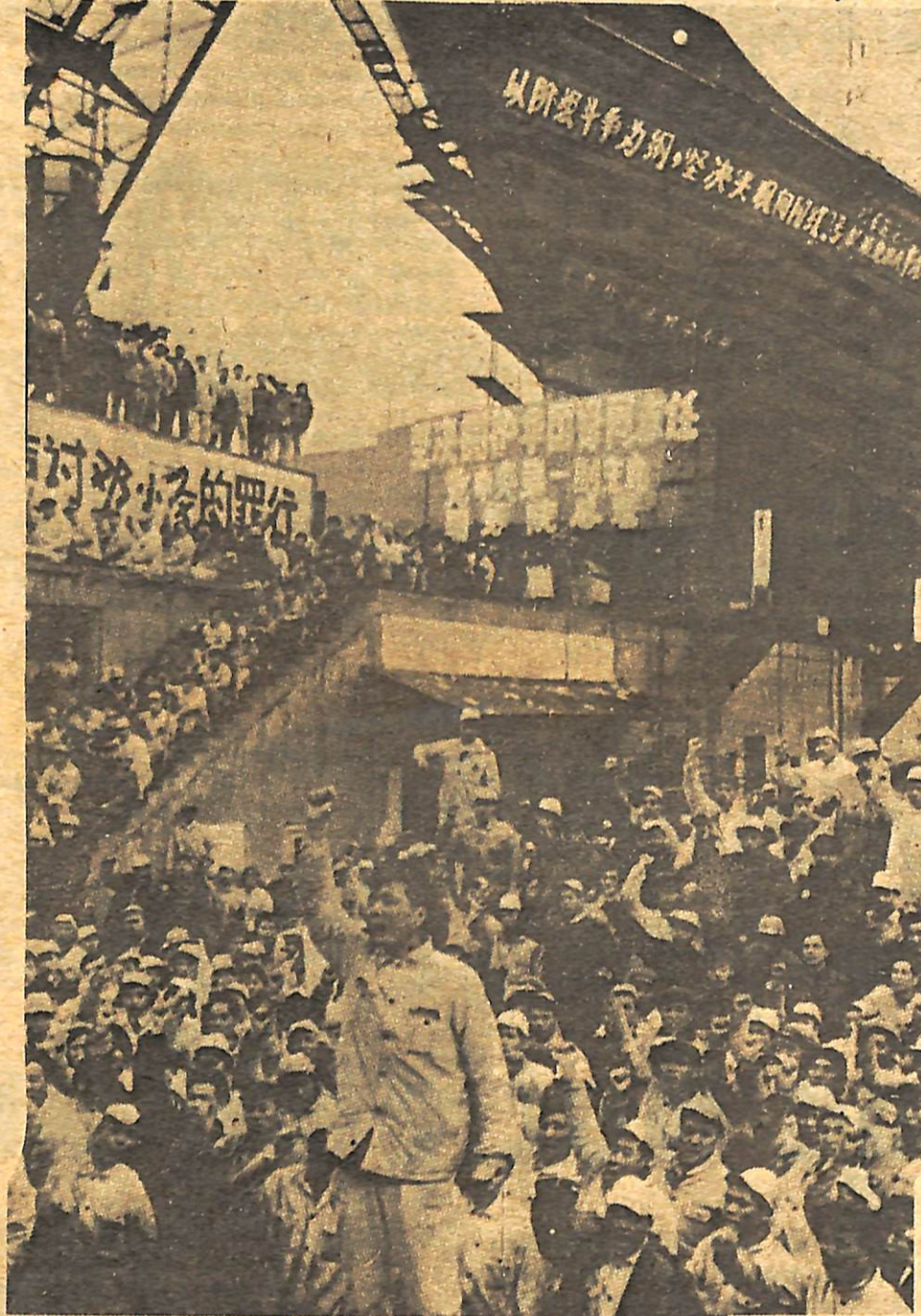
En medio de todo lo atrasado restante del capitalismo, la clase obrera china dirigida por el Partido Comunista empezó a cambiar todo la sociedad. Su meta era la eliminación de todos los malos restantes del capitalismo para establecer una sociedad comunista, una comunidad de obreros donde las diferencias de clase ya no existan.

Paso a paso, la gente obrera de china ha avanzado mucho hacia esta meta durante de los 27 años de la liberación. Se han borrado el desempleo y el hambre. No existe la inflación. La educación es disponible a todos. Donde había sequía, ahora hay campos regados. La agricultura se ha hecho mecanizada. Se desarrolla la industria en todas partes. La clase obrera es dueño de su propio destino y produce orgullosamente para mejorar a todo la humanidad y no para enriquecer a un puñado de parásitos.

Pero esos tremendos avances no significan que los capitalistas han sido totalmente eliminados. Como dijo Lenin, el líder de la revolución obrera en Rusia, "Cuando ocurre una revolución, no es como el muerto de una persona, cuando el fallecido es quitado nomás,

No se puede poner el cuerpo de la sociedad burguesa en una caja y enterrarlo. Se va pudriendo entre nosotros, y la putrefacción nos envenena."

La revolución china ha realizado mucho, pero todavía no está terminada. También, todavía hay el peligro de la derrota del socialismo y la restauración del capitalismo. Eso es lo que pasó en la Unión Soviética. Avanzando, la clase obrera tiene que quitar de su paso el cuerpo de la vieja sociedad. Los problemas dejados atrás incluyen la pobreza y el atraso, pero además, existe todavía la fuerza de costumbres e ideas viejas y la división de trabajo la cual en la vieja sociedad determinaba como producir y organizar las cosas. En China había un dicho: "Los quienes trabajan con la mente gobiernan, los que trabajan con las manos son gobernados". Esto reflejaba como los explotadores manejaban la sociedad.



MÍTINES DE MASA ESTAN TOMANDO LUGAR EN CHINA

Un ejemplo de como la revolución está siguiendo en contra de todo esto es la lucha que estalló a mediados de los 1960s a la Fabrica Anshan de Hierro y Acero. Los administradores y técnicos de esta planta se estaban aprovechando de su llamada "sabiduría" para dominar a los obreros, pisoteándoles con todo tipo de reglas de trabajo y restricciones.

De hecho, mientras haya los restantes de la vieja sociedad, de ellos siempre surgen una nueva clase capitalista de entre unos de los administradores, intelectuales, campesinos más ricos y unos malos líderes del Partido Comunista quienes tratan de proteger y aumentar sus posiciones especiales. Personas como Liu Shiao-chi, Lin Piao y hoy en día Teng Hsiao-ping representan y defienden a tal gente. Ellos son el blanco de la lucha actualmente brotando a través de China.

Esta clase capitalista no es igualito a la vieja clase capitalista en China o a la clase capitalista de EE.UU. Hoy día la clase obrera esta en poder en China,

controlando las factorías. De hecho, todos tienen que trabajar, incluso los administradores y miembros del Partido. Por eso, los que quieren seguir la vía capitalista no dicen abiertamente, "Me gusta el capitalismo," ni favorecen abiertamente los despidos, el apresuramiento, etc. No son los dueños de las factorías. Además, si defendieran la vieja sociedad francamente, casi nadie les apoyarian, pues que el pueblo si se acuerda bien la miseria del capitalismo.

Por tanto, en China socialista la forma principal de ataque contra el mando de la clase obrera es fomentar y empujar políticas las cuales pretenden frenar la lucha de clase de los obreros, pues que esta lucha es la fuerza principal avanzando la sociedad. Empujan políticas con el objetivo de mantener y aumentar sus privilegios. Se disfrazan con palabras de "modernizar las cosas" y hacerlas

si un gato sea negro o blanco. Lo importante es que coga ratones." Quiere decir que no importa si se aplique una política socialista o capitalista--lo importante es que de resultado en mejorar la producción. Teng uso esa política para atacar las nuevas cosas socialistas creadas por los obreros y campesinos mismos.

## LA UNIVERSIDAD

Que significa eso? Un enfoque de la lucha actual es la Universidad de Tsinghua. Durante de la Revolución Cultural los estudiantes y profesores cumplieron metas muy importantes para hacer la universidad una herramienta en las manos de la clase obrera. Ahora los estudiantes vienen a la universidad sólo después de trabajar dos años en una factoría o comuna agrícola, y ser recomendados por sus compañeros de trabajo. En la universidad, los estudiantes estudian los problemas realmente encontrados en la producción. Hasta han construido una fábrica pequeña donde trabajan. Después de graduarse, los estudiantes regresan a las factorías y granjas para usar su educación a avanzar la sociedad.

Bajo la influencia de Teng, uno de los administradores principales de esta universidad se oponía a estos cambios totalmente. Su actitud era, "No estamos entrenando a bastantes expertos. Es una perdida de tiempo que estos estudiantes pasan tanto tiempo en las fábricas." Quiso volver al viejo sistema de antes de la Revolución Cultural, cuando la escuela les entrenaba a "expertos profesionales" generalmente separando la teoría de la práctica. También quiso volver a los exámenes "académicos", muy estrictos los cuales no permitirían entrar a la gran mayoría de los hijos e hijas de la gente obrera. Dicha línea llevaría a situación igual a este país, donde los profesores quienes casi nunca han visto el interior de una planta de acero y nunca han trabajado allí, son los que enseñan en las universidades sobre el proceso de hacer acero.

Este administrador escribió una carta a Mao Tse tung, el líder del Partido Comunista, diciéndole que las reformas surgidas de la Revolución Cultural habían fracasadas, y que la universidad debía de volver al viejo sistema. En vez de responder a esta carta, Mao les envió a los estudiantes de Tsinghua. De ahí resultó mucho criticismo de ese administrador y la línea de "revocar las correctas decisiones de la Revolución Cultural." Otra vez se escalonó la lucha a la Universidad de Tsinghua contra los partidarios de la vía capitalista lo que ha traído aún más avances en rompiendo las divisiones entre los "expertos" y los obreros.

Semejante lucha ha estallido por toda China. El hecho de que esta lucha ha llegado a ser tan amplia es muy bueno. Los reaccionarios como Teng han tenido que presentar más abiertamente sus líneas y políticas las cuales son en contra de los intereses de la clase obrera. Así han llegado a ser mucho, más desenmascarados y aislados de las masas populares de China quienes por el curso de esta lucha han fortalecido su entendimiento y determinación a marchar adelante para eliminar los remanentes de la sociedad capitalista y realizar el comunismo.

La lucha de la clase obrera China tiene mucha significación a los obreros de EE.UU. Los capitalistas en este país tratan de hacernos creer que somos tontos y son ellos los inteligentes, que tenemos que dependernos de ellos para conseguir trabajos, mejores sueldos, etc. Y más importante, quieren que nunca pensemos en cambiar las cosas; y sobre todo, quieren que nunca pensemos en hacer Revolución.

Pero la clase obrera en China está desmintiendo todo esto. No solo han derrocado a sus explotadores anteriores y luchado para cambiar a China de base, pero además, con el liderato de su Partido Comunista, están siguiendo tumbar a nuevos fingidos explotadores y avanzando hacia una sociedad libre de todas las miserias del capitalismo.

# THE WORKER

MAYO 1976 Vol.1 Numero 8

25¢

## DESTRUYAN TODO PLAN DE TRANSPORTAR ESTUDIANTES



LOS ESTUDIANTES DE "NORTH DIVISION" (IZQUIERDA) Y "SOUTH DIVISION" (DERECHO) LUCHANDO PARA ESCUELAS NUEVAS.

lucha por una educación decente e igual. Abajo con los intentos de dividir y conquistar Obreros, únanse.

Destruyan todo plan de transportar estudiantes.

El Juez Reynolds y el "Maestro Especial" Gronouski, así como el Superintendente McMurrin están organizando un plan bajo el cual se mandarían autobuses llenos de estudiantes de un confin de la ciudad al otro todas las maña-

nas. Dicen que lo hacen para lograr igualdad. Pero no hay nada que esté más lejos de la verdad. A estos políticos de la clase gobernante no les interesa la integración, una educación mejor, o luchar contra la discriminación. Como de costumbre, dicen una cosa pero sus intenciones son otras.

Tienen varios planes distintos--- el transporte en masa de estudiantes de

Gronouski ordenado por la corte, el plan Imán o "Escuelas Ilimitadas de McMurrin, transferencias a los suburbios, cerrar la vieja North Division inmediatamente, y parar la construcción de las nuevas escuelas North y South. Todo esto está diseñado para formentar divisiones y hostilidad entre blancos y negros y encubrir toda una serie de despidos en un sistema educativo que ya está podrido. A través de todo el país los jueces y los políticos están empujando por "dividir y conquistar" y "reducir" empleos para así ayudar al resto de su clase de banqueros y dueños de fábricas en su actual crisis política y económica.

Con estos planes de transporte hipócritas, los políticos muestran sólo odio hacia la clase obrera. Se creen que nos pueden dirridir, los blancos de los negros. A los negros les dicen, "Esos obreros blancos se quedaron con las escuelas para sí mismos. Ahora les toca a ustedes conseguir un pedazo de la torta". A los blancos les dicen, "Los negros quieren quitarles lo que les pertenece a ustedes. Luchen para evitarlo". En la primera plana de sus periódicos muestran fotografías de blancos y negros peleándose, tratando de crear un ambiente de histeria.

Pero la clase obrera no está interesada en luchar entre sí. Todos saben que las escuelas negras son las peores de todas. Debemos unirnos en la lucha por lograr una educación igual

y de calidad para todos. No lo conseguiremos luchando entre nosotros por desperdicios. Nuestra lucha es contra los políticos y los grandes propietarios que controlan nuestras escuelas y todo el sistema.

La única igualdad que estos conspiradores aspiran es convertir las escuelas en lugares igualmente inadecuadas y amontonadas de estudiantes. El plan de transporte les permitiría llevar a estudiantes de las escuelas centrales, donde los estudiantes están más amontonados, a las escuelas más retiradas, ahorrándoles la necesidad de construir escuelas nuevas en los barrios viejos. Pero al fin del viaje en autobús encontrarán una educación igual o peor. Los estudiantes tendrán que sacrificar el tiempo dedicado al trabajo después de la escuela, deportes, y otras actividades extracurriculares. Para qué? Para ajustarse al plan de los grandes jefe de dividir y conquistar y reducir empleos.

Una inspección cualquiera de las escuelas revela un esquema de discriminación y mala educación en general. Los planificadores no tienen ni la más mínima intención de cambiar este sistema. Han construido muy pocas escuelas en la zona central de la ciudad durante los últimos treinta años. Y debido a la discriminación general contra los negros, especialmente en las áreas de domicilios y empleos, muchas de las escuelas más viejas del centro de la ciudad son básicamente negras.

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## La Huelga Nacional En Goma

68,000 obreros a 47 plantas de las cuatro compañías grandes de goma—Goodyear, Firestone, Uniroyal, y Goodrich—salieron en huelga el 21 de abril. Fue la primera vez que han dejado de trabajar y salido todos juntos. Hasta el último momento, el presidente Bommarito de la United Rubber Workers no decía si iba a haber huelga, o si la huelga sería en contra de todas cuatro compañías. El aviso oficial de la huelga no se dio hasta los 11:40 de la noche, pero ya algunos obreros habían hecho la huelga una realidad.

Los obreros están resueltos a recuperar lo que han perdido desde el contrato de 1973 con un buen aumento de paga. En el pasado, los sueldos en la industria de goma habían iguales a los de auto, pero recientemente han llegado a ser mucho más bajo. Los obreros quieren una cláusula de costo de vida sin restricción, para que cubra la alza de inflación, y no una cláusula bien limitada como la del contrato de los Teamsters del mes pasado. También, los obreros se oponen a los planes de las compañías de pagar a los obreros quienes no trabajan haciendo llantas menos que los otros.

Los pensiones también son un "issue" destacado lo que resultó entregado en el último contrato. En solo Akron 2,000 gente firmaron una petición contra otra en-

trega de esta demanda. También los obreros de goma han sido muy afectados por cierres de plantas, eliminaciones de trabajos, despidos y la falta de suficientes fondos de SUB (beneficios de desempleo suplementales). Están demandando el fin de estos abusos.

Otras demandas principales son contra los ataques de las compañías, o ya en efecto o propuesto, acerca de los horarios, reglas de trabajo, apresuramiento y combinaciones de trabajos, señoría y salud y seguridad. La propuesta de las compañías a rebajar la paga de tiempo de esperar (cuando no funciona una máquina) cortaría cualquier aumento de paga que no sea bien grande. Las cuotas de producción, que se cambian siempre que los obreros los alcanzan, les tienen a los obreros atrapados entre rebajas de paga inmensos y apresuramiento mortal. Ahora se ve siendo publicado el hecho de que la bencina causa la leucemia, la que es fatal. Muchos obreros de goma usan la bencina en el trabajo. Pero se han dicho muy poco tocante a estos problemas en las negociaciones oficiales.

ACCIONES DE LOS OBREROS DE BASE

Desde el comienzo la huelga fue debilitada porque los oficiales de unión no

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