

PROCT
USA

MILWAUKEE
AUG 14 PM

THE WORKER

For the Milwaukee Area and Wisconsin

AUG - SEPT 1976 Vol.1 No.11 Seccion en Espanol 25¢

AFTER 100 DAYS OUT RUBBER STRIKERS HOLD STRONG



SUPPORT AMONG ALL WORKERS IS GROWING FOR THE 68,000 RUBBER WORKERS ON STRIKE NOW FOR OVER 100 DAYS.

As the strike of 68,000 rubber workers passed the 100 day mark, the rank and file gave clear indication of their determination to stay out and fight until they win their contract demands.

While the union leadership continues to whine that the companies' court injunctions limiting the number of pickets must be obeyed, there has been an increase in mass picketing. At Goodyear's Plant #5 in Akron, 100 URW members set up a mass picket to block the scabs the companies are increasingly bringing in. The cops were quickly on the scene to read the injunction and inform the pic-

eters that they were in violation of the law. The union officials rushed down to tell the workers they had no choice but to disperse. But the workers knew they had a choice. They ignored both the cops and the hacks. No one was arrested and a little while later the cops quietly folded up their injunction and left.

A major weakness of the strike is that the companies are still able to get out 40 to 50% of tire production with the output of the non-struck companies and with production by scabs. On several occasions, however, the strikers

have shown how to keep scabs out. Recently about 30 strikers blocked all the strikebreakers at the Goodyear #5 plant in the parking lot for several hours and a lot of them had to take their scab wages and buy new tires if they could find them!

On Thursday, August 5th, there was mass picketing involving even more people at the Goodyear Akron plant. Strikers and supporters stopped all scab traffic for eight hours. 34 people were arrested for blocking traffic.

As a symbol of their determination striking rubber workers planted Christ-

mas trees in front of a union local headquarters in Akron. As one worker put it, "We are united this time, and we want the tire companies to know that we will stay out until Christmas if we have to." They are willing to stay out as long as it takes, but not about to be forced into some passive waiting game sitting and getting discouraged family by family.

SUPPORT SPREADS

Spreading support for the rubber strikers from workers in other industries and other parts of the country has

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

THE TWO FACES OF JIMMY CARTER

The Democratic National Convention unfolded with few surprises. Jimmy Carter got his party's nod for the presidency. "Grits and Fritz" the media took to calling them. And unlike the crown of thorns handed to George McGovern four years ago, this Democratic team was met with widespread approval by the capitalist media, who flung them out on the country with wide and broad media exposure.

Why Jimmy Carter, the smiling peanut farmer, the man of the soil, the good ol' boy from Plains, Ga? Seemingly, Carter emerged from nowhere. For most of the time leading up to the primaries and even well into them everyone's smart money was on Hubert Humphrey or Scoop Jackson.

Hubert Humphrey was too exposed. For example during the AFL-CIO sponsored rally for jobs in Washington, DC, last

year the "Happy Warrior" tried to make a speech in his role as big friend of the working class but was booed down by thousands of angry workers. Scoop Jackson didn't have the same problem but his campaign never caught fire, generating about as much excitement as a prune at breakfast. But Carter was different. He was "the man from nowhere" and far from being a handicap this exactly fit what the rulers needed for this year's election.

Carter's image as "the man who came from nowhere" was carefully manufactured by his team of ad men. Carter is the candidate the capitalists hope can overcome their repeatedly admitted problem that "millions are disgusted, skeptical and suspicious" of the political system. But at the same time, he was hardly an unknown to the class he is so anxious to serve. As the Christian

Science Monitor admitted, despite the fact that "Mr. Carter's public image is dominated by Plains, Georgia and peanuts, he is just as comfortable and as familiar a figure in the (corporate) boardrooms of New York, Tokyo and London."

The ruling class has a major political crisis on its hands. In short, people are fed up. Fed up with carrying the economic crisis on their backs, fed up with new lies and old rhetoric from politicians who serve the interests of the capitalists.

Carter's main advantage to this country's rulers is that he appears to be different from the staple of discredited and shopworn politicians who've been huffing and puffing and philandering their way around Washington for years. Carter, Martin Luther King Sr. proclaimed,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12



JIMMY

WHAT'S BREWING IN BEER CITY



FREE OLA MAE DAVIS

Ola Mae Davis was recently sentenced to 5 years in Taycheedah for perjury. Mrs. Davis was the witness to the Christmas Eve slaying of 16 year old Jerry Brookshire in 1974. After police harassment, public ridicule by DA McCann and her house being firebombed 3 times, including the anniversary of the shooting, Ola Mae Davis never wavered, insisting, "I saw what I saw." After the murder was whitewashed and the killer cop Marlow was cleared, the DA went after Mrs. Davis.

After all else failed, the courts became the ultimate weapon of repression. Waiting until months after the shooting, Mrs. Davis was railroaded into a guilty verdict, while Marlow still walks the streets.

Ola Mae Davis took a stand against repression and murder. The rich couldn't stamp out her courage and determination to see justice. Their only response was to lash out, to try to silence her and use her as an example. But their efforts never silenced her. We say Free Ola Mae Davis! ■

GENERAL DEEP THROAT

Retired Major General Edwin Walker can't keep his hands to himself. Walker was recently arrested in Dallas for 'fondling the genitals' of a cop in a city park men's room.

General Walker became a favorite of this country's rulers, especially the John Birch Society, with his big anti-communist philosophy. After he was held up as a great leader of men, we have to wonder where he was leading them to?

Deep Throat Walker deserves all the scorn he gets. He probably got further with the cop than he did with most GI's, he actually got his hands inside the cop's pants. But maybe that says something about the cop.

Catching generals, congressmen and judges in bed with "something strange" seems to be the way political infighting is coming down in the ruling class. Instead of who paid off who, the game has become who's doing what to who.

But when all the publicity dies down, the freaks will still be screwing all of us, until we get them off our backs. ■

AMC SUSPENSIONS SUSPENDED

A few hundred AMC workers are being transferred to Kenosha. Among them are two members of Fighting Times, a rank and file autoworkers organization. While the union leaders were telling the guys to accept the transfers as the best of a bad situation, Fighting Times called for a fight against the runaways.

With the transfers, AMC saw a chance to get rid of 2 Fighting Times members. As Jon and Willie were waiting for their transfer papers August 6th, they were pulled out of the line and told to go to the labor relations office. When they checked with union officials, they were led to believe they were fired.

A couple of weeks earlier, Fighting Times led a picket line at the AMC employment office protesting the job runaway. According to the company, the pickets prevented a truck from entering. For their part in "interrupting production"—while the plant was shut down—Jon and Willie were scheduled to be fired.

Union president Templin said he would not represent them because they were no longer in the Milwaukee local. Templin is among the union sellouts who have been saying "there's nothing we can do."

When the two reached the labor relations office, they found all the labor relations people waiting for them. When the meeting started, the company, knowing it was ridiculous, reduced the firing to a 2 week suspension. The suspensions will not be put into effect but they will remain on the guys' records. In addition to the suspensions, Jon and Willie are the only ones of the 300 transferred workers to be put on first shift.

AMC is afraid of the fighting program that Fighting Times represents. And they're afraid of more unity being built between Milwaukee and Kenosha workers. ■

HIT BACK AT COPS

"Let's move em back". This was the cue for Milwaukee cops to beat and arrest 33 people who were attending the July 4th-Rich Off Our Backs block party in late June. Of the 33 people who were originally arrested, only 12 still have charges. The remaining charges are disorderly conduct and unlawful assembly.

On August 13th, a number of people who were arrested at the block party will be joined by others to demand an end to this repression. They will be filing charges against the cops at the Fire and Police Commission at 10 am. They are charging the cops for the beatings and injuries, including a broken hand. People who were dragged off their porches will be charging false arrest.

The arrests were an act of weakness by the system. The cops did their part for the rich to try to prevent a successful July 4th march, making the arrests on the eve of the 4th. But they failed.

The arrests at the block party aren't the first or last time the police have made attacks. And it's not the first or last time people have united to fight police repression. The same night of the block party, 100 youth marched from the lakefront to the Safety Building to protest police harassment.

The cops expected people to get uptight by the arrests or be grateful when most of the charges were dropped. But people are turning things around to put the heat on the cops. People are uniting to let the cops know they can't continue their attacks on working people and expect to get away with it. ■

STOP POLICE ATTACKS!
PICKET LINE
FRIDAY, AUG 13, 10 AM
FIRE AND POLICE COMMISSION
749 WEST STATE ST.

ONE DAY WILDCAT HITS SUSPENSION

On Monday, August 2, about 20 warehousemen at Hansen Seaway on Jones Island, members of ILA 815, refused to punch in.

The men were wildcatting to protest company harassment and in support of a union steward who was given a three day disciplinary layoff.

In the warehouse, layoffs and bumping have the guys on edge. The brother went home sick on a Friday. On Monday the supervisor slapped him with the suspension and called him a liar.

The warehousemen stayed outside the gate while union officials met with the company. The company refused to let their fellow worker come back on the job. When the union president, Bill Mosby, told the men to go back to work, they refused.

Extra men waiting for work in the hiring hall showed true working class spirit when they all went home rather than possibly taking their fellow workers places for the day.

The company frantically got on the phone and tried to call back recently laid off warehousemen.

Because they wanted to blame the show of solidarity on someone, the company gave a longshoreman a 20 working day layoff for "disruption." They were mad because this man allegedly "encouraged" others to "make themselves unavailable for job referrals."

The one day wildcat came at a time when work at the port is way down. With the Food for Peace shipments off, and over a third of the warehousemen laid off, the lack of work, job bumping, and company harassment has stirred the anger and discontent of warehousemen and longshoremen.

The grievance procedure takes six to nine months or even a year to reach arbitration. The men had no choice but to take matters into their own hands. Not only did the union president order the men to report, but he also condemned the longshoreman who supposedly informed the extra men of the wildcat.

This longshoreman is presently running against Mosby for union president. Through this struggle, the lines are drawn clearly between union leadership that sells out the workers and a fighting program.

The wildcat on Jones Island was a step forward, even though the demand for back pay was not won and longshoremen didn't join the warehousemen's action. But the workers took direct action against the company, setting back the attacks and beginning to see their own power. ■

With the fall elections coming up, we hear a new sandwich will be hitting the vending machines, the Jimmy Carter special. It's a little peanut butter and a lot of baloney. ■

JOBS FOR YOUTH



Summer, 1976. Thousands of youth in Milwaukee, millions across the country walking the streets, no jobs. Unemployment for youth is 40% in some of our neighborhoods. Rockefeller sleeps on a \$35,000 bed, the politicians spend their time chasing whores and thousands of us can't scrape enough money up for a pack of cigarettes.

Things aren't getting any better. American Motors is moving 900 jobs out of town, throwing out some of our parents who have been making AMC rich for 15 years. The government programs offer too few jobs and too little money--and sweeping the streets isn't our idea of a future anyway! The only jobs around are from the military recruiters, hanging around like vultures, trying to suck us into the rich man's army.

The future is ours only if we fight for it. Youth in Action is uniting youth all over the country, Black, white and Latin, to fight for jobs and against all the attacks from the rich man's system.

Stand up and fight! Join us in a rally and march for JOBS FOR YOUTH! March to City Hall and demand action, not hot air. Call Youth in Action, 445-5816. Let's get it together, we've got no choice. ■



BREAK THE CHAINS: a lively collection of songs composed and sung by Prairie Fire. Recorded live. These are fighting songs. They come out of the daily sweat and struggle of working men and women. They stir up enthusiasm and joy that we feel standing shoulder to shoulder with our class brothers and sisters. The first album in a long while that reflects the struggle of the US working class to bring this system and all its miseries to an end.....\$4.00

Pre-pay orders to The Worker (address below)

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.

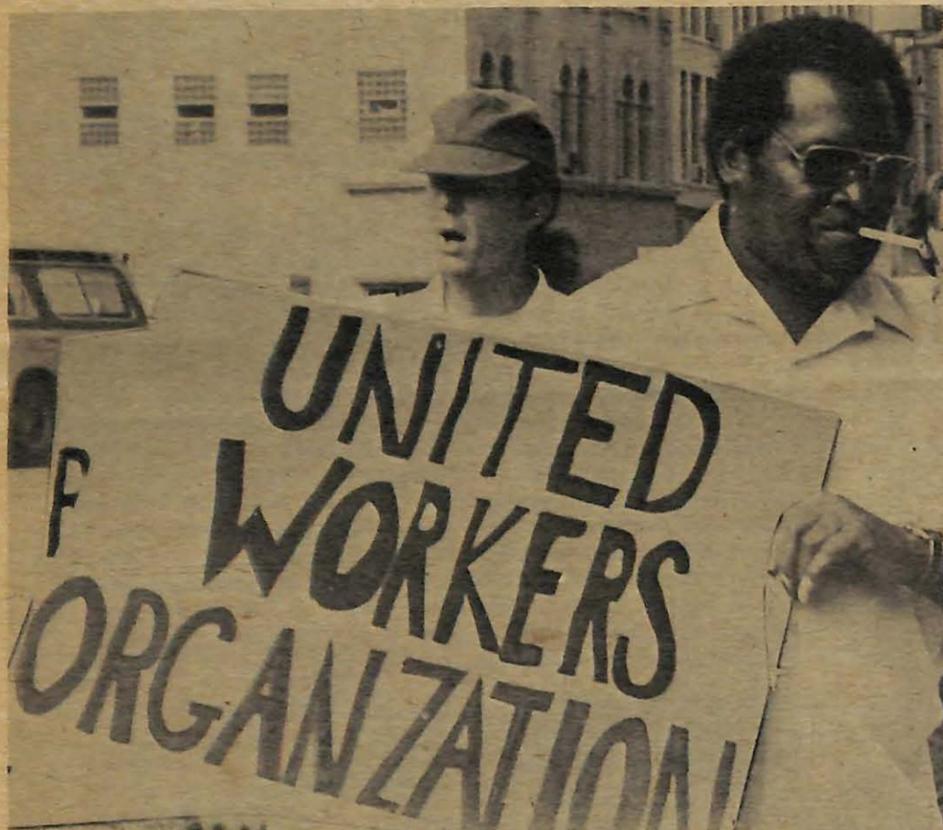
We want to be in touch with all the struggles of our class. We need and welcome your letters, articles, and any kind of contribution or criticism.

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

CHARTS BATTLE PLANS FOR AUTO, RUBBER, ELECTIONS UNITED WORKERS ORGANIZATION FORMED!



THE UNITED WORKERS ORGANIZATION BUILT THE FIGHT TO SAVE THE 1000 JOBS

United Workers Organization members had come from places like: the 15 month long meatcutters strike; battles against cops, courts and injunctions; fights against speedup and layoffs at American Motors; contract fights in the electrical industry; the movement a-

The United Workers Organization (UWO) was founded on Sunday, August 8. The new organization, the product of much hard work and struggle, got right down to the job of charting the way forward and laying battle plans for the months ahead.

gainst the busing/divide and conquer plans; struggles against discrimination, police repression and unemployment; as well as the building of this year's May Day march and the July 4th "battle of the bicentennial." Through their experience in these struggles, the workers saw the need to make UWO a powerful organization that will take up all the key battles of the working class and build them widely and deeply in the plants.

During the meatcutters strike, rank and file workers built "buck a month clubs" in the plants, trying to strengthen the meatcutters on the front lines in this key battle and mobilize all the workers support for this strike. In the build up for the July 4th march in Philadelphia, workers held support rallies outside plants such as American Motors and A.O. Smith. These kinds of activities, all steps in uniting and advancing the workers movement, will be the bread and butter of the United Workers Organization.

From the daily beefs in the shop to the broad political campaigns UWO will take up every battle as a part of the overall working class struggle. Discussion at the conference went into summing up the layoff of a thousand American Motors workers. Also, the organization decided on several campaigns for the coming months.

The bitter strike of 68,000 rubber workers is one of the sharpest battles going on right now. Without strike benefits and up against rubber companies that are out to cut to the bone, the strikers are a key focus of the class struggle right now. UWO plans to mo-

bilize class solidarity behind this fight.

The auto contract battle, which directly affects 750,000 workers, will be another key fight. The stakes are high. The Big Four and the International leadership have a whole list of attacks on the agenda--and it calls for a strong response from the working class. UWO's auto section, Fighting Times at American Motors, will spearhead the struggle against any and all attacks and sellouts in auto.

The coming presidential elections were also a big item at the conference of the new organization. After good discussion, the workers united on a view of the coming elections. The ruling class wants to bring everybody behind one or another of their candidates. Jimmy Carter was chosen because he is not well known--and he is not yet hated like the rest of the politicians. But that's no reason to get behind his campaign. He doesn't offer a damn thing to the working man, except to sidetrack the struggle.

The United Workers Organization will take up the key battles of the working class especially the fight for jobs, and expose how the elections are just a cover for more attacks. Like everything else, UWO will take the issue of the elections into the shops, mobilizing people to rely on themselves and fight for the working class, not for some smiling politician.

The founding conference of the United Workers Organization was a great success. It was the product of struggle and it will lay the basis for stronger and more widespread struggle in the future.

To contact UWO, call 445-5816.

GEAR UP FOR CONTRACT AUTO WORKERS WELD UNITY



IN MARCH "AUTO WORKERS UNITED TO FIGHT IN '76" PICKETED OUTSIDE UAW CONVENTION TO HELP BUILD THEIR CONTRACT BATTLE. THEIR MESSAGE TO THE UNION "LEADERS" WAS CLEAR - "NO SELLOUT IN '76"

The 1976 auto contract talks are underway and the auto companies are continuing their big offensive against the workers. Already GM and Ford are blustering about taking away some gains auto workers have made in previous contracts. But while this offensive is real, the smoke it produces is also serving to hide the essence of what's really going on in these contract talks. The more the Big 3 auto companies rant and rave about how far back they're going to push the workers, the more the top

UAW leadership can surrender the basic demands of the membership and still claim it won a victory, because the companies didn't get everything they wanted.

Auto contract talks have replayed this charade many times over. But this year the sellout is far from sewed up in advance. There are angry rumblings among the rank and file auto workers who have been ground down harder than ever in the wake of the 1973 contract sellout - first devastating layoffs, then

a massive productivity onslaught as the companies claw to get their profits back up, and all the while the no-fight International hacks just make excuses for the bosses' attacks.

Slowdowns, walkouts, work stoppages and local strikes show that the workers are plenty mad. Despite all the handcuffs the International flunkies have put on it, the struggle of the rank and file continues to hit at the companies. Scores of locals have taken strike votes around issues of health and safety and speed-

up. From slowdowns and walkouts to the recent strikes at Chrysler Trenton Engine and Vernor Tool and Die in Michigan and GM's Englewood, N.J. parts warehouse, the rank and file's determination to fight cannot be mistaken.

Now many auto workers are organizing to build these struggles and pull them together in the contract fight. The nationwide Auto Workers United to Fight in '76 (AWUF) has called for a demonstration around the contract and a planning meeting in Detroit for August 13-15.

When the talks opened in early July, the atmosphere of peace and love was so thick you could cut it with a knife. "Moderate Tone Marks UAW Talks," ran the newspaper headlines. UAW President Leonard Woodcock boasted that this year's negotiations "appear to be the most peaceful ever."

"Peaceful" is exactly what the capitalists want the contract time to be. The companies want the workers to peacefully surrender to the bosses' attacks around speedup, rotten conditions, mandatory overtime while many workers are still on layoff, pensions too small to live on, etc. "Peacefully" is how the top union hacks want everything to go, lest struggles and strikes upset the good thing they've got going for themselves.

For the companies, even with the present state of affairs in the auto industry, with production climbing back to its previous levels with 50,000 fewer workers doing the work, it still isn't enough for the kind of "recovery" their profits need. Now GM is demanding that auto workers save the company even more money by relieving GM of paying for health insurance and by robbing probationary employees of their benefits altogether. Even more outrageous, GM is demanding that all grievances on a

CONTINUED ON PAGE

Working Class Solidarity - The Only Way To Fight Runaways



THIS SHELL OF A BUILDING USED TO EMPLOY THOUSANDS OF INTERNATIONAL HARVESTER WORKERS BEFORE IT RAN AWAY.

The complex of deserted buildings that used to be called International Harvester; the half empty parking lot at Square D; the wrecking crews at the old Cutler Hammer buildings on St. Paul Ave. All these are testimony to the runaway of jobs from old time union towns like Milwaukee.

Time and again workers have seen machinery and jobs loaded up and hauled away. Now the same story is being repeated at the American Motors body plant. Thousands of working men and women put in the better part of their lives at these companies. Are they like a bunch of old machines that can be thrown aside to rust? A small severance payment, early retirement, 39 weeks of unemployment, or a promise of a job in some other state just doesn't make it.

After World War II, International Harvester employed over 4,000 workers here. Between 1961 and 1971 they phased out all their Milwaukee operations, moving many jobs to a new plant in Louisville, Kentucky.

In 1962 the big shutdown was Plankin-

ton Packing, a division of Swift and Co. Hundreds were laid off as Swift built a new plant in Rochelle, Illinois. The members of Meatcutters P-50 had to fight company attempts to deny them unemployment along with their severance pay.

The list of plants where jobs have run away goes on and on--Louis Allis, Allen Bradley, Square D, McGraw Edison, Mueller Climatrol, Johnson Service, Allis Chalmers, Heil Co., Inland Ryerson, John Oster, Harley Davidson and many more. Almost without exception the jobs were shipped to the low wage, non union south or to a foreign country controlled by US military and economic might.

In 1972 Allen Bradley moved a resistor line to Juarez, Mexico. Juarez is in a special duty free zone where US big business is able to rip off low wages and pay almost nothing in taxes. In this 3 mile wide strip, just south of the US-Mexican border, US owned factories that used to pay union wages in the States pay less than a dollar an hour.

AUTO WORKERS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

local level go to compulsory arbitration - a scheme to try to eliminate the local strikes that have hit back at speedup schemes. Ford is right up there too in demanding more pounds of flesh, declaring its intention to end the limitations on compulsory overtime after 57 hours a week as "curtailing its freedom" and "the flexibility of production."

Clearly, the companies are going to push the International as far as they can and the International also is prepared to stoop as low as they can, provided

they can get away with it among the rank and file. For example, their answer thus far to the inadequacies of the Supplemental Unemployment Benefit (SUB) fund has been to talk not about demanding more from the companies but merely of "restructuring" the fund so "higher seniority workers don't get cut off because the younger workers have already run the fund dry." In practice this means raising eligibility for SUB benefits from one to two years seniority, thereby cutting tens of thousands off from SUB



THIS TIME AROUND WOODCOCK IS BUDDYING UP TO THE AUTO BOSSES, JUST LIKE DURING THE '73 CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS.

Sometimes companies used runaway threats or partial runaways to attack wages and benefits in plants here. For example, General Electric said it would not build its Waukesha plant unless the IAM local 1916 agreed to give up piece work. The union leaders called for agreement and now the Waukesha workers are on day rate.

When John Oster ran away, they "volunteered" to come back, if the union leaders would agree to a substantial wage cut. They did, and now Oster, once a good paying shop, is one of the worst. Just last month 600 Kimberly Clark workers in Kimberly, Wisconsin were threatened with a total shutdown unless they agreed to a wage freeze called for by the prospective new owner of the mill. Uniroyal workers in Eau Claire, Wisconsin were given the same kind of choice a year ago, either increase productivity or lose half the jobs.

Every time runaways and plant closings hit, the politicians and union officials rush to defend the companies. They try to point out that workers can't expect companies to stay in town if there is not enough profit here. But

profit is the whole damn problem. The capitalists are locked into such fierce competition that they each claw for any nickel of savings. When Mayor Maier gave Cutler Hammer a 50% tax break on land north of Capitol Drive, C-H accepted it-- and still transferred hundreds of jobs out of town. No gift to these bandits is going to turn them into good guys.

The Common Council voted to buy more of AMC's products if only AMC would stay in Milwaukee. And Governor Lucey has pushed through a "machinery and equipment" tax loophole for companies to expand in Wisconsin. But these are just another way of shifting the problem onto the back of the already overtaxed working man.

The politicians and trade union leaders tell the working man to sacrifice, take wage cuts, layoffs speedup and worsening conditions to keep the companies in money. They say what's good for big business is good for the worker. They say if the companies can make millions some of it will "trickle down"

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13



DURING THE '73 STRIKE SQUARE D WORKERS FOUGHT FOR THEIR PENSIONS. IN THE BACKGROUND TRUCKS LOAD MACHINERY FOR PLANTS IN SOUTH.

protection.

Besides his usual concern for the well-being of the auto monopolies, whose interests he serves and shares, Woodcock has a special reason for being a milktoast this time around. He was one of the first of the big labor traitors to jump on the Jimmy Carter bandwagon and he is looking to cash in, bidding for either Secretary of Labor or of Health, Education and Welfare.

The UAW bigwigs are out to play the shaky auto "recovery" two ways. Not only are they encouraging the workers to play dead so as not to disturb it, but they are banking on more regular work, partial callbacks, fatter paychecks from overtime to prove that things are getting better, not like they were in 1973, and therefore a fight isn't necessary. The problem is that to the extent that the auto industry has pulled precariously out of its 1974-75 disaster, it has been at the expense of the sweat and blood of the autoworkers and plenty of them know it.

A most important development has been the growing understanding of auto workers. An increasing number of activists have stepped forward out of recent battles, more conscious of the need for a protracted struggle and rank and file organization to advance that struggle. The International stands more exposed all the time and very few workers feel they can rely on it for leadership. More and more the big time labor traitors have come to be seen as part of the enemy forces that the rank and file must break through.

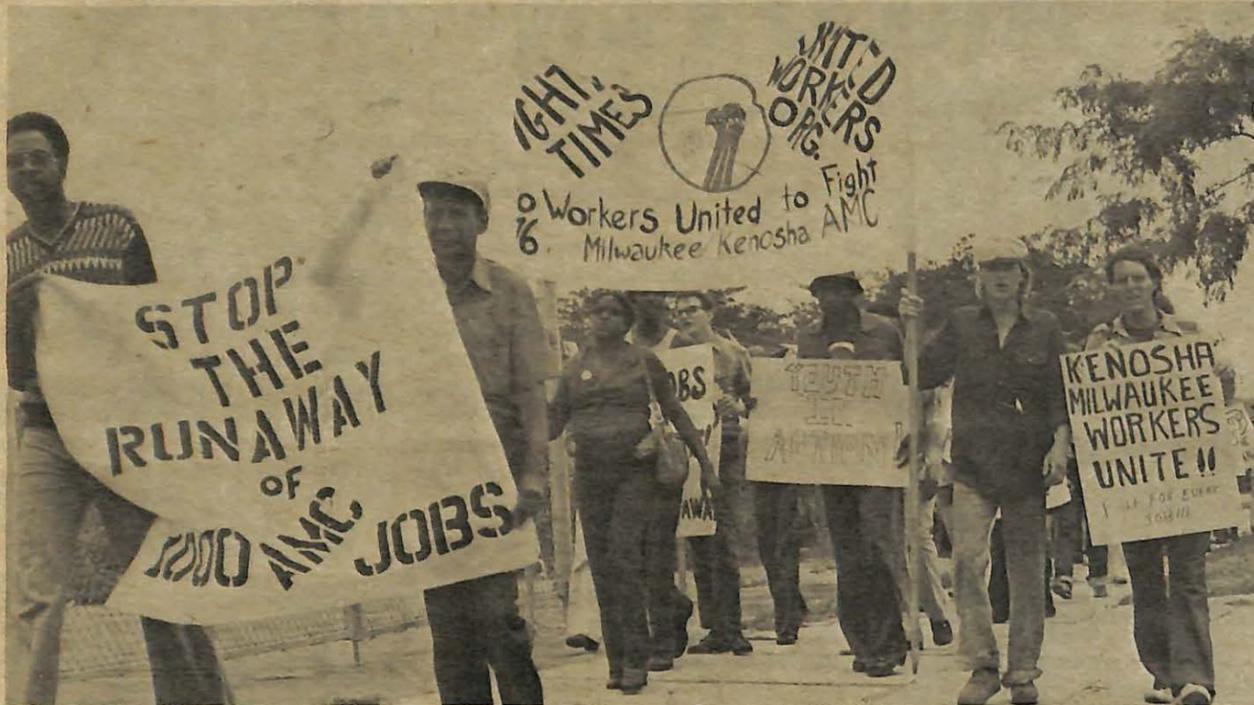
In this setting, Auto Workers United to Fight in '76 has grown from being based on a handful of plants in the

Detroit area into a nationwide organization with 13 established chapters. Over 70,000 copies of their program on the '76 contracts have been distributed to auto workers around the country. A second issue of the national newsletter explains AWUF's position on the main issues around the contract spreading the news about the various struggles jumping off around the country.

Plans are being made to make the various local contracts an important way to further try to break the stranglehold of the International at contract time. To build further momentum, to popularize more broadly the spirit of rank and file rebellion against the impending sellout, AWUF is building for a demonstration at Solidarity House, International headquarters in Detroit, for August 13. The next day a weekend conference will bring together AWUF chapters and other rank and file fighters from around the country to consolidate their ranks and determine a clear battle plan for the contract period ahead.

The media in Detroit is trying to convince auto workers that they are afraid to strike in '76, but the truth is that most auto workers know the score: "We can't afford not to fight." There will be plenty of struggle in the next two months as expiration draws closer and the UAW International - Big 3 joint attempt to put the sellout on ice may have trouble standing the heat. Auto Workers United to Fight in '76 will play an important role in fanning the flames of the contract battle and, as it does so, build the understanding and organization auto workers will need to carry on the struggles yet to come.

DESPITE RANK & FILE PROTESTS AMC LAYS OFF HUNDREDS



AUTO WORKERS, MEMBERS OF FIGHTING TIMES & OTHERS IN THE UNITED WORKERS ORGANIZATION PICKETED OUTSIDE THE AMC PLANT TO PROTEST THE RUNAWAY OF 900 JOBS.

In one of the most vicious attacks on the working class in recent Milwaukee history, American Motors threw over one thousand workers out on the streets in the month of August. After the smokescreen of numbers-juggling and promises of transfers and preferential hiring someday in Richmond, Indiana, the facts became ice cold clear—over one thousand hard working auto-workers in Milwaukee and Kenosha had been put on 'indefinite layoff.' To make matters worse, the SUB fund ran dry the second week of August.

The official explanation of the layoffs was that they were a natural phenomena, like seasons changing or a bad blizzard. And of course the company and union officials message was "You've got to just let nature take its course."

There is an element of truth in what

they say. The "natural laws" of this capitalist system have put the economic squeeze on AMC. Forced into cut throat competition with the Big 3, AMC has launched one cost cutting program after another. From moving whole departments, like carpets, to non-union shops down south, to killing speed-up, to the recent move of the Gremlin line from Milwaukee to Kenosha which is supposed to save \$35 per car, the company is trying to squeeze more and more profits out of fewer workers—no matter what the consequences for their lives.

AMC's attacks are particularly sharp now that contract time is just around the corner. The company has made their bargaining position very clear—give up the hard won gains fought for over the years, they cost too much.

Through militant struggle over the

years the workers at AMC won the right to strike over grievances, a steward ratio of 1-35, and voluntary overtime. At this particular time these are very sharp issues in the auto industry. Hundreds of thousands of autoworkers are demanding just such gains as voluntary overtime.

On the other side the bosses are crying that costs are already too high, and GM wants UAW members to start paying their own insurance premiums. So particularly in the case of AMC, they are threatening to attack these rights

in order to be in a more competitive position.

But there is a huge obstacle in their way, and that is the thousands of auto-workers whose strength in numbers stands in the auto bosses path. Throughout history autoworkers have played a militant and leading role in battling the companies tooth and nail. This is very true at American Motors, where the rank and file has a militant reputation throughout the city.

In order to get over with their attacks American Motors has tried in a million ways to disarm and weaken the rank and file. For years they have been developing a love affair with the union leadership, including over the table bribes of 75¢ an hour more for the Executive Board. So as soon as the company announced the thousand layoffs on July 3rd, the local and International leadership fell into line. For a month no one even heard a peep out of them.

When they finally showed their faces it was sickening to hear what came out of their mouths. According to the Local President, "The contract allows AMC to do whatever they want. We have to divide the scarcity between all AMC workers, so we'll negotiate the right of some of you to transfer to Kenosha. And remember, it's very important to encourage the public to buy our products."

Of course the union leaders "solution" was just fine with the company who said, "Go ahead, get Kenosha and Milwaukee workers fighting among themselves for a few crumbs. Then we'll shoot up the middle with the worst contract in history." Either way you

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

Ford Rouge Rank & File Fight Layoffs

During the past three months rank and file autoworkers in Detroit have been building their unity and strength in a fight to stop the layoff of 1,500 Dearborn Engine Plant workers. The plant, part of the Ford Rouge Complex (which includes steel, foundries, stamping, glass and assembly--25,000 workers total) employs 3,500, and the July layoffs were reportedly the first phase in closing the plant down entirely by 1978.

Rouge workers, like workers all over the country, came face to face with murderous speedup and increasingly unsafe working conditions every day. Now, on top of this, Ford wanted to step up the exploitation of the workers by eliminating 1,500 jobs.

The biggest obstacle the workers faced in their fight against this attack was their own union leadership. The Local 600 leadership had known about the layoff plans for a long time and had done nothing about it. When the anger of thousands of workers grew hotter, the union officials could only come up with a pitiful response. Their slogan was "Henry, Have a Heart."

The slogan of the workers was, "Thirty thousand Rouge workers united don't have to beg. Rouge-wide to strike to stop the layoffs." Rank and file workers turned a picnic demonstration set up by the union leaders to take place hundreds of yards from Ford's World Headquarters into a militant protest that marched right up to the doors. The workers also started a petition campaign

to set a date for a strike vote.

Within three weeks, 800 had signed the petition. A delegation of 13 workers presented it to the big shots at an executive board meeting and demanded action.

Then the leaders dropped their "get tough" attitude and said a strike against the layoffs would be illegal. The workers came back with "the contract does not build cars, we do". Besides there were enough speedup and health and safety grievances to get around any "illegal" technicalities.

Then the officials stooped to slandering the Local 600 membership, saying that the workers were afraid to stand up and fight and wouldn't vote for the strike. This was met with shouts from the workers, "Then why are you so afraid to give us that chance!" It was clear that it was the officials themselves who were most afraid--afraid to lose their comfortable careers serving the company and helping to keep the workers in chains.

Workers also had to face harassment of company guards while building for a demonstration at the Local 600 headquarters. The attitude of many was, "Our union leaders won't fight these layoffs. WE CAN if we stick together."

Although the organization of rank and file workers wasn't strong enough to stop the layoffs, the growing unity, strength and organization that began with this fight will be a plus in the battles ahead.



UWOC SPEAKER AT RALLY PROTESTING AMC RUNAWAY

Unemployed Say "Stop the AMC Runaway"

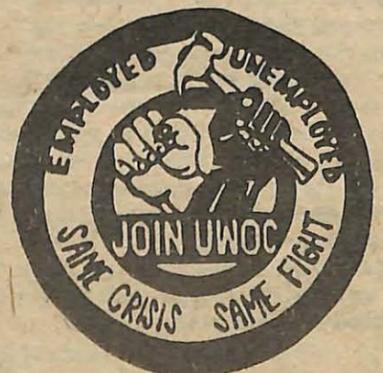
The Unemployed Workers Organizing Committee (UWOC) took up the fight along with the workers at AMC to stop the runaway of 900 jobs. UWOC took the word out in speeches inside the unemployment offices, "Stop the Runaway at AMC! Jobs or Income Now!" Hundreds of unemployed at the offices in Milwaukee, Racine, and Kenosha signed a petition demanding that AMC keep the jobs in Milwaukee.

At the Kenosha plant over 1500 workers are already on layoff. The AMC bosses want Milwaukee and Kenosha workers to fight over the Gremlin line jobs that were moved. But many of the laid off Kenosha workers signed the petition against the runaway and united with UWOC's stand: We refuse to fight each other over crumbs. We demand jobs for all working people!

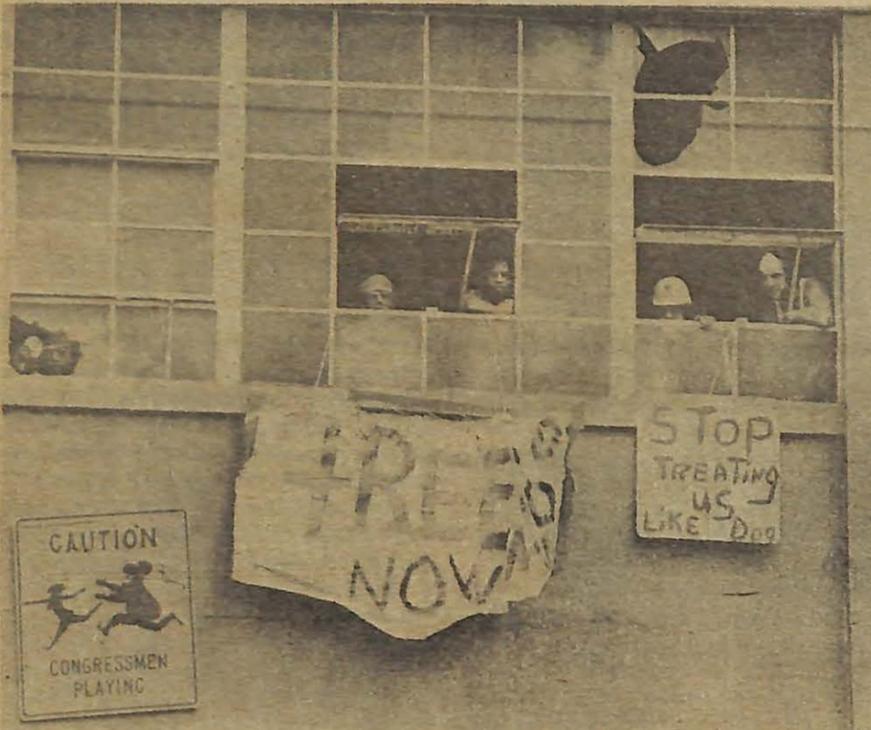
Now hundreds of AMC workers have joined the ranks of the unemployed. They join meatcutters, steelworkers, laborers, and workers from every in-

dustry already thrown out on the street, as the capitalists' work fewer people harder for less money. They'll be joining the ranks of the unemployed in the struggle for jobs and against government bills that would be used to force us to slave for \$2.30 an hour.

NO WAGE CUTS! NO MORE LAY-OFFS! JOBS AT UNION WAGES FOR EVERYONE!



"Stop Treating Us Like Dogs!" WAUPUN TAKEOVER



PRISONERS RISKED THEIR LIVES TO STRIKE BACK AT THE THOUSANDS OF INJUSTICES THAT GO ON BEHIND THE WALLS EVERY DAY.

On Wednesday, July 21 at 10:30am 88 men in the metal shop at Waupun State Prison stood up and struck back at the thousand injustices that go on behind the walls every day. Prisoners shut down their presses, secured the doors, overpowered the guards, and took 13 foremen and guards hostage. They quickly called a meeting, wrote up their demands, and said that any inmate who wanted out could leave. Few left. The men saw the takeover as a way to fight back against the oppression of prison life.

The takeover electrified the state. Eight-eight men were risking kidnapping charges, beatings, their paroles, and their lives. For 13 hours the prisoners got a taste of freedom. They were united and fighting for an end to constant and petty harassment, the repeated use of solitary confinement, more money—no slave labor, close the underground solitary cells, better health care, the dormitories closed, and amnesty. They broke through the regimentation and hit back. One of the signs they hung out the window of the occupied prison factory summed up their feelings: "Stop Treating Us Like Dogs!"

The men released their hostages at eleven that night. None of the demands were met, but the prison administration signed a paper saying there would be no reprisals. The guys had stood up

to the prison guards, heavily armed deputies, and police from several counties. The memory of Attica in 1971 was hanging over everything. With amnesty agreed to, the men ended the takeover. Knowing they had gotten their demands out widely, they felt it was time to take a step back.

The following Sunday, the prison administration began its expected moves against the men. They put the institution on "dead lock," meaning no movement of inmates except a few transfers out. All recreation and visits were cancelled. Wives and families were escorted out of the visiting room halfway through the visits. Others who had come long distances were not even allowed in. The men who had not been to work or school since mid-week, were put in permanent lock up. Only 40 or 50 were allowed to go to chow hall at a time.

During the next few days, men were singled out and taken to solitary confinement. Twelve guards showed up at the cell of one of the spokesmen, Anthony Miller, and took him to the "hole." By the time some restricted visiting was resumed, the "greenhouse," as the segregation building is called, was filled beyond capacity. One hundred twenty men were jammed into 80 cells. Many were leaders of the struggle. The promise of no reprisals was for media consumption only. Behind the walls, with

no information going in or out, the name of the game was revenge.

With all visits cancelled, wives, girl friends, and families took up the fight to get in and see if their men were all right and really getting amnesty. Several carried picket signs at the front gate and at a press conference one of the women said, "They don't want any information coming out, because they are afraid of the truth."

The prison administration and their friends in the media said over and over again that the reason for the takeover was "overcrowding." But these penal administrators weren't concerned about overcrowding when they jammed 2 men to a cell in the seg building. The officials from Lucey on down don't give a damn about overcrowding.

All they're concerned about is keeping control over 1200 men in an institution designed for 800. With no jobs and little opportunity on the streets, the crime rate is rising and the prisons are full up.

THE WORKER KEPT OUT OF WAUPUN

For the past three years the Worker has been censored by the prison administration at Waupun.

Issues have been thrown away, or put with inmates' personal belongings to be kept until they're released.

A couple of dozen inmates have subscriptions to the Worker. They and the paper are being given the shaft. The warden and staff know that the Worker writes the truth, and are afraid to let a paper into Waupun that tells about people fighting back together.

When the economy goes into a crisis, many workers, out of desperation turn to crime. This is no solution to hard times—united struggle, like the metal shop takeover is the only way.

Increasing crime puts a heavier burden on all working people—and the rich man's system has no solution. All they can call for is heavier punishment, more fear, and more institutions of repression. And they use these joints to intimidate everybody, not just criminals.

For the officials, the Waupun population has grown too large to control. They are using the metal shop takeover and the spirit of resistance of the men as an excuse to call for new prisons and more guards. Their version of prison reform is more guards and a tighter hold on each prisoner's chains.

Is this what we work so hard to pay taxes for? Every minute of life inside Waupun is designed to break a man down and destroy his self-respect. They treat the men like dogs and tell them everything is all the men's fault. But it's really their whole system that's to blame. This is what Lucey and his buddies want to hide. Gov. Lucey was quoted as saying, "The worst thing that could happen would be for the participants to feel they had an impact." They had an impact the rich and powerful won't forget, and their stand was an inspiration to all oppressed people. ■

The warden and staff at Waupun don't want the Worker read and passed around because their version of rehabilitation is repression.

We're now moving ahead with a suit filed against the institution, seeking a temporary restraining order.

The Worker asks relatives and friends of inmates to let them know they can get free subscriptions to the paper.

We're fighting with them to get the Worker inside the walls.

LET'S GET IT IN!



WITH ALL THE PRISONERS IN A GENERAL LOCK-UP AND ALL VISITS CANCELLED, THEIR WIVES, GIRLFRIENDS AND FAMILIES TOOK UP THE FIGHT.

NEW REBELLION SHAKES ATTICA

On July 11, struggle erupted once again at Attica prison. A and D yards were once again filled by hundreds of inmates fighting against intolerable conditions, as in September, 1971.

It began when four guards attempted to search the cell of a prisoner who had been placed in solitary confinement for "directing abusive language at a guard." They claim he "assaulted and injured" four guards and they beat him, breaking his jaw. A half hour later when the guards tried to close A and D yards recreation areas the inmates refused to leave and fighting broke out. Four more guards were injured and they retreated, leaving the men in control of the yards. They held it for four hours and finally retreated, to their cells when confronted with shotguns and tear gas.

The authorities try to portray prisoners as animals, who deserve any sort of treatment the prison wardens and

guards want to dish out. But aside from a few hard core criminals, the majority of prisoners are working class people, jammed through the capitalists' court with few rights or even minimal legal assistance given and then spit into jails. Many of the biggest criminals--like the Mafia Dons who head up large criminal syndicates--go free; not to mention the capitalists themselves whose whole system is based on the robbery of the working class.

Prisons do nothing to stop crime. In fact, they breed crime, filling many prisons full of hatred and desperation. But prisons are also breeding resistance, as authorities try to force people to live like animals, and they rebel.

While the prison superintendent denied that Attica was a "powder keg", the truth is that the struggle had been ready to explode for a while. The population was

over 2,000, more than 500 over the maximum. The week before the July 11 uprising, 125 inmates submitted a petition from the "concerned inmate population" which demanded the State Commissioner of Corrections meet with the prisoners and that any failure to meet with them would be "costly". The petition demanded answers to questions like why 70% of the prisoners are from New York City, but are kept at Attica, far away from their families; demanded less harassment around visiting; a real work release program; an educational program that was more than a publicity hype; better food and sanitary conditions, such as having the potatoes and rice washed before cooking and allowing mess hall workers time to shower before handling food; better health care and other demands.

The demands were similar to those in

1971, and have been ignored. After the 1971 uprising the population was reduced and some token concessions were made and all efforts were bent to prevent struggle from re-arising.

These battles sent chills up the capitalists' spines. The 1971 uprising united 1,200 men of different nationalities in a determined fight aimed at the capitalist system itself. In trying to defeat this struggle, they murdered over 40 men and spent years in the courtrooms trying to win murder convictions against some Attica fighters. But the name, Attica, is a battle cry for prisoners everywhere. The original revolt sparked others in prisons around the country. The continuation of the Attica brothers unity and determination shows that despite the capitalists' fierce repression, they can not crush people's hatred for them or the will to fight back. ■

Hacks Run Steelworkers Convention Rank & File Organize To Fight



A FIGHTING MOVEMENT OF STEELWORKERS IS GROWING. LAST YEAR IN MILWAUKEE STEELWORKERS PICKETED USWA REGIONAL CONVENTION SAYING "RAISE HELL, NOT DUES!"

The United Steelworkers of America (USWA) convention will be held in September in Las Vegas. While International president Abel and his cronies are hoping for a big party, even in Las Vegas they will be confronted with the struggle of rank and file steelworkers.

From the steel mills of Baltimore, Pittsburgh and Gary to the foundries and fabricating shops here in Milwaukee, a movement of steelworkers is growing to fight back against the companies and push aside the union sellouts who stand in the way.

At the last convention two years ago, the International raised the dues. Now some workers are paying as much as \$16 a month. The only thing workers can see their money going to is the \$25,000 raise Abel got last time.

While the International was able to pass the dues increase at the convention, outside steelworkers and supporters burned an effigy of Abel and marched out banging on the steel doors of the convention hall. And when the word spread about the dues increase, the

union officials were faced with a storm of anger and protest from the rank and file. Demands have been raised to put back the \$10 cap on the dues.

Steelworkers haven't been still since. They're fighting the companies' attempts to drive them down, eliminate our jobs, snatch away our right to strike and make us sacrifice everything for their profits, even our very lives. A movement of steelworkers is growing. A movement to fight for everything we need, including making our union a fighting organization held firmly in the hands of the rank and file. A movement that says loud and clear we are part of a powerful class of working people and we will not be held down.

In Youngstown, Ohio, 5,000 steelworkers wildcatted to prevent 18 job eliminations. They broke through the opposition of local union officials to reach victory. In Milwaukee, strikers at Pressed Steel Tank forced the union officials to give strike benefits to everyone, despite the union bylaw which states only those in need should get them. In recent union elections in several

USWA plants, rank and file candidates were elected or seriously challenged the sellouts, putting forward the program of this fighting movement.

Abel wants to run away and hide in Las Vegas. He and the rest of the hacks want to wine and dine and plan more ways to sell out.

But there won't be any peace. There won't be any peace between steelworkers and the companies. And there won't be any peace between steelworkers and the sellouts who try to sidetrack and sabotage our struggle.

THE STEELWORKER, a national rank and file newspaper, has put out a call to challenge Abel's dominance of the convention, publicize a rank and file program for action, and elect delegates to the convention. In locals across the country, workers are taking up this program for action. Copies of the STEELWORKER are being distributed, workers are running for delegate slots and the movement is growing.

Right now the convention floor is company property, but the steelworkers are not going to let it stay that way.

RANK & FILE PROGRAM

1. SMASH THE ENA-NO STRIKE DEAL

Abel has given away the right to strike over the contract until 1980. Without the right to strike, steelworkers are being forced to fight with one arm behind their backs. Restore the right to strike!

2. SMASH THE CONSENT DECREE AND DIVIDE AND RULE TACTICS

For years, steel companies have practiced discrimination against Black and other minority workers. We demand an end to all discrimination, full plant-wide seniority, and back pay for past discrimination to be paid by the companies. Make the companies pay for any worker bumped by job upgrading. No divide and rule schemes--make the company pay!

3. FIGHT PRODUCTIVITY DRIVES

Fight layoffs, speedup, job elimination and combination. No forced overtime. No foremen working. Abolish the joint company-union Productivity Commission in the steel mills. We aren't concerned about helping the companies "recover" by working harder and faster. Our concern is for our jobs and our families.

4. FIGHT COMPANY ATTACKS ON WORKING CONDITIONS

Fight for better health and safety conditions. Fight for the right to refuse work under unsafe conditions. Fight job harassment!

5. TURN THE UNION INTO A WEAPON TO FIGHT AGAINST THE BOSSES

We need democracy among the ranks, not dictatorship. We demand the right to vote on contracts. Drop all eligibility requirements to run for office. Unity of all divisions of the USWA. Restore the cap on dues. Across the board strike benefits. Drop the bylaw which says any member laid off over a year is no longer in good standing.

RAISE HELL, NOT DUES

Bethlehem Steel, Lackawanna N.Y. Steel Wildcat Wins Job Back

1600 workers at Bethlehem Steel's Lackawanna, N.Y. mills wildcatted for five days last month and forced the company to rehire a union steward who had been fired for standing up to speedup and unsafe working conditions and won an important victory.

The battle began July 9 when the company tried to run a train load of metal ingots right up the tail of another. This practice in the mills, means greater production for the company and much greater chance of somebody getting hurt. Union steward Gerry Wallace called this out

for the contract violation that it is and told the men at the control tower to stop the train. The company said, "Run it." The steward got the train stopped anyway. As he began to write up a grievance the company admitted it was wrong and asked him to forget the whole thing. When instead of forgetting about it he finished writing the grievance up, he was suspended. The other workers in the 44 Inch Mill walked out with him, and the whole local - one of five in the mill - went on strike.

This was the first time in seven years

that the local leadership agreed to authorize a strike. The bosses quickly got an injunction, but the workers stood firm and said, "We're on strike until Gerry comes back to work."

Because of the injunction and the threat of arrest and fines, there was no official picket line, but a growing number of the 1600 strikers hung around near the plant gates and the surrounding bars, strongly "advising" their fellow local members not to cross the line. Some members of the other locals stayed out in support. Also some laid-off Beth-

lehem workers also took part.

The workers put out a strike bulletin with information about the wildcat. As part of building this struggle, they also sold copies of The Steelworker, a national rank and file steel workers' newspaper, at the gates and in the bars in the area.

As the August issue of The Steelworker describes it, "There is a widespread feeling that the workers at Beth are waging a strong battle against the company's attacks. A few weeks ago, one worker was killed on the job when struck by a block. The night after the walkout three workers in another local were hospitalized after being gassed. A bricklayer at the gate echoed the feelings of many workers when he said 'We've got to shut this whole plant down and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13

"A FELLOW WORKER DIED"

The following poem was written by a steel worker at Bethlehem Steel's Lackawanna works outside of Buffalo. A worker, Stan, had a heart attack on the shop floor and it took 45 minutes for an ambulance to arrive, by which time Stan had died. The same day ex-president LBJ had died and the plant flags were put at half mast. This poem was put up throughout the plant the next day.

I saw a man the other day,
On the factory floor he lay,
His face a twisted ashen grey,
Another worker slips away

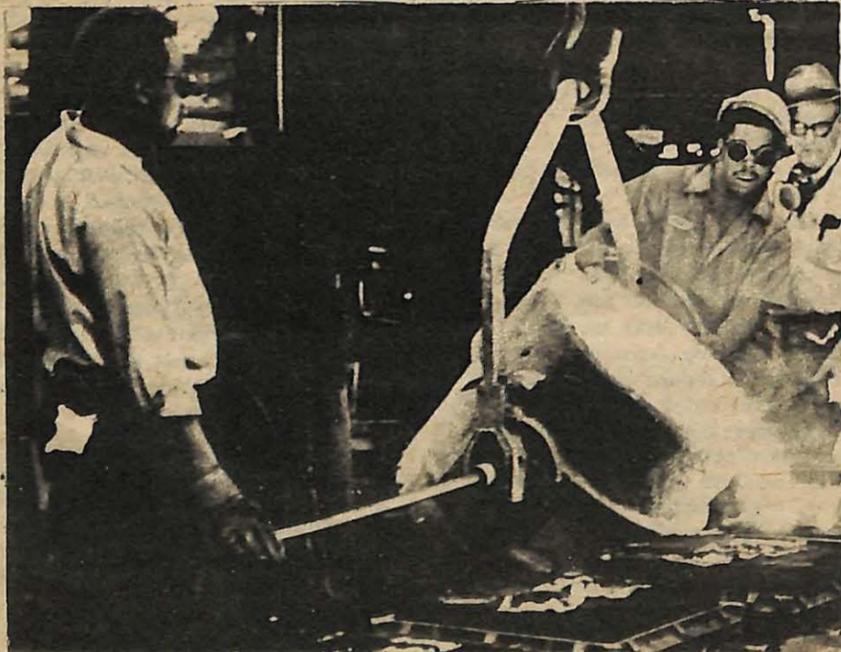
But management would shed no tears
Although he worked here 30 years.
To the scene the foreman came,
He didn't even know his name.

Get back to work, the foreman cried.
But boss, our fellow worker died!
Then to the clock the foreman ran
To punch the card of poor old Stan.

Outside the gate at half-staff flies
The symbol of a pack of lies,
It's flying there for LBJ,
Who never worked a single day.

But there's no tribute for poor Stan,
A decent, honest working man.
But someday from that flagpole there
Will hang that foreman, this I swear.

--a Buffalo steel worker



1976 WORKERS' FIGHTS- S

CONT. FROM PAGE 1

RUBBER STRIKE

meant encouragement and strength for their ability to continue on against the companies.

At the Gates Rubber Company in Denver, workers discovered that the company was making scab products for Goodyear, shipping them to a phony name. Over 1,000 people from day shift alone went to a strike vote meeting ready to walk out then and there, but it was announced that the company had caved in and agreed to discontinue supplying Good year. Workers are continuing to keep a sharp eye on Gates to make sure they don't pull any more scabbing maneuvers and there is strong sentiment building to hit the company hard when their own contract expires on August 20.

This rank and file action at rubber companies that have not been called out on strike by the International and the locals is very important because there is still so much production getting out. In Ohio it now seems likely that wor-

kers at Monarch Tire, until now still working although they walked out for a couple of days in support of the strikers will vote to strike in a couple weeks.

In Detroit, Auto Workers United to Fight in '76 joined rubber workers on the picket line and has been building support for the rubber workers in the auto plants.

In Cleveland, Detroit and other cities, Rubber Strike Support Committees have been formed. The Cleveland committee recently sponsored a rally in front of a large K-Mart store that markets Firestone tires. Thirty steel, auto, electrical and garment workers threw up a picket line. The TV newsmen wanted to know why they were there, boycotting Firestone, when they weren't even rubber workers. This gave the picketers a good chance to lay out to the people of Cleveland the fact that this strike is important to the whole working class and

that workers from a lot of industries are mobilizing to support their striking brothers and sisters.

Members of the committee also initiated a resolution of support for the rubber strike that was passed by the United Steelworkers local at Jones and Laughlin Steel in Cleveland and collected over \$200 from workers on one shift alone for the rubber strikers. At the Ford Motor Plant in Brook Park near Cleveland workers contributed over \$2000.

The Rubber Strike Support Committees are working to get support resolutions passed in other unions and are encouraging the start of buck-a-month clubs in the plants. In Cleveland, the Unemployed Workers Organizing Committee is passing out pledge cards at the unemployment offices that are being signed by hundreds of unemployed workers saying "We Won't Scab!"



MASS PICKET AT DETROIT UNIROYAL SLOWS DOWN SCABS

'76 CONTRACTS WIDESPREAD ATTACKS - RESISTANCE GROWS

The capitalists greeted 1976 with a howl about making this year "labor's year of compromise." With contracts expiring for 4.5 million workers, the ruling class hoped to put the shackles on the working class and, above all, to prevent the outbreak of strikes.

Of course when the rulers talk about "labor" they don't mean the common working man and woman. They are referring to their golfing partners and faithful servants who sit on top of the international unions. Together this union/management duet have done their best to turn 1976 into labor's year of setbacks.

The capitalists have been gloating about how they have held contract wage increases well below the 1975 rate, calling this year's raises "less than expected". A recent issue of Business Week goes on to brag about how 'unit labor costs' in manufacturing have fallen 1.4% since last year.

But while they have succeeded in shackling the workers to some mighty bad contracts, they have met with increasing resistance and some courageous struggle from the rank and file, despite the top labor traitors running interference for the capitalists.

The companies and the top union officials have been preaching that the workers have nothing to gain by struggling. After massive layoffs hit at the end of 1974, they managed to hold strikes to record lows in 1975 by warning that workers will "strike themselves out of a job", as well as by making full use

of the union hack's organizational control of the unions.

Now that the downswing in the economy has tapered off a bit and the capitalists are proclaiming a "Recovery", officials like Leonard Woodcock of the UAW are telling the workers they must not do anything to jeopardize this recovery.

But workers do not have the luxury to choose whether or not to fight. "Recovery" talk is no consolation for the millions unemployed and it won't change the fact that prices are still outstripping wages.

The companies' attacks and the union leadership's handcuffing have come at a time when the level of organization among the rank and file is still low and this has its effects even when workers have launched counterattacks. Yet conditions themselves, the relentless drive of the capitalists for profit is compelling resistance. In the course of fighting, workers have been learning to fight better, to organize the widespread hatred for exploitation and the treachery of the internationals into effective rank and file action.

The companies and union officials made it clear what they had in mind this year during the first major contract expiration--that of 85,000 garment workers, mostly in the New York City area. By keeping the workers in the

dark and launching a surprise attack by signing a new contract even before the old one expired (the so-called early bird contract, an increasingly popular sellout tactic) the workers were caught unorganized and unable to prevent the contract from being jammed through--a contract that fell way below the rate of inflation and guarantees that garment workers will sink further into the criminal conditions of poverty they are held in by the garment bosses. But low wages was only part of this package, the union hacks even set up agreements and a school to help the owners of garment shops be more "productive".

And what was the justification for this shameless treachery? That garment shops in New York City are 'uncompetitive' with the non-union shops of the South, where the workers are exploited even more viciously. So instead of going all out to organize the unorganized and win decent wages, the union hacks are going along with plans to make union shops competitive with non-union by driving the conditions of unionized workers lower!

The same type of song and dance is being sung in the construction industry where unionized workers are labelled as overpaid and large-scale efforts are going on to break the unions. In Detroit, the construction contracts held first year increases to a whopping 3%.

CONTINUED PAGE 13

STAND WITH RUBBER WORKERS

COLLECT DONATIONS

IN YOUR SHOP OR LOCAL

UNITED RUBBER WORKERS, 87 SOUTH HO

BOYCOTT FIRE

K-MART, SIEBERLING, DAYTON, ATLAS, UNION 'WARD, J.C. PENNEY

PASS RESOLUTION

COPIES OF SUPPORT STATEMENTS OR TELEGRAMS RAISED SHOULD BE SENT TO THE CLEVELAND RUBBER STRIKE COMMITTEE, C/O THE WORKER, P.O. BOX 10520, CLEVELAND, OH

THE UNITED WORKERS ORGANIZATION (UWO) WILL MILWAUKEE AREA. CONTACT UWO AT 445-5816 ABC BUILD WORKING CLASS SOLIDARITY!

GIDDINGS & LEWIS WORKERS STEP UP STRIKE

The ten month old Giddings and Lewis strike erupted in militant confrontation during the 1st days of August. Almost 20 strikers were arrested as they tightened their picket lines in an attempt to stop the over 200 scabs. While production continued, one scab car was overturned, windshields were busted, and the strike once again became headline news.

On August 5, after a week of struggle and activity, including a rejection of the company's latest offer, one thousand strikers and supporters staged one of the strongest protests in the history of Fond du Lac. Seven hundred strikers and friends demonstrated at the main plant, and marched to a subsidiary plant, and they were joined along the march route by 300 more supporters.

The strike is entering a crucial period. Just a few days earlier Giddings and Lewis made a "final offer" to rehire 45 men of their own choosing to train the scabs. This insult was met by an increase in the workers' determination to keep fighting. The "offer" was overwhelmingly rejected and the next day six more strikers were arrested.

Rank and file unity has been great throughout the strike. The 700 members of Machinists Lodge 1402 voted 98% to strike. They were faced with a new incentive plan that was nothing more than a vicious wage cut. With the jobs of 700 men in the balance, this strike at one of the largest employers in the Fond du Lac area has affected everyone. The strike reached a turning point in April when the com-



WHETHER IT'S ON THE MEATCUTTERS PICKET LINE AND LEWIS STRIKE IN FOND DU LAC, WORKERS STOP THE BOSSES' DIRTY WORK

RIGHTS- SABOTAGE

STAND WITH THE RUBBER WORKERS!

COLLECT DONATIONS

IN YOUR SHOP OR LOCAL

UNITED RUBBER WORKERS, 87 SOUTH HIGH STREET, AKRON, OHIO

BOYCOTT FIRESTONE

K-MART, SIEBERLING, DAYTON, ATLAS, UNION '76, MOBIL, SHELL, MONTGOMERY WARD, J.C. PENNEY

PASS RESOLUTIONS

COPIES OF SUPPORT STATEMENTS OR TELEGRAMS AND THE AMOUNTS OF MONEY RAISED SHOULD BE SENT TO THE CLEVELAND RUBBER STRIKE SUPPORT COMMITTEE, C/O THE WORKER, P.O. BOX 10520, CLEVELAND, OHIO 44110

THE UNITED WORKERS ORGANIZATION (UWO) WILL BUILD THE CAMPAIGN IN THE MILWAUKEE AREA, CONTACT UWO AT 445-5816 ABOUT PLANT GATE COLLECTIONS. BUILD WORKING CLASS SOLIDARITY!

GIDDINGS & LEWIS WORKERS STEP UP STRUGGLE

The ten month old Giddings and Lewis strike erupted in militant confrontation during the 1st days of August. Almost 20 strikers were arrested as they tightened their picket lines in an attempt to stop the over 200 scabs. While production continued, one scab car was overturned, windshields were busted, and the strike once again became headline news.

On August 5, after a week of struggle and activity, including a rejection of the company's latest offer, one thousand strikers and supporters staged one of the strongest protests in the history of Fond du Lac. Seven hundred strikers and friends demonstrated at the main plant, and marched to a subsidiary plant, and they were joined along the march route by 300 more supporters.

The strike is entering a crucial period. Just a few days earlier Giddings and Lewis made a "final offer" to rehire 45 men of their own choosing to train the scabs. This insult was met by an increase in the workers' determination to keep fighting. The "offer" was overwhelmingly rejected and the next day six more strikers were arrested.

Rank and file unity has been great throughout the strike. The 700 members of Machinists Lodge 1402 voted 98% to strike. They were faced with a new incentive plan that was nothing more than a vicious wage cut. With the jobs of 700 men in the balance, this strike at one of the largest employers in the Fond du Lac area has affected everyone. The strike reached a turning point in April when the com-

pany, trying to cash in on a business upturn in the depressed tool industry, began hiring scabs. Immediately police were called in to stop the strikers from defending their jobs. At times cops from over five counties, including Milwaukee, were there.

The role of the cops has become very clear. They film picketlines daily and move in immediately to let scabs go in or out of the plant. When the lines get large the tactical unit is nearby with riot helmets, clubs, tear gas. The ties between the company and the police are direct. The head of the Fond du Lac police and fire commission is a vice-president of G&L.

The G&L strike follows the same pattern set in the Milwaukee meatcutters strike--wage cutting, union busting, and a long strike aimed at decertifying the local. In the meatcutters strike the NLRB ruled that only the scabs could vote in the union representation election. According to NLRB rulings when strikers are out for over a year, they are no longer considered employees of the struck firm.

Already the NLRB has dropped the Machinists' unfair labor practices charges. With only a month to go before the year is up, and no charges pending against G&L, the move for decertification is waiting in the wings.

Several strikers, life long residents of the area, have been forced to leave the city in

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13



WHETHER IT'S ON THE MEATCUTTERS PICKETLINE IN MILWAUKEE OR AT THE GIDDINGS AND LEWIS STRIKE IN FOND DU LAC, WORKERS STAND UP TO THE COPS WHO RUSH IN TO DO THE BOSSES' DIRTY WORK

BOYCOTT AND STRUGGLE

WITH THE WORKERS!

ATIONS
AL
STREET, AKRON, OHIO
STONE
MOBIL, SHELL, MONTGOMERY
IONS
AND THE AMOUNTS OF MONEY
ER STRIKE SUPPORT COMMITTEE,
D 44110
UILD THE CAMPAIGN IN THE
T PLANT GATE COLLECTIONS.

100,000 TAKE ON BOSSES, GOVT. COALFIELD WALKOUT

As we go to press 100,000 coal miners, over half the nation's total, are on strike against a court injunction. The strike spread through West Virginia, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Kentucky, Indiana, Virginia and Illinois. Miners at a large strip mine in Colorado walked out for a few days in support.

The striking miners are demanding an end to the companies' use of court injunctions, fines and jail. They are demanding that the Bituminous Coal Operators Association (BCOA) sign an agreement with the United Mine Workers (UMWA) not to get court injunctions. The second demand is no reprisals against UMWA members active in the strike.

Coal miners was postponed until Tuesday of the following week. And then the judge again postponed the hearing, this time indefinitely, because the situation was too "explosive." The latest report is that the judge said he would drop the fines against the local and the criminal charges against the 213 men if the miners would return to work on the hoot owl shift Monday morning August 2nd. But miners at a southern West Virginia meeting to discuss the situation said they would not return to work and would continue to strike. They were gaining more unity around stopping all the injunctions, fines and jailings.

On July 29, Arnold Miller, president of the UMWA, who has been waging an

ide the pensioners from working miners and to scare people in order to weaken the strike.

The miners are striking against the companies use of injunctions, fines and jailing to beat back the miners struggle. There have been some forces among the miners who have tried to narrow the strike. At one point they tried to narrow the demands from stop the injunctions, fines and jailings, to "drop the fines against the Cedar Coal local." Another time they tried to push the demand to investigate the judges, trying to focus the strike on a "few corrupt judges," totally obscuring the fact that the whole court system is set up to protect the capitalists' profits and that

LEWIS STRIKERS STRUGGLE

, trying to cash in on a business upturn in the depressed tool industry, began hiring scabs. Immediately police were called in to prevent the strikers from defending their jobs. At least a dozen cops from over five counties, including Milwaukee, were there.

The role of the cops has become very clear. They picket lines daily and move in immediately to let scabs go in or out of the plant. As the lines get large the tactical unit is made up with riot helmets, clubs, tear gas, and shields. The ties between the company and the police are direct. The head of the Fond du Lac police fire commission is a vice-president of

The G&L strike follows the same pattern set by the Milwaukee meatcutters strike--wage cutting, union busting, and a long strike followed by decertification of the local. In the meatcutters strike the NLRB ruled that only the scabs could vote in the union representation election. According to NLRB rulings when strikers are out for over a year, they are no longer considered employees of the struck

Already the NLRB has dropped the Machinists unfair labor practices charges. With only a month to go before the year is up, and with charges pending against G&L, the move to decertification is waiting in the wings. Several strikers, life long residents of the city, have been forced to leave the city in

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13



IN MILWAUKEE OR AT THE GIDDINGS
AND UP TO THE COPS WHO RUSH IN TO DO



RIGHT NOW MINERS ARE FIGHTING THE SAME MILITANT STRUGGLE AS THEY DID A YEAR AGO FOR THE RIGHT TO STRIKE—AND IN DEFIANCE OF THE COURTS, COMPANIES AND SELLOUT UNION LEADERSHIP

It was one year ago that 80,000 miners waged a one month long strike for the right to strike and against court injunctions. At that time miners were not strong enough to win their demands. But they put the right to strike on the agenda and put the companies on notice that they will fight to defend one of the strongest weapons that working people have - strikes. This strike is a continuation of that struggle to defend the right to strike.

The current strike started over a grievance at the Cedar Coal Company local union 1759, in Kenawha County outside Charleston, West Virginia. Cedar Coal had a company man working in a classified job. An arbitrator ruled that the job was a union job. The company removed the company man, but did not post the job. The miners struck and were immediately slapped with a \$50,000 fine, plus \$25,000 a day for each day out. The anger of the miners erupted. In the week of July 19th the strike spread throughout mines in Kenawha County and then all of West Virginia as a strike against the injunction and the fines. The judge ordered 213 men from the Cedar Coal local to appear in court on Thursday July 22 on criminal contempt charges. The following week the strike spread into six more states. In the face of the spreading strike, the contempt hearing for the 213 Cedar

all-out campaign against the miners' right to strike and who had 3 leaders of the recent black lung strike suspended from the union, made his move to smash the strike. He snuck into Charleston and met with 100 miners. The miners that were at the meeting shouted him down and 30 miners walked out when Miller told them to go back to work because the "BCOA won't negotiate unless the men are working." The following day he met with local union presidents, ordering them to order men back to work. Miller said the strikers are jeopardizing his long term goals and risking the assets of the UMWA.

He claimed that the strike is threatening the pensions of 90,000 disabled and retired miners. Brennan, the president of the BCOA, echoed the same "concern" about pensions. The miners pensions and medical coverage is financed through royalties paid on the tonnage of coal mined, and pays pensions and medical coverage for all miners. Miners hate this set-up that ties the pensions to tonnage. No miner wants to see the pension or medical coverage cut back. It is a fact that the fund gets cut into during a strike, but it always has. Of course Miller has never been willing to fight this set-up that forces miners to sacrifice their benefits to fight the companies' attacks. He and the BCOA are talking about it now to div-

it's not a question of one or two judges who get money under the table.

These same forces had tried to isolate leaders of last summers' right to strike, anti-injunction strike, in particular members of the Miners Right to Strike Committee (a group of rank and file miners who organized several years ago to fight for the right to strike.) The misleaders said that the current strike against the injunctions had nothing to do with defending the right to strike. So far their efforts to derail the strike have failed. The miners stand firm around the demands.

Miners, including the Miners Right to Strike Committee have formed ad hoc committees to carry out the fight against the injunction. These miners have taken up the political questions around the demands and around building unity. They have helped to beat back lies and attempts to break the strike. They have organized rallies, car caravans and issued leaflets.

The miners strike stands as an inspiration to all workers. By taking bold and united action they rocked the capitalists and their servants in the courts and government.

VICTORY TO THE MINERS! STOP THE INJUNCTIONS! DEFEND THE RIGHT TO STRIKE!

CHINA REBUILDS AFTER DEVASTATING QUAKE



THE PEOPLE OF CHINA ARE TAUGHT ABOUT EARTHQUAKES; SIGNS THAT ONE MIGHT BE COMING AND WHAT TO DO IF ONE STRIKES. THESE PEOPLE ARE LEARNING TO PREDICT EARTHQUAKES BY THE LEVEL OF WATER IN WELLS.

An earthquake described as one of the most powerful anywhere in the world since 1964 shocked the Chinese cities of Peking, Tientsin, and Tang-Shan on Wednesday, July 28.

Major impacts of the quake were felt in Tang-Shan which is in the coal mining areas, 95 miles southeast of Peking.

Viking I Mission

NEW WORLD EXPLORED - OLD WORLD EXPOSED

On July 20, the Viking I, after 305 days and 350 million miles, successfully landed on Mars and began relaying spectacular pictures back to Earth and important scientific data. The Mars probe is the product of collective labor of thousands of workers and scientific personnel. The launching and the probe itself contains much of the most advanced technology and knowledge of the natural sciences available to society at this time. It is truly a tremendous achievement and a testament to man's ability to conquer the unknown.

At the same time, the Viking I is an indictment of the system that sent it. Many of the workers and technicians who made the mission to the red planet possible were long since unemployed by the time the lander touched down. With the tremendous potential demonstrated by Viking I standing in such stark contrast to the decay all around us the whole thing can't help but raise the question in the minds of millions: "What kind of system can put a sophisticated laboratory on another world but cannot put up some needed housing on the vacant lot next door?" Many workers are deeply interested in what the probe will find, especially in the question that has haunted man for generations - is there life on Mars? But few think the knowledge gained from Viking I and 2 will make much difference in their lives.

The Viking I was scheduled to touch-

down on July 4th but problems with the original landing sight prevented this. The Bicentennial touchdown was calculated to trumpet the landing as "proof" that after 200 years the ruling capitalist system was still progressive, capable of making great advances for the benefit of all society. The Mars probe, as well as the entire space program, is supposed to stand as "proof" that the U.S. capitalists, in the interests of science and understanding, are exploring space for the benefit of everyone on Earth.

But what stands out from the Mars mission is exactly the opposite - what a rare and unusual occurrence it is when the ruling class of this country, in 1976, does anything that can truly be said to be an advance for society. Not only is the Viking I in obvious contradiction to the lack of progress in this country, it also represents an exception to the purposes of the overall space program.

Despite all the hula-balloo about "hand-shakes in space" and "peaceful exploration" the space programs of both the U.S. and the U.S.S.R. have been an extension of the superpowers aggression and rivalry on the earth's surface. John Kennedy boasted when he announced the U.S.'s drive for the moon: "Control of space means control of the earth."

Well over half of all U.S. or Soviet satellites launched since the early '60s have been strictly military, such as spy satellites to watch others' armies. Even

Tang-Shan has a population of over 1 million, and at least 20 million persons felt several tremors.

News reports released by the New China News Agency on the day of the quake said that many people were killed and Tang-Shan in particular suffered extremely serious damages and losses. Immediately after the quake, hundreds of thousands of relief workers and medical teams were sent to Tang-Shan to organize and direct relief work and reconstruction.

In China today, the working class rules the country. In the wake of this earthquake, one of the main ways working people have responded to having control of their country is to take to heart what Chairman Mao once said, "Of all things, people are the most precious." An example of this is that workers in Peking drug and food factories voluntarily worked long hours to rush vital supplies to people of Tang-Shan, and at the same time, railroad workers made it their main priority to repair railroad lines from Peking to Tang-Shan. Within a few days after the quakes, food, water, medicine and other essentials were in adequate supply in the stricken area.

In Peking, most visitors and guests at Peking's two foreign visitors hotels were quickly evacuated to tent camps around most of the city.

The Chinese see science and nature as things which masses of people can know and understand. It is not left up to a few experts to predict or deal with natural phenomenon such as earthquakes. The people of China are taught about earthquakes, signs that one might be coming and what to do if one strikes. In Peking, a minute or two after tremors began, streets filled with thousands of people, who calmly began to set up tents, shelter, and protection against further shocks. Six hours later,

as heavy rains began to fall, people continued to string plastic table-cloths and cotton bedsheets underneath the trees for shelter.

Being prepared when natural disaster strikes enables people to rely on themselves. And it is in this spirit of self-reliance to overcome difficulty, that China refuses offers of aid from other countries. The liaison office of the People's Republic of China, has said that while the offer of assistance is appreciated, it isn't necessary. The difference between a crisis in a socialist country like China, and in one where the working class doesn't hold power, can be seen in the earthquake which struck Guatemala in February of this year. Thousands were killed, and the capitol, Guatemala City was left without water and electricity. Several smaller cities were totally destroyed. Months later, thousands of people were still living in tents and shacks made of tin cans. They were still without necessities like water. Starvation and disease were everywhere in the stricken area.

Both China and Guatemala are underdeveloped countries, yet in Guatemala, US corporations which dominate their economy, have imposed a life of poverty and enforced backwardness on the majority of people. The US ruling class plundered that country and is driven only by its own needs for profits, not concern for peoples lives.

In China, under socialism, the people are struggling together to master nature. There are still natural disasters, as shown by recent earthquakes and there are still tragedy and destruction. But the majority of people are free to constantly advance their scientific understanding of the workings of nature and society and to work together to minimize destruction caused by natural forces and together they can begin the job of rebuilding as quickly as possible.

the well publicized "peaceful" uses of space, like the weather stations and Sky Lab, have been used to cover the development of military technology - with the hope of raining destruction down on unsuspecting populations. In at least one case the U.S. even detonated a nuclear device in orbit over the Pacific.

And it's certainly no secret that the corporations have made billions off of the space program.

The point is that science doesn't exist in a vacuum in any society - it is very much tied up with how society is organized into classes. In this country it is the monopoly capitalists that control scientific research and subordinate it to their basic interest of squeezing profits out of the labor of the working class, and defending their system of exploitation.

In present day imperialist society this means that a huge chunk of the trained scientists are forced to spend their time devising new weapons of death and destruction because war is an inevitable and built-in feature of imperialism. In fact a great many of the technological achievements of the 20th century churned out in this country - synthetic rubber, jet engines, antibiotics, computers, nuclear power and so on - are by-products of war research.

Far from being proof of a dynamic and advancing society, advances like the Mars probe, great as they are, are but a taste of what's possible once the work-

ing class has liberated society from the profit system. It is well known, for example, that many advances in science and technology are either suppressed or go unused - everything from sparkplugs that would never need replacing to fantastic, but technologically possible, rapid transit systems - if they stand in the way of the profits of the auto companies or other monopolies.

The Viking I mission will undoubtedly contribute a great deal to understanding the laws of the universe. Mars represents a unique opportunity to examine earth-like geology and weather under alien conditions. The study of its towering volcanos, up to 10 miles high, and weather system, with dust storms at times sweeping over the whole planet, can be of great value. The study of Mars cannot help but deepen man's understanding of the laws of nature, the key to man's ability to harness and control natural forces.

But one thing is for sure, unless there is some way for the knowledge gained in the Mars mission to be translated into profits for the monopolies it will remain locked up as secrets or purely the playthings of scientists, and will do nothing to improve life for the masses of people in this country. Nothing, that is, until the working class topples the rule of the capitalists and embarks on building a new society where progress and advance are not the exception.

LETTER FROM A TENANT "CLEAN IT UP OR WE DON'T PAY THE RENT"

I'm sick and tired of living in a run down apartment building. The landlord collects his \$165 a month and does nothing to keep up the building. Our building is only twelve years old, but looks like a rescue mission. Outside it looks o.k., but when you get inside you see broken mailboxes and filthy corridors. There are roaches, silver fish and other bugs. The window in the bedroom has had a big hole in it since we moved in nine months ago. My bathroom door is hanging by a hinge and the air conditioner doesn't work right. Half way down to the basement the smell of garbage hits you. Garbage is thrown on the floor because the landlord won't buy more cans to put it in, and he lets it sit for weeks.

Since May my husband and I have withheld our rent, and now we are fighting the eviction the landlord has tried to slap in our face.

When we got our eviction notice in June, I went to a meeting of UWOC (Unemployed Workers Organizing Committee) to discuss what to do. People agreed our landlord was trying to make as much money as possible by charging high rents and not putting a penny into keeping up the building. Landlords like ours are part of the system that tries to drive all working people into the ground.

We decided to go to other tenants in the building to get support. Over half the tenants signed a petition and many wrote up statements for me to take

to court telling how bad things are in the building.

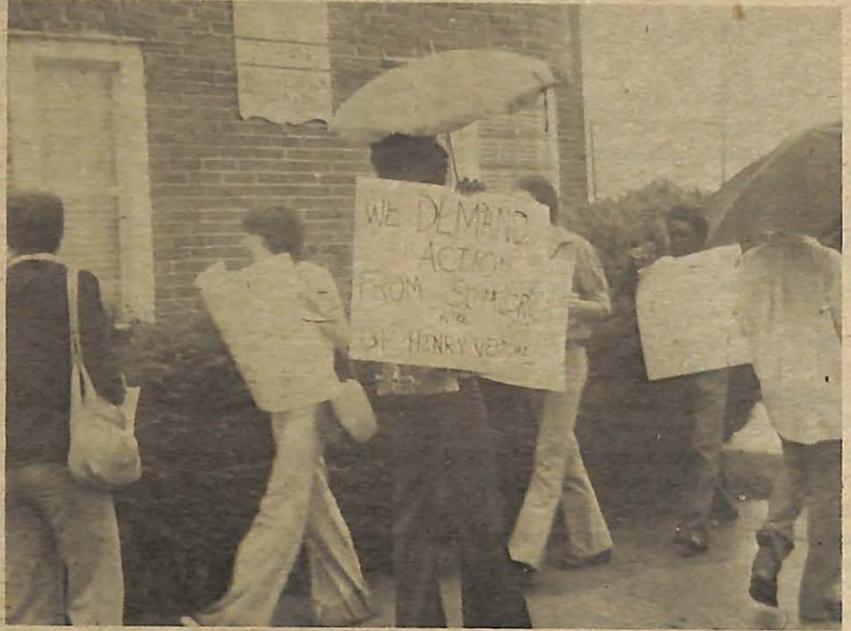
We confronted the manager about these problems and he said we should buy a can of Raid. We didn't think he was very funny and decided to find out who the owner was. To our surprise we found out it was a doctor, Dr. Henry Veit, who lives out in a fancy home in Wauwatosa.

We decided that we would show Dr. Veit that we were going to fight the eviction and for better housing. So we set up a picketline outside his office on 58th and Lisbon. Our chants and signs attracted people passing by. "Dirt in the halls, roaches on the walls, don't clean a little, you gotta clean it all."

Four of us went inside and demanded to speak to the doctor. After several cops came to protect him, the doctor came out of his office. He said, "I don't have time for this kind of annoyance. If you people don't leave I will sign a complaint and have you arrested."

Back on the picketline we made it clear that he would be hearing more from us! Other people along Lisbon Street gave us support as they learned about Dr. Veit's other occupation as a slum landlord.

The next Friday we met his wife, who is his attorney, in court. When we went into the judge's chambers we made a mess of his eviction case. She



TENANTS & UWOC MEMBERS CHANTED OUTSIDE DR. VEIT'S OFFICE "SLUM HOUSING HAS GOTTA GO"

was busy trying to make her case sound legal. We had the petitions and statements from other tenants, and several rows of supporters waiting in the courtroom. We had pictures of the garbage and the broken door, and a list of code violations from the building inspector.

She had nothing but a summons and a snotty attitude, which are usually all she needs to win a case.

The judge was forced to turn down his request that we be evicted immediately. He set a trial date for September 17.

From the picketline to the courtroom, we really had the Veits shook up. Dr. Veit has been forced to make a few improvements like picking up garbage and getting a new manager. This is just a small victory that we won because we united and stood up to fight. ■

Political Struggle In Olympic Arena

The 21st Olympics is now over. For almost two weeks many of the world's finest athletes from over 90 countries performed brilliantly. Men and women swimmers broke almost every world record.

Fourteen year old Nadia Comaneci gained seven perfect scores for the first time in Olympic history. Cuba's Alberto Juantorena won an unprecedented two gold medals in the 400 and 800 meter races. Finland's Lasse Viren became the first ever to win both the 5,000 and 10,000 meters in successive games. Willie Davenport, who a year ago was told he would never run again, competed in his 4th Olympics, winning a bronze medal. The world record in weight lifting was smashed by almost 60 pounds by 345 pound super heavyweight Vasily Alexeyev. The Peterson brothers, John and Ben, from Comstock, Wisconsin won gold and silver medals in wrestling, reversing their '72 finishes.

The Montreal Olympics was marked by its drama, athletic excellence, and the real international friendship it produced.

Yet when the athletes of all nations paraded around the track in Montreal, there were a lot of holes in the line up.

The team from Taiwan was barred from entering the country and twenty-three Arab and African countries pulled out to protest the New Zealand government's sponsorship of the rugby team's tour of South Africa.

The barons of US athletics and sports commentators wrung their hands because politics had intruded onto the green fields of Olympic competition.

In fact, the Olympics have always been intensely political. One of the greatest moments in sports history came when Jesse Owens broke the broad jump world record in Munich, Germany in 1936. After Owens won two sprint gold medals, the Nazi officials weren't about to let this descendent of Black slaves win another. They said he scratched twice. Owens took off his sweatshirt and placed it a foot in front of the takeoff board so that no one could say he scratched on his final jump. His record breaking leap was a slap in the face to the top nazi, Adolph Hitler, who was sitting in the stands, and an inspiration to freedom-loving people around the world.

In the 1968 Olympics, two Black US medalists in the 400 meter race, Tommy Smith and John Carlos, raised clenched fists during the playing of the national

anthem in solidarity with the Black liberation movement that was on the rise in this country.

In this Olympics it was the suppression of South Africa's Black majority and Taiwan's ridiculous claim to represent the people of China that were main political issues. US commentators and politicians tried to make it seem like the Olympics were being ruined. Really they were upset because their politics was losing out.

Two decades after the Chinese workers and peasants had come to power, the US and the International Olympic Committee refused to allow the People's Republic into the games. The Chinese have steadfastly refused to participate until the Taiwan team is kicked out. At the same time they offer a place on China's teams to Taiwan athletes. Over the last five years, more and more countries have been extending diplomatic and trade relations to the socialist People's Republic of China. When Canada refused to let the Taiwan teams enter its country, it was refusing to call Taiwan China. The US threatened to pull out of the games. But Canada still would not let Taiwan in. Taiwan was offered the chance to participate, but not as China. In a huff, they left and went home.

The boycott of the African and Arab countries was a strong protest against the South African regime, which is shooting down Blacks by the hundreds. US commentators managed to dig up a handful of African athletes who were willing to gripe about the boycott. They wouldn't mention what the boycott was going to accomplish. Where there is struggle, there is sacrifice. If the actions of the African and Arab teams help to further isolate the South African regime and brand it for the racist society it is, it will have been well worth it. As Dick Quax of New Zealand, who won a silver medal in the 5,000 meters, said, "I know how they feel about South Africa. I blame the rugby people and I blame our government for putting us in this position." Rod Dixon, another New Zealand finalist, bitterly said, "I have no advice for our government, except resign..."

The Soviets made their stand clear when they pledged that Taiwan would be welcome in Moscow in the 1980 Olympics, which is shaping up as their first big chance to play super power politics with the games.

The sports world, along with everything else, is changing. The countries whose politics have guided world sports for years are suffering defeats that, they complain, is an unsportsmanlike intrusion into politics.

When their imperialist politics is on top, it's for "the good of the games." But there is little the US can do. More and more countries are standing up and demanding an equal voice, treating international outlaws like South Africa as they deserve and extending the hand of Olympic competition to the People's Republic of China, the largest nation in the world.

The Olympics featured some great athletic performances. And they produced some good competition and friendship between athletes of different countries in spite of the efforts of imperialist governments like the US and the USSR to poison the well. They also produced some important victories in the struggle against the old "big power" politics. ■



MONTREAL OLYMPICS WERE MARKED BY ATHLETIC EXCELLENCE & POLITICAL STRUGGLE

AMC

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

divide that pie, AMC will lay off a thousand and speed up the rest.

In its typical back-stabbing manner, AMC announced the layoffs during vacation, making it extremely difficult for the workers to get organized to fight for their jobs. In the face of this difficult situation rank and file activists in the United Workers Organization and members of the Revolutionary Communist Party set out to build the struggle against the layoffs.

From the beginning it was very clear that there was only one way to combat all the distortions and phoney solutions held up by the company and the union officials, uniting the ranks of the thousands of autoworkers and unleashing their potential power demanding jobs from AMC. The working class has nothing in common with the capitalists and we don't care if they can save \$35 a car, or are going broke. Our labor has made them rich and we will not be thrown out of work or starved to death. The uncompromising demand of the working class was that AMC provide jobs for all laid off workers in Kenosha and Milwaukee—to hell with all their divide and conquer schemes.

A picket line of 50 was held in front of the AMC Employment Office to fight the layoffs and to demand an immediate emergency union meeting. Of course the company started panicking at the sight of organized resistance to their plans and threatened to fire people for "illegal picket line activity". The call for an immediate union meeting had arisen broadly among the rank and file who wanted the opportunity to meet thousands strong to plan their opposition to the layoffs.

Following the picket line a march to the union office found that the local leaders were at the Hilton in Detroit. After the Local President refused to schedule a union meeting an appointment was made for a rank and file delegation to appear before the Executive Board to demand an emergency meeting. When 10 members of Local 75 showed up they were told not to "take it personally, but 4 Board members went on vacation and the meeting was cancelled." At every step of the way the union leaders set out to sabotage and disorganize the struggle.

One smokescreen they quickly pulled out was the "rely on the politicians." Of course the Mayor paraded indignantly on TV that AMC hadn't consulted him in moving and the chairman of the Common Council Ben Johnson posed as a great hero of the workers struggle by offering a resolution against further layoffs—after 1,000 Gremlin jobs were lost. "Save the Matador" became the politicians cry.

The working class can never approach the politicians on our knees asking for favors. Because that's exactly where we'll remain. The only reason to go to the doors of the politicians is to let them know what we want done, as part of building the fight deeply in the working class.

This meant taking the fight against the layoffs out broadly to the rest of the working class. Thousands of petitions were signed at Unemployment Centers, in working class neighborhoods, and at factory gates. Plant closing, runaways, and layoffs have hit workers in Milwaukee very hard. From Plankington Packing in the 60's, to Square D in the 70's, the capitalists have no mercy in throwing us out on the streets. Many of the people who signed the petition had themselves been in the same position.

Out of this long experience, people know just how hard the odds are in winning the fight against layoffs. Nevertheless, workers all over the city were encouraged that the United Workers Org-

anization was taking the first steps in organizing the working class to fight for jobs.

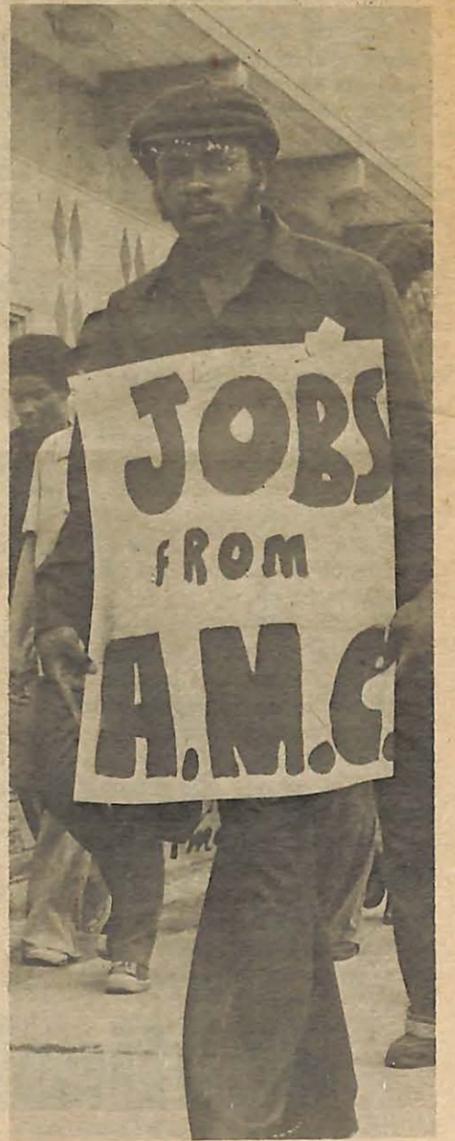
As more rank and file AMC workers started to become active in fighting for their jobs the union leaders kept maneuvering to sabotage the struggle. On the day everyone returned to work after the 5 week layoff the Executive Board handed out a leaflet at the gates which said, "...there might be some people urging you to take unauthorized action against the Company. The Executive Board is informing you not to listen to these people, as any such action would not be sanctioned and any members involved would be subject to discharge."

They went on in language no different from the company to inform people of "their program of struggle." "Any member who was hired after 1/19/59 would be phased out as the last Gremlin passes his work station." How can a worker with 18 years be 'phased out' like last years model? How can a family wake up in the morning and find out their father no longer has a job? The last few days of work for the thousand about to go out on the streets were filled with bitterness and disgust. Hatred for the company and total disgust for the union leaders who had sold them out.

In a rally in front of the plant a brother from the Auto section of the United Workers Organization summed up the sentiments of many when he said. "This system has driven a thousand nails in their coffins, one for every one of us out on the street. They have taken our very livelihood out from under us and we will never forgive or forget this rich man's system for the crimes it has committed against us! This time we weren't strong enough to break through the joint attack from AMC and the union officials. But we will build on what we have done and learned in this battle.

"We can't stop here. We have to go on to build a mighty movement of the

working class that will battle the rich man and grow stronger and stronger until we say we will never be treated this way again."



WORKERS FROM OTHER INDUSTRIES JOINED WITH AUTOWORKERS IN A PICKET LINE TO DEMAND JOBS FROM AMERICAN MOTORS CORPORATION.

CARTER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"was sent by the Lord to bring America back to where she belonged."

In the best Democratic Party mold, Jimmy made his pitch to the working man and woman, the "common man" speaking to the common people. But ol' Jimmy is no man of the soil. He is a big capitalist farmer who pushes others into the dirt. He said, "As an engineer, a planner and a businessman, I see clearly the value of a strong system of free enterprise based on increased productivity and adequate wages." Presumably, the \$2.30 an hour he pays workers on his peanut ranch is an indication of what he considers an adequate wage. And as workers in any industry know, "increased productivity" is just a fancy way of spelling speedup.

Workers in Georgia have had to struggle against Carter's support for the continuation of the "right to work" (right to scab) laws. They know firsthand his so-called concern and compassion for the working class, although big labor traitor I.W. Abel, head of the Steelworkers Union, said he didn't see it as any problem for a "Labor" endorsement.

Carter also emphasized his strong concern for the unemployed. "Why should we pay people \$80 a week for doing nothing when they can be put to work for \$100 a week rebuilding the railroads," he said at the national Governor's Conference. In other words, unemployed workers and welfare recipients to work on wage-cutting and union-busting programs. These sorts of "workfare" job plans have been floated in several states recently and have been fought by workers. But Carter, looking out for the interests of the workers, of course,

wants to make this plan a federal program, attacking workers in all 50 states.

What Carter will actually do and what he will emphasize in the campaign are two different things. In this way he is no different from any other politician hankering to park his rear end in the White House. "Too many," he said at the convention, "have had to suffer at the hands of a political and economic elite..."

The next week, Ford Motor Company chairman Henry Ford II and the chairmen of Coca-Cola and Seagrams hosted a luncheon for Carter at New York's exclusive 21 Club. They were joined by some three dozen other board chairmen and chief executive officers, part of the cream of capitalism -- certainly the "elite" by anybody's standards. One said, "The spirit of what the guy is doing is absolutely right." Another commented, "I think he's got the makings of a first-class President."

At the convention Carter told the TV audience "any system of economics is bankrupt if it sees value or virtue in unemployment." Jimmy's good ol' buddies at the 21 Club, said Newsweek, discounted this statement as a lot of rhetoric. Carter told the convention he would get rid of all the tax loopholes that benefit the rich, calling the tax system "a disgrace to the human race." He told the "political and economic elite" at 21 that any tax reform would go into a year long study program--the final resting place of many such bills in the past.

Carter, like all the Democrats, has tried to make it seem as if there's big differences between himself and the Kissinger-Nixon-Ford foreign policy. But as the capitalist press has emphasized over and over, this dime's worth of difference is purely cosmetic. Carter, like Kissinger, received his basic training in one of the Rockefeller's private foreign policy study

commissions.

As if to underline this point, a week after the convention Carter outlined a policy for the use of nuclear weapons that echoes the position Ford has taken. Carter said that if "U.S. interests" were threatened, or if any of the U.S.'s "close allies" were in trouble, he would not hesitate to launch a nuclear attack.

Carter's greatest virtue to the men he wants to serve is his ability to unite the Democratic Party and unite the "people". North and South, Catholic "ethnics" and Protestants, workers and farmers, all were said to be ready to rally around Jimmy. But the greatest symbol of this unity was Carter's claim to strong support from Black people at the same time as he carried the Wallace vote.

Congressman Andrew Young, the former top aide to Martin Luther King, Jr., testified that support from Blacks stemmed from Carter's record as governor of Georgia. Supposedly, Jimmy showed his great concern for the masses of Blacks, bringing Blacks into state government in significant numbers for the first time. But even this was a sham.

In fact it was the old ax-wielding Lester Maddox, governor before Carter, who began to drop the barriers to higher state jobs for Blacks. This was not because Maddox was some closet progressive. The massive struggle of Black people in the South in the previous 20 years had forced the capitalists and their officials to make some changes in the way they ruled. To confuse and control the struggle, they began to put some Blacks into public office, many of whom were aspiring capitalists in their own right.

While Carter was governor - and while one of these new flock of Black politicians, Maynard Jackson, was mayor of Atlanta - a wave of police murders swept Atlanta unchecked. Most of the

victims were Black. Carter's well-advertised concern for Black people is about as strong as his concern for the masses of workers in general - just enough to get elected. None of this to say the least, was mentioned by Black politician Andy Young, whom Carter has indicated can have any job he wants in payment for his early support.

In his speech to the convention Carter said, "We have been shaken by a tragic war abroad and by scandals and broken promises at home. Our people are seeking new voices, new ideas, new leaders." These words fall from the lips of a man who supported the Vietnam War until the bitter end and who proposed a resolution to the 1973 Governors' Conference supporting Nixon against his Watergate attackers. This from a man who has Dean Rusk, Vietnam War architect, as a foreign policy advisor, and Walter Heller, an LBJ retread on the economy as an economic advisor.

The capitalists know that Carter is a horse they can ride, a man who will serve their class. They hope to convince the people that he is the new leader, that there is truth in his promises that "America's best days are ahead." He and the capitalist class hope that the masses are in a mood to be shucked like a bunch of ripe peanuts.

But the growing mood of the American people is about looking for a way out of the misery capitalism breeds. It is becoming harder and harder for the ruling class to convince the people that they can change things by voting for one politician or another, especially when after the campaign promises are stripped bare all that's left is another attack on the masses' standard of living and other assaults. The upcoming campaign, and certainly Carter in the White House, will help to show that these elections are nothing but the same old shell game.

GIDDINGS & LEWIS

CONTINUED FROM CENTERFOLD

which parents and grandparents before them have lived. Some have gone as far as Pocatello, Idaho in search of work. Almost everyone in the area has been affected either directly or indirectly by the battle on the picketlines. Hundreds of residents daily come out to the picket lines in the afternoon to see what is developing in the strike and show their support.

The fight of the Giddings and Lewis workers is strong. They are fighting the same kind of attacks that are taking place across the country. Right now, Kearney and Trecker, the Milwaukee-based machine tool giant, has recently offered its workers the same plan G&L wants in Fond du Lac.

In taking up the challenge, the machinists stood up united. They have drawn the line and battled against a full out attack. As more and more workers come into such sharp struggle against the system's drive for profits, more and more will begin to see that broad working class struggle and unity against everything these capitalists stand for is the only answer. ■

76 CONTRACTS

CONTINUED FROM CENTERFOLD

Jack Wood, head of the Detroit Building Trades Council, was quoted as saying, "We're talking about survival. This is a generous settlement under difficult conditions."

This is the kind of betrayal that the top union officials hoped to ram down the throats of 4.5 million workers this year. But wishes and reality are two different things.

WORKERS LOOSEN OFFICIALS' GRIPS

Frank Fitzsimmons, chief of the Teamsters Union, pledged his word of honor to the capitalists that he "would do everything possible to avoid a strike," calling them "bad for business". Yet the bureaucracy of the Teamsters was unable to prevent the first ever nationwide trucking strike from taking place this year. Although the strike was quickly squashed by Fitzsimmons and Co., it did succeed in winning some contract improvements. Even more importantly, it showed that even one of the strongest union bureaucracies in the country is not all-powerful and cannot stop the struggle of the rank and file forever. In breaking out of the grip of Fitzsimmons enough to conduct an extremely powerful, if short strike, the rank and file Teamsters were able to see the potential strength of their own struggle.

Contracts also expired for close to 200,000 General Electric and Westinghouse workers. Workers there are divided into thirteen different unions and the companies have been able to prevent union shops in almost all of the many plants. Wages have been kept below what they are for most workers in large scale industry.

Despite a lot of hot air and impressive sounding demands from the union officials, workers knew that these guys weren't about to wage the kind of fight that would be needed to win significant gains. In some of the plants, organization among the rank and file began to develop and in at least one major GE facility, a series of department walkouts took place in the weeks before the contract expiration.

But while some rank and file organization did develop and resistance was put up to sellout plans, it was not yet strong enough to prevent the company and union leadership from jamming a contract through which can at best be described as a "tread water and drown slowly" settlement that did nothing about the basic problems the workers face at GE.

No sooner was the ink dry on the GE agreement when the Westinghouse bosses made it clear what the consequences of a surrender policy are. The

STEEL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

take on Bethlehem for everything that they've done - safety and health violations, job combinations, overtime when brothers are on layoff, as well as these attacks on our union."

This walkout was especially significant because the bosses and their partners in top union leadership have tried hard to keep the workers down in the steel industry by signing a so-called Experimental Negotiating Agreement robbing steel workers of the right to strike, even when the contract expires.

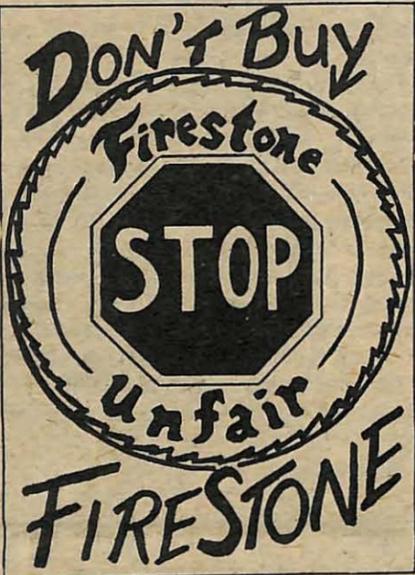
The strikers saw this walkout as not just a matter of fighting for the steward's job, but as a good time to hit the company hard on many other issues that had been building up. Many workers wanted to spread the strike to the other locals and shut the whole plant down. Although this did not happen, the company was forced to rehire the steward and another worker who'd been fired in this battle.

The company was trying to run over anything that stood in the way of their profits, but this time they ran into a stone wall. The struggle is continuing - with the fired workers back on the job, the company is still trying to get rid of them by arbitration, while the workers are demanding that there be no penalty for their just action. The walkout gave the workers a taste of what's possible and strengthened their resistance to the company, laying the basis for future battles. ■

union officials would have us believe that if we are reasonable we can appease the companies, but when Westinghouse saw the leaders of 13 unions down on their knees before the GE bosses, did they simply praise the reasonableness of the top officials and go along with the settlement?

Far from it, the Westinghouse owners tried to exact even a greater pound of flesh from the workers than the GE contract provided.

From all indications the union leadership was willing to accommodate Westinghouse, but the workers wouldn't stand for it. The rank and file forced the IBEW to call a strike and workers in many of the other unions refused to work, leading to the first nationwide Westinghouse strike in 20 years.!



One area where the attack on the workers has been sharpest and where there has been fierce resistance from the rank and file has been among public workers. With the economic crisis causing havoc with the capitalists' government budgets, the ruling class has launched massive layoffs and wage cutting against government workers in many cities and states. In San Francisco, for example, city building trades workers have been hit with wage cuts of \$2500 to \$5000 a year. Attacks like these will not be taken lying down and in San Francisco workers hit back by shutting down city services for six weeks. 40,000 state workers in Massachusetts also hit the bricks.

In their battles, government workers

RUNAWAYS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

to the people on the bottom. But time after time, workers have given away things they fought hard for, only to see the companies leave anyway.

Workers never won anything except through struggle. From the daily fights against job elimination and combination, to city-wide movements against whole plants shutting down and running away working class unity is the only way to fly.

The union officials who say sacrifice is the only answer are the same sellouts who refuse to organize the unorganized, particularly in the South and Southwest. Unleashing the hundreds of thousands of non-union southern workers is key to the fight against runaways. Recent victories by workers across the south point the way forward. Recent strike victories by newly organized textile workers at Farah in Texas and at Oneita Mills in South Carolina served notice on the capitalists that "You may be able to runaway from one plant or city, but you can't runaway from the struggle of the working class."

The three mile "runaway-haven" of Mexico has become a hot bed of rank and file struggle. As the thousands of Mexican workers in that area came up against the true face of capitalism and began to see their strength, they began forming unions and striking back. Now the US corporations are even running

away from their runaway shops--some going deeper into Mexico and others going to the most dictatorial anti-labor regimes of the far east, like South Korea and Taiwan. In these countries the resistance of the people is welling up, too. Some day they will throw out imperialist business interests altogether, as the people of Vietnam did.

But none of these moves will fully defend the working man against runaways. The right of a capitalist to pull up stakes and move to "greener" pastures is built right into the system. This cold system, over the long haul, must be done away with by the only class that can take over and run society the way it should be run.

The working class in power won't stand for some big shot to use workers and resources for his own private profit. Instead workers will control their jobs and all of society as part of an overall effort to advance the cause of all.

In the present fights for jobs, we can clearly see the face of our enemy. He is cold and calculating, moving only for profit. For every man and woman who is thrown out on the street with nothing but a small severance payment, our hatred of the capitalist grows. As we join together and fight our unity grows. And for every victory we win, he is weakened. We've got to fight for every job or "the man" will drive us right into the dirt. And as our movement grows, and the fight intensifies, it won't be the jobs that runaway -- it will be the rich man running away from the wrath of a rising working class. ■

NOW AVAILABLE--NEW PAMPHLET ON THE STRUGGLE IN THE AUTO INDUSTRY

Charts the course for the battles ahead and the development of the fighting organization of auto workers as part of building the revolutionary struggle and organization of the whole working class.

Analyzes conditions facing auto workers, their militant history of struggle, and the role of the sellouts who have seized control of the unions.

From
RCP PUBLICATIONS
3486 Merchandise Mart
Chicago, Illinois, 60654

BY THE
REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST PARTY

75¢ Bulk Rates Available

often face labor laws even more repressive than workers in private industry--forbidding not only strikes but sometimes even the closed union shop and informational picketing. To top it off, their unions are headed by a set of labor traitors as vile as any around, telling the membership that the cities are in crisis so the workers just have to grin and bear the burden of it. For instance, Victor Gotbaum, an AFSCME (American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees) leader in New York City, who poses occasionally as a militant and even a socialist, recently had the sheer gall to proclaim, "Our union is taking a heroic stance by giving up so much."

While this type of sabotage has had an effect in weakening the rank and file especially in New York City, nevertheless outrageous attacks by the ruling class have been met by some examples of heroic resistance, including illegal strikes.

While the companies and union officials succeeded in preventing strikes and scuttling those that did break out, in the second quarter of this year (April-June) strikes reached the highest level since 1974. Many of these battles have been hard fought, as strikers have come up against employers determined to increase their profits at our expense and the cops and the courts who rush to their side.

A key battle this year has taken place in the rubber industry where 68,000 workers have been on strike for four months. There was no way that United Rubber Workers officials could prevent this strike--the rank and file had been waiting three years to hit back at the rubber giants after having been saddled with a contract in which they lost over \$1 an hour in wages to inflation. Despite union chief Bommaritto's tough talk they have tried to force the workers into a policy of defeat by refusing to

shut down all the URW plants and trying to stop the rank and file from stopping scab production. In the course of the strike, the rank and file has been able to seize the initiative from time to time and in some cities, taking militant and effective action despite the officials.

Contract battles are important for the working class because the contracts themselves have a lot to do with the conditions workers work under and because these battles are an opportunity for the workers to organize their ranks and wage concerted actions against the capitalists.

Because of their control of the union bureaucracy, their monopoly of information and their role in negotiating with the companies, the international officials present a serious obstacle to the rank and file, forming, together with the companies, a "two-headed monster." But the top labor traitors represent a handful, while the rank and file are millions strong.

In the course of fighting these contract battles, even when losing many of these fights, the rank and file has made some important advances in being better able to fight the capitalists on all fronts and in many ways. In the auto contract coming up this year, auto workers from around the country have formed an organization--Autoworkers United to Fight in '76--to put up a fight around the contract coming up this September and lay the basis for battles that are sure to follow it.

On large numbers of picket lines across the country, workers have fought courageously in the face of difficulties, and in the course of fighting have strengthened their determination to carry on the class struggle, have learned more about the enemy and begun building some of the types of organizations that will enable them to advance the fight, not only around contract expirations, but against the whole capitalist class. ■

LOS MINEROS

VIENE DE LA PAGINA 16

unión. La compañía quitó al supervisor, pero no puso un obrero en su lugar. Los mineros se fueron a la huelga. Inmediatamente la compañía obtuvo de una corte federal una multa contra la unión, de \$50,000 más \$25,000 por cada día de huelga.

El coraje de los mineros estalló en la semana del 19 de julio. La huelga contra el mandato de corte y las multas se difundió a través de las minas en el condado de Kenawha y luego todo West Virginia. El juez ordenó a 213 mineros del local de unión a la Ceder Coal que comparecieran ante el tribunal el 22 de julio bajo cargos de contumacia

discutir la situación respondieron que no volverían a trabajar y que seguirán la huelga organizando más unidad para poner fin a los mandatos de corte, las multas y las encarcelaciones una vez para siempre.

El presidente de la unión de mineros (UMW), Arnold Miller, quien la emprendido una campaña despiadada contra el derecho de huelga, incluso suspendiendo de la unión a tres líderes de la reciente huelga de Pulmón Negro, abiertamente trató de romper la huelga. Vino a hurtadillas a Charleston y se reunió con 100 mineros. Los mineros no lo dejaron hablar a Miller, y 30

las pensiones de los 90,000 mineros incapacitados y jubilados. El presidente de la asociación de dueños hizo eco la misma "preocupación," sobre el peligro a las pensiones. Los fondos de salud y bienestar se finanza por derechos pagados por cada tonelada de carbonminada, y así se pagan las pensiones y seguros médicos de todos los mineros. Los mineros tienen odio a este sistema, porque liga las pensiones al tonelaje. Ningún minero quiere que se recorten las pensiones o seguros médicos. Durante cualquiera huelga los fondos son rebajados, y así siempre ha sido la situación. Por supuesto Miller nunca se ha visto dispuesto a luchar contra esta situación que fuerza a los mineros a sacrificar sus beneficios para pelear contra

huelga a un blanco más estrecho. Trataron de hacer más estrechas las demandas contra los mandatos, multas y encarcelaciones, diciendo que la única demanda debiera de ser "dejen las multas contra el local de unión a la Ceder Coal." También trataron de popularizar la demanda para investigar a los jueces, tratando de enfocar la huelga en "unos pocos jueces corrompidos," totalmente ocultando el hecho de que el mismo sistema de cortes entero fue establecido por los capitalistas para proteger sus ganancias. No es cuestión de un par de jueces que sean pagados a escondidas o del "entremetimiento" de una "tercera parte" en la disputa.

Estas mismas fuerzas habían tratado de aislar a los líderes de la huelga del año pasado para el derecho de huelga, y sobre todo, a miembros del Comité Minero Para Defender El Derecho de Huelga, un grupo de mineros de base organizado hace dos años. Dijeron que la huelga actual es solo contra el mandato específico, sin tener nada que ver con la defensa del derecho de huelga en general. Hasta ahora, los esfuerzos para descarriar la huelga han fracasado totalmente. Los mineros se mantienen firmes por las demandas.

Los mineros, incluso el Comité Minero Para Defender El Derecho De Huelga, han formado comités "ad hoc" para llevar a cabo la lucha contra el mandato de corte. Los mineros han bregado con cuestiones políticas acerca de las demandas y como construir la unidad. Han organizado demostraciones y caravanas de carros, y repartido volantes.

Este huelga de los mineros está quitando de los ojos de los obreros algo de la arena que los capitalistas les han echado para esconder el papel de las cortes como armas de la clase patronal. Los mineros están probando que no van a someterse a los ataques de los capitalistas y su gobierno, ne aceptar pasivamente los intentos a robarles de su capacidad de luchar. ■

para pararlo. Las víctimas fueron casi todas negras. La compasión que tiene Carter para la gente negra que ha recibido tanta publicidad es lo mismo que su supuesta compasión para toda gente obrera— quiere ganar votos y nada más. Por supuesto así no lo explicó Andy Young, a quien Carter prometió "cualquier puesto que desee" por haber apoyado a Carter tan temprano en la campaña.

En su discurso a la Convención, Carter declaró, "Hemos sido estremecidos por una guerra trágica y por escándalos y promesas rompidas. Nuestro pueblo está buscando nuevas voces, nuevas ideas y nuevos líderes." No mencionó que había respaldado la guerra en Vietnam hasta el fin, ni que había propuesto a una conferencia de gobernadores en el 1973 una resolución en apoyo a Nixon contra sus críticos al comienzo de lo Watergate. No mencionó que uno de sus consejeros principales en los asuntos de exterior es Dean Rusk, que era arquitecto de la guerra en Vietnam, ni que uno de sus consejeros económicos principales es Walter Heller, que era también consejero económico al desacreditado régimen de Johnson.

Los capitalistas saben que Carter es un hombre que sirvió a su clase. Esperan convencer a la gente que Carter es el nuevo líder y que "los mejores días de América están por venir." Así esperan usar a Carter para enganar a las masas.

Pero de hecho, más y más la gente americana va buscando una salida de la miseria que produce el capitalismo. A los capitalistas se hace más y más difícil convencer a la gente que pueda cambiar las cosas por irse a las urnas electorales en apoyo a uno o otro politiquero, especialmente porque debajo de la máscara de las promesas electorales quedan nada más que ataques a nuestro nivel de vida y otros asaltos. La campaña que viene, y la presidencia de Carter, ayudará a mostrar que las elecciones son juegos tramposos y nada más. ■



LOS MINEROS DE PENNSYLVANNIA EN HUELGA

criminal. La semana siguiente, la huelga extendió a seis estados más.

Frente a la huelga difundiendo, la vista de corte fue postergada una semana, y luego postergada al futuro indefinido, porque la situación era tan "explosiva." Según las últimas noticias, el juez dijo que dejaría los cargos contra la unión y los 213 hombres si los mineros regresarían al trabajo el 2 de agosto al primer turno. Pero los mineros a un mitín en el sur de West Virginia para

mineros salieron del mitín cuando Miller los dijo a volver a trabajar porque según Miller "los patrones no van a negociar a menos que los hombres estén trabajando." El día siguiente, tuvo un mitín con los presidentes locales de la unión, ordenando a ellos que ordenaran a los obreros a volver a trabajar. Según Miller, los huelguistas estuvieron poniendo en peligro sus "metas de largo alcance" y los fondos de la unión.

Miller dice que la huelga amenaza

los ataques patronales. Miller y los dueños están hablando de dicha situación ahora para tratar de dividir a los mineros jubilados de los todavía trabajando, y para echar miedo a los obreros y así debilitar la huelga.

Los mineros están en huelga contra el uso por las compañías de los mandatos de corte, las multas y encarcelaciones para tratar de aplastar la lucha. Hay varias fuerzas entre los mineros que han tratado de restringir la

cupios. Igual a Kissinger, se le entrenó a Carter en una de las comisiones privadas de Rockefeller.

Como si fuera para hacer destacar este punto, una semana después de la Convención Carter hizo saber su política para el uso de armas nucleares. Fue casi igualito a la de Ford. Carter dijo que si los intereses de EEUU fueran amenazados, o si estuvieran en un apuro cualquier de los "aliados estrechos de EEUU" entonces lanzaría un ataque nuclear.

Lo bueno de Carter, en los ojos de los hombres a quienes sirve, es su capacidad de unir el Partido Demócrata y "al pueblo." Del Norte y Sur, los Católicos y Protestantes, obreros y campesinos, todos supuestamente se van uniendo en torno a la bandera de Carter. El símbolo más grande de esta supuesta unidad es que, según se dice, Carter tiene tanto el apoyo del pueblo negro como el de los que habían votado por Wallace.

El Congresista Andy Young, quien era ayudante a Martin Luther King, hijo, testificó que la gente negra apoya a Carter debido a lo que ha realizado como gobernador de Georgia. Según ese, Carter mostró su compasión para las masas de gente negra por darles empleo en el gobierno estatal por primera vez.

Pero de veras, el que primero empezó a dar empleo a gente negra en los puestos estatales más altos fue el gobernador segregacionista Lester Maddox. Claro que no fue a causa de los sentimientos progresistas de Maddox. La lucha de masas de la gente negra durante 20 años había forzado a los capitalistas y sus representantes políticos a cambiar unas cosas. Para descarriar la lucha y controlarla, empezaron a poner en puestos públicos a unos negros, muchos de los cuales eran capitalistas pequeños si mismos.

Mientras que Carter era gobernador, y mientras que uno de estos nuevos politiqueros negros, Maynard Jackson, era alcalde de Atlanta, hubo un auge de asesinatos por la policía en Atlanta. Estos oficiales no hicieron nada

senta los intereses de los obreros!

Lo que realmente Carter va a hacer y lo que va diciendo en su campaña son dos cosas totalmente distintas. Así no es diferente de cualquier otro politiquero que quiere ocupar la Casa Blanca.

"Demasiado gente," dijo a la Convención, "ha tenido que sufrir a las manos de una obligar política y económica..." La semana siguiente, el presidente de la Compañía Ford, Henry Ford II, y los presidentes de la Coca-Cola y la Seagrams, tuvieron un banquete para Carter a la exclusiva Club 21 en Nueva York. Almorzaron 30 o 40 otros jefes de corporaciones la flor y nata del capitalismo, o sea, no cabe duda, parte de la oligarquía. Dijo uno, "Me gusta el espíritu de este tipo." Según otro, "Será un presidente de primera."

A la Convención, Carter declaró a la audiencia de TV, "Un sistema económica en que el desemplea sea algo necesario es un sistema fallido." Pero según un artículo en Newsweek, los socios de Carter al Club 21 no hicieron caso de esta declaración, porque supieron que fue pura retórica noma. Carter prometió a la Convención que iba a acabar con las leyes de impuestos que dejan escapar a los ricos sin pagar. Llamó el sistema de impuestos actual "una desgracia para la raza humana." Pero luego explicó a la oligarquía política y económica al Club 21 que antes de cualquiera proyecto de reforma de impuestos, tendría que pasar al menos un año de un programa de estudio. Montones de proyectos de ley semejantes a esto han desaparecido bajo "estudio" en el pasado.

Igual a los otros demócratas, Carter ha tratado de presentarse como totalmente distinto de Kissinger, Nixon y Ford respecto a los asuntos extranjeros. Pero la prensa capitalista misma ha acentuado muchas veces que la diferencia entre Carter y estos republicanos tocante a esto es algo de palabras y no de prin-

JIMMY CARTER

VIENE DE LA PAGINA 16

en Washington desde años. Según Martin Luther King, padre, "Dios nos envió Jimmy Carter a nosotros para llevar América a casa donde debe estar."

En la tradición del Partido Demócrata Carter se dirige a la gente obrera, como "el hombre ordinario hablando a la gente ordinaria." Pero Carter no es "hombre del suelo." Es rancharo capitalista grande que pisa al suelo a los otros. Dijo a la Convención, "Como ingeniero, proyectista y hombre de negocio, yo sé el valor del sistema capitalista basado en la productividad creciente y sueldos adecuados." Por presunción, el sueldo de \$2.30 la hora que paga a los obreros en su rancho de maní muestra lo que estima como un sueldo "adecuado." Y como saben bien los obreros de toda industria, "la productividad creciente" quiere decir el apresuramiento.

En el estado de Georgia los obreros que han tenido que luchar contra el apoyo que Carter ha prestado a las leyes de "derecho de trabajar" (leyes restringiendo las uniones) están enterados del significado de la "preocupación" y "compasión" que tiene Carter para la clase obrera. (Sin embargo, I.W. Abel el gran traidor presidente de la unión de obreros de acero, ha decidido que aún tomando en cuenta eso Carter merece el apoyo de las uniones.)

Carter también hizo destacar su preocupación respecto a los desempleados. "Porque debemos pagar a la gente \$80 la semana por no hacer nada, cuando podemos ponerlos a trabajar reconstruyendo los ferrocarriles a \$100 por semana," dijo a la Conferencia Nacional de Gobernadores. Quiere decir, forzar a los desempleados y los viviendo del welfare que trabajen en programas para rebajar los sueldos de todos obreros y romper las uniones. Este tipo de programa ha sido proyectado en varios estados recientemente, y los obreros se han otonido a esto. Ahora Carter quiere hacer este plan en un programa nacional—y sigue diciendo que repre-

CONTRAJOS DEL '76: SABOTAJE Y LUCHA

Al comienzo de este año, los capitalistas anunciaron su intención a hacerlo "el año de compromiso laboral." Pues que se vencen contratos que afectan a 4.5 millones de trabajadores este año, la clase dominante esperaba encadenar a la clase obrera y sobre todo, evitar las huelgas.

Claro que cuando los gobernantes hablan del "labor," no se refieren a la gente trabajadora común. Al contrario, se refieren a sus compañeros de golf, sus fieles lacayos que ocupan los altos puestos en las uniones internacionales. Trabajando juntos, los patrones y sus tenientes de unión han hecho todo a su alcance para convertir el 1976 en "el año de retrasos laborales."

Los capitalistas han estado bien satisfechos porque el aumento promedio de los contratos este año no ha alcanzado el aumento promedio del 1975. Les gusta jactarse de como los aumentos este año "han sido menos que esperábamos." Según un artículo recién de Business Week, el pago al obrero que cada unidad fabricada cuesta al patron ha bajado 1.4% desde el año pasado.

Pero lo de que no les gusta hablar es el hecho de que si bien los capitalistas han cargado a los obreros con algunos contratos pésimos, los obreros de base los han enfrentado con creciente resistencia y lucha valiente, a pesar de los esfuerzos de los traidores en el liderato de las uniones para proteger a los capitalistas.

Las compañías y los caciques de unión han ido predicando los dos que la clase obrera no quede ganar nada luchando. Después de los despidos masivos a fines del 1974, mantuvieron las huelgas a un nivel muy bajo durante el 1975, amenazando a los obreros que si salieron en huelga perderían sus trabajos, y también usando al máximo el control organizativo de las uniones que tienen los burócratas.

Ya que la economía no va bajando tan rápidamente como antes y los capitalistas se ven proclamando "la recuperación económica," los oficiales de unión como Leonard Woodcock, presidente de la UAW (unión de auto), dicen que las ganancias de los patrones son "tan finitos como una hoja de afeitar" y que los obreros no deben de hacer nada que podría dañar la recuperación.

Pero son millones los obreros que no tienen otra alternativa menos que luchar. La fanfarronada de "la recuperación" no sirve para de comer a los millones de desempleados, y ninguna súplica a los obreros para "la moderación" puede cambiar el hecho de que los precios están sobrepasando nuestros sueldos.

Los ataques de las compañías y el sabotaje de los burócratas traidores de



LOS HUELGUISTAS DE GIDDINGS Y LEWIS EN FOND DU LAC

unión están tomando lugar en un momento en que el nivel organizativo del rango y fila todavía queda bajo, y esto ha producido su afecto, aún cuando los obreros han lanzado contraataques. Sin embargo, estas condiciones mismas, venidas del inagotable impulso capitalista para las ganancias, obligan a los obreros a luchar. En el curso de lucha los obreros han ido aprendiendo a luchar mejor, a organizar en acción de base fuerte el odio profundo que tienen los obreros a la explotación y la traición de los oficiales.

CONTRATOS VENDIDOS

Las compañías y sus tenientes de unión lo dejaron claro lo que tuvieron en mente para los obreros este año con el primero contrato mayor--el de los 85,000 obreros de tela, por lo más en Nueva York. Mantuvieron a los obreros a oscuras y lanzaron un ataque repetido, firmando el nuevo contrato antes de que se venció el viejo (una táctica de creciente popularidad para vender a los obreros). Los obreros fueron embuscados antes de que pudieron organizarse, y así fueron forzados a aceptar el contrato. Este deja que los sueldos caigan aún más bajo la tasa de inflación y garantiza que los obreros de tela se hundirán aún más en la pobreza. Aún peor, los charros de unión hasta han establecido varios acuerdos y una escuela para ayudar a los patrones de los talleres de tela a apretar el paso de trabajo aún más.

Como se justificó esta traición? Dijeron que los talleres de tela en Nueva York no pueden "competir" con los talleres no-unión del Sur, donde los obreros son explotados aún más criminalmente. En vez de esforzarse a organizar los talleres no-unión y ganar sueldos más dignos, allí los burócratas a-

ceptan los esfuerzos de los patrones para "mejorar" la competencia entre los talleres de unión y no-unión por echar pa'bajo aún más las condiciones de los obreros de unión!

Lo mismo está tomando lugar en la industria de construcción donde se dice que los obreros de unión "sobrepagados" y los patrones van a todo correr para romper las uniones. En Detroit, en los contratos de construcción recientes el aumento del primero año es sólo 3%.

El presidente del Consejo de Uniones de Construcción en Detroit, Jack Wood, lo justificó diciendo "Aquí se trata de la sobrevivencia. Tomando en cuenta las condiciones pésimas, es un contrato generoso."

Este es el tipo de traición que los altos oficiales de unión quieren forzar a aceptar a 4.5 millones de trabajadores este año. Pero sus esperanzas y la realidad son dos cosas bien distintas. **OBRREROS DEBILITAN AGARRO DE BUROCRATAS**

El jefe de la unión de Teamsters Fitzsimmons prometió fielmente a los capitalistas que iba a "hacer todo lo posible para evitar una huelga," diciendo que las huelgas "dañan el negocio." Pero la burocracia de Teamster no podía impedir el primero paro nacional de los camioneros en toda la historia, en marzo de este año. Aunque la huelga resultó aplastada rápidamente por Fitzsimmons y Compañía, consiguió algunos beneficios importantes. Aun más importante, mostró que hasta una de las más fuertes burocracias de unión en este país no es todo-poderosa y no puede preñar la lucha obrera para siempre. Saltando del agarro de Fitzsimmons con suficiente fuerza para llevar a cabo una huelga poderosa aunque breve, los camioneros de base pudieron ver la fuerza potencial de su propia lucha.

Tan pronto como se firmó el contrato de GE, los patrones de Westinghouse lo hicieron claro lo que son las consecuencias de la política de entrega. Según los oficiales de unión, si actuamos de una manera "razonable," podemos apaciguar a las compañías. Pero cuando la Westinghouse vio los líderes de las 13 uniones de rodillas ante los patrones de GE, no pudieron restringirse a simplemente alabar la "racionalidad" de los burócratas y dar por bueno el acuerdo. Muy lejos de eso, los patrones de Westinghouse trataron de quitar aún más de los obreros que el contrato de GE les había quitado.

Según los informes, el liderato de unión estaba dispuesto a complacer a la Westinghouse pero los obreros de base no lo aguantarían. El rango y fila forzaron que una de las uniones la IUE, declarara una huelga, y miembros de muchas otras uniones rechazaron a trabajar. Fue la primera huelga nacional contra la Westinghouse en más de 20 años.

Una de las más destacadas batallas este año ha sido la huelga en la industria de goma donde 68,000 obreros han estado en huelga desde abril. Los oficiales de la United Rubber Workers (URW) no pudieron evitar esta huelga, pues que los obreros de base han estado esperando por tres años la oportunidad de darles duro a los patrones quienes les forzaron a aceptar un contrato en 1973 que los robaron de \$1 la hora a causa de la inflación. No obstante la habladuría militante del jefe de la unión, Bommarito, el liderato ha tratado de llevar la huelga a la derrota. Rechazaron a cerrar todas las plantas de la URW, y además, han hizo todo que atrevieron para que los obreros de base no taparan la producción de esquiro. De vez en cuando, por el curso de la huelga, en algunas ciudades, los obreros de base han podido tomar la iniciativa en sus propias manos, tomando acción militante y eficaz a pesar de los oficiales de unión.

Las batallas en torno a contratos son bien importantes para la clase obrera porque los contratos mismos tienen mucho que ver con las condiciones bajo las cuales los obreros trabajan y viven, y porque estas batallas son una oportunidad a los obreros para organizar sus filas y llevar a cabo acciones unidas contra los capitalistas.

Debido a su control de la burocracia de unión, su monopolio de información y su rol en las negociaciones con las compañías, los caciques de unión son un obstáculo serio al rango y fila, formando, junto con las compañías, "un monstruo de dos cabezas." Pero estos traidores, son sólo un puñado, mientras que los obreros de base tienen la fuerza de millones.

A través de estas batallas de contrato, hasta en las batallas perdidas, los obreros de base han ganado avances importantes, llegando a ser más capaces de confrontar a los capitalistas en todos frentes y por muchos medios. Para el contrato de auto que viene en septiembre, obreros de auto de a través del país han formado una organización--Obreros de Auto Unidos Para Luchar en el '76--para construir la lucha en torno al contrato y para establecer la base para las batallas que seguramente vendrán.

En muchas líneas de piquete en todas partes del país obreros han luchado valientemente frente a muchas dificultades, y por el curso de la lucha han fortalecido su determinación para llevar a cabo la lucha de clases, han aprendiendo más sobre la naturaleza del enemigo, y han empezado a construir algunas de las formas de organización que harán posible avanzar la lucha no sólo acerca de los contratos, sino también contra toda la clase capitalista.



LOS TRABAJADORES DE GOMA

EL OBRERO

Para el Area de Milwaukee y Wisconsin

AGOSTO - SEPTIEMBRE 1976 VOL. 1, NO. 11 25¢

100,000 OBREROS BREGAN CON PATRONES GOBIERNO PARO EN LAS MINAS DE CARBON



HACE UN AÑO 80,000 MINEROS LLEVARON A CABO UNA HUELGA DE UN MES PARA EL DERECHO DE IRSE EN HUELGA Y CONTRA MANDATOS DE CORTA.

En julio, 100,000 mineros--la mitad del total de mineros in EEUU--salieron en huelga contra un mandato de corte. Ya en su tercera semana, la huelga ha extendido a través de West Virginia, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Kentucky, Indiana, Virginia y Illinois. Los mineros a una mina de superficie a Pueblo, Colorado también pararon trabajo unos días en apoyo.

Los huelguistas están demandando el fin del uso por las compañías de los mandatos de corte, las multas y la encarcelación. Demandan que la asociación de dueños de carbón firme un acuerdo con la unión que nunca conseguirán jamás otro mandato de corte. La segunda demanda es que no haya ninguna represalia contra los miembros de unión activos en la huelga.

Hace un año 80,000 mineros llevaron a cabo una huelga de un mes para el derecho de irse en huelga y contra los mandatos de corte. En ese tiempo las faltó suficiente fuerza para ganar sus demandas. Pero pusieron el derecho de huelga en la agenda y dieron aviso a las compañías que iban a luchar para defender una de las armas más fuertes que tiene la gente obrera--la huelga. La huelga actual es la continuación de esa huelga para defender el derecho de huelga.

Esta huelga actual empezó con una queja a la compañía Ceder Coal en el condado de Kenawha acerca de Charleston, West Virginia. La compañía puso a un supervisor en un trabajo donde debiera de trabajar un miembro de union. Un árbitro decidió que era un trabajo de

CONTINUA EN PAGINA 14

LAS DOS CARAS DE JIMMY CARTER

Hubo muy pocas sorpresas a la Convención Nacional del Partido Demócrata. Se le escogió a Jimmy Carter sin demora. Como la única movida suspensiva de la Convención, Walter Mondale ganó la vice-presidencia. En los diarios y la TV, son llamados "Fritz y Grits." En una manera muy opuesta al tratamiento de George McGovern hace cuatro años, este equipo demócrata goza de amplia aprobación de los noticieros capitalistas que les dieron la bienvenida a los candidatos con montones de programas y artículos favorables.

Porque Jimmy Carter, el risueño hacendado de mani, el "hombre de la tierra" de Plains, Georgia? Al parecer, Carter brotó de la tierra misma. Durante el período antes de las primarias, y hasta después, pereció que el más probable candidato era o Hubert Humphrey o Scoop Jackson.

Pero Hubert Humphrey ya huele mala

mucho gente. Durante la manifestación por trabajos de la AFL-CIO en Washington, D.C. el año pasado, el "Guerrillero Feliz" como es llamado, trató de hacer un discurso desempeñando el papel del "amigo de la clase obrera," pero se le hizo callar por las rechiflas. Scoop Jackson, por su parte, no tenía el mismo problema, pero su campaña no producía ningún entusiasmo popular. Jimmy Carter era distinto. Era "el hombre sin antecedentes," y lejos de ser una debilidad, este convenía precisamente a lo que necesitan los capitalistas para las elecciones que vienen.

El mito de como Carter es "el hombre sin antecedentes" fue fabricado esmeradamente por sus publicistas para distinguir a Carter de los otros candidatos. Los capitalistas esperan que como candidato Carter pueda vencer su problema muchas veces admitida, de que "millones de gente están hartos, escépticos

y sospechosos" del sistema política. Pero a la vez, no era extranjero a la clase que ansia servir. Como admitió el Christian Science Monitor "aunque la imagen pública de Sr. Carter tiene que ver con la aldea de Plains y el mani, es igualmente conodo y conocido en las jefaturas corporativas de Nueva York, Tokyo y Londres."

La clase dominante enfrenta una crisis política grave. La gente se ve harta. Harta con llevando el peso de la crisis económica, harta con los ataques y abusos del sistema, harta con las mentiras nuevas y retórica vieja de los politiqueros que sirven los intereses de los capitalistas.

A los gobernantes de este país la ventaja que tiene Carter es la apariencia de ser diferente del resto de los politiqueros desacreditados y gastados que han andado negociando y galanteando

CONTINUA EN PAGINA 14

