

# THE WORKER

*For the Milwaukee Area and Wisconsin*

FEBRUARY 1977 VOL. 2 NO. 5

Seccion en Espanol 25¢

## Cold Spell Fuels Gas Co. Ripoff



350 EMPLOYED & UNEMPLOYED WORKERS, ALONG WITH VETERANS & YOUTH MARCHED IN WASH. D.C. ON INAUGURATION DAY TO LET IT BE KNOWN THAT THEY WILL NOT STAND BACK & ACCEPT CUTS IN UNEMPLOYMENT EXTENSIONS.

### UC Extensions to End March 31st

## Jobless Fight Benefit Cuts

The ruling class of this country is trying to sneak quietly up on the unemployed and stab them in the back. Although they tried to hold back publicity about it, by federal law the number of weeks an unemployed worker can collect benefits is to be cut back from 65 to 39 weeks, at the end of March. But the very outrageous character of this attack has infuriated the workers who've heard about it, and this anger is being organized into mass resistance across the country.

As Carter was basking in the warm light of his \$4 million inauguration festivities just after calling for the nation to accept the need to sacrifice, 350 workers both unemployed and employed, along with veterans and youth, converged on Washington, D.C. from all over the East Coast and parts of the Midwest to expose this assault on unemployment benefits. They let it be known that workers don't intend to let themselves and their families be sacrificed to the great god Profit.

The police were under strict orders not to let any common people steal the spotlight from Carter's "people's inauguration." Nevertheless, the demonstrators were determined to make their point. They organized themselves tightly into ranks of three abreast and marched together towards the inaugural celebration, chanting "No Cuts in Benefits!" Cheers and fists went up as ten torches on four foot poles were set aflame at the head of the march. The cops moved up and even threatened to unleash their dogs, but they failed in all their efforts to stop the militant and disciplined action.

This inauguration night demonstration was the high point so far of a campaign that's been building against the planned benefit cutoffs. In order to break the silence that's surrounded this issue and drag it out into the light of day, the Unemployed Workers Organizing Committee, a nationwide organization of jobless workers fighting for jobs or income, organized demonstrations in over

15 cities on January 6 in front of federal buildings and at the local offices of Congressmen and Senators. In New York City on that day 50 unemployed and employed workers took their rally right up to the 32nd floor office of the regional director of the Department of Labor and demanded that the benefit cuts not go through. In Philadelphia UWOC members were joined by other workers waiting for their unemployment checks at the unemployment center. They all confronted the director and forced him to begin to let other unemployment recipients know about the planned cutoffs. In Washington D.C. delegates from UWOC chapters around the East Coast delivered

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As the coldest winter in a century clobbered much of the country the arctic weather was being held responsible for a virtual paralysis of industry and commerce in large sections of the midwest and east. People in Pennsylvania, Ohio, New York New Jersey and several other states were threatened by the loss of heat to their homes, hundreds of schools were closed and hundreds of thousands of people were thrown out of work.

Oil and gas companies said that the frigid temperatures and the dramatic increase in natural gas consumption had created a dangerous shortage of natural gas and made it impossible to supply homes and industry adequately. The cold weather has increased consumption and there is certainly a shortage of gas. But that shortage is not caused by some terrible, unforeseen "Act of God". It has been caused by the fact that the natural gas producers, the majority of whom are big oil companies, have for several years refused to develop and produce supplies of natural gas because it is not profitable enough for them.

The working people of the United States long ago created the energy sources, the pipelines, the machinery and the know-how necessary to produce fuel supplies adequate to keep our homes and schools warm and the factories running in even the coldest of winters. The fact that all this is not being put to use to produce the gas we need is an indictment of the whole economic system--capitalism--which is based solely on production for profit.

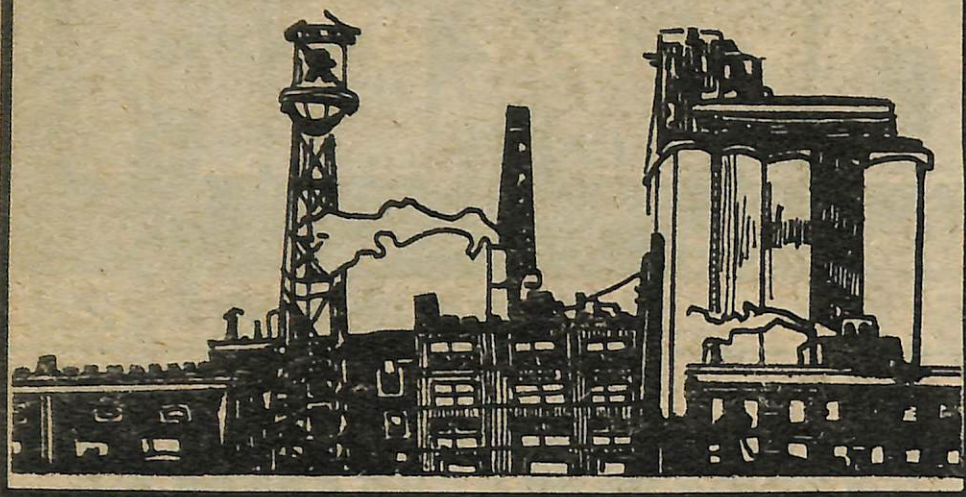
Huge amounts of gas and oil are known to exist under the soil and water of the United States, which the oil and gas companies, despite their fancy TV ads, have refused to develop and produce. The number of gas and oil wells drilled in the U.S. has fallen from 58,000 in 1956 to 27,000 in 1973. In 1974 Shell Oil ad-

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**Arson for Profit Exposed**  
**See Centerfold**



# WHAT'S BREWING



## NOT TOO S.M.A.R.T.

The Worker is proud to announce that it has finally found some of the backers of I.W. Abel's hand picked McBride, Williams, McKee slate for the top United Steelworkers offices. In fact these backers have formed a group called S.M.-A.R.T. to put out literature in favor of their candidate. S.M.A.R.T., which is short for Steelworkers Members Against Radical Takeover, claims to be an organization of rank and file members. A recent S.M.A.R.T. broadsheet distributed in local steel plants contains the names of such rank and file militants as: Don Larson, president of the Harnishfeger local; Cliff Donarski, president of the Nordberg local; Joe Dobrzynski, president of the B-E local; Thomas Medley, president of the Rex local; and Herb Brogelman, president of the Continental Can local. Rank and file? How DUMB do they think we are?

## Heil-Foremen Wanted

The management at Heil has been trying to recruit foremen for its Athens, Tennessee trailer plant. They're trying to replace 5 who quit. The job requires a boss who can really harass the men for production. But there are not many takers. It seems the plant manager suffered a serious accident in the company parking lot. Maybe the qualifications should read "must be able to take a good roughing up."

## TOP OF THE CHART

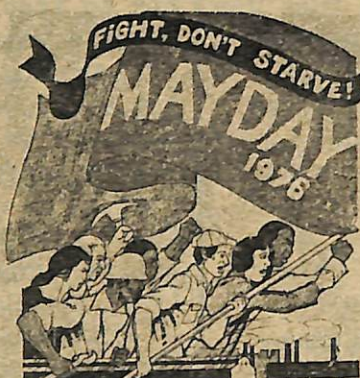
Hitting the top of the charts in musical popularity on the tractor line at Allis Chalmers, is a new version of the Burger King jingle. It goes like this:

"Hold the screw driver.  
Hold the pliers.  
Let the tractors go on by us"

"Forget the snow.  
Get up and go.  
And build it yourself."

# ALL OUT FOR MAY DAY

SAT.  
FEB. 26  
6 PM



2724  
W. CAPITOL

## MAY DAY KICK OFF DINNER

May Day the international holiday of the working class is getting close. Last year's celebration was a big success as workers came from many struggles to march in solidarity with working people all over the world. The march down Holton St. on Milwaukee's east side expressed the aspirations of all workers, saying "we won't live like slaves. We can have better---a life of freedom for ourselves, our kids and all struggling people, if we unite and fight for a new day." Let's build May Day '77 into an even more powerful demonstration of the strength of the working class. ALL OUT FOR MAY DAY

EMPLOYED \$2.50 UNEMPLOYED \$1.50  
CHILDREN OVER 12 \$1.00

# Celebrate International Women's Day

On March 8, thousands of women poured out of New York City garment factories, refusing to accept the slave-like conditions on their jobs. Since then workers and others all over the world have memorialized this date as a time to honor the role of women in the worker's struggle.

As the crisis of this system gets deeper, women are among the first forced out of work. The Supreme Court has reversed decisions on sick pay for pregnant women workers. The ERA is 3 states short of being passed. Its main purpose is to attack work rule protections for women on the job--and to stir

up further divisions between men and women.

But for the working class, the only way forward is for men and women to stand united like they did in the 15 month meatcutters strike. We have to further the role of women in the struggle. We have seen how strong a force they can be for example in the Farah strike of 4 years ago.

The United Workers Organization has set up a committee to build an indoor rally in honor of International Women's Day. To contact or get involved with the committee call 445-5816. Come to the rally Sun Mar 13, 2 pm. Workers Center 4409 W. North Ave.

## AMC - Chained To the Line

A car load of guys from Milwaukee arrived in the AMC lot in Kenosha one morning before work. One of the guys felt faint and told his buddies to go on in and let him sit in the car awhile. The guys went in and told a supervisor to send a guard to check on their friend, especially since it was below zero weather that morning. At 8:30 when the man still

had not come into work, one of the guys said he was going to check on his friend. The boss told him not to leave his job. But he left anyway. The friend was pale and shivering. He had suffered a stroke. Now half of his body is paralyzed.

AMC docked the pay of the other man for leaving the plant. That's what they think of the workers.

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FREE TO  
PRISONERS

In the course of building and covering struggles The Worker reaches many people in Milwaukee and around the state. To get the paper out more, and for people to continue to use The Worker as a part of the working class struggle, we want to get subscriptions out to as many people as possible.

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THE WORKER

## Poor Health Care Inmate Dies at Waupun

In December Mr. Fred Kidd died of pneumococcal meningitis in the Wisconsin State Prison at Waupun. Mr. Kidd's death brought an outcry of indignation from the men of Waupun. In the wake of his death, The Worker received a letter signed by 30 prisoners condemning the medical care in the institution.

Could Mr. Kidd's death have been prevented? The prison administrators have no way of knowing. They have no systematic policy of checking on the health of the inmates. The prisoner's letter to The Worker condemns the lack of a full time doctor always on call for the 1000 man prison population. The letter says that Mr. Kidd had irregular eating habits, consum-



PRISONERS' WIVES PROTEST CONDITIONS

ing as much as a half gallon of potatoes, two cups of sugar, and nothing else at each meal. Yet

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# Fight the Wage Freeze at AMC

American Motors has dished up the most outrageous offer of the 1976-77 auto contracts: a one year freeze on wages and benefits--a freeze that inflation would automatically turn into a wage cut. This wage freeze has already spread to other shops. Both Allis-Chalmers and Kearney & Trecker are trying to get out of paying retroactive pay when their contracts are settled after being extended for long periods.

For the 10,000 AMC auto workers, this is only the latest in a long string of attacks, including massive layoffs, intense speedup and the shutdown of the Grem-lin line at the Milwaukee body plant that eliminated 900 jobs from Milwaukee, transferring 350 to Kenosha.

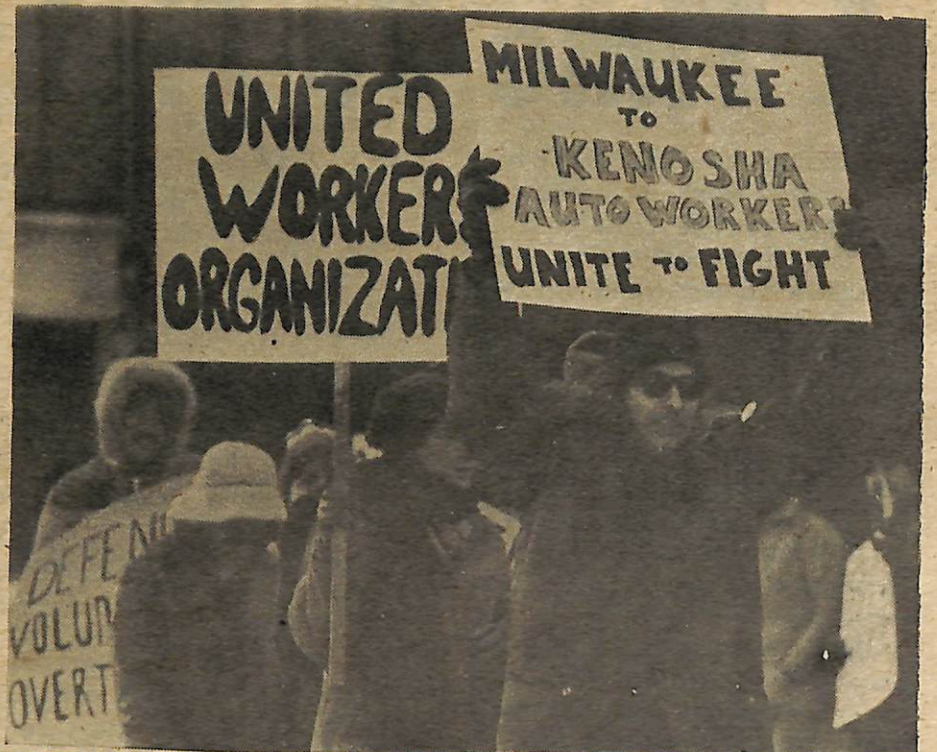
The company is trying to blackmail AMC workers. AMC says that their choice is either to take the pay cut or the company will go under. The UAW leadership is telling the membership that they will have to take less than the sellout package they put over at Ford. They are trying to focus the contract struggle around how much of a cut to take.

But the thousands of men and women whose hard work has made AMC the country's 90th largest corporation have already had more than their fill of sacrificing for the company's profits. Fourteen one week shutdowns in 1976 have cut

deeply into workers' earnings. Forty-five hundred are on layoff and the Supplementary Unemployment Benefits (SUB) fund is a joke. It lasts for only a couple weeks then dries up for months at a time. 100 jobs were lost since model change-over at the Body Plant when the lines were speeded up to turn out 220 cars per day instead of 200 with the same amount of workers.

There is no question AMC got socked in its competition for auto sales in recent years. The AMC auto division lost \$28 million in 1975 and \$46 million in 1976. A field on the outskirts of the Kenosha, Wisconsin main assembly plant has been filling up with some of the 70,000 models that have gone unsold. AMC, which gambled on the small car boom just as the market for them began to shrink, lacks the massive amounts of money necessary to innovate, retool and modernize. Caught in a bind the company is negotiating with Volkswagen to sell them the South Charleston, West Virginia stamping plant.

But in the midst of AMC's constant reports of failing finances, the company announced 16% raises for its top executive officers and a \$78,000 bonus for the president of AMC General, the corporation's flourishing bus and jeep manufacturing division. The chairman of the board got a boost from \$225,000 to



AUTO WORKERS AND OTHERS FROM THE UNITED WORKERS ORGANIZATION PICKETED UAW HEADQUARTERS DEMANDING "NO SELLOUT!"

\$245,000 a year.

The proposal to freeze the old contract and the announcement of executive pay increases came in the same week. They sparked an outpouring of bitter anger among the workers. Newspaper articles about both were clipped and posted side by side in the plants. For many who had been willing to listen to the company's calls for belt tightening, this was too much. A common sentiment was, "Our rent and fuel bills aren't frozen. They sure aren't freezing the price of coffee. We've got to live. We can't accept a freeze."

Anger was so heavy on the lines, workers jammed their stewards to know what was

going on. The January 20 local Steward Body meeting in Kenosha was better attended than it has been in a long time. Local president Ralph Daum, afraid to face the outrage, did the only thing he knew--not show.

The local leadership has been caught in a vise between the company and the rank and file. The local leadership put the contract negotiations in the hands of the International on Friday, January 28. The company has refused to negotiate seriously and the local leaders know the anger of the rank and file is a threat to their reelection hopes in coming elections.

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## Police Brutality in Milwaukee Four Recent Cases

Repression of the people by the Milwaukee Police Department is a fact that comes to life everyday somewhere in the city. Consider these four recent examples;

Maria Rivera, a four foot ten inch Puerto Rican tannery worker, was questioned by police at her home as to the whereabouts of her boy friend. When she told them she didn't know where he was, she was told she was under arrest.

She replied that she had done nothing. A scuffle broke out and she was beaten by officer Dennis Peters.



COP DENNIS PETERS

She had bruises all over her body-- her stomach, neck and arms.

She was taken downtown for "obstructing an officer." The next morning she was released--vomiting blood. The charge was dropped.

Maria and her mother, determined not to put up with this outrage, filed charges with the Fire and Police Commission against Peters.

After they filed the charges, and 10 days after her arrest, she is re-arrested and charged with battery to a police officer.

\* \* \* \* \*

Donald Butler was walking home after having some drinks at a friend's house. He was stopped by police, handcuffed, and charged with "drunk and disorderly." Butler told the police that under Wisconsin's new law they couldn't take him to jail for being drunk, but only to a hospital.

The police considered this response as "disorderly conduct", and said, "We'll give you a good reason to



MARIA RIVERA, WHO WAS BEATEN BY POLICE, AND HER MOTHER SPEAKING AT A RALLY TO PROTEST THE BRUTALITY.

go to the hospital." An argument followed.

As they were putting him into the police van, an officer kicked Butler (still handcuffed) in the hip, knocking him to the floor of the van. He was repeatedly thrown against the sides of the van and his face was smashed through the rear window.

He underwent three hours of surgery to remove particles of glass from his face and to repair it. Permanent scars have resulted.

The charges of disorderly conduct and obstructing an officer have been dropped. Instead Butler faces charges of criminal damage to property for breaking the back window of the police van!

\* \* \* \* \*

Thomas Bornhofer, a 16 year old, and two of his friends stole a light off the Marine Bank at 16th & Greenfield. A police officer, Thomas Deja, caught him and stuck a gun in his

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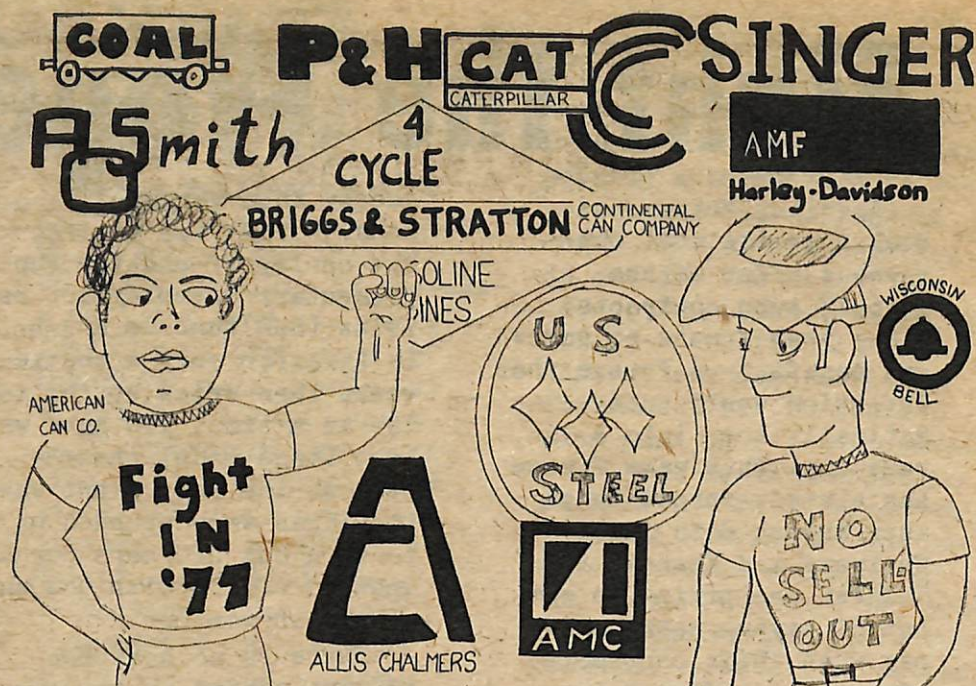
# '77 Contracts- A Time To Fight

Contracts covering over 5,000,000 workers across the country expire this year. Hot on the heels of the recent battles in auto and agricultural implements, national focus will be on basic steel and mining. In Milwaukee, more workers will be affected than at anytime since the strike wave of '74. These include AO Smith, Harnischfeger, as well as several shops in the Allied Industrial Workers (AIW).

An important set of contracts coming up in the Milwaukee area are in the AIW union. They cover 17,000 workers. The plants include Briggs & Stratton, Harley-Davidson, Singer Controls Co., Caterpillar and West Bend Co. Workers at Harley, Singer and Briggs struck during their last contract battles in '74 and '75. With the nation-wide wage freeze ended, workers all over the country went on

the offensive and won some important gains. Not only did these workers stand up to sharp company attacks, but also the sellout attempts of the Allied Industrial Workers International leadership. The rank and file forced the first strikes at Briggs in 23 years and Singer in over 30 years.

At that time the bargaining committee at Briggs unanimously recommended a lousy offer to keep the workers in the shop. The rank and file threw this offer back in the company's face, voting down the offer, and the officers' plea to extend the contract. They said "No Contract, No Work." Robert Johnson, the regional rep was a target of anger and workers hung pictures of him hanging from a noose on their machines. His reward from the International was a promotion. The International tried the same at



the other two shops, recommending a sellout offer to Harley workers who voted it down. They stayed out a few weeks longer, for a total of over 6 months and forced a better contract out of AMF, the owner of Harley-Davidson. In going up against both the company and their agents in the union, the workers at Briggs and Harley, unified their own ranks and won the largest wage increases in the city.

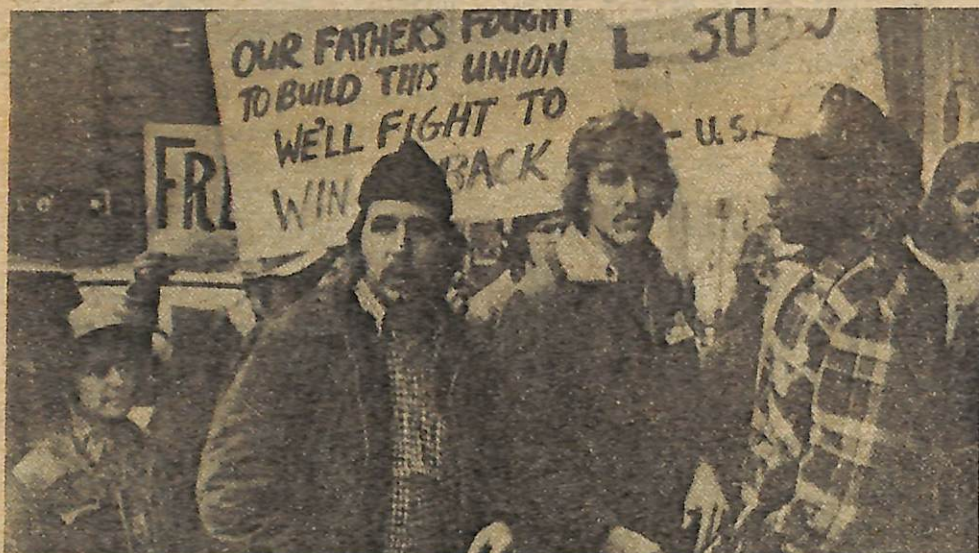
Immediately the companies went to take back what they had been forced to give. Rate

cuts have eaten away at wages, COL clauses have not kept up and layoffs have hit hard. Many workers hired over three years ago at Briggs have only a few months to show for it because they lost seniority and benefit rights during layoffs. Harley, once a major employer, now has less than 1000 workers. The union officials constantly pushed the line, there was no way to fight because all of the attacks were "according to the contract."

In an early January report the National Labor Council

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## Rank & File Moving Hot Campaign In Steel Elections



STEELWORKERS ARE FIGHTING TO KICK THE COMPANY OUT OF THE UNION, PICKETING THE INT'L OFFICE AND IN SADLOWSKI ELECTION CAMPAIGN.

An election for the presidency of the United Steel Workers Union (USWA) to take place February 8 is currently stirring up a lot of controversy. This is a real hot one. Consider that George Meany (head of the AFL-CIO) Murry Finley (head of the Amalgamated Clothing and

Textile Workers) and Albert Shanker (head of the American Federation of Teachers) have all come out and denounced Ed Sadlowski one of the candidates, for being a "threat to unionism" And these turkeys aren't even running.

Why has George Meany

thrown his ugly weight into this election? It's because this is not the ordinary signed-sealed-and-delivered union election these traitors to labor like to see. It's an election where they were not able to use the rank and file as pawns.

Although at the time we go to press we don't know the election results, it is clear that where the rank and file has taken up the Sadlowski campaign in an organized way, they have delivered some important blows to the machine that has run the steelworkers union for years. I.W. Abel, the head of the USWA is retiring this year. He is hated by the rank and file in most steel plants because he has sided with the steel companies on issue after issue, year after year---against the right to strike, for job combination and harassment, for the

so-called anti-discrimination consent decree which allows the companies to continue discriminating while attacking seniority.

Abel's handpicked successor and heir to Abel's machine is Lloyd McBride. Abel is not the only one who would like to see McBride win. So would the steel bosses. And so too would Meany and the bosses of the other large International unions. After all if the Abel-McBride machine can be dumped by a rank and file movement then there are a lot of other comfort-loving, company-serving top union bureaucrats who'd have to fear for their plush positions too.

The Sadlowski campaign has developed a lot of significance not because Sadlowski is a savior come to lead the rank and file out of the darkness. In fact at various times Sadlowski has tried to limit rank and file participation in his campaign and waffled on the issues. But the real force in steel is the rank and file that has begun to stand up to the steel companies and their agents in the union. Sadlowski has to a certain degree spoken to this movement. For steel workers, fighting to elect Sadlowski is a way to break up the Abel machine and build organization of the rank and file united around their real demands and interests.

Whether Sadlowski wins or loses on February 8 the active rank and file in steel

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## Free Puerto Rico Independence, Not Statehood

Trying to make the most of his last few minutes in the spotlight, Gerald Ford proposed that Congress make Puerto Rico the 51st state. Carter tried to get into the act himself and smooth over the uproar that followed Ford's statement by making his own proposal that before Congress acts there should be a vote on the question in Puerto Rico. But either way it boils

down to the same blackmail: Puerto Rico's condition as a "commonwealth" (that is, colony) of the U.S. has made things miserable for the people there, and now they are being promised a way out of this misery if they accept being completely swallowed up by the U.S.

Both Ford and Carter were gambling on the fact that many Puerto Ricans feel that

things are so bad that any change would be for the better. Almost a third of the island's working people are unemployed. For the rest, wages run about half of what they are in the U.S., even though the cost of living is higher, because nearly everything is imported from the U.S., and even though most Puerto Ricans work for U.S. companies.

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# A.O. Smith Dozens Stop Work Over Cold

On January 17th, temperatures in parts of the plant at AO Smith had dropped between 30 and 40 degrees over the weekend. When the lines started up on 1st shift it was so cold the men could see their breath. Anger kept growing in the North plant on the Monte Carlo frame line, on the main line in the South plant, and on the West side as the temperatures remained close to freezing.

By the 8:15 break the welders and others on the Monte Carlo had had enough. They huddled around the heater by the foreman's office and when the whistle blew after the 6 minute break no one moved. The foreman flew into a rage demanding that they get production going.

The superintendent threatened everyone with discipline unless they got back to work. The bosses ran around like chickens without a head telling people that they knew they had a job to do when they came in and to wear their winter coats over their coveralls.

Next they ran to Labor Relations and the welders were hauled into the office one by one and again threatened with discipline. But almost all of them remained solid in letting A.O. Smith know that they hadn't hired on to weld the Alaskan pipe line.

By the end of the day dozens had gone home in protest of these outrageous working conditions. Like some of the brothers said, "We got bills to pay and families to feed-- we're not gonna let the com-

pany cut our pay checks short because they can't keep the heat on." The steward and a couple of the guys filed a grievance against harassment and demanded 8 hours of pay for the lost time.

On Friday the company made a public apology claiming it was all an 'accident'. And it was up to the company and the workers to pitch in together to solve problems like these. But at 6:30PM 50 workers on the Monte Carlo line, Dept. 1426 walked out again because

of the cold. Two high seniority workers were told they would get a disciplinary write-up. AO Smith isn't a company that makes its money through apologies. They make money by working the men under any conditions.

The workers didn't create the gas shortage, and the workers didn't turn the heat off in the shop and they're not the ones charging \$80-\$100 a month to heat a home.

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SMITH WORKERS FROM FIGHTING TIMES, UNITED WORKERS ORGANIZATION, OUTSIDE THE PLANT GATES GET SIGNATURES ON A PETITION FOR FULL PAY LOST IN A WALKOUT, DUE TO HEAT SHUTOFF.



## Gas Company Ripoff

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

mitted that 1/3 of its gas reserves were not actively producing.

The same oil and gas companies that are trying to blame the winter energy crisis on the weather have been saying very openly for a number of years that they are not going to produce more gas until they can get a higher price for it.

This is extortion and blackmail pure and simple.

Natural gas prices have been regulated by the Federal Power Commission. This is not out of any concern for the masses of people. After World War II it became such an important source of energy for the functioning of the economy that the majority of large corporations forced the federal government, over the

objections of the oil companies, to regulate the price at the well head. But the FPC usually staffed with oil company executives has been very sympathetic to the gas producers demands for higher price ceilings. So the price of natural gas has been constantly rising. In July of 1976 the price charged for gas from new wells was tripled.

In addition, regulation only applies to gas transported for sale across state lines. Gas produced and sold in the same state is unregulated and currently costs twice the price.

But the gas companies are demanding that all price regulations be abolished as the condition for their developing new wells and producing more gas. That is why President Carter has called for an

"emergency measure" to deregulate the price of natural gas for six months.

Gas companies are also refusing to ship gas from states that have some surplus to those that are dangerously short unless the regulations of the price of gas shipped interstate are removed, and

they can get at least the prices they charge for gas produced and sold in the same state.

In short, the capitalists don't give a damn what happens to the people. Gas companies which have some reserves in Texas for example, do

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## Electric Company Murders Retired Worker

Edward Kuhn had put in his time at Westinghouse and retired in Mansfield, Ohio years ago. He had been glad to get out.

The problem Ed Kuhn had in his retirement days was making ends meet. Westinghouse paid him \$200 a month which was supplemented by social security. At age 74 Ed Kuhn was ill of health and with prices rising he was unable at times to pay all his bills on time.

As for millions of other retired and unemployed workers, the utility bills this winter were a nightmare. Ed owed \$18.38 for electricity--a small amount compared to most electric bills--as well as an additional amount for gas. He was unable to pay either of these. The gas company warned him several times. Finally on January 5 the electricity was turned off, knocking out his furnace. Apparently \$18.38 owed by an old man was cause enough to warrant such an action by these millionaires.

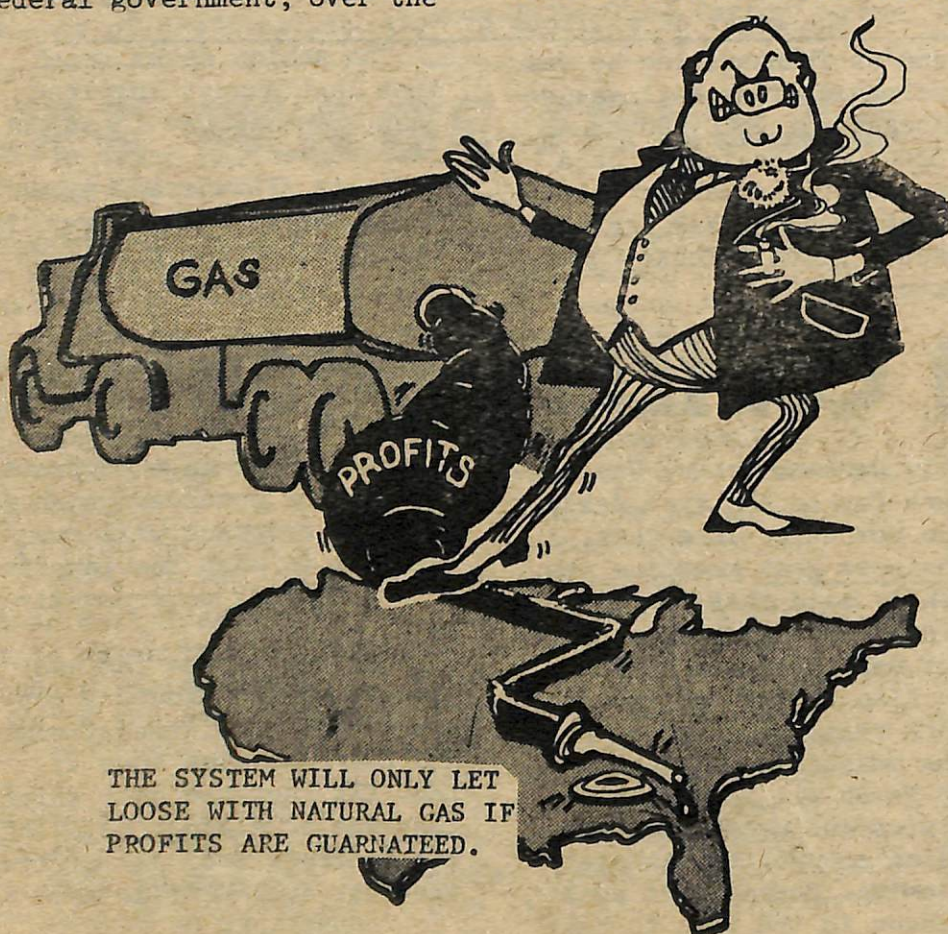
Ed Kuhn lived alone and it was bitter cold outside so at first no one noticed it when he didn't come out of his house. Finally someone checked. There, lying in his bed was Edward Kuhn--

frozen to death. The police reported the temperature in the house was nine degrees.

On Ed Kuhn's front door was a five day old notice--apparently the final warning. In his mailbox was a note saying he may have been eligible for public assistance. Ed never even got a chance to read these.

The electric company went to great lengths to cover over this death. "Of course we didn't know the old gentleman was ill. If we had we obviously wouldn't have cut him off," said Malcolm Cash, the head of the Ohio Edison operation in the Mansville area. Yet at the same time it came to light that on December 28 a gas company official had gone to Ed Kuhn's door with every intention of shutting his gas off and reported that Ed Kuhn was too weak to sign his own name. According to the electric company, it's "not their policy" to even check before turning off the electricity.

Ed Kuhn spent a lifetime enriching the capitalists. Yet they still killed him for \$18.38. If this isn't murder for profit, what is?





# Repression of the Menominee Struggle Free Quill Chevalier!

Quill Chevalier, a Menominee Warrior involved with the armed takeover of the Alexian Brothers abbey two years ago, could face three different trials this spring on charges that carry over 100 years in sentences. Quill refused to stand trial on the abbey charges ten months ago when his lawyer told him he had no defense and should plead guilty.

He didn't show up for the trial and was pursued by the FBI and the Menominee "goon squad"-police force until his capture a month ago. In the next few months he will have to stand trial on the abbey charges, jumping bail, and the charge of assaulting a federal marshal who tried to arrest him while he was a fugitive.

Quill is struggling to have the abbey charges tried first. These stem from the takeover and they are what his case is all about. The assault and bail jumping are just a part of his resistance. The State doesn't want the takeover trial to come first. They want the assault and bail-jumping trial first. They hope easier convictions on these will be enough to put Quill away and make an example of him.



THE WARRIOR FIVE: Quill Chevalier (far right). John Perote and Mike Sturdevant (middle), are presently in Waupun. Doreen Dickson (left rear), is on probation, and John Waubanasum (left, far rear) was killed by Menominee County police.

But Quill along with the over 100 other young Menominee who took over that abbey has won a lot of support for his fighting stand as a warrior for the Menominee people. Quill's stand was right!

The Warrior Society took over the abbey and held it with guns against the cops and National Guard so the Menominee could have the health and educational facilities they badly needed.

They were fighting the bankers, politicians and land developers who have

been ripping off the Menominee and their land over the years. The prosecutors don't want to have the abbey charges come first because not only does Quill have a lot of support, he isn't even guilty!

Quill was not in the abbey caretaker's cottage at the time the crime of armed robbery and armed burglary allegedly took place.

But the state is so anxious to make an example of a Menominee warrior they have put together a frame-up case

against Quill. The prosecutors are so desperate about getting a conviction they have offered to reduce the sentence if he pleads guilty. The last thing they want to see is a trial that brings up the Menominee cause again. First his court appointed lawyer argued that he accept a deal pleading guilty in exchange for 52 years sentence. Then the deal was 38 years. The final plea bargain was 4 years. But Quill and others will fight it all the way and will refuse to plead guilty of anything.

Quill comes from one of the most active families in the Menominee struggle. In fact his mother and brothers were arrested for holding off the cops in order for him to escape one close call in April of '76. They were acquitted in November by a Milwaukee federal jury which saw right through the repression of that trial. One of Quill's co-defendants, John Waubanasum was murdered by the Menominee county sheriff's department and two others, Mike Sturdevant and John Perote are serving time in Waupun.

It's time to mobilize Menominee and other Indians, workers and students, and all who can see the Chevalier defense as a key fight for all struggling people.

FREE QUILL CHEVALIER!  
JUSTICE FOR THE MENOMINEE!

## A Key Struggle LEACH TRIAL SET FOR MARCH 14

The Vietnam Veterans Against the War (VVAW), a nationwide organization born in resistance to the war in Vietnam, has launched a major campaign to free Ashby Leach.

Ashby Leach is a 30 year old Vietnam veteran from Huntington, West Virginia. After he returned from Vietnam, he got a job as an apprentice mechanic at Chessie (the country's third largest private railroad company), and found out just what kind of "gratitude" awaits vets. Under the GI Bill, the Veterans Administration (VA) makes up the difference between

what an apprentice is paid and journeyman's wages-to compensate for lost time in the service. But Chessie won't go along with it. After a five year battle to get these GI benefits, Ashby Leach said enough! He took over the Chessie headquarters in Cleveland last August to demand that Chessie extend all benefits of the GI Bill to its veterans and that past employees who have been cheated out of these benefits be reimbursed.

After taking over the Chessie headquarters Leach was put in jail. Immediately people came to his support



The action that Ashby Leach took, represented the anger of millions of Vets.

and at Thanksgiving he was released after bail was reduced from \$500,000 to \$100,000. He is now on a nationwide speaking tour sponsored by VVAW and the Ashby Leach Defense Committee (ALDC).

The action Ashby Leach took last August involved just himself, yet in it he represented the anger of millions of veterans around the country. That is why the campaign to free him is so

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## Can Workers Angry At Contract Extension

Last summer when Abel announced at the convention that the Can contract was being extended 8 months to October, a ripple went through the can companies here in Milwaukee and around the country. Abel made it seem like this represented a noble move to make sure that nobody used that contract as a political football. But the real truth is that the extension was designed to help set up the workers for a big screw-

ing.

First off, they wanted to have the Can contract come after Basic Steel. They tell the workers that Basic has more members than Can so it will be better to go for what basic gets. Now that's a real sick joke. The International has Basic Steel saddled with a no strike clause called the Experimental Negotiating Agreement till 1980 and has a big sellout planned for those workers too. They re-

ally want to set up Can workers for an ENA type deal. The companies love this. Business Week magazine recently said that the extension modeling the Can contract was a great idea.

Also in the Can industry work really fluctuates by the season. From February or March til September when fruits and vegetables are being canned, things are booming. During that peak season is the time to take

on the company in a contract battle. But October (which is when the contract will run out now) is when the layoffs and 4 day work week usually hit.

That's far from the best time to go out around a contract. And the International and the companies know it too. (In fact the only thing that was true about removing the contract from politicking was that Abel-McBride cer-

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# Held Back by UAW Intn'l Allis-Chalmers Workers Ready to Strike

Since the contract at Allis-Chalmers expired on January 1, after a 2-month extension, strike sentiment has been growing among the rank and file. A massive ban on overtime hit the company that's trying hard to fill

orders. A walkout in the foundry last fall put the company on notice about harassment. Workers on the tractor lines got together and demanded line speeds be reduced and they won. Through out the shop wall stickers

call for the strike notice to be given to the company. Workers packed a union meeting to demand that Allis Chalmers be put on strike notice. The union hacks fearing a confrontation they couldn't control, quickly passed a motion to put A-C on ten day strike notice.

After the unanimous vote to give the company notice was ignored by the International, workers took matters into their own hands and began a mass refusal of overtime. Desperate to turn out production the company sent the superintendent scurrying around the shop floor begging people to work. And again in response to the rank and file pressure the local officials were jammed into calling a ban on all overtime.

The contract fight

heated up and cars near the plant during overtime hours had air conditioning installed with a brick. When the company began calling people at their homes offering to let them park in the fenced-in plant if they worked overtime, the workers stuck together and the overtime refusal was effective.

Workers at Allis-Chalmers have seen 1500 of their fellow workers layed off over the last 3 years because of subcontracting and runaway departments. "Stop subcontracting" is a fighting issue. The right to strike over grievances is also a demand of the rank and file. There are unsettled grievances left over from the last contract. The company has been running over A-C

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ALLIS CHALMERS STRIKERS FROM THE 1974 WALKOUT

## Rank & File Rebels At Kearney & Trecker

In early February, Kearney and Trecker workers will be voting on a union decertification election. The vote comes as a result of a petition signed by K&T workers against the International Association of Machinists. Many of the men feel that an independent union would be better than the Machinists who have let the men work without a contract for seven months and told them nothing. The workers are also teed off against the International for jacking the dues up to \$13 a month. The IAM has held back the workers' struggle but the road forward is not to get rid of it. The key is to take action and force the International to act, too.

Meanwhile the company is going all-out to force big cuts on the workers. The seven months the workers have gone without a contract would add up to a nice retroactive paycheck. But Kearney & Trecker has always opposed retroactive pay and they're not changing their act now. Their contract offer includes a big attack on wages which are already about a dollar an hour less than at similar companies in the city.

K&T's 39 month wage proposal includes 12¢, 15¢ and 18¢ caps on the cost of living increase. Another big demand of the workers is for a pension plan. Now they are expected to retire on a crummy profit-sharing plan that, only adds up for the workers when the company is prospering.

Kearney & Trecker is out to make the same kind of cuts as Giddings & Lewis, one of their main competitors. G&L broke the Machinists local in Fond du Lac in the course

of a recent 15 month strike.

The K&T workers know they can't have any half-stepping, delaying, or compromising leadership. They're up against a company that's almost desperate as it faces stiffer foreign and domestic competition in the depressed machine tool market.

In 1973 the K&T machinists took united action by refusing all overtime to force the company to quit delaying and come up with a contract. The action cost the men over 200 suspensions. But the unity held strong. Later on workers' wives and children marched 200 strong in front of the plant to protest company attempts to divide husbands and wives by mailing contracts to the homes of each worker.

As the old contract keeps getting extended K&T is having a big year. It's a time when workers could hurt the company. But the International is trying to hold back any and all struggle. Now that the

## A-C "Safety Policy" Breaks Worker's Back

January 24, an Allis-Chalmers worker named Mike Garrett slipped and fell on an oil-covered floor and broke 3 vertebrae. This accident on the #3 tractor line came because of company negligence. Mike had filed a grievance on this oily floor about a month before this accident. The company agreed to keep that portion of the floor painted with a non-slip paint. But the paint was worn off by the dollies and rear main gear assemblies Mike pushes onto the tractor line.

That same morning Mike told his foreman "If you'd lose one tractor over this

it'd be painted right away. But as long as it's just the safety of a worker, you don't give a damn." All the workers in the area agreed with his complaints about the 1" deep puddles on the metal part of the floor.

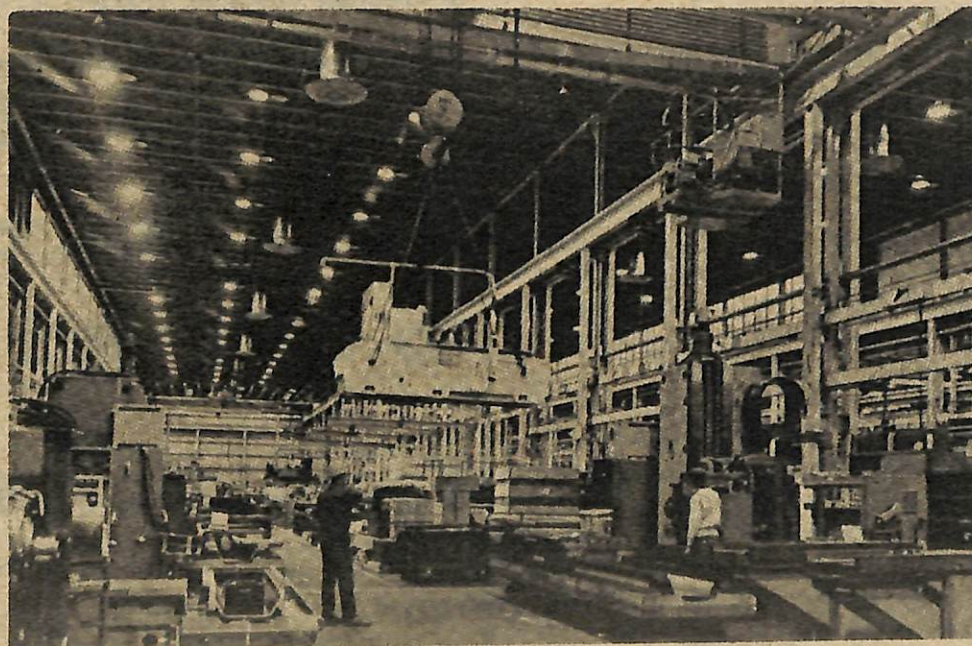
Mike was on the new Family Tractor line where Allis-Chalmers builds its biggest money maker, a \$50,000 to \$60,000 machine. Any skips or interruption in production costs the company profits. Of course they took time out to paint the floor the next day. But that was a little late for Mike.

decertification proceedings are on, negotiations have been postponed.

In the past there have been several union representation contests at K&T. The Employees Independent Union represented the workers from 1935 until 1967 when the men and women voted in the Machinists at the end of an eleven week strike. Before that the Machinists had tried once and failed and the UAW had

tried twice to get the K&T local in their fold. Each time the company had sided with the independent union, warning against "the false promises of international unionism." This time the company isn't saying. But odds are they would like to see the IAM kicked out.

Many of the workers signed the decertification petition in a protest against the sellout policies of the International. But many also realize that without the strike funds and legal help from the International an independent union could easily be taken over by the company. The protests against inaction by IAM Region 10 has shown results. They have been forced to lower the dues for now, and are finally showing some concern about the K&T local. But it will take more than words to win back the K&T workers. The men and women are going to take advantage of the fear the International has of losing the local--then vote to keep the International--and then unite to take on the company.



THE SHOP FLOOR AT KEARNEY & TRECKER



# Vets Call for Real Amnesty Carter's Pardon is a Fraud

One of Jimmy Carter's first acts after he took office was to issue a "full complete and unconditional" pardon to anyone who violated the Selective Service Act between August 4, 1964 (the date of the so-called "Tonkin Gulf incident" which was LBJ's excuse for massive escalation of the war) and March 28, 1973 (the Paris agreement which amounted to formal recognition of the victory of the Vietnamese people). The pardon will mainly affect 8,500 people convicted of draft offenses, most of whom have already served time, and 5,000 draft resisters in exile in Canada, Sweden and other countries. Yet most of the newspaper and TV coverage of the pardon generally included short interviews with resisters in exile or in this country who were generally against Carter's plan. Why are these people criticizing something that's supposed to be in their interests?

The answer is simple. Carter's pardon is a fraud, a political maneuver designed to mislead and misdirect the American people. First, it's an attempt to promote divisions among those who were victimized by the war, resisted it or rebelled against it and to squash the struggle for universal and unconditional amnesty for all these people--resisters, deserters, veterans with bad discharges. Second, it is an attempt to salvage military discipline from the shambles of Vietnam.

Third, it's an open bid to get the American people to forget the Vietnam war and what they learned from it. All three of these things are important steps for those who rule the U.S. as their contention with their rivals in the Soviet Union heats up and edges towards war. They are steps to mold public opinion on

the government has made no serious attempt to track down and prosecute all these people, Carter's pardon did not cover deserters from the armed services, many from working class backgrounds or oppressed nationalities, who didn't know before going into the service that there were ways to avoid it or

were charged with violating regulations and given a choice--court martial or accept a less than honorable discharge and get a trip home. Many took it. These vets have an even harder time finding jobs than their brothers with "good papers" and in all but a few cases are cut off from receiving veterans' benefits like the GI Bill. The ruling class' policy towards its soldiers of "use once and throw away" applies to them with a vengeance.

Despite all the efforts of the media and reactionary vets groups like the American Legion to whip up vets against pardoning resisters, more and more vets are realizing draft resisters have been up against the same system that shipped them off to fight and die to defend the profits of the rich, that now has them rotting in understaffed, rat infested VA hospitals, facing benefit cutbacks and disability "re valuations," standing in the unemployment lines or stuck in low paying sweatshop jobs.

## MILITARY DISCIPLINE

The separation of those who resisted the draft and those who fought back inside the military is also aimed at propping up military discipline. The only way that the masses of people can be made to fight an unjust and unpopular war for the ruling class is by coercion. Bucking the armed forces even more than bucking the draft is always punished--extra duty, court-martials, stockade terms, and bad discharges.

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VVAW MARCH FOR AMNESTY FOR ALL WHO WERE AFFECTED BY THE VIETNAM WAR.

their side.

To deal with the first point, universal and unconditional amnesty has been a goal of the anti-war forces and vets groups such as the Vietnam Veterans Against the War for over five years now. Carter's plan doesn't deliver. It does include, in addition to the resisters mentioned above, all those who didn't register for the draft in the covered period, estimated at as many as 1 million men! This is an easy step, however, since

understand the unjust nature of the war until they were in the middle of it.

## BAD DISCHARGES NOT COVERED

Lastly, the pardon does not cover the largest group which needs amnesty, the 640,000 veterans with less than honorable discharges. Many of these discharges were handed out to rebellious GIs who hated and fought back against the war, the racism of the army and military Mickey Mouse. Often they

## Ashby Leach Trial

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

important--because it is one way thousands of veterans and other people can come together to concentrate their struggle at the abuses faced by veterans.

Look at the conditions of veterans today. Millions were forced to fight in a hated and unjust war in Vietnam. Now they have come home to find unemployment, cutbacks in GI benefits, discrimination--all perpetuated by those who patted him on the back before they went off to war. And who gets blamed for all this--veterans themselves--for not adjusting to society, for being lazy or crazy.

This bunch of bull is what the campaign to free Ashby Leach is attempting to break through. As Ashby Leach said in a recent speech: "They told me I didn't understand big business. But I understand that while I was picking up bodies in Vietnam they were picking up profits from a war-inflated economy."

Of course such an outspoken person, speaking to the anger of veterans, is feared by the capitalists. Ever since the takeover of

the Chessie headquarters they have been spreading lies and slander in an attempt to isolate him. Chessie and the state of Ohio have tried to get him declared "incompetent" or "insane" to prevent his case from ever coming up to trial. One scheme of theirs sounds like a take-off from *Catch 22*. As Ashby Leach tells it, "I was examined by 15 psychiatrists and one shrink...Do you know what the shrink told me? He said I could only be sane if I'd plead guilty by reason of insanity."

## CAMPAIGN MOUNTS

Despite these attacks, Ashby Leach's militant stand on the issues facing veterans is beginning to gain wide support, especially as he becomes better known through the speaking tour. In Cleveland he spoke to an enthusiastic group of 75 workers and other supporters. In Beckley, West Virginia veterans, students and miners stayed until the building closed, discussing the situation and deciding to form a local defense committee.

In Milwaukee, VVAW had a car convoy through the city

the day before Ashby spoke. Stopping briefly at the Navy Station, a VVAW member gave a short rap about support for Ashby Leach and how we won't fight another rich man's war. It generated struggle in the Navy crowd, with the career Navy men putting down the action and the enlisted men greeting the action with clenched fists of support. On the following day, Ashby spoke to a crowd of 75 workers, veterans and their families.

One of the most moving examples of the growing support for Ashby Leach came when a widow and sister of a Vietnam veteran visited Leach's home in West Virgin-

ia. Contributing \$35 to his defense fund they said that the deceased veteran would have wanted Leach to have the money.

Ashby's trial date has been set for March 14. On February 22, Ashby will have his preliminary hearing. VVAW chapters across the country will be holding demonstrations, to build for car caravans from the Midwest and East coast chapters to Cleveland for 3 days of demonstrations when the trial starts. Ashby will be in Milwaukee March 2nd and 3rd for speaking engagements to build support for his case.

**Free Ashby Leach!**  
**Join the car convoy**  
**to Cleveland March 12**  
**Trial starts March 14**

ASHBY WILL BE IN MILWAUKEE ON MARCH 3rd

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL VVAW AT 342-5864 or 445-5816



# ALLIS-CHALMERS

CONT. FROM PAGE 7

workers' grievances because there is no muscle behind the grievance system. The company also says that there will be no retroactive pay when the strike's settled.

The AC workers demand more than the 3% to 4% raises negotiated thus far in the industry. They want "30 and Out" to become a reality with a cost of living and pensions.

The men and women at AC are ready to strike over what they need to survive: unsafe conditions are allowed to continue because grievances are pushed aside. Workers don't know from one week to the next whether they will have a job as job combinations, layoffs, rate cuts hit at the workers. Workers see a strike as the only way they can get a contract that will enable them to stop company attacks. Only the delaying tactics of the UAW International are keeping guys in the shop, instead of on the picketline where they belong.

The United Workers Organization (UWO) has joined with the growing movement of the rank and file. The auto section of UWO, affiliated with the national Auto Workers U-

nited to Fight (AWUF) has been organizing and agitating to fight the sellout. They sold dozens of "No Sell Out in '77" buttons at the plant gates and stickers with their demands "Stop the Stalling" and "Put A-C On Strike Notice" were plastered all over the plants. Newsletters from AWUF were out bringing word of the continuing struggle in auto at AMC and agricultural implements.

Members of the UWO, learning from previous auto battles went into building the fight of the rank and file at A-C by saying "Take matters into our own hands and not wait on union hacks."

By constantly hitting on the main demands, the UWO has helped build momentum in the shop. That momentum has turned against the local leaders forcing them to come out with plant gate leaflets pledging to fight for the demands. They have begun to talk militant, pointing to the International as the stumbling block to strike authorization.

The contract battle in the agricultural implements section of the auto industry started out heavy and continued to fire up as the year went by, the rank and file continuing to fight sell-out attempts. 27,000 brothers

and sisters at John Deere hit the bricks for 5 weeks setting a fighting example to other workers in the industry.

Throughout the John Deere



strike the rank and file took matters into their own hands many times to shut the plant down tight and make the strike a real weapon. On one occasion 60 workers jammed into a bargaining committee meeting demanding the union set up 24 hour picketting. When the company continued to bring in subcontractors, the workers set up mass pickets and shut the place down tight until the company's watchdogs, the courts, handed down an injunction to let the subcontractors in.

Even though some gains were made, the UAW International was able to push a sell-out through. The contract fell short on subcontracting, wages, and retirement.

Now with the same sell-out having been pushed through at International Harvester and Caterpillar, last on the list is Allis-Chalmers. But the Interna-

tional and the local officials are finding that workers at Allis-Chalmers aren't standing for the sell-out attempt with no resistance.

Despite the hedging and stalling of the International and local officials, the anger and momentum of the rank and file has continued to build. Workers at AC have learned through experiences that AC isn't about to give them anything without a fight. From their year-long strike in '46 to the last 3 contracts which haven't been settled without a strike, workers are ready to fight to make some real gains in the coming battles, and continue to fight the attacks coming down.

## Talks Or No Talks,

# Rhodesia Freedom Fight Advances

The people of Zimbabwe have won great advances in the last year in their struggle to liberate their country from the clutches of the white settler Rhodesian government headed by Ian Smith. The convening of the Geneva talks, which recently collapsed, was a response to this growing strength. The purpose of these negotiations which were set up by the US and conducted by Britain, was not to end minority rule in Zimbabwe but to cool this struggle and attempt to preserve through a peaceful settlement their economic and political interests in the area. Until then Smith had tried simply to ignore the liberation struggle politically and crush it militarily.

Last September there was a great hoopla in this country's press when Smith announced his agreement to negotiations and to majority rule "in principle." Kissinger, Ford and others declared that the "Rhodesia conflict" was on the way to settlement and there was now no need for further fighting. This was their primary purpose for negotiations, to undercut support for and stop the armed struggle and to prevent through negotiations what they were losing on the battlefield.



THE ZIMBABWE PEOPLE'S STRUGGLE HAS GROWN VERY STRONG. FREED AREAS HAVE INCREASED FOURFOLD.

The Smith regime has faithfully protected the billions invested in southern Africa by U.S. and British corporations and they will continue to support him for as long as possible. But as the struggle in Zimbabwe has grown stronger, together with the collapse of Portuguese colonialism in southern Africa and upsurges against white supremacist rule in South Africa, the U.S. and Britain are not betting all their chips on Smith winning. For in the last year, the number of guerrillas fighting against Smith's rule within Rhodesia have increased tenfold, while the zones they are more or less free to operate in have increased fourfold in area.

Also, as long as the conflict there continues, the rulers of the U.S. and Britain are concerned that the Soviet Union will exploit the war by stepping in as they did in Angola, to further their own imperialist aims for Africa. Thus, through a negotiated settlement, the U.S. and Britain hoped to appear to be "responsive" to the liberation forces and to put over a settlement short of complete liberation. By setting up and promoting "moderate" black leaders who would be dependent on them and look favorably on continued investment by Western countries, they hoped to preserve the area and its re-

sources for their continued plunder and profits.

Smith on the other hand, hoped to stall for time through negotiations to allow him to strengthen his military, economic and political positions to continue to fight to preserve minority rule. Smith stuck to the "Five Point Plan" reached privately between him and Kissinger as the only basis for a settlement. But this settlement was no settlement at all, but a ploy to preserve the status quo. The main thing it called for was an immediate cessation of the armed struggle by the liberation forces.

### PHONY ACCEPTANCE OF MAJORITY RULE

The plan would then set up an interim government which would keep the ministries of the police and internal security--the armed forces of the government--in the hands of Smith's ruling party, as well as allowing it veto power over any actions of the interim government.

In addition to his insistence on this plan as the basis for negotiations, Smith's actions throughout the Geneva conference showed

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# CRISIS HITS HOME-

Fight Continues in San Francisco

## Dramatic Victory in Anti-eviction Battle

For eight years the owners have been trying to evict the tenants of the International Hotel in San Francisco. Time after time mass support mobilized throughout the Bay Area had blocked every eviction attempt and forced the landlords to grant new leases on several occasions. But as the new year began, the final showdown seemed imminent.

The corporation that owns the hotel and the rest of the capitalists in the city had decided things had gone way too far. The very idea that residents of the I-Hotel could successfully stand in the way of their sacred right of private property was becoming absolutely outrageous.

What right did they have to block the owners' efforts to throw them into the street, tear down this building situated on choice real estate next to the city's financial center and put up a more profitable investment.

The 80 elderly Chinese and Philipino workers who had worked long years producing wealth for the capitalists were expected to bow quietly, leave their home and find new quarters on the \$260 a month that many of them subsist on.

### TENANTS, COMMUNITY ORGANIZE

But it hasn't happened that way. The tenants have repeatedly gone into the streets alright, not in humble submission to the orders and property rights of the owners. They've gone united with and surrounded by hundreds and thousands of supporters, defiantly telling the capitalists "to hell with your profits, stop the evictions, we won't move, we have a right to low cost housing and community centers."

The fight to defend the I-Hotel and for low cost housing has become a focus of sharp struggle in the Bay Area. For months it has been the big news in the area, sometimes covered nightly on the TV and radio as the tenants and supporters hit back every time the landlords, the courts, the police or the city officials make a move against them.

The tremendous controversy and publicity generated by the struggle has forced city officials to take a public position of 'support' for the tenants. The workings of the courts, public agencies and city government were shaken as they scrambled for a way to deal with the mass movement of support for the



SAN FRANCISCO, JAN. 12-2500 MASSES IN SUPPORT OF THE I-HOTEL. A FEW DAYS LATER 5000 DEMONSTRATED.

I-Hotel. The Mayor offered a phony plan to have the city buy the building and then sell it back to the tenants for over a million dollars. The Workers Committee to Fight for the I-Hotel denounced his plan as an eviction plan.

The sheriff was forced into a bizarre and comical farce with the courts that landed him in a week long trial for contempt of court and a five day jail sentence when he failed to carry out the first eviction order "because it was too difficult and dangerous." The judge ranted and raged that his orders were not going to be ignored.

### MET STRONG RESISTANCE

But when 20 sheriff's deputies descended on the hotel at 9:30 am January 7th to post a second eviction order, they were met by 300 demonstrators mobilized by the Workers Committee and the I-Hotel Tenants Association. A longshore pensioner came and called the dispatcher at the hiring hall to send down some guys to bolster the forces. They formed a militant, tight picket four deep in front of the hotel, preventing the sheriffs from posting the eviction on the door of the hotel itself. When they did get a few up on the ground floor community centers and

stores these were quickly ripped down and most of them burned in front of the sheriffs deputies, cops and TV cameras. Then the Committee sent a delegation to the Sheriffs office. They threw the eviction notices on his desk and said that no scrap of paper was going to make them move. Several days later the sheriffs snuck back and nailed other notices to the door of the hotel.

On Wednesday evening, the 12th, a massive demonstration of defiance of the eviction was called. 2500 supporters jammed the streets in front of the hotel. Warehousemen from ILWU local 6 organized their own carpools to bring people. While part of the demonstration stayed in front of the building, the Workers Committee took a contingent of 500 workers, people from the community, students and youth on a march through Chinatown. Carrying lanterns and led by drums they chanted slogans and called on people to support the I-Hotel struggle. The sidewalks were so packed that they had to take over a lane of the streets. When the march came to one of the big housing projects in Chinatown they saw a huge banner that the tenants had hung over the balcony reading "Ping Yuen tenants stand with I-Hotel tenants."

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## Arson fo

Late on a warm summer night in 1975 a man sneaks up to a house in the 2100 block of N. 16th Street. Using gasoline he starts the house on fire. Residents in the lower flat hear a noise and smell smoke. A man runs out of the apartment and chases the arsonist down the alley but loses him in the dark.

This incident on N. 16th Street followed a visit by the landlord to the upstairs tenant - a woman on welfare with children. The county had refused to pay her rent because the house wasn't up to housing code standards. The landlord first tried to threaten her but when they couldn't get the rent they decided to burn the house down and collect the insurance.

All of this emerged in testimony at the "arson for profit" trial in Federal Court in Milwaukee this month. Two inner city landlords, Roland Hansen and his son Steven, are charged with plotting to burn down their property and collect insurance. This "arson for profit" has destroyed homes and threatened lives in the predominantly Black inner city.

## Bosses Pay I Property

All the tax money cities are losing this year due to these recent gifts to big business has got to come from somewhere--it's coming right out of the pockets of the men and women who work hard to pay for their homes.

In 1974 big business got the Machinery and Equipment Allowance, which allows them to not pay any taxes on their machines.

They've also got the Inventory Exemption which will phase out all property taxes on their stockpiles of goods by 1981. Plus big companies challenge the state assessments of their industrial property in lengthy appeals, often resulting in huge loopholes. Allis-Chalmers for example is



THIS SINGLE FAMILY HOME ON THE WEST SIDE IS ASSESSED AT \$24



# TIME TO FIGHT BACK!

## For Profit!

The "arson for profit" scandal broke as a result of a grand jury investigation into the many suspicious fires in Milwaukee's inner city in the past two or three years.

The trial and grand jury hearing have unearthed evidence of widespread burning and vandalism by many inner city landlords. One of the accused Howard Bloom, was questioned by the FBI about 17 fires and he's admitted to 3. Three other witnesses who pleaded guilty to reduced charges, testified about fires at half a dozen addresses from 27th and McKinley to 12th and Garfield to the 100 block of W. Juneau. Numerous big landlords like Sidney Persson are implicated in the testimony.

The inner city landlords and their "torch men" are the most obvious schemers in a huge ripoff, an intricate web of financial and real estate interests which have as their only goal: maximum profit.

One of the central characters in the whole scandal, Howard Bloom, is painted as a "whiz kid" who amassed a huge fortune based on false information and dishonest dealings. Bloom, who is 25

years old, is filing for bankruptcy with assets of \$11 million and debts of \$20.6 million. Through wheeling and dealing, speculation, false credit, and deceit he built a paper empire which finally crashed down on his creditors last year.

Howard Bloom is an arsonist and a landlord. Along with other inner city property owners he schemed to create artificially high values by buying and selling back and forth certain properties which eventually got torched. Bloom is also

the link with a group of larger and more powerful conspirators, the banks. His own testimony revealed that he was the middleman between officials of University National Bank and the slum landlord Roland Hansen. Bloom secured a loan of \$210,000 from bank officers by putting up houses at 2731 W. McKinley and 2142 N. 28th Street as collateral. When the bank questioned unclear titles to these two properties, they were assured that "These properties may not be around long." There were later fires at both addresses and the insurance more than guaranteed repayment of the loan

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## Less and Less Taxes on the Rise

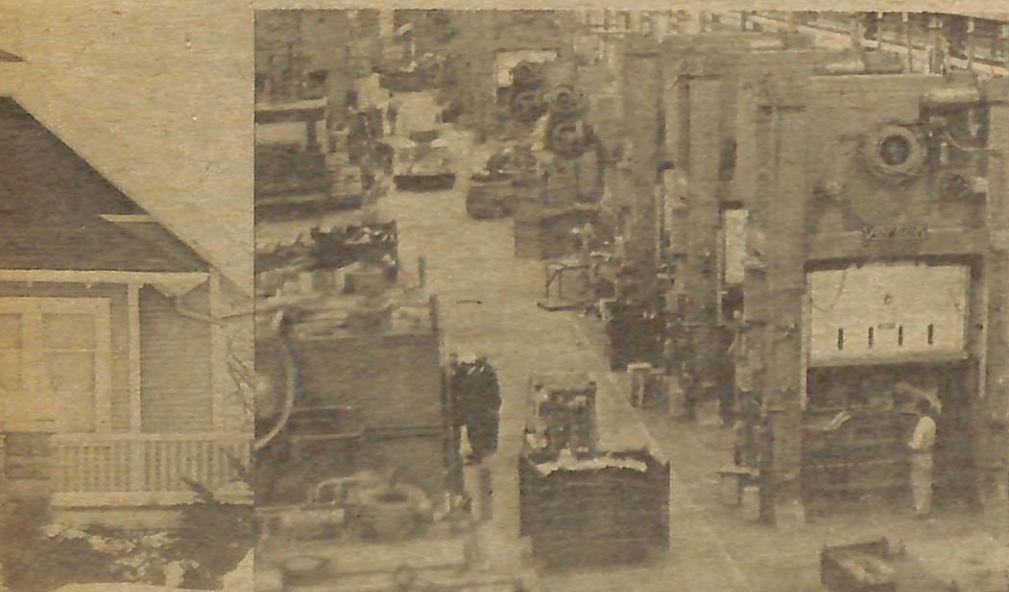
claiming its West Allis complex is only worth \$11.5 million. The assessor says they are worth \$26.9 million.

A recent study revealed that the Machinery and Equipment Exemption alone has meant a break of \$34.4 million since 1975. And it alone has jacked up the tax burden on an individual home owner by around \$30 a year. But the total tax bill for the little guy due to the many giveaways to big business is much greater.

When the cities lost the power to tax machinery, equipment and inventories, Lucey began to divert state funds to pay them back for some of what they

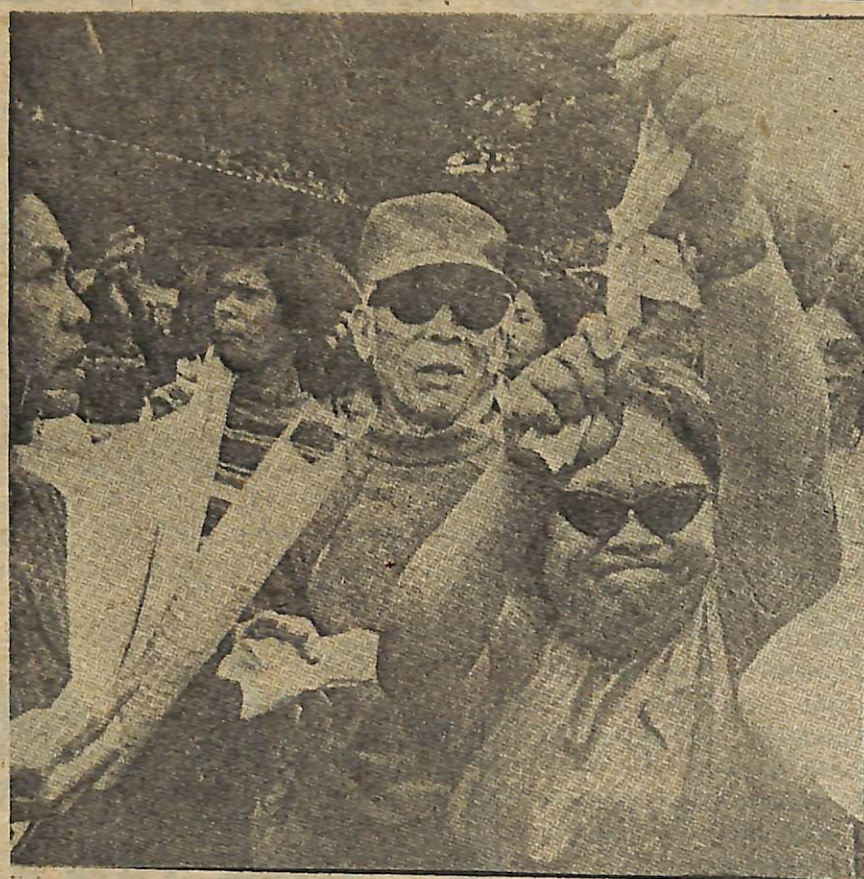
lost. This subsidy for the cities did drain the state treasury. But it did not match what the companies had been paying. The result: increases in local property taxes.

The Machinery and Equipment Exemption is supposed to save jobs for Wisconsin by attracting new industry. But the companies will use their savings to finance automation and actually eliminate more jobs. Lucey and his big business buddies try to say that he's working on "tax relief" but when you boil it down, all the relief is for the rich—the workers and the other small owners are carrying the whole load.



E NORTH-  
000...

WHILE THESE MASSIVE PRESSES AT  
A.O. SMITH GO TAX FREE.



WAIAHOLE VALLEY RESIDENTS SHOW EVICTION WRITS, THEN SHOW WHAT THEY THINK OF GOVERNMENT'S PIECES OF PAPER.

## Cops, Gov't Back Down Mass Support for Hawaii Land Struggle

"Breaker! Breaker!" The CB radio network crackled with the warning that the cops were on their way to evict. Within five minutes the only roads into Waiahole Valley on the island of Oahu, Hawaii were shut tight by the tenants of the valley and 500 workers and other supporters who had set up a camp in the valley to defend it. Roadblocks cut the main highway on that side of the island, causing a massive traffic jam that prevented a police mobilization from penetrating to the valley. After an hour the police gave up

courses, high priced housing, for landlords and developers. For the masses of workers and farmers this has meant scarce housing and soaring rents. In the past, these battles have been largely unorganized and usually ended when the evictions came down, like in the Kalana Valley in 1971. This time things are different. Resistance is not only more organized but more conscious of the real nature of the struggle.

One woman, Mrs. Elizabeth Marks, controls the land of both Valleys, of which about 20%, 600 acres, is good for farming and living. Since



MASS SUPPORT HAS BEEN KEY TO THE EVICTION STRUGGLES.

This was the decisive show down in the current stage of a struggle that has won the direct support from tens of thousands of Hawaii residents. Three days later on Friday, January 7, the governor announced that all evictions scheduled for the Waiahole and Waikane Valleys were postponed until at least March 1.

For many years now, eviction battles have erupted in Hawaii as land, much of it good agricultural land, has been "cleared" of its residents for resort hotels, golf

1974 she has been hooked up with millionaire developer Joe Pao in an attempt to drive out the over one hundred tenant families, mostly workers and small farmers, and make a small fortune off the land.

### RENT STRIKE

Marks' and Pao's first move was to try and get the land, which is half an hour from downtown Honolulu, rezoned for "urban use." The tenants responded by forming

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16



# HISTORY OF STRUGGLE, OPPRESSION ROOTS SHOWS BLACK HERITAGE

One of the most powerful and significant literary developments recently has been the publication of Roots, a dramatized historical account of the family of the author, Alex Haley. The book has been made into an eight part TV movie which has drawn immense viewing audiences. The TV version is being billed as "the triumph of an American family." But what gives Roots its stirring impact is not its "happy ending" with the most recent generation of the Haley family who have acquired a certain degree of wealth and fame, but in its reclaiming of an inheritance shared by the 250,000 Blacks in this country and an exposure of slavery and the misery and exploitation that it meant for generations of American Blacks, and the remnants of which still scar the country.

Fully half the book is devoted to the life of Kunta Kinte, the author's ancestor who was dragged off in chains from his African village and sold to a Virginia plantation owner. Roots poignantly describes the forcible stripping away of his language, religion and customs—he is even forbidden to use his own name.

## RIPS APART HAPPY SLAVE MYTH

Bit by bit Roots tears asunder many of these long standing myths. While Haley does lapse into a somewhat romantic picture of tribal Africa, he successfully demolishes the picture of brutal savages. He replaces it with a far more accurate description of a people cultivating crops, raising families, scratching out at least a bare living, while all the time the constant prey of those who sought to enslave them.

Haley shows that the wealth of Southern planters

from their mansions to the vast cotton and tobacco crops, came off the backs of the enslaved. He blasts away at the trappings of culture and elegance of the master class.

Perhaps the greatest slander leveled against Black people is that the slaves never struggled for their own freedom. But throughout Haley's dramatization of the family's history a vivid image of resistance comes through from rebellion aboard the

South.

The narrative of Roots breaks off sharply shortly following the Civil War and the emancipation of the slaves. Then the whole of the "Murray family" moved to Tennessee, at which point Haley's family history of professionals and businessmen ceases to be the more or less typical story whose strength lies in what it reveals about the common plight and struggle of Black people. Thus the actual history of the great

weakness in Roots, and in numerous interviews and speeches, Alex Haley expresses almost an obsession with the need to know his particular family heritage. He declares, in the course of the narrative, that the biggest crime of slavery was keeping people from knowing "who they were," by which he means their family background and their African heritage. He even states the mystical belief that his deceased ancestors are



ROOTS SHOWED THE TRUE HISTORY OF SLAVERY - INCLUDING MASSIVE SLAVE REBELLIONS

slave ship to sly attempts to poison the masters, from attempts at escape despite the inevitable floggings—or worse—that inevitably followed failures to the more organized uprisings of slaves led by men like Denmark Vesey and Nat Turner. Haley shows how the "nigger problem" was the number one preoccupation of the slave-masters, and the joy and hope each act of resistance and rebellion held for the slaves who inevitably heard about them through whispers along a grapevine that stretched from plantation to plantation across the

majority of Black people over the 100 years since emancipation—of the betrayal of Reconstruction and the rise of the sharecropping system, enforced by terror, of the great migration to the industrial centers of North and South where Blacks still suffering national oppression found themselves, together with those of other nationalities, bound by a new type of slavery, where the personnel office replaces the auction block and the time clock and the bills replace the chains.

Perhaps the greatest

"up there" watching the completion of his research and writing.

Certainly part of what makes Roots exciting is that Haley was able to overcome the obstacles of centuries of slavery, lack of records and enforced illiteracy of his ancestors to document the history of his family. This also probably guarantees that his next book In Search of Roots (where he tells the story of his twelve years of detective work) will also be a best seller. But people learn from the past mainly what is useful for the present.

## '77 CONTRACT FIGHTS - A TIME TO FIGHT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

has said that '77 will be a quiet year. They reason that with the economy slow most workers are grateful simply to have a job. Yet the Rubber Workers were able to win some real victories in wages and benefits by standing up to the treachery of the International Rubberworkers. Although the '76 contracts in auto and rubber were sellouts, real advances were made by the rank and file.

During the auto contract struggle, militant workers built a nationwide rank and file organization called Auto Workers United to Fight in '76. Locally it was affiliated with the United Workers Organization at American Motors and Allis Chalmers.

AWUF helped to focus the demands and to lead the contract struggle. As a center of leadership, AWUF began to provide the rank and file with an organized way of fighting.

Struggling to break out of its economic crisis, the owning class has launched one attack after another. Following the union busting drives in the Packing houses and at the Giddings and Lewis machine tool plants in Fond du Lac, workers at several heavy machinery shops, such as Bucyrus Erie were saddled with Early Bird settlements 6 months before their contracts were due to expire.

AMC started the new year with its offer of a one year freeze on all wages and

benefits. Allis Chalmers and Kearney and Trecker, where workers have extended their contracts, has threatened no retroactive pay. More of these attacks can be expected.

The ruling class is telling working people that these '77 contracts are a time to sacrifice. At the same time the corporate heads at AMC for example have had their salaries raised 16% to \$250,000 and Briggs & Stratton has started new lines and opened new plants. It was out of the workers' sweat and blood that these raises and developments came. The organized strength of this labor can be mobilized to push back these attacks, and make some real gains in the '77 contract fights.



HALF THE AIW SHOPS, LIKE BRIGGS & STRATTON, HAVE CONTRACTS EXPIRING IN 1977.



# Police Brutality

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

back. Bornhofer put his hands up.

The cop proceeded to beat him up, including hitting him in the head with the butt of his gun. Later, he was beaten some more in the paddy wagon.

\* \* \* \* \*

Bill Drew was attending a block party to help raise funds to send people to a July 4th demonstration in Philadelphia. The theme of the party and demonstration was, "We've carried the rich for 200 years - let's get them off our backs!"

Police attacked the block party swinging clubs and pulling many people off their own porches. They beat many people including Drew who is a writer for the Worker. 33 people were arrested.

Drew was subsequently convicted of disorderly conduct. He is now building support for his appeal.

\* \* \* \* \*

This blatant repression by the police is designed to intimidate - everybody. Whether you're attending a political rally or just going about your everyday business, the message is clear - "don't step out of line, or we'll step on you."

Like the police shootings of two years ago that killed Jerry Brookshire, Mary Pendleton and Johnny Starks; the rich man's system allows it to happen and go unpunished. They want us to live in fear and feel powerless.

But that's not the way it's going to go. Repression breeds resistance. 150 people came out for a rally in defense of Maria Rivera.

She took a stand and fought back. She could have forgotten the incident, but

she filed charges - the reason she now faces a possible two year prison term. Bornhofer and Butler have also filed charges against the police with the Police and Fire Commission. They wanted to fight against these attacks instead of just sitting back and taking it. But the F&PC has a sorry record of inactivity, delay and whitewash of police brutality cases. From 1968 to 1973 of 710 cases brought before it only one cop received any suspension.

The members are former policemen, former judges, top union hacks and people like the dean of Marquette University law school. Louis Miller a former member, resigned because he said the commission, "usually looks for things to disprove claims of police misconduct rather than looking to substantiate citizen complaints."

When Tom Bornhofer's mother went to the F&PC Leonce Rhodes, "community relations specialist" for the commission, turned off his tape recorder and told her if she went through with the charges she should be ready for harassment from the police. She replied, "Is that a threat?" He said, "No, I'm just tellin' it like it is."

This is the same guy who has said he "hopes to bring the human side of police officers...to the public attention", and police "have some of the same problems as the everyday guy on the street, and the policeman is not looking for applause, but he'd like to have some once in a while". Rhodes, a former deputy sheriff does all this for \$19,878 a year.

The only time the F&PC has taken any action against

the police is when they were forced to by mass pressure from the people. In 1973, four officers were disciplined in two separate incidents after tremendous mass outcry against the wave of brutality that followed the killing of two policemen that Ben Sanders was later convicted of.

ted of.

This is the way it will have to go around any present or future cases of police brutality. It is only the masses of people organizing and taking action in many ways against these outrages, that can set the police back.



PEOPLE DEMONSTRATED TO DEMAND JUSTICE AFTER THE POLICE MURDERS OF JOHNNY STARKS, MARY PENDLETON, AND JERRY BROOKSHIRE IN 1975

## Rhodesia Freedom Fighters

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

what a sham his acceptance of majority rule was. At the same time he was making pretensions at peace, his government stepped up their attacks on the people of Zimbabwe and neighboring countries, including killing 600 civilian men, women and children in one raid along the Mozambique border.

But the plans and schemes of the imperialists and the Smith regime to trick the Zimbabwean people to lay down their arms has come to nothing. They know that the only reason talks were conducted at all was due to their successes on the battlefield and the growing

desperation of Smith and his imperialist backers. They were not about to give up through talk the gains their struggle was winning. Instead they used the negotiations to strengthen their own forces while further exposing and weakening their enemies. By mobilizing the Zimbabwean people to take their own destiny into their own hands, and by not waiting passively and futilely for independence to be handed them, their strength and unity will continue to grow. The Zimbabwean people have shown that they can break through the schemes thrown in their path and fight on to complete victory.

## Free Puerto Rico

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4



DEMONSTRATION IN U.S. FOR PUERTO RICAN INDEPENDENCE

Once the U.S. ruling class and its Puerto Rican flunkies promised the Puerto Rican people that at least with US businesses they'd have jobs. But the flood of runaway shops from the U.S. ruined Puerto Rico's once rich agriculture and other local industries and forced a million Puerto Ricans to leave their land to look for work.

### GROWING STRUGGLES

Even Puerto Rico's pro-statehood party, founded by Puerto Rico's richest family and advised by the same public relations firm that advised Ford, didn't dare make statehood an issue in their campaign for governor but instead concentrated on economic promises. This party's incoming governor, Carlos Romero Barcelo, deliberately ignored Ford's statehood proposal in his inaugural address given a few days later--not because he opposed statehood, but because he has to deal directly with the real-

ity of how Puerto Ricans feel.

In fact, part of what prompted the statehood proposal in the first place was the fact that Puerto Rico's worsening situation has given rise to a great deal of struggle against the island's colonial conditions, including many hard fought strikes and workers demonstrations against their low wages and working conditions and the repression the workers face when they protest, and a growing movement for Puerto Rico's independence, which is gaining influence throughout Puerto Rico.

An unidentified "White House spokesman" widely quoted in the daily papers said Ford's statehood proposal "might be interpreted as an indication to Cuba's Fidel Castro that we value Puerto Rico and won't allow any tampering there."

It's certainly true that the USSR has its own imperialist designs on the Caribbean, working especially by

means of their cat's paw Cuba, a onetime American colony which has now become a colony of the Soviet Union. But this is certainly the pot calling the kettle black, because all this amounts to is one imperialist superpower telling another not to mess with its "property." Puerto Rico doesn't belong to the U.S. in the first place.

### INDEPENDENCE FOR PUERTO RICO

The struggle for the complete independence of Puerto Rico will not be easy, but it is the only way that the Puerto Rican people can solve the island's problems and move forward. It is a struggle aimed against the same class of bloodsuckers we are fighting against in our own country. For that reason the demand "Free Puerto Rico, Right Now" is an important demand for the U.S. working class to raise in our common struggle against the common enemy.



# UC CUTOFF

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

their demands directly to the top representatives of the ruling class with a demonstration right in the Senate Chambers. The delegation started chanting in the gallery and visitors started clapping in support. The police dragged the unemployed workers out and arrested three of them, but not before the politicians were put on notice that they were in for a real fight.

## EXTENSIONS

The laws extending unemployment benefits to 65 weeks were passed during the massive layoffs of the winter of 1974-75. As inadequate as these benefits are in terms of how long they last and how much they are, still for tens of thousands of workers unemployment benefits are the only thing standing between them and the degradation of welfare or worse. Yet, big business and the government that serves it is complaining that the extensions cost \$3.3 billion last year, and they certainly aren't going to continue to hand over that kind of money to the unemployed if they can get away with it. A bill which would have kept the extensions going after March went down to defeat in the Senate last October, and in some states the extensions have already been cut out.

Today a lot of workers are being backed up against the wall. One worker who recently joined UWOC told how he had no choice but to fight, since his benefits had been cut off and the food stamp office had refused

his application. The only job opening he could find paid only \$110 a week and even so there were 300 applications for the few openings that existed.

Workers got unemployment insurance in the first place because in the 1930s the working class put up such a fight that it scared the ruling class half to death. An older garment worker who spoke at the inauguration action in Washington explained, "It wasn't Roosevelt or any of the politicians that got us these benefits. And it sure in hell wasn't the capitalists. No, it was us—millions of working people. We fought them for five years to get this from them and we'll fight them for it today."

The extensions that were passed two years ago came about because Congress had to do something to hold down the anger of the millions who suddenly found themselves without work, and the hundreds of millions whose friends and neighbors were out of a job. Now two years later, with the economy still deep in trouble and no fundamental improvement in sight, the big monopolies that own Congress and everything else can't afford the "luxury" of letting even these paltry benefits slip from their hands. They figure that by cutting off 26 weeks of benefits they can save themselves some money that they could use for investment and at the same time force some of those thrown off the benefit rolls to take the first minimum wage job that comes along and help bring



THE FEDERAL BUILDING DOWNTOWN. UWOC MEMBERS & OTHERS JOINED IN NATIONWIDE ACTIONS TO DEFEND UC BENEFITS.

down the wages of all workers.

## UNEMPLOYED YOUTH

Already some Carter advisors have let it be known how they intend to get away with all this. Trying to foment divisions among the unemployed, they have said that unemployment is mainly a problem among youth and especially minority youth, and they plan to set up some so-called "training" programs to put youth to work at minimum wage, replacing laid off older workers, while ignoring and even denying the existence of the rest of the long-term unemployed. A speech by an unemployed youth at the Washington rally took on these plans head-on. "Most of us got two choices nowadays—unemployment and joining the army, and they both stink. But we won't be used to scab on our parents or as an excuse to take away benefits."

Employed as well as unemployed workers are joining in the campaign to stop the benefit cutoffs because the issue is so important to

the working class. Groups like the United Workers Organization in New York and in Milwaukee have been taking leaflets and petitions into the plants and factories where they work.

By dragging the issue into the open instead of letting the capitalists and their politicians keep it hidden, UWOC and organizations of employed workers are helping to create the conditions for even greater resistance to the cutoffs. Plans are being made to hold public hearings, go into the unions to get support and carry out increased actions at the unemployment centers. As the March deadline nears, the working class is beginning to pull its forces together to stop the capitalists' attempts to crush the unemployed and drag down the standard of living of the whole working class. If the ruling class doesn't back down on these benefit cuts, there will be hell to pay because workers are determined that this is one abuse that the capitalists just won't get away with. ■

# STEEL



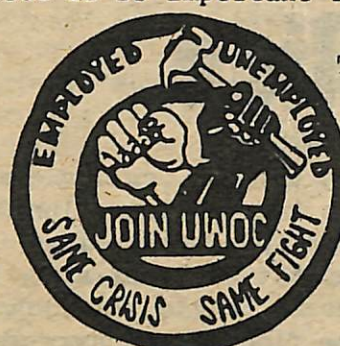
THE FIGHT TO ELECT SADLOWSKI IS A WAY TO BUST UP THE ABEL MACHINE AND BUILD ORGANIZATION AMONG THE RANK AND FILE.

CONT. FROM PAGE 4

have become stronger and more united. Of course it would be better if he won even though this will hardly end the struggle. But, whatever the outcome, through the campaign the rank and file organization has been developed and steel workers have delivered strong blows to the Abel-McBride machine.

In November, for example, McBride came to the Chicago-

Gary area for a fund-raising dinner which the machine took great efforts to hide from the 135,000 steel workers in the area. Nevertheless somebody found out about it and steel workers from the Chicago-Gary area and Milwaukee showed up to picket outside chanting, "I.W. Abel, Lloyd McBride, We Know You're On the Bosses' Side" and "No Right to Strike Can't Even Vote--Get Your



THE EXTENSIONS RUN OUT ON MARCH 31st  
WE'VE GOT TO ACT!!

Contact U.W.O.C. at:  
445-5816  
4409 W. North Avenue

Damn Hands Off Our Throats" (referring to the fact that now USWA members don't even vote on national contracts). While the local Sadlowski people had declined to back this kind of action, the picket helped lay out the truth and stir things up in a good way.

In the Cleveland-northeast Ohio area, people around the Steelworker, a national rank and file steel newspaper, played an important role in the Sadlowski Fight Back Committee, helping to organize a rally of 350 workers from different shops, one of the biggest at which Sadlowski spoke around the country. The song "No Strike Blues" hitting on the ENA (Abel's no strike agreement) stirred a lot of spirit at the rally

and copies of the Steelworker were read by many.

The fight to elect Ed Sadlowski in steel is a way to bust up the Abel machine and build organization among the rank and file. However it is only one tactic. After the elections the tactics will obviously change, especially with a national contract coming up in steel. The Steelworker and various local rank and file groups have called for a demonstration of steel workers in Washington, D.C. on February 14, the opening day of negotiations in basic steel. Whether or not Sadlowski wins, the struggle against the steel companies and their agents in the union will continue. ■



# CAN CONTRACT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

tainly don't want thousands of Can workers voting in the February 8th International elections thinking about how they'd just been sold out.)

## JOBS BIG ISSUE

But the workers aren't planning on knuckling under just because the companies want them to. Already the lines are being drawn around the upcoming contract. For Can workers like many other workers the big question is what's happening to their jobs. There are now about 30% fewer Can workers in the USWA than there were a few years ago and the number is still dropping. This has come about through plant shut-downs, job eliminations and combinations, speedup, forced overtime and new types of cans.

In Milwaukee, Continental and American both cut back on workers by 20 to 30% in the

last five years by combining jobs and adding new machinery. In some plants the line speed is up to 620 cans an hour from 360, 4 years ago. And during the months of peak production, 16 hour days and 6 and 7 day weeks are normal followed by months of short weeks and layoffs. At Schlitz container here, the workers put in 12 hour days, 3 days one week and 4 the next, to keep the plant running 24 hours a day, seven days a week with only two shifts.

What do the union officials say about all this? Not much. First they say that the massive job elimination has cut membership down so far that they don't have the power to take on the companies. The other thing that they're talking about is going for early retirement and a 4 day week.

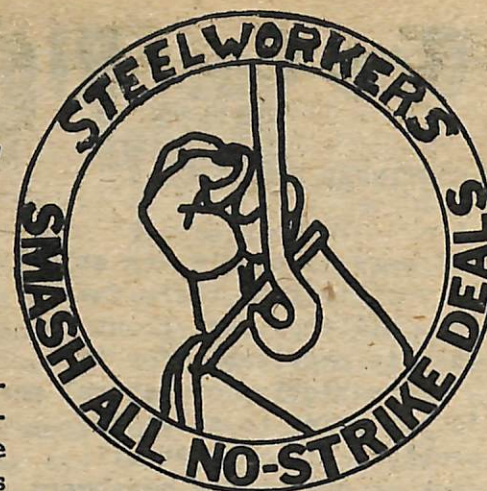
That's the same smoke Woodcock was blowing in the UAW's recent contract battle

with the big 3. He used that talk as a cover for not taking on the very real ways that the companies were and are threatening auto workers' jobs. And that's just what's up in Can. What good is a 4 day week if they can work you all the overtime they want?

And this question of jobs isn't the only beef the workers have got with the companies. There's also things like wages, SUB pay (which is less than in Basic and subject to being cut down or off like SUB pay in Beth last summer) and a slow moving grievance procedure.

Steelworkers are standing up to the can companies in many ways. 20 guys at American Can refused Saturday overtime to stop the harassment from one foreman. Continental Can workers who were laid off and then refused benefits are making demands for their compensation.

Broader battles like the campaign to elect Sadlowski and dump the Abel-McBride machine are uniting workers



throughout the plants and steel industry.

Rank and file fighters at American and Continental are among the most active in the campaign to Bust up the Abel Machine, Elect Sadlowski. They see it as a chance to build a fight against job combinations and layoffs by putting some big cracks in the company's control of the union.

In the course of this workers are starting to build up their strength and organization to prevent the no-strike ENA, in can, and fight for their national contract coming up in October.■

# CARTER'S PARDON

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

Angry reaction to Carter's phony pardon has not been slow in appearing. Exile organizations and other organizations fighting for universal and unconditional amnesty, including religious and political groups, have declared that they are planning to continue the fight.

Vietnam Veterans Against the War chapters around the country called press conferences and held actions, like a 40 person picketline in the Bay Area of California, to respond to Carter's fraudulent pardon. In all of them VVAW declared that the fight for universal, unconditional amnesty and a single-type discharge for all veterans would continue as a part of the veterans' struggle. The VVAW spokesmen made it clear that the organization not only defends the resistance of draft exiles

and GIs to the Vietnam war, but that the capitalists can't expect anything but more of the same if they drag the masses of people into a new war to defend their profits.

Despite all this, resistance in the military was extremely high during Vietnam, from individual goofing off to organized refusal to obey orders or go into combat to fragging of officers. The present pardon already has the Pentagon worried about discipline. Retired general William Westmoreland who was commander of all U.S. forces in Vietnam has been whining about how it "will weaken the country militarily and hurt our morale." Imagine his reaction when universal and unconditional amnesty is won!

To try and cool out the demand further, Carter's par-

don included instructions to the Armed Forces to study some categories of discharge with an eye to "a possible upgrading by category or an expanded and accelerated review process." Leaving this question in the hands of the military, whose present system could finish reviewing all bad discharges no sooner than the year 2177, is about the same as filing it in a wastebasket as Carter knows full well.

## FORGET VIETNAM?

The last big aim of the new president's pardon was, to cite his own words, "to heal our country after the Vietnam war" so that, while differences still remain, "we can now agree to respect these differences and to forget them." "And to forget them." There's nothing Carter and the businessmen and bankers he works for would like better than to have the American people forget the Vietnam war, forget

all that we learned about how, for the U.S., it was nothing but a rich man's war, forget that we rose up in the millions and fought against that war and helped bring it to an end.

Many of their spokesmen now say that the war in Indochina was in fact "a mistake." But that's another cover-up. The Indochina war was a direct result of the capitalists' need to ever increase their profits. They sent the sons of the working class to fight their bloody battles so that they could increase plunder and maintain political control. But they came up against two obstacles: the determination and political strength of the Indochinese people who for years had fought for their own liberation, and the growing struggle of the American people to put an end to that war. All these lessons the ruling class hopes to blot out of the people's memories.■

# AMC WAGE FREEZE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

The auto section of the United Workers Organization of Milwaukee, a militant organization of workers from many industries in the area who have come together in a common determination to fight the attacks of the capitalists on the whole working class, put out a call: "Vote NO on any attacks on wages! No takeaways! To hell with their profits. We can't be driven down any more. We've got to get organized and fight for ourselves."

The UWO has posterized in Kenosha and at the Body Plant saying "Stop AMC's Wage Freeze. No Takeaways--Hands off TRA!" In the past year

the UWO has leafletted every time the company hit at the men and women at AMC. When the Gremlin line was moved to Kenosha the UWO picketed at the Body Plant and at City Hall demanding that the jobs remain in Milwaukee.

Now AMC has announced it made \$1.2 million in the first quarter of '77. The money was made only through intense speedup and heavy layoffs. AMC hopes the favorable results will begin to attract more investments. Capitalists always look for the most profitable place to put their money. Investing here, pulling it out, investing there. Whether people need the pro-

duct or workers need the jobs is irrelevant to them.

But whatever happens to AMC stock ratings, one thing is certain. Giving into the company's attempts at robbery is not going to save any jobs. At Studebaker in the '50s, the workers first took a pay cut of a dollar an hour and then the plant closed anyway. In the early '60s AMC said that they would eliminate 10% of the jobs through time study, now the workforce is cut in half.

In 1970 AMC workers were forced to accept a 4 year contract that fell behind the Big Three. The company then bought Jeep right after the '70 contract. In 1973 and '74 AMC made record profits--and used them to automate jobs and build a non-union engine block plant

in Richmond, Indiana.

On the assembly lines, in the bars, after work and in United Workers Organization meetings, AMC workers are saying, "Hey, we made all their wealth. Look at this town of Kenosha. Almost every family in it has put out for AMC's profits. Is it all so they can run us like crazy, cause heart attacks and accidents on the assembly lines, freeze our pay, maybe shut down? Leave us with nothing? Is it all so the big bosses we made rich can stay on top and treat us like so many statistics in the profits and losses columns? We've got to vote no, reject any attack, and organize to fight them." This is the road ahead. ■



# Gas Co. Ripoff

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

not care if people are able to work to feed their families. All they care about is what is profitable for them.

Deregulation of natural gas is not going to solve the problem, although it will jack up prices for consumers and profits for the oil and gas companies. In the immediate short run, the companies have let the shortage become so acute that it's possible that the hardest hit states can't be supplied before an even more disastrous situation develops. And in the long run it doesn't deal with the basic problem that while the gas companies profits are massive, the rate of profit on gas exploration and production is continuing to decline as each company is forced to lay out vast sums on equipment in the race to stay ahead in their competitive, anarchistic system. This is why companies like Mobile Oil have been investing heavily in real estate instead of exploring and drilling for oil and gas in the U.S.--it's more profitable.

The capitalists have shown very clearly in this crisis, as they have countless times before, that they are unfit to rule and that their system is a barrier to meeting the needs of the people.

The gas companies and the government say that the terrible weather is responsible

for the misery and suffering the shortage is causing people to face. Some auto companies won't pay unemployment benefits because they say the plant closings are caused by an 'act of God.' The Governor of Ohio has ordered emergency shelters prepared in case people have to vacate their homes and has issued a call for two days of prayer.

But people are already angry at the situation and the more they see through this nonsense and learn who is really to blame, the angrier they get.

Is it an 'act of God' that caused a 72 year old Milwaukee man to have his legs amputated after they became frostbitten when the gas company shut off his heat?

Was it the weather that forced a mother of five in Chicago to burn her furniture in the fireplace for heat when her gas was shut off?

This situation does not call for freezing or praying, it calls for struggle.

With millions already unemployed due to their screwed up economy there is no way people can accept still more massive layoffs and a bunch of jive excuses to deny them income. The companies must keep people working in warm plants or pay them anyway.

And as far as submitting to the companies' blackmail, people are not going to freeze or go broke paying exorbitant bills for the sake of their profits.

## Hawaii Land Struggle

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

the Waiahole-Waikane Community Association and organized to defeat the rezoning.

Marks and Pao didn't give up. They jacked rents up sky-high to force the tenants out. The tenants went on a rent strike. She went for eviction orders. The tenants fought a delaying battle in the courts. The judge ordered the tenants' individual bank accounts seized to pay Marks. A storm of public outrage forced him to drop this plan.

### JUDGE ORDERED EVICTIONS

Finally, in September of 1976, the judge ordered the evictions start October 1. The Community Association responded by going all out to mobilize broad support. Demonstrations and rallies against the courts and at the homes of Marks and Pao drew hundreds of supporters.

Such high and mighty types as the Mayor of Honolulu and the Governor were forced by the public anger to pronounce opposition to the proposed developments, even as they met daily with the landlady and developer to plan how to get the evictions through.

### TENANTS BURNED WRITS

On Monday, January 3, the Sheriff's Office delivered

79 writs of eviction at the mouth of the Valley. The residents built a bonfire in the middle of the street and burned them, which made front page news and fueled the support movement. The next night was when the blockade stopped the eviction attempt.

### OCCUPATION STAYED STRONG

Through the rest of the week, leafletting teams covered the islands, getting the real story out. Phone calls, letters and delegations deluged the offices of the Governor and Mayor. The United Public Workers Union, 8000 strong on Oahu, voted support. The occupation of the Valley stayed strong--workers from all over Oahu and some from other islands took vacation time, called in sick or spent all their time-off in shifts standing guard. Daily mass meetings summed up developments and laid plans. During the days, school classes and community groups were taken on tours of the Valley to learn about the struggle and the issues involved.

This growing support, combined with the unity and discipline of the tenants, forced the enemy to back off for the present.

# 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, CALL 445-5816 OR WRITE:

RCP, USA  
Box 3486  
Merchandise Mart  
Chicago, IL

The Worker for the Milwaukee Area and Wisconsin  
4409 W. North Ave.  
Milwaukee, WI 53208

## Inmates Protest Death

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

these symptoms were not enough to warrant the institution's medical attention or treatment.

Mr. Kidd often went on sick call. But according to an inmate, "On sick call you're healthy until proven ill. Not the other way around. Everybody is suspected of goldbricking. Only the most obvious cases ever get past the nurses and treated by the doctor." The inmate went on, "When 1000 men are encased in a mountain of concrete walls and steel bars and they go to work every day for 50¢, somebody is bound to try to go on sick call when he's not really sick. But what about the man who's got a disease you can't really see? They don't give a damn about us."

In 1974 an inmate named Vernel Thomas died of cancer and his disease wasn't caught till 5 months before he passed away, even though he was losing weight very fast.

Before James Richardson died in 1971, also of cancer.

he was sent from Fox Lake to Central State Hospital for the mentally ill. The prison officials thought his weight loss was an indication of a mental problem.

The same thing happened that same year to Larry Craple at Fox Lake. He died of pneumonia.

Waupun Warden Thomas Israel responded to the inmates demands that it's impossible to get a full time doctor or regular medical check ups. Israel came to Waupun as a reform warden to smooth out the protest and unrest that reached a peak with the July 27th metal shop takeover. But the reforms only go so far. When it comes down to treating a man like a man or spending the state's money, Israel has to back off. For the 1,000 men at Waupun there's no such thing as rehabilitation. The prison is there to break them down.

As the inmate's letter says "Mr. Kidd was killed by the neglect of the prison officials. He did not just die over night."

## AOS-Dozens Stop Work

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

As second shift started coming in the message over the loud speakers was "Let's support these brothers 100%. They had every right to refuse to work! They were sticking up for everyone of us working in the plant and all working people." Dozens stopped in freezing temperatures to sign petitions backing up the grievance demanding 8 hours pay. Throughout the plant word of the action is spreading and gaining support.

The brothers at AO Smith took a stand for workers all over Milwaukee; like those at Briggs and Stratton where the company has turned the heat down to 55 degrees or at Ev-inrude where 450 have been laid off. By refusing to work in the cold and by demanding 8 hours pay these workers are letting it be known they won't suffer because of the energy crisis the capitalists have created. At the same time they won't sit back and let their families go hungry because they're laid off.

This winter's is the second energy "crisis" we have faced in the past three years.

In 1974 West Virginia coal miners wildcatted when the governor rationed gas in such small amounts that the miners couldn't go back and forth to work. They demanded enough gas to meet their needs. They won that demand.

Later that year truckers struck over the ways the system was hitting them through diesel shortages and speed limits. These struggles are an example of the power of working people against shortages and cutoffs.

The United Workers Organization/Fighting Times at AO Smith and city-wide has joined in the fight to demand the 8 hours pay. On the following Wednesday a rally and press conference were held in front of gate 3 on 27th Street at shift change.

Like the press statement by the UWO read, "They have the nerve to tell us to sacrifice, turn down the heat, work in the cold or go on layoff."

"The action these brothers took is just the beginning. The UWO stands solidly with them. The fight against making us pay for their crisis is the fight of all working people."



# Batalla contra Desalojos

CONTINUA DE PAGINA 19

ron más avisos en la puerta del hotel.

La noche de miercoles el 12 de enero cuando los centros comunales y las tiendas deberían moverse, el Comité, la Asociación de Residentes y otros apoyantes llamaron una manifestación masiva para desafiar a la orden. 2500 gente se apretaron en las calles frente del hotel. Los estibadores del Local 6 de la ILWU organizaron una caravana de carros para traer a la gente. Mientras parte de la manifestación permaneció al frente del edificio, el Comité Obrero dirigió a 500 trabajadores, gente de la comunidad, estudiantes y juvenes en una marcha a

traves del Barrio Chino. Llevando faroles y tambores, gritaron consignas y llamaron a la gente a apoyar a la lucha del I-Hotel. Las aceras estaban tan llenas de gente que tuvieron que marchar por la calle. Cuando la marcha de acercó a unas de las caserías enormes del Barrio Chino, se vió una bandera grande puesta por los inquilinos, que decía, "Residentes de Pin Yuen están por los residentes del I-Hotel."

El domingo el 16 de enero, el día en que los 80 residentes deberían de irse, el apoyo a la llamada de la Asociación de Residentes y otros fue algo aún más impresionante. 5000 gente de

todas nacionalidades llenaron las calles del centro financiero que queda acerca del Barrio Chino. Incluso había 12 buses de una iglesia negra.

Por toda la semana el Sheriff, el Alcalde y la Autoridad de Vivienda Pública fueron forzados a escuchar a las protestas de la gente contra la tentativa de desalojar al I-Hotel. Más de 12,000 personas firmaron una petición en apoyo a los residentes. Cada noche el hotel tenía barricadas en las entradas y mucha gente permanecía en las tiendas y en los centros comunales.

El lunes por la tarde los capitalistas y las cortes se retiraron en cuanto a la orden de desalojo. A las 5:30 de la tarde, sólo un poco tiempo antes de la hora fijada por un asalto por los

sheriffes y la policía, el juez postergó la orden de desalojo para un mes más adelante.

Fue una victoria dramática y triunfante. Pero no es la victoria final. Mucha gente se ha enterado de que los dueños y los que los respaldan no van a rendirse. La lucha está siguiendo y los apoyantes del I-Hotel van organizando sobre la base de esta victoria para que sean aún más fuertes frente al próximo ataque.

Las victorias ganadas por la lucha de masa han sido muy inspirantes para mucha gente. A un trabajador del correo activo en esta lucha dos de sus compañeros de trabajo le dijeron despues de la confrontación exitosa, "¡?Ya ganamos, no es cierto? ¡Sigue con la lucha, pues, no seas flojo ahora!"

## Editor Encarcelado

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guien que atestiguara contra la fiesta. El testigo estrella, una muchacha de 18 años nunca había visto a Drew ni antes ni despues de la fiesta. Sin embargo pudo identificarlo positivamente como aquel que surgió de la muchedumbre y golpeó a un policía. Sus comentarios contradecían y exageraban tanto las acusaciones hechas por la policía que era obvio que había sido amenazada o se le había prometido algo a cambio de su testimonio contra Drew. Despues del juicio las firmas de dos de los testigos de la policía fueron descubiertas en una petición contra la brutalidad de la policía, que había sido circulada por el vecindario un día despues de la fiesta.

Pero a pesar de todos los esfuerzos hechos por debaratar la protesta del 4 de Julio, la manifestación se llevó a cabo tal como planeada una semana despues de los arrestos hechos durante la fiesta. Centenares de manifestant-

es, incluyendo 3 autobuses llenos de personas procedentes de Milwaukee se congregaron en Filadelfia dispuestos a exponer sus ideas. No fue sino hasta ese momento que las autoridades decidieron emitir el permiso para desfilar. Entonces, en el mismo día en que los ricos estaban rindiéndole homenaje a esa fecha como un gran tributo a su sistema, los manifestantes se alinearon en contingentes: obreros de la industria del automóvil, metalúrgicos, carniceros, textileros, e electricistas, desempleados veteranos, estudiantes y jóvenes-extendiéndose hasta más allá de donde alcanzaba la vista.

"Hemos mantenido a los ricos por 200 años, saquémosnoslos de encima", dijeron 5000 voces que contaron la verdadera historia de este país.

La "Batalla Bicentennial" del 4 de Julio fue una gran victoria para la clase obrera. El tribunal y enjuiciamiento de Bill Drew y el juicio pendiente de dos

personas más detenidas durante la fiesta representan un contra ataque contra la coalición. Pero ninguna sentencia ni juicio manipulado puede borrar lo que se ganó durante la batalla librada acerca del significa-

do del Bicentenario.

Actualmente Bill Drew esta en libertad pendiente de una apelación. El comité de defensa del "Deshagámonos de los ricos" inició una campaña para recaudar fondos para su defensa.



## Anti-Eviction Battle

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

On Sunday afternoon, Jan. 16th--the day the 80 residents of the hotel were supposed to be out--an even more massive outpouring of support responded to a call by the Tenants Association and others. 5000 people of all nationalities filled the streets and shook the walls of the financial building. Twelve busloads of people from a predominantly Black church in the city turned out.

All during the week the switchboards of the sheriff, the Mayor and the Public Housing Authority were clogged with calls denouncing the eviction attempt. Over 12,000 people signed petitions supporting the tenants. The hotel was barricaded and scores of volunteers staying in the stores and community centers every night.

On Monday evening the courts and the capitalists gave up on their eviction order. At 5:30 pm, only hours

before the time the radio reports said the sheriffs and police were going to mobilize all the force needed to carry out the eviction, the judge ordered a one month stay of his eviction order.

STRUGGLE CONTINUES

It was a dramatic and triumphant victory. But it is not the final victory. Many see that the owners and their backers are not surrendering. The struggle is continuing and I-Hotel supporters are moving quickly to build on this victory to be stronger to fight the next attack.

The victories won through mass struggle have been a great inspiration to many people in San Francisco and elsewhere who see this battle as their own. A postal worker active in the fight for the hotel was greeted by two coworkers when he got to work the day after the judge had backed down: "We won, didn't we! Keep it up, don't relax now!"

## Arson for Profit

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

to the bank.

Bloom, a guy who learned all the tricks of the system at an early age, was taking part in the ripoff which high finance is based on. Banks like University National and American City, which was recently driven out of business must constantly seek more money from profitable investments. Mortgages on inner city property are often not that profitable because landlords often can't get the rent from tenants who either withhold rent or move out because of rundown conditions or their inability to pay. A landlord who can pay his debts to the bank or mortgage company with fire insurance money is a welcome sight.

Bloom, who was up to his ears in criminal arson and

fraud, was never indicted, but was granted immunity from prosecution. He was associated with dozens of other bankers and real estate men, all playing the same game. To indict Bloom they would have had to indict their whole system.

But the "arson for profit" scandal was very widespread and some insurance companies had been defrauded. So two of the arsonists, Roland and Steven Hansen, are being sacrificed and face possible federal jail terms.

When profit is the driving force of a system, a handful has a free hand to use and abuse the majority. When sky high rents aren't enough to satisfy that profit drive, they'll even burn down our housing and they'll take the lives of our people. Can we let this rotten system go on?



# 4 PRESOS Y EL OBRERO DEMANDAN A WAUPUN

Cuatro presidiarios de la prision estatal en Waupun y The Worker han iniciado una demanda en contra de administradores actuales así como exadministradores acusando de no haber permitido la entrada a periodicos de tipo politico en dicho presidio. Los cuatro individuos (Clayton Cook, Karleton Armstrong, Joseph Hayes y Clayton Lampe) son algunos de los presos que se subscribieron a The Worker y ahora se quejan de no haber recibido ninguna edicion de tal periodico durante los ultimos 2 anos.

Hace ya mucho tiempo que los presos han protestado las restricciones en contra de la correspondencia que reciben. Dicha censura es

solamente una de tantas protestas por las que se ha luchado tenazmente en esta prision. Durante el mes de julio del ano pasado arriesgaron hasta la vida tomando el taller destinado a producir letreros metaticos. A consecuencia de este acto de violencia algunas de las peticiones de los prisidarios fueron concedidas inclusive, el disminuir la censura de escritos de tipo politico.

Ahora que The Worker esta siendo distribuido dentro de Waupun es impriscindible continuan la dimanda por \$65,000 en contra de esta institucion debido a la censura anterior de este periodico y conseguir que los reglamentos restrictivos en

cuanto a publicaciones de tipo politico sean anulados. En la actualidad indican que se puede prohibir la entrada a cualquier cosa que constituya un peligro para la seguridad o la disciplina dentro de la institucion. Este reglamento tan imprisciso se ha utilizado y aun se utiliza para negar la entrada a un periodico que muestra la verdad sobre situaciones tanto fuera como dentro del presidio actualmente The Worker esta tratando de incrementar el numero de suscripciones dentro de las penitenciaris de Wisconsin y la vez tratando de reunir testimonios y cartas de los presos y de sus familias para exponer algunos de

los abusos mas grandes que se cometen dentro de las cárceles. Haciendo incapie en las hostigaciones; situaciones en que los guardias golpean a los presos en las secciones segregados de los presidios; la cuestion de sueldos tan bajos; las injusticias cometidas en lo tocante a la libertad bajo fianza; así como otras condiciones. Esto se lleva a cabo para unir a los presos y exponer estas condiciones deplorables en el mundo entero. El control de los periodicos esta en manos de los administradores del presidio. The Worker puede contribuir como vocero de las opiones de los presidiarios.

Ademas The Worker puede servir como vehiculo para condicir informacion de tipo politico y educar a los presos en la lucha de los trabajadores.

## Protestas Contra Cortes en Paga de Desempleo

CONTINUA DE PAGINA 20  
lejos de ser suficientes en terminos de dinero y de duracion, para cientos de miles de trabajadores son lo único que previene la degradación del welfare o algo peor. Los negociantes y el gobierno están quejando que estas extensiones le costaron \$3.3 billion el año pasado, y claro que no van a dejar salir de sus manos tanto dinero a los desempleados si tienen otra alternativa. Un proyecto de ley para extender las extensiones después de marzo perdió en el Senado en octubre, y en algunos estados estas extensiones ya han sido eliminadas.

Las extensiones de beneficios por 65 semanas pasaron hace dos años porque el Congreso tuvo que hacer algo para refrenar el coraje de los millones que de repente se encontraron sin trabajo, y de los cientos de millones cuyos amigos y vecinos ya no tuvieron trabajo y no pudieron ser convencidos de que los empleados son todos "flojos" quienes tienen la culpa por sus propios problemas. Ahora, dos años más tarde, con la economía todavía en un aprieto y sin esperanzas de ningún mejoramiento fundamental, los monopolistas grandes que poseen el Congreso y casi todo no quieren hacer el gasto "de lujo" de estos beneficios. Piensan que con eliminar 26 semanas de benefi-

cios pueden ahorrar dinero para invertir en sus industrias y a la vez forzar a algunos de los robados de sus beneficios aceptar cualquier trabajo a sueldo minimo y así ayudar a bajar los sueldos de todos trabajadores.

### JUVENTUD DESEMPLEADA

Ya algunos de los consejeros de Carter han decidido como piensan hacer todo esto. Tratando de fomentar divisiones entre los desempleados, han dicho que el desempleo es un problema mayormente de la juventud y sobre todo la juventud minoritaria. Tienen planificado establecer supuestos "programas de adiestramiento" para que los jovenes hagan a sueldo minimo trabajos anteriormente de trabajadores mas viejos ya despedidos. No hacen caso al resto de los que llevan mucho tiempo sin trabajo. Un discurso de un joven desempleado en Washington se refirió a esto planes. "La mayoría de nosotros tenemos dos alternativas pesimas--o el desempleo o el ejército. Pero no vamos a ser esquirols contra nuestros padres ni vamos a dejarnos usar como excusa para quitar beneficios."

Sacando el asunto a la luz en vez de dejando que los capitalistas y sus politiqueros lo mantengan en el oscuro, UWOC y organizacion-



es de trabajadores empleados están ayudando a crear las condiciones para aún más resistencia contra los cortes. Estan planificado tener asambleas, ir a las uniones para apoyo y llevar a cabo más acciones en las oficinas de desempleo.

Al acercarse el fin de marzo y la fecha en que se eliminarían las extensiones, la clase obrera está empe-

zando a reunir sus fuerzas para parar a los esfuerzos de los capitalistas para aplastar a los desempleados y bajar el nivel de vida de toda la clase obrera. Si la clase dominante no cede en cuanto a los cortes de beneficios, los trabajadores van a darle duro a ellos proque esto es un ultraje que no vamos a dejar pasar.

## EMPLEO DESEMPLEO MISMA CRISIS MISMA LUCHA



## Puerto Rico

un issue en la elección del gobernador. Al contrario, trató de enfocar la compana en promesas económicas. El nuevo gobernador quien es de este partido, Carlos Romero Barcelo, no hizo caso al pronunciamiento de Ford en su discurso inaugural unos pocos días más adelante, aunque sí ese aboga por la estadidad, porque como gobernador tiene que tomar en cuenta el sentir del pueblo puertorriqueño. Lo mejor que pudo decir es que trataría de convencer al pueblo durante su término.

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De hecho, uno de los motivos que impulsaron al proposito de estadidad fue la subida de lucha contra las condiciones coloniales en la isla, incluso muchas huelgas bien militantes y manifestaciones obreros contra los sueldos de hambre, las condiciones de trabajo pesimas y la represión que los obreros enfrentan cuando protestan, y el creciente movimiento independentista que va cobrando influencia por toda la isla.

Un "fuente no identificada de la Casa Branca" muy ampliamente citada dijo que Ford hizo su proposito "con

motivo de decirle a Cuba y a Fidel Castro que estimamos a Puerto Rico y no vamos a permitir a nadie entremeterse."

Claro que la Union Soviética tiene sus propios planes imperialistas para el Caribe trabajando especialmente por medio de Cuba, lo que antes era una colonia americana y hoy en día es colonia soviética. Pero esta declaración es pura hipocrasia nomás, es sólo un caso de que una superpotencia imperialista acusa de imperialista a otra. Puerto Rico no es propiedad de EEUU y el gobierno de EEUU no tiene ningún derecho a hablar en cuanto al "entre-

meterse" en Puerto Rico.

La lucha por la independencia completa de Puerto Rico no será fácil, pero no hay ninguna otra salida para que el pueblo quertorriqueño resuelva sus problemas y avance. Esta lucha está dirigida contra la misma clase de chupasangres contra quienes nosotros estamos luchando en nuestro propio país. Por eso la demanda "¡Libertad para Puerto Rico Ahora!" es una consigna de combate muy importante para la clase obrera de EEUU en nuestra lucha común contra el enemigo común.



# Victoria Dramatica en Batalla Contra Desalojos

Por ocho años los dueños has estado tratando de desalojar a los residentes del International Hotel en San Francisco. Vez tras vez los desalojos han sido bloqueados por las mobilizaciones de masas de gente de toda el Area de la Bahía, y los dueños han sido forzados a dar nuevos contratos de arrendamiento en varias ocasiones. Pero al principio del año nuevo todo el mundo pensaba que se acrecaba la confrontación final.

La corporacion que es dueño del hotel y el resto de la clase capitalistas en la ciudad habían decidido que ya era hora de poner fin al asunto. Les molestaban hasta la idea de que los residentes del I-Hotel podían desafiar los derechos sagrados de la propiedad privada.

¿Que derecho tenían los residentes a bloquear los esfuerzos de los dueños a botarlos a la calle y demoler el edificio para dar lugar a una inversión más gananciosa?

Se esperaba que los 80 trabajadores jubilados chinos y filipinos quienes habían trabajado toda la vida produciendo riqueza para los capitalistas se fueran en silencio, sin molestar a nadie, dejando a sus hogares para buscar otra vivienda con los \$260 mensual que muchos tienen para vivir.

Pues, no ha sucedido lo que se esperaba. Los residentes se han ido a las calles repetidamente, y no en submisión a las ordenes y derechos de propiedad de los dueños. Se han ido a las calles unidos y a veces acompañados por cientos y miles de apoyantes, desafiando a los capitalistas y diciéndoles, "Al diablo con



2,500 CONGREGADOS EN APOYO DEL I-HOTEL. POCOS DIAS DESPUES 5,000 MANIFESTARON.

sus ganancias, fin a los desalojos, no nos mudamos, tenemos el derecho a vivienda barata y los centros comunales!"

La lucha para defender el I-Hotel y por vivienda barata ha llegado a ser el foco de una lucha tremenda en el Area de la Bahía. Por meses esta lucha ha estado en las noticias incluso la TV y el radio, mientras los residentes y sus simpatizantes se

defendieron contra cada ataque de los dueños, las cortes, la policía y el oficialaje municipal.

La tremenda controversia y publicidad surgidas de la lucha han forzado a los oficiales de la ciudad a adoptar ante el público una posición de "apoyo" a los residentes. Las cortes, las agencias públicas y la municipalidad todos han chocado con el movimiento de masas.

El alcalde trató de bregar con esta situación ofreciendo un esquema tramposo para la compra del hotel por la municipalidad y la venta subsecuente del mismo a los inquilinos por 1 million. Este plan fue denunciado como un plan de desalojo disfrazado, por el Comité Obrero para Defender el I-Hotel.

El sheriff se vió forzado a tomar parte en una farsa cómica y grotesca con las cortes y al fin se halló bajo juicio por contumacia por fallar a llevar a cabo la orden de desalojo con la excusa que era "demasiado difícil y peligroso." Resulto bajo pena de cinco días en la carcel--el juez gritó que nadie podría fallar a cumplir sus ordenes.

Pero cuando 20 diputados de sheriff vinieron al hotel a las 9:30 de la mañana el 7 de enero para fijar el aviso de desalojo, les confrontaron 300 gente mobilizada por el Comité Obrero y la Asociación de Residentes del I-Hotel. Un estibador jubilado vino y llamó al despachador de la sala de unión para que vinieran sus compañeros. Formaron una línea de piquete muy disciplinada de filas de cuatro frente al hotel, impidiendo que los sheriffs pasaran para fijar el aviso en la puerta del hotel. Cuando la policía finalmente fijaron algunos avisos en la pared del primer piso, estos fueron sacados y quemados frente a los diputados, la policía y las camaras de TV. Entonces el Comité envió una delegación a la oficina del Sheriff. Echaron el aviso en su escritorio y le dijeron que ningun papel iba a hacerlos moverse. Unos días más tarde los sheriffs regresaron a escondidas y clavaron

PASA A LA PAGINA 17

## Editor Del Obrero Recibe Sentencia De 30 Dias

El 17 de diciembre Bill Drew fue hallado culpable y sentenciado a 30 días de cárcel, acusado de incitar desórdenes a raíz del ataque de la policía durante las festividades callejeras llevadas a cabo el 26 de junio bajo la demanda de "Hemos Cargado A Los Ricos Por 200 Años--Ya No Aguantamos Mas" El fallo vino después de haber rechazado otros 30 cargos en que los acusados fueron encontrados inocentes. Las oficinas del Fiscal de Milwaukee hizo un gran esfuerzo por llevar a cabo las acusaciones contra Drew, uno de los organizadores del evento. Evidencia falso por parte de la policía, testigos de sorpresa, supresión de evidencia en defensa, y la propia sentencia--todo esto se utilizó para justificar los atropellos hechos por la policía y atacar la "Coalición del 4 de Julio--Deshagámonos de los Ricos."

Drew fue una de las 33 personas detenidas esa no

noche en que docenas de policías armados descendieron sobre los pacíficos participantes de la fiesta callejera en la cuadra 2700 de la Calle Booth Norte. La coalición había organizado la fiesta para recaudar dinero para enviar algunas personas a la manifestación de protesta Bicentaria en Filadelfia.

El ataque de la policía contra los celebrantes fue un esfuerzo destinado a disminuir el impacto de la protesta del 4 de Julio. El alcalde maton de Filadelfia, Frank Rizzo, había hecho su célebre petición de 15,000 tropas federales, supuestamente para desfilar en Filadelfia fueron rechazados. La clase dominante no quería ninguna competencia para su extravagante celebración del Bicentenario rojo, blanco y azul.

En la cuadra 2700 de la Calle Booth Norte, la policía estaba más que dispuesta a usar sus porras contra todo aquel que osara



EL TRIBUNAL DE BILL DREW REPRESENTAN UN ATAQUE CONTRA LA DEMOSTRACION DEL 4 DE JULIO EN FILADELFIA.

poner en duda la grandeza de aquella celebración Bicentaria. Primero vinieron diciendo que las festividades necesitaban un permiso especial; luego dijeron que Drew había sido el que había causado el incidente. En realidad, Drew fue golpeado dos veces

y detenido durante la primera barrida hecha por la policía a través del gentío.

El Fiscal presentó a cuatro testigos que la policía había conseguido yendo de puerta en puerta en el vecindario de la calle Booth en búsqueda de al-

PASA A LA PAGINA 17



# EL OBRERO

Vol. 1, No. 2

25¢

# Protestas Contra Cortes en Paga de Desempleo

La clase dominante de este país esta tratando de atacar a los desempleados a escondidas. Aunque han tratado de callar toda publicidad, según la ley federal al fin de marzo el número de semanas de beneficios que un trabajador desempleado puede recibir será rebajado de 65 a 39 semanas. Pero la naturaleza tan bárbara de este ataque ha enfurecido a los trabajadores que se han enterado, y este coraje está siendo organizado en resistencia de masas a través del país.

Mientras Carter estaba gozando su fiesta de inauguración que costó \$4 million, después de haber pedido "sacrificio" del pueblo en su discurso inaugural, 350 trabajadores incluso ambos empleados y desempleados, veteranos y jóvenes, convergeron en Washington D.C. de todas partes de la Costa del Este y algunas ciudades del Medio Oeste para denunciar este asalto a los beneficios de desempleo y dar a saber que los trabajadores no tienen ganas de sacrificarse a si mismos y a sus familias para el Gran Dios La Ganancia.

Esta manifestación inaugural fue parte de una campaña que se está desarrollando contra las rebajas de beneficios. Para quebrar el silencio en cuanto al issue hasta ahora y ponerlo a la luz

# Puerto Rico: Independencia Si, Estadidad No

Durante sus últimos momentos en la Casa Blanca, Gerald Ford propuso que el Congreso hiciera a Puerto Rico un estado. Carter, tratando de tranquilizar el alboroto que este pronunciamiento había causado y cobrar buena publicidad para sí mismo, hizo su propio propuesto para una elección en la isla sobre la cuestión. Pero de todas modas, al estilo de Ford o de Carter, es puro chantaje nomás--el estatus de Puerto Rico como "Estado Libre Asociado" (quiere decir, colonia) de EEUU ha producido condiciones de vida miserables para la gente allí, y ahora se les promete una salida de esta miseria si consentan en la colonialización permanente de su país.

Ambos Ford y Carter estuvieron tratando de aprovecharse del hecho de que muchos puertorriqueños piensan que las cosas van tan malas que cualquier cambio tendria que ser mejor. Casi un tercero de la gente obrera de la

isla está desempleada. Los que tienen trabajo ganan la mitad del sueldo promedio del obrero americano, aunque el costo de vida en Puerto Rico es más alto que en EEUU porque casi todo es importado de EEUU, y aunque la a-plastante mayoría de puertorriqueños trabajan para compañías americanas.

Esta situación ha sido una fuente de grandísimas ganancias para las compañías americanas. Su control sobre la economía de la isla ha sido facilitado por el control político y militar sobre Puerto Rico que tiene el gobierno de EEUU. A la vez, debido al estatus de la isla como "Estado Libre Asociado," sus leyes proveen a los negocios americanos un ambiente aún más ventajoso que en el continente. Por ejemplo, las compañías que vienen a Puerto Rico no tienen que pagar ningunos impuestos por 20 años o más.

En otro tiempo la clase

sta del Este entregaron sus demandas directamente a los altos representantes de la clase dominante con una manifestación en la galería del Senado. La delegación empezó a gritar sus consignas y otros visitantes empezaron a aplaudirlas. La policía arastro a los trabajadores desempleados fuera de la galería y arrestó a tres, pero sin embargo los politiqueros

fueron informados que no podrían robarles los beneficios de los desempleados sin una lucha fuerte.

## LAS EXTENSIONS

Las leyes que extendieron los beneficios a 65 semanas fueron aprobadas durante los despidos masivos del invierno de 1974-75. Aunque son muy

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dominante de EEUU y sus lacayos en Puerto Rico prometieron al pueblo puertorriqueño que la invasión americana traería trabajos. Pero la invasión de plantas de EEUU arruinó la agricultura puertorriqueña que anteriormente era muy rica, y también causó la quiebra de otros negocios locales. Cientos de

miles puertorriqueños fueron  
forzados a salir de su tierra  
para buscar trabajo.

Hasta el partido politico pro-estadidad de Puerto Rico, establecido por la familia más rica de Puerto Rico y con la misma compañía de consejero de relaciones públicas que usaba Ford, no se atrevió a hacer la estadid

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MIENTRAS CARTER GOZABA DE SU INAUGURACION, 350 DESCONTENTOS MANIFESTABAN EN WASHINGTON.



MARCHA INDEPENDENTISTA EN SAN JUAN EN 1972.