



POINT OF PRODUCTION

15c

VOL 1 NO 2

AUGUST 1970

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE BLACK WORKERS CONGRESS

GARY, EAST CHICAGO, & CHICAGO

BALL OF CONFUSION

quote for the steel companies

Offers Tell no lies. Claim...

TRAINING HUBS

IMPERIALISM

WE DEMAND: That the United Steel Workers of America's union leadership terminates its sweetheart relationship to the companies.

GERMANY

MAKES

TOO MANY UNION DUES

steel workers organize FOR POWER

FIGHT UNEMPLOYMENT

THE ENEMY

a crook

OF ALL OPPRESSED PEOPLE

Band-aids for 1971 Contract

Changes a gaping wound

What It Takes To Win

HIGH PRICES

LESS REAL WAGES

WANT

BLACK WORKERS STRENGTH

RACISM

BLACK WORKERS CONGRESS STEEL DIVISION

Make the Scene...

BLACK STRIKE

WORKERS

FOR BLACK SURVIVAL

Death in the mill: at the Gary, Ind. U.S. Steel plant last January, 1970.

PROTESTING THE UNSAFE WORKING CONDITIONS

LIFE EXPECTANCY IN PRIME WORKING YEARS IS CONSISTENTLY LOWER FOR BLACKS.

45,000 DEAD SONS AND HUSBANDS

deal with the nature of our oppression.

deal with the nature of our oppression.

STEEL CONTRACT ... 1971

FREE REV. CHARLES KOEN



Arrangements had been made by Rev. Koen's attorney for him to surrender at the St. Louis municipal building at 11:00 a.m. However, St. Louis, detectives attempted to arrest the Rev. Koen as he walked from a car into the building where the Press conference was held. Several dozen people moved between the detectives and Rev. Koen which prevented the immediate arrest until after the conference was complete.

At the Press Conference the Black United Front leader stated that he felt concerned people would be motivated to support blacks of Cairo and others involved in the struggle to resist the unjust actions put Black people of Cairo, the Nation and in the world in prison cells.

The Rev. Charles Koen made the following statement on Monday, July 19, 1971 at a Press Conference shortly before he began serving a six-month sentence in the St. Louis, Mo., County Workhouse. The Rev.

Koen was sentenced on a charge of Assault on a Police officer. The incident was supposed to have taken place in 1968 in a St. Louis Police Station after he had been taken there following his arrest on a traffic charge. Police said he had no tail lights on his car. Both the Rev. Koen and Leon Dent, who is now in jail, were severely beaten. Among other wounds, the Rev. Koen suffered fractured hands, a fractured head and other severe bruises. He was hospitalized for some time. On June 28th, the Miss. Supreme Court turned down his appeal on the sentence. The Rev. Koen's attorneys filed motions for a rehearing. This motion was rejected by the Missouri Supreme Court on Friday, July 16 and the court ordered the Rev. Koen to begin his sentence at 11:00 today, July 19, other appeals are being made to the United States Supreme Court.

Cairo, Ill. on July 21, 1971

The Rev. Charles Koen, national chairman of Black United Fronts began serving six months in the St. Louis, Missouri workhouse.

Rev. Koen surrendered to St. Louis detectives at about 10:30 a.m., Monday, July 19, in the United Front, St. Louis, office at 5323 Easton, immediately following a brief press conference.

"The struggle of the black masses against unemployment, hunger and poverty has made progress. Sinking deeper in the mire of their fifth post-war economic crisis, the U.S. monopoly groups have been making desperate efforts to shift the burden of the crisis on the working people.

The Afro-American struggle is not only a struggle waged by the exploited and oppressed black people for freedom and emancipation, it is also a new clarion call to all the exploited and oppressed people of the United States to fight against the barbarous rule of the monopoly capitalist class."

-Statement in support of the Afro-American struggle against repression and exploitation.

--- Chairman Mao-Tse Tung
April 1971

Nothing Has Changed

The new contract is here. The steel company is happy, so happy in fact, that in its greed for higher profits it is causing thousands and thousands of Black and Third World workers (people of color) to find themselves on the street -- unemployed and penniless.

The Best Actor of the Year award should go to the United Steel Workers of America with a very special award going to I.W. Abel for his leading role in once again fooling the workingman as if some gains were really made in this new "Peace Treaty" called a contract.

For the black worker nothing has really changed; thousands and thousands of grievances still go unanswered. The black worker still finds himself being the lowest paid in the dirtiest, filthiest and most unsafe jobs in the mills. He is still the first fired. Have you noticed the unemployment lines recently? Every working day the black workers are still faced with the company's attempt to extract every possible ounce of labor out of him.

And the company, it still maintains the right to super exploit millions and billions of dollars off the backs of black labor and to exploit the working class in general. It still maintains its right to produce for profit rather than produce to benefit society.

The union still continues to play its weak-kneed role of gaining a very few pennies while standing by idle as Black and Third World workers labor under the most unsafe and inhumane conditions known to mankind. We, as Black workers hold that no agreement is relevant that still forces us to sell our labor power to this greedy profit-making capitalist system. The only agreement relevant to us is workers' control of their places of work -- the factories, mines, fields, offices, transportation services and communication facilities, so

that the exploitation of labor will cease and no person or corporation will get rich off the labor of another person, but all people will work for the collective benefit of humanity.



UNEMPLOYMENT STRIKES

The United Steelworkers of America did not strike this time, but massive unemployment is striking hard, particularly among Black steelworkers, the lowest-paid, most exploited, and last hired.

On Wednesday, Aug. 4, 1971, U.S. Steel Corporation announced it would lay off some

19,000 steelworkers in the Chicago area. About 13,500 steelworkers in Gary alone will not be able to return to work in the near future.

Inland Steel announced Tuesday, Aug. 3, 1971 it will lay off more than 8,000 of its 16,500 employees at Indiana Harbor Works in East Chicago, Indiana.

Bethlehem Steel Corporation already has laid off 1,400 workers at its Burns Harbor, Indiana plant.

Many of the 6,000 employees at the Republic Steel Corporation plant have been affected by the layoffs.

Heavy layoffs were expected at most Chicago area steel mills since the steel strike was averted, because large steel companies and customers had stockpiled 60- to 90-day supplies

of steel in anticipation of a strike. These supplies must be worked off before steel orders will return to normal and workers will be able to return to work.

To the disadvantage of many steelworkers, steel company spokesmen admit that August and September will have a slow resuming of steel production.

This massive number of layoffs that steelworkers are being forced to endure are another example of workers being victims of a labor sellout. We understand clearly that the outrageous profit level of the steel industry

is more than high enough to not only end layoffs, but to increase employment.

The call for full employment and the end of exploitation and racism should be on the lips of all workers, Black and Third World in particular. Power concedes nothing without

DARE TO STRUGGLE!!

DARE TO WIN!!



DON'T LET THE GREEN GRASS FOOL YOU

WHAT WAS GAINED IN THE NEW CONTRACT?

50c across the board
 the steel industry announced it would increase
 the price of steel by 8%
 who will be buying this steel in one form or
 another? US, BLACK WORKERS
 either in CARS, STOVES, REFRIGERATORS,
 and many more items
 so that 50c was shot thru the grease
ONE STEP FOWARD -- TWO STEPS BACKWARDS.
 and what about 15 years and out -- with 8 dollars for
 each month
 which comes to the grand total of 120 dollars a month
 roaches can't live off that

and for 30 years of loyal service, 10 dollars a month
 which adds up to 300 dollars a month -- could you
 feed a family off that -- with the cost of living going UP

WHAT THEY DIDN'T TELL US -----

thousands and thousands of safety proposals from the
 rank and file were turned down -- by the steel industry
**WATCH AND SEE WHAT WILL BE DONE ABOUT
 WORKING CONDITIONS?**
 and that the new contract will still expire during the
 slow season in production

WHAT THEY TOLD US -----

H. Larry, chief negotiator for the steel industry
 said the contract was very costly to the steel
 industry
 the increase in wages will go up 30% in three years
 which will cause the steel industry to up its price
 15% each year
 which adds up to 45% increase for the company
 thought you were getting over?....
WE AIN'T NO FOOLS ----
WE KNOW BETTER

DIG IT

because prices have risen faster than wages, the
 "real wages" of the steelworker has gone down
 in recent years **BUT** Heath Larry's salary
 for instance, went from 160,000 dollars in 1968
 to 225,000 dollars in 1971.

-WHO'S FOOLING WHO?

WHAT WERE THEY PREPARED TO DO?

What was the sellout USWA prepared to do for its
 striking workers?....
 Very little.....
 Of the 28 million dollar strike fund, workers would
 receive only 10 dollars per week
 and that's after the third week of striking ...
 USWA was prepared to give 1,000 dollars per week
 to each local for each 100 men they mis-represent.

What was the Welfare department of Indiana and
 Illinois prepared to do for striking workers and
 their families?....

Very little

In Illinois and Indiana a steelworker on strike
 could qualify for general assistance if savings and
 cash on hand are less than 150 dollars per month
 for one person and 50 dollars for each
 additional member of their family

The assistance checks would be just enough
 to keep people in slow STARVATION
 This would mean a possible loss of car, home
 and other needs of workers.....

CASE IN POINT

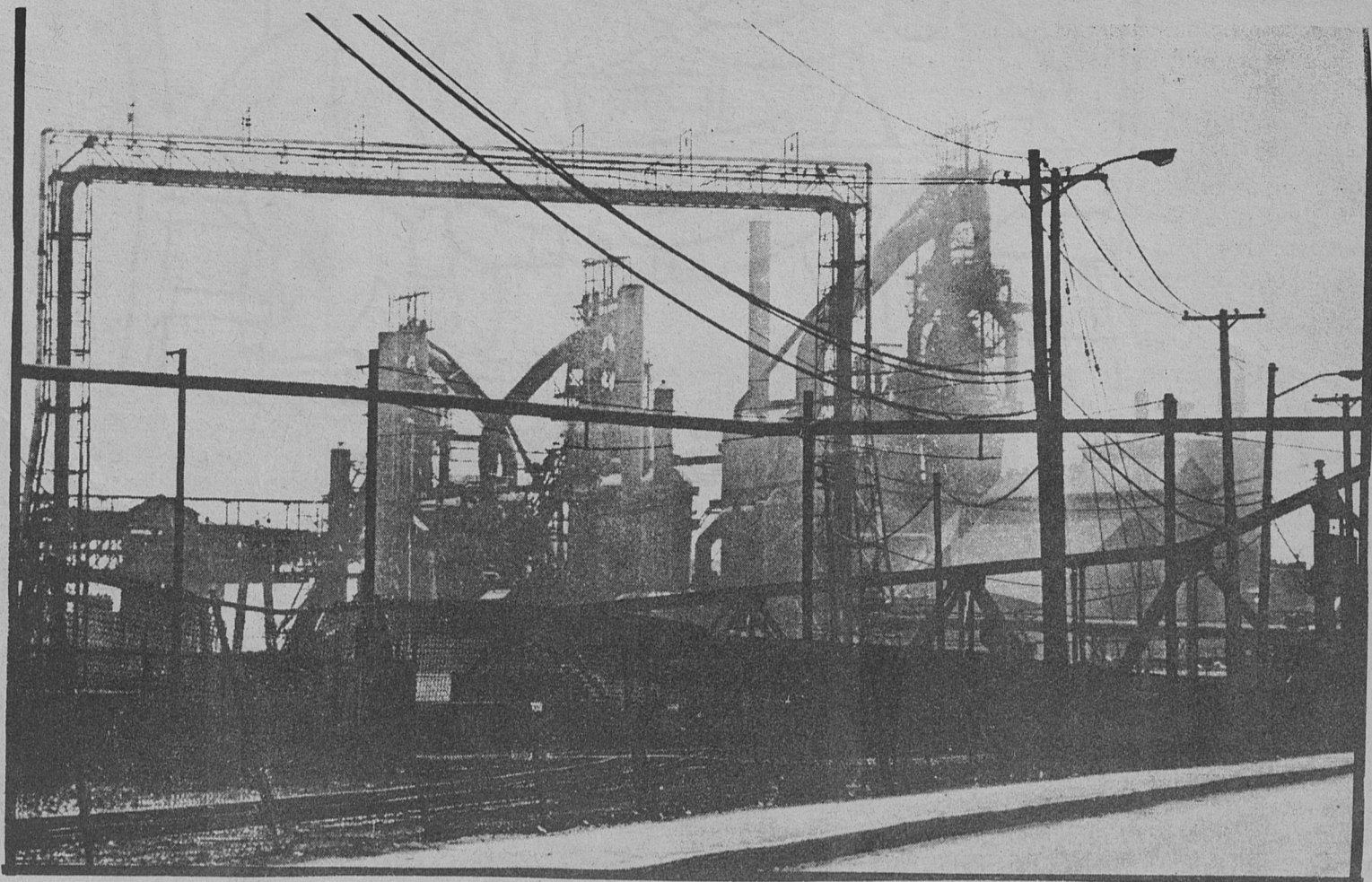
This latest sellout by I.W. Abel and so called
 United Steel Workers of America clearly points
 out that the only people that are united are
 the United Steel Workers of America and owners
 of the steel industry.

WHERE TO BEGIN?
WHAT IS TO BE DONE?
ORGANIZE AND STRUGGLE
STRUGGLE AND ORGANIZE!!!!



FORWARD ALONG

POLITICAL LESSON no. 2



THE BLACK WORKING CLASS

CAPITAL vs. LABOR

We have often heard the phrase that the working man is nothing, the implication being that he contributes very little to society, when in fact everything that is produced in this society is produced by workers. Workers feed, clothe and provide the basic necessities of life for the entire society while in return receiving very little benefit from the fruits of their labor. In fact it is people who sit up in some office and own stocks, a certificate of ownership, who receive the benefit from the labor of the worker -- that is what profit is.

The Black community is virtually a black working class because of our relationship to the means of production, that is, most Black people are found working in factories, plants and mills of this racist land creating wealth for those who live at our expense -- the ruling class. Many Black people are also found as service workers, transport workers and domestic workers.

Black workers by and large comprise the backbone of the production process in this country. Look around you, on your own job Blacks usually work in the filthiest, most dangerous and lowest paid jobs -- yet the job most crucial to the process of production that is, jobs where the raw materials are changed over into finished products. Since slavery we have been the major producers of goods and services. In addition, we have produced goods and services under the most inhumane conditions.

Under capitalism (the economic system under which we live in the U.S.) where the majority of workers create the wealth for the small minority who have ownership -- the ruling class.



All labor is exploited, but white labor has been bribed through white skin privileges, that is, it has been granted the special privileges by the capitalist class, privileges to work in better jobs, skilled trade, less unsafe jobs that have more job security. White workers in most cases see themselves as a member of the white race rather than as a class conscious worker who should struggle a-

gainst the class who lives at his expense the capitalist class.

The Union gives lip service to being for the working man--but the union never seriously speaks out about ending the system which forces the Black worker and all workers to sell their ability to work, daily, with "chump change" in return under the name of living expenses and the right to labor under the most unsafe and inhumane conditions. The Union never struggles against the system of production that each year forces thousands and thousands of workers out onto the street, jobless.

Black workers are the most exploited and oppressed members of this society because of this he is the best suited to be the vanguard (leader) of the black liberation movement and the entire liberation movement in America.

**'As Black Workers
We Have
Nothing to
Lose but
Our
Chains'**

THE PATH

CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH BLACK WORKERS LABOR

The Black worker knows oppression daily from the time he punches in to work to the time he punches out. In the U.S. any person Black or white who joins the labor force is literally risking his life. The U.S. Labor Dept. has estimated that three-fourths of all workers suffer disabling injuries on the job some time before retirement. Each year 15,000 workers lose their lives in industrial accidents and 1,700,000 workers suffer impaired or loss of hearing due to excess noise levels in plants. More coal miners have accidentally died in the last sixty years than all the casualties in the Korean and Vietnam conflicts. Industrial diseases take a tremendous toll among workers. Black lung disease, silicosis and other lung ailments have killed millions in the mines, mills and foundries of America. Most workers in the foundries have silicosis after five years exposure to the dust-ridden foundry air. Metal miners contract bladder cancer from long exposure to radioactive dust. Many workers are subjected to intense toxic fumes from chemicals used in metal plating and processing; dirt and oil in the air all enter and destroy the bodies and internal organs of healthy workers.

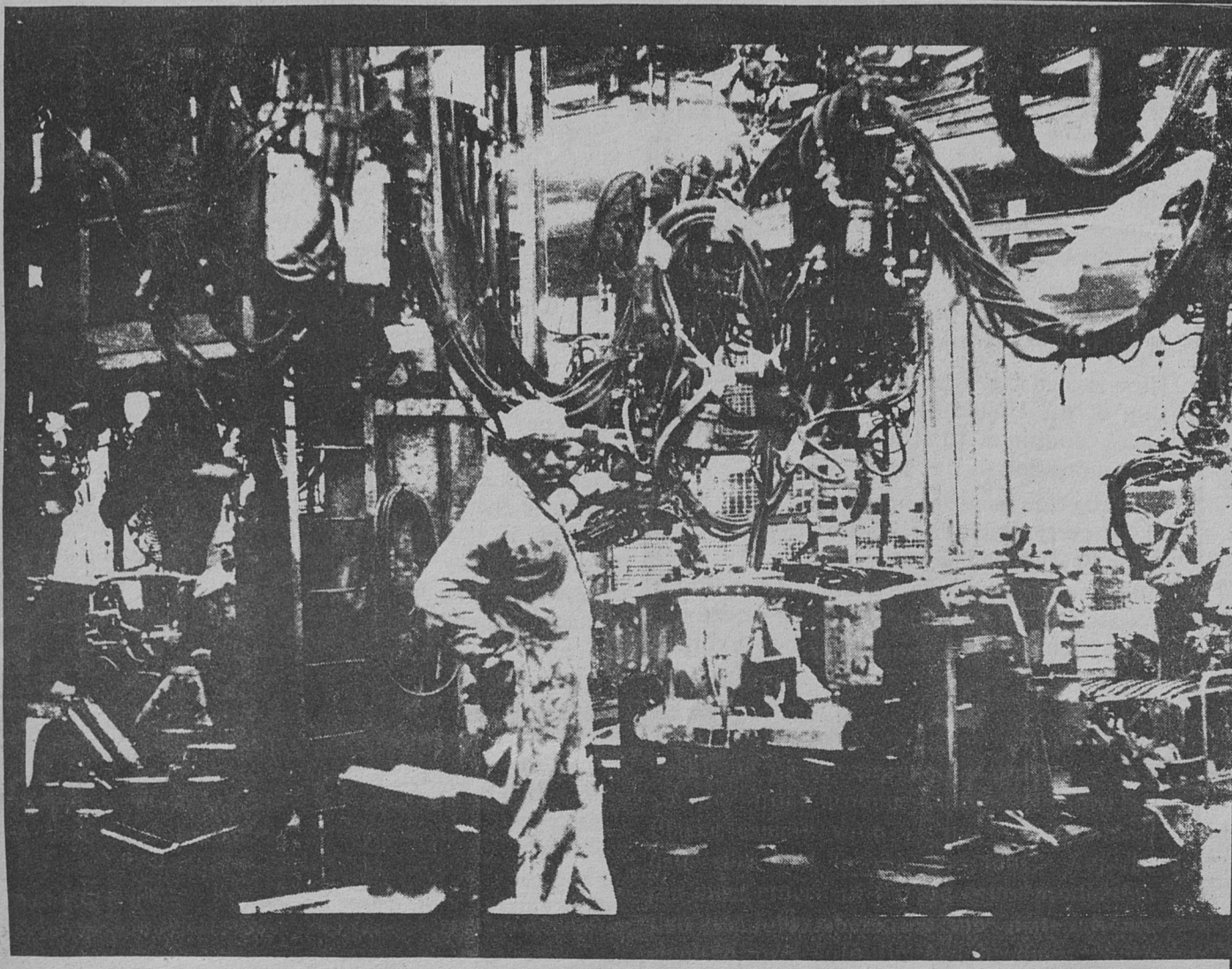
The financial interests of the companies are always opposed to the welfare of the workers. In some plants there is no sick leave, only four to six minutes relief periods per eight hour shift, etc. In some plants it is impossible to get a pair of safety glasses or safety equipment from the foreman, who being primarily interested in receiving a large bonus.



The character of factory work, its strenuous nature, the unending repetition, the boredom, the noise, the nagging foreman, all lead to total separation of the worker and his surroundings. Also, alcoholism and drug addiction often are the escape routes used to flee the living hell of industrial production.

As you can see Black workers have always been in the struggle from hour to hour and day to day. Some are not conscious of the role that they play in human and social development. But as they become more conscious and are moving to fulfill their historic mission as the gravediggers of this unjust system. UNITE, ORGANIZE AND STRUGGLE. There can be nothing without organization.

LONG LIVE THE STRUGGLE OF THE BLACK WORKING CLASS!!!!!!!!!!!!



Long

Live

Black

People

in

this

Racist

Land !

BLACK FOLKS AND THE WAR

Several weeks ago published reports from a 40-volume study done by the Pentagon have begun to reveal the true nature of the military industrialists who dictate to the American people and who at the same time oppress, exploit, and colonize around 60% of the world, either directly or indirectly.

Let us not forget our oppressed and exploited sisters and brothers of Africa, Asia and Latin American countries. They along with us here in America are being forced to support this heartless economic system - where the rich, who don't work, get richer and where the poor, who work, get poorer.

The Pentagon reports reveal that as early as 1954, the political puppets and big business laid out a very long deliberate plan of super-exploitation of the natural resources, namely oil and the labor of the people of Southeast Asia.

It must be clearly understood that Black and Third World peoples are being forced to defend the economic interests of the MELLONS, MORGANS, DUPONTS and the ROCKEFELLERS, and others namely the ruling class.

It seems that we are only good enough to die protecting their interests (their investment in Southeast Asia) which totals billions of dollars. Since this war has been going on, we, the sisters and brothers who work in the mills, plants and factories of industry have been to step up production at least 150% because war materials are needed for this country to carry on its dreadful war against humanity. U.S. Steel has defense contracts totaling 323 million dollars in war related materials and services between 1965 and 1970.

How many more of our brothers, fathers, uncles and cousins, have been sent off to war, to die in this unjust war. It must also be understood "no Vietnamese ever called us nigger" or bombed our church or murdered our leaders or said, "no human rights for you niggers."

There should be no doubts in anyone's mind that the government merely protects the economic interests of big business which enslaves people around the world and has no regard for the life or the death of its so-called citizens.

We must begin to struggle against imperialism, capitalism, and racism right here and now!!!!

We must say to the steel, auto, rubber and petroleum industries that we, the workers are the only ones that have a right to control the means of production. If there is to be any production, it must be for the good of all mankind. We, production workers, have the power to cut off the supply of any commodity and we must prepare to use that power.

We must say to our Vietnamese, Latin and African brothers and sisters that we have finally got the news on how we have been used, and that we no longer will allow the imperialists (those who exploit people around the world) to mislead us. We owe support to the nations that have been victimized by America. We cannot stand idly by while this country continues to rape Africa, Asia, and Latin America of its natural resources.

We must wake up and see that we have a Vietnam right in our midst (Cairo, Illinois) which has been under armed attack over 170 nights. We must move to support our struggling sisters and brothers in Cairo and all over this racist land.

So until there is peace and goodwill, the world over, may the production lines in industry produce revolutionaries - who are prepared to smash imperialism, capitalism, and racism and struggle to replace these evils with an economic system where no one lives off the labor of another and there is the highest form of unity among the people.

IMPERIALISM IS THE ENEMY OF ALL OPPRESSED PEOPLE !!!!!

America Is The Blackman's Battleground!



DID HE?

**BLACK
SOLDIER, SAILOR AIRMAN
AND MARINE**

Did the Cong
call you nigger?
establish breeding farms for
Black folks?
lynch you for looking at his
women?
rape your mothers of long ago?
forget your promotion after 25
years of work?
try to physically abuse you,
because he wore a badge?
forget your contributions to
history?
close his restaurant door in
your face?
misuse you for over 400
hundred years?
Well,
Did he?

THE BETHLEHEM PLANT-A-TION

The United States Steel Workers Union plays a very important part in helping to further oppress Black workers. Their collusion with the company is a daily reality for all workers and a super reality for Black workers.

A recent decision of the U.S. Court of Appeals charged both BETHLEHEM STEEL and UNITED STEEL WORKERS' UNION with racism against Black workers. In the Buffalo Evening News edition of June 26, the Associated Press article states the following:

The U.S. Court of Appeals Has Ordered the Bethlehem Steel Co. and the United Steelworkers of America to permit Black employees at the Lackawanna plant to transfer to better plant jobs without losing seniority provisions that violate the civil rights act of 1964 ... Judge Feinberg - in a decision concurred in by chief Judge J. Edward Lombard and District Judge T. Emmet Claire - called the 4 year old Lackawanna case 'A microcosm of classic job discrimination in the north.'

Bethlehem and five local units of the United Steel Workers of America - Locals 2601, 2602, 2603, 2604 and 3144 claimed that the court-ordered changes would ruin efficiency and safety. They argued that the procedures were exempt from the civil rights act by a 'business necessity doctrine' that was upheld

a few years ago at its plant at Sparrows Point Md., Bethlehem protested that this ... program would give Blacks superseniority status and depopulate the affected departments. The unions clearly show how they regard the interest and welfare of black workers at Bethlehem. The major question is:

How should black workers regard the leadership of the United Steelworkers of America which continues to further the exploitation and oppression of Black workers?

This question as well as others should be raised by every black and Puerto Rican worker at the Bethlehem Plant-a-tion.

Bethlehem is only one example of the brutal exploitative and racist conditions existing at most plants in and around Buffalo and the Nation.

The Bethlehem Steel Plant in Lackawanna is a major employer of Black workers in Buffalo, New York. In 1968, Bethlehem employed 26 hundred out of a total Black labor force of of about 30,000 for the Buffalo area. Within the Bethlehem Plant, Black workers make up about 14% of the total labor force of between 17,000 - 19,000. The majority of black workers are assigned (forced) to work in only five of the plants departments, while only 15% or (2,850) of the white workers were in the same departments. Within these departments Black workers are forced to work in the hardest, dirtiest, lowest pay-

ing jobs. In the plant's coke oven department Blacks hold 252 out of 343 of these labor jobs, while whites hold 118 out of 119

craft (higher paying) jobs. Blacks predominate in the battery and heating units, where the top job pays \$3.12 an hour. It is not surprising to find that white workers make up the bulk of the work force in the better paying by products and heating units, which pay an hourly rate ranging from \$3.42 to \$3.65. The racism and exploitation of Black workers at the Bethlehem Plant-a-tion (which is the country's 3rd largest producer of steel) is one of the most notorious examples of how black workers are super-exploited at the hands of the owners, the management and the unions.

Racism at the Bethlehem Plant-a-tion is no accident - it is a matter of a carefully thought out policy of oppression against the Black worker and therefore against the Black Community. Bethlehem is therefore oppressing the Black Community by exploiting black workers since 85% of of the Black Community (when it is employed) is employed in plants or service industries. It is important to note here that the black unemployment rate is almost always 2 - 2 1/4 times greater than whites.

STERILIZATION FOUGHT BY WELFARE MOTHERS

- Southern Patriot -

Nashville, Tenn.

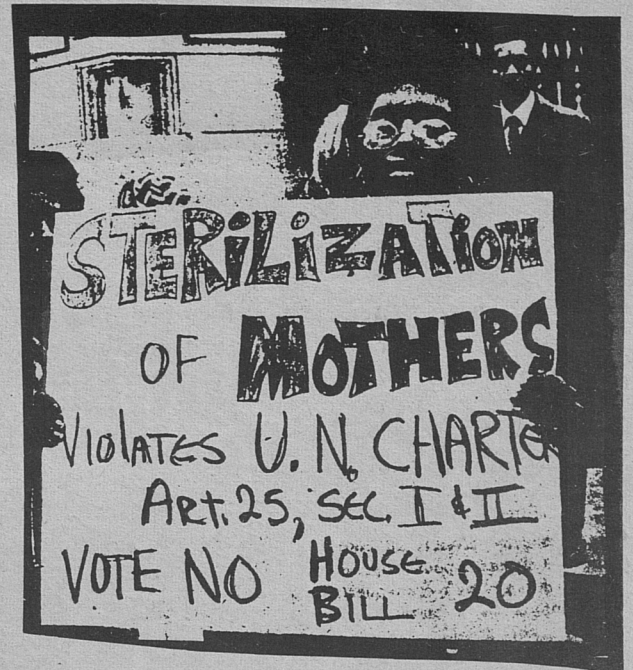
Welfare mothers from across Tennessee are fighting a proposed law that would force women with one or more "illegitimate" children to submit to sterilization or lose all welfare benefits.

House Bill No. 20 would also make it possible for the state to take away the children and place them in foster homes.

It was introduced by freshman Rep. Larry Bates, a Democrat from Northwestern Tenn., who sits on the General Welfare Committee. When the session started on February 23, Bates was met by an irate group of welfare recipients. The women picketed again early in March, and won a public hearing on the bill.

Opposition to H.B. 20 is widespread. The state welfare commissioner has repeatedly pointed out that it violates federal guidelines and would result in withdrawal of funds for Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC). The Vanderbilt University Bar Association says it violates rights to equal protection under the laws, due process and privacy.

At the hearing March 15, a wide range of people spoke out against the bill, doctors, Black legislators, representatives of social agencies and human-rights groups. But the most angry and outspoken opposition to the bill was provided by some 200 welfare women -- mostly Black, some white.



BEEN

D O W N S O L O N G



BLACK & THIRD WORLD

WORKERS

WILL BE MEETING ON

SEPT. 4, 5, 6th

TO DISCUSS PROBLEMS

WE FACE AS

WORKERS!

1ST NATIONAL,

BLACK WORKERS CONGRESS

CONFERENCE

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STRUGGLE!



**If I am not willing to do something about
the racist and unsafe working condition
on the job
the super exploitation of my labor
the racism in the union
time and time again sellout of the
working man by the union
and growing unemployment
THEN WHO WILL BE ?**

**JOIN THE
BLACK
WORKERS
CONGRESS**