

# WORKERS' POWER

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# OIL TAX MEANS LESS JOBS MORE INFLATION

by Gay Semel

If Gerald Ford has his way, gas will go up another 20c per gallon. Home heating bills will go up 25%. Electricity the same.

The total increase in direct energy costs will reach \$30—\$50 billion a year.

Ford's program also means that prices of everything involving petroleum products either in manufacture, like plastics and fertilizers; or in energy to run machinery, or heat factories—will go up. In other words, the inflationary spiral will go up another few points.

Ford's program will mean more than more inflation. It will also mean more unemployment. Cutbacks in energy use will slow down the economy even further.

Ford's plan is to impose a \$3.00 tariff on imported crude oil. His aim is to cut down our foreign oil consumption and thus dependence on foreign countries, while stimulating domestic energy production through higher prices and proposed tax breaks for the oil companies.

## GOAL IS PROFITS

To the energy industry, Ford's program means continued protection of their massive profits. For the last three months the profits of EXXON alone were \$860 million, or 9.3% more than last year's incredibly swollen profits.

Ford's program will also mean Federal gifts of billions of dollars to the oil giants for research and development—to stimulate domestic production. We will be paying for the development of new energy sources that the oil giants will then charge us for.

Ford's energy program is one part of an economic plan that he hopes will enable his presidency to get off the ground.

But it is a complete disaster from every point of view. His proposed tax rebate will not plow enough money into the economy to pull us out of a growing depression. And the little we will receive will be more than eaten up by inflation caused by Ford's oil program. Ford's program is so disas-

trous, in fact, that it has won little support outside the oil industry. Much of big business, and much of the Republican Party, don't even like it. In a poll conducted for Newsweek magazine, only 32% of the American people were reported to support it.

Recognizing an opportunity to pull together broad support, the Democratic Party has rushed to the fore. They demanded that Ford postpone imposition of the tariff. Ford refused.

Senators Jackson and Kennedy introduced legislation to stop the tariff from going through for 90 days. Ford promises to veto. The Democratic Party-controlled Congress threatens to override the veto.

But before we get too excited about the Democratic Party as a champion of the people, let's look at their own program.

## RATIONING

On January 14, the Special House Democratic Study Group released its economic program. Under point "E", labelled "Emergency Energy Conservation Measures," they suggested one or more of a long list of ideas for solving the energy crisis.

The list included gas rationing, higher gas taxes, home fuel rationing, restricting gasoline sales on weekends and other specific days, and a few vague notions about research into utility rates.

When you add it all up, it



"Continued fair and mild with..... Hold on! A bulletin just in..... Partly cloudy.....uh..... with chance of rain!"

doesn't amount to very much other than gas rationing, or higher costs—which is Ford's program.

And although rationing may keep prices down, it will mean hardship. It will also mean intensifying the recession.

The aim of rationing, like higher prices, is to cut down consumption. A decrease in consumption means slowing down the economy, less production, fewer jobs—depres-

sion.

There is a way of lessening the negative effects of the energy crisis—nationalization of the oil industry. But it is a way that neither the Democratic or the Republican Party will consider, because nationalization means violating their sacred god—private property.

The oil shortage was created by the oil industry to jack up their prices and profits.

And it is those profits which

determine continued production, or as recently; cutbacks in production.

If the oil industry were nationalized, and run by workers, profit would no longer be a consideration. Energy production and expansion would be determined by social need.

But that is a program that working people themselves must fight for. It will never be the program of the parties of private property. □



## WHY I'M GOING ON UAW MARCH

Hardy McClellan III, UAW Local 212, Mack Avenue Stamping

"I want to fight for better times. There's hundreds of thousands of people out of work now—just like me. And we need jobs. We should put our heads together and mobilize to get the union to put up a fight to get our jobs back. The bureaucrats are doing nothing to get us workers together. They should feel obligated to do all in their power. But because they haven't, the job is left in our hands."

See centerfold

# Food Stamps Ford's starvation plan

Everyone knows by now that Ford believes in a balanced budget—sort of. Now that 86% of the American people believe him to be a complete incompetent he has partially switched tracks with a promised tax rebate.

But someone has to pay and you can bet it won't be Ford's big business friends. In fact, Ford has thought up a particularly vicious plan to save the Federal Government \$650 million.

Bumbling, smiling "Mr. Nice" wants to raise the price of Food Stamps.

Ford's new program would have everyone on the program pay a flat 30%. An elderly couple earning \$100 per month already pays an outrageous \$23 for \$84 worth of stamps.

## SOAK THE POOR

Under Ford's new program that same couple would pay \$30. A single person now paying \$18 for \$46 worth of stamps would pay an additional \$12. Many people who need food stamps the most would

be unable to afford them at all.

Ford's "Soak the Poor" program comes only two weeks after a study was released documenting the tragic inadequacy of the Food Stamp Program.

**34 to 38 million Americans are eligible for Food Stamps. Only half that number receive them.**

The food Research and Action Center Report is based on figures for 1974. It does not include the effects of massive layoffs begun at the end of that year and continuing into 1975.

Rather than ease the endless waiting and harassment those receiving food stamps have become accustomed to, rather than expand the program's ability to reach the other 15—20 million eligible for food stamps, Ford's economic program proposes saving the government millions—off the backs—and possible the lives—of the poor.

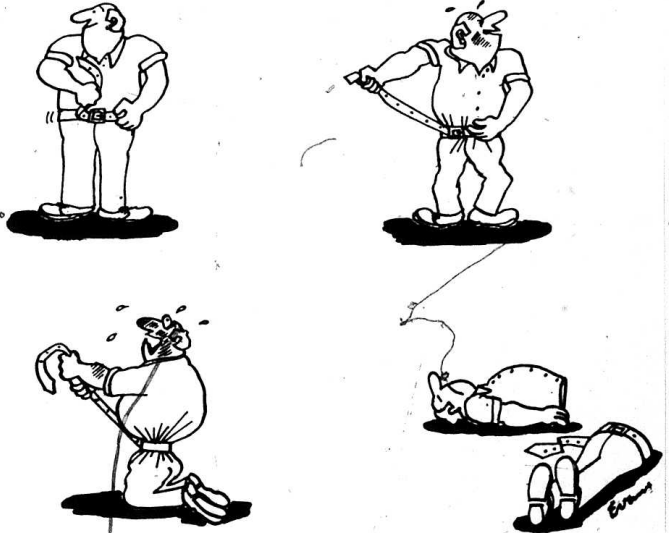
When asked what he expected the reaction to his economic program to be, Ford said, "They will see something is being done."

Yeah—we see—very clearly. □



**AMERICAN DREAM**  
Gay Semel

THE MAN WHO THOUGHT IT WOULD HELP  
THE COUNTRY IF HE TIGHTENED HIS BELT...



## QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"The Arabs are making more money in one year than my whole family in three entire generations of work."

—Nelson Rockefeller at his confirmation hearings.

# Disability: Another Insurance Ripoff

Gary Bierman is a 31 year old former warehouseman. In 1972 Bierman had to leave his job at Granite Rock, Inc., in Watsonville, California because he was disabled by advanced arteriosclerosis.

In 1972 Bierman received \$433 per month in disability payments—

\$177 from private disability insurance paid for by Granite Rock and \$256 from Social Security.

Today, although his social security payments have risen to \$342 Bierman still only receives \$433 total.

Bierman is the victim of yet

another boondoggle that soaks those least able to deal with rampant inflation while providing huge profits for insurance companies.

Because of struggles won by the trade union movement most union members are now covered under

supplemental disability insurance. Unfortunately most employers pay into "offset" policies. Which means that as social security payments go up, private disability payments go down.

## OFFSETTING DISABILITY

Inflation passed 12% last year and for the first time those on Social Security received a cost of living allowance. Those receiving offset disability never saw it. The insurance companies did.

Companies choose offset programs because they are cheaper.

One major employer told the Wall Street Journal that he considered switching to a non-offset policy relatively unimportant. Expressing the humane sentiments of a true capitalist, he explained why: "Very few of the seriously disabled live a long, long time." □

## Rocky's New House

# "Dinky Chandeliers"

Pity the poor Rockefeller, caught in the grip of the housing crisis.

Along with a title on the door, Rockefeller and family get to live in the "Admiral's House," the new Vice Presidential Mansion.

The Admiral's House may have been a step up for the Admiral, but it is several steps down from the five (count them—five) mansions the Rockefeller already call home.

The Admiral's House rests on twelve acres of the US Naval Observatory—not a very fashionable address. But that is the least of it.

## "A DISASTER"

White House Curator Clement Conger says the Admiral's House is a "disaster." "The chandeliers are dinky, the mantels are impossible, and the fireplaces are not safe."

But all is not bleak. Those who worry about such things will be glad to know the government is allowing the Rockefeller \$315,000 to fix the place up. □



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# Cleaning Up For Dirty Work Ahead

by Jenny Benjamin

The Democratic Party seems to be going through convulsions. Heads of Congressional Committees are rolling. The House Democratic Party caucus ousted W.R. Poage (D-Tex) as head of the Agriculture Committee, F. Edward Herbert as head of Armed Services and Wright Patman (D-Tex) as head of Banking, Currency and Housing.

A challenge to Wayne H. Hays (D-Ohio) as Chairman of House Administration failed.

Ending seniority as the basis for heading Congressional Committees represents a lot more than opening Congress up to greater democracy or ending the reign of a few Congressional dinosaurs.

The shake-up in the Democratic Party represents, instead, an attempt by the political arm of one section of the capitalist class to deal with the growing economic crisis.

## BACKGROUND

For the last 65 years Congressional committee chairmanships automatically went to the majority party committee member with the highest seniority.

Those Congressmen with the most secure seats in Congress were

able to turn their committees into powerful baronies.

Because Southern whites used to vote solid Democratic, it was the racist Dixiecrats that got re-elected time and again. And it was thus the Dixiecrats who ran the important committees.

The Dixiecrats would then block with the Republicans to kill legislation pushed by the majority of the Democratic Party.

By killing the seniority system, as a basis for electing Committee heads, the Democratic Party caucus has ended an era in capitalist politics.

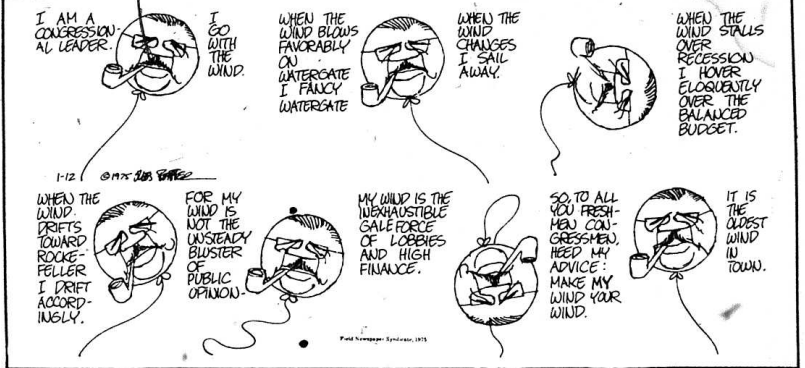
## WHY NOW.

Over the last twenty years several different forces have been at work which have now come together to create change. The most important, long-standing change took place in the South.

The Democratic Party monolith has broken down. The Republican Party has made inroads into the South as many Southern conservatives have switched parties. At the same time, blacks have the vote, and the South now has many black Democratic mayors and minor office holders.

The base of the Southern Demo-

## Feiffer



cratic Party support has thus largely switched from racist conservatives to urban blacks and white liberals.

The Dixiecrats are becoming a roadblock to continued Democratic influence in the South.

At the same time, Watergate has produced a record Democratic Party majority. Having won almost

total Congressional control the Democrats now have to produce. To assure their ability to actually get their programs through, the power of the alliance between the Republican Party and the Dixiecrats has to be broken.

A third factor is the whole process of reform begun inside the Democratic Party several years ago. The liberal wing of the party aimed at turning the Democratic Party into a disciplined party similar to European political parties.

They wanted a party that held its members to an agreed upon program. They also wanted to end the enormous power held by various older, more conservative, white, male machine Democratic types.

The recent Democratic Party mini-convention in Kansas City was a step in the whole process of reform. There the various Democratic Party factions compromised. The ouster of the Committee chairmen was another step. This time the liberal wing won.

The last, but extremely important factor is the economy. American capitalism is in crisis. Leadership is desperately needed. But the second Republican Administration in a row is in total disrepute.

The field is wide open. If the Democratic Party can pull together, as a party, give leadership and pull the country out, they hope to be able to usher in another several decades of Democratic Party political dominance.

And they have a program—borrowed from FDR and the last great depression. Their program is to save the profit system through massive federal spending. Which will also mean continued rampant inflation and wage controls.

And a wing of the ruling class supports them. The consumer goods industries, like auto and housing, are in desperate shape. They want a program that puts money into people's hands.

At first glance, the new, re-

formed, liberal Democratic Party will look better than it has in a long time, and many working people will once more develop illusions about it.

## WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR WORKING PEOPLE?

Its economic program will have a lot more that seems to speak to what working people need; like tax cuts aimed at low and middle income families, gas rationing rather than generalized higher prices, easy credit, federal job programs, cheapening of the food stamp program and no cuts in social security.

But it will also include freezing pay checks, while prices rise, allowing the capitalists to increase their profits. And because the Democratic Party claims to be the "party of the people," the Democratic Party will again attempt to use that mantle to stop members of oppressed groups from demanding a more equal share.

They will use the myth that they are "labor's friends" to convince the union movement not to fight in these "troubled times." If friendly persuasion fails they will order injunctions and break strikes.

This all happened before, under FDR, and will happen again. The Democratic Party—even with a shiny new image—is a party of big business.

The Democratic Party supports the capitalist system. That means profits come before people. And all its programs are designed from that point of view.

Shake-ups in the Democratic Party have come about because the capitalist system is in crisis and it is the liberals' attempt to save it.

We have to understand these shake-ups but we must have no illusions about them. The Democratic Party is not our party. To fight for the interests of working people we need our own party. □

[See Editorial, page 10, "Why We Need A Labor Party."]

# CLUW WOMEN TO FIGHT LAYOFFS

The Coalition of Labor Union Women (CLUW) has become bogged down in procedural details. This was obvious at the National Coordinating Committee (NCC) meeting held January 18 and 19 in St. Louis.

Although CLUW now has 24 chartered chapters, membership has grown by only 400 since September to about 2,400. This means that many women who attended the Founding Conference in Chicago have not yet joined. CLUW President Olga Madar (UAW) attributes this to CLUW members not bringing out women from their unions. Yet only 400 women from the UAW have joined CLUW. Madar herself has made no real effort to reach women in her union.

As president of CLUW Olga Madar has visited only one chapter outside of Detroit. She has made no real effort to build CLUW on the local level. Most chapters and pre-chapters have been started and kept going by active rank and file militants and radicals.

CLUW's leaders—union officials—do not know what to do with the organization. They are afraid to take action because they don't want CLUW to get out of their control and make demands on unions or the government that might be embarrassing to them. But they don't know how to build CLUW without taking action.

Nonetheless, everyone in CLUW, including the union officials, recognizes that unemployment and layoffs are the main issue facing women workers today.

Thus the most important action the NCC took was to pass an action program on layoffs and unemployment.

The CLUW officers had submitted a proposal to the Program and Activities Committee for educational forums and lobbying to deal with layoffs. This weak proposal failed in favor of one submitted by members of the Committee which proposed demonstrations and rallies against the layoffs to be held on International Women's Day, March 8.

This will be followed by forums on May 1 in cities with active CLUW chapters and high unem-

ployment: New York, Cleveland, Altant, Chicago, Detroit, San Francisco, and Los Angeles. May 1, May Day, is a traditional holiday of the working class movement.

A mass lobby in Washington is also planned as a third demonstration for an as yet undetermined date.

The demonstrations will focus on a program that could effectively reduce unemployment and suffering of those affected by the present policies of the employers. They will demand a shorter work week with no loss in pay; SUB pay for the duration of layoffs; public works jobs at union scale; increases in unemployment insurance, including rates, and persons covered and length of time. Other demands will deal with the effects of the crisis on the employed: no overtime during layoffs, no speedup, cost of living increases for all workers.

The CLUW leadership managed however, to weaken the impact of this proposal as they try to do everything the ranks of CLUW get it to do something. This time it was in the form of an amendment from a member of CLUW's National Steering Committee, Debby Leonard of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers. Her amendment, which passed, states that CLUW can take an action against an employer only with consultation and agreement of the unions involved. This will mean that CLUW cannot take independent action no matter how blatantly sexist or unwilling to fight for workers a union is.

The Program and Activities Committee and the NCC also voted to endorse the UAW's rally against unemployment in Washington on February 5.

The NCC also mandated a CLUW task force on organizing the unorganized, proposed by the officers. However, since no meeting was held by the task force, or personnel assigned to it, it is unlikely that it will ever exist except on paper. Once again the union bureaucrats who control CLUW reveal how they try to stifle effective action.

In fact they permitted the NCC to take some very militant stances on several issues. There was a discussion of the racist, anti-bussing



Juanita Hernandez speaks at CLUW's National Committee meeting. She and others are suing GM for discrimination. See page 16.

riot in Boston and a strong resolution was passed condemning the rioters.

A resolution was also passed supporting the rights of American Indians.

The heads of CLUW find it easy to pass noble resolutions, especially if there is little chance the organization will be able to do anything about it. They passed no motion for women unionists to get their unions to do anything about the situation in Boston.

But even more important for women workers is the way they consistently attempt to prevent CLUW from initiating any action that would actually help women workers and the unemployed.

However, the resolutions that were passed provide an opportunity for rank and file CLUW members to overcome the bureaucrats' conservatism. Members will be able to organize women to participate in the rallies and demonstrations scheduled around unemployment. A strong voice from women workers on this issue will provide a basis for building the ranks of CLUW, to make it into a real working women's organization. □

Frances Stone

## WHO TO WATCH

This victory for the Democratic Party liberals was engineered by Phillip Burton (D-California) and Wayne Hays (D-Ohio). Burton represents hard, sophisticated liberal politics. He was just elected chairman of the House Democratic Caucus and has set out to turn the Democratic Party Caucus into a well-oiled, effective machine. He is using the voting power of the 75 freshman Democratic Congressmen, most of whom stand with the liberal wing of the Democratic Party, to accomplish this.

Burton was backed by Hays as Caucus Chairman. Hays does not represent the liberal wing. As chairman of the House Administration Committee, for the last four years, Hays has become quite powerful through his control over Congressional staff allowances and fringe benefits.

Most Congressmen know Hays' name from the checks he has signed, and Hays is known to use those checks in ways beneficial to himself. Hays' reputation is as a man who knows how to wield power. The power block of Burton and Hays threatens the entrenched Democratic Party leadership. To halt their rise to power, House majority leader McNeil and Speaker Albert attempted to oust Hays along with the Dixiecrats.

Burton and Hays were able to defeat Albert and McNeil by gaining the support of the freshman Congressmen.

# "HERO OF THE CROSSING,

# WORLD IN CRISIS



Sadat

# WHERE IS OUR BREAKFAST?"

Egypt's President Anwar el-Sadat became an overnight hero on October 6, 1973, when he masterminded the crossing of the Suez Canal that began the last Middle East war.

This New Year's Day, Cairo awoke to the chants of over 1000 factory workers marching through the center of the city jeering Sadat with, "Hero of the Crossing—Where is Our Breakfast?"

This march was the largest anti-government demonstration since the fall of King Farouk over 20 years ago. In both Egypt and Israel, workers have now taken to the streets and fought police in food riots this winter.

The fighting began when troops were used to block a delegation of steelworkers from the suburb of Helwan from entering the National Assembly building.

They were joined by security police, according to one eyewitness account "working in units of 20 men, three deep, protected by their helmets and fiberglass shields from flying stones and bricks. Rioters and passers-by alike were choked as teargas canisters sailed in to the crowd."

60 demonstrators were arrested, and another 60 people picked up by police in a pre-dawn sweep the next

day. The original delegation was complaining about draft laws which discriminate against workers. But there are far more deep-seated grievances which made the mass demonstration and street fighting possible.

In the last year, prices have risen by about half. The legal minimum wage of \$65 a month has increased about 25%—but a typical Helwan factory worker actually makes about \$50 a month.

Key goods such as tea, sugar and cooking oil are tightly rationed and people stand in lines for hours to get them.

The disintegration of the traditional peasant economy has brought a huge influx from the countryside into the cities, especially Cairo. Its population now stands at about 7 million.

Overcrowding is so severe that people ride on the roofs of buses to work. Others sleep in the river banks and the streets. While unemployment is very high, there is no unemployment pay and no pensions except for government employees.

Since 1973, President Sadat's policies have created what is called an "economic miracle" and great prosperity for Egyptian capitalists

and United States investors. But the majority of Egypt's workers and peasants remain trapped in desperate poverty.

It was not surprising that the key workers involved in the demonstration were from Helwan, a huge steel complex 15 miles south of Cairo with the biggest concentration of workers in Egypt.

Conditions there are appalling. Workers are made to run complicated machinery without training or safety devices. One engineer describes the place as "more like a slaughter house than a factory."

Egypt, which claims to be socialist, has much of its industry nationalized including the Helwan steel complex. But nationalization

was not carried through in the interests of Egyptian workers or under their control.

Decisions in the nationalized industries are made by a highly privileged ruling class, who use the nationalized sector of the economy to feather their own nests.

Meanwhile, workers are forbidden to form genuine trade unions or to join political parties other than the government-run Arab Socialist Union.

Egypt's military budget has brutally sapped the economy. The high prices charged by Russia for its arms sales to Egypt have wiped out most of the economic surplus.

For example, there is a shortage of sugar for Egyptian workers,

even though the country produces a large amount—because most of the sugar is shipped out by the Russians to pay for the arms.

There have been movements of protest against these conditions in the past. But both Sadat and his predecessor, Nasser, have been able to control them by insisting that there must be "no cry louder than the battle cry" against Israel.

Now, however, the workers' movement which Egypt's rulers fear so much may be developing. Although workers' grievances and struggles are still localized, the first steps toward creating a movement took place on January 1. The long-term consequences in Egypt and throughout the Middle East could be immense.

# South Africa Miners Strike

The world's largest gold mine, the Vaal Reefs mine in South Africa, was closed early this month when 10,000 black miners struck.

The strike was launched by miners from Lesotho, one of the so-called black homelands set up inside South Africa to enforce racial separation and to ensure the white capitalist ruling class a source of cheap labor.

The Lesotho government had ordered that 60% of miners' pay be withheld and deposited in Lesotho banks, so that the miners could not receive it until they returned to their homes. This brutal "forced saving plan" was imposed through collusion by the governments in Lesotho and Johannesburg, South Africa, along with Anglo-American Corporation which owns the mine.

## SIX STRIKERS KILLED

Official estimates of the effects of the strike were that it cut into production by 50%. The company immediately began recruiting new workers to replace the strikers.

At least six strikers were killed in two days of fighting with strike-breakers.

The strike spread to other British-American owned coal mines west of Johannesburg. At two coal mines, Lesotho officials who came to explain the savings plan were stoned by angry miners.

As the 18-month wave of militancy among black miners continues to grow, the companies are granting wage increases and making small concessions to their power. At the same time, they are preparing new methods which they hope will help crush black workers' struggles in the future.

The Silicon Smelters plant, for example, has promised that it will

hire and train a small number of blacks for skilled mechanical jobs, for equal pay with whites doing the same skilled work.

At the same time, the Gold

Fields of South Africa company is experimenting with a new boring technique that it claims will reduce by half the number of underground miners.



The Vaal Reefs gold mine in South Africa was struck by miners from Lesotho.



# Life In Saigon Today

Daniel Schecter, a reporter for WBCN in Boston, returned from a visit to Vietnam and spoke with a reporter for the British International Socialist's newspaper, Socialist Worker. Here's part of his description of life in Saigon today:

"The US embassy admitted to me a 20% decline in the standard of living in Saigon over two years. A lot of people whose jobs depended on the Americans no longer have any economic sustenance.

"The Americans pumped in and artificially transformed the whole economic basis of Saigon and as they withdraw the whole structure is collapsing in on itself.

"You can see it on the streets. People are sleeping out all over the place. The price of rice has almost doubled this year. There are all sorts of shortages.

"There is actually a People's Front Against Hunger which has been organized because people are plain starving... you can see things like little children rummaging through garbage cans, picking out pieces of paper that can be re-sold.

"There have been some demonstrations—but the government has totally penetrated the student movement. There are police agents on every campus and the leaders of the student demonstrations of 1971 are still in jail."

# Strikes Spread Through Spain

4000 auto workers in Barcelona, Spain fought with police in the streets after the management of the giant SEAT auto firm announced a disciplinary one-week layoff of 21,000 and the firing of 400.

In another city, Navarre, police opened fire against 1000 potash miners who were demonstrating against a two-month lockout. In Bilbao thousands of steelworkers struck in protest against a wage settlement.

The wave of industrial struggle is speeding up the crumbling of the Franco dictatorship. The government is not only having trouble controlling the workers, it is

running scared of elements in the Army as well.

Army Minister General Francisco Coloma was forced to issue a stern warning to officers against taking part in politics. His views were backed up by the Navy Minister. Reportedly, secret councils of junior officers have been meeting to discuss political issues.

Some of the dissident officers are thought to favor replacing the regime. Most, however, favor either a stronger repressive policy or else a peaceful, gradual liberalization that would keep real power far removed from the masses of people and the working class.



# Killing Off The Aged IN NURSING HOMES...

by Florence Feinstein

Rocky is helping another friend in need—this time it's Bernard Bergman, who controls an estimated \$100 million worth of real estate through his virtual domination of the New York City nursing home industry.

Recently, the New York Times and the Village Voice have revealed a number of Bergman's corrupt practices:

- Illegal lease-mortgage arrangements by which he charges his own homes exorbitant rents, reimbursed by Medicaid;

- Supplying his homes with housekeeping employees, nursing and food service supplies from companies suspected to be owned by him or his relatives or friends;

- Political contributions reimbursed as legal fees;

- Other activities which take place through an intricate system of public and private companies and arrangements.

## THE OLD PAY

Bergman has been doing these things for a long time. Back in

1959, ten Bergman homes were closed by the city because of overcharges and subhuman conditions.

The conditions have continued—and that is the real horror of Bergman and the industry. Exorbitant profits are made from victimizing elderly people who offer no resistance, because they have no alternatives under the present system.

Patients in his home have been found with gangrene and maggots, with bedsores and malnutrition. Patients go from a Bergman home to a hospital suffering from malnutrition. They recuperate, go back to the Bergman home, relapse, and wind up back in the hospital, suffering from the same illness again.

At one surprise inspection, patients seemed well-cared for, propped up in bed, hair combed, and seemingly comfortable, until the visitor lifted the blanket and saw that the patient was laying in her own excrement.

And what do the authorities do? In 1973, the New York State Health Department refused to approve a new Bergman home. It cut part of the Medicaid reimbursement for three other homes. The Department had discovered that Bergman had an interest in the corporations to which he was leasing the homes.

## ENTER ROCKY

But not long after, the Health Department retracted its objections to seven Bergman projects, and gave favorable opinions on two ther



Her pain means...

Bergman issues.

This reversal took place after a meeting in Rockefeller's offices, headed by Rockefeller's chief aide, T. Norman Hurd. The purpose of the meeting was to get Bergman out of his jam with the Health Department.

Hurd has taken an active interest in Bergman's projects since at least 1972, but Bergman had other help at that meeting. Among those present were Samuel Hausman, a millionaire contributor and fund raiser for the Republican Party; also a long time ally of Rocky. He was a Rockefeller appointed member of the finance agency that provided mortgage loans to nursing homes. His nephew was the operator of a Bergman home.

Also attending was Daniel Chill, the chief counsel to the Democratic Assembly Minority leader, Stanley Steingut. Steingut's insurance business has insured several Bergman homes. Chill himself has received \$10,000 in legal fees from two Bergman homes.

## COURT KILLS SUBPENA

A new investigation has begun. The Temporary Commission on Living Costs has been investigating the nursing home industry in depth. But it has had its subpoenas quashed by a Supreme Court justice on grounds that it could only investigate prices and costs and not criminal activity.

The committee chairman was also accused of violating Bergman's civil rights because of the amount of publicity the Commission had generated. So the Commission can't hold the hearings, leaving the US Senate Subcommittee



...money in his pocket.

tee on Long-Term Care, under Frank Moss, Democrat, Utah, as the only investigating body.

Moss now has denounced a recently published book that exposes the fraud and disgusting health conditions in the nursing home industry. The book, "Tender Loving Greed," by Mary Adelaide Mendelson, includes a chapter on Bergman.

The nursing home industry is based on the fine old American tradition of making money from health care. Even if Bergman is fined, or, much more unlikely, jailed or thrown out of the industry, these types of conditions will remain until medical care is for people, and not for profit. Rockefeller and his chum Bergman, on the other hand, are interested only in the health of business. □



## Flying Pickets In Cleveland

**BULLETIN**—Seven Warner and Swasey workers have been suspended indefinitely as a result of their show of solidarity. The rank and file and the union should make every effort to get them back to work.

**CLEVELAND**—Striking machinists from New Philadelphia, Ohio took their strike to Cleveland last week and shut down two plants belonging to Warner and Swasey, the huge national manufacturer of machine tools and construction equipment.

Members of IAM Local 1285 have been on strike against Warner and Swasey in New Philadelphia since December 11 last year when their contract expired. The company however refused to negotiate in good faith and began shifting work to other plants, in particular those in the Cleveland area.

In response the striking machinists organized a caravan of cars, drove 75 miles north to Cleveland, and greeted the first shift on January 22 with a picket line.

Nearly 90% of the first shift refused to cross the line, despite the fact it was "For information Only." "It was fantastic," said one Cleveland worker. "There was no immediate benefit to us. It was just a real show of solidarity."

More than half stayed out the second shift.

Warner and Swasey's plant in Cleveland is located on E. 55th and Carnegie, and workers often refer to the old buildings as "The

Prison." The Manager of Industrial Relations, James O. O'Brien, still thinks he's in the Army and does everything he can to make sure that "justice" is military style.

There has always been discontent, but until recently the rank and file has been divided and poorly organized. The union has been no use at all.

The last contract was negotiated under Phase 2—and making things worse the union has allowed the company to negotiate with locals one at a time. Expiration dates are manipulated and each contract contains a no-strike clause.

The result has been that united action by Warner and Swasey workers has been effectively ruled out and management has gone unopposed everywhere. Each new contract has been a defeat.

This protest, however, has been a step in the right direction. In spite of threatening telephone calls, open intimidation, a parking lot full of supervisors and foremen, and no leadership from the union, the rank and file held firm and set an example of how to make Warner and Swasey pay. But much more, needless to say, will be necessary to win. □

**DETROIT**—A 70 year old man was murdered by police last week for the crimes of being old, broke, and black.

Harley Horrell lived in a broken down apartment building in a high-crime area of Detroit's east side.

He had been repeatedly robbed on the streets; his home had been broken into.

Mr. Horrell and his fellow elderly residents paid \$65 a month for rent and utilities, but have had no heat since before Thanksgiving. These tenants, like most other residents in the area, are black.

The building's electricity had been cut off because the landlord had not paid the bill. There is no hot water.

Mr. Horrell and the others fought for better living conditions, but were continually frustrated. The senior citizens take turns sitting in the cold hallway with their coats on waiting, for the postman to bring Social Security and pension checks.

The mail boxes are continually broken into so this practice is a necessity—but the mail often does not come until after 5 pm.

And so Mr. Horrell became fed up and angry over being forced to live in poverty and fear, and with

# ... AND URBAN SLUMS

little dignity. The hopelessness of being old and broke under capitalism finally drove him a little bit mad.

He bought a .22 caliber pistol, and he took a few pot shots at passers-by. Someone called the police and sixty cops arrived with high-power rifles.

The area was cordoned off, including the nearby freeway. The police made one weak attempt to get the old man to give up.

Then they filled his apartment with teargas, and when Mr. Horrell staggered out onto his balcony, the cops blew him away. □

Kay Stacy



# labor notes

by Jim Woodward



Department of Labor unemployment figures always underestimate how many people are out of work. Another recent estimate of unemployment in the United States was done by Bert Gross and Stanley Moses of Hunter College and published in the UAW Washington Report. 25.6 million people are unemployed, or 24.6% of the real labor force.

In many European countries unemployment benefits are considerably better than in the US. Instead of the 26 weeks of unemployment benefits which is the pattern in the US, German workers receive unemployment compensation for as long as they cannot find new jobs. In France, unemployment pay is equivalent to a worker's full take-home pay (compared to about 40% here) and it's available for a full year. In Sweden a worker gets 90% of his or her normal wage for 52 weeks, or 75 weeks if the worker is over 50.

Three major steel companies, US Steel, Jones and Laughlin, and Wheeling-Pittsburgh, are fighting an order to limit the amount of cyanide they can dump in the Monongahela River. Their appeal may delay the order for years. The companies currently dump 2,503 pounds of cyanide into the river each day, along with 869 pounds of phenol, a caustic acid. Both are highly poisonous. Recent illnesses have been traced to the phenol.

If anyone put cyanide in the food of a steel company executive, they'd be arrested on the spot. But, in the name of free enterprise no doubt, the steel companies are continuing to dump the same stuff in the water we drink.

Believe it or not: the CIA secretly spied on George Meany during the 1950's. The Washington Post recently reported that the CIA read letters between Meany, Jay Lovestone, and Irving Brown. Lovestone and Brown were high AFL-CIO officials charged with distributing CIA money through the AFL-CIO to European trade unions. After reading Meany's mail, the CIA concluded that his use of CIA funds was "satisfactory." Meany, who has always denied such activities, had no comment.

Several colleges and universities in the Detroit area cooperated with the Crestwood school district in recruiting scabs after the district fired its striking teachers. Wayne State University was among the universities that posted notices in its education department asking for scabs. WSU subsequently forwarded teacher credentials for about 10 would-be scabs to the Crestwood school board.

New York's Democratic Mayor Abe Beame has asked the New York Telephone Co. to send some of its high-level supervisors to train city officials in techniques to increase productivity. The phone company is well-known for such innovations as its absence control plan, which penalizes workers for being off the job even if they are sick.

The mayor's productivity drive comes just as the city is laying off thousands of workers. The CWA was one of the unions which supported this man when he ran for mayor.

The Bell System continues to drag its feet on the hiring of women and minorities. The government committee which is supervising AT&T's Affirmative Action plan, has found that 13 Bell companies are not in compliance with the plan. Only two are making what the committee calls "satisfactory" progress. Investigations on other Bell companies are continuing.

**Lift-truck drivers beware!** American Machinist, trade publication of the machine tool industry reports on a new product designed to watch you like big brother.

"A low-cost impact recorder is designed to monitor lift-truck operation..." the magazine says. "Its function in monitoring operations is largely psychological, in that it constantly reminds the operator that misconduct will not escape detection. Backed up by provisions for appropriate disciplinary actions in response to any large imprints that are recorded, the unit will promote slower and more careful lift-truck driving and thereby reduce wear on mechanical components."

H.L. Boardman Inc. of Clayton, Missouri is responsible for this mechanical foreman.

Peter J. Brennan, who is being fired as Secretary of Labor, turned down a job as Ambassador to Ireland. Brennan doesn't feel an ambassador's salary of \$36,000 is sufficient for him. He made \$60,000 as a member of the Cabinet. Before Brennan was appointed Secretary of Labor by Richard Nixon, he was president of the New York Building and Construction Trades Council. If he can't find a job that pays high enough to suit his taste, Brennan may have to join the ranks of 15-20% unemployed construction workers.

What's happening where you work? Send items for this column to: Labor Editor, Workers' Power, 14131 Woodward Ave., Highland Park, MI 48203. Or phone 313-869-3137.

## Union Leaders Crawling

# NYC Layoffs Loom

NEW YORK CITY—Mayor Beame has turned down a request from the leaders of the city employee's unions that he stop the massive layoffs of city workers.

He refused to halt even temporarily the layoffs of 900 members of the uniformed services (police, fire, sanitation), scheduled for January 31. In all, Beame is planning to cut 11,989 city workers.

The union leaders were not meeting with Beame to tell him there would be strikes or work actions if city workers were fired. Instead, they wanted to convince him that they could help him save enough money to make the layoffs unnecessary.

They said the unions' pension plans and union members would buy city bonds for interest rates lower than those demanded by the banks. They also said they would work with the city administration to increase productivity (speed up city workers).

The union leaders asked Beame to provide incentive for city workers to retire early. They did not mention that once they retire, city workers receive considerably less and have no cost of living protection.

### NOT IMPRESSED

These weak-kneed proposals to tinker with the city economy reveal that the "leaders" are not willing to defend their member's right to their jobs. Mayor Beame was not very impressed with these promises.

Beame noted that rumors that the unions would promise payless workdays, wage freezes and furloughs had not proved true. As long as the union leaders won't stand up and fight layoffs, Beame may as well demand everything he



New York City employees' layoffs mount. Union leadership has not developed an effective response.

can squeeze out of the workforce.

### IMAGINATION

Victor Gotbaum, Executive Director of AFSCME District Council 37, and the spokesman for the city unions said, "No, and I emphasize no, civil servants will be laid off." But he refused to say what actions the city unions would take to back up this statement. He said he would leave that to the reporter's

imagination. City workers need more than promises and imagination to protect their jobs. They need action. But they won't get it from these union leaders.

The rank and file, whose jobs are at stake, should take control of their unions. A coalition of militant city unions, willing to act, is the force that can stop layoffs.

Sandy Boyer

## Los Angeles:

# CLUW Setback

by Mary Franklin

LOS ANGELES—A victory of the rank and file of Los Angeles Coalition of Labor Union Women (CLUW) has been overturned. At the January membership meeting two motions to broaden participation in LA CLUW were repealed by the same forces which had fought for their adoption in December.

The motions, one to give voting membership to national CLUW members in areas of Southern California which have no chapters, and another to give speaking rights to unorganized women at membership meetings, were repealed in an attack led by Dina Beaumont, Communications Workers of America (CWA).

Beaumont had not been present at the December meeting when members of the CWA CLUW caucus led the rank and file fight to open up the chapter.

Clearly, though, she was informed of the events and used the time between the two meetings to whip the caucus into shape. The caucus was convinced to move to repeal the amendments they had fought for in December.

Many of the members of the caucus had been active rank and filers in their locals. But they have recently been elected as officers since their small independent union merged with CWA.

### THREAT

In a leaflet passed out before the meeting, the caucus members said they would move to rescind the amendment giving voting rights to women outside LA County because it brought a threat from Olga

Madar, CLUW National President, to revoke the LA charter. The amendment on speaking rights for unorganized women they characterized as "an error in judgement" and argued in the meeting that such rights would encourage "disrupters" and prevent CLUW from doing its business.

The loss of the support of the CWA caucus turned the tide. Their votes were enough to give the bureaucrats a victory and rescind the two motions.

Throughout the debate, a group of 15-20 rank and file and socialist women maintained that CLUW should be a democratic organization open to all working women. To give in to a threat to revoke the charter, they argued, would give strength to the attempts of the trade union bureaucrats to prevent rank and file women from gaining power in CLUW.

Officials like Madar and Beaumont want CLUW to be a pressure

group and lobby to get more influence for women trade union officials like themselves. They do not want it to be controlled by ordinary working women.

### HOPES DASHED

Although the hopes of building a chapter controlled by the ranks have been dashed, the LA chapter has voted to make fighting against layoffs and unemployment its number one priority for the next few months.

During activity around unemployment, organizing and other important issues CLUW must face, the bureaucrats can be expected to continue to show they are not interested in building a militant working women's organization. CLUW members who want such an organization will realize these women officials are a roadblock. If CLUW is to fulfill its promise, they must be removed.



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# Trucking Industry Squeezes Teamsters Weights Blackmail

by Ken Smith  
On January 4 President Ford signed into law Senate Bill 3934 which raises the weight limitation of interstate trucks from 73,280 to 80,000 lbs. The signing of the bill followed a massive campaign by the American Trucking Association (ATA).

Last October the ATA made substantial donations to at least 117 Congressmen. Thirteen members of the House Public Works Committee picked up the biggest ones. This Committee was instrumental in passing the law.

Additionally, the ATA carried out thousands of letters asking truck drivers to cancel their membership in the American Automobile Association, which had opposed the bill. The ATA also had the strong backing of their loyal servant, the US Department of Transportation. It's easy to see why the law is important to the ATA. By overloading trucks they can use fewer trucks and fewer drivers.



It's also easy to see what this means for truck drivers. Last year over half the deaths resulting from mechanical failures of trucks were due to front tire blowouts. Now with more overloading, this toll will rise further.

Driver fatigue, lack of control on slippery surfaces, and under-powered tractors will also be worsened by heavier loads. And of course jobs will be lost as well as lives in the name of productivity.

## DEATH WARRANTS

The ATA has lobbied for heavier trucks for years. But always before some Congressmen have feared to be recorded voting for the death warrants of so many truck drivers and motorists. It's bad publicity, after-all.

But now the political climate has changed. The depression means all the more pressure to sacrifice the needs of workers to the needs of productivity and profitability.

Top Teamster officials, who look out for the health of the industry instead of the health of the Teamster membership, supported this bill. Except they wanted a 10,000 pound limitation on the front axle weights. But this was dropped from the law when it passed.

Only isolated rank and file voices, PROD (Professional Drivers Council for Safety and Health) and a few local Teamster officials spoke out against it. The need for an organized rank and file movement that can fight for Teamsters without a commitment to the "health of the industry" is becoming a matter of life and death. □

## LAYOFFS HIT TELEPHONE

NEW YORK—For the first time in decades, layoffs have hit the Bell System, the largest corporation in the world. 2,000 have been laid off in New England alone. Almost all of these are permanent, with recall very unlikely. Forced downgrades, transfers, and cuts from full time to part time status add to the gloomy picture.

Telephone workers receive no Supplementary Unemployment Benefits, as do steelworkers and autoworkers. Worse still, there is no union tradition of fighting layoffs. The very idea seems strange to the leaders of the Communication Workers of America (CWA), largest union of Bell System workers. They have done absolutely nothing.

In New York City, Local 1101 President Ed Dempsey tells everyone that there won't be any layoffs. He knows because the president of New York Telephone has told him so—but not in writing, of course. Meanwhile the membership waits for the ax; telephone workers know how much the company's work is worth, even if Dempsey doesn't.

Women and minority workers, newly admitted to the higher paying craft jobs after decades of AT&T's discrimination, will have their gains completely wiped out.

The CWA officials have made it perfectly clear that they couldn't care less.

## UNITED ACTION

Rank and file groups, like United Action in Local 1101, are starting a campaign against layoffs, trying to force the union into action. Many rank and file leaders—the stewards and others who have shown they are willing to stand up to the company—are making their break with Dempsey on this issue.

These people, who have won the respect of their fellow workers, put the need to protect jobs ahead of the company's profits. Unlike Dempsey and the rest of the CWA's bureaucrats, they are arguing that the company, not the telephone worker, must pay for the recession.

As United Action said: "There is no reason for the Bell System to be laying off or part-timing any workers—unless the union lets them."

The growing support for United Action in New York is one hopeful sign. While Dempsey may still have faith in the system, more and more telephone workers are putting their faith in themselves. □

Ken Morgan

by John Thomas

The Great Lakes Express trucking company, a midwest outfit based in Saginaw, Michigan, sent letters to all its 1000 workers last week calling them to meetings at their various places of work on a certain morning. There they gathered around a speaker to hear the president of the company tell them about the hard times the company is having now.

The president outlined his plan for the workers to take a 20% wage cut for the next three months to help bail the company out. This will mean approximately a million dollar "donation" from the workers to the owners of Great Lakes. And there is no guarantee that three or six months from now the owners might liquidate the com-

pany anyway!

The workers accepted the deal. Why? Because they could see no alternative. The boss said if they didn't accept it they would face mass layoffs and maybe the company would go under.

One dockman at Great Lakes said "I was against it 100%, but I was scared. The union rep [Business Agent] sat there silently the whole time, just watching."

The union officials said they were not involved in this, because it was "voluntary." So they sit by quietly while a thousand teamsters lose 20% of their wages, and the union as a whole becomes weakened against the various pressures and schemes other bosses have in

store.

A fighting union would have led walkouts at all these "meetings" and held their own meetings to discuss how to respond to the boss' plan. It would fight for a policy of no layoffs and no wage cuts, and back up such demands with slowdowns and overtime bans.

A leadership determined to fight wage cutting would also appeal to other locals, any of which may be faced with the same situation tomorrow, to take sympathy actions. And Great Lakes workers along with other Teamsters should spearhead an all out fight for 100% job security when the national Master Freight contract is re-negotiated next year. □



Which Side Are You On?  
by Kim Moody

## Prices Down, Prices Up

According to the news, inflation has just hit the worst level since 1946. Worse even than last year, when the annual rate was 12.1%. For the average American worker that meant a drop in real wages of 6.2%.

That average, of course, assumes that you got a wage increase of around 6%, the average for the year. If you didn't, you are even worse off.

The same news tells us that unemployment continues to grow and to affect more kinds of jobs. More auto workers are being laid off. But also more steel, electrical, construction, and telephone workers—to name a few. Unemployment reached a national average of 7.1% in December. That's over six million workers.

So, if you are a worker this recession is hitting you from both directions. Fewer jobs, less money.

But suppose you are a capitalist? Now as long as this capitalist buys consumer goods, he also confronts inflation.

Reports are that the cost of dining at expensive restaurants is up, yachts too; there will be no price rebate for a Mercedes Benz or Rolls Royce this year, and, of course, the air fare to the French Riviera is higher than ever.

### HITS US ALL?

It would seem that inflation hits us all. Of course, some are more equal than others. After all, a capitalist with hundreds of thousands of dollars to spend on these items, is less likely to feel the pinch than a working class family with an income of \$10,000 or less.

What may be a minor inconvenience for the consuming capitalist is a disaster for the worker.

If we look at the capitalist in his role as a capitalist businessman, however, we find that inflation no longer even hits us all.

As a businessman and employer, the capitalist is most interested in buying wholesale industrial products. These products can be raw materials, machinery, semi-finished products, or other things. These industrial products

are the things the capitalist needs to produce whatever it is he sells as a final product.

The cost of these products is, like labor, a cost of production. The capitalist passes on the cost of these wholesale industrial products to the consumer. If their cost goes up, like everything else, the capitalist will have to raise his prices to cover his costs.

In fact, the spokesmen for the big corporations are always complaining that inflation hits them just like the rest of us and so they have no choice but to raise prices.

Up to April 1974 there was a good deal of truth in what they said. The prices of wholesale non-food industrial products rose during 1973 and early 1974.

### WHOLESALE PRICES DOWN

But according to a report by the First National City Bank of New York, a well-known capitalist institution, "Wholesale prices for industrial commodities—many of which are used to manufacture consumer goods—peaked in April (1974) and have fallen about 25% since that time."

That means that the average price of the goods needed by the capitalists to produce the consumer goods used by the rest of us has fallen 25% in the last eight months of 1974. According to a more recent report they are still falling.

So, our prices go up, their prices go down.

They will tell you, and it is true, that their prices are going down because it is a recession.

Since everyone is cutting back on production, it is harder to sell these industrial goods. So those capitalists who produce them are forced to lower prices in the hope that some one will buy them when they are cheaper.

Eventually, the capitalists will buy these cheaper industrial commodities. But that will not lead to a fall in prices of consumer goods.

Depending on a great many other things, like government policy, the rate at which consumer prices continue to grow may slow down a bit. But there will be

no drop in consumer prices the way there has been in wholesale industrial commodity prices.

But, why not? It would certainly seem fair for the capitalists to pass on their savings to the consumers.

### FAIR AND FOUL

Unfortunately, the capitalist system does not operate on the basis of fairness. Capitalists, for example, do not really believe in the old slogan a fair days work for a fair days pay.

What they believe in and practice is, the hardest possible days work for the least possible pay. That is why we need unions.

No, the capitalist system operates on the basis of profit. The businessman who can't make a profit, won't produce a product.

Profit is the reason why the capitalist, particularly with today's monopoly set-up, won't pass on his savings to you. Instead he will use the extra savings to increase his profits.

With those increased profits he will buy more industrial goods to turn out more consumer goods and make more and more profits.

Unless things get completely out of control, they don't care if your costs go up. They only care about their costs: the costs of raw materials, machines, plants, and, of course, labor.

In the next couple of years, when unions go to the bargaining table the companies will plead poverty. They will demand rising costs and demand that labor be "reasonable."

They will hope to bamboozle the labor leaders, who also believe in the capitalist profit system, into getting the workers to hold down wage demands and thereby make their contribution to growing profits.

The workers have no stake in the capitalists' profits. Union leaders who fall for the capitalists' double-talk should be put on permanent layoff by the ranks.

And the ranks themselves must become aware that inflation exists because of profits. Let's make the capitalists pay the bill, not the workers. □

# ANGRY AUTO WORKERS DEMANDING JOE

by Jim Woodward

Chrysler has laid its cards on the table. Company president Lynn Townsend said Jan. 13 that he doesn't expect the US auto market "is going to ever get better than six million cars a year." In 1974, it was 8.8 million, and in 1973 a record 11.4 million cars were sold.

Regardless of whether Townsend's prediction is correct, Chrysler is reducing its workforce proportionately. He said that unless sales improve, "a lot of these short range layoffs will become permanent."

If Townsend is allowed to get away with this, it means that most of the 64,000 workers now laid off will never go back to work at Chrysler.

Never. That's a long, long time after the SUB fund runs out. It's also a long time after unemployment payments are cut off.

And what goes for Chrysler also applies to Ford and GM.

That's why the fight against the auto layoffs is so critical.

Up until now only rank and filers were trying to do anything about the unemployment. The leadership of the United Auto Workers spent most of its time defending the auto companies.

But finally the UAW has taken its first step in fighting the layoffs. It has called for a rally of thousands of unemployed auto workers in Washington, February 5.

The UAW's call for the demonstration is timid, weak-kneed, and not well aimed. But every auto worker should plan to go to Washington with the intention of

making it the biggest, most militant demonstration possible. That's the first step in building a movement to fight the layoffs.

## UAW PLANS

The union plans to begin the rally at 1 pm, February 5 in the Washington Armory. The Armory seats only 5,000, although UAW officials refuse to predict how many will attend. The program has not been announced, but top Congressional and Administration leaders, including President Ford, have been invited to speak.

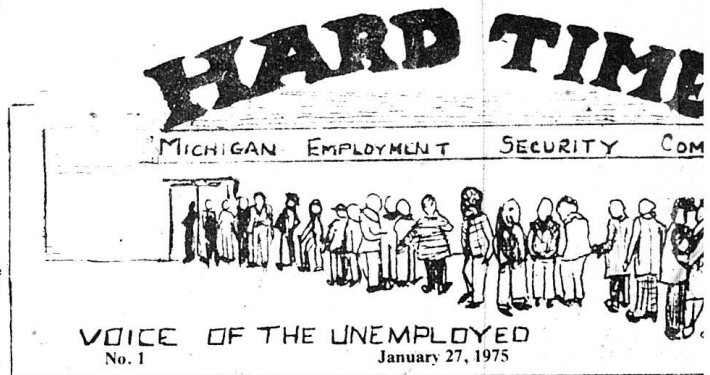
Some UAW locals on the east coast are actively mobilizing the membership to attend, but in Detroit their efforts are generally half-hearted.

These exceedingly modest plans are matched only by the vague goals UAW President Leonard Woodcock has announced. "We must have immediate responses to the people's needs," he proclaimed.

This lofty sentiment has not yet given way to concrete programs. But Woodcock promised that during the rally the union's program "to get the country back on the road to economic stability and security" would be spelled out.

When it does come, the UAW program will likely concentrate on restoring financial health to the auto companies. In recent years, the union leadership has accepted the notion that no gains can be made unless the auto companies are profitable. When you get right down to it, this means they consider company profits more

Masthead of the United National Caucus Unemployed Committee's newsletter, "Hard Times."



important than the workers' jobs.

That is why in recent months UAW officials have said: that the enormous price increases on the 1975 models were justified, that workers should take a wage cut in order to support the SUB fund, that there should be a moratorium on federal auto safety regulations, and that the UAW would launch an advertising campaign to get people to buy cars.

Were it not for the anger of auto workers who have been laid off and the pressure they are exerting on the union, the UAW might just as well roll over and play dead. Or at least apply for disability.

## AN ALTERNATIVE

When the UAW was formed, it held a different point of view: that the union existed to protect the jobs

of workers, whether or not the corporations were making money.

If this was still the union's position, the UAW's demands as it marches on Washington would be clear and simple:

- We want jobs. The companies which have profited so greatly from our labor have an obligation to give us work or a full paycheck. Shorten the work week so that everyone has a job, while maintaining a full 40-hour paycheck.

- If the auto companies can't afford to do this, then the workers will do it themselves. If a company can't meet its obligations to the workers, then it should be confiscated by the government, with the workers controlling production.

- The government should provide jobs at union wages for anyone who can't otherwise get one. Unemployment compensation should be extended for the duration of all

layoffs.

In addition to a fighting program like this, the union should be attempting the most massive and militant mobilization of auto workers possible. The UAW should be going to Washington to confront the President and the Congress and place demands upon them, not to listen to them give slick speeches.

## FIGHT FOR JOBS

Rank and filers, including the opposition United National Caucus (UNC), plan to build the February 5 demonstration, and give it as militant a direction as possible.

"What's needed is a militant, mass march of 100,000 unemployed auto workers. That's what should be going on," said Mark Levitan of the UNC executive board.

Levitan told Workers' Power, "They should be demanding jobs

# network

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# The Way It

In its early years, and even during the recession of the late 50's, the UAW was considerably more militant than its Solidarity House leadership is today.

The UAW was built during the Depression. It wasn't a big bureaucracy divorced from the rank and file then. It was nothing more nor less than the ranks organized to fight for their jobs, wages, working conditions. They did not care at all about the interests of the bosses.

Even more than now, jobs was one of the crying needs of workers during the Depression. The union fought for jobs.

It fought by organizing to defeat speed-up. It fought to reduce the work week without reducing pay. It insisted that no overtime be scheduled while anyone was laid off.

In some locals some of these demands were partially won. What was critical was that for the first time, workers had an effective fighting organization that could improve their conditions.

In 1958-59 the nation was seized by a deep recession. Millions were out of work.

By then, the top leadership of the UAW had become too conservative to initiate the kind of fights that were waged during the Depression. But there were still institutions in the union that could.

The UAW Production and Skilled Workers Council led the battle. It organized demonstrations at the Common Council in Detroit and at the Michigan state capitol in Lansing. It demanded 30 hours work for 40 hours pay, early retirement, increased unemployment compensation for longer periods, a public works program to provide jobs, and a moratorium on debts for the unemployed.

Workers at UAW Local 3 refused to wait for the International leadership to act. They picketed the plant on Saturday to protest the use of overtime while workers were laid off.

Several local unions organized



# WHY I'M GOING TO WASHINGTON



Reggie Dodson, UAW Local 51, Lynch Road Assembly



Al Lewis, UAW Local 869, Warren Stamping

"I'm going to show how unemployed workers are fed up with the present conditions. We want to force Woodcock to take some action. We don't want more empty promises. We don't just want to have Kennedy come and make speeches.

"I don't think it's a waste of time. We have to make the rally a forum for the rank and file. We will let Woodcock know that since he's our 'elected leadership' we want some action to protect jobs."

"The reason I want to go to Washington is because I feel I got a need to be in Washington because I'm a member of the UAW. The point is a lot of people ain't going. That's why I want to be there. I want to know what the deal is.

"Everybody's laid off. You got 300,000 people here in the Detroit area, really, is out of jobs. I live down there in an area where I know how hard this is. And I want to be in Washington and see how the federal government and the UAW feel about us."

"Being from the ghetto, and being where I live at, just about everybody in my neighborhood is laid off. But the point is I worked at Chrysler nine years, and I woke up one morning and there it is. I don't even have a job. But dig, I got to find out why I lost my job."



Susan Yeghissian, Local 235, Chevrolet Gear and Axle

"I am going to the UAW march to Washington because I believe the only way for anything to be done about the unemployment problem is for thousands of unemployed people to get together and make demands on the unions and the government.

"I'm not really interested in hearing Leonard Woodcock or President Ford speak because I know what they have to say: NOTHING. Their answer, whether they're Democrats or Republicans, is basically the same: maybe cut taxes a little, increase unemployment benefits a couple more weeks, or encourage people to buy cars by offering rebates or something.

"Who's going to buy cars? Laid off workers? I don't really care if cars sell or not. All I want is my job back. If the auto companies don't want to make many cars, fine...let them put everybody on a short work week, and pay us for the rest of the time. Or let us work one week on, one week off.

"It's not our problem; we don't have to support the corporations when times are bad."



Bob Machado, UAW Local 7, Jefferson Avenue Assembly

"Look, I work at Jefferson Assembly. Chrysler is going to just close it down and lock it up. By this summer all of us will be out of work. This and just plain old ordinary layoffs are rampant throughout the UAW and the union ain't doing a damn thing.

"The SUB fund is going broke and the union is responding primarily by telling people to buy cars and suggesting that auto workers are willing to take a pay cut if they lower car prices. Bullshit.

"This demonstration in Washington is the first positive thing they've done and I'm supporting it. I want the demonstration to be massive and I also want to make sure there are enough militants there to make damn sure Woodcock knows that we demand more than we're getting."

# BS



for all, that the corporations take everybody back, that we share the work on an equal basis, with everybody getting a full paycheck.

"The rally is the first big step in a fight for jobs," he said. "Even though the union officials are trying to make it a tightly controlled affair, it will involve large numbers of rank and filers. Our aim must be to make the rally the beginning of a movement, the beginning of a fight for jobs."

Rank and filers should do everything possible to ensure a large turn-out. It is not necessary to accept the chickenhearted limits the UAW leadership may wish to impose.

We should make it clear that we want jobs, regardless of what the auto companies say. We won't be turned aside, not even if Lynn Townsend appears in rags selling apples.

## It Was

together, including Locals 90, 212, 3, 600, 159 and 49. They met with UAW President Walter Reuther in February 1959. Shortly afterwards, feeling the pressure of the ranks, Reuther called a march on Washington.

At that time, the demand for a shorter work week at full pay was a central focus of the fight for more jobs. The militancy of the workers had forced a Senator from Michigan to introduce this idea in a bill in Congress. The UAW's rally was called in part to support that bill.

Other demands at the rally in 1959 included public works and bigger unemployment benefits.

Since 1959, the leadership of the UAW has become even more conservative than it was then. The task before auto workers in 1975 is to take the union back in their own hands in order to more effectively fight to protect their jobs, wages, and working conditions.

Jack Trautman

WHAT

# Why We Need A Labor Party

The depth of the economic and political crisis hitting this country has become obvious to all. And working people are beginning to respond. In protest, in limited and hesitant ways, direct action against unemployment and cutbacks in social services has begun. On February 5th, for example, thousands of auto workers will go to Washington to rally against unemployment. This protest, called by the UAW, will focus attention on how corporate policies are destroying the lives of hundreds of thousands of workers.

Working people who attend actions like the February 5th rally in Washington are proving that they are willing to fight against the mess the corporations and their system have made. The question is—how to organize that fight? The UAW leaders and other labor leaders will tell us to lobby our Democratic Party friends in Congress. Auto workers arriving in Washington will find themselves being addressed by one Democratic Party politician on the make after another.

There is a bitter lesson to be learned here. The

trade union officialdom tells us each election day that the Democratic Party is working people's friend. The rest of the year the Democratic Party sells working people out. Now things are so bad we are told to lobby our supposed friends. But if these "friends" were looking out for us in the first place, things wouldn't have gotten this bad for us.

The fact is that Democratic Party politicians are not our friends. The Democratic Party politically represents one wing of the capitalist class. Everything they do, every program they push, every decision they make, is made to meet the needs of the capitalist system. But the interests of working people are in direct conflict with those needs.

Today as the economy limps along towards ever-deepening crisis, the capitalists have one interest—to maintain their profits. That means lay-offs, wage cuts and speed-up for working people. Yet working people need jobs, no loss in pay and safe working conditions. That is a direct contradiction. There can't be both at once.

A fight for the needs of the working class means

challenging the right to profits of the capitalist class. The Democratic Party will never do that. In every conflict they will side with the needs of the profit system, and against working people, whose labor makes all the wealth.

Working people need a party of our own—a labor party whose programs, policies and decisions would be based on what workers need. A labor party would organize working people for direct mass action to get what they need. It would be an ally of every strike, every trade union demand, every struggle against oppression.

With the crisis of the capitalist system deepening every day, the idea of a labor party is becoming more and more realistic and urgent. The capitalist parties, who govern today, have no answers, except at our expense. The past few years have proven once again that working people need to organize their own independent political party to back up the fight we wage against the employers every day. □

# Dear Workers Powers, I would

## Black Self-Defense



Blacks must defend themselves against racists in Boston.

I would like the blacks in Boston to stop asking the federal government for help, cause it's like asking a boy to do a man's job. The blacks in Boston must defend themselves from the racist lynch mobs, and by any means necessary.

So to the blacks in Boston I say,

stop asking the government to do the black man's job and if the government thinks I'm wrong for saying this, then let the government start doing its job.

J.B.  
Dallas, Pa.

## Socialism & Technicians

Bernard O'Higgins' suggestion that "as long as specialized technical workers, managers and the like are needed, they could be hired, fired and controlled by a working class that controlled the factories," in Workers' Power No. 110, ignores the problems involved in supervising and controlling a group of experts who are selling specialized knowledge.

Lenin referred to these difficulties in "Can the Bolsheviks Retain State Power?," where he proposes to force the capitalists to work for the workers by using the grain monopoly, bread rationing, and labor conscription that the capitalists themselves set up during World War I.

But he never deals with the question of how non-experts can tell whether the experts are doing what they are supposed to.

Fortunately, this problem will probably not trouble future revolutions. Most experts of this kind are now either in unions or are in the process of forming them. Thus, in a future socialist revolution, they will be on our side of the barricades.

After workers' control of the factories is established, we can expect them to play the same role as other groups of specialized workers, and to contribute to the success of the revolution without the need of outside supervision.

John Sullivan  
Carbondale

## Workers' Power Wants To Hear From You

What you like about the paper - and what you don't. What you think of the political ideas we present, and your comments on problems facing working people.

But please be brief.

## CLUW And The Layoffs

On January 19, I attended a CLUW meeting in Warren, Ohio. The meeting was called by Marian Cook, Chairperson of the Women's Committee of the International Union of Electrical Workers (IUE) and Blair Enterline of the United Steelworkers (USW).

Over 30 women, representing ten different unions, including the USW, IUE, and UAW were there to form the Youngstown Area CLUW.

Youngstown is the center of an important industrial area with heavy concentration in steel, electrical, and auto manufacturing. In good times, hundreds of women are employed by General Motors in Lordstown.

Today, however, thousands of women are unemployed and a chief issue for CLUW will have to be these layoffs. Unemployment has not dampened the fighting spirit of Youngstown area women.

The meeting was enthusiastic and another has been planned for February. One member pointed out that, "Now that we are laid off we can devote eight hours a day to CLUW."

A.E.  
Ohio



## Love The Paper!

I love your paper, your politics and your enlightened pro-gay stand! It's good to see a socialist group whose inclusive membership merits the term revolutionary.

Please continue regular coverage of struggles against sexism as it relates to women and gays (and ultimately to men). It is very refreshing, encouraging and supportive to see such an absence of homophobia (fear of gays) in your organization. It will be to your benefit as well as to the benefit of gay revolutionaries.

Yours in struggle,  
Tom Kennedy  
San Francisco



Unemployment mounts.



# Steel Decree Doesn't Do Job

by Joe Miller

In the steel mill I work in, there is a grand total of one black craft worker. The remaining 200 or so are all white.

Recently some changes have been made in the system of upgrading in the mills. These changes have come as a result of the Consent Decree signed by the government, the companies, and the steel workers union. The Decree, however, is a joke in pretending to stop racial and sexual discrimination in the mills. Articles in recent issues of Workers'

their fair share of the skilled craft jobs.

Vacancies in the apprenticeships will be filled by a quota of 50% minority and women workers. This will go on until these groups are represented in the crafts in the same proportions as they are represented in the plant.

### RACISM IN REVERSE?

I have found that many white workers ask: "Isn't this racism in reverse? Aren't blacks getting special treatment at my expense?"

To answer these questions, we must realize that black workers

instance, black workers have an average job class of 5.47 while white workers average 9.62. That means a difference of \$15 to \$20 a week!

These facts clearly show the existence of vicious discrimination. So to open up opportunities on a quota basis for minorities is not a handout. It is rightful compensation for decades of discrimination.

To simply make the companies give "equal opportunity" from now on in upgrading would do nothing to correct the inequities caused by past discrimination. When black workers are fighting for justice, blocking them with talk about "equal opportunity" is nothing but a cover for racism.

### LOOPHOLES

The only way to correct this unequal situation is to start moving minority workers into craft apprenticeships on a preferential basis. We should support the part of the Consent Decree that can do exactly that.

But one problem is that the Decree contains loopholes. Under it, the company can still discriminate in a more subtle way.

In the past, favoritism was the main method of "choosing" apprentices. The bosses simply "chose" who they liked. And they chose mostly whites.

The more recent method has been the use of tests to screen out applicants—tests which are rigged to effectively screen out blacks.

The Decree allows the companies to continue to use these tests. And where the company isn't yet using them, the Consent Decree encourages them to start.

As a result, the corporations can discriminate even if they have to follow a quota system. The Decree says that the 50% quota only need to be followed "to the extent that qualified applicants...are available within the plant."

This wording gives the companies an out. They can simply say that not enough black applicants passed these tests! In addition, the Decree allows them to hire off the streets for apprenticeships, if not enough people in the plant qualify on the test.



Power have shown why. The Consent Decree as a whole is designed to get the steel companies off the hook for past discrimination as cheaply as possible. But while this is true, we should realize that there are some gains won by black and minority workers in the Decree that we should support. Even more important, we should fight to extend these gains.

One such gain is "affirmative action." This program could allow minority workers and women to get

have always gotten "special treatment." Only it was always especially racist treatment.

To give one example, consider the case of Bethlehem Steel's Sparrows Point Plant. There, 75% of all coke workers and 99% of all sinter plant workers are black. These are known as the dirtiest and worst departments to work in.

This situation is a result of company hiring practices. The racism behind them shows up in earnings. In one steel plant, for

And what holds them to hiring in minorities for these openings? Good faith!! That is something, the steel companies are hardly noted for!

### THE FAIR WAY

There is really only one fair way to award these apprenticeships. That's on the basis of plant time. Apprenticeship programs should train people from the ranks of production workers.

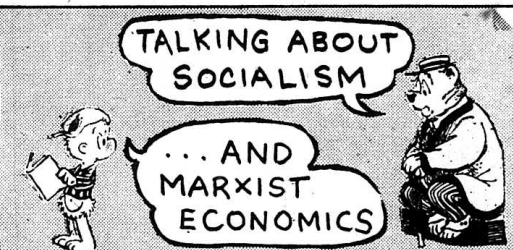
Companies should not be permitted to hire off the streets to fill craft openings. They should be forced to upgrade men and women from the

mills. This solution would be in the interests of everyone working in the steel mills today.

Furthermore, they must be forced to do this on a quota basis, to compensate for their past discrimination.

Wherever one worker is discriminated against, all workers suffer. Unless all steel workers are ready to fight against past and present discrimination, the companies will have a handy weapon for playing the divide and conquer game.

If rank and file steel workers stand up and fight for a better deal for minorities and women, it will mean a victory for all of us.



### BERNARD O'HIGGINS

Economics really isn't the mysterious or ivory tower subject it's usually made out to be. Economics is the study of how the wealth of society is produced and how it is distributed.

Since the vast majority of us work, and play a part in producing or distributing that wealth, we are involved in economics.

Economics can explain why it is that the economy goes into a crisis—seemingly against everyone's will—and how it sometimes recovers. But not just any system of economics, only Marxist economics, can get to the root of common economic problems.

Marxist economics, like Marxist theory in general, is a weapon of the working class in the fight against capitalist oppression. It explains how capitalists end up "owning" the wealth produced by workers, and why it is that capitalism keeps getting itself into deeper and deeper economic crisis.

It's important for workers to understand how capitalism fits together as a system, especially right now when that system seems to be coming apart at the seams. So the next few columns in this series will try to explain some of the basic concepts of Marxist economics.

### WHO DOES WHAT?

The most basic question of economics is: who (or what) produces wealth, or value. Is it produced by clever capitalists, by ingenious inventors, by machines? Or is it produced by human labor, by workers?

Marx believed in the labor theory of value, the idea that the value of a product is determined by the amount of human labor necessary to produce it. And commodities are worth more, or less, depending on how much of that labor was needed to produce them. They are exchanged on the market in relation to how much human labor they embody.

### NECESSARY LABOR

This does not mean that a company that takes twice as long to produce a suit of clothes as other companies produces a commodity with twice as much value.

Marx was not talking just about any kind of labor, but what he called "socially necessary labor time." This is the amount of time it takes an average worker to make a product of average quality, working at an average

speed with equipment whose technological level is the best at a given point in time. Because capitalism revolutionizes technology, that level is constantly changing.

If, on the average, it takes an hour to produce a suit of clothes, then that is the socially necessary labor time. A company with such antiquated machinery that it takes them two hours to make a suit of average quality can't sell that suit for twice as much just because they took twice as long to make it. No one will buy it from them.

They will have to sell it at the same price as their more modern and efficient competitors or be driven out of business. Capitalist competition constantly enforces the law of value, and the companies that can't keep up fall by the wayside.

### MACHINES TRANSFER VALUE

Objects only have value to the extent that human labor is tied up in them. The value of raw materials is based on the socially necessary labor time it takes to find and gather them.

Machines do not create value—they are themselves created by human labor. They transfer their value to the goods they produce as they machines wear out. They would have no value at all if workers didn't build them and use them as tools of labor.

Marx realized the revolutionary implications of the labor theory of value. For if human labor creates all value, why is the capitalist necessary at all?

Many people argue that capitalists are necessary because they have resources needed to produce wealth. In capitalist society, the capitalists own the plants and raw materials. They are the ones who put workers to work to produce new goods.

So of course it is true that as long as capitalists own all the means of production nothing can be produced without them. But the capitalists no longer play any role whatever in production.

Workers do all the work. All the decisions are made by hired technicians and executives. As soon as we take over the factories and run them ourselves, in our own interests, the capitalists will lose even the appearance of being necessary to produce wealth.

We will decide what is to be produced and how. The capitalists will be revealed as the useless parasites that they are today.

## Sports Star Walton

# WON'T QUIET DOWN

Professional sports figures in this country are expected to do their thing, collect their money, and shut their mouths. When they become too outspoken about what's going on in the world they sometimes find themselves fighting for their careers and maybe their very lives, as in the cases of Jack Johnson and recently Muhammad Ali.

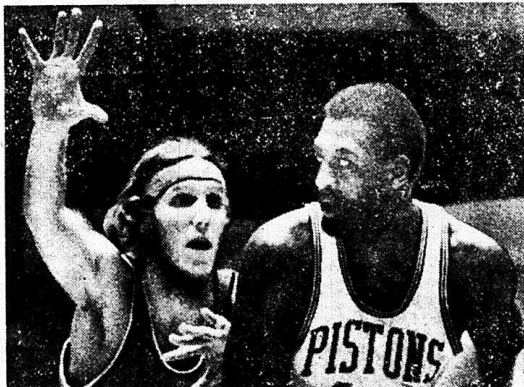
A young pro basketball player has stuck his neck out to tell the truth as he sees it.

This year Bill Walton has a much-publicized \$2 million long-term contract with the NBA Portland Trail Blazers. Until last weekend he was sidelined by an ankle injury for which he refuses painkilling drugs and cortisone shots.

Many athletes learn to play with painful injuries, and many of them wind up crippled. So Bill's refusal to hurt his body would make him newsworthy. But his views of sports salaries and profits are what will make him notorious.

He says athletes are underpaid as a group:

"Through circumstances like in professional basketball, there are a few of us who make very large incomes. Still, we wouldn't be paid these salaries unless the owners felt it was in their best interests. "The salaries we receive are a



Bill Walton (left) guarding Bob Lanier.

reflection of the extraordinary emphasis placed on spectator sports in this country, and the huge amounts of money our labor generates. There are tremendous sums of money being made in the world of sports today. Unfortunately, the people who are participating in the sports...are not receiving the profits. It's going other places."

Asked where it was going, he

mentioned the TV networks and sports magazines.

"In the whole so-called free world, people are making money off other people's labor. And that's not right. People who work should be the ones who get paid. The people who do the actual physical work...should receive the fruits of that labor."

Yvonne

# THE PLOT THAT CRUSHED THE BLACK PANTHERS

The role of agencies like the FBI, and the CIA, in carrying out political spying and intimidation in this country are receiving a round of publicity. These domestic political repression programs are nothing new.

The main purpose of the FBI has been to crush active movements and organizations which challenge the rule of capitalism.

Hired wire-tappers and terror squads are constantly at the ready to crush any dissent which demands an end to this racist capitalist system. These activities masquerade as a free and democratic society.

The following article documents thorough and brutal police repression which crippled the Black Panther Party. But because the Panthers were crushed does not mean that any revolutionary organization facing similar armed state power will suffer the same fate.

The Black Panther Party contained different political views and strategies. Eldridge Cleaver's strategy for black liberation tended toward terrorism, while Huey Newton looked to massive reform of the Democratic Party.

These two political philosophies could not exist side-by-side in the same organization for long. They critically weakened the Panthers. Thus weakened the Panthers were unable to withstand the brutal and violent attack of the FBI.

A revolutionary party will be built in this country—and it will have to survive and continue the struggle against even more brutal repression than the Panthers faced.

If its roots lie in the struggles of workers in the factories and the unions, if it has strong organization and cohesive revolutionary principles, it will have the strength to organize the working class to put an end to the system that murdered Fred Hampton.

This article is excerpted and reprinted from the RED TIDE, the revolutionary socialist newspaper of the youth section of the International Socialists.

by Dan Lawrence

On May 2, 1967, 30 lobbyists dressed in black leather jackets, black berets, and carrying loaded shotguns marched on the California Capitol in Sacramento. They were protesting a proposed law forbidding the carrying of loaded weapons in cities.

That was the public debut of the Black Panther Party. The Party would grow by 1969 into a nationwide black revolutionary organization boasting thousands of members. It actively established a program of self-defense against the police harassment of blacks. It rallied mass support for the release of all political prisoners.

The government felt threatened by the Black Panther Party's potential for mobilizing black people against this political and economic system. So the government, using the FBI and the police, set out to destroy the Panthers.

In 1967, the FBI began a campaign against what J. Edgar Hoover termed "black nationalist, hate-type organizations." The code name for this counter-intelligence program was COINTELPRO.

In an August 25, 1967 memo, Hoover announced: "The purpose of the new counterintelligence endeavor is to expose, disrupt, misdirect, discredit, or otherwise neutralize the activities of black nationalist, hate-type organizations... Efforts of various groups to consolidate their forces or to recruit new or youthful adherents must be frustrated."

A Hoover memo of March 4, 1968 lists a number of goals for COINTELPRO:

"Prevent the coalition of militant black nationalist groups. In unity there is strength..."

"Prevent the rise of a 'messiah' who could unify, and electrify the militant black nationalist movement."

In a September 14, 1967 memo to Hoover, Attorney General Ramsey Clark, on behalf of the "We Shall Overcome" Johnson Administration, ordered Hoover to step up COINTELPRO operations against the black movement. In 1967 John Mitchell—the Attorney General for the Nixon Administration—promised, "By January, 1970 there will be no more Black Panther Party." The murder of Panther leaders Fred Hampton and Mark Clark is

perhaps the most blatant example of the terrorism the cops and the FBI used.

An ex-FBI agent, William O'Neal, has recently confessed that late in 1968 he infiltrated the Chicago Panther Party. He was under the direction of local COINTELPRO chief Roy Mitchell. O'Neal became the Chicago Panther's security chief and Fred Hampton's body guard, two sensitive positions indeed.

The FBI wanted Fred Hampton dead. According to the Chicago Tribune the FBI had twice requested Chicago police break into the home of and kill Hampton. When the police refused, the FBI approached State Attorney Edward



Fred Hampton, murdered by the police.

Hanrahan with the same proposal. He agreed.

## THE KILLING

On the morning of December 4, 1969, Fred Hampton and his girlfriend Deborah Johnson, almost nine months pregnant, were in bed talking by phone with Hampton's mother and sister. In the middle of the conversation, Hampton fell asleep. Deborah attempted to awaken Fred, but couldn't.

He was still asleep at 4:45 am, when Louis Truelock, a Panther living in the apartment, burst into the room, crying, "Chairman! Chairman! Wake up! The pigs are vamping!" Gun fire then illuminated the apartment, but Fred Hampton remained motionless. Then Fred raised his head and looked up toward the door. He didn't make a sound.

At this point Truelock yelled, "Stop shooting, stop shooting! We have a pregnant sister in here!" After the gunfire ceased, Truelock and Johnson emerged from the bedroom with their hands up.

Deborah Johnson testified, "One of the policemen grabbed my robe and threw it down and said, 'What do you know, we have a broad here.' Another man grabbed me by the head and a voice from another part of the apartment said, 'He's barely alive,' or 'He'll barely make it.' Then I heard more shots. A sister screamed from the front. The shooting stopped. I heard someone say, 'He's as good as dead now.'"

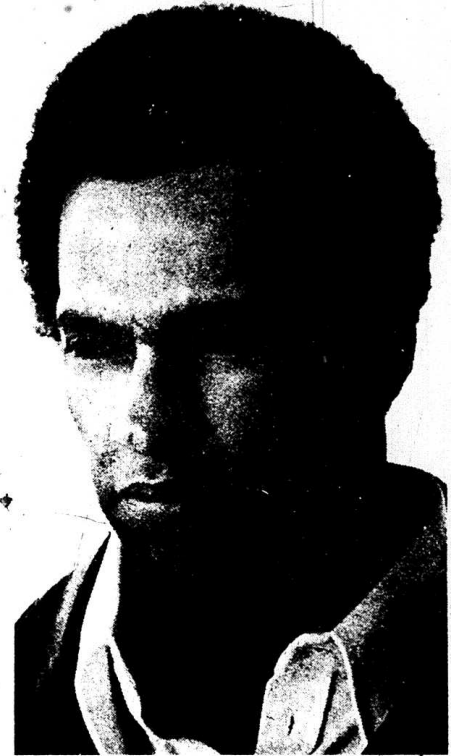
## STATE ATTORNEY'S COVER-UP EXPOSED

Hanrahan tried to justify the deaths by claiming that the Panthers had refused to allow the cops in, opened fire, and continued to shoot despite numerous offers by the police for a cease-fire.

A federal grand jury estimated that the cops got off between 83 and 99 bullets. The FBI said that the Panthers fired no more than one shot, if that.

## CORONER COVER-UP EXPOSED

The Cook County Coroner's office attempted to cover up the possibility that Hampton had been drugged prior to his death. But an autopsy revealed strong



Huey P. Newton, a founder of the Black Panther Party.

obstruction of justice in Hampton's murder. O'Neal was never called to testify. The fact that he had been Hampton's bodyguard and chief of security was never mentioned in court. If they had been, the secrecy of COINTELPRO would have been in jeopardy.

## LA HEADQUARTERS BLASTED

At 3:00 am, December 8, 1969, four days after Fred Hampton and Mark Clark died, the Los Angeles Special Weapons and Tactics Squad (SWAT) positioned itself outside Panther headquarters. The SWAT squad, carrying AR-15 automatic rifles, was backed by 100 policemen, strategically located sniper squads, and an armored personnel carrier.

At 5:30 am, the attack was launched. A gun battle of over four hours erupted.

The Panthers could not withstand the heavy barrage of gunfire, teargas and dynamite. At 9:45 the Panthers surrendered and were arrested. Six of the 13 prisoners were wounded. Among those captured was another police infiltrator.

It has now been discovered that the FBI still has unrevealed counterintelligence-related papers, which means that what we know now may still be the tip of an iceberg. Demand is currently building for the rest of these FBI papers to be exposed.

The present FBI director, Clarence Kelley, defended COINTELPRO in a mid-November statement. "For the FBI to have done anything else under the circumstances would have been an abdication of its responsibility to the American people," Kelley declared. Of which American people? Who were the Panthers

threatening? While many Black Panthers were arrested on charges ranging from murder to kidnapping, few were ultimately convicted. Either the charges would be dropped due to lack of evidence, or the prosecution's flimsy case would fall in court. Bobby Seale and Ericka Huggins, The New York 21, and the Los Angeles 12 were all acquitted.

These cases served the FBI's purpose in that they diverted the attention of the Panthers from their activities to legal defense. They weakened the Panther leadership. The Black Panther Party was produced by black people's being placed at the bottom of society by a system which aims to keep them there. Blacks have always been the subject of the worst living conditions, police harassment and racism. So the Panthers, fighting these problems and the system that created them were promptly eliminated by that system.

This is just another lesson that the claim that we live in a "free country" is a myth. We are free until our actions begin to clash with the interests of the few who are in power. Once this occurs, we are allowed as much freedom as the Black Panther Party was allowed.

Yet, while the government can destroy an organization like the Black Panther Party, it cannot destroy the dissatisfaction which created it. That will remain as long as the poor living conditions and racism which black people face each day remain.

And when this dissatisfaction converts to anger as it did in the '60's, the potential for another mass black movement will be great—a movement far mightier than the strength of COINTELPRO. □



# UNDER THE INFLUENCE

• nervous • anxious  
• irritable  
• fatigued  
• restless nights

While you're calming her down with a tranquilizer...



treat what may be her real problem with  
**PREMARIN**  
CONJUGATED ESTROGENS  
TABLETS, U.S.P.

Many men think that women's biology destines them to be unhappy, as this ad from a drug company implies. Doctors feed women pills of all kinds. But the isolated lives that capitalism forces upon many women is often a reason for emotional problems.

[A Woman Under the Influence, starring Peter Falk and Gena Rowlands. Written and directed by John Cassavettes.]

Mabel Longhetti is having a nervous breakdown. Her reality—housewife, three kids, a husband, the ground floor of a duplex in Los Angeles—has closed in on her and she is fighting to break out of it.

In a rare film that captures, like none in recent history, the intense emotions of an emotional collapse, Gena Rowlands [as Mabel] gives a performance so painful in its authenticity you can sit through it only because you are too numb to leave.

But in spite of the impact of Rowlands' acting, A Woman Under the Influence is not a film about women. Mabel acts. Her husband (Peter Falk) reacts and it is around him that Cassavettes tries to build the film.

The husband does not understand what is happening to his wife. He defends her to his workmates as "sensitive." But he cannot explain her actions to himself and in frustration, he strikes out at her and everyone around him.

### BRUTE FORCE

The husband's lack of emotional

resources to rely on in facing his wife's retreat into herself becomes the core of the film. He screams at Mabel. He hits Mabel. All in an attempt to drive out her "madness" with brute force.

But brute force, like the shock treatments and drug therapy Mabel receives while locked in a state hospital for six months, cannot change the reality which has driven her to this end and when the film is over, we are left with no hope for her recovery.

As a study of an actor and actress giving life to two characters, A Woman Under the Influence is unequalled. But what Rowlands and Falk achieve in acting, Cassavettes does not accomplish as a writer.

A Woman Under the Influence fails to give you any sense of why Mabel is cracking up. You are just as confused as her husband, Longhetti.

Longhetti is incapable of giving Mabel emotional support. The mothers—one hateful, one weak—fuel Mabel's madness. Knowing what we know about the limits placed on women in this society, we can guess from hints which Cassavettes gives us that Mabel's isolation from the world outside her home and family has created an atmosphere in which apparent insanity is one of the alternatives.

What we will never understand in Cassavettes' story is why it was this alternative—destruction of her "self," her identity as a whole human being—which Mabel is forced to live. Many women in the same situation do break down. Many do not.

### WHY THIS?

Some pack up and leave. Some use work outside the home as a vehicle for establishing a form of independence. Many accept their role of wife and mother as sufficient and adjust to its limits.

Mabel does not want to accept these limits, but she does not understand she has other choices. Cassavettes never explains what it was about Mabel's life which cut her off from the hope of a positive solution to a reality she refuses to live.

By concentrating on Longhetti's reaction to Mabel's madness, Cassavettes has ended up with a film which excels in depicting a life gone out of control but is incapable of explaining it.

And what we need today is not a celluloid reproduction of the madness which we all must live through, but an understanding of where that madness comes from and how we can destroy it.

Mary Franklin

## A Song About Busing

[Spirit of '76, sung by Jack Scott and the Spirit of '76. Written by Weiss-Ferguson. Groovesville, BMI. Ponie Records.]

Country music often tells a story, and the story gets across a message. The words to a song are often as important as the music, unlike some other kinds of music where no one listens to the words.

I was half listening to a country station one day, but only to the music and hardly paying attention to that, when a phrase in a song leapt out and alerted my mind. "The alphabet's still ABC, for children black or white/and no one needs a school bus to learn to read or write."

It turns out that this song is a pretty slick anti-busing statement, calculated to strike any kind of potential anti-busing sentiment a listener may have.

The distance argument (That school down the road still teaches two and two makes four/and there ain't a school I know of where they'd say it equals more). And yet two students with diplomas from white schools plus two students with diplomas from black schools often equals two people with jobs—both white. Subtle racism for those who want to be more up front about it—"Now some folks (guess who)...think that luck, not learning, leads them to that pot of gold."

Anti-big-shot feelings: "No big time judge or lawyer is gonna push this man around," he says sternly, while a chorus of children sing "Glory Glory Hallelujah" in the background, to lend a patriotic and feel-sorry-for-the-innocent-pawns-the-children air.

The alphabet may still be ABC, but racism is still racism, too.

Karen Kaye

# The Longest Yard

[The Longest Yard, starring Burt Reynolds and Eddie Albert; Paramount Pictures]

"The audiences don't just see it—They cheer it! They roar with it! They explode with it! They love it!"

So say the advertisements for The Longest Yard, the latest Burt Reynolds film about a football game between the inmates and guards of a prison. When this reviewer saw the movie, the audience did, in fact burst into applause at the end of the final scene.

The Longest Yard is basically a cowboy movie where the Indians win—for a change. It really feels good to see the Indians win, there's no doubt about it, we all like to see the people get in a few licks at their oppressors.

The makers of The Longest Yard were all well aware of this and used it to the hilt. Their formula for a quick moneymaker included: a prison setting, a brutal football game and Burt Reynolds. How could they miss?

The prisoners, led by an ex-pro star who was caught shaving points and stealing cars, have to put together a team to play the guards' semi-pro outfit. A good part of the film relates the process of building and preparing the team for the game.

### BRUTAL FINALE

The makers of the film were primarily interested in setting up the audience for the brutal finale but they nevertheless manage to come down on the right side of the

fence in most of the narrative. The guards are clearly shown to be brutal sadistic animals. The prisoners are portrayed as a bunch of fairly real people of different dispositions who are all trying to survive as best they can in their inhuman prison environment.

One of the best scenes in the film deals with the efforts of the ex-pro [played by Reynolds] to get the black prisoners to join the team. It finally dawns on Reynolds and the rest of the white inmates that they haven't got a chance without the help of the blacks.

The blacks are rightfully suspicious of the whites, but finally, in another scene that brought cheers from the audience, they agree to join forces with the white prisoners to be able to get at the common enemy.

### CLUMSY

In its treatment of the guards, racism, the need for black-white unity and the prison system in general, the film is anything but perceptive or profound. It is generally clumsy, short-sighted and superficial. But then, cowboy movies usually are. They take a superficial plot and use it as an arena for the gladiators.

What is most significant about a movie like The Longest Yard is just that surface that it has chosen to represent. This film would have been unheard of seven years ago.

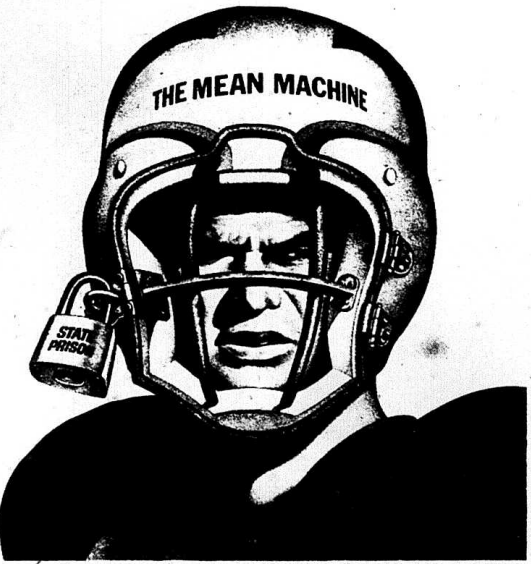
The prison revolts at Attica and elsewhere, the defense campaigns, the prison union movement, have changed the whole set of ideas that people have in their minds about

prison and prisoners. Just being alive in this society today has changed a lot of people's ideas about who the real criminals and the real victims are.

The Longest Yard is evidence that some of these ideas have gained wide enough acceptance in this society to become saleable commodities that filmmakers can make a buck off of.

Though it's basically a bone-crunching brutality film, The Longest Yard does make an effort to show that the "criminals" are just some of the victims. What they are victims of, and who the real criminals are isn't mentioned but then this is just a cowboy movie after all. Yet you'll probably cheer too when the Indians win.

Howard Tate



# I.S. Leader On Tour

SEATTLE—Marilyn Danton, National Secretary of the International Socialists, spoke here January 18 on "The Coming Revolutions in Latin America." 45 people attended the forum.

Discussion following the talk centered around the possibility of working class revolution in Latin America, the role of peasants in these revolutions, the situation in Chile, and whether the Cuban Revolution is a model for Latin American revolutionaries.

Danton spoke again on the same subject to an audience of 35 at the University of Washington on January 21. Following both discussions a number of people expressed interest in joining the I.S.



Marilyn Danton, I.S. National Secretary

## Forum A Success



Joel Geiger, I.S. National Chairperson

DETROIT—Over fifty people attended the Workers' Power forum on Building the Revolutionary Party held here January 26. Joel Geiger, National Chairperson of the International Socialists, spoke about the development of revolutionary organizations as a result of the growing world economic and political crisis.

Wendy Weinberg, a UAW militant, spoke about the connection between the day-to-day class struggle and revolutionary politics. Following the presentations, a lively discussion was held. The audience included workers from auto plants of all the Big Three.

## Detroit Women Meet

DETROIT—Twenty-five women met at a dinner discussion here to discuss the oppression children suffer in today's educational system. The presentation, led by a member of the Detroit Federation of Teachers and the International Socialists, focused on the hidden lessons that children learn through thirteen years of schooling: to obey authority figures, to dislike learning, to be competitive, and to distrust their own emotions and experiences.

The lively discussion and delicious meal combined to make the dinner an exciting and politically rewarding event for all the women involved. These dinner discussions are sponsored every second month by the women's caucus of the Detroit branch of the International Socialists.

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## What's On

Los Angeles, Sunday, February 2— "Depression in the 70's—The Fight Against Unemployment." Marilyn Danton, I.S. National Secretary, Richard Stockman, writer for the Red Tide. Sponsored by the I.S. and the Red Tide. For more information call 837-0842.

Detroit, Saturday, February 8— Dinner Discussion: "The UAW in Washington—What Next?" For details phone 869-3137.



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## Struggle in the Coalfields

by Kim Moody  
Sun Press 30c postpaid  
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# What We Stand For

The International Socialists is a revolutionary socialist organization. We are open to all who accept our basic principles and work as a member of our organization to achieve them. These principles are:

### INDEPENDENT WORKING CLASS ACTION

Socialism must be achieved by the independent action of the working class. The liberation of the working class can be won only by the struggles of workers themselves.

### SOCIALISM FROM BELOW

Both capitalism and bureaucratic collectivism (the system of dictatorship in Russia, China, and the other so-called "Communist" societies) must be replaced through working class revolution. This will create a socialist society, controlled democratically by mass organizations of all working people. The wealth produced by labor will be controlled collectively by workers and used to produce a decent life and freedom for all.

### DESTROY THE CAPITALIST STATE

The state is a weapon of capitalist class rule. Its institutions like the legislature, army, police and courts cannot simply be taken over by the working class and used to build socialism. The working revolution must destroy the old state and create one of an entirely different kind. It will establish direct rule by the masses of people based on workers councils elected at the workplace.

### MASS ORGANIZATIONS OF THE WORKING CLASS

The trade unions are today the only mass organizations of the working class. To make the unions fighting instruments of workers against the employers, we work to build their struggles, and fight for rank and file control.

### INTERNATIONALISM

The socialist revolution must be international. We fight for solidarity with workers in other countries. We oppose all racism and imperialism, and fully support the struggles of all oppressed peoples, in this country and worldwide. We call for international solidarity and cooperation among unions in different countries. We oppose all immigration controls, protectionism, and strike-breaking by workers in one country or one union against those in another.

### AGAINST BUREAUCRATIC COLLECTIVISM

The first successful socialist revolution was made by the Russian working class in 1917. But the revolution was isolated, and destroyed by a counterrevolution led by Stalin. Today Russia, China, and the rest of the "Communist" countries are not socialist, but bureaucratic dictatorships. We support workers' struggle in these countries for democracy and freedom and call for revolution against the bureaucratic ruling class.

### THE REVOLUTIONARY PARTY

To create socialism, the most militant sections of the working class must be organized into a revolutionary party. The party does not represent an elite to rule over the workers "in their interests." It is a political force helping to organize workers and leading them to take state power and control society as a class. The activity of the I.S. is directed toward building such a party. Building a rank and file movement based on the principles described here strengthens the consciousness, self-confidence and organization of the working class, and is the road by which a revolutionary party will be built.

### WHERE WE STAND

- \*For rank and file control of the unions. No secret negotiations. All contracts to be voted on by mass membership meetings. For rank and file committees to lead the struggle when union officials refuse to fight, and national rank and file opposition caucuses in the International unions.
- \*For class struggle unionism. Abolish all anti-labor legislation. No restriction on the right to strike, picket or boycott.
- \*Defend working conditions. No control on wages. Against unemployment, layoffs, and speed-up. 30 hours work for 40 hours pay to fight unemployment. We demand the right to a job at union wages for everyone. Organize the unorganized. Nationalization of industry without compensation and under workers' control.
- \*Equality for all oppressed peoples. Full support to their liberation struggles. For the right of the black community and other oppressed peoples to defend themselves. Against all forms of racism, police harassment and discrimination. For independent organization by black and other specially oppressed workers to fight for their own demands. Independence for Puerto Rico.
- \*Abolish all forms of sexual oppression. For complete social, economic and political equality for women. Free quality childcare, birth control and abortion. For a working class women's liberation movement. End discrimination against gay people.
- \*Against imperialism. East and West. Against all nuclear weapons and imperialist alliances such as NATO and the Warsaw Pact. For unconditional support to all national liberation movements, against both US and Russian imperialism. We support the military victory of the National Liberation Front over US imperialism in Vietnam, but we give no political support to the anti-working class dictatorship the NLF represents.
- \*No support to Republicans, Democratic and Wallace parties and candidates. For an independent political party of the working class, based on the unions and controlled by the rank and file, to struggle against the capitalist parties.

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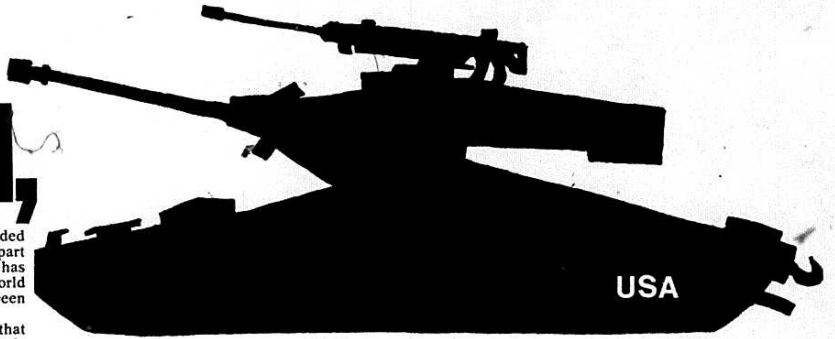
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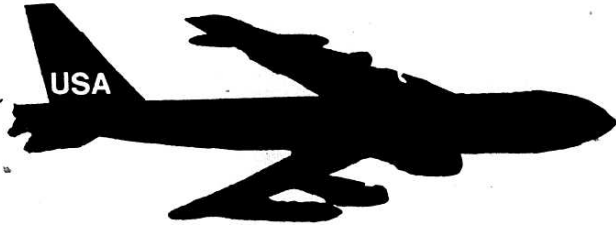
# MIDEAST OIL CRISIS: INVASION,

The last few weeks have seen a new threat of war explode into public view. The highest US government officials—Secretary of State Kissinger, Defense Secretary Schlesinger and finally President Gerald Ford—have openly raised the threat of a US invasion of the Middle East to seize oil fields controlled by the Arab states in the

Persian (or Arabian) Gulf. The US government has decided to make this threat an explicit part of its public foreign policy. It has in effect announced to the world that the invasion plans have been drawn up if they are needed. Kissinger told us, of course, that such action would be taken only under "extreme conditions," if the Arabs' oil policies threatened to "strangle the Free World." But these phrases only mean that the US is keeping the real conditions for invasion flexible. This threat comes on top of the already advanced preparations for a fifth Middle East war between



# WAR



Israel and the Arab states. Such a war is almost certain later this year, when both sides will be fully re-armed and ready.

## POWER AND OIL

But is the United States really

Both the oil states and the US, however, know that there is another and far more powerful deterrent to US intervention.

The power of oil has become the most important symbol of Arab power and national unity throughout the Middle East.

Hundreds of millions of people in countries like Egypt, Libya and Syria see the oil weapon as part of a struggle to liberate the Arab people from the control of imperialism. They see oil as the resource which can liberate and create prosperity and dignity for them.

If the United States moved to seize the oil by force, the result could easily be a massive revolutionary explosion throughout the Arab world. The whole social structure of the Middle East—which is even more important than the price of oil to US interests—could be overthrown.

Furthermore, in a general mass upsurge or general war throughout the whole Middle East region, the oil kingdoms themselves would almost surely be swept away as separate states. Of course, the oil sheikhs themselves do not want this to happen—but neither does the United States.

The United States does not want to topple the oil-rich desert states. To do so would unleash a struggle by the Arab masses to take over the oil themselves. Instead, even while it threatens to invade them, the US government is doing everything it can to prop these kingdoms up.

## US ALLIES

To strengthen these states the US is pouring arms into them. The amounts involved are staggering. The most recent sale of jets to the tiny kingdom of Oman alone runs to \$100 million. The amounts are exceeded only by the mass of US military aid to Israel.

Of all the Middle East countries, it is Saudi Arabia under King Faisal which has taken the most

consistently pro-US position since 1973. At every turn Saudi Arabia's officials have argued for ending the oil embargo, for lowering the price, for relying on US efforts to gain a pro-Arab Middle East settlement.

At the same time, Egypt's alliance with Saudi Arabia has helped to keep Egypt's President Sadat firmly committed to his ties with the United States.

In short, the US policy is to back both sides in the Middle East—maintaining Israel's position with massive military aid, but also firming up its ties with the Arab regimes to keep the Arab peoples under control.

The worsening economic crisis, however, threatens to destroy this set-up. With oil prices at their current level, anywhere from \$60 to perhaps \$100 billion a year is being transferred from the industrial countries to the oil states.

These pressures are already threatening to destroy the world's monetary system. The money poured out of industrial countries is re-invested by the Arab states in short-term loans, in such massive amounts that they threaten the stability of the central banks.

So far, the United States has not been able to convince or force the oil states to switch to more stable long-term investments. Meanwhile, countries like Italy and Britain may go broke from trying to meet their oil payments.

The crisis has now pushed the US government to threatening its Arab oil partners in spite of all the risks involved, with an explosive direct confrontation.

The danger of world war today is a direct result of the imperialist needs of the United States government and the huge capitalist corporations, like the oil monopolies, which created the crisis in the first place.

If this imperialist system is not overthrown by revolution, it threatens to destroy the peoples not just of the Middle East but the whole world. □

# Who's To Blame?

Capitalist politicians often try to blame the economic crisis and the threat of war on the Arab rulers who raised oil prices 24 months ago.

But these statements hide the fact that the crisis was beginning to develop long before that. Its real causes lie elsewhere—in the very nature of capitalist society.

Just a year and a half ago, business throughout the world saw opportunities for massive profits, and expanded the output of industry as rapidly as possible. The faster one giant corporation could increase its production, the more profits it could make at the expense of its rivals.

The result was shortages in every industrial commodity, from paper and plastics to copper and tin. For three years before last April, in fact, world commodity prices shot up by 175% as rival industrialists competed for them.

These price increases, which were caused by the boom, helped send inflation into double figures. They also led directly to the oil crisis.

Consumption of oil throughout the world shot up 7% in one year. But the giant oil companies had been deliberately holding down production and refinery capacity for at least two years.

The shortage of oil that resulted enabled the oil producers to jack the price up massively, immediately following the Middle East crisis that exploded again in October 1973.

## GOODBYE BOOM

Even before this, however, the capitalists began to see the inflation they had caused at the boom alive. In their desperation to make profits as quickly as possible, many companies borrowed massively—and the banks were able to increase

...ASK NOT WHAT STANDARD OIL CAN DO FOR YOU... BUT WHAT YOU CAN DO FOR STANDARD OIL!



their interest rates. Then the companies found they had to pay much of their increase in profits to the bankers and the suppliers of materials.

In the last eight months, the shortages of goods and commodities suddenly turned into overproduction. Industrial commodity prices have collapsed by 40%.

In any case, with or without high oil prices, the boom is followed by mass unemployment and factory closings. A vicious circle follows which ruins the lives of large numbers of workers.

Because this crisis is rooted in the way capitalism works, it cannot be solved by the American government taking over Middle East oil fields. This move would not bring American workers out of the depression, but it might lead to World War III.

The most critical lesson of this is that American workers have no stake in a war over which a ruling class will be able to control the world's resources. □

serious about an invasion and an oil war? And how would the oil states themselves respond?

The Persian Gulf oil rulers have responded with outrage. They have been aware of the possibility of invasion for a long time, but they are angered that a public threat has been issued. An open threat undercuts their show of power and independence.

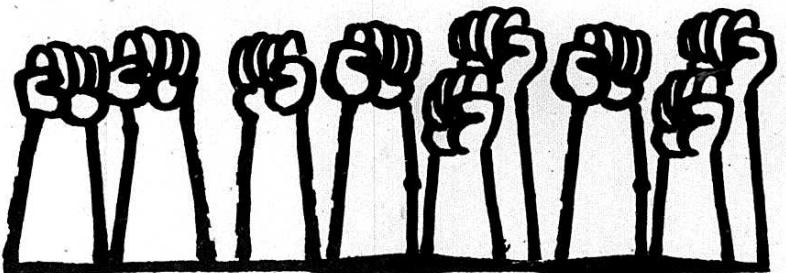
Verbally, the kingdoms which control the oil—like Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Oman—have threatened that they would react to an invasion by blowing up and destroying their oil fields.

It seems unlikely that such a threat would be serious, carried out. The ruling families of these kingdoms are desperately anxious to become part of the international capitalist class. Their only basis for doing this is the oil resources they currently own.

## THREAT OF REVOLUTION

Very few ruling classes would respond to a war by actually trying to destroy their own wealth, the resource which made it possible for them to become a ruling class in the first place.

# ...OR REVOLUTION?



# LAI-D-OFF WOMEN FIGHT G.M.

## Workers' Power

by Karen Kaye

**FREMONT, Calif.**—Eight women laid off from a General Motors plant here have filed a lawsuit charging the company with discrimination. All the women employed at the plant have been laid off.

The women, four white, two black, one chicana, and one American Indian, are members of Southern Alameda County chapter of Coalition of Labor Union Women (CLUW). They are demanding that the giant corporation take steps to maintain employment of women during layoff periods.

All of the 441 women hourly workers were axed when GM laid off 2300 of the 4466 assembly line workers at the plant recently, although the suit stems from an earlier layoff last summer.

GM hired no women as production workers at the plant until 1968, four years after Title 7 of the Civil Rights Act banned discrimination in hiring on the basis of sex.

None of the women hired later had enough seniority to escape the layoffs when they came.

**The women maintain that GM, not women workers, should pay for GM's discriminatory practices.**

### THEIR DEMANDS

They are demanding that the situation be set straight by any one of these solutions:

- 1) A "share the work" plan that would keep both shifts working at reduced hours, with short-work-week benefits guaranteed to everyone with over a year's seniority, or
- 2) Both shifts working one week on, one week off, or
- 3) GM should maintain the same percentage of women in the plants during the layoff, with no men laid off, to keep the women working. This would not affect the number of men who are going to be laid off anyway. It would mean that GM would have to recall approximately 250 women (or 11% of the workforce), in addition to the men who are still working, or
- 4) Voluntary inverse seniority, with high seniority men volunteering to go out and collect SUB, while women would have a chance to keep working longer. If SUB runs out, we would return to court to get another plan that would keep women working and not penalize

the men.

### PROTECTIVE LAWS

The company claims that it was the restrictions of protective legislation in effect between '64 and '68 which kept them from hiring women. Those laws prohibited women from lifting over 50 pounds at work, working overtime, and placed other restrictions on the

mandated equal pay and equal work for women.

During the economic boom of the 1960s many companies yielded to the pressure and hired women in previously all male jobs. But with the current downturn these same women are being thrown into the streets and the gains of the women's movement are being lost.

Part of the reason they are being lost is just because women and



Demonstration in support of women laid off at Fremont, Calif. GM plant.

conditions under which women could work.

But the women point out that the company hired men during that time who had similar restrictions such as college students who could not work overtime. Also, there were jobs available which would have complied with the protective laws. GM used the laws as an excuse for discrimination.

General Motors and the United Auto Workers have been under investigation by the Equal Employment Opportunities Commission (EEOC) in recent years. The EEOC pressured GM to hire women or face court action, as it has pressured many other companies to do in the wake of the women's liberation movement, which de-

minorities won their right to these jobs through the EEOC and the Civil Rights Act, and not through their unions.

### UNIONS DIDN'T FIGHT

The UAW did not fight to open auto jobs to women through clauses in the contract that could be defended by the union. They passively waited while the government investigated them and the companies for discrimination.

**When the laws were passed, unions such as the UAW still did not fight for clauses in their contracts to protect the rights of women and minorities to keep the right to a place in the workforce that they had won. Now when these**

**rights are threatened by layoffs, as in this case, the union claims it is not their business to protect these members for losing all they had won.**

Leaving it up to the courts to decide how women and minorities will hold on to their right to a place in the workforce during layoffs means that the courts could make rulings that will threaten the seniority system.

Clauses in the contract could have set up procedures that would avoid this, such as those these women are so careful to demand in their case.

Clauses to protect the gains of women and minorities, in the contracts, would be much stronger protection than the EEOC, too. The

threat of a strike is a stronger weapon than the threat of a lawsuit, which, like this one, may take years to settle, while production continues, making profits for the offending company.

But it's been decades since the UAW was more interested in protecting its members than in ensuring labor peace.

### UNION WON'T ACT

When the union won't act in these types of cases, members like these women of Local 1364 feel compelled to go to the government to try to get justice.

While the UAW purports to have a liberal, pro-women's liberation stance, they are not supporting these eight women.

One of the women's leaflets states, "At the meeting on Saturday, the lawyer from the International refused to even admit that GM had discriminated against women—he said it was up to the court to decide! ... A lawyer from the International said that our suit would have such a big impact on all UAW locals that the International had decided to come in to the suit as a 'neutral' party."

The UAW never fought for the right of women to work, and now they are unwilling to defend that right.

The UAW lawyer also charged that their suit would destroy the seniority system. But none of the demands of the women, if implemented, would take a job away from a higher seniority man.

### ORGANIZING TO FIGHT

As the women have pointed out, "The main remedy that we are asking for is a short work week, which our local membership supports and which would keep everybody working."

Somehow the UAW leadership hasn't thought of demands like this as a way to fight the layoffs. They are just sitting by, watching the SUB fund dwindle. But more and more of the rank and file, like these women, are not satisfied with that, and are organizing to fight.

## St. Louis Militant Rehired

# GM Thugs Lose Again

by Joe Fine

**ST. LOUIS**—Every big city police force in the country today has a select gang of brutalized pigs called the "Tactical Squad." In the same way, every large company has a special crew of vicious thugs known as "Labor Relations Troubleshooters."

The reason in each case is that the ordinary cop or superintendent sometimes shrinks from carrying out the filthiest part of his job when a streak of sympathy for a fellow human being inhibits him. People must be trained who are so dehumanized that they will carry through any order of their masters without shrinking.

### TROUBLESHOOTER

General Motors Corporation has sent one of those "troubleshooters," a low-life dog named Glen Huber, from Warren, Michigan to be superintendent of the Corvette Assembly plant in St. Louis.

His job: break the unity of the Corvette workers, re-establish management control over the workforce, and especially to tame or get rid of Corvette committeemen Nate Mosley and Red Gale. Frequently an assignment like this makes or breaks the career of such a "troublesooter."

Huber fired Mosley on December 20, the day before Christmas vacation. The charge was violation of paragraph 117 of the UAW—GM contract: causing a work stoppage.

Mosley's crime was to inform a worker without the foreman's permission of the status of a grievance the worker had filed the day before.

### CASE COLLAPSES

Huber claimed that since the worker was supposed to be on the job, Mosley's attempt at conscientious union representation was an illegal work stoppage. As a result Mosley was discharged for the

second time in three months.

GM and Huber's case collapsed entirely when Huber could not validate any loss in production. The GM-UAW umpires came down over the Christmas vacation and forced the bumbling superintendent to reinstate Mosley with no loss of pay.

Less than two weeks later Huber was on Mosley's back again. Many St. Louis workers have a tradition of observing a holiday on Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday, January 15.

This year, in Mosley's words, "Huber ordered me to 'exercise positive union leadership' and instruct all employees that the union and company did not recognize Dr. King's birthday as a holiday. They had nine hours production scheduled and everyone was to report to work."

### PRODUCTION STOPPED

Mosley complied with Huber's