

WORKERS' POWER

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LOUISVILLE TEACHER TELLS

"Why I'm For Busing"

by Carol Duncan

"I'm an English teacher in a Louisville school. And I'm for busing because it gives equal education to black students.

This year I was assigned to a school which was all black last year. It's now over 80% white, due to busing.

The first day of school was a nightmare. The rooms were tiny. My room had four windows, two broken shades and broken glass on the floor. There was no pencil sharpener, no drawers in my desk, and only twenty-four desks for thirty-seven students. There were no erasers, glue, staples or bookshelves.

School has been in session two weeks now. I teach a standard course taught to all students. But they haven't given me my curriculum guide yet.

There aren't enough books for the students. The most I have is ten copies of one book to be used by two different classes. Twenty teachers teach this course. There are three teachers'



manuals.

In the library there are only four film projectors for 1500 students. There are no screens. The card catalog drawers are broken. Cards are all out of order. There is one manual mimeograph machine which won't print down one side of the paper.

When I arrive in the morning there are huge roaches in the halls. Rats have been seen in the auditorium.

These are the facilities that used to be reserved for black children. This school is the fruit of forced segregation.

But white teachers, most of them brought in from wealthy white schools in the county, are raising hell. And because they're white, and because the students are white, they're being listened to.

This school will eventually be in much better shape. Because under this system, money for education goes where white students are.

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news direct from
revolutionary
Portugal



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UFW LEADS IN CALIFORNIA FARM UNION ELECTIONS

by Pat Saunders

The long awaited elections in California's agricultural fields demonstrate more about intimidation and the bias of the system than they do about the democratic choice of farmworkers.

Thus far official results show the UFW has won more elections although the Teamsters appear to have won some significant victories. Results from some of the biggest ranches are still tied up with challenges.

The biggest problem for the UFW is that the election law is heavily weighted toward the Teamsters. It allows the IBT sweetheart contracts to remain in force. This lets the Teamsters and growers control the ranches until the elections.

They control hiring and firing and can weed out union militants. At Gallo they hired workers who only speak Punjabi so the UFW could not communicate with them. They have a free hand to bribe IBT supporters and to intimidate and harass UFW militants. Grower agents bring arms to election areas. UFW supporters are deported to Mexico. Supposedly the UFW can get help from the courts to correct these abuses. But the courts are pro-grower and add still additional problems. [See box].

ARMED VIGILANTES

Intimidation of workers continues on a more intense scale. Not satisfied to rely on their courts, the growers have recruited an armed vigilante group called the Posse Comitatus to physically force the UFW organizers from the fields. Gene Brown, a grower, asserted, "This is private property and they're not coming in here, not till we all go to jail."

At Gallo any worker accepting UFW literature is photographed. Workers are told they will lose their jobs to strikers if they vote UFW. Managers in the Delano valley have brandished weapons around election booths. They threatened to shut down if workers don't vote according to the growers' wishes. One organizer described the voting area as an armed camp.

BORDER PATROL

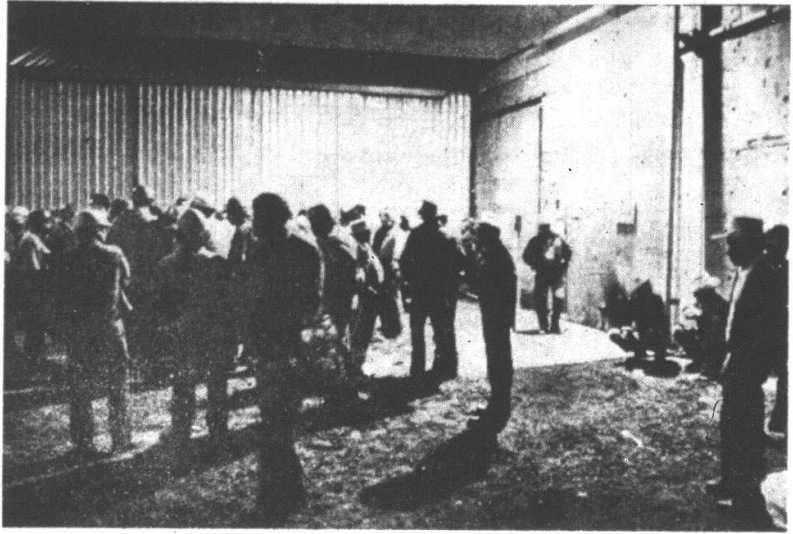
The US Border Patrol has rushed to the growers' defense by deporting workers without immigration permits. The latest raid occurred at West Foods Inc., a Ventura mushroom farm, where 22 UFW supporters without documents were arrested.

The raid came only two days after the UFW had submitted a petition for elections. The UFW has filed an unfair labor practice charge, though it is doubtful it will prevent their deportation.

The elections are an unending legal nightmare. There is a dispute as to whether or not the 156 companies in the Western Growers Assoc. should be counted separately or as one huge unit. These election results have been impounded. The Teamsters presently hold contracts in 130-140 of those companies. It is eager to win all companies through their influence on this majority.

Growers, as always, cooperate with the Teamsters. Despite an ALRB's decision to count the elections separately, the results, the results are still being held up to appease growers who want to appeal the decision further.

Many election results are being contested. At Caratan the Teamsters failed to get the 20% signature necessary to get on the ballot. Now they are contesting that



Workers line up to vote at the Gallo Winery September 10.

overwhelming UFW victory because the UFW failed to mention in their election petition that the Teamsters hold the present contract.

GALLO

At Egg City 166 strikers were denied balloting rights in the election Sept. 11. The UFW is contesting the tentative Teamster victory. If the ALRB decides, as it should, that these strikers are eligible to vote, it is probable the UFW will have won at Egg City.

Gallo is the most controversial race and perhaps the most indicative of the extent to which this whole process may shift from the fields into the courts. 150 decisive votes have been impounded by challenges of eligibility. Gallo wants 35 of its security guards to be able to vote, while challenging the eligibility of 120 strikers from 1973.

The new law expressly allows these strikers to vote, which would grant a narrow victory to the UFW. But Gallo intends to appeal such a decision to the State Supreme Court where some say it could be tied up indefinitely.

Salinas, where the UFW has the most militant history, is strong for the UFW. Interharvest is one of the largest ranches in California. The vote ran 1167 for the UFW, 28 for the Teamsters. The UFW has also won elections in ranches of Arabs and Filipinos, demonstrating interracial solidarity with the UFW.

SALINAS

With so many results tied up in court a full picture cannot be given. At this point it is clear that it takes more than legislative action to establish democracy in the fields.



The Neutral Courts

Last week Judge Crocker of Fresno filed a restraining order on an Agricultural Labor Relations Board's decision allowing union organizers into the fields before and after work hours. He claimed he was defending the growers' private property rights.

Crocker himself owns farmland in

Southern California. The next day a three judge panel composed of Crocker; Kennedy, a former Sacramento lobbyist for major grape growers; and Judge MacBride; upheld Crocker's order until the following Wednesday "to give growers time to file suit in Superior Court."

UFW SLIGHTLY AHEAD; MANY VOTES CONTESTED

Here are the complete results of California's ALRB elections as of September 16:

Total number of elections—59
 Won by UFW—24 (covering 4600 workers)
 Won by Teamsters—14 (covering 4050 workers)
 No union—1
 Contested elections—8 (covering 5350 workers)
 Impounded—11
 Not tabulated—1

'Western KKK' Backs Growers

As in other parts of the country, an armed racist vigilante group has recently surfaced in rural California, in San Joaquin Valley. They have been recruited to attack the UFW in its organizing drive.

The Posse is a western version of the KKK. It's one more proof that whatever their lofty claims, at first chance every racist group ends up as an anti-union force.

This nationwide group is called the Posse Comitatus. It numbers around 10,000 and is against all non-whites, non-Christians, and non-Americans. It is headed by a man named Beach, who says the time may come when there are hangings, "but not yet."

They claim to defend "God's Law" when in reality they are hired to defend the moneyed interests even against state officials who they consider to be failing their "lawful duty."

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BOSTON

SCHOOLS OPEN

But Racism Seethes Just Below The Surface

by Mike Hirsch and Kay Stacy

BOSTON—More than 1,800 Boston, regional, and Massachusetts State Police were deployed this week to guarantee no interference with Phase 2 of the court-ordered busing program. The combined police force was so massive there was virtually no interference with children's access to schools.

But if the actual busing is calm, race relations on the streets of Boston are strained to the breaking point. A year of sporadic violence against black people by white racists has brought near terror to many neighborhoods.

Attacks on black people—both planned and spontaneous—continue. Black workers walking from the bus stop to the Gillette plant, for instance, are frequently attacked and beaten by white gangs. Blacks attending public events, such as concerts, are often victimized.

Clearly the issue is not busing, nor has it been over the last long year. At stake is the right of black people to venture safely outside the black community.

FEAR

Even inside the black community fear of racial attack runs high. The police are major players in this confrontation between blacks and racists. They've shown the community which side they're on through numerous physical and political acts.

The week before busing began this year, police threatened to strike. This would have left black children at the mercy of the kind of roving gangs of rock-throwing busing foes that formed last year. Six hundred National Guardsmen were mobilized to counter this outrageous threat. The planned "sick-in" never occurred.

Black residents charge the police with massive abuses, particularly against black youth, in the several weeks of high tension prior to school opening.

In one case, police entered a black bar on two separate occasions, beating up the patrons. The police deny these incidents occurred, going so far as to have a ranking officer claim those involved were with him at the time.

In the first week of Phase 2, attendance is up somewhat over last year. Within the schools there have been few racial incidents. Boston's city fathers now seem determined to make Phase 2 work. They made this decision for their



Anti-busing demonstrators in Boston. The issue is racism.

own reasons—Mayor Kevin White's political ambitions, for instance. Carrying the busing program out, despite massive community resistance, now seems to be their least expensive choice.

CONCESSIONS

But they still make verbal concessions to the racists whenever they can, which encourages racist organizing. Mayor White did next to nothing during a whole year of white racist violence.

He now says the massive use of police against the racists is a tragedy. "Psychologically speaking, police force is not the way to win people over.

The city's stance has taken its toll on ROAR (Restore Our Alienated Rights'), the anti-busing umbrella group which laid the ground for the riots around South Boston High last year.

ROAR's only presence is in the streets and smoke-filled back rooms, as it no longer has recourse to the courts. Police have now cordoned off "Southie" High for three blocks in every direction, frustrating efforts to set up screaming lynch mobs at the school.

In Charlestown, the park surrounding the Bunker Hill Monument was closed, totally surrounded by police.

Since the government's new strategy is to carry out busing, they

no longer need ROAR as a mass pressure group. At the moment racist anti-busing forces are less organized and powerful than last year. But they have not been defeated, nor are they giving up their goals.

ATTENDANCE

An estimated 26,000 out of a total 73,000 students are scheduled for various kinds of busing this year. The Boston School Committee refuses to release figures of how many whites have left the system permanently, but estimates place it at one-quarter of those enrolled.

In the first week of school, black

and minority children were a majority of those in class—in a system where blacks represented 35% of the school population and no more than 16% of the total city population last year.

Attendance citywide on Monday was 59.2%, 64.5% Tuesday, and stabilized by Friday at 69%. But in those areas being bused such as Charlestown, South Boston and Roxbury, attendance was still as low as 30%.

The relative peace of this week gives a little more time to organize to defend the buses and protect black rights. But now the underlying crisis is as deep as it ever was.

"Louisville is Boston's farm club. Let's show that to the world."

—John Kerrigan of the Boston School Committee, addressing an anti-busing rally in Boston two days before school opened.

Black Students Escorted At Brooklyn School

"It's unnecessary. It's disgusting. But I'm going to get myself an education," said a young black woman, a student at Brooklyn's New Utrecht High School. She was preparing to run the gauntlet of a couple of hundred whites screaming, "Not in our school," on September 8, the day New York City schools opened.

The "Community Coalition for Neighborhood Schools" was rather shrunk from the 1500 who turned out for a rally on August 26. Those

present were primarily housewives and New Utrecht students.

The New York City Board of Education, as part of a "rezoning" proposal, shifted 53 black students into New Utrecht and 140 white students out to better schools.

Even this piddling step, increasing the black population of New Utrecht from 22% last year to 23% this year, was enough to provide the Bensonhurst racists with an issue.

The local police precincts were among the early supporters of the "Community Coalition." But the New York City government, perhaps because of fears that a racial confrontation would further imperil "investor confidence" and hasten financial default, dispatched hordes of cops to prevent physical attacks on the black students.

Also present were 75 supporters of PARE (People Against Racism in Education). They initially divided

into groups of ten to escort groups of black students, arriving by subway, down the besieged block to the school.

The police soon put a stop to the escort service, causing the welcoming committee to improvise signs and start chanting slogans.

Black students showed relief at seeing friendly white faces, even though the police barred friends as well as foes from close contact.

Barbara Adler

LOUISVILLE:

The First Week Of Busing: FEAR AND INTIMIDATION

by Tom Jackson

The lines were clearly drawn. If you lived in Louisville's predominantly white South End, you either went along with the racist violence, or you took a chance on your property and life.

When school opened Thursday morning, September 4, there were few incidents. Everyone seemed to be holding their breath, wondering if the buses would be attacked.

I went with a Workers' Power photographer to formerly all-black Shawnee High School. We rode with the buses out to Fairdale—a formerly all-white school in the heart of the South End. There were only three demonstrators there.

One thing stood out though—almost none of the white students showed up, but almost all of the black students did. This was the pattern all over the city. It was part of an organized school boycott. As well, racist strikes shut down Ford, and parts of GE and International Harvester.

But given all the mass meetings, demonstrations, threats, and even the boycott, it all seemed too calm, too smooth. It wasn't until late morning we found out where the action was. The federal judge who ordered the busing plan had prohibited demonstrations of over 100 people, and had denied the parade permit requested by an anti-busing group for 20,000 people downtown.

MARCH

But by 10:00 am a couple thousand people had taken over the downtown area anyway and were marching down any street they pleased. By the end of the demonstration, Phillip Chopper, a local Klan leader, was leading it. There

were several major violent confrontations with cops.

On Friday, the number of demonstrators at the schools had increased. Over 100 blocked the bus leaving Fairdale that afternoon. They pelted it with rocks. The cops let them get away with it. Incidents began occurring all over town. Two black pedestrians downtown were set upon by a carload of racists and chased down the street. By Friday night the South End was embroiled in what can only be called a racist riot.

All the major arteries going into the South End were jammed bumper to bumper. All horns were blowing to express anti-busing sentiment. Every yard had a "Stop Forced Busing" sign.

The businesses that refused to display these signs and close down were looted, firebombed, or destroyed. Citizen Band radios were used to elude the cops and organize violence. There were hundreds of arrests and injuries.

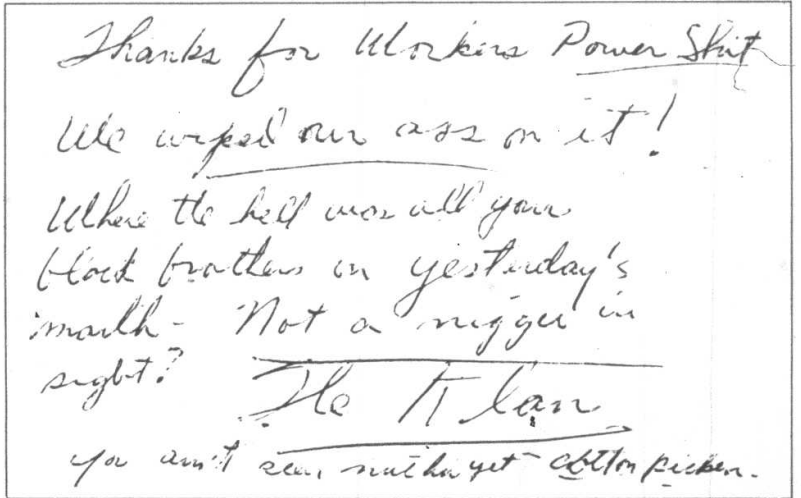
BAN

A ban was slapped on all demonstrations. The National Guard was called in. Cops uncovered a truckload of protest signs carried in spite of the ban. One car had high-powered weapons in the trunk.

People got rid of the signs about their "constitutional rights" and "White Power" signs appeared. Any black going into the South End would have been risking their life.

The so-called anti-busing movement showed its true colors—a racist movement. And the Klan played a major role in organizing it and leading it.

What followed the violence of the weekend was more serious organizing. The Klan passed out cards



This letter was sent to Louisville I.S. after the Workers' Power anti-Klan special issue was distributed.

downtown reading, "Control niggers, not guns."

All service station managers in the South End were told not to service buses, to close down, and to put up an anti-busing sign. A calling card was left with them which read, "You've just been paid a friendly visit by the KKK. Should we pay you a real visit?"

Many resisted at first but were finally "convinced." Some just went out of business completely.

The same climate of intimidation exists in the community. The white worker who today is against racism, and tomorrow is neutral,

next week could be wearing white robes.

All whites have been clearly confronted: Are you a racist or not? The pressure and the threat of violence are tremendous.

TAUNTS

In the first week of the boycott white children who attended school were set upon with taunts and insults by their friends. Threatening phone calls were made to their parents in the middle of the night.

No public force in the community rejected the racist violence and intimidation. Whites who oppose it

face their community as isolated individuals, easily victimized.

This isolation has to end. Black and white workers no longer have a choice. The beginnings of the racist movement are here. That movement will be destroyed, or the rank and file workers' movement will be destroyed, divided by racism.

The racists have won a temporary victory—their actions have been responsible for the climate of violence and fear in Louisville.

Only the workers' movement can eventually destroy the Klan, but to do so it must be built on the ability to take on and overcome racism. □

The Second Week "It's Not Over Yet"

by Tom Jackson

LOUISVILLE—As Workers' Power goes to press half of the national guard is gone. There was a small anti-busing demonstration Monday, September 15. Most visible protest has been reduced to signs on windows, cars and trees.

But the city is still explosive. Random acts of violence still occur. Relations between blacks and whites are strained.

The most serious organizing continues to be the economic boycott. Threats and intimidation are a part of it. Businesses have been told to participate in a total economic boycott the first part of October, or else... The mood in the all-white South End has been, "It's not over yet."

INCIDENTS

This past week, white students trickled into schools. Enrollment is steadily rising. A few hardcore still

boycott schools, but that tactic is dead.

The schools are choked with "incidents." At one high school twenty blacks were suspended the first week. No whites. A bus was fired at from a passing car. A student had a gun and fired back.

An argument between a white woman and a black man, both students, became a city-wide rumor of rape. The racists are itching for an aggravation; they're looking for ways to provoke people.

In fact, these incidents are the fault of the racists. At Ford, the Klan writes their racist bullshit on the bathroom walls. Small white crosses have been placed at work stations of blacks. Fights have broken out on the shopfloor over these kinds of threats and insults.

At General Electric, where the IUE leadership openly organized a racist strike last week, management has taken the opportunity to lay off 1300 workers. The local is polarized over race. They're in no

shape to fight back.

The union leaders set this situation up by openly organizing against sections of their membership. They encouraged the racism that now divides black and white workers.

The union officials have opened

the plants to the Ku Klux Klan and racist violence. They have helped turn busing into a fight for working class survival.

A large rally and demonstration has been called for early October by People United—the only group which has openly opposed and

demonstrated against the Klan.

Two of the demands raised will be: Stop the KKK and Stop the Racist Violence.

These are the key issues to fight for, to establish workers' resistance to the racial divisions that now exist. □



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Police stand around while racist crowds take over downtown Louisville.

Workers' Power Forum

THE MEETING THAT NEVER WAS

On September 4, several thousand anti-busing demonstrators were allowed to take over the streets of downtown Louisville. The next evening tens of thousands of anti-busing protestors occupied sections of Jefferson County. The forces of law and order were not totally inactive, however. On September 5, the long arm of the law reached out to halt one relatively small anti-Klan meeting from taking place in the black community.

A Workers' Power public forum scheduled in a housing project recreation center was cancelled—but not by Workers' Power.

A black city flunky named Harris, new head of the Housing Authority, claimed Workers' Power had not signed a lease. He also claimed the building was not to be used by political groups. Four cops guarded the door, stopping speakers and audience from entering. A half dozen other watched from down the street.

Cancellation of the meeting and the reasons given came as something of a surprise. Workers' Power had used the center before, and had asked if there were papers to be signed. One of Harris' supervisors had said, "I'll take care of it."

The argument between Harris

and the gathering crowd of Workers' Power supporters got hot. The place was crawling with cops and people coming to the meeting were frightened off—it looked like a bust.

In response to demands on why he was stopping the meeting, Harris said he didn't have to give a reason. He had the authority to do what he wanted. When people demanded who his boss was, he admitted he only took orders from Mayor Harvey Sloane.

Harris and his cops gave Workers' Power supporters thirty minutes to get out or be arrested for trespassing. Eventually the meeting was moved. But a Teamster brother who showed up late and had not heard the warning was arrested.

"Liberal" Mayor Harvey Sloane says he is for peaceful desegregation so "his" city won't get a bad reputation. But he is against busing and has said so. He has allowed the Klan to openly organize white mob violence.

Blacks in Louisville now know, if they didn't already, that Sloane's cops won't protect them from the violence of the racists. Instead the cops "protected them" from a public meeting to discuss how to organize self-defense for the black community. □

What We Think



UNITED ACTION Phone Ranks Fight Racism

Because racism is an explosive issue many militant workers—both black and white—are hesitant to raise questions involving it on the shop floor. They say that to win requires unity. Raising questions concerning racism only pushes most white workers away. This weakens the struggle, they say.

The problem is that racism already has weakened the struggle. Blacks don't trust whites not to sell them out—with good cause. And until recently racist ideas of black inferiority meant that whites didn't trust blacks to fight the bosses at all. But in the last several years the militancy of black workers has won grudging respect of many whites...and racism between white and black workers on the shop floor was slowly breaking down.

GROWING RACISM

Now, the racism growing around busing is a threat to whatever rank and file unity had been achieved.

During economic crisis, the bosses love seeing workers unable to unite because of racial hostility. It is to their profit. "Divide and conquer" is their time-tested method.

But there is another approach. A group of telephone workers in CWA Local 10310, Louisville, Ky., have openly campaigned against the racist hysteria spreading through Louisville. They are members of United Action, a national opposition group in the CWA. UA has wide support in their local from both black and white workers. This support is a result of militancy and leadership on the shop floor and inside the union.

An important part of their reputation is UA's determination to oppose racism in all its forms. When demonstrations were planned against the Klan, UA supported them. They convinced the local to support one as well.

PRESSURES MOUNT

But as the busing crisis began to heat up the pressures against UA mounted too. Their candidate for local president, one of UA's leading members, is black. One white worker after another began to withdraw support, as anti-black sentiment in the city grew.

UA's choice was difficult, but clear. To drop their candidate would announce to black CWA members that no group that includes white workers can be trusted to fight racism to its end. It would also signal to white workers that UA could be bought. UA would have become just one more in a long line of sell-out leaderships. This would have been a tremendous setback for all of 10310's members, black and white. The divisions in the community would be solidified on the shop floor.

It was United Action's history of struggle against racism and clear politics on this question that helped them stand up to racist sentiment. Their's is an example that should be followed by union militants everywhere. UA may lose this election, but the group is bigger and stronger because of the fight it is waging against racism. And as its strength grows, UA's goal of a united, fighting union controlled by the ranks is closer to reality. □

MINERS' STRIKE BROKEN

Owners, Union Officials, and Press Combine To Smash Militancy



Cops battle striking miners.

by Fred Pilner

The defeat of last month's mass strike movement was a cruel blow to coal miners. At its peak the strike involved an estimated 80,000 miners at 1000 mines.

The strike was a protest against the repeated injunctions, fines and jailings of local unions and officials. Increasingly the companies had refused to live up to the UMW contract, preferring to use their judges to keep the miners at work.

In response the miners demanded the right to strike.

Why was the strike defeated? Massive government intervention is one reason.

When fines of a few thousand dollars only inflamed the strike, US Judge KJK Hall hit the UMW with a fine of \$500,000, to be increased \$100,000 a day.

The companies supplied the courts with names of picketers, who were then arrested.

STRIKERS JAILED

Two leaders of the strike, Bruce Miller and Skip Delano, were thrown in jail on six-month sentences.

On the testimony of two newspaper reporters, though they were released when the strike ended.

The newspapers helped with more than testimony. Of course, their unanimous frantic anti-strike editorials had little effect. But the strikers had no effective communications system of their own.

So there was no way to answer the bogus stories, like the Associated Press lies about "the attempted hanging of a Communist by miners."

More important, there was no way to counter the back-to-work rumors consistently spread by the press. On September 6, after five days of announcements that "nearly everyone" was back to work, there were still 50,000 miners on strike!

The key to breaking the strike was the role of the union leadership.

UMW International and District officers denounced the strike from the start. In a public statement on August 30, District 17 Executive Board called on miners not to support the strike, since the strikers "had little experience as miners."

FIRE MILITANTS

But these union officials used even more filthy tactics. They stated that the coal companies should fire the militants if they didn't want "disruption."

Their campaign to break the strike reached such a fever pitch that in the week of September 9, when the strike was finally crushed,

a lifelong tradition of the mine workers' union was broken. At several mines in West Virginia strike pickets were crossed.

As the strike died down, red-baiting has flared up. On August 25 Judge Hall called in the FBI to investigate for "reds" in the strike. The Charleston Gazette printed a syndicated column by Victor Reisel about Skip Delano.

Meanwhile, while Delano was in jail and unable to defend himself against vicious lies and charges, an anonymous smear leaflet about him circulated through District 17.

SMEARS

This chorus of smears claimed that Delano was an outsider who had come to the coal fields only to cause trouble.

All this provides a very nice cover

for inaction on the grievances that brought 80,000 miners out on strike. It makes a respectable diversion, while Hall ordered the UMW to give the Kanawha County Coal Operators Association a cool \$700,000.

When the union appeared in court to plead for a lower fine, Hall not only refused to lower it but brazenly announced he would not do so without the permission of the coal companies.

But despite the setback, and despite the rumors of a purge of militant miners now sweeping through the coal fields, the rank and file felt a power and daring that has not been felt before.

And their battle for the right to withdraw their labor without a police state pouncing on them has been given a boost that will keep it alive until it is won.

PITTSBURGH

Voluntary Busing And How It Doesn't Work

PITTSBURGH—East Hills Elementary School is—or was—the pride and joy of the Pittsburgh School Board. A beautiful new school in the heart of the black community with excellent teachers, teachers aides everywhere, reading specialists, a social worker, and a

counselor. Who could ask for anything more?

The superior facilities attracted white students from all over Pittsburgh. And, there you have your integrated school with no trouble. Mandatory busing isn't necessary (it isn't allowed here

anyway) because the school attracts whites like a magnet. Living proof that voluntary busing works.

But does it? The Board of Education suddenly announced in July that school would lose all the teachers aides, all the reading specialists, the

social worker, the counsellor, plus five teachers.

The excuse is that the extras were being financed by federal money which was being withdrawn. But parents here have discovered the overall budget will

be the same as last year. So why the cuts?

The School Board is opening a new showcase middle school (grades 6—8). It will be integrated, "proving" again that voluntary busing works. The money to finance this is coming from—you guessed it—the East Hills budget.

The School Board is not interested in providing quality, integrated education. They built up East Hills for the prestige and are destroying it four years later for the sake of another prestige project.

Voluntary busing can only work when decent education and adequate funding exists as well. When the money for the extras is withdrawn, the whole idea collapses.

Joseph White, an elected parent representative at East Hills, told Workers' Power: "These are the first cuts that the School Board is making. Next year's will be much worse. Black and white parents and rank and file teachers have to stand together and fight."

USW - CHICANO CAUCUS FORMED

by Jim Woodward

LOS ANGELES—A meeting of Chicano steel workers held in San Bernardino, Calif. on August 30 broke ranks with the International leadership of the United Steel Workers Union.

The meeting, hosted by the Mexican-American Union Council of the USW, declared Chicano steel workers were "fed up with their second class treatment in policy and decision makings." The meeting said they "join with all steel worker brothers in accord with their dissatisfaction."

Council is a semi-official caucus of the USW District 38. It was set up by a Chicano U.S.W. staff man (international representative) four or five years ago.

The actions of the group are of special importance because Chicanos play a key role in District 38. They make up about 40% of the 90,000 members in the 14 western states under the district's jurisdiction.

The August 30 meeting, billed as the National Mexican-American Steel Workers Conference, attracted about 80 Chicano steel workers from Michigan, the Chicago area,

Texas, New Mexico, Arizona and California.

In addition to the resolution denouncing their "second-class treatment," the conference criticized the International leadership for using the appointment of Chicano staff men to create dissension among Chicano workers. It will be called the National Mexican-American Steel Workers Union Council.

The action of the National Mexican-American Steel Workers Conference in attacking the International leadership is one more sign that Abel or his designated

successor will have trouble in that election.

Sources here attributed the developments at the conference to two factors. One is the increased activity of rank and file Chicano steel workers.

The second is an attempt by some Chicano local officials to put some distance between themselves and the International leadership. They can see which way the wind is blowing in the USW, and know that identification with the Abel administration is becoming an increasing liability.

news direct from revolutionary Portugal



Sept. 15—Portugal's seventh Provisional Government will be announced this week. It will represent the sharpest turn to the right in a year. The Premier chosen to lead it is Pinheiro de Azevedo. He has promised the government will pass a law disarming workers' organizations with guns.

In Portugal today passing repressive laws is still possible. But carrying them out is another story.

At a mass meeting of 3500 at the nationalized CUF conglomerate, workers greeted an officer who spoke in support of former Premier Vasco Goncalves with chants of "Give Us Arms" and "Out With the Scum! Power to Those Who Work!"

Two weeks ago a decree was issued banning Portuguese newspapers from reporting on any political activity inside the Armed Forces. Reporting demonstrations of soldiers or positions taken by military officers was also banned.

Every daily newspaper in Lisbon denounced the order, then promptly defied it. Last week, the papers covered the latest powerful demonstration of worker and soldier unity: a revolutionary demonstration of 40,000 in Oporto led by 2,000 uniformed soldiers.

Soldiers were forbidden by their officers to take part. They came anyway. Their slogans were "Reinstate Carvalho" (the left-wing general in the north stripped of his command);

"Soldiers On the Side of the People"; and "Portugal Will Not Be Another Chile." Anxious to stay out of trouble, the well-dressed upper classes in Oporto passed the demonstration with their eyes looking downward.

Throughout the Army, a series of confrontations are going on. The right wing of the officer corps is trying to re-impose regular rules of discipline on rank and file soldiers. In the officer hierarchy there is a purge against the left. But the rank and file soldiers' organization SUV ("Soldiers United to Win") is also gaining strength.

A leaflet from SUV for the mass march in Oporto read, in part: "We have been fighting for an end to arbitrary punishment and better pay, for the right to refuse reactionary orders, for the right to meet and discuss freely. Our fight is part of the great struggle for popular power..."

Matos Gomes is a left-wing officer purged from his position. He put it this way: "It is necessary to know how to lose illusions. The Movement of the Armed Forces (MFA) no longer exists."

"Torn by the same contradictions as Portuguese society, it has collapsed. Now is the time to choose. To defend a neo-capitalist orientation in Portugal today means increased oppression of the workers. That is why social democracy is only a transition toward fascism." □

What We Think

REMEMBER CHILE!

In Portugal today, one of the most common buttons worn by workers reads "Chile Resists." Last week, a revolutionary demonstration of 40,000 people, led by 2,000 uniformed soldiers, chanted "Portugal Will Not Be Another Chile!"

This is the second anniversary of the military coup that brought fascist terror to Chile. In these two years, political prisoners have been tortured, mutilated and have disappeared by the hundreds. Underground left-wing groups are still hunted down.

General Pinochet and the rest of the junta have banned strikes and reduced workers' living standards to the edge of starvation.

More details about the bloody regime in Chile are now leaking out. In response, much of the liberal American press is feebly protesting the US government's support and encouragement for the Chilean fascists.

But these same liberal figures who now protest US intervention in Chile—(two years too late!)—are covering up US government plans for a similar slaughter in Portugal.

DEMOCRATIC FORCES?

Make no mistake about the meaning of the government's call to "support democratic and moderate forces" in Chile. Kissinger's State Department, the White House and the CIA are demanding a government in Portugal that will take the factories back from the workers, re-establish strict military discipline and make Portugal safe for capitalist investment.

No government "moderates"—social democrats and liberals—can do that job in Portugal today. Only a brutal fascist regime could restore capitalist order. Because to do so will mean forcibly wresting control of the factories from the workers. Workers in Portugal know what it feels like to control their own factories. They will not willingly give them up. They have seen thousands of soldiers in uniform marching in solidarity with their revolution.

They won't settle for having the kind of "democracy" we have... elections once in a while, and bosses every day, now that they've had workers' control and workers' democracy. But that's all the Socialist Party has to offer.

To end the workers' control that now exists will take violent repression—financed and supported by fascist Spain, Western Europe and the US.

Gerald Ford and Henry Kissinger know that. They are supporting "moderate" forces today to weaken Portuguese workers' control so that fascism can come in tomorrow and smash it.

"MODERATION" IN CHILE

Just two years ago, Chile was governed by a coalition of social democratic reformers headed by Salvador Allende, who was elected President in 1970. Allende promised socialism to workers and poor peasants, while he promised the capitalists that he would obey the bosses' laws.

Allende spent nearly three years trying to persuade workers and peasants that the revolution would fail if they "went too fast"—if they seized the factories, the land and challenged capitalism. That is the same game the so-called "moderates" are now playing in Portugal.

But Chilean workers saw the capitalists strangling the economy to starve them out. They began taking over production and transportation wherever they could.

When Allende could not persuade them to stop, he called on the Army led by right-wing officers to stop them. The workers' movement, under Allende's orders, was thus weakened. Then those same officers turned on Allende.

The U.S. government, through the CIA, gave massive aid to the fascist generals. Today, the U.S. government is trying to push Portugal's "moderates" into power.

They know the "moderates" will not succeed in

smashing the Portuguese working class. But, they are hoping the "moderates" will be able to significantly weaken the workers' movement and thus opposition to a fascist resurgence.

The Portuguese fascists are already preparing to retake power, aided by the CIA.

Workers' Power is organizing a campaign to tell people in this country the truth about the revolution in Portugal. We are determined to raise every possible cent to support the revolutionary socialists leading the struggle for workers' power there.

The success of the revolution in Portugal is critical for the future of workers throughout Europe. It is critical for the victory of genuine liberation forces in Angola and southern Africa. Its success can help free Chile. And it is critical for our future, too.

Portugal, a weak link in the imperialist chain, was the first to break free. It will not be long before there are more.

In southern Europe Spain, Italy and Greece are entering the kind of crises which brought Portugal to the point of socialist revolution.

Portuguese workers and revolutionary soldiers have shown the alternative to the compromise that ended in slaughter in Chile: the all-out fight for workers' power. □

Ongoing coverage of the Portuguese revolution direct from the Proletarian Revolutionary Party-Revolutionary Brigades in Lisbon. Read the truth about Portugal—read Workers' Power, the workers' paper. Begins weekly publication October 15.

Subscribe or renew before October 15 at a savings. One year, \$7.50.

Name

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Workers' Power, 14131 Woodward Ave., Highland Park, MI, 48203



Portuguese Revolutionary Speaks



Antonio Silva, a Portuguese soldier active in the Council of Revolutionary Workers, Soldiers and Sailors, is touring the U.S. for the Workers' Power Portugal Solidarity Campaign. On arrival in New York, Silva gave an exclusive interview with Workers' Power to explain why he is here.

lives. And we need workers to correct the lies spread by the news media. Who they know the truth, our job ahead will be a lot easier!"

He went on to describe the difference between workers of three years ago and today.

"Three years ago, workers didn't care about their jobs. They worked in the factory, collected their wages, and watched the soccer scores. Everybody was apathetic."

"But now! When workers and soldiers saw they could really control their workplaces—not just participate, but control—they responded so differently. Since many managers fled, there is so much to do to run the factories. Workers do it voluntarily."

"One said to me, 'I used to hate this place, hate to get up in the morning. Now I do jobs I avoided, I spend free time trying to learn more about the place. I even stay late for our meetings where politics are discussed. Now that this is ours, it all feels so different!'"

WORKER AND SOLDIER

As a revolutionary soldier, Silva spends most of his time with other soldiers in the soldiers' committee. However, Silva said that in his meetings with workers he'd learned that there's not so much difference.

"We are all men and women of the working class, and while the place of work is different, the revolutionary work isn't."

As an example of what life is like when workers and soldiers control their lives, Silva talked about the worker and soldier demonstrations held September 11 in factories and barracks throughout Portugal. Their purpose was to show solidarity with the Chilean revolutionaries still held prisoner under Pinochet.

"The soldiers decided to hold the rally, armed with their guns, on the parade grounds. There they were to have a minute of silence.

CP BRI

Portugal has now had six provisional governments since the overthrow of fascism. Each has been less effective and less credible than the one before.

The Portuguese Communist Party has been part of every one of these governments.

Each government has tried to please both the professional army officers and the rank and file, the workers and the businessmen, the revolutionary forces in the Lisbon area, and the reactionary forces in the rural north.

The balancing act has been the basis of the Communist Party's whole policy. But as the crisis gets worse, this role becomes more and more difficult.

Despite their talk of socialism and revolution, CP leaders decided after the overthrow of fascism to work hand in glove with the professional officers and the politicians.

The CP took as many positions in the state machinery as it could. It also took over the leading positions in the unions.

It has maneuvered with professional army officers to control society from the top down, while supporting the use of troops to break strikes like those of the postal workers and airport workers last summer and of the telephone workers a few weeks ago.

But all its efforts have been

"I am in the U.S. for two main reasons. First, to warn the American workers that their government is interfering with the Portuguese revolution. And secondly, to inform these same workers how the revolutionary process is actually going."

Silva identifies where the U.S. government is most active. "NATO and the CIA. NATO no longer works with all our military, but only with the most right-wing officers."

"For a government that says it is concerned with democracy it seems strange to soldiers that Washington ignores other representatives of our government, but they do. Workers must know just how 'democratic' their government really is when it suits their interests."

"But the worst right now is the CIA. We have identified their prime agent, John Morgan, who organized the CIA butchery in Brazil and Uruguay. We know where he lives in Lisbon and that he has travelled to the ELP ('Portuguese Liberation Front') in Spain, helping prepare the fascist army."

"Other agents are known and have been spotted in the North. You know, it was funny, those agents were always seen right before a new wave of counter-revolutionary activity!"

DIFFERENT

Silva's on-the-spot knowledge of events in Portugal showed how different the real revolution is from what we read about in the American press. When asked about the shakeup in the ruling military council, Antonio smiled.

"The U.S. press talks only of the generals and politicians. They don't understand that revolutions are made by workers and soldiers. We are the ones who forced the responses from all those leaders you read about."

The events Silva discussed show how right he was. Before discussing those events, however, Silva noted that all revolutionary activity must now be understood against the backdrop of the Revolutionary Front.

It was formed by the revolutionary left, especially by the Proletarian Revolutionary Party (PRP) three weeks ago, in response to the growing right-wing surge initiated by officers and politicians. The front is most noted for its so-called "pro-Goncalves" march in Lisbon two and a half weeks ago.

"In fact," Silva said, "the march wasn't pro-Goncalves. It, like the front, was organized to show the strength of the left, to both stop the right's actions and show workers how strong they really are."

That action, and the three discussed below, Silva stressed, show the importance of the front in uniting the left against the right-wing offensive.

Antonio began by discussing the first major revolutionary demonstration in the North—over 40,000 workers and soldiers marching for four demands: fight the fascist officers; join soldiers with workers; reinstate the Corvacho (the left-wing general of the region recently deposed by the military council); and free transport and more equal wages.

Officers and sergeants also marched, but not in the lead. The soldiers and workers led.

"It was the first demonstration called by SUV—Soldiers United Will Win. SUV is very important in developing the autonomy of the soldiers. It brings them more inside the working class. It also means that several tendencies of soldiers—the militants who are in PRP, Union for Democratic Portugal, Movement of the Socialist Left, and International Communist League—all joined together for the first time."

"We believe this group will grow throughout Portugal, for the march was very popular within the working class. Our march showed that we had representatives from workers' and soldiers' committees throughout Portugal—those 40,000 were representatives of the class."

The march's size is even more impressive when you find out that the commandants of most units ordered the soldiers not to attend. "Some even barricaded their regimental quarters to keep soldiers inside, but soldiers went anyway."

While the American press is impressed that all the generals moved to the right, the Portuguese see their soldiers move to the left.

The second event involved the military police. The police used to stop demonstrations and keep order, especially in leftist Lisbon. In Lisbon, these police, after so much contact with revolutionaries at demonstration after demonstration, recently met and decided not to go to Angola. They had orders from the MFA government to go to Angola to keep order.

"The Military Police didn't want to go fight against the MPLA, and at that meeting they agreed they were instead ready to use their guns to arm the working class."

"This is not a handful of police," Silva reported. "There are 22 units ready to act."

FRONT GROWS

After the SUV and Military Police actions, thousands of workers streamed into the revolutionary front. As Silva went on to relate, this front is not just a loose group—they meet to act.

On September 12, elements of the front called a major assembly. Over 1,000 workers, soldiers and tenant representatives attended.

"It was a huge success. The front there advanced new demands with its old program, going beyond support for the MFA alliance and COPCON documents. They talked about seizing power. And they talked about arming the class to take that power."

These three stories show that Portugal isn't just involved with the behind-the-scenes moves of generals and right-wing politicians, trying to "stabilize" the country. Against these fascist maneuvers is the steady march of the working class, as together they move in greater and greater unity towards the revolutionary civil war that lies ahead.

NEED HELP

Silva then talked about why he and other Portuguese revolutionaries need American workers to help them. "We have learned that only workers can put enough pressure on their government and on their factories to really change things. We need them to force Washington to stop CIA actions."

"We need them to put pressure on their companies to stop threatening economic boycotts every time workers begin controlling their own



PORTUGUESE REVOLUTIONARY S

Speaking Tour by

Antonio Silva and Joel Geier

(Revolutionary Soldier) (U.S. National Chairperson)

PEAKS RANK AND FILE UNITY

Solidarity Campaign Off To Fast Start

The Workers' Power Portugal Solidarity Campaign is off to a successful start.

António Silva, a revolutionary soldier from Portugal, and IS National Chairperson Joel Geier, addressed an audience of over 500 people in New York on September 14.

The following night in Boston they spoke again to another successful meeting of 300 people.

The New York and Boston branches of IS both worked extremely hard to make the rallies successful. A collection totaling \$1100 was raised in these first two meetings.

As we go to press, the speaking tour is continuing on the West Coast and Midwest. Check the following pages for information on the meeting in or near your city.

DEMONSTRATIONS

The speaking tour is only the beginning of a long-term campaign for solidarity with Portuguese workers. October 18 has been set as a target date for a day of solidarity demonstrations in a number of major cities. Their purpose is to expose the role of the US government in Portugal and to demand: US—Hands Off Portugal!

Check Workers' Power for further details.

You can help build this campaign in your shop, your union, your school or community.

Copies of the four-page Workers' Power Portugal Special are available for 5c each, ten for 25c, fifty for \$1. They provide background on how the revolution developed and eyewitness accounts of mass demonstrations for workers' power.

Beautiful red and black Portugal Solidarity Posters, with the symbol of the Revolutionary Councils of Workers, Soldiers, and Sailors are for sale at \$2 each.

Buttons carrying the message, "Solidarity with the Portuguese Revolution" can be ordered for 50c. The proceeds of all sales go to the Workers' Power Portuguese Solidarity Fund. Make checks payable to: Workers' Power Portuguese Solidarity Fund.

SUPPORT

All money collected for this fund goes directly to support the workers' revolution in Portugal. It goes to the Proletarian Revolutionary Party-Revolutionary Brigades (PRP-BR), the organization leading the struggle to build workers' councils and defend the revolution.

Thousands of dollars are needed. We appeal to all Workers' Power readers to give generously to the solidarity rally in your city. Or fill out the form below and return it with your check or money order. It is your best possible investment in a socialist future, a future where human needs and not profits will shape our society.

throughout the Lisbon area and begin to take power.

SELLOUT

But the Communist Party leaders soon showed that they had not dropped their dream of gaining power for themselves by maneuvering with the enemies of the workers.

Instead of ending the demonstration as had been agreed in advance, they arranged for the Prime Minister, Gonçalves to address it. Even worse, they followed him with the president Costa Gomes who, all week, had been conniving with the right wing officers.

The PRP led a large number of demonstrators in a protest walkout.

When Gomes spoke of the need for "tolerance" towards the right wing and made veiled hints about the need to come to an agreement with the pro-western leaders of the Socialist Party, it was too much for even those who remained. They drowned his voice with cries of "Death to the CIA, down with Social Democracy..."

Within 24 hours, the Communist Party leader Cunhal, who had agreed to demonstrate under the "Down with Social Democracy" slogan, was calling political discussions with the Socialist Party leaders!

In a communique, the PRP

pointed out that this was treachery by the Communist Party to its own rank and file. And on Monday the Communist Party was expelled from the united front. One Communist Party leader tried to re-write history by claiming the front had never existed.

At this point, the Communist Party has entered negotiations to form a new government. The negotiations are dominated by the Socialist Party and the Popular Democratic Party, but they also include the pro-fascist Social Democratic Center.

Already the task set for this government is retaking the factories from the workers, and putting an end to the workers' control that now exists in important sections of Portuguese industry. That is what the Socialist Party is demanding.

But there is now no way that a government headed by the leader of the Socialist Party, Mario Soares, can smash the Portuguese workers. The power of the workers in the factories is still too strong.

The struggle to defend and extend the Portuguese revolution will continue in the next critical weeks. The CP's leaders have shown again that they will sell out that fight. The revolutionary left, which is committed to leading the struggle all the way to workers' power, has proven its willingness to defend the working class every step of the way.

revolutionary left in terms of influence on those sections of the military that have guns.

To escape from its isolation, the Communist Party agreed to a united front with organizations to the left of it, including the revolutionary organization, the Proletarian Revolutionary Party (PRP). Together they issued a joint appeal for the mass demonstration of August 27.

This was the first time a Communist Party in Western Europe ever entered a united front with groups to its left.

The results were immediate. Tens of thousands of workers who did not trust the maneuvers of the Communist Party, but did not yet agree fully with the revolutionary left, swarmed on to the streets to demand a revolutionary government, and power based upon popular institutions such as workers' committees rather than parliament.

Here was power in the streets, the factories, the barracks, capable of smashing the right for once and for all.

That power can be translated into united organization in each locality, calling together the workers' committees, the neighborhood councils, the left-wing military units, representatives of the local Communist Party and revolutionary groups. So organized, the workers could smash the right wing

unable to bridge the unbridgeable. The right wing in Portugal does not trust the Communist Party.

At the same time, rank and file Communists have been leaving the Party for left wing organizations because their own party's policies have not been militant enough.

The leader of the Communist Party cell in the worker-controlled paper Republica, for instance, broke with the party because of its refusal to support the call for workers' councils.

ACUTE ISOLATION

In recent weeks, the isolation of the Communist Party—both from the right, organized behind the Socialist Party, and from the left, organized by the revolutionaries—has become acute.

A half-hour strike called last month by the Communist Party controlled union center, the Inter-syndical, was a virtual flop, although held only a day before a very large demonstration of the revolutionary left.

The isolation of the Communist Party has left it defenseless when faced with defending the positions of power it had taken previously.

Its most significant base in the armed forces, the Fifth Division, has been closed down without it being able to do a thing.

It is probably weaker than the



PEAKS ON THE STRUGGLE IN PORTUGAL TODAY

NEW YORK CITY Sunday, Sept. 14, 7:30 pm. Grand Ballroom, Hotel Diplomat, 108 W. 43

BOSTON Monday, Sept. 15, 7:30 pm. Arlington Street Church, 355 Boylston

SEATTLE Tuesday, Sept. 16, 8:00 pm. Carpenters Hall, rm 2, 2512 Second Ave.

OAKLAND Wednesday, Sept. 17, 7:30 pm. Laney College Forum Auditorium, 10 St. and Fallon

LOS ANGELES Thursday, Sept. 18, 7:30 pm. Embassy Auditorium, 839 South Grand

BLOOMINGTON Friday, Sept. 19, 8:00 pm. Indiana University Auditorium

ST. LOUIS Sunday, Sept. 21, 7:30 pm. The Learning Center, 4504 Westminster (at Taylor)

CHICAGO Monday, Sept. 22, 7:30 pm. Midland Hotel, 172 West Adams

CLEVELAND Tuesday, Sept. 23, 7:30 pm. Central Methodist Church, Woodward at E Adams

DETROIT Thursday, Sept. 25, 7:30 pm. Central Methodist Church, Woodward at E Adams

TORONTO Friday, Sept. 26, 7:30 pm. Unitarian Church, 175 St. and Clay Ave. West. Donation \$1.50

Workers' Power Portuguese Solidarity Fund

14131 Woodward Ave., Highland Park, MI 48206

I want to support the workers' revolution in Portugal. I will contribute:

\$100 will support a PRP-BR organizer working to build the workers, soldiers, and sailors councils for two weeks.

\$50 will help the PRP print its newspaper Revolucao (Revolution) to help combat CIA propaganda in Portugal.

\$25 will pay for 5,000 leaflets for the Revolutionary Council of Workers, Soldiers, and Sailors.

\$10 will help print wall posters for the Revolutionary Council of Workers, Soldiers, and Sailors.

I will make a regular monthly pledge of _____ to help the Portuguese Revolution.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Make checks payable to the Workers' Power Portuguese Solidarity Fund.

BUILDING A WORKERS' PARTY TODAY

Since World War II, with few exceptions, revolutionary organizations across the world consisted largely of people who came from the middle-classes.

But it is only the working class which has the capability of creating socialism.

Workers must once again become the heart of the revolutionary movement before talk of revolution and socialism can be anything more than just talk—the struggle to create a working class movement is now on the agenda for every serious revolutionary in every country of the world.

The end of economic stability of the last 25 years can bring large numbers of workers back into revolutionary politics. In fact, in various countries that process has already begun. But the re-creation of a workers' revolutionary party will not come easily or automatically. It has to be fought for.

IS is committed to this task. Its history has prepared the organization to meet the challenge.

It has a clear record of total opposition to the Stalinist and Maoist brand of politics which dishonestly defines socialism as the creation of a bureaucratic elite to control the working class. It has consistently fought against the tendency to reduce political activity to sterile discussion.

It has proved in practice its commitment to real workers' control by its participation in numerous rank and file struggles of the working class.

WORKERS' ORGANIZATION

In Britain, the IS has already become a workers' organization of considerable size and influence. There are branches in many of the major plants, district committees in all the major towns and cities.

IS has an organized fraction in each of the top ten unions and a weekly workers' paper with mass circulation.

In Portugal our brothers and sisters of the Proletarian Revolutionary Party are clearly in the lead of the mass revolutionary workers movement. That movement is creating workers' soldiers' and neighborhood councils as the socialist alternative to the present pro-capitalist government.

Their lessons are vital to us, but the Portuguese crisis is quite

different from what we face here. In many ways the experience of our British comrades is therefore more useful.

They built their party out of the kind of crisis we now face. One reason the British IS made the progress they did in becoming a workers' organization is that IS politics fitted the experience of the working class.

But also, in the summer of 1973 they consciously launched a struggle to recruit workers.

In that campaign the British IS broke with the middle-class notion that people had to have discussed and understood dozens of complicated theoretical ideas before they could join the party.

The party needs militants and working class leaders who are committed to fighting the bosses today and overthrowing them tomorrow. Socialist education became part of membership—not a test to get in.

British IS members in that period pushed themselves to the limit to recruit such workers. Within weeks the newly recruited members were becoming the best recruiters. They focused on their friends and workmates to expand the base of the organization they had just joined.

RALLIES

Special recruitment rallies were held in every town and city which had the simple theme of "Join IS." The range of IS policies and programs were projected at these rallies.

The best experience of the national organization was brought together on the platform. There was no holding back from asking friends of the organization to join.

Workers were urged to join not just because they wanted to, or the IS wanted them to. The working class was being forced to develop a revolutionary party just to defend itself.

In this period the first factory branches were formed. IS members were organized to put their politics into practice in the workplace, the only place where workers have real power.

At first there would often be only three or four members in the branch. A dozen was exceptionally large. In most major cities there were only a couple of these factory branches.

But the drive for worker recruitment succeeded in this modest way to organize revolutionary workers at the shop-floor level for the first time in forty years.

SOCIALIST WORKER

During the campaign the British IS paper, "Socialist Worker," advanced its working class circulation considerably. It also made significant steps to becoming a paper produced by workers rather than a paper produced for workers. More and more of the new members began to write about their experiences in the struggle.

The paper became a more powerful weapon for spreading socialist ideas in the working class and extended its influence deep into the labor movement.

In Manchester, the heart of Britain's industrial North, the campaign ended. On November 8th, 1973, the IS held a rally of almost three thousand workers.

By Spring of 1974 IS was able to take the initiative in calling for setting up the National Delegate Rank and File Conference. It was the first such national rank and file organization in Britain since the 1920's.

It should be remembered that the British IS did not become a workers' organization without encountering many new problems.

The membership drive brought with it a turnover of new worker members that was not fully foreseen. A massive recruitment drive of this variety will bring with it some problems of unstable membership.

But the fact remains that without the membership campaign there would not have been the thousand-strong core of new worker members. They are now increasingly taking over the leadership of the districts and fractions of the British IS.

OUR WORK

It is impossible to ever follow the example of another organization in exact detail.

But some of the experience of the British IS and the development of our own work over the last year has convinced us that the maximum effort of the US IS this fall must go into a drive for worker recruitment.

This cannot be seen as a replica of the British campaign. But we have learned much from our British comrades and understand that we have a sufficient base in the working class movement to expand at a faster rate than ever before.

In this expansion we will strengthen our intervention in the trade unions. We will create industrial-based "Workers Power" discussion groups. We will publish more agitational pamphlets and educational material. These will be needed by our growing number of worker members and sympathizers.

Finally, weekly publication of "Workers Power" will make it more useful as the organizer of rank and file activity.

It is decades since conditions have been better for the creation of a workers' revolutionary organization. IS is already further along the road than any other organization. We will not miss the opportunities which are opening up.

Glenn Wolfe
IS National Secretary



What We Stand For

The International Socialists are open to all who accept our basic principles and are willing to work as a member of our organization to achieve them. We stand for:

WORKING CLASS REVOLUTION

Working class revolution will destroy capitalism. Reform schemes cannot patch it up. The wealth produced by workers will be collectively controlled by workers to provide a decent life and freedom for all. Today that wealth is stolen from working people by the capitalist class. Socialism can be won only through workers' revolution. The capitalist state must be destroyed. So must its institutions: the legislature, army, police, and courts. A socialist society will be ruled democratically by mass organizations of all working people.

MASS ORGANIZATIONS OF THE WORKING CLASS

Today the trade unions are the only mass working class organizations. We work for rank and file control of the unions to make them fighting instruments of workers against the employers. We fight for workers' action against the economic and social crisis of capitalism: Defend working conditions. No controls on wages. 30 hours work for 40 hours pay to fight unemployment. The right to a job at union wages for everyone. Organize the unorganized. Nationalization of industry without compensation and under workers' control.

BLACK LIBERATION

We stand for black liberation. Full equality for black people and all national minorities. Defend the black community and other oppressed peoples against all forms of racism, police terror and discrimination. We call for independent organization by black and other specially oppressed people to struggle for their liberation and to build the unity among all workers that will lead to socialism. Independence for Puerto Rico.

WOMEN'S LIBERATION

For complete social, economic and political equality for women. Free quality childcare, birth control and abortion on demand. Abolish oppression of gay people, and all sexual oppression.

YOUTH

Equality for young people. The right to good jobs for all youth. Stop police intimidation of young people. For schools controlled by students, teachers and community. For a revolutionary socialist youth movement.

AGAINST IMPERIALISM

We oppose US imperialism, its nuclear weapons and its alliances such as NATO. Unconditional support to movements for national liberation. We oppose Russian imperialism and its war bloc, the Warsaw Pact, which controls Eastern Europe. For an independent movement of the working class and oppressed peoples everywhere against imperialism, East and West.

FOR WORLD SOCIALISM

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. Workers' councils, political parties and trade unions were all crushed. Today Russia, China and the rest of the "Communist" countries are not socialist, but societies in which workers are exploited by a bureaucratic ruling class. We support workers' struggles in Russia, China and Eastern Europe for democracy and freedom. For workers' revolution to overthrow Stalinism and replace it with socialism.

REVOLUTIONARY PARTY

To win the fight for socialism the most militant sections of the working class must be organized into a revolutionary party. The revolutionary party is a political force linking workers in separate factories, unions and industries, helping to organize and lead them to take state power and control society as a class. All the activity of the IS is directed toward building such a revolutionary party out of the struggles working people are waging today.

I.S. BRANCHES

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Trade Union

FINES CRIPPLE IBT LOCAL

ST. LOUIS—Members of Teamsters Local 600 here have been paying 90% of their union dues to their employer since late July. That's when the Local had to start payment of a \$5.8 million fine to 59 trucking companies from the Motor Carriers Council.

The fine was imposed by the courts for the "inconvenience" caused by a 1970 wildcat strike. The International Union bears major responsibility for this unusual dues structure. Instead of supporting the strike, they put the

Local into trusteeship.

WORK RULES

Having won the heavy fine, the trucking firms began to complain that contractual work rules in St. Louis are too stringent to let them make enough profit.

They started talk of clearing out to another city. Union officials responded by offering to relax the rules—giving the companies more leeway on overtime and starting time.

That cowardly step didn't prevent the fine from going into effect. Finally, in late August, local officials changed their tune and started to talk tough. Roy Howard, secretary-treasurer of the local called the fine a "union busting tactic."

"If it is allowed to be done in St. Louis," he added, "it will probably set a precedent across the country and no union will be safe."

Why didn't he worry about union safety when the firms are threatening to pack off to places with weaker work rules—the kind his local leaders were willing to sell out

for. The answer is that this tough talk, which included a strike threat, started only when Local officials and staffers discovered that the fine meant they couldn't pay their own salaries and those of union staffers!

The fine has been upheld on appeal. All the union has been able to get is a slower rate of payment.

UPPER HAND

The groveling approach of the union leadership has really given these companies the upper hand,

and they are using it. They have refused to bargain until \$700,000 of the fine is paid off.

The rank and file is fed up with losing their basic union rights, their work rules and possibly their jobs. Ten members have taken a step against all this.

They've filed suit with the NLRB against the Motor Carrier's Council for the refusal to bargain, demanding \$20,000 per member. Whether or not they get it, what they really need is to build their union into one that will take on the companies, not bow down to them.

Sarah Duncan

L.A. TEAMSTERS FORM

"Action For Hoffa"

AIM IS TO DUMP FITZ



LOS ANGELES—A group of Teamsters here has organized an "Action for Hoffa" committee. The group is organizing a rally and petition campaign around the issue of Jimmy Hoffa's disappearance.

"If Hoffa can disappear in a vacuum of silence," the group says, "then there is no jurisdiction of safety within our ranks, and anyone who speaks with conviction shall be haunted by a spectre of fear."

John T. Williams, a long-time rank and file opponentist and currently a Business Agent in Local 208, is the coordinator of Action for Hoffa. The committee includes 25 or more Teamsters from several locals within Joint Council 42 and is

in touch with a number of other Teamsters around the country.

The Action for Hoffa rally is planned for the evening of September 27 at Los Angeles' Embassy Auditorium. Hoffa's son, James Jr., has been asked to speak.

Action for Hoffa wants to combat the atmosphere of intimidation that rank and file militants face inside the Teamsters union. But in addition to this, some of the group's leaders are aiming at the removal of Frank Fitzsimmons as union president.

Every rank and file Teamster should be in sympathy with the goals of Action for Hoffa. If someone so prominent can vanish with barely a whimper of protest

from the International leadership, then no oppositionist in the union is safe.

At the same time, however, the group will face considerable difficulty because they have chosen to use the Hoffa case for their campaign.

For one thing, the issue is not broad enough to build the mass rank and file movement necessary to change the union. Building that movement would require addressing the issues of wages, working conditions, and job security that Teamsters face today.

In addition, many Teamsters don't have fond memories of Hoffa. As one Pennsylvania truck driver told Workers' Power recently, "As far as we're concerned Hoffa's the

But Some Think Hoffa Begot Fitz



one that instituted what we're living under right now. That's no good and we don't want it."

Jim Woodward

Wealthy Vietnamese Refugees— From Puppets To Scabs

PORTLAND—Scabs crossing the nine week old picket line at D&M Wood Products (International Woodworkers of American Local 3-3) recently were greeted by jeers and angry cries not only of the strikers, but from forty other Portland militants.

Demonstrating their labor solidarity were members of Portland's Coalition of Labor Union Women (CLUW), United Farmworkers Labor Support Committee, and Portland International Socialists.

The chief dispute has grown from the wage demand of the strikers to the survival of the union. The company is out to break it, and refuses to negotiate.

FIRE

In the first week of the strike a fire broke out in one company building. Strikers crossed their own picket line to fight the fire and move out the machinery.

The strikers protected their jobs by saving the plant. Now management is showing its gratitude by attempting to bust the union.

Among the scabs driving across the line were a dozen Vietnamese refugees from a nearby refugee camp. Several of them are former high-ranking officers in the South Vietnamese army and navy.

It seems that the tens of thousands of Vietnamese refugees in this country are beginning to be used as strikebreakers.

Several of the scabs were recruited through a Catholic charity which runs a job placement service.

These former tools of American imperialism in South Vietnam are serving the same masters by breaking strikes.

Their participation in the viciously anti-labor Thieu regime prepared them well for their present role as saboteurs of the American labor movement.

JUST SCABS

The D&M strikers don't object to the presence of these Vietnamese but rather because they're scabs.

The picket line at D&M is multi-racial. "When they drive by we call them scabs, just like all the rest of those scum," said a D&M worker.

The workers have decided to keep up the picket lines. They have called for help from CLUW, the UFW and other militants, and their morale remains high with the help they received for this mass picketing.

by a team of Workers' Power reporters

New York City:

BANKS TOPPLE GOVERNMENT

NEW YORK — New Yorkers thought they elected a city government last fall. Now the banks have forced the appointment of a state board to take away most of that city government's power.

The new board appointed by Governor Hugh Carey will collect all city revenues and control all city expenditures. The city will be put on a monthly "allowance."

Board members include William Ellinghaus, President of New York Telephone, Herbert Casey, Chairman of the Board of American Airlines, and David Margolis, who is President of Colt Industries, in addition to Mayor Beame and Governor Carey.

The Governor said of his appointees, "They represent the fields of transportation, communi-

cation and production—experience that will be particularly relevant and valuable in their efforts to assist New York City."

In other words, three big bosses should be able to figure out how to take away enough from the city's workers to save the banks.

Ellinghaus was removed from his position as head of the Municipal Assistance Corporation (Big MAC) to sit on the new board. MAC is continuing to try to sell city bonds.

MONEY TIL XMAS

In return for giving up its own government, the city gets enough State money to last until December. By December, the new Board, called Emergency Financial Control Board, is supposed to make

enough budget cuts to convince the banks to lend the city money again.

An unnamed city official described the Board's role: "By the end of October you're going to see cuts of \$150 million—not all at one time, but by the end of the fiscal year that much may have to go. The budget's going to be cut to the bone [by the Board]."

Everyone in New York knows what budget cuts mean—more city layoffs, and even fewer services. Once again it will be city workers and the poor who get hurt. But Beame, Carey, and Ellinghaus know that's not what's important.

What's important to them is to go on protecting the banks' profits.

PHYLLIS

Her Own Show

The women's movement has changed the face of TV. The new shows this season include women lawyers, women cops, and men raising children. Women are getting divorced, having careers and abortions, turning down marriage proposals. It is amusing to see how TV writers have to manipulate their scripts to get the women characters to fit into this image.

Another character from the Mary Tyler Moore show is striking out with her own show this season, this time Phyllis.

Phyllis, as her new boss describes her, is a yo-yo. For the last five years on Mary Tyler Moore she played an obnoxious, whining, dependent woman. But what a boring show that would have made.

So when Phyllis got her own show, they bumped her husband off first thing. They moved her out to the west coast, penniless, the sole support of a teenage daughter.

How Phyllis went from riches to rags is a mystery to me. When she lived on the Mary Tyler Moore show, she owned the house that she and Mary and Rhoda lived in. Now that she has her own show, she had to sell her "jewels" to pay for Lars' funeral.

In Minneapolis, she had a job as a real estate agent. On her own show, she began looking for work as a cashier in a laundromat. She also said she needed \$20-25,000 to support herself and her daughter. About five minutes later she took a job that would net her about \$8,800 a year (before taxes). Such is reality in TV land.



Phyllis—liberated from Mary Tyler Moore, she mysteriously went from riches to rags.

The tough cookie on Phyllis is her boss, Julie. This is the liberated woman of the program, and it was a good idea to throw her in. It is only against the background of such a strong and together woman that we can tolerate the trials and traumas of a whimp like Phyllis.

Another offspring of the Mary Tyler Moore show is Rhoda. Rhoda is a year old now. The last season of Rhoda has dealt with married life.

When Rhoda lived in Minneapolis with Mary, she was an interesting character because she was so kooky and searching. She was a lonely person, but she was nobody's fool.

Last season, Rhoda married a sap. After marriage, the show had a problem. Rhoda became all the things she wanted to be. She got a man. But this made for a pretty run of the mill TV program. The most liberated thing she did all year was to paint her maiden name on her office door.

The dilemma for the writers is which way for Rhoda this season.

Rhoda can either have a baby, or a career. (Gloria Bunker is having the baby for Monday night TV). The prognosis for Rhoda is a career, and probably a more interesting show.

The parent of these two shows, the Mary Tyler Moore show, remains the best of the three. Although Mary herself is not a liberated woman, she has struggled with some of the basic women's issues.

For example, after she was promoted to producer she had an argument with her boss about getting equal pay for the work she was doing.

Mary Tyler Moore is filled with interesting characters, that neither of the other shows have. There is Mr. Grant, Ted, Georgette, and my favorite, Sue Ann. This assortment thickens the plot, and it is the key to the success of the show. If the writers keep going in the same direction, they could make four more shows from the original cast.

Elissa Clarke

THE NEW BLUEGRASS-CITY AND COUNTRY

It was late Saturday afternoon in August, on a farm in East Tennessee. The occasion was a local bluegrass festival in honor of Bud Rose, a man who had been one of the finest five-string banjo players in East Tennessee, and who had died in the Spring.

It started with the Poor Valley Boys: a gaunt mandolin player who sang in a high tenor voice; a sturdy guitar player who was the lead vocalist; and a handsome, long-jawed boy of thirteen, who played the banjo.

All three wore dark-colored trousers of the sort you have to take to the dry cleaners, and long-sleeved white shirts. Throughout the South, this is the uniform of local bluegrass bands. It is also the uniform of black blues bands.

But there were more: two of the Poor Valley Boys had failed to show, so they picked up substitutes from among the general reservoir of musicians.

One was a lean young man of about eighteen, with long red hair and a pink shirt and red levis, who played the stand-up bass and later appeared with another group as a fine mandolin player. He was from Dayton.

The other was a burly fiddler, about 40 in appearance, wearing a T-shirt, bluejeans and three-quarter Wellingtons, with long, dark hair combed straight back and wavy.

The fiddle player's name was Marion Taylor. He could play the fiddle on the side of his head, on his arm, and hanging down from his fingers as he walked along. More than that, when he played it straight he was magnificent. Marion Taylor's music is restless: it walls against the limits of traditional bluegrass at the same time as it is bluegrass. It walls against the white shirts and hide-bound Southern culture that nurtured it.

That late Saturday afternoon and into the night, Marion Taylor's music wailed against the Poor Valley Boys, and against more celebrated musicians, and it worried them.

There is an odd war happening in bluegrass. Here are the Poor Valley Boys, whose music represents a remarkably enduring rural culture. But their music insists on staying the same, which it should not. The Poor Valley Boys and many other groups like them, including the best-known, play the same Bill Monroe and Lester Flatt songs over and over. They rehearse the same banjo breaks, the same notes.

Until recently they were threatened only by the glitter of commercial country and western, and by the restrictive claims of gospel music.

Now they confront a thousand young musicians from Dayton playing Japanese mandolins instead of Gibsons, banjo players playing strange chromatic runs, and construction workers playing banjo fiddles.

The invading new bluegrass grows out of the South moving North with the flow of the industrial working class, and then South again with new influences and experiences, by record, radio or in person.

As a teenager Marion Taylor played fiddle with one of the

pioneer bluegrass groups, Charlie Monroe's. He couldn't make a living at it, so he moved North to become a construction worker, a steam-fitter.

He took his fiddle with him, however, and hit the North as bop, the creative force in modern jazz, reached its stride. Marion Taylor began to play bop on the fiddle, and once in the early 1950's played with the great Charlie Parker.

Playing with Parker, he says, lifted him beyond his own limits. Now Taylor has returned South to escape—unsuccessfully—the high cost of Michigan. But he brings Charlie Parker with him, to bluegrass.

In the North, Bluegrass becomes much more directly influenced by rock and other forms than in the rural south, and the music and musicians become much more flexible.



Thus some of the most inventive bluegrass musicians in recent years, such as Bill Keith on banjo and the late Clarence White on guitar, are Northerners and also play rock.

The fiddler for East Tennessee's "newgrass" group, Country Comfort (named after a song by Elton John and Bernie Taupin), is a classically-trained violinist from New York City.

The circle becomes complete as Southern musicians like Earl Scruggs and Vassar Clements break from bluegrass's traditional form. Scruggs, whose style influences that of every banjo player, dissolved the old Foggy Mountain Boys and organized a new-style group around himself and his sons.

Vassar Clements, probably the best fiddler today, recently formed a group with young San Francisco musicians.

All this means the re-creation of bluegrass, not its destruction. The old bluegrass expressed the creative values of Southern mountain culture, but also its isolation.

The new bluegrass draws its vitality from driving beyond these limits, to include the painful but also newly creative experience of the South moving North, and to the cities.

Charles Leinenweber

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On October 15, Workers' Power is going to start coming out as a weekly newspaper.

This means better and more timely news coverage and analysis for all our readers. And faster service for our subscribers.

By going to a weekly, Workers' Power will be handled by the Post Office as first class mail. You will have same week delivery.

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Letters

to

Workers' Power

Who's An "Outsider"?

Dear Workers' Power,

I'm writing about something that needs to be brought to the attention of your readers, but more important to the attention of coal miners themselves.

During the recent strike there

was a lot of yelling by the newspapers, the companies, and even the local unions themselves about so-called "outsiders" coming to the coal fields to stir up trouble.

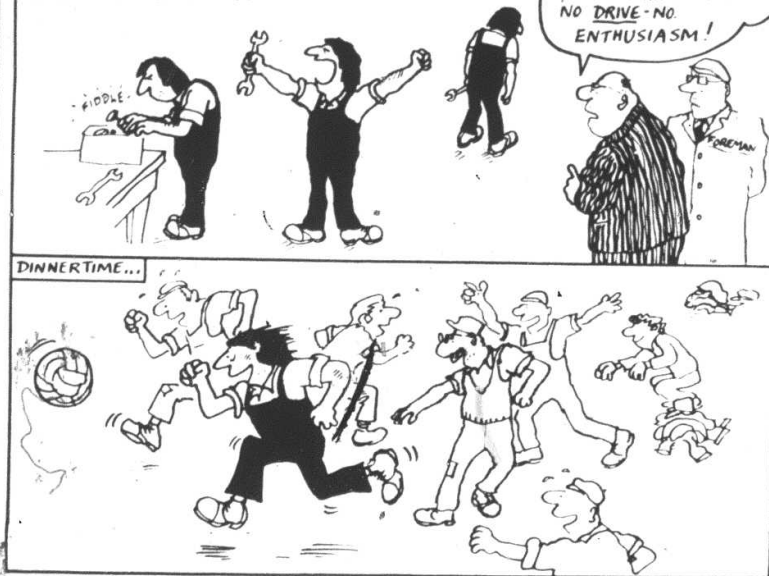
What I find ironic is the fact that all the owners of coal companies are themselves outsiders. I work for Consol, the second largest, which is owned by Continental Oil with corporate headquarters in Houston and Omaha. Peabody Coal, the largest, is owned by Kennecott Copper. Gulf OH has large coal holdings, as does US Steel, Occidental Oil, and Amax. Nothing is said about these out-

siders who come to the coal fields and literally rip their profits from the ground, steal our only natural resource, and leave the land devastated and the people still poor.

Instead, someone from out of state is labelled an "outside agitator." At least these people live among us and work beside native Appalachians. Why are these people attacked? Because they are willing to fight these same giant companies for a better life for Appalachians.

A Friend
UMWA District 6
Wheeling, West Virginia

OUR NORMAN



THEY CALL US LAZY

Dear Workers' Power,

During the last sixty years I have often heard the charge made that certain sections of our population are lazy. It has most often been leveled against minority groups, but is generally leveled against the poor.

I heard it said that the American Indian was lazy; blacks are lazy; Mexicans are lazy; women and people on welfare are

lazy. Every group that has suffered job discrimination has been called lazy. This is one of the methods the ruling class has of trying to avoid their responsibility for full employment of all those who want to and are able to work.

We are often told about the job opportunities in America. Finding a job is not just a question of money and earning a living. The good jobs go to those with the best training and work habits; to those who have a pull—to relatives and friends of those in positions of power. Living in the right community is an important determining factor in getting a good job.

The ruling class and often their representative, the boss on the production line, refer to workers as lazy when they fail to meet production standards or resist speed-up. One must recognize that in every shop where hundreds or thousands of workers are employed on production lines the workers vary in age from the low 20's to the 50's and 60's. These workers vary not only in age but in physical fitness. They vary in

their attitude toward their work. Few if any like it. Some of them hate it more than others. In a democracy personal differences are supposed to be recognized. Even on the production line they can't be ignored.

Under the present economic system with its lack of a humane approach to job placement, millions of workers must accept any job they can get. Many of them, not liking their work, do not have the ability to adjust to it; their attendance on the job is irregular, they drift from one job to another.

Most of us let others do our thinking for us. When people learn to think for themselves and develop the habit they will no longer be satisfied with putting a label on other humans as "lazy." They will think about the causes behind the failure of most people to perform their work with maximum speed and efficiency. Then they will begin to think about changing our economic and political system.

John Anderson
Detroit

New York Unions - Noble Suckers

Dear Workers' Power,

In an incredibly noble and foolish move, New York unions came to the aid of the failing city economy.

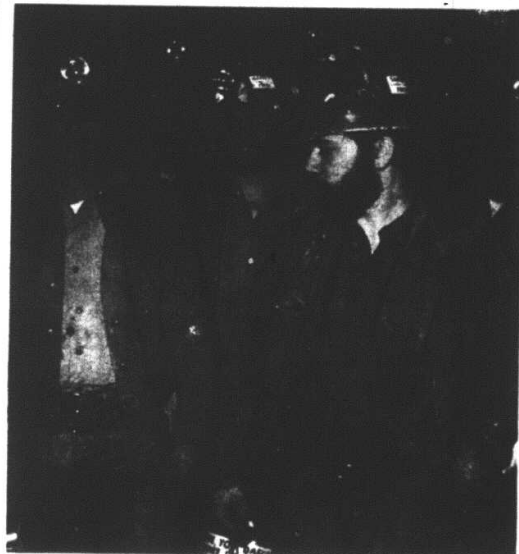
The Teacher, Fire, Police and General City Employee Retirement Funds bought \$100 million of Big MAC bonds on Friday, September 5th. The last minute heroics prevented default on 35,000 welfare checks and a

sanitation workers payroll.

By buying city bonds, the unions are betting that the city can eliminate enough jobs through layoff and speed-up to balance the budget and avoid defaulting on its debts.

You can't lose when you bet against yourself...but you can't win either.

A.S.
A disgruntled city worker



SOME FRIENDLY CRITICISMS

Dear Workers' Power,

I am a subscriber on the West Coast and a member of our plant's union committee. I liked the first couple of issues I read and then I began to get bored.

The criticism I have is that your paper is too much geared towards the struggle your members are in. You should be covering the biggest issues covered by the capitalist press. These are the issues on the minds of politically conscious workers, and these are the issues we argue about.

Of course you people are in

some big fights: the NYC mess and the busing issue. But even these issues don't deserve as much coverage as they get.

While we're on the busing issue let me say that that's one area where I think you're politically wrong. You say that the Right has defined the struggle. But you can't go around letting your opponents get away with that. I have that problem all the time; the Right trying to co-opt the issue. You have to fight it.

Then you spend the entire balance of the column (What We Think) defending the principle of self-reliance. That needs no proof.

The question is, is compulsory busing a measure which improves conditions for revolutionary activity or is it a clever maneuver by the capitalists to conceal their inability to provide the schools with money.

I daresay the 'high achieving' white middle class student is not a model that you should want to impose on blacks. And if you bus them to the school in which this model is dominant what do you think you're going to get?

What blacks need is money. In this respect redistricting does seem somewhat fair (forcing suburban whites to pool their tax base with center city blacks), but there ought to be a way to make the capitalists pay. I mean, a program short of expropriation.

Keep Punching,
D.S.
Oakland



The anti-busing movement is explicitly racist.

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.

Write to: Workers' Power, 14131 Woodward Ave., Highland Park, Michigan 48203.

TEACHERS STRIKE

NYC: Smaller Classes And A New Contract...

'We Want Decent Schools'

by David Miller

NEW YORK CITY—Eighty thousand teachers struck New York City public schools last Tuesday. The strike was called because the school board insists on getting the old contract. The NYC strikers join 50,000 other teachers out in eleven states. Two million students are out of school.

Before the New York City strike began, the school board had already laid off 14,000 teachers—a 17% cut in jobs since spring. But the board wants more. It wants to lengthen the school day and sharply cut preparation periods and leaves.

The strike is solid. 35,000 teachers at a rally voted 25—1 to strike. Morale is high, despite the likelihood of a long strike and a vicious state anti-strike law. Striking teachers lose two days pay for each day out.

According to the union, the United Federation of Teachers (UFT), "money is not the issue." This claim is made despite a paltry 15% increase in teacher salaries over the past three years. In New York City inflation rose 36%.

Albert Shanker, president of the UFT, accepts the city's claim that it is too poor to raise salaries. He has also accepted the city's wage freeze. Most likely wages will rise about 8%, but 6% of that will be frozen and returned to the city.

Teacher determination to hold class size down to the maximum allowed by the contract is emerging as the key to the strike. This demand became much more important after the first day back in school. Elementary teachers discovered their class size was 40 and over.

The resulting outcry from teacher ranks forced the 70 member UFT executive board to withdraw a temporary settlement Shanker had offered to the school board. The board had already rejected this offer as "inadequate." This proposal was also opposed by a large



Massive teacher layoffs have raised class size as high as 60 in New York.

minority of the negotiations committee, 8—6.

Shanker's proposal was to delay the strike for 30 days, keeping the old contract, minus one provision—the class size. Shanker was signaling the board, and the teachers, that he would accept 14,000 layoffs that have already taken place.

The response of the ranks now has Shanker in an awkward position. Shanker is president of the American Federation of Teachers, and candidate for president of a merged AFT and National Education Association. He has a huge personal stake in winning an adequate contract. He cannot afford a bad settlement in New York City, and this political consideration can play a major role in the strike outcome.

But the deck is stacked against Shanker and the teachers. The union is hard pressed by the charge that teachers are contributing to the bankruptcy of the city by insisting on the contract rights. This charge is widely believed, even by the teachers. This weakens the union internally, as well as in the face of the enemy.

NO-WIN STRATEGY

There are two ways the teachers could have gotten out of their difficult position, and won. Both were denied to them by Shanker.

Last June, the other city unions were under attack. Joint action to prevent all job cuts was possible. Shanker rejected that approach.

Shanker and the other labor

union officials also reject calling for a bank moratorium on New York City's debt. This would have made the fight for jobs clearer, and convinced the teachers that they should not have to pay for the city's bad debts.

But without a policy of joint action and a way to provide the money for workers' paychecks, the other city unions settled, losing jobs and pay.

The teachers are consequently left alone, completely isolated. Under these conditions, the union's ability to maneuver is reduced, even though the strike is now solid.

This isolation poses many dangers. Not the least is that it will be much easier for Shanker to sell a compromise to his members. □

NEW YORK—On Sept. 12 over 500 people attended a militant rally in support of striking teachers. The demonstrators—parents, students, and teachers—took over a major traffic circle at Grand Army Plaza in Brooklyn during rush hour and stalled traffic for over a half hour.

"Bring back all laid off teachers," "Reduce class size," and "We want decent schools," were among the slogans.

This was one of many locally organized efforts to support the present teachers' strike.

A THIRD LAID OFF

Members of the United Federation of Teachers have been on strike since Sept. 9. Over one third of all New York City school workers have been laid off. Class size is up to 45 in most schools and 60 in a few cases.

This strike is popular not only among the rank and file of the union, but among the people of the city of New York. While the official union picket lines continue, many groups of school workers organize their own demonstrations to raise their politics and demands.

For example, many teachers feel the union has not hit the banks hard enough for their role in the "budget crisis." A group of militant teachers from Williamsburg organized a picket line in front of a local branch of the Chase Manhattan bank. They called for a debt moratorium, and charged the banks with responsibility for the crisis and attacks on working people.

These teachers are members of "Another View," a local chapter of the Coalition of School Workers, a new rank and file group in the union which stresses local organizing. Members of the Coalition of School Workers are working in their local districts to bring back all laid off teachers, reduce class size, and break the wage freeze with a cost-of-living increase. They urge school workers to reject any contract that does not include these special demands.

Because the teachers are raising issues which affect children's education, this strike has popular support. In addition, this is the first strike to say "No" to the banks, the politicians, the union bosses. The rank and file of the UFT has pushed its own issues, and the other city workers (many of whom are parents) have responded. Rank and file city workers are beginning to see that their interests lie together. □

Nancy Jaffe

CHICAGO...And Decent Pay



Fighting cutbacks... Chicago Board of Education wants to eliminate 1,500 teaching jobs. Meanwhile, Junior College teachers are striking against proposed pay cuts.

CHICAGO — Junior College Teachers, out on the picket line since August 25, were joined September 3 by about 25,000 Chicago Public Schools teachers.

With a paycheck eaten away by inflation and the Board of Education promising to eliminate 1,525 teaching jobs, the union decided that a strike was their only option.

The Board offered to extend the present contract, retaining the 1,525 jobs. The union rejected this as inadequate since it failed to give teachers wages that can meet inflation. It failed as well to reduce class size.

A problem with Chicago's Teachers' Union president Robert Healy's handling of the negotiations is his suggestion of Mayor Richard Daley as arbiter.

Mayor Daley's control of the Chicago Board of Education is well known. The union's attempt to get the mayor to enter the dispute as an impartial arbiter is questionable, to say the least.

The Junior College Teachers, meanwhile, must deal with an obvious attempt to break their own union.

On September 9, Norman Swenson, president of the Cook County College Teachers' Union, was sentenced to five months in jail for supporting his union's membership decision to defy a court order to end the strike.

This followed an unsuccessful attempt to fine the union for each day that they stayed on strike.

Junior College teachers are striking against the College Board's attempt to cut salaries.

The union, not wishing to stall the negotiations, immediately offered to continue, provided Swenson, their chief negotiator was present. This would mean negotiating at the jail, which the College Board refused to do.

On September 10, Chicago teachers rallied in support of their demands. About 5,000 teachers met outside the Board of Education building to listen to speeches and to show their solidarity.

Afterwards some 600 teachers demonstrated outside the Criminal Courts Building where Swenson is being held. □

Peter Vento

CLOSE VOTE ENDS TEACHERS STRIKE

As we go to press, the New York teachers' strike has just ended by a close vote. The new contract is a setback for teachers. Class size will be kept down by some rehiring, but at the cost of teachers' giving up free periods.

Raises of 3.5-8 percent were negotiated. But they are subject to the city's freeze on the first six percent.

The worst aspect of the new contract is that for the first time, the union accepted binding arbitration over contracts. The second year wage reopener will go to binding arbitration if not settled by next September 1. □

TEAMSTERS LAUNCH NATIONAL CONTRACT CAMPAIGN

CLEVELAND, OH—The drive for a decent contract in the trucking industry is now underway.

At a press conference on September 6, nine Cleveland and Akron area Teamsters announced the formation of a Cleveland Teamsters for a Decent Contract (TDC). They also announced a September 20 public meeting to discuss and plan the campaign.

This conference follows the meeting of forty Teamsters from 10 cities on August 16 in Chicago to found the TDC.

The TDC has also begun distributing a new brochure outlining the campaign and launching a national petition drive to back up its demands.

The brochure points to four basic areas of TDC demands—wages, jobs, safety, and the grievance procedure, and equalization among the various regional and supplemental contracts.

For example, the TDC demands full, unlimited cost of living; plus \$1.00 an hour in wages lost to inflation and \$1.00 an hour in new money. It also demands voluntary overtime and the elimination of the

casual status. On grievances, it demands "innocent until proven guilty" and the return of the 24 hour strike. The brochure also includes a full program of demands and an explanation of these demands.

The TDC plans a national movement. According to the organizers, "TDC has been formed to organize our just concerns into a national movement. The employers and the officials must hear the loud voice of an angry and organized rank and file... by organizing the petition, we'll be prepared to vote no if a bad contract comes down. And to watch the vote."

Jim Cook, a Cleveland Local 407 member and a spokesman of the TDC in Cleveland said, "The initial response has been enthusiastic. The problems we're all facing are the most serious ever. On inflation, on unemployment, representation, and speedup. People want to do something. The TDC campaign will give them a chance to be effective."

The impact of the trucking contract also goes beyond this one contract. Anne Mackie, a United

Parcel Service driver in Cleveland, explained, "Our UPS contract is basically patterned on the freight contract. Other UPSers and I went to Chicago and are working on the TDC because a strong rank and file fight on the freight contract will strengthen UPS workers in our contract."

Ken Paff, the TDC's coordinator and also a member of Local 406 outlined the groups plans:

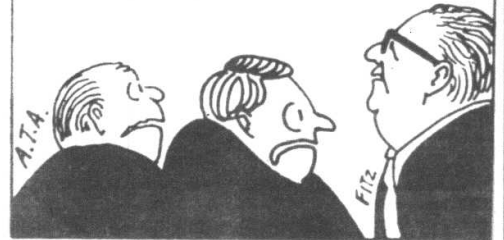
"There will be press conferences and public meetings like here in Cleveland in several other cities. Right now we have people working on this in about 20 cities. That's enough to get a good start."

"As our initial group shows this is a national movement and can have a real impact, the movement will spread fast. In the trucking industry, we've got a real advantage. Road drivers will be carrying this into every state within weeks."

The brochure, entitled "Teamsters for a Decent Contract Stand Together in '76," and copies of the petition are now available. Interested Teamsters can get them from: TDC, PO Box 99133, Cleveland, Ohio 44199.

Teamsters for a Decent Contract

STAND TOGETHER IN '76



Teamsters for a Decent Contract PO Box 99133 Cleveland, OH 44199

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Teamsters for a Decent Contract brochure explaining contract demands now available.

CHEVROLET GEAR AND AXLE

"We need a union that takes on the company."

by Elissa Clarke

DETROIT—Plant 6 of the Chevrolet Gear and Axle complex has been known for heavy overtime, difficult jobs, and severe company discipline. It is also known as the most militant plant in the complex.

Three months ago Wendy Weinberg was elected committeeperson on the second shift. Weinberg is a member of the Justice Committee, a rank and file opposition caucus in Local 235. She is widely known as a militant throughout the local because Chevrolet fired her twice. She won her job back both times, with back pay.

"When I won my election," Weinberg told Workers' Power, "people saw it as a real victory. It built morale and unity."

"When the vote turned out to be a high vote, and a very clear victory, people were really glad."

"The company and the union were shocked by my victory. They didn't realize I had so much support. Now the union understands that people support me. They don't like what I am doing, but they are afraid to go after me."

"After I won, I immediately started to fulfill those things I had said I would do. Within two weeks, I held a plant meeting and put out the first issue of our plant newsletter," Weinberg said.

"The union hates the idea of newsletters. When I write up the grievances, then everyone knows about them. It puts pressure on the union to deal with them successfully."

"The main problem with the union is that they do not know how to fight the company. Everytime I ask a question: what do you do about this problem, what can you use in the contract, their attitude is that there is nothing you can do." "The union actively discourages



Weinberg: The main problem with the union is that they do not know how to fight the company.

the writing of grievances by the committeeperson. I've started to write Health and Safety grievances. Neither management nor the union has experience in processing them."

The Justice Committee was formed two years ago. Last year it led the fight to retain the two year term for committeemen at Local

235, while most of the rest of the UAW has gone to three years.

JUSTICE COMMITTEE GROWING

During the heavy layoffs, the Justice Committee was responsible for getting the local to set up an Unemployed Committee. One of

Workers' Power

the things the Unemployed Committee did was fight to end overtime while members were laid off.

The Justice Committee runs in elections, but it doesn't disappear after the results are in, as so many slates in the UAW do. The Justice Committee puts out a regular newsletter concerning issues in the plants, and fights to improve things for Chevy workers.

The power of the Justice Committee's ideas and actions has changed the stranglehold the union leadership and the company used to have over the membership. Weinberg told us that the Justice Committee is "not just in opposition to the Local 235 leadership, but we want to change the whole way the UAW is being run from top to bottom. As long as the union goes along with Chevrolet's program, it can't possibly solve the problems we are having in the plants with speedup and overtime. The goal of the Justice Committee is to begin rebuilding the union in the plants."

FINDING SOLUTIONS

Weinberg told us why she ran for committeeperson. "It's the best position to be in to organize a rank

and file opposition movement. You're on the floor all day. You're talking to people when they're angry. You can point out the weakness of the union, and what we can do to change it."

"As committeeperson, I try to find solutions that go beyond just writing grievances. We need a relationship with management that is based on the power and strength of the membership."

"When a committeeperson is willing to play ball with the company, the company does things to make him look good to his people. When you press the company where it hurts, you can't expect justice from the grievance procedure. The only power we have is through acting together and protecting each other. Chevy needs us to get out production. Knowing how to make use of this basic fact of life is the real secret to our strength as workers."

Weinberg sees the key to her effectiveness as committeeperson in the unity of the rank and file. "Unity and action will get us results. The key is an active and informed rank and file."

"We need to build the Justice Committee. We need a union that takes on the company. I signed up two people yesterday."