

# WORKERS' Power

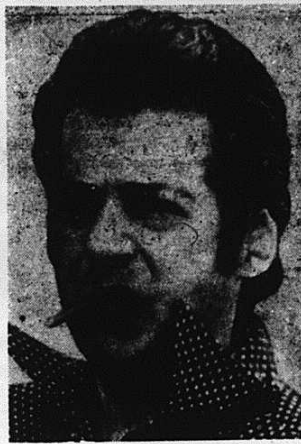
WEEKLY NEWSPAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS FEBRUARY 9, 1976 #146 15c

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# Getting Away With

# Murder

He gets 2 years maximum for killing him



Today in Detroit the ugly face of racism and the double standard of American justice are on public display.

There was a rebellion in Detroit's west side black ghetto last summer. It was started by the murder of a black youth. He was shot in the back of the head and killed by a white bar owner, Andrew Chinarian. Today Chinarian is practically a free man. Last week he was convicted for reckless use of a firearm. That's not even a felony.

Chinarian's bar was a sore spot in the ghetto community—practically white-only and a police hang-out. On July 28, when Chinarian discovered a small group of black youths hanging-out in his parking lot, he took aim with the pistol he carries.

He shot Obie Wynn in the back of the head.

Chinarian was arrested, but quickly released by one of his policemen friends on only \$500 bond. Anger swept the black community. A crowd gathered and Chinarian's bar was burned down. Bricks and bottles were thrown at police and passing motorists. One motorist was fatally beaten. And while the murderer of a black

youth was virtually set free, the system cried for blood against those who attacked the white motorist.

**BLAME**

It didn't matter that no one knew who to blame for the second death. The police picked out three youth, one of them Obie Wynn's best friend.

For two nights last summer, the rebellion continued. Black city politicians and community leaders turned out in droves to cool the situation. Their promises of justice in the courts for Obie Wynn convinced some. The clubs and teargas of the riot police convinced the rest.

But last week the system proved that the black youth, not the politicians, were right. Obie Wynn is dead. His best friend and two others face a murder rap for a crime there's no evidence they committed. And Obie Wynn's murderer will soon be drinking with his police pals and laughing it up again.

650 plan an UPSurge... See pages 6 & 7



United Parcel workers meet in Indianapolis to plan contract fight.

## ...For Reasons Like This

Dear Workers' Power,

I work for UPS in Pittsburgh. On February 3, I was suspended for "obscene language" toward my supervisor. Incidentally, to swear about something is nothing new. Anyway, even though I did not curse him I was accused (no witnesses) and received a one-day disciplinary time off.

I would like to mention I am single and am raising my daughter from this job. Next week my pay will be short.

Despite the fact that Dale McGinley—the supervisor who said I cursed him—has thrown obscenities toward myself and other workers, I have been victimized. They claim it was for saying a naughty word, but it was really for fighting back.

A couple of weeks ago a belt was screaming so loud you couldn't stand it. The workers were ready to stop work, it was so unbearable. I was one of those workers.

The threat of a work stoppage got that belt fixed in five minutes, even though they had said before that it would take days. UPS hopes that getting me will scare people off from trying to better their conditions.

But we're fighting back. There is a petition circulating with numerous signatures saying that the undersigned has heard their supervisor using profanity. And I am filing a separate grievance. Hopefully I can win back pay for this day.

I have received numerous phone calls from fellow workers who sympathize with me. To those people and organizations I would like to say thank you.

Sincerely,  
Renee Arter

# Nestle's Makes The Very Best - Malnutrition

## Brimming with Health on Lactogen NESTLE



From an ad for Nestle's formula.

To most of us the name Nestle means chocolates or cocoa. To an unknown number of mothers and babies in the underdeveloped world it means malnutrition, infection and death.

Nestle makes, advertizes and sells canned formula. They say themselves that the "growth market" for canned formula is in the Third World with its rapid population growth.

But formula must be mixed with pure or boiled water in exactly the right quantities. It must be cooled to the right temperature, and fed to the baby in a bottle sterilized at least once a day.

For the poverty bound African mother, this is just not possible. She may well not be able to read the instructions on the back of the can. She may well not be able to sterilize the bottle, have no pure water to mix with, no facilities for boiling or cooling water five or six times a day.

And then she finds that canned milk is using up 20 percent or 30 percent of her family's weekly budget. So she uses less powder to "make it go further."

The results are malnourished children, with a low resistance to disease, and the ever present threat of infection from an unsterilized feeding bottle.

### VICIOUS CYCLE

Many that do not die are drawn into a vicious cycle of malnutrition and disease that will leave them physically and mentally stunted for life.

In Freetown, Sierra Leone, a hospital survey showed that 713 out of 717 babies admitted for malnutrition had been bottle fed.

And in the rural areas of Chile deaths of babies under three months old are three times higher among those fed on canned milk.

These facts are known. Nestle knows them. But Nestle, the second largest food company in the world, continues to advertize, to persuade women to change from breast feeding to bottles. It even dresses up its saleswomen in nurses' uniforms.

### PROFITS

All this is no accident. It is just one more example of the "profits over people" values built into the system itself. It creates wealth for the already wealthy, at the expense



Nestle encourages third world women to abandon breastfeeding and buy their formula. But when they must water it to fit the budget... malnourishment and starvation result.

of the poor and powerless.

The suffering of these babies is part of the same process that condemns miners in South Africa, tea pickers in Sri Lanka, and plantation workers in South America to live and work in wretched conditions for wretched pay.

It is also the same process that throws us out of work when it's not "profitable" to keep us on, and closes our hospitals and day care sites when industry "needs" a bigger piece of the pie.

The operations of Nestle are just one particularly clear and disgusting example of a corrupt and disgusting system.

Elana Dallas

[This article is reprinted from Women's Voice, the monthly women's newspaper of the British International Socialists. Issues may be obtained from: Women's Voice, 8 Cotton Gardens, London E2, 8DN England.]

## labor notes

by Jim Woodward

Remember the Kepone plant in Hopewell, Virginia? It's been in the news because half its workers have become seriously ill from working there. Various governmental agencies claimed that the plant was not shut down earlier because they didn't know what was going on there.

Well, it turns out that a worker at the plant filed a complaint with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) in September, 1974, almost a year before the plant was actually closed. The worker, Orben DuBose, told OSHA that the situation in the plant might cause death or serious physical harm. But OSHA did not even bother to send out an inspector, and dismissed the complaint because of "insufficient evidence."

That says something about what can be expected from a government agency. It sometimes helps to file a complaint with OSHA, or the NLRB, or the EEOC, but it's always a bad idea to count on them going to bat for you.

Rubber workers are in a good strategic position: if they strike the entire tire-making industry when their contracts expire April 20. They could quickly affect the auto industry. Says Robert Lund of GM's Chevrolet Division, "If there is [a strike] it will definitely affect us. We have a ten-day supply of tires at present, which isn't a stockpile."

For ten years, the National Right to Work Committee has harassed trade unions by filing suits against union shop contracts. The group usually finds some management flunky to claim that the union is taking away his rights by making him pay dues. Recently a federal judge ruled that the Committee "has been acting as an agent and conduit for employers" who are trying to weaken the unions. That's a violation of federal law and could mean the Committee would have to stop its lawsuits against the unions.

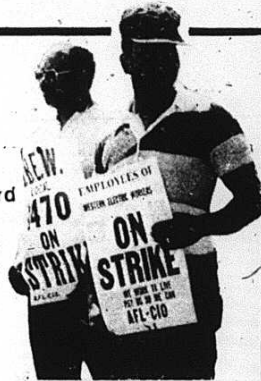
Over four hundred members of the Newspaper Guild at the Washington Post have signed a petition to decertify the Guild as their bargaining agent. They want to form an independent union, the Washington Newspaper Union. The independent union would presumably stand firmly for the principle of strike-breaking, since the Guild members who want to disaffiliate have been scabbing on the printers for four months.

A recent Census Bureau report says 1.1 million more Americans became "poor" in 1974. The increase was attributed to inflation and the recession, which caused a drop of 4% in real income that year. Nine percent of all whites are now below the poverty level, 31% of all blacks, and 23% of all Latinos.

The quote of the week this time is by R.A. ("Smarty") Smardon, president of the Industrial Employers and Distributors Assn. of Emeryville, California. Says Smardon: "It is essential that anybody who is engaged in any way in labor relations... realizes that every settlement has to be so constructed as to make it appear that the union won... They don't want their neighbors gibling at them with, 'I see that you were out on the bricks for a month, and you lost your shirt. What's the matter with that union of yours--no guts?'"

So remember to look twice the next time your local union officials tell you about what a great victory they've won for you.

What's happening where you work? Send items for this column to: Workers' Power, Labor Notes, 14131 Woodward Ave., Highland Park, MI 48203. Or phone 313-869-5965.



## Violent Racist Mobs Close Boston Schools

Boston's anti-busing movement exploded into massive violence last week. For a solid week mob attacks by white students and some white parents were occurring continually. Many of the attacks and demonstrations were well-planned, and coordinated between schools.

School after school closed as the violent attacks spread through the strong anti-busing communities. Hyde Park, East Boston and Charlestown High Schools were the most vicious.

South Boston High School, the city's anti-busing symbol of resistance, remained quiet.

Students armed with bats, hockey sticks and clubs roamed the school hallways and surroundings hunting for black students.

Hundreds of white students and parents were involved in one extremely violent battle at Hyde Park. The attack was clearly

planned as students from other schools participated.

### 'GOD BLESS AMERICA'

At another school, 100 racist students fought with a teacher and police, then began a day-long sit-in singing "God Bless America."

The purpose of the demonstration was to "get the niggers out of here," according to one demonstrator.

The city's anti-busing movement, led by newly-elected City Council President Louise Day Hicks, is mounting a hysterical campaign to blame black students for the violence.

Black students have begun to organize against the vicious racial harassment. They are demanding increased protection, more black aides and a new grievance procedure.

These few demands kicked off the week of coordinated attacks against them.

But one black student leader says, "We fought to get into Hyde Park, and no one's going to drive us out."

### Workers' Power 146

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# Ford's New Man At Labor

by Gay Semel

## Who is W.J. Usery?

W.J. Usery has just been appointed, approved and installed as the Secretary of Labor for the crumbling Ford administration. Usery replaces John Dunlop who recently

resigned over Ford's veto of the common site picketing bill.

Usery is the Henry Kissinger of labor relations. Wherever industrial strife breaks out, so does W.J. Usery.

Usery was appointed to the Department of Labor in 1968. Since then he has "resolved," that is,

engineered the defeat of, major labor struggles from trucking to the mines.

## MINERS STRIKE

In 1974, for example, he "resolved" the nationwide miners strike. The United Mine Workers executive board twice voted down proposed contracts that year. But with Usery hovering around the bargaining table, the board reversed its position and accepted the contract.

Emerging from the talks, Usery gushed: "I'm delighted on behalf of the nation." The nation's miners weren't delighted, however. Protests rocked the coal fields. District directors were burned in effigy at mass meetings.

The UMWA executive board ignored part of the ratification procedure and the contract squeaked through. Only 56% approved.

What Usery had done was to tell the Board it had a patriotic duty to accept the contract. If there was a long coal strike, the nation might be plunged into a depression. He said it would be all their fault.

The coal strike ended and the nation was plunged into a depression anyway. And in the next twelve months the number of miners killed in accidents underground soared. But Usery was delighted on behalf of the nation.

This year Usery has a new title, but the same old job. And the critical question is whether he can get away with peddling the same old fish. Can he do a job on the Teamsters? The rubber workers? The electrical workers? Or the auto workers?

## SOME LOVE HIM

Labor's officialdom loves Usery. He gets them off the hook. He gives them a reason for not fighting.

AFL-CIO President George Meany stated that Usery is "well-qualified for the job by reason of his service not only in mediation but in the Labor Department and the labor movement." Other labor leaders echoed these praises.

The real question is not who Usery is, however, but what stands behind his appointment.

This is a crucial year for America's capitalists. The economy is slowly coming out of the worst depression since the 30's. Business is beginning to recover.

This business recovery is being financed by the nation's workers—through high unemployment and speedup of those still working.

For the recovery to continue, the attack on labor must continue. The problem for the capitalists is that the nation's workers are not too happy about the situation. And the contracts of some of the angriest—beginning with the Teamsters—come up this year.

Usery's job will be to attractively package a sell-out. And he is the man to undertake the job.

Usery understands the seriousness of this year's bargaining round. He recently told Business Week: "It's going to be a tough year, but I think we'll get through in pretty good shape."

"Getting through" means labor giving up the fight. At the AFL-CIO convention last fall Usery made this clear:

## 'STICKING IT TO THEM'

"Sticking it to the boss—collecting for what we don't do—is in the same class today as clearcutting a national forest or dumping raw sewage into the Hudson."

For the three months preceding that AFL-CIO convention, labor productivity increased by 9.5%. It was the largest growth in a three-month period in a generation.

But still Usery is worried about "sticking it to the boss" for work not done.

In this contract round W.J. Usery knows which side he is on. That is why Ford hired him and big business cheered, no matter how much lavish praise the labor bureaucracy heaps on him.

## CRIPPLED

But despite Usery's best intentions, his ability to "resolve" this year's labor disputes has already been crippled.

First there is Usery's new boss. By backstabbing Dunlop on the construction bill, Ford ended the ability of his administration to dicker with the trade union bureaucracy—even with W.J. Usery at the helm.

And another, perhaps more

serious, handicap for Usery is that the trade union leaders do not speak for the ranks. Rank and file organizations like the Teamsters for a Decent Contract threaten to upset his most carefully laid plans.

The lesson for labor's ranks is that the new Labor Secretary is not to be trusted—but neither is he to be greatly feared.

Now is the time to fight. Stick it to them!

The lesson for labor's rank and file is that the new Labor Secretary is not to be trusted—but neither is he to be greatly feared.

Now is the time to fight. Stick it to them!

## What We Think

### Busing Fight's Just Begun

Busing began this month, quietly and calmly, in the country's fifth largest school district—Detroit. A few pickets and would-be hecklers from racist anti-busing groups were on hand in some places, but they were small and easily isolated. There was none of the lynch-mob violence and near-insurrections of Boston and Louisville in 1974-75.

There's no doubt that the peaceful start of Detroit's limited busing plan is a victory for Detroit's black community, and at least a small step toward their right to an equal education. However, city officials from Mayor Coleman Young on down are showering glowing praises on the anti-busing forces for showing "restraint," "good citizenship," and "peacefully co-operating with the law even when they disagree with it."

The truth is that these fine phrases have little or nothing to do with what happened in Detroit. The foremost reason why white racists couldn't organize violence against school integration in Detroit is that there's so damned little of it!

When metropolitan busing was an issue in Detroit over a year ago, racist anti-integration organizing was much stronger and more vocal. Their impact on the Federal judge was tremendous. In his very own words, he ordered "the minimum integration the Constitution allows."

The judge explained that avoiding white resistance was of primary importance and he would bend over backwards to avoid inconvenience to white students. He even cancelled some white student transfers when racist resistance went unopposed. Less than a third of the schools are affected by his integration order.

The result is a largely ineffective plan which establishes (once again) that integration and equality are a student's right, but fails to actually provide either one.

## FEW AFFECTED

With so few white families dramatically affected, anti-busing organizers have not been able to mobilize massive resistance. Groups like Mothers Alert Detroit and Metro Area Parents tried in the few weeks preceding busing. But their few attempts, including a boycott that flopped, were effectively opposed by pro-busing groups like Women Against Racism.

Particularly since Detroit's city officials refused to support the desegregation program, the active presence of pro-busing forces was a significant factor in opposing the racist organizing that has easily turned to violence in past cases.

Another reason the anti-busing racists are weak here is the large proportion of black residents and black city officials. The city can hardly be described as a haven for blacks; the living and working conditions most black Detroiters face are truly atrocious.

But the relatively strong position of black people gives them a sense of strength and confidence that prevents the climate of fear and intimidation established in Boston and Louisville from being repeated here.

Despite the lack of positive leadership from City Hall and the majority-black Central School Board, black people—and many white working people as well—gave the plan the support necessary to make it work. And now they want more.

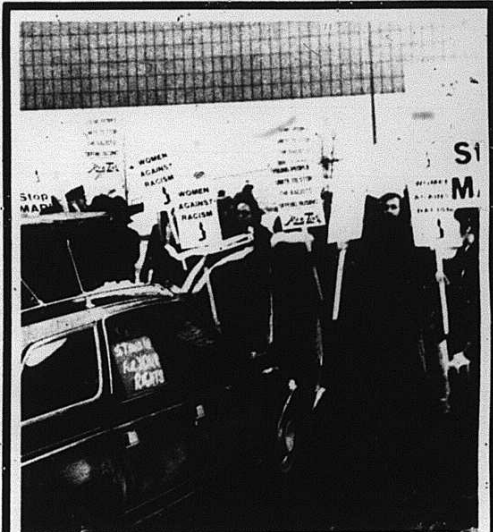
Peaceful implementation is showing Detroit two things. The first is that integration without violence is possible when community support is organized. The second is that we need more of it, particularly in the schools, to actually improve conditions.

## FIGHT FOR METRO BUSING

Integrating the city schools without white suburban students and tax revenues is both ridiculous and impossible. Many Detroiters did not support busing before it began because the educational improvement is so minimal. Now that the plan is peacefully in effect, many are changing their minds. If black people are willing to accept the difficulties and inconveniences of busing, they want something better than the fraud integration plan they now have.

The key to really smashing the structure of segregated education, not just papering it over, is cross-district metropolitan school busing for real integration. The benefits of that kind of plan would be enormous, both for black families and white workers in the Detroit area. But it must be actively fought for. So far, the political pressure of anti-busing racists has prevented it.

Mayor Coleman Young and US Representative John Conyers are among the many politicians on record favoring metropolitan school integration. Their poor leadership record in this first busing round is a good indication that they won't lead the fight that is needed to win it.



## Pickets Stop Racist Caravan

DETROIT—When Mothers Alert Detroit (MAD) and Metro Area Parents (MAP), two local racist anti-busing groups, announced plans to demonstrate at a local speech by President Ford last Saturday, a Women Against Racism picket line was quickly organized.

With pro-busing songs, chants and signs, the group aggressively challenged the racists' caravan. Police directed the racists to an alternate route away from the President to avoid a possible confrontation.

Many of MAD and MAP's supporters claim that they are not racist. When a Workers' Power reporter asked one anti-busing man observing the demonstration if he felt the charge was true, he replied, "No, I'm not racist. I just don't want my kids going to school with blacks."

Mothers Alert Detroit held a public meeting February 5 and Women Against Racism was there again.

Members of the Red Tide and the International Socialists are active in Women Against Racism.

## HIGH SCHOOLS

Women Against Racism is now concentrating on organizing student support for integration in high schools on the city's east side, where racist resistance to integration has been strongest. "The students are divided by both black administrators and white administrators. I've seen it happen. Many of the black administrators are racist too," said a black speaker at her first Women Against Racism meeting.

Another speaker told how a white work-mate had changed her position from being against busing to being for metropolitan busing. "She felt we weren't really getting anything until we integrated with the suburban schools," Enid Eckstein recounted. "Many people feel that way now."

**WOMEN AGAINST RACISM will be on the air in Detroit Sunday morning, February 8, in a live debate with the anti-busing Mothers Alert Detroit (MAD). Tune in Radio W/WJ, 950 on AM dial, at 10:00 A.M.**

# ANTI-REPRESSION MOVEMENT ON THE RISE

A large, spirited rally of between five and six thousand people gathered in Lisbon yesterday demanding the release of left wing prisoners. It was the latest step in the growing struggle to stop government and military repression.

The rally was called by a new organization, the Committee for the Release of Anti-fascist and Revolutionary Prisoners, or CLARP. It was supported by the major organizations of the Portuguese revolutionary left—Revolutionary Party of the Proletariat (PRP), Left Socialist Movement (MES), and Popular Democratic Union (UDP, a Maoist group).

The rally also gained support from important workers' and neighborhood commissions, as well as two unions—the transport workers' union (teamsters) of Setubal and Lisbon truck drivers.

The Communist Party did not support Tuesday's rally. The CP does not want any militant movement for the freedom of soldiers and officers arrested since November 25. It wants only a legal, passive

appeal to persuade a section of the government to release them. However, many rank and file CP members attended the rally despite the CP's non-support.

The militants in prison also sent a telegram of support for CLARP.

## REVIVAL OF MILITANCY

The organizing of CLARP is important in the revival of working class militancy in Portugal. Because of the success of the rally, the organizers of CLARP are pushing ahead for a widespread, militant campaign. They have invited all rank and file workers' organizations to a meeting on Friday, which will discuss plans for large demonstrations and other actions next week.

There are good possibilities for building a massive anti-repression campaign and large numbers of CLARP committees.

CLARP stands not only for the release of revolutionary and anti-fascist prisoners, but for action against the advance of right-wing



forces. That means the struggle is not only anti-fascist, but must be a working class struggle against capitalism.

The UDP, which has previously called only for anti-fascist people's struggles, has now agreed for the first time to a program of action for revolutionary struggle against capitalism proposed by the PRP.

## PROTEST STRIKE

The formation of CLARP is one part of a very broad process of struggle. The other main activity this week was a one-hour work stoppage from 3:00-4:00 Monday afternoon. The strike was called by the unions of the greater Lisbon area to protest right-wing bombings. These bombings are occurring by the dozens, and the government does nothing to stop them. The leadership of most

of these unions calling the strike belong to the Communist Party.

The strike was extremely successful. More significant was that revolutionaries used the one-hour strike period to organize mass meetings of workers in the factories. The meetings discussed the political situation and the key economic problems facing workers: the wage freeze, and struggles going on against factory management. Although the official strike was called only in greater Lisbon, similar meetings were held by workers in Coimbra and Oporto.

At many of the meetings, revolutionaries were able to propose and win support for forming committees to support CLARP's activities. There is no doubt that in the next few weeks the anti-repression campaign will be broader and stronger.

# Portugal: The Tide Starts To Turn

Portugal's right wing is still on the offensive—in the government, in the countryside, inside the factories.

Landowner's gangs and fascists regularly bomb the offices of left-wing and trade union and land reform groups. In many northern villages it is impossible for revolutionary organizations to open headquarters.

The official government crackdown also continues.

On Monday, the top military

command sent 110 commandos from Amadora into the southern agricultural district (the Alentejo) by helicopter. They raided three co-operative farms controlled by farmworkers, just to harass and terrify them.

The military command took this step right after Correia, its own military commander in the Alentejo region, had publicly taken a more liberal line. The commandos were sent to show him, as well as the farmworkers, that the right-wing

top command is the boss.

The old fascist National Guard and riot police, GNR and PSP, are again being built up and called out into the streets in force.

They have deliberately turned machine-gun fire on demonstrations which could have easily been dispersed with far less force. It is an open show of brutality.

But even while this offensive goes on, powerful workers' and

peasants' resistance is growing. That is the meaning of the developments of the last week.

With the formation of CLARP (Committee for the Liberation of Anti-Fascist and Revolutionary Prisoners), the revolutionary left is again taking the initiative among workers.

CLARP should be able to gain support from a large number of key workers' commissions.

But equally important, in the heartland of landowner reaction in northern Portugal, small and middle peasants are organizing for the revolution.

They have formed two organizations—the League of Small and Middle Agriculturalists, and the Tenant Farmers of the North.

These groups are organizing for the land reform which the landowners and their terrorists are out to smash.

The peasants are organizing to undercut the base of the big landowners who have manipulated

them ever since fascism came to Portugal over 50 years ago.

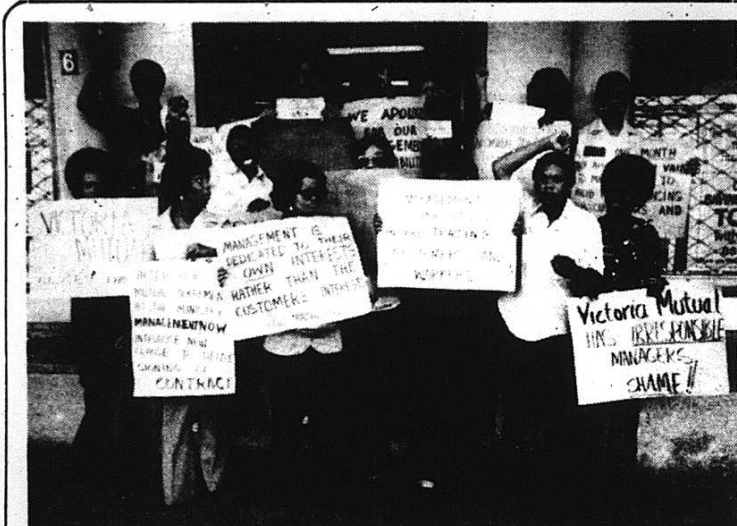
## LINKS WITH WORKERS

They are forming contacts with factory workers in the northern towns. These links will strengthen their political struggle and help them to find out how to avoid having to sell their products through middle-men who force up prices.

The Portuguese revolutionary left has long known the need for revolutionary organizing in the agrarian and rural workers' struggles in the north. Now, their patient work is paying off.

In the next explosion in Portugal, the base of reaction in the North will be much less powerful.

The urban industrial workers, who are already rapidly recovering their confidence after November 25, will have crucial allies in the all-out battle against reaction. □



# We Won't Be Slaves!

For the first time in Jamaica's history, white-collar workers are beginning to organize.

Workers of the Victoria Mutual Building Society are now on strike against the "enshrined right of management" (the bosses' words) to introduce time and attendance systems.

As one of the workers' leaflets put it: "Slave owners also thought they had an enshrined right to own slaves!"

The strike started when management slipped a clause into the agreed wages and conditions

contract just before signing. It would have meant all unionized workers would have to sign in every morning, while non-unionized would continue without signing in.

If these workers are successful, whole other sections of the workforce in banking and insurance, some of Jamaica's most profitable industries, are ready to join the National Workers Union too. □

Photo and Story by Phil McCowen

## HELP PORTUGAL REVOLUTION

The Workers' Power Portugal Solidarity Campaign wants to send money every week to the PRP. Please send every dollar you can spare—today. Every

week is critical. Send contributions to Workers' Power Portugal Solidarity Campaign, 14131 Woodward, Highland Park, MI 48203.

# Jamaica: CIA Poisonings?

JAMAICA—Twenty people have died here as a result of eating flour contaminated with the insecticide Parathion. It is widely believed the CIA is responsible—and incredible as that story sounds, it's probably true.

Remember Chile? There the CIA systematically worked to create economic chaos so that the government of Allende would be overthrown by a fascist coup. The CIA is known to be operating in Jamaica, with a similar aim.

The CIA's function in Jamaica is to nourish the idea that the country is going to ruin under the present government of the People's National Party, which has a mildly left-wing face. The CIA has been suspected of arming and support-

ing fascist terror groups, who had been shooting and bombing government supporters.

No sooner has this wave of violence subsided, when suddenly 20 died from acute food poisoning!

The right wing opposition is now blaming the government for not acting quickly to ban the use of flour. But if the government had issued a ban, the poison could have been traced to an isolated source—and then the government would be blamed for over-reacting and causing inconvenience.

Whatever the government does on this case it looks bad, so the CIA plot is succeeding. No one would be surprised if it were revealed the CIA caused these murders. □

P.M.

# 'Once you raise your fist you can't stop...

Workers' Power  
EXCLUSIVE  
INTERVIEW  
with  
MARTIN SOSTRE  
by Steve Burns

**That's what the system does, is pound on us, with their unrelenting fists. We must learn to pound back.**

MARTIN SOSTRE, A BLACK Puerto Rican revolutionary who has been a political prisoner for eight years, has won his freedom.

In this exclusive interview with Workers' Power, Sostre discusses his years of resistance, the causes for his victory, and lessons of his experience for the years of struggle that lie ahead.

Sostre spoke first about his years as a revolutionary inside prison. "Prison's a microcosm of what's happening outside.

"Outside, they have more room to maneuver. They play the good guys and drag repression out—make things more complex and confusing than they are.

"Like Watergate and Vietnam—simple issues of violence and destruction hidden by smoke-screens of words and postures of innocence.

## GLOVES OFF

"But in a prison there's a 40 foot wall surrounding all of us. There's no room to maneuver, so people take off their gloves and play their roles nice and clear. They break you quickly to keep things quiet. They try that on every prisoner. That's what they tried to do to me.

"They'll beat you with hoses, harass you with petty details, provoke you with racist insults, push and push. If those don't work, they'll combine them with long doses of solitary confinement.

"They've fought anyone with political ideas. Because those ideas become the main weapon a prison-

er has to struggle with—that they can never break.

"When they saw I couldn't be broken, they got scared and increased their repression. They knew that other prisoners were starting to pay attention.

"Some came around, began discussing what really got them in here. They saw that they're here not because they're "bad", but because the economic and racial inequalities of capitalism forced them to steal.

"Now you know that the authorities can't let those ideas run around long! So they beat me some more. But never on the face—just the body so the press would never see the bruises in court."

## WON VICTORIES

Despite this brutal harassment, Sostre won significant victories establishing precedents about solitary confinement, prisoners' human rights, and censorship of mail.

The public attention surrounding his court efforts also helped Sostre. His unrelenting battle began to be noticed outside. People demanded his freedom.

That movement grew as the confrontation increased between the prison's vicious tactics and Sostre's courageous resistance. Finally he won his freedom.

"It wasn't easy—without a movement growing outside I would probably still be fighting. The fights in court, the exposure of all the beatings and solitary confinement, coupled with the growing demand for my freedom, forced them to free me at last."



Martin Sostre

**Revolutionaries will have to sacrifice... develop a tight, disciplined movement that recognizes the work to be done and pursues it, relentlessly.**

Now that Sostre is just about free ("But not quite—they'll hold me to the last minute—you watch"), he doesn't feel the struggle for freedom is almost over. Far from it.

"Man, I'm just going outside into 'minimum security, not real freedom. One of the main lessons I learned is how much more struggle lies ahead.

"It would be nice to give an easy answer, but I can't. Revolutionaries will have to sacrifice... develop a tight, disciplined movement that recognizes the work to be done and pursues it, relentlessly.

"If there's anything others can learn from my example it is that the struggle for all freedom demands

we fight in an unrelenting manner.

"Once you raise your fist you can't stop. That's what the system does, is pound on us, with their unrelenting fists. We must learn to pound back.

"If I'm an inspiration it's because I've proven that people, if we resist, if we don't give up, we can win. Look at what happened in Vietnam. Look at me.

"If they can resist the Great Fist of American Imperialism there, if I can resist the pounding and terror here in prison, and if we can both win, then prisoners and the oppressed everywhere—workers, blacks, Puerto Ricans, women—can resist and win, too."

## BA's Invade TDC Meeting

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind.—Loran Robbins, president of Teamsters Local 135, came to a meeting of Teamsters for a Decent Contract here January 31. He brought with him 30 or so Business Agents and other associates.

Robbins, who is a member of the national Master Freight Agreement negotiating team, did not come to support TDC or even to see what it was all about. He came to bust up what he knew he could not control.

For the moment he was successful. Prior to the meeting, Robbins had spread rumors through every barn that there was going to be trouble at this TDC meeting.

Consequently, only a handful of local Teamsters attended, as against the 50 or so that have come to previous Indianapolis TDC meetings.

## PREVENT MEETING

There was no physical violence, but Robbins and his associates were able to prevent the meeting from being held.

Although for the moment this is a setback, it is also a sign of TDC's strength. That Robbins felt he had to prevent this meeting from occurring indicates he is scared and threatened by the TDC movement.

One Teamster said it was the first time in his experience he's seen Robbins out of his office. If Robbins had any illusions that he could stop the rank and file movement, those illusions should have been dashed later the same day when 650 Teamsters gathered in his city for an UPSurge meeting.

Among those present were about 100 UPS workers from Indianapolis. Among those absent were Loran Robbins and his BA's.

David Katz

## Wisconsin Teamsters Form TDC

MONONA, Wisconsin—Thirty-five Teamsters met here Sunday, February 1 and set up a local Teamsters for a Decent Contract (TDC) committee.

The meeting was addressed by two TDC organizers, Buddy Equitz and Dan La Botz, both drivers at Chicago's F-Landon Cartage. TDC pamphlets and the new bi-weekly TDC newspaper, Convoy, were distributed.

Those present came from as far away as Waupun, Green Bay, Milwaukee, and Madison.

Members of Locals 695, 200, and 75, many work for such major companies as Neuendorf, Consolidated Freightways, Fourway, and Liberty.

A Teamster from Consolidated Freightways, a union member for many years said, "It's about time someone organized the Teamsters into a fighting organization again."

## COMMITTEE CHOSEN

A local committee of eight was chosen, which included two local stewards and the president of the C. C. Riders motorcycle club. Many members of the club work at Neuendorf and were present at the meeting.

The people from Milwaukee, members of Local 200, decided to organize a TDC meeting in their city soon.

## PHILLY TDC MEETS

PHILADELPHIA — A hundred Teamsters jammed the meeting room of VFW Post #22 last weekend to hear Steve Kindred, National Organizer of Teamsters for a Decent Contract, tell about the accomplishments and goals of TDC.

Standing in front of a huge "No Sellout in '76" banner, Kindred stressed the need for solidarity and developing a powerful TDC movement.

Teamsters were urged to personally recruit others to the movement. One way to do this, Kindred said, "is to get a copy of 'Convoy,' the new TDC newsletter, into every Teamster's hand. F.A.S.T." The cost of the 100 Teamsters attending were from Philadelphia freight Local 107, but there were also drivers from Local 676 in South Jersey and Philadelphia UPS Local 623.

## NEW YORK CITY

# Phone Workers Fight Downgrades

NEW YORK CITY—An arbitration case involving forced downgrades in New York Telephone has been settled. The arbitrator completely accepted the company's argument. New York Telephone claimed the downgrades were justified by the economic downturn.

The downgrades took effect in December. For some telephone workers the downgrades meant \$60 less every week.

The union, the Communications Workers of America, argued that the company violated the contract. They had transferred people into the district, creating an artificial surplus. This surplus was then used as an excuse to downgrade higher paid employees.

At a membership meeting of over 1000 people, a motion passed authorizing any action, including a strike, to prevent the downgrades.

The local instead chose to arbitrate. We now see the fruits of their policy.

To prevent further downgrades or layoffs we will have to rely on

our own power as we voted to do at the membership meeting. Not on arbitrators who belong to AT&T.

CWA members have shown, time

and again that we are willing to use that power. It is time the union organized a serious fight.

Michael Stewart

# New York Insurance Strike

NEW YORK—Over seven hundred workers, members of Office and Professional Employees International Union Local 153, have been on strike here since January 1, when their contract expired.

Their employer, the Group Health Insurance Co. of New York, has refused to offer any contract improvements. In fact, the contract management proposed would allow the scheduling of work weeks

varying from three to five days at the discretion of management.

Workers are requesting their same contract with a 28% cost of living increase over the next two years. That would be the first cost of living raises they have ever had.

GHI has bought millions of dollars worth of real estate in the last two years and is at present negotiating with the city to purchase a 300-apartment luxury

complex in Manhattan. Despite this, management continues to claim they have no money for cost of living raises.

The contract negotiations come at the same time that GHI is requesting a 26% increase in premiums from the city. Most workers feel GHI wanted them to strike because they can now base their request to the city on a plea of increased labor costs.

650!  
WHERE  
THEY CAME  
FROM

Massachusetts  
Boston

New York  
New York City

Maryland  
Baltimore

Pennsylvania  
DuBois  
Pittsburgh

Ohio  
Akron  
Cincinnati  
Cleveland  
Columbus  
Dayton  
Elyria  
Gerard  
Huron  
Sandusky  
Springfield  
Strongsville  
Toledo  
Youngstown  
Zanesville

Michigan  
Benton Harbor  
Detroit

Indiana  
Indianapolis  
Terre Haute

Illinois  
Chicago  
Decatur  
Quincy

Kentucky  
Lexington  
Louisville  
Newport  
Owensboro  
Paducah

Tennessee  
Memphis  
Nashville

Iowa  
Iowa City

Missouri  
Kansas City  
St. Louis

Minnesota  
Minneapolis

Oregon  
Portland

# UPSurge

They came from states as far away as Maryland, Massachusetts and New York. One man even came from Oregon.

But most came from the midwest, the states covered by the Central States Agreement.

They came from a dozen different cities in Ohio alone. More than 60 came from Louisville, almost half the full-time workforce there, including all seven stewards.

Another sixty came from Detroit, where the UPSurge Committee at Livonia organized a charter bus, as well as a car caravan.

And 150 came from Indianapolis itself.

## READY TO STRIKE!

Story by Calvin Williams and Jim Woodward.

Pictures by Doreen Leitz.

Fantastic. What an UPSurge! On January 31, more than 650 United Parcel Service (UPS) workers attended the first rank and file Central States Contract Conference in Indianapolis, Indiana.

They were called there by UPSurge, the rank and file UPS workers newspaper, which organized and sponsored the Conference.

They came for many reasons. To do something about the contract, the Teamsters Union, the conditions and the pay.

### READY TO STRIKE

Mostly they came to take a stand. And they left more determined than ever, and ready to strike on May 1.

"We'll wave a picket sign in UPS's face, and tell them their damned freight will start moving when we get the contract we want."

Anne Mackie, the editor of UPSurge from Cleveland, Ohio, said it this way.

"We're tired. Tired of the stop watches, the time studies, the efficiency experts. We're tired of the forced overtime and unsafe equipment. And we're tired of the harassment and the punky supervisors."

"We're tired of it all. There's an UPSurge because we've been under attack for too long, and now it's time to take a stand. Now it's time to go on the move."

They met in Indianapolis for more than four hours. They hammered out a contract campaign, and agreed on ten key demands.

They set up a national steering committee, and a fighting fund. And they resolved that they would not accept any contract as long as there were rank and file militants, and UPSurge activists, on the streets, victims of fighting the dictatorships at United Parcel.

### NO CONTRACT, NO WORK

Most important, however, they resolved that they would fight in May and that they would strike, unless they got the contract they wanted. "No Contract, No Work" passed unanimously, and with thundering applause.

Speaker after speaker attested to the importance of this year's contract. "We will win this time, or never," said a driver from Detroit. "They have used the last three years to renegotiate the contract in the grievance procedure, and we have lost almost every time."

But 1976 can be different. Vince Meredith, the chief steward from Louisville, told the 650: "We will win this time. But if you want a good contract, you're going to have to fight for it."

### ON THE PICKET LINE

"We cannot let the union negotiate another contract for us like the last two."

"We're going to have to negotiate this one on the picket line."

"We'll be out there on the picket lines on May 1, and we're not just saying this to hear ourselves talk."

"So go on back home and talk to the people. Tell them that we can win, that there is no way we can lose. Not if we can shut down these 15 states. Not if we can just shut down the key cities in these states."

### ORGANIZE

There is still a long time to go, of course. Nearly three months. And there is a lot of work to do. But Indianapolis was a magnificent start.

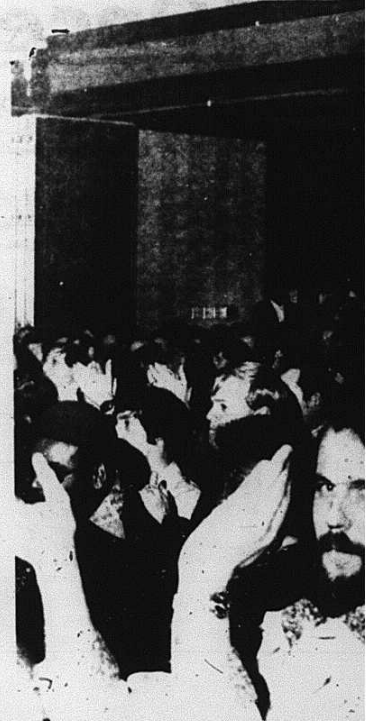
And it was also more than just a contract conference.

Speakers talked about the fight to retake the Teamsters union for the rank and file. And speakers talked about the fight for simple human dignity in UPS's inhuman system.

The conference showed once again what workers can do when they are united and when they are willing to stand up and fight.

The spirit, the courage, the unity that marked the conference showed that workers are more than capable of running their own union. They have in fact the capacity to run the whole country, including UPS.

But that is another story. Right now it's the contract fight. So on with it. Organize. Build UPSurge. And give UPS and the union one hell of a beating this May. □



UPSurge country, USA! It was the biggest rank

## UPSurge's PROGRAM: TEN KEY DEMANDS

- PART-TIMERS:** Part time workers shall be paid at the same rate as full timers. Full health and welfare benefits. No new part timers hired. Present part time jobs phased out as part timers leave.
- APPEARANCE STANDARDS:** The employer has the right to require employees to wear the company uniform, but there will be no further restrictions on personal appearance.
- SUPERVISORS WORKING:** Under no circumstances will supervisors perform work of union members.
- GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE:** Innocent until proven guilty; no discipline until entire grievance procedure exhausted.
- OVERTIME:** All overtime to be voluntary and paid at double time.
- HEALTH, WELFARE, AND MATERNITY LEAVE:** Full health and welfare benefits paid by company during absence due to injury, illness or pregnancy.
- UNSAFE EQUIPMENT:** Employees have the unconditional right to refuse to operate unsafe equipment.
- SICK DAYS:** 12 paid sick days a year.
- HOLIDAYS:** Add the day after Thanksgiving.
- RADIOS:** There will be no restrictions on the use of CB or other personal radios in company equipment.



Cella Dunlap, Cleveland, OH  
"In the Central States, we have the opportunity for the first time to beat this company on this issue, part timers. They cannot run around us, they cannot go around the central states."



Frank Brewer, Indianapolis, IN, TDC  
"Whooooooooo. I'm so proud to be here."



Ken Paff, Cleveland OH, Secretary, TDC  
"Now isn't that a big joke, our union officials who make well over \$100,000 a year, who golf and dine with the employers and the mafia, they talk about us being the ones that take money from the employers."



Jim Eremich, Akron, OH  
"We have a superior. I think he ought to go down and join the CIA, because all that this guy has time to do is follow people all over."



Isabel Nabach, New York  
"When it's time to strike, and they start handing out those goddam injunctions, there is no reason why we wives can't be out there on the picket lines."



Don DeBevoise  
"If we do gotta win! If we do w garage, an in it every

# STEEL MILITANT FIRED, COMPANY STILL WORRIED

TERRE HAUTE, Ind.—The management of Strand Steel here have fired Bernie Frye, the president of USW Local 3489. They do not, however, want the truth of the story told.

## WHITE HATS

When Workers' Power sellers arrived at the plant gates with an exclusive interview with Bernie Frye, telling his side of the story, six company officials wearing white hats pounced on them and told them to leave. They said that they were on company property.

And when the Workers' Power sellers refused to leave and explained they were on city property, another six guards, these in blue hats, arrived inside the gates to stop and 'talk' to the men who bought Workers' Power. They would not allow them to bring the paper in the plant.

Most of the men returned the paper to their cars, though a few protested. However, over 75 copies of Workers' Power were sold.

The story that the company does not want told is Bernie Frye's own explanation of why the company fired him. The company stated that he was "intimidating and coercing" employees and "attempting to direct the work force."

## FOREMEN

In fact this amounted to his notification of two employees who were temporary foremen that they would lose their union membership after being foremen for 90 days.

After being fired, Frye was not allowed into the plant to attend union-management meetings.

At the same time, the International union has notified Frye that the staffman he requested to meet the company on his case is indefinitely unavailable, even though there has been no specific date set for the meeting.

The local vice-president now in charge has cleared the case of a fired grievance committee chairman, but he stopped short with only reinstatement and no justified back pay.

Now the company is trying to scare the other workers. Strand

channels only 15% of its Alaska pipeline contract through unionized Terre Haute. The rest it sends to non-union plants in Atlanta and Houston.

Strand is also threatening to close the Terre Haute plant, where there are already 350 laid off.

Meanwhile, company men have tried to discover the names and the employers of the Workers' Power sellers and threatened that "someone is going to get hurt."

And they talk about "intimidating and coercing." The truth is they just don't like anyone who will stand up to them. And they don't like the truth. □

## "PEOPLE'S FIREHOUSE" HEARING DELAYED

BROOKLYN, NY—A court hearing to decide the fate of People's Company #1 has been postponed.

People's Company #1 is a firehouse in the Williamsburg area being occupied by residents to dramatize the brutal effects of cutbacks in New York's city services. Residents have been occupying since Thanksgiving.

The Northside Community Redevelopment Council is leading the occupation. Spokesperson Adam Veneski said the primary reason for the postponement was that the judge was a "ringer" who would rule against them. In addition, the militancy of the occupation has provoked the interest of a Manhattan Assemblyman who will be holding a public hearing in February at the occupied firehouse. The meeting will cover the deterioration of public services and neighborhoods as well as the occupation.

The Williamsburg community is partially residential and partially industrial. Northside Community Redevelopment Council spokesperson Fred Ringley charges, "The city is cutting down on services here trying to force residents out and let business expand." □

David Donaghen



biggest rank and file Teamster meeting anyone could remember, possibly since the thirties.

# ORGANIZE!

'S  
M:  
Y  
DS

workers as full benefits. ent part rs leave. DS: The employ- orm, but tions on Under no perform Innocent ine until used. a to be ne. ND MA- d welfare absence cy. employees refuse to s a year. ay after o restric- personal

"Can't you imagine what UPS would have said a few months ago if they were told we were planning a national convention?" asked Louisville UPS steward Vince Meredith. "They would have treated it like a big joke.

"Well, do you think they're laughing tonight? ... I think all of UPS management will qualify for Excedrin Headache #103."

Management's pain was cause for delight in Indianapolis. It was clear that UPSurge has already had a fantastic impact—that it has become a real movement of UPS workers.

One more thing was clear as well. For the movement to succeed, it has to become an organization. Anne Mackie put it this way: "If anyone thinks that Jackie Presser or Frank Fitzsimmons are going to have a change of heart and start looking out for the membership, you're in the wrong meeting. You should be at the dinner dance next door!"

"We cannot rely on Teamster's International officials that we have today to do any job for us. They only do a job on us—they don't do it for us.

## ALTERNATIVE LEADERSHIP

"We have to create an alternative Teamsters Union leadership. We must build a Teamsters Union

that fights like a union should... that cares about the welfare of the rank and file... a union where the officers get paid the same as we do and live like we do... a union that knows the only way to get anything out of the company is to use the union's power... that recognizes that confrontation—not collaboration and back room deals—that is the way to win for this membership. This meeting is a step in this direction."

The meeting took another important step by electing a 11-person steering committee to coordinate the campaign for a decent contract. The conference also resolved to set up local UPSurge committees in every city, and to establish a "fighting fund." The fund will solicit contributions of \$1 a week per employee to aid in the contract fight and afterwards.

## UNITY

Several speakers spoke about another critical aspect of the movement. That it is united. "There are full timers here, and there are part timers," said Mackie. "There are women here. There are men here. And there are blacks and there are whites, because in this meeting—and this movement—UPSurge and TDC—we are united."

"We are not going to let them play blacks against whites, whites against blacks, men against women, and tell the full timers, 'Those part timers stole your jobs.' No. We're putting an end to that kind of division!"

The meeting was indeed unified. It was exuberant. And at the same time it was serious.

No one had illusions about the awesome tasks of taking on the greatest trucking company in the world and at the same time the gangster-ridden leadership of the biggest union in the world.

## NO TURNING BACK

No one thought it would be easy, but no one proposed turning back.

Frank Brewer, of Indianapolis TDC, spoke for many when he told a hushed audience: "I want to tell you that I've had my threats, I've had my warnings. And my stomach flutters—and I know there's a lot people's that does the same thing."

"But I want to tell you folks, especially the ones that's got kids—the time has come. And if we don't do it—if we don't get what we demand and what we deserve—you're gonna see your kids have to go through some suffering and some punishment. And speakin' for myself, I don't want to see my kids go through it." □



Don DeBerry, Livonia, MI  
"If we don't win nothing else in this fight, we gotta win this issue [appearance standards]. And if we do win, I got a bag of turf builder in my garage, and I'm going to stick my goddam head in it every day."



Anne Mackie, Cleveland, OH, Editor, UPSurge.  
"We're forced to work those long hours, those ten hours, those 11 hours a day and yet men and women are going without jobs. Let's give that work to them."



Vince Meredith, Louisville, KY  
"We got a lot of young people working now. Most of you don't know what a strike is, but it's about time you learned."

# ATTENTION TEAMSTERS

Here is a special offer.

This offer is a must for every rank and file Teamster. It will provide the ammunition for the days ahead: the struggle for a decent contract, the possibility of a strike, the fight to build a rank and file movement.

Subscribe now and get a six month subscription to Workers' Power. And get a free copy of "Teamster Rebellion" by Farrell Dobbs.

Workers' Power. The newspaper that carries more reports on rank and file Teamster activities than any other paper in the country, including both the Teamsters for a Decent Contract (TDC) and UPSurge (the movement of United Parcel Service workers). "Teamster Rebellion," by Farrell Dobbs. An account of the great Minneapolis Teamsters' strike of 1934. This strike of rank and file Teamsters was led by socialists. It built a powerful, fighting union in Minneapolis and laid the basis for organizing the Central States Conference. Written by one of the leaders.

Indispensable for fighters today!

- Please send me the next six months of Workers' Power and a copy of Teamster Rebellion. I enclose \$5.00.
- Send me the next six months of Workers' Power. I enclose \$3.00 for each subscription.
- Send me a copy of Teamster Rebellion. I enclose \$2.45.

Name ..... Local union # .....

Address .....

City ..... State ..... Zip .....

Workers' Power, 14131 Woodward, rm 225, Highland Park, MI 48203.

# IUE Leaves Louisville Anti-busing Group

Union Labor Against Busing (ULAB), the trade union front for the racist anti-busing movement in Louisville, KY, recently received a setback in the racist movement.

The International Union of Electricians, (IUE), the largest local in Kentucky and a founding member of ULAB, withdrew official support of the group.

The IUE support was withdrawn because of ULAB's involvement with openly racist and anti-labor groups—The Klan and the John Birch Society.

## SAVE FACE

IUE local president Ken Cassidy is now trying desperately to save face over the entire situation. In recent months he has come heavily under fire from black union members at General Electric in Louisville, mainly for using funds to aid the anti-busing movement.

The threat of legal action against the local by United Black Workers of Jefferson County also has Cassidy scared.

He contended all along that ULAB, which he helped form, was not a racist group; He said it merely opposed busing.

The facts, however, speak differently. ULAB has held several demonstrations, all of which were typified by racial incidents.

The most recent demonstration was no different. At one point a woman in the march asked a teenager who was passing by if he was for busing.

He replied, "Yes, I'm bused to Central High (an inner city school) and I love it."

The woman replied, "Yeah, you'll love it when some nigger shoots you in the back too."

This was Cassidy's idea of the anti-busing movement, which he says is not racist.

## RACISM

The fact is this racism did not phase Cassidy one bit. It was the organization of blacks on the shop floor at General Electric to oppose Cassidy's racism that phased him the most.

Workers' Power called for blacks to take such action against Cassidy, to stop his racist movement in September. Cassidy responded by calling Workers' Power a tool for Communist instigation. He said it attempted to use blacks to further its own position.

How ironic. Cassidy approved the use of black union members' dues to fuel the racist group ULAB. Now he wants out of the organization he helped create. Who is kidding who?

DETROIT—Wendy Weinberg is the elected District Committeeperson at General Motors' Chevy Gear and Axle plant here. In January she went to Portugal on her vacation.

When she returned, she put out a newsletter to her co-workers telling how the workers in Portugal had overthrown fascism, how many workers had taken over their factories, and how they were continuing the struggle for socialism.

On January 30 she came to work to find that an anonymous leaflet attacking here had been handed out. It is reprinted at the right.

Here are the facts that answer the lies in the leaflet.

• **Who is Weinberg—a communist sympathizer?** Wendy Weinberg represents 350 workers at plant 6 on the second shift. She is the editor of the Plant Six Newsletter, which she publishes to keep the membership informed and active in protecting their rights.

She makes no secret that she is a socialist, and a member, not a sympathizer, of the International Socialists, the organization that publishes Workers' Power.

• **Visiting workers and factories, not a resort.** Weinberg went to Portugal to see the revolutionary process first hand. She believes in workers' control, in a society run by workers, and this is beginning to happen in Portugal. People use vacations to do what they enjoy, and if Wendy Weinberg didn't want to sit in the sun, but wanted to get to know the people and the country she visited, that's her business.

• **Who paid for the trip?** Wendy Weinberg paid \$406 for her round trip airline ticket. She got the money from General Motors. A few months ago they had to give her \$7000 in back pay because she was unjustly fired.

• **Days off work since elected.** She was off two weeks when she was suspended for publishing a newsletter. She was off two more weeks for this vacation, her regularly scheduled vacation provided for in the contract. The rest of the time she's been off she was ill.

The only question left is: why did this anonymous leaflet make all these ridiculous charges? And the answer is: whoever wrote it is afraid of what Wendy Weinberg really stands for.

## EXPLANATION

### The Theme of the So-called PLT #6 BROCHURE

A number of employees at GM's AXLE have read the subversive scandal sheet, and have been amused and entertained by it. The vast majority have refused to dignify it by responding to it. The tragic part is a very few people have taken it by it. This letter is directed primarily to them.

The question is: Who is the editor of this newsletter?

The answer is: A hard core communist sympathizer.

Reading the newsletter is one thing—reading between the lines is another. How many of us visit a foreign country like Portugal to visit a glass factory or a foundry? Normally we visit a resort area for some other purpose of interest to tourists, unless we are actually employed in the business of that country, since the glass factory was just taken over by force, in the editor's words.

On occasion, the editor has stated that she is a Socialist, and believes in a Socialist-Democratic form of government. The USSR advocates the same thing. In fact, the letters to U.S.S.R. represent the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, a communist country that has the lowest standard of living of all the industrialized countries of the world. The newsletter shows its exploitation of management and union. The editor claims the party she represents can alleviate this problem, and she's right! Understand this—with her ideas, there wouldn't be a corporation or a union around to create a problem, and this is the ultimate objective of the party she is so sympathetic with.

Only in America would such ravings be allowed to go to press!

Financing a trip to Portugal would be prohibitive for most of us, and most of us are required to work six days a week. Not so for the editor of the newsletter, who has had approximately 65 days off since her election as a representative. Apparently she has a very healthy expense account provided by the party she represents, and as long as she maintains her subversive image and continues to exploit her co-workers by recruitment, she might even get a Red Star. Red Stars are for communists and communist-sympathizers, and have nothing in common with the high standard of living enjoyed by the average American worker. The long lines waiting for immigration papers to enter this country prove this to be correct.

THINK THINK THINK THINK THINK THINK THINK THINK

Don't fail to let this adversary of the free enterprise system know your feelings.

The question is, fellow workers, is our ultimate goal in negotiating a new contract four bathrooms for each employee?

# What GM Is Really Afraid of... SOCIALIST POLITICS IN ACTION

Why did somebody go to all the trouble putting out an unsigned leaflet in an effort to smear Wendy Weinberg and to challenge her sincerity and integrity?

It was done for one reason. Management and the union are afraid of Weinberg: her ideas, her actions, and the respect she has won among her co-workers.

They don't like it one bit that for the first time in many years, socialist ideas are again getting a hearing and a following in the auto plants.

Somebody at Chevy thought this leaflet would scare people. But times are changing. These ideas

are becoming very attractive to workers. What are these ideas?

The International Socialists are working to build a society that is run and controlled democratically by working people.

Under socialism, every adult has a right to do productive work. Then working people, the people who produce all wealth, decide democratically how the wealth will be used.

This country is supposed to be democratic. But there is a small handful of wealthy families who control great concentrations of wealth, control the giant corporations and banks.

These people are called capitalists. They decide what kind of products factories will produce, how production will be organized, and what prices the products will sell for. They decide when to hire people and when to throw workers out on the streets.

And in making these decisions, they follow the simple rule of putting profit first, ahead of every human consideration.

These capitalists own and control every major newspaper and TV station. Every successful American politician has the support and backing of some group of capitalists.

The goal of the International Socialists is to change all this, to take the great concentrations of power away from the wealthy few, and to spread power out democratically among all working people.

That's why we call our newspaper Workers' Power, and that's why capitalists and people who think like capitalists have so much dislike for what socialism stands for.

## SOCIALISM—A PLOT?

When the leaflet attacks Wendy Weinberg for being a socialist, it tries to make out that socialism is a dark plot to destroy union protection for workers, and to destroy the "high standard of living enjoyed by the average American worker."

It even goes so far as to imply that Wendy Weinberg is a paid agent of a foreign power, the USSR, and is doing their dirty work for a "healthy expense account provided by the party she represents."

People at Chevy who know Wendy know how stupid these charges are. Most readers of Workers' Power know that the International Socialists believe that socialist revolution is needed, not just in capitalist countries like the

U.S. and Portugal.

We believe that the revolutionary socialist struggle for workers power must also be carried out in the so-called "Communist" countries like the USSR.

Most probably, the mysterious author of the leaflet also knew that these were the views of Wendy Weinberg and the International Socialists. But people who put out cowardly, unsigned slander sheets have no respect for the truth.

## LIVING STANDARDS

Anyone who looks at the facts will notice that in America today, it isn't Wendy Weinberg who is attacking the union protection and the "high standard of living" that American workers have fought for over the years and won.

In America today, it is the bosses, the capitalists, who are carrying out that attack.

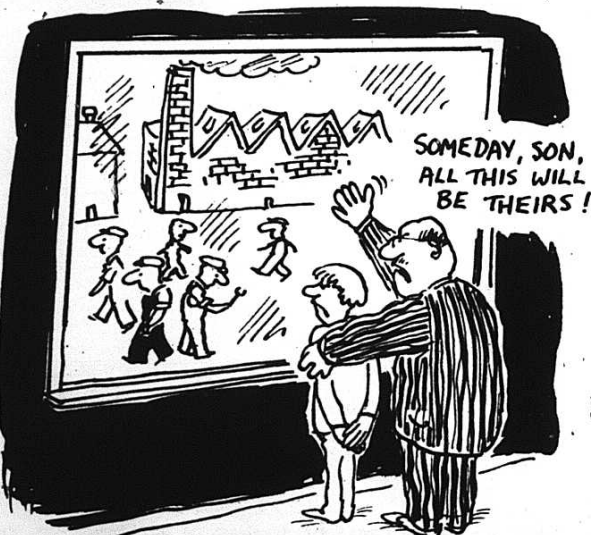
For many years American business was the most prosperous in the world. And American workers had a high and rising standard of living.

But today capitalism is in trouble. Management everywhere is trying to boost profits by cutting our living standards, our job security, and our working conditions.

And the union leaders are helping them—by refusing to fight back.

The International Socialists believe workers must organize in self-defense against this capitalist attack. Working people must make the unions work for us, not against us.

Why should we suffer for someone else's profit? We should settle for nothing less than the right to enjoy the full fruits of our labor. That's why Wendy Weinberg is a fighter and a socialist. And that's also why someone is afraid of her. Someone who lives by ripping working people off.



EMMS



# Death - The American Way...

Dear Workers' Power,

On Dec. 18, 1975, 8 days before Christmas, Justino Tallez, a cannery worker for Libbys died when faulty rollers to a boxcar door slipped off the rail causing it to fall on him.

The door weighed 1500 lbs. The warehouse foreman was 20 min. late to open the gate to the plant. Justino came to work at 5:00

sharp. Justino was asked to clean the cars and get them ready for loading by six.

Justino had a similar incident with the doors three years ago involving three people. They sustained minor injuries. He was out for two years with back and spine injuries. He returned to work a year ago on light duty with orders from his family doctor to stay away from the cars.

Because of the slack layoff the company needed someone to clean the cars. Justino was asked by the foreman to do it. Justino did not refuse because of the fear he would lose his job.

When the girl fork lift driver returned to the cars where he was working, she could not find him. She went to the foreman and asked his whereabouts. They

returned and discovered that Justino was underneath the fallen door dead.

The company claims that he was at fault. The law requires that two people be present at each job section. He did not wait for the girl.

Octavio Torrez, shop steward for the plant, stated a week before the accident that he complained to the company and to Teamster Local 857 about the doors. Both said they were still looking into it. Three years ago Octavio made the same complaint and got the same response.

As to the death, the workers feel that because of the pressure to work fast Justino did not think of the danger.

The shop steward said that the safety committee, which the company is required to have, did nothing. The members of the committee are appointed by the company with no union representation on the committee.

The cannery workers committee has attempted to get the committee elected by the workers. The cannery workers committee was formed when the union officials refused to do the job they are required to do.

Send money or letters of condolence to Conception Tallez, c/o Cannery Workers Committee, 3919 12th Ave., Sacramento, CA.

A Friend,  
Sacramento, CA

## ...continued

...in weeks ago, the City of ...  
...turned off his water because of an ...  
...due bill for \$23.

"It was too bad about Zenner's death," said Richard Mewhinney, East Ohio Gas's Akron office manager. "If he's gone, then that money will probably disappear. We probably won't have a chance of collecting it now."

# Steelworkers Win

Dear Workers' Power,

Workers at US Steel have won a victory—the right to distribute rank and file literature on plant property. This is of importance not just to steelworkers but to all workers interested in fighting back.

At US Steel's Cuyahoga Works, members of the Rank and File Team (RAFT) were thrown out of the plant parking lot for passing out "RAFT Reports" last summer. They were members of Local 1298, employees at the plant. In July, they filed with the Labor Board.

Now, in January, seven months and many unread leaflets later,

the company conceded to their case. So because those workers were willing to fight for a right, that right now exists.

Of course, the company did not "see the light." They saw how much money fighting a losing battle would cost. For at their Gary and Southworks plants they lost in similar cases.

At Gary one coke oven worker was stopped from passing out a local shop paper in the parking lot. At Southworks, a worker was prevented from going in to work because she had copies of "The 65 Rank and File Voice" in her possession.

In all these cases, US Steel was ordered by the Labor Board to post the following notice on bulletin boards: "We will not continue to prevent the distribution of material protected by Section 7 of the (National Labor Relations) Act in non-working areas of the plants during non-working time of the Employees..."

So, if you have something to say about your plant or local, put it down on paper and get it to the ranks. Don't let the company fool you with the "It's our property" line.

T.M.  
Cleveland

# Income Tax

Dear Workers' Power,

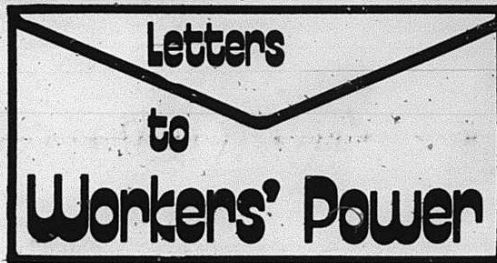
Since April 15 is rolling around your readers might like to try what Aetna Life Insurance Company did.

Poor Aetna figured out how to avoid some of its Federal Income tax, but to avoid one tax they had to pay another.

So as US District Judge Blumenthal in Hartford said, "Aetna Life sought to have the law amended. In 1964 it succeeded." *Aetna Casualty & Surety Co. v. US*, 75-2 U.S.T.C. par. 9803.

Lots of luck readers!

A.D.V.  
New York



## Slaughter in East Timor

# DON'T LET U.S. DO THIS TO ANGOLA!

Dear Workers' Power,

There's another war going on in a former Portuguese colony, which isn't getting much coverage from any paper in this country. That's the war in East Timor. It's a horrible illustration of what would be happening in Angola right now, if MPLA lost the war.

East Timor is half of the island of Timor, the rest of which is part of Indonesia. When the Portuguese left, a national independence movement called Fretilin set up a government with mass popular support.

Fretilin defeated a middle-class splinter group called UDT ("Union for a Democratic Timor"), which was supported by Indonesia's brutal right-wing dictatorship and the United States government. Before being driven out, UDT massacred quite a few civilians and even shot up Australian reporters covering the fighting.

But then Indonesia's Army invaded East Timor to take it over. No one could stop them, because East Timor is much smaller and more isolated than Angola. Indonesia even got military planes from Australia to strafe Fretilin positions.

Indonesia has now occupied the

capital city, Dili, and most of the rest of East Timor. Despite its popular support, Fretilin has been driven into the hills.

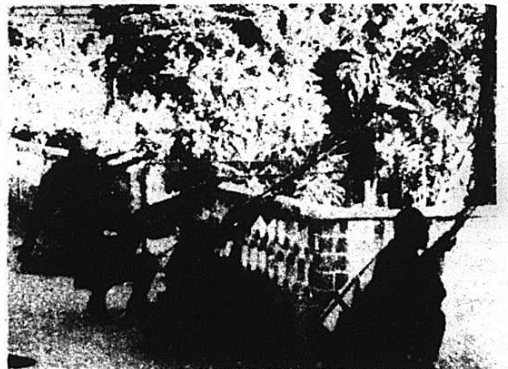
A horrible slaughter of men, women and children is going on. They are shot down in the streets, their villages are burned, and they are being starved. All appeals for food and medical help are ignored.

The United States kept two

Fretilin government ministers from even speaking to the United Nations, by refusing them visas to enter this country.

There is no end to the slaughter in sight. Is there any doubt that that's exactly what our "friends of peace," Gerald Ford and Henry Kissinger, wanted to see in Angola?

F.D.  
Detroit



Fretilin forces fighting for independence in Timor.

# SUPPORT INDIAN RIGHTS

Dear Workers' Power,

I would like to comment on some of the implications of Byron Gray's TV review about Chief Joseph and the Nez Perces (Jan. 19).

When he says "Native Americans are today penned up on reservations," is that supposed to mean that they are not allowed to leave? Of course he knows this isn't true; but some people might be confused.

In the 1950's the Federal government vigorously encouraged Indians to leave the reservations and went quite some distance in abolishing the constitutionally recognized right of tribal Indians to (limited) self-government apart from state jurisdiction.

Gray also says Indians "are not allowed political representation." If this means they are barred from state and Federal elections, this has not been so for a long time.

Some states have argued that as long as reservations retain their autonomy from the states (but, of course, the tribes are always subordinate to Federal law) tribal Indians should not be able to vote in state elections. But the Federal courts have ruled against this argument.

We should support the right to increased tribal autonomy but not in a romantic, unrealistic and non-progressive way.

As you recognize, Indians will continue to be forced (or want?) to seek economic opportunities outside. Some of the "neo-romantics" in the Indian movement regard this as treason. Some tribes deny tribal rights to those individuals who move off the reservations.

Socialists should support the political rights of tribal Indians both within the states and within the tribes.

Bob Harrison  
New York

# 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.

# Making Workers' Power Work

Chicago I.S. has doubled their sales of Workers' Power in the last two months. DOREEN LEITZ, Chicago Workers' Power coordinator, tells how they did it, and how to use the paper to build the struggle.

Workers' Power is the best class struggle, workers' paper in this country. Thousands of people are buying, reading and selling it weekly, from Los Angeles to New York.

But there's more to Workers' Power than the buying, reading and selling. It's not just a newspaper—workers' power is a goal that can be reached only in action and struggle. The purpose of the paper is to be an effective weapon in that struggle.

How do you build the movement through Workers' Power sales? At plant gates, for instance, how do you take advantage of those few moments as people rush to and from their work? Like any other part of the workers' movement, you have to be organized and have a strategy.

## LEARN TO SELL

First of all, before you can start recruiting people to the class struggle through Workers' Power you have to learn how to sell the paper.

Branches should have classes on selling Workers' Power. Role playing between branch members is one way to show good selling methods and how to handle problem situations.

When you sell the paper at plant gates, don't stand in one place and hope people will come to you. Pick a person and go up to meet them, with the paper and a story in mind, to talk about.

Open the paper, point out pictures and headlines. If the person doesn't stop, walk along with them and keep talking.

Don't take no for an answer. A person going in or out of work may have a million things on their mind or be totally blanked-out. Be polite and friendly. Ask them why they don't want the paper, have they read it before?

Get a conversation going. Most people will buy a copy at this point because they like what you're saying or because they are curious. This is only the first step.

As you develop solid readership, start firming up the connections. Be consistent. Show up every week at the same time. Get to know as many people on that shift as change as possible.

Talk to everybody whether they buy the paper or not. Ask about what's happening inside.



Workers' Power fought for postal workers.

You'll learn a lot from these conversations, and you'll be able to convince some to change their minds.

People should learn through you to use Workers' Power and make it their own paper.

## BUILD STRUGGLE

Most important, get a two-way exchange going between a seller and a buyer.

A passive seller and a passive buyer don't build a movement. A nice social relationship between seller and buyer doesn't build a movement. Just selling the paper doesn't build a movement.

We all have to learn we don't just read about a workers' movement. We aren't watching from the sidelines.

We have to make it news that makes Workers' Power. □

## EXTRA COPIES

We know people buy Workers' Power and pass it around.

Encourage them to buy extra copies to sell and give to their friends and relatives. Regular buyers should subscribe to help support the paper.

Meet with these individuals or groups to discuss socialism, their workplace/community, their workers' movement. Pamphlets and books should be used to round out discussions.

Personally invite people to IS presentations, pot-lucks, and offer rides.

If certain questions come up frequently at a particular selling place, like "Won't our wage raise in the next contract cause more layoffs?" then put out a special Workers' Power leaflet answering that question in depth.

If people feed you news from inside that should go into Workers' Power, then get them to write an article with you, or have a letter form that they can write up on their way in.

When the story appears in Workers' Power, reproduce it in a leaflet and hand it out to everybody in the plant where you sell. Sell that issue two or three days in a row.

## U.S. Branches



National Office: 14131 Woodward, Highland Park, MI 48203  
Amherst: PO Box 850, Amherst, MA 01002  
Bay Area: PO Box 24313, Oakland, CA 94623  
Bloomington: PO Box 29, Bloomington, IN 47401  
Boston: PO Box 8488, JFK Station, Boston, MA 02114  
Charleston, W. VA: PO Box 155, Tyler Heights Sta., Charleston, W. VA 25312  
Chicago: PO Box 11268, Fort Dearborn Sta., Chicago, IL 60611  
Cleveland: PO Box 02239, Cleveland, OH 44102  
Detroit: 1413 Woodward, Highland Park, MI 48203. 869-8656  
Indianapolis: PO Box 1903, Indianapolis, IN 46206  
Los Angeles: PO Box 1871, Lynwood, CA 90282  
Louisville: PO Box 70449, Louisville, KY 40270  
Madison: PO Box 725, Madison, WI 53701  
Mid-Hudson: PO Box 420, Rosendale, NY 12472  
New York: 30 E. 20 St., Rm. 207, New York, NY 10003  
Philadelphia: PO Box 8262, Philadelphia, PA 19101  
Pittsburgh: PO Box 466, Homestead, PA 15120  
Portland: PO Box 4662, Portland, OR 97208  
San Francisco: PO Box 1045, San Francisco, CA 94101  
Seattle: PO Box 9056, Seattle, WA 98109  
St. Louis: PO Box 24135, St. Louis, MO 63130  
South Bend: PO Box 1223, South Bend, IN 46617

## Monsanto: Afraid of WP

NITRO, W. VA.—Workers' Power has hit a sore spot with management at the Monsanto plant in Nitro, W. Va.

Workers' Power sellers were ordered off Monsanto property Wednesday night after brisk sales to night shift workers. Foreman Joe Bohmert and Eddie Peaker warned them that they "might be hurt" if they continued to sell there.

Monsanto workers recently returned to work from a four month strike which Workers' Power had actively supported. Four hundred copies of one issue were distributed by strikers from strike headquarters. "Workers' Power was the only paper which told the truth about our strike," a worker told Workers' Power sellers. No doubt that's why management is trying to keep the workers from reading it.

Workers' Power will continue to be sold just outside Monsanto property lines and at union meetings. □



New York, Friday, February 13 —  
"The MPLA in Angola; The March Towards World Revolution." A Workers' Power Forum, St. Gregory's Church, 90th and Amsterdam, 7:30 pm.

Where  
We Stand

## WE OPPOSE

### • Capitalist Exploitation

We live under the capitalist system. The wealth produced by working people is stolen from us by private employers. They prosper from our labor.

### • Capitalist Control

Capitalism uses their profits only to make more profits. When they need fewer workers, they create unemployment. When they need more money, they speed up work, downgrade safety conditions and raise prices. The capitalist system spends little on health care, a clean environment, or social services, because these things make no profit.

### • Oppression

Capitalism needs inequality—because it needs profits, it can't provide enough for all. So it gives some groups of people worse jobs and lower pay, and labels them inferior. In particular, capitalism locks black people into the bottom of society, and spreads racist ideas to keep them there and justify it. Capitalism keeps women responsible for taking care of the workforce when it is not at work, including children, who are too young to work. Women who work for wages have two jobs.

### • Capitalist Government

The government serves the capitalist class. Its only purpose is to protect the private profit system. It protects its interests abroad through economic control of other countries, spying, and wars.

### • Bureaucratic Communism

Russia, China and the countries with economies like theirs are also oppressive class societies, run by a privileged ruling class of bureaucrats. They are not socialist and must be overthrown by the working classes of those countries.

## WE SUPPORT

### • The Rank and File Movement

The unions protect workers from their employers. But today's unions are run by privileged officials who sell out because they support the capitalist system. They want labor peace not labor power. We support the struggle for rank and file control of the unions.

### • Liberation From Oppression

We support the struggles of every oppressed group to end its oppression: the struggle for equality and justice by blacks, women, native Americans, and all oppressed people. Support from the entire working class movement will make both these struggles, and that movement, stronger.

### • Socialism

Society should be run by the working class. The wealth produced by those who work should go to fill people's needs, not to private gain.

### - Workers' Revolution

But the capitalist class will not give up their rule and profits voluntarily. Socialism can be created only when the working class seizes control of the factories and makes their own government. The working class will rule democratically because it can own society's wealth only together.

### • Internationalism

The struggle for socialism is world wide. Nations fighting to throw out foreign rulers must have the support of the international working class as in Angola today. So must every struggle of working people to end their oppression, as in Portugal today, and in Russia and Eastern Europe.

### • Revolutionary Party

The most class conscious members of the working class have the responsibility to lead the struggle toward socialist revolution. To do this they must build an organization to put their consciousness into action and make their leadership effective.

### • International Socialists

The I.S. is an organization of revolutionary socialist workers. We are open to all who accept our basic principles and are willing to work as a member to achieve them. Join with us to build the I.S. into a revolutionary party, to build the movement to end exploitation and oppression and to create a socialist world. □

## JOIN US

If you agree with the views expressed in this paper and  would like more information, or  would like to join the International Socialists, then send this form to: INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS, 14131 Woodward Ave., Highland Park, MI 48203.

Name .....

Address .....

.....

Phone .....

Union .....

by Byron Gray

## HURRICANE

"... Ruben Carter and a couple of friends are drivin' around. The No. 1 contender for the middleweight crown had no idea what kind of shit was about to go down when the cops pulled him over to the side of the road. Just like the time before and the time before that. In Paterson that's just the way things go. If you're black you'd better not show on the street, unless you want to draw the heat..."

Bob Dylan has recently released a new album "Desire." In it is "Hurricane," a driving ballad about Ruben "Hurricane" Carter, a man framed for a triple murder that he could not possibly have committed.

"Hurricane" is most likely Dylan's best effort since his early years. It is one of the most political pieces he has ever done. And he does it well.

In 1966, in Paterson, New Jersey, Carter and John Artis were convicted of murder. In "Hurricane," Dylan tells the entire story of this brutal frame-up.

Beginning with "Pistol shots ring out in the bar room night..." he tells the true story of the Hurricane, "...the man the authorities came to blame for something that he never done..."

### BELLO AND BRADLEY

Dylan talks about Alfred Bello and Arthur Dexter Bradley, the two men used as witnesses against Carter.

"...another man named Bello movin' around mysteriously. I didn't do it he says and he throws up his hands. I was only robbin' the register. I hope you understand..."

"... Alfred Bello had a partner and he had a rap for the cops. Him and Arthur Dexter Bradley were just there prowlin' around. He said I saw two men runnin' out, they looked like middleweights..."

The story moves to Carter, picked up at four in the morning and taken to the hospital where a wounded victim of the shooting (who later died) was being questioned. The cops expected the critically wounded man to identify Carter as the killer, but "...the wounded man looked up and in his one dyin' eye said why'd you bring him here, he ain't the guy..."

So Carter and his friend John Artis are set free. But four months later, the Paterson ghetto is aflame with revolt. Carter is speaking out for blacks to defend themselves against racist attacks. He's the No. 1 contender for the middleweight crown. His brothers and sisters are listening.

### SOMEONE TO BLAME

Dylan goes back to Bradley, who's "... still in the robbery game..." Carter is fighting in South America. The cops are

putting a lot of pressure on Bradley. "... lookin' for someone to blame..."

They talk to him. "... think you'd like to play ball with the law. Think it might have been that fighter that you saw runnin' in the night? Don't forget that you are white..."

"... you'll be doin' society a favor. That son of a bitch is brave and getting braver. We want to put his ass in stir. We want to pin this triple murder on him, he ain't no gentleman Jim..."

Bradley, along with his sidekick Bello, agree to do the dirty work. Carter's trial was a farce. "... a pig circus, he never had a chance..."

"... and though they could not produce the gun, the D.A. said he was the one who did the deed, and the all-white jury agreed..."

Ruben Carter and John Artis have been in prison now for more than nine years. Framed for speaking out against this brutally racist society. Their lives are being destroyed.

Over a year ago, Bello and Bradley admitted they had lied. But the Hurricane is still behind bars.

### ACCOMPLICES

In the past few months, under the pressure of public support for Carter, Governor Byrne of New Jersey and his black honcho Eldridge Hawkins, state assemblyman assigned to "study" the case, have agreed that the two did not commit the crime. Now they claim that Carter and Artis were accomplices. Hawkins has even tried to bribe Artis into admitting this. Artis refuses to go along.

Carter and Artis remain political prisoners. However, public support is strong and growing. They must go free.

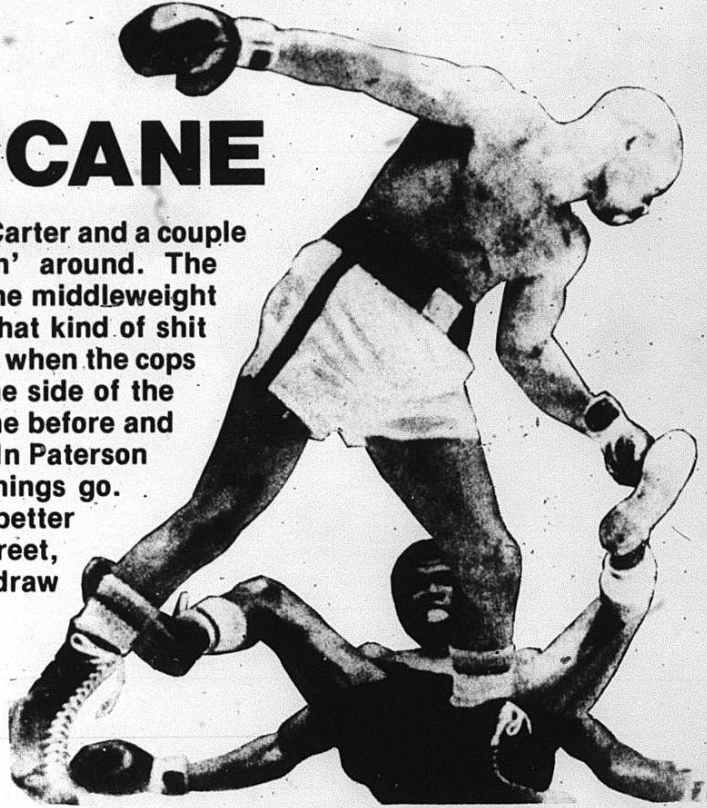
Dylan's "Hurricane" points out the truth about this racist capitalist society we live in. We must realize

that his ballad goes well beyond the struggle of only one man. There are thousands of innocent people in prison today. This system is ready to crush anyone who acts against its brutality and repression. It must be stopped.

"... Yes, that's the story of the Hurricane, but it won't be over 'til they clear his name and give him back the time he's done. Put in a prison cell the one time he could have been the champion of the world."

"... How can the life of such a man be in the palm of some fool's hand. To see him obviously framed couldn't help but make me ashamed to live in a land where justice is a game..."

"... Now all the criminals in their coats and their ties are free to drink martinis and watch the sun rise. While Ruben sits like Buddha in a ten foot cell, an innocent man in a living hell..."



## Poverty On TV With 'Popi'

Watch it quick folks, you know how long good shows last! January 20 saw the debut of Popi, a situation comedy about a Puerto Rican immigrant, his two sons, his girlfriend, and their struggle to survive in New York City.

Their kind of struggle is common to many Puerto Ricans and more and more people in general. Popi works three lousy jobs and hardly ever gets to see his kids.

Popi: CBS-TV, Tuesdays 7:30 pm, EST

The first program in the series shows the kids finding a Great Dane on the street and bringing him home.

Children who befriend stray animals often get scolded, but in this family there's an extra problem.

Popi says, "Look, somebody who sees a couple of Puerto Rican kids with a dog all one kind is gonna figure you stole him!"

### JOB HOPES

Popi aspires to be a garbage collector for the city. (So do a lot of left off New York garbage collectors—the program is a little outdated.) But he needs \$300 to go to sanitation school.

A rich lady sees Popi in the park when he tries to get rid of the dog, who's eating them out of house and home.

She wants to mate his Great Dane with hers, and she offers him a stud fee of \$300. His problems seem solved.

He happily goes down to the worst of his three jobs and tells the boss he's quitting. Anyone who's ever been hoping to quit a job they hate can dig that.

The boss sneers, "You've quit 50 times. You always come crawling back." Lots of us can relate to that too.

In the story he does have to crawl back. The second episode is about his trying to get a cheap car and a driver's license.

This show will have plenty of material to work with, because TV mostly hasn't explored what it's like to be poor—Americans aren't supposed to be poor.

### TRUTH

But lots of Americans are poor. And a major recreation of the poor is watching TV. This show will be popular because, more than most, it tells the truth.

It could be one more way for working people of many backgrounds to see how much they have in common with other working people.

Crummy jobs, crummy food, crummy housing do not go to one race only.

If it gets too realistic, of course, the sponsors will remove it. Popi and Lupe and the kids love each other and try to help each other out. This program is very well done—the people affect your heart as well as your funny bone.

That's what poverty jokes like, "Ghetto jam sandwich: two pieces of bread JAMMED together" are about: laughing to keep from crying.

Just remember, those who laugh last, laugh best.

Rana Raya

## ANGOLA:

### THE STRUGGLE FOR LIBERATION

The war in Angola: why it happened, who the sides are, why socialists support the MPLA, the future of national liberation and workers' revolution in southern Africa. Now available in an important new U.S. pamphlet "Angola: The Struggle for Liberation." \$25 from Sun Distribution International, 14131 Woodward, Highland Park, MI 48203.

# WORKERS' POWER

## PITTSBURGH FORGING:

# "Nothing's Moving Out Of Here" They Say Proudly



On the line in Pittsburgh. "They're trying to break the union."

PITTSBURGH—"The guys ain't going back until they get a better contract. They ain't going back for 10c. They can close the place down and sell it first."

Grievance Committeeman William (Tiny) Murgatroyd is describing why workers at Pittsburgh Forging, Local 1779 USW, have been on strike since November 1.

The Steelworkers are demanding better wages and decent working conditions. Wages are presently \$1.60 behind basic steel.

The strikers are bitter against the company. Nearly 14 weeks on strike is one reason. Bloated company profits—\$6 million last year after taxes—are another. And a vicious attack by police is a third.

By mid-January negotiations broke off. "They are trying to break the union," workers say bitterly.

They have gotten little help from the Steelworkers International. One commented angrily, "Most of the guys feel the International isn't doing enough for us. We pay the same dues as big steel and get nothing."

In late January, the company began trying to smuggle already-finished forgings out of the plant. Committeeman Murgatroyd tells how local members stopped them:

"Last night most of Local 1779 (400-500 men) was down here to prevent foremen and local security agents from going in. They were carrying stuff out in their cars.

who was cuffed. Four of them grabbed him and started beating on him."

The police action brought front page headlines in Pittsburgh. As a result, the judge who had granted

every injunction the company has requested, was forced to order negotiations to resume.

Spirit is high. "The cops are stationed in here tonight. But," say the guys at 1779, "That ain't gonna

happen no more. They ain't gonna bust nobody's head no more.

"Meanwhile," Murgatroyd said proudly, "Nothing's moving out of here."

### LIVES AND HEALTH

Pittsburgh Forging's high profits are made at the expense of the workers' lives and health. One man, Chuck Wagner, worked there 35 years. Forging closed down his job and assigned him to grease the machinery.

"He was so old he could barely see. They wouldn't shut down the machinery long enough for him to see, so he lost two or three fingers," said one worker.

### BROKE OFF

Since negotiations began the company accepted only one out of 43 union proposals. They oiled down the parking lot to reduce dust.

### GOON SQUAD

"We tried to stop the bosses by standing in front of their cars. They called the cops, who took two hours to muster up their goon squad.

"The riot squad came in, fully armed—sticks, the whole goddam works. They formed a wedge and drove through our lines.

"About ten minutes after Sheriff Coon arrived he wanted us to disperse. After being on strike for three months and no negotiations, you don't disperse.

"That's when Coon's goons started wielding clubs. They busted heads. They had guys cuffed and they still worked them over.

"We had a 68-year-old man who tried to protect one of our people

## Unions Lose At Escro

PORTLAND—Workers at Escro, a casting foundry, voted in a company union, the United Foundry and Warehouseman's Employees of Escro (UFWE). Escro is a major employer in Portland, particularly of black workers.

The Teamsters and United Steel Workers competed against each other and the company union. This three way division plus heavy organizing by management insured the company union's victory.

### NOT A UNION

The UFWE is a voluntary "association." A worker does not have to pay dues or be a member. Promotions and pay raises are arbitrary. Wages are among the country's lowest for foundry workers (\$5.80 top).

Not surprisingly, the company's profits are very high. And management worked very hard in this election to keep them that way.

The vote was held the day workers were paid their last check before Christmas, and received their Christmas turkeys.

Shortly before the election, company representatives called groups of workers in to argue against the Teamsters.

Escro told the workers that if the Teamsters represented them there would be six months of layoffs. The company emphasized the corrupt nature of the Teamsters, while making no mention of their own corrupt interference in the union election.

Militant workers were kept in one group, so they would have less influence with other workers.

### COMPANY PLANNED STRIKE

The UFWE did call a strike over one year ago. But it was planned by the union and company together to rebuild the UFWE's influence and respect among Escro workers.

Another vote cannot be taken for one year, but Escro workers can start forcing the UFWE to act like a real union. Militants should attend union meetings and organize the election of shop floor militants into union positions.

## TRANSIT WORKERS TAKEN FOR A RIDE

New York City transit workers are suffering cutbacks because of that city's money crunch. So far the banks are getting their money and workers losing jobs, standards, and pay. But the transit workers' contract expires March 31. That's the chance to turn the tables and set a pattern for other city workers: a decent living and make the banks pay. Workers' Power will cover the transit workers' struggle through the contract. Here's a round-up of recent news.

• Governor Carey wants faster cutbacks. He has asked the Emergency Financial Control Board, the group of bankers and businessmen who oversee New York City's money, to hire a lawyer to advise the board on how to crack down on independent agencies, such as the Transit Authority. He thinks they're dragging their heels on implementing the cutbacks.

• Meanwhile, loss of riders mean layoffs boom. State Transportation Commissioner Raymond Schuler has threatened that if the T.A.'s already planned service cutbacks lead to continued loss of ridership, the city will lose millions of dollars of State subsidies. If this happens, layoffs can't be far behind.

• Some people seem to have plenty of money, though. Former Transit Authority head William Roman, now chairman of the Port Authority, has obtained 75 free memberships to a private club built with tax money on top of the World Trade Center. The lavish furnishings include chairs said to cost several thousand dollars each.

• Job attrition—who's it good for? We are told that because 1000 workers a month are leaving city jobs through attrition there won't be any more layoffs... until July 1... unless more budget cuts are necessary.

The municipal unions, including the TWU, have pushed attrition as a positive alternative to layoffs. They forget to ask who will do the work of those who leave. They also forget that attrition includes firings and quits due to harassment.

### HEARD AROUND TOWN

• Queens bus driver "You are speaking with a desperate man. They've put my back against a wall.

"I hope we don't have to strike because I have a family to support. But if we have to strike I'm ready for it."

• F train conductor "Asking us to go without a raise is like Nixon's freeze. They should have started off freezing prices. But they do everything backwards—from the bottom up instead of the top down.

"Yeah, those freezes and phases and cutbacks work fine until they get up to the big man.

"I say do a job on election day the little guy, but they leave the rich man out the building pretty."

• A bus driver has questions about the union leadership. "How come they drive around in Cadillacs and we drive Volkswagens?

People who ask questions at union meetings are booted down and drowned out."

• A bus driver considers filing a grievance procedure needs a change. "The union will go in there and represent you, but even if you're innocent you're guilty. Someone has to take a fall and give the boss what he's due."

## WORKERS' POWER

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