

# WORKERS' POWER

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WORKERS' POWER

Special Report

## THE TEAMSTER STRIKE OF 1970

...and what it means for 1976

—Pages 5, 6 & 7

# FRIENDS, RELATIVES WAIT IN FEAR... MORE MINERS KILLED



by Jim Woodward

If you think capitalism exists for any reason other than private profit...there are 15 dead coal miners to prove you wrong.

If you think the government exists for any reason other than to serve capitalism...there are 15 dead coal miners to prove you wrong.

The 15 worked at Scotia Coal Co.'s #1 Black Mountain Mine in Oven Fork, Kentucky. Last Tues-

day morning an explosion ripped through the mine. Six miners were killed by the blast. Nine others survived, only to be suffocated by poisonous gases.

Mine disasters are such a regular part of American life that, like a flood or tornado, they are accepted as almost inevitable. But mine explosions are not natural tragedies—they are nothing less than mass murder.

This explosion occurred for one reason—the level of methane gas was too high. It has consistently been too high in this mine.

### HAD BEEN WARNED

Government inspectors previously had warned the company about levels of methane up to 15%. Five percent is considered extremely dangerous.

Just before the explosion a government inspector found safety violations.

Robert Barrett, administrator for the U.S. Mining Enforcement and Safety Administration, said: "The night before the blast our people had inspected the mine and cited Scotia Mining Co. for not having the required amount of air in the area where the blast occurred later."

Anyone concerned with the lives of miners underground would stop operations whenever safety problems are discovered.

But coal prices are high. Profits are high. And that's what the companies are in business for.

The government? It could make the mines safe—if it wasn't just a tool of the employers to start with.

All it would take would be to enforce the laws—seriously. The government would have to go after the murderers who own the coal companies like they hunted down the Black Panthers.

Make every safety violation so expensive to the employers that they'll fear a safety inspection like we fear an income tax audit.

If they don't comply, throw them in jail. Prosecute every death as a homicide.

That's what it would take to make coal mining safe. Think it might happen?

### THE RECORD

Here's what the government did after the last major mining disaster

in Kentucky. That was in 1970.

Thirty-eight miners were killed in a methane gas explosion in a mine owned by the Finley Coal Co. It was just 40 miles from last week's disaster.

After that explosion, owner Charles Finley was charged with 23 criminal safety violations. William Kirkland was the assistant U.S. Attorney in charge of prosecuting Finley.

Kirkland agreed to drop 19 of the charges if Finley would plead guilty to four relatively minor charges not directly connected to the explosion.

Finley got off with a fine of only \$122,000.

Recently, Kirkland quit government service...and went to work for the law firm which represents the Finley Coal Co. He granted an interview to the Mountain Eagle, a Kentucky newspaper, and spoke about the case.

He revealed that if he'd had his own way he probably would never have brought any charges at all against poor old Finley.

And he thought the \$122,000 fine was too high.

We don't know who the government will assign to bring charges against the Scotia Coal Co. We don't even know if there will be any charges at all on these 15 murders.

We do know one thing though: unless they're pushed to the wall, neither the government or the coal companies will do anything to prevent the next disaster.

Saving lives is not what they're about.

## Spain: Strike For Freedom

### Half a million on strike!

That was the picture this week in one part of northern Spain alone—the Basque provinces. In Vizcaya and Guipuzcoa provinces, in cities like Bilbao, Vitoria and Basurri, production and practically all services ground to a halt.

A fantastic mass movement has sprung to life. Hundreds of thousands of people poured into the streets to show their hatred of the police, the monarchy and the state institutions of fascism.

They were protesting the police murders last week of four of their brothers in earlier demonstrations in Vitoria. They are determined, bitter and outraged.

Basque workers are spearheading the struggle. But the whole population of the Basque provinces, including non-Basque workers are in the struggle.

They have vowed to continue till the Civil Guards who murdered Vincente Ferrero and the other victims are put on trial.

Elsewhere in Spain, the last three weeks have seen strikes by 200,000 truck drivers, 143,000 construction workers in Barcelona, and 50,000 factory workers in a suburb of Barcelona who returned to work only after the government ordered the release of strikers who were thrown in prison.

One wave of strikes no sooner ends than a new, even stronger one springs up in its place.

### STRIKES ILLEGAL

In Spain strikes are illegal, and communications between workers in different towns and regions very difficult.

The government of Spain has no

answer to workers' demands for freedom—except more arrests and new murders.

Four are dead in the Basque provinces. In the southeastern town of Elda they shot dead a 20 year old clerk, Teofilo del Valle Perez.

Yet this rotting regime remains on the best terms with Gerald Ford, Henry Kissinger and the U.S. Congress. A billion dollars in aid and credit has bought it a few more months.

Not a single one of the dozen candidates for United States President have called for stopping aid to the fascist corpses who shoot down unarmed strikers in the name of the "new Spain."

The "new Spain" is being born in the streets, in the struggle for democracy—and soon, the struggle for working class revolution. □

# labor notes

by Jim Woodward



Teamsters, please note: workers at **Robert Fulton Co.**, a small barn in Oakland, Pa., have won a 47% wage increase in their new contract. Small sub-standard operations like this usually lag far behind the large freight operations. Fulton's seven workers were getting \$4.80 an hour until they convinced the boss they were "ready to strike" when their contract expired January 30. They won a \$2.25 increase over three years, which just shows what you can do if you're prepared to fight.

The **Teamsters Union** has struck **Anheuser-Busch, Inc.**, shutting down production at the company's nine breweries. Travelling pickets were sent to St. Louis to shut down that plant, which was not originally part of the strike. If the Teamsters can strike Budweiser beer, there's no reason at all they can't shut down the trucking companies April 1.

The newspaper of the **United Rubber Workers** union reports that "of the eight major industries negotiating new contracts this year, only tire and apparel workers have remained below the rise in the cost of living for the last 10 years." That certainly doesn't speak very well for the URW leadership. Another way of looking at it is that the URW leaders are entering this year's contract negotiations as one of the two biggest failures around. In all fairness, however, if we consider just the past four years, they're virtually all big failures.

**Goodyear**, the tire industry leader, hasn't been generous to its employees, but they've been shelling it out in bribes. Last week, the company admitted it has made pay-offs totalling \$845,000 to facilitate sales in foreign countries.

**Auto companies** are regularly working their employees overtime while there are thousands of auto workers still on layoff. Here's why, based on 1974 figures: hourly wages for auto workers averaged \$6.32 (straight time). Fringe benefits cost the companies \$3.20 more, or slightly over 50% of a worker's hourly wage. Overtime doesn't cost the companies anything in fringe benefits, so it's cheaper to pay time and a half than hire someone new at straight time. That's even without the extra non-wage and benefit costs that go along with each new worker. That's why auto workers need double time for overtime if this problem is to be licked.

"From the Horse's Mouth," a Pittsburgh rank and file Teamster paper, reports that **McLean Trucking** has been trying to steal the proceeds from the lunch room employee vending machines. Some bosses will stop pretty low to make a penny, won't they?

And some bosses will let you know they think you're as good as dirt even while they're publicly saying the opposite. Coal operators, for instance. The **West Virginia Coal Association** started an advertising campaign, naming the coal miner as "man of the year." They wanted a picture to put on their advertising poster. Instead of going down to the nearest mine and taking a picture, they dressed up the vice president of their advertising firm in miners' gear, smeared a little dirt on his clean, shiny face, and plastered his picture all over their ads.

Last week **Workers' Power** reported that **AT&T** has raised its stockholders' dividends. Here's how: the number of Bell System phones grew last year by 3.5%; long distance calls increased 5.2%; income from private lines rented to business rose 9%; and the number of AT&T employees dropped 6%. The figures are contained in AT&T's 36-page full color annual report.

The skeleton staff left at the **California Agricultural Labor Relations Board (CALRB)**, has issued the Board's first unfair labor practice decision since the CALRB was created last summer. The Board voided elections at **Valley Farms** and **Rose J. Farms** because those growers had illegally fired members of the **United Farm Workers** union. The case is similar to hundreds of complaints filed by the UFW as a result of grower harassment during the elections. But since the CALRB's funds have been cut off in the state legislature, the Board has no way of enforcing such decisions.

**United Auto Workers' President Leonard Woodcock** appeared at a press conference in Florida with **Presidential candidate Jimmy Carter** last week. While not endorsing his candidacy, Woodcock praised Carter highly. Carter has always opposed the repeal of anti-union "right to work" laws, although he has modified his position recently. Asked about Carter's stand on "right to work" laws, Woodcock said, "I'm not worried about that. It's hardly the most crucial issue facing us."

Sometimes writing this column every week can become a little a little repetitive. One sellout by a union bureaucrat after another. And employers have a regularly monotonous way of harassing workers.

Sometimes, however, an employer shows a wee bit of originality. Such a man is **Gerald L. Deeter**, Akron terminal manager for **Consolidated Freightways**.

Deeter had a new, but logical, twist to the boss's old philosophy of "treat 'em like dogs and write 'em up when they bark."

Here's an excerpt from a memo Deeter put in the personnel file of CF employee **Paul Kovach**: "On September 25, 1975, with Don Rookard and Gary Headrick as witnesses, I, Gerald Deeter, Terminal Manager at Akron, advised Mr. Kovach that the next time he barks like a dog while on company property and on the clock, there would be a hearing held on his behalf..."

# Whose Greed Is Killing Baseball?

Remember spring training? Sure you do—at least if you're any kind of red-blooded American sports fan, you do.

It happens every year, just about the time you emerge into the late winter sunlight, bleary-eyed and blinking from four months of hibernating curled up in front of your roaring TV set.

Now while we're waiting around for camps to open so we can see if Tom Seaver's arm will hold out another year, let me ask you a question. Why hasn't spring training gotten started yet this year?

If you're like about 85% of sincere honest baseball fans, you answered: "The ball players are on strike." And like that same 85%, you're wrong.

The ball players are not on strike. They're locked out.

They're locked out? By whom? Well, obviously, by the baseball owners who own them. There can't be spring training or a major league baseball season until the owners allow it.

That makes sense, doesn't it? After all, this is a free country. That means the same people who are free to own insurance corporations, banks and trucking corporations, are free to buy and sell baseball players.

## TRUE DEVOTION

These owners are noted for their total devotion to the institutions that make baseball the Great American Pastime it is.

And there's one particular baseball institution they're dedicated to

above and beyond everything else. It's called the "reserve system."

It means that once a baseball owner signs or buys a player, he owns that player's baseball services forever—until he trades, sells, or puts them on waivers, or the player's baseball career is finished.

The owners know that what makes baseball great isn't Reggie Jackson's line drives, Ferguson Jenkins' fastball or Brooks Robinson's glove. It's the reserve system that gives the owners a lifetime option on the careers of these professional athletes.

This incredible system has been in force ever since the 1880's.

What's happened now is that after years of banging their heads against the wall, against the reserve system, the players (in particular Andy Messersmith of the Dodgers) got an arbitrator's ruling.

It said that they are bound to the owner, only as long as their contract says they are. That's one year beyond the official length of the contract itself.

## ONE YEAR

In other words, the standard player's contract has a "reserve clause" that says the owner can renew the contract for an extra year, cutting the player's salary by a maximum of 20%.

The arbitrator has ruled that this

One owner, Chicago White Sox **Bill Veeck**, is breaking the owners' lockout. But he can only use rookies and free agents, like ex-Met star **Cleon Jones**. If he allowed roster players to join them, the other owners would have driven him out of baseball and into bankruptcy for life.



Tom Seaver, Bob Bailey, Bill Freehan and Johnny Bench: they can pitch, catch, run and throw, but it's rough starting the season when the owners have locked up the uniforms, the training camps and the ball parks.

## NJ OCAW On Strike

**SAYREVILLE, NJ**—One thousand members of **Local 8-3660 of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Union** hit the bricks on **February 1**, when their contract expired. The company is asking the union to make major concessions, including the acceptance of 150 permanent layoffs, and changes in work rules previously won by the union.

The company says the union must make these concessions in order to gain the company's "generous" wage offer of \$1.32 an hour over three years. This wage increase will not even make up for losses due to inflation.

The company has also been sending in a small number of scabs by both helicopter and automobile. Resistance to the scabs has brought a number of court injunctions and nearly 50 picket line arrests over the past month.

One striker said, "Sure, it's tough—we're on food stamps and we really have to scrimp. But I've worked there for twelve years, and I'm not giving up."

## "Ban The Bomb" At Fike Chemical

**NITRO, WV**—Workers at **Fike Chemical** walked out of their plant last Thursday because the place is unsafe. The plant employs about 40 members of **United Steel Workers Local 15318**.

Around the plant there are several corroding 50-gallon barrels of old sodium. When water combines with sodium, there is quite an explosion. Several have already "gone off"—fortunately, so far, not near enough to injure any workers.

The plant itself looks like a scrapyard. Ladders and handrails break, and barrels explode. Just a week earlier a man was thrown off the fork lift he was driving when he ran over some spilled sodium, which exploded.

## BARREL BOMBS

"It's a wonder no one has been killed," said the steelworkers, who are remaining near the plant—but at a safe distance from the barrels, which "go off like grenades." The workers are refusing to go

means exactly what it says, a one-year renewal—not a permanent one!

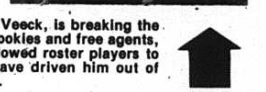
The owners don't see it that way. And their strategy is blackmail and intimidation.

They want to terrify the players into begging them to open training camps on any terms, and to intimidate the courts into overturning the arbitrator's ruling and restoring the reserve system.

If this doesn't work, their next plan is to force the players' union itself to pressure individual ball-players to sign away the rights the arbitrator granted them.

That would tear the players' union to pieces, which would be a nice side benefit. Until they get their way, one way or the other—no baseball season.

Keep this in mind the next time that TV sportscaster, the owners' hired shill, snarls out at you that players' greed is killing the game.



back because one of these barrel "bombs" is sitting right in the middle of the plant and everyone walks past it every day. A big rainstorm was approaching, and they weren't going to stick around! Elmer Fike, who owns the plant, gives the excuse that business is bad. But workers give the response: "If they don't move the bomb, we're staying out."

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# THEY HAVE THEIR CAKE—AND SELL IT, TOO!

# United Action Begins CWA Delegate Drive

In the last year, tens of thousands of telephone workers, members of Communication Workers of America, have been laid off. Thousands of others have been downgraded, and everyone's job is threatened by automation. In that same year AT&T increased its dividend by half a billion dollars. That's at least 15,000 jobs. The response of the CWA International has been to do nothing.

The International Convention this June presents a chance for the ranks to start to turn international policy around.

New York's Local 1101, Communication Workers of America, will elect delegates to the annual CWA convention this week. The slate fielded by the local's executive board consists of the board itself and a couple of cronies.

It is being challenged by a number of candidates including four members of United Action, a militant rank and file group in the local.

The United Action candidates are part of a national United Action campaign to send rank and file delegates to the convention.

United Action delegates will challenge the International's do-nothing policy on layoffs, part timing and automation.

They will propose a shorter work week at full pay and no overtime while anyone is laid off.

United Action delegates will also propose upgrading traffic to the level of plant, both in pay and in contractual treatment, and in union status.

Plant and traffic, men and women employees, have been divided by Bell for too long.

UA delegates will also fight for the District 10 resolutions tabled from last year's convention.

## RANKS' CONTROL

These four resolutions, if passed, would greatly strengthen the ranks' control over national and local bargaining.

They include a policy of no contract—no work, no news black-out on negotiations, a national vote on contract proposals two weeks prior to the contract expiration, and no international pressure to settle local agreements.

The International will report these resolutions back to the floor with the guts taken out of them.

If they are to be passed with any force remaining, it will take a major fight at the convention.



Rank and file New York City telephone workers demonstrate against company racism.

The Local 1101 executive board slate has already stated that it will not fight on this.

For last year's delegates from 1101 the convention was a week's all-expense-paid vacation.

The local spent \$20,000 to send this delegation on a holiday. And they weren't even on the floor for

the most important votes.

United Action will send a delegation to this convention that represents all strata within the union.

Discrimination against minorities and women has always been rife in the telephone company.

Thirty to 40% of Local 1101

members are black or Puerto Rican. Over ten percent are women. But the executive board slate is all male, all white.

United Action wants to build a union which fights for the jobs and rights not only of top craftsmen but for every member of the CWA.

# Rank And File Gains In Local 1030 Elections

LOUISVILLE — Harold Kincaid was elected executive board member at large of Communication Workers of America Local 1030 here last week.

Kincaid is a member of United Action, a rank and file group within the CWA. Two other UA candidates, Phyllis Buton and Ann Thomas, lost by less than 15 votes.

The UA victory came after six months of election proceedings.

In September United Action won a major victory in elections for the top five offices—only to have

elections invalidated by the local.

A new election was called and the voting has been going on ever since.

## SCARE TACTICS

In between the local officers kept control by using red-scare tactics. Kincaid was the subject of considerable slander.

The ability of UA to survive and actually win the executive board post shows the group's strength.

In the months since the election

began, the need for a rank and file organization has grown.

Forty-five installers and cable helpers have been forcibly transferred out of Louisville.

Management has regularly been doing craft work in violation of the contract.

Harassment, particularly in directory assistance, is on the rise. As usual, the response of the local officers has been cowardly at best.

The only alternative for the rank and file is to organize a response on their own.

Who in the world is cheap enough to hold a birthday party in their own honor... and then sell the cake?

Why, the phone company, of course.

March 10 was the 100th anniversary of the invention of the telephone, and Ma Bell was celebrating in the usual way. At the company's 38th Street building in New York, balloons and crepe paper lined the company cafeteria.

About lunch time, Workers' Power got a call from one worker in the building. "I'm so angry I just had to call someone," she said. "Can you believe the phone company is selling its own birthday cake?"

More amused than angry, we asked how much they were charging.

"You'll never believe it! Forty-one cents! And for \$1.85 you can get a roast beef and birthday cake dinner."

"Were they at least big slices?" we asked.

## PINK STYROFOAM

"No, not particularly," she replied. "But the cake was so disgusting it was more than you needed. It looked like it was made out of pink styrofoam."

"Everyone else was angry too," she added. "One guy said, 'Those cheap bastards! They should be giving it away!'"

We thought about that a bit, and realized that these telephone workers just didn't understand what has made this country—and Ma Bell—so great. After all, selling your own birthday cake is in the best tradition of the American free enterprise system, isn't it? □

# Portugal: Prisoners Win Freedom

The campaign against right-wing repression in Portugal has scored a significant victory. After months of demonstrations and organizing, nearly all of the 150 left wing prisoners arrested by the government after November 25 have won release.

Last week Otelo de Carvalho, the left-wing general who was arrested in January, was released from prison. A government report had charged him with plotting a "left-wing soldiers' coup" before last November 25.

On November 25, using the pretext of the "left-wing coup plot" (a plot which never existed), the government sent commandos to sweep through revolutionary Army units and arrested many dozens of officers and soldiers.

With Otelo's release, only six people arrested following November 25 remain in prison. Two prisoners are paratrooper sergeants, two are Military Police commanders, one is a captain and one a civilian.

The government is still holding these six, because it wants to keep prisoners from the

most militant soldiers' units as long as it can. However, there are reports they will also be released soon.

Otelo himself originally refused to leave prison so long as any of the other arrested militants remained in jail. Finally he agreed to be released only on certain conditions, which he drew up in consultation and with the agreement of his fellow prisoners.

These conditions are believed to include the early release of all remaining prisoners. They also demand that all prisoners already released be either immediately tried on the charges made against them, or else totally cleared.

## DEMONSTRATIONS HELPED

The militant anti-repression organization CLARP (Committee for the Liberation of Revolutionary and Anti-Fascist Prisoners) played an important role in winning the release of the prisoners, by organizing large, united demonstrations against the repression. CLARP is keeping up the pressure now by demanding that former

prisoners be allowed to return to their units without any restrictions.

The struggle also continues on other fronts. A demonstration in the northern city of Oporto this week, sponsored by neighborhood and workers' committees and also supported by CLARP, brought out thousands of people. They are fighting against absentee owners who are trying to take back homes that have been occupied by workers and poor people in desperate need of housing.

However, the atmosphere in Portugal is still tense. The government, and the military, is split between "moderate" pro-capitalist officers led by Melo Antunes and more hard-line repressive forces like Air Force commander Marais e Silva.

Movements of troops and other maneuvers are widely rumored in Lisbon. They appear to be an effort by forces in the government to create a climate of tension and uncertainty, similar to the government's maneuvers that laid the groundwork for its right-wing coup of November 25.



**NURSE Rauna Nambinga, aged 18, is lying in prison in Windhoek, Namibia (South West Africa).**

"She is on trial because, according to her charge sheet: She did cross into Angola to meet a group of the South West Africa People's Organization and did hand over to Miss Kafaila, one of its members, a dress, a bar of soap and a sanitary towel."

If Rauna is found guilty, she goes to prison for ten years. She may not last that long.

**QUOTE**

"I would like to let you know how I and the others are treated in jail. We are accused of being guilty of killing Filemon Ellifas. Our legs and arms are tied. We are hung from the roof and tortured."

"The people in jail are watched over by soldiers so that they do not get a chance to sleep. The soldiers do that in turns. "If the others are treated in the same way in those days I was in jail, then they will die or their mental capacity will be damaged."

Theophilus Kalimba, a member of SWAPO, who was arrested by Namibian police last August and escaped to Angola.

# Life In Namibia...

**LOVEMORE HENGANI is a old peasant farmer. He has lived all his life on a tribal trust land in north east Rhodesia.**

One night just before Christmas, a gang of men arrived from the Ministry of Internal Affairs. He was told to pack his belongings and leave. His cattle were confiscated "to pay for transportation."

Lovemore and his family were dumped five miles away on a patch of barren ground inside a barbed wire fence which was lit up by searchlights.

They are allowed to walk back to their farm to work during the day, but must return by nightfall.

**FACT**

600,000 people—one in ten of the black people in Rhodesia—have been herded into "protected villages." These are like the "strategic hamlets" of Vietnam.

Their purpose is simple: to cut off the freedom fighters of Rhodesia from the black peasantry who support them.

Their effect is equally simple: to condemn a tenth of the country's population to death by starvation or disease.

# Zimbabwe

**FACTORY worker Peter Matshane is starving. He cannot move from Bophuthatswana in the Western Transvaal.**

He has been confined there by the South African government since he left prison last year after a ten-year sentence for "furthering the objects of the African National Congress."

From six at night until six in the morning he is locked in a tiny wooden hut. In the daytime, he has to report to the police four times a day. There is no work for him—and no income.

He looks forward each week to pittance from his wife who works as a maid to a lawyer in Pretoria. His children live with his wife's parents—in another "home-land" which Peter cannot visit.

He tries to get a meal each day from friends or comrades, but they themselves have barely enough to survive.

**QUOTE**

"Black workers must not be burdened with superfluous appendages like women and children."—G.F. Van L. Froneman, when South African Minister of Justice.

# ...South Africa

**South African troops and their puppets have lost the war in Angola.**

Now the fascist white-supremacy regime of South Africa is afraid for its life. They believe the war of liberation may spread into Zimbabwe and Namibia.

Then, it will be time for the revolutionary struggle to overthrow South Africa itself.

It's not hard to see why South Africa's white masters and their U.S. protectors are afraid this war may spread. Take a good look at the system of racism, colonialism and apartheid in Zimbabwe (Rhodesia), Namibia and South Africa.

But today, these victims and millions like them have something to smile about. The victory in Angola is one big step toward their own liberation.

# THE BATTLE FOR ZIMBABWE

by Dan Posen

What a difference two short months can make.

In early January an American newspaperman named Ray Vicker was in Salisbury, the capital of white ruled Rhodesia (Zimbabwe).

He wrote that after ten years of white nationalist control, "The streets are busy with traffic, new buildings are going up and affluent shoppers abound in the well-stocked stores."

Of course, the drivers of the fancy cars, the owners of the new office buildings and the rich well-dressed shoppers are all white.

Most black Zimbabweans, except a tiny middle class, live in separate "villages" or hell-holes called "Tribal Trust Lands" where they slowly die from unemployment and malnutrition.

But that didn't bother Mr. Vicker at all. The Zimbabwean guerrillas were poorly armed, on the run; they were unable to do much damage to the rich white farmers who surround their estates with protective fences, warning rockets and grenade proof screens.

What's more, the ten year international boycott of Rhodesia was a joke. The United States floats it with imports of Rhodesian chrome and sales of Boeing 720s.

**NEW TUNE**

But now in March, the same reporter is singing a different tune.

This time he's scared: "Southern Africa is fast moving toward its time of decision. That black-white war long forecast for this part of the world may be almost upon us."

Even worse, he points out: "Now more than ever America should understand the price we may pay in lost raw materials and leadership should southern Africa be lost to the West."

What happened in just two months to change the mood of this white fascist regime, and its international friends, from quiet satisfaction to deep gloom?

The answer is simple. In January and February, the forces of white supremacy and neo-colonialism were smashed in Angola. The Angolan national liberation movement, MPLA, won a total victory.

That victory has changed the political face of southern Africa. If the puppet armies supported by the United States and South Africa, FNLA and UNITA had won the war, there would be no crisis for the white rulers of Zimbabwe and South Africa right now.

But Angola's victory over imperialism has re-lit the flames of

liberation. From Namibia to Zimbabwe to South Africa itself, black workers and peasants expect their chains to be broken.

South Africa's white capitalist rulers—who have kept their friends in Rhodesia in power all these years—now know they must retreat.

The only question is how far, and how fast.

**FIRM MESSAGE**

South Africa has given Ian Smith, the white premier of Rhodesia, a firm message. Negotiate with the middle-class black conservatives, led by the politician Joshua Nkomo, who will sell out for a few crumbs from the table of

white wealth and power.

Those talks have been on for months, going nowhere. But now South Africa's government is pushing harder.

South Africa's Prime Minister John Vorster knows that when the breaking point comes, he will have to choose—between dumping his old allies in Rhodesia or waging a full-scale war against all of black Africa.

Vorster hopes Joshua Nkomo will succeed in Zimbabwe where his other allies, Jonas Savimbi of UNITA and Holden Roberto of FNLA, failed in Angola.

For if Nkomo fails and Smith falls, Vorster knows his turn is next.

# JOBS NOW!

A large contingent of unemployed workers is marching from Manchester to London, England.

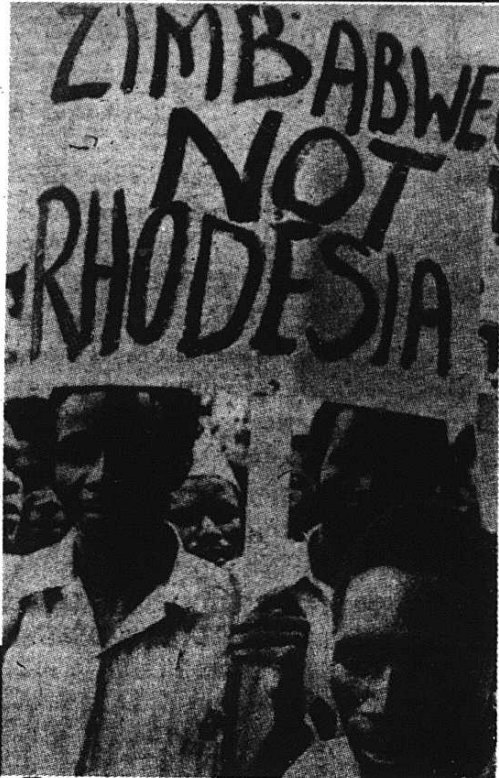
The three-week march is the high point of a national campaign for a fighting movement against unemployment, organized by the National Rank and File Organizing Committee.

The International Socialists in Britain are working all out to build this campaign. The march will end with a mass protest rally against unemployment and the anti-labor policies of the British Labor Party government. Everywhere the marchers go they send delegations to visit local factories mines other workplaces and unions. They have gotten an inspiring response.

Over 450 union bodies have endorsed the march and raised thousands of dollars in cash and supplies to support it.

Unemployment in Britain is soaring toward 2 million. The Labor Party government is slashing services welfare social spending and ruining the lives of millions of workers to keep British capitalism afloat.

That's why the march against unemployment demands a short work week at full pay no overtime and no layoffs—all things we could use here too!



# WORKERS' POWER

## Special Report

# THE TEAMSTER STRIKE OF 1970

## ...and what it means for 1976

by Kim Moody  
I.S. Labor Secretary

On April 1, 1970 tens of thousands of Teamsters "hit the bricks." April 1 was the expiration date of the National Master Freight Agreement and there was no settlement.

Acting Teamster President Frank Fitzsimmons did not call, support, or help organize the strike. But neither did he have any settlement to offer the Teamster membership.

Acting on the traditional principle of "no contract—no work," Teamsters across the country exercised what they believed to be their right and duty, and walked off the job.

Seventy-two trucking companies in 37 cities were closed down.

On April 2, Fitzsimmons ordered the strikers back to work. While he still had no agreement, the order had some effect. Los Angeles, soon to become a major area of the 1970 strike, actually returned to work on April 2.

Other cities, like Detroit, returned to work within a day or two.

Thus, the top official of the Teamsters trampled the principle of "no contract—no work" in the mud. For a moment it looked as though Fitzsimmons had blocked the rank and file's strike initiative.

### ANNOUNCED \$1.10

On April 3, Fitzsimmons announced an agreement with the employers represented by the Trucking Employers, Inc. (TEI). The settlement included a wage increase of \$1.10 over three years.

The rank and file was enraged. Three years of growing inflation had eaten up past wage gains. And Fitzsimmons had said he was going for \$2.50.

To many stewards and others wise in the ways of the contract and shop floor bargaining, an equally shocking aspect of the agreement was the giving away of the 24-hour strike.

Under the old contract, the "work stoppage" clause was worded in such a way that it was possible for a steward to pull off a 24-hour strike before the employer could victimize anyone.

Under the new clause, the employers could suspend anyone immediately without recourse to the grievance procedure.

To thousands of rank and filers, and even some local officials, the proposed agreement was a complete sell out.

### PICKET LINES UP

The strike that had been wound up by Fitzsimmons' back-to-work order on April 2 began to grow again on and after April 3.

In Los Angeles, picket lines went up again on April 3 and by Monday the strike was effective.

In Cleveland, pickets began to appear around the city. Within a few days most freight activity was closed down.

Akron, Columbus and other Ohio cities followed suit. St. Louis had never gone back to work and held solid with the support of the local officials.

St. Paul, Minneapolis, and Milwaukee remained out.

In Chicago, some 50,000 freight workers had walked out on April 1 and stayed out in spite of back to work orders from Fitz and their local officials.

The vast majority of these Teamsters were not covered by the National Master Freight Agreement. Rather they were under a local Chicago contract which covers eight Teamster locals and the independent Chicago Truck Drivers Union (CTDU).

The local leaders in Chicago did not want a strike, but the employers forced their hand.

Ed Fenner of the CTDU and Louis Peick of Teamster Local 705, who led the Chicago bargaining, rejected Fitzsimmons April 3 plea to go along with the \$1.10 settlement. They continued to ask for 55c more than Fitzsimmons.

No doubt, this refusal to go along with Fitzsimmons' settlement helped encourage strikers around the country.

### LOCK OUT

Backed by the TEI, the Chicago employers turned the strike into a lockout. They stated that they would "never accept such an inflationary offer."

The Chicago unions succeeded in breaking off employer groups representing about 8,000 drivers for a \$1.65 an hour settlement, but most employers held out.

By the middle of April, the pressure on the strikers was great. Since the strike was unauthorized, there were no strike benefits.

In many cities the employers sought and got injunctions against the strikers.

The strike caused growing layoffs of other workers. In Cleveland, 57,000 workers were laid off due to the Teamsters strike. In St. Louis 70,000, and in Chicago 100,000.

In the Cleveland-Akron area the National Guard patrolled the streets and highways—with little effect.

In spite of the pressure, the strike held strong in the mid-west and Los Angeles.

In western Pennsylvania, freight was tied up by the actions of striking steel haulers. Around April



"No Contract—No work" meant just what it said in Los Angeles in April 1970.

20, New Jersey locals began to go out.

Although the strike never became fully national, and some areas returned to work by mid-April, the pressure on Fitzsimmons and the employers remained enormous.

### GUARANTEE RE-OPENERS

By the end of April, Fitzsimmons was forced to announce that while he stood by the \$1.10 settlement, he would not recommend ratification of any agreement that did not contain a clause guaranteeing wage reopeners if Chicago settled for more.

This was a big concession to the rank and file.

With tens of thousands still on strike, Fitzsimmons felt he could not get ratification of a contract that would leave the majority of freight workers behind Chicago.

At the end of April a meeting of 700 Teamster officials endorsed the \$1.10 settlement with the automatic reopener clause.

Only after this did the strike begin to crumble in its strong-

holds.

On May 2, Cleveland and Akron Teamsters voted to end their strike. A few days later, St. Louis voted to go back to work.

Chicago remained locked out. Much of Los Angeles remained on strike, but over the issue of amnesty to strikers.

On May 17, the union announced that the tentative settlement had been ratified by a seven to five margin.

In early July, the Chicago employers finally gave in to the \$1.65 demand of the Chicago unions. Immediately, Fitzsimmons reopened the contract and got a face-saving \$1.85 over 39 months.

Why did Fitzsimmons and the employers give in at such a late date?

### RANK AND FILE

It was certainly not that Fitzsimmons couldn't stand a wage differential between Chicago and the rest of the country.

In fact, differentials in wages

and working conditions are the rule under the patchwork of supplements that exist along side of the National Master Freight Agreement.

No! The added factor in 1970 was the active intervention of the rank and file.

Without national leadership or coordination, facing injunctions, often fighting or facing down the police or National Guard, under attack as Communists, and against the opposition of their own union leadership, tens of thousands of Teamsters remained on strike for weeks and forced Fitzsimmons to grant an automatic reopening clause.

It is true that the Chicago union leaders set the pattern.

But it is equally true that without the wildcat strike, Fitzsimmons would have been under no pressure to follow the Chicago plan.

For all its drawbacks, the 1970 wildcat was a victory for the rank and file. But it was also a victory at a price and one from which we can learn.

Continued on next pages...

# THE LESSONS

If you ask Teamsters around the country what they think about the 1970 strike, many will tell you that it was a defeat or that it showed the weakness of the rank and file.

In spite of the fact that this strike produced a 65-75c increase in the settlement, a lot of freight workers feel they got screwed in 1970.

And the evidence for this sentiment is real.

After a two month strike, which in its last several weeks was for amnesty, some 500 or more members of Los Angeles Local 208 lost their jobs.

Four months after the strike, the International slapped a trusteeship on Local 208.

In Cleveland and Akron some workers were fired for strike activity.

In St. Louis a \$6 million dollar court suit is still hanging over the head of Local 600 as a result of the 1970 strike.

Chicago freight workers will tell you that they are the big suckers of 1970.

They will tell you that when everyone else had gone back to work, they stayed out to win \$1.65. Then those who weren't even on strike any more, ended up getting more.

Although the strike did win a substantial wage increase, it did not win back the 24-hour strike. Nor did it win an effective cost-of-living clause.

1970 was a partial victory and one for which a lot of Teamsters paid a price.

With the contract about to expire in 1970, it is important that Teamsters do not draw the wrong lessons from 1970.

The price paid in 1970 was not the price you have to pay for striking. It was the price the rank and file pays for lack of organization and a clear awareness of who the enemies are.

In 1970, there was no coordination or even communication between the major areas of strike strength.

Cleveland strikers didn't know what was happening in Los Angeles, or Chicago strikers what the score was in St. Louis.

Teamsters in the major strike areas did not seek to spread the strike to other cities in a systematic way.

Local 208 members did attempt to close down the Bay Area, and Cleveland-Akron Teamsters tried to shut down other areas in Ohio and Western Pennsylvania.

But there was no coordination, no center from which to find out who was working and who was not.

## ROVING PICKETS

Roving pickets were used extensively within many cities or their surrounding areas, but they were not sent out to try to make the strike as nearly national as possible.

The nature of the freight industry means that if several major centers and arteries are closed down, most of the industry will come to a halt—and with it other industries.

Teamsters are one of the most powerful groups of workers because of their overall effects on the economy.

A strike that was fairly well coordinated, in which there were means of communication, would not have to last long to have a big effect.

But the 1970 strike had no coordination at all.

The lack of communication also meant that Teamsters around the country didn't stick together to prevent victimization.

If Teamsters all across the country had been demanding amnesty as a part of the national back to work settlement, then the 500 workers in L.A. would be working today.

Without communications, the fight for other demands, particularly the 24-hour strike, did not become general.

But a national movement of rank and file Teamsters that is on strike and pressuring the union leader-

ship for a coherent set of demands, could force such an issue.

## INVOLVEMENT

Locally, many of the strikes suffered from lack of rank and file involvement and organization.

Most strikes were conducted by informal groups of stewards or militants, some by nearly invisible cliques.

While this sort of "underground" organization can actually close down a city, it does not use the full power of the ranks—either to prevent scabbing or pressure the union negotiators.

Daily strike bulletins and regular mass meetings are the tactics that have won similar strikes in the past.

Meetings, rallies and bulletins not only let people know what is happening, but give them a chance to participate.

A rank and file that is kept in the dark, as was often the case in 1970, can be confused.

A rank and file that has participated and knows what it is fighting for, will also be in a better position to fight victimization locally when it returns to work.

Organization, communication, and knowledge can make a great deal of difference. But a lot of the failures of the 1970 strike also stem from mistaken ideas about who were friends and who were enemies.

One of the major mistakes of 1970 was a willingness to trust certain high union officials in the belief that they were friends or at least better than Fitzsimmons.

Two examples illustrate this. The militants who led the strike in Los Angeles had been long time opponents of West Coast Teamster boss Dave Beck. For this they received some political support from Jimmy Hoffa and his friends.

Over the years, the militants of Local 208 developed a sort of special relationship with Hoffa and they felt they could trust him and his associates.

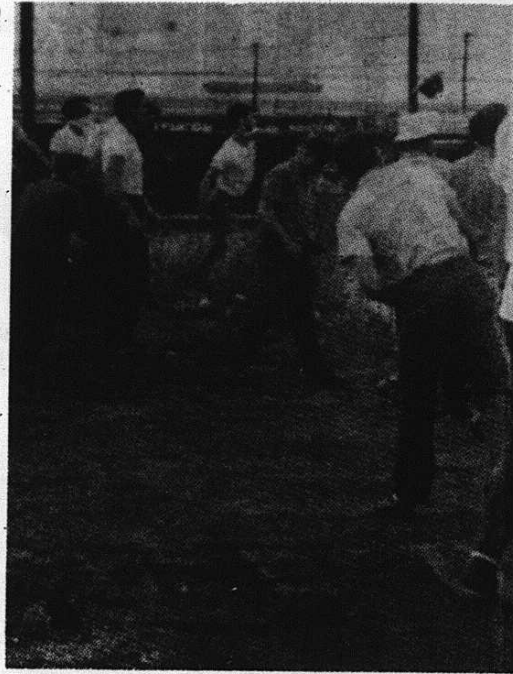
Hoffa wasn't around in 1970, but they called on his close associates, Roy Williams and Harold Gibbons, to help them.

In particular, they asked Williams and Gibbons to be on the "Blue Ribbon Panel" that was to determine the fate of the 500 militants who the employers wanted to fire.

In the belief that Williams and Gibbons would back them, the leaders of the 208 strike accepted the idea of "Blue Ribbon Panel" to investigate each of the 500 cases.

But Williams and Gibbons had high paying jobs and careers to protect. Williams at least had given them verbal encouragement to strike (as a political ploy in his favor). But these two "friends" in the leadership deserted the Local 208 militants.

They washed their hands of the



Cleveland Teamsters throw rocks at this scab truck during their 1970

panel and silently let 500 Teamsters lose their jobs.

## PROTECT ITSELF

The lesson to be learned here is not to depend on those in power to protect you. The rank and file will do better to protect itself.

A national demand by all the strikers for amnesty would have had more impact than hopes placed in top level union politicians.

St. Louis is another case. And once again we meet Harold Gibbons, Jimmy Hoffa's former right hand man.

It was thought by many that Gibbons and, in absentia, Hoffa, wanted the 1970 strike to embarrass Fitzsimmons.

No doubt many people thought for this reason that Gibbons could be "used" to aid the strike.

But Gibbons was not interested in a victorious wildcat.

Gibbons, in fact, intervened to try and end the strike. Because of this reputation he was largely responsible for getting the members of Local 600 to return to work.

But Gibbons got Local 600 back to work without resolving the law suits that the employers had filed against the Local.

Gibbons' interest in the affairs of Local 600 vanished when the strike ended.

In effect, he gave the go ahead to the employers. Today, that Local still faces the possibility of \$5.5 million in fines.

## Every Dirty Trick In The Book

### The National Guard

The employers tried many tactics to break the 1970 strike. In Ohio the National Guard was available to help.

Claiming that there was open warfare on the state highways, Governor Rhodes activated 3,700 National Guardsmen at the end of April, after the strike was close to a month old.

Cleveland's Mayor Stokes and several other Ohio mayors had been hollering for the Guardsmen. Most of the incidents of violence the mayors complained about were relatively minor, indicating that the main purpose of calling up the Guard was to demoralize the strikers.

Guardsmen were used to escort convoys of scab trucks and to guard truck terminals.

In western Pennsylvania, several units of that state's National Guard were put on alert. And the FBI was reported to be actively studying the situation.

But by and large the National Guard was not very effective. The Cleveland Teamsters held firm and refused to allow the

Guard to intimidate them.

It may be that some of the Guardsmen found this frustrating—that they resented not being able to get in their licks on striking truckers. In any case, the same National Guard units were sent from the streets and highways of Ohio to the campus of Kent State University.

There they took out whatever frustrations they may have had by murdering four students when they shot into an unarmed crowd protesting the U.S. government's invasion of Cambodia.



Minneapolis Communism—42 1/2 Cents an Hour

Minneapolis Teamsters used this cartoon to counter the employers' red-baiting in 1934.

## RED-BAITING

In 1970, as in 1976, and as always, both the employers and union leadership thought they could spot a Communist in every bush and on every picket line.

Their purpose was the same then as it is now—to sow fear and suspicion, leading to disunity and a return to work.

During the Los Angeles strike, the Southern California

Teamster reported that those on strike were communists. Some of the employers conducted red-baiting campaigns against particular strike leaders. In Ohio, Presser said the same thing.

And Frank Fitzsimmons chimed in too. Addressing a convention of the United Auto Workers in late April, Fitz

blamed Communists for the wildcats.

At the same time, Fitz was busy defending his \$1.10 settlement. The record is clear.

Those who stood up and fought, those that Fitzsimmons chose to label Communists, they were the ones who won the \$1.85 that Fitz said was impossible.

# Victory In '76

This year, the employers are taking a hard line. They are not only saying, as they always do, that they can't afford what the union is asking for, but they are demanding concessions from the union.

National negotiations have been called off until March 15. Fitzsimmons is even hinting at a strike.

While Fitzsimmons has no intention of leading a real strike, the fact is a strike is what will be needed to beat the employers.

The situation is different today than in 1970. In 1970, the economy was heading into a recession.

In 1976, it is working its way slowly toward a boom. Probably a short lived one, but a boom nonetheless.

The employers' profits are up. That is partly the reason they are so aggressive this year—they can practically taste two more years of profits, mergers, and growth.

In 1970 the government was still believable. We hadn't seen Watergate. All the corruption that lay beneath the surface was still invisible.

In 1976, Ford's administration has failed to regain the confidence of most people.

Due to his doublecross on the Common Sites Picketing bill he lost the confidence of the labor bureaucracy, and has had to reshuffle the Department of labor.

The moral authority of the government to intervene is very low to say the least.

## INFLATION

The needs of the rank and file are greater. Years of inflation and unemployment in the freight industry as elsewhere have left Teamsters behind where they were in 1973.

There is also a widespread distrust of the current recovery—a feeling that it won't last.

But most important, the level of organization and awareness of the Teamsters rank and file is higher than ever.

In 1970, there was no national rank and file organization and very little at the local level.

Today the Teamsters for a Decent Contract have a network of

rank and file fighters all across the country. In 1970, there were no communications.

Today, TDC publishes a weekly newspaper called Convoy and has a central office in Cleveland which can serve as a communications center.

Closely allied to TDC is UPSurge, a national organization and newspaper of UPS employees.

UPSurge is already working with TDC to build demonstrations around the country on March 13.

UPSurge is organizing a campaign around the UPS contracts that expire shortly after the Master Freight Agreement.

## KNOW EACH OTHER

As a result of TDC and UPSurge activities Teamster activists from all over the country have gotten to know each other.

They have organized behind a common program.

Perhaps most importantly, TDC has organized on the basis of rank and file involvement and action.

While TDC today is a small minority of freight workers—thousands but still a minority—it is a potential leadership for tens of thousands.

As the contract expiration draws closer, more Teamsters will become interested in finding out what is going on and in fighting.

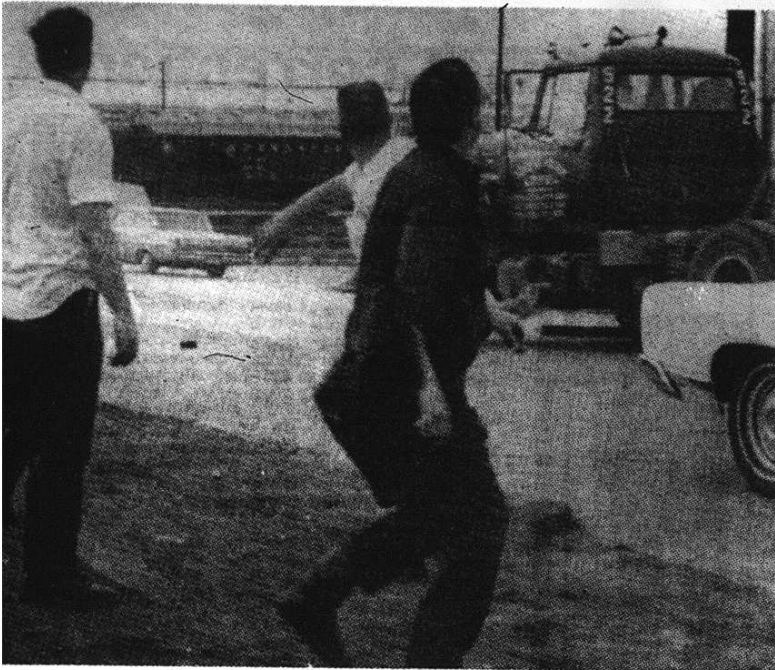
Often mass sentiment for a strike does not arise until the last minute.

As one Cleveland Teamster told Workers' Power, the day before the 1970 strike he had no idea he would be on strike, let alone that he would be overturning scab trucks.

This time, when Teamsters do move, and we are certain they will, they will have a group of rank and file fighters, with organization, to look to.

A strike will probably break out in one place or another. When it does, the network and means of communication established by TDC can make all the difference in how it goes.

If the ranks learn the lessons of 1970, there is no reason why 1976 cannot be the year of a victory when the employers pay the price. □



wildcat.

The generous employers have said that if Local 600 will make certain major concessions in terms of work standards they will drop the fines.

This mess stems not from the strike itself—the court suits and fines in other cities were dropped. It stems from trust in the likes of Gibbons.

## CAREERS, PRIVILEGE

The top trade union leaders in this country are cut from the same mold. They are out to preserve their careers, privileges and prestige and they will readily sacrifice the membership to do so.

No doubt there are union leaders who are better than Fitzsimmons. That isn't very hard. But the fact is they cannot be trusted or relied on in any way. The idea that they can be "used" by the rank and file is equally an illusion.

Keep in mind that these high level parasites get every drop of prestige they have only because the workers, the union membership, have power.

That power is our power to slow down or stop the industry. That is the only reason any boss talks to any union leader.

The union leaders are, today brokers between the rank and file and the employers.

They promise us more money and better working conditions. They promise the employers labor peace and higher productivity.

As brokers they hobnob with the bosses, live like the bosses and think like them as well.

As brokers they respond best to those who make things the hottest.

That is what the rank and file can rely on—the amount of heat that it, by itself, can apply. And that always comes back to direct, organized action by the ranks.

The major lessons to be learned from the 1970 strike are that organization, communications, and a strike leadership aware of who its enemies are can make a partial victory a total victory. These were missing in 1970, but they need not be missing in 1976. □

## How Flying Pickets Spread '70 Shutdown

"Cruising squads in autos were assigned, district by district, to sweep through the streets on the lookout for scab trucking operations. A captain was designated for each of these squads and for each detachment of stationary pickets. At all times a reserve force with the necessary transportation was kept on hand at the strike headquarters."

That could almost be a description of the Teamster wildcat strikes in 1970, where roving picket squads were used to shut down the industry in several important cities. In fact, the words describe the first major use of mobile pickets—in the Minneapolis Teamster strike of 1934.

It was in that strike that the use of roving pickets was developed and perfected as a powerful strike tactic. It's an idea that Teamsters in particular have used, and the 1970 strike was no exception. Here's what happened six years ago.

### CLEVELAND

In Cleveland, a couple of cafes served as the informal center of operations. Armies of up to 500 truckers roamed the city, shutting down terminals and clearing the streets of trucks.

Trucks would be stopped on the streets, and their drivers ordered to go back to the terminals. Most were happy to comply, and within a very short period of time, most trucks were off the streets. A few drivers who were reluctant to stop work saw their trailers overturned.

The pickets also went outside the city, attempting to stop the freight that the companies were trying to move around the city.

At one point, a terminal was rumored to be planning to move some trucks. The word went out, and within an hour and a half, 500-1000 Teamsters were massed in front of the terminal to stop it.

### CHICAGO

In Chicago, where the strike-lockout was official, it was still rank and file who enforced the strike.

Mobile pickets were sent to Madison and Milwaukee to shut down Consolidated Freight, Spector, Arkansas Best, and Roadway, all companies which were bypassing Chicago.

The union issued red stickers to companies which had agreed to the union's demands. Pickets stopped trucks without required stickers and sent the drivers on their way—leaving the truck where it was.

### LOS ANGELES

Roving pickets were also an important tactic in Los Angeles. As the strike there dragged on, the employers began to hire scabs and run freight. Mass picketing was banned by injunction, so the pickets had to either be massive enough or quick enough to get away with it.

Some squads would look for scab trucks on the streets and freeways. They were not particularly gentle.

They sometimes beat up scabs or used flare guns (resembling bazookas) to intimidate them. Sometimes diversions were created to get the cops away from the main scene of action.

If a particular employer was running a lot of freight, the strike committee would send a large squad of pickets, armed with baseball bats, into the yard to drive off the scabs.

Later on, when it became clear the strikers needed more muscle, they went to the Oakland/San Francisco area.

Soon most all trucking had stopped in the Bay Area. The shut down of both the Los Angeles and San Francisco areas was enough to convince a section of the employers—the interstate carriers—to come to terms with the strikers. □

CONSPIRACY

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# RULING CLASS JUSTICE

## Here they call it "behavior modification" ...there they call it "socialist correction"

### OREGON

State Penitentiary, Portland

• In the last month five prisoners in isolation have been beaten. One had his jaw busted. Two were placed in small, unventilated, bare "black box cells" and maced repeatedly. Two more were stripped naked and starved for two days.

• Two other prisoners, transferred out of state, were stabbed. Another was told that serious kidney ailments were "all in his head."

• One of the prisoners, Stephen Kessler, has been sent to the federal "behavior modification" prison at Marion, Illinois. There he is teargassed, injected with powerful tranquilizing drugs and experimented on.

These brutal incidents are part of an attempt to punish prisoners who led a meeting at the prison last August. The meeting commemorated the 1971 murder of black revolutionary prison leader, George Jackson.

Speakers were Gaylord Nelson, Charles Drew and Stephen Kessler. They urged black and white unity and mutual support among inmates.

In the following five weeks Kessler, Chris Anderson, David Daniels and twelve other inmates were moved to county jails.

#### ISOLATION

Their families received no notification. The prisoners were placed in isolation.

Then in September, local papers announced that a prisoner plan to kill a warden had been

uncovered.

The stories cited these militants as the conspirators and labelled them "The Family." These prisoners, who are white, were also accused of planning to shoot black inmates and blame it on the guards.

They have had no public trial. The "evidence" was unsigned notes and hearsay evidence from guards. The Prison Administration in Oregon is judge, jury and executioner.

Kessler and prisoner Michael Guile were transferred out of state, out of touch with family, friends and supporters.

Kessler was sent to Marion, Illinois. Guile was shipped to California and put on a notorious Nazi cell block. Last week, he was stabbed seven times there.

Twelve more prisoners await similar "hearings."



by Harold Black Jr. and Dan LaBotz

### MOSCOW

Serbsky Institute and Lefertovo Prison

• Leonid Plyusch and other prisoners were "treated" with haloperidol and triflazin. These drugs cause sluggishness, confusion, and loss of normal mental and emotional attitudes.

• Other "patients" were treated with sulfur injections, a form of "therapy" resulting in pain, high temperatures, or death.

• Plyusch revealed that male nurses murdered one inmate by causing his liver to burst. Medical and political authorities used these methods to get the patients to "confess" to their "crimes."

What kind of "crimes" were these? Leonid Plyusch, a Ukrainian mathematician, committed the crime of criticizing the Russian government and the ruling Communist Party.

His case is typical of what has happened to thousands of intellectual dissidents in the Russian empire.

What's unusual is that his case received enough publicity to win his release by the Russian prison authorities.

In 1964 Plyusch wrote a letter to the Central Committee of the Russian Communist Party, calling for democratic reforms. The letter wound up in the hands of the KGB (Russia's secret police, a combined FBI-CIA type organization). They warned him to stop writing such letters.

In 1966 Plyusch began writing articles for the samizdat (under-

ground) opposition press, including the Chronicle of Current Events and the Ukrainian Herald.

In 1968 Plyusch was fired from the Institute of Cybernetics of the Academy of Sciences in Kiev.

He had protested the treatment of two dissidents, Ginsburg and Galanskov, in a letter to the party paper Komsomolskaya Pravda.

#### PROTESTS

In 1969, he joined the "Initiative Group for the Defense of Human Rights in the Soviet Union." They carried out legal protests against violations of the Russian Constitution.

For this, he was arrested in 1972 and began his imprisonment in various prisons and mental institutions, where the Russian rulers send opponents on the pretext they are insane.

## ...but both mean to crush dissent

Stephen Kessler and Leonid Plyusch have something in common: they were subjected to prison, torture, and mind-breaking brutality for speaking out.

Kessler told the kangaroo Oregon prison court that transferred him, "There are no redeeming features in the prison system."

"It is a tool used against the poor and for defending the rich. It is

corrupt from top to bottom, as is the whole economic system... based on profiteering.

"It is a class struggle between the rich and the poor... I believe in unity, education and organization."

Here is what Leonid Plyusch said about the system in Russia that drove him from his job and his

freedom:

"I demonstrated that Stalinism is nothing more than a... distortion of the October revolution... that property is not held by the people but by the state..."

"That the bureaucracy is at the service of an abstract capitalist, the state; that in regard to the national question, the Soviet Union is

following the policy of the tsarist regime.

Neither Kessler nor Plyusch is alone.

In each country, thousands of others like them who challenged society's rulers are locked away and tortured in the name of rehabilitation.

Both the U.S. and Russia use

prisons to silence those who threaten their systems.

The systems are different in the U.S. and Russia but they too have something in common. Both are ruled by people who benefit from keeping working people powerless.

That's why we insist that workers' revolution, East and West, is the only way to create a world fit for people to live in.

## Canadian auto workers need wage parity

by Jack Weinberg

Big three auto workers in Canada approach contract bargaining with the issues focused very differently from workers across the border here in the States.

For U.S. workers, job security is the big issue—with the demand for a shorter work week at full pay getting the most attention.

In Canada, layoffs in 1974 and 1975 were less severe than here. SUB funds in the big three never went broke. As a result, Canadian auto workers show less concern with problems of job security and shorter work week.

The single most important issue for Canadian workers is money. They get wages on a par with ours, and the cost of living in Canada is similar to the cost of living in the States.

But in the last few years, income of other sections of Canadian workers have shot ahead of auto workers.

Auto bargaining in 1973 went on in the shadow of U.S. wage controls. Sections of Canadian workers whose wages are less connected to wages in the States, were not held back by our wage controls. As a result, they pushed out front.

Compared with their brothers and sisters in other industries, Canadian auto workers feel they have taken a wage cut, and wish to catch up.

#### CANADA'S CONTROLS

But on top of that, last Thanksgiving, the Canadian government imposed their own wage controls. They are making a strong effort to hold down the wages of the entire Canadian working class.

Under the controls regulations merely continuing the old 1973 agreement in 1976 with no improvements would violate the guideline!

This means the Canadian government will step in and roll back any settlement as good or better than the 1973 agreement.

The wages of Canadian workers will fall below that of auto workers in the States, destroying parity.

The Canadian government would like to see parity destroyed.

If Canadian auto workers receive lower wages than auto workers in the States, they believe that this will tempt the auto companies to move jobs from the U.S. to Canada.

Management, of course loves this. Capitalists always like to see workers competing for scarce jobs by taking cuts in wages and conditions.

How does the UAW see the parity issue?

At the recent UAW Skilled Trades Conference, Canadian Regional Director and UAW Vice President Dennis McDermott spoke on parity.

He pointed out that if the UAW

failed to give strong support to its Canadian section in fighting the controls and in maintaining parity, the whole future of International Unionism is in question.

And he is right. Both McDermott and Woodcock feel the pressure to hold on to parity.

#### NO GUARANTEE

But this is no guarantee that a strong enough fight will be made to keep parity.

The Canadian government knows that if they can force the UAW to break parity and maintain the controls, then they will be able to make the controls stick.

They also know that if auto workers break through, other sections will follow.

For all Canadian workers, 1975 auto bargaining will be a major test of strength between the working class and the government.

In the next few weeks, large labor rallies are being planned for

industrial towns throughout Canada, sponsored by the Canadian Labor Congress (CLC) and strongly backed by the UAW.

This will culminate in a major labor demonstration and rally in Ottawa, the nation's capital, on March 22.

These efforts represent a good first step—but that is all. They will not, by themselves, force the government to back off wage controls.

It will require follow-ups in the direction of political strikes of Canadian workers, culminating in an all out battle when the UAW contract expires.

In particular, the UAW will have to scrap the one-at-a-time target bargaining strategy in Canada and pull out all big three workers when their contracts expire.

Finally, if Canadian workers break the wage controls, it will mean less chance for controls here after the elections.



Letters

to

# Workers' Power

## Cuckoo's Nest: The Struggle Makes Us Free

Dear Workers' Power,

Recently I saw the movie, "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest," which was reviewed last week in Workers' Power.

My father spent a good deal of time in mental institutions several years ago.

I know that the drugs and shock treatment that serve only to keep people passive, and the systematic efforts to deprive the patients of confidence shown in "Cuckoo's Nest" are completely accurate.

In the course of the movie there is a marked change in the inmates. As they begin to rebel, the patients start acting like regular people. They stop being depressed, unconfident vegetables and start functioning like normal people.

People in this society are taught from day one that they cannot control anything—not their jobs, their society, nor themselves. Without deeply ingraining this in every worker, this irrational system could not continue.

Mental institutions exist for those who learned the lesson too well, or for those, like McMurphy, who need some re-education.

In the end, McMurphy is destroyed. But the inmates will continue the struggle for dignity. It is the fight for control—of ourselves and our society—so that we may become free.

Ed Karney  
Louisville, Kentucky

## ANGOLA: the fight goes on

Dear Workers' Power,

It looks as though U.S. capitalism has continued to carry out its brutal, oppressive stage of monopolizing and has thus manifested itself in the form of imperialism or "dollar diplomacy" in Angola.

I feel that the MPLA must continue to struggle against the neo-colonialists all over. Angolan liberation faces many obstacles such as racism and capitalism in Africa and imperialist power here.

That is why I feel that the more you do in your paper on the Angolan struggle, the more people you may arouse. And the more people you arouse the more influence they gain.

The final objective is, of course, the successful Marxist revolution in Angola, and a people free of colonialist oppression.

I think you've done your part in exposing the truth. I hope you keep raging on. Do your stuff!

Steve Fleischman

## 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.

## Who Is Patty Hearst?

Dear Workers Power,

Patty Hearst is an upper-class brat. She was kidnapped by a group of lunatics. She then decided to go on a joyride with them. For a while the papers called her an "heiress turned revolutionary."

Most of her friends were surrounded, gunned down and fried to death by the Los Angeles Police on live TV. Later she was captured by the FBI. To save herself, she turned in all her former friends and said they brainwashed her.

Now the papers are calling her a "victim of terrorists." They all love her again.

L. Thomas  
Miami, Fla.

# EDUCATION SLASHED IN NEW JERSEY

Dear Workers' Power,

New Jersey is planning massive fiscal cuts which will be counting as one of its victims higher education.

The proposed cuts to be made in higher education will profoundly limit the educational opportunities for many New Jerseyites, particularly those who cannot afford the higher tuition.

Despite the fact that N.J. has ranked low (47th in the U.S.) in its support of education, it is most generous to industry.

Corporations pay only 4% tax and enjoy other privileges such as the relaxed sulfur dioxide standard, recently allowed by Gov. Byrne to encourage industry.

This industry, which incidentally, benefits from college educated specialists, can well afford to pay more.

Not only are corporations a source of potential revenue, but so is a steeply graduated income tax which could be used to soften the current "crisis."

Yet the governor is using these cuts as a way to show big business that N.J. is not burdened with "big government."

The budget cuts in higher education as elsewhere, mean the loss of many jobs.

In teaching, as in other forms of work, the ability of a teacher to plan his or her future, to have enthusiasm for work and some job security are essential.

Peter Freund  
New Jersey

# Yvonne Wanrow Must Go Free!

Dear Workers' Power,

On February 23, 1976, I attended the hearing for Yvonne Wanrow at the Washington State Supreme Court of Appeal in Olympia, Washington.

The turn-out of supporters for Yvonne was very impressive. There were 300 or more people jammed into the hearing room and standing in the lobby.

The Deputy Prosecutor, Mr. Caruso made a weak opening argument, and an even worse closing argument.

He finally got to the subject of the tape—which was supposed to be the main issue—and implied that the tape was admissible on the grounds that Yvonne had waived her rights (neat trick, considering she had not first been given her rights!) when she took the phone from Shirley Hooper in the initial call for help, and also that it was not a private conversation.

Yvonne was represented by three women lawyers. The defense was very well prepared and quite articulate in their arguments.

Judge Hamilton attempted to confuse issues by making misleading statements about what was in the brief.

However, lawyer Nancy Stearns challenged him (SHOCK!) and clarified for all, the statements made in the defense's brief. For those without blinders, it is obvious the defense is right.

I wonder if it has become a political "hot potato" to win a victory for the State at this time? Does Prosecutor Brockett and his staff now have a political headache from nailing a minority who surprised them by having enough spunk and public support to fight



Yvonne Wanrow and her children.

back for her rights?

We can only hope that public opinion and maybe even truth might help in influencing the judges to make a fair decision and let Yvonne off.

It might not be too much to ask that justice should prevail—people's justice—not their justice!

Donna Ballinger  
Seattle

# Fight Senate Bill 1!

Dear Workers' Power,

As thankful friends of the International Socialists, and subscribers to Workers' Power, we are kept well-informed of both personal and general repression coming down here and abroad.

This includes, particularly: imperialism, racism, attacks on workers' struggles, sexism, etc. In this vein, we would like to urge some kind of special Work-

ers' Power article and eye out on Senate Bill #1, now in the U.S. Congress.

This vicious, long-planned, legislative vice-grip poses grave threat to the people, workers, minority movements, all dissidents, and revolutionary political activity especially.

For one to call for a mass movement to defeat this shot-gun repressive legislation is fine.

We think, though, most people can see that the vital and best arena for combatting Senate Bill #1 is where workers can force trade union political influence to defeat it.

Keeping alert to creeping legal repression protect the already limited "freedom" in the U.S. We must fight for a new, human, socialist, society.

John and Linda Willard  
Richmond, Calif.

# INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

## I.S. Sponsors Meetings

The International Socialists celebrated International Women's Day over the weekend of March 6-7 with meetings in a number of major cities.

Speaking in Louisville, Kate Stacy of Workers' Power said, "All of us face the same choice—are we going to take life's blows as they come as best we can, or are we going to fight back?"

"Most of us here tonight are fighters. This is the reality of our lives—fight to survive."

This was the theme of the meetings held across the country. The speakers were women who are fighters, in many industries and unions, and in the community.

This year, women face lower wages, higher unemployment, defeats for abortion rights and racist attacks on school busing for integration programs.

### FIGHTS EVICTION

In Louisville, Kentucky, the audience heard Wilda Dean Harbin speak of her struggle to save an entire black community from eviction in Harlan County. Sixty dollars was raised to aid the effort.

Anna Palmer, member APWU, spoke about harassment of postal workers in Cincinnati. Sandra Wadleigh talked about launching a Women Against Racism group to defend busing in Louisville.

In St. Louis, a member of the Machinists Union told how discrimination against women prevented her from getting jobs and promotions.

A member of AFSCME, who works for the welfare department, described how layoffs due to government cutbacks meant that blind and ill clients will lose their aid.

Marilyn Danton of the I.S. Executive Committee spoke about Women Against Racism.

A Chicago audience heard Laura Hodge of the UPSurge steering committee and Gloria MacLean of Detroit Women Against Racism. (see photo.)

In Bloomington, Ind., Pat Goldsmith told the history of International Women's Day. Maggie Nolan spoke on Revolutionary Feminism.

### PHONE WORKERS

In Seattle, speakers included members of United Action, a rank

and file organization of phone workers, as well as speakers supporting the MPLA in Angola.

Meetings in Philadelphia, Pittsburgh and New York were addressed by Isabel Nabach of Teamsters for a Decent Contract and Muriel Walker of Detroit's Women Against Racism.

A meeting in Los Angeles featured Mary Deaton of UPSurge.

"In the battle against racism, I'm with Women Against Racism," said Gloria MacLean, speaking at an International Women's Day meeting in Chicago.

The film Blow for Blow, about a factory occupation was shown.

Successful meetings were also held in Amherst and Boston, Mass., and in Portland, Ore., and the California Bay Area.



## Detroit: Fighting To Win

"I am a woman who is both proud and angry. I'm proud of the leadership women have shown in building UPSurge, a national rank and file movement within the Teamsters' Union of United Parcel Service workers.

"But I'm angry because the higher paying and more desirable jobs in this society are still reserved for men. Women still have a higher unemployment rate than men. "And if you are black, you're at the bottom of the heap."

Stephanie Batey, IBT Local 243 and member of UPSurge opened the International Socialists Forum. "Fighting to Win," held in Detroit last Sunday with these words.

Eighty people listened as Batey and four others spoke about the erosion of living standards for all working people and what is being done by the rank and file in the Teamsters and United Auto Worker's union to fight back.

Pete Camaratta, IBT Local 299, told how Teamsters for a Decent Contract has organized in cities all over the country and is prepared to strike when the Teamster contract expires March 31, if their demands are not met.

John Ware, UAW Local 212 and member of the United National Caucus discussed organizing in the UAW for the 1976 contract.

"Feeling is very strong in the union that we were sold out in

1976. This cannot happen again. "The Coalition for a Good Contract was organized to speak for the rank and file and to say we will vote no if our demands in the areas of job security, wages and working conditions are not met."

Wendy Weinberg, UAW Local 235, Committeeperson, and member of the Justice Committee, has just recently returned from Portugal.

She talked about how the revolution there has changed workers' lives and how the goals we seek here are actually being carried out there.

"Eight months ago, the workers at one factory held a meeting. They decided to lock the boss in his office until he met their demands."

"The boss got wind of it and ran away. Not only did the workers run the factory themselves, but they took over his house too."

Finally, Mike Parker, Detroit District Organizer for the International Socialists spoke about the role of socialists in all these movements.

"Today it is the members of the International Socialists who play a leading role in the rank and file workers' movement. Socialist politics point to strategy and tactics that work in struggle."

"Join with us; we are fighting to win."

## WHAT'S ON

BOSTON, Saturday, March 20, 7:30 pm. Benefit for the Portuguese Revolution and the PRP. Entertainment and slides. Harrington School, Cambridge St. Admission \$2.50. Sponsored by Portuguese Workers' Committee, the Somerville Tenants Union, and the I.S.

## HELLO?

Workers' Power has a new phone number:

(313)

869-5964

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

Capitalists use 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 those 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.

## I.S. Branches



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## 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 .....

Union .....

# WILL A MACHINE TAKE YOUR JOB?

by Yvonne

Ever joke around at work and say a monkey or a robot could do your job? Notice there are fewer people around to laugh?

I stopped laughing a few years ago. I had bought a big wooden gear, which the store advertised was a model from a foundry.

When I was taking a machine shop course, I took the wooden gear in to ask about it.

The teachers were delighted to see that gear.

"Ah," they said, "This is a die. A highly skilled craftsman made this. The engineer's specifications had to be converted into a 3-dimensional object."

The class said, "Someone made this by HAND? It's perfect!"

The machinists said, "It has to be. The iron gear itself is cast from this model."

"The highest craft, machinist there is a tool and die maker. That's when craft becomes art."

While we looked at the twenty perfectly made, perfectly spaced teeth in the gear, they said, "Used to be tool and die makers had their pick of jobs. Now it's all done by computers."

The cold chill that went over the room then has by now become familiar to most of us: The Automation Blues.

## NEWSPAPERS

The first time I had that cold feeling was on a school tour of my hometown newspaper back in 1960.

Every newspaper office had its room full of clanging, belching linotype machines and operators. Linotype operators are highly-

**"Unimates never tire, they never sweat, they never complain, they never miss work."**

skilled workers who deal in hot lead type, stress and ingenuity all day.

Our local paper had linotypes, and it also had two machines that ate computer tape and "spewed out perfect type."

Those two machines were regarded with pride by the owners, and with vague creeping horror by the operators.

Their jobs were being chewed up by the machines along with the paper tape fed them by relatively unskilled and poorly paid keypunch operators.

But folks, that ain't nothin'. People who work in auto plants sometimes have to work alongside real true robots, called Unimates.

Twenty-two Unimates can replace 200 humans. They can make

30 welds in less than a minute.

Some industrial robots can lift objects weighing up to 300 pounds and exert a grip force of over 200 pounds.

How many humans could do that 8 hours a day?

February's Scientific American magazine tells the history, theory, and future of robots in industry. The Unimate is one of the more recent generations of robots than the old paper-tape ones.

Unimate and its fellows have computers built right in. So they can be "trained" and "retrained" very easily to perform a large number of fairly complex operations.

The article shows an astounding sequence of a robot's actions.

It locates a steel box, places it in a vise, locates a cover, places in a on top, closes the vise, picks up a socket wrench, screws in a bolt on each corner, then removes the box and places it on a table.

The robot moves so fast the picture is blurred.

## LASER BEAMS

New robots are being developed with laser beams and infra-red sensors to locate the workpiece more efficiently.

Research is being done to come up with robots able to deal with unstructured environments: that is, to plan their own moves.

However, as the article says, "In a factory there is no need for a robot to be creative or to have any significant degree of insight."

"The primary criteria for an industrial robot are that it be inexpensive, reliable, and easily

programmed to execute a well-defined sequence of operations."

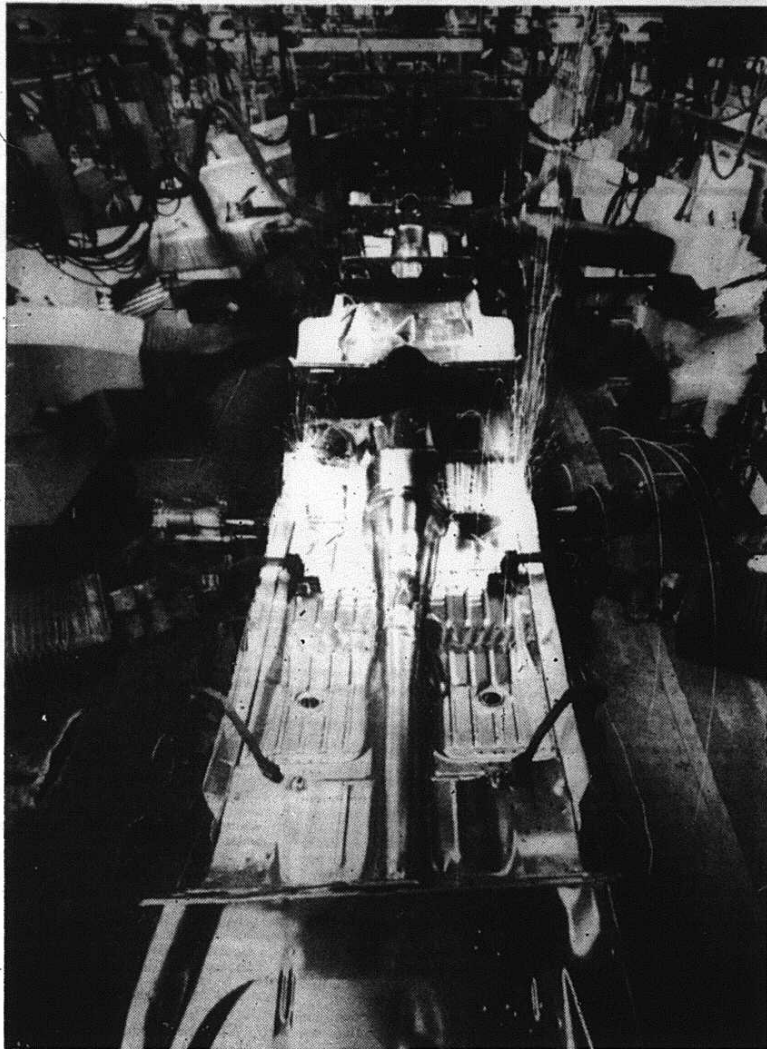
Kawasaki engineers in Japan have shown that present-day robots can put together complex assemblies of motors and gearboxes.

And in Japan a major program involving government, industry, and the universities is already committed to development of a prototype unmanned plant.

It will incorporate robot technology for the manufacture of machine-tool components to go into operation in the early 1980's.

## WHO BENEFITS?

All around the world highly automated and even partially self-reproducing plants are scheduled



Unimates. Spot-welding robots at the General Motors plant in Tarrytown, N.Y.

to be in operation in the next 15 years.

Investment in computer and robot research, begun in the forties, is now paying off. But who benefits?

Both the profits working people produce for the corporations, and our tax money have been paying for the development of all this automation.

But will we benefit with shorter work weeks, higher pay and easier, safer, more interesting work? Has automation meant that in the past?

The question is who controls the robots. If workers decided how they would be used, we'd be glad to have them around.

In a society run for human need robots could mean freedom from drudgery. But in a society run for profit, they mean instead real fear of the future. And the contradictions are far-reaching, as Gary Bryner, president of Local 1112, UAW, Lordstown, said to Studs Terkel in "Working":

"When they took the Unimates on, we were building 60an hour."

"When we came back to work, with the Unimates, we were building a hundred cars an hour."

"A Unimate is a welding robot. It looks just like a praying mantis."

"It goes from spot to spot to spot. It releases that thing and jumps back into position, ready for the next car."

"They go by them 110 an hour." He goes on, "They never tire,

they never sweat, they never complain, they never miss work. Of course, they don't buy cars..."

Can those of us who are displaced by robots expect to be treated any better than the blacks in Mississippi who were simply allowed to starve when machinery

was introduced to cultivate and pick cotton?

Technology has enormous potential for good or evil, freedom or repression, depending on who controls it. That's why we say, "Invest in your future, build workers' control." □

## WORKERS' POWER

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# WORKERS' POWER

## Detroit: Black Students Arrested, Harassed

# STOP RACIST ATTACKS

# AT DENBY HIGH

## NY Transit Talks Stalled As Deadline Nears

Five weeks of negotiations between the New York City Transit Authority and the Transport Workers Union have produced no progress.

The T.A. is holding firm to its position that state law mandates a wage freeze. The union is holding firm so far to its demands for a wage increase and cost of living improvements.

The T.A. is demanding major work rule changes which would increase productivity and cut transit workers' real wages.

These include extending the work day by one half hour, restricting overtime, and introducing part-timers.

There is speculation that the T.A. will grant a "deferred" wage increase in exchange for the productivity changes.

This means workers would be given a raise on the books, but would not receive it until some time in the future when the city is in good financial shape.

Last summer, the city forced the same rotten deal on other municipal unions with the promise that the sacrifices deman-

ded would buy peace for three years and save thousands of jobs.

### JOBS GONE

Six months later 38,000 jobs are gone permanently. The T.A. lost 2,800 jobs, six and a half percent of the total, by attrition.

The deficit that the city has to make up by 1978 in order to pay the deferred raises has soared from \$700 million to over a billion dollars.

Most workers know that money is gone forever.

And now Comptroller Harrison Goldin is warning that there may be more layoffs and a new default crisis by June.

It's clear that the strategy of appeasing the banks has not succeeded in saving jobs.

With the contract expiration only three weeks away it looks like there will be one of two things on March 31: A disastrous compromise with the T.A.'s demands. Or a strike for a decent contract. □

## A TRANSIT WORKER'S NIGHTMARE

At the East New York Bus Garage the impact of the TA's productivity squeeze is particularly heavy.

There, a high-level supervisor in charge of several garages recently moved his office right onto the floor of a shop where bus maintainers work.

He's in what used to be an employee lunch room. The workers now eat in a locker area next to the toilets.

Just in case this boss couldn't see well enough from his front row seat, a sort of lookout tower was built from which supervisors can see the entire floor.

And along with these architectural innovations comes speed up and harassment.

### WRITTEN UP

People are often written up for tiny infractions or nothing at all.

Sometimes a supervisor will arbitrarily dock a person an hour's pay, supposedly for not completing the job properly.

If you complain to the union officials too much, they try to quiet you down.

If that doesn't work you're soon singled out by management as someone to victimize. They look for things to write you up on.

Right now, not every place is as bad as the East New York shop. But if the TA has its way, this is the wave of the future. □

by Michael Long

Fighting between black and white students at Denby High School on Detroit's Northeast Side took place all last week.

Denby High School is in a predominantly white section of the city, but is one of the few high schools to be heavily changing by the city's busing plan.

The fighting between black and white students began after earlier confrontations had heated the situation. Several students were beaten up and one was shot. All of this meant that both black and white students were ready to fight.

However, the causes of the fighting go further back than the last week. It is well known that there has been a great deal of racist organizing at the school in the past.

To this day there is an organized KKK-style group of students backed up by their parents at the school.

And Denby High is also one of the strong points of Mothers Alert Detroit (MAD), the city's most well known racist organization.

### ARRESTS

The school administration may have been slow in dealing with the white racists at the school or the deteriorating conditions there, but they didn't hesitate to call in legions of cops to arrest mainly black students.

One day between 20 and 30 students were arrested. All of them are black.

Black students at the school know that from the racist students and parents to the police and administration, the cards are stacked against them.

Not everyone at the school is into race wars however. When Red Tide members leafleted the school and distributed the Red Tide newspaper, many students, both black and white, agreed that the fighting between students must end.

The Red Tide leaflet pointed out, "Race wars start because we have been segregated for so long. Otherwise we would know our real enemies are not our brothers and sisters at school, but the people responsible for the conditions here—the administration, the racists and the police."

"These are the people who run the schools as prisons and without any say of the students..."

"If the energy that some people put into fighting against equality were used instead for fighting for better schools for all, we would all have it a lot better."

The Red Tide is continuing to organize to bring both black and white students to end the fighting and to build a multi-racial struggle against the real problems in the school and against racism. □



HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

# UNITE!

## PLANT CHAIRMAN FIRED; UAW LOCAL IN UPROAR

by Floyd Bevins, UAW Local 898

Local 898 held a special membership meeting Sunday March 7, over the firing of plant chairman Bill Stephans.

Several hundred members showed up. From the outset it was obvious that the ranks were ready for some action. Stephans was given the floor first. He explained that he was attacked without provocation by a line foreman. He suffered bruises and a minor concussion in the melee.

Immediately, shouts of "Strike!" and demands for action roared through the hall.

Local president Art Garrigus was obviously shaken by the demands for a strike.

He ruled motion after motion out of order, in faithful obedience to the international reps who had been sent in to cool the situation.

### REINFORCEMENTS

Finally President Garrigus, exas-

perated and unable to control rising tempers, called in reinforcements. Two international reps, old hands at dampening workers' demands for action, took over the chair.

For the rest of the meeting these two bureaucrats denied every motion proposed from the floor.

All motions became either "illegal," "unconstitutional," "unacceptable," or "out of order."

Finally some flunky made a motion to adjourn. Amid shouts of "fraud" and "bastard" the meeting came to an end.

All is not lost. The most precious part has been saved. Workers who had never attended a union meeting in their lives are now acutely aware that the international bureaucrats are not taking care of our business.

The fact that we must begin to take care of business ourselves becomes more apparent daily. The rank and file movement is being born here and in a thousand other plants across the country. □