

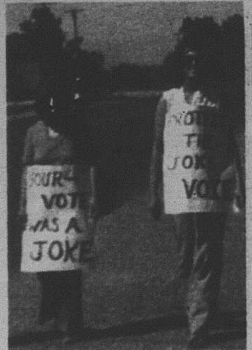
# WORKERS' POWER

ACQUISITIONS SECTION  
STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
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MADISON, WI 53706

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WEEKLY NEWSPAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS AUGUST 30, 1976 #173 15c



Wives of car haulers picket during a wildcat strike near Detroit.

## Car Haulers Reject Pact Second Time

For the second time, car haulers in the Central and Southern Conference of Teamsters have voted "no" on their contract. The vote against acceptance was overwhelming: 6400 to 3718. It was even a wider margin than the 5-4 rejection of the contract on the first vote.

Despite these figures, the International Union has declared the contract accepted. According to the Teamsters' Constitution, a two-thirds vote is needed to reject the employers' "final" offer.

Originally these results were to have been published July 29. The union delayed the announcement because, it claimed, a computer used on vote counting had broken down.

In fact, the delay was intentional. After the first contract offer was rejected, the negotiators made only a minor change before re-submitting it.

As they voted, car haulers were incensed. The sentiment against this contract has been strong enough to initiate four wildcat strikes.

If the International had announced this vote on July 29 and declared the contract accepted, they may easily have been faced with a nationwide strike.

This contract was one of the worst negotiated for car haulers in recent years. Teamster officials rammed it through on the strength of only 3718 affirmative votes, out of a membership of 18,000.

Duane Hammill

# FORD WORKERS - GET READY TO VOTE NO! A Sellout In The Making

On Tuesday, officials of the United Auto Workers (UAW) declared that Ford is the target company in 1976 auto contract talks. This means that 160,000 Ford hourly workers will walk off the job at midnight, September 14, unless some early settlement is reached.

This bargaining year has seen record auto company profits—while auto workers are still bruised from the worst layoffs in UAW history.

### NO DEBATE

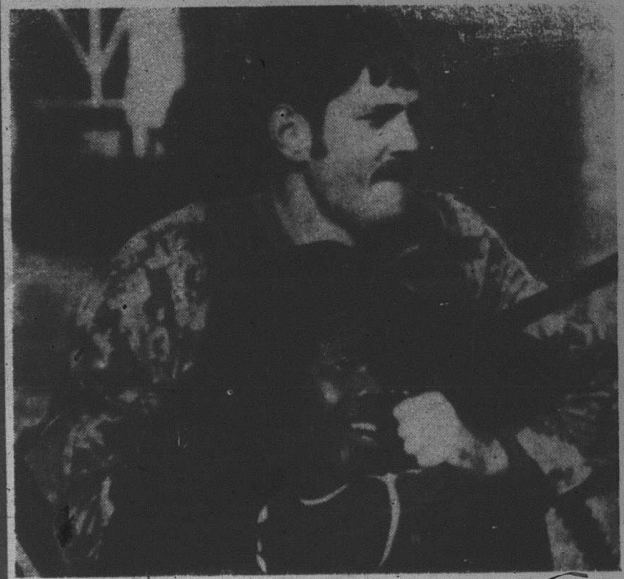
But in these contract talks, UAW leaders aren't debating the new demands the membership needs. Instead, they are arguing over how much management is going to take away.

UAW President Leonard Woodcock and the UAW's top Ford negotiator, Ken Bannon, hope this debate will soften up the membership and prepare them to accept a rotten contract.

The only way auto workers will win any of the things they need is to get ready now, to reject the first settlement and send Bannon and Woodcock back to the table for more.

For more coverage, see page 3.

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## SOWETO'S STRUGGLE WILL WIN!

A massive strike by black workers in Soweto shut down over half the industry in Johannesburg, South Africa this week.

The police and the racist government of South Africa have turned to a new—and very old—tactic to try to smash the strike wave. They are encouraging and organizing some groups of blacks to fight and kill others.

That's what is behind the fighting that made headlines the last few days, when Zulu tribesmen organized as strike-breaking vigilantes attacked other workers in Soweto.

The white racist regime knows that, by itself, it doesn't have the numbers or the power to keep African workers down. The white rulers use every possible geographical and tribal division to keep blacks divided.

### MANDATORY SCABBING

The government and the employers told Zulu workers that unless they smashed the strike, they would lose their wages. They might also lose their jobs—and be deported.

The police are taking advantage of the fact that many of the Zulu are migrant workers, who have come from the countryside. The current wave of

black revolt began in the townships, and has not yet spread to the most rural workers in the mines and "homelands".

Because of these divisions, several dozen more people were killed in Soweto this week. Strike-breaking gangs attacked the strikers, broke into their homes and kidnapped men, women and children.

### WON'T WORK

This tactic—using blacks to fight each other—has been used before. It was used in Angola by Portuguese colonists and the U.S. government.

But in Angola, workers organized to overcome tribal divisions and won independence. It will fail, too, in South Africa.

The revolt in South Africa has just begun. As it continues it will gain strength, organization and unity. It will not be long before the urban and rural workers are fighting together against their common enemy—the South African apartheid, capitalist slave system.

And it won't be long before they tear that system down.

(For more coverage on the strike wave in South Africa, see page 4)

# THE DEADLY GAME IN KOREA

## 23 Years Of U.S. Occupation

by Dan Poson

B-52 strategic bombers from Guam, F-4 Phantom and F-11 fighter bombers screamed overhead.

U.S. helicopter gunships swarmed around as three hundred U.S. and South Korean troops moved into position, in full combat readiness. The aircraft carrier Midway steamed from Japan at full speed toward Korgan waters.

All this happened last Saturday, on the dividing line between North and South Korea, in the so-called "demilitarized zone."

What was this massive show of air strength and firepower there for?

We cannot tell a lie. They were sent to cut down a tree.

### ANOTHER "INCIDENT"

This incident, of course, began with the fight when two U.S. military officers, and reportedly



Korea's "demilitarized zone": It's always a game of "chicken," but what happens if they start playing for keeps?

two or three North Korean soldiers, died in a pitched battle fought with metal axes and clubs.

Who really attacked whom, or what actually happened, can't be figured out from the propaganda line put out by the State Department. But that isn't what really matters anyway.

Flare-ups have been going on ever since the all-out shooting

stopped in Korea 23 years ago. This time, there were some soldiers killed. It will happen again.

There are over 40,000 American troops stationed in Korea. Those in the so-called "demilitarized zone" know they are dead ducks if a serious shooting war explodes again.

They are there to protect the regime of South Korea. Even by the standards of pro-U.S. capitalist

dictatorships around the world, Chung Hee Park's government is among the most brutal to be found anywhere.

There is no organized revolutionary opposition in South Korea today. But even the mildest liberal or moderate critics of the regime are routinely seized, tortured, tried and thrown in prison, for 10, 15, or 30 years.

A quarter century ago, the U.S.

got United Nations approval to send U.S. troops to Korea.

Washington's aim was to make Korea a U.S. military colony.

### DEADLY GAME

Before they could succeed, they were confronted by the power of Russia and China—who wanted Korea as an outpost for Stalinist imperialism.

The people of Korea; were never given a chance to say whether they wanted their country carved up. They were slaughtered by the millions. The war ended in a bloody stalemate, with Korea divided into two small states armed to the teeth against each other.

Today Korea is still divided. The South is still occupied by American troops. Jimmy Carter quickly endorsed Gerald Ford's show of strength to keep them there.

It's very unlikely that this particular incident will lead to more escalation or a new war, right now. Nobody seems to want it.

The fight that left the American officers dead occurred right in the middle of the Republican convention. But neither Ford's or Reagan's faction seemed to want to mention it.

Even the hard-core Reaganites seemed to understand that while it's safe to mouth off about the Panama Canal, risking a new shooting war in Korea is a little too close to getting serious.

The point is that as long as U.S. troops remain in Korea, with the fighter planes to supply the show of muscle behind them, they could light the spark that just might mean World War III.

Twenty-three years after its brutal adventure in Korea supposedly ended, the U.S. government is still playing games of "chicken" with the fate of Asia and the people of the world.

## labor notes

by Jim Woodward

A Canadian office workers' union in Vancouver has won International Women's Day (March 8) as a holiday for its members at a government agency. Other women's issues won by the union include abolition of dress codes, domestic crisis leaves, and paternity leaves. And employees may now refuse to run personal errands for their boss.

Reserve Mining Co. is still looking for ways to continue polluting Lake Superior with asbestos waste material. The wastes may cause cancer in those who drink water from the lake. Reserve had been closed down for a brief period when it did not comply with a federal judge's orders to stop the pollution. The government since asked the National Academy of Science to do a study on whether Reserve's asbestos wastes are a health hazard. Wisconsin Congressman David Obey has just released information that Reserve Mining has infiltrated the NAS group doing the study, and has been receiving confidential information about the study. Cheaper than cleaning up their pollution.

In Kentucky, the mine owners don't need to stoop to such clandestine tactics. The government does it for them. Even after the Scotia mine disaster which left 26 dead, the Interior Department is disciplining one of its administrative law judges, Joseph Kennedy for assessing safety violation penalties against the Harlan No. 4 coal company. The company had been cited with 1600 safety violations when Kennedy acted. Thirteen other Interior Department judges have joined Kennedy in appealing the disciplinary action to Interior Secretary Thomas Kleppe.

What's happening where you work? Send items for this column to: Labor Notes, Workers' Power, 14131 Woodward Ave., Highland Park, MI 48203. Or phone 313-869-5964.



# Mercenary, Beware!

**HARD TIMES** have hit the mercenary recruitment market. In fact, it looks like the bottom may be falling out of a whole sector of the hired killer trade.

One of the mail-order "information services" for would-be mercenaries is the "Renzi Investigative Service." Recently, Workers' Power obtained and printed copies of letters sent out by Mr. Frank Renzi. He was advertising openings for mercenaries to fight for pro-U.S. forces in Angola, and for the white racist minority regime in Zimbabwe (Rhodesia).

Now we've got hold of another letter from this character. This time, it looks like Mr. Renzi is packing up to leave town, one step ahead of the Feds.

What happened is that a bunch of U.S. and British mercenaries in Angola were caught. The new Angolan government put 13 of them on trial. Four were shot as a warning to others who might be tempted to come kill Africans for money. It's just too bad they couldn't get hold of Mr. Renzi and put him on trial.

Workers' Power supported these sentences, because we said it would slow down mercenary recruiting for other wars. As you can see, we were right. The publicity has been so bad for the U.S. Government that it's being forced to make noises about stopping this kind of recruitment. So Mr. Frank Renzi, and we hope others like him, are going out of business.

Things are tough all over, Frank.

RENZI INVESTIGATIVE SERVICE THOROUGH INQUIRY AND RESEARCH

JUNE 15, 1976

Please forgive me if this information has been delayed. I am under pressure from many fronts and must discontinue this service as soon as possible.

The Rhodesian situation is deteriorating. In addition to the Black nations allied against them, they face the spectre of elite Cuban troops, Russian tanks, rockets, air power, and advisors.

The Rhodesian economy is weakening. The United States is enforcing an economic boycott against them. Some U.S. lawmakers feel we should be giving vast financial support to Rhodesia's enemies. Pretty dim situation overall.

Furthermore, the U.S. government does not want you there. American mercenaries were captured in the Angolan fiasco and are still being held. Our government considers the presence of Americans in African conflicts to be an embarrassment. If you did go, you might face prosecution by the Justice Dept., as I do.

I must strongly advise you against becoming involved.

I will furnish no additional information, and all past information is obsolete.

If you find this information unsatisfactory in any way, return it to me for a full refund.

Good luck in all future endeavors.

SINCERELY,

Frank Renzi

### Workers' Power 173

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Announcing the strike target: Doug Fraser, Ken Bannon, Leonard Woodcock, Irving Bluestone.

# UAW Leaders Plan Defeat

by Elissa Clarke

**DETROIT**—At a press conference at Solidarity House here, Leonard Woodcock, president of the United Auto Workers (UAW), announced that the Ford Motor Co. will be the strike target in this year's negotiations.

The announcement was no surprise. The union traditionally rotates among the Big Three auto companies every time contract negotiations come up.

Woodcock said, "Since we have not been to Ford in nine years and since that section of our union has developed many of the pioneering principles, there had to be in my opinion a compelling reason why we should bypass Ford."

Woodcock said that the key issues are "job and income security."

## "BANKING"

Unfortunately, the "pioneering principles" mentioned by Woodcock probably refer to the "Bannon Banking Plan." Bannon is head of the union's Ford division. The Banking Plan is a scheme that ties extra time off to good attendance.

Because the Ford target was chosen, it means that the union will try to satisfy the rank and file's demand for a shorter work week with some variation of the Banking

Plan. For auto-workers, the key issues this year are job security and cost-of-living on the pension. Many rank and file militants have suggested that the union go after a short work week in order to spread the jobs around.

The leadership of the UAW has flatly refused to negotiate on any improvements in the pension plan. They claim their hands are tied because they signed an agreement until 1979. In the Detroit Free Press, it was speculated that the UAW will go after "something extra" for retirees. This refers to a cash payment that is supposed to

replace them. The union will probably go after some restructuring of the Supplemental Unemployment Benefits (SUB) Fund. SUB is supposed to give auto workers a guaranteed income if they are laid off.

However, during the energy crisis layoffs, auto workers learned different. When the SUB Fund ran out at Chrysler and GM, that was that.

## STRONG ARGUMENT

Ford has a strong argument that its SUB Fund needs no restructuring. During the energy crisis, the Ford SUB Fund did not exhaust itself, and workers continued to receive benefits.

The union's strategy for the '76 contract can be characterized by one word: caution. It's obvious that the union leadership does not want to strike. They want to placate the ranks, and that is all.

The story is different for the corporations. They are on the offensive. If the union leadership fulfills its wish to remain "flexible" and avoid a strike, auto workers may find themselves with worse working conditions in the new contract.

For Ford, the key demand will probably be an end to restrictions on overtime. In 1973, the union won limited restrictions on the amount of overtime the companies could force on employees as part of the pattern settlement at Chrysler.

To auto workers, the restrictions on overtime are a joke because there are so many loopholes. But apparently not enough for Ford. The corporation complains that it "depends on overtime work" more than GM or Chrysler, and the restrictions cost them large amounts of production. Auto workers better keep an eye on this area.

If auto workers let the companies and the union continue with their plans, the '76 contract will be the same old story—rotten.

Don't wait to hear your local officials say, "Well, you can't win everything in one contract..."

**Auto workers: Get it while you can!**

# United Action Framed CWA 1101: A FRAUD OF A TRIAL

**NEW YORK CITY**—Four members of the United Action caucus of Local 1101, Communications Workers of America, were found guilty last week of charges of fraud and misrepresentation.

They were tried and convicted by the local union jury that the president of Local 1101 had publicly stated would be prejudiced against them.

These convictions are just one more attempt by that president, Ed Dempsey, and his political machine to abolish any and all political opponents from 1101. It is also part of a national attack against United Action, co-ordinated by the CWA International.

The union's charges against George Feldman, Brent Kramer, Ilene Winkler and George Wilson, stemmed from a raffle held by United Action last year.

Raffle tickets imprinted with the name "United Action of Local 1101, CWA," were sold to raise money to send a United Action member to observe the CWA International Convention in Los Angeles last June.

## DESERVE REPRESENTATION

Earlier in the Spring, United Action's slate for the convention delegates' election won 30% of the vote. The caucus felt that 30% deserved some representation at the convention. The raffle raised enough to send one observer.

The size of the UA vote obviously put a scare into the Dempsey machine because they immediately

There was no fraud. Several leaflets and UA bulletins advertised the raffle and its purpose. In fact, however, at the trial the prosecution could not produce a single witness who claimed he was misled.



Ilene Winkler

Unable to prove a case of fraud or misrepresentation against United Action, the Local's prosecution fell back on the feeble argument that the caucus name, "United Action of Local 1101, CWA," was itself fraud.

The conviction was a foregone conclusion. Members of the local trial jury are appointed and removed at the will of the incumbent Executive Board. Any juror who voted against Dempsey would soon find himself on the outs.

## PREJUDICED JURY

The prejudice of the trial jury is so completely acknowledged that President Dempsey himself had stated before dozens of witnesses that a United Action member could not receive a fair hearing before it. Dempsey also admitted that the appeal before the Executive Board could not be fair either.

The Dempsey machine's attempt to deny United Action the use of the name of Local 1101 is an attack on all political opponents. Dempsey is saying that disagreement with the leadership's politics, eliminates the right to claim union membership.

Much the same argument was made by Nixon and his kind when they said that those who dissented from the Vietnam war were not real Americans.

The penalty assessed against United Action was that all monies collected in the raffle must be refunded or the four persons charged would be suspended from the union for five years. The verdict, of course, will be appealed before the Local 1101 Executive Board.

George Allkar



George Feldman

took offense at the name "United Action of Local 1101, CWA," even though the caucus had used it several times before. They charged that United Action had misled people to believe that the money raised was going to the Local.

# U.S. Spends \$2 Million For Racist Roundup

by Byron Gray

On July 21, the U.S. government began an experimental airlift program designed to deport 20,000 Mexicans by the end of September. The \$2 million program is an attempt to rid this country of all undocumented Mexican workers.

Two million dollars used to shovel up masses of desperate men, women, and children, and dump them off in the middle of Mexico with nothing.

The airlift program will deport Mexicans to the interior of Mexico, thus preventing them from again crossing the U.S. border.

## SMALL CATCH

However, there's a small catch here. The money is designed to pay the airfare to get Mexicans out of the country. Thousands of people will be dropped off in the middle of Mexico miles and miles from their homes and families without money.

In addition, the U.S. Supreme Court has conveniently ruled the re-establishment of border traffic checkpoints. This ruling—previously ruled inhumane and unconstitutional—will allow border patrols to check all cars for Mexicans without papers that permit them to work in the U.S. Anyone who appears to be Mexican can be harassed without question and immediately taken into custody.

This new program will also allow authorities to step up their victimization of Mexicans in the urban communities of the Southwest. In Santa Ana, Calif. the police department considers being poor "reasonable cause" for interrogating Mexicans.

A police memo states that living in substandard housing or working for meager wages is sufficient reason to believe that a Mexican is in the U.S. illegally. Many times people are deported because they do not have their papers on them at

the time they are picked up.

Mexicans are forced to come to this country to find work. The unemployment rate in Mexico is 50% and wages are incredibly low. Therefore, many Mexicans are willing to take the chance of attempting to move to the U.S., or sneaking in, to supply this country with its cheapest labor force.

Ordinarily, the U.S. welcomes workers from Mexico. They can be worked 12 to 16 hours a day at as low as \$1/hour. They have been forced to undermine the organizing drives of the United Farm Workers as strikebreakers. And if these people attempt to organize themselves or fight for better living conditions, they face deportation to Mexico where there is absolutely no hope.

However, presently the unemployment rate of U.S. citizens in the Southwest is nearly 10%, and the U.S. has no room or need for any "undocumented" workers.

# "NO TO APARTHEID - WE WILL NOT GET ON!"

by Dan Posen

"Azikwelwao"—"We Will Not Get On."

That's the name of the campaign that shut down well over half the industrial plants in Johannesburg, South Africa this week.

The student revolt that hit Soweto township in June has grown into a struggle to cut off black labor supply to the white cities' economy.

After just two months, South African workers are now the central force in this uprising. The outlawed African National Congress (ANC), the largest underground organization of black South Africans, is now apparently the main organization behind the strike movement.

The movement is centered in the townships around Johannesburg.

The new "Azikwelwao" campaign was called after another week of black revolts and police massacres all over South Africa.

In Cape Town, police under "shoot to kill" orders murdered at least 30 blacks. In Port Elizabeth, blacks who were trying to close down four factories were gunned down by police. According to the official figures, 14 were killed.

## BOSSSES' STRATEGY

After weeks of silence, the white industrialists and mine owners are advising the fascist government how to respond to black demands.

The industrialists call for a "modified" form of apartheid (segregated, white-supremacist) rule. They want the government to create a loyal black middle class, to allow blacks to buy their own homes in the townships, and to allow black workers some access to skilled jobs.

The factory owners think this would stop the spread of the black revolution and create more stable conditions.

But despite their minor reform schemes, the employers' main interest is protecting profits. As the strikes spread, they have turned to even more ferocious brutality to smash them.

Workers who fail to show up for work, for any reason, are now being deprived of their starvation wages. The employers, the police and the government are openly calling for gangs of vigilantes to arm themselves.

They encourage "those who want to work" to murder strikers and strike supporters in the townships.

There is no doubt that the bosses and the white rulers are offering money and weapons to anyone in the black townships who will try to smash the strike.

The whites realize that their only chance to stop the strike wave is to break the unity of the black workers, students and townspeople. Their only hope to keep their wealth and power lies in persuading some blacks to kill others.

## NEW LEADERS

Every day this strike wave continues drives another nail into South Africa's racist, capitalist slave system. The confidence of the

apartheid government and its white supporters is slowly starting to crumble.

The old leaders of the black resistance movement have all been rounded up and jailed. But new leaders, tens of thousands of them, are emerging on the barricades

that block the buses and trains to Johannesburg.

Hundreds of them have already died under machine-gun fire. Thousands more are in jail. But neither police terror, nor the "liberal" employers' programs for reforming the apartheid system,

can stop this movement.

ANC leader Oliver Tambo stated when he spoke at a press conference in Britain two weeks ago:

"It is no longer a question of improved education, improved facilities in Soweto or anything like that. The demand is now for the

total transfer of power."

The "total transfer of power" to the black majority in South Africa means smashing the capitalist state machine that gives the white ruling class its power. The only answer to apartheid in South Africa is the black working class revolution. □



Nothing can stop black South Africans fighting for freedom.

# THIS IS JOHANNESBURG...

by Oliver Duke, who left South Africa last year.

Johannesburg, South Africa, where I lived for four years until last December, is a divided city—divided between rich and poor, oppressors and oppressed, exploiters and exploited.

White life is wine and dining, expensive movies, luxury theaters, fast cars and endless partying.

At a downtown movie I saw hundreds of expensively-dressed whites, dripping with diamonds, dressed in slick-cut suits and hand-made shoes.

They were all going their damndest to avoid tripping over a blind, legless beggar lying on the pavement near the entrance.

The whites' biggest worry is how many servants they can get at the lowest price. The servant, called "boy" or "girl," is a multi-purpose

commodity. It shops, cleans, cooks, takes the dog for walks, looks after the children, polishes master's shoes and makes sure that madam gets her four o'clock tea on time.

From the age of six, most city blacks have some sort of "job"—begging to support the family income, or selling weekend newspapers into the early hours.

## GRANTED

The sight of a "picanniny," swollen with malnutrition, selling Sunday newspapers late into Saturday night and Sunday morning, is taken for granted by whites. And heaven help the poor little devil if he gives the wrong change.

"Home-life" for the blacks is an unimaginable horror. I drove into Alexandra, the black township which borders the Johannesburg suburbs, and found rows of houses demolished.

The reason was that the government wants to "discourage" Africans from living too close to the white suburbs. Besides simply pulling down black people's houses, they also cut off garbage collection, leaving rows of rat-infested trash in the streets.

Few houses have running water and even fewer have electricity. There are no paved roads, no street lighting, and when the air is still, log fires and dust reduce visibility to a few yards.

Every day there is some incident, some sight, some experience which reminds you of the realities of South Africa. You don't have to look past the end of your nose.

Most whites can't even see that far. □

# WILL NAMIBIA BE KISSINGER'S NEXT DEAL?

by Paul Irish

Namibia, the large colony of South Africa, has become the next focus of Henry Kissinger's attempts to protect stable profits for U.S. corporations. His method is to install "moderate" black leaders in place of the white minority rulers.

South Africa took over the territory (called South West Africa by the whites) from the Germans after World War I. It proceeded to institute its own apartheid policies. Even the United Nations decisions that the racists have no "legal" right to run the country. But Kissinger, as usual, is looking to South Africa for the "solution" to the problem.

## CONFERENCE

South Africa organized a "constitutional conference" in Namibia last year to work out the deal. It brought together its paid stooges, the tribal chiefs, to represent the "different ethnic and linguistic groups." The whites, however, (who come from many European countries and speak at least three separate languages) were considered to be one "tribe."

The latest proposal: Namibia should be "independent" by the

end of 1978, with a black chief as honorary President and a white as the prime minister! South Africa would still run the army and all the vicious laws of apartheid would still be on the books.

The black majority in Namibia totally reject these proposals. It is no wonder that thousands have crossed over into Angola to join the liberation army of SWAPO and fight for their country. South African troops are killed every day by landmines and rifles.

Namibia is wealthy in minerals: copper, diamonds and uranium. Yet African miners are paid only \$40 a month. They work on 18-month slave-labor contracts, and are allowed to see their wives and families once every year and a half. They live in compounds, twelve men to a tiny cubicle.

Namibia is also one of the world's greatest fishing areas, with lobsters, sardines and other varieties. Yet half the African children in the tribal reservations die before the age of five, most from starvation and malnutrition diseases.

## U.S. CONNECTIONS

U.S. corporations are a large part of the picture. Without them, the

whites couldn't have built their racist system, with servants and swimming pools.

Newmont Mining and AMAX own the largest copper mine in Namibia. Andrew Hatcher, a black American who was assistant press secretary for President Kennedy, used to work for Newmont Mining. He is now paid by the South African government to do public relations for apartheid.

After overfishing the California shore, Del Monte now gets most of its sardines from Namibia, and Star Kist and other food giants buy their fishmeal for cat food from Namibia. All these goods are transported on shipping lines subsidized with U.S. tax dollars.

Kissinger wants to keep business as usual in Africa with his deals. But the people have another answer.

In 1973, Namibian workers went on a nationwide strike that crippled industry and shook the foundations of the racist regime. Hundreds of SWAPO leaders are in prison, rounded up and tortured. But new leadership grows to replace it in the fight to liberate Namibia.

The people have stopped looking to the U.N. to free them. They are their own liberators. □



# JUANITA TYLER SPEAKS

ON JULY 24, 1500 PEOPLE MARCHED in New Orleans, Louisiana demanding the freedom of Gary Tyler, imprisoned on Death Row at Angola State Prison. Since Gary's arrest, almost two years ago, the backbone and the heart of the fight to free him has been his mother, Juanita Tyler.

The day after the march, Mrs. Tyler was interviewed by Workers Power reporters MARILYN DANTON and BOBBI HARRISON. She described the growth of the movement to free Gary, from a family effort to one that now includes thousands of people in dozens of cities. She talked of the bitter battles she, and others, had to wage against the police, the courts, the Ku Klux Klan, and how this has changed her outlook on life.

And she movingly describes what the fight to free her son has come to mean to her—a struggle to free all people unjustly held in the prisons of a racist, corrupt society.

**"You think I would stop? As soon as my son is free? And I'm just realizing what's happening! Oh no, no! The only way Mrs. Tyler will stop is to be dead.**

**"But as long as I got breath in my body, and I can walk and feel, if I'm blind I'm going to try to tell somebody, 'I can't see, but y'all push on.' Do not let it down. This is really just the beginning."**

For Mrs. Tyler, the first warning of the battle her son would face came with the end of segregated schools in Destrehan, Louisiana.

"I never heard tell of my kids being suspended until the schools started getting integrated. Well, everytime I looked around one got suspended.

"I'd get mad at him and beat him, because I figured he had to be doing something. He would always say 'The white boy hit me, and I hit him back.' I say, 'You lying, they wouldn't suspend you for that.'

"You see, I didn't know really. I thought grown people felt as me. I wouldn't have done their little white kid like that. I just had a feeling that grown people, all black

and white, wouldn't tell a lie on a child.

"But I found out."

The way she found out was when a mob of white racists rioted against school integration. They attacked a busload of black students. A shot rang out—most likely fired at the bus.

A white student fell dead. And a black had to pay the price with his own blood. Gary Tyler was picked as the scapegoat.

Mrs. Tyler recalled the night her son was arrested:

"I looked and saw men old enough to be my father, dragging my 16-year-old, dragging him by his pants and his neck. Then I saw everybody was not alike.



Juanita Tyler and her son Terry

"And they beat him and they kicked him in his private. Made him pull his pants down, while one kicked him in his private, and another kicked him in his backside. Wants to see how a nigger's dick looks. I knew then everybody was not alike. And that was a shock to me.

"And Gary said, 'Madia [mother], Madia, they been beating me. Get some help, they're going to kill me!'"

"Now you hear a child just sixteen years old saying that, you wonder. You see how they're dragging him, maybe they are going to kill him.

## COPS ALL THE SAME

"I look around, later on that night, at a black officer. They were back there beating my child and I looked at him, thought he would say something. And he just coked his feet up on the desk.

"I just didn't know what to think. I just left to go get some help.

"He was the one who gave the white ones the thing to whip my son with."

Gary was framed through a racist trial, convicted by an all-white jury and sentenced to die by electrocution. But the Tyler family would not quit their efforts to expose the rail-roading of their son and

brother.

Among their enemies in this battle was the Ku Klux Klan—threats, harassment, intimidation. After one fund-raising event, a Tyler supporter was gunned down on the streets of New Orleans.

And all along, the KKK had the cooperation of the police and the local politicians.

"When I really got to know the Klan, this is what I got to know: that they walk around in different disguises every day. A lot of people don't understand today, but the Klansmen are really part of the officials and policemen.

"So right there they are all the Klan: to me that's the way I look at it. It's to keep the money their way, and keep the poor people down. That's the only thing I can figure that they are doing."

When Louisiana's death penalty was declared illegal, Gary was eventually moved from Angola to St. Charles Parish Jail in Convent, Louisiana.

But by then the long struggle had taken on a special significance for Mrs. Tyler. And her son is still not free.

"When I looked at the hundreds of people at the demonstration I just wanted to holler: 'Come on, my children, come on.' Because before I couldn't get one person—and now

I'm looking at hundreds of people that know Gary's fate."

"Don't think that Gary was only one example. He's just the tip off. Them peoples has been putting peoples up under the same pressure for years, and if people don't fight they're going to continue.

"And they're getting rougher, because they see you are getting wise and more people are trying to fight back! So they grab somebody and sling him back and say, 'You better be quiet because this is what's going to happen to you.'"



## 80 Rally for Gary Tyler

DETROIT—Eighty people attended a picnic sponsored by Women Against Racism here on August 21. A drawing for the raffle held by Women Against Racism took place at the picnic. The raffle raised funds for Gary Tyler's legal defense.

Members and friends of Women Against Racism sold 650 tickets. The proceeds from the raffle were sent to the National Gary Tyler Defense Committee in Louisiana.

Mrs. Tyler thanked the group for raising money for her son. She said, "That's great. Thanks so much!"

Jeanne Gross, a member of the Women Against Racism steering committee, commented, "This picnic is proof that blacks and whites can live together, and work together to end racism."

A rally was held at the picnic where people were updated on the latest news of Gary's case and on the activities of Women Against Racism.

Muriel Murray explained that Women Against Racism is a group of black and white women that formed to defend school busing. She said the group got involved in the Gary Tyler case because they were eager to combat racism in the courts as well as the schools.

Afterwards, people enjoyed barbecue and recreation, including volleyball.

## Mailhandlers Meet In Disneyland

The Mailhandlers Conference convened August 15 in Disneyland. It was an appropriate site, as many of the delegates seemed to have more fun than business on their minds.

The Mailhandlers are a division of the Laborers' International Union (LIUNA). Much of the conference was occupied by a power struggle between LIUNA officials and the Mailhandlers National Director, Lonnie Johnson.

An important session on contract administration never happened, and the uniform Local Constitution remained unamended as the Conference fell behind schedule.

Mailhandlers officials did pass two important resolutions: support legislation providing the right to strike, and a union shop. But

winning these takes massive direct action—no one in labor history got these rights by asking for them.

Lonnie Johnson proposed a 150% increase in Mailhandlers' officers salary, more power in appointing officials, and autonomy in negotiating the contract (which is presently negotiated by LIUNA). LIUNA opposed these demands—not out of consideration for the rank and file, but rather: "If other divisions don't have these powers, you don't get them either."

Mailhandlers officials gave in when LIUNA threatened to withdraw their legal counsel.

### RIGHT TO RATIFY

For rank and file Mailhandlers, the most important resolution was their right to ratify the next

**UPCOMING  
GARY TYLER EVENTS**

- **CLEVELAND**—Benefit picnic and raffle. August 29, 1:00. Woodhill Park, East Blvd and Kinsman.
- **SPEAKING TOUR**— Mrs. Juanita Tyler will be doing a speaking tour in September for the local Gary Tyler Committees. Watch for date and time in your city.

**WRITE TO GARY**

Gary Tyler has been moved off Death Row. Supporters can write to him at: St. James Parish Jail, Convent, Louisiana.

contract, and that their ratification be binding on the negotiators. This resolution passed unanimously.

Even this resolution may possibly be overridden by the deal reached between Mailhandlers and LIUNA officials, giving LIUNA General President Fasco authority to "set the procedure" for contract ratification.

The strength of rank and file Mailhandlers was conspicuously absent, and forgotten by the officials at this conference. But pickets and rallies are springing up across the country.

Mailhandlers in Philadelphia already led a successful walkout that won 40 new people hired, and no reprisals. That is the strength that will win the right to vote on the contract—and a better contract to boot.

# 400 March For Open Housing In Chicago

"Chicago, Soweto,  
"We Will Win!  
"America, South Africa—  
"We Will Win!"

That was one of the spirited chants of over 400 people as they marched on Chicago's south side August 21. They were protesting segregated housing and a wave of racist terror against black people.

The march was led by the Martin Luther King, Jr. Movement, a group of ministers who have organized repeated marches for open housing in the southwest community of Marquette Park.

An earlier march of 150 people on July 17 was attacked by a screaming mob of over 1000 brick-throwing racists on 71st Street at Western Avenue. This time, the anti-racist marchers were better organized, and they wore helmets and heavy clothing for protection in the 90° Chicago heat.

But the open-housing marchers were stopped short of their goal of Marquette Park. The Police Department, the Daley machine and the local press saw to that.

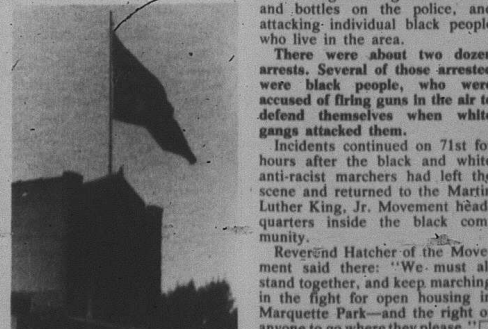
## HEAVY PRESSURE

The Daley machine organized heavily to stop this march. Police went door-to-door in the black West Engelwood community, bordering Marquette Park, telling people not to attend.

The American Nazi Party, which has organized a mob of white gangs and racist thugs at the eastern edge

Chicago, 1976

## The Alternative To Fighting Racism Is Clear...



Marching towards Marquette Park.

of Marquette Park, were allowed to ride through the black community in a sound truck, blaring out "Niggers Beware. Don't come to the march."

Prominent black leader Jesse Jackson, director of the 7000-member PUSH (People United to Save Humanity) organization, didn't exactly say he opposed the march. He simply claimed he was too busy to help build for it.

However, Jesse Jackson could easily have encouraged PUSH members to support and join this march. He didn't—because Jackson has made political peace with the Daley machine, and wants no part of a militant struggle against it at this time.

Finally, the city government used its control of the courts to deny the marchers a parade permit. The previous march had received a permit only when a federal court ordered the city to

issue one.

This time, a "Children's Olympics" was scheduled for Marquette Park to give the U.S. Court an excuse to uphold Daley's ban on the march. (What really occurred was a mob of white racists, drinking heavily, preparing for a murderous assault on the open housing march.)

The morning newspaper headlines screamed "Permit Denied" trying to give people the message to stay home.

## POLICE MASSED

The march showed off about 1:00 pm. after a brief rally at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Movement headquarters.

Without a permit, the marchers were forced by the police to walk, single file, on the sidewalk. Walking into Marquette Park that way would be suicide.

# EDITORIAL

The August 21 march of 400 in the Southwest Chicago community of West Engelwood was the largest and most spirited of a series of marches that began last June. In recent months, black people in the Marquette Park area have been beaten and stabbed and their homes attacked by white racists. When a small group of black ministers, called the Martin Luther King Jr. Movement, began to march into the area in protest, they were met by Nazis and the Klan.

But the racist terror is not the work of a hard core of Klansmen alone. Police have done nothing to protect the non-violent marchers.

Radio and TV aired announcements that the August 21 march was illegal and would be stopped. This was an effort to frighten people from joining the march. No such threats were made against the Nazis and the Klan, who were also mobilizing.

Finally, the policies of Chicago's Mayor Daley and the Democratic Party machine have enforced segregation in Chicago, intensifying racial tension.

Mayor Daley is not alone. Politicians of both the Democratic and Republican Parties are not even pretending to offer anything to black people any more.

No longer can those who oppose racism hope to fight it by working with Democratic and Republican politicians. A new movement, independent of them, must be built. The ministers of the MLK Jr. Movement had the courage to begin. They could not get support from civil rights leaders of the past. Jesse Jackson of PUSH, James W. Compton of the Urban League refused to lend support—they have made peace with the Democratic Party. It is a peace that will let racist violence grow.

The MLK Jr. Movement got support from the community. But much of it has been sympathetic, not active support. Why? The MLK Jr. Movement has broken with civil rights leaders who rely on the Democratic Party, but not with the old civil rights tactic of non-violent marches. Each time they have marched they have met a large mob of armed racists whom the police and the city stop. Instead, the marchers turn away.

The Red Tide, youth section of the I.S., were the most dynamic and active builders of the march. But the Red Tide activists understand that it isn't enough just to protest the growing racist offensive. It must be fought and defeated. The starting point for such a movement is building a strong base in the black community, with a leadership that is tough and trusted.

The second task is to show white working people that racism is no answer for their problems. The same politicians who have nothing to offer black people, have nothing to offer white working class people either. The racists are organizing to offer whites the illusion that they will get ahead by fighting black people. This is the oldest con game in U.S. history.

The I.S. and the Red Tide are organizing to stop the Nazis and the KKK, to break these illusions, and to build an integrated movement that can fight for the jobs, housing, decent schools that are being stolen from all working class people by the rich.

These marches are a good beginning. They proved there are a small number ready to fight racism. But the way forward is to build those small numbers into masses, through organizing in the community by a militant leadership. There can be no concessions to racism from the KKK or "respectable" Democrats.

At 71st and Damen, about half a mile east of the "dividing line," a line of police massed to stop the march. Police Patrol Deputy Pepp announced that the marchers (still single file on the sidewalk) were blocking traffic!

"You failed to keep the march orderly," claimed Pepp. "I'm stopping the march here."

This was obviously a pre-planned police move. Three city blocks away, behind another massive police line, 2000 hard-core racists were assembled with "White Power" and swastika T-shirts.

They had cartons of gasoline, acid and plastic explosives. They

were chanting over a megaphone, "Bring Us Some Niggers," This time they intended to kill.

The police had not dispersed them for being "disorderly."

The Chicago Police and Mayor Daley have no intention of protecting a movement for open housing and an end to Nazi terror of blacks. They proved that on July 17, when eight off-duty police were seen in the mob throwing bricks and bottles.

After the role of the police in that battle was exposed, there was no way they were going to allow a confrontation this time.

## SHOOTING

As the racists heard the open-housing march was being stopped, they tried to surge east on 71st to go on the attack. Some of the angry whites began using their stones and bottles on the police, and attacking individual black people who live in the area.

There were about two dozen arrests. Several of those arrested were black people, who were accused of firing guns in the air to defend themselves when white gangs attacked them.

Incidents continued on 71st for hours after the black and white anti-racist marchers had left the scene and returned to the Martin Luther King, Jr. Movement headquarters inside the black community.

Reverend Hatcher of the Movement said there: "We must all stand together, and keep marching in the fight for open housing in Marquette Park—and the right of anyone to go where they please."

## Why UAW Member Marched

"I spent a whole year—all of 1969—in Vietnam. If I could spend a year there, I know I can come out for an afternoon for what I believe in."

That's what Benny King, a member of UAW Local 6, told Workers' Power about why he came out to join the march to Marquette Park on Saturday.

Benny King works at the International Harvester plant in Melrose Park, but like many other black Harvester workers, he lives on Chicago's South Side.

"What happens in this community," he emphasized, "directly affects me. Too many people don't want to take a strong stand on this issue. If you won't stand up on an issue you believe in, you're in trouble already."

Many stewards and rank and file at Local 6 put a lot of effort into organizing for the march inside the plant ahead of time.

"One thing we definitely accomplished," Local 6 steward Harry Putnam said, "By leafletting and organizing for this march, we put marching as a way to win equal rights back on the agenda as an issue for discussion in this plant."



# In Detroit, if you're young and black, you can't walk the streets...

by Kate Stacy

**DETROIT—** A package of curfew laws, practically establishing police state control over minors, is being viciously instituted against Detroit's young people.

It is now illegal for any minor to be away from home after 10 p.m. unless accompanied by a parent. In Michigan, a minor is anyone under age 18.

It is illegal for a parent to leave their minor child unsupervised at any time of the day. These are only two examples of the many new laws aimed at "juvenile control."

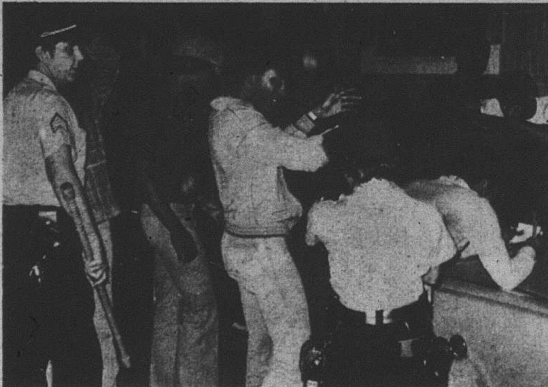
These measures were passed by the City Council under a threat by black Mayor Coleman Young that

city. The racism of the city and the press is picturing them as the criminals.

In a remarkably frank, although unrelated statement, the Police Commissioner of Boston backed up this point of view:

"Those who commit the crime which worries citizens most—violent street crime—are, for the most part, the products of poverty, unemployment, broken homes, rotten education, drug addiction and alcoholism, and other social and economic ills...."

"The politicians, of course, end up perpetuating a system by which the rich get richer, the poor get poorer, and crime continues."



Coleman Young's police at work—this is supposed to stop violence?

he would declare a state of emergency if the Council didn't act immediately.

The supposed intent is to cut into youth gang violence. But that is not the way it's coming down on the streets. The police are enforcing a reign of terror against young blacks.

One young black woman with her child were arrested on the woman's lawn for a curfew violation. Both mother and child were carted off to jail.

## "VIOLATION"

Another black woman, an adult and a revolutionary, who was framed and is on parole was called by her caseworker. She was informed that any arrest would be a parole violation—even though she is an adult and not subject to the curfew laws. This woman now carries three pieces of identification to try to avoid entrapment. But it is widely known that the cops are beating up suspected violators first, and asking for I.D. later.

The police are being backed by almost every group or leader in the business community and the black community.

In fact, if it were not for the blanket support for this tremendous police harassment by Detroit's black leaders it could not be carried out without massive community revolt.

Few people who have actual contact with Detroit's young people believe this program will stop gang growth. They expect it to have the opposite effect.

The gangs are organized among themselves and are planning actions to bust the curfew laws. Many non-gang members, already anti-police, will be attracted to the gangs with this new tidal wave of repression coming down on them. They are victims of a decaying

The real point behind the Mayor's program seems to be to force youth crime out of the downtown business district, back into the ghettos.

If Downtown is not made comfortable for the white suburban businesses and shoppers who have already fled city residency, a planned "economic rebirth" of Detroit will flop.

"Profits before people" is the slogan Mayor Young is silently operating on.

The Red Tide, youth section of the International Socialists, is planning a demonstration September 1. This is their first step in a campaign to combat the racist police harassment.

They will be demanding that the harassment end, and that jobs and better youth facilities be provided as a real solution to the situation most young black Detroiters now face.

## Tennis For Apartheid

While the sports pages run rampant about whether a transsexual should be permitted to play tennis; U.S. tennis officials have no problem at all letting racists hit the ball.

South Africa and Rhodesia were both invited to send their all-white teams to the Women's Federation tournament in Philadelphia this week. The tournament was sponsored by Colgate-Palmolive, with a friend in the White House. Betty Ford was one of the "patrons."

The papers constantly complain that there shouldn't be any "politics" in sports. But when your "politics" happen to be racism, there's always an exception.

# "What Do You Women Want Anyhow?"

by Candy Martin

"I'm a female stevedore. The job I work now is the third job I've had in heavy industry. Since there are so few women in the mill, men generally treat us especially at first, as some sort of strange species. Along with some smart remarks, there are a lot of good and very natural questions about women's liberation. This series will take some of them up."

"So you want a man's job? Hell, if I had your plumbing, honey, I'd be sitting at home watching TV all day. Why don't you get married and take it easy?"

Now, that's a way of looking at it I never thought of before. I could go out, catch Prince Charming, be a housewife, and not have to work.

That is, if I could find a way around being cook, doctor, nursemaid, chauffeur and psychologist eighty hours a week to two or three kids who need breakfast by seven, dressing, a ride to school—and a husband who comes home from work disgusted asking where his dinner is at.

But to get away from it all I suppose I could always turn to other hobbies—waxing floors, grocery shopping, washing clothes, ten million errands, dusting, vacuuming, and cooking meals.

Of course, it wouldn't be quite like working the job I have: I wouldn't get a paycheck for it.

## JOBS AND INDEPENDENCE

Today, more and more women are entering the work force. Partly, this is because women are demanding their independence, and the right to better paying jobs. But the ruling class is not completely happy that ideas about women's "place" in this society are changing, and that most people no longer believe that women should be kept bare-foot and pregnant.

Because, as they crack down more on our living standards and working conditions, it becomes harder and harder for a family to make it on one income. So by bringing women into the workforce, many families now survive on two incomes—and the bosses avoid giving adequate wage increases to each individual worker.

Housewives' work in the home is in fact a job and a half. And although they don't get paid for it, that same bunch benefits from their labor, because the men who work for those bosses would not be in shape to come back to the job each day without being physically and emotionally taken care of each night.

They need to be fed, clothed, looked after when sick, emotionally supported, and sexually supplied. After taking so much crap at work all day, it's normal to want to take it out on someone else. And conveniently for the boss, it's usually the wife that those frustrations get taken out on. Otherwise, all of that anger might get turned back on the boss himself.

The wife is often mother too, raising children. To the bosses, that simply means bringing up, nurturing and providing the system with fresh young workers.

But "women's place is in the home" is an ideal that gets thrown out the window in a minute when the ruling class needs to use women in the factories.

During World War II, for instance, men were sent from the factories to the battlefield to fight the bosses' war. Since more workers were needed for production and profit, a whole propaganda campaign was built to convince women that their place was no longer inside the home being feminine and passive. Instead women should be in the factories, "defending their country," being tough and aggressive. Then the war was over, and soldiers came home and were available for jobs. Another campaign started telling women again that they were soft and motherly and should be kept back in the kitchen.

## HAND SUPPLY

So having a supply of housewives handy serves the ruling class two ways. They are useful at home because they take care of husbands (workers) and children (workers-to-be). And they are useful as a spare workforce, brought into the labor market when there's a shortage of workers and thrown out onto the streets and back into the kitchens when no longer needed. And women's jobs are always considered secondary to their real job—raising a family. So the boss always has a "good reason" to pay lower wages than he would a man for the same work.

The fact is that most women who work outside the home are working two jobs. The job of being a housewife is not recognized as "real" work, but it is one of the hardest, most monotonous jobs around.

For one thing, you're isolated. You work by yourself, within the same four walls, every day. And after a while, those four walls can drive you crazy.

You don't get to go out into the world to be part of the social relationships that develop on the shop floor. You don't have a chance to work together with other people, and realize that everyone is getting screwed the same as you.

You also don't have the opportunity to fight back collectively, to organize on the job, and in the union (when you have one) against the boss who is ripping everyone off. Because there is no clear-cut boss, no obvious enemy, and because there is no group of people you must fight back with just in order to survive.

So it is much harder to develop the experience and confidence that comes from having a clear role in the class struggle. Instead, you face the drudgery of monotonous work everyday that must be done in isolation.

But that rotten drudgery is forced upon housewives by capitalism. It does not have to be that way. Most housework can be made easier, more social, or eliminated altogether—by organizing collective laundries, communal canteens, and childcare centers that are high-quality and free.

But that cannot exist in a society built to keep a tiny minority in power and supplied with huge profits—profits they can only take and keep by living off of our backs and off of our labor. A society that can only continue to exist by keeping us down, and by forcing women (and all workers) into monotonous drudgery that benefits only the sum at the top.

# Contract Quiz

## "What should the union fight for in the Local agreement?"

"THE WHOLE BOOK has to be changed so that working people can understand it. It shouldn't be written like a lawbook. Paragraph C refers back to paragraph 1 (a), which refers back to the Old Testament. Who can understand that?"

"Supervision gives us too much aggravation on the job. The general foreman gives it to the foreman, and the foreman gives it to us."

"My plant is 35% women, and they only have one lavatory for women. We need more. It takes too much time off our breaks to get to the lavatory."

Jackie Stewart, Plant 1

"WE WANT OUR parking lots to be more secure. There's TV sets looking at our cars, but no one's looking at the TVs. We need patrols in the parking lots to stop these thefts."

"We need more relief time when it's hot. You can't work as fast when it's hot. We need a formula that says every degree over 80, we get an extra three minutes relief time."

"Management is ignoring our seniority rights. They move people off their jobs out of line of seniority. The language in the local agreement has to be strengthened and changed so we can be assured of our rights."

Wendy Weinberg, Plant 6, Local 234

**BULLETIN**—As Workers' Power goes to press, the afternoon shift at GM's Fleetwood Fisher Body plant in Detroit have walked off the job in protest over the suspension of UAW Local 15 bargaining chairman Jim Gabbard and Local president Rufus Coleman.

Immediately after the walkout, 250 workers met at the local hall and decided to continue their action by keeping the morning shift out as well.

The striking workers are demanding the reinstatement of the two local officers, no reprisals, and the rehiring of 300 workers laid off from the plant following changeover.



"ONE THING WE should have in the contract is clean up time. We have the right to eat with clean hands. We only have a 30 minute lunch period. We should have extra time for washing up."

"Better ventilation. There's times in there when you can hardly breathe. You can be standing in some places and break out into a sweat without moving a muscle. That's pretty hot."

Billie Williams, Plant 6

"I WOULD LIKE to see the employees begin to be treated like human beings, not like we are animals. The supervisors that General Motors hires act like dictators."

"The grievance procedure takes too long to prove you're innocent. It can be a whole year."

Clifford Scott, Plant 6

"VENTILATION really needs to be corrected. Like you can see, there's no windows in these buildings. It's so hot and stuffy, smoky, it's inhumane the way we have to work in that."

"We need five minutes for washup time. For the guys on the line, they really have to suffer. They have to stay there until the whistle blows."

Runny Berry

"HEAT IS REALLY bad; It's over 100 sometimes. We need heat passes, fans, and air conditioning."

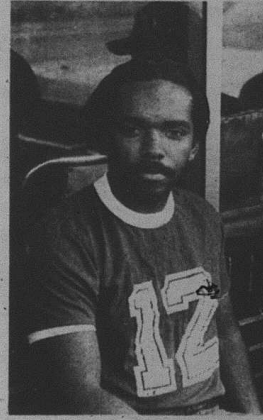
"MORE JANITORS in the plants. The plants are filthy, filthy."

"The general foreman has no right to say nothing to us, but if he sees you not doing something, he comes and cusses you out. Of course, if you cuss him, he'll put you out on the street."

Willie Williams, Plant 3, Local 235

"THE MAIN THING we have to fight on is safety. And we need some air conditioning. It's much too hot in the summer. Sometimes when it's 80 or 90 outside, it's 100 or 110 in there. Oil on the floor is the main safety hazard."

Reginald Smith



Workers interviewed at Detroit's Chevrolet Gear and Axle plant.

# HOW FORD WORKERS VOTED DOWN A CONTRACT...

## ...and got stuck with it anyway!

# Automotion

CONTRACT ISSUES

by Jack Weinberg, UAW Local 212

The Ford contract target presents the UAW top leadership with some problems. Three years ago, they failed to get an honest ratification on the 1973 contract there. This year the chances are good that the contract will again be voted down at Fords—particularly by the skilled tradesmen.

In 1973, following the pattern-setting agreement at Chrysler, the UAW announced a strike deadline at Fords of October 26. The settlement wasn't reached until three hours before the strike deadline. When the union officials refused to reveal the settlement details, there were wildcat walkouts at Ford facilities in Detroit, Sterling Heights, Mi., Chicago, Canton, Oh., San Jose Cal., and others.

A worker at the Dearborn Assembly Plant in the giant Ford Rouge complex explained that they had walked out "because we didn't know what the settlement is..."

The wildcats were short lived. Where the workers did not return immediately, Ford responded by firing local union leaders. But the struggle then shifted to rejection. Beginning at Ford Sterling Heights, a skilled trades rejection movement began mounting.

The issue that got most attention was a contract provision allowing Ford to use non-tradespeople in skilled classifications to punish tradesmen if they refused overtime. The provision was correctly interpreted as an attack on skilled classifications, but the tradesmen

were dissatisfied with the total package. They wanted to send the negotiators back to the table for more.

### VOTED DOWN

The skilled trades voted the contract down. It was approved by the majority of production workers, but even in production there was substantial rejection sentiment. It was turned down by a majority of production workers at Dearborn Assembly, the Highland Park Industrial Engine Plant, Cleveland Stamping Plant, Canton Ohio Forge, and others.

The UAW violated its own rules and declared the contract ratified at Fords—even though a majority of

skilled trades rejected it.

This caused such a stink that UAW leaders have since promised never to do it again. While they can never be trusted to keep their word to the membership—it will be hard to ram another unratified contract down the throats of the Ford skilled trades.

### RETIREMENT

And in 1976, Ford workers will have another chance to vote the contract down. As the pattern setters this time, a rejection can force the negotiators back to the table. It is now clear that this is the only way a decent settlement will be reached in 1976.

Neither Woodcock nor the head of the UAW Ford Department, Ken Bannon are looking for any progress or protection for the UAW membership this year. Both plan to retire after settlement is reached—and want to retire on the good side of management.

A major part of the Ford Empire is located within one hour of Detroit. With this kind of concentration, it is easy for Ford workers to reach each other and cooperate in organizing the rejection of the national agreement.

GM and Chrysler workers in the Detroit area can help as well. Only this kind of movement will lead to a 1976 contract the UAW membership will be able to live with.



# The Drama Of Sacco & Vanzetti

Letters  
to  
Workers' Power

Dear Workers' Power:

I had the opportunity the other night to see the most thrilling theatrical performance of my life. The group was The New York Street Theatre, and the play was "Sacco and Vanzetti."

They had written the play themselves and did it off the back of their flatbed truck, "Rosa." There was no admission—they

announced in the introduction that they were dedicated to bringing theatre to poor and working class audiences.

The first half of the play was designed to give us a look at the conditions that Italian immigrants faced in World War I. The second half of the play was taken from actual trial transcripts which were unbelievable — kangaroo-court style.

Sacco and Vanzetti were two Italian immigrants who became revolutionary anarchists after seeing what "The Promised Land" looked like from the inside.

Consequently, — they were framed on a murder and armed robbery charge in the late 1920s.

After the trial, the star witnesses for the prosecution revealed that they had been bribed or intimidated into their testimonies and another man eventually confessed to the murder.

But neither the judge nor the governor saw fit to grant an appeal and, in spite of a movement to achieve their freedom, both men were electrocuted.

Today the same thing still happens, but mass movements have

managed to free Joann Little and Hurricane Carter, and soon we will free Gary Tyler. Things are changing.

One of the most stirring moments in the play was a strike led by Vanzetti in which one of the demands was a ten-hour work day.

The cast invited people to come backstage after the play and I told them that I'd like to, but I had to get up at 4:30 and work one of my typical eleven-hour days.

Things haven't changed enough.

Rick Ralston  
Louisville

## Where Are The Games Real People Play?

Dear Workers' Power:

There was something and somebody entirely missing from Dan Posen's Olympic "Games" article (WP issue #168). Namely, ordinary kids and adults, and where they fit into any kind of sports world.

The picture I see is millions of unhealthy and bored people, in the stands or TV armchairs, forever watching others—the "best athletes"—perform.

The question of "professional" management of U.S. Olympic teams needs to take backseat to that of opportunities and motivation for all girls and boys, men and women to actively enjoy all the sports.

In U.S. capitalist culture and the Soviet Bloc countries, sports is a privileged business. Athletes are both an elite and "products" for selling.

Winning—for profit, political points or special advantages—is everything and justifies any means.

The real losers are all the people denied regular sports participation by this elitism. Finally, the average person becomes exploited as a consumer of "spectator sports."

I know the International Socialists are striving for an open, healthier socialist culture, including sports for the fun of everybody.

If athletes who excel deserve public support, may they also work as leaders and promoters of new public sports programs—in schools, workplaces, neighborhoods, and communities.

John Willard  
California



People demonstrate in mass protests [above] for the freedom of political prisoners, Sacco and Vanzetti (right).



# HEAT'S ON AT UPS

Dear Workers' Power:

For those of the readership that believe that the "class struggle" is a myth and that we don't live in a classist society, here is an example.

I work at United Parcel Service's East Center installation. During the summer our building gets extremely hot on the inside

because very few of the building's windows open.

If these windows opened there would be least some ventilation, but as it is our only source of moving air are fans that blow the same stale, dusty air that is confined to the inside of the building.

It is not enough that we must work in this sweat shop en-

vironment. The supervisors have an air-conditioner to cool their office that has no connection to the building's external environs.

In other words the hot exhaust from this air-conditioner pours directly into the work area.

In my mind this is a perfect example of the way that workers are exploited. We do all the work, make all the money for the com-

pany and then they cool themselves while pouring the heat on us.

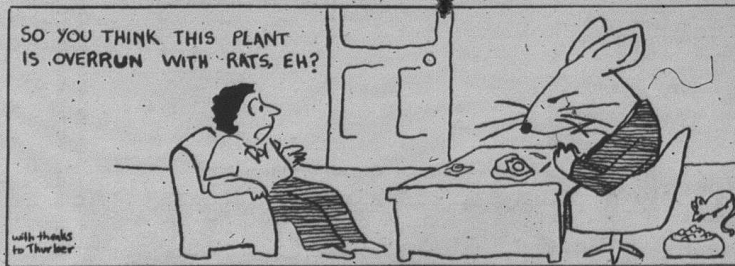
I suppose that this is just another way that UPS shows its gratitude.

Dwight Hansen  
IBT Local 243  
East Center  
Detroit, MI

**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.



# NLRB Keeps Us In Line

Dear Workers Power:

Recently your coverage of the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) and courts has been confusing, all you say about the NLRB and the courts in labor disputes is either "you can win victories by using them" or "they're reactionary for issuing anti-strike injunctions."

WP needs to give an analysis of why these ruling class institutions sometimes give workers victories. Stories of court NLRB victories only restore faith in

them.

The NLRB was established in the wake of a mass workers uprising in the 1930's.

It was an attempt by the ruling class to channel workers' activity into legal institutions where it could be easily controlled. It was an effort to undermine worker self-activity.

The ruling class reluctantly decided that unions were here to stay and decided to collaborate with union leaders to form a conservative pro-capitalist crust

of bureaucrats on top of the unions.

However, in order for all this to work, in order for workers to be convinced to rely on the NLRB, it must sometimes give victories.

We must be clear though, that the NLRB and courts approach everything from the point of view of the capitalists. What is the best way to keep the workers in line? In this case, is it the carrot or the stick?

Another confusing point has been company profits. It does build worker's confidence to know

there are high company profits that can be gotten at.

But even when a company is on the edge of bankruptcy, class struggle unionists start from the needs of the workers. If the company can't pay, then it should be nationalized under worker's control.

The point is that the whole economy can easily pay the workers a decent wage even if this corporation "can't."

Jack Pallet  
Seattle

# WE'RE THE RED TIDE - NAZIS BETTER HIDE!

## Young Fighters For Revolution

The Red Tide, youth section of the International Socialists, held its first regional conference in Chicago Ill., Sunday Aug. 22 at Pride Community Center Inc. Sixty people attended, all of whom had been at the Martin Luther King Jr. Movement's march for open housing the day before. Many had never heard of the Red Tide before they got involved with the march. But before the conference was over nine people had joined the Red Tide.

The Red Tide through organizing for the march showed the group's dedication to fighting racism. The Red Tide talked to over 10,000 people and walked over 32 blocks a day in 90 degree heat.

### TALKS

The conference was chaired by Sugar Jacobs. Sandy from Cleveland Red Tide, talked about the world we live in, and how the capitalist system screws over young people.

Tony Satan of Detroit Red Tide discussed racism. Tony said, "Mayor Daley is directly responsible for the forced segregation in Chicago."

Joy, from Pittsburgh Red Tide, talked about sexism and how it divides the working class.

Johnny Stephens, Chicago Red Tide, talked about the Red Tide and what the Red Tide's politics are. Hoppy Williams from the Detroit Red Tide spoke about the Red Tide's goals: Socialism.

The conference ended with a very dynamic chant: "We're the Red Tide and the Nazis better hide!"

Lisa M. Manchester  
Hoppy Williams



"We march tall/We march with PRIDE/Cause we're the RED TIDE."

That's what 100 young people chanted as they marched with the Red Tide in Chicago.

Red Tide members mobilized forces across the midwest to make the August 21 march for open housing a success. Called by the Martin Luther King Jr. Movement to demand an end to racist segregation in Marquette Park, the march drew over 400 supporters.

The Red Tide mobilized a contingent of over 70 young people, who walked in the front section of the march.

### CHANTS

They led the marchers in several militant chants, including, "Tell Daley, Tell the Machine, Straighten it our or We'll get Mean!" They also shouted, "We're the Red Tide—Nazis better hide!"

Although the turnout for the march from the community was less than the organizers had hoped, the marchers got an enthusiastic reception as they moved down Ashland Ave. and 71st St. in West Englewood.

Red Tide members came from Chicago, Detroit, Cleve-

land, Pittsburgh, and Louisville to help build the march.

Hoppy Williams from Detroit Red Tide, explained how they organized for the march.

"We walked about ten blocks a day and spoke to nearly 1000 people every day for 10 days. Man, it was hot!"

Another Detroit member, Tony Satan, added, "Man, like we were the only ones doing community work. The Red Tide did all the organizing for the march."

The police once again halted the marchers to keep them from entering Marquette Park. Disappointed, but still enthusiastic Red Tiders started the chant: "On to the park, On

to the park," wanting to go through the police lines.

Tony Satan summed up the feelings of Red Tide members. "I was very disappointed that the march just stopped and turned around. I and the other Red Tiders wanted to march to accomplish what we came for. That's what we spent over two weeks organizing for in the West Englewood community."

After having done most of the leg work to build the demonstration, Red Tide members gave the needed spirit to the march. "We had the whole march chanting and militant," said one Red Tider.

## JOIN US!

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

Name .....

Address .....

.....

Union .....

## IS Forum Hears Snow Lion Story

SEATTLE—Charis Hiratsuka, a member of the International Socialists and the Snow Lion-Workers Support Committee in Berkeley, California spoke to a group here August 13 about the struggles and organizing drive of the Snow Lion garment workers.

Snow Lion employs 175 workers, the majority of whom are women and recent immigrants from South Korea, Vietnam, Taiwan, the Fiji Islands and the Philippines along with some Chicano, black and immigrant European workers.

Many earn only \$2.50 an hour, while the company grossed \$7 million last year.

The workers first tried to organize in the Teamsters

Union in summer 1975, but were defeated because of racial divisions. The company then cut wages and piece rates.

Now the workers have a factory paper, The Polar Guardian, which is put out in three languages (soon to be five). A workers' support committee has also been organized. Snow Lion workers have successfully staged walkouts to get a brutal foreman fired, workers rehired, and wage cuts restored.

Women workers can be organized—and unified—even in a plant where six languages are spoken and where sex, race, nationality and job status divide the workforce.

Donna Ballinger  
Seattle IS

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## 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, gays, latinos, 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 these workers should go to fill people's needs, not to private gain.

#### • WORKERS' REVOLUTION

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

#### • INTERNATIONALISM

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

#### • REVOLUTIONARY PARTY

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

#### • INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

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



## New Package - Same Old Sellout

by Enid Eckstein, UAW Local 51

Last week UAW members found a surprise in their mailboxes.

The International leadership of the United Auto Workers (UAW) is shining up its image. Instead of the regular drab, 16-page newspaper, the International has changed its mouthpiece to a slick, 24-page magazine, still called "Solidarity."

Through the pages of the attractive magazine, the International will try to polish up its tarnished image among the rank and file. They will use Madison-Avenue style to sell the programs and policies of the International to the membership—particularly the '76 contract.

For the membership, it is the first time most of us have received any formal communication from the union's leadership regarding the contract.

substitute for the short work week. We are told what a significant victory this would be.

The other key contract demand being raised by the rank and file is cost-of-living on pensions. In Solidarity, the International takes on the critics of the present pension agreement, and attempts to justify why they will not open the contract on this issue.

The message is this: Only so much can be accomplished at the bargaining table. We will not be able to do anything significant for retirees... and we will not be able to win too much in any other areas either. But remember, your leadership is active and involved. We are getting more Democrats elected. . . even if we cannot get anything at the bargaining table.

### LUCKY

Solidarity tries to convince us how lucky we are to be UAW members. Its pages tell us that our leadership is "active." (After all, they are involved in a host of Democratic party politics.)

We learn that the UAW is "innovative." Remember, it was the UAW leadership that had the foresight to negotiate a 30-and-Out retirement plan, and Supplemental Unemployment Benefits. (Never mind that it was rank and file movements in the union that pressured the leadership to fight for these things.)

Features try to prove how wonderful UAW programs are, with stories like "How we retired in

30 years and do not have a care in the world" or "I love Black Lake and my local officers who sent me."

And if you had any doubts, we are constantly reminded that the UAW is "concerned." Story after story tells how UAW community programs helped some family through a personal crisis.

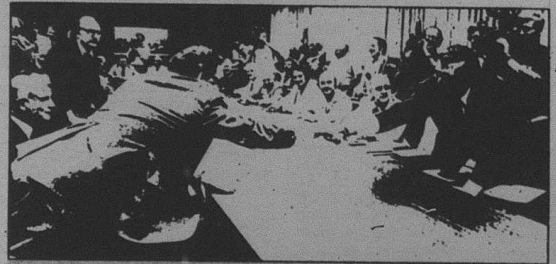
Reading Solidarity, you might forget that there is such a thing as fighting the line day after day. The problems of inflation, discrimination, and health and safety rarely see print.

There are never any articles that disagree with—or even question—union policy. The magazine's editorial policy is determined by the 26-person UAW Executive Board. It promotes the policies and programs of the International exclusively.

Solidarity is not a newspaper that organizes the membership to fight for better working conditions. It tells the membership to sit back, enjoy itself, and let the leadership take care of all your problems.

### 40 YEARS AGO

This was not always the case with Solidarity. When the UAW organizing began in the '30s, its paper, the United Automobile Worker, was somewhat different. Then the newspaper was used to educate the membership in unionism so that it could wage a battle against the corporations. The leadership at that time knew that the success of its organizing drives and



Bargaining opened at GM with Leonard Woodcock (r.) shaking hands with GM negotiator George Merritt.

## UAW Demands Major Contract Gains

By Don Gillman

...eated by their highest profits in history, the Big 4 auto companies continued to resist efforts by UAW negotiators to reach solutions to hundreds of difficult contract problems as bargaining started August 1.

April-June, earning \$909 million and posting profits for the first half of 1976 above \$1.7 billion. Likewise, Chrysler reported an all-time record quarterly profit figure of \$135 million.

...more than \$43 million above that previous high. And Ford Motor Co. also scored record profits for the second quarter of \$423 million.

Most industry observers believe the extent of these profit gains greatly exceeds the cost of any strike.

Article on contract bargaining lays the groundwork for sell-out '76.

sit-down strikes rested in the power of the rank and file.

United Automobile Worker was used to spread the message of unionism across the land. For hundreds of thousands of auto-workers, the paper was a call to arms against the companies.

UAW strikes and other labor struggles got extensive coverage. Reports of victories increased auto

workers' confidence. Important national and international political events were featured.

Forty years later, the paper is little more than an advertisement for the policies of sell-out unionism. And to think that our dues are being used to put out a slick magazine 16 times a year. At least the newspaper-version came out only ten times.

## Talking About Socialism

### ASSEMBLY LINE 1914-1976: SPEEDUP MACHINE

by Moe Orlanski

The automobile assembly line has become the symbol of both the efficiency and inhumanity of modern industrial labor. The 1914 introduction of the assembly line by Henry Ford marked the beginning of a new era in industrial innovation. The automobile was originally a luxury, but now could be mass produced cheap enough to be bought by millions.

For the auto workers, however, the line has always been a tyrant. The endless chain conveyor belt is management's continuous action whip. The supreme control the line gives management over the workers' pace and method of operation has always, and continues to be, a source of anguish and rebellion.

#### FROM FRAME TO FINAL

Before the introduction of the assembly line, auto work was skilled labor. Carriage makers and mechanics built cars from frame to final assembly. But even before the assembly line, Ford discovered that breaking down skilled work into simpler operations got the Model T built in less time.

The assembly line did more than replace craftsmanship with the endless repetition of a few simple tasks. It increased the pace of work drastically. Within three months of the introduction of endless chain conveyors at Ford's Highland Park Plant, the assembly time for the Model T had been reduced ten times over.

The line had doubled and tripled the rate at which work was performed. By 1925, the organization of production had reached a point where almost as many cars could be built in a day as had been built in one year.

Along with the change in production came a change in the method of pay. Before the line, Ford had to use a bonus incentive plan to spur workers on. Now the rate of pay was a flat hourly wage. Bonuses were replaced by "close" supervision.

Even after Ford was forced to pay the then high rate of \$5 a day he could write in his autobiography, "the payment of \$5 a day for 8 hours work was one of the finest cost cutting moves we ever made."

Ford's employees failed to appreciate the history they were making, however. Workers reacted to the assembly line by "walking out in droves." In a year when jobs were easy to get the turnover of Ford's labor force was 380%. When the company needed to add a hundred workers, they had to hire 963.

Only in response to his labor problems

did Ford begin his famous \$5 a day wage scale. The other auto companies were forced by the pressure of competition to adopt assembly line production. It wasn't until then that the Ford work force was stabilized.

Today, business magazines, academic journals, and newspaper articles on "Blue Collar Blues" have been full of sweet talk about gentler ways of producing cars. Yet no practical steps have been taken. The auto companies know that while the assembly line isn't gentle, it is profitable. The reason is basic to the workings of capitalism.

#### SLAVES TO THE HOURLY WAGE

Under the "free enterprise" system, workers have no means of supporting

themselves and their families except through their ability to work. Unlike the slaves of old, workers are not bought and sold to their masters. They are "free." Yet they have no choice but to sell their ability to work, for a set period of time, to any employer who wishes to buy it. Unless they prefer to starve.

From the capitalist's point of view this arrangement has only one flaw. It is one thing to buy a worker's ability to work. It is quite another to get the most for the money. Workers may have no choice but to sell themselves for 40 or more hours a week. But they must be disciplined, forced to work as hard and as fast as the capitalist needs to make the best profit.

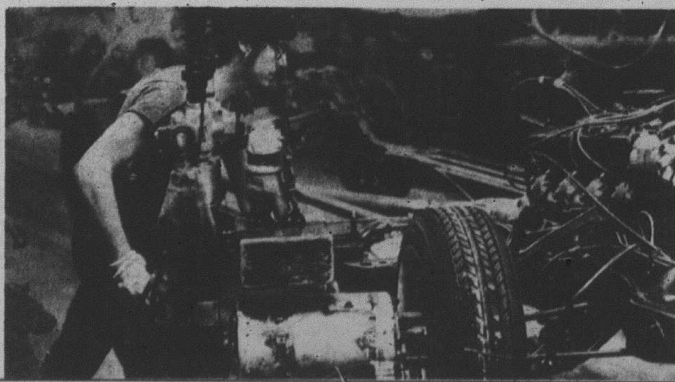
The more workers can be forced to produce each hour of the work day, the less workers the capitalist must hire for each hour. It is cheaper to work less people harder, than to hire more.

#### USE EVERY SECOND

Profit is management's reason for always looking for the most effective way to utilize every second of work time they have purchased from the worker. This is the "beauty" of the assembly line.

The line, combined with time and motion study, is the perfect system for controlling every moment of every second of every work day. Less labor time for more production, politely called productivity, is the purpose of every new industrial innovation. If you want more cars an hour without hiring more workers, speed up that line.

[Next week's column will analyze the struggle of the UAW and its membership against speedup and the assembly line.]



# WORKERS' POWER STEELWORKERS' CONVENTION - IS REBELLION BREWING?

by Tom Miller  
member, USWA

As the 18th Constitutional Convention of the United Steelworkers of America (USWA) opens this week in Las Vegas, the real question is: "Is this the beginning of a rank and file rebellion in 'the union?'"

At the last convention two years ago, the first rumblings of discontent in years were heard on the Convention floor. A move by the International officers to raise dues, and with it their salaries, met with stiff opposition. The dues increase passed only through open manipulation by the chair, union Vice-president John Johns.

This year's convention promises more rumbling, and around more significant issues.

## SPLIT AT THE TOP

A key issue is simply whose union it is. Right now, it belongs to the no-strike, do-nothing bigwigs, like President I.W. Abel. Abel, however, is slated to retire when elections for new officers are held this coming February. But his machine would like to see his policies live on.

Already District 28 Director Joe Kender has started a move to extend the present administration's term of office for up to

another year. Kender wants to win a little extra time in hopes of getting Abel's "official family" together enough to win the upcoming elections.

Abel's followers are divided on who their candidate will be to succeed him. Two candidates have emerged: Lloyd McBride, Director of District 34, and Vice-president Johns.

Both have been campaigning. Both are Xerox copies of Abel sell-outs. The District Directors and International officers are so blinded by their own power trips that they may blow the game for themselves.

In this case, blowing the game will mean letting maverick District 31 Director Ed Sadlowski win the election. Sadlowski has been critical of Abel's policies, and outspoken especially on the dues increase and the lack of the membership's right to ratify contracts. He has organized a group called Steelworkers Fight Back to promote changes in the USWA.

## THE ISSUES

Recently Steelworkers Fight Back has canvassed mill gates, petitioning for the right to ratify contracts. In Texas, a leaflet was shot in the neck—by Abel supporters, it is assumed.

Rank and file delegates will want to work with Steelworkers Fight Back around this important issue. With Sadlowski's District 31 sending over 200 delegates prepared to put up a fight, there is a good chance it will reach the floor.

Another critical issue is the no-strike deal (ENA). Abel signed away the right to strike in 1973. The agreement now prohibits strikes until 1980. Unless Abel is stopped by rank and file organization, he could sign away the right to strike until 1983 before he leaves office.

The new contract is scheduled to be negotiated by next April. But the new officers, elected in February, will not take office until May. So there will be a lame duck negotiating team—a real set-up for a sell-out. This makes it especially critical that rank and file organiza-

tion against a sell-out, and especially against extension of the no-strike deal, begin at this convention.

Two rank and file groups are opposed to the ENA. One is the Rank and File Team (RAFT), with delegates out of Local 1462 in Youngstown, Ohio. The other is the National Steelworkers Rank and File Committee (NSWRFC), with strength especially in Chicago-Gary and the Southwest copper mines.

Unity between rank and file groups is critical for a fight to be waged on the ENA, and steps should be taken to draw the Steelworkers Fight Back group into

## the struggle.

Sadlowski, who is the leader of Fight Back, has said he is against the ENA. But he has also said he does not think it is an issue worth organizing around. It is up to rank and file militants to convince him and his followers otherwise, by organizing the rank and file against another sell-out in 1977.

## THE FLOOR FIGHT

The International will do its best to keep important resolutions off the floor. They will bore the delegates with long-winded speeches by Democratic Party politicians. Jimmy Carter may

smile on the convention.

Experience has shown that it takes good organization to get the simplest point raised at these affairs. The reason is Abel has a machine of union staff men at his disposal. He appointed them to their nearly \$20,000 a year jobs, and runs them like little puppets. They carry voting credentials from small locals too poor to send their own delegates to Las Vegas, but the staff men represent only themselves and the union brass.

This in itself is a critical issue. The solution is to outlaw the practice of letting these non-steelworkers carry credentials. Both RAFT and NSWRFC are on record for this position.

## COMPANY GREED

Behind all of the Abel machine's policies lurks the greed of the companies. Abel's no-strike deal was to have guaranteed job security; yet last year over 15% of the steelworkers were laid off. The steel companies, meanwhile, reaped profits of \$5.2 billion from 1973-1975. They did this by eliminating thousands of jobs. Conditions in the mills have gotten worse, not better.

The question now is whether the convention will signal the beginning of a rank and file rebellion to take over their union and fight off the companies' attacks.

## Ad Hoc Committee Plans Fight On Racism.

Another issue coming before the steel workers' convention is racism. The USWA has done very little against company discrimination.

Two years ago, under court pressure, the Consent Decree was signed. It is basically an agreement which lets the companies off the hook as far as their racist and sexist discrimination is concerned. The real fight, for adequate back pay and seniority system reform, is yet to come.

At this convention, various

black steel worker groups, like the Ad Hoc Committee, will raise the issue of additional vice-presidents as a way of gaining minority representation at the top levels of the union.

Such a move could end the scandalous situation of no minority representation on the union's executive board. But it won't stop company racism and sexism. That, like the fight against the no-strike deal, depends on building a rank and file movement to fight on these issues.



Ed Sadlowski

# Attica, 1976 - 2000 Prisoners Strike For Human Rights

by Kate Stacy

Thursday, August 26—Today almost 2000 inmates at Attica State Prison in New York State are voting—cellblock by cellblock—on a proposed settlement that may end a three day strike there.

Ninety-five percent of the prisoners have refused to leave their cells to work, eat or exercise during the strike. Their action is to back a team of elected strike leaders on a broad range of issues.

The strike is highly organized. It is being carried out in a manner that would provide prison authorities with no "excuse" for a repeat of the 1971 massacre. Then, New York State Police slaughtered 41 people.

## DEMANDS

The proposal includes the following agreements between the prisoner team and prison officials:

- Relaxed visiting rules—allowing touching, hugging and kissing, and the "right" to wear civilian clothing during visits.
- Significant cutback of dehumanizing rectal searches.
- Enough shower facilities to allow daily bathing. Prisoners now are allowed two showers a week.
- A vague proposal promising an increase in the percentage of black and latin staff positions.

In addition, and significant, is the promise of a state legislative

bill restricting inmates' imprisonment to five years, except in unusual circumstances.

Additional bills would increase the time-off for good behavior ratio to one day off the sentence for each day behind bars, and would establish the right to participate in temporary release programs after two years.

The likelihood of these bills passing the State Legislature in this form is exceptionally slim.

However, it is clear this strike has already won important improvements in prisoner conditions at Attica.

The key to their success has been the prisoners' organization, discipline and solidarity in a very militant strike.

Beyond the inspiration this provides for prisoners everywhere, the Attica inmates will be well prepared for the certain next round in their fight for human rights.



Attica prisoners, stripped and beaten after the 1971 uprising.

# WORKERS' POWER

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