

# WORKERS' POWER

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# WAS NIXON PAID TO SILENCE HOFFA?



Jimmy Hoffa leaving prison.



by Mike Kelly

PRESIDENT RICHARD NIXON got a \$1 million pay-off from Teamster President Frank Fitzsimmons to keep Jimmy Hoffa from running for President of the Teamsters Union. So says the Justice Department according to Time magazine.

This new claim of Fitzsimmons corruption adds fuel to the fire of rank and file Teamster groups like Teamsters for a Democratic Union (TDU) and Prod (The Professional Drivers Council) who want Fitzsimmons kicked out of the IBT.

Half the money for the pay-off was allegedly put up on orders of Anthony "Tony Pro" Provenzano, a New Jersey Teamster official.

The other half was got together on the orders of Allen Dorfman, convicted labor racketeer and former Teamster Pension Fund consultant.

Dorfman was just given a 10 year contract at \$6 million a year to run the Teamster Health and Welfare Fund.

There has been speculation that Fitzsimmons had his friend Nixon bar Hoffa from running against him for Teamster President. Then when Hoffa threatened to overturn the terms of the pardon in court, the theory runs, Fitzsimmons had him murdered.

The Justice Department has now followed the trail of Teamster corruption up the steps of the White House and into the buggy oval office of Richard Nixon. There former Presidential assistant Charles Colson and former Attorney General John Mitchell arranged the restriction on Hoffa in the Nixon Pardon, apparently paid for by Fitzsimmons.

There has been much speculation linking the pardon conditions to the disappearance and presumed murder of Jimmy Hoffa. The question now is, will the murder trail, which seems to lead up the steps of the "marble palace," Teamster International headquarters, also lead up to the Nixon White House? □

For more Hoffa, see page 3

# Iron strike defies steel bosses

The men who dig the iron ore to feed the blast furnaces of the American steel industry have struck. Their action threatens the national no-strike deal in the steel

industry. The 18,000 iron-ore workers, members of the United Steelworkers of America, have closed down the mines processing centers of

Minnesota and upper Michigan.

It is the first major strike in the steel industry in 18 years. The 18 locals involved are striking over a variety of local issues—piled up

grievances, safety, the availability of medical assistants, relief time and others.

But most of all they are striking to narrow the gap in pay with Steelworkers in the basic steel industry. In the steel mills, most workers are covered by an incentive payment plan (a production bonus). This incentive can add significantly to take-home pay—in some cases amounting to \$100 a week or even more.

And because of this issue, the strike has become a test affecting every Steelworker. The companies claim that incentives are not a local issue—they can only be negotiated in the national contract,

injuncton to stop it, but they are threatening to sue the union for millions of dollar in damages.

The ENA is already in dispute among steelworkers. Those covered by it, including the iron miners, gave a majority of their votes for union president to Ed Sadlowski. The Steelworkers' Fight Back campaign, headed by Sadlowski, identified with opposition to the ENA.

Lawrence J. Anderson, the new director of the union's District 33, covering the iron range, was seen as a Sadlowski supporter.

When the national contract failed to narrow the pay gap for the miners, the local presidents voted solidly to reject it.

## NO STRIKE CLAUSE

The ore-workers, like the basic steel employees, are covered by the Experimental Negotiating Agreement. The agreement (ENA, it is called) forbids all strikes over national issues. Only local issues—and they have been relatively minor in the past—are subject to strike action.

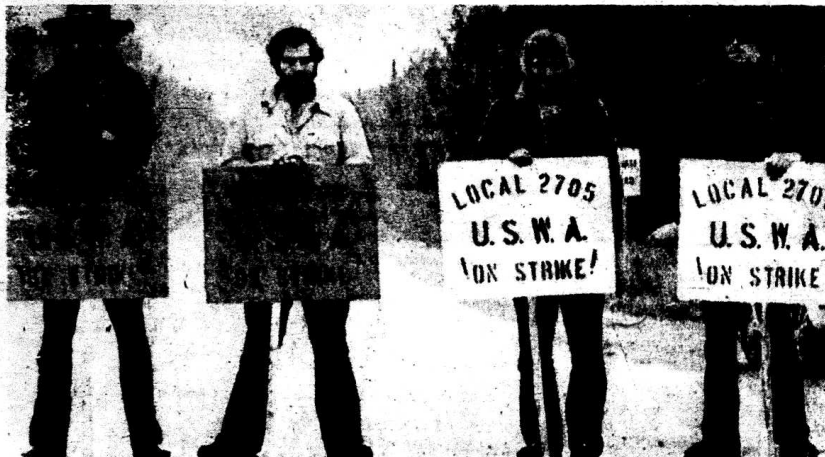
So the companies are saying that this strike is a violation of the ENA. They weren't able to get an

## SHOWDOWN

Everyone agrees—the company, the international, the press; that this strike is a challenge to the ENA and the whole "no-strike" philosophy.

If the miners win, they will catch up on pay, something they deserve and need.

And they may also knock out the ENA in doing it—something that other Steelworkers will always thank them for. □



Iron ore strikes are threatening the steel industry's national no-strike agreement.

# Abortion Funds Killed

by Elissa Clarke

Pro-abortion forces were defeated in an attempt to stall, once again, the law that will deny millions of poor American women the right to legal abortion.

Women who depend on the federal government's Medicaid program to pay for their health care will be unable to have abortions paid for under the program, administered by the Department of Health, Education and Welfare (HEW).

On August 4, Federal District Judge John Dooling reversed his ruling, that had blocked the law from taking effect, on grounds that it was unconstitutional.

Congress has been trying to cut off Medicaid funding for abortion since it passed the Hyde Amendment into past year's HEW appropriations bill.

Forty minutes later, Dooling issued his first restraining order against the Hyde Amendment. It was never enacted.

But as soon as Dooling reversed himself, HEW began sending instructions to its offices on denying the benefits.

## LIVES IN DANGER

"The impact would be extraordinary and real and could well endanger the lives of the young poor who are most likely to take unwise actions and seek illegal abortions," said Dooling at the time of his original order.

But the Supreme Court and President Carter joined Congress's campaign to stop Medicaid abortions.

Last month, the high court ruled that state governments can deny state funds for abortion. The Court then forced Dooling's order and told him to reconsider it in the light of their opinion.

Dooling resisted, signing another temporary restraining order July 28. When the order expired August 3, he began hearings on whether his injunctions should continue.

It was expected that the hearings would continue until September 30, when the yearly HEW Act expires, taking the Hyde Amendment with it.

## SHOCKED

Congress is now fighting over the 1977-78 HEW appropriations bill. Members are divided over whether the abortion funding ban should exclude cases of rape and incest, or only cases where the life of the mother is in danger.

President Carter, who favors the ban with the three exceptions, shocked American women with a statement three weeks ago on the fairness of outlawing abortions for poor women. His remark at a press conference that "there are many things that wealthy people can

afford that poor people can't," provoked a protest meeting by female staff members in the White House office of Presidential assistant Margaret Costanza.

The furor over abortion is becoming intense as more women realize that the Medicaid ban is just

a first step towards banning abortion completely.

American women won the right to legal abortion in 1973, only after massive organizing by women's liberation activists.

Today, government and business are trying to take back many of the

rights won in the 60's and early 70's. Working peoples' standard of living in general is under daily attack as cutback follows cutback.

Rhonda Copeland, a lawyer representing three agencies that challenged the Hyde Amendment, gave an example of what this can

mean for women.

"A temporary restraining order was signed last year 40 minutes after the law went into effect, yet for two weeks afterwards we had reports of kids going to the hospital for complications that had arisen as a result of illegal abortions." □

# U.S. Labor Cheap On World Market

by Kim Moody

European big business has found a new investment paradise. A land where wages are relatively low. A nation where workers do not have the expensive benefits won by the highly organized workers of Europe. And, as a result, a country where profits are high.

This big business paradise is the United States.

Since 1971, direct foreign investment in the U.S. has more than doubled, from \$13.7 billion to \$30 billion. Five years ago, European investment was \$9 billion. Last year it was \$19 billion.

The Japanese and the oil producing nations are also joining the Europeans in this growing caravan of profits.

Naturally, the juiciest section of the country for the exploitation of labor remains the South.

## CHEAP LABOR

In Spartanburg, S.C., "Time" magazine reports, some 40 foreign-owned firms employ 10% of the town's total population.

One German businessman in Spartanburg estimates that his production costs are 5% to 7% lower than in Germany. Southern labor is so cheap that he is exporting his products, textile machinery, back to Europe!

But this sort of investment isn't limited to the South. The "New York Times" reports that European businessmen are investing in manufacturing in New York, New Jersey, Michigan, Pennsylvania, and Ohio. These are the most industrial and the most highly unionized states.

Even in the strong-holds of American industrial unionism, the home base of unions like the United Auto Workers, the Steelworkers, and Teamsters, the European capitalists find American labor more profitable.

**Today, this South Dakota worker will produce 74% more than the national average.**

**IOWA WORKERS WORK 70 1/2 MINUTES AN HOUR.**

Iowa workers add 17.5% more value to the products they produce than the average American worker. That's 70 1/2 minutes productivity for an hour's pay, 47 hours productivity for 40 hours pay or 61 weeks of productivity for a year's salary. But no matter how you look at it, the fact is, Iowa workers work better.

These are reasons why 136 of America's top 500 companies now operate 303 plants in Iowa. For information on all the other reasons, send the coupon.

**IOWA HAS WORKERS WHO WORK.**

**In which major eastern city can you hire office workers at the most reasonable wages?**

**Only PHILADELPHIA**

**Hard work's nothing new to Arkansas people.**

Sample ads from Fortune magazine. They promise capitalists around the world that you will work hard for low wages.

There are many reasons for this. One is the fear that Europe's tame Communist and Socialist Parties may win elections in coming years. While only a few industries have to fear nationalization, many worry about increased business taxes.

But the major reason is that over the years American labor, even unionized labor, is becoming relatively cheaper.

Real wages, after taxes and inflation, for non-supervisory workers in the U.S. have not risen at all in the past 10 years. The real wages of manufacturing workers have risen less than 5% since 1967.

European wages have generally

stayed well ahead of inflation. This is the result of strong union organization and traditions, but also of aggressive action by rank and file workers.

In Italy, inflation was over 18% in the past year, but labor militancy has forced wages up over 35%. In France, wages have risen 13% in the last year compared to 10% inflation. In West Germany, the figures are 11.5% for wages against 6% for prices.

Britain is the only major capitalist economy, besides America, to see wages fall behind prices in the last year. Even there, the past year's fall in real wages didn't

erase the gains of the past decade of militancy. Since 1970, prices went up an enormous 260%, but wages rose by 286.5%.

All of this means that American labor looks cheaper to European employers every day.

For American workers it means something quite different, that ours is no longer the highest standard of living. It also means that American unions are not doing their job.

Inflation is not a good thing. But the one thing worse than inflation is wages that don't keep up. And that is the sad fact that makes America the new investment paradise. □

# One Crew Gone Who Will Be Next?

TWENTY-NINE BODIES lie at the bottom of Lake Superior.

The Edmund Fitzgerald, 729 feet long, carrying iron ore and twenty-nine men, dove to the bottom of the lake on November 10, 1975.

The force of the crash, and at 30 mph, the torque of the still-turning propeller, broke the ship apart. It all happened in moments; there was no attempt to abandon ship.

The tragedy was widely publicized in a hit song by Gordon Lightfoot last year.

## Why did it happen?

The Coast Guard now says the hatch covers on the ship were not water-tight. They had been damaged by routine loading and unloading of its 26,000 ton cargo.

The water kept leaking into the cargo compartment. After eighteen hours of heavy seas, there was enough water to pull the ship's front ever deeper into the swells.

Then the cargo shifted forward. At the next heavy swell, the Fitzgerald went down.

According to the Coast Guard, most of the Great Lakes ships they inspect every year have defective hatch covers, many worse than those on the Edmund Fitzgerald.

## PROFITS VS. SAFETY

The inspection board which investigated the wreck of the Fitzgerald recommended that the legal limit for cargo—which was raised in 1973—be lowered back to the old limit.

This was rejected by the Commandant of the Coast Guard. It's a lot cheaper to haul ore in the biggest possible quantities.

The crew of the Edmund Fitzgerald is gone. But the lives of merchant seamen on the Lakes are still being weighed against profits.

As Captain James Wilson, of the Great Lakes Area Marine Safety Division said:

"It's frightening. You say, if this one sank, what about all the rest?" □

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# WAS THIS THE NET THAT SNARED HOFFA?

by Mike Kelly

The current speculation about Hoffa's murder runs something like this.

Hoffa was organizing to oust Fitzsimmons as IBT President. He was speaking at meetings of Teamster members, such as testimonial dinners in Detroit. At these meetings he was talking about a new militancy in the Teamsters. An Overdrive magazine poll of Teamster members indicated that Hoffa would beat Fitzsimmons by a landslide.

Hoffa was also arm-twisting Teamster officials and mobsters—threatening to blow the whistle on crooked Pension deals unless they supported him. And Hoffa had the goods on them—after all he set up most of the scams himself.

## FITZ FEAR

Fitzsimmons, afraid of a Hoffa victory, arranged through the million dollar pay-off to keep Hoffa out of Teamster office until after 1980. A lucrative Teamster contract was also given to the firm of Charles Colson, Nixon's adviser.

But then Hoffa planned to take the restrictions on his running for office to court, and Fitzsimmons got scared.

Fitzsimmons (afraid Hoffa would defeat him), and the mob (afraid Hoffa would blow the whistle if he lost) decided to kill Hoffa.

Fitzsimmons arranged for Tony Provenzano to handle the murder. Tony then had Salvatore and Gabriel Briguglio and Thomas Andretta actually to do the job.

The source of the information on the Fitzsimmons pay-off to Nixon is Ralph Picardo. Picardo is a New Jersey trucking company owner—and a convicted murderer.

He previously fingered the Briguglios and Andretta as Hoffa's murders.

## WATERGATE TAPES

A section in the Nixon Watergate tapes seems to corroborate Picardo's information.

In those tapes Nixon said to John Dean, "...you could get a million dollars...And you could get it in cash. I know where it could be



Frank Fitzsimmons... Teamster President allegedly paid Nixon \$1 million to keep Hoffa out of Teamster politics... was he also implicated in Hoffa's disappearance?

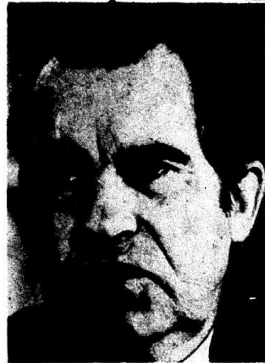


Charles Colson... got a lucrative Teamster contract for his law firm, and was go-between for the Fitzsimmons-Nixon pay-off.

"Tony Pro" Provenzano... was he the man who arranged to silence Hoffa for Fitzsimmons?



"Tricky Dick" Nixon took \$1 million pay-off from his golf-partner, Fitzsimmons. He pardoned Hoffa, but barred him from holding elected Teamster office until 1980. Planned to use the money to hush-up Watergate.



Jimmy Hoffa... who killed him... and why?



Salvatore Briguglio, Gabriel Briguglio and Thomas Angelo Andretta... associates of Tony Pro... were they responsible for the Hoffa hit?

gotten...We could get the money. There is no problem in that."

Nixon wanted to use that million to plug the hole in the Watergate.

When the whole story is told, it will confirm what Workers' Power

has been saying for the last few years. There has been a virtual conspiracy of employers, union officials and high government figures to rip-off the rank and file Teamsters.

The web of connections, from the

White House right down to the Local union hall, is now being revealed.

It's now up to the Teamster rank and file to get down to business and clean out the scum in the union. □

# Warren Stamping walkout stops firing, builds unity

by Ken Morgan

A one-day strike at Chrysler's Warren Stamping plant won back the job of a skilled trades apprentice, and produced unity in action—in a plant famous for not sticking together.

An apprentice on the midnight shift was indefinitely suspended Wednesday morning, falsely accused of threatening a foreman. The skilled tradesmen met on their lunch hour and democratically decided to take action—they walked out.

When the company failed to meet a 5:15 AM deadline, the men met the day shift as it arrived. Without picket lines, and with no violence, they explained the situation. Almost all the tradesmen, and

a large majority of production workers refused to go to work.

When the day shift stayed solid, Chrysler gave in, and re-instated the suspended worker.

The issue then became a guarantee that there would be no reprisals.

Despite pressure from the International, local officials were unable—or unwilling—to break the strike, and the afternoon shift also stayed out.

## POWER

For many strikers, it was a long-awaited chance to show their power, and to tell the company what they think of it. As one tool maker told Workers' Power, "Peo-

ple think it's hunky-dorey in there—it's not. Just to be out of that stinking place, to be in the fresh air, we're happy—we're jubilant."

That evening, a union meeting decided to return to work. The no-reprisal guarantee was not won; but the company had been shown that reprisals would just raise more hell.

Although Warren Stamping has not had a wildcat since 1961, there were signs that times were changing.

This spring the members of Local 869 of the UAW voted down their local contract. And last April they elected David McCullough, a well-known militant and member of the International Socialists, to be vice-president.

The Progressive Slate, of which McCullough is a member, intends to build from the new unity of skilled and production workers. The slate wants a leadership team which can organize the fight against the company, instead of trying to ignore it, or sell it out.

"We need unity—that's what a union's for—supposedly," said one production worker.

Of as Unity and Change, the Progressive Caucus Newsletter put it: "...the struggle isn't over. The harassment and lousy conditions that fueled the action will continue. So we, too, must continue to act united... The Company is on notice that reprisals won't be tolerated. We did it once and we can do it again." □

# Mine Wildcats Spread: 62,000 Out

WILDCAT STRIKES have spread to nearly 40% of the unionized miners in the United States. The strikes, protesting cuts in the miners' health coverage, show no signs of ending.

Indeed, although it seems incredible, some observers say they don't see how the strikes can be ended before the national contract expires December 7.

As of August 3, some 62,000 miners were striking. The wildcats had spread from southern West Virginia until they encompassed almost the entire state. Also heavily affected was eastern Kentucky.

The latest escalation in the wildcat strikes came after the United Mine Workers union's executive board met and refused to take any serious action on the health care cuts.

The cause of these strikes is the coal operators' attempt to break the militancy of the miners. The operators refuse to reallocate funds to keep the UMWA Health Funds solvent.

That means that active and retired coal miners have to start paying for a large part of their own health care. For many, particularly the retired, it has put health care financially out of reach.

## MAD AND GETTING MADDER

One industry source told the Wall Street Journal: "The miners are really mad and getting madder. I don't know what will pacify these people at this point."

That anger was demonstrated by one West Virginia UMWA local which voted to contribute \$400 to help pay for a protest march on Washington. The local has only 50 members.

The march they were joining was set for August 5. Some 1000 miners from Districts 17 and 29 planned to march from their union headquarters to the Capitol Building, then on to the Health and Retirement Funds office.

This could be only the beginning. Sam Church, Vice President-elect of the UMW, predicted that pensions would be cut in September if the strikes didn't end soon.

Both health care and pensions are funded by the coal operators, based on the number of hours worked and the amount of coal produced.

## CAN'T GO BACK

An official of a West Virginia UMW local explained to a reporter why his membership was staying out:

"A coal miner is under tremendous stress," he said. "Every time he goes into that mountain, he's in trouble. He doesn't want to worry about going broke on medical bills."

"If we lost that hospitalization card the next step is back to the company doctors, paid out of payroll deductions. Then back to living in company houses. We can't go back to the 1930s and 1940s."

Another miner echoed the same theme: "I'm not interested in solving this country's energy problem if the cost of solving that energy problem is putting us back in company houses." □

Jim Woodward



# 'HAVE GUN - WILL SELL'

- James Earl Carter, 1977



## 'How I learned to eat my words.' 'Yum, yum' says Wickus De Kock

"No Rhodesian worth his salt will run away from the terrorist cowards who attack innocent women and children."

So said a Rhodesian Minister of Security, Wickus De Kock, in 1974.

Guess what Mr. De Kock did three weeks ago. Right. He left for South Africa.

We might add that he took with him as much as he could of the riches he accumulated as a millionaire tobacco farmer.

The U.S. will not be gun runner for the world—that was the pledge of Jimmy Carter and Fritz Mondale during the 1976 election campaign.

No longer, they pledged, would the U.S. irresponsibly engage in massive arms transfers and weapons sales to countries around the world.

No sooner did Jimmy Carter take office than he sent out a major "decision memo" to implement this policy.

The old Ford-Nixon policy was that arms sales were automatically approved unless there was some reason not to. The new Carter policy was the reverse. Weapons sales would be disapproved unless there were good solid reasons for them.

That's the policy.

There are a few exceptions. But only to a few specific countries. Minor exceptions.

Here they are:

- The United States' western allies of NATO were, of course, exempted. The U.S. remains fully committed to the arming of western Europe. In fact, U.S. arms manufacturers compete viciously with European manufacturers for NATO tank, airplane, and other military contracts!

- Of course, this commitment to basic U.S. allies also extends to certain other brave outposts of democracy, human rights and freedom—like the Park dictatorship in South Korea.

- Certain powerful Senators and

other interests noted that the list of Carter's exceptions failed to include Israel. This caused great anger, so Israel was immediately added to the list of favored nations exempted from all arms transfer restrictions.

Jimmy Carter's recent gift to Menahem Begin, the right-wing Israeli Prime Minister, of several hundred million dollars of advanced warplanes and other weapons is a good example.

The addition of Israel caused other Senators to propose the further exemption of Iran and Saudi Arabia, both countries to which the U.S. is selling large quantities of weapons.

It makes sense. After all, the Shah of Iran is a great lover of freedom, and has many prisons full of his opponents to prove it. And Richard Nixon promised the Shah he could buy anything he wanted, anytime.

The Carter administration balked at adding Saudi Arabia and Iran outright. After all, what would be left of the shiny new policy?

A compromise was reached among reasonable men. Officially, Iran and Saudi Arabia remain subject to the restricted arms sales policy.

Unofficially, they are in fact exempted and will get U.S. arms uninterrupted, as Carter's proposal to sell Iran the advanced AWAC (radar command planes) system shows.

Now, it happens that all put together, the western allies, Israel, Saudi Arabia and Iran, and South Korea add up to over 90% of the dollar value of all U.S. weapons sales.

## U.S. SPY SATELLITES — NEW WRINKLE IN MIDEAST WAR?

The brief Egypt-Libya war may have looked like a stray outburst of fighting without any great meaning behind it.

In one sense, this is true. As far as solving the problems of millions of people on the edge of starvation in the Middle East, the whole incident means nothing.

But this little war does have quite a bit to do with the explosive crisis of capitalism in Egypt. Egyptian President

Sadat desperately needed an easy victory to distract attention from his collapsing economy and growing working class opposition.

The war is also part of the growing superpower rivalries in the Middle East and north Africa.

Above all, it reflects the United States' strategy of aid and massive arms shipments to several regimes in these areas.

Egyptian diplomats stationed in various countries stated that American military satellites gave the Egyptian air force information on Russian-built radar stations in Libya.

This is part of a growing American backing for Sadat. Only a few months ago, Sadat was one of the most prominent leaders offering to send troops to support the pro-U.S. dictatorship Zaire. □

## SUPPORT IRISH POLITICAL PRISONERS

Here is a human rights issue which you will never, never, hear Jimmy Carter breathe a word about. It is about conditions for political prisoners in a western country—Britain—where human rights violations officially don't exist.

This ad was placed in several Irish newspapers on behalf of Irish Republicans now in British prisons because of IRA activities. They are asking only for a basic human right—to be allowed to serve their sentences in prisons in their own country, Northern Ireland.

Since this ad appeared, Irish Republican prisoners have been refused the right to consult a lawyer or told they can speak to their lawyer only in the presence of a prison official.

Contributions and messages of support can be sent to the Prisoners Aid Committee, 182 Upper St., London N1, England.

## We Demand the Transfer of Irish Political Prisoners to Jails in Ireland

AT PRESENT over 80 men and women are serving sentences in English prisons for political offences connected with the current British Troubles in Ireland. Of those so convicted, three have died in prison.

On 3 June, 1974, MICHAEL GAUGHAN died while being force fed in Parkhurst. On 12 February, 1976, FRANK STAGG died during a hunger strike in Wakefield. On 9 October, 1976, NOEL JENKINSON died in the top security unit in Leicester in unexplained circumstances.

Noel Jenkinson had been badly beaten on three occasions and had spent six months in solitary. Frank Stagg had spent nearly three years in solitary in a cell stripped of furniture and heating. Michael Gaughan contracted pneumonia after a force feeding tube penetrated his lung.

According to figures released by the Home Office on 26 July, 1976, 46 Irish political prisoners had been held in solitary in the previous 12 months "for their own protection" but against their will; according to the same source in the same period 33 of them had suffered assaults in prison. LIAM MacLARNON has served two years of his sentence to date in solitary; GERRY CONLON spent six months in Wandsworth in solitary with jig saws for company. In Albany in September, 1976, SEAN CAMPBELL had an arm, a leg and a finger broken and ribs fractured. FR. BELL got a fractured nose; EDDIE BYRNE was beaten unconscious; LIAM MacLarnon, JOHN McCUSKEY and CON MacFADDEN were also injured. In Liverpool in May, 1975, BRENDAN DOWD had his teeth kicked out; SEAN KINSELLA's arm was broken; in Manchester at the same time PAUL NORNEY and NOEL GIBSON received severe injuries while in police custody. In Winson Green prison in

November, 1974, PAT GUILFOYLE, MARTIN COUGHLAN, STEPHEN BLAKE, TONY MADIGAN, RAY MacLAUGHLIN, GERRY YOUNG, GERRY SMALL and JIMMIE ASHE were all assaulted; in the same month JOHN WALKER, BILBY POWER, GERRY HUNTER, HUGH CALLAGHAN, RICHARD McILKENNY and PADDY HILL received injuries while in police custody. PAUL HILL has received injuries in Guildford, Wandsworth and Hull. In November, 1975, KEVIN DUNPHY was attacked in his cell in Parkhurst with an iron bar.

SHANE PAUL O'DOHERTY is currently held in solitary and refused all visits in Wormwood Scrubs because he refuses to wear uniform in protest at not being transferred to a prison in Ireland.

During the period 1972-75, according to Government figures, 27 soldiers convicted of crimes in Ireland were moved to serve their sentences in England. In the same period 22 civilians were also transferred to English prisons from Ireland.

Four Irish political prisoners have been transferred to Ireland, Dolours and Marian Price, Gerry Kelly and Hugh Feeney. They endured 205 days of force feeding.

ALL OTHER IRISH POLITICAL PRISONERS HAVE BEEN DENIED THIS RIGHT.

We call on all individuals and organisations to support our demand that Irish political prisoners who are being brutalised in English prisons be given the same right as criminals in the British Army:

THE RIGHT TO SERVE THEIR SENTENCES IN THEIR OWN COUNTRY.

# How Auto Barons Blackmail The Nation

A small group of powerful men pointed a knife right at the heart of the American economy.

They threatened to create chaos and disrupt production in this country's most vital industry, starting next week.

This small group is so powerful that it brought the mighty U.S. government to its knees. The Congress rushed through emergency legislation in response to their blackmail.

This group of men is not a cartel of organized gangsters, Arab oil ministers, or even union leaders.

They are the directors of Ford, General Motors and Chrysler. What the big three wanted was postponement of new auto emissions standards that were due to go into effect on '78 model cars. And what they wanted, they got.

Ever since 1970, when the first Clean Air Act passed, the auto giants claimed they did not have the technology to meet the phased-in standards.

U.S. automakers still make this claim, even though other companies, such as Volvo, already have cars on the road which meet the 1978 standards.

The truth is that the Big 3 knew

tough emissions controls would never be imposed without their consent—so why spend money on cleaning up their act when they could pay it out to shareholders instead?

Since 1970, they have been right. Last year, the Big 3 actually got permission to design their 1978 models on the assumption there would be a delay!

For several weeks, Congress was hung up over whether to give the industry a full two-year delay (House version) or to make 10% of the cars meet slightly higher standards in 1979 (the Senate).

Until this was resolved, the old law on '78 standards remained in effect. So the automakers claimed they would build no '78 models until the standards for 1979 and 1980 were set.

## BUSINESS ON STRIKE

This "business strike" would wipe out 500,000 jobs, cut total economic output by 5% every month, and, according to the Council of Economic Advisors, "Likely throw the country back into a recession."

While Congress, the press, and even President Carter were

working themselves hysterical over this threat, the automakers themselves were not worried.

They shut down many plants for model changeover, retooling for the '78's as if the emissions control delay were already passed.

They did this even though they could legally go on producing 1977 models the rest of the year—if they wanted to.

But they didn't want to. Threatening to cancel the '78 model in August 1977 was the best blackmail weapon the Big Three had.

Once again, they were right. The House-Senate compromise bill passed Wednesday means no improvement in air standards in 1978.

But the game starts over. To sweeten the pill, Congress approved what are described as really tough emissions standards for 1981 and 1982 models.

The Big 3 have started wailing already: "The new standards will be more difficult to meet than they ones we asked for."

Watch them do nothing for three years, then threaten another business strike in 1980 to delay the standards again!

They are certain a way will be found again to get them exactly what they want. And so are we. □

# Labor Notes

by Jim Woodward

NO TOMANOS COORS  
COORS SON MURDITOS A CHICANOS  
GENTE TRABAJANTE ESTUDIANTILE  
MUCHO DE RESPECTO  
ALL STRIKE A...  
COORS...  
COORS...



The federal government is making contingency plans to break a coal strike this winter, according to a report in the Mountain Eagle, a Kentucky newspaper. The government's plans reportedly include consideration of a Taft-Hartley anti-strike injunction and seizure of surplus coal for shipment to other areas. One Carter Administration official, Thomas J. Simmons, admits that a Taft-Hartley injunction probably couldn't get miners back to work, but adds, "We can always use the military, you know, in the last resort." As to moving coal from one area to another, Simmons says, "It's not strike breaking; it's action taken in the national interest."

The Prohibitionists used to say that just a drop of rum could turn you into a frenzied alcoholic. It gets in your blood, and you just want more and more. We don't know about rum, but strike-breaking does seem to have gotten into Maynard Jackson's bloodstream. Jackson is the formerly pro-labor mayor of Atlanta who smashed a strike of city workers this spring. Before the strikebreaking got to him so bad, Jackson had endorsed the nationwide boycott of the J.P. Stevens Company called by the Clothing and Textile Workers. He had issued an order for the city to officially join the boycott. Now he's announced he's reversing it. According to one management publication, "The mayor's announcement pleased business leaders who feared that the edict would hurt the Chamber of Commerce's current \$1 million, three-year campaign to lure industry to the city."

Productivity in the auto industry went up last year by 9.2%. Meanwhile, auto workers get an "annual improvement factor" wage increase of 3% as their reward for increased productivity. Unrelated news item: General Motors' profits totalled one billion dollars in the three-month accounting period just ended.

Joe Davidson, president of the Canadian Union of Postal Workers, is retiring from his \$22,000 a year job to go back to work as a letter sorter at \$13,000. That would be a shocking development if Davidson was a top official of a U.S. union. When our trade union bureaucrats retire or get kicked out, they normally go on to new jobs in government, industry, or China.

General Motors and Proctor and Gamble are trying to use their economic clout to block the creation of a Consumer Protection Agency. Both companies threatened to withdraw some of their employees from Blue Cross-Blue Shield if Blue Cross didn't stop supporting the consumer agency. According to columnist Jack Anderson, the Blue Cross Association agreed to weaken its stand.

Remember the public service jobs that the government said would help reduce unemployment? There were only 725,000 of them, but it seems the government has attached so many conditions that many jobs aren't being filled. Reports from Houston, for example show that only two out of ten job applicants can meet the conditions for employment.

July's issue of Steel Labor carries a flowery story about Lloyd McBride's installation as president of the United Steel Workers union. We don't know what public relations man they had write it, but he seems to think they've got God, or at least Mother Nature, on their side. Here's a sample: "The heavens defied the gloomy weather predictions and, instead, filled the sky with fleecy clouds while providing refreshing winds to accommodate the Steelworkers. . . . The transfer of power of America's most progressive and largest union passed from I.W. Abel to Lloyd McBride. What would the change mean? The winds were blowing from the west across the grounds, carrying a freshness perhaps symbolic of what may be willed in the union's ever-changing role to meet new challenges. . . ."

For more than three months, Latin-American groups picketed an A&P supermarket in Chicago demanding the company hire more Spanish-speaking employees. Finally, on July 23, the company agreed. A&P says it will hire more Latino workers until they make up 15-20% of A&P's city-wide work force.

The police made a mistake when they arrested a member of Ironworkers Union Local 301 in Kanawha County, West Virginia. No sooner had the ironworker gotten settled in the county jail than he noticed that non-union workers were being used to install a new system of locks. Fifteen members of the Charleston Building Trades Council quickly marched on down to the jail. After several hours of picketing, the contractor agreed to hire union workers to complete the job.

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

# Lynch Road Committee Says: Bring 'em Back Now!

When the workers at Chrysler's Lynch road assembly plant in Detroit walked out over the incredible heat last month, the plant had to be closed down.

Chrysler management fired three workers for the walkout.

The action led to a further wildcat, amid rumors of many more firings and suspensions to come.

The International was able to force everyone back to work, and there has been no further discipline yet. But the three fired workers are still on the street.

Lynch Road workers have established a Defense Committee for the three.

The defense committee's job, says Doug Crump, is "to keep a lot of pressure on the local, to keep the local officers aware that the people have not yet forgotten, and that they do not want this long drawn-out process of getting them back. They would like it stepped up a bit."

Crump is a Lynch Road 2nd shift worker with five years seniority with Chrysler.

## DRAGGING HEELS

Part of the committee's job, he says, is to make the people at the plant aware that the local leaders are dragging their heels.

"It seems like they don't want the people to be informed. They don't want to tell the person anything. Everybody passes the buck. 'It's out of my hands'."

"They haven't been doing their job all along. They have no



Doug Crump, Lynch Road Defense Committee.

grievances written, they have nothing written on health and safety, so by cooling it down they will keep their position from being jeopardized."

If the committee is successful, if the three get their jobs back, it will mean "that for the first time we had an organization of the people themselves, working towards one goal."

"I believe that this committee will be able to be used for other things, other emergencies, like cold in the winter—getting the heat, ventilation and all that."

"So it's not only for this period of time, it could be for the time from now on. . . ."

## WIDE SUPPORT

"The committee is just working people, everyday people. The

committee has reached out and got people from all levels of work, from the first shift and the second shift who generally had not been involved in any union activity.

"A lot of them have not even been to the union hall in quite a while. They're starting to participate, which is good, and with the committee."

"The heat cooled down, and it doesn't seem the problem anymore. So it's to keep the issue there are three people who have been fired because of the heat and there will be hotter days in years to come."

What the committee can become, says Doug Crump, is "an organization that could be organized quickly, put together quickly, and fight a problem as it comes." □

In the two and a half years immediately preceding the Watts rebellion 60 people were killed by the Los Angeles Police Department. Twenty-seven were shot in the side or back. Twenty-five were completely unarmed when murdered. Twenty-three had been suspected only of burglary or theft. Four had not committed any crime when they were killed. Nevertheless, in 62 of 64 cases the coroner's

juries returned verdicts of "justifiable homicide."

In 1975 and 1976—more than a decade since Watts—over one hundred and fifty people were shot by the Los Angeles Police Department. Sixty of those people died.

# Do The Cops 'Serve And Protect'?

Politicians and newspapers are fond of saying that there's been tremendous progress against poverty and racism since the heated sixties. The oppression and brutality that hundreds of thousands of Black and brown people exploded against is supposed to have been turned back.

None of it is true. Conditions in the poor urban communities are worse today than a decade ago. And the cops still try to keep the people quiet with a nightstick and a .38.

Police brutality is not an accidental or occasional lapse of profes-

sional behavior. It is standard practice deliberately encouraged in numerous official and unofficial ways.

It is encouraged by every newspaper article and television editorial referring to the people of the South Bronx as "animals."

It is encouraged by every court decision dismissing charges against the cop who shot a Black or Latino teen-ager in the back.

American capitalism is a decaying system. It uses ever-greater doses of brutality to control its ghettos—because, increasingly it has no other means of control except brutality.

Providing jobs, decent education and housing would be a hundred-billion-dollar task—the size of the military budget.

There is no money for any of this. There is only money to beef up police forces to instill a climate of greater fear.

Promises of police reform haven't done away with police killings. Even Watts and other ghetto rebellions, which warned this system what a deep crisis it is in, did not end the killings either.

But as Anthony Thigpen points out, the system is also producing the activists who will lead the struggle to turn it all around. Police

will stop murdering the people when the people have the power.

Thigpen is a fulltime organizer for Coalition Against Police Abuse (CAPA), a Los Angeles area organization fighting police abuse in the community.

CAPA investigators document cases of police brutality. CAPA organizers build local community police abuse committees.

Eventually these committees join CAPA as independent organizations.

Here Thigpen shares his views and experiences with Workers' Power readers. Interview by Kate Stacy.

They call Los Angeles "Dodge City" because it's pretty wild. The LA police are proud of their reputation of being one of the finest police departments in the nation. They try to maintain their reputation.

The department is also one of the most deadly.

In two years, 1975 and '76, over a hundred and fifty people have been shot by the LAPD. Sixty of those people died.

And we consider that of epidemic proportions, this genocide that's being practiced against community people.

Many of these people were unarmed citizens. Or they may have been armed with a pencil or a pen or a little pen knife or something like that.

And there were an even greater number of cases where people were being beaten, people were being harassed, people were being arrested.

Actually the community felt like

it was under seige: the police were running uncontrollably rampant. And there was no force addressing itself to stopping it.

## RACISM

I think that we can also see, not only in LA but across the country, in Black, brown and poor communities the higher rate of police presence.

The police, in reality, are not members of our community. They do not relate to the community on any other level except as armed enforcers of racism, sexism and other forms of oppression.

Secondly, the police are not in our communities to help them progress. They are actually there to intimidate and to control.

The police treat the people in our community with attitudes of suspicion, racism and general disrespect. They place very little value on the lives and safety of the people in our community.

They do not hesitate to use

excessive force and violence.

SWAT, for instance, started in the early 70's as a direct response to the Black movement and the anti-war movement of the late sixties.

It took CAPA members a long time to realize that the nature of the police is not to "protect and serve" as they say it is.

## WHO THEY SERVE

So it's not just a question of racism, it's a question of who the police serve. They do not serve the members of the community; they serve a very special class of people.

If you elect a Black mayor or put in a Black captain in charge of SWAT—or even as chief of police—it will not fundamentally change that relationship.

Three or four years ago, when we had a white mayor in Los Angeles, people's attitude was that the basic problem is that the mayor is white. The police department is white.

With the mayor now being Black, with more Blacks in the department, people thought there would be a change.

Yet the pattern of increased police repression has not stopped in any way. It has continued to intensify.

Likewise the city administration has not become more receptive to the needs and the problems of the community.

So people's consciousness now is not simply that there must be a Black face there, instead of a white face, but that something deeper must be involved. We say that the system is what's involved.

CAPA definitely associates the worsening economic crisis with



Anthony Thigpen

increased police repression. There are going to be more people taking to the streets.

For instance, about three or four years ago there was a very, very bad gang problem in the Los Angeles area. We relate that to the fact that the unemployment rate of young people in the community was maybe about 40%. We see the two—gangs and unemployment—as inseparable.

## PEOPLE ARE FORCED

One of the reasons we have had good success getting ordinary people involved in CAPA is because conditions are deteriorating and forcing people to respond.

CAPA's aim is to call public attention to instances of police abuse and crime; to politically educate on the origins of police terror and the growing menace of an all-out police state; to educate



people about our rights and organize a mass base in the community.

We had found that there was a widespread attempt on the part of community people to respond to police abuse.

Our experience was that many of these communities were organizing on their own. People with no political experience organizing defense committees, organizing justice committees.

CAPA came about to pull it all together.

The initial reaction that people have when they are involved in an incident of police abuse is shock or outrage.

As they go through it they realize that this is not a case of a "bad" policeman but a pattern by the police department. It's the policy of the police chief. The mayor of Los Angeles condones it. The district attorney's office and the city council support it.

## TRADITIONAL BODIES

And none of these traditional bodies are going to take the side of



# BLACK LEADERS TELL CARTER: YOU CAN'T EAT BROKEN PROMISES

by Kate Stacy

Jimmy Carter's failure to pay his campaign debts to Black voters has led to the first open falling out between the new President and Black leaders and politicians.

As US Congressman John Conyers put it, "We are acutely aware that Black support for the President is eroding."

Urban League Director Vernon Jordan has called for a conference of Black leaders in Washington a month from now. And Operation PUSH's Jesse Jackson is calling for a thousand Black and white ministers to hold a prayer vigil there at the same time.

As weak as these actions are compared to the massive social struggles carried out by Black people in the sixties, they are an indication of the division and ill-feeling that exists now between the Carter Administration and the Black leaders.

Congressman Conyers' remarks were made at a Congressional Black Caucus press conference last week. It was called to give public support to Vernon Jordan who had been sharply and arrogantly criticized by President Carter several days before.

Jordan, the moderate leader of the Urban League, had himself been sharply critical of the President's policies at the recent Urban League Convention.

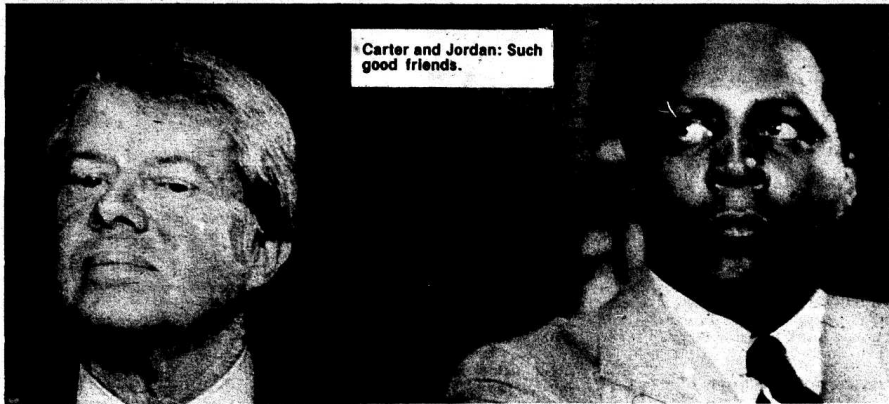
Jordan had pointed out that Carter was failing to deliver on campaign promises made when courting the Black vote during the election. "The sad fact is that the list of what the Administration has not done, far exceeds its list of accomplishments."

He singled out Carter's treatment of the problems of unemployment and urban decay for special criticism.

"Never have so many expected so much and received so little," he said.

The result of Carter's ignoring the problems faced by Black people is that his support among Blacks is dropping.

At the election 94% of Black voters supported Carter over Gerald Ford.



That support gave Carter the winning margin in 13 states, as Black people came to the polls in record numbers.

Today, however, Carter's popularity among Blacks has dropped to just over 60%. That is not significantly higher than his support among white people.

Black leaders have been concerned for some time as more and more Administration programs, policies and proposals have ignored the terrible conditions in the ghetto.

## PROGRAMS INADEQUATE

Carter's job program is woefully inadequate. His welfare program will force tens of thousands of needy people off the rolls. Abortions available to Black women will be sharply cut back when federal funding ends.

The attacks on living conditions since Carter took office are intolerable. And the dangers of Carter's approach were underscored in New York City when the lights went out and people went shopping.

Widespread looting—of necessities like food, as well as items like furniture and televisions—exposed both the poverty and the absence of

hope in the future.

The Black leaders were forced to face what they most feared. They are sitting on a powderkeg of discontent that they have no way of defusing.

They are deeply afraid that their leadership of the Black communities will be endangered, as it was lost in the late sixties.

## TO THE WALL

So the Black Caucus publicly told Carter, "Our backs are to the wall. There is no way we can come back to our communities and tell them why the President should be re-elected" if things go on the way they are.

Many of these politicians are even more worried. Some of them face re-election next year. Black voters are likely to hold them just as responsible for all the broken promises if they don't speak out.

These are the same leaders that gave Carter his tremendous margin of victory in the Black community. They turned out the Democratic vote with the traditional Democratic promises:

"The Democrats are the party of Black people, of the little people." "The problems in our communities are the result of cold-hearted Republican support for Big Business."

But Carter in office has turned out

to be equally cold-hearted. He has insisted upon pursuing policies to coddle businessmen into financial investment to strengthen the economic recovery—at the expense of traditional liberal spending programs.

And Carter's threat to Jordan that criticism of his Administration would "remove from the poor that prospect of a better life" was the last insulting straw.

It is Carter, after all, who has his claws gripped tightly around the federal purse strings.

The problem the middle-class Black leadership faces now is coming up with a new political strategy for the community.

## SOLE GOAL

Electing a Democratic President and Congress has been their sole goal since 1968. They have just watched their dream of a decade go down the drain in less than seven months—without their gaining a thing.

For the present their strategy seems to be to develop some solid public pressure, despite Jimmy Carter's displeasure at their first attempt at public criticism.

Jordan called for the conference in Washington next month saying, "We are learning that even an Administration sympathetic to our needs and in harmony with our aspirations needs sustained pressure."

But their strategy is also aimed at creating an illusion in the community that they are trying to carry on a serious fight with the Democratic Party power-brokers.

They may become critical—but it will be in conference rooms before television cameras. Not on the streets before thousands of Black people.

Carter is not going to change his policies unless people make it too expensive to continue the old ones. That's perfectly clear from his response to Jordan.

But the kind of massive community pressure that cannot be ignored by Washington is not something that Black politicians are willing to play around with.

They have, however, opened up the debate about how to proceed—a debate they can't just close.

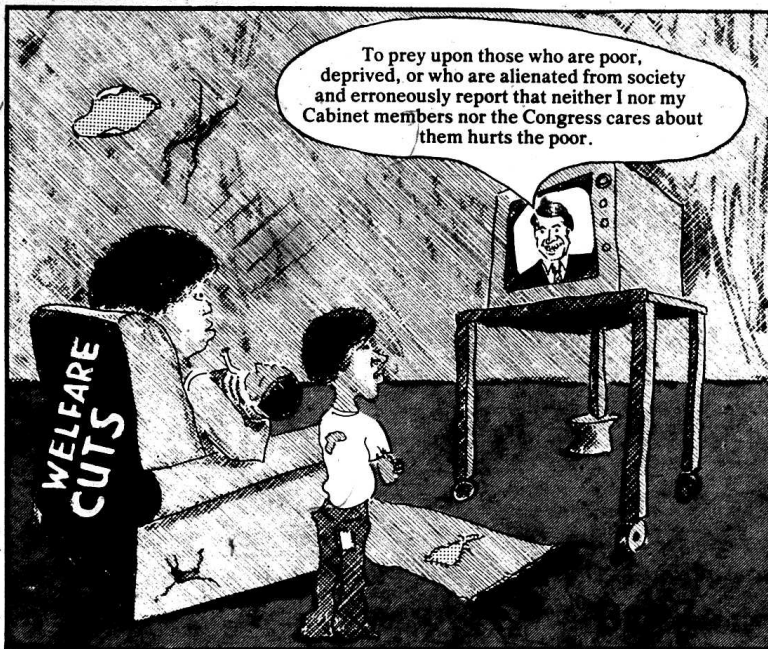
They have admitted that keeping quiet doesn't win anything.

Now they want to try speaking softly, but without the big stick.

We're for the big stick. That's how Black people won improvements during the sixties, by doing a lot more than complaining about racist treatment and conditions.

Black people marched, organized, protested and demonstrated, Black people built a movement that couldn't be ignored. And that is what we should be doing now. □

## CON MAN



the people instead. At that point the outrage can either lead to greater action or to despair. This is the importance of CAPA.

If people can see organizing, the attempt at some sort of victory, they will move toward action rather than defeat.

I left a meeting the other night and the people were ready to go down and shut the district attorney's office down.

That's the kind of action that people want to take now.

We are now involved in a mass action campaign that's leading up to a memorial mass action in mid-August. A memorial for all the people in the community that have been killed in the last two years.

We're going to have caskets that have been donated by a funeral parlor. They're going to have the names of the victims on them.

The caskets will be drawn down the major street in Watts, 103rd Street, ending in a rally in a park.

We hope to draw close to 5000 people to that rally to really focus on the whole case of police abuse.

# Postal Workers Fight Management Power

The main enemy of postal workers is "management power." Management power is everywhere.

It is the arbitrary authority of a supervisor who disciplines a clerk for "excessive talking."

It is the unseen postal inspectors, spying on the work floor with binoculars and listening devices. It is the constant harassment from use of sick leave.

It is the power of Postmaster Bailar to shut down Saturday delivery and throw postal workers' lives into chaos.

## UNIONS DON'T FIGHT

There is only one way to counteract postal management's power—through union power. A united workforce is the answer, organized to back up its demands with muscle.

But the major postal unions today spend most of their time and money teaming up with management. They lobby for legislation to "save the postal service" which really only saves postal management.

The American Postal Workers Union blew its whole strike fund to

publicize a U.S. Senate bill that did nothing for postal workers.

Last May the Letter Carriers' officials threatened and manipulated Seattle letter carriers out of voting to strike against intolerable conditions.

And in Philadelphia, Bulk Mail Center mailhandlers were threatened by their union officers after they walked away from mandatory overtime.

## MISTRAINED

The current union leadership was mistrained in the 1960's, when they learned to be happy with wage increases gained by begging in the halls of Congress.

Their real growth as a bureaucracy, with interests separate from the rank and file, came in 1970 during the nationwide postal wildcat strike.

Led by Letter Carriers' president Rademacher, the bureaucrats claimed the strike was led by "outside radicals." They threatened to expel local unions, and worked feverishly to get the workers back on the job.

The postal unions can and must

be changed to take on and defeat management's plans. What is needed in the postal unions is:

- A democratic structure and new leadership controlled by the rank and file.

- Cross-union unity at the rank and file level and on up. Carrier, clerk, mechanic, motor vehicle operator, and mailhandler all have the same goal—justice in the fight against management.

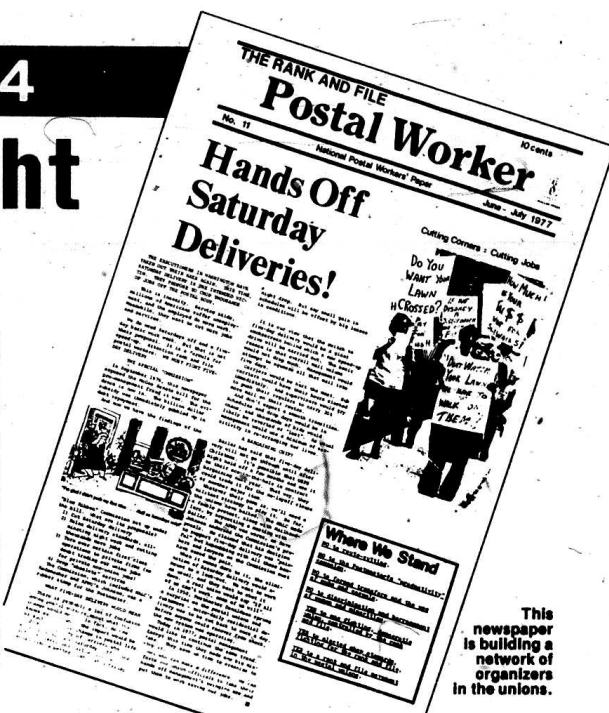
- The rights of women and minorities must be defended above all. Otherwise, no unity of the whole workforce is possible.

- Elected shop stewards and union officials, contract ratification rights, and rank and file control of decisions are the only safeguard against sell-outs.

## IT CAN BE DONE

The first rank and file movement in the post office was back in the 1910's, centered around a newspaper called The Harpoon.

The Harpoon, published by a Denver postal worker, exposed the terrible safety conditions on railway mail cars and union inaction to correct them. The paper built a



This newspaper is building a network of organizers in the unions.

mass campaign and forced the post office to introduce safer steel cars.

The modern rank and file movement was born in the 1970 national wildcat strike. In the Carriers' union especially, this action discredited old leadership and brought to power more militant local leaders in many cities.

The Carriers' movement grew

into a national struggle for union control under the leadership of New York branch president Vince Sombrotto.

However, Sombrotto has failed twice to win the national presidency, including his latest bid in 1976.

The main weakness of the Sombrotto brand of unionism was that it lost touch with the grass-roots base. It became a movement of and for local officials. And it abandoned the militancy that launched it in 1970.

## RANK & FILE POSTAL WORKER

The most promising rank and file based effort today is the national network around the newspaper, Rank and File Postal Worker.

Launched in March 1976, the Postal Worker has grown to have about thirty inside distributors from all three major unions in 20 cities.

The Postal Worker is more than a newspaper, it is an organizing tool. For example, at the 1976 Letter Carriers' national convention, supporters of the paper used it to organize a rank and file caucus. They worked together on the convention floor to support or oppose resolutions.

## FAIR SHAKE IN '78

One of the key things that groups like the Rank and File Postal Worker can do is to organize for a decent national contract.

In 1975, not a single national or local union was prepared to lead a strike effort. As a result, postal workers got stuck with a disastrous contract.

The wage raise was only 3% a year. And management was given the go-ahead to cut jobs and ignore deteriorating conditions.

The fall-out from the 1975 contract has been destructive. Here are some figures:

- Jobs Lost—More than 60,000 since 1975
- Job Injuries—More than tripled since 1974

- Grievances appealed to arbitration—46,000 under this contract.

Today, postal workers are POW's, prisoners without the ways and means for escape. The tool they need is a rank and file movement.

The first step is to organize and fight for a fair shake in '78. A successful contract fight could open up the doors for a new era in postal unionism.

# Paper Builds Their Movement

Pat Moore is a mailhandler at the San Francisco Bulk Mail Center. She is a shop steward in Mailhandlers Union Local 302. She is also national editor of the Rank and File Postal Worker.

She spoke to Workers' Power about the rank and file paper.

Some people at work look at me, and they say, 'I don't understand, you're so moderate in your demeanor. You're so responsible-sounding. Why is it management doesn't like you so much?'

I keep reminding them that, yes, they don't like me because I do edit this paper.

I've been editor about nine months now. I took over from the people who started the paper in Philadelphia, just because I was willing to take it on.



Pat Moore

The Postal Worker has grown steadily for a year and a half.

Letters come in requesting bundles of 200 papers, saying "this is a good paper" and they want to pass it out to people.

The paper stands for the idea of the rank and file taking on their own problems.

We want one union, not three craft unions. We feel that it ought to be more democratic, as far as electing shop stewards, not appointing them.

## CONTRACT IN 1978

People are definitely looking toward the 1978 contract, because the last one was so bad. We've started a series of articles on loopholes that exist right now in the contract that have been giving us all kinds of problems. Loopholes that we want to see closed.

The national director of the Mailhandlers Union came out to San Francisco recently, and someone put it to him directly:

"If you're interested in input into the contract, I think it's important that all members ought to be aware of this and send in their ideas. What do you think about that?"

He said, "Actually, that would mean thousands of letters, and I just do not have the time to read

through all of those."

He was clearly not interested in any rank and file input. I think this is why our paper is so important.

I don't think a lot of people, especially younger ones, are unhappy with their paychecks as such. But the conditions, the overtime, the accidents, the reduction of force, the speed-up that goes along with that. All these loopholes are really galling.

## RANK AND FILE POWER

I've been able to actually use the paper to take on local management.

There came a point last year when management attempted to prevent people from bringing in any rank and file literature.

Then they posted a notice prohibiting any meetings. People were afraid to talk to each other.

Just saying "management can't do that" didn't help because people said they'd already done it!

It was clear to me that even the act of accepting this would be a disaster. So I used the paper by just walking right up to the guard with a huge stack and saying I had the right to bring them in.

Eventually USPS was forced to post an official NLRB notice reaffirming people's rights to organize.

It's really important for people to see that standing up to management does work.

## BROADER IDEAS

It's really important that this paper not just reflect my ideas. I think it should be even broader than it is now, as far as reflecting a lot of different ideas.

There are lots of local postal workers' groups organizing, a lot that we probably don't even know about. We've had contributions from groups in Seattle, Philadelphia, and Pittsburgh.

What the paper can actively do depends on what people are willing to do. We can give all the support and aid we can.

But as a paper, the Rank and File Postal Worker is dependent on people doing the actual organizing themselves. That's really the ultimate goal.



"You feel stronger when you know you're not alone."

"The rank and file needs an independent voice. We need an outlet if we're gonna have any victories and teach anyone anything and raise the spirit of the rank and file. There's a real need for the information. The whole idea of the paper is out in front of the rank and file, but it's growing and people are referring to it. It's our effort—a grass roots effort—Independent of bureaucratic unionism. The purpose is to hook us up—show we're not by ourselves.

"You feel stronger when you know you're not alone. And people can see something concrete is being done. Management is quite bold about its programs. We have to answer with an organized, unified rank and file point of view."

Edgar Payne  
Pittsburgh Mailhandler  
Sponsor, "Rank & File  
Postal Worker"

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## NAZIS IN SKOKIE: WAS FREE SPEECH THE REAL ISSUE?

Dear Workers' Power:

Your response to Michael Urquhart and Dick Anderson (Workers' Power, July 25) was distressing. It struck me as flippant and unserious. Workers' Power readers deserve a better response than just a cartoon.

There are two related but separate issues involved here.

1) Do we welcome or reject the bourgeois state deciding who should have a right to speak, when and how?

2) Do we ourselves advocate that the right of free speech of fascists, racists and other such scum should be defended?

We must agree with Michael Urquhart that under no circumstances can we support the bourgeois state limiting the right of free speech of any group

whatsoever, including the vilest Fascists.

Because of this we must support the American Civil Liberties Union to the extent that they are trying to keep the sticky fingers of the state out of these matters.

This is so even though we most definitely disagree with many of the ACLU's arguments and political conclusions.

The second point is more difficult and controversial. To begin with, I would contend that in this particular case (the Nazis in Skokie) we are not faced with a situation which primarily involves the issue of free speech.

If I am not mistaken, these are the very same Nazis who have been physically attacking blacks and their supporters in Marquette Park, Chicago. These Nazis have

therefore openly declared physical war on us.

It would be wrong to argue that we are only entitled to stop them at those times and places when the Nazis choose to attack us physically.

This would give them the exclusive right to choose the timing and terrain for battle, a stupid mistake for any fighter to make.

In fact, Skokie is probably a much better place to defeat them in physical combat than Marquette Park precisely because they have no community support in the former city.

However, it is still possible though not very likely, that tactically it might not be a good idea to try to physically stop the Nazis in Skokie. For example, this would be the case if there was little political support for such a tactic and we might isolate ourselves from present or potential allies.

People in Chicago are in the best situation to judge that.

There are other kinds of racist propagandists, like Professors Arthur Jensen and Edward Banfield, who claim Black people are inferior. Unlike the Nazis, these racists are not presently engaged in physically attacking opponents or even in preparing for such action.

They should be vigorously and militantly answered through persuasion and propaganda as well as with picket lines that stop short of actually preventing them from speaking.

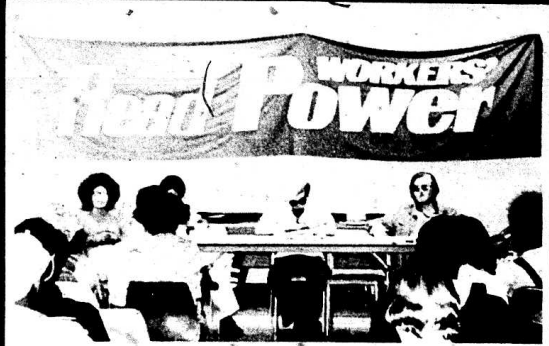
I do believe that Jensen and Co. have the right to free speech, and much more importantly, that their audiences have the right to hear them.

Our job is to successfully expose such racists and to convince their audiences that their views are worse than worthless and indeed quite dangerous.

The only alternative to this approach is to adopt an elitist and contemptuous attitude to people with backward political consciousness (among them many workers).

Dan Poson  
Detroit

Ricardo Levy  
Hoboken, New Jersey



## Workers' Power: Buy It, Read It, Sell It!

Dear Workers' Power:

Just a few weeks ago, Steve and I were selling the Workers' Power in the Mitchell Projects of the South Bronx. Steve saw how successful I was selling the paper and relating to the tenants door-to-door on the problems and struggles we face here in the South Bronx and how the same problems relate worldwide wherever capitalists exist. I would like to take this opportunity to maybe help new members and other comrades by giving them a few pointers on how they may also be successful in door-to-door selling Workers' Power.

1) Across the country the approach may be different in ways to sell. Here in the South Bronx, I take my son Edwin, 7 years old, to help. Then I announce myself as father and son. This way, the person usually opens the door. Those of you who don't have children, a friend's child would do.

2) I try to use diplomacy. If they are busy, I don't press the issue. I tell them I'll return at a later date. After two or three times they see I'm serious and

some start buying Workers' Power.

3) When I see a friendly face, I try to engage the tenant in a conversation. First, I've already read particular articles from Workers' Power to show I'm familiar with all the politics and I'm clear on the issues. I find this most effective, particularly if you are talking about a problem close to them and their family.

4) A really important lesson to be learned is not to argue right away with the person about all their philosophies. Before we can do that we want to establish an association with the householder that will last. If we do that, the Workers' Power can go a long way in changing their political views in time.

5) We can also use our time selling the paper to tell people about any demonstrations, films, or activities we may have going on in the future. We can get times to escort them to these things, too. By being generous now, we'll do a lot to build a strong political force for tomorrow.

Rudy L.  
South Bronx

## Another view: mass action needed to stop fascists

Dear Workers' Power:

Dick Anderson's letter (Workers' Power, July 25) states: "While defending even the rights of Nazis to put across their views through speeches and demonstrations, we stand ready to repel racist aggression with force, including deadly force if necessary."

Applied to the Nazis or Ku Klux Klan, this idea is ridiculous. And if Dick Anderson lived on 71st Street in Chicago he would know it.

The Nazis, last summer, were sending sound trucks through the Black community east of Marquette Park, blaring out the message "Niggers Beware" as they drove up and down the streets.

Is this an example of "speeches and demonstrations" which Anderson thinks we should defend?

Or is it "racist aggression" which Anderson says he is for resisting "with force"?

Would it be an exercise of free speech if, for example, the Nazis got a parade permit for it in advance?

When the Ku Klux Klan burns crosses in Plains, Georgia or Columbus, Ohio, a symbol of a century of lynchings and terror, is this an exercise of free speech which the Black community and socialists should respect?

Let's not be idiots. The question is not whether Nazis and the Klan should be allowed to organize. The real question is: what is the most effective way to stop them?

Should we call for laws and injunctions banning them? Or should we be organizing massive direct actions to drive the Nazis and the Klan back into the holes they came from?

In my view, the answer is that only mass actions can effectively stop fascists from organizing. We need to begin building the kind of movement which has already broken up dozens of fascist meetings and marches in other countries, especially Britain.

Dan Poson  
Detroit

Ricardo Levy  
Hoboken, New Jersey

## Stop the bombings! Free Puerto Rico!

On Wednesday, a Puerto Rican nationalist group set off bombs in New York City office buildings.

One person was killed, seven injured and the Empire State Building and a number of other buildings evacuated.

Mayor Beame was quick to condemn the bombings as "a monstrous act of terrorism," and to call for resuming the death penalty.

But when did Mayor Beame ever condemn the terrorism of the United States government against Puerto Rico?

Did Mayor Beame protest when the U.S. Navy shelled Puerto Rico for target practice?

What has he said about the incredible poverty of the Puerto Rican people?

In Puerto Rico, if you are lucky you can work for American textile, or electronics, or other firms for

Farmworkers in the Puerto Rican countryside don't have enough to eat. All the food they grow, on farmland owned by U.S. agribusiness, is shipped back to the U.S.

The tactics of the group which set off Wednesday's bombs, the FALN, don't weaken U.S. imperialism in Puerto Rico. The bombings are, in fact, opposed by the Puerto Rican independence movement.

But each act of U.S. government repression against the Puerto Rican independence struggle creates more bombers.

It creates more young Puerto Ricans who believe, mistakenly,

that their country can only be freed by acts of terrorism against North American citizens.

As long as this brutal oppression continues, the bombings we have seen so far may be only the beginning.

But there would be no more bombings in U.S. cities—if the United States stopped oppressing Puerto Rico.

If the five Puerto Rican nationalists jailed since the 1950's were freed. If Puerto Rico were given the national independence which rightfully belongs to its people.

The bombings can be stopped. Free Puerto Rico now!

Sandy Boyer

## Space-Age Sexism

Dear Workers' Power,

The science fiction movie Star Wars is being hyped as the year's best picture. Well, it is very entertaining, a terrific piece of escape-into-childhood adventure, but no one ever mentions that it's racist and sexist. (That's unusual?)

The movie has only two women in a cast of hundreds. One is a stereotype housewife/mama and the other is a princess (A PRINCESS!) who wears a long white dress.

There are no humans of any race other than white. This is all the more remarkable because of the bar scene. Hanging out in an intergalactic bar are space pilots from all over the universe—many

sorts of strange peculiar creatures. (Now, all have two legs and two arms, none fly, none are beings of light, etc., so they aren't really so diverse.) But since the film doesn't even show the diversity of people existing on this planet, I would say it's guilty of silent racism.

As opposed to another hype, The Deep, which is an example of such loud shouting racism even Time Magazine was shocked. I hear The Deep portrays black men in the most feared racist stereotypes: rapists, murderers, vicious dirty fighters. I'd tell you more, but damned if I'm going to spend money to see it.

Yvonne  
Austin, Texas

# 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. Capitalism keeps women responsible for taking care of the work force 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 other 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 class 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**  
Black people are an oppressed national minority in the United States. They have the right to self-determination—to decide their own future. The struggle of every oppressed group for equality is a just struggle—Blacks, women, gays, Latinos, American Indians. We are for the independent organization of oppressed peoples to fight for their freedom. Support from the entire working class movement will make the struggles of both—the oppressed and the working class movement—stronger.

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

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

**•INTERNATIONALISM**  
The struggle for socialism is world-wide. We support every fight of the working class against exploitation, and every struggle by nations fighting for independence from foreign rulers. We support every struggle for freedom—for the people of southern Africa against racism and western colonialism, to the struggle against bureaucratic rule and Russian imperialism in Eastern Europe. We demand complete independence for Puerto Rico from U.S. colonial rule.

**•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.

**Workers' Power**  
313-869-5964

# Come To The I.S. Workers' Conference

## Malcolm X

"It is incorrect to classify the revolt of the Negro as simply a racial conflict of Black against white, or a purely American problem. Rather, we are today seeing a global rebellion of the oppressed against the oppressor, the exploited against the exploiter."

Malcolm X, 1965

In 1965 one of the great men of this century was murdered by his life long enemy, capitalist and racist America. Within his life span he became the conscience of the Black liberation movement. Malcolm became the most vocal spokesman for the defense of the Black community, breaking with the Democratic Party and seeing the inseparable connection between American capitalism and American racism. His ideas did not die with him. His own development politically and personally became an inspiration to millions during his life. Malcolm became the symbol of the section of the Black liberation movement that would not make any compromise with the system. This workshop will discuss Malcolm X and the development of his ideas.



highlight

## Children Under Capitalism



Children do not have the power to make change, so they seem less important to us when we think about building the revolutionary movement. Yet they are vitally important for the future of the revolutionary movement. It is they who will at least have to carry on the revolution, if not make it themselves.

This workshop will discuss the oppression of children under capitalism.

highlight

highlight

## A Talk on Strategy for the American Revolution

highlight

## History of The I.S.

movies

singing

sports

highlight



## Four Skits on Sexism

In the first skit a new woman hiree in a steel mill runs head on into the sexist attitudes of her fellow workers about her ability to do her job.

In the second, a woman applies for a job in a demolition company. She wants a job as part of a demolition crew, but ends up being hired as a secretary. What happens next? Come and find out!

The third skit is about a Teamster who is having trouble at work. His wife wants to get involved and help him. He refuses her help, but his steward, a TDU member, challenges his traditional ideas that his wife's place is at home.

In the last skit Anita Bryant and her husband go to school to meet their son's teacher. They are shocked to find that she is Black...

# August 13/14

## WORKSHOPS

History of the U.S.  
Lessons of the Rank and File Movement  
Malcolm X—The History of His Ideas and Their Importance for Today  
Women's Liberation—Skit about how sexism works  
What is Human Nature?—or "Aren't People Too Greedy for Socialism To Ever Work?"

Workshop for Kids  
What is Fascism?  
How the CIO was Organized  
Perspectives for Black Liberation

Gay Tyler Play  
Slide Show on the Russian Revolution  
Film on Portugal  
Children Under Capitalism  
Lenin  
Gay Liberation  
Soweto Slide Show  
What the IS is About Today  
The Unions and the Law  
Can Workers Run the Factories?  
FREEDOM! Questions and Answers About Socialism

## ACTIVITIES

Swimming  
Volleyball  
Softball  
Hiking  
Tennis  
Singing  
Handball

See your Workers' Power seller or I.S. Branch Organizer for more information. Or write to: Workers' Conference, Workers' Power, 1411 22nd Street, New York, N.Y. 10011

## NBC Visits White South Africa

by Michael Paskeviciuz

NBC News made a surprisingly good attempt to document the racist political system of white South Africa. So I suppose we shouldn't be too upset with the mistakes.

At no time during the program was there any

### Africa's Defiant White Tribe: NBC News Special. July 27.

mention of the role of foreign investment in the South African economy, or the role of the US in maintaining apartheid.

Of course, this allows the TV producers to portray the white minority as an Alamo under siege, facing the angry Black hordes (led by school children) and a world opinion which views them with moral distaste.

The basic tone of the show was so-called "journalistic neutrality"—which seems about as honest as "moral distaste" in a world where journalism is anything but neutral.

Although one might have guessed, the conditions of Black labor were never fully exposed. Nothing about strikes or union bargaining being illegal for Blacks. Nothing on the activity of the Black working class.

Focus on the whites really called for more vivid examples of how Blacks are treated.

#### TRIBE???

One more gripe, before I get on with some of the good points. The title hits the screen and I go: What's this tribe shit?

Since when did a bunch of

white colonists from different countries, who live by brutally exploiting disenfranchised black labor—since when did they just become one "tribe" among many, just trying to stake out some territory?

I could go on, but you get the point, I'm sure.

So what did they show us? They showed us the ideology and ritual of South African racism. The Bible and the gun.

The quotes from the whites interviewed couldn't have been clearer: "The Black man is not up to the standard of the white man."

"We try to treat them strictly and fairly; in the same way we treat our own children."

"They've been overpaid."

A picture of near-slavery is described as "the most expensive farm labor in the world."

South Africa's Homelands policy and its political



NBC had nothing to say about the role of U.S. corporations in South Africa.

motivation was handled well. The policy has many parallels with the treatment of the Native Americans, going all the way back to pioneers in covered wagons.

The South African government wants to change the Homelands from reserva-

tions to nations. This will make nearly all Black South Africans into foreigners with nowhere to work except in the whites' country.

In keeping with this, industries are relocating to areas bordering the Homelands. As one black leader

put it: "The land they grab from us they grab through the barrel of the gun."

The intensive military training and equipment of the racist regime rank it as one of the most heavily armed people in the world. Defense spending has quadrupled in the last five years as they prepare for the war they view as inevitable.

as they prepare for the war they view as inevitable.

The famous heart surgeon Christian Barnard, made the point that the government should be elected on merit—not on a one man one vote system (because a Black government is undesirable at this time). Then he went on to say that "South Africa should develop the atomic bomb, so people know we have it."

Would he use it? Yes, if they were losing a war, if they were pushed too far. Besides righteousness at the thought of blowing up Africa if they're no longer allowed to oppress and exploit Blacks, they believe the power and glory of their God marches with them.

NBC's narrator Garrick Utley said at the beginning, the whites will "decide whether the future will bring conciliation or catastrophe."

"Catastrophe" is how western journalists and businessmen view any kind of revolutionary freedom struggle.

But that struggle in South Africa doesn't mean catastrophe. It means liberation. □

## Meanwhile In Zimbabwe, Ian Smith Tries A Magic Trick



Ndabaningi Sithole, Smith's new hope

The Rhodesian government of Ian Smith needs to pull a rabbit out of a hat. The white racist regime is on its last legs.

Since rabbits are scarce, Smith has found himself a puppet instead. Rev. Ndabaningi Sithole, who used to be a leader of the Zimbabwe African National Union (ZANU), has been allowed to return to Rhodesia.

Sithole is now one of the "Black moderates" who might make a deal with Smith.

What kind of deal? Make Sithole Prime Minister, call the country Zimbabwe, get a new flag—and everything else stays the same.

The whites would continue to own the land, the mines, all the

wealth of the country.

Unfortunately for Smith, Sithole, and the ruling minority, the real ZANU, the one Sithole no longer has any influence with, is fighting an increasingly successful war.

A Black face and new flag won't be enough to satisfy the freedom fighters.

#### ROUNDED UP

Sithole's sell-out includes a promise to preserve the white-controlled armed forces and police. These are the forces that ZANU is battling, the forces that murder dozens of Zimbabwe villagers each week.

Recently the government carried

out a big round-up of supporters of another nationalist organization, ZAPU (the Zimbabwe African People's Union).

"Our organization has been completely rolled up," said ZAPU spokesman Josiah Chinamano.

Besides the mass arrests, Rhodesian agents planted a bomb which wrecked ZAPU headquarters in neighboring Zambia.

No matter how many speeches he makes, or rallies that Smith allows him to hold, and no matter how much the Western press tries to play him up, Sithole and his white masters will have to face the facts.

The people of Zimbabwe don't want a puppet. They want freedom. □

## WHEN WOMEN RUN THE WORLD

by Elissa Clarke

Everyone is saying that "All That Glitters" has only one joke. The joke is that women play the roles of men. Women are the executives that run the world; men stay home and make artichoke casserole.

"All That Glitters." Produced by Norman Lear. Starring Barbara Baxley, Lois Nettleton, Chuck McCann.

The only problem I can see with "All That Glitters" is that this is 1977. Its message is about women's liberation. It's a little late.

But it is a very important message. Glitters shows the tremendous waste of human potential caused by sexism in this society. And the message comes across very dramatically.

Glitters takes a fairly ordinary scenario, and turns it on its head. The plot concerns the Globatron Corporation, and the executives who scramble to make it. Only, all the executives are women, and all the secretaries and housewives are men.

#### HEAVY

When Donna Reed or Mrs. Ozzie and Harriet, or your own mother or wife stayed home all day to devote her life to her family, it seemed to make sense.

But when you see a man staying home, wasting his life in the kitchen, it's heavy.

It makes you think: hey, this doesn't make sense. This guy could be out leading a productive life. Instead he sits at home. His wife hates him because he is a fat, boring nag. He hates himself. He dotes on her, not because he loves her, but because he is financially dependent on her. It doesn't make sense. It's fucked up.

The point is that it doesn't make sense for women either.

Norman Lear, the famous producer of the show, insists that he has no message planned for Glitters. His idea was simply to reverse sex roles—it is up to the viewer to draw his or her own conclusions.

In fact, Lear does not go far enough in drawing the lessons from Glitters. The lesson is that there is no moral basis for sexism—women are just as qualified to handle jobs as men.

But Lear does not point out that there is an economic basis. If the capitalist system had to pay men and women equal wages and provide jobs for all, it would go under.

If the bosses had to bring women's wages up to men's earnings, it would cost about \$111,902,689,840 every year. And that does not include providing jobs for all women, which would cost (roughly) another \$287,089,600,000.

I hope I haven't gotten you, too interested in Glitters, because it has been canceled. Sixty-five shows have already been made. If

your city is like Detroit, they will be shown at obscure hours, designed to force the most dedicated viewer to give up.

I may be the only reviewer who likes Glitters. But let me qualify: the show just started in Detroit this week, and it is rather boring. That's because Lear did not bother to spend the money on writers who could develop the characters and the plot enough to make it interesting to follow.

It doesn't mean there is anything wrong with the idea. There is no reason why watching the developments of the Globatron Corporation should be any more boring than watching a plot that centers around men.

Next time, Norman Lear, go for broke. □

# NATIONAL STRIKE SET FOR BELL

AT PRESS TIME, 700,000 phone workers in several unions were set to strike the Bell system. As of August 4, negotiations between the company and the Communications Workers of America (the largest phone worker union) were deadlocked. The company was refusing to negotiate seriously.

Bell's first offer included some minor improvements in life insurance, dental, employee survivor, maternity and long term disability plans, but made no mention of job security or Cost of Living on pensions, two of the major issues.

Bell offered a 5% wage increase the first year and 2.5% plus COLA

the next two. The 5% would not even make up for wage losses since July of 1976, the most recent wage boost.

The CWA has \$15 million in its strike fund, although money can be transferred from other funds. Spread among 550,000 members, it would amount to an average of \$27 per person.

Thursday, CWA President Glen Watts called a press conference to notify the President, Congress, Secretary of Labor and the American people, that Bell management was refusing to negotiate seriously. A strike was inevitable.

A letter from Martin Hughes, CWA International Vice President

stated that a national strike, because of ratification procedures, would last a minimum of four to five weeks.

From the beginning, the company has made it clear that it intends to test the union's strength. Bell is prepared for a long strike. Phone workers should be also. □

## Workers' Power

# DO YOU WANT TO RETIRE? AT 68??

## GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL PROPOSES SOCIAL SECURITY CUTS



by Karen Kaye

YOU MAY BE SENTENCED to three more years at hard labor—if certain leading members of the Carter Administration have their way.

"If you were to extend work life to 68 and not start Social Security benefits until age 68, you would reduce enormously the Social Security burden," Commerce Secretary Juanita Kreps told reporters last week.

The plan certainly would save money. Not only would we all pay FICA taxes for three more years instead of collecting—but think of all they'd save on the people who died before retirement.

Today, you can collect partial benefits at 62 and full benefits at 65. But the government is worried because it looks like Social Security funds will run out by 1983.

Why should working people be punished with an extra three years on the job? Is it somehow our fault that social security is going broke?

Not unless unemployment and low wages are our fault.

Social Security is funded by a 5.8% tax on the first \$16,500 of each person's wages. This amount is matched by the employer.

When people are laid off, they don't pay in. And that is what has happened—high unemployment in recent years has drained the fund.

Now Kreps suggests that because we were laid off, we must work an extra three years to get a pension.

It sounds like a plan an employer would thing up, not an administration that campaigned with the support of almost every major union.

People working for three more years will keep unemployment high. Youth unemployment, already a problem, will get worse.

There are other ways to solve the problem. Like creating more jobs so more funds would be paid in. Or raising wages. The millions who earn less than \$16,500 don't pay the full FICA tax.

But apparently the government has considered none of these ideas. Last week the Senate Finance Committee rejected a proposal from President Carter to use income tax funds to prop up Social Security. That plan would also have taxed employers beyond the \$16,500 limit.

Of her own plan, Kreps says, "It could gain some momentum—it could happen. We would do it gradually. But I think within eight years it's possible that could become a policy, sure."

A policy that will cheat older workers of the first years of retirement; that will kill some; that will keep young workers unemployed... will they still have the nerve to call it Social Security? □

How would you like to do this for another 3 years.

## WORKERS' POWER

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## RED TIDE SAYS 'JOBS NOW!'

Things aren't too good often in the best of times, but if you're young and out of work things can be miserable indeed.

On the southwest side of Detroit thousands of youths without jobs roam the streets looking for something to do.

Looking for a friend with something to get high, for something to rip off, or just for some way to kill time.

Last Saturday they had something to do. The Red Tide, youth



We're not statistics, we're real people. We want jobs!

group of the International Socialists, held its second "People's Unity Day" in Clark Park.

The Red Tide called for jobs for youth, for equal rights for women and minorities. And a couple of local bands, the Flintstones and Constellation, played for several hundred people who couldn't afford tickets to a concert.

### WE WANT WORK!

"This society has money for a neutron bomb—a bomb that will kill us without damaging the factories, the machines—but they don't have the money to put us to work in decent jobs," said Frank Runninghorse, a Red Tide leader.

"If they won't put us to work, then we'll put ourselves to work organizing to overthrow this system."

Youths on the streets get hassled by police. They get hassled by their parents, by their neighbors.

Often they go to jail at early ages, can't get a job when they get out, and spend the rest of their lives in and out of jail.

That's the way this system treats its youth who are poor.

In the streets of Detroit, 40% of youth are unemployed. The Red Tide intends to put them to work helping create a new society.

Picnics, concerts, rallies—people of all races organizing together to change their lives, to fight the power that keeps us down—that's what the Red Tide is up to.

Become a part of the struggle. Check out the Red Tide in Detroit or in your town. □

