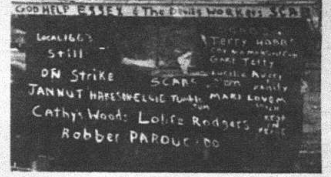


WORKERS' Power

WEEKLY NEWSPAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS JANUARY 9, 1978 #237 25c

Essex Strike Smashed

Eyewitness Report, p. 6



COMPANY EVICTS UTAH TOWN

by Paul Broz

Lark, Utah. Population: 500. Elevation: 5600 feet. Thirty miles south of Salt Lake City.

This small mining town is about to become extinct. A short while ago, Kennecott Copper Corporation bought the land the town rests on. In a December 14 meeting they told local residents that they must get out.

Some have lived in Lark for 50 years. They own their homes, but not the ground underneath. Most cannot afford to move, and the company has offered them no compensation for their houses and no help in relocating.

One resident of 50 years, Hilda Grabner, told us, "People think that just because people live in mining towns that they're a different breed of people. We're people who've loved our homes.



Lark, Utah. Owned entirely by Kennecott Copper. Doomed to extinction by corporate decree.

"When our places are in bloom, our trees are all out, our gardens all out, especially before Kennecott used the hillside as a dumping ground, this town is lovely. "We look down the valley and see the smog and we're happy to have this good, clean air. It's a beautiful place to raise children."

LARK'S HISTORY

For decades, Lark has been a mining town and a "company" town. When mineral prices rose, the town grew and prospered. When they fell, so did the fortunes of the community.

Millions of tons of high grade ore—gold, zinc, copper—were pulled from the ground. Thousands of people labored there and built homes and raised their families near the mines.

UV Industries operated a mine in Lark until 1972, when a recession forced its closure.

When the mine shut down, most of the younger people moved on to look for work

elsewhere. Those who were older, near retirement, stayed on, and were joined by other families attracted by low rents.

Original leases signed with UV Industries implied that residents could expect to remain at least until 1992. Now, Kennecott says differently. Townspeople have been told that they are to be out by August 31.

No one, besides company officials, knows for sure what Kennecott wants with the town. Some say they're going to put in a diesel shop. Others think that they'll work underground, or tunnel through a large slag heap and build a parking lot for a nearby open pit mine.

Kennecott is playing their cards close. They say, "We just don't want to be in the real estate business."

Dick Rubright, a retired mine geologist and Lark resident, is in a good position to speculate. "Kennecott has never stated exactly what they wanted the land for. But I suspect they want the water more than anything else."

The water can be used to wash down mining waste, dissolving valuable minerals which can later be recovered. "It's a very profitable way of reclaiming minerals at very low cost."

THE FUTURE

Hilda Grabner is 81. Her husband, a miner, passed away in 1937. Her only income is social security. What's in store for her?

She told us, "People have no idea what they're going to do. Like myself—I'm 81. I thought that well before 1992 I would be a long way from here, never to return."

"Inflation now makes it an impossibility to move...I've always been a very independent person, and I've no intention whatsoever of moving in with anyone."

Bob Beardley is a steward in the United Steel Workers. He, and 13 other Lark residents work for Kennecott.

"At one time, when you worked for US [became UV Industries]...all your key personnel, as a stipulation of employment, had to live here.

"Until recently, they've given the go ahead to put siding on our places, and new shingles, at quite an expense.

"When you get kicked out of your home that you've built up, in our case over 28 years—some of them's been here 50 years—that's a pretty hard blow."

LOAD UP FOR BEAR

To fight back, he, and other townspeople met December 21 to map out a strategy. A renters' and a homeowners' committee were formed. Bardsley heads the homeowners' committee.

He says, "We have set up a meeting with the company. We're going to keep it real low key to begin with until we find out if they still hold the same attitude. If they do, we don't have anything to lose. So load up for bear."

It's hard to say right now what it means when Lark's townspeople "load up for bear."

Legal action is being talked about. So is physical resistance.

Mrs. Grabner hasn't deci-

ded for sure what she'll do. "We're sitting tight to see what... Kennecott does, and then, if Kennecott is quite outrageous, we can be the same.

"It wouldn't bother me to sit it out [refuse to leave]—the only thing is: will the water hold out? That would be their trump card."

The big copper company likes to portray itself as a good neighbor, but national publicity on the evictions is tarnishing its image.

"There can be tremendous earthquakes in different parts of the world, and 6000 people get killed," Mrs. Grabner observed. "Every can be disasters of every kind.

"People can read about them and see it on TV one time—ask them the next day what it's all about and they will have forgotten."

"Unless these things are really kept going, and I mean kept going, we, like the rest of them, will simply be forgotten in a couple of weeks.

"I'm really hoping that people will hold tight and stick together. I think they will."

Jimmy Carter's Record

THE FIRST YEAR IS ONE YEAR TOO MANY

by Marilyn Danton

November 1976: The American people went to the polls and elected a new president: Jimmy Carter—Democrat—Southerner—An unknown.

Black and trade union leaders poured millions of dollars and an equal amount of energy into getting Carter and a Democratic Congress elected.

The UAW played a key role in getting the Democrats to nominate Carter. A record number of Black voters were decisive in his electoral victory.

PROMISES

Jimmy and his fellow party members in Congress promised many things to get this support: To get the economy moving, to hold down inflation, to put people back to work, to rebuild the cities.

They promised tax reform and a tax rebate, national health insurance, labor law reform, and support to the ERA.

Carter also promised a return to clean, scandal-free government.

As the votes poured in for the Democrats that November night, labor and Black leaders from AFL-CIO president George Meany to Urban League leader Vernon Jordan proclaimed the victory theirs. It was a heady night.

January 1978: Carter's first year is over. And the headiness of that November night has become a giant migraine headache for the George Meany and the Vernon Jordans.

Far from being the friend of working people, the poor, Blacks and women, Carter and the 95th Congress have shown that their loyalty is not to those that went to the polls and voted them into office, but to their bosses—the businessmen.

Look at the record item by item:

• **THE ECONOMY:** Unemployment has dropped less than half a percentage point from 7.3% to 6.9% with 6,818,000 officially unemployed. The rate of inflation increased from 4.8% to 6.7%. The recovery continues to be sluggish.

• **JOBS:** The Humphrey-Hawkins Full Employment Bill, thoroughly gutted, has passed the House. Congress appropriated \$1.5 billion

to put only 200,000 young people to work.

• **THE CITIES:** In December, Carter sent his own newly appointed Department of Housing and Urban Development back to the drawing board to come up with a "satisfactory urban policy" and not a "laundry list" of programs to aid the decaying (midwest and eastern cities). The real reason the plan was canned was the estimated cost of implementation: \$8-12 billion. Yet Congress passed a military budget of \$126 billion.

• **TAX REFORM:** Carter called the tax laws "a disgrace to the human race" in October of 1976. A year later, Carter has ditched plans for reform in favor of a quick tax cut, much of it to corporations, in the fall of 1978.

• **\$50 TAX REBATE:** Carter's business friends, fearful of inflation, convinced him to drop the rebate at the last moment.

• **WELFARE REFORM:** Carter sent his so-called welfare reform bill to Congress in August. It is really a slave labor bill that, if passed, would place welfare recipients in either dead end jobs or jobs that were formerly done by union labor, but at the welfare pittance.

• **NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE:** There will be no

proposal. The reason—it costs too much.

• **MINIMUM WAGE:** The minimum wage was increased from \$2.30 an hour to \$3.35 an hour by 1981, far below what labor originally demanded. The automatic cost of living increase sections were dropped.

• **LABOR LAW REFORM:** Congress defeated a major labor goal, the Common Situs picket bill, which would have strengthened the construction workers' unions.

• **THE ERA:** Carter gave only lip-service to the ERA. Three more states must ratify it by March 1979 for it to become law.

• **Clean, Scandal-free GOVERNMENT:** Carter gave us Bert Lance.

• Although Carter had vowed he would not let his personal feelings against ABORTION influence government policy, he approved Democratic legislation prohibiting the use of Medicaid funds for abortion.

It's pretty obvious that the little people got very little from the party of the little people.

The largest Democratic majority

in Congress since 1932—and a Democratic President didn't come through.

The fact is, Carter and his party mates were also making promises to other elements—namely Big Business. And it was these promises that they tried to follow on—not the ones they made to us.

BUMBLER

However, even here Carter did not do well.

The clearest indication of Carter's weak presidency were his measures for the economy.

Carter took office during a period of recovery. It was a weak recovery that has threatened to turn into a recession several times.

Businessmen and bankers wanted Carter to give a clear lead and take decisive steps to keep the economy moving. But Carter could not come across—even for his business friends.

The President's plan, if you can call it that, was: try a little of this—a few jobs for youth—and a little of that—no tax rebate to keep down inflation.

The result is that businessmen have little confidence in the administration or economic recovery.

So capitalists aren't investing, the stock market continues to fall, the value of the dollar drops.

Finally, Carter and Congress totally bumbled on Carter's "number one priority"—a full energy program

Jimmy Carter—Democrat, Southerner, a better-known—has three more years to make good on his promises. Question is, which ones made to which interests?

If we should learn anything from this past year, then we should expect that "the rich will get richer and the poor, poorer" as the saying goes.

Meanwhile, those labor and Black leaders with migraine headaches could end up with strokes and death. They'd better take some strong medicine from those they're supposed to be leading.

BLACK LEADERS LOSE THE FAITH

The first year of the Carter Administration was a bad year for the Black community. That's what a wide range of Black commentators and political leaders were saying as they new year began.

Here's a few representative samples.

"A new Administration took office last January, full of brave hopes and bold plans. . . But for the Black and minority citizens, for all poor people and for the jobless, 1977 saw no change in their condition . . ."

—Vernon E. Jordan, head of the National Urban League, in the Pittsburgh Courier.

"A depressing conclusion in the U.S. was that the integration drive was sliding backwards from the late 1960's."

—Audrey T. Weaver, in the Pittsburgh Courier.

HOPE AND NO HELP

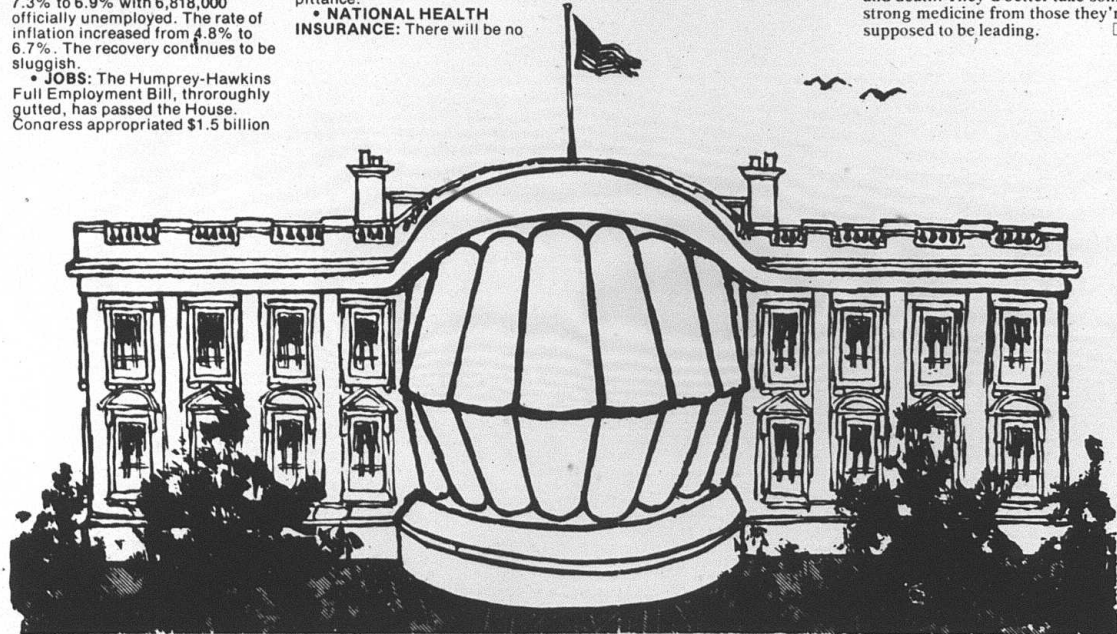
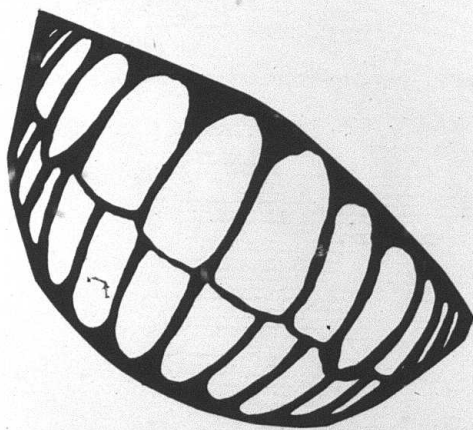
The "hope-but-no-hope" theme was also sounded by Jesse Jackson after a year-end meeting with Jimmy Carter spoke with 16 major Black leaders at the White House for one whole hour.

Jackson said the meeting produced: "In terms of unemployment, more hope and no help. In terms of saving Black businesses, more hope and no help. . ."

"The people will have to come out in mass to express their indignation and to send a message to the White House. . ."

Jimmy Carter, elected President with Black people's votes, replied that "in spite of the gnawing and disturbing unemployment rate, particularly among Black and young people, some trends are encouraging."

Unfortunately, he didn't say which ones.



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Mine Talks Break Off As Rank & File Heat Stalls Giveaways

by Jim Woodward

SCOTT DEPOT, W. Va.—“I don't think there's any of that they could get through,” Bill Bryant said, shaking his head.

Bryant, chairman of the Mine Committee at United Mine Workers Local 1977 (Cedars-Coal), was looking at a series of contract proposals reportedly under consideration by top officials of the UMW and the Bituminous Coal Operators Association (BCOA).

It was the second morning after Christmas as he and his wife, Susan, sat around their kitchen table discussing the coal miners strike with a reporter. Although the strike was entering its fourth week, most miners had just received their last paycheck, and there was still plenty of holiday cheer left in the

West Virginia hills. Since that time, however, UMW President Arnold Miller has repudiated a number of concessions he had tentatively made to the mine operators. Contract talks were broken off December 30, and it seems likely that a long, bitter strike is in the works.

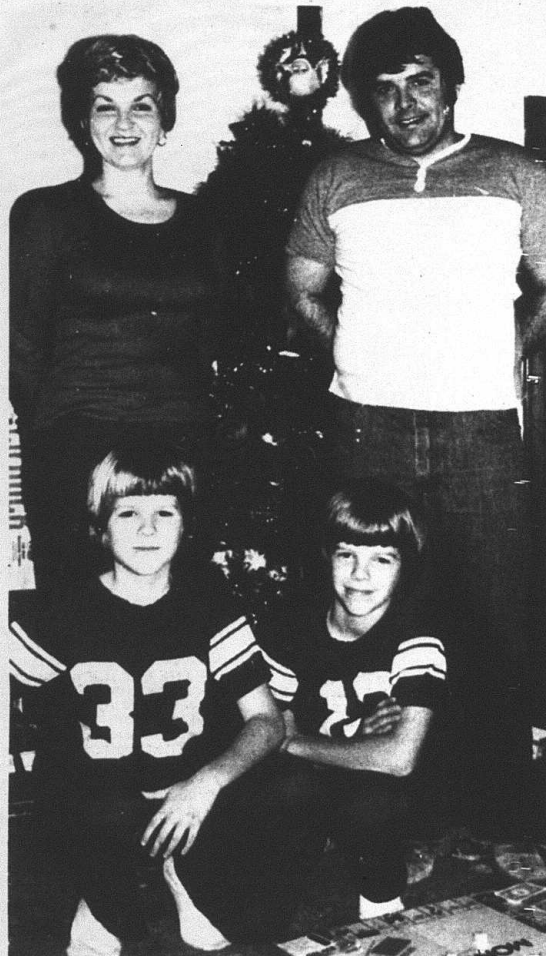
The major sellout which union officials were flirting with has been averted, at least for the time being. Reactions from miners like Bill Bryant seem to be the reason why.

“LABOR STABILITY”

Two provisions were most critical in the so-called “labor stability” package the negotiators were discussing. Although widely reported in the press, they were spelled out in greatest detail in “Coal Patrol,” a Washington newsletter published by former UMW Research Director Thomas Bethell.

The first clause would give the coal operators a free hand to fire any miner who engaged in a wildcat strike. Even a miner who simply honored a picket line could be suspended for at least 30 days without pay.

The other clause would have penalized a miner \$22 a day for every unexcused absence from work. They money would have gone



A miner's family celebrates Christmas. Left to right: Susan, Chris, Andy, and Bill Bryant.

to the UMW Health and Retirement Funds.

Bryant told Workers' Power that both these clauses would meet serious opposition. Respecting a picket line, he said, “is bred in these people. It's like [a preacher's]

religion—do you think he would stand on the street corner and denounce God?”

Bryant also felt that there was no way the \$22 fine for unexcused absences would be approved.

Indeed, the contract talks first

started to bog down, according to the Wall Street Journal, when negotiators couldn't figure out “how to describe the pay-back scheme in such a way that it isn't interpreted by miners as a ‘penalty,’ or a fine....”

STEEL

Coal Patrol reported that the official union demand for a limited right to strike wasn't even being seriously considered:

“At their hotel, industry negotiators were overheard talking about the effect of permitting a strike procedure over local issues. A primary concern was: if the mine workers get it, what happens to Lloyd McBride? The Steelworkers president, a defender of the flat no-strike agreements in the steel industry, had recently defeated Ed Sadlowski, a supporter of the right to strike. It may have been no coincidence that U.S. Steel representative William Miller emerged as the key industry negotiator, far overshadowing BCOA president Brennan.”

BACKED OFF

As reports from the bargaining table started leaking out, union negotiators began to feel a lot of heat from below. Many district and local officials urged them to back off.

On December 30, when the union formally rejected the \$22 fine provision, the operators picked up and walked out. They issued a statement that promised a long strike if the union does not capitulate.

The statement criticized the union for “back[ing] away from provisions to curb wildcat strikes and restore labor stability in the coal fields.... Unless the Union can come to a position where it is willing to stick with the hard decisions necessary to achieve labor stability there cannot be a successful resolution of these negotiations. The BCOA has made such decisions for its side and stands by them.”

While the operators are standing by with their hard line, the strike is entering its second month. Miners are continuing to send pickets to non-union mines to cut off whatever coal production they can. □

What's In A Car?

Five years ago, when Arnold R. Miller led a rank-and-file reformist movement to an unexpected election victory in the United Mine Workers union, he ordered the sale of the ousted leadership's fleet of three union-owned Cadillac limousines. “You couldn't tell the union from the coal companies,” Mr. Miller said at the time, “because the officials of both were living off the miners.” Mr. Miller, who rose from unemployed miner to the \$35,000-a-year presidency of the union, gave no explanation yesterday of the fact that there is now a new Cadillac, a nine-passenger limousine, for the U.M.W. president. A spokesman said only, “No comment.”

THE NEW YORK TIMES
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 4, 1978

No Need To Say ‘Good-Morning’

Lockheed pact: union cuts its losses

by Candy Martin

A good example of a growing trend in today's world—corporations facing economic crisis and boldly taking the offensive against labor—is the Lockheed Corporation.

Last week saw the end of a 12-week strike against the company, which has faced bankruptcy since 1968. With the settlement of the strike, the seniority system of thousands of Lockheed workers now faces bankruptcy.

Lockheed claimed in bargaining that it had been “too generous” in the past, when the union was

strong, in “granting” rights and seniority to workers. Now, it said, it wanted to take them back.

The corporation demanded that six-year employees on lay-off surrender their rights to “bump,” or replace, lower-seniority workers.

The seniority system has always been one of the cornerstones of the labor movement and of union solidarity. But in the aerospace industry, seniority rights take on a particular importance.

Lockheed workers face enormous up-and-down cycles of production, and the threat of lay-offs is ever-present.

Lockheed agreed to “compro-

mise” in the final settlement. Current employees will keep their seniority rights. But those rights will be sacrificed for employees who are hired in the future.

However, at the large Sunnyvale local in California, which broke ranks and settled early, even current six-year workers will lose those rights.

DEFENSIVE STRIKE

The most important thing that the union “won” was managing to check Lockheed's aggression.

The company was, for instance, demanding that it be allowed to

ignore the contract for the first forty-five days of re-starting operations after the strike.

Neil Vandercook, a public relations spokesman for the union, explained in a telephone interview:

“We had a demand on the part of the company that was so stringent that even not saying good morning to a person who crossed your picketline, a scab we call them, was grounds for being summarily fired, as the company put it.”

On these demands, Lockheed lost. Beyond preventing the company from getting away with these

outrageous attacks on the union, Lockheed workers won little.

The first step toward successful attacks on unionism was taken with the erosion of seniority rights.

Like the disastrous UAW settlement at Essex Wire, the demands by coal operators in the miners' strike and countless other recent examples, the Lockheed strike is part of a growing offensive by employers.

That offensive will deepen along with the economic crisis in this country and throughout the world.

The question for American workers will be how the union movement prepares itself to respond. □

Middle East Negotiations

CARVING UP A PEOPLE'S HOMELAND

by Dan Posen

One step at a time, the outline of an American-Israeli-Egyptian plan for a new Middle East map is emerging.

Political leaders on all sides are drawing lines across the Sinai desert.

SPAIN: Basques' Battle Won't Stop

UNDER THREAT of massive demonstrations scheduled for January 4, Spain's new government voted on the final day of 1977 to grant autonomy to three Basque provinces in the northern part of the country.

The 2.5 million Basque people have a language and culture totally distinct from the rest of Spain.

They were forbidden to exercise or express that culture since Franco and his fascist organization came to power in 1939 following three years of bloody civil war.

The home rule is more symbolic than real.

Like that granted to Catalonia (another distinct people in Spain) last September, it gives the Basque General Council little power beyond coordinating the work of three existing provincial governments.

The government hopes the concession will defuse an explosive situation.

HELPED END FASCISM

The Basque's struggle for autonomy, led by political organizations such as the militant and armed ETA, was a major force in dismantling the old fascist government.

In 1973, Basque nationalists killed Franco's chosen successor, Carrero Blanco. But militant actions for autonomy continued into the post-Franco era.

While the autonomy statute deals with one problem, the militant Basque working class still faces the government's recent Pact of Moncloa, which places severe limits on wage gains in inflation-ridden Spain.

Having won some form of home rule, the Basque working class is now freer to concentrate on the growing fight for workers' power in the Basque country and throughout all of Spain.



They are drawing up zones for "Palestinian self-rule" around Gaza and the West Bank.

Every day the lines and formulas change slightly as Israeli and Egyptian leaders criticize each other, lobby for American approval and hint about "compromises."

Only one thing is missing from the maps with their ever-shifting boundaries and political zones, all neatly drawn up in time to make the CBS evening news.

LEFT OUT

What's missing is people—namely, the people who just

happen to live in the area which the politicians are carving to pieces.

Those people are the Palestinian Arab nation. They are the people whose homes have been bulldozed and lands confiscated for 30 years in the name of "a homeland for the Jewish people" and "Israeli state security."

They are the people whose fields were sold to Israeli settlers by their landlords. They are the people who were declared "absentees" by Israel if they fled their villages to avoid being killed in the 1948 war.

In the West Bank, since the 1967 war, they are the people who are subject to arrest, torture and

deportation if they or members of their families support the resistance against Israeli occupation.

Today the Palestinians are referred to in Jimmy Carter's speeches as a "problem" or an "entity"—never as a people who have as much right to their own national independence as anybody else.

SOUTH AFRICA SOLUTION

The Palestinians are expected to gratefully "live in peace" inside the boundaries which Menahem Begin, Anwar Sadat and their advisers are drawing on the Middle East maps.

Make no mistake. Israel's proposal for "Palestinian home rule," without national independence, would turn the West Bank into something almost identical to a South African-style Bantustan.

The majority of West Bank workers would have no jobs unless they cross to work in Israel, where they have no union rights or security.

They would be administered by Jordanian state bureaucrats and West Bank puppets.

Israel intends to "maintain law and order" by keeping a permanent military force in the West Bank.

Under this "Palestinian self-rule" scheme, the Israeli army will have the right to force Palestinian villagers to sell their land for new Israeli settlements!

ISRAELI ULTIMATUM

Foreign Minister Dayan promised the Israeli Parliament the government would accept no peace agreement without this right.

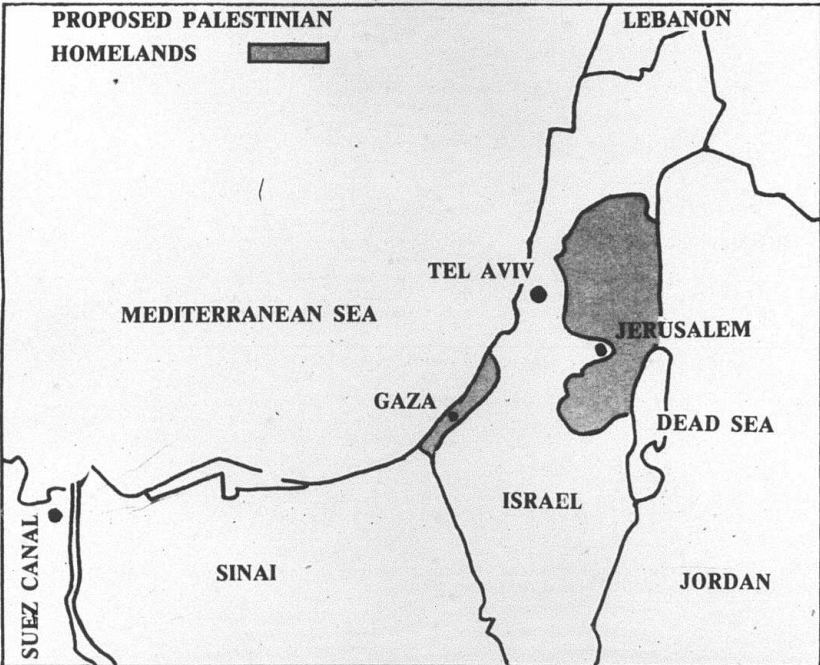
Egypt, the United States and the oil sheiks of Saudi Arabia are rapidly moving toward accepting some version of this deal.

But the Palestinian people cannot accept it. They want peace not from anyone—but they cannot afford to accept any deal that gives away their rights as a nation.

That's why the Middle East powers and the U.S. have banned the Palestinians and their resistance movement, the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), from the talks which are supposed to settle their future.

There is some evidence, in fact, that the whole Sadat visit to Israel was set up precisely to keep the PLO and the Palestinians out of any negotiations.

The only thing the American, Egyptian and Israeli leaders don't understand is that the Palestinians aren't about to surrender. The ink will not be dry on the maps before the phoney "peace" plans explode.



If They Don't Like "National Unity" Give Them A Police State

Prime Minister Trudeau of Canada, who prides himself as a democratic liberal, has announced a policy which might mean a large-scale war right here in North America.

If the people of Quebec declare national independence from Canada, Trudeau would send armed forces to occupy the province and suspend all civil liberties throughout Canada.

Trudeau's powers to do this come from a law called the "War Measures Act."

This is no empty threat.

In October 1970, when the kidnapping of a trade official

supposedly threatened "Canadian unity," Trudeau sent troops into Quebec under this Act.

Unionists, Quebec radicals and supporters of the middle-class Quebec nationalist party, the Parti Quebecois, were jailed by the hundreds, without charges.

NO FREE CHOICE

Since November 1976, the Parti Quebecois (PQ) has been in power in Quebec. The PQ is organizing a referendum sometime next year, for the people of Quebec to decide whether they want to demand independence.

There is widespread support for

independence in Quebec, which is a French-speaking section of Canada. The Quebec French majority is culturally and economically dominated by an English-speaking elite which controls industry and banking.

It is clear that the Canadian ruling class has no intention of letting the Quebec people make that decision.

A recent series of scandals revealed that Canada's Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) have carried out years of illegal break-ins, mail opening and domestic espionage. Much of this is aimed at destroying Quebec independence forces.

Trudeau's pledge to "hold Canada together" by force means that Canadian big business will stop at nothing to preserve its profits and political power. It is also a promise to American businessmen with investments in Quebec.

And it is intended to reassure the military commanders of NATO, who say an independent Quebec would threaten the North American military machine.

It means above all that the so-called democratic, civilized, law-abiding rulers of North America have no more respect for the national rights of the people of Quebec than they had for the people of Vietnam.

Crunch Drives Farmers To Rebel

by Al Ferdnace

The present economic crisis in the US is creating "radicals" within the various social groupings most often identified as staunch supporters of the two party system.

For instance the American farm community (small farmers) is considered one of the most conservative elements in our society. Yet today a large segment of that community is threatening to break with that tradition.

The underlying cause was pointed out in the teachings of Karl Marx a hundred years ago. An economic decision is a political decision.

The conservative and inept economic fumbblings of the Carter Administration have not won him many friends in the business sector, and least of all among American farmers who hold a low position on the totem-pole.

Farmers, who for all intent and

purposes are businessmen, find little or no solace in the "sympathy" offered by Carter.

The rising cost of production (growing an acre of corn in 1977 cost about \$185, while the market price is only \$133) plus the high cost of machinery (a tractor could go as high as \$80,000) has driven many small farmers deeply into debt.

With their backs against the wall the farmers looked to Washington.

CONGRESS AIDS BUSINESS

This of course, was to be expected. After all Congress looks after the needs of Big Business all the time.

The steel industry now has guaranteed profits under the guise of "Reference Pricing." It prohibits sale of imported steel in the US even at a profit, if that profit is "too small" in the judgement of Ameri-

can steel producers. Why shouldn't farmers demand 100% parity?

In this game of "follow the leader," the farmers can point to the auto industry who blackmailed Congress into a "special" session. There, our representatives backed off on the 1978 anti-pollution, safety, and mileage requirements.

Public safety and health, as well as energy conservation went by the boards because the Big 3 labeled them "too costly" and threatened to shut down.

Small wonder the farmers thought they were a shoo-in when you stop to consider the concessions granted the oil companies in the form of ever increasing prices, and the likelihood of price deregulation of natural gas. All of which constitutes nothing less than a continuation of guaranteed "record" profits for the energy Moguls.

With all the big boys taken care of the farmers felt sure they were

next in line.

Because Carter was a farmer himself, they were certain he understood there was just so much you could squeeze out of non-union farm laborers, mechanization, and good 'ol American ingenuity." For guaranteed profits you need an edge!

The farmers expected Carter and Congress to provide that edge. Congress did not. So they went on strike!

RADICAL

That's what made them radical. Farmers are often credited with feeding a "hungry world." But like any other business enterprise, they know they cannot operate at a loss.

No matter what reasons they give for being in business, when it comes down to a choice between "feeding a hungry world" and operating with a guaranteed rate of

profit (parity) the farmers choose the latter.

Organized under the name "American Agriculture," with headquarters based in Colorado, the farmers claim the active support of one and a half million small agri-business owners.

US farmers traditionally think of themselves as being fiercely independent. They do not believe in unions, especially when it comes to farm workers.

But the "crunch" is on and they feel the need to take radical measures to alleviate their rising operating costs.

It will be interesting to see how Carter and Congress will respond. Will they try to keep the farmers quiet with empty promises like they have the working class and the poor?

Or will Congress grant their demands like it has to the rest of business? □



GULF OIL POLITICS, HOME AND ABROAD When "Democracy" = Hypocrisy

Gulf THIS MESSAGE COURTESY OF THE GULF OIL CORPORATION.
HUMAN ENERGY. AMERICA'S GREATEST RESOURCE.



by Al Ferdnace

I recently saw an ad in a Black-run newspaper, showing four Black faces with the title, "We the People... How to make the political machine work for you."

It extols the wonderful benefits that can be achieved by people who vote. Said benefits to be evidenced in every area of our civilized

existence, health, education, jobs, housing, and the use of human and natural energy. The ad and the message it carried was paid for by the Gulf Oil Corporation.

This huge multi-national corporation would have you and I chasing the myth of voting "power." They would love to have us believe in a system that allows them to support

the murder of millions of Blacks for profit, without you and I rising up in outrage!

For the better part of a half-century, Cabinda Gulf Oil has been paying the Portuguese government millions of dollars for the right to extract oil from their former African colony of Angola. (Cabinda is an enclave in the extreme northwest corner of Angola.)

During these years Portugal was ruled by a Fascist dictator, one Antonio Salazar.

The colonial policies of Portugal under Salazar's rule saw the African peoples pressed into forced labor at home, and exported to South Africa by the hundreds of thousands to toil in the mines there.

During all the years it took to develop the Cabinda oil reserves (production reached 150,000 barrels a day by 1971), Cabinda Gulf did not advocate voting rights for Black African workers. Or for any other workers there for that matter.

There was no attempt to export Democracy to the Blacks providing cheap labor for the Portuguese and Gulf, even though it is 100% owned

by the American parent company.

Could it be that Gulf Oil figured, given the numerical superiority of the Blacks in Africa, the right to vote might very well prohibit Gulf's right to extract a profit at the expense of the Blacks?

Meanwhile, back home where Blacks are in the minority, Gulf offers the vote as the lever for change.

MINORITY

What the vote has done for Black Americans can be seen very clearly in the past decade. Blacks elected a series of politicians who have allowed on the one hand unabated record profits for corporations like Gulf Oil, and on the other elevated some Blacks to the dubious honor of presiding over the ghettos of this nation.

Their performance in office is not unlike that of well-trained seals. Like their white predecessors, they have broken Black heads in the name of the law, broken Black strikes in the name of "fiscal" responsibility and balancing the budget.

They point to concrete and steel in the form of shopping malls and high-rise apartments as inner city "renewal" while Black voters remain unemployed and hungry, with poorly educated children in line to inherit more of the same.

Historically speaking, voting has never overthrown a dictator, only a revolution can do that. So the Portuguese people revolted.

Voting has never removed the yoke of forced labor, so the Black Africans have revolted.

NO SUBSTITUTE

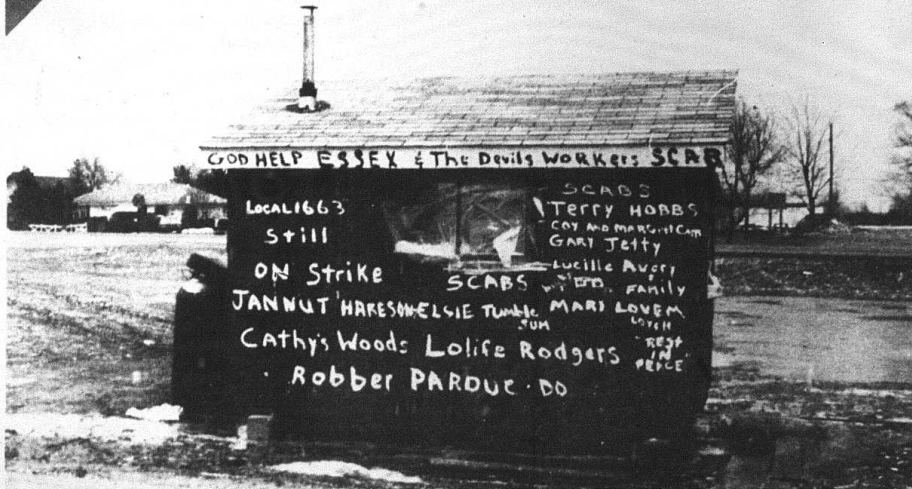
If you can vote away unemployment, then do it! If you can vote yourself into decent housing, in decent neighborhoods, then do it! If you can vote yourself a raise in pay that will allow you to raise your standard of living, then by all means, do it!

In the meantime I'll be pushing for a better alternative. Like revolution. Which begins with daring to think about forming a political party outside of the framework of capitalism. Think about it. □

Eyewitness Report
By Elissa Clarke

In Elwood, Indiana, sentenced to three years

After eight months - for two cents



The Essex strikers built this shack across the road from the Essex plant. On the outside, they painted the names of some of the 119 scabs who crossed their lines and broke their strike.

ELWOOD, INDIANA — Eight long months on strike, and for what? On December 21, a strike at the Essex Wire Corporation here ended in a smashing defeat.

- Half the jobs in the plant were given away to scabs who do not have to join the union.
- A pay increase of 61c over three years. In 1981, Essex workers will be making \$3.37 an hour. The minimum wage will be \$3.35!
- Eleven strikers fired.

"It's a lousy contract," Carolyn Forest, administrative assistant to United Auto Workers' President Doug Fraser, told the strikers at their ratification meeting. Forest was sent to Elwood from Detroit to negotiate the settlement.

She continued, "But I recommend you ratify it."

Carolyn Forest caught a two o'clock plane back to Detroit. She left behind 220 defeated strikers. Half of them without jobs at all. A quarter of them waiting to be called back "as needed."

Those who do get back can look forward to making poverty level wages for the next three years. They dread going back into the plant to work alongside the scabs that took their jobs and broke their strike.

PAPPY

The ratification meeting began at 11 a.m. in an old court room in the City Hall building at the center of town.

On the way into the meeting, Pappy, an elderly man with a

This story could have had a different ending...but how

They Promised:

"You can't gain security at the expense of your brother and sister...we have got to commit ourselves to the parts-supplier industry to give them all the help we can, make available to them all of our resources and talents to help them at their most difficult job at the bargaining table."

Doug Fraser, Keynote Speech, UAW Convention

The UAW lost at Essex, but it is more than just another bad contract—it is a disaster.

Essex was a test for the UAW. Could the union begin to turn around the pattern of substandard wages and conditions in the millions of small shops that supply the auto industry?

In many ways, Essex was the perfect place for the union to make its stand. The workforce was militant, and determined to win. The corporation was not some small job shop about to go under if the union demanded a few cents more.

INTIMIDATED

Instead, Essex is a wealthy corporation. It is owned by United Technologies (UT), the 12th largest employer in the United States. UT ranks 35th in sales, and 56th in profits. UT's president, Harry Gray, makes the highest salary

paid for any executive in America: \$1,662,000 a year.

But the UAW considered the Essex strike a no-win situation. They were intimidated by the company's vicious, anti-union stance.

Although the union was well aware that Essex could afford the meager raise that the union was demanding, they refused to take them on. They accepted the company's logic.

Carolyn Forest said in a telephone interview with Workers' Power: "While Essex as a corporation has an awful lot of money, the plant in Indiana is a plastics plant. Their argument was that they're competitive with the plastics industry."

Forest is UAW President Doug Fraser's administrative assistant. She negotiated the settlement.

Forest continued, "We usually try to negotiate wages on the basis of that plant's ability to pay."

This philosophy will doom the

small parts industry to substandard wages and conditions forever. The UAW could have won at Essex. They knew that. But they were unwilling to make the corporation pay.

The small parts industry is becoming increasingly important to the auto industry as the trend grows to smaller cars with better fuel economy. Holding down wages in the small parts is an important part of maintaining high profits in the auto industry.

The Essex strike gained national attention. A victory at Essex would have set off wage increases throughout the small parts industry. That's why Essex was so determined to keep wages down at its Elwood plant.

The union leadership went along because they believe that the industry's health comes first.

The auto giants get richer. The parts suppliers get richer. The

Essex workers live at the poverty level. They want the women at Essex to pay.

PROBLEM

Carolyn Forest analyzes the problem this way: "The plastics industry is a highly competitive, low-wage group, and the reason is that the auto industry makes it that way. If you don't give them their bid at the low price that they quote, they can always get it somewhere else."

But the Essex strikers need more than bellyaching to win. The question is: what can we do to turn this around?

Forest knows the Big 3 can always get their parts "somewhere else." So why is it that the UAW never suggested to the Big 3 that they get their parts somewhere else during the strike, and stop using scab parts from Essex?

That is the kind of strategy that could have won at Essex. □



Carolyn Forest leaving the ratification meeting. Fo to Detroit, leaving behind 220 defeated strikers wages for three more years.

They Delivered:

"It's a lousy contract."

Carolyn Forest, UAW Administrative Assistant

"If we vote this down, will you stick by us?"

Janey Junkersfield, Essex striker

"We won't throw you away, but we can't do anything else for you."

Carolyn Forest, UAW Administrative Assistant

220 workers years at poverty wages months on strike, Essex workers go back over the minimum wage

booming voice, told Workers' Power that he would vote down any offer that left the 119 scabs in the plant.

But after sitting through the meeting, Pappy was defeated. "Let's just say that I'm going to vote to help the most number of people," he said. He voted for the contract.

The vote was 77-40 in favor of the offer.

Why? Why after holding strong throughout the long summer and into the bitter winter, why did the Essex strikers vote for this defeat?

Why after standing in front of company trucks, getting beaten up by company guards, braving wrist rockets and bullets—why were they willing to settle for so little?

The answer to that question

places the blame squarely on the shoulders of the UAW International Union.

Most of the strikers went into the ratification meeting determined to stay out until they won, but during the meeting that spirit was crushed.

After Carolyn Forest finished reading the terms of the settlement, shouts went up from the strikers: "Get the scabs out of the plant!" "More money!" "We won't go back!"

But then one woman got up and asked: "If we vote this down, will you stick by us?"

Carolyn Forest answered: "Well, we won't throw you away, but we can't do anything else for you."

Then the strikers knew. They could stay out and the International would not lift another finger to help them.

At the end of four months, everyone knew the company would hold a union decertification election, and the union would be kicked out. Then none of the strikers would get back.

Carolyn Forest accomplished her objective: the strikers lost hope. They saw no way to win, so they voted for a defeat.

As they filed out of the ratification meeting, one after another commented, "It's all we're going to get." "I just don't see any way to win."

COURAGE

Many of the strikers, members of UAW Local 1663, were older women, desperate for jobs. The company offered them nothing, assuming they would be glad to settle cheap.

But they stood up and fought!

Five times Essex made the same offer: 62c over three years, no pensions, no increase in sick pay, no cost of living. Later they added



Strikers file out of the ratification meeting. Before the meeting, they were determined to stay out until they won. But during the meeting, their spirits were crushed. One after another commented on the way out, "I just don't see any way to win."

another demand: scabs to get top seniority, strikers rehired as needed.

Five times the strikers rejected the offer, vowing that they were going to win.

But while they were ready and willing to fight back, they were no

match for the vicious employer.

That is why they were relieved, and for the first time, hopeful, when the International Union agreed to intervene in the strike. They were full of illusions that the International would try to win it for them.

ers' Power: "Their [Essex] argument was that they were competitive with the plastics industry."

The mighty UAW—always more concerned with the company's profits than their own members. That is why the union was not only willing, but determined, to settle this strike on the company's terms.

What's the deal?

• A 61c WAGE INCREASE. The current base pay is \$2.76 an hour. The first year, there will be a 44c increase; 9c the second year; 8c the third year.

The contract is not retroactive, so the full increase will not be paid until 1981.

At that time, the federal minimum wage will be \$3.35 an hour. Essex workers will make two cents over the minimum wage!

There is a wage reopener after the second year of the contract.

• Sixty-six strikers were RECALLED immediately. Another 57 are scheduled to be recalled "as needed." Since there are 119 scabs in the plant, and full capacity is 220 workers, many of the strikers will never be recalled.

The strikers will not be recalled to their original jobs. HIGH SENIORITY employees will lose the jobs they earned to scabs.

Employees not recalled will remain on the SENIORITY LIST for three years.

• Eleven strikers have been

FIRED. The company has agreed to "review" the discharge cases; any remaining cases will go to arbitration.

CHARGES PENDING

• Recalled strikers cannot bid for SHIFT PREFERENCE for 90 days. JOB BIDDING can be exercised after 30 days, but only on open jobs. In other words, a scab cannot be bumped off a job.

• SCABS do not have to join the union.

• THE GRIEVANCE procedure is gutted by a provision that allows either the company lawyer or the UAW regional director to intervene in any grievance, at any stage.

• The company agreed to drop more than \$600,000 in damages against the union. CIVIL CHARGES are still pending.

• A penny was taken off the original wage offer to pay for a \$2.50/week increase in SICK PAY—from \$35 to \$37.50, for up to 13 weeks.

INTERNATIONAL

In November, several members of Local 1663 met with the UAW International Executive Board in Detroit.

At that meeting, the International pledged their "full support." They backed up this pledge by adding Carolyn Forest to the negotiating team.

But the UAW had absolutely no interest in a victory at Essex. They sought merely to end a strike that was an embarrassment to the union.

The Essex strike pitted one of the largest corporations in the world against one of the most powerful unions in the world. Essex could easily afford to pay its workers a living wage, certainly the modest \$1.20 increase the union was asking over the current base rate of \$2.76 an hour.

But the UAW accepted the company's argument that they couldn't pay. Carolyn Forest said in a telephone interview with Work-

ANSWERS

Forest went on, "It's always the argument of the small parts workers that they have to buy the same food, pay the same prices as the people from the Big 3, but they don't make the same wages."

She concluded lamely: "I think it's sad, but I don't think anyone has the instant answer."

Carolyn Forest has no answers. That is why workers at the Essex plant will live at the poverty level. That is why they will work alongside scabs, their contract gutted, their spirits broken.

But it doesn't have to end this way. There is an answer.

The Essex women, fighting their first strike, were a lot closer to that answer than their International leadership.

They fought back! They took on a vicious employer with courage and militancy.

They are the key to the future of the rank and file movement. □

N?



rest caught a two o'clock plane back who will be making poverty level

Speaking Out

What We Think About Labor's Plans

In the 1976 elections a President and 70% of the AFL-CIO endorsed candidates won office. Yet, last year this labor and Black supported administration voted down, postponed or gutted practically every piece of legislation in the interest of labor and Blacks. Jobs programs, national health insurance, aid to the decaying cities to name but a few.

At the AFL-CIO convention last month, President Meany referred to labor's program as "a program dedicated to the well-being, the advancement of the welfare of the great mass of American people... everyone who works for wages... every consumer... the little people of America."

The AFL-CIO program as it stands is fine. But writing programs is easy. Getting them implemented is another thing. They must be organized and fought for. Above all, a winning strategy is required.

But labor's strategy and that of the Black leaders is—predictably—more of the same: Work hard and elect more Democrats in 1978. At first it makes you wonder—did they all sleep through and miss the last year?

Unfortunately there is no such excuse. The sad fact is that these so-called leaders fear the activity of organized "little people" more than they want their program implemented.

Interestingly enough, one resolution at the AFL-CIO convention pointed out: "an increasing number of labor-supported candidates for public office are failing to make good on campaign pledges to respect

the rights of workers and cooperate with their efforts."

Quite an understatement. Unfortunately, there was no explanation as to why this is happening.

Black leaders likewise had nothing new to say. Bayard Rustin, President of the A. Phillip Randolph Institute warned that "some Blacks have become disillusioned with electoral politics."

They are advocating "large scale 'disturbances' to force political leaders to 'respond' to their plight."

Rustin argued that protest actions would "produce a backlash against the poor and dangerously polarize our society along racial lines."

In other words—Don't rock the boat. Such an attitude 15 years ago would have left Blacks in the South living under separate but equal today.

MYTHS

Actually, the whole problem is quite easy to understand once we wipe away the myths we were raised to believe:

- The Democratic Party is the party of the working people, Blacks and the disadvantaged.
- You can't fight city hall and win
- If you do things on your own, you'll lose so let us do it for you—don't get involved.

But they are just that—myths.

There is a large working class that does most of the work of the society and a tiny business or capitalist class that takes all of the wealth.

Opening Salvo—by Al Ferdnance

The powerless Americans...

IT IS OFTEN NOTED by those who have observed it, that America is a diverse society, with different ethnic groupings as well as various social and political persuasions. Diversity goes with the freedom accorded the citizens, or so it is said.

But freedom is only a wishful thought without the power to maintain it. Power and freedom are inseparable.

Many Americans believe they have more freedom and more power than any other nation. How much truth there is in this can be judged more clearly today than ever before. What I'm getting at is that people with power, any power at all, usually use it in their own self interest.

President Carter used the power of persuasion to convince the American people that he could bring honest government



Al Ferdnance

and full employment to them. So far Carter and a few of his select friends have found jobs! This is self-interest in stark reality.

A large segment of the people belong to the working class in this country and they used their power to vote in their self interest, or so they thought. They put people in the position of power at the head of their unions and local and state governments to carry out their will. Now millions of these people are standing in the unemployment lines all across America. Why?

SURRENDER POWERS

Because they believed government by election was a substitute for government by active participation. They believed others were more qualified to look after their needs than themselves. Lifetime organization, for lifetime needs, was beyond understanding.

The Democratic Party is not our party—it is the party of business. That's why we never get anything from it. How can it possibly do things for us, while it serves them.

You can fight city hall and win. How do you think that Black people won voting rights and overturned segregation in the South after 90 years? How do you think the UAW, the USW and the Teamsters Union were organized—that unemployment insurance and social security were won.

Not by electing Democrats to office. That's for sure. All those things that we take for granted today were won by people like us acting on our own and fighting directly and actively for what we need.

Several times last year labor and Black leaders toyed with other, better ideas. A section of the AFL-CIO and the UAW together with Coretta King announced Full Employment Week for the beginning of September.

Unfortunately all they really did was announce Full Employment Week and then attend it. There was no mobilization, no organizing. Hence the message to Congress was: We can't organize anything.

What we need is a strategy that says: we don't believe in your promises—we want jobs or we'll shut Washington down. And then, don't just announce it, but actually organize it.

Those Democrats would then be forced to listen—to do something about our problems instead of those of business.

Yes, what we need precisely is "large scale disturbances to force political leaders to respond..." That's what we think—what about you? □

Where We Stand

International Socialism

Workers' Power is the weekly newspaper of the International Socialists. The I.S. and its members work to build a movement for a socialist society: a society controlled democratically by mass organizations of all working people.

Because workers create all wealth, a new society can be built, only when they collectively take control of that wealth and plan how

it is produced and distributed.

The present system cannot become socialist through reform.

The existing structures of government—the military, police, courts and legislatures—protect the interests of employers against workers.

The working class needs its own kind of state, based on councils of delegates elected at the rank and file level.

The rank and file of the unions must be organized to defend unions from employer attacks, to organize the unorganized, to make the unions effective. Today's union leaders rarely even begin to do this. The rank and file must organize to return the unions to the members.

The struggle for socialism is worldwide. We oppose everything which turns workers from one country against workers of other countries, including racism and protectionism.

We are against the American government's imperialist foreign policies, including its support of racist minority regimes in southern Africa.

We demand complete indepen-

dence for Puerto Rico. We support all genuine national liberation movements.

The so-called "Socialist" or "Communist" states have nothing to do with socialism. They are controlled by a privileged ruling class of bureaucrats and must be overthrown by the workers of those countries.

Black and Latin people are oppressed national minorities in the U.S. They have the right to self-determination—to decide their own future. We support the struggle for Black Liberation and the self-organization of Black people. We also fight for the unity of Black and white workers in a common struggle against this system.

We support women's liberation

and full economic, political and social equality for women. We demand outlawing all forms of discrimination against gay people.

Socialism and liberation can be achieved only by the action of a mass workers' movement. The most militant sections of workers today must be organized to lay the foundations for a revolutionary socialist workers' party.

This is why the International Socialists exists—to create that party. We are open to all those who accept our main principles, and who accept the responsibility of working as a member to achieve them.

Join with us to build a movement to end exploitation and oppression and to create a socialist world. □

As I See It

Around the world in 80 fumbles

by Dan Posen

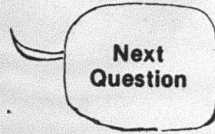
They used to say Gerald Ford couldn't chew gum and walk down airplane steps at the same time. Well, poor Jimmy Carter would have done better not to have got on the plane at all.

By now, everyone knows how Carter's State Department translator managed to call Poland's Constitution "an object of ridicule," turn a phrase about peace into "I lust after the Poles," and translate Carter's whole speech into a kind of pidgin Polish sprinkled with Russian words and sentence structure.

One the whole, it was Carter's biggest gaffe since "ethnic purity" and the Playboy interview.

OCCUPATIONS

To understand how bad it really was, you have to realize that the Poles have suffered under a series of Russian occupations and land



seizures for hundreds of yerars.

Using Russian words in Poland would be like addressing an audience of Black people in America and using all kinds of racist words and phrases.

It was not a performance that would exactly build up foreign governments' confidence in the Carter Administration's ability to

deal with complex issues and world crises.

But then, nothing much in Carter's recent behavior has built up a whole lot of confidence either.

With Poland safely behind him, Carter's giant strides carried him to India. There, he succeeded in giving a speech that put most of a crowd of 100,000 to sleep.

By all accounts Carter accom-

plished this feat on the merits of his own speech, without any bungling of the translation. He also managed to stir things up by insulting the Indian government in front of a mike.

The problem seems to be that Carter has nothing to say to the people of India, and no reason to go there—or anywhere else, for that matter.

From there, Carter's tour was to take him to Saudi Arabia and Egypt to settle the Middle East crisis.

On his performance so far; the political leaders of that area might have hoped his plane would somehow get lost and he'd stay away.

It seems the spirit of Earl Butz lives on at the White House.

At a recent elegant state dinner, Carter's top aide Hamilton Jordan, seated next to the wife of the Egyptian ambassador, apparently ogled her breasts and cracked a joke about "the pyramids."

Exact details are unavailable since the free, courageous, independent American press won't report them.

But it's nice to know that the men in Washington who spend our money manage to have such a good time in the process.

Letters

Reader Asks: Libertad para Ray Mendoza

Revolutionary Greetings:

This letter is being written on behalf of an imprisoned citizen who is struggling for his freedom and justice.

James Ray Mendoza has been imprisoned for more than three years for simply defending himself against two off-duty, armed cops that were drunk and terrorizing the Latin neighborhood.

In the struggle which took place, James Ray Mendoza disarmed one of the cops and both the drunken cops were killed with the gun of the off duty cops.

With the alcohol content in the blood of the dead cops, it is fair to assume that if Brother Mendoza would not have disarmed the cops—the cops would have killed him.

Another question that arises is: "What were two off-duty police officers, out on the town and drunk, doing carrying around their service revolvers...in a concealed fashion?"

I ask this question because it is a grave offense for a common citizen of the Working Class to ever get busted carrying around a concealed gun...or for that matter...any instrument which the state considers to be a "deadly weapon."

James Ray Mendoza has been granted a new trial by the Wisconsin Supreme Court in this case. One of the major reasons cited being that the trial court erred in refusing to instruct the

jury on the elements of manslaughter (which constitutes) causing death of another unnecessarily in the exercise of self-defense.

"It is also clear there was evidence in the record, which, if the jury chose to believe it, could lead to acquittal on those charges..." (quoted from the opinion of the Supreme Court of Wisconsin).

The court's opinion listed some evidence to indicate that Mendoza had been beaten by the two off-duty, drunk cops.

In evidence for the new trial hearing it was admitted by the polygraph examiner that he did lie under oath (perjury) and that he did tamper with the results of the lie detector test so as to alter the results to come out in favor of the state.

For more information and to send donations for the bail fund, please write to:

Ernesto Estrada
1228 S. 8th St.
Milwaukee, Wis. 53201
(Bail Committee)

or
Carlos "Cienfuegos" Soto
1004 Genesee St.
Waukesha, Wis. 53186
(Literature only)

LIBERTAD PARA
RAY MENDOZA!
Carlos "Cienfuegos" Soto

'My heart goes out to Carol Frye.'

Dear Editor:

I received my first Workers' Power again after being denied it for six months.

I was transferred to another institution at Lexington, Oklahoma. The warden there, "Mr. Pete Douglas" would not allow me to have the Workers' Power.

I enjoyed the mag very much. I especially enjoyed "Merry Christmas Essex Strikers" by Elissa Clarke. My heart goes out to Carol Frye.

My situation here is not good. I have the option of going to a practically bare yard and freezing for some exercise or laying around in my cell.

The library privileges are hope and maybe get a book.

There are 1190 men here behind the walls and work for about 500 at the most. Most jobs are jobs in name only.

At mail time I just watch the man pass my cell and hurt. It's so damn lonely I want to cry. Me being 46 no less. Ha. (Only it isn't funny.)

Somewhere out there I know there are people that's lonely and will write to me.

I want all the information you have to offer.

Sincerely,
Ray Pinkstaff 92144
Box 97
McAlester, Okla. 74501

P.S. I belonged at one time with the labor union, 21st Telegraph, Oakland, Cal.

Carol Frye writes Prisoner

Ideas For W.P.

Dear Workers' Power:

I think the labor coverage in the paper is the best in the country. However, I have some suggestions of things that might be added to Workers' Power.

One section should be added to deal with practical things that can be done on ways to save money. Or some ways to conserve energy, like how to fix a drippy faucet.

Also, a woman's page should be done on a regular basis. This page could deal with problems women have in general. For example the problems that an activist's wife may have and what she can do. Or how to fight sexism. This would help both men and women.

Sincerely,
P.J. Camarata
Detroit

DISLIKES W.P.

To Whom It May Concern:

I have been receiving your "newspaper" for over two years now. I never wanted it, but an ex-friend presumptuously (and without my consent) signed me up for it. Please take me off your mailing list immediately.

I think your brand of socialism is archaic, simplistic and totally out of touch with the historical and cultural realities in the United States. I resent being told continually that I "must" do this and I "must" do that.

Your type of rhetoric may have been applicable to Russia in 1917 but it is totally out of touch with the realities of the United States in 1977.

It has been said that Trotskyites are never happy with any revolution that has occurred and always dream that the next one will be better. When and the hell will you idiots wake up!

Christopher E. Guthrie
DeKalb, Illinois

ATTICA FILM TO BE SHOWN IN SOUTH BRONX

The film "Attica!" the true story of the most famous prison rebellion in the United States, will be shown for free Wednesday, January 11 at 7:00 pm at The Freedom Spot, 797 E. 170th St. in the South Bronx. Childcare will be provided. For information call 724-7075.

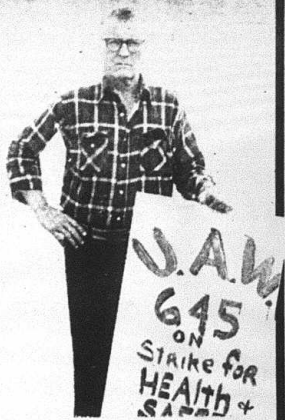
The film is part of a winter film festival. In December, two other films were shown: "Why Our Economy Needs to Keep People Poor" and "The Frame-Up of Martin Sostre." Workers' Power will carry announcements of future film showings in the Wednesday night series.

The Freedom Spot is a community center where concerned residents of the impoverished South Bronx have the opportunity to meet and work on fighting for better lives, jobs and education.

The Freedom Spot is open Monday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings. Other nights community groups meet there. South Bronx residents are invited to drop in.

Labor Notes

by Jim Woodward



In the last few days of December, Chrysler Corporation announced it was sending out 2.5 million recall notices to owners of Chrysler automobiles. That pushed the total number of safety-related recalls by all U.S. auto companies to about 11 million in 1977. During the same year, the domestic auto companies managed to build about 9.2 million cars. Truly an inspiring performance. They're so busy making money that they're forgetting how to make cars.

Twenty widows whose husbands died from lung cancer while working in steel mills have filed a \$1 million suit against three manufacturers of coke oven equipment. The cancer victims all worked on or around coke ovens at U.S. Steel, Republic Steel and Bethlehem Steel. The widows charge that the companies didn't use the best technology available to prevent workers from breathing cancer-causing coke emissions, and that they installed the equipment improperly so that the coke oven doors leaked the poisonous gases.

The Teamsters Union is complaining that the Air Force sided with Trans International Airlines when the union struck that charter airline in September. Seems that after a judge ordered the union not to picket planes carrying military cargo, the Air Force doubled the amount of business it had been giving the airline.

The sight of double-tanker trucks wrecked and burning has become a familiar one in the Detroit area lately. Michigan law allows these unstable rigs to stand 13 feet high and carry 77 tons—the highest weight limit in the country. On December 27, an innocent pedestrian was fried when one of these monsters crashed and exploded into flames on top of him. It was the 13th major double-tanker accident and fifth death of the year in the Detroit area. As a result of the massive public outcry against this slaughter, Michigan Governor William Milliken announced that double tankers will be banned in urban areas from 6 am to 10 pm daily. Teamsters Local 283 announced its members would refuse to drive them. And the oil companies? They're threatening to retaliate with another gas shortage—higher prices and long lines at service stations—if the tankers are banned.

The ten striking Stearns miners jailed after an October battle with Kentucky state police have been released by Circuit Judge J.B. Johnson. Johnson placed the ten on probation, on condition they not engage in any picketing until April 26.



photo: The International Teamster

The Kentucky Human Rights Commission has found Island Creek Coal Co. guilty of sex discrimination and ordered it to begin hiring women on a regular basis. Until women make up 20% of the company's non-supervisory work force, 25-50% of all new miners must be women, says the Commission.

Wildcat of the Week: Employees of the Wayne County (Michigan) Medical Examiner's Office walked off the job Dec. 27 to protest the condition of the truck they use to pick up bodies for the morgue. They said the doors wouldn't stay shut and bodies had fallen out the back. After a short walkout, they had a new truck but were fighting a seven-day suspension for the wildcat.

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.

How Auto Union Got Duped On Health Care

When 'Elsewhere' Is Nowhere

by Kim Moody

He didn't let it show, of course, but United Auto Workers' President Doug Fraser must have felt pretty embarrassed when he had to admit that Jimmy Carter had double-crossed him on the union's number one political goal—National Health Insurance.

For the UAW, health insurance has long been the union's number one goal. The union has been well aware that national health insurance would help take heat off the auto makers in their contract agreements with auto workers.

In 1970, Leonard Woodcock, then UAW President, estimated that a national health plan would reduce the cost of health insurance to the employers by one-third.

Estimates of the effect of current proposals are that they would reduce employer costs by as much as half.

TEST

Last May, Fraser put it like this: "the cost of our negotiated health care benefits program with the Big Three auto companies is now 95 cents to \$1 an hour. This is money which is being diverted from wages and other benefits to pay hospitals and doctors..."

A national health plan in 1978 would take a lot of pressure off the 1979 contract negotiations with the Big Three.

For this reason, the passage of a health plan in 1978 was a key test of the UAW's political strategy. And that test has been flunked.

Like the rest of labor, the UAW leadership has been saying for a number of years that the unions must now win in Washington what they no longer win at the bargaining table.

In 1976, they threw millions of dollars and over 100,000 volunteers into Carter's election. It is generally accepted that the UAW's early 1975 support for Carter was key to his winning the Democratic nomination in 1976.

The President had to come across with something in return.

Speaking before the union's Skilled Trades Conference on New Technology in December, UAW's Fraser explained that Carter had promised both him and the union that he would propose health insurance legislation no later than 1978.

In fact, Carter had promised twice. Once at the UAW's Convention last May. And once in a



the health and welfare of society.

Health care is another area of marked contrast. National health security was first proposed in 1948 by President Truman. Nearly 30 years later, Gerald Ford is trying to cloak himself in a Truman mantle even though he has consistently opposed Truman's programs.

Carter and the Democratic Party are committed firmly to national health security. Critics distort this program by trying to set it up as a hot goblin of

THE WAY WE WERE: Photo and quotes (below, and at left) from "UAW Solidarity," October 1976.

personal meeting with Fraser in June.

By October, the UAW's political newsletter, "Washington Report," was shouting "The President is Leading," and "Coming Next Year... National Health Insurance."

BACK-STAB

The union leaders were ill-prepared for the stinging double-cross that came three months later. Toward the end of December, as the administration was putting together its legislative package for 1978, it became clear that Health Insurance was not part of it.

Why not? Because national health insurance would cost a bundle. And the American business system is in trouble. And Carter and Congress are charged with patching it up.

The administration's strategy for getting the economy moving, without too much inflation, is moderate tax cuts, tax-give-aways to Big Business, and a hefty boost in arms spending (up to a total of \$125 billion).

National insurance for health care just doesn't fit in. Total health care costs in 1977 were \$160 billion.

[The Nixon-Ford Record: National health expenditures averaged \$547 per person last year—up almost 40 percent in four years, with an increasingly higher proportion being shifted back on the elderly.]

Jimmy Carter: "I will work for a national health-insurance program financed by general tax revenues and employer-employee shared payroll taxes—which is universal and mandatory."

twice what they were four years ago, and still rising.

Hence Carter's double-cross to the UAW, despite promises to repay its early and enthusiastic loyalty. When push comes to shove, the loyalty of the Democrats is, and always has been, to the American business system, not to labor.

"ELSEWHERE"

Fraser gave his reaction to New York Times reporter Tom Wicker: "If our major priority is neglected after they told us we could depend on it, we'll have to look elsewhere."

But the UAW's strategy of total dependence on the Democratic Party means that there is no "elsewhere." Nobody thinks for a minute the UAW is going to go with the Republicans.

There was a time in the UAW's history when "elsewhere" meant breaking with the Democrats and forming an independent labor party.

In 1948, the UAW's International Executive Board declared "as its official policy objective the formation after the 1948 elections of a genuine progressive political party."

In thirty years, it has never gotten around to that objective.

Now, no doubt, UAW leaders will again pour more dollars and more man-hours into electing still more Democrats in the 1978 Congressional elections.

The evidence suggests that his more-of-the-same strategy will produce just that: more of the same—defeats and double-crosses. □

REVIEWS

by Marilyn Danton

The Date: March 26, 1979. The Event: The collapse of the international economy.

"For the world was now forced to live with a bank system that lay in ruins, with monetary chaos, and with the prospect of having to survive on half its former oil reserves.

"The lights everywhere, gradually began to flicker and fade.

"The Crash of '79 was complete."

The Crash of '79. by Paul E. Erdman. Pocket Books, 428 pp. \$2.50

Here's a book that ought to shake you up more than Jaws or The Exorcist. Paul Erdman, in real life a banker and a millionaire, begins with the Arab oil embargo of 1974 and the international economic depression of 1974/75. Step by step he traces out these events neatly slipping from the present to the future and a world in total ruin.

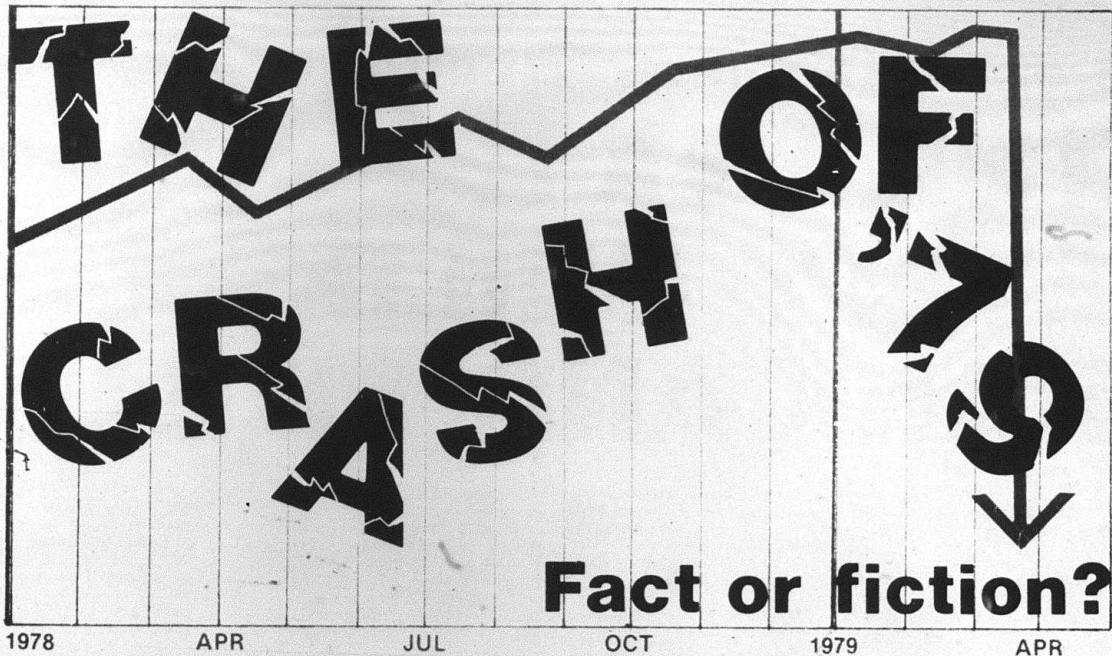
ECONOMY IN CRISIS

This book would make good fiction anytime. But, what makes it so fascinating and timely is that the author understands how the economic system works and what the major trends are.

Pick up any newspaper over the last few months. You can read the worried articles by economists and businessmen: "The dollar falls to a new low!" "Carter Administration concerned over lack of investment" "US fears oil price hike will end recovery."

January 1978: The economy is in trouble. The recovery which began a year and a half ago has never taken off. Instead it has gone from pause to pause.

Inflation and unemployment hover at 7%. There is little investment. The stock market is low and



falling. Car sales are slipping. International competition in basic materials like steel opens up the spectre of trade barriers.

In Europe the situation is no better. OPEC agreed not to raise the price of oil this time around. But, in a year, who knows? Italy, Spain and Britain are plagued with high inflation and unemployment, and little or no investment.

GIANT BANKS

Portugal hovers on the brink of civil war. Germany and Japan want the US to reflate its economy to stave off a depression that threatens their economies. But US economists and banks are worried about setting off another inflation-

ary spiral.

About these banks—in Erdman's world the nine largest, all American, collapse after Saudi Arabia withdraws billions of oil profit dollars. The collapse of these banks brings about the collapse of the rest of the world's banks.

Couldn't happen? Not true. Today the Arab countries have invested 65 billion in the largest American banks—many for 90 days only. These same banks are making 15 year loans (based on deposits that could be withdrawn in three months) to underdeveloped countries that are bankrupt or on the verge of bankruptcy.

It was just this situation that brought about the collapse of the banks in Erdman's book.

The author is intimately familiar with bank failures. He once spent 10 months in a Swiss jail when his bank collapsed.

The likelihood of the international economy actually collapsing in 1979 is very small. But a deep depression, worse than 1975, is clearly in the cards. The weaknesses of the world economy that Erdman points to all exist in reality:

- World banking is concentrated in 9-10 American banks.

- The monetary system is inherently unstable as each country rushes to the aid of its currency. Exchange rates fluctuate daily.

- The huge surplus of petrodollars held by the largely non-industrial Arab countries increases

this instability.

- Above all, the overall lack of real capital investment has led to growing international stagnation and inflation.

BANNED!

The governments of Iran and Saudi Arabia—two key countries in "The Crash"—were not at all amused by Paul Erdman's best seller. Both countries banned the book. Ultra-rich Saudi businessman Adnan Khasoggi bought all 50 copies he found in a Swiss bookstore.

Fearing lawsuits, the British publisher censored parts of the book. And Iran's secret police, SAVAK, put Erdman under investigation. Maybe the Shah or Iran and the rest are afraid that Erdman let the cat out of the bag.

But, I won't let all of the cats out of the bag. You'll have to read the book to see how it all unfolds. Judge for yourself—is it just good fiction—or an accurate prediction?

Workers' Solidarity - It's A Miracle For All Seasons

Perhaps the greatest miracle of "Miracle in Caulfield" was that it was on network television at all. For this was a show in which the bosses were real villains, class outrage abounded, and workers fought back.

"Miracle in Caulfield" was about coal miners in a town called Caulfield, somewhere in Appalachia in

1950. The coal mines are owned by Mr. Caulfield. The town is owned by Mr. Caulfield. Even the Christmas trees are owned by Caulfield.

A methane explosion rocks one of the mine shafts. At first the miners refuse to go back into the mine. But leaderless, they agree to show up that evening, Christmas eve, for work.

Meanwhile, amidst some pretty

hokey personal drama, life goes on. Mr. Caulfield, true to form, is busy raising the prices on his Christmas trees and the toys in his store.

MINE DISASTER

That night there is a serious explosion, and a number of miners are trapped deep in the shaft. The trapped miners resolve to fight Caulfield to the end—if they get out alive.

The miracle of Caulfield, the play makes clear, is not that the miners are saved, though they are. The miracle, that Christmas eve, was that the miners and their families learn the lesson of working class solidarity.

The miners go on wildcat strike, they find a leader, and the women join in cursing Mr. Caulfield. No more bending or bowing to Caulfield. No more working in unsafe mines. No more fear of the high and mighty.

While "Miracle in Caulfield" was going out over NBC, real, living coal miners, in a thousand Caulfields, were striking, fighting this Christmas for safe conditions and even for the right to strike itself. □



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Detroit Teamster Elections

THE NEXT STEP: BUILD RANK AND FILE UNITY!

Pete Karagozian, left
Pete Camarata, center
Lins' supporter, right



by Jim Woodward

DETROIT—Opposition candidates lost most offices in Teamster Local 299's elections here last month, but may have gained a real measure of rank and file unity in the process.

When the mail ballots of the large Teamster local were counted December 27-28, incumbent President Bob Lins was narrowly returned to office.

Lins defeated Pete Karagozian, 3751-3507. Then he promptly fired Karagozian from his job as a Business Agent.

The events in Local 299 are of considerable importance, since it is one of the key locals in the Teamsters Union. Both current Teamsters president Frank Fitzsimmons and past president Jimmy Hoffa came from 299.

Local 299 has also become the home of a sizeable rank and file movement. Teamsters for a Democratic Union (TDU) has many members in 299. There is also another rank and file group called Concerned Members, led by Karagozian.

NEED FOR UNITY

Throughout the campaign, Concerned Members was unwilling to cooperate with TDU. One reason, apparently, was fear that they would be red-baited, since some TDU activists are socialists.

Nevertheless, Concerned Members did adopt a campaign platform that was very similar to TDU's.

Most members of TDU, though

disturbed by Concerned Members' unwillingness to cooperate, felt that some sort of working agreement was necessary in the campaign—even if just an understanding not to run candidates against each other.

The refusal to cooperate with TDU probably cost Karagozian the election. And it clearly cost the rank and file other offices.

For the Vice Presidential spot, Lins' candidate, Ray Banks, won with 2710 votes, while TDU's Pete Camarata and Concerned Members' Pat Foley virtually tied for second, with 1824 and 1825 votes, respectively.

Simple arithmetic seems to teach an important lesson here about rank and file unity.

TWO VICTORIES

Two of Karagozian's running mates were elected to lesser offices. Gail Irvin, an office worker, was elected recording secretary. And Jerry "Red" Zimmers won a position as trustee.

Another rank and file victory occurred even before the voting began.

Outgoing Vice President Richard Fitzsimmons, son of the International President and thoroughly despised by Local 299 members, did not even dare to stand for reelection.

This is an indication of how attitudes have changed in the local in the last few years.

Asked to assess the election results, Pete Camarata told Work-

ers' Power that the need for unity was being taken to heart.

"If we'd have been together we'd have won something—I think a lot of them [Concerned Members] recognize that.

"We split the votes evenly," Camarata added. "This is something we should have expected, but

didn't." Other TDU members agreed that the sentiment on all sides for rank and file unity had been strengthened by the election results.

This sentiment will be tested in the near future, as TDU and Concerned Members are immediately beginning a campaign to change

the local's by-laws.

The by-laws campaign will focus on an issue both groups included in their election platforms: election of stewards and business agents.

The proposed changes must be presented at several successive union meetings, so a vote will not take place until spring. □

OTTO WENDEL DIES

Otto E. Wendel, an early candidate for president of Local 299, died in late December of gunshot wounds suffered earlier.

Wendel, secretary-treasurer of

299, had been nominated but later withdrew as a candidate to oppose Lins. Consequently, many Teamsters felt he was in fact working with Lins.

On December 12, Wendel was

found slumped over the wheel of his union-owned Cadillac, with two bullet wounds in his stomach.

The county sheriff ruled it a suicide, supposedly prompted by ill health. □



Teamsters demonstrate support for TDU slate

Ian Smith's Solution - One White, Eight Votes

Ian Smith, the Prime Minister of racist Rhodesia, and three so-called "moderate Black leaders" have two problems in their negotiations over the future of Zimbabwe (Rhodesia).

Bishop Abel Muzorewa, Rev. Ndabaningi Sithole and Chief Chirau are working with Smith on an "internal settlement" to end the Black freedom struggle.

The first problem is trying to decide whether the 4% white minority should control one third of the seats in Parliament, or only a quarter of them. The talks seem temporarily stalled on this issue.

Under one system, every white

vote would count as much as eight Black votes. Under the other, it would count for only six. The whites aren't sure that's enough.

Either way, white control of a certain proportion of seats is intended to prevent the Black majority from passing laws that would create economic equality.

BIGGER PROBLEM

But the bigger problem for Ian Smith and his three Black friends is that the real struggle for the liberation of Zimbabwe—the guerilla war—is intensifying.

Despite the huge massacre of over 1000 people by Rhodesian

helicopter gunships at the Mozambique town of Chimoi in November—mostly civilian women and children refugees—the Zimbabwean guerilla forces are growing.

Rhodesian Minister of Combined Operations admitted that Africans forced into the regime's army are deserting by the hundreds.

Some deserters are said to be giving information to the liberation armies about Rhodesian army positions.

That's the struggle that even sellout leaders like Muzorewa, who promises the whites he will never touch their hoards of private wealth, can't bring to a stop. □

D.P.



Massacres like this one demonstrate Ian Smith's democracy.