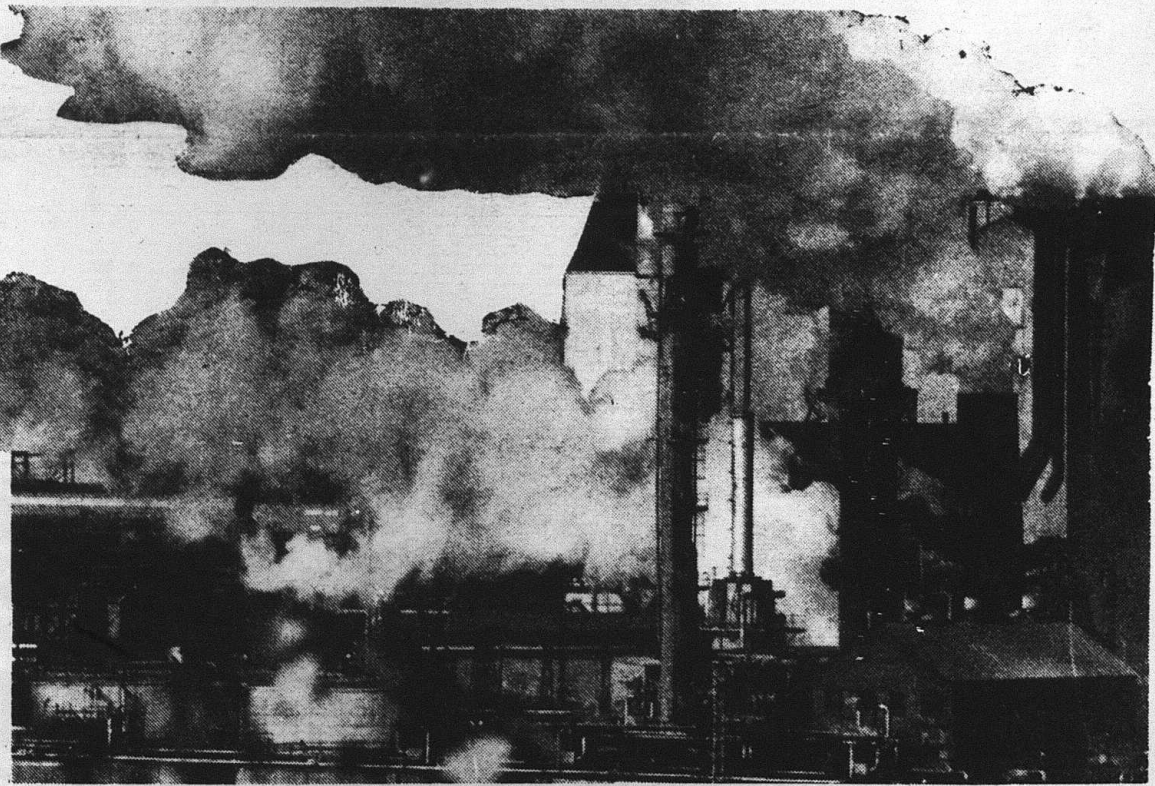
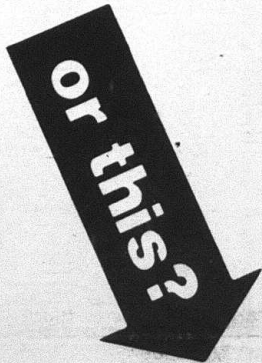


# Workers' Power

THE WEEKLY NEWSPAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS    JANUARY 16, 1978    ISSUE #238    25c

## WHICH ONE IS THE REAL KILLER?



by Dan Posen

**BIG NEWS.** The United States government's Department of Health, Education and Welfare is zeroing in on the number-one crisis facing America.

**Unemployment? Millions of families without decent medical care?**

Forget it. The most deadly evil in the United States today is, you guessed it, cigarette smoking.

That's what HEW Secretary Joseph Califano, otherwise known as the nation's top povertycrat, revealed Wednesday as he unveiled the new anti-smoking campaign to be masterminded from his plushy appointed offices in Washington, D.C.

Califano noted that roughly 100,000 cancer deaths result from smoking.

But last year 385,000 Americans died of cancer. In 45 years the cancer death rate has increased by 11%.

**This terrifying increase has not been caused by individuals smok-**

**ing.**

The huge increase in cancer deaths is caused primarily by industrial and environmental poisons — created by big business.

### MASS POISON

There are 1,500 proven or suspected cancer-causing chemicals. Yet less than 25 chemicals have any rules for how they are to be handled at the workplace.

American workers at home and

especially on the job, breathing in the air every day, are being slowly mass-poisoned.

Yet neither HEW or any other government agency is giving this full-scale crisis any more than token lip service.

The reason? Simple. Cleaning up the environment would mean taking on heavy industrial monopolies. It would cost money and mean a political struggle.

Railing against people smoking cigarettes, on the other hand, is a

lot cheaper and more convenient.

**Meanwhile, the U.S. government will continue to subsidize the tobacco industry to the tune of \$80 million a year.**

That's not in the HEW budget, so Califano can preach the evils of tobacco weed without changing anything.

Any serious government program to eliminate cancer would take on the industrial polluters.

Any administration really con-

cerned with the health crisis could not betray its promise for national health insurance, as Carter has just done.

And any government seriously concerned with the well-being of its citizens would not announce as it did last week, that it will take away milk from poor children's free lunches.

But perhaps the "savings" from children's milk will cover the \$20 million that Califano's package of publicity stunts will cost. □

# CIA & THE PRESS

Continuing investigations of the CIA in the wake of the U.S. defeat in Vietnam and other foreign policy failures and embarrassments are aimed at making the agency better at helping the U.S. run the world. But the infighting at the top offers the average American some insights into how they do it, as yesterday's normal practice is aired as today's dirty linen.

By Karen Kaye

A recent three-month New York Times investigation concluded that for 25 years, the CIA relied heavily on the biggest news corporations to find employees who would exchange information, write false stories in the foreign press and act as messengers.

The major connections were with Time, Newsweek, CBS news, and the New York Times.

SEVERAL RECENT investigations of working relations between the "free American press" and the sneaky, underhanded CIA have sent top news media executives falling over each other to assure the public that no current employees work for the spies.

The denials can be doubted, though, since the execs also claim personal ignorance of admitted past CIA ties of their middle to low level employees.

The cries of top-level ignorance recall Nixon's "technical" innocence of any Watergate dirty tricks.

## NONE OF "THAT"!

John A. McCone, director of the CIA from 1961-65 told the New York Times:

"As far as any top-level discussion with Time or Newsweek or the Washington Post or the New York Times, saying, 'Look, we need a stringer over in Brazil and we'd like him to be under Newsweek cover,' there was none of that."

New York Times sources who had seen CIA files, similarly cleared "such men as" Time magazine's founder Henry Luce and Arthur Hays Sulzberger, long-time New York Times publisher, of giving, or even being asked for, "their personal approval for such arrangements."

Retired CIA man Edward S. Hunters said that only Newsweek's foreign editor, and not the magazine's founder, knew that he was a CIA agent while working as Newsweek's Hong Kong correspondent in the late 1940's.

James Linen, for 11 years the publisher of Time magazine, told the Times that he never knew for certain that any of his correspondents were working for the CIA but, "I always assumed that some of them must have been."

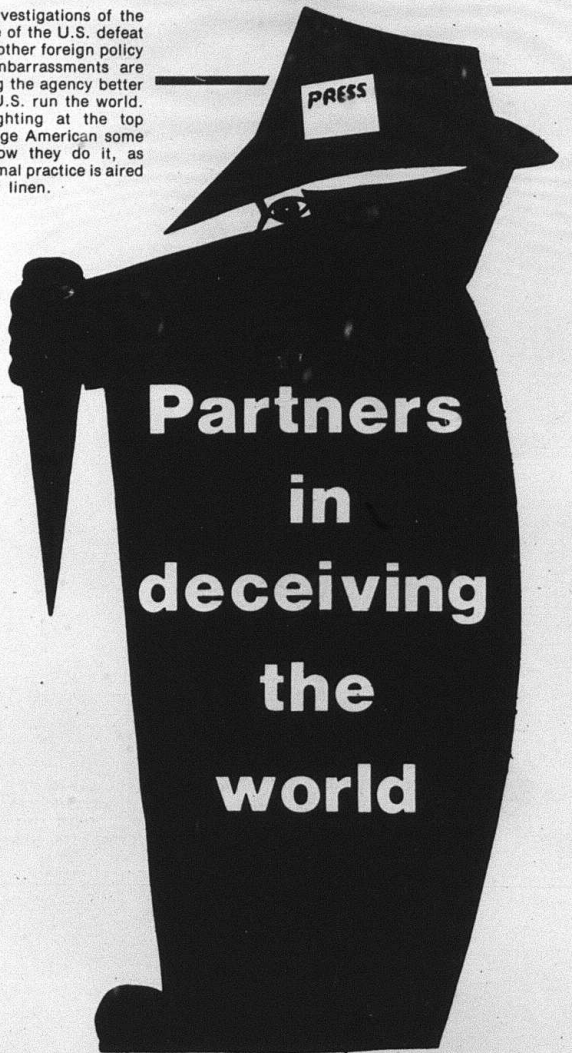
He never tried to find out, the Times said.

## DRINKING PARTNERS

It seems that one reason the bigwigs could preserve their innocence is that, as one CIA official told the Times, top news executives were buddies with most CIA directors.

When they got together, "They reviewed the world, and I was there for brandy and cigars on several occasions."

The Times reported that a CIA agent based in Manhattan "was also known as a frequent luncheon companion of editors at the New



Partners  
in  
deceiving  
the  
world

York Times where his chief interest seemed to be which correspondents were soon to return to the United States and might be available for debriefing."

A former CIA official told the Times that to use local contacts of major correspondents in a foreign capital "all you really had to do was go to the cocktail parties they invited you to."

## SHARED GOALS

Major media is big business, and it follows that their managements and many high-paid journalists have as much interest in U.S. world domination as any other large corporation.

This can be seen in the statement of a former ABC news correspondent who worked for the CIA in the late 1950's.

He told the Times, "I want to live in a country that I like without having to worry about getting a bomb through my window."

Don't we all. But it is the CIA that incites violence all over the world, as the following example reveals.

"One American correspondent, Enno Hobbing, quit the Paris bureau of Time magazine in 1953 to join the CIA and took part the following year in the agency's

successful efforts to overthrow the Guatemalan Government," the Times reports.

"Mr. Hobbing said he quit the CIA shortly afterward and took a job as a staff writer with Life magazine in New York, where he continued to work for the agency on a part-time basis."

The people of Guatemala still live under a violent, repressive regime as a result of that "successful effort."

## NEW TIMES, NEW METHODS

But in recent years, the CIA's methods of undermining and overthrowing foreign governments have embarrassed the government more often than in the 50's and 60's when the U.S. was "policeman of the world."

In particular, the CIA-aided overthrow of Chile's liberal President Allende in 1973 led to international protest of the military regime that has killed, tortured and imprisoned thousands, and stripped the population of all rights.

Today, news executives are eager to wash their hands of any connections to such doings.

At last week's House subcommittee hearings on the press and the CIA, "prominent" newsmen "wrapped themselves in the first

amendment" (freedom of the press) in the words of former CIA official Ray S. Cline.

Newsmen testifying at the committee were united in demanding an end to the use of American reporters for spying.

As the pressure mounted, the CIA itself banned paid relationships with reporters for general circulation newspapers.

Time magazine reported that CIA Director Stansfield Turner affirmed that voluntary unpaid relationships would continue.

## COLBY'S LAMENT

But former CIA Director William Colby lamented to the House subcommittee:

"The last ten years have seen a critical erosion of the cover under which American intelligence officers must work."

"The Peace Corps, the Fulbright scholars, the United States Information Agency, the United States Agency for International Development and now the journalists are off limits, and additional groups clamor to be included in this charmed circle."

The Peace Corps and the Fulbright scholars? How about the Girl Scouts and the 4-H Clubs.

But many CIA officials are confident that the flap will blow over. After all, espionage must go on if the U.S. is to remain a business paradise.

Said one CIA official, described by the Times as holding a "senior position for many years":

"The pendulum will swing, and someday we'll be recruiting journalists again."

"I will have no problem recruiting. I see a lot of them, and I know they're ripe for the plucking."

Why can we believe him, despite the lofty statements about freedom of the press coming from news execs today?

## SERVES BUSINESS

Because the U.S. journalism industry serves the interests of the business community of which they are a part, every day. We all know how strike reports always focus on the hardships to "the public" and not the hardships that caused the work stoppage.

During the recent firemen's strike in Britain, American papers daily reported the number of fire-related deaths in an early paragraph, only later mentioning that not one was caused by the strike.

The U.S. press routinely characterizes Black Africans who are fighting to take their countries back from white minority colonial regimes as "terrorists."

This is all calculated to mold our opinion in favor of U.S. policy and against the international solidarity among working people that could develop if we knew the truth.

What is true freedom of the press? One example occurred in Portugal in 1974 when workers at the daily paper Republica took it over and began publishing it "in the interests of working people."

They had plenty to cover that was ignored in other newspapers, since at the time many Portuguese workers were taking over their factories and running them without the boss.

In the meantime, the CIA was busy figuring out how to put a stop to workers' revolution in Portugal. The American press reported the events only as "turmoil" to be blamed on Communism. □

# Gov't Cuts Milk For Kids

by Al Ferdnace

Former Secretary of Agriculture Earl Butz left office under a cloud during Gerald Ford's Republican administration. Someone left a microphone on and Earl's version of a racial joke fell on the unsympathetic ears of some Black Congressmen.

But the Carter administration has managed somehow to improve on even that. As bad as racial slurs may be, they do not approach the cruelty hidden in recent Congressional actions that directly affect the health and personal well-being of 1.4 million school-aged American children.

## "TOO MUCH" FREE MILK

Robert Bergland (Democrat), Carter's replacement for Butz's vacant post, has seen fit to cut the second glass of milk from the free lunch program given to poor school children.

The action will cut the cost of the free lunch program by about \$25 million.

Bergland's contribution to conservation, according to assistant Secretary of Agriculture Carol Foreman, is in response to the expressed "concern of the Congress that some of the free milk has been wasted."

The milk bill, which goes into effect on February 1, represents a concrete example of what Carter meant by a "people-oriented" government. What it means for the children of the voters who tipped the scales in favor of the Democratic Party is less food.

The free lunch program provides much needed nutritional food for poor children who would have to do without otherwise. They come from families that earn barely enough to exist on, many of them on welfare.

A majority of those on welfare (48.3%) are white, while a minority (43.3%) are Black. If this cut in necessary nutrients for the poor is Bergland's idea of a joke, one thing is very clear. He and the Democratic Congress are not restricting it to Blacks alone.

As for Congressional concern in saving the taxpayers' money, perhaps their conservation should begin at home. Last year they took a kingsize cut out of the taxpayers' pocket by voting themselves a raise in pay. Their annual salary is now a whopping \$57,500 and all they can steal.

Too bad their "generosity" does not extend to the millions of poor Americans who put them into office. With this kind of concern exhibited by elected officials the American voters are in serious danger of voting themselves right out of existence. □

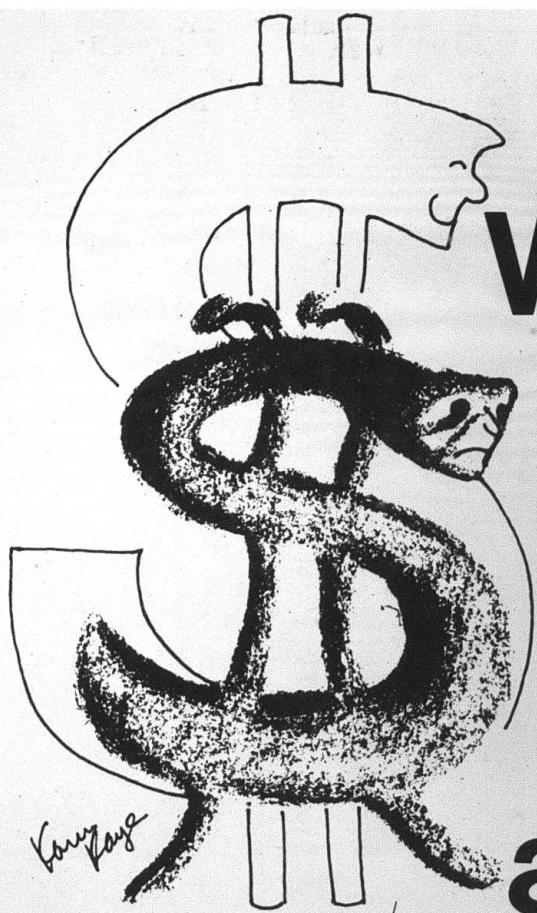
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# Why the dollar ain't a dollar any more



by Marilyn Danton and Karen Kaye

Last year, it took 300 Japanese yen to equal one dollar. Today 240 yen equal a dollar.

THE "FALLING DOLLAR" has dominated the news lately. The story of the dollar's current crisis is one chapter in the constant battle for growth among competing capitalist countries.

Currency: like the U.S. dollar, the Japanese yen, the German mark, and the British pound, all have uses beyond purchasing power. By changing the currency's value, it can be used as a weapon as each country attempts to defend its own economy.

And the battle is hot today, for the capitalist world has never fully recovered from the depression of 1975.

The U.S. economy is the strongest of all. But it is not strong enough to pull the rest of the world out of recession.

## SLOW PROFITS

The system's basic problem is that it can't turn out profits fast enough to make new investment worthwhile. But new investment is what creates economic growth, and if capitalism doesn't expand constantly, recession and depression result. The system can't simply stabilize.

Because the American capitalist system is the strongest, the dollar is the most important currency. For example, all debts between capitalist countries must be paid in dollars. That's why the dollar is the international reserve currency.

The dollar's fall began originally because the government decided to let it fall, to reverse the balance of payments deficit and its bad effects on the U.S. economy.

Slow growth in Germany and Japan, and slower growth in Britain, Italy and France, have meant that other countries can't provide a big enough market for U.S. goods. The faster-growing

U.S. economy has been producing more than it can sell.

Making the dollar cheaper to other countries, government economists reasoned, would encourage them to import U.S. goods.

## OTHER PROBLEM

But the U.S. has another problem. Not only is U.S. business not selling enough abroad, the country is also importing more than it exports. The result? The U.S.

economy goes deeper into the red each year.

Huge oil price increases since 1973 have increased this trade deficit recently. This year, oil imports totalled \$45 billion, compared to \$4 billion in 1972 before OPEC quadrupled the price of oil.

Government economists could have tried to solve the problem by cutting down on imports, especially oil, and slowing down the recovery in the U.S.

But faced with the many difficulties of cutting oil imports, and fearing a slowdown would create recession, the government chose the route of trying to force the German and Japanese economies to grow faster in 1977.

By letting the dollar fall in value relative to the German mark and the Japanese yen, American goods become cheaper, and imports more expensive.

The U.S. government hoped that this would change the U.S. deficit into a trade surplus.

## DIDN'T WORK

But Germany especially feared that economic stimulation would lead to rapid inflation, and refused to take the chance.

Japan agreed to stimulate their economy. But rather than increasing their growth rate at home, they increased their exports. Naturally, this only added to the U.S. problem. Capitalism is a dog eat dog system.

As the imbalance continued, so did the U.S. policy of letting the dollar fall, with the result that the fall got out of hand.

Since the dollar is the international currency, if it becomes too unstable, trade and debt payments cannot be made in an orderly fashion. The uncertainty and instability that results threatens the entire capitalist system.

Secondly, the dollar is the only currency that the OPEC countries accept in payment for oil. As the dollar loses value, the OPEC countries lose money.

It is clear that when Carter was in Saudi Arabia last week, King Khalid warned him that if the U.S. government didn't do something about stabilizing the dollar he would push for an oil price increase. Iran and other OPEC countries would support this.

The OPEC countries had earlier agreed to a price freeze because they knew that an increase would threaten the world economy, including themselves.

Because of these two threats to world capitalism, the Carter administration has now decided to actively defend the dollar.

## DEFENSE BEGINS

In a move to stabilize the price of the dollar, the Federal Reserve Bank last week began buying dollars from other countries.

The Federal Reserve Bank is the central U.S. bank that supplies commercial banks with money. Buying dollars increases their value because it increases the demand.

The Federal Reserve Bank also raised its credit discount rate to 6.5 in order to protect the dollar. The immediate effect of these actions was to raise the value of the dollar in relationship to other capitalist currencies.

The effect will only be temporary, however. The U.S. capitalist system's problem remains: the U.S. will have a trade deficit and huge oil imports in 1978 and 1979.

Carter's program is to pass the energy program, limiting oil imports somewhat, and raising the price we will pay for gas and oil; and to try to get the Japanese economy to grow faster.

## RECESSION

A real defense of the dollar would require raising interest rates, cutting into economic growth—and moving towards a recession.

If there is no serious defense, a new dollar crisis and further inflation will develop—and then a recession.

The economic recovery in the U.S. is coming to an end no matter what course is taken. The capitalists have no way out of the crisis in the long run.

Sooner or later the system will slip into a recession and a full scale depression. □

Why does the dollar crisis matter? How does it affect world trade? For more analysis, turn to page 9.



Jimmy Carter meets with King Khalid in Saudi Arabia.

## JIMMY AND THE KING

"Look, Jimmy, if you don't stop the dollar from falling, we're going to have to raise the price of oil!"

"Okay, okay. I get the point. I'm new at this. Everybody gives me different advice. The steel companies said imports were killing them, and a cheaper dollar would help...now the Germans and Japanese are screaming at me..."

"Tell you what, King. If I stop the dollar from falling, will you let my brother Billy open a gas station over here?"

# DEMOCRACY UNDER TORTURE

**"In the face of international aggression unleashed against the government of our homeland, I support President Pinochet in his defense of the dignity of Chile, and reaffirm the legitimacy of the Government of the republic to conduct, in a sovereign way, the process of institutionalization of the country."**

by Marilyn Danton

Chile's military president, Augusto Pinochet, proclaimed a massive victory. According to the government's vote count, 75% of the Chilean people voted for his personal rule and against what he called international aggression.

At the victory rally on January 6, dictator Pinochet announced that there would be no new elections until 1986. The state of siege under which the military has governed since 1973 will remain in effect.

In its first year in power the regime massacred 40,000 trade unionists. Hundreds more disappear each year.

Pinochet intends to decree a new constitution that would institutionalize his personal brand of "authoritarian democracy."

Far from a victory, however, this event proves clearly that Pinochet and his henchmen face massive opposition in Chile.

The election was rigged from beginning to end. Voters had to have their thumb print recorded on their ballots—a dangerous business in a military dictatorship.

The opposition was not allowed to campaign. When members of the moderate (and outlawed) Christian Democratic Party handed out leaflets urging a 'no' vote, they were arrested.

Pinochet's backing came from businessmen and the middle class who are pleased with his economic policies. Chile is now quite safe for business and foreign investment by such American companies as Exxon, ITT, and



President Pinochet's referendum (text above, left) asked Chile's citizens to support his "defense of the dignity of Chile." Here is the kind of dignity Pinochet brought Chile with his 1973 coup: mass arrests of trade unionists, murders, and tortures.

Anaconda Copper.

In some working class districts the 'no' vote reached as high as 40%.

## MASS PROTEST VOTE

"This was heroic in view of the job insecurity that exists now in Chile," according to an opposition labor leader.

"Many who voted 'yes' did so from fear of marking their ballot 'no' and risking their jobs."

Workers in Chile have no freedom. Trade unions are outlawed. There is no job security—a worker can be fired for no reason. Unemployment is officially at 12%. Wages average \$100.00 a month.

One woman, the wife of a factory worker from the San Miguel district outside of Santiago, talked about why she would vote 'no.'

"A few days after they killed Allende [the elected President overthrown by the military in 1973], the military came here looking for what they said was a Communist priest. They machine-gunned the chapel. You can still see the holes in the benches.

"On this block there are three men who had to leave the country to find work. There is the son of another woman who is on the run after police came looking for arms.

"There is a girl who spent nine months in the Tres Alamos prison camp where she was raped by the guards.

"That is the violence we know about here, and I am voting no."

## FIGHTING BACK

She wasn't the only one. Despite extreme repression, hundreds of Chileans marched through Santi-

ago shouting, "Chile yes! Junta no! Freedom and vote no" on Pinochet's statement.

This is the first series of sustained demonstrations since Pinochet and the military overthrew the government of Salvador Allende in 1973 and killed, imprisoned or exiled over 1,000,000 Chilean workers.

Chile's workers are fighting back on the job as well. In November workers at the El Teniente mine—the largest copper mine in the world—went on strike for higher wages.

This is the first open strike in over four years. It represents the kind of opposition which the business and military rulers fear the most.

Pinochet's massive victory was a defeat. The real vote on his vicious rule will be decided in the streets—not in some rigged elections. □

## Vietnam, Cambodia Battle

# A WAR NO ONE CAN WIN

by Dan Posen

Almost exactly ten years ago—February, 1968—the National Liberation Front of Vietnam launched the Tet Offensive.

It was the beginning of the massive defeat of American military power in Vietnam.

Today, ten years after Tet and three years after Vietnam was liberated from American puppet rulers, a new Indochina war is raging.

The armies of Vietnam and Cambodia, now both ruled by Communist Parties, are fighting over border violations and land seizures which each side is blaming on the other.

From 1961 to 1975 over two million Vietnamese were killed in the struggle to free their country from U.S. control. There is no way

to estimate how many Cambodians were massacred by American air raids which tore the country to bits.

But the deaths of thousands more Vietnamese and Cambodians today is even more tragic, because the current fighting is not a liberation war at all.

It is a power struggle between the new rulers of two desperately poor countries. It is impossible to imagine that ordinary Vietnamese or Cambodians will gain anything from the outcome, except more resources destroyed and lives lost.

## HYPOCRISY

All this gives American newspapers and TV journalists plenty to smugly sit back and chuckle over. Their attitude is, "You see, maybe we did lose Indochina to the Communists but isn't it fun to

watch them killing each other off."

This is a disgusting display of hypocrisy. It was the U.S. government which brought about the devastation of Indochina.

American military strategy in Vietnam aimed at killing as many Vietnamese and destroying as much of the country as possible. The reason was simple enough—the vast majority of Vietnamese wanted the U.S. armies driven out.

The ordinary villagers and workers of Vietnam were the "enemy."

That's why the agricultural dikes and harbors of North Vietnam were bombed. That's why huge forests and fields were defoliated, causing massive sickness and creating regions where nothing will grow for 100 years.

In May 1970, the Nixon Administration extended the war to Cam-

bodia. The result was the complete destruction of Cambodia's agriculture and economic structure.

The Communist Party's "Khmer Rouge" army grew by leaps and bounds as villagers fled American bombers.

## THE PEOPLE LOSE

The peoples of Indochina saw no choice but to support the Communist Party-dominated movements fighting against American occupation.

They defeated the most powerful imperialist power in history. But today, in both Vietnam and Cambodia, the Communist Party leaders have created new state machines, forced-labor camps and extreme political repression.

The Communist Party rulers have built their power in the

economic ruin and starvation the United States left behind.

Some reports claim that the fighting between the Vietnamese and Cambodian regimes is part of the Russia-China conflict.

Moscow appears to be supporting Vietnam, and Peking encouraging the Cambodians, both for their own purposes.

It is hard to judge exactly to what extent Russia and China are behind the actual fighting.

What is clear is that for the people of both countries it is a senseless battle in which they will all be losers.

It is equally clear that driving out American power was only the beginning of a longer struggle for the workers of Indochina. Until they have overthrown the new exploiters, there will be bloodshed and poverty instead of unity. □

# MINER MURDERED IN COAL STRIKE

by Jim Woodward

Two Kentucky miners are dead, the first fatalities of the six-week long coal strike. One was the victim of an accidental shooting; the other murdered on the picket line by a coal company security guard.

Mack Lewis, a 65-year-old miner from Prestonburg, Kentucky, was shot January 6 by a hired guard for the Diamond Coal Co. The guard was arrested and charged with murder.

A district official of the United Mine Workers union told Workers' Power that Lewis was a pensioner who was just visiting the picket line. He had "seven kids, and I don't know how many grandkids," the official said.

The second miner was killed when a pistol fell from the glove compartment as he was getting out of a car. It accidentally went off,

hitting him in the head.

In addition to these incidents, hundreds of miners have been arrested—and some beaten—by state and local police as they tried to shut down non-union coal operations.

## ARRESTS

In Wise County, Kentucky, for example, state and local police and county sheriffs teamed up to arrest 110 picketing miners when they refused orders to disperse. Similar scenes have been repeated throughout the coal fields.

In some places, such as the Scotia mine in Kentucky, judges have issued orders which outright ban any picketing.

So much for the Constitution and Bill of Rights.

In Washington, negotiations between the union and the Bituminous Coal Operators Association (BCOA) resumed January 12 for the first time in nearly two weeks. The BCOA had marched out December 30, after the union refused to accept a plan to penalize miners for unexcused absences.

A \$22 a day fine for such absences would have gone to the UMW Health and Retirement Funds. But top union officials have apparently decided that this plan could not win membership ratification.

## HOLDING STRONG

Julius Mullins, Secretary-Treasurer of eastern Kentucky's District 30 and chairman of the UMW Health and Retirement Funds, told Workers' Power bluntly, "They will reject it."

This same sentiment was echoed at the other end of the Appalachian coal fields by Tom Cunningham, president of Maple Creek Local 1248, one of the largest UMW locals.

Contacted at his home in Uniontown, Pa., Cunningham said flatly, "We wouldn't ratify it. Not at our local."

"I think the strike is going to last another month and a half," he said. "We've been waiting a long time to get things straightened out, and this is the time to do it."

Both Mullins and Cunningham said the first thing to be "straightened out" is restoring full health and pension benefits.

Up until July 1, miners were paid "full compensation on hospitalization, and that's the way we want it reinstated," said Cunningham. "And if it's not, I don't look for any ratification."

## OPERATORS HURTING?

As of mid-January, the strike has gone long enough that the balance of power may slowly be shifting towards the union.

The coal operators clearly had the upper hand when the strike began December 6. They were united, while the union appeared divided and weakened by long wildcat strikes and a divisive election.

But the operators appear to have underestimated the determination of the miners. Although major coal users have such large stockpiles that they could not be hurt by the strike for many weeks, some of the coal operators are beginning to feel the pinch.

Recent news reports suggest



Cuts in the miners' health funds last July are the main issue in the coal strike. On February 1, pensions will probably be cut off—an action which is likely to escalate miners' anger and determination.

some of them are getting nervous.

Here's the reason: profits for the Pittston Company, the largest independent coal producer, were \$1.15 a share for the fourth quarter of 1976. One financial analyst estimates the figure will be down to 40¢ a share for the same period of 1977, and that the coal companies will begin losing money if the strike goes through January.

That, as they say, is the bottom line.

While there isn't any hard evidence the operators are ready to compromise yet, some are known to hope the strike can be settled before the end of the month.

They fear the miners' reaction if pensions for the old-timers are cut off February 1, as is widely expected.

"If they start doing that," Cunningham said, "we're going to be a lot more determined than we are now."



Things looked this way when the strike began. Now that may be starting to change.

# Steel Prices Up. . . Surprise!

by Candy Martin

Now that the steel industry has gotten a "reference price" system from the government that will cut out lower-priced competition, it has responded with two important announcements.

• Before Christmas, the major steel companies, including Bethlehem, U.S. Steel, National Steel, and Inland, declared that they would be raising prices by 5.5%.

• On January 3, U.S. Steel's Chairman Edgar J. Speer announced that the company would be closing down its Ohio Works in Youngstown as well as its plant in nearby McDonald.

The eventual closing (no specific date was set) will eliminate another 5000 jobs in the Ohio Steel Valley. Youngstown Sheet and Tube already announced the closing of its Campbell and Struthers, Ohio Works earlier last year. U.S. Steel's decision could mean virtually wiping out the hard-hit area whose communities are built around the steel industry.

Add U.S. Steel's Ohio Works shutdown to a long list of closures from the past year.

Even Forbes magazine, a slick voice of the capitalist class, is forced to call the unemployment situation in steel "horrendous."

That, they write, is "the only word for the facts: 60,000 workers laid off in the last two years."

## \$1 BILLION BILL

The other side of the industry announcements, price increases, will mean more than bigger profits for the steel corporations. It will mean even less demand for steel, a search by steel-consuming industries for other manufacturing materials, and even fewer jobs for steelworkers.

And of course it will mean that the American consumer has to foot the bigger bill.

But consumers will pay for a lot more than higher inflation. According to a report by the Federal Trade Commission, the reference price plan itself, which the Commission calls "insidious," will cost the American public more than \$1 billion a year!

## PREDICTIONS

The nature of the industry's decisions was hardly unexpected.

Three months ago, in a special feature on steel imports, Workers' Power explained that the industry's pressure campaign to eliminate imports was really a hype to hide two ulterior motives: (1) to get a free hand to raise prices, and (2) to

eliminate old plant and equipment and slash steelworkers' jobs.

At that time, the American media echoed the steel industry's propaganda. The United Steelworkers Union fell for it too—hook,

line, and sinker.

A major p.r. blitz was waged to get American workers to blame Japanese workers for the steel companies' problems and to protect industry profits by gaining support

for import controls.

Only with those controls, the industry, union, and media said, would jobs be saved.

## RESULTS

Now the evidence is in.

We no longer have to rely on predictions about the effects of the anti-import campaign by the steel companies. The results are there for all, especially the union leadership, to see:

Concessions from the government in the form of reference pricing. Prices raised. More shutdowns and layoffs.

But although the evidence is in, the case is not closed. This is far from the end of the shake-out in the steel industry, of price increases, of plant closures, of cancelled jobs.

For the American steel industry does not act on its own. It is responding to an economic crisis that is world-wide.

So long as that crisis continues, and production is dictated by the chaotic system of private profit, the steel industry will respond with more of the same.

It is high time the Steelworkers International officers admit their strategy has been a failure. The time is long past due that they begin a serious fight for jobs.

## GET AHEAD OF THE NEWS

Last fall, while newspapers across the country picked up the steel industry's cry—"Imports are stealing your jobs!" and "Japan's to blame!"—this paper wrote on October 10:

"The purpose of cutting down competition from cheaper foreign steel is not so the American companies can produce the 14 to 18 million tons accounted for by imports.

"They want to hold down imports so they can get whatever price increases they want."

And in a December 12 report on reference pricing, we wrote that the new plan would "eliminate the most competitive foreign steel, giving domestic producers more freedom to raise prices."

Our predictions have now become fact. Workers' Power has carried consistent and accurate coverage on the crisis in steel, from the steelworkers' point of view.

We've exposed lies from the companies, the union leadership and the media. And we've supplied the facts, the figures, and detailed research you need to make up your own mind.

It's coverage you can't afford to miss.

## READ WORKERS' POWER

Sub rates: Eight weeks—\$1; Six months—\$5; One year—\$10  
Clip and mail subscription blank on page 11.

# AUTO INDUSTRY BLUES:

# As the Sales Go

# Down Down Down



Scenes like this are common around Detroit again—as sales slump and inventories pile up.

by Kim Moody

As 1977 drew to a close, American auto executives dubbed it a record year and predicted even greater things to come for the 1978 models.

**But in December sales slumped, falling by 7%. GM sales dropped 6%. But the big loser among the Big Three was Chrysler, whose sales dropped 20% compared to December of last year.**

The result was layoffs. The first big ones since 1975. Three Chrysler plants were closed for two weeks each, and throughout the Chrysler system layoffs skimmed off those with low seniority.

At Detroit Forge, about 15% are off. At Dodge Main, 300 are on the street. At Warren Stamping, another 300. At Eight Mile Stamping, as much as 25% are idle. So it goes from plant to plant.

## WHY

What happened? Why did it hit Chrysler hardest?

Put simply, American consumers are rebelling against a rip-off by auto makers—the industry's newly "down-sized" intermediate cars didn't sell.

Virtually all of GM's losses were among its intermediates — the Chevy Monte Carlo, the Malibu and others. For Chrysler, losses came from the Volares and Aspens and from disappointing sales on the new Le Baron and Diplomat.

More than any other company, Chrysler's sales strategy has emphasized intermediate sized cars, so they have been hit harder than Ford or GM.

Consumers either didn't buy cars at the end of 1977, or they turned to smaller, imported cars at lower prices. Foreign imports were up 34% in December.

## SPENDABLE INCOME

Why aren't they buying American cars? One reason: people have less money to spend. Real wages have been falling for some time. With Social Security tax increases about to take another chunk of your pay check away, you have to think twice about buying that flashier intermediate.

But here's the real problem: outrageous increases in auto prices in the last couple of years. GM

raised its average prices by \$405 on the 1978 model, after already jumping the price on its 77's by \$344. That's \$749 in two years, not exactly pocket change.

GM's higher-priced intermediate cars are actually smaller in 1978 because of "down-sizing" required to meet government fuel and emission standards.

Average prices increases for all American-made 1978 cars was \$424. The U.S. Labor Dept. esti-

mates that only about \$50 of this represented changes in quality—emissions control, fuel mileage, corrosion protection, etc.

The rest of the increase went to prop up Chrysler's ailing profit margins and boost GM's ever-growing profits.

## THE SQUEEZE

Many consumers voted with their wallets and either sat out this

year or opted for a less expensive foreign car.

**When consumers don't buy, GM and Chrysler look to their workers to make up the difference—with layoffs and increased production per worker; fewer jobs, and harder work.**

Chrysler, the poorest of the Big Three, has already started. Widespread layoffs are being accompanied by speedup, and more is sure to come.

Back in 1946, the United Auto Workers called on the auto makers to raise wages without passing it along to the consumer in higher prices. But the UAW never really fought hard for this and gave up the idea during the prosperous 1950's.

Today, if auto workers are to protect their jobs, their working conditions and their standard of living, this is certainly an idea whose time has come. □

# Layoffs, Speedup Are Up, Up, Up

by Bill Parker  
UAW Local 51

At Chrysler's Lynch Road Assembly Plant, where I work, there are a lot of layoffs. We were off two weeks in the last couple months, and we're scheduled to be off two weeks in January, two in February. There'll probably be more in March and April.

Many Detroit plants will have extensive layoffs this year, which may spread to some of the stamping and parts plants.

**There's a lot of worry that Chrysler might go under, or that if they have big losses a lot of young people, with less seniority, will lose their jobs.**

## QUALITY SHUCK

Around my plant, they start these scare rumors about laying off the second shift if there isn't a better quality production. They're trying to get people to feel that they have a stake in working harder for the company.

The truth is that the problems they have with quality control stem from the fact that management doesn't give you enough time to do the job, and doesn't provide the proper tools.

They come up with this "equality



Bill Parker speaking with Detroit TV newsmen during last summer's heat walkout at Chrysler's Lynch Road Assembly plant. Parker was one of three workers fired at Lynch last summer, all of whom won their jobs back. He is active in the United Coalition at UAW Local 51.

of sacrifice" slogan. It means: You sacrifice, and Chrysler reaps the rewards.

**Whenever the company loses money, they try to get us to make up the difference through speed up and layoffs. That's exactly what's happening at Lynch Road now.**

## NO LEADERSHIP

People in the plant react in two ways. A lot of people won't let them add work to their jobs, but others are worried.

They don't see the leadership of the union doing anything to show that they're going to act to protect people's jobs. We don't hear anything from Solidarity House (UAW headquarters) saying, 'If Chrysler goes under, we're going to see to it that these jobs are secured through the government, or through Ford or GM.'

Instead, they say, 'Well, we're going to have to talk to our friends in Congress and the White House.'

**You know how far that will get us!**

Speedup is a solution for the company, but it's no solution for us. It's like cutting your own throat. It's like being on board ship, and the ship is sinking. You don't cut off your arm and throw it overboard.

**They're giving us a choice: work harder, or no jobs. It's no choice. When we work harder, we cut other people out of jobs—our friends, our neighbors, our families.**

In a country where you have millions of people unemployed, auto workers from dozens of plants being laid off, steelworkers laid off, people in small parts places, thousands of kids out of high school with no jobs—something's wrong. They offer us a solution that says either there can be hard jobs for a few people or none at all. That's no choice.

## FIGHT BACK

As more and more people's jobs are on the line, the people themselves are going to have to take action. They're going to have to make the union fight for job security.

One thing's for sure, we're not going to just sit back and watch our jobs disappear. We're going to force the union to stand up and fight for us! □

# HEAD TO HEAD

## LONG TEAMSTER WILDCAT COULD SET TREND, AS WORKERS TAKE MATTERS INTO OWN HANDS.

by Joel Chaplin

**LOS ANGELES**—The Los Angeles Teamster wildcat strike against Acme Fast Freight, one of the longest unofficial Teamster strikes in L.A. history, is now entering its fifth month.

Although the main issue is nothing less than resisting a major employer's attack on the National Master Freight Agreement, Teamster Joint Council 42 still has not seen fit to give it strike sanction.

Just before Labor Day, the 53 employees at Alltrans Express were laid off and told that the terminal was closing down. Alltrans had been the delivery carrier for Acme.

Acme pulled a fast one, switching to another carrier, Intermodal Container Service, to do the same work. Incredible as it sounds, before any workers were hired at Intermodal, another Teamster local, 986, signed a contract with them.

Under this contract, dock workers get half the wages the

Alltrans dock workers got, while lower-paid owner-operators were brought in, instead of company drivers.

Acme was trying to cut costs by getting out from under the Master Freight Agreement, a move Alltrans drivers had successfully resisted for years. Local 986 helped them out by scabbing on a sister local.

### RANKS MOVE

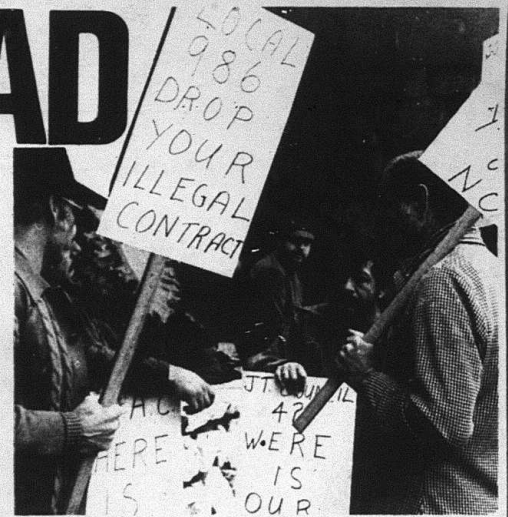
Angry former Alltrans workers, with the active support of Teamsters for a Democratic Union members, began picketing at Intermodal on September 7, demanding that they be allowed to follow their work.

But they found that the Joint Council would not sanction

their strike, using as an excuse the sweetheart contract signed with Local 986.

Local 986, with 18,000 members, is the largest local in the Joint Council. Its president, Andy Anderson, is head of the Western Conference of Teamsters and one of the 16 International vice-presidents. Local 986 is called the "organizing local," perhaps because it will sign any contract, no matter how bad, to get more members, even if it undermines one of the strongest Teamster contracts.

The company has tried to encourage drivers to cross the picket line, saying it wasn't supported by the Teamsters. Many Teamster officials told members to cross the line, but most union drivers refused.



After five long months, determination on the picket line.

The strike has been solid because support is strong among L.A.-area rank and file. Strikers have issued weekly strike bulletins explaining how the issues involved affect all freight workers, and have received regular contributions of money from other freight barns.

Fellow Teamsters, especially dock workers, have come down to the picket line to help out. They have been so successful that Acme has filed a lawsuit for upwards of \$4 million.

Other Teamster locals in the area have offered financial help, but have not pushed the Joint Council for strike sanction.

As Doug Allan, one of the strike leaders and an activist in LA TDU, put it, "When we started out the strike, we felt like our Secretary-Treasurer had a feeling for the workers in our fight against Acme. And so we depended on his good will to help us, not realizing what kind of pressure he would be under from the Joint Council."

"We should have come right out front and demanded

his support in front of the membership, even if it meant losing his friendship. I see now that's the only way we could have moved him."

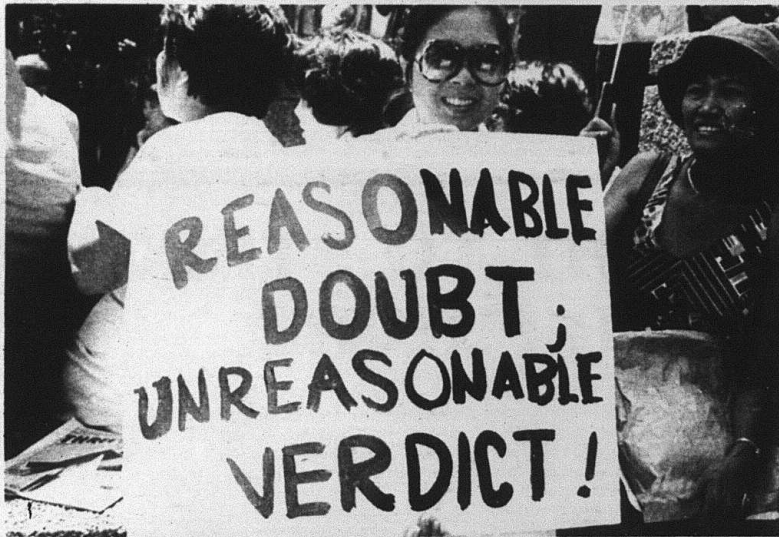
### WHAT'S AHEAD?

It's difficult for local officials to go up against the International and its allies in the Joint Council, who have the power to put locals in receivership, withhold strike sanction, shunt grievances, and put a quick end to career ambitions.

For them to move, they must get more pressure from the rank and file than they are getting from the International.

Now it appears that Local 986 may finally pullout of their contract, which would make an organizing strike possible. But, because the scabs would not vote themselves out of a job, the union would lose the election.

Then, to continue the fight, the Joint Council would have to grant a full strike sanction. Teamsters throughout the area, with the help of TDU, could put enough pressure on the Joint Council to do this. This is the best hope for strikers. □



Support like this has brought hope for two unjustly convicted nurses.

## New trial won in poisoning case

Filipina Narciso and Leonora Perez, two nurses convicted last July of poisoning five patients at the Ann Arbor Veterans' Administration Hospital, have won a new trial.

"Indeed it is a great Christmas present for me, my family and our supporters," said Narciso at a press conference held after the ruling was announced on December 19.

When the nurses were convicted last summer there was widespread shock in the women's movement, in the Asian community, and among nurses. There was not a scrap of evidence against the nurses.

But it took an International defense movement to make the courts recognize this.

In an unexpected move, Detroit Federal Judge Philip Pratt ordered a new trial. Pratt, who presided over the 13-week trial, harshly criticized the prosecution, pointing out that the government's case was "entirely circumstantial" and citing "persistent misconduct."

The two Filipina nurses were convicted last July of five deaths. The patients died when Pavulon, a muscle-relaxing drug, was injected into their intravenous tubes. Despite the fact that the government called 78 witnesses and spent \$250,000 on FBI chemical analysis, they could do no better than to place the nurses in the vicinity of

the patients when the poisoning was discovered.

### DEFENSE

A strong, international defense movement sprung up to defend the nurses during their trial. There are 13 chapters of the defense committee in the U.S. and one in Toronto, Canada, and Guam.

Thousands of people came out for rallies to defend the nurses. More than 30,000 petitions were addressed to Judge Pratt, demanding a new trial.

Without this defense movement, Filipina Narciso and Leonora Perez would be sitting in jail today. □

E. Clarke

## Union vetoed return of fired workers

by Neil Chacker  
UAW Local 47

DETROIT—Sometimes you wonder which side they're on.

After a 1973 health and safety wildcat at Chrysler's Detroit Forge plant, 15 workers were fired.

When the company offered to take 13 of them back, union negotiators refused. Seems that one of them was a "trouble-maker."

A recent court suit, brought by several of the fired workers against Chrysler, has revealed some surprising things.

According to sworn testimony by Dennis Balacki, a local officer during 1973, committeeman Al Howe objected to bringing back one fired worker, Carl Williams, because, "He was a communist... Do you want your children to grow up under communism?"

The union negotiating committee

split their votes. The tie was broken by Leon Klea, Local President at the time.

Carl Williams, Jerome Scott, and Tom Stepanski have been fighting to get their jobs back ever since, with grievances, and through the courts.

Tragically, Tom Stepanski died recently, just before being vindicated.

During the years since the crucial vote, two who voted to bring the workers back, Evans Ray and Bob Evans, have remained silent.

Two who voted against the fired workers are still union officers, Ray Turner and Leon Klea. A third, Al Howe was rewarded for his treachery with a job in management.

It remains to be seen what effect the revelations will have on upcoming union elections.

Reportedly, Chrysler has offered to settle the case out of court.

# Speaking Out

## What We Think

# 6.4% Jobless Is NOT Good News!

When President Carter was informed that official unemployment statistics had dropped to 6.4% he told reporters:

"I think the slow impact of the programs we put into effect that was disappointing for a while, is now beginning to show up."

The administration was so pleased—and concerned about fueling inflation—that Carter asked his main economic advisor, Charles Shultz, if the proposed tax cut of \$25 billion was still necessary.

Shultz said it was needed because the economy would begin to slow down by late fall 1978 when the cut is proposed to go into effect.

We welcome any reduction in the numbers of unemployed. But the fact that the administration is making so much of the fact that only 6,337,000 are unemployed, compared to 9,000,000 last January, shows how bad things really are.

6.5% was the administration's target for 1977. This is a target that accepts a depression-level rate of unemployment of 12-13% for Black people, and a whopping 37.3% for Black teenagers, the only category that showed no reduction.

But the official statistics are only half the picture. These figures include only those actively seeking jobs.

The huge numbers of people dropped from the unemployment statistics when their benefits ran out don't count. Likewise, welfare recipients, many of whom would

prefer to work are not included.

The real number of unemployed is closer to 12-13 million, twice the official number. And each case represents a story of human misery that somehow gets lost in statistics.

### "FULL" EMPLOYMENT??

Prominent economists like Milton Friedman have been saying that the floor of unemployment—sometimes also called "full employment" is now 6%—6.7 million! In other words, the government is only concerned when the official statistics go above this rate.

It hasn't always been this way. In the 1950's, during a long period of prosperity, full employment was 3%. In the sixties as the prosperity started to wither on the vine, it was revised to 4%.

As the economic crisis deepened in the early 70's, full employment became 5%. Now it is 6%.

There's no reason to expect this trend to improve, after a 20 year trend to the contrary.

A Gallup Poll taken in late December revealed that 69% of the American people expected the economic situation to remain the same or worsen.

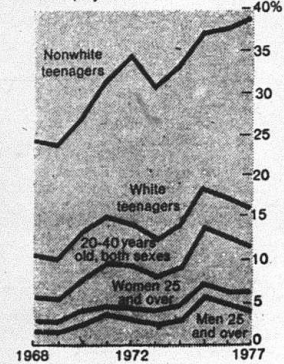
These Americans hit the nail on the head. The heart of the matter is that capitalism can't put everyone to work and remain profitable.

And that's what the government is concerned with—profitability—not people.



### Breakdown of Unemployment

Unemployment rate



## Opening Salvo—by Al Ferdnace

# GIVING UP YOUR RIGHT TO STRIKE, IS GIVING AWAY YOUR FUTURE

It was in the summer of '76 that yours truly was born. Conceived in the heat of a "wildcat" strike in the carhaling industry over the lousy contract the IBT was trying to ram down our throats.



Al Ferdnace

Of course there was the referendum vote by mail which left us unable to make any kind of physical count of the actual balloting. However the issue as perceived by me was somewhat deeper than it appeared on the surface.

I was fired from my job after the first wildcat and nine days later I and others at another company led the second strike.

At the time of the strikes, I became incensed over the fact that some of my fellow Teamsters were losing their jobs for their actions, which involved informational picketing. In other words, they were exercising their constitutional rights which include freedom of speech.

### CONTRACTUAL SLAVERY

We had thought that not even Frank Fitzsimmons could take away our constitutional claim to freedom of speech. But he could and did.

The no-strike clause, under which dozens of us were fired, meant nothing short of "contractual slavery."

At that time the people who put out Workers' Power, this newspaper, were the only ones who paid serious attention to the issue of contractual slavery. Now it appears everyone who works will.

The front page of a recent Workers' Power issue contains the continuing story, the culmination of contractual slavery. This time the U.S. government is going to give it the force of the law of the land.

An amendment tacked on to the '77 Labor Law Reform

Act by Illinois Republican Erlenborn will make any rank and file action which is not authorized by officials of the union involved, illegal and subject to an injunction.

This attack upon the rights of American citizens who happen to be workers as well, is hardly an isolated incident.

The number of organized workers in this country has declined sharply. "Right to work" laws add enormously to the difficulty of organizing workers. Unorganized workers are not able to move against the employers in the areas of safety, wages, or working conditions.

Workers who are unable to act in their own self interest are unable to exert any power outside of the workplace either, such as the local government, schools and family living standards.

But services like education should be most clearly under our direct control, since they come out of our pockets. They

are supported by the cities' tax base, of which the largest part is paid by workers.

But the most serious aspect of this trend of decreasing workers' power can be seen in the increasingly negative role the U.S. government is playing in the lives of workers. When and if it becomes illegal for workers to strike on their own to relieve intolerable conditions on the job, it will be another dangerous step backwards.

A step towards the days when there were no unions at all. When workers had to fight pitched battles not only with the strike breakers hired by the companies, but the army and national guard as well.

If you have to work to stay alive you would do well to remember you have not only a history of struggle behind you, but no future without struggle. No legislator can do more for us—or as much—as we can do for ourselves.

## Where We Stand

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 the 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 union 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 independence 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 exist—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.



# The Socialist View

## THE DOLLAR AND THE INTERNATIONAL MONETARY SYSTEM

by Sandy Boyer

For the last week or so every time you turn on the TV or open a newspaper, you hear that the dollar has fallen in value again. The media is full of dire warnings and grim predictions.

Where does the dollar crisis come from? What does it mean for business — and for us?

There is one reason that capitalists care so much about whether the dollar, and other currencies, rise or fall in value. It has a vital effect on world trade and on their share of that trade. De-stabilized currencies threaten their profits and trade with economic crisis.

### HOW IT HAPPENS

If the dollar is suddenly worth less than the Japanese yen or the German mark, the American capitalists gain a tremendous trading advantage. U.S. exports which yesterday cost more than Japanese or German products now cost less, so they sell better.

Secondly, the price of Japanese or European products in the U.S. goes up and they are harder to sell, increasing the market for American capitalist products.

If this situation continued, eventually the U.S. would be exporting much more and the Japanese and Germans far less. Japan and Germany would then either be forced to devalue their currencies in return or face a serious recession.

But the world capitalist system would be in big trouble if one country after another devalued its currency looking for a competitive advantage. World trade depends on capitalists being able to know exactly how much they will get for the products they sell abroad.

If an American company agrees to sell \$1 million worth of computers to Germany it doesn't want to wind up getting only \$900,000 worth of marks because the German mark has suddenly been devalued.

If that kind of thing keeps on happening no company can afford to continue producing for export. But without exports no capitalist economy could survive.

To prevent this kind of chaos the governments of the biggest capitalist countries have been trying without success to reach an agreement that would permanently fix

the price of the major world currencies.

Until 1971 there was an agreement that provided that kind of security. It was called the Breton Woods Agreement. It was signed right after World War II by the U.S. and all the major capitalist countries in the world.

Under this agreement the U.S. dollar became the universally accepted currency for all international trade.

For other countries this meant that they had to pay for all their imports in dollars instead of in their own currency. In turn they would get dollars for their exports.

The U.S. promised that it would always exchange dollars for gold so that the value of the dollar would remain the same.

At the time it seemed very unlikely that anyone would want to exchange dollars for gold. They needed dollars to pay for their imports. And the American dollar was the most stable money in the world backed up by the world's most prosperous economy.

Right after World War II when the Breton Woods Agreement was signed the U.S. was the dominant capitalist power in the world. The Japanese and European economies had been almost totally destroyed by the war.

The monetary agreement making the dollar the universal currency of trade just recognized the reality of U.S. economic power. At the time only the strong U.S. economy could re-build the world trade which had almost completely stopped during the war.

And until the sixties the monetary system worked fairly well for everybody. Japan and Western Europe rebuilt their economies with U.S. help and there was a boom in world trade the likes of which had never been seen before.

But by the late sixties things had changed.

### DE-STABILIZATION

The U.S. no longer had the only healthy capitalist economy in the world. In fact while the U.S. economy was almost stagnant, growing by only 3% a year, the Japanese and the German economies were booming. The German economy was growing by about 7% a year and the Japanese by over 10%.

The Vietnam War brought with it runaway inflation. The U.S. was starting to owe much more abroad than it was owed by foreign countries. Inflation meant that the dollars it paid its foreign debts with were worth less all the time.

Foreign countries were piling up billions of dollars they were never likely to need to pay for imports. And these

dollars would buy them less every week.

But when these countries started exchanging dollars for gold, as they had the right to do under the Breton Woods Agreement, the U.S. was in serious trouble.

If all the U.S. dollars held by other countries were exchanged for dollars, the U.S. would completely exhaust its gold reserves. And then there would be no way to prop up the value of the dollar.

So in 1971 Nixon cancelled the Breton Woods Agreement by stopping the exchange of dollars for gold and simultaneously devaluing the dollar.

Since 1971 all capitalist currencies "float" on the world monetary market. This means that banks, governments, and private currency speculators buy and sell dollars, yen, marks and pounds for whatever they think they are worth.

The value of the dollar, like any other currency, rises or falls depending on whether people are buying or selling it. And this in turn largely depends on what the bankers and currency speculators think about the health of that country's economy.

The dollar is still used as the currency of world trade, but its exact worth at any given time is uncertain.

Since the capitalists can't agree on a more stable system, they have to put up with the present chaotic system even though it threatens to seriously disrupt the world economy.

### INFLATION, JOBS

But why do things like fluctuations in the price of the dollar matter to American workers? Why can't we just let the capitalist and the speculators worry about it?

Part of the answer is that if the problems of the monetary system result in a decline in world trade thousands of American workers will be out of a job.

Even short of this, every time the dollar falls in value, it has an immediate effect on us.

The TV and newspapers talk a lot about how U.S. goods are cheaper in other countries so the U.S. export should pick up.

What they don't say as much about is that we will now pay more for all imported goods from TV sets to tape recorders to coffee. Almost all U.S. products made with raw materials from abroad will also cost more.

Devaluing the dollar may give U.S. capitalists a temporary advantage over their foreign competitors but it means nothing but trouble for American workers. And we can look for a lot more trouble in the years ahead. □

# As I See It

## THE POLITICS OF BLUE JEANS

by Toni Hawk

THE OTHER DAY I was looking for a new pair of blue jeans in a national chain store. Many of the jeans had very elaborate trim on them, made by fancy sewing of the denim.

I sew, so I know how hard it is to do that kind of stuff, even if you're good.

The fanciest brand was called Daddy's Money, the price was \$14, and the jeans were made in Hong Kong.

Those three facts are connected.

If the store's mark-up was only 40%, they bought the jeans for \$8.40. You can be sure the distributor got a cut, and they didn't cross the ocean for free, either.

Probably they sold from the factory in Hong Kong for \$5. The factory's profit came out of that \$5, as well as the sewing machines, the designer's fee, and last and no doubt least, the workers' wages.



Somebody probably got less than a dollar for sewing those jeans—is that not what is known as a sweatshop?

Hong Kong, in fact, is one of the clothing and shoe sweatshop centers of the world, along with Taiwan, Korea, Brazil and other poor areas.

Go into nearly any clothing or shoe store and you will see that more and more clothing sold to us is being made in one of those exotic places on the other side of the planet.

### CAN'T AFFORD 'EM

Would you sew somebody a pair of fancy stiff denim pants with cut-outs on every pocket for less than a dollar?

The people of Hong Kong wouldn't either, except they have to feed and clothe their families.

You can be sure they aren't able to afford to dress their kids in the

blue jeans they are sewing.

Garment workers in this country — Chicanas, Puerto Rican women, Chinese women in San Francisco's sweatshops — can't afford to buy the clothes they sew, either, even though they make more than their counterparts in Hong Kong.

As Doris, a young woman from Arkansas once said, "I started chopping cotton when I was 6. We all did."

"We didn't HAVE to chop no cotton—not unless we wanted clothes to wear to school."

Clothing made across the ocean frequently has more value than clothing of the same price made here. Sometimes people ask, "How do they do it?" They suffer, that's how.

In Hong Kong it's not uncommon for six families to share a two-bedroom apartment.

They divide each room into an upstairs and a downstairs. It's no way for humans to live.

At the same time, the owners of the clothing businesses, who are often the same people here as well as there, are using the cheap overseas labor to undercut the wages and even jobs of Americans.

Their profit margins are greater, even with the import costs, with foreign labor.

What can be done? Are garment workers' unions demands for "Buy American," import tariffs and other kinds of protectionism the answer?

No. Such policies lead to lower wages for all garment workers.

The international garment workers' unions have to live up to the "International" in their names and start helping the foreign garment workers organize unions, starting with the companies that exist both here and there.

Then and only then will the parents that sew for a living be able to buy the clothing they make for their children. □

# C.O.Y.O.T.E.

## Victims of racism, sexism, police brutality - why prostitutes fight back

by Toni Hawk

Prostitutes, courtesans, geishas, concubines—all those who exchange sex for livelihood. Throughout history, they have been revered, stoned to death, catered to, beaten, worshiped by kings, insulted, immortalized in art, jailed.

Today, organizations are forming to protect prostitutes and to fight for their rights. One such organization is called COYOTE (Call Off Your Old Tired Ethics). COYOTE, based in San Francisco, works to

repeal all laws having to do with prostitution—in other words, to legalize it.

Members of COYOTE attended the International Women's Year Conference held in Houston last November, where Workers' Power interviewed three members. They wore T-shirts saying "The trick is not getting caught."

Alene was dressed in black, with a black ostrich plume in her wide-brimmed black hat. She said, "Sexual repression causes prosti-

tution, pure and simple. As long as men have women as property, we are either whores or madonnas, no in-between."

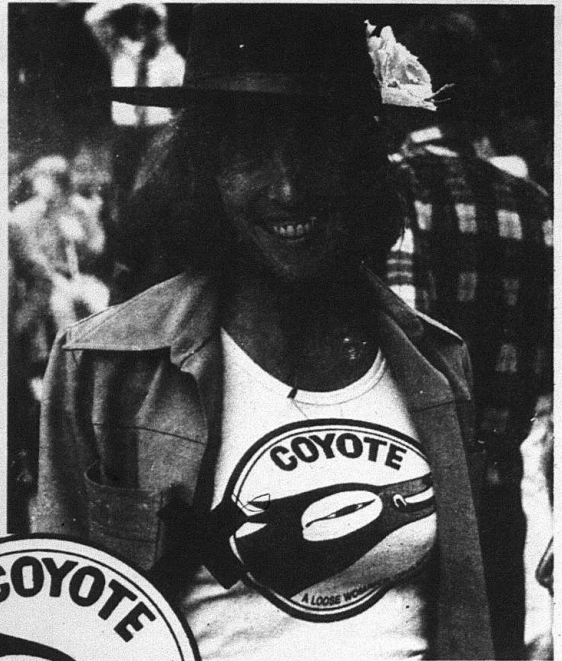
### ROOTS

Prostitution has its roots in the oppression of women. When women are held as property, their very sexuality is owned by men.

In the days before reliable birth control, a woman presented her virginity to her husband as proof that he was the first one who could have gotten her pregnant.

After marriage, she was guarded to make sure that her children were his children, heirs to his property.

If a woman is not married, she is



Margo St. James

Arrests and laws against prostitution are not the answer. Arrests only further victimize those who are victimized to begin with.

### ECONOMIC

COYOTE points out that the main reason that women give for becoming hookers is economic—they need to make money.

Today it is difficult for anyone to get a job, but most difficult for women. Half of all women are employed, and those who do work earn only 58% of what men earn.

Socialism teaches us that the working class has to sell its labor power to the bosses in order to survive. Suppose you had to sell your very body? That is a sad comment on this society.

Prostitutes, like other oppressed groups, are beginning to organize and fight back. That coyote howling outside the window is getting hungrier all the time.

10-15% of all prostitutes.

• 85% of the prostitutes who spend time in jail are Black, although the percentage of prostitutes who are Black is only about 40%.

COYOTE concludes, "No matter how you look at it, prostitution laws are selectively enforced against the very people who are already discriminated against in our society."

### PIMPS

Another problem that prostitutes face is brutal and exploitative relationships with pimps.

COYOTE feels that hookers turn to pimps for two reasons: for protection from police and brutal customers, and to establish a long term relationship with a man.

However, they point out that fewer young prostitutes are willing to work for men.

One member of COYOTE whom Workers' Power spoke with, a tall blond call girl from Florida, was typical of this trend. She worked privately, through phone numbers of potential clients she got from trusted friends. She had also worked in various houses around the country. She told us that most houses are owned by retired hookers, not the Mafia as the media would have us believe.

COYOTE feels that the role of pimps would decline even faster if prostitution were decriminalized and if rape charges by hookers were taken seriously.

Despite freer attitudes today towards sexuality, prostitution is not likely to disappear under capitalism.

## Labor Notes

by Jim Woodward

American Motors, the smallest of the Big Four auto companies (often called the Big Three), is in such serious financial shape that it gave its top executives substantial pay raises last year. The company is currently closing one of its two American assembly lines because nobody is buying American Motors cars. Yet it raised Chairman Roy Chapin's salary to a quarter of a million dollars, and that of two other top bosses to \$160,000. In addition, the company will keep former Vice Chairman William McNealy on the payroll at \$13,344 for 18 months, even though he was fired in October.

While UAW members at Essex Wire in Elwood, Indiana were still on strike last month, the UAW Local 51 executive board in Detroit voted to make a \$200 contribution to their strike fund, subject to membership approval. By the time of Local 51's January union meeting, the Essex strike was over, so the local voted to send the \$200 to the Carol Frye Trust Fund. Carol Frye is an Essex employee who was disabled by a gunshot wound while on the picket line early in the strike. The trust fund urgently needs more donations, which may be sent to: Carol Frye Fund, c/o Security Bank, 125 S. Anderson St., Elwood, Indiana 46036.

The new Cadillac limousine the United Mine Workers union has provided for President Arnold Miller costs the union \$400 a month. Miller, who ordered the union's fleet of limousines sold when he first took office five years ago, now says the new Cadillac allows him to travel with "dignity."

William Presser and the other trustees of the Ohio Highway Drivers Welfare Plan, are being forced to resign because of violations of the 1974 pension law. In addition, Robert C. Knee, the administrator of the Fund, will have to return \$560,000 of the \$627,746 he received for his work in 1975. These are the terms of the consent order signed by the Fund after the Labor Department filed a lawsuit. Knee also received nearly \$900,000 from the Fund in 1974, but is being allowed to keep that amount since the pension law had not been enacted at that time. Presser's resignation is only the latest in his long string of criminal convictions and forced resignations from union positions. His son Jackie has been assuming some of these positions—and plenty of his own—and is considered a leading candidate to succeed Frank Fitzsimmons as president of the Teamsters Union.

**Quote of the Week.** Thomas N. Bethell, former research director of the United Mine Workers, describing the state of coalfield labor relations in a recent speech: "I have been looking at these problems for a long time and I can say at least that there is both good news and bad news to report. The good news is that the situation could be worse. The bad news is that it will be."

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



Alene



supposed to be a virgin (madonna). Hence there is a market for female bodies (whore).

### SLANTED

Workers' Power spoke with Margo St. James, the founder of COYOTE. She said that the prostitution laws are slanted against women, illustrated by the fact that the prostitute is often arrested, but hardly ever the client.

In their literature, COYOTE outlines more of the problems that hookers face. For example:

• Even though at least half the prostitutes in this country are men, only about 10% of those arrested are men.

• 85-90% of the prostitutes arrested are street workers, although they make up only about

# PUNK?



TWO DAYS before the Sex Pistols' first American concert and 20 minutes after I had bought tickets, the American Embassy denied visas to the band members.

It took about 48 hours to change this decision, after it was determined the Pistols' music would not

destroy the moral fabric of America.

Who are these characters, the Sex Pistols, whose accomplishments include being arrested for vomiting at London's Heathrow airport?

These young men are not a gang of obnoxious pervers. They are perhaps the most sensational rock band in the world.

**Born out of the high unemployment in Britain, the Sex Pistols are considered the best representatives of Punk or New Wave rock.**

Punk rock is a back-to-basics kind of rock and roll. Its most distinctive feature is its anti-establishment lyrics, which the media of course call "anti-social."

One American reviewer recently described the Sex Pistols as a "Social Disease!"

As musicians the Pistols are not the greatest. They sound very much like the old MCS. (It should be mentioned that there are some very fine New Wave musicians like Patti Smith and Elvis Costello.)

Their music is too loud and much too repetitive. Everything that people don't like! But with the Sex Pistols it's not the music that's most important, it's their lyrics.

## OUTRAGEOUS?

The best example of the Sex Pistols' lyrics is the song, "God Save the Queen," a song that was released in honor of the Queen's 25 years on the throne.

The Pistols sing "God save the Queen/ the fascist regime/ God save the Queen/ she ain't no human being." The song ends with the words, "There is no future for you."

This song managed to become the number one song in Britain even though it was banned on TV, radio and all juke boxes in England.

In another smash hit called Anarchy, the Pistols sing, "I am an antichrist/ I am an anarchist/ Don't know what I want/ but I know how to get it/ I want to destroy/ passers by/ Cause I want to be anarchy!"

The outrageous behavior of this band prompted one member of Parliament to say, "If they mean to destroy us we'd bloody well better destroy them first."

## ROCK AND REVOLT

The arrival of Punk rock at this time is not accidental. Most rock, which was the music of the youth revolts of the sixties, has become tame, even conservative, as the rock stars become millionaires.

Mick Jagger was recently elected best dressed man of 1977 by Women's Wear Daily. Many rock stars like Eric Clapton are admitted racists.

But the conditions that created the revolt of the sixties have not disappeared. Society is becoming less free in the 70's.

The government, schools, families are now as always prisons for the young. And now with the prospect of long-term unemployment for many young people, we truly live in a society that offers "no future" for its young.

Young people will rebel against a society that offers no future, no freedom, and no home. Punk rock is a reflection of that rebellion in its early stages.

John Green

**Never Mind the Bollocks, Here's the Sex Pistols.** On Warner Bros. Records and Tapes.

# Which Way is Up?

by Barracuda

Richard Pryor's new movie, "Which Way is Up," is an American adaptation of Lina Wertmuller's movie, "The Seduction of Mimi," directed by Michael Schultz.

Pryor is very good at the three roles he plays.

**Which Way Is Up? A Universal Picture.** Starring Richard Pryor, with Lonette McKee and Margaret Avery. Directed by Michael Schultz.

As the central character, Pryor depicts the life of a farmworker who rises to the rank of management by being the victim of unfortunate incidents and exhibiting as much cowardice as possible.

Pryor also plays that character's father: a hilarious old man. His last character is a preacher—a fast-

talking sex maniac.

The movie shows which way is not up, instead of the way up.

This movie could have been set under any condition and the results could have been the same. However, set in the context of the farmworkers' movement, it fails to deal with any of the major issues this movement faces.

## STEREOTYPE

The main character is a spineless stereotype of a Black farmworker. Looks like the sixties came and went, and left this character behind.

Sent on a one way trip by the goons for union involvement, he finds himself yelling, "Viva la causal!" not for the love of the movement, but for a beautiful union worker.

He ends up in the management, literally eating the crumbs from the boss' table, having attempted to make his former friends work with a faulty machine.

The minor characters Pryor plays have nothing to do with the farmworkers' union.



Richard Pryor in his three roles in "Which Way is Up?"

Like this movie shows, the way up is not through promotion in the management chain.

What it does not show, however, is that the way up is through solidarity and rank and file resistance.

Not only in the farmworkers' union but in all industrial unions in today's America, be it steel, auto, teamsters, telephone, etc. The one and only way up is through the organization of the rank and file.

I recommend seeing Richard Pryor's movie, "Which Way is Up," for it shows what any worker should never do if he or she wants to go up.

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# 'Joan Little Is A Marked Woman'

"JOAN LITTLE is a marked woman in North Carolina. Her life and health would be in danger," said attorney William Kunstler in an interview with Workers' Power.

Little's fate will be in the hands of the Governor of New York on Monday, January 16. Governor Carey must decide whether Joan Little will be extradited back to North Carolina.

Little became a symbol for Black people and women when she defended herself against rape by a white prison guard in 1974. During the struggle, the guard was killed. Little was charged with murder, but she won an acquittal.

Last October, Little escaped from prison in North Carolina where she was serving a sentence for breaking and entering.

## EXPECT THE MAXIMUM

In a recent article, James Reston, Jr., the author of a book on Joan Little's murder trial, wrote about the treatment Little can expect in North Carolina:

"There is no way that she could be treated [in North Carolina] as any other escapee or any other prisoner. In any proceeding on sentencing, Joan Little can expect the maximum."

The North Carolina prison authorities repeatedly denied Little parole, despite her participation in a work-release program.

Kunstler, who is Little's attorney in New York, said:

"If extradited to North Carolina, she would never get parole."

Kunstler gave an example of the way Little has been treated in her North Carolina prison:

"Among other things, two years ago she had a tuberculin skin test which was positive. But it was never treated."

"She is now getting this condition treated in New York."

Despite the overwhelming case against sending Joan Little back to North Carolina, her fate is in the balance.

According to Kunstler, "Extra-

dition is always a tough thing to resist."

The question is whether, in an election year, a liberal Democratic New York Governor feels enough pressure from Joan Little's supporters to refuse North Carolina's demand for extradition.

How strong that pressure is could very well decide whether Joan Little, 23, lives or dies. □

# TRUCKING BOSSSES PUT THE HEAT ON

by Lynn Keith

PITTSBURGH—At the Pepsi Cola plant here, Clara Derbish is sent home in the middle of the shift for 'not doing enough work.' On the other side of town, Frank Domyslowski is home that night and four following ones, suspended from Helms Express for "not producing enough."

A fair day's wage for a fair day's work—that's how the saying goes. Who's to say what a fair day's work is?

How can the standard be the same for workers who are 5'4" and others who are 6'3"; for workers who are 18 and others who are 63? Yet all over the country in all kinds of workplaces, employers are pushing for production standards and harassing people right out of jobs.

The Teamsters at Helms Express are pushing right back. Production standards were initiated last spring when the Eastern Conference of Teamsters made an agreement with Helms giving them the green light for what turned out to be a general harassment campaign.

Frank Domyslowski has had 14 days off since then and estimates that around 25 people get warning letters or suspensions every two weeks when the company evaluates production. And oddly enough, it turns out to be many of the same people.

Here's how the system works.

You are evaluated by comparison to your "peers" (co-workers), comparing the tonnage you load and unload into a truck.

## LAMP SHADES OR TYPEWRITERS

But the load assignments aren't given out by seniority. Rather, they're given out according to how the foreman got out of bed that morning.

It's common knowledge at Helms

that the foremen are told not to give certain people good loads. For instance, one guy may load nylon stockings or lamp shades all day and another may load typewriters or paint. Whose tonnage will be higher?

Who gets these bad loads? People like Frank Domyslowski who is a Teamsters for a Democratic Union activist. He built TDU at Helms and in his local.

As Domyslowski told Workers' Power: "You have people like myself, and you have the steward and other committeemen. These are the people they're picking on because of their union activities. You find people that do less work than we do and they get no suspensions at all. It's discrimina-

tion right up and down the line."

Helms workers have stuck together and fought back. When the first suspensions were handed out, they were able to win back pay. More recently though, the suspensions have been sticking, and without back pay. They exhausted the entire grievance procedure.

Then they got together with employees from Jones Motor Freight, another trucking company where production standards are enforced, and convinced TDU lawyers to take the cases to court.

The Helms case was the first to come up. Much to the credit of Teamsters Local 30, the suit is being financed out of union funds. Jointly with the Helms workers, Local 30 is suing both the Eastern Conference of Teamsters and Helms.

The case relies on a clause in the Master Freight contract stating that the local must agree to changes of this nature. Neither Local 30 nor Local 249 (which represents Jones Motor Freight) agreed to productivity standards.

## TDU DEMONSTRATION

On December 20, there was a preliminary hearing to decide if the case would make it to court. TDU organized a demonstration outside the courthouse to bring publicity to the case. It got good media coverage.

Teamsters from four locals, their families and friends demonstrated and later 80 of them packed the courtroom. Although the judge accepted the lawyers' briefs and is

still considering whether or not to throw out the case, it was clear from his remarks that he didn't want to mess with it.

When asked about his feelings after the hearing, Domyslowski said, "The people who sat in the courtroom feel that we can't get anywhere by going through the whole grievance procedure and going to court and having the judge put his seat into reverse and going to sleep."

"We have nothing if we don't have the right to strike. Shut them down like the coal miners do."

If the case is dismissed, TDU lawyers plan to take it to a higher court.

## VULTURES

Other trucking firms are watching this case closely—waiting like vultures. They want Jones and Helms workers to lose so they too can pick on the minds and bodies of their employees with production quotas.

One trucking company, Eazor, has already suspended one man and MFX has applied to the local for permission to start such a disciplinary system.

Production standards can only be seen as another way to attack the workforce. For trucking, in particular, it is ridiculous. There are no fair ways to apply it since every load is a different case.

It is a vicious system used to harass certain people, militant union members like Frank Domyslowski who speak out, and people who are building groups like TDU to prevent these sell outs. □

# Workers' Power



## ...But Teamsters Push Back

**"Other trucking firms are watching this case closely — waiting like vultures. They want Jones and Helms workers to lose so they too can pick on the minds and bodies of their employees with production quotas."**