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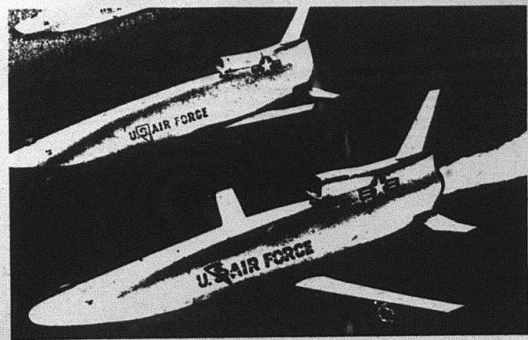
THE WEEKLY NEWSPAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS JANUARY 23, 1978 ISSUE #239 25c

THE REAL STATE OF THE UNION



(Top to bottom) Six million unemployed; racial segregation in the schools on the rise; Medicaid funds cut for abortions.

\$126 billion for the military



Brought to you courtesy of
Jimmy Carter, the Demo-
cratic Congress and big
business.

KISSINGER, CARTER WARN EUROPE: YOU'LL DO IT OUR WAY

by Dan Posen

THE POLITICAL CRISIS in Europe and the fall of the Italian government provided a dramatic background for NBC's January 13 special "Kissinger: On the Record."

Kissinger reportedly received \$500,000 for this show, which consisted of walking through the woods with David Brinkley, while spouting bits and pieces of warmed-over Cold War political theory.

The program turned out to be a 90-minute propaganda barrage calling for American pressure to keep Communist Parties (CP) out of European governments at any cost.

It was probably the first time in over ten years that American television gave so much air play to the so-called "menace of growing Communist influence in Europe."

What's behind the sudden rush of concern?

- In Italy, no government can be formed without the agreement of the Italian Communist Party, which now gets over 1/3 of the vote in national elections.

- In France, parliamentary elections a few weeks from now may give a majority of votes to the Socialist and Communist Parties.

- In Spain, the government's economic program depends on the Communist Party's willingness to hold down wage demands by CP-led Spanish industrial unions.

CAPITALIST SUPPORT

There are growing numbers of European capitalists, especially in Italy, who feel that the Communist Party should be allowed to participate in the top level of government, the Cabinet.

This would not mean the Communist Party running Italy. Far from it—it would simply mean

Kissinger's Trail Of Murder

Henry Kissinger, who says European Communism threatens "free institutions," is quite a defender of freedom himself.

It was his advice to Nixon that brought about the Christmas 1972 bombing of North Vietnam—the most murderous single bombing of the whole Vietnam war.

- Kissinger was also chairman of the "committee of 40," the select intelligence group which masterminded the "de-stabilization" of Chile from 1971 until 1973.

The result was the overthrow of a freely elected reform government and the installation of a fascist military dictatorship in Chile.

- And it was Henry Kissinger's urging to Gerald Ford that brought about the large-scale CIA effort in Angola, where the United States tried to destroy a national liberation movement with the help of South African troops and local right-wing puppets.

These efforts all had a common purpose.

So far as the American government was concerned, the peoples of Vietnam, Chile and Angola had no right to determine the future of their own countries—if that meant bringing to power political parties which American business didn't like.

In other words, the United States supports the democratic rights of nations which vote Washington's way—and no one else. □

some Communist Party officials working alongside Italy's right-wing Christian Democratic leaders to run the affairs of Italian capitalism.

But this is what the spokesmen for American foreign policy, from Jimmy Carter's State Department to ex-Secretary of State Kissinger, say must not be permitted.

If the Italian government brings in the Communist Party, the U.S. warns that American loans and credits to the faltering Italian economy will be cut off.

This economic blackmail by the United States would cause capitalists to rush their resources out of Italy, possibly leading to total economic collapse.

Military plans of NATO, the U.S. dominated military alliance, would be kept secret from Italian government officials.

BUT THEY LIKE FASCISTS

Compare this with the American attitude toward Spain and Portugal during the years those countries were ruled by fascist dictators.

One American government after another made pious anti-fascist speeches, all the while encouraging American corporations to step up their investments in these same fascist states.

The difference between American economic support of Spanish and Portuguese fascists, and its

violent opposition to Communist Parties entering European coalition governments, has nothing to do with free institutions or human rights.

The difference is that the fascist regimes of Spain and Portugal were reliable allies of the worldwide United States military empire—just as South Africa is today.

On the other hand, Communist Party participation in European governments—even capitalist governments—might undermine United States control of the military and political affairs of Europe.

The American ruling class believes that European capitalism cannot survive, in the long run, without U.S. domination. □

Whether having Communist parties in western Europe governments would undermine this domination is an open question. But Henry Kissinger and Jimmy Carter alike are using every form of blackmail to prevent even this possible weakening of U.S. power.

But the workers of Spain, France, Italy, maybe even Poland and Russia, might have a question for Henry Kissinger and Jimmy Carter.

They might ask: how is your blackmail any different from that of Leonid Brezhnev, who sent the Russian Army into Czechoslovakia in 1968 because he thought it was getting too independent from Russia? □



Italian workers demonstrate. They are fed up with paying for the crisis.

Italian Crisis: How Long Can Right Wing Rule?

The Italian government collapsed on Wednesday. The current political crisis is more important than just another re-shuffling of Cabinet offices.

The right-wing capitalist party, the Christian Democrats are no longer able to run the country by themselves. They are supported by less than 40% of Italian voters.

Over one third of the votes in the last election went to the Italian Communist Party (PCI).

PCI leaders are demanding a new government, dominated by a coalition between the Communist Party and the Christian Democrats.

The PCI is the largest Communist Party in Western Europe with over two million members. It has been growing in strength since the early seventies.

The role of the PCI has been to hold back workers militancy. Instead of organizing any effective working class resistance, the CP is clamoring for a "national emergency" government coalition.

Italian workers, including members of industrial unions led by PCI officials, have become increasingly militant as 20% inflation wipes out the spending power of their wages.

Right-wing gangsters and fascist terrorists against unionists and left-wing workers are also rising.

Unless the union leaders and Communist Party leaders gain real concessions from the Christian Democrats, the anger of rank and file workers against these attacks may boil over.

They will defend themselves if

they feel their own leaders can't do it for them.

But the Carter Administration has told the Christian Democrats that the United States will not tolerate any concessions to PCI demands for government positions.

And American investors and western banks are insisting the Italian government solve its economic mess with sharper cutbacks in workers' real wages.

Faced with this pressure, the Christian Democrats will try to patch together a new government that will not have majority support.

But as the economic crisis worsens, and fights between workers and right-wing terrorists get bloodier, there is little reason to think the next government will solve any more problems than the last one. □

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Teamsters' Right To Elect Officers At Stake

TDU Activist Fights Frameup

by Jim Woodward

A major case concerning democracy in the Teamsters Union has finally wound its way from British Columbia and the Yukon in Canada to sunny Miami, where the Teamsters General Executive Board often holds its meetings.

On January 17, a subcommittee of the Executive Board heard the appeal of Jack Vlahovic, who was protesting his ouster as Secretary-Treasurer of Local 213. Local 213 is the largest Teamsters local in Canada, and the Secretary-Treasurer is its highest officer.

This case is particularly important because the issue at stake is whether or not the local's membership has a right to elect its own officers.

In a major rank and file upsurge a year ago, Vlahovic and two others were elected to Local 213's top positions. They defeated the machine of Ed Lawson, Tenth Vice President of the International Union.

Jim Blomfield, one of Vlahovic's associates, explained to Workers' Power last fall why they challenged the Lawson machine:

"The officers didn't care less," he said. "It was golf game after golf game, cocktail lounge after cocktail lounge. It was really apparent to me that the members were no longer being represented by the union."

COUNTERATTACK

As soon as the reformers started fulfilling their campaign promises by removing some of the old do-nothing staffers, Lawson launched a counterattack.

Lawson has plenty of weight to throw around. Besides his positions in the union (which net him \$112,000 a year), he is also a member of the Canadian Senate.

The International Union immediately moved to split off one-half of Local 213's membership into the newly-formed Local 180.

This maneuver quickly failed, however, and Local 180 never enrolled a single member.

Subsequently, Vlahovic was brought up on numerous charges before the Lawson-controlled Joint Council 36. At the first trial, he was removed as Local 213 Secretary-Treasurer, barred from holding any Teamster office, and expelled from the union for life.

Wildcat strikes and a sit-in at the local's office followed, but these actions did not reverse the Joint Council's decision.

CHARGES

What charges brought on such vengeance?

- Vlahovic was accused of printing a newsletter and distributing it to the membership. In it, he included some articles which the Joint Council Newsletter had censored.

- He had exercised the Secretary-Treasurer's power to replace union staffers. This power was voted into the local's by-laws in 1972 and exercised by the previous Lawson administration.

Suddenly, Lawson asserted that those by-laws had never been

formally approved by International President Frank Fitzsimmons.

- **When Local 180 was formed, Vlahovic allegedly refused to turn part of Local 213's treasury over to it.**

Though this attempt to split Local 213 was still-born, Vlahovic is now charged with a crime for resisting the International's illegal action.

- Vlahovic is also charged with taking an interest-free loan from the local to finance a new car purchase. While not a praiseworthy practice, it had been standard in the local, with Lawson himself doing the same. In most large Teamster locals, the top officers are provided with an expensive auto without charge.

It seems clear that Vlahovic's crime was not any of the things he was charged with.

Rather, he and a few others dared to challenge the Teamster establishment's power, and tried to make the local more responsive to the rank and file.

As the reformers came under

attack from the Teamster leadership, they realized the importance of a union-wide movement, and joined Teamsters for a Democratic Union (TDU).

TDU

They have been building a strong British Columbian-Yukon TDU chapter, and TDU has been circulating petitions and publicizing the case.

Ellis Boal, a TDU attorney, was in Miami to help Vlahovic with his appeal. Norm Wilkinson, president of Local 213 and a TDU member, also went to Miami as a witness for Vlahovic.

For its part, the International union flew in Lawson and four witnesses to press the charges.

The results of the International hearing may not be known for several weeks, possibly longer.

The three International officers who made up the appeal panel—Harold Gibbons as chairman, Weldon Mathis, and John Cleveland—will make a full report to the full General Executive Board, which will issue a verdict. □



Vlahovic (seated), Secretary-Treasurer of IBT Local 213 with Jim Blomfield (standing).

NEWSPAPER WORKERS FACE SCABS IN MONTH-LONG STRIKE

'When they ask you to train people to take your job, that's too much'

by Elissa Clarke

THEY WORKED FOR two years without a contract, but when the company asked them to train new employees who would not have to join the union, that was the end.

Forty members of the Newspaper Guild Local 22 and the Pressmen's Local 13 walked off the job on December 29 in Pontiac, Michigan.

"We've done everything we could to avoid a strike, but when

they ask you to train people to take your job, that's too much," said Don Kummer, president of Pressmen's Local 13.

The pressmen and newsmen work for the Oakland Press.

The Oakland Press is still publishing, however. Management has brought in scabs from the Kansas City Star and the Fort Worth Telegram to put out the paper.

In addition, they have hired 100 "security guards" from the Wackenhut Agency in Minnesota.

What do scabs from these far flung locations have in common? They all work for newspapers owned by Capital Cities Communications, Inc.

Capital Cities owns seven television stations, 12 trade publications, and half a dozen newspapers.

PROVOKED

Willard Hutch, an administrative officer of Newspaper Guild Local 22, told Workers' Power that the union knew the company was trying to provoke a strike.

Their suspicions were confirmed when Blue Cross informed the strikers that the Oakland Press had not paid their premiums in December.

"The longest Guild strike in history was six years," Hutch added. "We're prepared to break that record."

"I think we're going to win. Either there will be a settlement or there isn't going to be an Oakland Press."

The company has offered a pay increase of 2-3% a year, while the union is demanding 8%. An 8% increase would bring them up to union scale, according to Hutch.

"With inflation, what they're offering is a pay cut," he said.

In addition, the company is offering no cost of living and no retroactivity. The company wants a clause in the contract that would make management the "sole deter-

miner of competence." Any discharges for competence would not be grievable.

The strikers worked for two years beyond the expiration of their last contracts. The pressmen worked without a contract, while the Guild contract was extended on a day to day basis.

Last August, the members of the two locals organized a boycott of the Oakland Press to put pressure on management to negotiate. The boycott remains their principle leverage.

The boycott has cut circulation by as much as 17%. "Cancellations come in by the hundreds every day," Hutch said.

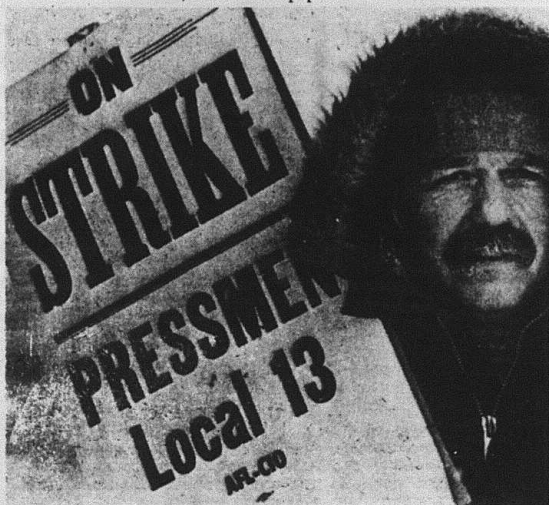
The strike has received a great deal of support from area unions. Pontiac is a strong United Auto Workers town, and the UAW is paying eight rank and file members to work full time on the boycott.

They also man a phone-bank to call UAW members and urge them to cancel their subscriptions to the Oakland Press.

The strikers held a rally on January 5 in front of their boycott headquarters. More than 500 people attended.

However, some union brothers have not shown solidarity with the strikers. Members of Teamsters Local 372 cross the picket line every day to distribute the newspaper.

Elton Schade, the secretary-treasurer of IBT Local 372, denounced these members of his local at the January 5 rally, and threatened to bring them up on charges. □



Copy editor from the Oakland Press on the picket line.

Labor Defeated Down Under

A report from Tom O'Lincoln of the Australian International Socialists

In Australia's recent Federal elections, the Labor Party was thrashed for the second time in two years by the right wing Liberal-Country Party coalition of Prime Minister Malcolm Fraser.

The election result is a serious defeat for Australian workers, and opens the way for growing attacks on wages, working conditions, and the trade unions.

It was only five years ago that Gough Whitlam led the Labor Party to a sweeping victory.

But the world-wide recession has hit Australia hard. Big business, including powerful American interests, demanded that Labor push the cost of the crisis onto the working class. The Labor Party responded by restricting wage increases and cutting back on social services.

But the employers were out for blood. In November 1975, the elected Labor Party government was thrown out by a medieval relic called the Governor-General!

(The Governor-General is a figurehead who supposedly represents the British Crown and can be used to dismiss any government the bosses don't like.)

New elections were called. Stunned and on the defensive, Labor lost the elections by a disastrous margin.

In 1977, most Labor voters expected a swing back to Labor, even if they did not actually win the election. But they have gained hardly a seat.

The Labor leaders have only themselves to blame. Labor's role throughout the past two years was to contain and dampen struggles.

There have been massive industrial struggles, as the Fraser government attacked social services and wages.

As the 1977 elections approached, however, Whitlam's emphasis was on winning big business support.

But most voters have obviously concluded that if you want a pro-business government, you might as well vote for Fraser—he's an expert.

SOCIALIST ANSWER

The electoral defeat will lead to cynicism and apathy among many workers. But smaller numbers of militants may draw some conclusions about the real nature of the Labor Party.

The International Socialists in Australia did a lot of work during the elections to reach some of these people.

We fought for a Labor victory, on the grounds that dumping Fraser was an essential first step for the working class. "Throw the Bastards Out" was one of our most prominent slogans.

But we also hammered the need for a new kind of workers' party, a socialist party that is serious about fighting for the working class.

With a triumphant right wing government about to take the offensive, the coming years will bring grim struggles.

I.S. will be in the thick of them, working to bring closer the day when the Labor Party is no longer the only serious political alternative for the Australian working class. □



Zimbabwe liberation soldiers have hit white-owned farms on the outskirts of Salisbury, the capital.

Just miles from Salisbury Zimbabwe Freedom Fighters Strike

by Sandy Boyer

WHILE BLACK freedom fighters in Zimbabwe (Rhodesia) have gained two impressive victories, Rhodesia Prime Minister Ian Smith and the "Black Moderate" politicians are scrambling to put together a deal to preserve white domination of the 96% Black country.

Tirivafi Kangai is the North African representative of ZANU (Zimbabwe African National Union), the organization most of the freedom fighters belong to. Kangai spoke to Workers' Power about the deal Smith and the "Black Moderates" are negotiating.

He said, "Basically what is going on is that Ian Smith wants to hand over power to some stooges or puppets who will continue to do what Smith does now."

"They hope that when they reach an agreement the fighting will be over."

"But we will not stop fighting until power is handed over to the freedom fighters."

The freedom fighters are making advances.

In late December freedom fighters took over a game preserve only 20 miles from Salisbury, the capital of Rhodesia.

This attack was especially em-

barrassing to the Smith regime because the game preserve is a popular vacation spot for whites from Salisbury.

The take-over proved that the freedom fighters can strike anywhere in the country.

Since then there has been an attack on a Rhodesian air force base near the Mozambican border. Until now the freedom fighters haven't been strong enough to attack military bases.

SEEK WHITE CONTROL

Meanwhile, Smith and the "Black Moderates" are frantically

trying to put together a deal before it is too late for them.

They have just agreed that the 4% white minority will be guaranteed 28 out of 100 seats in a new Parliament. This means every white vote will count as much as seven Black votes.

With the 28 seats, the whites can veto any changes in the new constitution that is being negotiated.

Since the new constitution is expected to guarantee white property, and white control of the army and the courts, the veto power will be used to prevent any future government from threatening white domination.

"The safeguards they are talking about mean maintaining white privilege," ZANU's Kangai told Workers' Power.

"We are not fighting for Black privilege. We will not accept white privileges. We want equality."

"Any agreement Smith and his stooges reach will be doomed."

SMITH NEEDS U.S.A.

The only way Smith and the Black "Moderates" can defeat the freedom fighters is if they get political, economic and military support from the U.S. and Britain.

They hope that the pretense of Black majority rule will be enough to win them this support.

Unless the U.S. and Britain decide to intervene to save white rule, the freedom fighters will make irrelevant any deals that Smith makes now.

The total domination of a nation of six million Black people by 270,000 whites will finally be over. □

M.D.

Nicaragua Explodes!

THE PEOPLE OF Nicaragua nearly toppled the dictatorship of General Anastasio Somoza Debayla last week. They were protesting the machine gun killing of opposition newspaper editor Pedro Joaquín Chamorro.

At the funeral the next day, 30,000 marched in mourning. The crowd chanted "Long Live Liberty" and sang the Nicaraguan national anthem.

Then thousands of young people and workers took to the streets.

The demonstrators burned 18 buildings, including two major banks, a Renault auto showroom, a blood plasma company owned by the Somoza family and a construction firm storing 1000 gallons of gasoline.

According to CBS news, the National Guard made no arrests during the demonstrations and did little to stop the rebellion.

They feared that meeting the people with force might lead to the overthrow of the 42 year old dictatorship.

SLAIN EDITOR

Editor Chamorro was an outspoken critic of the regime for over 30 years.

He had been arrested and exiled many times and recently he had been barred from speaking in other countries.

Chamorro's paper, La Prensa, denounced the government corruption, and accused the Somoza government of "resorting to repression as the only means of sustaining itself in power."

The Somoza family has ruled this country of 2.5 million like a family business.

For the last 42 years the Nicaraguan people have lived under a state of seige enforced by the

army and the National Guard, under Somoza's control.

Recently, the regime has been in crisis.

The gross corruption and inefficiency have even brought Nicaraguan businessmen into opposition against Somoza.

The United States has been a long time supporter of Somoza. But in the past year or so, the dictator's inability to keep Nicaragua stable has American officials worried that this dictator has outlived his usefulness to U.S. interests.

It's time, high administration officials believe, for him to be replaced by a new, more efficient government that keeps Nicaragua safe for American interests.

The Nicaraguan people have other ideas however. They want to run their own country.

This will not be the last time that they are heard from. □

Community Outrage Stuns Kennecott

Victory Coming At Lark?

by Paul Broz

The fight between Kennecott Copper Corporation and the residents of Lark, Utah has entered its second round.

Last month, the company announced that it had purchased the land the small mining town rests on and was evicting the entire population, without offering compensation for homes or money to defer moving costs.

But last week, the company changed its tune.

Lark homeowners' committee chairman, Bob Bardsley, gave us the reason. "They told us right out they didn't like the publicity."

"We put pressure on them through the media and the unions—the media has really helped us out. They knew the unions were looking over their shoulders."

The company met with town representatives and agreed to pay homeowners for their houses, although they haven't said how much.

Monday, Kennecott set up an office in Lark and asked residents to come in, one by one, to discuss their situations.

NEGOTIATIONS

Says Bardsley, "We had a town meeting Monday morning and everyone agreed that no one would go into the office until the committee went down there to screen the questions and set the ground rules."

"Nobody showed up except

committee people. We showed that we were united and the company would have to deal with us.

"We're most concerned with the elderly. They've absolutely got to have help."

Many of Lark's 500 residents are senior citizens, some have lived in the mountain town 50 years.

Although most were required to reside in Lark in order to work in the mines, never have they been offered the opportunity to buy the land they built their houses on.

Instead, it has been passed down from company to company.

For most, the evictions will mean moving out of comfortable, paid-for homes into low-income housing "in the valley." It will also mean the breaking up of close friendships nurtured over many years.

Sprightly Hilda Grabner, 81, is in a fighting mood. "We're sitting tight to see what the committee does, and what Kennecott does, and then, if Kennecott is quite outrageous, we can be the same." □

MINE STRIKE BEGINS TO HURT

IT HAS TAKEN longer this time around, but after a month and a half on strike, the enormous power of the nation's coal miners is beginning to make itself felt.

One indication of that was the statistics on U.S. industrial production released January 17 by the Federal Reserve Board. The "Fed" announced that the December increase in industrial production was only 0.2%—half of what it would have been without the coal strike.

This drop in coal production has not had a serious, immediate effect on the economy since most coal users had built up big stockpiles. But because the American economy is already in a delicate condition, the Federal Reserve Board's figures are enough to have many bosses and bankers shaking in their \$100 shoes.

There is little doubt that if the miners continue their strike long enough, they can have these characters over a barrel.

Already, there have been a few indications of dropping stockpiles. The Monongahela Power Co. in West Virginia says it expects its reserves to drop to a 30-day supply before the end of January. When that happens, the company says it will ask for emergency conservation measures.

The miners strike is taking longer to have a serious effect this year because United Mine Workers members now dig only about 50% of the nation's coal. This is down from around 70% five years ago.

NON-UNION COAL

But the miners are extending their picket lines to any coal operation they can find. The Federal Energy Department has estimated that 40% of all non-union coal mining has been halted by UMW pickets.

Much of the remaining non-union coal comes from the western states, where the huge strip mines and the small number of union miners allow a lot of production to continue. The union has also reached settlements with 10 western coal operators, not covered under the national contract.

In addition to the western coal, some non-union mines are operating in Kentucky. This is partly due to the intervention of the Kentucky

state police. Kentucky miners complain that the police have arrested, harassed, and even beaten some of them for little reason.

A miner quoted in the Mountain Eagle, a Kentucky newspaper,

expressed it this way: "You get three guys together in a car, going rabbit hunting, and before you know it a state police car is following you...."

"Out on the picket line, you can be standing there and they'll start

pushing you, or threatening to arrest you.... They talk about the miners being violent, but the violence to people has been done by police and company people."

Several miners wives were reported trying to see state officials to

protest this harrassment. One told the Mountain Eagle: "We don't appreciate the Democratic Party not stopping what's been going on here, and most of the miners voted Democratic. We elected those people." □



Kentucky miners are protesting the intervention of state police in the coal strike.

Get California out of South Africa!

by Rose Savion

LOS ANGELES—A statewide petition and a mass, broadbased demonstration will greet the Regents of the University of California when they have their regular

"planning" meeting March 17 at the L.A. Convention Center.

The petition will demand withdrawal of University money, union pension fund money and state money from investments in corporations that are doing business in

apartheid South Africa.

A movement which began as student protest of University policies that support the racist South African regime is now the leading force in a coalition of activists.

Students, community residents and workers planned the demonstration and laid the ground work for ongoing political activity, at a January 8 meeting in Santa Barbara.

STUDENTS ARE ACTIVE

The statewide meeting of Campuses United Against Apartheid (CUAA) showed that students are in motion again, contrary to what the media and University officials would have us believe.

In fact, CUAA was formed late last spring after campuses throughout the state erupted in sit-ins and demonstrations against apartheid.

Hundreds were arrested at Northern California schools, and a 1000-strong demonstration at Berkeley forced the South Africa question onto University officials.

The January 8 meeting showed the growth of this movement. Present were student activists from eight U.C. campuses, Stanford, two state colleges, and representatives from trade union and community organizations.

When the petition was first introduced, it addressed only the

Regents and the goal of withdrawal of University investments. Some students felt that only University organizations had to be involved.

But hot debate, frequent caucusing and democratic voting resulted in a petition that resolved to speak also for state college and community college students, community organizations and trade unionists.

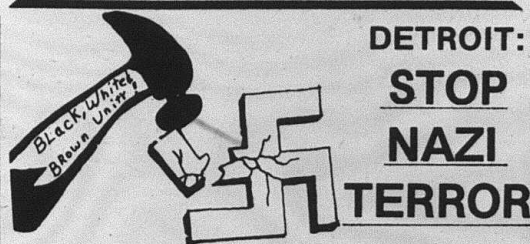
An important point that came out at the meeting was that apartheid is necessary for the survival of capitalism in South Africa. The fight against apartheid can involve all people whose lives are affected by the exploitation of capitalism.

The majority saw that the Regents are only one part of a larger machine which oppresses not only Black South Africans but workers and students here as well.

BETTER USES

Organizers from the Black community pointed out that South Africa investment money could be used for programs meeting the social needs of people in this country: education, housing, and health care, for example. This amendment was accepted by the body.

The UCLA (University of California) at Los Angeles section of CUAA will take the main responsibility for coordinating the activities leading up to the March demonstration. □



**DEMONSTRATION:
Against Nazi Office**

Saturday, January 28, 2:00 pm

MARCH: from Southwestern High (Fort and Waterman) to Nazi Headquarters at Vernor and Central

HUMPHREY: AS WE REMEMBER HIM

"The liberal for a generation who had no confidence in mass struggle."

by James Morrison

"I cannot understand why so many people think of Hubert Humphrey as a liberal," a close

friend told me. Although she was five years past that magic age of 30, my friend still represents the young generation in American

politics.

This generation learned politics as mass action: sit-ins, moral protests, civil rights, free speech,

anti-Vietnam war, and rank and file worker movements.

For this generation, Hubert Humphrey and his liberalism were

footdraggers at best and more often main defenders of what we used to call The Establishment.

Hubert Humphrey was the liberal leader for an older generation of union bureaucrats, college professors and established intellectuals who had no confidence in mass struggle. Indeed, they feared it. They longed for new leaders to emerge from the elite and recreate the land the way Franklin Roosevelt supposedly did.

Hump' in '68, far tragedy, was a victory of the anti-

How ever muc people' existed in heart, his policy wa every day for hundr sands of Vietnames cans.

Since 1968 Hump fective. His liberal cr too stained to disgu policy and his libel longer any good as tl decayed rapidly.

In 1975 he was platform of the Apr organized by the la where his support w be the greatest.

Hubert Humphre the labor-liberals, I haps the biggest tr that there are so ma trade union moveme not understand th kind of liberalism k life many years ago.

LIBERAL HEROES

Since it was not really possible for some great white knight to come forward and actually solve the problems of American capitalism, there could be no big liberal heroes—except retroactively.

John F. Kennedy's popularity, especially among liberals, was at an all time low just before he was assassinated.

His domestic programs were collapsing and his peace contributions in three years included the U.S. invasion of Cuba and going to the brink of nuclear war with Russia in the Cuban Missile Crisis.

Now the Kennedy-Camelot period is revered as the paradise of liberalism.

So it is with Hubert Humphrey. He can now be a liberal hero again because he is dead. His actual life demonstrated more the collapse and failure of liberalism than it did any "consensus of America."

Much is made of the "tragedy of 1968" when Humphrey's "personal loyalty" to Johnson kept him from speaking out against the Vietnam War and lost him the election for President.

But in that one incident is the whole story of Humphrey and his liberalism.

The reason that he is celebrated now is that he was a loyal company man—loyal to big business and its chief political defense unit—the Democratic Party.

He saw his job of solving the problems of the capitalist system as the way to defend that system. But defending the system was the important thing.

In this he was willing to take some rough jobs, and go to bed with unsavory types like southern racists and Boss Daley of Chicago.

He consciously rode point for capitalism.

"DUMP THE HUMP"

Humphrey backed the war in Vietnam because it was vital to U.S. interests.

It was mass outrage and upsurge that convinced the government that it would just have to take the loss in Vietnam or face even greater losses here. Not even liberal images like Humphrey could sell this war.

The struggle to "Dump the

Page after page newspaper obituarie Humphrey have am say about his real p

What little inform have, was carefully worded to hide its re

It's all well and g the "Happy War symbol of the "America" and the workers, the poor a

But every time t science of America' every time the oppre America stood up fo Hubert Humphrey w the wrong side.

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RED-BAIT

If you find this charge, look at the

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Humphrey did no lieve this, but he w middle-class votes election campaign. union was his way himself against charg

Does the Black community benefit from energy super-profits?

by Marilyn Danton

Several Black organizations have recently lined up with some of the richest corporations in this country. They supported the oil and gas companies' plan to completely remove price controls.

In doing this, they broke with the Carter Administration, which supports an increase in prices, rather than complete deregulation.

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) produced a position paper arguing that Blacks depend on an expanding economy for jobs. This, they say, requires greater

efforts to increase energy supplies,

"While we endorse the [National Energy] Plan's objectives of eliminating energy waste and improving utilization efficiency, we cannot accept the notion that our people are best served by a policy based upon the inevitability of energy shortage and the need for government to allocate an ever-diminishing supply among competing interests.

CLOUT & HIGH PRICES

Apparently the NAACP has decided that since working with the

Democrats and Carter has netted Blacks zero, they will side with those who have the real clout—the oil and gas interests.

But price de-regulation will raise the already skyrocketing energy prices.

The 56% of Black families living below the poverty line will be hit the hardest by these increases.

Maybe the NAACP didn't see any alternatives.

In addition to supporting the oil companies, that organization and others (including the National Association of Black Social-

Workers, local chapters of the National Urban League and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference) are supporting Chrysler and Ford in their battle against the Carter-sponsored proposal to impose fuel emissions standards on light trucks.

The NAACP resolution states that the government proposal could result in "massive layoffs in the industry."

Chrysler had planned to invest \$50 million on the Jefferson Assembly Plant in Detroit to convert it from cars to light trucks and vans, retaining 3,000 jobs and adding 2,300 more.

After the government standards were proposed, Chrysler said it would not proceed on the investment until the matter was resolved.

UNEMPLOYMENT

Because Black unemployment remains at Depression levels, these Black organizations believe that by supporting big industry, they can get something that they couldn't get from Carter and his fellow Democrats.

Well, it's quite true that Black people have gotten nothing from the Carter Administration but broken promises for all their votes.

But if the NAACP and other Black organizations think they will get anything from supporting the oil and auto companies, they are mistaken.

The plain facts are that Chrysler is already planning extensive layoffs for 1978, regardless of the outcome of the fuel emissions proposal. And Ford and GM cannot be far behind as car sales continue to slip.

We have a better idea.

Rather than choosing between the thieves who rob us of our wages, lay us off and force us to pay for heat like it was gold, why not begin to organize massive public demonstrations and marches for a serious job program.

It may not be as easy as changing sides. But it has one real important advantage. It can work. □



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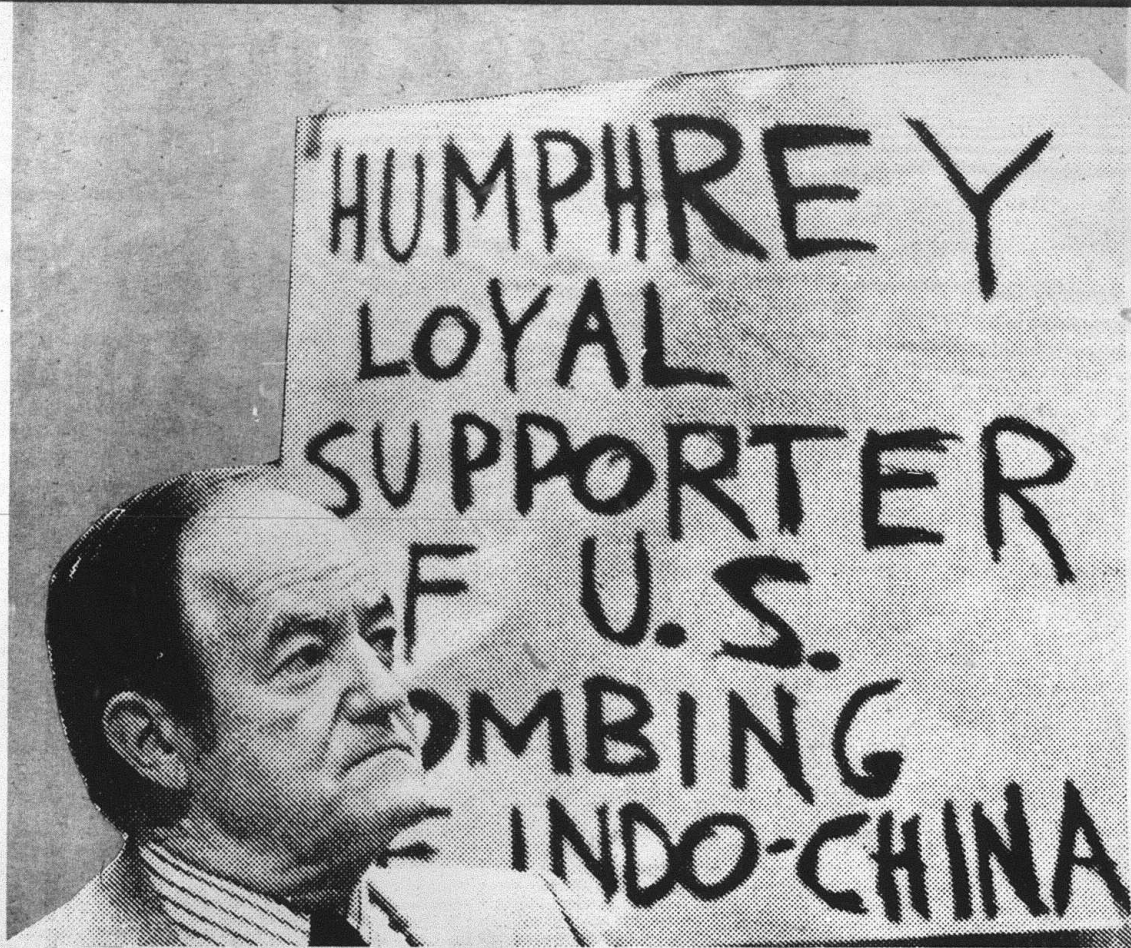
Hump" in '68, far from being a tragedy, was a vital part of the victory of the anti-war movement.

How ever much "love for people" existed in Humphrey's heart, his policy was one of death every day for hundreds and thousands of Vietnamese and Americans.

Since 1968 Humphrey was ineffective. His liberal credentials were too stained to disguise reactionary policy and his liberalism was no longer any good as the system itself decayed rapidly.

In 1975 he was booed off the platform of the April 26 Jobs Rally organized by the labor movement, where his support was supposed to be the greatest.

Hubert Humphrey, the last of the labor-liberals, has died. Perhaps the biggest tragedy of all is that there are so many today in the trade union movement who still do not understand that Humphrey's kind of liberalism lost any useful life many years ago. □



The Record

Page after page of glowing newspaper obituaries of Hubert H. Humphrey have amazingly little to say about his real political record.

What little information they did have, was carefully and vaguely worded to hide its real significance.

It's all well and good to say that the "Happy Warrior" was a symbol of the "conscience of America" and the hopes of the workers, the poor and minorities.

But every time the real "conscience of America" was heard—every time the oppressed people of America stood up for themselves—Hubert Humphrey was fighting on the wrong side.

And when the forces of repression were strongest, in the years of McCarthyism, Hubert Humphrey made sure no one could question his credentials as a card-carrying red-baiter.

RED-BAITER

If you find this a shocking charge, look at the record:

• **March, 1952:** Humphrey's Subcommittee on Labor and Labor-Management Relations opened a McCarthy-style hearing against the United Electrical Workers union (UE), charging the UE with "Communist domination of unions" and "threatening national security" because the union opposed the Korean War.

Humphrey did not actually believe this, but he was looking for middle-class votes in his next election campaign. Red-baiting a union was his way of defending himself against charges that he was



In 1975 Humphrey (above, center) was booed off the platform of the April 26 Jobs Rally (left) organized by the labor movement.

"soft on Communism."

It was neither the first or last time that Hubert Humphrey acted as the liberal spokesman for a right-wing witchhunt.

• **In 1950:** Concentration camps were set up as part of the McCarran Act, also called the Internal Security Act. It was Hubert Humphrey who made the amendment to create these camps.

The idea was that the government could intern so-called "subversives" in the same camps where Japanese-Americans were held during World War II.

Humphrey climaxed his police-state liberalism in 1954, when he actually sponsored the Communist Control Act outlawing the Communist Party.

Five years later, when he was asked if the bill had done any good,

he said it had saved the political careers of several liberal Senators who voted for it!

• **July, 1964:** Hubert Humphrey was on the verge of the Democratic Party Vice-Presidential nomination. Only one thing stood in his way: the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party.

The MFDP was a predominantly Black Mississippi movement which challenged the lily-white, pro-segregation and pro-Goldwater Mississippi Democratic delegation.

BACK ROOM DEAL

A deal was made behind the scenes. If the Mississippi regulars were seated and the MFDP challenge rejected, Hubert Humphrey would get the Vice-Presidential nomination with the help of the

southern racists.

Humphrey and another prominent liberal, lawyer Joseph Rauh, went to strongarm the MFDP into accepting two token seats on the floor.

Humphrey supported civil rights for Blacks before most of his Democratic friends. No wonder he wept openly as he begged the MFDP to accept the disgraceful sellout that would put him in office.

The sellout went through. Every promise the Democratic Party made to support southern Blacks against the racists was broken.

FARMER LABOR PARTY

Smashing grass-roots political movements wasn't new to Humphrey, either. In the late 1940's, he broke the back of the independent Farmer Labor Party in Minnesota, merging it with the weaker state Democratic Party to become his power base.

In those days, Humphrey's machine had goons and cops stationed

at the door of meetings to keep out left-wing Farmer-Labor supporters.

At the same time he was a founder of the liberal Democratic Party organization, Americans for Democratic Action.

In view of this history, Hubert Humphrey's enthusiastic support of the Vietnam war was neither a "mistake" nor a personal tragedy.

It was the logical extension of his entire political career for the previous twenty years. A career which made him the most prominent liberal face for America's policy of policing the world in the name of democracy.

The fact that the Vietnam War destroyed Humphrey's credibility was no tragedy. It was one of the best things that ever happened.

The tragedy was that the "Happy Warmonger," like a lot of other Kennedy-Johnson era re-treads, got another chance.

Fifty thousand dead Americans and two million Vietnamese didn't. □

Speaking Out

As I See It

ESSEX DEFEAT SHOWS NEED FOR NATIONAL CONTRACT STRATEGY

by Steve Phillips
UAW Local 869

I BELIEVE the recent UAW defeats at Essex Wire point to the need for a national contract strategy to defeat large anti-union corporations like United Technologies, which owns Essex Wire.

Essex has more than 26,000 workers among its 155 plants. Most are unorganized and the rest divided among a half-dozen unions.

Even in the unionized plants wages are super-low: \$2.76/hr. for press operators, who, if working for the Big Three would make over \$7.50/hr.

The Big Three sub-contract work to companies like Essex because they can buy from Essex cheaper than if they paid their own employees to do the same work.



Steve Phillips

HIGH PROFITS

Sell-out unionism is only part of the problem. A tough consolidated corporation against a divided and scattered workforce is the rest.

The difference in wages isn't because Essex makes less

profits. Essex does far better (21% return on investments). And it is the same UAW which negotiates the contracts. The difference is in the contracts and bargaining methods.

The UAW maintains national contracts with Ford, Chrysler, GM and many supplier firms like Budd, Champion and Rockwell. The power of these corporations is matched by the united power of the workers.

At Essex, no national contract exists. Few contracts even expire together. Essex can beat its workers one plant at a time.

The UAW should fight for a national contract at Essex.

ORGANIZE

This would require a massive organizing drive, the cooperation of the other unions at Essex plants, and probably hassles with the national labor law.

But the benefit would be immense for workers at Essex plants.

Far higher wages, COLA protection, seniority rights, medical and retirement benefits. Long, dragged out and defeated strikes would end.

Organizing non-union areas is the only way to fight declining union membership in this country.

Workers at Essex showed the solidarity and determination needed to win a better life.

To organize companies owned by conglomerates, like Essex, nationwide, requires a leadership of union leaders who are tired of the sell outs and defeats.

Who have an understanding of classes and class struggle. Leaders, who, like the Essex workers, struggle and fight—to win!



Essex strikers watch the counting of their back-to-work vote.

As I Taste It

PLEASE PASS THE FRENCH FRIES . . .

by Jim Woodward

IT'S A STRANGE coincidence, but I was actually gagging on a Big Mac at the breakfast table Sunday morning when I stumbled onto an article in Parade magazine about fast food.

Seems they're feeding the stuff to school children in Las Vegas. Every day.

It's not really genuine fast food, but it looks like it and tastes like it, the article said, and the kids eat it like it came from the pizza emporium. The only difference is that, disguised as fast food, the burgers and pizza and milkshakes are actually health food.

"You mean this stuff could actually be good for me?" I asked the special sauce dripping down my arm onto the sesame seed bun.

Sure could, replied Len Frederick, when I called him up to find out. Frederick is food service director for the Clark County (Nevada) public schools.

KELP?

Frederick turned to the fast food idea because the kids were loading up the garbage cans with spinach, mashed potatoes, and meat loaf. According to the Agriculture Department, \$400 million worth of food is tossed away in school lunchrooms every year.

Frederick's idea was to give the students stuff they liked,

Fighting Words

Too long have the workers of the world waited for some Moses to lead them out of bondage. He has not come; he never will come. I would not lead you out if I could; for if you could be led out, you could be led back again. I would have you make up your minds that there is nothing you cannot do for yourselves.

—Eugene V. Debs

but make it good for them. For instance, there's his Fast Food Super Shake, which has more nutrition in it than a glass of milk, but which uses kelp (a type of seaweed high in vitamins and minerals) instead of ice cream.

In other foods, Frederick uses vitamin C, wheat germ, low-cholesterol dressing, lean beef, and liquid vegetable oil instead of high-cholesterol shortening.

REDUCE YOUR FAT CONTENT

"The fast food in our schools looks like fast food, tastes like fast food, our schools look like a fast food operation, but from there it ends," Frederick told me. "From there it's what you'd almost call a health food establishment. But don't tell our kids that; they think it's something illegal—that's why they're knocking down the doors and eating their

lunches like they were starving.

"It is possible to make fast food so that it is low in cholesterol, high in protein, in other words, reduce your saturated fat content and you can make it so it meets all the nutritional requirements set down by the United States Department of Agriculture," he said. "It just takes a little more ingenuity, a little more work on the part of the person making up the menu."

Hmmm. If you can do it, why can't the regular fast food chains?

"They can do it," Frederick said. "All that McDonald's has to do is come to me and name a salary."

They can do it, but will they? Is it really more profitable to sell garbage than good, wholesome fast food?

Keep your eyes open, folks. That drama is now playing at your neighborhood Burger King.

Letters

Reader chokes on W.P. story

Dear Workers' Power,

Enclosed is a \$5 contribution to the paper. I hope other readers also make contributions. That you are desperate for money is the only possible reason I can think of for the front page article on cigarettes. You must be hoping to attract contributions from the cigarette companies.

To poke fun at the "deadly evil" of smoking because the 100,000 it kills is only(?) 25% of total cancer deaths is crazy cynicism and misses the whole point about government inaction.

It's simply not true that the government is doing something about cigar-

ettes instead of doing something about other social problems. It's not doing anything about cigarettes either.

Cigarettes should not be made illegal because the decision belongs to the individual. But it takes a system with the exceptional cruelty of capitalism to allow and even encourage a few to make huge profits off the addiction of millions to a vicious poison.

Not only should the government end the \$80 million subsidy, but the tobacco industry should be immediately nationalized and the profits applied to cancer research and methods of fighting nicotine addiction.

But the government won't do it

because the tobacco companies are fully a part of the capitalist system (owned by or owning other companies).

The government's policy toward tobacco is almost exactly the same as it is toward air pollution, unemployment, medical care or energy. Every so often make some big speeches, announce a new campaign and then do nothing that capitalists might find objectionable.

Except when mass outrage forces some real action.

James Morrison
Detroit, Michigan

The Socialist View

WAGES:

Should doctors earn more than miners? What about union officials? And Senators?

Ken Brown explains the socialist view and equality of income under workers' power.

by Ken Brown

LAST YEAR Henry Ford II got \$988,000 in salary and bonuses, over 100 times the wage of the average worker. Most top executives have salaries in the \$500,000 range, 50 times that of the average worker.

The United States is a land of tremendous inequalities. The top 1% of the population owns 57% of all corporation stocks and 60% of all bonds, which gives them control of the giant corporations the rest of us work for.

At the other end of society, one out of eight people is officially in poverty.

UNION OFFICIALS

But business executives aren't the only ones who benefit from this glaring inequality.

Many top union officials have salaries over \$100,000 a year. They argue that to deal with top management, they need to live in style like management.

Officers with salaries like that don't feel the pinch of the cost of living like the rest of us, and it makes it all the easier for them to ignore our interests.

That's why union officials shouldn't be paid more than a worker can earn in their industry.

Socialists feel the same way about government officials. Like union officials, all of them should be paid the wage of the average worker; none should be paid higher. Of course under the capitalist system, which depends

on a hierarchy of wages and privileges, it is essential to pay top government officials like the captains of industry.

It may make sense to have union and government officials paid the same as workers, but what about doctors and engineers? Would our society work if people weren't motivated by money to work hard and get ahead?

DOCTORS

The average doctor in this country earned \$44,500 in 1974. Doctors control the admissions to medical schools and purposely keep the number of doctors down—and drive up their salaries.

Socialists believe that if doctors were paid the same as the average worker and if the restrictions were removed on entry to medical school, people would become doctors because they wanted to help people and were attracted to the work—not because they wanted to get rich.

If people are given the opportunity to do creative work they jump at the chance, especially if higher education is open to all, and not restricted mainly to those with a lot of money as is currently the case.

In England, for example, the average doctor earned \$15,000 in 1974, working for the National Health Service. All medical bills are paid for by government health insurance.

Although the standard of service has been cut back recently as the government responds to an eco-

nomics crisis, the British system proves that health care can be improved, even under capitalism.

EQUALITY OF INCOME

Every worker has an equal right to a decent living, a fair break and good working conditions. No one deserves more of the good things in life than another.

But equality is more than a moral question.

Inequality in wages enables the capitalists to play one section of the working class off against another—to tell the higher paid workers their interests are in common with their bosses and not with the workers who make less than they do.

That is the main reason that Blacks and women have traditionally been paid less for the same work.

Wages vary tremendously under this system, even in the same work place. What determines who will make more and who will make less?

Some of the difference is based on union organization. Garment workers in organized shops usually earn much more than those in sweat shops. Even between organized shops, wages will depend on what kind of contract the union wins.

JOB GRADES

But inequality in wages occurs under capitalism in a single, organized workplace—for no other reason than the boss trying to divide up the workforce.

Look at a steel mill, for example.

An elaborate system of 34 labor grades divides each separate type of work into its own category and pay rate. Pay rates between job classes vary as much as 59%, or several dollars an hour. That's not counting a complex incentive pay system, which increases the divisions even more.

This complicated job classification scheme does not correspond to the time it takes to learn different jobs, but was instituted by the steel companies as a means of dividing up the workers in order to better control them.

Union militants are for eliminating these differentials, by pushing the bottom, wages up, not pulling the top down. That's why a straight cents per hour increase across the board is better than a percentage increase of say 5% of all labor grades.

In the case of steel 5% could mean 30c more an hour for the lowest and nearly 50c an hour for the highest ones, but the price of steak goes up the same for everyone. In the interests of workers' solidarity, it's best to push for more to the lower labor grades, and strive for a class wage.

When workers take power in this country and demolish capitalism, our aim will be to move as quickly as possible to equality of pay for all. Lower pay grades, as in steel, will be brought up to the level of the highest ones. Executives and union bureaucrats, at \$100,000 a year now, will be forced to live like everyone else, instead of as parasites off our labor.

NEED

But equality of wages is not real equality. People and families have different needs. Some families have more children who are still growing up; in others the husband and wife live by themselves. Some

are trying to buy a home; others already have one paid off.

Everyone can see that if two workers are working next to each other on the same job, while one has a family of five and the other two, if they are paid the same wage it will go further for the family of two.

True equality can only come when there is such abundance that there is enough for all. Money and the buying and selling of goods will be abolished. People will simply use what they need.

Modern industry is so highly developed that the potential exists for abundance for all, if working people controlled production in our interests, instead of it being controlled for the benefit of a few.

This is the stage of society that Karl Marx called communism. It has absolutely nothing to do with the bureaucratic dictatorships called Communism in Russia, China and Cuba. These countries have similar inequalities to those we have here. True communism requires workers' revolutions world wide.

Today we fight for equality. Our fight betters the day-to-day conditions of each one of us and helps to unify the working class.

In the future, when the crisis of capitalism gets people to realize the need to put an end to this system, working people will reorganize society on the basis of true equality. That is what Karl Marx meant when he described communism as "From each according to his ability; to each according to his need."

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 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.

I could smell the oppression

A prisoner's report on life in the nation's concentration camps

by George E. Blue

AS I ENTERED the clean but dirty brick building I could smell the brutality and oppression.

The guard gave me two sheets, one blanket, and a pillow case, but no pillow. When I asked about the pillow, I was told I would first have to meet a committee.

I was led up some dimly-lit stairs down a dim corridor that was

strewn with garbage. I stopped in front of a cell.

As the door opened I stepped in. Immediately I could feel and see the roaches as they raced across the dirty floor and walls. The toilet and wash basin were filthy with slime and crusted grime.

I could hear other prisoners talking. They were speaking about the brutal beating of four prisoners

just days before my arrival.

A guard stopped before my cage and gave me a toothbrush with a handle one inch long. They had deliberately cut the rest off.

Toothpowder was poured on a piece of paper which I had no place to put except the floor. When I looked back, I could see the roaches crawling over and through it.

There were no shelves. No locker. Nothing.

I watched as the guard tore a strip of toilet tissue about twelve inches long from the roll. That was my daily supply. I was given a tiny plastic spoon, knife and fork for eating purposes. The windows had all been sealed. No ventilation, just stale air.

Sound like "Nazi" Germany, circa 1938? No. Here at the United States Federal Correctional Institution, El Reno, Oklahoma.

El Reno F.C.I. is a concentration camp operated by the U.S. Bureau of Prisons under the direction of one Norman Carlson, who manages President Carter's American Gulag Archipelago.

The U.S. Bureau of Prisons controls some 35 camps just like El Reno. They all have the same problems. Poorly trained personnel. Overcrowdedness. Poor quality food. Insufficient clothes. Etc.

WELCOME!

I finally went to a Welcoming Committee, which most of the prisoners call "The King and His Court." I was given the usual speech.

My first living unit consists of a bed on an open tier with birds flying overhead. The lights were at least forty feet above our beds. There were twelve beds. We had one toilet and one face basin.

On this complete tier there were sixty-four prisoners. We had two showers—which could only be used between one and eight-thirty p.m.

The inmates look like "Cathy's" clowns in their ill-fitting clothes. Pants are six inches too short. Too small in the waist. Cuffs are frayed.

When I complained I was told "at least you got clothes!"

The living cells have no mirrors. No medicine cabinet. No racks to hang clothes on. No electrical outlets for radios or fans. No toilet tissue dispenser.

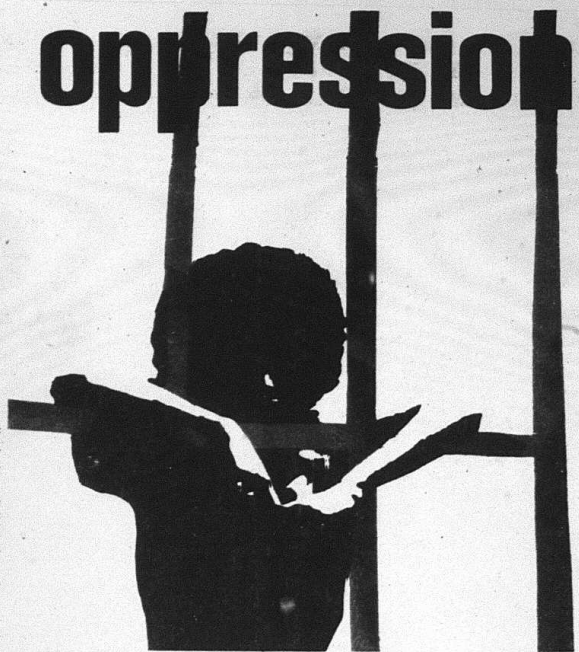
CLASSIFIED BY RACE

The prisoners are all classified according to race upon arrival. In an attempt to destroy the Chicano culture, they are all classified as Caucasians.

Not only does this insult the proud Mexican heritage, but it is a crude attempt to mold Chicanos into a mental stage of not knowing who they are.

But there is also another sinister reason for this. It hides the fact of the high disproportion of Chicanos, Blacks, and other third world people in the American Prison Camps.

There is a small group of native American Indians who are fighting hard to maintain their dignity as



Redmen. Only one Indian has minimum custody!

For some strange reason the kitchen and mess hall have a large percentage of Blacks, Chicanos, and Indians assigned to it. But then most dirty, hard details are like that.

POPULATION UP

With the new population increase, money has become very tight.

Prisoners are allowed one pat of butter and two rolls or doughnuts. As a rule, you can normally have all of these items that you can eat.

Director Carlson continues to mislead the public with false statements saying that the Bureau of Prisons must build new camps to alleviate the overcrowdedness.

Yet prisons are opened daily and they too are overcrowded. So new prison camps aren't the answer.

There is no logic in building more prisons when the overcrowding is largely due to the imprisonment of people for whom provisions could and should be made in the community at a much lower cost.

There is ample space available to house the few offenders who should be incarcerated in a just and humane system.

The Bureau of Prisons Budget for 1978 will reach the staggering sum of \$346,615,000. And \$67,588,000 will be used for new buildings and facilities.

What business would spend that much money on a proven failure? The government could build a lot of low rent housing for the poor and elderly with that much money.

As long as our system of government continues to ignore and neglect the masses of poor Blacks, whites, Chicanos, Indians and others, the prisons will continue to be over-populated.

The U.S. Bureau of Prisons reported an increase of 3400 prisoners from February of 1976 to February of 1977. Also during the same period, the unemployment rate on the outside reached a new all-time high.

Perhaps the time has come for the people to see the connection between form of government and the so-called "Crime Boom."

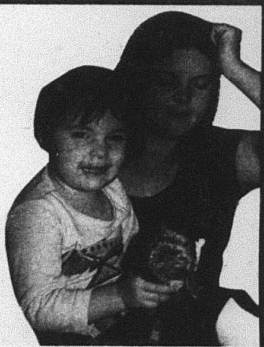
Our prison system is in a slow dying stage, but fighting with all its might to maintain control.

Our prison system plays an important role in our system which is also in the final stages of death. A dying, decadent system that must be replaced by a much needed new social order. □

Labor Notes

by Jim Woodward

At its January membership meeting UAW Local 47 in Detroit voted to contribute \$100 to the Carol Frye Trust Fund. Frye, a UAW member on strike against Essex Wire in Elwood, Indiana, was permanently disabled when shot in the back on the picket line last summer. She is the mother of two young children. Though the strike is now over, contributions for Carol Frye are urgently needed, and may be sent to: Carol Frye Fund, c/o Security Bank, 125 S. Anderson Street, Elwood, Indiana 46036.



Carol Frye and daughter

Ford Motor Company is in South Africa to stay. This is the word from the mouth of the top Ford himself, Henry II, after stopping by Pretoria for a friendly chat with South African Prime Minister John Vorster. Ford was in South Africa inspecting his plant in Port Elizabeth.

"Remember," a white foreman told Black workers before Ford's visit, "when Mr. Ford walks in, we are South African monkeys, not American monkeys. South African monkeys are much better trained." This disgusting display of racism is truly worthy of the Ford family. The original Henry Ford was well known for his pro-Nazi, anti-Jewish statements in the years leading up to World War II.

Over 50 people attended a workshop on "Jobs and the Environment" in River Rouge, Michigan January 11. It was one of the most successful in a series of midwestern workshops being sponsored by Local 1010 of the United Steelworkers and the US Environmental Protection Agency. This meeting was also sponsored by USW District 29, and attracted steelworkers from the major Detroit-area locals. The theme was that steelworkers are entitled to both a job and a healthy workplace.

The Supreme Court has overturned Environmental Protection Agency rules for the safe demolition of buildings containing asbestos. Since even small amounts of asbestos in the air can cause cancer, the EPA established certain procedures for handling it. The court did not object to lowering the amount of asbestos released into the air—it simply said the EPA must be able to measure the amount of asbestos emitted from a building being torn down. The only problem is that there's no way to do that.

Business groups are stepping up their hysterical campaign against proposed labor law reforms, with a Chamber of Commerce spokesman predicting that if the new laws are passed, union membership will triple within ten years. If only it were so.... Meanwhile, some supporters of labor law reform are reportedly trying to weaken some of the bill's provisions to win support from more conservative Senators.

Politicians in some Michigan cities are terribly upset at the state legislature these days. Seems the legislature is considering a radical proposal to reduce the work week for firemen from 56 to 51 hours.

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.

JOIN US!

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

Name

Address

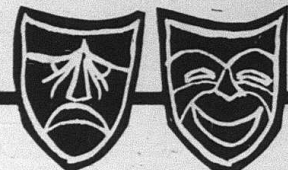
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SAGA OF A STEELWORKER



A Poem by Barracuda

Somewhere in this vast country I was born
 Forgotten where
 Nobody ever asks you where you were born
 It is not on my driver's license I'm not expected to know
 Lot of things I'm not expected to know in this country
 Long ago, someone said This Country is Great America
 Free, white and handsome
 Til I found me an Indian from Wounded Knee
 Oh minority!
 Taking over a town
 Fighting with the FBI
 Fighting with the National Guard
 Why don't you march in like them black folks did?
 Your father made me a minority, White Man!
 I discovered color at the receiving end.
 He was wrong.
 The history book says so
 Slavery was a mishap
 The history book says so
 Spanish war was a mishap
 The history book says so
 We destroyed the evil ones in the first and second world wars
 The history book says so
 Guatemala, Bolivia, the Phillipines, the Gongo, Korea
 The evil ones are many
 We destroyed them all
 The history book says so
 Vietnam
 I was there
 I destroyed the evil ones
 Man, I've seen some hard times
 Someone said the war was wrong
 Guilty feeling.
 Man, I've seen some hard times
 Came home and no welcome
 Man, I've seen some hard times
 This is America
 Must find me a job
 Man, I've seen some hard times



Became a steel worker
 America
 Free, white and handsome
 Bought me a house
 On credit
 Bought me a car
 On credit
 Bought me a TV set
 On credit
 Got married
 On credit
 Got a son
 On credit
 Got laid off
 On credit
 Somebody took away my house

On credit
 Somebody took away my car and TV set
 On credit
 Somebody took away my wife and son
 On credit
 Japanese imports
 Checked it out
 Liars
 Lost your job cause we got to hire some blacks
 What happened to the Japanese?
 Liars!
 Somebody making a profit off me
 Got to get my act together

Was militant
 Got to get my act together
 Got rehired
 Got to get my act together
 Got back into the union
 Got to get my act together
 Got rid of that guilty feeling
 Got to get my act together
 What my Indian-killer, slave-owner grandpa did was his own business
 Got to get my act together
 Got together with some black, brown and red brothers and sisters
 Got to get our act together

We got a bone to pick with the bosses
 Got to get our act together
 Better wages
 Got to get our act together
 Job security
 Got to get our act together
 Better working conditions
 Got to get our act together
 Right to strike
 Got to get our act together
 No jail for picketing
 Got to get our act together
 America
 Here we come
 We got to take over.

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STUPOR BOWL

COULD YOU STAY AWAKE?

NO DOUBT ABOUT IT, the Super Bowl was the dullist game of the whole football season.
 Just like last year. And the year before. And next year.

Last fall, at the beginning of the TV football season, we explained why this is true.

The Super Bowl is played at a pre-arranged "neutral" city, so it is not played before home-town fans who live and die by the result.

It is played after a two-week layoff, guaranteeing that neither team will have the kind of timing and sharpness they had during the season.

The rhythm of the game is determined by television's schedule of \$300,000-a-minute time outs, insuring that the continuity and momentum is completely disrupted and the game takes almost an hour longer to play.

That was the fiasco of the Denver-Dallas Super Fumble Bowl, two superlative teams playing at the level of the first mid-July pre-season exhibition game.

Not that it really matters. Unless you remember the years when the pro football championship really was the high point of the season, instead of the biggest anti-climax in sports.

Speaking of the pre-season, it's only six months away. Then another six months' march to another four-hour Stupor Bowl. I pick Dallas to repeat, probably over Oakland, by a score of something like 28-13.

Remember, you read it here first.

Dan Posen

Workers' Power

ATLANTA CITY WORKERS' LOCAL

RUNNING TO REBUILD THE UNION

by Jack Bloom

ATLANTA, January 14—Nominations for local officers of the city workers union, AFSCME, were held here today.

The election, to be held on February 11, is an important one because it takes place at a time when AFSCME is under severe attack by the city administration.

Nominated for president were incumbent Cleveland Chappel and challenger James McKinney. McKinney decided that as a result of last year's disastrous strike defeat

and the attacks on the union that followed, a strong effort had to be made to "Build a Strong Union," as one of his campaign slogans states.

PROGRAM

McKinney has a well worked out program for turning the situation around and defending the union against city attacks. He states in his latest campaign leaflet:

"We have to bring more workers into the union. It is not enough to have over 50%. We need to set our sights on 60, 70, even 80% or higher. That is the key to winning real contracts.

"With a strong stewards' system, we can make each work site, each department into a stronghold for the union.

"And we need to recruit white workers into the union. The time has come when we must end the racial divisions in our ranks.

"AFSCME Local 1644 used to be a mainly white union. Now it is a mainly Black union. Experience shows: neither one works.

"We need a union that unifies the workers, Black and white."

McKinney began preparing for this election last summer and started campaigning in November.

His aim in the campaign, besides getting elected, has been to build up a campaign organization which can be the nucleus of a strong union steward organization.

WORK-SITE STRENGTH

McKinney states in a leaflet to

Victory could put AFSCME on the rebound

Last spring, Atlanta's mayor, Maynard Jackson, broke a strike of city workers by firing 1000 AFSCME strikers and recruiting scabs to take their places.

Since that time, and especially following his landslide re-election victory, the Mayor has continued his offensive against the union.

It has become clear to many here that Jackson is out to break the union, and that breaking the strike was but one step in that effort.

When the strikers returned to work, many were not allowed to go back to their work sites. They were sent all over the city in the hope that breaking up work groups would destroy union organization.

YEARLY PROOF

After the strike, the city council passed a resolution making AFSCME prove every year that it represented a majority of the city's employees. It had to do this to be recognized as their bargaining agent and to retain dues checkoff.

This means that every year AFSCME must get every one of its members to sign a new card stating that they wish to continue AFSCME as their bargaining agent.

The city has kept up the pressure this winter. Jackson is breaking with past city tradition by forcing the workers to go out in cold weather.

WATER WORKS WIN

In the past, the practice was that workers were not sent out if the thermometer was below 25°, except in emergencies. This winter, Jackson has been forcing

workers out no matter what the conditions are.

Jackson started this policy last year, but then applied it only to sanitation workers. Sanitation workers struck in protest last year, but were not joined by other city workers not affected by the policy. They did not win.

This year the policy was applied to the water works, the strongest shop in the union. If that department had been beaten, it would have given Jackson the green light to walk all over the rest of the union.

But the shop won by refusing any overtime until the city administra-

tion backed off. They backed off fast.

But it was not long before Jackson attacked again, suspending eight sanitation workers who refused to go out in the cold.

This year's union election comes at a crucial point in the local's life.

'It's not the man - it's the program'



James McKinney.

his campaign coordinators: "Our aim is to make this campaign organization the first step in building a union that has a strong work-site organization.

"Many of the campaign coordinators are stewards. Others should be.

"But whether stewards or not, they will be an important part of the core of the union activists who can form the link between the local union officers and the workers.

"They can keep us informed—and keep tabs on us. And they can help us keep in communication so

what we say and do is known to the workers."

McKinney has stressed that simply electing him will not be enough. To build a strong union will require membership participation and control.

He sums it up in what has become the slogan of the campaign: "It's not the man—it's the program."

If McKinney wins, and all indications are that he will, Maynard Jackson will be facing an opponent who will cause him trouble. □



ABOVE: Last spring's AFSCME strikers' protest.

This year, one of the leaders of that strike will likely become president of the key Southern local.