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Workers' Power

THE WEEKLY NEWSPAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS FEBRUARY 27, 1978 ISSUE #243 25c

Keep The Government Out Of The Mines!

SUDDENLY they're changing the rules of the game.

Three months ago, when the coal miners walked out on strike, most everyone was laughing. Let them strike. Some steel companies had so much coal stockpiled they were trying to sell it.

Now that the entire country is threatened with a serious national crisis—one million layoffs within a matter of weeks—now that the employers have been squeezed until it hurts, the government is threatening to change the rules by invoking the Taft-Hartley Act or by seizing the mines.

Either step constitutes an outrageous interference in the strike.

SQUARE ONE

The miners' strength is based on their ability to withhold their labor. They've sacrificed a lot to get to this point. With major industries about to begin shutting down, the miners are now in a strong position.

Any government scheme to re-open the mines—no matter how much anti-coal operator rhetoric accompanies it—is a scheme to send the miners back to Square One.

Coal production would resume. Utility stockpiles would be built back up. Everyone would breathe a sigh of relief—except the miners who would be ordered back to the most dangerous job in the country.

If the miners were later to resume their strike, they would

again have to go through long months of sacrifice before they would be back to where they are now.

Because the miners understand this, most say they would refuse to go back to work under government order.

Typical is one Virginia miner who said he'd stay out "until President Carter calls out the Army, and they can make me go back to work, but they can't make me produce coal.

"We've got the country where it hurts now; we know that this may be our last chance to get a good contract."

LABOR'S SHAME

This kind of attitude deserves the full support of the entire labor movement. But to their everlasting shame, a number of top labor leaders have actually asked for government intervention.

Both United Auto Workers' President Doug Fraser and AFL-CIO head George Meany have called for the government to seize the mines. Meany went further, saying he "would not object" if Carter used the Taft-Hartley Act to order miners back to work.

When Taft-Hartley was passed, the labor movement denounced it as a "slave labor act." Forcing people back to work against their will in 1978 is no less slave labor than it was in 1947.

If Meany and Fraser want to promote slavery, they have no business in the labor movement



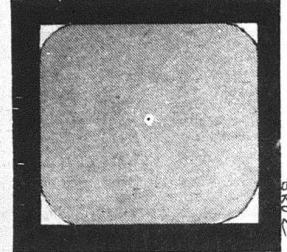
Indiana National Guardsmen, equipped with riot gear, escorted a convoy of scab coal trucks as part of the government's attempt to break the miners' strike.



"... and as governor of this state I'm asking all of you to help us..."



... break the miners' strike, by turning off all non-essential appliances, all..."



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For the full story, see pages 6 and 7.

Cleveland Busing - Sides Line Up

School busing for equal education comes to Cleveland this fall.

by Eric Harper

CLEVELAND — Fifty thousand students here are scheduled to be bused this September in what could be the most extensive desegregation plan ordered for a northern city.

Community groups, teachers, and students will have to begin organizing now so that Cleveland doesn't go the way of Boston or Chicago come fall.

The lines are being drawn. Joyce Haws, a member of the largest anti-busing group in the area, Citizens for Neighborhood Schools, has said that her group will recommend peaceful protest and legislative lobbying.

The extreme right, the KKK and the White People's Party, have announced that they intend to organize resistance to "nigger busing."

So far they haven't attracted much of a following. But this could well be the lull before the storm.

VICTORY

Pro-busing forces won a victory earlier this month when Federal Judge Frank Battisti refused to overturn a desegregation plan adopted last August. Battisti had been told by the U.S. District Court to review his original decision in light of a ruling in Dayton that busing was an inappropriate solution to school segregation because the segregation resulted from housing patterns—not the creation of the Dayton School Board.

Battisti pointed to the over-200 documented cases in which the Cleveland School Board had acted to prevent integration.

He said, "This proof of systematic Constitutional violations supports the finding that Cleveland school officials are operating a dual

school system entitled the plaintiff to comprehensive system-wide relief."

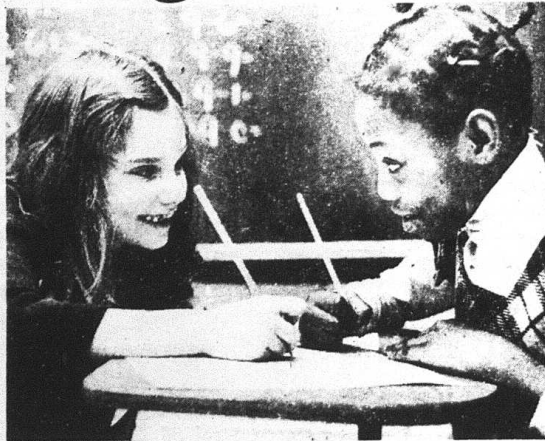
The plan would bus students between the working class Black east side and the working class white west side. The white suburbs will not be affected.

STOP STALLING

The Cleveland School Board has appealed the decision on the grounds that "illegal acts" do not warrant busing. Both sides expect the issue to be decided by the U.S. Supreme Court.

In the meantime, the School Board has been ordered to stop stalling, to get down to business by obtaining buses, training drivers and developing programs needed to make quality education a reality for Cleveland students.

But Battisti has so little confidence in the ability of the School Board to implement the desegregation plan that he has created a special Department of Desegregation headed by a Deputy Superintendent responsible directly to Judge Battisti.



The School Board in turn has sought to portray Battisti as a dictator who is forcing through a busing plan that nobody wants and which the School District can't afford.

The Cleveland School District has a projected deficit of \$50 million for the 1978 school year. The schools are expected to close in March—at least until a levy passes at polls in April.

The cost of busing, the fear of what might happen to the children

in a strange neighborhood, and the fact that a federal Judge is taking over the duties of an elected School Board, all provide a cover for the racist reaction to busing.

But now that the legal underbrush has been cleared away and the busses are scheduled to roll, the desegregation struggle has entered a new stage. Anti-racist forces must organize to defend busing and assure the safety of their children and the quality of their education. □

Nazis stab woman

DETROIT — To anyone who thought that the Nazi program preaching murder could be separated from violent action, the fascists on Detroit's southwest side gave their first answer last Sunday.

Nazis ripped open the thigh of a 25-year-old woman who attended a peaceful meeting of the Labor-Community Council Against Nazis.

Formed last month on the initiative of Auto Workers Local 600, the Labor-Community Council Against Nazis was holding its second meeting on the afternoon of February 19.

Four known Nazis were found seated at the back of the room. The large anti-fascist group prevailed upon the Nazis to leave.

PULL KNIFE

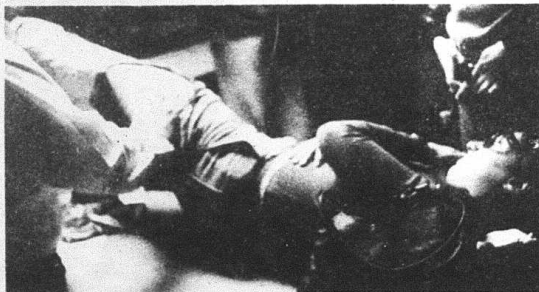
Once butside, one of the Nazis pulled a knife on Jan Friedman and stabbed her several times in the left leg.

She was taken to a hospital, her pants entirely soaked in blood, and

was released later that evening. Ever since the Nazis moved into Detroit and set up headquarters a few months ago, many of the city's residents have said that the fascists have a right to "free speech"—a right to their ideas, no matter how

hateful those ideas may be. The stabbing last weekend was a small indication of what the Nazis "ideas" will mean for the neighborhood if they are allowed to propagandize and grow.

Candy Martin



Jan Friedman, stabbed by Nazis, awaits the ambulance.

BLACKS, WOMEN:

Officially Behind

IT'S OFFICIAL—Blacks and women are still at the bottom.

A report issued last week by the Commission on Civil Rights notes that there was a "disturbing" lack of economic gains for women and minorities last year.

It's the same old story: prices went up (the costs of meeting basic human needs continues to rise," says the report), white men made gains (the overall employment position of white males improved"), but minorities and women stayed at the bottom.

The report also noted other setbacks suffered by women: Congress passed laws that restrict the availability of abortion to poor women, and the ERA has not been ratified by a single additional state.

GLOATING

Carter was on TV a couple of months ago gloating over the drop in the unemployment rate to 6.4%.

Meanwhile, official unemployment rates for Blacks remain at depression levels of 12-13%, and for Black teenagers it is an astonishing 37.3%.

In reality, the economy is still in crisis and that is why Blacks and women cannot move forward. Whenever there is trouble, minorities and women are forced to pay the price. □

Gov. Rules Joan Little To Be Extradited

New York's liberal Democratic Governor Hugh Carey has ordered Joan Little returned to the North Carolina prison authorities.

Carey, who had the power to block North Carolina's demand for Little's extradition, said it was his "Constitutional obligation" to send her back.

Extradition to North Carolina may be Joan Little's death sentence.

She has nearly five to eight years left to serve on her original conviction, and could be sentenced to an additional two years for running away from prison last October.

That will give prison guards and officials plenty of time to take their revenge on the young Black woman whose trial for murder in 1975

focussed national attention on the North Carolina prison system.

ACQUITTED

Little was acquitted of the murder of a prison guard, whom she killed in self-defense as he attempted to rape her in her cell.

After her acquittal, she was returned to prison for a 1974 breaking and entering charge, despite nationwide appeals for her release.

North Carolina Governor James Hunt, who personally intervened with Carey to secure Little's extradition, claims she was about to be paroled if she hadn't escaped again, and that a letter recommending parole had already been written.

Hunt's story about how Joan Little was "about to be paroled" conveniently comes after she had repeatedly been denied parole and subjected to unbearable harassment.

This is the same Governor Hunt who proclaimed last month that the Wilmington 10 were fairly tried and convicted. He also declared at that time that there was no guarantee the nine Black men still in prison on that conviction will ever be paroled.

Little's New York attorney, William Kunstler, has promised every possible appeal to stop the extradition.

As Workers' Power goes to press, it is not yet clear whether a New York court would revoke her bail while appeals are heard. □

D.P.

MESSAGE TO THE WEALTHY

by Karen Kaye

IT'S REALLY TOO BAD RICH people don't read Workers' Power, because we have an important message for them this week:

The very wealthy should not get divorced.

This advice is based on the recent experiences of Henry Ford II and his estranged wife Cristina, in the Wayne County Circuit Court, where they have been hagglng over a roomful of snuffboxes.

We don't base our advice on expense—certainly they can afford to divorce, even though Cristina's 40 volumes of evidence, bound in "rich blue leather" must have cost a bundle, by the stand ards of those who are set back by purchasing an occasional paperback.

No, we base our case on the National Interest, for the court proceedings have revealed information about the Fords that could damage the image of the whole employing class!

For the average Ford hourly worker, it is disturbing, at best, to learn that your sweat is supporting 76 rooms in a suburban mansion, not to mention a luxury country home in England, another house in London, a \$150,000 condominium in the Bahamas, plus a \$400,000 "men only" sportsmen's retreat. Cristina was irked that Henry II sold the Carlyle Hotel apartment (for a rumored \$350,000).

LAMENT

Mrs. Ford's lament that her pride was deeply injured when Henry emptied the drawing room of its \$2 million worth of knickknacks and furniture, leaving her only 75 rooms, cannot be expected to touch many women, even despite her "emotional attachment" to the stuff.

Now, everyone knows that when your husband leaves you, it can get you so down it's hard to go on working and tending to house and children. But how much can we sympathize with Mrs. Ford's complaint: "I was so sick I couldn't entertain."

Mr. Ford's remarks about his doodads are certain to damage his reputation as reigning heir to the inventor of the assembly line:

"I buy what I like. Yes, they are difficult to replace. They didn't have mass production in the days those things were made."

But he insisted the sale of the drawing room objects must go on. Because? He had already spent \$80,000 for a cocktail party, \$200,000 in commission to the auction gallery, and had printed up catalogues that cost \$25 apiece for the prospective buyers.

The judge ruled that Henry can have his auction.

Meantime, plenty of folks clock in, work, and clock out of Ford plants, drive the Ford on the Ford Freeway (except when the car's recalled), send the kids to Ford School, maybe live on Ford Street, and think about why is it there's so much we can't afford. □

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Copyright © 1978 by I.S. Publishing Co. Editor: Marilyn Danton. Production Editor: Karen Kaye. Circulation Manager: Tom Dougherty.

Subscriptions: \$10 for one year; \$5 for six months. Introductory rate: \$1 for eight issues. Institutional: \$15. Foreign surface: \$15. Foreign air mail: \$20 for six months.

Published weekly, except the first two weeks in July and the last two weeks in December. Second class postage paid at Detroit, Michigan. Send notice of undelivered copies or change of address to: Workers' Power, 14131 Woodward Ave., Highland Park, MI 48203.

Workers' Power is a member of the Alternate Press Service. It is indexed in the Alternate Press Index and microfilm-ed by University Microfilms. International Standard Serials Number (ISSN): 0019-0535.

Postal Workers Form Contract Coalition

by Marilyn Danton

Chicago—"I know some people who'd like to sabotage the whole system," said a letter carrier from Illinois.

Amid a lot of anger and frustration 40 postal workers representing 20 union locals of the three major unions met here and formed the Postal Contract Coalition, decided on key demands, and mapped out a strategy for building a contract fight when their contract expires July 20, 1978.

"Do you like your job? I think most of us felt that way before 1970," the vice president of a letter carrier's branch stated.

"We didn't get paid much, but we felt that what we did was important. Now we'd like to kick the whole system."

A mailhandler from the San Francisco Bulk Mail Center agreed: "I was treated with respect once and that supervisor was suspended."

In the past three years since the last contract was signed, 75,000 postal workers' jobs have been lost through attrition, injuries on the job are three times the average for all Federal employees, and thousands of grievances are backlogged at arbitration at the national level.

CONTRACT A DISASTER

"We have a contract that is a disaster. I'm a shop steward. Whatever contract we get, I want something to work with," Pat Moore, Editor of the bi-monthly newspaper, Rank and File Postal Worker, stressed.

KEY POSTAL CONTRACT DEMANDS

The National contract expires July 20, 1978 covering 600,000 postal workers in four unions: The American Postal Workers Union, the National Association of Letter Carriers, the Mailhandlers, and the Rural Letter Carriers. In addition there is the National Alliance of Postal and Federal Employees, which is currently in a fight to win the right to represent mailhandlers.

Key demands of the Postal Contract Coalition:

- Maintain no layoffs clause
- Wage increase, maintain COLA
- Safety standards based on OSHA standards
- Maintain six-day delivery and rural postal service
- No mandatory overtime
- All regular workforce—an end to casual labor
- Improved sick leave
- Improved grievance procedure
- Return to a two-year contract



Pat Moore, Shop Steward, BMC Branch, Mailhandlers Local 302, Editor, Rank and File Postal Worker.

"People are working outrageous amounts of overtime in very unsafe conditions, and facing the issue of automation eliminating their jobs."

"Job security is important. Either you get laid off, or harassed out of your job, or injured so you can't work. It's pushing it to the brink and something's got to be done."

"I see us doing the necessary organizing that our unions ought to be doing in order to guarantee that we get a good contract."

"I think this coalition has got an excellent chance of doing this. People here represent all crafts, all around the country. There's a lot of support for it and I think it's going to mushroom."

"The miners' determination is a credible example and I'm really glad we have that to look to."

At the top of the list of demands were keeping the no-layoffs clause—"Once we lose our job security, we lose everything," Moore added, —and new money, and maintaining the COLA.

But these were far from all. The body decided on seven other key demands, that are hot issues in every postal installation in the country. [See accompanying box for details]

Unity was a central theme in the discussions. Postal workers are divided into three major unions. Traditionally, management has been able to use the differences between the craft unions to get their way. Building the coalition with serious participation from rank and filers and local officials from the three unions is key to overcoming this weakness.

"We are dependent on each other for taking the action we need," stressed Moore.

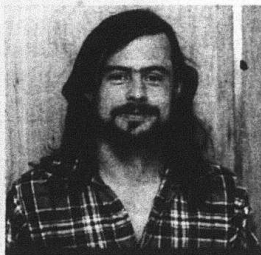
NO INTEGRITY

Participants at the meeting understood that if rank and file postal workers were not organized and ready, the union officials would not get a good contract.

Grady Davis, clerk at the O'Hare Airmail Facility in Chicago, emphasized, "Postal unions, management have no integrity—they don't care what happens to us. Got to let them know. They must be accountable to us."

Organizers for the meeting invited Ken Paff, National Secretary of Teamsters for a Democratic Union, to talk about how rank and file Teamsters had organized a similar contract organization—Teamsters for a Decent Contract—in 1975.

Paff stressed, "The key is informing and involving rank and file members. That's what we're



Ted Kuhn, President, Branch 2183, NALC.

"You just get tired of the way that things are now. I'm a carrier. We've got 45 routes in our station. We had probably close to 50 about five years ago, and we've lost five in the last five years."

"You can call this a last-shot effort. If we don't get a good contract I'm not going to keep working here."

about — involving the members, making the union work for the members, taking it back from the officials."

TDC was able to involve thousands of Teamsters and to force Fitzsimmons to call the first national Teamsters strike in 1976.

Borrowing from the experience of TDC, the Coalition decided to circulate petitions directed to the



Edgar Payne, BMC Branch, Mailhandlers union.

"When it comes to doctor's excuses, even though they are forced to recognize them, they have gotten to the point where they will attack you, charge you for being unavailable for duty whether you are approved are not. They can still come down on you and try to remove you from the service."

"We are much further along this year than we ever were before. It's a milestone of rank and file activity and organization."

union leaderships with the key demands. Coalition organizers will also attempt to get endorsements from local officials and local unions. To date 15 local officers have endorsed. The APWU local branch in Richmond, California endorsed the coalition as a body.

Between now and April emphasis will be on spreading the word. "If you have to sit down and hunt and peck on a typewriter, let your co-workers know what went on here today," Grady Davis emphasized.

The Coalition will publish a monthly newspaper, Contract News, and distribute a brochure outlining the purpose and demands of the Coalition, urging postal workers to get involved.

The Coalition will be pushing for open negotiations when bargaining officially begins in April. In the past, negotiations between Postal Service management and the national union leaderships have been closed.

Pat Moore outlined additional tasks: "We want to build a reliable information network. Whenever we reach a road block, we want to expose it. We want accountability. We must develop communication—know what is going on."

"We want to reach out to the public. We're going to need their support."

The three day meeting took place at the same time another group of workers—the miners—were fighting for a good contract. A mailhandler from Pittsburgh put it this way:

"I think there are some things we should learn from the miners. If you don't fight for what you want, you just don't get it." □

Steel Giants Earn \$914,400,000 - Pay \$0.00 Taxes

Guess who paid no federal income tax last year? LTV, with a 1976 income of \$20.4 million.

Other steel companies that paid no 1976 income tax were, with income in millions in parenthesis: U.S. Steel (\$518); Bethlehem Steel (\$182); Armco Steel (\$100.5); National Steel (\$63.1); and Republic Steel (\$30.4).

NOT ALONE

The steel companies were not alone in successful use of tax loopholes to dodge all income tax.

TAX DODGERS

Company	Millions
The Southern Company	\$385.1
Pacific Gas and Electric	\$291.8
Philadelphia Electric Co.	\$222.7
General Dynamics	\$161.8
Chase Manhattan Corp.	\$144.0
Singer	\$107.3
Pan Am. World Airlines	\$100.3
American Airlines	\$78.1
Eastern Airlines	\$46.2
Phelps Dodge	\$40.1

They were joined by ten other corporations with a total income of \$1,474.6 million. (See accompanying box for details.)

One of the principles of the American Revolution was "No taxation without representation." But is representation without tax-

ation fair? These companies clearly have more clout with the government that their taxpaying employees do!

This article would have been longer but I have to go fill out my form 1040.

K.K.

...While 1000 Workers Lose Jobs

Throughout the steel industry's long campaign against imports, Workers' Power maintained that it was just big steel's propaganda to cover up for ulterior motives. "What Big Steel has really wanted, we said, is freedom to cut jobs and raise prices. Mergers, streamlining, and dumping older facilities are necessary for the industry in this period of economic crisis."

But, Workers' Power predicted, all this can only mean that

steelworkers pay for increased industry profits with their jobs.

Well, recently corporate officials announced that yet another 1000 jobs will be slashed at Youngstown Sheet and Tube's Brier Hill Works in Ohio.

That the job cuts will result from the proposed merger with LTV Corporation (which owns J&L Steel), was confirmed by LTV officials and Mayor J. Phillip Richley. □

French left fractures as vote nears

Communists, Socialists Squabble

— Right Wing Gains

by Dan Posen

EIGHT MONTHS AGO, a left-wing victory in the next French Parliamentary elections seemed almost certain.

Today, however, with the election less than three weeks away, everything is up for grabs.

Both the right and left wing in France may be facing major political crises.

The right wing, heavily backed by big business and international capital, is split between President Giscard d'Estaing and the mayor of Paris, the so-called "neo-Gaullist" Jacques Chirac.

After bitterly quarreling among themselves, the right wing forces have joined hands in a massive effort to block the election of a left wing government.

DIVIDED LEFT

But the left, which appeared so confident and united last year, is now much more deeply divided than the big business parties.

The struggle on the left is dominated by the Socialist and Communist Parties, although there are several thousand revolutionary

workers in groups to the left of the CP.

The alliance formed by the SP and CP, called the "Union of the Left" or "Common Program", has practically disintegrated.

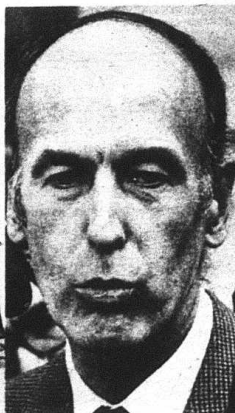
The battle erupted over what appears, on paper, to be the Communist Party's demand for a more left wing program.

The Communist Party accuses the Socialist Party of defending hundreds of factory owners and other capitalists whose prosperity might be nationalized under a government of the left.

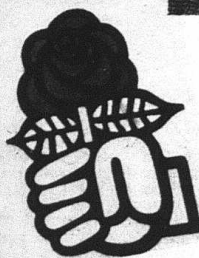
Communist Party leaders say the SP is demanding tight limits on nationalization of industries, aiming to sabotage the struggle for socialism before it's even begun.

On the other hand, the SP leadership says the CP is more interested in its own power than in forming a left wing government. According to Socialist Party leader Francois Mitterrand, the CP's radical demands for more nationalizations are simply intended to undercut the left wing alliance.

Mitterrand claims the CP would rather lose the election than serve



Socialist Party leader Francois Mitterrand (left), President Giscard d'Estaing (center), and Communist Party chief Georges Marchais (right). Discord between Socialist and Communist Parties may cause right wing government's survival.



as junior partners in a government led by the larger Socialist Party.

BOTH SIDES

Tragically for the French working class, both sides' accusations are basically accurate.

The French Socialist Party draws as much of its support from the middle class, professionals and even parts of the capitalist class as it does from French workers.

The SP's idea of "socialism" is nothing more than mild reforms which would not threaten its own

voting base. The SP is also closely connected with western imperialist powers, including the United States, who are happy to see the SP split off some support from the CP.

On the other hand, the Communist Party's own phrases about "working class unity" have begun to ring rather hollow recently.

In one district, rather than have a Socialist Party candidate elected to the National Assembly (Parliament), the Communists have given their support to a Gaullist candidate and withdrawn their own!

It is unclear whether the Socialists and Communists will even support each other in the second round of run-off elections, to be held March 19. In those districts where no one candidate gets a majority of votes in the first round.

CRISIS AHEAD?

Despite the demoralizing split on the left, it is still possible that a massive working class vote on March 12 and 19 could create a left wing majority in the National Assembly.

The bosses have already given a hint of how they might respond to this. Every time a public opinion poll shows the left gaining, the Franc (French currency) falls off drastically in international markets as capitalists and speculators rush to unload it.

But French workers might respond to bosses' sabotage the way they did in Portugal—by taking over factories and demanding more radical measures than the official left wing parties want.

French businessmen and international investors are actually more worried about this than they are about a government headed by Francois Mitterrand.

A victory of the left on March 12-19 could be an important opening for the revolutionary left to build a stronger alternative to the Communist Party.

Several revolutionary organizations in France will be running candidates in the first round of the election, while calling for support of the left wing parties' candidates in the March 19 runoffs.

ANGOLA: MPLA GOVERNMENT ENDS "POPULAR POWER"

by Dan Posen

After two years in power, the government of Angola has moved to eliminate the mass-based "popular power committees" that sprang up during the national liberation struggle.

The move was announced by Angolan President Agostinho Neto in a major speech in December to the Congress of the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA).

At this Congress, the MPLA leadership declared the MPLA has transformed itself from a broad national liberation front to what it calls a "Marxist-Leninist workers' and peasants' party."

Despite this socialist rhetoric, the real attitude of the MPLA leadership toward the independent power of workers is shown by Neto's speech on "People's Power", reprinted in the Tanzania Daily News, December 23.

Neto announced that the law establishing Popular Power as the basis for the government of Angola is no longer considered valid and must be abolished.

MPLA CONTROL

According to Neto, the law on popular power failed to establish that the popular power movement must be officially and totally controlled by the ruling party, the MPLA.

"In the law and in its foundation there is a disconnectedness from the leading force of MPLA; though it contains references to MPLA, the law nevertheless lacks concrete definitions that the Party consti-

tutes the leading nucleus of People's Power and that the organs of People's Power act on the basis of Party resolutions.

"In the law, People's Power is expounded as an expression of spontaneous mass struggle, which can also be used against the Party."

According to Neto, the solution is to turn all popular power organizations into strictly controlled MPLA fronts. Elections should be allowed only where candidates approved by the MPLA leadership are assured of victory.

"The law (on popular power) ought to be revoked because, with the establishment of a Marxist-Leninist Party...new concepts and applications arise in the structure, organization and activity of State Power..."

"Elections in the Popular Neighborhood Commissions are to be realized only where the structures of the MPLA are sufficiently strong and firm at the organizational level, and mature from the political and ideological point of view."

SELF-DEFENSE

To understand what all this means, it is important to understand how and why "popular power" committees arose in the first place.

When the MPLA was leading the struggle for Angolan liberation, right wing armies, supported by the American CIA and South Africa (known as FNLA and UNITA) carried out massacres in which thousands of working class MPLA supporters were murdered.

The masses of Black workers and unemployed in the capital city, Luanda, responded by organizing self-defense committees under the heading of "popular power".

These committees organized popular militias which fought back against the FNLA and UNITA

gunmen, and drove them out of Luanda. This gave the MPLA a firm base to win the war for liberation.

The MPLA earned the support of the Angolan masses because it was a genuine national liberation movement fighting against Portuguese colonialism and neo-colonialist puppet forces.

But the MPLA leadership has never stood for a revolutionary state based on a workers' democracy. Now that they are in power, they have no intention of allowing "spontaneous mass struggle" to continue.

Not only has the MPLA leadership forbidden the masses to engage in political activity outside the MPLA, it also has begun an internal purge of the MPLA rank and file.

A major split inside the MPLA led to street fighting and a brief revolt last year.

Under the cover of "Marxist-Leninist" rhetoric and phrases about "revolutionary state power", the MPLA is moving rapidly to the right.

It is more concerned with maintaining the confidence of the multinational corporations in Angola, Gulf Oil and Diamang, than in the power of the workers and peasants of Angola.

But at the same time, the MPLA still has to fight a continuing war against both South African-backed Unita forces in southern Angolas.

In the long run, abolishing the popular power movement will only weaken that struggle and damage the national independence of Angola.



Angolan workers' and neighborhood organizations are now officially to be run under tight government control.

STAKES ARE HIGH IN BAKKE RULING

Women, Black workers linked in affirmative action battle

by Margaret James

Women and minorities are linked together in the fight for equality. Much has been said about the disastrous affect that the Bakke decision could have on Blacks—it is of equal importance to women.

Both Blacks and women have a history of being forced into the lowest paying jobs. Both form a reserve labor pool—last hired, first fired.

And both suffer from the illogical argument about "reverse discrimination," accused of having "too much equality." This is at issue in the Bakke decision.

Allan Bakke is a 37-year-old white male who was denied admission to the University of California Medical School in 1972. Upon learning that 16 out of 100 admission openings were reserved for economically "disadvantaged" students, he took the University to court citing the 16 special admission openings as proof of "reverse discrimination."

In 1976 the California Supreme Court ruled that the Medical School's affirmative action program was unconstitutional because different standards of qualifications were used for the special admissions and that Bakke should be admitted.

This case is widely understood to be potentially the most important civil rights case to come before the court since 1954 when legal segregation was found to be unconstitutional. It could wipe out all affirmative action programs in education, hiring and promotion on the basis that they represent "reverse discrimination" against white men.

nearly all doctors are men.

The extent of the discrimination against women proves that affirmative action programs are essential.

QUOTAS

Affirmative action programs with no quotas are ineffective. Look at the case of East Bay Parks in California.

In 1973 only 11% of the workforce was women, while 37% of the general work force was women. Three years later a few more women were hired, but on a seasonal basis.

They were laid off during the time when career training programs were offered—only males were given opportunity for promotion.

But, when serious affirmative action programs with quotas are instituted, there is a real change.

Almost no women have gained entry to apprenticeships in the skilled trades without quotas, which are now legally required in the unions.

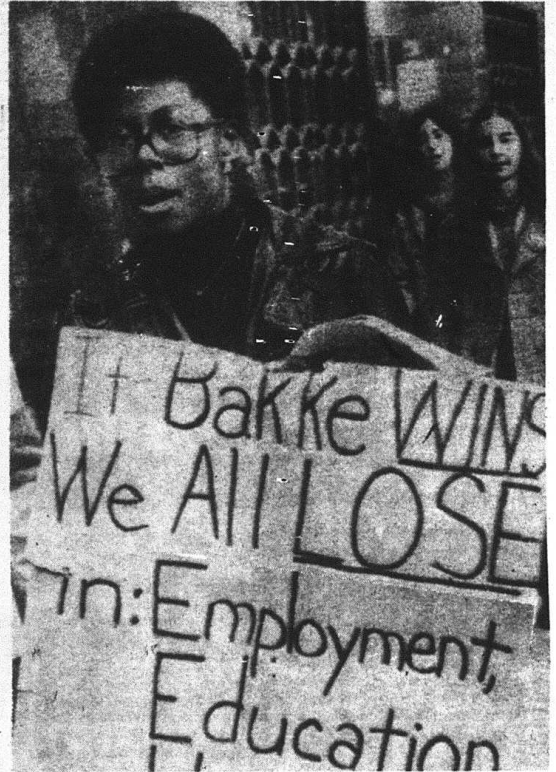
Three years ago only 31 of the 20,000 apprentices in California were women. Over the last few years, as the result of quotas, the figure has risen to over 500.

But still, less than 2% of the apprentices are women.

The Bakke case, if upheld by the Supreme Court, would end this and other programs. In the past—as today—women and minorities have borne the brunt of discrimination in this society.

It is clear that to overcome it we must fight it together. Uniting to build a movement to defeat the Bakke decision is the first step. □

[The information in this article was gathered by a group of women in the Bay Area.]



Affirmative action programs are at stake in Bakke decision.

LEGAL CONNECTION

Discrimination by sex and race have been legally connected by the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Minorities and women made gains together under this law.

But both groups will lose if these victories can be eroded by the Bakke case. Already settlements for sex discrimination charges have been stalemated as employers wait for the Supreme Court to blast the concept of quotas.

Let's take a look at the discrimination that women face and what the Bakke decision means for women.

• Myth: Women don't have to work to support themselves. They only work for "pin money."

• Fact: Two-thirds of the women who work are either supporting themselves, or their families would be below the \$7000 poverty line if they did not work. One out of ten working women is the head of the family; for minorities the figure is one out of five.

But why do women have to prove their need for a job?

Neither men nor women are hired on the basis of their needs (or paid on that basis either!). Only in a society where full employment is impossible, are some people forced to justify their need for a job.

• Myth: Women are taking men's jobs.

• Fact: If all married women stayed at home and unemployed men replaced them, there would be 17,000,000 job vacancies. There is an economic need for women in the labor force.

TOO MUCH EQUALITY?

• Myth: Affirmative action programs give women "too much equality."

• Fact: A woman makes 59c for every dollar that a man brings home. A woman needs four years of college to equal the earnings of a man with an eighth grade education.

• Myth: Affirmative action programs have already made up for past discrimination. It's easier to get a job today if you're a woman.

• Fact: Women hold the worst and lowest paying jobs. 98.5% of all "household workers" are women. 98.8% of all construction workers are men. Construction workers make four times as much as maids.

97% of all secretaries are women. 98% of all managers are men. 98% of all nurses are women;

by Dan Posen

"WE CONCUR in the district court's opinion that however laudable the objective of training minority workers, Title VII (of the 1964 Civil Rights Act) clearly proscribes (prohibits) discrimination against majority (white male) workers..."

"(We realize) the delayed opportunities for advancement this will occasion minority workers, but (we are) equally aware of our duty, in enforcing Title VII, to respect the opportunities to white workers as well."

In these measured, even-handed and democratic-sounding phrases, the Fifth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals last November 17 wiped out an affirmative action program to train Black workers for craft jobs at Kaiser Aluminum and Chemical Corporation.

The issues in the case closely parallel those of the Bakke case, where a white student claimed he was discriminated against by the

University of California at Davis Medical School.

But the Kaiser case shows that the issues involved are not narrowly limited to admission to professional schools.

They affect the future of Black workers throughout basic industry, manufacturing, and service jobs throughout the country.

The Kaiser case is currently on appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court.

The suit against Kaiser is just one of many "Bakke cases" where affirmative action programs, set up to offset generations of discrimination against Black workers, may be outlawed as so-called "reverse discrimination against whites."

BLACK RIGHTS ON TRIAL

The Kaiser suit was brought by a white Kaiser worker named Weber, claiming that "by preferring Black employees with less seniority for admission to on-the-job training, Kaiser and the United Steel

Kaiser suit - steel industry's "Bakke"

Can Title VII Keep Blacks at the Bottom?

Workers of America (USW) were guilty of unlawful discrimination in violation of Title VII."

On paper, the defendants in this case are Kaiser Corp. and the USW, who set up the program in a collective bargaining contract signed in February 1974.

But the real defendants are millions of Black and other minority workers who have fought to win the right to decent jobs and training.

In the Bakke case, the courts have ruled that—despite the fact of gross under-representation of Black and minority students in medical school—the special admissions program was unconstitutional because the University of California did not admit it had specifically been responsible for discrimination in the past:

Similarly at Kaiser, the Appeals Court ruling against the training program for Blacks states: "The district court found... that Kaiser has not been guilty of any discriminatory hiring or promotion

at its Gramercy (Louisiana) plant," the plant where Weber claimed he was discriminated against.

NO DISCRIMINATION?

In fact, Black and minority employees at the Gramercy plant are 14.8% of the work force, but hold only 2.5% of craft jobs.

This is not considered evidence of past discrimination by Kaiser! It is becoming clearer all the time just how high the stakes in the Bakke case are.

Hundreds of Black people were killed, thousands beaten, tens of thousands jailed to win civil rights laws in the 1960's.

Today, under the phony issue of "reverse discrimination," the language of laws written to end discrimination are being used by one court after another to keep Black people at the bottom of the American economic system.

Unless this trend is turned around, the current racist offensive against Black rights will be stepped up for years to come. □

"This thing was cleared the way to the White Ho

WHILE LIBERAL and conservative politicians alike urge the government to intervene in the miners' strike, the fact is that the Carter Administration has been involved in the strike up to its eyebrows.

Threats of a Taft-Hartley injunction or a government take-over of the miners are only part of it.

From the beginning, the government has intervened through the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service.

The FMCS is supposedly a neutral organization whose sole purpose is to promote peaceful settlements of labor disputes. In fact, it is a highly political agency.

The tentative settlement between the UMW and the Pittsburgh & Midway (P&M) Coal Mining Company illustrates this point.

Pittsburgh & Midway, a subsidiary of the Gulf Oil Corporation, is not part of the national Bituminous Coal Operators Association. Usually P&M, as well as a number of other independent coal companies, simply signs whatever contract the BCOA agrees to.



the first tentative settlement was rejected] by federal mediators and sidesteps UMW President Arnold Miller, whose credibility with bargaining council members disintegrated after he presented them with the first BCOA agreements, union sources said."

The mediators reportedly approached UMW general counsel Harrison Combs with the idea of using a Pittsburgh & Midway settlement as a model.

Combs rejected the idea, but the federal mediators went over this head to the local union officials on the P&M bargaining team.

The Gazette quotes one source as saying, "This thing was cleared all the way to the White House."

What this whole intervention amounts to, in the words of one miner, is that FMCS head Wayne "Horowitz is practically running the union's negotiating team."

HARD LINERS

Two things, however, are upsetting the government's strategy.

First, many of the large coal operators have one over-riding goal in this strike—to mop up the miners.

These operators do not care if that means shutting down the rest of the country. They want to hold out as long as it takes.

They are particularly concerned about winning contract provisions that would allow them to fire and/or fine miners who engage in wildcat strikes. That would allow them to provoke wildcats at will, and then bleed the miners with \$20 a day fines.

These operators feel that they've lost control over much of what goes on in their mines, and this is their plan to regain that control. Typical of these operators was one who denounced the P&M settlement as "total capitulation" to the miners.

"We would never sign an

agreement like that," he said.

Other coal operators feel the same way about restoring discipline to their workforce, but for a variety of reasons are willing to settle on more moderate terms.

Some may be feeling the financial pressure of the strike; some may not want to be responsible for the rest of the country falling apart.

As of February 23, the hardliners were still in control of the BCOA, rejecting a union offer to settle on the P&M terms.

A SECRET DEAL

Even if the coal operators were eventually to agree to the P&M terms, however, there is no guarantee that rank and file miners would ratify it.

A hundred or so miners from Kentucky and Tennessee were in Washington February 22, demanding that the union reject the P&M agreement.

It's hard to judge how most miners feel about it, however, since both sides have been keeping much of the contract secret.

When asked for details, a spokesman at Pittsburgh & Midway's Denver office would only say, "We've under an agreement with the union not to discuss the terms of the settlement until it's ratified."

What this means is a return to secret negotiations. The idea is to keep the rank and file ignorant as long as possible so that opposition is slower in developing.

It was a groundswell of opposition from the lower levels of the union that forced one contract rejection earlier this month.



SECRET PLAN

This year, with the national negotiations stalled, union officials agreed to a tentative settlement covering P&M's 800 coal miners on February 20.

Here's the official version of how that happened. A Labor Department spokesman, quoted in the Wall Street Journal, said: "It should be emphasized that the P&M settlement isn't a government settlement. It is an independent settlement, and we are watching and waiting to digest its

implications."

That "watching and waiting" should be understood to mean "watching" as the director watches his play.

The federal mediators' script calls for the miners and coal operators to accept a contract based on the P&M agreement. That means a contract which, while not so regressive as the earlier proposal, is still a step backwards from the UMW's 1974 contract.

According to the *Charleston Gazette*, "The plan was secretly put into motion 10 days ago [after

Auto Workers' Local

DETROIT—This has been a week of solidarity by auto workers with the miners' strike.

Last Thursday, United Auto Workers Local 22 president Frank Rannels announced that his local would collect food, clothing, and money for the strikers and their families.

Rannels pointed out: "This people to people type

participation will show the coal companies, the industrialists, and the politicians and yes, the world that the fundamental flame of solidarity still burns in the hearts of working men and women."

This week other locals have been pitching in. In Ohio auto workers at Locals 1250 and 1005 dug deep into their pockets and collected a total of nearly \$10,000 at plant gate collections.

In Detroit, Local 235 took up

'Why We Support The Miners'



"I think we ought to be behind the miners 100%. They can turn all my lights off.

"I'm very angry at [Indiana] Governor Bowen for escorting scab coal out here. I don't think the government should interfere. Bowen wants to do to the miners what he did to our strike—give police protection to the scabs.

"People complain about the electricity being shut off—they don't realize what it takes to get that electricity.

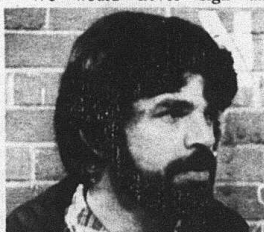
"While we were out on strike, we got a call from Harlan County miners offering to help us on our picket line. It meant a great deal to us.

"I support any cause for the rights of working people. They are our brothers.

"Health benefits, the right to picket—whatever the miners ask for, they deserve it.

"We've got to support each other. After all, if we don't help each other, who will?"

Georgia Ellis
United Auto Workers Local
1663
Elwood, Indiana



"The miners' strike is something we can associate with. They've got a situation where you can't go through a grievance procedure to see whether a piece of machinery gets fixed. We can understand what they're saying about safety.

"We're supporting them with the request not to use Taft-Hartley, that the unions are pushing down here.

"The tactics used by the BCOA are the same as the companies we're dealing with around here—Mesta Machine, Pullman Standard.

"Miller thought he could sell the damn thing for \$2.35. Our companies tried the same thing. They took out full-page ads just before our meeting, had the company president go on TV saying they'd give us a \$300 bonus. It wasn't a bonus, it was a bribe."

Bill Ehman (on strike seven months)
Vice-President, United Steel Workers Local 1537
Latrobe, Pennsylvania



"I think the biggest reason to support the miners is because it's the most basic strike, over the right to strike, that's gone on in a long time.

"U.S. Steel, which I work for, I think is the fifth largest coal company. And it's one of the leaders in trying to force the union into this no-strike deal.

"In steel, the ENA no-strike pledge was their idea, too. When we went on strike they tried the courts and everything else to try to stop us. I guess you could say they put up with labor unions, but they don't want them to have the right to strike.

"Our local sent the miners \$1000. With Carter and everyone else ready to cut their throats, it's important for everyone to support them."

Joe Samargia
President, United Steel Workers Local 1938
Virginia, Minnesota



"I applaud the miners on their stand against the use of injunctions during their struggles between contracts. They know the right to strike on health and safety issues should be a constitutional right.

"I just hope they all know that the Congress is about to pass a law against them which says the NLRB can issue injunctions against strikers if the international union doesn't approve of the strike. I'm sure we all know UMW of A President Miller wouldn't approve of any local strike."

Jim Barczyk
Chairman, Trenton Seven Defense Committee
United Auto Workers Local 372
Trenton, Michigan

all ouse"

In line with the secret-deal strategy, somebody is selectively leaking some of the more favorable terms of the P&M contract to the press.

The contract reportedly does not include the \$20 a day fines for striking, or the provision allowing the firing of miners who refuse to cross picket lines. It would allow operators to fire miners who organize wildcat strikes.

UNKNOWN CLAUSES

The P&M contract also drops provisions for incentive pay based on productivity and the proposed 30-day probationary period for new miners.

It is not known whether the contract cuts the training period from 90 to 45 days, as was earlier proposed. All of these features were regarded as serious safety hazards.

On the critical question of health benefits, the P&M agreement only says it will adopt whatever the BCOA agrees to.

One miner told Workers' Power that the P&M agreement "took out the most terrible and left the terrible" terms of the earlier proposal.

That probably means there is still a long way to go before the nationwide contract is settled. □



Rank and file miners showing how to win the strike. Here, they're trying to block a coal delivery to an Illinois power plant.

Rank & file fuels union power!

IF THE MINERS win this strike there will be one—and only one—reason why.

That reason is thousands and thousands of ordinary miners who are fighting every day to shut down scab mines and stop coal shipments.

All the maneuverings and intrigues among the United Mine Workers' negotiating team would mean nothing without this rank and

file action.

"They sit in the conference room up there in Washington and make these decisions," said a Kentucky miner. "They don't see the miners here begging for breath for one more day. They don't seem concerned about it."

"It bothers me that we have to work under conditions that take our breath, take our lives, in 20 years' time."

That's why you see pictures on TV of non-union coal being dumped by the side of the road, of union miners bringing non-union operations to a halt. And, yes, doing it by force or threat of force.

COURT ORDERS

In some areas the miners would be tying their own hands and marching off to the gallows if they obeyed the law.

In Harlan County, Kentucky, a circuit judge has issued an order prohibiting the Brookside local and the Lynch local, or anyone acting in concert with them, from picketing anywhere in the United States.

But, says Mickie Messer, former president of the Brookside local, "we'll be back out again as soon as the weather breaks."

The miners are not only fighting for a decent contract, they are also acting to clean up their union. Virtually unanimously, they want UMW President Arnold Miller out.

At rallies throughout the coal fields, miners by the thousands have signed petitions demanding Miller's recall.

Bill Bryant, a West Virginian who is coordinating the recall effort, said he has more than enough signatures to initiate an official recall.

"Right now our first priority is

getting a good contract," Bryant said, adding that they'll deal with Miller afterwards.

LEADERS IN THE FIELDS

Support for Miller has collapsed even among pensioners, formerly some of his more loyal supporters. A meeting in Bluefield, W. Va., called Feb. 19 to discuss retiree affairs, ended with most of the 500 UMW members present demanding Miller's resignation.

Miller "is making a mockery of the UMW," says Ohio miner Don Nunley. "In 25 years, I've never seen a contract worse than this."

Nunley was referring to a tentative contract Miller accepted two weeks ago, which received so much rank and file opposition it couldn't get past the rest of the union leadership.

But the miners' troubles with Miller illustrate one strength their union has. They are not dependent on One Great Leader.

They have hundreds of local leaders throughout the coal fields who are prepared to pick up the pieces, win this strike and rebuild the union.

Other unions would be all the stronger if they had a rank and file like the United Mine Workers. □

s Raise Food, Funds for Miners

collections Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. The Local 15 women's committee organized a plant gate collection on Friday.

PRACTICAL

The Local 51 Community Services Committee is organizing a collection next week.

The Committee's Recording Secretary, Enid Eckstein, pointed out that solidarity was a practical matter.

"Sure we want to help out fellow unionists. But there is something else, too.

"If they can force concessions out of the miners' union this year, we'll be up against the wall when our contract comes up in '79."

These acts of labor solidarity were not inspired by the Union's top leadership.

On Tuesday, UAW President Doug Fraser called for the seizure of the mines if that were necessary

to end the strike.

Auto workers seem less worried about the auto industry shutting down and, heaven forbid, the companies losing money, than Fraser is. They are certainly more concerned about the miners winning.

Makes you wonder why they named the union headquarters "Solidarity House."



"I support the miners for one reason—they're workers."

"If there's a shortage of coal, I wouldn't blame the mine workers at all. The power companies have been cheating us for years. Most of the coal companies are owned by oil companies anyway."

"The coal companies should agree to public negotiations if they're got nothing to hide. Sit them down on the 50-yard line in Three-Rivers Stadium and let everyone come and watch."

Grady Davis
Executive Board Member,
Chicago O'Hare American
Postal Workers Union
Chicago, Illinois



"I think that it's important for all working people in this country that the coal miners are maintain their militant and well-organized strike."

"They seem to be the only workers in the country to have such a militant attitude toward the companies and their own interests. When you hear them on TV, they're talking about how they run the coal mines and not the operators."

"I'm particularly concerned because my company, U.S. Steel, has large holdings in the coal mines, and they use this strike to try and divide us from the miners by saying that it costs us jobs."

"But what's lost steelworkers jobs has been the weak attitude of the union toward the companies and its agreement to the no-strike pledge and the pro-company imports campaign."

Dorreen Labby
United Steel Workers Local
1014
Gary, Indiana



"The miners are striking to keep the right to strike over what they need. My union gave up this right years ago. Now we wish we had it back. And the miners prove that unions do have real power, if they stick together and stick it out."

"So here's two good reasons to want them to win: the right to strike, and the will to strike. The UMW is the last union in American to preserve what unions are all about. So long as they hold on to their weapon, the chance is still there for us to get ours back."

"I hope Chrysler is shut down. We'll get layoff benefits. Some of this money should go to the miners, to help them hold out. And some of the us UAW people should go down to shut off the rest of the mines and keep Carter's troops out."

Dave McCullough
Vice-President, United Auto
Workers Local 869
Warren, Michigan



"The strike is the only effective weapon we have to deal with corporate power. The Abel leadership sold out ours."

"The rank and file miners are right on. The American labor movement cannot afford to lose this strike. For steel workers, solidarity with the miners has never been more important."

"The industrialists have drawn the battle lines. They mean to destroy the UMW, and the United Steel Workers are next."

Mike Olszanski
United Steel Workers Local
1010
East Chicago, Indiana



"Sympathy for the miners is high among the rank and file of the Teamsters Union. Most people in the ranks admire the miners for their guts."

"Most of us are ready to use candles until the miners win their strike, if necessary."

"We think the government ought to keep its nose out of it or start putting some pressure on the mine operators. These are the greedy culprits who ought to suffer some of the conditions they expect the miners to put up with."

"We say strike until you win, our hearts are with you."

Pete Camarata
Teamsters Local 299
Detroit, Michigan

Speaking Out

What We Think

IF THE MINERS CAN DO IT, WHY NOT...?

The entire United States Government, forced between a rock and a hard place—by the nation's coal miners.

Would you have thought it possible that during a time of "national crisis," Jimmy Carter, the Commander in Chief of the most powerful armed forces in the world, is afraid to use his power?

"Of course there's the Taft-Hartley injunction," Carter's officials moan, "but the damn miners wouldn't obey it. We could seize the mines—but suppose they refused to go back to work? We've got to get a negotiated settlement!"

Even major newspapers like the New York Times are arguing that some of the miners' demands are reasonable. Quite a change from the normal barrage of propaganda in the media about how strikers are greedy and a threat to the public interest.

Not that the media actually supports the miners' struggle. Not that the government won't move to crush the strike as soon as it can get agreement on how best to do so. The point is that the miners, through their determination, have forced the government and the media to back down and to equivocate.

The immense power of working people lies in their ability to organize on the job, to use their economic power to bring this system to halt.

The coal miners have done just this. And they have done it in opposition to some of the most powerful capitalists in the world—the Mellons and the Rockefellers—as well as the government and the union officialdom.

The power of the miners has shown us that they can get

what they want—a decent and safe contract—if only they can keep the mines shut down long enough.

Because they are up against big odds, with little national organization of their own and a sell-out union leadership, the miners will not win a complete victory this time around.

Yet they have been able to show that all of industry and the entire country will be brought to its knees—if they don't mine coal. They have shown this country something of what

workers' power can mean.

Often times, our readers tell us that the ideas of Workers' Power and socialism are great—and impossible. "The government, the big capitalists, the union leaders are too strong," they say. "Working people can't stick together. We could never get what you want."

If the coal miners' strike tells us anything—it tells us that working people can change things.

And the miners aren't the only ones...or even the potentially most powerful. A nationwide trucking strike could bring the employers to their knees much faster than the miners have been able to. The steel workers, auto workers, longshoremen, or postal workers have similar power.

What is required is the consciousness, unity and will to use the power. And so far the miners have demonstrated these qualities.

Imagine this power used to change society—to win political demands.

Again the miners have pioneered. They won a black-lung bill, and struck for federal flood relief. Why couldn't workers use their power to force Congress to pass a real labor reform bill, a higher minimum wage, a real national health care plan?

These things happen occasionally in other countries. The miners have left no doubt that it can be done here too.

There are quite a few Teamsters, auto and steel workers who won't soon forget what the miners have been able to do. □



As I See It

"Can these Yankees be trusted with the Mississippi River?"

by Woody Grimshaw

You think we've got problems in this country—what with the weather, prospects of another recession, and a hike in the price of bottled beer.

On my recent travels in France, I found that country to be deeply embroiled in a political debate which threatens the very existence of the union.

While I was in Paris, the drama was playing itself out in the French National Assembly. Seems that legislators are squabbling over the drafting of a "Mississippi River Treaty."

Liberal representatives, led by the youthful Rep. DeCadeau, are calling for the eventual return of the Mississippi River to the Americans—with some stipulations.

The conservatives, spear-headed by cigar-smoking Rep. Chauvin, are arguing for retaining complete control over the river. As the debate picked up steam, I took these notes.

"Every red-blooded patriotic Frenchman should oppose this river give-away plan," boomed Rep. Chauvin from the floor of the Assembly.

"We heisted it fair and square. Back in 1803, we signed an agreement with three drunken Italians who happened to be weaving along Canal Street in New Orleans, in the then newly-created sovereign territory of Louisiana. It granted us perpetual control of the river.

"It's ours, and I say no bunch of ignorant, uncouth, hamburger-eating Yankees is going to take it away from us!"

This drew hearty applause from the gathered lawmakers. **Then the great hall hushed as DeCadeau rose and constructed his reply.**

"We must keep in mind that these Americans have not had the benefit of generations of civilized culture, unlike ourselves. If we fail to give them some concessions, they might get it into their heads to just up and take the river away.

"What we're proposing would not go into effect until the year 2000, and even then we would be guaranteed the right to intervene militarily should anyone, internally or externally, challenge the neutrality of the river. And, I might add, in the event of war, French pole barges could go to the head of the line."

The conservatives, undaunted, changed the focus of their attack, now heaping abuse on the president of the country, Big Daddy Jimmy "Peanut for Life" Carter.

"How can we be sure that this guy Carter isn't some kind of Communist sympathizer? I ask you, do you want to place the security of our great country into the hands of a tin-horned goober farmer?"

HOLD THE PICKLE

Amid choruses of "No! No!" DeCadeau replied. "One of the big reasons we proposed this treaty in the first place is the threat from American subversives, who, it should be noted, oppose this agreement.

"We've got to come to the aid of our business friends there, give them something to take to the people. If we don't ratify this, and soon, the radicals could get the upper hand."

About this time, hunger pangs began to dull my thirst for political education, so I packed my notebook and retreated homeward, pausing at a small cafe only long enough to wolf down a hamburger with extra lettuce, tomato, and mayonnaise. □

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. □

Letters

The Truth You'll Never See

"Can't accuse ME of confusing coal miners with human beings!"

To the Editor:

- Mineworkers Arrested for Vandalism
- Miller Fears Assassination
- Mineworkers Tie Up Traffic in Downtown Demonstration
- Mineworkers Refuse Contract
- Mineworkers, mineworkers, U.M.W., U.M.W.,...

And it goes on and on. The news media only reports on one side of the contract battle. They report on fighting within the union, the latest pay raise being refused, the lack of coal for the electric companies (of course, the miners' fault), and ultimately when the coal company and utilities raise their rates, it's because of—the miners.

Well, it takes two to fight. Why isn't the B.C.O.A. ever reported on? When they raise their prices, even with soaring profits, why aren't they investigated and reported on?

The management side, the rich side, does all its work behind

closed doors. Most people don't even know who the B.C.O.A. Board Chairman is.

They know who Arnold Miller is, what he looks like, how he talks, and where he comes from. Right there, that shows how biased the news media is.

But maybe, some day, the news media will report both sides of the issue. If they did, you might pick up your paper and read something like this:

Frederick J. Hawthorne III, Chairman of the B.C.O.A., seems to be on somewhat shaky ground with the rest of the Board.

At their last meeting Mr. Hawthorne suggested that the miners were actually real human beings. He stated that since the B.C.O.A.'s profits have soared to unexpected highs, they could conceivably grant the miners a few concessions.

Reginald P. Vandergriff, Vice-Chairman of the Board and sole owner of the huge Goldust Mine, denounced Hawthorne bitterly. Citing past cases where Hawthorne actually treated his own workers with respect,

Vandergriff said:

"There is no room for a misinformed chairman. How anyone could possibly mistake a miner for human being is absolutely beyond my imagination.

"I owe it to the stockholders, as well as to my ancestors—who came to this great country on the Mayflower—to demand Hawthorne's resignation!"

The rest of the Board was so shaken by these events that they neglected to count the day's profits from their other holdings. Immediately following the meeting, W.V. Swarthington,

past Chairman of the B.C.O.A., very politely pressured the news media not to report on the events.

A major shakeup is expected before the next round of negotiations.

Of course this is all fantasy. The people will never know what goes on behind the bosses' closed doors. In any strike only the unions are reported on. Management is always kept a faceless entity...like God.

**Ron Hively
Pittsburgh, PA.**



The real Chairman of the B.C.O.A. (Bituminous Coal Operators Association), Edward B. Leisenring, Jr.

Fascists In America - A Real Threat Now!

Dear Comrades:

In *Workers' Power* #240, Feb. 6, a statement in the otherwise excellent article "What Is Fascism?" bothered me. It reads:

"Today in this country the economic crisis is not so bad that fascism is likely to flourish and become a real threat in the near future."

I think the statement is misleading. It all depends on what you mean by "real threat."

Now we can certainly agree that the American right wing is certainly not on the verge of taking state power as they did in Germany.

But in the last several years there has been a sharp increase in extreme right wing activity in this country, as noted by the *Black press*.

Ebony magazine, in their February 1978 article on "Ten Best Cities for Blacks," reports:

judge mass culture. Either we see "art as a weapon of the class struggle" and talk only about politics—or we see anything that's in the slightest diverting or pleasant as a step in the right direction.

Irate Movie Lover falls into the second category, which is as useless in its own way as the first.

"Race relations in Indianapolis are troubled by the continuing activity of the Ku Klux Klan, the John Birch Society and the American Nazi Party."

In Los Angeles, "the city's Black population has limited political clout and is confounded with increasingly assertive Ku Klux Klansmen, John Birchers and American Nazis—a trend noted in many large cities today."

Other cities such as Boston, Louisville, New Orleans, Columbus Ohio, Houston, Pontiac Michigan and Chicago have been plagued by extreme right-wing inspired racial violence and terror.

In other cities the new-fascist movements have quietly established over 100 branches and headquarters and set about the business of entrenching themselves.

Eighteen months ago I was driven from my home on the

southwest side of Detroit by the local Klan. They threatened our landlord that they would burn down our house if she did not evict the "nigger lovers."

Terrified of what might happen, she evicted us.

It seems to me that it is the duty of socialists to be in the forefront of the anti-fascist struggle.

Black, white and brown working class unity can only be achieved if Blacks and Latinos see class conscious whites responding to racism; fascist attacks directed at minorities with the same vigor and militancy as if the KKK and Nazis were out to exterminate them and their family.

I think we must all realize that these fascists are a real threat and we must answer them blow for blow now!

**Yours in Struggle,
Frank Ranninghouse
Detroit Red Tide**

To try to deal with both, as a marxist critic would have to do, is to look seriously at a multi-billion dollar "head-fixing" industry that controls most art.

We should all "relax and enjoy." But we shouldn't go to sleep.

**Irate Movie Reviewer
Mark Harris**

POLITICS OF "FEVER"

Dear *Workers' Power*,

Irate Movie Lover (*Workers' Power*, February 20, p. 9) accuses me of demanding that contemporary films project the working class as we socialists wish they would be.

I never made such a claim. Read my review of "Saturday Night Fever" (February 6) again.

What I said was that (1) the film lies about and distorts how working people live, and (2) it projects an individualist and wholly unreal solution to the problems of capitalism.

That is, if you want a nice life, defect from your class. Otherwise your family, your friends and your co-workers will drag you down to their level.

This was symbolized by the gang-rape scene, which "*Irate Movie Lover*" failed to understand. The film shows a young woman being gang-raped because she hung out with working

class thugs—in other words, it's her own fault.

That's the point of the film: class hatred of your own class. "Fever" was one of the most openly political and reactionary films of the year.

But it was done so well that even socialists—myself included, wasn't that clear?—could enjoy it.

I didn't read these politics into the film. They were put there. The fact that "*Irate Movie Lover*," or I, like the film is irrelevant.

If we don't end up hating ourselves in the film, we certainly come out with a heavy suspicion about the rest of our class.

The socialist leader Gene Debs once said he had no interest in rising above his class, but in rising with his class. The film has these things turned around.

Socialists often tend to use one of two conflicting methods to

CHRYSLER HOLDS TRENTON FOR RANSOM

by Paul Broz

TRENTON, Michigan—February 20. Call it corporate blackmail, call it trying to make a decision with a noose around your neck—whatever you call it, it's just plain disgusting.

Chrysler Corporation threatened this small town of 25,000 people with picking up their engine plant and moving to Ohio, if they are not given huge tax breaks on \$200 million worth of plant expansion.

After listening to heated arguments from townspeople, Chrysler workers and company officials, the Trenton City Council decided today not to grant the tax break, but have left the door open to reconsider their decision.

Trenton's schools would have

suffered a large loss in revenue, as would the city.

Chrysler requested that they pay no taxes for 12-15 years on \$200 million in additions to its plant, which manufactures engines for the Plymouth Horizon and the Dodge Omni.

Chrysler's plant is presently assessed at only 25% of its real value.

LOCAL PRESIDENT

Robert Smith, president of the UAW Local 372 which represents workers in the plant, argued the company's side so strongly that one union member was prompted to observe, "It sure would be nice if he fought that hard for us."

Said Smith, "Trenton will be-

come a ghost town if Chrysler Corporation decides to build its new four-cylinder plant elsewhere."

The audience was read a telegram from Michigan Governor Milliken urging the Council to grant Chrysler's wish.

It read in part: "I urge you to consider the economic impact of your decision on the city of Trenton and the State of Michigan. The law has assisted the state in retaining 500 industries since it was passed..."

Many auto workers there were sympathetic to Chrysler's arguments, feeling that they had no choice, that the company had them over a barrel. Of 3800 workers at the Trenton Engine Plant, 401 live in Trenton.

My review tried to draw a balance between these two extremes. "*Irate*" liked the film a lot, and ignored its critical political content. To only talk about the politics of a movie would be simplistic and unfair; to talk only about its emotional qualities would be simple-minded.

Jim Barczyk lives in Trenton, works at the plant, and is chairman of the Trenton 7 defense Committee. He argued against the tax cut. "What we're talking about is corporate welfare—to the tune of \$44 million over the next 12 years, \$28 million of which will probably be taken away from our school system.

"By giving them a tax break, I'm taking a pay cut..."

"What is the Council going to say when the teachers want a pay raise—the starting teacher here only makes \$9100 a year?"

"We can't afford to pay our teachers now, and we're talking about taking away \$28 million over the next 12 years."

Chrysler spokesman Edward

Williams would not state flatly that the company will pull up stakes if not granted the tax break, saying only that "Chrysler is here in Trenton and we want to stay in Trenton."

No one knows whether Chrysler is serious about moving, but if the Council's decision is a final one, the company will soon be forced to show its hand.

One elderly woman walking to her car after the meeting was happy with the decision. "I'm trying to get by on \$2800 a year. I've got ten acres of land I can't pay the taxes on."

"They talk about giving Chrysler a tax break, but they won't give me one—they say I should donate the land to the city." □

Labor Notes

by Jim Woodward

The Wall Street crowd is getting jittery these days. The long coal strike has sent the stock market tumbling, with the Dow Jones industrial average sinking to 749.31, the lowest level in nearly three years. All of which shows that when the coal miners strike, the pillars of society suffer more than anyone else.



The coal operators are not doing so well financially, either. According to the New York Times, "the first quarter of 1978 will be the worst three months of losses that the coal industry has ever suffered." The large coal operators are able to hold out, however, because most of them are owned by much larger corporations—steel companies, oil companies, utilities, and a few conglomerates.

A county prosecutor has scheduled an inquest into the death of former Teamsters Local 299 Secretary-Treasurer Otto Wendel. Wendel was found in his car December 12, shot twice with his own gun. The sheriff ruled the death a suicide, but Wendel's wife and many Teamsters do not believe it. The shooting came only a few weeks after Wendel had withdrawn as a candidate for the presidency of Local 299.

Ed Sadlowski, defeated in last year's election for president of the United Steelworkers of America, is suing the Labor Department in an attempt to overturn that election. Sadlowski, who campaigned against the union's no-strike agreement, filed election protests with the union and later with the Labor Department. In November, the government agency ruled that there had been violations of the law, but claimed these violations did not affect the outcome of the election. Sadlowski's suit charges that in deciding against a re-run of the election, the Labor Department acted in an "arbitrary and capricious" fashion.

The B.F. Goodrich Company is trying to get the United Rubber Workers to agree to a no-strike deal when the current rubber contracts expire in April of next year. The plan is similar to the discredited no-strike deal in the steel industry. It would extend the Goodrich contract 90 days and provide for binding arbitration on national contract issues. Each worker would be given a \$200 bonus for agreeing to give up the right to strike, and would be allowed to join the company's stock-purchase plan. The union is reported to be considering the idea.

California employers are upset over a bill in the state legislature which would ban mandatory overtime at companies employing more than 50 persons. While the bill has passed the Assembly, it is expected to run into trouble in the Senate. California Governor Jerry Brown, who originally supported the bill, now says he is "neutral." Much of the support for the bill comes from the Communications Workers, who have continually had to fight Pacific Telephone over the issue.

Postmaster General Benjamin Bailar is quitting to become executive vice president of U.S. Gypsum Company. Bailar, who was hated by postal employees because of his squeeze on their wages and working conditions, was apparently dissatisfied with the \$66,000 he made at the post office. If he does the same kind of job as he did in the post office, there may be a major bankruptcy in the gypsum industry.

WOMEN SAY: END STERILIZATION ABUSE

Gov't holds hearings

by Barbara Zeluck

NEW YORK CITY—Poor women, minority women, sisters in the women's movement have demanded an end to sterilization abuse.

Because of the outcry, the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare is considering guidelines to protect women against sterilization abuse that include a 30-day waiting period between the time of consent and the operation.

Hearings on the proposed guidelines were held in New York City on February 9. More than 50 individuals from women's, community, health care, and Black organizations testified.

Ann Teicher, speaking for the Committee for Abortion Rights and Against Sterilization Abuse (CARASA), stressed the necessity for such guidelines—particularly at this time when the increasing number of sterilizations are a result of the cutoff of federal funds for abortion.

Representatives of women's organizations testified in favor of guidelines that no women under 21 be sterilized.

INFORMED CONSENT

Others stressed the need for "informed consent." This means that a counsellor who speaks the patient's language must explain that safe and effective methods of contraception exist; that sterilization is permanent and irreversible; that sterilization, like other serious abdominal surgery, involves definite risks; and that it is illegal to cut off welfare or Medicaid funds from women who do not choose sterilization.

Many women have been sterilized without this understanding. They have been threatened or tricked into signing consent forms printed in a language they don't understand—often when under extreme stress, in pain, or medicated during an abortion or childbirth.

Organizations like the Association for Voluntary Sterilization, and Planned Parenthood, are planning a network of outpatient sterilization clinics—advertising them as providing "bandaid surgery."

But Lynora Williams, a Black woman testifying for the Committee to End Sterilization Abuse (CESA), angrily scoffed at claims that sterilization is "problem free." She cited a death rate of 25 per 100,000, as well as frequent psychological and other complications resulting from sterilization.

GENOCIDE

Pauline Haynes, speaking for the International Indian Treaty Council, cited the danger of genocide as the reason for advocating extending the waiting period from 30 days to six months.

To those who argue that a 30-day waiting period may be an "inconvenience," Diana Fuge of New York City National Organization for Women responded, "What's the rush?" She pointed out that even these guidelines are inadequate. Her own doctor had indicated how easily the waiting period could be ignored ("You just pre-date the form"). Fuge pleaded for adequate funding to monitor adherence to the HEW regulations by doctors and hospitals.

- 20% of all married Black women are sterilized.
- In New York City, Latin women are six times more likely to be sterilized than white women, and three times more likely than Black women.
- 24% of all American Indian women have been sterilized.
- One-third of the women of child-bearing age in Puerto Rico (two-thirds under the age of 30) have been sterilized.
- Doctors recommend sterilization far more often for patients in clinics than for private patients.

Ann Teicher, the CARASA spokeswoman, also pointed to the absence of an "Inflation Impact Statement" as an indication that HEW was making no plans to monitor compliance with the regulations.

Without funding to enforce them the proposed regulations would be a joke.

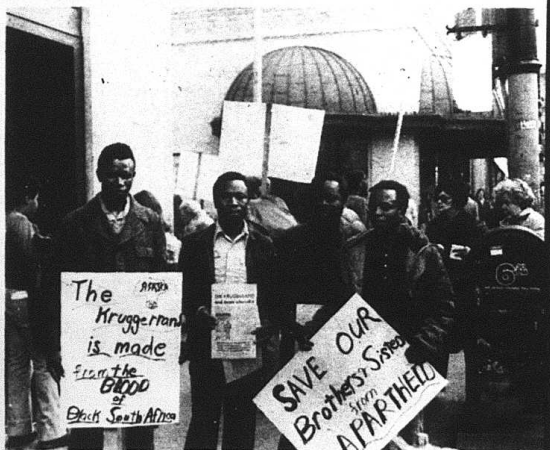
Dr. Raymond Rakow of Metropolitan Hospital said that his experience with other doctors had taught him that it would be difficult to make doctors and hospitals abide by guidelines which defend patients unless doctors were held

legally liable for monetary damages.

Dr. Ernest Drucker of Montefiore Hospital's Department of Social Medicine ridiculed the claim by many doctors that any controls upon sterilization violate the "doctor-patient relationship." He pointed out that clinic patients see a different doctor every time they come, and that often the doctor and patient don't speak the same language.

"It's the rich who want the poor and minorities sterilized," said Dr. Drucker, "and that's clearly sterilization abuse."

Pittsburgh coalition fights South Africa coin sales



PITTSBURGH—Every week members of the Free South Africa Coalition picket the Coin Exchange here. The Coin Exchange and other coin stores in the area have been selling the gold Kruggerand, a coin minted in South Africa.

The owner of the Coin Exchange had been warned that pickets would begin in December if he did not stop selling the Kruggerand. He closed the shop slightly before the scheduled time of the picket. Store clerks are forbidden to speak to persons involved in the picket, and the owner brings his guard dogs as a silent threat. Police have been called in to stop demonstrators from using megaphones.

Local television and newspapers covered the demonstration with a speaker and film coverage that was aired on two major stations.

Three miners on each of five daily shifts die mining South African gold. By the blood of Black South Africans, Prime Minister John Vorster and the government of apartheid rule make a huge profit.

Demonstrations will continue every Saturday until Kruggerand sales in all coin and department stores in Pittsburgh stop. The Free South Africa Coalition requires shops to sign a document stating that they will stop the sale and distribution of the Kruggerand and any other methods used to profit from the South African apartheid regime.

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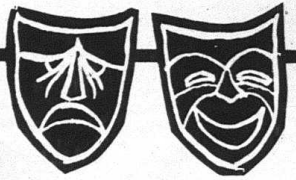
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Union

battling the line,
the bosses, and the mob

BLUE COLLAR



by Enid Eckstein, UAW Local 51

"I can't be bothered with your crappy little problems."

That's what my local president told one brother at last Sunday's membership meeting. Blue Collar!

Blue Collar, a new movie starring Richard Pryor, is filled with scenes like this that every auto worker will recognize.

Blue Collar. Directed by Paul Schrader. Starring Richard Pryor, Harvey Keitel, Yaphet Kotto.

Imagine Hollywood making a movie about three auto workers, the plant, and their family lives. A film that successfully deals with racism, company-union collaboration and internal union corruption. Sound impossible? Blue Collar is such a film.

Blue Collar is the story of two Black auto workers, Zeke (Pryor) and Smokey (Yaphet Kotto) and their friend Jerry, a Pole from Hamtramck, Michigan (Harvey Keitel). The three struggle to maintain their dignity and integrity in the face of the dehumanizing assembly line.

Zeke, an assembler, sets the pace for the three and their antics. He knows that humor is one of the keys to survival in the plant. He is constantly egging the foreman on. At one point Zeke even wins a minor victory against him.

One of the best and most humorous scenes in the film occurs when Zeke confronts the local officials with their inability to solve the everyday problems in the shop.

Zeke has a broken locker that can only be opened by a combination of ball point pens and correct finger action. For months he has tried to get it fixed but all he has gotten is hundreds of broken pens and a bruised finger.

It's a very minor problem to a union official—but a very real



While ripping off the local's petty cash fund, Zeke, Smokey and Jerry uncover union corruption.

problem to someone on the line. It's the kind of thing that can make the difference between surviving and not surviving in the plant.

After work the three buddies crowd into the local bar where their friendship is cemented over bottles of Stroh's beer.

Jerry is a typical white auto worker whose main concern is keeping his family in their middle class life style. After humping the line all day he pumps gas at night.

What makes him unusual is his close friendship with two Blacks and the warmth and respect felt among them.

Smokey, an ex-con, has seen it all. Beneath his quiet and cool exterior is an individual who understands what society is all about.

At one point he explains to his friends how things work by saying, "Everything they do, the way they pit the lifers against the new boys, the young against the old, the Blacks against the whites, is meant to keep us in our place."

DREAMS

All three have the dreams and fantasies of auto workers.

They want out of the plant and spend their waking hours thinking of ways out.

Often they escape with a night at Smokey's where there is plenty of coke, booze, and women.

But escape is only temporary and the next morning each realizes that he is trapped. Zeke by his time payments plus a recent tax bill. Jerry, by all his bills and his daughter's need for braces. Smokey by his high-flying living that gets him into trouble with a loan shark.

Driven by the pressure to make ends meet, their appetites whetted by the American dream, they plan a robbery of the union safe.

As the days pass their scheme becomes firm and three nervous burglars dressed in dime store disguises pull off the job only to find themselves with \$600 and a notebook recording illegal loans made

with union funds.

A movie that begins as a comedy quickly turns to serious drama that pits friend against friend.

The "Oreo Gang"—as they become known—find they are up against an enemy so big and powerful that they are powerless.

What follows is the fight to survive against this enemy. It is a fight against goons, sell-outs and murder.

A GEM

Blue Collar is a film that accurately presents many aspects of the lives of those who build the shiny new cars in Motown.

The film has some flaws in its presentation of the workings of the UAW. The outright corruption and inner workings of the union are along Teamster lines and not those of the UAW.

But the presentation of the white liberal union president who explains to Zeke how much he has done for Blacks since 1937 is absolutely brilliant and on key. It's a line that's heard daily in some form in every UAW local.

All in all Blue Collar is a gem of a film. It presents normal working people, Black and white, trying to get by in a world where the cards are stacked against them.

It shows a picture of auto workers—not as robots and down-and-out men and women—but as human beings with pride and dignity, trying to better themselves and fight for a better world for their families.

And isn't that what life is really about? □

Gay Rights Battle Ahead

PORTLAND, Oregon — Another key referendum battle over gay rights is shaping up, this time in nearby Eugene. After a gay rights bill passed on November 30, anti-gays gathered the necessary signatures in just ten days to put the issue on the May 23 ballot. They hope the get the bill repealed by the electorate.

The bill makes it illegal to discriminate against people in jobs and housing because of their sexual preference.

Nearly all progressive elements in the gay community have united in the Eugene Committee for Human Rights, and vow to defend the bill—tooth and nail. Hundreds attended the committee's first meeting.

An open, democratic structure with a gay leadership was agreed upon—unlike Dade County, Florida, where straight people were given leadership positions. Members of the committee report that it includes everyone from liberals to socialists to lesbians who were formerly separatist.

Eugene gays must take on the lies and slander that the right is spreading. Anti-gays claim that the basic right to a job and to housing are some kind of "special privilege" that should not be extended to gays. They say that gays are a threat to children and family.

Falsehoods like these cover up the attacks that the right wing is making on the rights and living conditions of every poor and working class family.

The right is organizing. Many of those who have campaigned against feminist and other progressive causes are now on the warpath against the gay rights bill. In May, the biggest leader of the national anti-gay backlash, Anita Bryant, will come to Oregon to spread her message of bigotry.

SOLIDARITY

A Portland group, Radical Activists for Sexual Minorities (RASM) has been organizing solidarity with the Eugene struggle.

A benefit was held on February 4, featuring a Eugene gay political theatre group in "Gay Skits." After the play, a forum was held with speakers from Eugene, RASM, and liberal gay groups.

The speaker from Eugene said the campaign will emphasize educating the public on homosexuality and how it works.

RASM floated the idea of a Portland coalition to support Eugene, and a meeting on February 8 led to the formation of the Portland Coalition for Gay Rights.

A forum to educate the community about the Eugene situation and bring in speakers from other movements will be held in mid-March. Other suggestions for the coalition include fundraising, sending volunteers to aid Eugene directly and public demonstrations.

Portland's own weak gay rights bill will be the next likely target if the Eugene bill is defeated.

A recall campaign against Portland's mayor nearly succeeded last summer when he proclaimed June 26 Gay Pride Day.

National attention will be focussed on Eugene, and other gay rights statutes in Wichita, Kansas, and St. Paul, Minnesota that come up for votes this spring. □

A typical child will witness the destruction of 13,000 human beings on TV by the time he or she is 15 years old. □

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Workers' Power

Chicago: Goons Attack Teamsters At Union Hall . . . while Local 705 officers direct assault

by Mike Kelly

CHICAGO — Teamster union officials had three men beaten up by 30 goons here on February 17. Freeman Wilson was hurt the worst—several goons held him down while others beat his legs with a metal chair. Jim Carpenter and John Jackson were also beaten.

The three men, along with several other UPS employees including Benny Jackson, Roosevelt Dean and Laura Hodge, were distributing copies of a motion before the Local 705 membership meeting.

The motion was to allow UPS dock workers from "Jeff" to attend a hearing on a grievance concerning seniority if they wished to. The grievance was signed by 180 workers at the UPS Jefferson Street hub.

When the fight broke out, undercover police from Chicago's Labor Detail who were in the hall came to the aid—not of the victims—but of the attackers.

POLICE

When some union members went outside to call for the uniformed police stationed outside in squad cars, the officers stood idly by and watched the rank and filers get beaten.

Union officials and their supporters isolated some of the best known UPS militants and physically held them aside so they could not aid their friends.

The goons were apparently acting under the direction of Pete Janopolous, an official of Local 705—and with the tacit approval of its top officer Louis Peick, Secretary-Treasurer.

Following the beating, a police officer from the Labor Detail called the meeting to order!

While this might seem like an odd way to begin a union meeting—it's not surprising in Chicago where Peick sits on the Police Board and recently hired the Chicago Police Department's third highest official to work for Local 705.

From the podium, Peick threatened to shoot and kill dissidents.

The UPS militants were not intimidated. Once the meeting began, Benny Jackson presented the case of the UPS workers to the membership. No motion, however, was allowed to come to the floor.

When the meeting adjourned, the victims of the attack went to file charges against their attackers. But Jackson and Wilson were arrested

when the goons filed cross-charges! Peick himself personally went to the Racine-Monroe Police Station to bail his goons out.

This meeting is only the most recent in a long series of attacks by the company and the 705 officials on the rank and file movement of Chicago's UPS employees.

When Benny Jackson ran for union office in December, 1975, he was threatened at gun point and told to get out of the race.

Roosevelt Dean was nearly run over just before the January membership meeting by Business Agent Frank Snow.

Laura Hodge was harassed, threatened, and intimidated by a group of men at her workplace, the UPS facility in Northbrook.

And John Jackson was fired by UPS recently when he urinated on the dock after being refused permission to go to the rest room.

Several of those who have been attacked are members of various rank and file organizations—UPS Teamsters for Justice (UTJ), a local organization; Teamsters for a Democratic Union (TDU); and the Professional Drivers Council (PROD), both national Teamster rank and file groups.

The UPS rank and filers have vowed that they will not be intimidated and that they will continue to attend union meetings and fight for their rights.

In an open letter to Peick, the dissidents involved say: "We believe it is the members' union. We pay the dues. We pay your salary. We pay for the hall.

"We intend to come down to our hall, at our union meeting, and make a motion without your goons attacking us, without you slandering us. We intend to get our rights." □

REMEMBER A SISTER

by Elissa Clarke

A union sister needs your help. Carol Frye is a member of UAW Local 1663. She was gunned down on a picket line last summer.

Today Carol cannot work. She is the mother of two small children. Shortly after the shooting, Carol and her husband divorced.

Local 1663 struck the Essex Wire Corporation in Elwood,

The Strike

The night that Carol Frye was shot, July 10, marked the climax of a long and bitter strike by UAW Local 1663 against the Essex Wire Corporation.

Company goons beat up strikers, and scabs took their jobs.

Despite a courageous fight, the strike ended in a smashing defeat on December 21. With the union broken, the workers went back just pennies ahead of the minimum wage.

For the complete story of the strike—how they fought, how they lost, and how the international sold them out, buy "Eight Months at Essex."

Order from Sun Distribution, 14131 Woodward, Highland Park, MI 48203. 40c each, 25c each for orders of 10 or more. □



Indiana for eight and half months last year.

The contract is signed and sealed, but one issue remains unresolved—Carol's future.

INTERNATIONAL

The UAW set up a special Trust Fund for Carol Frye, but at the time the contract was ratified, there was only about \$400 in it.

At the contract ratification meeting, one of the strikers confronted Carolyn Forest (who engineered the settlement for the International union) and asked what the International would do for Carol.

Forest answered that raising money would be "first priority."

But a few weeks later, Forest was contacted by Workers' Power and she had this to say: "I don't know anything about it. If there is anything in progress, he [Dallas Sells, Director of Region I] would have the information on it."

When Workers' Power called Sells' office, we got this response from Administrative Assistant Bill Osos: "As of this minute, we haven't got a concrete program. We're waiting to find out her total condition, what the insurance company will pay."

Carol has no medical insurance, a fact that Osos knew. The Essex contract requires an employee contribution to the health plan. Because Carol's husband was covered by Blue Cross, she

did not contribute to the Essex plan.

Now that the couple is divorced, Carol has no insurance.

When asked how Carol was supposed to live from week to week, Osos replied, "I haven't given it any thought."

SOLIDARITY

But individual locals have taken the question of their sister seriously. In January, for example, at least two UAW locals sent donations to her Trust Fund. Local 51 sent \$200 and Local 47 sent \$100.

Carol Frye is a union member, a sister, a mother. She is alone; she needs our help.

Here is what you can do:

- If you are a union member you can raise a motion in your local to send a contribution to the Carol Frye Trust Fund.

- Take up a gate collection outside your plant.

- If you are a member of a community organization, political club, or block club, try to raise money within your organization. Send a letter to your group's mailing list, soliciting donations.

- If you are a member of a women's group, ask your group to hold a fund-raising event.

Many women's groups will be celebrating International Women's Day next week. This is a perfect time to raise the issue of



Carol Frye with daughter, Annette, 3.

this sister and take up a collection.

- Send a contribution yourself, and get your friends and fellow workers to chip in.

All money should be sent to: Carol Frye Fund, Security Bank, 125 South Anderson Street, El-

wood, Indiana 46036.

A leaflet is available at a nominal fee to help you in explaining this issue. Inquire to: Committee to Help Carol Frye, 14131 Woodward, Highland Park, Michigan 48203. Or call 313-869-5964. □