

GM Joins South African Army

The plan calls for white GM employees to be organized into "commando units" by the South African government. These "GM Commandos" (as the Contingency Plan calls them) would guard GM plants against Black "civil unrest." This means that General Motors will act as a direct arm of the South African military, to kill Black workers and young people.

General Motors executives were embarrassed when a super-secret GM "Contingency Plan" for guarding GM plants in South Africa against a future Black rebellion was revealed right before their annual stockholders meeting. The plan was so secret that it was hand-carried by a GM employee from South Africa to GM World Headquarters in Detroit.

The GM plan goes on to say that if "conditions of social unrest and further economic decline" in South Africa continue, the South African government will take over a substantial amount of control over GM South Africa to insure the production of military vehicles. The Plan says "These conditions would amount to virtually having the South African government as a

partner in the business..." But producing military vehicles for South Africa isn't just a contingency plan. The same document reveals that GM provided the South African defense forces with three different models of trucks for use as "supply vehicles." The Contingency Plan says that refusing to supply the South African military "would lead to direct loss of other government

business and seriously affect GM South Africa's share of the vehicle market, and very likely threaten its viability." In other words, all the talk from GM and other companies about staying in South Africa to help Blacks, goes out the window when it comes to important things—like "GM South Africa's share of the vehicle market." Sandy Boyer

WORKERS' POWER

WEEKLY NEWSPAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS MAY 27, 1978 #256 25c

WILL BIG \$\$\$ KILL LABOR LAW REFORM?



Nazis Back... But Not For Long!

Nazis evicted from Detroit's Southwest side have moved into the Northwest community of Brightmoor. Judging from the community's reaction, they probably think they've jumped from the frying pan into the fire. Story, page 2.

by Jim Woodward

THE SAME TACTIC which blocked Black people from voting in the South for decades is now being used to fight the expansion of union organizing.

In the Senate the other day, Wyoming Senator Clifford Hansen gave a long speech about his state's many virtues, while Senator Carl Curtis of Nebraska talked about the inauguration of the new president of Taiwan.

These were their arguments against the labor law reform bill which has passed the House and is now before the Senate.

The bill is aimed at making union organizing easier. It would do this by increasing the penalties for employer violations of already-existing laws.

The gentlemen who are fighting this bill in the Senate realize they do not have the votes to defeat it. So they are engaged in a filibuster. They have decided they will try to keep the vote from taking place.

FLORIDA JETS...

These Senators are being cheered on by the entire business community, which has mounted an unprecedented lobbying campaign against the bill. This campaign has several strategies:

- A highly-organized visit-your-Senator campaign. Take the case of Florida Senator Lawton Chiles, who doesn't like the bill, but doesn't like filibusters either.

According to the Wall Street Journal, the Senator mentioned "in passing" to some corporation executives that he had heard more from big business than from small businessmen.

"The result was immediate," says the Journal. "As if by magic" — in the words of one business lobbyist—the big companies stopped sending their executives to Sen. Chiles's door. In their stead came a stream of small Florida entrepreneurs, appearing in groups of 25 and carrying dire arguments about the measure's threat to their livelihoods.

"But it wasn't magic that carried those small-business representatives to Washington. It was the corporate jets of Florida's big business..."

...THREATS...

- Threats. Senator Robert Packwood of Oregon is head of the Republican Senatorial Campaign Committee. He does not like the labor law reform bill, but he also opposes the filibuster tactic.

Packwood reports he's received threats of massive cut-offs in campaign contributions if he votes to end the filibuster.

- Emotional appeals and pure hypocrisy. Opponents of labor law reform have suddenly noticed unfairness and discrimination in American society.

Wyoming Senator Malcolm Wallop opposes the bill because trade unions have a "sorry record when

it comes to racism and sexism." The Senator's concern on these issues no doubt explains why he voted against the Equal Rights Amendment when he was a member of the Wyoming state senate.

...AND CASH

Behind all the emotional appeals is the logic of cool, green cash. And orchestrating all the emotion are: the National Association of Manufacturers, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the U.S. Industrial Council, the Business Roundtable, the National Federation of Independent Business, numerous trade organizations, and the National Right to Work Committee.

These folks are in the midst of a general attack on the trade union movement. The employers' offensive we saw in the miners' strike is showing up in many other industries as well—both union and non-union.

This piece of legislation has become symbolic of a more significant struggle between business and labor. Its passage could give the labor movement the momentum to win critical organizing drives, like the one at J.P. Stevens. Its defeat would tend to set labor back.

The stakes are high, both for American workers and for their employers. That's why business, which can't defeat the reform bill, is using its money and influence to prevent the Senate from voting on it.

GENERAL MOTORS SOUTH AFRICAN (PTY) LIMITED
INTER-OFFICE MEMO

To: Mr D. Martin, Jr.
From: L. H. Wilking
Tel Exam
Date: 20 July, 1977
Subject: Contingency Planning - GM South African

Enclosed please find a draft outline on the above subject as requested in Dick Kager's telex of 15 July.

We have summarized the potential situation which might arise and the proposed action by the plant, without of course the benefit of any experience of such conditions.

No doubt the type of civil unrest experienced in the U.S. comes to mind in this context, but as you are aware, the lesser mobility of dissidents and general action is not the same in South Africa as it is in the U.S. As indicated in Attachment "B" which provides some wider background to the subject, law enforcement action is pretty fast and aims at containing disturbances to residential areas.

To minimize detrimental effect on employee morale and to avoid giving the impression that we expect these things to happen, all preparatory work has been carried out quietly and discreetly.

Page one of GM South Africa's "Contingency Plan."

Nazis Re-surface On Detroit's West Side; Community Outraged

by Paula Winston

DETROIT — Only one short month after their eviction from a Southwest side storefront, the National Socialist (Nazi) Movement/Michigan Unit has re-surfaced on Detroit's Northwest side. The response isn't exactly what they expected.

The new Nazi "hate-quarters", located this time on Fenkell, in the Brightmoor community, opened up this past Saturday. Within hours, hundreds of outraged residents were in the streets, surrounding the store and talking about destroying it.

The storefront on Fenkell is not very different from the one on

Vernor—a shabby, run-down place, now plastered with swastikas, Confederate flags, white power slogans and hate.

And the Nazis seem about the same—Bill Russell, the head Nazi, still seems convinced that his only enemies are the "communists," and that all other opposition to his group and its ideas come from what he terms "mis-guided Americans."

BRIGHTMOOR RESPONSE

What is entirely different about the new situation is the response of the Brightmoor community.

A largely white neighborhood of working people, but with a high

rate of unemployment, Brightmoor residents are militant and adamant in their demands that the Nazis be gotten out right now—not in a week, or two weeks, or a month.

Daily picket lines have been large, spirited, and militant. Popular chants among the protestors, largely young people of the community, include, "1-2-3-4-Get the Nazis out of the store. 5-6-7-8-Do it now, before it's too late" and "The people have the muscle, to take care of Russell."

The police in the Brightmoor precinct have responded with much more repressive measures than were previously used on the Southwest side.

Within the first five-day period since the Nazis opened up, the police have arrested close to 50 anti-Nazi protestors. So far as is publically known, no arrests of Nazis have been made.

Some young people were arrested under a two-year old curfew against young people that many had forgotten was still on the books.

Brightmoor residents see the police using any petty excuse whatsoever to harass, arrest, and in several cases, rough-up and manhandle anti-Nazi protestors.

"Get the cops out!" is a slogan almost as popular as "get the Nazis out" up and down Fenkell.

LEADERSHIP

So far, there is no effective leadership for this powerful community sentiment.

The Brightmoor Business Community Council, an association of small businessmen and women in the area, is attempting to organize

and lead, but has no specific plan of action to propose to the aroused and volatile community.

The business people appear to be so alarmed over the possibility of a rock or bottle accidentally being thrown through their windows, that they essentially deny or refuse to respond to the community's outcry about the police.

They instead seem determined to alienate the community residents by lecturing them on obeying the law and respecting law enforcement personnel.

Plans for a mass community demonstration over the coming Memorial Day weekend were cancelled by the Business Council because "something might get out of hand."

What is clear is that the fight to clear the Nazi filth out of the Vernor area has helped build a real anti-Nazi consciousness elsewhere in the city.

It took nearly four months to shut the office on Vernor. There is no way the new Nazi office will survive half that long. □



Residents of the Brightmoor community on Detroit's west side want the Nazis out now—not in a week or a month. But the police have been out in force to defend the Nazis. Almost as popular as the slogan "Get the Nazis out" is the slogan "Get the cops out."

Fascist Ties Behind Religious Trappings

by David Doonan

NEW YORK CITY—"Tradition! Family! Property!" "Tradition! Family! Property! America!"

That was the chant as 300 people gathered outside the office of Planned Parenthood here on May 13. They were protesting a cartoon in a recent Planned Parenthood publication which "blasphemed" the "Blessed Virgin Mary."

The demonstration was called by the American Society for the Defense of Tradition, Family, and Property (TFP). The protesters prayed and sang and listened to speeches by members of TFP and Young Americans for Freedom.

The group draped themselves with the trappings and mysticism of the church. They wore uniforms similar to priestly garb and many of the banners carried resembled Crusade banners.

They try to present themselves as part of the mainstream of

America—but scratch the surface and you will find ties with the most fascist dictatorships in the world.

TFP has its origins with the publication of a magazine called "Crusade for a Christian Civilization" in 1971 and formally organized in 1974.

It is dedicated to "defend the fundamental values of Christian Civilization" and to combat communism. Members openly call themselves counter-revolutionary.

One contingent of demonstrators from Bayside Queens claimed that Pope Paul is being drugged and held captive in the Vatican by three cardinals who are leading the Church to communism, and who control an impostor who is "the product of modern advanced plastic surgery."

TIED WITH FASCISTS

Since 1973 the TFP has been developing ties with right-wing Christians in Brazil, Argentina, and Chile. The group features

speaking tours for Latin American fascists and sends American right-wingers down on tours.

Since 1975 they also participated in the yearly anti-abortion demonstrations in Washington called by the Catholic Church.

At the rally, they had a three foot statue of the Virgin Mary, which is apparently some sort of relic. It was lent to them by the archdiocese of New York.

The organizers and marshals wore red berets and sashes and the same colored pants and shirts.

This uniform is very similar to that of the Chilean fascists Fatherland and Liberty group that played a key role in organizing for the fascist coup in Chile in 1973.

The TFD appears to be the lunatic fringe of the right-wing movement. But they are not harmless. The group had the bucks to run a full page ad in the New York Daily News. They are a part of a growing right-wing backlash in this country, and they must be opposed. □



Three hundred persons gathered in Manhattan, out to defend tradition, family, and property. They drape themselves in priestly garb, but scratch the surface and you will find connections with fascist dictatorships.

THE STORY OF A WILDCAT

by Paul Broz



The highly emotional wildcat strike at a Ford tractor plant in Romeo, Michigan ended last week with seventeen fired. This picture was taken after the union meeting in which strikers voted to go back to work. Here, Larry Marr (left) one of those fired, and other workers talk to the press.

Paul Broz has been covering the wildcat strike in Romeo, Michigan the last couple of weeks. Workers at the plant, members of United Auto Workers Local 400 make Ford tractors.

Their strike is an example of what happens when there is no effective union representation in a plant—no safety valve for workers' frustrations. When the lid blows off, it goes with an explosion.

The walkout started Thursday, May 11, when one worker, a welder, was harassed. The following account is pieced together from informal conversations with Romeo workers, both during and after the strike.

The story actually begins seven years ago. Ford built the first single line tractor assembly plant in the western world in a small rural community north of Detroit, Romeo, Michigan.

Romeo's quiet main street is lined with majestic trees and two-story shops. One of its few spotlights marks the center of town. Go just one mile east and you're in the country, and at the Ford Romeo Tractor Plant.

When Ford built the Romeo plant they shut down operations in Iowa and Highland Park, Michigan. Many workers picked up roots and followed their jobs. From Highland Park came city-wise Blacks and whites. From Iowa came the sons and daughters of farmers. A third group migrated in large numbers from Kentucky and surrounding areas, the hillbillies.

Ford's labor relations experts had recommended the move. A new plant, modeled after GM's Lordstown, the ultimate in efficiency and profitability, would be built far from the problems of the big city. Problems like labor militancy.

But the company was to find out the hard way that workers in the country are human, too.

PRESSURE FROM THE TOP

For a time, things ran smoothly, but trouble was brewing in the economy. Ford's profits were being squeezed, and the decision was made to take drastic action.

Direction came down from the

top to increase production. Should workers resist, harass them, punish them, or do whatever else is necessary to get them into line.

From management's point of view, welding was a problem area. It was a weak link in the chain, where things fouled up, where production slowed.

Welders take finished pieces and join them together. When the line is speeded up the parts that get to them don't fit well. Sometimes, before they can be welded, they even have to be hammered into position.

Working in such conditions, it's tough to make the old rate, let alone meet a higher standard.

Management wasn't satisfied. To whip the welders into shape they sent in "Pops" Cantrell, a general foreman with a hardass reputation, and another supervisor. Their strategy: single out one worker and make an example of him. They chose Le Roy Wright.

"Pops" Cantrell told him that he wasn't working hard enough, that his output had to go up.

If you're smart management you don't pick on the slowest worker, because then everyone will say to themselves, "I don't have anything to worry about, I can do twice what he can."

No, you pick someone who's near average, someone who people will look at and say, "Shit, next time it could be me."

Le Roy Wright is 33. A tractor-assembler since age 20, he followed his job up from Iowa with his wife and kids. His dad did the

same. Fellow workers say you couldn't meet a nicer guy.

In the thick blue clouds of welding smoke that sting your eyes, make breathing difficult, and send you home with pounding headaches, the welders pondered the situation.

For years, the hillbillies, the Blacks and whites from Highland Park, the farmers from Iowa had been divided—each hung out in their own separate groups. Now they acted together.

THE WALKOUT

As a body, they stormed into the cafeteria, all 51 of them, and demanded an immediate meeting with union and management to get things straight. It was 11:00 am. They were to wait there for three and a half hours.

The atmosphere was tense. They'd taken serious action which required serious decisions. As they sat and talked the barriers between them broke down.

By 2:30 they'd waited long enough. One man stood up and shouted something, the gist of which was, "We don't have to stand for this!" All the others jumped up in unison, shouting at the tops of their lungs, and

"As the welders marched along the line, the supervisors were running along ahead of them trying to get people to stay on the job. One of them came over and told me they'd pay me if I stayed.

"I've never done anything in my life—never been involved in the union, never attended a union meeting, but I just looked at him, walked over and grabbed my lunch pail and coat and walked out of the plant."

AFTERMATH

The UAW international leadership realized that it would take some doing to get people to go back to work. Years of neglect on the union's part had bred a situation in which many workers spoke disparagingly of the company and union in the same breath.

The strike was strong. Workers organized pickets and set up a communications network using CB's. All entrances to the plant were blocked off—only non-union salaried personnel were let in.

The company and union worked together to end the strike. A union meeting was scheduled for the following Thursday, during which union leaders would attempt to convince people to return to work.

arbitration. Ford's took about two hours. The arbitrator, without hearing the workers' side, decided in Ford's favor.

Now the pressure was on the union. Thursday's meeting could make it or break it.

BACK TO WORK

The hall was packed. A thousand strikers. When one of their picket line organizers walked in he was greeted with deafening cheers.

Up on the podium, controlling the mike, was the UAW's ace strikebreaker Ken Morris, Region 1 Director. Older radicals will tell you that Morris was once a member of the Socialist Party and a fighter for the rank and file. Now, he's joined the ranks of labor's elite, but his previous experience gives him a keen understanding of the workings of a wildcat strike.

It took Morris three hours of hard work, but he was able to convince workers, tired, confused, and unorganized, to go back to work.

They went back into the plant the following Monday, May 22, without 17 of their fellow workers, who have been fired.

Local and international union officials have promised to make unsettled grievances which caused

"I just looked at him, walked over and grabbed my lunch pail and coat and walked out of the plant."

marched out into the plant.

An account of what happened next comes from a man working at the opposite end of the plant.

"I was standing, working, when, above the noise of the machinery I heard a low roar coming from the other end of the plant.

"As it got closer it got louder. But I realized that it got louder not just because people were coming closer, but because others were dropping their tools and joining in. It gave me a feeling of great courage.

Should that strategy fail, the company was ready to get an injunction.

To pave the way for the injunction, the company and union met secretly in downtown Detroit. The company filed a grievance against the union, claiming that they had not done all that was in their power to end the strike. This was not true. Both in person, and over the radio, union leaders had urged workers to end their strike.

It usually takes about six months for a worker's grievance to reach

the strike and the return of the fired workers their top priority.

The fired workers have a set up a committee to make sure that the UAW makes good on its promises. They call themselves the Romeo Committee to Bring 'em Back. Their first meeting attracted 35 workers. They are putting out leaflets and selling buttons. Says one member of the committee, "This strike was about self-respect. They've got to treat you like a human being. If they don't, you've gotta make 'em." □

The Trial Of Yuri Orlov

Russian rulers can crush dissent, but not its causes



Yuri Orlov

A COURTROOM packed with sneering thugs, a parade of prosecution "witnesses" with no cross-examination, and a verdict and sentence drawn up in advance—were the props for the Moscow Jarce called the trial of Yuri Orlov.

Orlov, the defendant, was accused of "anti-Soviet slander." His real crime was organizing diverse groups of dissidents into the committees known as Helsinki Monitoring Groups.

The monitoring groups kept track of Soviet government violations of the human rights agreements signed by 35 nations in 1975 at Helsinki, Finland.

suffered psychiatric torture in prison before an international outcry won his release. Pyotr Grigorenko, a former military hero, was subjected to similar abuse. The Soviet government finally got rid of Grigorenko by taking away his right to return home, while he was out of the country for medical treatment.

The founder of a Russian workers' union, Victor Klebanov, disappeared without a trace after a public news conference.

The imprisonment of Yuri Orlov marks the beginning of an all-out effort to crush the Helsinki Monitoring

Groups movement.

This movement brought together members of oppressed nationalities, language and religious minorities, intellectuals trying to win reforms within the system and, in some cases, workers protesting arbitrary firings and bureaucratic abuses in work places.

CAUSE FOR DISSENT

Anyone who openly joins the dissident movement is likely to lose their job. After this, they may lose their "right" to live in a city, or be prosecuted for "parasitism"—

the crime of being unable to find work.

There is no possibility of the ruling class of the Soviet Union—the bureaucracy of the state, the economy and the Communist Party—granting democratic reforms.

The right to criticize the government's policies cannot be granted to intellectuals without rapidly reaching into the working class.

And while intellectuals can do little more than protest, and make weak appeals to western governments, Soviet and Eastern European workers have the power to shake the system.

That power has already been shown in the past few years by Polish dockers, railroad workers and Rumanian miners.

It is quite possible that the Helsinki Monitoring Groups will be crushed by the next round of arrests and trials.

What cannot be crushed are the reasons why that dissent arose—and will keep arising over and over again. If the Russian ruling class could reform itself, it would have no need to put Yuri Orlov in prison.

Dan Posen

LEGAL—BUT ILLEGAL

Under the constitution of the Soviet Union, Orlov's activity is completely legal. Soviet law also says no one can be prosecuted for criticizing the system.

But anyone who criticizes is prosecuted for "slander." Critics, like Orlov, are convicted by the testimony of paid witnesses who simply testify that everything in the Soviet Union is wonderful. There are no shortages, no abuses, no political prisoners—so anyone who claims these things exist is guilty of slander.

Orlov's sentence of seven years in prison and five in "internal exile," was being publicized in propaganda meetings before he was even found guilty!

The real defendant in this trial was not Yuri Orlov, but the entire dissident movement.

It is a signal that the Russian ruling class intends to crush the relatively weak intellectual democratic circles and the public critics of the bureaucracy, before the opposition's influence can spread to the working class.

It is the prelude to the trials of other prominent dissidents, Ginsburg and Shcharansky.

CRACKDOWN

Yuri Orlov is not a socialist. But this is not the reason why the Soviet Union is throwing him in prison.

Dissidents with socialist views, in fact, have been treated even more harshly.

Leonid Plyushch, for example,

by Elissa Clarke

Italian women have been fighting for years to legalize abortion. Everyone in this Roman Catholic country—from the Pope to the politicians—knew legalization of abortion was on the agenda—it was just a question of when and what the law would say.

Last week, a law was passed making abortion free on demand during the first trimester of pregnancy.

The law was rushed through Parliament by the Christian Democratic and Communist parties—just in time to prevent a referendum from taking place that would have resulted in an even more liberal law.

The law was opposed by the Radical Party and the revolutionary left, who charge that the restrictions in the law will force more and more Italian women to seek back street abortions.

The new law will allow women 18 years of age and older to obtain a free abortion in the first three months of pregnancy for health, economic, social, or psychological reasons. However, women under the age of 18 must have consent of their parents or guardians. After the first three months, abortions will be nearly impossible to obtain.

FEMINISTS

Regardless of the law, one and a half million women have abortions every year in Italy. An underground network of feminists is equipped to perform abortions in the first trimester, and will help women finance a trip to England for an abortion when pregnancy is more advanced.

"Even the police come to us and ask us if we can give their wives an abortion," noted Adele Faccio, a Radical Party deputy in the Italian Parliament.

Faccio is a founder of the Information Center for Sterilization and Abortion which has performed clandestine abortions since 1973.



Italian women (above) demonstrate for freedom of choice on abortion. (Right) Adele Faccio, founder of the Information Center for Sterilization and Abortion.

The Radical Party was instrumental in organizing the referendum on abortion which now will not take place. Faccio explained: "With a referendum, we can break the old law that says women should not have abortions. If you ask people the question: 'Is abortion a crime?' and a majority say No, then the old law would be repealed. It would then mean that non-Catholic doctors have the possibility of performing abortions."

FREE ON DEMAND

The demand for free abortion on

demand has been raised by radical feminists around the world. It was raised by the left in this country during the movement to legalize abortion during the 1960's.

But the Italian legislation will provide free abortions on demand only for the first three months of pregnancy, and only to women over the age of 18.

Although this is one of the most liberal abortion laws in western Europe, Italian feminists feel they could have won more.

Despite Pope Paul VI's admonishments that abortion is "as grave an offense as homicide," more

than 90% of Italians favor abortion. Last year, 50,000 feminists marched through Rome to demand free, legal abortions in a demonstration that brought down the Christian Democratic government of Aldo Moro.

Although the new law is a victory, the Italian feminist movement will carry on the fight to end all restrictions to the right to abortion.

Workers' Power

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Court Requires OSHA Warrant

Employer's Privacy - Or Workers' Lives?

by Elissa Clarke

WHAT IF inspectors from the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) had showed up at the cooling tower construction site in Willow Island, West Virginia on the morning of April 27?

What if they had noticed that the concrete appeared "green"—not yet hardened enough to support the weight of the scaffolding—and the 51 men who were pouring the next ring of concrete?

What if they ordered the site closed down?

Fifty-one construction workers would be alive today.

But the Supreme Court ruled this week that employers have the right to turn OSHA inspectors away if they do not have a warrant.

While the inspectors are driving back and forth to court to get their warrant—criticized as merely a "formality" by one Justice—the hour might be drawing nearer to disasters like the one that occurred in Willow Island last month.

In a 5-3 decision, the Court ruled that OSHA's warrantless searches are a violation of the Fourth Amendment's guarantee that people will be secure "in their persons, houses, papers and effects against unreasonable searches and seizures."

Blasting the ruling, United Auto Workers President Doug Fraser said: "The decision places property rights of employers above the human right of workers to do their job free from the frightening hazards of being maimed or even killed in industrial accidents."

DISASTERS

Dr. Eula Bingham, head of OSHA, predicted that the Court decision will allow the agency to go on with business, more or less as usual. Most employers will probably continue to allow OSHA to inspect their plants without a warrant, she claimed.

Presently, if an employer refuses to allow OSHA inspectors in, the agency has to go and get a court order anyway.

Although the setback is likely to be a minor one, it still could result in disasters in some cases.

Bingham pointed out that in the case of imminent danger, such as leaking gas, "while we were off getting a warrant, the whole place could blow."

OSHA has only 1300 field officers to inspect more than 6,000,000 work places.

RED TAPE

The agency has already been criticized for not making enough headway in making the workplace safe.

Most workers have never seen an OSHA inspector. Others have watched inspectors walk through their hazardous workplaces without writing up a single significant violation.

What OSHA needs is more inspectors, more funding, more power. What it doesn't need is more red tape.

Business was pleased with its little victory. The ruling will increase the likelihood that an employer will be tipped off before an inspection, getting a chance to clean up.

In obtaining a warrant, the inspectors will have to specify their activity, which will limit the scope of their investigations.

JOHN BIRCH BARLOW

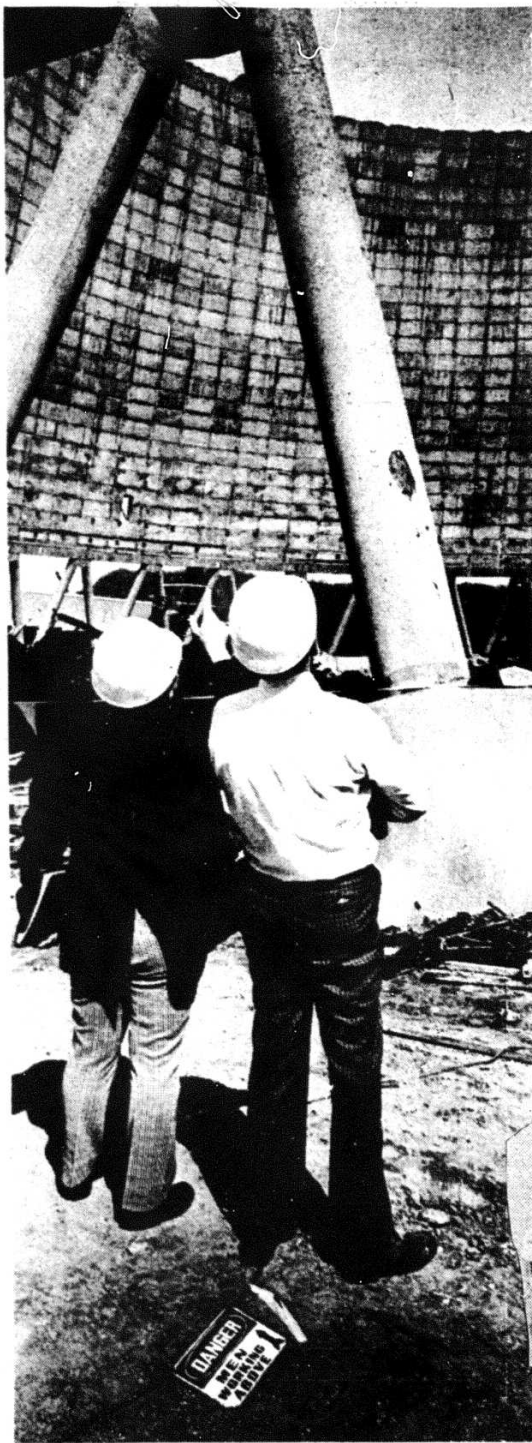
The suit was originally brought by Ferrol G. Barlow, who refused to allow OSHA inspectors into his plumbing and electrical supply shop in Pocatello, Idaho. Barlow is a member of the John Birch Society.

The inspectors returned with a court order, but Barlow still would not let them in.

The right to a safe workplace should not be negotiable. OSHA has not succeeded in enforcing this right. Now the Supreme Court has said that its efforts to do so violates employers' right to protection from so-called "unreasonable searches."

The question is, why is it so unreasonable to protect workers from being murdered on the job?

Don't workers have the right to come home from work with their arms, legs and heads still in one piece? □



[Left] Officials survey cooling towers after scaffolding collapsed, killing 51 men. [Above] Lee Steele, comforted by son Robert. The Steeles lost ten members of their family in the disaster. Closer supervision of the construction site by OSHA might have made the difference between life and death.

UAW Ranks Teach GM A Lesson

by Dennis Stovall

WEST MIFFLIN, Pa. — When Fisher Body gave Committeeman Guy Chick three days off, members of United Auto Workers Local 544 here decided to match the discipline with a three-day suspension of work.

"The company is only buying trouble when it messes with the union," members of the local told Workers' Power. Certainly, management will learn its lesson—a three day strike is a huge price to pay.

The 1400 members of Local 544

hit the bricks with the first shift on May 11. Chick was given the time off for swearing at a foreman.

END OF PEACE

According to local President John McCarrell, the attack by the company is part of a recent pattern of ignoring safety and other grievances. Fisher recently brought in new management, ending nearly 20 years of relative peace at the plant. This was the first strike in 18 years.

The company chose to escalate

further by ordering foremen to break through the picket line, according to McCarrell and other strikers.

An hour after the strike began foreman Casimer G. Charnesky sped into the line with his truck, injuring two union members.

Russell Wakefield was hospitalized in serious condition with a badly broken arm, smashed ribs, and internal bleeding. Brother John Rubish reportedly suffered injuries to hand and hip.

Charnesky was arrested by police witnesses for leaving the scene

of an accident. Local 544 plans to file more serious charges.

When Workers' Power spoke with McCarrell and pickets following the incident, there was much anger voiced. At that time management was refusing to meet with the union, but according to the union this was merely propaganda.

Although the strike vote was unanimous, the strike was not authorized by the International union. UAW International reps arrived several hours after picketing began, along with their counterparts from General Motors in

Detroit.

Meanwhile, Fisher quickly got an injunction against the union from a local judge, but the threat of \$10,000 fines for each struck shift didn't motivate any to return to work.

Following negotiations, the Local voted to return Monday, May 15 as originally decided.

The united response of the union membership should put Fisher on notice. Local 544 is prepared to fight back and reclaim the lost right to strike by striking when their jobs and safety are attacked. □



1000 In Pittsburgh Rally Against Anita HUMAN RIGHTS MEANS

by Dennis Stovall

PITTSBURGH—When Anita Bryant brought her act here on May 22 she got a reception no one expected!

Over 1000 demonstrators marched and chanted outside the Civic Arena. The theme of the demonstration was "human rights for all humans."

The demonstration and the rally which followed a march to Mellon Square was organized by the Pittsburgh Committee for Human Rights. The tremendous turnout represents one of the largest demonstrations on any issue here in years.

One of the most impressive aspects was the composition: gays, straights, women, men,

Black, white, young, and old. Socialists, feminists, trade unionists, high school students, gay Catholics and many more were among the organized groups which supported the event.

MILITANT

There was a real spirit of standing up and fighting back. "I didn't start off militant," said one speaker, Kay Whitlock from the National Gay Task Force. "They [pointing toward the arena] made me militant!"

The militant spirit came across in the chants, but it could also be felt—and people were feeling it, feeling proud and united.

Gay rights have suffered recent defeats in Dade County, Florida and St. Paul, Minnesota. Gay people realize it's time to organize and fight back.

The bigotry of Anita Bryant is not the crazy notion of some quaint religious zealot. She represents a growing right-wing movement which is merely warming up on gays because gays are vulnerable.

And while the right-wing is attacking the rights of 10% of the population for not loving according to their notions, racist and fascist groups like the Klan and the Nazis have stepped up activity.

During the past several years there has been a steady attack

on the gains of labor, Blacks, and women. The economic uncertainty faced by so many has been fertile soil for right-wing crusades.

FIGHT TOGETHER

The broad support for the demonstration from a wide variety of organizations showed real support for gay rights. Participants understood the need to fight together.

Speakers at the rally focussed the issues further. April Collier, co-ordinator of PCHR and a member of the International Socialists, spoke about how we need to respond to the attacks against us. Collier reiterated the other speakers.

by Tim McDaniel

Gays in our society are beaten on the streets by police and queer-beaters.

We are denied jobs if we are open.

We are condemned by churches. We lose our children through court orders.

We are joked about by comedians.

In the life and culture of working

class gays, the oppression is right out front.

We are forced to remain closet on the job because of fear of being beaten up or fired. Unlike professional and wealthy homosexuals who can afford to be open, gay workers must walk a thin line because we cannot afford to lose our jobs. We have little to defend ourselves with.

When we talk about gay oppres-

politics and pointed out the need for a united response.

Pat Miller, a Pittsburgh attorney who was fired by the County Commission for her pro-abortion activism gave a rousing speech which had everyone standing and shouting.

Miller said: "They try to make us afraid so that we'll keep quiet. No more silence!"

The crowd responded by chanting: "No more silence! No more silence!"

Gay activists and their supporters have proven—in New York, in San Francisco, and now in Pittsburgh—that they will not be silent any longer. They are organized and they will fight back.

If you liked Adolph Hitler, you'll love Anita Bryant

by John Zinsmeister

Last year, Anita Bryant led a crusade which resulted in the repeal of a gay rights ordinance in Dade County, Florida.

Last month, a similar ordinance was repealed in St. Paul, Minnesota. Wichita, Kansas; Eugene Oregon; California; and Oklahoma are all considering similar action.

Looking at these referendums shows that basic civil rights can and will be denied minority groups if aggressive campaigns are carried out.

These campaigns are based on fear, ignorance and sexual bigotry. They should be studied by anyone concerned about basic rights in this country.

PARANOIA

This is not the first time in history that campaigns like these have been waged. Our paranoia is justified when you remember that Hitler prepared for the holocaust by numbing the German people to "sanctioned murder" by solving the "homosexual problem" first.

We try to keep in mind that any minority group in its early stages would have also lost these referendums.

But it is hard to imagine that anyone would seriously even consider, as the Rabbi opposed to us in St. Paul did, wanting to go door to door to thank the voters for taking away the rights of the miners or steelworkers to strike.

Discrimination against gay people takes many forms.

Did you know that visitors to this country can be refused visas and/or deported if they are found out to be gay?

The church says we are immoral. The psychiatric profession says we are insane.

The law says we are criminals due to the sodomy laws.

Although the American Constitution states in the fourteenth amendment that no state shall "deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the law," for gay people there is no sexual freedom. As Walter Barnett states in Sexual Freedom And The Constitution: "On closer analysis, however, it becomes clear that the sodomy laws... contain a built-in discrimination against homosexuals... these laws manage to bar all sexual expression between homosexuals because no alternative means exists for them which is licit."

These many forms of discrimination impose a badge of inferiority just as demeaning to human dignity as discriminations based on race, national origin, gender, or legitimacy.

Gays internalize this oppression: the forced laughter at gag jokes, the silence upon hearing that we are immoral, criminals, sick, insane. The Monday lies when asked what we did over the weekend. The turning down of invitations when told to bring a date.

Gays must continually avoid sharing any real contact with fellow workers, lest they get too close and find out the truth.

Any other minority group trying to educate the public has at least been permitted a forum to speak.

When we speak, however, it is "flaunting" and an excuse for almost surely getting fired. It need hardly be mentioned the very real threat of violence which we face in many situations.

But today gays are beginning to stand up. After the Dade County referendum was repealed, hundreds of thousands marched in New York and San Francisco. This week, we marched in Pittsburgh. It is the beginning of the end for Anita Bryant and her fellow bigots.



Anti-Bryant demonstrators, 1000 strong, demand "human rights for all humans."

GAY, STRAIGHT, BLACK, WHITE, YOUNG AND OLD - UNITE AND FIGHT

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We are forced to remain closet on the job because of fear of being beaten up or fired. Unlike professional and wealthy homosexuals who can afford to be open, gay workers must walk a thin line because we cannot afford to lose our jobs. We have little to defend ourselves with.

When we talk about gay oppression,

we are talking about beatings, harassment, murder—not just of the gay "community," but of millions more in our society.

Gay people who work in factories, in offices, who mine coal, who are housewives. People who live in isolation, forcing themselves to laugh at faggot jokes, flinching at the friendly shoulder-slapping at work.

We are organizing to end this

oppression. We are talking not just about less harassment of the bars and gay neighborhoods, but about ending this fear and isolation of all people.

LIBERATION

We are talking about more than a legal reform, more than the repeal of a statute or a civil rights guarantee.

We can start with these, but this is not enough.

What we are talking about when we talk of gay liberation is a change in social atmosphere, in the way children are raised, in the values taught by churches and schools, in the unconscious assumptions in the air we breathe. We are talking about a society of genuine freedom.

It's clear this will be possible only in a genuinely free society, a

society which is not ruled by a minority for their benefit, but by the great majority in the interest of all.

We need to build a society where everyone is free to explore whatever he or she is.

We are talking about a revolution. Not just a gay revolution, but a rising up of the working class in solidarity with Blacks, women, Chicanos, gays and all oppressed peoples. □

st Anita Bryant Bigot Crusade

TEANS GAY RIGHTS, TOO!

politics and pointed out the need for a united response.

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Pat Miller, pro-abortion lawyer. "No more silence."



Aprilie Collier, co-ordinator of human rights committee.



|| humans."

**TONITE:
Distortion
In The Name
Of Fair Play**

by Steve Bedworth

ON A RECENT Dick Cavett show, Anita Bryant's lawyer stated that his main objection to "militant homosexuals" was their assertion that gayness is an alternative life-style, and as such was every bit as valid and legitimate as heterosexuality.

Surprisingly, none of the gay spokespersons rose and said: "Yes! I'm every bit as good as you!"

A simple enough statement. But difficult for a minority group which has had a sense of inferiority.

The same feeling of inadequacy which has put up with having gay rights treated by the left as somehow extraneous and frivolous. No more!

But though the gay rights movement has grown in strength and confidence, our treatment by the media still resembles the early stages of the Abolitionist Movement when it was hotly debated whether Blacks were the "sons of Cain," whether they had souls and thus were entitled to "salvation."

I've been frustrated whenever I've had the opportunity view or participate in a media presentation on gays or gay rights.

DEBATE THE ISSUE

The networks and local stations insist on what they call "a balanced viewpoint," and typically select a fundamentalist clergyman or layman to represent the opposition.

The "discussion" invariably turns into a Bible-beating contest, and seldom has a chance to get around to the issues of discrimination and civil rights.

Few have dared to assert the obvious truth that the Bible was written for a society that existed thousands of year ago and therefore an orthodox interpretation is of limited usefulness and relevance

today. Instead, gay spokespersons—perhaps out of an overzealous concern with appearing "respectable"—have felt obligated to defend themselves with the same tool.

What should be raised is the crucial point about the separation of church and state. That the constitution guarantees freedom of religion while in reality fundamentalist morality is being used as the basis for all sorts of governmental and legal discrimination against gays and other minorities.

ABSURD

The whole idea of having an "opposition" in to oppose human rights is absurd.

The media apparently have yet to recognize us as having souls, and until they do we will never have a whole show to ourselves, will never have the opportunity to speak our minds coherently without the constant interruptions and contradictions of a token opposition. □

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Speaking Out

What We Think

How The Press Covered Up For Mobutu's Murderers

The world has just witnessed one of the most amazing combined military, political and media exercises of the past ten years. Two European colonial powers invaded Africa—and successfully passed it off as a humanitarian rescue operation.

As the French Foreign Legion and Belgian paratroopers flew into Shaba Province of Zaire, to crush a rebellion against Zaire's dictator Mobutu, the world press rushed its correspondents in behind them.

Within a day, they were sending back reports of the most horrible massacres committed against white civilians by the anti-Mobutu rebels. Hostages machine-gunned. Women and children hacked to pieces. European soldiers arriving just in time to save thousands more from being slaughtered.

It was a throwback to the days when colonial wars in Africa were justified as "civilizing missions" to save missionaries from being eaten by black cannibals.

These reports served their purpose. They gave the French-Belgian operations an excuse for their real mission in Zaire. They gave the Carter Administration the opportunity to rush aid to Mobutu and to begin organizing for new undercover CIA operations in southern Africa.

"OBJECTIVE REPORTING"

These reports also, it turns out, completely falsified what actually happened in the battle of Kolwezi. There is no doubt that a real massacre occurred. But the clipping shown here tells part of the real story: the largest slaughter reported so far was not committed by the anti-Mobutu insurgents, but by the same Zairean army which France, Belgium, and the United States raced to support.

This tiny story was printed by the New York Times, May 23, on page 17. It was not printed on the full page of detailed

coverage of the refugee evacuations, but in a tiny corner of a different page with an article on the national Presbyterian Church convention.

Other facts about what really happened in Shaba Province are trickling out. A Belgian report said that the "rescuers" themselves, the French Foreign Legion mercenaries, shot and killed six fleeing white civilians. And the French Legionnaires, who are not French at all but hired soldiers from various European countries, roamed through African townships around Kolwezi, rounding up everyone.

The number of Black Africans killed was many times the number of Europeans. It is they whose homes have been destroyed—they who are facing massive cholera epidemics—and they who have no other country to go to.

Yet the press merely tells us that the French troops will remain to occupy Shaba Province indefinitely, in order to guarantee security—for the Europeans.

THE REAL STORY

But the real story of the French and Belgian operation in Zaire has almost as little to do with saving European lives as it does with saving African lives. The French government is using the civil war in Zaire, hoping to replace the Belgians as the economic power in the copper and cobalt mines.

Under French military protection, the French will pressure Mobutu to replace Belgian technicians, engineers and investments with those of France. For the sake of this grubby competition between French and Belgian mining capitalists, thousands of Africans must be killed or driven out of their homes into the bush.

Since the anti-Mobutu rebels have put Kolwezi's copper mines out of operation, it appears there will be no production at all for at least six months. During this time,



western banks will pour more money in to prop up Mobutu's government—so that he can sell his country's people and resources to the highest European bidder.

Meanwhile, we can expect the Carter Administration to step up its campaign against intervention in Africa by foreign powers. But not a word of this will be directed against France, a foreign power which now has troops based in Chad, Mauritania, the Ivory Coast and Djibouti, no fewer than four African states. □

As I See It

Who'll collect garbage under capitalism?

by David Dugan

Almost daily capitalism is confronted by new crisis situations erupting. Whether it be the stock market crash in 1929 or Bowie Kuhn's "best interest in baseball" rulings, they all call into question the viability of capitalism as a system of rational planning, capable of giving us all the good life.

Sometimes the crises are "natural" and sometimes they are "artificial" (like the destabilization in Chile). Recently a new crisis erupted that is both "natural" and "artificial."

If you have ever wondered about who will pick up the garbage under socialism, you won't find a better answer anywhere than in this story of capitalist "rationality."

Westchester County, which is located just above New York City and includes the richest and the poorest of residents, seems to be having a bit of a problem of late concerning its garbage. It seems that they have too much of it. At the same time, a proposed solution may be rejected only because it would result...in not enough garbage!

Huh? you say. And well you may.

What the local politicians are proposing is building a new, large garbage disposal system. But it would be of such size that it would require more garbage to operate efficiently than Westchester currently has available.

Logically the thing to do would be to get the excess garbage from New York City. But it appears that one politico is opposed to the importation of NYC garbage; he feels that Westchester should build a garbage unit big enough to chomp up enough of its garbage and that's it.

Now the crisis here comes from the fact that Westchester County needs a new garbage chomper but because of "politics" they aren't going to get it right away. At least one and probably more politicians are using this issue as a political football to rush their careers forward, hyping on the "chomp garbage in one county" theme.

So whenever the new garbage chomper (of whatever size) does get built, it will cost more than it would if built now, thereby causing taxes to go up. The final decision will undoubtedly be the result of a political compromise and,

again as a result, the final design will possibly be less efficient than the present one.

NOT ENOUGH GARBAGE?

But the most insane thing about the situation is that New York City is in desperate need of places to dump its garbage. (For a full week before Peanuts Carter visited the South Bronx earlier this year, the Sanitation Department cleaned out all the garbage they have been dumping in a lot off Boston Road...)

Now, if capitalism were a rational system, garbage disposal would be solved on a regional basis, designed to meet the actual needs of the communities involved—not used as a poker chip in local politics as it now is.

To tell the truth though, considering the overall class character of Westchester County—which includes the estates of the likes of the Rockefellers—regardless of what kind of garbage chomper they eventually build, I hope its teeth rot and fall out. □

Fighting Words

"At seventeen I had to break away from home. My father had attempted to determine the course of my life. He told me, 'Even in three hundred years the things you are aiming for will not come to pass.' And, at that, it was only a question of overthrowing the monarchy. Later my father understood the limits of his influence and my relations with my family were restored. After the October Revolution he saw his mistake. 'Your truth was stronger,' he said."

Leon Trotsky, 1933

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. □

The Socialist View

DEMOCRACY -

Putting It Into Action

by Ken Brown and Sandy Boyer

In last week's article we talked about capitalist democracy. We showed that American democracy has been permanently purchased by the capitalists. As Woodrow Wilson put it, "The masters of the government of the U.S. are the combined capitalists and manufacturers of the U.S."

But if we don't think democracy is voting for a President every four years, what are we for?

We believe that working people should own and run their own society. This can only happen when all major industries are nationalized and working people democratically control the government.

This idea of workers' democracy is what socialists have always fought for.

NOT A DREAM

It was the Russian Revolution of 1917 that proved that workers' democracy wasn't just a dream.

Workers took over not just the factories but the whole Russian society.

Factories were run by councils elected by all the workers in the plant. The factory council decided the wages, hours, and conditions of work, and hired and fired the managers.

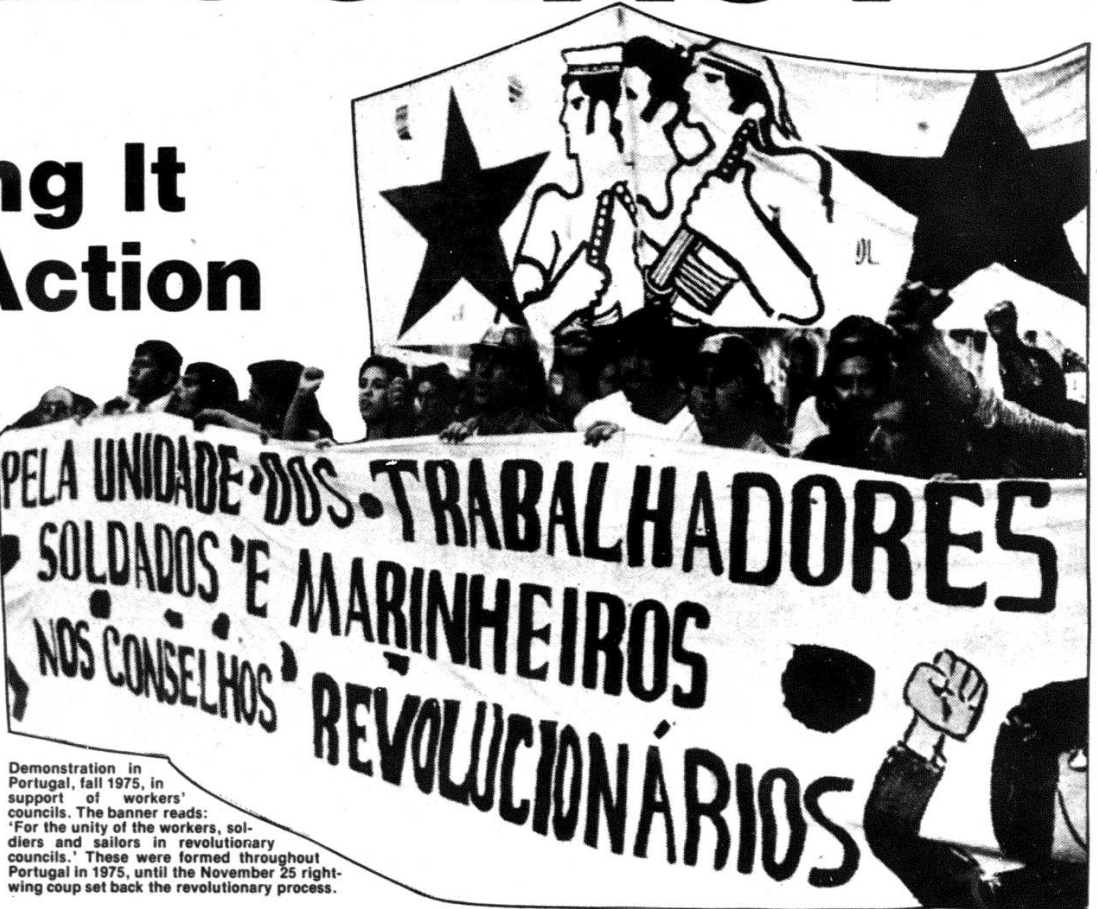
The government was organized on the basis of workers' councils. Workers in every plant elected one or more delegates to a city-wide council. That council in turn elected delegates to a national workers' council to make up the national government.

Different political parties contested for these delegate spots. Each put forward its own ideas on what the government should be doing.

Every delegate could be immediately recalled. If people were unhappy with what the government was doing they could replace their delegate right away without waiting years for the term to expire. John Reed, an American journalist who visited Russia at this time, wrote that the people could have replaced the whole government in a week.

INVASION

The capitalist countries couldn't let this new workers democracy in Russia alone. Fourteen armies invaded it—including the U.S.



Demonstration in Portugal, fall 1975, in support of workers' councils. The banner reads: 'For the unity of the workers, soldiers and sailors in revolutionary councils.' These were formed throughout Portugal in 1975, until the November 25 right-wing coup set back the revolutionary process.

army. By the end of this war half the Russian workers were dead and the people were reduced to near starvation.

All political parties except the Bolsheviks supported the invading armies and were made illegal.

Soon a new bureaucracy gained control of the Bolshevik Party and took total power in society. All forms of democracy were wiped out and Russia became the bureaucratic dictatorship that we know today.

But this idea of workers' democracy didn't end with the defeat of the Russian Revolution.

Since then workers in many different countries have had unsuccessful revolutions.

OTHER EXAMPLES

A Spanish workers' revolution fought Franco's fascist takeover in 1936. Barcelona, the largest industrial city in Spain, was run by workers' councils. The revolution was drowned in blood when Nazi Germany provided Franco with the most modern guns, tanks, and plane.

In the 1950's East German and Hungarian workers revolted against the Russian occupation of their countries and their miserable

living and working conditions. Workers' councils virtually ran Hungary before the revolution was crushed by Russian tanks.

When the Portuguese Revolution broke out in 1975 workers took over 300 factories. These were run by elected workers' commissions.

Every attempt to go from workers' democracy in the plants to workers taking over the state has failed. The Communist Party, the largest working class party in Portugal, has opposed each step in this direction because it knows that it could not control a true workers' democracy.

We have seen only the very first signs of what workers' democracy can accomplish.

If the American economy were run by workers we could not only provide people in this country with a vastly better standard of living but feed and clothe much of the rest of the world besides.

For the first time people would be running their own lives instead of being ruled by a small minority.

Today, workers have to fight for and defend democracy both in our unions and in our society. But true democracy will come only when we take over society and create workers' democracy based on true equality. □

JOIN US!

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

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Labor Notes

by Jim Woodward

it's a damn shame that we have to ask for the ERA.



Teamsters President Frank Fitzsimmons didn't show up last week to answer union disciplinary charges filed against him by members of PROD, a union reform group. An attorney said Fitz stayed away because there were too many reporters around. He faces 94 pages of charges, including appointing members of organized crime to union positions, paying illegally high salaries, and practicing favoritism by hiring relatives of Teamster officials for high-paying jobs. Fitzsimmons is expected to ask members of the trial panel to dismiss the charges—a request they are expected to grant.

Five **United Mine Workers** locals in southwestern Virginia remain on strike. They are fighting union-busting attempts by independent coal operators who refused to sign the national coal contract ratified at the end of March. In St. Charles, Va., 800 union miners rallied in support of the strikers May 15. Among others, they heard Lee County sheriff Paul Harbor, a former miner, declare his support for the strikers. His deputies are reported to be not cooperating with some 200 state troopers called in to protect a small number of scabs.

In Washington, representatives of the **United Mine Workers** and the **Stearns Mining Co.** have scheduled their first negotiating session in nearly a year, for May 30. About 150 miners have been on strike in Stearns, Kentucky since July 1976, demanding union recognition. Recently, the company has attempted limited production at the mine, using about 60 strike-breakers in addition to the army of security guards who have been on duty throughout the strike.

The National Labor Relations Board has ruled that the **Rubatax Corp.** in Bedford, Virginia committed an unfair labor practice when it awarded a \$100 bonus to 13 members of the **United Rubber Workers** union who crossed picket lines during a 1976 strike. The NLRB ordered Rubatax to pay similar bonuses to the other 830 members of the bargaining unit. With interest.

Teamster organizer **Chuckie O'Brien** has been sentenced to one year in jail following his conviction for making a false statement on a loan application. The judge ruled O'Brien could serve the sentence concurrently with a 4-month sentence imposed in an earlier case. O'Brien is still free, awaiting an appeal.

Some 11,000 employees of the **Ford Motor Co. of Brazil** went on strike last week, demanding a 20% pay increase. The strike points out the differences between the Brazilian and American legal systems. In Brazil, the local union refused responsibility for the strike, because strikes are illegal in that country. In the United States, we all know that a situation like this could not arise because we have a free trade union movement and the legal right to strike. Right?

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

FREE IMANI!



1971, and which made him eligible under Alabama law for a death sentence.

The charges he faced in 1971 were for alleged robbery of \$11, \$67, \$90, and \$205, and alleged rape.

He was pressured into pleading guilty when one of his lawyers, whom he never met until the trial date, told him "he didn't see how I was going to win the case when the court was going to take the white woman's word over mine, because I was Black, and I was going to get the chair."

When he attempted to tell the sentencing judge of his innocence at the time the guilty plea was entered, his lawyers stopped him.

Commenting on the new Supreme Court decision blocking Imani's execution, Ms. Susan Schneur of the Committee to Defend Imani (John Harris) and Stop the Death Penalty headquartered in Atlanta, Ga. stated:

"This is a temporary procedural victory which we of course welcome. But the fact that the Attorney General would move for an execution date while Imani [Mr. Harris] is still appealing his conviction shows Baxley's callous desire to use this execution for his own political ambition to succeed George Wallace as Governor of Alabama."

Ms. Schneur added, "We have seen more and more support for Imani as public awareness of his case has grown here and throughout the world. We will continue to publicize and protest Alabama's attempt to execute an innocent man for the 'crime' of being Black and standing up for his and others' human rights against the barbaric conditions of Alabama's prisons."

(For further information, contact: Committee to Defend Imani (John Harris) and Stop the Death Penalty, P.O. Box 46, Atlanta, Ga 30301. Tel 404 378-5729)

On Tuesday, May 16, the Supreme Court of Alabama, in a unanimous decision, denied a motion by Alabama Attorney General to set a new execution date for Black death row inmate Imani (John Harris).

The motion was filed by Attorney General William Baxley, who personally prosecuted Harris in 1975 for the alleged killing of a prison guard.

He moved for a new execution date after the expiration on May 9 of a 60-day stay of execution granted by Federal Judge Virgil Pittman of Mobile, Alabama.

The Alabama Supreme Court, which in late February denied a stay of execution in a five to four vote, this time agreed with Harris' attorneys that no date should be set as long as his case is under appeal in state courts.

NO EVIDENCE

Harris was convicted in Baldwin County, Alabama in 1975 and sentenced to death for his part in a 1974 prison rebellion in Atmore

[now G.K. Fountain Correctional Center] prison's segregation unit in which a guard and a prisoner died.

No direct evidence was introduced in the trial to link Harris with the actual stabbing of the guard-hoast.

Harris and his supporters maintain that he stabbed no one and participated in the protest to defend his own life and that of other inmates.

The jury, however, was instructed by the Attorney General in his closing argument and by the trial judge to convict Harris under the aiding and abetting statute if they found that he participated in the rebellion and was therefore "as guilty as if he had stabbed the guard himself."

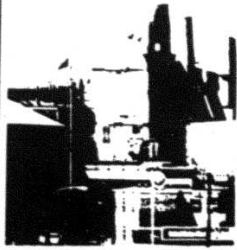
The conditions and beatings being protested by the prisoners in the January 18, 1974 incident were later declared "unconstitutional as cruel and unusual punishment" by Federal Judge Frank M. Johnson in Montgomery, Alabama.

Harris is also appealing the life sentences which he received in

Steelworkers This One's For You!

The Steel Industry and the United Steelworkers of America

THE CRISIS WITHIN



by Ken Morgan

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MANY STEELWORKERS have viewed the past year's events in their industry with both alarm and suspicion.

More than 60,000 production jobs were lost in one year, amid a relentless barrage of propaganda blaming imports of foreign steel for the crisis. Both the steel industry and the union—the United Steelworkers of America—were behind the "import campaign," and both demanded restrictions on imports.

The alarm was over jobs, naturally, and the future of the communities in which steelworkers live and raise their families.

But there was more than a little suspicion, as well.

Knowing the record of both the industry and of the union leadership, many steelworkers, especially those active in union affairs, had

many questions left unanswered.

Was the crisis just a hoax to get rid of jobs? Are the companies actually in good shape?

Are imports really the cause of the problem, or only an excuse?

And if they are not the cause, then what is?

How did it happen, and—most of all—what can be done about it?

How can jobs, working conditions and wages be defended?

ANSWERS

"The Crisis Within," a new pamphlet published by the International Socialists, sets out to answer these questions, not with the rhetoric of propaganda, but with facts and figures that will arm union activists with the information

they need.

The pamphlet is an attempt to place the specific problems facing steelworkers into a larger context of the crisis in the economy so that the causes and dimensions of the problem can be seen—and therefore so that solutions benefiting steelworkers can be found.

Just as the previous prosperity of the American steel industry was a part of the prosperity of post-war America, it argues, so now the crisis in steel is a reflection—and a forerunner—of the return of instability to American industry, of the end of the "American economic miracle."

The pamphlet examines the general attack against the labor movement which is being waged by industry, focusing on the steel

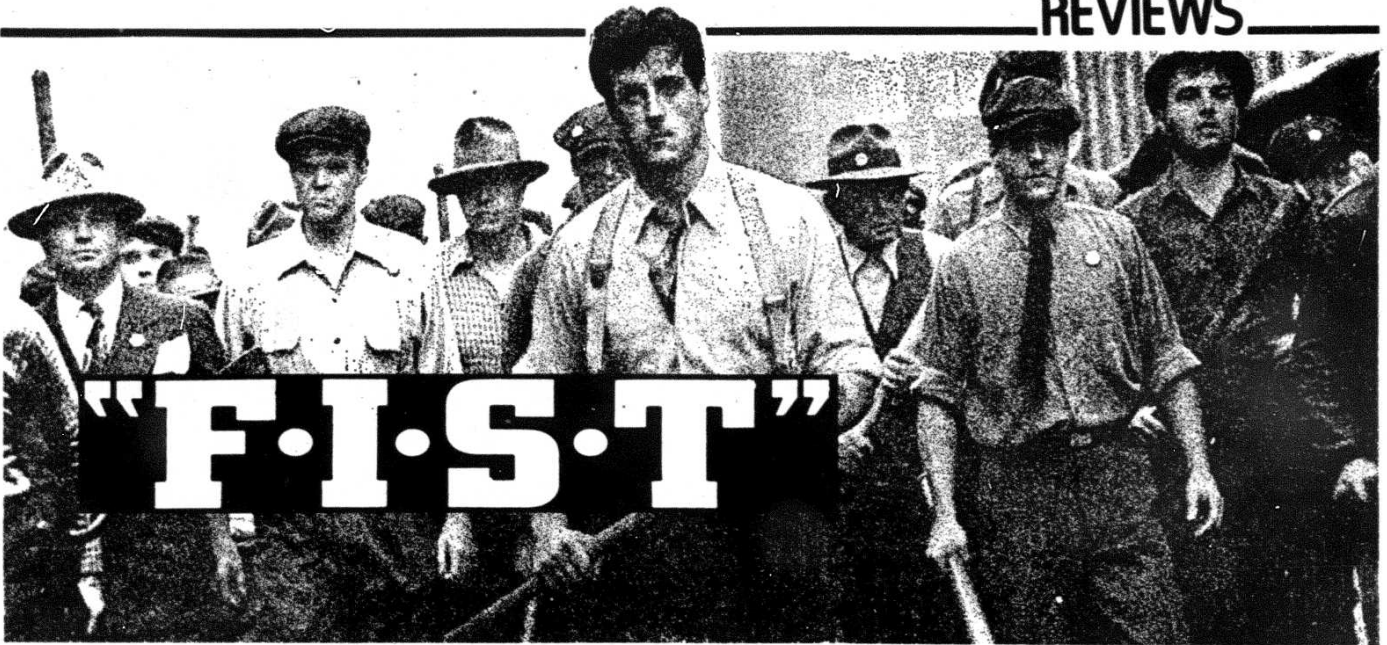
industry.

And it moves on to another "crisis"—the crisis of the union.

It explains how the lessons of collaboration with management, learned by the union leadership through the decades of prosperity, are today among the major obstacles to an effective fight to protect jobs.

"The Crisis Within" is a clear view of a situation that sometimes may seem too big to understand, too confused by claims and counter-claims to sort out the truth.

It is a view that can help activists in the Steelworkers Union, and in other unions as well, in their fight to meet the new challenges of the employers. □



by Duane Hammill

Washington, D.C. at afternoon rush hour.

All of a sudden, in apparently unrelated events, large trucks and trailers stall on the major arteries leading out of the city. All traffic winds down to a standstill.

The rank and file of F.I.S.T., the Federation of Interstate Truckers, have shown their anger at the government for subpoenaing their president, Johnnie Kovak, to testify before the Senate Rackets Committee.

MOB

The film is cynical to the core. Obviously based on the life of Jimmy Hoffa and his role in building the Teamsters Union, the message is that workers can't win

without help from the outside. It took the mob to build the union, and in the end the mob has complete control of the union.

The most telling scene occurs when President Kovak is talking to his step-brother and coworker who helped him build the union in the

F.I.S.T.
Starring Sylvester Stallone. A Norman Jewison film.

thirties. Abe Belkin is about to testify before the Senate Rackets Committee.

"We all have to make deals, Abe."

"Yeah, I know," Abe replies. In other words, the one person in the film who appears to believe that workers can run their own union, doesn't really believe it.

It was Abe that warned Johnnie during the Consolidated strike that built F.I.S.T. not to enlist the help of the mob.

But the warning came too late. Years later, Abe again warned Johnnie not to make deals. But to win an 8% wage increase, Johnnie gives up the right to strike.

Abe is forced to take his local on

the west coast out on strike in defiance of the national contract. And like it usually happens today, the strike is beaten by the union itself.

The one lesson that Kovak appears to learn early on is not carried far enough.

Before F.I.S.T. was really organized, Johnnie shook hands with the labor relations man from Fleckner Brothers and believed him when the company man told him that the men's grievances against the company would be looked into.

Johnnie learned the lesson of not trusting the capitalist employers when the men got locked out following this supposed victory. But less than a year later, Kovak took the word of the mob.

Organized crime is just like capitalism. The only thing that interests the mob is the money they can make. Letting the mob into the union is just like letting the bosses in.

Kovak ends up paying with his life when he tells Babe Milano: "No more deals."

Only the rank and file could have cleaned up F.I.S.T.—just as today only the rank and file—organized and trusting in themselves and their own decisions—can clean up the Teamsters union.

NO GOONS IN THE TEAMSTERS?...

In the May 1978 issue of "Cleveland" magazine, Jackie Presser was interviewed for his reaction to the movie FIST. Presser is a vice-president of the Teamsters union, locked in a struggle for control of the IBT.

Presser says FIST is nothing more than action-packed fiction, Hollywood style.

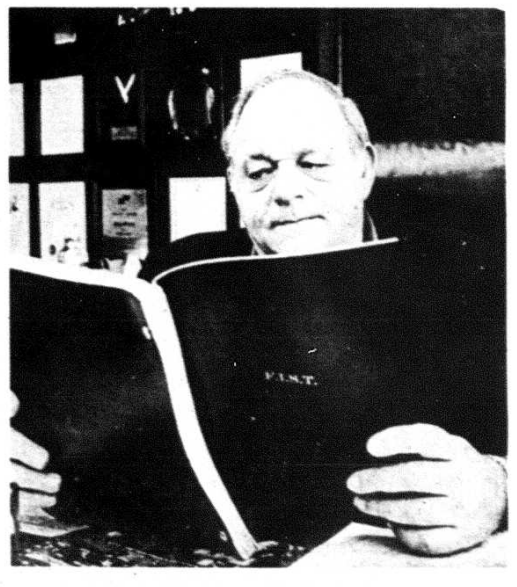
Now, it's true that the story and characters in FIST could be closer to reality on a lot of counts. But according to Presser, the film characters who have no counter-parts in the real world of the Teamsters are a "double crossing labor leader selling members down the river, greedy and ruthless employers, intimidated workers, trigger happy cops and goons."

"If you take all this as fiction," advises Presser, "you probably won't go wrong."

Now maybe Presser wasn't around in the thirties when the IBT really became a union.

Or maybe he isn't really around today with "double crossing labor leaders, greedy employers, trigger happy cops and goons." Or maybe he hopes that if he tells a lie long enough, the people will actually believe it.

And the Pope's Not Catholic either, Jackie...



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The Story the Movie Doesn't Tell

About a month before the movie hit the theaters, F.I.S.T. appeared in book form. Written by Joe Eszterhas, the co-author of the screenplay with Sylvester Stallone, the book has much more depth than the movie.

The book is divided into two parts: "the flats" and "the heights." Both are sections of Cleveland that still exist today.

The significance of the two sections of Cleveland is the change of class that Johnnie Kovak goes through in his rise to power. The 'flats' represent the working class immigrant background that Johnnie comes from that he desperately wants to escape.

The 'heights' is Johnnie's goal which he attains but also leads to his downfall.

FLATS

The flats is almost completely left out of the movie.

And without it, there are no insights into the period—the Great Depression—when unions were built. There are also no insights into Johnnie's past and periods of development that turn him into a fighter of the crushing forces of capitalism.

Interestingly the book reads almost exactly like the autobiography of Jimmy Hoffa. The difference is that because the book is fiction and well written it makes for more entertaining reading than Hoffa's autobiography.

It is much better than the movie unless you are really into Sylvester Stallone or paying an extra \$1.25 to watch rather than to learn.

Workers' Power

NYC: Ranks Burn, Bosses Fiddle

by Mike Urquhart

NEW YORK—On May 18 more than 500 angry transit workers and public employees held a lunchtime rally at City Hall.

Their message was loud and clear: we need decent contracts, and we'll vote "No" unless we get them.

The rally was called by the Coalition of Concerned Transit Workers (CCTW), who are leading the struggle to defeat the proposed transit union settlement.

So far, they have fought the Transport Workers Union (TWU) leadership to a standstill, and will probably succeed in rejecting the contract when they finally get a chance to vote on it.

Rumors of an 8% wage settlement over two years with other city unions, have caused the TWU to postpone the scheduled vote.

The other main group that organized the rally was the New York City Workers' Alliance, a group of public employees and community people who are joining



Rally called by the Coalition of Concerned Transit Workers at New York City Hall to demand decent contracts for New York City workers.

together to fight for good contracts and good services.

'A NEW BEGINNING'

The main speaker at the rally was Henry Lewis, a leader of the CCTW. He called the rally "a new beginning," where we would work together to fight for a decent life for all.

The transit contract will set the pattern, so Lewis told the rally: "Help for us is direct help for all of you."

He also made clear that the vote on the contract would not be the end of the struggle.

"We would come together to clean the unions up. When election time comes around, put people in office who will represent you and your needs."

Another speaker was Steve Burghardt, from the Alliance, who stressed the need for unity.

"In 1975, during a period of 90 days, there were 45 demonstrations at City Hall. Each group fought alone, and each lost alone. But if

we unite, then we can all win."

The work of the Alliance, in bringing together people from different unions and community groups as well as its support for transit workers, is helping to overcome the isolation of past struggles.

The rally initiated by the Coalition of Concerned Transit Workers was indeed a new beginning.

SABOTAGE

When in doubt—stall. Worried about a "No" vote? Then—stall.

That is the game the City and union leaders are playing now.

Workers' Power has learned that at least one union—AFSCME—the largest union involved in municipal contract bargaining—plans to rig contract votes in a way that the membership will have no real vote at all.

The deal will work in the following way. First, the City and municipal unions will reach agreement on the major economic issues of wage increases and union give-backs.

Then, the union will sign a memorandum of agreement with the City, putting these provisions into effect immediately with no vote.

The AFSCME locals, and there are about 50 of them, will be left to individually negotiate non-economic issues.

When the local reaches agreement on these, any time from a month to a year later, the members then get to vote on the local contract, which will include both the economic and non-economic packages.

Thus while all the unions bargain together on wages, they won't vote together. This tactic can only serve to divide and weaken the unions, and ensure there is no contract rejection.

Even if the local votes down the contract, after months of delay, it will be left to fight City Hall alone.

Thus it is that joint bargaining is turned into a weapon used by city unions against public employees, rather than a method to unite workers to beat City Hall. □

POSTAL SPEEDUP KILLS

The American Postal Workers Union (APWU) is making preparations for a possible strike when contracts covering the nation's 560,000 postal workers expire July 20. The APWU has formed a "Committee on Preparedness" (COP) to develop plans in case a strike is called.

The other major postal unions, the National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC), and the Mailhandlers Union, are expected to take similar steps.

If the unions do call a strike, which is illegal, it would be the first time they have ever done so. Their preparation underscores a developing militancy among postal workers, who

have seen their conditions of work squeezed to the bone by management cost-cutting.

One aspect of this cost-cutting is job cutting. That means losing more work, and excessive amounts of involuntary overtime, on fewer people. The consequences can be tragic, as the following story shows.

The story is reprinted from Contract News, a newspaper published by the Postal Contract Coalition. The Coalition is a nationwide group of postal workers in all unions and crafts, dedicated to winning a better contract in 1978.

The following story is one reason why they need it.

The life of Letter Carrier Warren J. Middleton ended May 9 when he succumbed to the exhaustion and overwork of the Postal Service's speed-up campaign and suffered a fatal heart attack. Middleton's family, friends and co-workers believe he was simply worked to death by the USPS.

The shock felt by the Berkeley office quickly turned into anger. His shop steward had filed a grievance, which was in progress at the time of his death, to have his route reduced.

"His fellow workers saw his health deteriorate; he was looking ashen," said his NALC steward.

"He was working 12 hour days sometimes," said his son, Warren, Jr. "He was having dizzy spells, he liked his work but it was getting to be more than he could handle."

The 54-year-old father of eight children was a 17-year veteran of the Berkeley, CA Post Office. He was extremely well-regarded by the community by local merchants' groups. he received commendations from local merchants' groups.

ROUTE EXPANDED

Middleton's route had been expanded recently until it couldn't be worked in less than nine or ten hours on a normal day. His shop steward had recently spoken to Berkeley Postmaster Harry McGannon about the length of the route and about Middleton's deteriorating health and history of heart trouble, but was "brushed off."

Postmaster McGannon, already under heavy pressure from all three craft unions and the supervisors association to resign because of previous arbitrary and possibly illegal actions against Berkeley carriers told the local newspaper, the Independent-Gazette, that they believe Middleton was purposely overworked by postal management in hopes they could force him to resign and replace him with a younger man.

Most postal workers have faced speed-up and personnel cutbacks in the past three years. This death is a bitter and horrible reminder of how serious the consequences can be when management puts its zeal for productivity ahead of the employees' welfare.

[The Postal Contract Coalition can be contacted by writing P.O. Box 23402, Oakland, California 94623, or by calling 415-852-3916.]