

# Workers' Power

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## Stop Hyde! Too Many Sisters Have Already Died!

by Barbara Zeluck and Elissa Clarke

As sure as the sun comes up in the morning, Congress will fight to restrict the right to abortion every summer.

The Hyde Amendment, denying the use of federal money to pay for abortions, is attached to the Department of Health, Education and Welfare budget. As Congress annually renews the budget, the debate over the right to abortion will rage.

On June 13, the House of Representatives passed a motion that will deny the use of federal money to pay for abortion "except where the life of the mother would be endangered if the fetus were carried to term."

Currently, the amendment allows the government to pay for abortions in cases of rape, incest, and when carrying the baby to term would result in severe and long-lasting physical problems for the mother.

Passage of the more restrictive legislation guarantees a fight with the Senate to hammer out a compromise. Last year's fight went on for six months.

No matter that abortion was legalized by the Supreme Court in 1973, the anti-abortion politicians can't take on the Supreme Court, but they can attack poor women, women on welfare.

The fight over loopholes is meaningless to the hundreds of thousands of women seeking Medicaid abortions. The Supreme Court tells them they have the right to abortion; the government tells them too bad.

### IN DEFENSE

Poor women's right to abortion is an issue kept alive by the debate in Congress. Every year, women have the opportunity to stand up in defense of



300 people marched in New York City on June 10 to demand the right to abortion for all women.

their sisters, for the right to choose, for the right to safe, legal abortions for all women.

In New York City, the Committee for Abortion Rights and Against Sterilization Abuse (CARASA) aims to build a mass movement to stop Congress from renewing the Hyde Amendment.

On June 10, CARASA held a demonstration at the Right To Life headquarters. Beginning at noon, the picket line grew until it circled an entire city block.

"Fight together! Stop Hyde! Too many sisters have already died!" chanted more than 300

women and men.

CARASA chose the Right To Life headquarters as the target for their demonstration in order to get the message across that CARASA is going on the offensive against any group seeking to outlaw abortion. "Right To Lifers, you're gonna lose. Women demand the right to choose!" the spirited demonstrators warned.

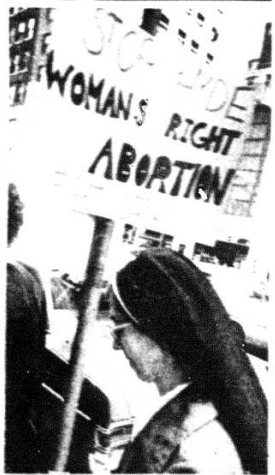
### BUILD A MOVEMENT

The 300 demonstrators in New York must be joined by women across the country who

are willing to stand up in defense of their sisters. No more back alley abortions! No more deaths! Women demand the right to choose! □

### WORKERS' POWER SUMMER SCHEDULE

Workers' Power will publish bi-weekly during the summer months of June, July and August. Our next issue will be dated July 1. We wish all of our readers an enjoyable summer. Remember: If you are changing your address during the summer, notify us of your address change three weeks in advance. The Post Office will not forward newspapers.



Inside A Rank And File Campaign:  
The United Coalition At UAW Local 51  
see pages 6 and 7

# PROP. 13: CALIFORNIA COMMUNITIES SELF-DESTRUCT 200,000 FACE LAYOFFS

by Lynn Jameson

"The whole thing is a disaster," Jerry Wurz, President of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees told reporters on CBS's "Face the Nation."

"No matter what we do, I anticipate that at least 75,000 local government employees will lose their jobs in the coming months," Speaker of the California State Assembly Leo McCarthy emphasized.

These statements tell the real story of what the passage of Proposition 13 means for Californians.

Proposition 13 instructs the state government to slash property taxes to 1% of the 1975 assessed value.

Revenues will be cut by 57% when the Proposition goes into effect on July 1. New taxes cannot be instituted without a two-thirds vote in the legislature.

Large layoffs of public employees, as well as significant cutbacks in education, services and recreation are very real certainties.

Los Angeles county officials estimate layoffs of employees there

will be between 10,000 and 20,000. Statewide layoffs have been computed between 150,000 to 225,000 by California Finance Director Roy Bell.

It is already estimated that nearly \$3 billion yearly in tax money that has gone to California cities from property tax will now go to Washington, because of lower federal income tax deductions on the property levy.

"The people have spoken," everyone from Proposition 13 author Jarvis to California Governor Brown to Time and Newsweek are saying.

The real beneficiaries of California's tax revolt, however, will not be the "little man" or "the people."

They will be the big land owners and speculators who forced property values up in the first place, and business.

The significance of Proposition 13 is not so much that it passed—but rather, how it was that millions of people were manipulated into voting for the economic strangulation of their own communities.

California politicians starting with Ronald Reagan bragged about how they built up budget surpluses. This was called "sound government management."

Meanwhile, the homes bought by middle class and working people were made too valuable for them to live in.

One home in a neighborhood might be sold for double or triple its previous assessed value.

Every other home of equal value in that community would then also be considered to have the same value for the next property tax assessment.

People would receive staggering property tax bills, for thousands of dollars more than they had ever paid—yet unless they sold their home, they got no benefit from the higher "value."

Skyrocketing prices also meant that those who sold homes couldn't possibly afford new ones.

Small property owners saw Proposition 13 as literally the only alternative to bankruptcy. Capitalism blackmailed them, legally and democratically, into voting to ruin themselves, public workers and the poor.

Actually, the passage of Proposition 13 means real estate speculators can tack on expected tax savings to their prices, driving them even higher.

But the money that flows into the pockets of real estate interests and corporate coffers will be paid directly by the working people of California.

wonder Blacks and Chicanos voted overwhelmingly against Proposition 13.

In Los Angeles one analysis indicates that more than 60% of layoffs will be members of minority groups.

None of this, of course, troubles the professional right wingers who

conceived and organized Proposition 13.

In California and across the nation, they're in business—in more ways than one.

[What to do about skyrocketing taxes? See "The Socialist View," page 9.]



Demonstration against cutbacks resulting from the passage of Proposition 13. Many people in California were literally blackmailed into voting for cutbacks in social services by land and real estate speculators.



## ERA Defeated In Illinois; Chances for Passage Dim

by Elissa Clarke

CHANCES that the Equal Rights Amendment will become part of the United States Constitution grow dimmer. On June 7, the amendment was defeated in the Illinois House of Representatives, probably killing it for this year in that state.

Without passing in Illinois, the chances of ratification before the March 22, 1979 deadline are practically nil.

The defeat came when a coalition forged to approve the amendment fell apart because five ERA supporters withheld their votes.

Spectators, optimistic about pas-

sage, were shocked when the vote was tallied: 101-64, six votes short of the three-fifths majority needed for approval.

Five legislators—four Democrats and one Republican—did not vote because of a dispute over who would represent Black legislators in the House leadership next year.

Apparently, the five were angered when another Black Democrat, James C. Taylor, agreed to support the amendment in return for being named a co-sponsor of the bill, thus improving his chances of being named assistant House majority leader next year.

The five issued a statement: "All of the legislators involved have consistently supported the ERA in the past and indicate they will support it in the future, but we are emphatic that we will not be a part of a deal to select our leadership without consultation."

### VICTIMS

Women are the victims of this disgusting political maneuvering.

Quite possibly, the Illinois legislature may vote the ERA up before March 22.

Supporters of the amendment

arguing to bring it up for a vote in the Illinois legislature again. But prospects for such a vote are dubious. Governor James Thompson noted: "It'll be hard for me to go back to the Republicans who stuck out their necks. You can only go to the well so often."

Leaders of the movement for the ERA, like the National Organization for Women and ERAmerica, have concentrated their efforts on campaigning for candidates who promised to back the amendment.

The defeat in Illinois shows what a waste of effort that strategy is—even politicians who supposedly back the amendment will not let women's equality stand before their political maneuvering.

To win the Equal Rights Amendment, women across the country must show that they support the amendment—not only in the polls, but that we are willing to take action. When millions of women demonstrate for the amendment, the politicians will not stand in our way.

Workers' Power urges our readers to come out to the July 9 march for the Equal Rights Amendment in Washington, D.C. A massive turnout can help make victory ours.

## A Film For Equal Rights

SUPPORTERS of the Equal Rights Amendment might want to see Robert Altman's new film, "The Wedding." We don't know whether the film will be good or a flop, but Altman has pledged his share of the proceeds to the movement to back the ERA. Could be as much as \$2 million.

## MARCH FOR EQUAL RIGHTS

Washington, D.C. Sunday, July 9

Contact the National Organization for Women in your city for details and transportation.

## ALL OUT JULY 9!

**After 21 years on the job, Linnie Mae Bass had to retire from Burlington textile mill in North Carolina at age 48, disabled with Brown Lung disease.**

# BROWN LUNG

## Now she fights back

**6** In 1971 when they started the breathing tests in the mill they gave me a breathing test.

A month or so later they called me and asked me if I would be willing to come to the health clinic over here and take an X-ray. They took me over to the health center, gave me an X-ray and took me on back to work.

A month or more later the company doctor told me they weren't satisfied with [the X-Rays] and they wanted me to go to Duke [University] and take a physical.

The doctor at Duke told me I needed to be relinquished from the dust. It was about all they told me.

When the report came in the company doctor had me in and talked to me about it. He told me that they recommended that I be moved from where I was working to a less dusty area.

### COMPLICATION

He says, "You know as well as I know that that's a complication. Because we'll just have to wait until we can get an opening to transfer you."

Time went on and they didn't transfer me. Time went on and two years went by. And I knew all the time that I was getting worse. But not knowing what it was.

So I got my own self transferred. They got a new supervisor in and I told him I was supposed to be transferred and why. He got right busy and got me transferred.

Which was too late for me because I had worked in the dust bin so long.

When I went over to my new job at the cloth house you had to walk up and down stairs. I just didn't have the breath to walk up and down the steps.

I worked there two weeks and I went back to my old job which was on the level. I worked there until '75.

### SICKER AND SICKER

I just felt sicker and sicker. I thought maybe I had TB.

I took it on myself and went over to the sanitarium down at McClain

and went to the clinic there. The doctor there told me I definitely didn't have TB. But he said if I didn't get out of the cotton dust that I wouldn't live long. That my breathing was bad—real bad.

I just didn't know what to do because I felt like I needed to work.

**So I went back to work. I went in the next day. By the end of the day I was so sick I could hardly make it.**

I went in to the office and talked to my boss man. He told me just get you a leave until the report from the sanitarium comes through and we'll see what it says.

When the report came in they told me the company might want to send me to a doctor. That was in May.

In July they sent me to a company doctor in Chapel Hill.

When that doctor's report came in the company called me and told me I was disabled from work and the only thing I could do was put in for Social Security.

I had a hassle with getting the Social Security.

**"We're now trying to help the people in the mill by getting this cotton dust standard out. We're hoping that will keep our younger generation from getting the disease we got, which is incurable."**

—Linnie Mae Bass

Brown Lung is caused by breathing cotton dust in the textile mills. It leads to chronic coughing, reduced breathing capacity, total disability and finally death.

When Linnie Mae Bass applied for Workmen's Compensation it was revealed that Burlington knew she had Brown Lung four years before she was forced to quit work. They never told her what she had or did anything to help her.

Today Linnie Mae Bass is a leader of the Carolina Brown Lung Association working to end Brown Lung and win compensation for its victims.

Recently she told her story to WORKERS' POWER reporter Sandy Boyer.

**I was never told that you could get a disease from cotton dust. I still didn't know what it was. They didn't give it a name—they just said lung disease.**

Then the Brown Lung people came. They educated me on the disease I had, probably coming from cotton dust.

I filed a claim with the [Workmen's] Compensation two years ago.

They sent me to a lung specialist at Duke University, Dr. Seeker. He testified that I did have this disease.

Even the company doctor got on the stand and testified that he first diagnosed me with it [Brown Lung] in '71 but he didn't tell me.

**The company doctor from Chapel Hill testified and he lied like a dog.**

It's up to the Industrial Commissioners now. They hold it in their hands.

The last time I got my breathing checked it was only 28% of normal.

### MONEY TALKS

It's a problem here to get people on your side. We don't have the money. The companies have the money and you know money talks.

**You know how they're always slipping their hands under the tables and places like that with money.**

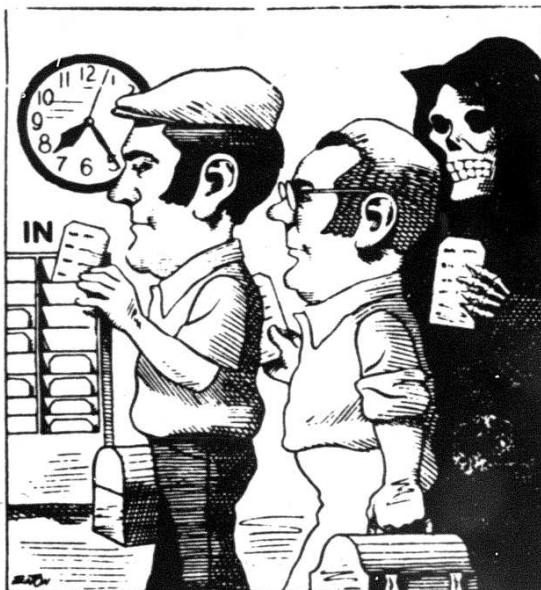
Now I'm working with the Brown Lung Association.

I've been more active with them in the past than it looks to me like I'm going to be in the future. Because I'm getting worse all the time.

I do what I can for them. I do a lot of calling. I attend the meetings when I can.

We're now trying to help the people in the mill by getting this cotton dust standard out. We're hoping that will keep our younger generation from getting the disease we got, which is incurable.

**We worked in those mills behind locked doors and locked fences and we sent their children to school and we educated them and now when we're not able to work we don't have nothing. We're left with a lot of doctor bills and medicine and probably not long to live.**



## A 4-Year Delay In Cotton Dust Controls?

After numerous delays, the Carter Administration is supposed to announce regulations for cotton dust next Monday, June 19.

The Carolina Brown Lung Association and the Textile Workers Union have been fighting for years to get the federal government to set regulations to drastically reduce the cotton dust in the textile mills that causes Brown Lung.

As we go to press no one knows for sure exactly what the new regulations will be.

But there are danger signs that there may be a "compromise" on the side of the textile companies.

Carter had initially decided to water down the proposed regulations, making them virtually useless. After an outcry from labor and the Brown Lung Association he reversed himself and restored the original regulations, with "minor" changes.

### FOUR MORE YEARS

There is a report that the Textile Companies will have four years to comply with the cotton dust standards. For textile workers that would mean four more years of Brown Lung. Four more years of disability and death.

According to this report the companies will submit a plan for compliance within six months.

**They would then have eighteen months more to install machinery to filter out the cotton dust, and two years after that to get the cotton dust down to the approved levels.**

Even then, there's every likelihood the textile companies will appeal to the administration or the courts for even more delays.

Earlier the New York Times reported that the new standards "are closer to what management supports as a compromise."

Getting any cotton dust standards set at all is a big victory for textile workers. The companies have fought it every inch of the way, even denying for years that there was any such thing as Brown Lung disease.

### UNION'S ROLE

Without the courageous men and women of the Carolina Brown Lung Association there never would have been any standard.

**It will take continued organizing by the Brown Lung Association and the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union to get whatever standards are set enforced.**

The union can play a crucial role. If it can organize the overwhelmingly non-union textile industry, cotton, dust standards can be part of the contract. And textile workers wouldn't have to wait four years to stop getting Brown lung.

### Workers' Power

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# ZAIRE: Carter's Road An To African Vietnam

ACCORDING TO maps and history textbooks, the African country of Zaire (Belgian Congo) ceased to be a European colony in 1960.

The reality is that Zaire today is as much a colony of western powers as ever.

The dictator Mobutu, hand-picked to rule the country by Belgium and the American CIA in 1965, can't even control Zaire with his armed forces any longer.

Last month when anti-Mobutu rebels, supported by the local population, seized control of the mining center Kolwezi in Shaba province, Mobutu's officers fled and the army disintegrated.

French Foreign Legion and Belgian troops were rushed in to take the copper mines back.

Close to a thousand Black civilians were slaughtered by the European invaders. The international press covered this up under headlines about white hostages being killed.

Moroccan troops, whose officers include French commanders, are now guarding the mines. A new elite unit of Mobutu's army is to be trained and commanded by French and Belgians.

The Carter Administration, using the pretext of Cuban troops in neighboring Angola, is backing the European intervention and supplying transport planes for Moroccan and French Foreign Legion troops.

Once upon a time, not long ago, another Democratic Party administration stepped in to save a rotting dictatorship which could not control its internal opposition.

That country, too, was a former European colony. There, too, the American people were told that U.S. intervention was needed to stop "outside aggression."

We were told by John Kennedy and Lyndon Johnson that a friendly government needed our help against a foreign threat—when that government's real threat was its own people. That country was Vietnam. □

# Police Murder India Strikers

POLICE IN INDIA are killing striking workers by the dozens, in battles which the western press has chosen to ignore.

Fifty farmworkers in Pantnagar were killed, and hundreds more wounded. In December, 150 textile workers were declared dead or "missing" after police opened fire.

The previous Indian government of Indira Gandhi also jailed thousands of workers and violently suppressed civil rights. But because Gandhi was less pro-American than the current Janata Party regime, her actions received much more publicity. □

# SAMI ESMAIL SENTENCED

For free speech in U.S., 15 months in Israeli prison.

**“ I am completely innocent of all charges. My only crime is my political solidarity with the oppressed and homeless Palestinian people, and with other oppressed peoples—in accordance with the U.S. Constitution. I don't understand how this could harm anybody. I am proud of this solidarity. ”**



(Above) Statement by Sami Esmail, sentenced to prison in Israel for his activity in the Palestinian movement at Michigan State University.

by Dan Pesen

Sami Esmail proclaimed his innocence in a Tel Aviv, Israel courtroom as he was found guilty of "membership in an unlawful organization."

On Monday, June 12, Esmail was sentenced to nine months in prison. The six months he spent in prison during the trial will not count toward the sentence. It is clear that the international outrage over this case put pressure on the court for a sentence of months, rather than years.

Esmail, a graduate student at Michigan State University, is an American citizen. The "crime" of which he was convicted consists of having raised money and distrib-

uted newspapers in support of the Palestinian cause at MSU.

He was arrested last December on a trip to visit his dying father, who lived in the Israeli-occupied West Bank. For his legal activities in the U.S., over which Israel claims criminal jurisdiction, he faced up to 10 years in prison.

## EXPOSED

The Israeli prosecutor's summation in the trial exposed the real nature of Israel's charges against Sami Esmail.

The prosecutor conceded that Sami Esmail had not come to Israel to commit any criminal act. She also noted that a second charge of "contact with a foreign agent" had been dropped.

In other words, Sami Esmail was acquitted of any possible criminal or terrorist act, or any intent to commit such an act.

Despite this, the prosecutor

demanding a stiff sentence against Sami Esmail. She said this was specifically to discourage others who might join pro-Palestinian organizations anywhere in the world. She stated: "He is dangerous and we have to be harsh with him."

This means that all Palestinians living outside Israel are subject to arrest, physical abuse and heavy prison sentences for supporting the Palestinian cause, should they ever set foot on Israeli soil.

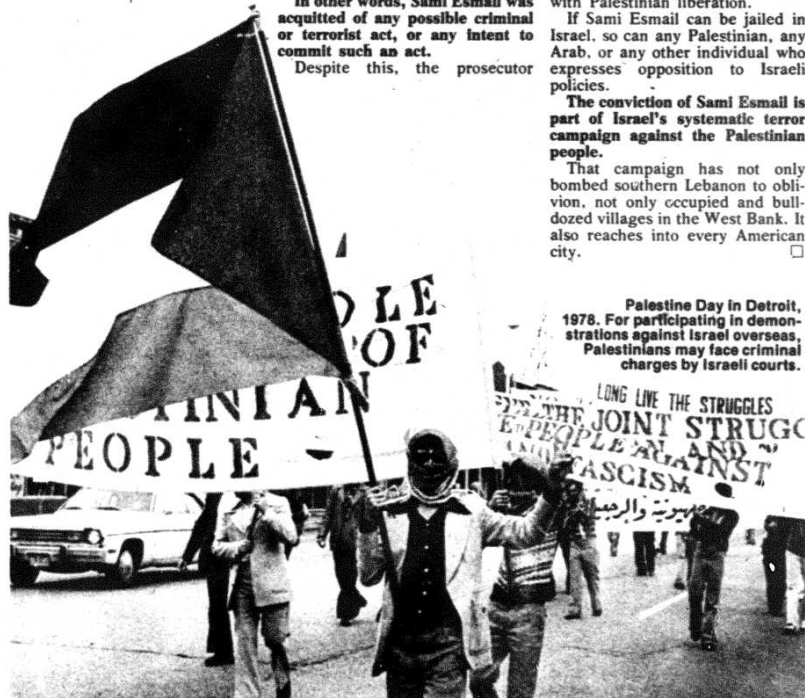
## TERROR CAMPAIGN

Israel is determined to make an example of Sami Esmail, not because he is guilty—but precisely because he is innocent of everything except political solidarity with Palestinian liberation.

If Sami Esmail can be jailed in Israel, so can any Palestinian, any Arab, or any other individual who expresses opposition to Israeli policies.

The conviction of Sami Esmail is part of Israel's systematic terror campaign against the Palestinian people.

That campaign has not only bombed southern Lebanon to oblivion, not only occupied and bulldozed villages in the West Bank. It also reaches into every American city. □



Palestine Day in Detroit, 1978. For participating in demonstrations against Israel overseas, Palestinians may face criminal charges by Israeli courts.

# The Zionist Lobby's Press Campaign To Convict Esmail

Anyone who doubts the political importance of the Sami Esmail trial only has to look at the forces who have lined up against him.

Pro-Zionist organizations, their spokesmen and the most influential American newspapers have spared no effort to whitewash the frameup and defend the conduct of Israeli prosecutors.

The latest example was an article which appeared in the New York Times on June 2, the Friday before the Israeli court found Sami Esmail guilty of "membership in an unlawful organization."

An editorial along the same lines appeared in the Washington Post.

## NON-ISSUE

The Times article was written by two law professors, Monroe Freedman and Alan Dershowitz. Freedman is also a member of the national board of the American Civil Liberties Union.

Freedman has taken an active interest in the Sami Esmail case—but a very different kind of interest from what might be expected of

someone who calls himself a civil libertarian.

Freedman and Dershowitz have a field day exploiting a non-issue in the case: Sami Esmail's two-week visit to Libya in August, 1976, eighteen months before he was arrested in Israel.

Esmail never denied visiting Libya. However, because some of his supporters initially believed no such visit had occurred, Freedman has toured American cities trying to discredit the Sami Esmail defense movement as a collection of liars and dupes.

## NOT DISCUSSED

What he and Dershowitz don't discuss in their 2000-word article, taking up half the Times' op-ed page, are the two really important issues.

First: does the government of Israel have criminal jurisdiction over political activity in America? Is it legitimate for an American citizen, exercising his or her right to free speech and political association in the U.S., to be prosecuted

for this activity by a foreign country?

In one line, the two law professors say: "In our judgement, international law clearly supports Israel's action."

They never explain why. They do argue at great length that Israeli legal treatment of Arab suspects compares favorably with police behavior in many American cities.

The implication is that prison brutality and violations of legal rights against Black Americans is somehow supposed to make brutality against Palestinians in Israel look a little better.

This is not a civil liberties argument. It is liberal racism.

## RIGHTS TRAMPLED

Freedman never even mentions the second basic issue: that Sami Esmail's rights were not just trampled by Israel, but by the United States government.

It is a documented fact that FBI information on Sami Esmail's political views was supplied to Israeli police. This information was

gathered as part of a massive spying operation on Arab Americans and students.

It is also a fact that U.S. Vice Consul Mark Davidson could have testified that he saw evidence of physical brutality against Sami Esmail.

But the State Department refused to waive his diplomatic immunity and thus prevented him from testifying.

For so-called American civil libertarians to ignore these actions by their own government, simply proves they will defend any collusion between American imperialism and Zionism—no matter whose rights are destroyed.

For Monroe Freedman, the civil liberties of Arab American citizens don't exist—just as for the state of Israel, the Palestinian people don't exist.

And for a civil liberties organization to have Monroe Freedman on its board of directors, is something like making the head of the Mississippi Ku Klux Klan the chairman of a civil rights commission. □

# Stearns mine forms company union

by Jim Woodward

The Blue Diamond Coal Co., the anti-union outfit that has been resisting a United Mine Workers strike in Stearns, Kentucky for nearly two years, has apparently formed a union of its own.

Blue Diamond was scheduled to meet the UMW May 30 in talks set up by federal mediators. It was to have been the first negotiating session in 18 months.

Instead, the company suddenly announced it had signed a contract with the newly-formed Justus Employees Association. It said the contract was ratified by a vote of 79-0.

Eligible to vote were the 81 strikebreakers who have been

## crossing UMW picket lines.

Formation of the Justus Employees Association is a blow to the UMW organizing drive, but not necessarily a fatal one. UMW organizers say they are continuing their picket lines, and that 141 miners are still receiving strike benefits.

## SWEETHEART DEAL

The UMW has also filed a complaint with the National Labor Relations Board, charging that the Justus Employees Association was formed with the assistance of Blue Diamond and is dominated by the company. Under federal labor law, it is illegal for an employer to have

influence or control over a union of its employees.

Whether it was through Blue Diamond's influence and control or some other factor, the contract signed by the Justus Employees Association is exactly what the company wanted.

From the beginning, the issue in the UMW strike was not wages, but safety. The UMW strikers demanded a safety committee, made up of working miners, which would have the power to close down the mine or sections of the mine until dangerous conditions are corrected. This is standard in the national UMW contract.

The contract signed by the Justus Employees Association grants full hospitalization and top

wages of \$74 a day—almost exactly the same wage as in UMW contracts. But it has a no-strike clause and does not provide for a safety committee.

## WHO NEEDS SAFETY?

"I don't think a safety committee is absolutely necessary," commented Casteo Basham, an official of the employees association.

Basham told the Mountain Eagle, a Kentucky newspaper, that his organization had not asked Blue Diamond for a safety committee. "If the conditions are unsafe, they [the company] will take care of it," he said.

That assurance would not sit well with widows of the 26 men killed

two years ago in Blue Diamond's Scotia mine. After that disaster, the federal Mine Health and Safety Administration found 72 violations of mine safety laws.

The United Mine Workers union now has an enormous job to do at Stearns even if its NLRB complaint is upheld. The strike has dragged on so long because the international union has not taken it very seriously.

Union officials have transferred organizers in and out solely because of union politics, and have refused to organize the massive support campaign which won the Brookside strike in 1974.

This attitude will have to change in a hurry, or the union will be wiped out at Stearns. □

# New York City unions: anatomy of a sellout

by Mel Buttens

NEW YORK—It was a couple of weeks later than they had all hoped, but negotiators for New York City and a coalition of unions representing most of the city's municipal workers finally tied up the loose ends on a proposed labor contract.

By any yardstick, it is a huge sellout and step backwards for the City's teachers, clerks, hospital and other workers.

For all New Yorkers, it sets the stage for yet more of the service cutbacks they have endured in the last four years.

Mayor Koch, with the cooperation of the union leaders, is trying to prove that the city runs a tight enough ship to produce a neat profit for investors. That is what the U.S. Senate Banking Committee wants to know before it approves a federal loan for the city.

When the negotiations were over, Koch lost no time in reporting to the Committee: "This is the cheapest labor contract in the country!"

## TERMS OF CONTRACT

The contract was presented publicly as an improvement on the one recently negotiated with leaders of the Transport Workers Union, which represents bus and subway workers.

That contract has aroused strong opposition and may yet be voted down by the membership. The new contract, in fact, is even worse.

Supposedly, municipal workers will get an 8% pay increase over the two-year life of the contract, while the transit workers are to get just 6%. But the increase is to be made in two 4% stages, a year apart.

And each raise, instead of taking effect at the beginning of the contract year, begins three months later—so that the first raise city workers will see (on a July 1 contract) comes in October.

When you count up the actual new money they will get, it comes to only about 5½% in the two years.

Meanwhile, Mayor Koch is predicting 17% inflation in the next two years. But the only "cost of living" money in the contract is a

few hundred dollars paid as a bonus rather than a permanent raise. Even this is smaller COL than in the last contract.

## DIMENSIONS OF SELLOUT

Victor Gotbaum, head of District Council 37 of AFSCME and a leader of the labor coalition, admits the dimensions of the sellout he helped out engineer. He estimates the cost of the contract as only 30-40% of most contracts currently being negotiated.

But Gotbaum is not interested in fighting for more. For three years his members have been waiting for wage increases which were legally theirs but which Gotbaum agreed in 1975 to "defer". Even on this obvious issue Gotbaum said not a peep.

As a result, the increases will be submitted to arbitration, and without a fight they don't stand much chance.

Another part of Mayor Koch's "belt-tightening" plan is the 3% attrition rate on the workforce which he has called for in his budget proposal.

This is sure to mean speedup and declining working and safety conditions for city workers, while for everyone who works or lives in the city it means deteriorating transportation, health, housing, educational and recreation services—as well as increasing unemployment.

## FIGHTING BACK

As yet there are a few strong attempts to fight the cutbacks and attacks on city workers.

Among these is the struggle led by the Coalition of Concerned Transit Workers to organize a "no" vote on the TWU settlement.

The TWU contract may be voted down, but the municipal contract just negotiated will likely be ratified. City workers realize the sellout, and have no faith in their union leadership, but they have not developed a sense of their own collective power either.

As a result, many are demoralized and will vote for the contract as the only possibility—and because their last cost of living bonus won't be paid until they accept the contract!

But Mayor Koch, for his own reasons, has forced an early vote on the contract.

The vote will be held in membership meetings in the next few weeks.

This means that union members will have the opportunity to get together soon, while the issues are still fresh, to discuss and make up their minds on the contract.

It means that a real fight can be waged.

The New York City Workers

Alliance, a coalition including members of various city unions covered by the contract, has already played a significant role in supporting the transit workers struggle.

## "VOTE NO" CAMPAIGN

Now the Alliance plans a "Vote No" campaign on the new contract.

While things will not turn around overnight, the situation is ripe for building an organized rank and file



movement among those workers who have had enough of despair and are willing to fight. Only such a movement coming from the rank and file can put an end to these increasingly unbearable attacks. □

## U.S. Steel's Appeal For Anti-Labor Filibuster

### ActionAlert

May 10, 1978

**SUBJECT: LABOR LAW "REFORM"**

Please contact U.S. Senators by letter, mailgram or phone urging their support of extended debate (no cloture vote) on S.2467, the Labor Law bill, when it reaches the Senate floor on May 15, 1978.

U.S. is strongly opposed to S.2467 as a one-sided attempt to make it easier for unions to organize. The bill would:

- 1) Improve harsh new penalties for violations by management, but do nothing to protect employees against labor union abuses.
- 2) Give greater power to unions as unions, not as representatives of employees. The three out of four American workers in the private non-farm sector who do not belong to unions would be under unfair attack.
- 3) Mandate more government intervention on behalf of unions in the labor representation and collective bargaining processes.

UNIONED STATES STEEL has come out in favor of "extended debate." This will be good news to the men and women who work in U.S. Steel's mills and shops. Perhaps they can now cite top management's support for extended debate in discussing whether a foreman's order should be obeyed.

But U.S. Steel is only in favor of an extended debate in the Senate over the Labor Law Act . . . where extended debate is known as a filibuster. Big business is trying to prevent a vote on the labor law reform bill because they know they cannot defeat it democratically, so they are trying to talk it to death. The filibuster is entering its second month.

The filibuster has the complete support of big business, as this "Action Alert" shows. The memo was circulated to U.S. Steel officials by George C. Zeller, director of Public Affairs for the company's Upper Midwest district.

It notes that U.S. Steel is "strongly opposed" to what it calls this "one-sided attempt to make it easier for unions to organize." The memo asks management officials to contact their senators, asking them "not to vote to cut off debate."

**SHOW DOWN**

Opponents of the labor law reform like to say that this bill is opposed mainly by small businessmen, who would go under if their plants were unionized.

In fact, U.S. Steel's "strong" opposition to a bill that would "make it easier for unions to organize" shows something else. Most of U.S. Steel's plants are organized—as are those of most other big businesses which oppose this bill.

U.S. Steel and the rest of big business realizes that the showdown over labor law reform is a test of strength for the labor movement.

They know that if they can defeat this bill, it will do more than hurt union organizing drives. It could mean the continued decline of organized labor's size and strength—and with it the weakening of the unions' power at the bargaining table and eventually, on the shop floor.

David Kain

# United Co

Lynch Road Assembly

Local 51, UAW

## CLOSE, BUT NOT

**A militant auto workers' rank and file caucus takes on the local union leadership—and the International—and is narrowly defeated in recent union elections.**

Five years ago, the United Coalition was just an idea! Last week, in local union elections, they narrowly missed winning leadership of United Auto Workers Local 51 in Detroit.

In the process, they forced the two "pro-administration" groups, the Green Slate and Blue Slate to band together at the last minute to beat them.

The United Coalition stands for rank and file control of their union, and for a leadership that leads and at the same time responds to the needs of the membership.

They have often opposed policies of the UAW International leadership, one of the few groups within the UAW to do so, and one of the strongest.

Three weeks ago, eight out of ten of their candidates made the run-offs. But last week, only two won, Carolyn Wynn, Recording Secretary, and Bonnie Brooks, Trustee.

**Enid Eckstein and Bill Parker** are two of the leaders of the United Coalition. Parker ran for Vice-President, Eckstein for Treasurer. Both lost in close races.

Parker and Eckstein are socialists. The following is condensed from interviews with the two.

**PARKER.** The United Coalition was formed five years ago in Local 51. In our local are two plants, Lynch Road and Mound Road. The Coalition was formed after a wildcat strike at Mound Road.

A lot of people, including many union representatives, felt that the union wasn't doing enough to back up the membership, who had just

taken part in the wildcat.

They felt that the two administration slates, the Green Slate and the Blue Slate, weren't doing their jobs. At the same time, at Lynch Road, the chairman of the shop committee there, Tommy Hall, organized almost all the in-plant reps into a new force. Then the groups at the two plants got



From an employment office demonstration in January, 1976.

together and called themselves the United Coalition.

At Mound Road, they put out leaflets trying to educate people. At Lynch, they wouldn't do anything to involve the membership.

In the '75 union elections, the steering committee of the United Coalition decided to run Richard Webster for president. He had a very good reputation among rank and filers at Mound Road. He had been fired several times by the company.

When Webster was nominated, Tommy Hall and his supporters pulled out and formed what they called the "Original United Coalition."

Almost everybody from Lynch Road went with them. At Lynch there were only three people left in the group, Enid, me, and one other person.

**ECKSTEIN.** Over the last three years, we've gone from a few people, committed to an idea of providing better representation, to an organization in both plants, among young production workers, Blacks and whites, some skilled trades, some of the retirees, and with support from almost all Arabs.

### FIGHT FOR S.U.B.

**PARKER.** Enid and I became involved during the layoffs of '74

when the entire corporation was laid off. We spent five or six months trying to get an unemployed committee in the local, finally getting one right before the layoff ended.

**We also took part in demonstrations to get Supplemental Unemployment Benefits funds guaranteed by the company's assets. (They finally ran out during the layoff, after four months.)**

We felt that if we could do at Lynch Road what they had done at Mound Road, we could have a very strong group. We started by leading a demonstration for Trade Re-adjustment money, which was supposed to supplement our unemployment checks. About 200 people showed up.

We also started putting out a regular newsletter in the summer of '75. Over the years, people have come to feel that this is their paper. **ECKSTEIN.** Every time we saw something that we felt was in the membership's interests and which the company or the union was dragging its feet on, we were the ones who were out there fighting.

**It wasn't only putting out literature, but also trying to build an organization on the shop floor that could deal with some of people's problems.**

**PARKER.** Going into the beginning of this year, I felt that our

position was not real strong, because of the other slates' strength among the in-plant reps.

I expected the Green Slate to come close to sweeping the entire election. I thought that the Blue Slate would get a few spots, and that we, conceivably, might get none.

We decided to go ahead with our campaign because we felt that it was important to give people a choice over the issues.

We believe that the local's stance in these last contract negotiations has been very weak, and that the President, as chairman of the bargaining committee, had not done a good job.

Although we made gains in the last contract, we don't feel that we made anywhere what we could have made.

**The local, over the last couple of years has lost over 800 jobs. There's been no effort to work with the in-plant reps, either in backing them up when they are doing a good job, or leaning on them when they aren't.**

There's been no communication from the local to the membership on anything.

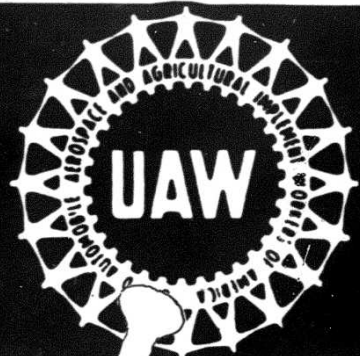
So we ran our campaign on these issues. In the first elections, we ran a full slate of ten people. We got eight into the run-offs, including Richard Webster, who came in first for President, and me, who came in second for Vice-President. The incumbent beat me by only 24 votes, despite the fact that I had never run for office. He had been Vice-President for 10 years. Before that he was President, and Educational Director, and a number of other positions.

**Mohamed Zindani ran for guide on our slate, the first Arab worker to run for office in our local. There are about 300 Arabs in our local. To**

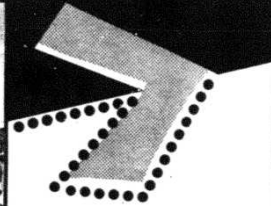
# Coalition

## W Mound Road Engine

# O CIGAR



to a heat walkout in summer of 1977.



to union elections last week, the United Coalition leads the fight.

make the run-offs, he beat a man who had been steward in our plant for eight years.

### WOMEN RUN STRONG

**ECKSTEIN.** Many young women have gotten involved in this campaign who definitely consider themselves part of the Coalition, and like us because we have the strongest women in the local.

We had four of eight of our candidates in the run-offs who are women, so many people see us as the slate that is for the advancement of women.

**PARKER.** The Blue Slate had six people in the run-offs, the Green Slate only four. In the two weeks between the first elections and the run-offs, I believe that the UAW International came in and instructed the two slates to get together for this election or they wouldn't ever be able to stop us.

If they couldn't stop us, they wouldn't be of much use to the International.

So the Green Slate put all the Blue Slate candidates on their slate, so in effect they ran 10 people for nine spots. In the past they had picked up one or two people, but never anything like this.

### FEAR CAMPAIGN

**ECKSTEIN.** While we were motivating people to come out and vote for a change, they were motivating people on the basis of fear.

Between elections we were not able to keep up the momentum of voting for change. Our turnout the second time was significantly lower.

They said, "If you elect the Coalition you will be out on strike every week," or "The revolutionaries will be in power," or "The Local will be put into trusteeship,"

or "The plant will be moving down south," or any of a number of things that play on people's fears. **PARKER.** The International, I believe, also gave assistance in bringing out retirees to vote, which was a big factor in our loss. They probably called 1000 or more retirees during the week of the elections, something we didn't have the resources to do.

We won in the plant, if you discount the 400 or so retiree votes that were cast.

They had misled them, with outright lies, with misquotes, things that we were able to disprove, but, to the retirees, not in time for the election.

**ECKSTEIN.** Up until now, we had a lot of room to maneuver, but now the lines are drawn much tighter, and the situation is very polarized.

People thought that there was a real choice, that it wasn't just voting in one face or another. People felt that they were voting for their future.

We could go through the plant and people would give us the fist and start shouting. There was a spirit of aliveness and energy, almost like you feel in a wildcat strike. It lasted a couple of weeks.

**PARKER.** Everyone on the slate felt good about how we did. We took what was clearly the most militant slate in the local and got within a few votes of winning. In the future, we're going to come back stronger.

### HOW PEOPLE CHANGE

**ECKSTEIN.** One thing I look at, as a socialist, is how people change in the process of struggle. The next step is changing the way people look at a union.

Now, some people look at the union struggle as just "changing my little bit at Chrysler," and they

have no understanding of the whys of the way the whole of society treats them.

People understand the contradictions of society very clearly, they just feel powerless.

They see somebody like Riccardo [Chairman of the Board of Chrysler] getting \$750,000 a year and they don't understand why they only earn \$15,000. Or they see

red-lining or any of a million things that go on every day.

They know it's unequal, that rich people control the world, and get richer every day, while they get poorer, but they feel powerless to change it. They feel it'll be that way, so why try changing it.

But, slowly, people's ideas are beginning to change. One thing that as amazing this year was the way people looked at the miners' strike—that it was a struggle of all working people.

The individual always loses against the system. The miners'

strike was so inspiring to people because they were united and they took on a whole government to fight for better working conditions.

They saw that when people are ready to fight collectively there is nothing more powerful.

People are starting to sense that they are part of something that goes beyond just being part of the UAW—that they're part of a working class movement.

That's the sort of consciousness that the United Coalition touched. It's the kernel from which a strong working class movement can grow.

## INS raid union-busting tactic

by John McLonsky

**LOS ANGELES**—On May 17, the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) raided the Sbicca shoe factory. 120 workers were picked up in the raid and threatened with deportation.

The raid came only one week after a union representation election to bring in the Retail Clerks union at Sbicca. The Sbicca workers, tired of low wages and speed-up, had begun a campaign to have a union. The results of the election were: 240 votes for the union, 258 against, and 260 challenged by the company.

Knowing that any new election would result in a victory for the union, the company called on the INS to smash the organizing effort.

Seventy of the workers are fighting their deportations in court, with the support of the Labor and Immigration Action Center (LIAC), a new group formed to defend the rights of undocumented workers.

Lawyers from LIAC have been

able to win a temporary restraining order to delay the deportations and LIAC has helped to bail out all of the workers fighting deportation. They have returned to work at Sbicca and have resumed the struggle to win union representation.

But their chances in court do not look good. The deportation hearings are conducted in a kangaroo court atmosphere in which the judge makes no pretense of being neutral.

Many workers in Southern California now support the actions of the INS in arresting undocumented workers, because they believe that fewer undocumented workers means more jobs for American citizens. As a result, few unions are willing to fight for the rights of undocumented workers.

The Sbicca raid shows that the INS is a reactionary, union-busting force. The actions of the INS insure that undocumented workers will remain afraid to struggle for their rights, for union representation, and for higher wages, because they know that if they do, the company will call on the INS.

It is in the interest of all workers to fight the union-busting efforts of the INS and to support the rights of undocumented workers in their own unions.

The Labor and Immigration Action Center is continuing to build a movement to support the Sbicca workers and all undocumented workers.

## Tractor plant workers form committee to aid fired strikers

**ROMEO, MICHIGAN**—Following a seven day wildcat strike at a Ford tractor plant here, during which 17 employees were fired, workers have set up a "Romeo Committee to Bring 'em Back."

Their purpose, as stated in a leaflet, is to "assist the 17 fired workers in their immediate financial problems and to get their jobs back," and to deal with long-standing in-plant problems that caused the walkout.

They have raised over \$2000 so far, selling buttons at a minimum of \$3 each. Two public meetings have been called with attendances of 100 and 50.

The United Auto Workers International leadership has promised a strike vote, and quick action on the grievances of the fired workers, but so far have dragged their feet, despite strong pressure from the committee and workers in the plant.

Grievances filed in preparation for a strike have created enough pressure on the company that many health and safety problems are being rapidly corrected.

# Speaking Out

## What We Think

# Stop Attack On OSHA

OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH Administration officials assure us that the recent Supreme Court ruling requiring warrants for safety inspections is a mere formality that won't hamper their work. But it's not.

**The Supreme Court ruling is part of a general attack on the federal health and safety agency by right-wing groups and business interests.**

Gary Jarmin, Project Director of the "Stop OSHA Committee," spelled out his group's aims in a letter recently published in the Wall Street Journal:

"By winning numerous victories in the courts, we have forced the Executive and Legislative branches to begin looking seriously at ways OSHA can be reformed. The [Supreme Court's] ruling will not, of course, prevent OSHA from continuing its ineffectual enforcement. It will, however, slow OSHA down a good deal and, more importantly, it represents a turning point in OSHA's existence."

**If so, it represents a turning point in the wrong direction. Because what OSHA needs is more teeth, more inspectors, more powers—not less.**

### TOWER COLLAPSE CASE

This is most obvious when looking at the deaths of 51 construction workers in the April 27 collapse of a power plant cooling tower in West Virginia. A six-week OSHA investigation of the tragedy laid the blame on three companies involved in building the tower.

The most serious violations of government safety regulations, OSHA said, were committed by Research-Cottrell Inc., the subcontractor building the cooling tower. The company was charged with ten "willful" violations (meaning they knew they were breaking the law), and numerous "serious" violations. OSHA said the 51 workers would be alive today if the company had obeyed the law. Criminal penalties are being considered.

But OSHA itself has come in for criticism in this affair. Memos discovered in OSHA files show that the agency was aware a year before the disaster that Research-Cottrell was violating safety rules, but no inspection of the construction site was made.

In defending the agency, OSHA head Eula Bingham said, "There should be many inspections in high hazard industries. If I had the resources I would jump when

A recent Supreme Court ruling requires warrants for workplace inspections by Occupational Safety and Health Administration. This is a result of a campaign by employers and right-wingers to further weaken the agency. To save lives and protect health, workers need a stronger OSHA with stricter enforcement.



anybody said anything. I am telling you we made as many inspections as we had resources for."

**It is not our intention here to defend OSHA's record. The agency has, in fact, generally been slow and timid in responding to workers' complaints and unwilling to take tough action except in highly publicized cases. But it is a fact that OSHA does not have anywhere near the resources it needs to make American workplaces safe.**

Congress, however, is in no mood to do anything about it, even after the West Virginia tragedy. On June 7—the day before OSHA reported the results of its investigation into the cooling tower collapse—the House of Representatives cut \$28.5 million from the agency's proposed budget for fiscal year 1979. That reduced OSHA's budget to \$139

million—the same as it has this year. Taking inflation into account, that means OSHA will be able to do even less.

The reason why Congress and the Supreme Court are moving backwards on OSHA is because of the well-organized campaign by business and right-wing groups. "I get an awful lot of flack from business people back in the district," said West Virginia Rep. John Slack, D-W. Va., explaining why he voted to cut OSHA's budget.

**It's time for the labor movement to recognize this threat and organize a campaign to protect and extend workplace safety.**

The alternative will be to watch many of the gains won in 1970 when OSHA was set up get chopped away, piece by piece.

## Behind the Headlines

# How Oregon Gays Fought Right Wing

by Harry Black

Eugene, Oregon's gay rights law was repealed in a May 23 referendum by a vote of 13,427 for the law and 22,898 against. Gay activists in the Eugene Committee for Human Rights (ECHR) stated that gains were scored despite the defeat.

Many people "came out" as gays; both gays and non-gays were willing to support gay rights; and both unity of the gay community and public education about gays increased.

The Eugene campaign for gay rights was conducted differently than other campaigns that went down by larger margins. Door-to-door canvassing and community participation were emphasized rather than slick media.

The central theme of the campaign was that workers' and tenants' rights to jobs and housing should be based on merit and not the prejudices of employers and landlords.

Other important themes were that anti-gay discrimination is real and pervasive. It can hit anyone, since anyone can be accused of being gay. Specific cases of discrimination against both gays and non-gay individuals were cited.

The anti-gay organization, VOICE, openly defended bosses' right of "conscience" to hire and fire whom they please. They claimed that the law was unnecessary. Many in the group saw the anti-gay movement as part of a general

right wing movement against abortion, the Equal Rights Amendment, and civil rights.

### WIDE SUPPORT

Fund raising and volunteers for gay rights in Eugene came from all parts of the state.

The Portland Coalition for Gay Rights (PCGR) got several organizations to support ECHR. These included the Oregon Federation of Teachers (OFT), Communication Workers Local 9201, the National Organization for Women (NOW), and thirty other feminist, gay, and left groups.

Representatives from the OFT, and women's, gay, and community service organizations spoke out on the issue at a press conference May 20.

All elements of the Eugene campaign felt that the best possible job had been done in winning voters to support gay rights. One of the main reasons for the defeat was poor voter turnout from the traditionally liberal areas around the University of Oregon campus. After the defeat, leaders of ECHR attributed the defeat to the ingrained prejudice that could not be overcome in a brief campaign.

The response of the gay community indicates they will by no means take this defeat quietly.

On the evening of the vote, 200 people staged an impromptu candlelight march from ECHR headquarters to

the University of Oregon campus. Militant songs and slogans quickly arose from the crowd.

Bigger and more militant Gay Pride marches are planned for June in Portland, Eugene and other cities.

### MANY UNDER ATTACK

The recent wave of defeats for gay rights comes in an atmosphere of increasing attacks on all progressive movements.

Gays are being shoved in the closet in the same way that women's rights and Black rights are under attack.

The attack on gay rights subverts the job rights of all workers. It is important for all these movements to link up for common defense.

## Fighting Words

‘ We do not believe there can be a single person found east of the mountains who ever thanked God for permission to work in a cotton mill. ’

Seth Luther  
labor agitator, 1830's



# Wrong cure for high taxes in California

by Sandy Boyer

Proposition 13 in California may be just the beginning of a taxpayer's revolt in America. People are "mad as Hell" about rising taxes.

You can get mad just looking at your pay check and seeing all the money you earned but didn't collect because of the tax bite. You can work overtime and find out you're taking home the equivalent of straight time because taxes took the rest.

Small homeowners wind up paying almost as much in property taxes as they do on their mortgage. You begin to feel you've bought a trap instead of a nice place to live and raise your family.

Right wing politicians in California and around the country are using this anger over taxes to give big business and the rich a huge tax bonanza and at the same time push some of their pet projects like destroying public education.

Proposition 13 in California will give 65% of its benefits to business and commercial property owners. The average individual homeowner will save about \$600 a year. Pacific Telephone will save \$130 million, Standard Oil \$13 million, and Lockheed \$9.5 million.

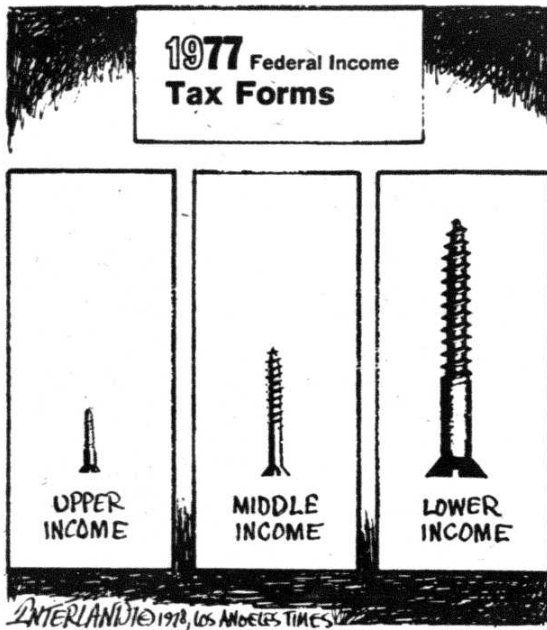
It may also cause massive layoffs of teachers, firefighters, librarians and sanitationmen.

## A BETTER IDEA

We have a better idea for tax reform—tax the rich and big business. After all, that's where the real money is.

Today the very rich pay practically no taxes. "The less than one percent of the individuals who own upwards of 70% of the productive property [in America] throw only 14% into the tax caldron," according to Ferdinand Lundberg in *The Rich and the Super Rich*. The other 99% of the population who own only 30% of the wealth pay 86% of the taxes.

There were 244 people with incomes of over \$200,000 in 1974, including five millionaires, who paid absolutely no federal income tax. In 1972 four millionaires were among the 402 people with incomes



of over \$100,000 who paid no income tax.

Thousands of other rich people pay only a few hundred dollars a year in taxes.

These people take advantage of a whole series of ways of avoiding taxes available only to the very rich. They range from tax shelters, to free state and municipal bonds, oil depletion allowances, tax exempt foundations, and trust funds.

## CORPORATIONS

Many giant corporations either pay no corporate income taxes whatsoever or pay far less than working people can ever get away with.

Seventeen U.S. companies with a combined earnings of \$2.5 billion paid no federal taxes in 1976. These companies included U.S. Steel, Chase Manhattan Bank, LTV, General Dynamics, Phelps

Dodge, Singer, Texas Gulf, American Airlines and Pacific Gas and Electric.

An additional 41 companies with a combined income of \$29.6 billion paid tax rates of less than 10% even though the legal corporate tax rate is 48% on profits above \$50,000.

These companies are using a wide variety of perfectly legal maneuvers such as the investment tax credit and writing off previous years' losses against current profits to get out of paying taxes.

For example, the Lykes Co., which owns Youngstown Sheet and Tube, will get a huge tax saving out of closing down its Youngstown plant and throwing 4200 people out of work.

The right wing politicians like Howard Jarvis, the co-author of Proposition 13, show no interest whatsoever in making the rich and the million dollar corporations pay

taxes. Instead Jarvis wants the progressive income tax frozen right where it is so his rich friends will go on paying little or no taxes forever.

## A REAL TAX CUT

If the giant corporations and the millionaires were forced to pay up, the rest of us could get a real tax cut.

Suppose, for example, we took those giant companies we talked about before who paid less than 10% taxes in 1974 and made them pay the same tax rate as an individual who earns \$15,000 a year. That alone would produce \$5,136,000,000.

Actually, of course, they should be forced to pay a much higher rate than someone earning \$15,000 a year.

Our schools should be paid for from these kind of taxes, not the local property taxes that are strangling many working class people today.

Taxing the corporations and the rich won't be easy. The people who own and run this country gain too much from our present tax system to give it up easily.

It can only be won with a powerful movement of Black and white working people, both employed and unemployed. And it won't happen at all as long as we let right wing politicians like Howard Jarvis mislead and divide us.

But until we win this kind of real tax reform we will continue to be faced with the choice of being strangled by taxes or watching our schools, libraries, fire departments and other government services go down the drain.

# Dinner leaves bad taste

Dear Workers' Power:

Shortly after I finished reading your excellent pamphlet on the steel industry and the United Steel Workers of America (USWA), The Crisis Within, I came across a local newspaper article which shows just how far the USWA leadership has gone in collaborating with the companies.

The article describes a lavish sit-down dinner which union officers of the USWA and executives of the steel companies in this area attended at the Sheraton Hotel.

Maybe it was the abundance of liquor, but both groups could find nothing but good to say about their "colleagues."

As John Piry, an operations manager at Rockwell International enthused,

"You get to meet them. They see you're a human being. You see they're a human being... It's like lawyers tearing each other up in the courtroom and then going out to lunch together."

Not to be out done, Jack Frye, treasurer of Local 1165 asserted:

"It's nice to take a hard line, but you need the company for a job. They (management) will get to know us better."

The dinner came to a close after the Heil Co. of Lancaster, Pa., and its local, 6880, were given an award for its good labor-management relations. You can just imagine how "good" these relations are for the rank and file steelworkers at the plant.

Any decent union man or woman should be disgusted by the actions of these "labor statesmen."

That's why it's so important that steelworkers throughout the country read *The Crisis Within* so that they can more effectively fight to win back control of their union.

Keep up the good work.

M.S.

Philadelphia

## JOIN US!

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

Name .....

Address .....

..... Zip .....

Union .....

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## 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.

# DETROIT NURSES ANGRY OVER SETTLEMENT

DETROIT — Nurses at Hutzel hospital here are overwhelmingly against the terms of their new contract, but the agreement was approved by 84-63.

Many feel that the agreement passed because of confusion in the wording of the ballot. They are

petitioning the union, the licensed Practical Nurses League of Michigan, for a re-vote.

"It wasn't explained," one nurse, Joan, told Workers' Power. "Yes to ratify, or yes to strike, No, not to ratify, or no, not to strike."

The second and midnight shifts

were allowed to re-ballot, and voted the contract down 2-1, but the votes of the first shift stood, and as a result the contract passed.

## "SOLD-OUT"

The most important issue was

cost of living. But the union did not bargain on this issue.

"We said, 'What do you mean this is a good contract? We didn't even get the most important thing we wanted,'" Joan reported.

"They said, 'We knew the hospital wouldn't go for that, so we

didn't push it.'"

"We were sold out. We were. There's just no other way around it.

"They gave us an 8% wage increase," Joan pointed out. "But the cost of living goes up 16, 20%."

The nurses also demanded a pay raise for LPN's in specialty areas.

"They always glorify nursing. But we're only making \$5 an hour. It's just not enough.

"A man who drives a truck makes twice as much as I do, and here I am taking care of people's lives. The heart stops and I have to be there; I have to start it up again.

"There's a lot of nurses among my friends who have one and two kids, some of them have three, and they have to make it on this one paycheck. I freak because I don't know how they do it."

## UNDERSTAFFED

Joan pointed out that the cost of hospital care keeps going up, but the hospital pays low salaries, and is understaffed.

"They don't have to charge those people \$180, \$200, \$300 a day for those beds. They just don't.

"The only way the cost of living is ever going to slow down is if the employers have to start paying for what they're charging. If they had to pay it back to us every time they raise their prices, they'd be a little more concerned."

Another setback is that the new agreement lasts three years. Previously, the LPN's had a one year contract.

"We may be stuck with this contract until 1980," Joan said. "But as soon as we get enough people who are interested in the union and making it worthwhile, we'll start getting some action." □

E. Clarke



## Labor Notes

by Jim Woodward

The Department of Labor has announced plans to investigate hiring and promotion discrimination against women and minorities at 153 coal companies. The investigation is in response to a complaint from the Coal Employment Project and various Appalachian women's groups. The complaint noted that 99.8% of all mining jobs are held by men, and that 96% of all coal mining employees are white.

The first major wildcat strike since the 1978 contract was signed has broken out in UMW District 2, central Pennsylvania. Some 6000 miners respected picket lines set up by employees of North Cambria Fuel Co., which has refused to sign the national bituminous coal contract. They were protesting the lack of action in contract negotiations, and decided to spread the strike to all of District 2 to increase their leverage.

According to recent news reports, the Aetna Casualty & Surety Co. has cancelled fiduciary responsibility insurance on top officials and lawyers of the Teamsters Central States Pension Fund and Health & Welfare Fund. This could make trustees of these funds personally responsible for any judgements against them, and they are said to be frantic looking for another insurance company. Even Lloyd's of London has turned them down.

A House Ways and Means subcommittee discussing the Teamsters Pension Fund was told June 6 that the government is doing very little to clean up the corruption. "For some 20 years the Federal Government has investigated the fund, with little to show for it," said Pete Camarata of Teamsters for a Democratic Union. "We ask of you, give us the tools to clean it up ourselves." TDU wants rank and file Teamsters to elect the pension fund trustees.

A reader sent us a clipping the other day saying that the president of Alfa Romeo, the Italian auto company, had been convicted of labor law violations (he ignored union employment lists). Our reader was indignant that this big shot could get away with just a 40-day suspended sentence. It is a shame, we suppose, that the guy wasn't locked in a dungeon, but even a suspended sentence is quite a contrast to what an American businessman might expect. When is the last time you can remember an official of a major U.S. corporation being convicted of a labor law violation?

The nation's major trucking companies have decided to patch up their differences and put up a united front against the Teamsters Union in next year's contract negotiations. A new industry bargaining organization, Trucking Management Inc., has been formed to replace the two competing groups, Trucking Employers Inc. and Carrier Management Inc.

Our Creep of the Week award goes to Henry C. Wallich, a governor of the Federal Reserve Board. Wallich proposes an "anti-inflation program" that would raise taxes for employers who give their workers big wage increases, while cutting taxes for those who stick to tiny raises. This, Wallich tells us, is neither anti-union or anti-business—it's merely anti-inflation. We wonder whether Wallich would agree to a similar program which raised taxes for employers who raise prices, not wages.

This column rarely discusses reporters' rights, but it has come to our attention that some reporters are more equal than others. We noticed that when legalized gambling came to Atlantic City, N.J., the Detroit Free Press sent a reporter with \$100. He was instructed to gamble it away and write a story about his experiences. The Wall Street Journal sent a reporter with similar instructions, but gave her \$1,000. Despite repeated protests, the Workers' Power editor has offered only \$5 expense money, and we are told this has to cover transportation as well.

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.



## Earl C. Smith has drivers burned up



Wreckage of burned-out Earl C. Smith terminal in background.

DETROIT—When fire whipped through the Earl C. Smith freight terminal here in the early morning hours of May 4, it didn't take the fire department long to figure out why. It was arson, they concluded, though no one has yet been held responsible and no motive established.

After the fire, management made a big point of the necessity of cooperation in getting the terminal back in operation. But weeks later, many Smith drivers and dockworkers are wondering what management's motive in this whole business is.

It started right after the fire. On May 13, management held a meeting, asking for relief on certain work rules. They wanted road drivers to do pick-ups and deliveries and city drivers to do road work. The idea, management insisted, was to reduce congestion at the terminal to speed rebuilding.

Smith workers, members of Teamsters Local 299, agreed to allow this relief for 60 days as long as there were no lay-offs.

But it seems the company may be up to something else. No construction crew has yet appeared, although nearly half of the 60-day relief period has elapsed.

In addition, management has adopted a more aggressive attitude. "All my shifts have been complaining about the foreman's pushing since the fire," says steward Pete Camarata. "You think this is supposed to be cooperation. It seems like a real blatant attempt to blow everything apart."

Camarata thinks management is using this "as a test case to see how much they can save with these concessions." □

## Women Unionists Organize To Fight Industrial Cancer

by Anne Quill

NEW JERSEY, the most industrialized state in the country, is notorious for its high rate of cancer and other occupational diseases.

On June 3, 150 women union members from all over the state met to find out how to fight back.

The conference at the Rutgers Labor Center was sponsored by North Jersey Coalition of Labor Union Women (CLUW) and the New York Committee on Safety and Health (NYCOSH). Members of 17 international unions came.

They learned that industrial pollution affects them as workers, as wives, and as mothers.

Vivian Cleffi, one of the speakers, lost a son to leukemia caused by chemicals from nearby plants.

She is a member of We Who Care, an organization in Rutherford, N.J., where 32 people have contracted leukemia and a form of cancer called Hodgkin's diseases.

### EVERY WORKER SICK

Marjorie Acosta of OCAW talked about working for a drug company. She said all the workers at the plant suffered from the side effects of the drugs.

Until they started organizing a

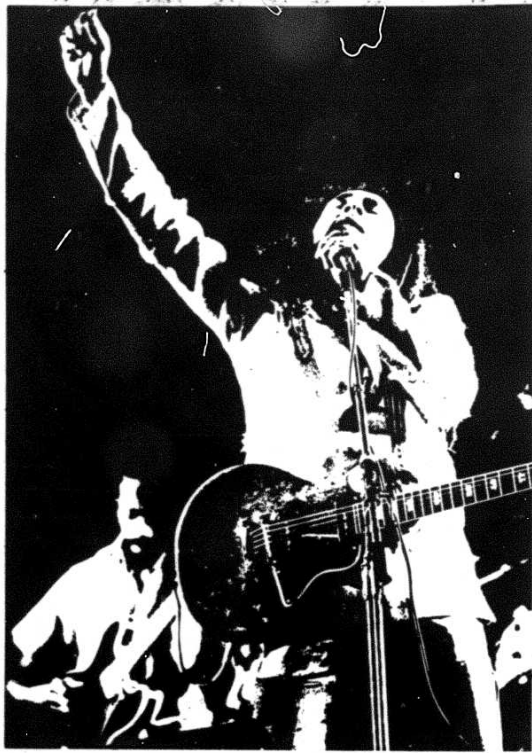
union most people didn't realize there was a pattern—they thought they were sick or hypochondriac or neurotic.

Catherine Painter, the president of GWA Local 1010, talked about the bad effects of shift work on women's health.

Irene DiMattao of the UAW, a worker at GM's Trenton plant, talked about the health and safety committee functions at her plant.

Sylvia Kichel of OCAW, the head of CLUW's task force on health and safety, gave the keynote speech.

There were workshops based on occupational groups. □



# BOB MARLEY & THE WAILERS: From Jamaica, This is Love

by Larry Smith

Bob Marley, in one of the cuts from his latest album, *Kaya*, asked the question, "Is this love?" Several thousand people who came to see Bob Marley & The Wailers in Detroit asked the same question. The answer in both cases has to be a clear "yes", this is love. For several hours one recent Sunday evening, the audience at Detroit's Masonic Temple was in love with the music of Bob Marley & The Wailers. For several hours Marley and The Wailers took several thousand people to near impossible highs.

To thunderous applause and standing ovation the Masonic Tem-

ple became a temple to indignation, protest and struggle. One Sunday evening the capital of reggae music became Detroit, USA.

Reggae music, like "High Life" from west Africa and rhythm and blues from the States, is popular Black music. Like the other two, reggae borrows from its contemporaries and is an expression of the hurt, love, hope and struggle of Black people in their particular setting.

Reggae music started in Jamaica during the 60's and borrowed deeply from rhythm and blues from the States. It rapidly became the music of the Jamaican working class and began its spread throughout the West Indies.

Reggae received world wide exposure with the release of the film "The Harder They Come" several years ago.

## COLONIALISM

Jamaica, up until the 60's was a British colony. Like most Third World countries it now suffers from the effects of neo-colonialism.

British and American imperialism continue to exert great influence in Jamaica both economically and politically.

Bob Marley & The Wailers are one of the most popular reggae groups. Their music is noted for its clear anti-imperialist political tone and its association with the Jamaican religious sect, Rastafari.

The sect believe that the late Haile Selassie of Ethiopia is or was the second coming of Christ and they seek the unification of Black people around the world.

Rasta men are noted for their dread locks which are the results of

natural uncombed uncut hair.

Rastafari became popular in the countryside and spread to the ghettoes of the cities of Jamaica. That is where Marley and The Wailers made their contact with the sect.

The group is also noted for its liberal use of herb smoking. Anyone who has been to one of their concerts can expect to receive more than a musical high.

## SYMBOL OF STRUGGLE

Marley is more than just a popular musician in Jamaica. His music is seen by the oppressed and exploited farmers and workers as symbolizing their struggle.

In 1976, right wing neo-colonial thugs attempted to assassinate Marley because of his association with the left-leaning government of Michael Manley.

Bob Marley & The Wailers, in a series of albums that include *Burnin*, *Natty Dread*, *Rastaman Vibration* and *Exodus*, produced a testimony of their commitment to the struggle of an oppressed people.

Their songs have included titles like *Get Up, Stand Up*; *I Shot the Sheriff* and *Burnin' and Lootin'*.

Their current album, *Kaya*, appears to be a drift in the opposite direction. It is not as political as the albums before it, and has a mellow appearance.

The concert in Detroit, which is part of a national tour to promote the new album, thankfully included a considerable amount of music from previous albums.

That is what the thousands that came to hear them in Detroit came to hear. It is hoped that Marley will take note of this fact. □

# Puerto Rican Teamster Faces Murder Trial

## Miguel Cabrera Replies to Court

Many Workers' Power readers met Puerto Rican Teamster Miguel Cabrera when he visited the United States in February.

A member of Local 901, Cabrera was travelling with other Puerto Rican workers whose unions, like his, had joined the Trade Union Committee against Repression (TUCAR). In Pittsburgh they attended the Union Bowl, one of the first fundraising events to aid the miners' strike.

### CHARGES

Cabrera faced charges in Puerto Rico for the murder of U.S. corporate lawyer Alan H. Randall. Randall was running classes for businessmen on how to weaken and destroy unions in Puerto Rico and was suspected of being a CIA agent. He was killed September 23, 1977.

A wave of repression against unions followed Randall's death, prompting 42 unions to form TUCAR.

Cabrera's arrest was part of this repression. So was the October 25 murder of Teamster local 901 shop steward Juan Rafael Caballero. In November, TUCAR held a demonstration of 10,000 in San Juan, the capital, to protest the murder.

The case against Cabrera continues. On April 24, Judge Blanca Iris Bonilla of the San Juan District Court found "probable cause" against Cabrera and the others accused of Randall's murder.

Cabrera answered this decision in an Open Letter published in the Puerto Rican newspaper *Pensamiento Critico*. Here are excerpts from Cabrera's statement:



Miguel Cabrera

“ I HEREBY want to express to you the greatest repudiation of your declaration of probable cause against Cutberto Cordero, Luis Parrilla and the undersigned in a preliminary hearing that you presided over and in which you had the opportunity to exhaustively examine the so-called proof of the government attorneys.

The whole case rests on the testimony of an individual named Angel M. Tanco who has murdered more than 14 people...who declared in court that he was ready to do anything to avoid going to

jail; an individual whose testimony was challenged by other witnesses, and who—in spite of everything outlined here—you chose to consider a credible witness.

The deal between Tanco and the Justice Department has been widely known. Various charges against Tanco will be dropped and he will be sentenced to six years and eight months for all his murders. In spite of this you still found probable cause against us...

It is striking that the government attorney who is handling the case against [us] is nothing less than the chief government attorney and that you were aware of this fact.

It is also striking that you recently renewed your application to be named Superior Judge. This explains your excessive protectiveness of the Secretary of Justice, Miguel Gimenez Munoz, objecting when that was the government attorneys' job and not yours, while the Secretary of Justice was taking the stand.

It is striking that barely eight years ago you declared that there was no probable cause against the policeman murderer of the student Antonia Martinez in spite of the fact that there were several witnesses who linked him to that murder. Obviously you have a double standard: one for those who struggle for our Motherland and another for those who murder our Motherland...

It is very clear to me that in the system in which we live those institutions which are supposed to represent justice hide the most blatant injustices and immoralities. The integrity which you are supposed to have represented has shined by its absence...

All of this gives me more courage and faith to remain calm, believing with greater firmness that the day will arrive when the Puerto Rican workers will get rid of that world of exploitation and hypocrisy that you represented in court.

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# "We Can Rebuild The Labor Movement"



Tony Novocel, USW



Paul Garver, SEIU



Greg Hawthorne UMW



Rita Drapkin, IBT



Mel Packer, IBT

by Dennis Stovall

PITTSBURGH—The Labor Conference called by the Committee of Concerned Unionists (CCU) on June 6 here brought together a hundred activists from a number of unions and community groups.

The conference was a step toward its own theme, "Rebuilding the Labor Movement."

Unionists from 12 steelworkers locals, from Hospital Workers, Service Employees, Pennsylvania Social Services Union, three Teamster locals, three United Mine Workers locals, the United Electrical Workers, and activists from Pittsburgh community groups were present.

Since CCU began last winter as a rank and file support group for the striking miners, it has continued to strike a responsive note with union militants.

At the conference, speakers, panels and workshops discussed the effects of the employers' offensive against labor and the lessons of organizing the fight back.

A common understanding drew so many together to discuss the strategy and tactics for fighting the companies and democratizing the unions. It is that we are experiencing an attack which is not isolated to any one group.

The attacks are being mounted in all industries and also include the setbacks in the gains of minority and women workers.

In the face of these attacks the disunity and weakness of the labor movement becomes most clear.

## PANEL & WORKSHOPS

Tony Novocel (USW) chaired the first panel and spoke on the crisis in the steel industry. The attack on steelworkers, he said, is showing up first in the small shops, while gaining strength for attacking labor in basic steel.

Union busting in the public sector, where the role of the government in regard to labor is laid bare, was detailed by Paul Garver (Business Agent, SEIU).

The significance of the miners' fight of 1978, and the obvious need for an organized rank and file movement in the mines was analyzed by Greg Hawthorne (UMWA, Dist. 6).

The final panelist, Rita Drapkin (IBT, Local 249), discussed the form the attack is taking in the Teamsters and the role of Teamsters for a Democratic Union in organizing the rank and file response.

The conference then broke down into workshops which discussed: fighting race and sex discrimination; using rank and file newsletters as organizing tools; organizing on the shop floor; the legal rights of rank and filers; and the lessons of three union reform movements: Sadiowski Fight Back (in steel), Miners for Democracy, and Teamsters for a Democratic Union.

## KEYNOTE ADDRESS

The keynote address was given by Teamster Mel Packer, an elected member of the TDU National Steering Committee.

Packer addressed the question of why we need CCU, or other similar groups based on cross-union rank and file solidarity.

"Through all the attacks, all the divisions, all the obstacles that will be thrown in our way, we can still rebuild our unions and the labor movement.

"The coming years will be telling ones for us. The employers really are on the offensive in this country. The rate of inflation really is skyrocketing out of control.

"The number of unemployed really is continuing to grow, creating a vast army of hungry people who can be used as a threat

against those of us who threaten lengthy strikes.

"The era of prosperity is gone, and with it has gone the possibility of winning any real gains through labor-management cooperation and collaboration...

"The answer lies with you and the people you work with.

"While we need to create new rank and file movements to reform and rebuild our own, individual unions, we also need to increase the communication and cooperation between those of us who work in different industries and belong to these various unions.

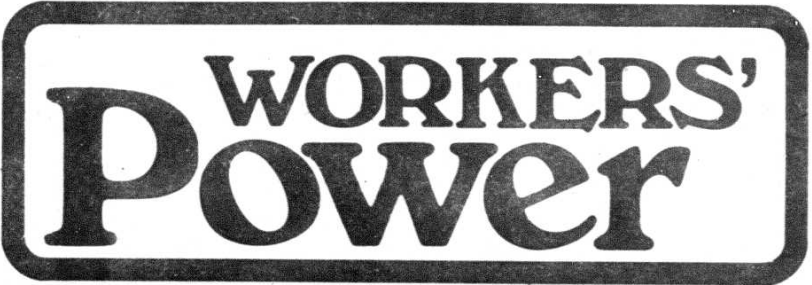
"It will not be enough to simply

reform the Teamsters or the Steelworkers...and that's what CCU is all about."

## FINAL ACTIVITIES

After dinner, two films were shown: If You Don't Come In On Sunday and The Inheritance. A final panel on "Building the Rank and File Movement" found people still willing participants in the discussion.

After eight hours in hot rooms, and with a keg waiting to be tapped, the continued enthusiasm seemed to say that the conference itself was a breath of fresh air. □



## Joan Little Forced Back To North Carolina Prison

IT TOOK THEM eight months, but North Carolina's prison authorities have got their hands on Joan Little.

Last week they took her from the Rikers Island prison in New York, flew her back to North Carolina and placed her in a maximum-security cell in the Correctional Center for Women in Raleigh.

Joan Little and her lawyer William Kunstler had asked the U.S. Supreme Court to delay her extradition from New York. They wanted a chance to present their evidence that Joan Little faces death from North Carolina prison authorities.

The Supreme Court couldn't be bothered. The North Carolina Prison system has plenty of time to take its revenge on Joan Little. She can be held for four to seven years to serve her full term for a 1973 breaking and entering conviction.

She can be sentenced to another long prison term for escaping from prison last October.

During that length of time, after her name fades from the headlines, anything could happen to her.

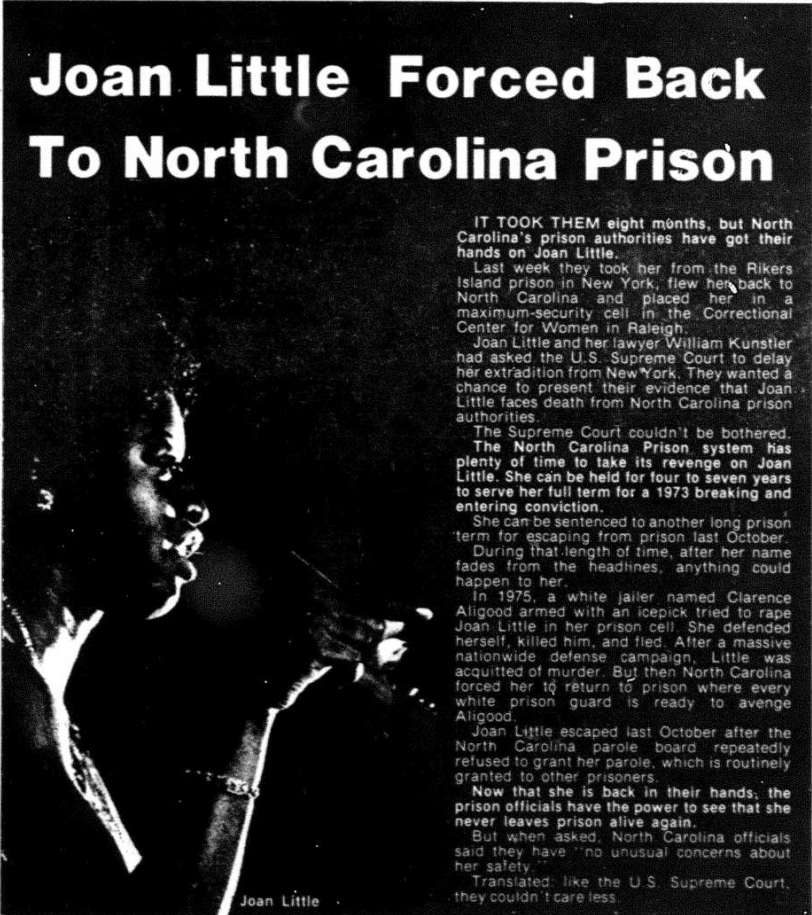
In 1975, a white jailer named Clarence Allgood armed with an icepick tried to rape Joan Little in her prison cell. She defended herself, killed him, and fled. After a massive nationwide defense campaign, Little was acquitted of murder. But then North Carolina forced her to return to prison where every white prison guard is ready to avenge Allgood.

Joan Little escaped last October after the North Carolina parole board repeatedly refused to grant her parole, which is routinely granted to other prisoners.

Now that she is back in their hands, the prison officials have the power to see that she never leaves prison alive again.

But when asked, North Carolina officials said they have "no unusual concerns about her safety."

Translated: like the U.S. Supreme Court, they couldn't care less.



Joan Little