

# Workers' Power

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## 100,000 Demand Equal Rights Now Biggest Women's March Ever!

by Elissa Clarke

WASHINGTON, D.C., July 9— "We're here because we think ERA will help us win equal opportunities on our job," a Black woman told me as we lined up to march for the Equal Rights Amendment.

What was unusual about this woman was not her comments, but the fact that she builds ships for a living.

Behind us marched a contingent from the Hospital and Health Care Employees District 1199. 1199 organized four buses to come to the march. A woman who worked in a nursing home told us, "I am proud to be a part of this."

These were two of 100,000 women demonstrating for the Equal Rights Amendment in Washington on July 9. They symbolized an exciting dimension of the march: young women, old women, women in traditional jobs, women breaking new ground, professional women, union women, housewives, lesbians, children, babies—sisters!

The marchers demanded ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment and an extension of the March 22, 1979 deadline.

Puerto Rican women wore white dresses with brightly embroidered flowers and danced on the way to the Capitol.

Women steelworkers came wearing hardhats. Auto workers held banners with their local numbers.

Social workers, actors, lesbians, miners ("Women can dig it too" said their T-shirts), socialists, feminists, students.

One group called themselves "Housewives for ERA."

Women lined up, 24 abreast, from Connecticut, California, Alabama, New York, Michigan—nearly every state in the union. Seven thousand came from Pennsylvania.

We waited for hours in the broiling sun for the march to begin. We were already sunburned when it was announced over the loud-speaker that those at the head of the march had reached the Capitol steps. It was half an hour before we stepped out.

As far as you could see in any direction were women wearing white to symbolize their ties with the sisters who marched years ago for the right to vote.

The women were joined by large numbers of men who came out to show their solidarity with the struggle. We saw one couple walking hand in hand. The man wore a T-shirt that said: "Men of quality do not fear women of equality." "Hey, I like that shirt!" called out one sister.



On Capitol Hill, demonstrators applauded wildly when Ellie Smeal, President of the National Organization for Women said, "This is just the beginning. We will have equality! We will march into history. We will finish and complete the American Dream. We will make real the promise of equality for all!"

Smeal noted that she was continually asked by reporters: "Has the women's movement peaked? Is this your requiem?"

"I always say, Hell no. We have just begun to fight!"

Smeal surveyed the crowd and commented that the Police Department estimated that there were between 60-90,000 people there. "You have made this movement, nobody else," she said.

"This may not be very sisterly," Smeal apologized, "but Mrs. Schlafly—eat your heart out!"

A wide variety of speakers echoed the same themes. Speakers included: Eleanor Holmes Norton, head of the Equal Employment

Opportunity Commission; Elizabeth Holtzman, a member of the House of Representatives; Jean Stapleton, actress; Bella Abzug, politician; Midge Costanza, Presidential aide (who spoke for Jimmy Carter who didn't show up); Gloria Steinam, feminist; and many others.

### SISTERS

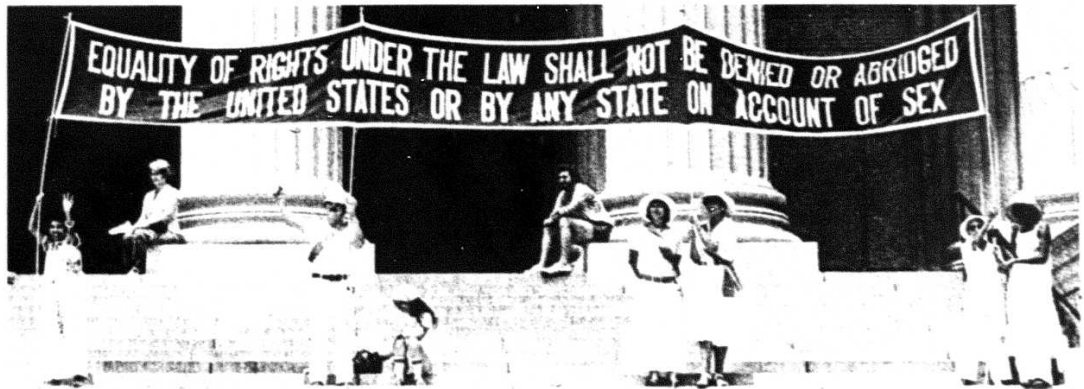
To the thousands and thousands of women present the day had a very special meaning.

To some, it was reminiscent of the women's liberation movement of the 60's.

But for others, it was the first time they had come to Washington to make their voices heard. It was their first demand to the government.

It was a new discovery of the power of ordinary women when we are united. It was an understanding of the strength and solidarity that women of all ages, all colors, all backgrounds, can feel for each other, as sisters. □

FOR AN ANALYSIS OF THE MARCH, TURN TO PAGE 8.



# THE FBI's FIERY CROSS



## Action Coalition Fights Anti-Gay Initiative

by Denise Sterchi

LOS ANGELES—An estimated 8000 lesbians, gay men and their supporters marched in Los Angeles July 2 to commemorate Gay Pride Week and protest the Briggs Initiative, Proposition 6, which will appear on the California ballot in November.

Any lesbian or gay man, or anyone who defends a gay life style as valid could be fired or barred from working in the public school system under this bill.

### ACTION NEEDED

Several coalitions have formed in the Los Angeles area to fight the Briggs Initiative. They were joined by groups from San Francisco and San Diego for the march and rally which followed.

Some leaders in the lesbian and gay community in California feel the best way to fight the Briggs Initiative is with a high-priced media campaign, and low-key presence by activists.

The Action Coalition Against Briggs (ACAB) has formed in the last months to run a different kind of campaign, one which organizes the lesbian and gay communities to defend their own struggle.

ACAB sees these most recent attacks on gays as linked to the attacks on women's right to abortion, on affirmative action, and attacks on workers such as those by the Adolph Coors Co.

ACAB has set up special committees to do outreach in the women's, Black, Chicano, and Native American communities, and a trade union committee which will focus on union opposition to Proposition 6, especially among school workers who will suffer directly if it passes.

Other members of the Coalition will canvas door-to-door seeking support, talk with people in shopping centers, and meet with community groups.

### NEW RIGHT

The success of Proposition 13 in California shows that the growing right-wing movement can win the support of large sections of the working class, pitting private sector workers against the more vulnerable public sector workers.

The "new right" will only be defeated if the oppressed groups like lesbians and gays show that the right does not stop with attacks on the weakest sections of the working class, but is part of the employers' offensive against the living standards and working conditions of all working people.

In the next few months the Action Coalition Against Briggs will begin developing a strategy for making this vital link.

by Dan Posen

He was a Ku Klux Klan bomber. He was a night rider. By his own account, he shot a Black man to death on a Birmingham, Alabama street.

He was also on the payroll of the Federal Bureau of Investigation—helping the FBI infiltrate the Klan and supposedly protecting the rights of Blacks and civil rights workers against racist violence.

To put Gary Thomas Rowe's career in perspective, you might think back to the television special, "King."

That program re-enacted a real-life event, the assassination on an Alabama highway of Viola Liuzzo, a Detroit housewife who had come to support the civil rights movement.

It did not show that one of the Klansmen in the car that overtook Liuzzo's car was an FBI agent—Gary Rowe.

### ROWE TESTIFIES

In 1965, testifying under immunity, Rowe testified that he pointed his pistol out the window but did not fire. Another of the Klansmen, he claimed, killed Mrs. Liuzzo with a shotgun blast. Rowe was not held personally responsible for this murder.

Ten years later, in 1975, Gary Rowe re-emerged. He testified to the Senate that the FBI not only employed him to gain information on the Klan—but actually encouraged him to actively participate in violent Klan activities.

Now Rowe is back in the news again.

Again thinking back to "King," you may recall the 1963 bombing of Rev. Fred Shuttlesworth's 16th Street church in Birmingham, where four young Black schoolgirls died.

It turns out that Gary Rowe, the FBI agent, is under active suspicion of participating in that bombing. He may have been in the same car with Robert Chambliss, the Klansman convicted of planting the bomb, when the crime was committed.

Rowe and the FBI have denied this, but the New York Times has just revealed he failed two lie detector tests on the question.

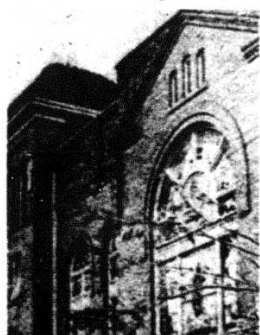
The FBI heatedly denies that

Rowe had any responsibility for the church bombing or the murder of Viola Liuzzo. But the deeper the investigations go, the less reliable all previous official versions seem to become.

### ANOTHER KILLING

Rowe now claims that he committed, and reported, another

FBI informant Gary Rowe, (right, wearing dark glasses) with federal agents in 1965. Rowe is suspected of participating in a 1963 Birmingham church bombing (below).



killing which was never even investigated. During ghetto rebellions in Birmingham in 1963, Rowe shot a Black man in the street—in self-defense, he claims.

He claims he reported the killing



to his FBI superior, Byron McFall, who ordered him to keep quiet about it. McFall is now a federal judge.

The Times reports: "Because of the temper of those times in Birmingham and possible lapses in record-keeping on racial matters, a source close to the investigation said, the incident might be hard to substantiate if it did occur."

In other words, there is no record of how many Blacks were killed, who they were, or how they died.

But wait a minute. Wasn't the FBI's information-gathering on the Klan a legitimate program to defend ordinary people from Klan terror?

The picture that emerges is that the FBI was, in fact, interested in infiltrating and obtaining information on the Klan—but it did not care how many Black people or civil rights workers were murdered, even if its own agents participated in the killing!

### WHO'S THE REAL THREAT

The FBI's concern was "law and order," which the Klan as an independent, unofficial terrorist organization threatened. The lives and rights of Black Americans, which the FBI was supposedly protecting, were of no concern at all.

If Gary Rowe lives to reveal the full story of all the acts he committed as the FBI's top Klansman, no one knows how many more previously "uninvestigated" murders could emerge.

All this only scratches the surface of how FBI informants operate. But it is clear they are allowed, and encouraged, to suggest and even carry out violent terrorist acts. While the FBI merely sought "information" on the Klan, it actively worked to disrupt and destroy radical and revolutionary groups.

This is part of the reason why the FBI is so eager to hide the names and activities of its agents in left-wing organizations, like the Socialist Workers Party. Disclosure of this information will reveal to the American people that the FBI is as much a threat to democratic rights in this country as the Ku Klux Klan ever was.

# Postal Workers' Anger Mounting As Talks Stall

by Paul Broz

A demonstration in Washington D.C., called by Northeast Region American Postal Workers Union presidents and endorsed by all four postal unions, drew over 10,000 postal workers. In Chicago, 300 chanted "No contract, no work" in front of Postal Service headquarters there. Several hundred attended similar demonstrations in Dallas, Denver, Detroit, and Oakland.

As postal contract talks near a July 20 deadline, it appears that the U.S. Postal Service management and the Carter administration are determined to test the strength of the postal unions.

Postal Service negotiators are refusing to move towards settling the major issues. Instead they are raising demands of their own, including an end to the existing "no layoff" clause and a freer hand in the disciplinary procedure.

The Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service has joined the deadlocked negotiations. They can be expected to back management. Their first action has been to impose a news blackout on the contract talks.

Many rank and file postal workers are angry with the lack of progress. They hope to improve their working conditions this time around.

## PETITIONS

Postal rank and file groups are attempting to pressure union negotiators into taking a tough line with management, and, if necessary, to back up their talk with a strike.

One group, the Postal Contract Coalition (PCC), has presented contract demand

petitions to union negotiators in Washington D.C. signed by postal workers from 120 local unions in 25 states.

Their demands were recently backed at annual conventions of the Illinois State Association of Letter Carriers and the Florida State American Postal Workers union.

The PCC demands are: Keep the no layoff clause; Decent pay and full cost-of-living; Safe working conditions; Keep six-day delivery; No mandatory overtime; Improved grievance procedure;

The right to use sick leave; All regular workforce; Negotiated work standards; and a two year contract (presently three years).

Although a co-ordinated national strike looks unlikely, management's hard line could trigger isolated walkouts.

A national strike could win postal workers' demands, however union leaders have said that only two demands are strikeable: elimination of the no layoff clause or a reduction in the cost-of-living. In the face of management's intransigence, this amounts to disarming the unions. □



# A Miner's View Of Puerto Rico's Union Struggle



Miguel Cabrera, Teamster organizer framed for murder in Puerto Rico.

A COAL MINER, an electrical worker, two teachers, and several hospital workers were part of a delegation that visited Puerto Rico late in May to investigate the repression being directed against the trade union movement there.

The group went to Puerto Rico at the invitation of the Puerto Rican Trade Union Committee Against Repression (TUCAR).

Tony Bumbico, a miner from St.

Clairsville, Ohio, was part of the group. Recently he told Workers' Power what he found out about the nature of Puerto Rican trade unions and the government attack they are currently facing.

"What we found was a system of imperialism within the trade union movement down there," he said.

"In the late 40's and early 50's, the AFL-CIO unions came down, basically at the request of American

companies that were locating in Puerto Rico.

"For the most part, they weren't representing the people there. The workers didn't even know they belonged to trade unions. Their dues was being taken out and they didn't even know where it was going."

## INDEPENDENCE, SOCIALISM

Bumbico said he found three categories of unions in Puerto Rico. First, "trade unions connected with the AFL-CIO nationals, which were making \$4-5 less an hour than what the same AFL-CIO unions were making in the United States."

"Second, the independent trade union workers, who had basically the best contracts on the island. I think they comprise about 40% of the labor movement at this time."

"And the third example is the Teamsters, who seem to be in sort of a unique situation. Although they're connected with an American national, they still more or less operate on an autonomous basis."

"Most of the people connected with either the independent trade unions or the Teamsters were independent forces, trying to make Puerto Rico a sovereign nation, or were socialists. This to me seemed very positive, too," Bumbico noted.

TUCAR, the group which invited the delegation to visit Puerto Rico, was formed last year to defend the unions from government repression.

It started with the murder of Alan Randall, a corporate attorney suspected of being a CIA agent. "They tried to pin the whole thing upon the Teamsters," Bumbico said. "The first charge was levelled against Juan Caballero Santana, a Teamster organizer."

However, Caballero was found dead shortly afterwards, his body totally mutilated. "It was like a retribution," Bumbico said. "Out of this whole thing, they pinned both murders on another Teamster organizer, Miguel Cabrera. There's been no factual evidence to link Cabrera to it."

"This was just the pinnacle point of a whole crusade against the independent trade unions."

## INSPIRED BY MINERS

"We saw pictures while we were down there taken during the UTIER (electrical workers) strike—just beatings, mobbings, shootings of the pickets," Bumbico continued. "Just an out and out fascist attitude towards anybody that's trying to do anything in the labor movement down there."

As a coal miner, Bumbico was asked many questions about the miners' recent strike here.

"The main thing was they said the miners know how to defend themselves. They were impressed by this."

"And there were quite a few questions about how we manage to do what we do, without any real leadership at the top of our organization."

He also said the group attended a large May Day rally while in Puerto Rico. "I was permitted to speak, and we felt warm the way people accepted me, being a white North American coming down there."

Bumbico said he was most impressed at "how together the independent unionists are, even against considerable odds. Just comparing the contracts, you could really see the difference."

"And they're doing more than just getting at the bread and butter issues of trade unionism down there."

"They are political people, and they're broadening the perspective in other areas too, aside from pure trade union issues. This is what really impressed me—how together they are in that respect." □

Jim Woodward

# Shcharansky: Why the Trial?

## Peru:

ELECTION RETURNS in Peru resulted in a remarkable show of strength for the left.

A total of 27% of the votes were cast for four socialist or radical slates. The revolutionary left slate FOCEP (Workers', Peasants', Students' and Poor people's Front) was by far the strongest of the left-wing slates, getting 11.5%. In some copper mining centers the FOCEP vote was as high as 40%.

Twelve FOCEP candidates were elected to the new constituent assembly, including the slate's leader Hugo Blanco.

Blanco and several other leftist candidates elected to the assembly were forcibly deported by the Peruvian military government in May. After being turned over to the Argentine military, he was allowed to go to Sweden when international protests demanded his release.

A campaign is underway to force the Peruvian military to allow the return of Blanco and other elected candidates who are political exiles.

Three million Indians who do not speak Spanish were not allowed to vote in the election. Otherwise, the revolutionary left vote would have been even higher.

Following these results, Peruvian big business will probably move rapidly in one of two directions: either an attempted deal with the unions to hold down wages, or toward a Chile-style right-wing coup.

## France:

NORTHERN FRANCE is being rocked by strikes and factory occupations on the largest scale since the 1968 general strike.

In many of the struggles, stopping layoffs and saving jobs is the main issue.

Factories and regions hit by the strike wave include dozens of small plants in Normandy, the Usinor steel works in Valenciennes, naval dockyards at Brest, and seven Moulinex plants (kitchen equipment) which have been occupied by women workers fighting against slave wages.

Several Renault auto plants have also been occupied, mainly by Black workers at Cleon and Flins.

## Zaire:

THE WESTERN powers' favorite African dictator, General Mobutu of Zaire, is in line for over \$70 million in aid to prop up the Zaire economy.

While these pledges were being made, reports surfaced in Brussels that Mobutu's personal fortune alone is over \$20 million.

According to the British Daily Telegraph his wealth includes "a chateau at Namur, a villa near Brussels, an apartment in Avenue Foch in Paris, residences in Nice (France), Venice and in Spain, a villa at Abidjan, Ivory Coast, and property in Bangui, Central African Empire."

In rural Zaire much of the population lives at the starvation line. □

by Dan Posen

Anatoly Shcharansky went on trial July 10 in a Moscow court for four reasons.

• First, because he was the leader of one of the most important of the "Helsinki Monitoring Groups" in the Soviet Union—committees which kept track of and publicized human rights violations.

• Second, because he is Jewish, at a time when the Russian bureaucracy is deliberately encouraging anti-Semitism in its crackdown on dissidents.

• Third, because the United States government, after a year of promising to fight for a full discussion of human rights at the Belgrade European security con-

ference, then gave its approval to a final conference statement which didn't mention human rights at all.

• Fourth, because the CIA's recruitment of foreign agents and use of American journalists around the world, and the American government's lies in covering up those crimes, give the Russian government some credibility when it charges Shcharansky with acting as a CIA agent on the basis of his contact with an American reporter.

### NO CASE

It is obvious that there is no real evidence linking Anatoly Shcharansky to the CIA. Not because Jimmy

Carter denies it, but simply because no evidence is being presented.

If, as it claims, the Soviet government could show Shcharansky "maintained regular contacts with representatives of foreign intelligence services... supplied them with information on the location, and secret regimes of a number of enterprises in the defense industry..." and so on and so forth—it would be able to name those foreign representatives and tell what secrets were given away, since obviously they aren't secret anymore.

Instead the trial is being held in closed court, with no reporters allowed and only official government summaries handed out.

Last year, to build up its frameup of Shcharansky, the KGB (Russian secret police) trapped a Los Angeles Times reporter by handing him a fake "secret" paper on ESP and arresting him on the spot.

This reporter, Robert Toth, is now supposedly the "agent of a foreign military intelligence service who worked in Moscow in the guise of a journalist" with whom Shcharansky had contact.

### HYSTERIA

On the surface, the certain conviction of Anatoly Shcharansky (only the sentence is in doubt) appears to be the ultimate destruction of basic human rights by an unchecked, monstrous totalitarian state.

But it is not quite as simple as that.

Twenty-five years ago, in the supposedly democratic United States of America, Julius and Ethel Rosenberg were electrocuted on the charge of passing nuclear secrets to the Soviet Union. There was no more evidence against them than there is against Shcharansky.

The Rosenbergs were convicted and executed at a time of violent political hysteria against political opposition in the U.S.

The rulers of bureaucratic Russia today are encouraging a somewhat similar kind of hysteria today against dissidents, not only in the Soviet Union but throughout Eastern Europe.

Vladimir Slepak, Alexander Ginzburg, Yuri Orlov and the Lithuanian Viktoras Patkus are among the other Helsinki activists or individual dissidents who have been or are being sentenced to long prison terms.

The chances are that Anatoly Shcharansky, in the end, will not be executed. But even this is not certain—and many Soviet prison terms, which include bread-and-water starvation diets and one visit per year, are worse than death.

### GREEN LIGHT

Not surprisingly, there are American politicians who want to use the Shcharansky case to whip up right-wing backlash in the U.S.

They demanded that the Carter Administration take a "tough" stand by suspending arms limitation talks with Russia. In other words, their idea is to defend Shcharansky by escalating the arms race toward World War III.

But the issue of whether the U.S. would seriously do anything about Eastern European dissidents was decided months ago, at Belgrade.

The U.S. did not have to endorse the Belgrade conference report omitting human rights—but it did exactly that.

Belgrade became the real green light to the Soviet regime to unleash the full force of its police state against the dissident groups. No after-the-fact U.S. bluster over SALT or detente changes a thing.

For the American government and its Soviet rival, Anatoly Shcharansky and Alexander Ginzburg are pawns in a battle for power, wealth and propaganda.

They are of no more real concern than trade unionists in the torture chambers of Brazil, Iran, South Korea or Chile. □



Tal al-Zaatar: Palestinian camp after the August, 1976 massacre by Israel's right-wing allies.

## Two Years After Tal al-Zaatar: How Israel "Saves Lives" In Lebanon

Israeli jet planes screaming over Beirut, the capital of Lebanon, are threatening a new all-out Middle East war.

The reason, according to the Israeli government, is to "save innocent civilians and our allies, the Lebanese Christians, from annihilation."

This same Israeli government killed thousands of civilians and created 250,000 new refugees in its recent invasion of southern Lebanon.

So much for Menahem Begin's concern for innocent victims.

The people Israel really went in to "save" are the far right-wing, so-called "Christian" militias. They are the gunmen who are armed and supported by Israel in terrorizing the 600,000 Palestinians in Lebanon.

### "FINAL SOLUTION"

It was exactly two years ago that a Palestinian camp at Tal al-Zaatar in east Beirut was being starved out by these armies. A Christian militiaman named "Claude" told a West German reporter:

"It won't be long any more;

maybe one, two or three weeks at the most and then comes the final solution, namely what Hitler did to the Jews."

When the Palestinian camp ran out of food and water after a 55-day siege, it was overrun and hundreds of civilians machine-gunned as they came out with their hands up.

Until that kind of "Final Solution" is applied to all the Palestinians in Lebanon, Israeli support of the Christian extreme right will continue—all, of course, in the name of humanity and national security. □

# Why Phoenix Grocery Workers Were Beaten

by Joel Chaplin

LOS ANGELES—Ten weeks ago, 1200 grocery workers in Phoenix, Arizona, represented by Teamsters Local 104, went out on strike. Today, the strike lingers on, though for all practical purposes it is over. More than 700 strikers are still out on the street, with no prospect of winning their jobs back.

From the start, the employers used every means to destroy the strike, and with it, the union.

**Attempts by the rank and file to win by spreading the strike to Los Angeles were sabotaged by the treachery of their own union officials.**

The Phoenix strike was fought over the same issues affecting all grocery workers. For the rank and file, the main issue was production standards. In order to get more production, the employers wanted to be able to discipline workers for low productivity. They also demanded that workers get no cost of living increase the first year of the contract. The largest grocery house, Associated Grocers, announced from the beginning that it was out to break the union and give superseniority to scabs.

Faced with this threat, Local 104 officials stalled. They waited for over a month after the contract expired before finally calling the strike.

By the time the Local did strike, the employers had recruited a full army of strike-breakers. Safeway called in supervisors from all their Western states operations. The employers got injunctions against mass picketing at Associated Grocers and A.M. Lewis. In the face of these attacks, the Union officials yielded, refusing to mobilize the rank and file against the injunctions

and the scabs.

After a few weeks, Local officials saw that their only hope was to extend the pickets to Safeway stores in California in order to exert enough economic pressure.

## EXPANDING PICKETS

Before the strike began, officials from the Western Conference of Teamsters had promised full support to the Phoenix strike, should they not get a contract after two weeks of picketing locally.

However, when the two weeks were up, the Western Conference representative, Bill Grami, reneged on his promises. He refused to allow sanction to extend the picketing, on the phoney grounds that it would be illegal in California.

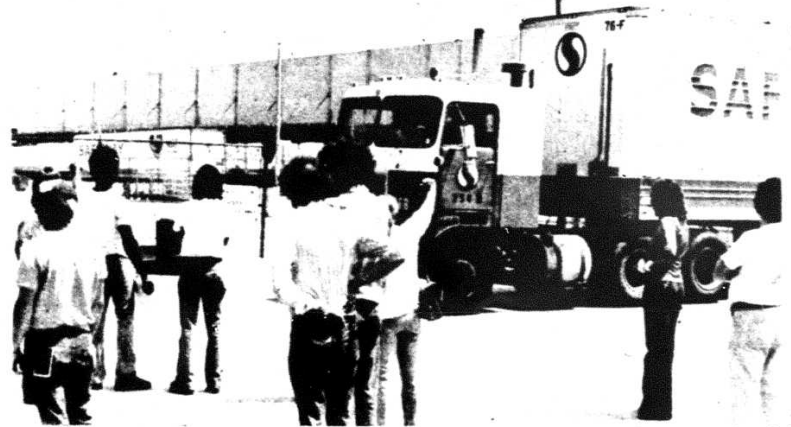
**But support was forthcoming from rank and file Teamsters, and especially from the grassroots reform group, Teamsters for a Democratic Union (TDU).**

In the Safeway grocery and non-foods warehouses in Santa Fe Springs, the Southern California TDU chapter had been organizing for about two months.

Santa Fe Springs warehousemen and the TDU chapter there were more than prepared to support the Phoenix strikers. They understood well that a defeat for grocery workers in Phoenix would weaken them when their contract expires in September, 1979.

The Santa Fe Springs workers circulated a petition signed by the overwhelming majority of the two warehouses demanding that the Phoenix pickets be extended to Santa Fe Springs. Then TDU sent two representatives to Phoenix.

That very day, Grami, the Western Conference representa-



Phoenix Teamsters travelled to Los Angeles to picket Safeway warehouses there is an effort to strengthen their strike.

tive, announced that he was granting strike sanction to go to L.A. for the following Monday. There was only one hitch. He would hold another vote, within a day, on the company's last offer. Grami's hope was that he could maneuver a yes vote on the contract, bring the strike to an immediate end, and make his promise to spread the pickets a dead letter.

**But his strategy backfired. With the help of L.A. TDU representatives, rank and file Safeway strikers came into the meeting telling Grami they were going to Los Angeles whether he gave strike sanction or not. They held up the petitions signed by the L.A. warehousemen, showing what kind of support they would get there.**

The vote was overwhelmingly for continuing the strike. With the exception of one small company, Bayless, the others rejected the contract. Grami's bluff had been called.

Grami stalled again. Instead of going to L.A. Monday, he announced it would take a few more days to get the "paper work" done. Meanwhile, none of the officials did anything to organize the trip to L.A.

## PICKETS ARRIVE

Finally, the Safeway strikers themselves got fed up and organized it themselves. That Monday night almost 30 of them drove to L.A. and set up picket lines the next morning at Safeway warehouses in Los Angeles.

But their officials were moving fast to take control over the strike. One B.A. came along with them, supposedly to help them get set up, but really to make sure the picket line was as weak as possible.

So, when L.A. warehousemen offered to help with the picketing, they were told by the strikers that their B.A. had instructed them not to allow anyone else on the picket line.

Meanwhile, other local officials were actually organizing their own members to scab. Sam Gellman, head of the grocery drivers local, encouraged the Safeway drivers to go across the lines for 24 hours, in direct violation of the contract. He told them that if they didn't haul the perishables, the scabs would

The local officers for the produce workers told their members to cross the lines because Teamster Joint Council 42 supposedly had not informed them of the strike.

**In spite of these obstructions, the strike began to gather momentum. TDU warehousemen called mass meetings each day, distributed leaflets about the strike, and organized a strike committee to work out strategy.**

By the second day, the strike committee organized 24 hour around the clock picketing, and began to make plans for a large mass picket on Friday, including grocery workers from other L.A. warehouses, to shut down the grocery and non-foods warehouses tight. (After the first day, Safeway rank scab trucks through the lines.) Plans were also being made to extend the pickets to the Bay Area, in coordination with TDU members there.

But there was still a critical weakness—the small number of picketers from Phoenix. Once the original 28 or so men came out to L.A., Local 104 officials had promised to send more. But with no active rank and file organizers remaining in Phoenix to make sure it happened, the officials never sent on additional pickets, hoping to exhaust and demoralize the original group who had to walk 12 hour shifts and more each day.

**After two days, the International made its move. Early Thursday morning, Grami called Tony Lock, the most popular B.A. in Phoenix, and told him the International had decided to pull strike sanction unless all the Phoenix strikers went home immediately to vote on a new contract the next day.**

Lock gathered the weeping men together and whisked them away. A small army of local union officials appeared in front of the Safeway grocery warehouse to make sure they all left and everyone went back to work.

Just before leaving, one Joint Council official told a Phoenix Safeway driver, "Get the hell out of here—you've fucked things up around here long enough."

With their power taken away from them, Safeway employees approved the contract the next day. The only change was 15c an hour more the first year. Grami told

them that they would never be allowed to go to California again. Then he sent them back to work, leaving the other strikers out in the cold.

The results were predictable. A.M. Lewis then announced that they were going to give the scabs superseniority, just like Associated Grocers. This means that over 700 strikers will lose their jobs!

For most Phoenix grocery workers, this strike has been a disaster. For Phoenix Safeway workers, who at least still have their jobs, it has been a bitter lesson. For they have learned the hard way how the IBT bureaucracy operates to destroy their initiative and their effectiveness. They are learning that they can only count on themselves and other rank and file Teamsters. So, they have taken the lead in forming a TDU chapter in Local 104.

Meanwhile, the lessons of the Phoenix strike will have to be learned in the San Francisco Bay Area, where the largest Safeway contracts expire this month.

**As in Phoenix, Safeway is out to defeat the union and get complete control over working conditions. And as in Phoenix, Bill Grami is preparing to negotiate the contract, and let the local officials, especially in Richmond, pretend to oppose the international so they can better prevent rank and file activity.**

But it is only such activity which can stop Safeway and the employers' offensive in grocery on the West Coast. □

## RCA Lockout Over Layoffs

NEW YORK—RCA's lockout of Teamster/American Communications Association Local 10 entered its eighth week. In May RCA tried to transfer work from Lodi, California to New York, which would have resulted in the closing of the Lodi RCA branch and the layoff of all 50 employees there.

Those union members were protected by a no-layoff clause in their contract.

**The work was to be performed by RCA employees in New York, members of Local 10. They refused to do the work, and instead demanded to negotiate with RCA over the Lodi layoffs.** The president of RCA refused to meet with Local 10 president Vincent Attardi to negotiate the Lodi layoffs. "Then it was no longer a question of layoffs," a Local 10 business agent said, "it was a question of union recognition, and all other questions, like the layoffs, became secondary."

### SIT-IN

On May 10, Local 10 members in New York staged a 33-hour sit-in in the RCA offices. No work was done. An injunction against the sit-in was issued, and the union members were ejected from

the building.

Local 10 picketed RCA at Rockefeller Center and staged a 3000 person march and rally to RCA headquarters on June 23. RCA has seen to it that there has been no press coverage of these events, and no coverage of the lockout.

RCA has arranged with the management of other corporations—New York Telephone and Western Union—that RCA's circuits with those companies be maintained promptly. Now that the lockout has entered its eighth week, Local 10 members are eligible for unemployment compensation. With the IBT strike benefits they have been receiving, this will enable them to hold out as long as necessary. That will put them into a position to bargain even more effectively.

There are some indications that, given this stronger bargaining position, a settlement may be closer. There is even the possibility of renegotiation of the entire contract now, instead of November when it is due to expire.

**RCA workers are already the highest paid in the industry. A better contract for them, negotiated earlier, may set a pattern in the industry in general.** □

## Workers' Power

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# 'We Have Come

## From Brown vs. Board of Education to Bakke vs. — A Quarter Century of Equal Rights Gains in D

by Marilyn Danton

**What does the Bakke decision really mean? Does it signal the end to affirmative action programs? Have the clocks been set back to before 1954? Or, does the Bakke decision further affirmative action because race can now be an official factor in employment and college admission programs?**

These and other questions are being hotly debated today among Blacks and women, in the press and on television. While it may take years to know the full impact, some tentative conclusions can be drawn right now.

For Dr. Kenneth B. Clark, a well known Black psychologist who helped draw up the law suit launched by the NAACP in 1951 resulting in the landmark 1954 decision outlawing segregation, the impact of the Bakke decision was very ironic.

On a fateful day in that year in a South Carolina county, Clark did an experiment.

### FOUR DOLLS

He placed four dolls on a desk. The dolls were identical in everything except color, two of them were brown and two were white. A group of Black children from three to seven years old examined the dolls.

Clark asked the children to give him the dolls they liked the best. And, one by one, three-quarters of the children gave him the white dolls.

When asked to chose the doll that looks bad, the Black children, again three-quarters of the group,

and hurt expressions and looking down in embarrassment, the children picked up the 'bad' brown dolls and gave them to Clark.

The experiment convinced Clark to help the NAACP draw up the suit. It was the legacy left to Black children of 300 years of racial hatred and segregation.

Today, the experiment would no doubt have different results. But those results are directly attributable to the dramatic changes that took place after 1954, resulting in the end to legal segregation, the passage of two civil rights acts

and handed down, the verdict was clear.

Jesse Jackson, head of PUSH in Chicago said "Legally, the Bakke decision represents the end of the period of the Second Reconstruction and lays the predicate for another century of struggle around the issue of racial discrimination."

The Superintendent of the Detroit Public Schools added: "The Bakke case does reflect the mood of the country. I believe the U.S. is becoming regressive. There is a

stionary quota—that was the stated basis for throwing out the University of California program, and admitting Allan Bakke to Medical School.

The real impact is to put a question mark over all affirmative action programs by encouraging suits against all existing ones as the accompanying article clearly indicates.

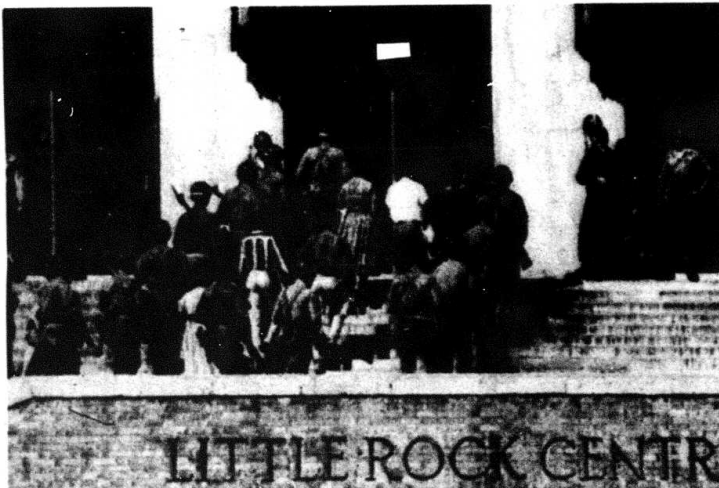
Despite the growing evidence of the negative implications of the Bakke decision, Benjamin Hook of the NAACP and Vernon Jordan of the Urban League, heads of two of

the most prestigious of the Black organizations argue that while the decision was a "disappointment," that it could be overcome.

If it seems surprising that Jordan and Hook didn't take a stronger stand, it shouldn't. They'd already agreed substantially to the position handed down. This position was laid out in a friend of the court brief submitted by Attorney General Griffin Bell.

### THE CARTER BRIEF

The Carter brief was the product



1957: Federal Troops escort nine Black children to attend previously all white Little Rock Central High—a direct result of the 1954 Supreme Court decision outlawing legally segregated schools.

gave him the brown dolls.

Finally Clark called each child up and said, "Now, give me the doll that looks like you." With pained

supposedly guaranteeing equality legally for Blacks, minorities and women, the affirmative action programs and most importantly a consciousness and pride in being Black and having potential power in this society.

myth that minorities have made tremendous gains in the 60's and 70's and that everything is all right."

And William Galter, president of a Black self-help organization in Buffalo summed it all up: "The court has ruled that quotas and set-asides are unconstitutional. It will be only a matter of time before ranges and goals of affirmative action programs are struck down."

### QUOTAS AND GOALS

Some have argued that the Supreme Court's recognition of the principle of affirmative action will have the effect of strengthening the existing programs, or that at least the decision doesn't set back the programs.

And the recent decision upholding American Telephone and Telegraph's extensive program as constitutional would seem to support this view.

This is simply wrong. ATT's program was based on goals. There were no numerical or so-called "exclusionary quotas" used as a basis of hiring and promotion. Yet, it was the 16 slots out of a hundred—the numerical, exclu-

### UNEQUAL

But, make no mistake, even with the victories, no one can seriously argue that Blacks and other minorities have equality today. The median income of the average Black family is 60% of that of a white family.

Black unemployment remains double that of white unemployment.

After eight years of affirmative action programs, racial minorities including Asians and Native Americans—35% of the population—hold 39% of the lowest paying jobs and only 7-8% of the highest paying jobs.

In this context what was the impact of the Bakke decision? In a series of interviews conducted by the New York Times two weeks after the decision was

# AFTER BAK Weber, Kreps and mo

by Larry Smith

The Supreme Court decision in Bakke is not the final word in the struggle over affirmative action. It was just one of the opening battles in what will be a bitter war. There are two thousand Bakke-like cases working their way up through the courts. Because of the Bakke decision many more will be added to what could become a never-ceasing list.

The decision solved nothing. What on the surface appears to be compromise, puts a question mark around all affirmative action programs. The decision is a direct aid to the racist forces that supported Bakke from the beginning.

They, the growing right wing, will not be satisfied with the partial victory they achieved in the Bakke case. Their goal is a complete roll-back of the gains that Blacks, other minorities and women made over the last period.

There are several very important cases making their way to the Supreme Court as of now. They deal with different aspects of the affirmative action question. **Weber vs. Kaiser** touches upon the question of employment and the skilled trades. **Kreps vs. Associated General Contractors of California** will deal with questions surrounding the Public Works Employment Act of 1977. **Cramer vs. Virginia Commonwealth University** will touch on the question of employment and sex discrimination.

Brian Weber is a lab technician for Kaiser Aluminum at their Gramercy, La. plant. Kaiser and



Brian Weber

the United Steel Workers had previously agreed to an affirmative action program that would have increased minority representation in the skilled trades. The plan would bring minority representation to the same level as that in the surrounding community.

Weber, a white male who wanted to become a general repairman—a skilled job—was not chosen for the training program. Weber therefore sued Kaiser and the USW.

He charged that his rights were violated and that he had been discriminated against. He charged that the affirmative action program set up by Kaiser and the USW is in violation of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Two lower federal courts agreed with Weber.

**RALLY AND MARCH  
to  
Protest Supreme Court  
Decision  
and  
Support Affirmative Action  
SATURDAY, JULY 22  
12:00 NOON  
Kennedy Square, Detroit  
ALL OUT!**

# 'The Full Circle'

## Bakke vs. University of California Lives in Danger

the most prestigious of the Black organizations argue that while the decision was a "disappointment," that it could be overcome.

If it seems surprising that Jordan and Hook didn't take a stronger stand, it shouldn't. They'd already agreed substantially to the position handed down. This position was laid out in a friend of the court brief submitted by Attorney General Griffin Bell.

### THE CARTER BRIEF

The Carter brief was the product

of a political struggle within the Carter administration. An original brief argued forcefully against quotas as discriminatory.

When it was circulated, Black supporters and members of the administration were outraged and threatened to wage a public fight with the administration over the brief. In response the brief was re-written with the emphasis changed to support affirmative action, and not take a formal position on quotas.

But according to Bell, it was not substantially different. At the time

he stated "When it comes to quotas, We'd be opposed to them."

And Bell's reaction of being "pleased" with the Bakke decision is consistent with the Carter brief.

Jordan, Hooks and others are simply not prepared to break with the Carter administration at this time.

But the fact is that those who, like Thurgood Marshall, the lone Black on the Supreme Court say "We have come full circle." are right.

Without a serious fight, the

Bakke decision will be the beginning of the end of affirmative action programs to redress racist and sexist practices in education and employment.

growing right wing that is attacking racial and sexual minorities and the programs they won in the past.

### ... AND AHEAD

We have come full circle. But, we must not stop here. If we passively accept the Bakke decision all the programs eventually will go the way of the University of California program.

But, if we fight back, we can win. The various coalitions organized to overturn the Bakke decision must now be reorganized to defend and extend affirmative action programs. In every place where a program is already in existence, committees must be set up to ensure that the program continues.

Demonstrations must be organized to support defendants in the other cases winding their way through the courts, especially the Kaiser-Weber case.

A power civil rights and black power movement forever changed the consciousness Black people had of themselves and won real victories in the past. We are now learning the hard way that we can't rest for a moment. We must continue to build an even stronger movement to maintain what we've won and advance the progress. Let Bakke become the rallying cry for no more defeats.

### LOOKING BACKWARD...

And the time is ripe for this reactionary turn. In 1954 when the Supreme Court ruled unanimously to overturn the concept of separate but equal, it reflected a commitment on the part of a section of the ruling class to some semblance of equality—to get rid of, or at least push under the rug—some of the ugly scars of racial prejudice.

After all, how could the U.S. compete for the allegiance of the newly emerging Black African nations against its arch rival in the cold war—Russia—with legal racial segregation in the South? Besides, there was room for everyone in school and on the job. This was a time of prosperity, of plenty for everyone—even Black people could get a piece of the action.

Today, that's all changed. Gone is the optimism—down the drain with a base of six per cent unemployment and six per cent inflation. Gone is the commitment to equality with little or no support to equal housing and busing.

Buried are the movements of the sixties, and in their place, a

# R BAKKE: , Kreps, Cramer... and more to come

The Bakke case was decided by Title VII of the same civil rights act on which Weber bases his case. Since the most important affirmative action programs are in employment as opposed to education, the Weber case is highly important.

In 1977 the Congress passed the Public Works Employment Act which says that 10% of federal money must go to minority businesses. In 1977 a group of California contractors sued the Commerce Department. They claimed the minority-grant rule is unconstitutional.

A Federal District Judge agreed and added that the program violated Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act and the Fifth Amendment. The lower court decision is

very similar to the decision made in the Bakke case.

Most of the media attention around affirmative action has only dealt with the question as it relates to sexism. James Cramer was a sociologist at the Virginia Commonwealth University. In 1973 Cramer did not receive tenure at the school. In the same year the school set up an affirmative action hiring program to increase minority and women staff. Cramer lost his bid for tenure. He claims he lost it because a woman hired under the program received tenure. Cramer filed suit, charging that the program violated Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. The case is before the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals.

Already the Bakke decision is encouraging more cases against existing affirmative action programs.

In Ohio the state chapter of the Association of General Contractors, Inc., has gotten a preliminary injunction against the state setting aside some construction projects for minority contractors. The association argued that the practice ran counter to the Bakke decision.

And in Richmond, Virginia, the head of the local NAACP chapter fears that the Bakke decision will force a reexamination of a recent decision by the city to see that one quarter of the workers on a downtown redevelopment project were from minority groups.

For all those who doubted that the Bakke decision was a defeat for the continuance of affirmative action programs, take heed.



Brian Weber

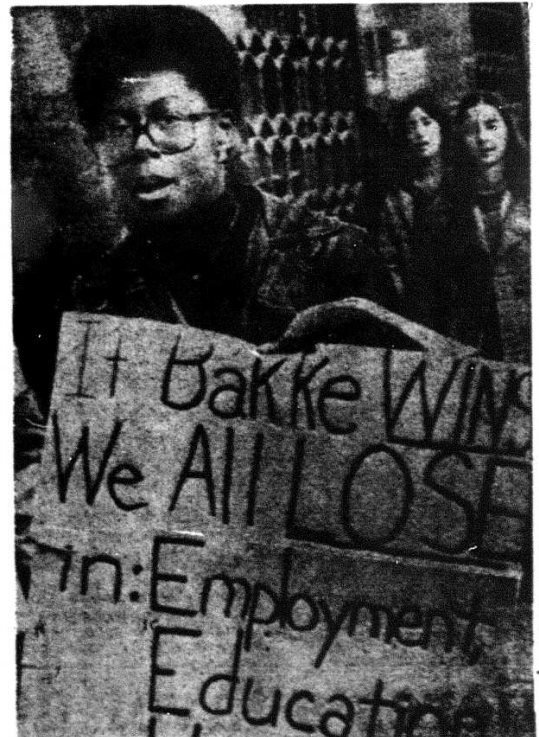
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James Cramer



Anti-Bakke demonstrator in Washington last October. The Bakke decision puts a question mark over affirmative action programs.

# Speaking Out

## What We Think

# July 9: A New Beginning

ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND WOMEN converged on Washington, D.C. on July 9 to demand the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment.

As the crowd gathered on the mall beneath the Washington Monument, women asked each other; how many people are there? When Ellie Smeal announced that the police estimated between 60 and 90,000—and more were still marching down Constitution Avenue—the crowd cheered wildly.

What made so many women stand up for the Equal Rights Amendment? The ERA itself is not an earth shattering piece of legislation. It is a rather basic statement of equality between the sexes under the law.

**But if the ERA were defeated, every woman in that crowd understood what it would mean. One woman we spoke to said: "I'm fighting for myself as a woman. I am going to be equal in this country!"**

### NOW'S STRATEGY FAILED

For the National Organization for Women, this demonstration was a departure from their strategy. For six and a half years, NOW has urged its members to fight in their state legislatures, in the halls of Congress, and on the campaign trail. Not in the streets.

That strategy has been a failure. In North Carolina, for example, NOW worked to get Jim McDuffie elected to the

state Senate because he promised to support the Equal Rights Amendment. But once elected, McDuffie cast the vote that defeated the ERA. So, in 1978, ERA supporters organized to have him defeated in his re-election.

But regardless of the rise and fall of Jim McDuffie, the ERA has still not been ratified in North Carolina.

**July 9 marks a change. A new beginning. The women's movement has been dormant for the past several years. But on July 9, a hundred thousand women came out.**

Looking at the faces in Washington that day, it was clear that the march represented the beginnings of a real broadening of the forces that are ready to fight for women's rights.

Although the march was largely white and middle class women, there was a significant contingent of working women, union women, minority women. There were women miners. Women ship builders. Nurses. Auto workers. Steel workers. Many young faces. Students, housewives. For many, many of these women, this was their first demonstration. It was the first time that they were making demands on the government.

**The attacks on affirmative action, abortion, maternity benefits hit these women hard—on the job, in their schools, and communities. Their numbers were small in Washington, but they will grow as women, Blacks, gays, working people are forced to defend themselves.**

July 9 proves that women are beginning to respond. In Washington, we met miners who see that the fight for the

ERA is part of their fight to stay in the mines. Ship builders who understand that the ERA is part of their fight to be able to advance on their job and be taken seriously by their union leadership. ("We had to twist their arms real hard to get a bus," one ship builder told us.) Steel workers who understand that the ERA is part of their fight to end the sexual harassment in the mills. Auto workers who understand that the ERA is part of their fight to get better jobs in the plants, to get into the trades.

Many of the women we spoke to at the march told us they thought it was "outrageous" that the ERA was in jeopardy. Although by and large these women were not part of the movements of the sixties—the Black movement, the women's movement, the anti-war movement, those movements brought real changes in their lives. Today, they are watching those gains erode. On July 9, they stood up to fight back.

**For these women, July 9 marks a real change. They are demanding the Equal Rights Amendment. It's the beginning of the fight. The fight will go on. Soon, the Bakke decision will start to erode affirmative action programs. These women will not sit back.**

It is the beginning of a new movement. Undoubtedly, NOW will go back to the halls of Congress to lobby for what they want.

But the women's movement must stay in the streets. Politicians will not respond to individuals. But they will listen when 100,000 women march. □

## As I See It

# 100,000 STRONG, WE MADE HISTORY

by Enid Eckstein

"Equal rights! Equal Pay! Ratify the ERA!" was our cry as we marched to the U.S. capitol. We came from everywhere. We filled Constitution Avenue to demand that we be written into the Constitution.

Our spirit, our vision of women's equality, shone brighter than the scorching sun.

The 100,000 of us who marched knew we were making history and we were proud of it. We were part of the largest demonstration for women's rights this country has ever seen.



We wore white and carried purple and gold banners, recreating the marches of the suffragettes. Many took particular pride as we marched past the National Archives Building where our sisters marched in 1913 for the right to vote. Those 8000 suffragettes defied society by demanding the vote for women. Today we marched for equality.

As one who grew up during the women's liberation movement of the 60's, Sunday was particularly exciting to me. During the 60's, we learned the lessons of the civil rights movement and took our desires for equality to the streets. We marched for legalized abortion, equal job opportunities, equal pay, child care.

Our demonstrations were small, mostly white and middle class. But our actions had their impact. Abortion was legalized, affirmative action programs were enacted and many unions demanded equal pay for equal work.

That movement has lain dormant—but it gave rise to hundreds of thousands of women to whom equality means bread and butter on the table. It gave rise to women steel, auto workers, and miners who were not going to be driven out of the work force like our sisters had been in the past. It gave rise to Black and Latina women who no longer shunned women's liberation as divisive, but saw it as key to their future progress. And it gave rise to hundreds of thousands of women who were no longer willing to take a back seat to men, but who wanted to share with them.

As women, we have different—higher—expectations than we had ten years ago. That is why we made a stand for equality.

### NEW SPIRIT, NEW BEGINNING

But for the thousands and thousands of us who marched, in ourselves was born a new spirit. We stood up for the ERA, but we want more. We had a chance to feel the strength of 100,000 sisters. We flexed our muscles. Now I am confident that we will not sit idly by and watch our hard-won rights be eaten away.

Yes, the situation for the ERA is desperate. But for the thousands and thousands of women who filled Constitution Avenue, it is not the end. It is the beginning. □



by Portia Patrick

The march for the ERA was the first big demonstration I've been to. I'm so glad I went. It's an experience that I can tell my little children when I get older. It's part of my life that I'll never forget.

What was so exciting to me was that I never thought that so many women could get together like that. I was surprised that so many really wanted the ERA to pass.

**When I was going around taking pictures, I heard a lot of women saying that the women's movement is going to start up again. We felt so strong, all there together. When you get around a lot of people who all agree on the same thing, it makes you feel stronger. It makes you feel that you can go on and win.**

I was very young during the women's liberation movement. I thought it was a bunch of white housewives, burning bras. I thought they didn't have anything else to do, that they wanted to shock their husbands.

But from Sunday's march, I see that the women's movement is a lot more. There were all kinds of women there. It doesn't matter if you're a rich person or poor or whatever, you can unite around equal rights.



**There was a real feeling of sisterhood, solidarity in the city. It felt like the women were taking over the city.**

The night before the march, we went out to dinner. The waitress came in and she was talking to the other waitress.

She said, "There's a bunch of women out there that's going to the demonstration tomorrow." Everybody started clapping and cheering! We said, "We're going too. We're going to the march too."

We went out there and started introducing ourselves to the other women. They were from Philadelphia. Then we asked the waitress if she was going to the march. She said, "Yes, I'm going too."

It was such a good feeling. For the first time, I've seen all these women together, fighting for the same thing. We seemed so strong, like we weren't going to stop until we get what we want.

As a Black woman, I was disappointed about the fact that there weren't many Black women there. The majority of Blacks that were there marched with the labor contingent.

But I think the women's movement really could grow, and begin to reach out to Black women. If the ERA is defeated, I definitely think the movement would just pop up just like that. Women would be outraged. Black women would rise up and say, "I gotta do something about that."

And this time when the movement takes off, I'm going to be a part of it! □



# Letters From A Friend

## Socialism: why it's international

Dear B,

Sorry I've taken so long to write you, but it could be worse: it could be like the Letter From A Supervisor's Mother To Her Son which has been floating around the shop. The mother begins by saying "Dear Son, I'm writing this letter real slow because I know you don't read so fast."

When you wrote you asked me why socialists say there can't be socialism in one country. It will take some time to write a decent answer—which is one reason I didn't reply sooner.

Let's start off real small; let's say that you live in a capitalist country and work in a factory that manufactures wanker-warmers. Along with your co-workers, you go through the usual hassles with the boss, fighting back, and you end up with a strong organization that believes it has every right to take over and run the plant.

When the boss refuses, you seize the plant and shortly begin running it yourselves (which is something that has been attempted in Europe, but rarely here.)

Now, assuming that the boss and his government don't smash your rebellion with direct violence, supposing that you hold the plant and run it, there are suddenly problems: where and how to buy materials and where to sell the wanker-warmers. As everyone knows, the steel wool used in the manufacture of wanker-warmers must come from the spring shearing of hydrolic rams—and that vital resource is controlled by capitalists whose workers haven't shorn them. The hydrolic rams' owners are not particularly eager to supply you with raw materials.

Thus the capitalists can boycott or control your game from that end, or they can control it by cutting off your markets—unless the workers elsewhere who use wanker warmers in their jobs are strong enough and sympathetic enough to demand only your warmers, and no capitalist imitations.

The problem we see is that your plant is not economically independent, and the dominant conditions around it will ultimately determine its fate.

This is all very simplistic, of course, but let's just take our local example and expand it to global proportions. We are talking about a world economy that is dominated economically, and therefore politically, by international capitalism. All nations—large, small, rich, poor—are dependent on a system of worldwide markets, commodities to the world market and depends on the import of others which it doesn't produce. All the workers in your nation seize the factories and the government, defeat the counter-revolutionary attacks from within, and establish a workers' state which plans to build socialism.

Since the workers in other countries aren't prepared for revolution—may not even approve of it yet—you find your country isolated economically until starved into accepting the rules of the world market, which are still capitalist.

In which case, at best, your nation can act like one centralized company, which is run by workers, and which knows that socialism (which relies on abundance, not scarcity) can't be built while capitalism still dominates the world.

Back when the Russian Revolution was taking place in 1917, its leaders understood these simple facts. Lenin stated pretty clearly that they could only half-step unless the working class revolution in Russia became international and spread quickly to the advanced countries of western Europe.

The cartoon that I've enclosed shows Lenin sweeping the capitalists and the kings out of the world. Without spreading the revolution, it might be possible to remain a workers' state for a while, but the capitalist countries would hold it under siege. That's exactly what happened in Russia, which was invaded by 13 separate countries. That's why we're international socialists.

So, that's part of the answer to your question, and it probably raises as many questions as it answers. I hope this finds you well.

Yours for the revolution,

*Dennis*

by Dennis Stovall



well  
profit  
had  
seniority  
anyway

A & P supermarket recently announced the permanent layoff of two employees for lack of productivity. "For the money we spent we didn't get the results we expected," said the company's chairman J.L. Scott.

The two facing unemployment are Price and Pride. A third employee, Profit, was retained.

Price defended his work record, blaming inflation for his misfortune. "And now how am I supposed to feed my family?" he asked angrily.

Pride was unavailable for comment, but sources close to him said he is deeply depressed about the decline of standards in this country. He had suffered another blow when Chrysler Corporation declined to hire him to defend the Omni and Horizon. □

## Imprisoned veteran appeals for support

The following letter, to the International Red Cross Human Rights Division was sent to Workers' Power for publication:

Eldson McGhee is being illegally detained by the United States Government, with the authority vested in the United States Attorney General, under the supervision of the United States Bureau of Prisons, in the Atlanta Federal Penitentiary, and has been so detained for almost six years without due course of law under the United States Constitution; and

He had no criminal or arrest record before his military service in Vietnam where he was wounded in combat by both armed and biochemical warfare, while carrying out orders of the U.S. Government; and

He is being illegally detained solely because of his military service induced behavior, his racial origin, his indigent status, and his political beliefs; and

He is one of the thousands of U.S. Servicemen, who, as a result of combat wounds, returned from his tour of duty in Vietnam drug addicted, and was not afforded any

detoxication treatment before being discharged into civilian life where he, by virtue of his service-connection drug induced compulsion, became easy prey for the criminal element; and

He is not guilty of the crime for which he is being detained, nor has he been indicted for it by a Grand Jury, nor has he been afforded trial on the charges as required by the U.S. Constitution, and the Courts in the United States have continuously refused to entertain his petitions for Habeas Corpus relief; and

Finally, his case epitomizes the gross violations of Human Rights that Black drug afflicted Vietnam Veterans are currently suffering at the hands of the U.S. Government, and the net result is genocide of the Black race within the United States of America.

Sincerely,  
Bunni M. McGhee  
President, Eldson McGhee  
Support Committee

The Eldson McGhee Support  
Committee  
P.O. Box 7751, Station C  
Atlanta, Georgia 30357

## I.S. BRANCHES

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New Jersey: P.O. Box 897, Chestnut Station, Union, NJ 07083  
New York: 30 E. 20th St., Room 207, New York, NY 10003  
Pittsburgh: P.O. Box 466, Homestead, PA 15120  
Portland: P.O. Box 4662, Portland, OR 97208

## 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 .....

# Summer School for Socialism

by Retha Hill

"If socialism is like this, then I can't wait."

That was the sentiment of more than fifty young people who attended the third annual Red Tide summer school June 30-July 4 in Ortonville, Michigan.

Both Black and white high school students and young workers learned what socialism is all about. Through classes and movies they learned that socialism was a system for them—working class people, and not what the capitalist-instituted school system had tried to fool them into believing.

According to Zac, a young brother from Redford, he thought socialism was fascism: "Until I met the Red Tide up at Redford, I thought socialism had something to do with Hitler... I didn't know it was like this."

Through basic political classes on capitalism, racism, sexism and socialism, they learned what the system was all about and how it could be changed for the better under socialism.

New ideas and concepts about Black liberation and women's liberation were explored and old myths an stereotypes were shot down.



Author holds Red Tide Banner. The Red Tide [the International Socialist youth group] held summer school on socialism for young people.

In the People's History series, talks were given on labor history, women's history, and American history from the people's point of view.

The young people attending the class finally learned the truth about George Washington and Abe Lincoln and what really went on at the Constitutional Convention.

Not only did the Red Tide summer school have political education classes, but skills classes as well. Public Speaking, Newspaper Production, Organizing and Self Defense classes were given to help prepare young people for the long struggle ahead.

By the end of the five-day summer school most of the young people considered themselves revolutionary socialist and were ready to join the struggle. □



## Labor Notes

by Jim Woodward



If you're not making much money and struggling to get by these days, you'll undoubtedly be glad to know a top government official has another plan for fighting inflation. G. William Miller, chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, told Congress he favors postponing a scheduled minimum wage increase for two years. Unless Congress goes along with Miller, the minimum wage is set to rise from \$2.65 to \$2.90 next January.

The hazards of working with asbestos are emphasized by a study of employees who have worked at the Long Beach, Calif. Naval Shipyard for 17 years or more. One-third of them had asbestosis, an incurable lung disease that is sometimes fatal. More are expected to get cancer, though it usually takes 20-30 years for this to develop. The Department of Health, Education and Welfare predicted several months ago that nearly 5.5 million Americans—half of all those who have worked with asbestos in the last 40 years—will die of asbestosis or cancer as a result.

The United Mine Workers international executive board will consider petitions demanding the recall of President Arnold Miller at the board's next meeting July 25. Leaders of the campaign to recall Miller now say they have 31,000 signatures on their petitions—more than double the number required to set the recall process in motion.

A federal government report says that 160 of the 2000 multi-employer pension plans in this country are so weak financially that they could collapse financially within the next ten years. These plans cover 1.3 million workers.

Edgar Speer, chairman of U.S. Steel, told a group of businessmen recently that the free enterprise system is in serious danger. He attacked those who are working for what he called "the establishment of a communistic commune." He was referring specifically to the community organizations, religious and labor groups that are trying to buy the closed Campbell works in Youngstown, Ohio. Five thousand workers lost their jobs when the mill closed last fall. Speer said these efforts are a good example of the threat facing the free enterprise system. He told the businessmen, "the nation needs people like you who are supportive of the free-enterprise system."

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.

## More states slash Medicaid abortions

by Elissa Clarke

In one state after another, the right of women to have abortions paid for by Medicaid is being cut off.

In MICHIGAN, one of only 14 states which still pay for Medicaid abortions, Governor William Milliken has frequently made statements to the media about how much he supported the right of poor women to choose abortion.

All that may now end. Both the Michigan state House and Senate have passed a budget with a rider that would limit the state's use of Medicaid funds for abortion to \$1 each.

The budget has now gone to Milliken's desk. So far he isn't laying his cards on the table. Sources indicate he and his aides are studying whether he could impose a "line" veto—rejecting the anti-abortion measure while approving the rest of the budget.

Abortion rights forces point out that to override a veto would require on-the-record roll call votes in the legislature. The Michigan House of Representatives—those brave defenders of principle and human life—rushed the anti-abortion rider through with a quorum voice vote and no recorded tally.

### AROUND THE COUNTRY

In MASSACHUSETTS, Medicaid funds for abortion were cut off after a legislative battle which had tied up the state budget.

In PENNSYLVANIA, the state legislature approved on June 20 legislation barring the use of state funds to finance abortions. The bill now goes to Governor Milton J. Shapp, who reportedly plans to veto the measure. However, abortion foes figure they have the votes to override a veto.

An amendment that would have

allowed the state to pay for abortions in the case of rape or incest was voted down. Rep. Martin P. Mullen, the leader of the anti-abortion forces, said, "There are too many exceptions in the law now."

"The only exception is if the mother's life is at stake."

"I admit there are some cases where pregnancy results from rape, but they are rare indeed," he continued.

Another representative cited statistics that showed that 70 out of 1000 rape victims become pregnant. The amendment was defeated.

Although the bill was intended to hit only women on welfare, some lawmakers feel the legislation would also bar state employees from using their insurance coverage to pay for abortions. Because of this, there may be a move by the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees to encourage Shapp to veto the bill.

In CALIFORNIA, the state Assembly approved a \$15.1 billion state budget that cuts abortion funds for poor women by more than two-thirds. Abortion would only be funded in the case of incest, rape, pregnancy of unmarried women under the age of 16, or severe danger to the mother's health.

The bill now goes to the Senate. Supporters of abortion funding for poor women agreed to this cutoff to end a deadlock that tied up the state budget, and forced the legislature to meet on the fourth of July, for the first time in history.

Commenting on the wording, Assemblyperson Leona England said: "We're trying to salvage what we can."

That should be comfort to the women who will be forced to seek back-alley abortions as the result of the legislature's "compromise." □



# Power In The Darkness



by David Dugan

BACK WHEN I first started telling friends about this terrific rock group from Britain called the Tom Robinson Band I managed to elicit a few yawns.

After hearing that the Tom Robinson Band—or the TRB—sings about gay liberation and women's liberation and Blacks and whites uniting to smash the fascists, a few ears pricked up. And so four of us trudged off to a club last weekend to see the TRB live.

## "Power In The Darkness." The Tom Robinson Band.

After two hours of raucous rock and roll and three encores, Ilene was heard to remark: "It's easy to see why these bands cause riots."

### STREET FIGHTING MUSIC

The leader of the TRB, Tom Robinson, describes his music as people's music and street fighting music.

Tom formed the TRB after a few years of playing in a folk group and working with Ray Davies of the Kinks. Robinson realized that, at least in Britain, political music for kids has to be rock. Folk might say the right things, but it won't excite many people to action.

This past May, a year and a half after being formed, the TRB performed along with X-Ray Spex, Steel Pulse, and the Clash at an anti-Nazi Carnival in London of 80,000 people.

One of the main reasons for the success of the Carnival was groups like TRB and the Buzzcocks playing up and down Britain for Rock Against Racism, an organization formed after Eric Clapton and Rod Stewart and other rock stars started making racist statements.

Recently the TRB's first album "Power in the Darkness" was released. One record is all new material and the second is all the singles previously released in Britain.

**Now don't go thinking that just because this is political music, it's dull.**

It had a whole International Socialists branch meeting reeling and rocking, which is quite an accomplishment.

And they all are excellent musicians, especially Danny Kustow on guitar and the Dolphins, who may be the most important drummer in the sound of band since Jon Heisman and the old Colossus.

After a few numbers most of the audience was up on their feet and standing on chairs pozoing away. And singing along. When was the last time you sang along to a band, live, song after song?

The applause after "Glad to Be Gay" which came in the middle of the set was more than most groups get for an encore.

A couple of the show's highlights were a long version of Lou Reed's

"I'm Waiting for My Man" with some not so nice comments about Mick Jagger at the end.

After two encores, we all refused to leave. Five minutes of shouting and stomping and pounding the walls brought the TRB back for a third encore with their first big hit "2-4-6-8 Motorway."

### GLAD TO BE GAY

Hot Peaches, a gay theatre group from New York City was present when we attended the concert. It was while working with Hot Peaches in 1975 that Tom first wrote "Glad to Be Gay."

At the time there was a song in London with the same title. It was all about how pleasant things will be when all gays can live their lives without fear. The attitude of the gay community there, especially the males, was one of acquiescence—ignoring physical attacks and discrimination in the hope that it would go away.

Hot Peaches broke through that and advocated a militant stand, both for protection and to say, "Hey, we're gay and there's

nothing wrong with us."

"Glad to Be Gay" by the TRB is a bitterly sarcastic song about the attitudes in the gay community at that time. But it is a very proud song as well.

It was the number one song in Sweden last year.

With this song (which is dedicated to the World Health Organization who have declared Homosexuality to be Disease #402.7) the TRB became famous overnight.

But they don't want to become known as a "gay band." (Only Tom is gay in the group.)

**They recognize that you can't fight for and achieve the rights of one group if you don't fight for the rights of all people—gays, women Blacks, punks, reds, disabled.**

That is just what the title track "Power In The Darkness" is all about.

Some of the TRB's songs are: Long Hot Summer, which is about the stonewall riots in New York City in '69 which started the gay rights movement; The Man You Never Knew in which one person tells another they're both wanted by the police and for the safety of

both, they deny they even knew each other; The Winter of '78 which describes an old man looking back at a fascist coup; and You Better Decide Which Side You're On. "If left is right, then right is wrong—you better decide which side you're on."

### PLAY IT LOUD

To one and all, I tell you this, buy this album and play it loud for all you know. When the band comes back in the fall, go see them.

**The TRB make some of the most exciting rock and roll you'll ever hear. The sense of solidarity at the concerts is incredible.**

And when it's over you'll feel as exhausted as after a major demo or the first day of a wildcat.

TRB shows that it is possible for rock to be great musically and great politically. They're able to bring a class conscious political message unstained through the music business.

Finally, buy this album because we may not have a revolutionary party yet, but we do have a revolutionary band! □

# A VIETNAM VET LOOKS AT 'COMING HOME'

by Don Quenneville

COMING HOME is the best Hollywood has come up with about the Vietnam era to date.

Specifically, it's about the guilt and the tragedy of rejection felt by all of us who attended the Vietnam war. For many of us, the war not only left us with a guilty past, but destroyed the future too.

I didn't want to like Coming Home. I was very negative both

before and after seeing it. Maybe I just didn't want to remember. Maybe I just refused to see beyond my own guilt at having been there and seen the destruction, the many MyLai incidents, the pain, the ugly side of humanity.

But most of all, maybe I didn't want to admit I never had the courage not to go.

I say this because I know our real heroes went to Canada and elsewhere. It was much easier to go than to say no.

### TOO CLEAR

Many Vietnam veterans were unable to survive the unjustified murder of a patriotic people. For the first time in the lives of the majority of us, we saw our country as it really was.

It became too clear for some. There is one secondary plot about a vet who is not able to cope. He could not function without drugs in society or even in the army hospital where he was kept. Unless he was drugged, he was withdrawn and depressed, making spotted attempts to play his guitar and sing.

One day he said, "What's the use?" and promptly took his own life.

I understand because I have a next door neighbor who spends six months out of a year at the V.A. hospital with the same symptoms of withdrawal and depression. To my understanding, the only thing the V.A. has done is keep him on



Jon Voight and Jane Fonda in "Coming Home."

tranquilizers. That is the legacy of Vietnam for those of us who fought the war.

### FLAG WAVING

Jane Fonda plays Sally Bender, the wife of a redneck, career, marine captain. Sally starts out as a naive, patriotic, flag waving military wife. But she changes. She grows into an independent thinking woman in the course of the movie, which covers about a year between 1967-68.

While her redneck husband (Bruce Dern) is away in the fascinating land of craters and Michelin rubber plantations, Sally volunteers at the local army hospital where she meets Luke, a

disabled vet who happens to be a high school acquaintance (Jon Voight). They have an affair, get photographed and listened to by the FBI.

He makes speeches, she goes to the local grocery to buy a steak, and her husband goes out to sea.

Of course, this is a gross abbreviation. But the story line of Coming Home is romantic and tends to treat the whole plot without political statements. I can suggest if you see this movie, try to ignore the romantics and lack of realism because it is distracting. The real meat of the movie is found in the secondary plots that intertwine in and around the lives of the main characters. Keep your eye on those. □

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# NY transit vote fishy

by Michael Urquhart

NEW YORK—When the ballots on a proposed contract between the Transport Workers Union and the Transit Authority (TA) were finally counted on July 6 the contract had been rejected by a vote of 10,825-8,506.

This was a tremendous victory for rank and file transit workers who had campaigned for a contract rejection.

The leadership of the Transport

Workers Union, however, notified the TA that the contract was accepted!

They claimed acceptance by combining the votes on the TA contract with the votes on separate contracts with private bus lines. When combined, that total vote was 12,049-11,509 in favor.

When rank and file groups went to court and got the Transport Workers Union to cancel the first vote on the contract, the central

issue was the combining of votes on the TA contract with votes on the private bus contracts. The union admitted that this violated past practice in the union and agreed to a separate vote.

All rank and file groups are now uniting to try to overturn the union Executive Board's "acceptance" of the contract.

On July 10 they are returning to court to try to get the Executive Board held in contempt, for

violating the understanding on which the new ballot was based: a separation of the ballots.

## REMOVE EXECUTIVE BOARD

If they are successful, they will also move to have the union ordered to re-open negotiations. If the court case fails, which is likely, the only recourse left will be to try to remove the Executive Board members from office.

There is no provision at all in the by-laws to overturn a decision of the Executive Board—no way to hold a special union meeting.

Transit workers recognize their power, their ability to shut the city down. They don't accept the argument that they should sacrifice for the city. They feel they should be treated the same as other railroad workers—and are angry they aren't receiving the same 18% increase recently won by Long Island railroad unions.

The rank and file must now turn that anger and that confidence into an organization capable of enforce-

ing their will on a leadership that is determined to betray their interests.

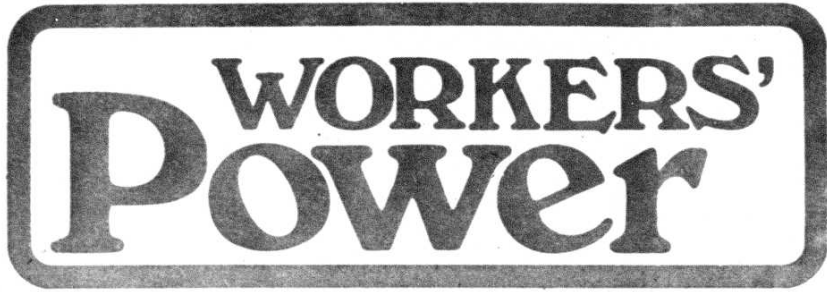
## OTHER MUNICIPAL UNIONS

Meanwhile other municipal unions have already ratified contracts which include only a 5% wage increase over two years. In no other union, aside from the TWU, has a serious opposition developed to the terms of the contracts.

The union leaderships, however, were still worried about rejection and resorted to fast votes and confusing procedures to ensure "yes" votes.

In AFSCME, a vote was taken at the delegate assembly meeting but there was widespread confusion about what it meant.

In the AFT, members first found out about a final agreement in the Sunday Times of June 18, then voted a couple of days later during the last week of school. The speed with which the vote was taken gave the rank and file little time to examine the contract or to organize any opposition.



# Protesters confront NAZIS

## CHICAGO RACISTS RALLY

by Ken Brown

CHICAGO—1000 anti-Nazi demonstrators rallied here on July 9. But they were prevented from getting anywhere near the Nazis in Marquette Park by the Chicago police.

The city had appealed all the way to the Supreme Court to try to stop the Nazis, then wound up giving them massive police protection.

The anti-Nazi protestors had applied in advance for a permit, but it was denied supposedly to prevent violence. One of the main cries of the protestors was, "Free Speech for Anti-Nazis, Let's Go to the Park!"

Since the police had 1000 demonstrators bottled up under control, they could allow a handful of demonstrators into Marquette Park to jeer the Nazis. Some Jews wearing skull caps were jeered by white racists in the park. "Gas the Jews" and "Sheeny Businessmen Go Home." When racism flares up anti-Semitism is never far behind.

The Nazis backed down from their proposed Skokie march where, they were facing a uniformly hostile community and a massive counter-demonstration.

### REAL BASE

But in Marquette Park they have a real base of support among Lithuanian and Polish workers who feel threatened by the pressure of the expanding Black community at their door. Plenty of young whites in Marquette Park were willing to wear "White Power" tee shirts with swastikas on them.

For years the Nazis had rallied in



Police protect Nazis in Chicago's Marquette Park from angry protesters.

Marquette Park unmolested. It was only their proposed Skokie march that generated a big anti-Nazi movement—3000 in downtown Chicago on June 25 and 1000 near Marquette Park on July 9.

The anti-Nazi demonstrators

were well received in the Black community of West Englewood. A handful of West Englewood Blacks attended the rally.

What was apparent was that the various radical groups have all failed to attract to their numbers

any white workers who live in Marquette Park and other white ethnic working class communities.

Speaking to the fears of these communities and demonstrating how they are being used by the Nazis is crucial to building an

anti-Nazi movement that can defeat these racist hate mongers.

The police frustrated the anti-Nazis' desires to get to the Nazis and shut them up, but the large and spirited mobilization was a limited success.