WORKERS STRIKE SAN FRANCISCO!

At 12:01 a.m. on Thursday, March 18, the workers at San Francisco General Hospital walked off their jobs. Picket lines were thrown up at all entrances to the hospital and despite efforts of the union misleaders and Mayor Alioto to delay it, the City strike was on. The story of the City Strike is important, not only because the city workers "shut down the city for a day" as the revisionists and conciliators tell us; and not only because it showed the strength of the labor movement in San Francisco as the union misleaders tell us. It is important because the different forces at play in the strike and the questions that arose from these, are the same forces at play in the USN and the same questions that face the entire working class - the development of capitalist democracy and finally the question of who will lead the working class movement.

The city workers of S.F., are no exception. The striking workers are called "miscellaneous employees." The majority of them are Negro National Security workers. Many of these workers are the sole support of their families. With hamburger sales at $1.15 per pound, in a city where rents are the third highest in the nation, with inflationary, secretaries' transmitter HUU and Dan Del Carlo, Secretary of the SF Building and Trades Council. These are the days who are led the shots and they are all Mayor Alioto's Boys. Is it not then that the capitalist class and their lackeys hoped to gain by this strike?

In order to introduce fascism in this country, certain conditions must exist. Speaking of the victory of fascism in Germany, Dimitrov says "Fascism was able to come to power primarily because of the defeat of the working class, owing to the policy of class collaboration with the bourgeoisie pursued by the social democratic leaders, proved to be split, politically and organizationally disarmed in face of the oncoming threat of the bourgeoisie." (1)

CELEBRATE MAY DAY

(Copyright, 1974, by the author. Reproduction in part or in whole prohibited except upon advance written permission from the author, except that in a published work a total of not more than 6 paragraphs may be quoted if full credit is given to the author and the Western Worker and a copy of the publication containing the review is sent to both.)

By Doug Ward

Conceived in the USA 108 years ago, born in the USA 90 years ago, May Day, May 1st, became the day each year on which working people of all lands joined in massed millions to demonstrate their demand for their unity and fighting strength.

May Day was conceived at the founding convention of the Nat. Labor Union, led by William H. Sylvis, a moulder, in August, 1866. The NU resolution declared that: "The first and greatest necessity of the present, to free labor of this country from the capitalist slavery, is the passing of a law by which 8 hours shall be the normal working day in all States in the American union. We are resolved to work for our strength until this glorious result is attained."

Probably first in the world to win the 8 hour work day were building trades workers of Australia, 1856.

From the day of its birth, on May 1, 1886, in nationwide strikes for the 8 hour day, attempts to kill May Day have been made by right-wing labor and political leaders in collaboration with employers.

Bill Sylvis died just before the 1867 convention of the NUU, at which it voted to send a delegate to the First International, which had been organized by Karl Marx. At that convention, the leadership led eventually to disappearance of the NUU.

In Sept., 1866, the First International adopted the NUU call for the 8 hour work day as a top demand for workers of all lands. The first International was officially disbanded in 1876, but on Oct. 7, 1884, the Federation of Organized Trades & Labor Union of the U.S. and Canada (later re-named the AFL), resolved in convention that: "Eight hours shall constitute a legal day's labor from May 1, 1886..."

During 1885, frightened employers and right-wing workers in the labor movement collaborated to get some State legislatures to adopt the first Monday in Sep. each year as "Labor Day". On "Labor Day", they hoped, at worst, workers who have been made by right-wing labor and political leaders in collaboration with employers.

But, pushing ahead, the AFL asked for and was promised support.

contents

Factory Notes........p.2
Ms Bell........p.2
Lenin and Stalin........p.3
Crime in Seattle........p.4
Fascist Attacks........p.4
Ronald Reagan........p.5
Our Tasks........p.5
NOTES FROM A FACTORY

Gardico Manufacturing Company located in San Leandro, Calif., is a relatively small electrical lighting fixture manufacturing company where the workers are subjected to a high degree of exploitation similar to that faced by many small firms in the electrical industry. Especially in these days, when the world energy crisis is forcing the smaller capitalists out of business, small shops like Gardico rely on extreme exploitation of their workers in order to compete with the larger electrical manufacturers such as G.E., Sylvania, etc.

This exploitation is plainly evident to anyone at Gardico. The whole motive of capitalist management at Gardico is to make money. Reed Gardner, John Neu and other dogs is to get more and more profit at backs. As Gardico can see this in recent speedups, the stockpiling of fixtures, new shifts, new injuries, foreman's new methods, etc., with the workers, et al. All this in the name of profit. And they try to tell the workers that the problem is harder, it will be in our benefit. When has exploitation ever been in the interests of the workers?

To get a better prospective on the situation at Gardico and how the advanced workers have to move in the future, let's take a look at the conditions as they stand at the plant. Gardico now employs about 85 workers on two shifts. There are four machines at the plant, where three workers are making under three dollars an hour who have been there well over six months. A fourth worker occasionally gives "merit raises" to workers like him in an effort to divide the workers.

The national composition at the plant is generally mixed, with a large number of Latin workers, Puerto Rican, Indian, Negro and Filipino national minority workers making up a good number of young Anglo-American workers. Due to the extreme oppression by the machine of the colonial and semi-colonies such as in Latin America, the Negro and these Latin American peoples, workers from these countries and regions are forced to come to this country in search of a better life. The capitalists take advantage of this fact by paying the workers the lowest wages, firing them first, etc. For instance, at Gardico a group of Latin workers have been at Gardico for almost two years and make $2.90 an hour. A second group of workers, called the A Holers and A Hários, have each been there around five years and are in line for the vacant "A" welders job. Neither have been promoted to this position, although the company has been vacant for six months. After four years these workers are making a little over $4 per hour.

The same treatment is true for the Negro national minority workers. After a couple years of working at Gardico, the company along with the total aid of the United States Paternalistic Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (UEW) fired these workers for forming the union dues on time. Also Negro national minorities are often fired during the probationary period when Anglo-Americans are not. Recently, a Negro national minority worker refused the truck drivers job, to which he was entitled, because of "too many abseas" when anyone can stay at Gardico for sure. As Gardico wages must be "reliable".

Further, the company is very arbitrary in giving "merit raises"—generally reserving them for Anglo-American workers. In fact, the company recently took a liking to one Anglo-American worker as soon as he was hired and in a few months he was making almost twice what some other workers do who have been there over a year. By no means, however, is the agreement reserved solely for national minority workers, as Anglo-Americans are also exploited as well, especially if not liked by the company pigs.

Many of the workers at Gardico and throughout the USBA are daily confronted with the realization that white chauvinism is not in our interests and are fighting against it and for the unity of the class. For example, around 6 months ago, workers of all nationalities conducted a 2 day boycott of a lunch wagon company, which pushed the line that all Negro national minority workers were responsible for stealing from the truck. The workers demanded that company supply them with a new lunch truck and due to the workers' pressure, this was done. This example shows us that the unity of the working class will not come about through the Anglo-American workers cleansing their minds of so-called racism, but through fighting together against the common enemy, capitalism. The basis of this fight must be the fight for independence for all nations and peoples oppressed by USBA imperialism.

There are about six women workers at Gardico who have to endure probably the hardest, fastest work, worst conditions and lowest pay of any women in the shop. If any of these workers missed a day they'd never hear the end of it. The bosses keep an eye on them, pushing them for more production and refusing them raises when they justly ask for them. Recently, a woman worker worked for 8 1/2 months of her pregnancy and asked to work another full week, when she couldn't and she asked to be laid off so she and her husband could collect unemployment for her family, the company refused her request. All this in the name of their sacred profit!

In Gardico's drive for profits and to be able to compete with larger companies, it has cont. on p. 6

COLORADO

"I'm sorry, your democratic rights have been disconnected." — Ma Bell

Every day is a struggle if you work for "Ma Bell," the telephone company. Especially if you are an operator. The work is boring and repetitive; you never know when a customer is intercepting or disconnecting or changing lines. If you don't like it, you can quit. And at the same time, they listen in on you and keep records of even the slightest error—loginning to forgetting to say the main number is... Or they give you "billing errors" for not filling in exactly right the little spaces on the computer cards which record toll charges.

In most offices you have to put up a signal if you have to go to the bathroom and then sign your name and the time you went and came back. And on top of this insulting treatment, you might just wait up to a half an hour before the line is ready, and all the time only one operator is allowed out of the room at a time.

The pay is so low in this job (which has always been reserved for women workers) that you can hardly make a decent life for yourself, even with overtime and premium pay for working on Sunday.

It is no wonder that the workers are constantly struggling to defend their rights. Protests take many forms. For example, one operator took the job as a "service assistant" with no extra pay when management cut back on the paid "S,A." force. Or uniting an entire office to stop signing names to a "potty list." One operator who had been sick to her stomach waiting to "drop out" goes to the bathroom even threw up on the manager's desk.

Hundreds of grievances are filed every month on harassment, unfair suspensions and dismissals, discrimination, etc. In every other way, the grievance procedure is a two-sided one. If a worker's complaints are denied and the workers work to good job standards, not to let the company get away with anything, a worker. Their militancy and dedication to the cause of all their fellow workers is a true体现 of the fighting spirit of the working class.

But only the most minor issues are settled at the plant. In most cases the grievance goes up to higher levels and few people hear about it again. At best, if the company doesn't feel like giving a little smile to the workers to keep them quiet, they can just say "NO" and the union is cont. on p. 7
IN MEMORY OF LENIN AND STALIN

On April 22, 1912, a new Party newspaper, PRAVDA (Truth), was founded in St. Petersburg by Stalin, Olinsky and Poliatesy. The newspaper was suppressed it times in 3 years;

Germany declared war on Russia on July 19, 1914. Thus did the imperialists themselves set into motion the events that would lead to creation of the world's first Socialist State.

The chaos and suffering of the imperialist war, compounded by the fact that Russia was losing, soon made it impossible for the hated Tsarist regime to rule. A liberal government was set up under Kerensky. It was clear that this government could not survive long, Lenin returned from exile, in Switzerland, to Russia on April 3, 1917.

Lenin led the Party and the Government of this vast "Union of十三个 Soviet Socialist Republics" in the April Revolution, in March, 1919.

The Party was weak, unable to unite the many anti-Czarist revolutionary factions.

In 1900, Stalin said: "...amateurishness and the parochial outlook of the circles were corrected when the Party from top to bottom.. ideological confusion was the characteristic feature of the intellectual life of the Party."

Lenin, newly returned from exile, decided to publish a country-wide newspaper (Proletary), to link up the disconnected circles, expose and defeat the many counter-revolutionary theories that were confusing them and to develop correct theories that would unify the Party and lead to revolution and socialism.

Lenin first met Stalin at a Bolshevik conference in Tannenfors, Finland, in Dec., 1905, although their meeting was often exchanged correspondence.

The historic revolution of 1905 (which actually lasted into 1907) failed. Why it failed; how to create the kind of Party that would insure success next time; these questions Lenin dealt with extensively in following years.

...The enormous burden that lay upon Stalin's shoulders can be seen from the fact that he had said in an article titled "Economics and Politics in the Era of the Dictatorship of the Proletariat", published in PRAVDA on Nov. 7, 1919.

"...Theoretically, there can be no doubt that between capitalism and communism there lies a definite transition period which must combine the features and properties of both forms of social economy. This transition period has to be a period of struggle between capitalism and nascent communism, or, in other words, between capitalism which has been defeated but not destroyed and communism which has been born but is still very feeble. (...)Communism in Russia is only in its early stages...the private ownership of land was abolished without compensation for the big land-owner...practically all the big capitalists, owners of factories, iron, coal, forest companies, banks, railways and so forth were expropriated without compensation. The State organization of large-scale production in industry...has, by and large, been accomplished and the landowners and capitalists. This...has been accomplished, but...it is not the most difficult part (of the task of the Party)...to abolish classes it is necessary, first, to overcome the class struggle."

To complete the socialization of industry...to socialize the remaining privately-owned land...to build up a network of Collective Farms and State Farms...to build a huge heavy industry...to establish national property, and develop the workers of the most backward and backward fates of the world's surface...under the dictatorship of the proletariat...and the class struggle rises to a higher level, dominating over each and every form."

LITERATURE

The following publications are available from our Communist League:

People's Tribune $0.05
Negro National Colonial Question $1.00
Diabetics of the Document: the Communist League $0.50
Lenin and Stalin on the Party $0.50
The Proletarian; theoretical journal of the Communist League $1.00
Enver Hoxha, The Rights and Freedom of Women and Youth $0.10
The Objective and Subjective Factors in the Evolution $0.05
Marxist-Leninists
Unite $0.10

For more information about the Communist League or Western Workers Write: P.O. Box 72306
VERS SCKER STATION
LOS ANGELES, CALIF.

P.O. Box 24241
HAYVEN STATION
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF.
WHO IS TO BLAME?

The Rainier Valley is the crime center of Seattle, stated a police officer at a recent local community council meeting. It is true that this area of the city is hard hit by crime, but the real victims of the working class are the victims of the crime. The Rainier Valley has a working class population of 15,000. The district is very sick with crime; the police department has a reputation for neglect. The police have been accused of being slow to respond to crimes, and of not taking the working class seriously. The police have also been accused of being biased against the working class, and of not treating them fairly. The mayor of Seattle has said that the police department needs to do more to protect the working class.

Much discussion of crime has taken place recently in many of the major newspapers in the Rainier Valley. On February 1st, a meeting was held in response to the growing crime rate, and as the Seattle Times-Intelligencer, Feb. 18th, 1974, page A3 pointed out "Angry feelings surfaced Feb. 1st at a community meeting..." And on February 16th, the Seattle Post-Intelligencer, page A1, reported "The city's central area is on the brink of a crime wave..." The city's central area is on the brink of a crime wave... The city's central area is on the brink of a crime wave...

The following week, a police officer was sent to a community council meeting of a housing project by the order of the captain of the local police precinct. All this to establish good relations with the residents of the housing project who have been the major victims of the crime wave for years.

The mayor of Seattle said that the beginning of a fascist attack to control the most oppressed of society. The capitalist system is in big trouble economically and politically. The bourgeoisie will do anything to make the working class bear the burden of the crisis of capitalism. They will try to divide the working class with their white chauvinism, they will try to quell our revolutionary fervor, while simultaneously driving down the standard of living of the working class in order to maximize their profits. The capitalists will try to institute fascism - an open terrorist dictatorship.

Another aspect of using the crime wave in order to try to institute fascism may be the destruction of low income housing projects, or units in them. In a time of economic crisis, the standard of living of the working class is going down, we must fight against any elimination of housing for the working class. Already there is talk of "beautification projects" in the Rainier Valley, which would result in the elimination of 600 units.

The mayor of Seattle has said that the police department needs to do more to protect the working class. The mayor of Seattle has said that the police department needs to do more to protect the working class. The mayor of Seattle has said that the police department needs to do more to protect the working class.

INCREASED FASCIST ATTACKS

As the economic crisis of the working class continues, so does the drive toward fascism. We must remember that the open fascist system is the capitalist's goal of ever-greater profits. In order to survive, the working class must constantly increase its profits. But also, by its very nature, capitalistic means by increasing serious crises of over-production. During these economic crises, maximum profit making becomes impossible by means of the old methods, so the capitalists take advantage of the working class.

And recently at Crownpoint, New Mexico, two Navajo Indian women were shot dead and their children taken away from them. The reason: because the children were "illegitimate". With the similar case of the forced sterilization of two Negro girls in Alabama, this Navajo girl (July, 1973) is a chauvinist act of rising fascism in the oppressed area of the Southwest and the increased terror and violence in the Negro Nation.

The educational system is one of the main areas in which the capitalist classes have decided to divide the working class by means of racial chauvinism. In the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) boarding schools in New Mexico, the culture and language of Indian children was being disrupted and their self-esteem was being destroyed. This was one of the main reasons that the BIA was created in the first place. The BIA's goals were to destroy the culture of the Indian people and replace it with a white culture. This was done through the use of textbooks and other materials that were written in a white manner. The Indian children were not allowed to speak their own language, and were forced to speak English. This was done in order to destroy their cultural identity and make them more like whites.

New Mexico, however, is part of the Southwest, an area especially oppressed by the imperialists. The imperialists take advantage of the fact that there is a diversity of minority nationalities in New Mexico - Mexican, Indian, Negro, as well as Anglo-American - and they have used this to their advantage. For example, they have kept the working class divided and isolated by creating different groups against each other. This has made it easier for them to control the working class. The working class has been divided into different groups, and each group has been kept isolated from the others.

Rito Canales and Antonio Cordova, members of the Black Berets (a Mexican National Minority militant group), were murdered by police two years ago. In a recent law suit brought against the police by Canales' brother, Daniel, it was found that Rito's "civil rights were not violated, that the officers acted in good faith..." These are the kinds of chauvinist, fascist acts which the ruling class uses to try to keep the revolutionary struggle down.

And recently at Crownpoint, New Mexico, two Navajo Indian women were shot dead and their children taken away from them. The reason: because the children were "illegitimate". With the similar case of the forced sterilization of two Negro girls in Alabama, this Navajo girl (July, 1973) is a chauvinist act of rising fascism in the oppressed area of the Southwest and the increased terror and violence in the Negro Nation.

The educational system is one of the main areas in which the capitalist classes have decided to divide the working class by means of racial chauvinism. In the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) boarding schools in New Mexico, the culture and language of Indian children was being disrupted and their self-esteem was being destroyed. This was one of the main reasons that the BIA was created in the first place. The BIA's goals were to destroy the culture of the Indian people and replace it with a white culture. This was done through the use of textbooks and other materials that were written in a white manner. The Indian children were not allowed to speak their own language, and were forced to speak English. This was done in order to destroy their cultural identity and make them more like whites.

New Mexico, however, is part of the Southwest, an area especially oppressed by the imperialists. The imperialists take advantage of the fact that there is a diversity of minority nationalities in New Mexico - Mexican, Indian, Negro, as well as Anglo-American - and they have used this to their advantage. For example, they have kept the working class divided and isolated by creating different groups against each other. This has made it easier for them to control the working class. The working class has been divided into different groups, and each group has been kept isolated from the others.

Rito Canales and Antonio Cordova, members of the Black Berets (a Mexican National Minority militant group), were murdered by police two years ago. In a recent law suit brought against the police by Canales' brother, Daniel, it was found that Rito's "civil rights were not violated, that the officers acted in good faith..." These are the kinds of chauvinist, fascist acts which the ruling class uses to try to keep the revolutionary struggle down.

And recently at Crownpoint, New Mexico, two Navajo Indian women were shot dead and their children taken away from them. The reason: because the children were "illegitimate". With the similar case of the forced sterilization of two Negro girls in Alabama, this Navajo girl (July, 1973) is a chauvinist act of rising fascism in the oppressed area of the Southwest and the increased terror and violence in the Negro Nation.

The educational system is one of the main areas in which the capitalist classes have decided to divide the working class by means of racial chauvinism. In the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) boarding schools in New Mexico, the culture and language of Indian children was being disrupted and their self-esteem was being destroyed. This was one of the main reasons that the BIA was created in the first place. The BIA's goals were to destroy the culture of the Indian people and replace it with a white culture. This was done through the use of textbooks and other materials that were written in a white manner. The Indian children were not allowed to speak their own language, and were forced to speak English. This was done in order to destroy their cultural identity and make them more like whites.

New Mexico, however, is part of the Southwest, an area especially oppressed by the imperialists. The imperialists take advantage of the fact that there is a diversity of minority nationalities in New Mexico - Mexican, Indian, Negro, as well as Anglo-American - and they have used this to their advantage. For example, they have kept the working class divided and isolated by creating different groups against each other. This has made it easier for them to control the working class. The working class has been divided into different groups, and each group has been kept isolated from the others.

Rito Canales and Antonio Cordova, members of the Black Berets (a Mexican National Minority militant group), were murdered by police two years ago. In a recent law suit brought against the police by Canales' brother, Daniel, it was found that Rito's "civil rights were not violated, that the officers acted in good faith..." These are the kinds of chauvinist, fascist acts which the ruling class uses to try to keep the revolutionary struggle down.
RONNIE RIDES AGAIN

"It's too bad they can't have an epidemic of botulism!"—so spoke Ronald Reagan to a group of Republicans in regard to the people accepting food from the Western Worker in Need Program, operating in San Francisco, on money donated by the Hearst Family, a result of the demands of the SLA in order to obtain the release of their kidnapped daughter Patricia.

Our eastwest governor, who is supposed to be a representative of the people here in California, betrays his real feeling for the very people in whose interest he is supposed to govern. He would do the callous thing and disregard the needs of the people by their rulers one better than Marie Antoinette, who had the hungry French masses to eat cake if they had no bread. He would see the hungry fed poisoned food!

Who are these people he has branded as immoral for accepting the food? They are women desperate to feed their children, the sick, the disabled, the unemployed. People struggling to stay alive on the inadequate pittances allotted them in a period of continuously rising prices and high inflation. Why, dear Ronald, the immorality is yours! Yours for your genocidal wishes, for your closing of much needed state mental hospitals, for your welfare cutbacks, for your great efforts on behalf of your friends and mentors --- the oil and insurance magnates --- at the expense of the general public who you supposedly serve.

Your defense of this vicious statement has been that it was a joke and indeed your listeners did laugh in response to your words. Well, the Nazis joked! I'm sure about their lampshades made from human skulls and their guests must have laughed in response but they are not laughing now! You and your fellow fascists will not laugh long because the working class of this country is not going to forget your words as you so fervently hope they will by the time the presidential elections roll around.

Yes, Mr. Reagan, the working class understands your wish to see the hungry dead and buried for then they would pose no threat to you and your bourgeois friends who gorged yourselves at $100.00 a plate dinners. With eyes and ears closed in death they could not learn that there is a way out of hunger and despair --- a way that has been taken by millions of the world's oppressed people --- in Russia in China; in Albania. That way is to build a true multinational Communist Party. That way is to overthrow the inhuman profit hungry bourgeois class you represent! That way is to establish the dictatorship of the proletariat! That way is SOCIALISM!

THE TASKS BEFORE US

The unfolding National and International crisis that USNA imperialism finds itself in, is unprecedented in the post W.W.II era. The crisis of overproduction is rocking the capitalist world, forcing country after country --- and the rich --- into a shrinking market. The detente Nixon and Kissinger are struggling so hard to keep with the Soviet Union, is a reflection of the contradictions and limitations. Europe despite England and Germany is beginning to err a more independent role of the U.S. in international affairs. The situation in the Middle East obviously can not and will not be settled by a mere disembarkation of troops.

The solution Nixon and the big monopolies have for the steady rise in the cost of living since the 1960's is even higher prices. The political interest and Watergate is exposing more and more the connection of the big monopolies to the government.

The moves of the big business interests and their political stooges to force the workers to pay for this crisis is becoming more and more obvious. We have to use the Western Worker in a real way to counter the fascist offensive. We have to lead the struggle against the new work rules which are taking away the 8 hour day from hundreds of thousands of workers. And will surely be followed by similar rules in other states. We have to expose and struggle against the $100,000 a month campaign of the Teamster Union to bust the United Farm Workers. We have to fight against the immigration policies of the government which force a large number of Mexican workers to live in constant fear of being deported. We have to fight against the rising prices that are fattening the corporations profits and driving our standard of living down.

We are facing the coming May Day, 1974, in an atmosphere of increased preparations for war, and the growing possibility of a fascist takeover in the USNA.

This situation has to be met by a new style of work. By a style of work that will broaden our influence in the working class. Our old style of work of solely internal struggle and individual contact work is no longer sufficient. We must begin to rely on the advanced workers to spread the theories of Marxism-Leninism and help organize the working class. We have to learn how to use this network to spread our influence over as many factories and working class communities as possible.

The tasks ahead of us are

clear: to build a Factory News, to prepare for the Congress in September and the formation of a new Communist Party in the USNA and to get in and lead the struggles against Fascism in this country.

The Communist League in the Western Region must face up to these political tasks. We must carry forward in a determined manner our campaign to win the Vanguard of the Proletariat to the cause of Communism!
MAY DAY
cont. from p. 1

by the older Knights of Labor and industrial leaders were made for the coming great event. Then the K of L reneged and tried to substake preparations. But, on May 1, 1886, 500,000 workers struck in cities across the land.

Chicago was the militant center. A strike was called by the Amalgamated Clothing Workers. By May 3, police killed six and wounded many others at the McCormick Reaper Works.

On May 4, a massive demonstration of protest gathered in Haymarket Square. Police attacked the demonstrators. A bomb exploded, killing a policeman. Four strike leaders - Parsons, Engel, Spies, and Fischer were arrested, framed, and hanged. During the rest of 1886, employers conducted a vicious counter-offensive against unions.

The former CITU, now named the AFL, in convention at St. Louis in 1886, decided May 1, 1886, the Monday after the Haymarket demonstrations, would be a national strike day. By May 1, 1889, the Carpenter's Union alone struck; if they were successful, all other unions would strike later.

The 2nd International, formed in Paris on July 14, 1889, on that day decided to join the strike in adopting May 1, 1889, as the day to renew the battle for the 8 hour day.

On May Day, 1890, Carpenters were joined in the strike by other building trades unions and supporting demonstrations were conducted throughout the country and the world. The 8 hour day wasn't won on any wide scale. The battle continued, though many ups and downs, for more than 40 subsequent years. The 8 hour day was not universally established in the USA until the National Recovery Act of 1933 was passed. Even then, many workers were excluded from this coverage; and to this day, some still are.

During 1891, the right-wing of the 2nd International began to campaign to postpone celebration of May Day across until the 3rd Sun, after May Lat. Purpose: to make it unnecessary for any workers to excuse time off work because he would not be working on a Sunday anyway, and to turn the day into a national labor unity into just another day of rest. But revolutionaries, and the unfolding events of history, stood in the way.

From behind prison bars, in 1896, Lenin wrote and smuggled out a brief, hard hitting May Day leaflet for the workers of St. Petersburg. A month later, widespread strikes broke out in the textile industry; many workers creased the leaflet with having inspired them to strike.

In May Day, 1907, edition of the Worker, a Socialist Party newspaper, the workers' beloved Eugene V. Debs wrote: "This is the first and International Labor Day. It belongs to the working class and is dedicated to the revolution."

After the USA entered WWI, in 1917, Left Socialists did not continue to demonstrate. On the contrary, they became especial days of protest against WWI.

Having had little success in substituting Labor Day for May Day, the AFL right-wing collaboratively with Congress and GOP Pres. Herbert Hoover, arranged in 1928 for May 1 to be designated as National Child Health Day! Now, said their convention report, "May Day will no longer be known as either strike day or Communist Day."

But, on Oct. 28, 1929, the churning of the Great Crash drowned out their feeble cries for "child health day". May Day, 1930, was still every much a day of militant protest. The size and power of the annual demonstrations grew with each succeeding year.

I have taken part in a May Day demonstration of some kind, somewhere, every year since 1932. Two stand out especially vividly in memory. May Day, 1973, in Paris, will have to be told about another time. Allow me to tell you now of May Day in N.Y. City, 1935.

250,000 people marching in solid ranks, on the curb, down Broadway to a Union Square reviewing stand. Ranks upon ranks upon ranks upon ranks upon ranks upon.

GARDCO
cont. from p. 2

been forced to curb their speed up production in recent months. With this speedup naturally comes injuries to the workers. In a week alone, a few months back, two workers had their fingers smashed in the punch presses. One worker's fingers were mashed by the machine, severing two at the tips. Roy Brooker, scrome plant superintendent, immediately picked up portions of the severed fingers and flushed them down the toilet. He did not know what happened. This attempt to destroy evidence of the company's crime gained little concern for the needs of the workers. The company of course puts on a show of caring for the workers' safety, such as sending certain workers to a first aid training class for one day. But it is far from being the same. Even more importantly, Gardco cannot make profits off this production unless we are there to produce.

As Mao Tsetung has aptly stated: "Wherever there is oppression, there is resistance."

The workers at Gardco have had a history of continual fight back against the conditions at the shop. For instance, one day in late 1972 while the bosses were comfortably warm in their offices, the workers were freezing because of weather and lack of heating. The workers knew that nicely making the company for heaters wouldn't do, so over half the plant walked out without waiting for the sell-out union leaders to tell us to work it out through other ways. The next day, 80 heaters were installed, although the plant is still cold in many parts. That, according to the book mentioned earlier is another example of the struggle of the workers at Gardco in building the strength in the unity of the class.

At present, the whole factory is in motion around the upcoming new contract at Gardco is due for negotiation this coming July. The workers at Gardco are currently under a three year contract which sold out almost every imaginable demand and right of the workers. With inflation rising over this three year period, the wages represent barely existence wages for the workers and their families. The workers naturally ask the question, "How could a company make such a rotten contract down the workers throats?" The reason is that the National Brotherhood of Electrical Workers represents the interests of the capitalists and not the workers. The leadership of the IBEW acts as an enemy within, or a "witting" tool to protect the interests of the capitalists while pretending to represent the interests of the workers. From the international on down to local 2131, the leadership over the years have consistently sold out the interests of the workers. The last Gardco contract gave the workers a starting rate of $2.11 with slight raises per year. This contract was "negotiated" by three IBEW "bigschots" within the plant, Steve Price, Marcos Mendietta and Norman McClinton. They sold the messes of the workers, while themselves receiving nice bribes of sub-forman jobs, etc, for their services to the capitalists.

The workers are presently seeing it to that the same state of affairs doesn't exist again. The workers at Gardco have learned by their own bitter experience that to succeed we have to cast off all the chains of capitalist leadership such as believing in the good will of the company or allowing the union leaders to sell us out again and take the initiative in this economic struggle into our own hands so that we "call the shots". The workers have successfully organized to drive to get a grievance committee set up for fair time and are moving to kick out or isolate the sell-out shop stewards and replace them with a"numbers of stews, of all nationalities both men and women, who will represent the interests in the upcoming contract fight. This has been done successfully in spite of the company's scare tactics and "red baiting."

Communists and advanced workers must carefully examine this struggle and take a serious attitude towards it and develop both action tactics to guide it and raise it to a higher level.

We must instill the workers with socialism, patiently and continuously through every step cont. on p. 8
S.F. Strike cont. from p. 1

Though the Social Democrats don’t control the grade unions here like they did in the old days, the union misleaders are playing a similar role with the workers. ... in the trade union leadership. In its need to introduce fascism, the capitalist class will use mass meetings to intensify this situation. It is in this light that the city strike and the lines of the union “leaders” must be seen.

The capitalist class thru the union misleaders used this strike to try of furthering the disorganization that existed within our class. From the beginning (long before the period immediately preceding the strike) they made a little attempt to organize broad rank and file participation. Few meetings were held, there was scanty leafletting and little communication to the rank and file. During this whole period the unionists were preoccupied with “splitting the union leadership.”

Consistently, the workers pushed for clarity of policy, immediate action, informed picketing captains etc. Consistently, the union “leaders” promised to get things together. Consistently, they let us down. The significance of this becomes clear if we look again to the San Francisco General Hospital. Striking a hospital is a little different than striking a factory. You don’t “shut it down.” In fact the unity of the class depends upon the striking workers being able to keep up even minimum emergency services to continue. This policy could have been easily implemented. The union could have drawn up a list of those workers who were needed to keep emergency services running. Passes could have been issued, or a list kept of the names of these workers so that they could have crossed the picket lines without any problems.

There was no split here so that the striking workers could distinguish workers who were needed - from those who were not. The misleaders pushed for such a list. Every night the union misleaders prearranged it. Every other day - no list. The result, many scabs crossed the lines because no one knew who was really scabbing. This caused extreme demoralization of the workers on the picket line.

This disorganization of the class is exactly what the capitalist class needs. For it keeps us from being able to fight fascism effectively.

The strike was also used by the capitalist class to further deepen the divisions within the working class. They used their media to push the troops of the striking city workers from other working class people. And they used their labor lieutenants to sharpen the divisions among the striking workers. Television news showed shot after shot of patients being transferred from the hospitals. And who did they blame it on, why the hospital workers? Many column inches of newspapers were devoted to talking about the hardships experienced by old folks because the hospitals weren’t running. And who did they blame it on, the Nomi Drivers? The lies and slanders reached the breaking point when the question of the sewer plants. The City claimed that closing the sewer plants was a health hazard. Their own Director of Public Health, Dr. Francis Derry, said it was a “joke.” In fact the sewer plants are closed approximately 80 days of the year due to rain. Other “eco-groups” were working wild because of the raw sewage which they claimed was polluting the air.

Then, 5 days after the strike, in full collaborationist style, the union misleaders decided to give in and allowed supervisors to re-open the plants. (Although the supervisors could have worked the plant during the whole strike anyway.) When the strike itself, the Trojan Horses (the union “leaders”) performed in a way that was consistently pushed divisions between those on the lines and those who were home. They would say, they would say, “you can blame it on your fellow workers who didn’t come out to picket.” Another favorite of theirs was the division between the lowest paid workers, the miscellaneous workers who initiated the strike and who were its brain, heart and backbone and the bus drivers who are higher paid and played a more supportive, though important role. “If you can’t get it across to us” they’d say, “how can you possibly expect the drivers to support you.”

After all, “we’re losing $50.00 a day.” The division between the more skilled, highly paid construction workers and the miscellaneous field workers who were driving in a living way. Though Dan Del Carlo, Secretary of the Building and Trades Council, and union negotiating team, refused to pull his workers off a construction line in the hospital, thereby allowing them to cross the line.

The result of the divisions pushed, lack of organization and continues.

Ma Bell cont. from p. 2

has to close the grievance or be forced into arbitration.

No wonder that many workers get disillusioned and disheartened. It is clear that the main thing right now about the grievance procedure is how it works against us. It keeps all our protests inside boundaries that are acceptable to the company, to the capitalist class as a whole. They know that as long as we’re just sitting in meetings, trying to convince them to be "fairer" to us, they can keep on exploiting our labor, getting rich off of us, with few complications. We are not allowed to: that is the only thing that is important to them.

This was really shown when two summers ago (1972) operators took out a wildcat strike. Not only the operators, mostly women, of all nationalities also workers in the plant section of the company, mostly men, went on strike against the union misleaders that had been used against Negro women operators.

The company quickly turned to the court as a part of the state that serves the whole capitalist class in keeping all workers down. In no time, they had an injunction against all wildcats.

This means that if we walked out they could break the union financially with tens of thousands of fines, put the union officers in jail and force people to either help break the strike or put them in jail if they didn’t.

Of course, they’ll tell us we have the right to strike on July 17th at midnight - when they can plan and prepare for it. For example, in Denver they are cutting all hotel and motel traffic to computers TWO DAYS before the contract expires.

These "planned layoffs every three years with no unemployment benefits" are small inconvenience to them in keeping up the front that we do have the right to withholding power. But ask any operator who was on strike three years ago - she’ll tell you that we were forced back to work by the union and the company even though we knew we were getting sold-out in the contract.

What the injunction against wildcats makes us day and year to year is that the capitalist class has, through its state, taken the right to striker. This is just one step of the preparation for fascism in this country. It fits right in with the president’s foreign policy, the lowering of our standard of living, filling the Supreme Court with reactionary judges, putting military men (out of uniform) in the powerful positions of the government.

The capitalist class gives us certain rights, but under their complete control. This is the bourgeois "democratic" form of dictatorship. But when the economic crisis comes, and masses of workers begin to revolt, they won’t have to take it. In these few recent cases, we have substituted a dictatorship of police and terror to control us.

Then our only choice will be total slavery or prison and death. Workers in Nazi Germany learned this and millions of workers are suffering today under fascist governments in the colonies of US imperialism.

IF WE WANT TO DEFEAT FASCISM, WE HAVE TO TAKE UP THE STRUGGLE AGAINST IT IN ITS PREPARATORY STAGES.

What leadership has our union given us in this struggle. They push to keep everything inside the grievance procedure, telling us we can pin our hopes on someone "great arbitrator in the sky". They tell us we should trust the courts - the capitalist class. They try to defeat the injunction against wildcats and the Colorado Peace Act which prohibited strikes, OR we can give parties and talk to legislators to get them on our side and take that never would be elected if they didn’t have the money of the capitalist class and both their parties, republican and democratic.

We should begin to see that this road leads nowhere. Every time C.O.P.E. (the Committee on Political Education which tries to exert pressure on this or that bourgeois politician) is brought up, it is met with guffaws and comments like: "You're going to take on the oil companies with $50,000.00?"
SF Strike
cont. from p. 7
confident is that the capitalist class was able to isolate the most advanced workers. Those workers who walked the picket lines 12-20 hours a day in the rain, those workers who had their whole families out on the lines with picket signs, those workers who brought food for everyone so that the strike could keep going, those workers who walked 8 hours in the hospital, then on to the "Mami Barna" for another 8 hour shift, 4 hours of sleep and then down to the docks at 5am to set up the lines there. Those who were forward ready to lead their class, were set up and sold out by the henchmen for the capitalists, the union MISLEADERS!

What then are the lessons that the working class can draw from this strike? Firstly, we must break with political parties that truly represent the interests of our class. We do not need the "united front of the capitalists" who sold our strike (we got $45 and 1/5 of a dental plan). We do not need the AFL (ACL-CIO) who were in league with our enemies (the P-I). We do not need to form an "AFL-CIO" out of the "liberals" of the Booksmith, like Mayor Alioto. Alioto got his seat in politics by busting the Fisherman's Union. He then sprang to fame as the head of the S.F. Redevelopment Agency which effectively wiped out 2 of the largest working class communities in San Francisco. And now he steps forward as the "champion" of the rights of labor. No we don't need leaders who are one day threatening to arrest us and the next saying that policemen should not be used to settle labor disputes. Who are we? We need a party with propaganda teams that can go out and hand out leaflets exposing the lies that the capitalist media spreads. Leaflets that point out what it is the capitalist class that doesn't care about the environment. The garbage that flows into the bay during the strike doesn't hold a candle to the industrial pollution that pollutes our bay daily. We must have propagandists to show the working class that it is the capitalist class that doesn't care what happens to old folks. Otherwise, they would hire enough police or universities to make them live on fish incomes while inflation skyrocketes. We must have a party that can set up study circles to teach Marxism-Leninism to the advanced workers who step forward to lead their class.

Footnote
1. Dimitroff, United Front Against Fascism.

MA BELL
cont. from p. 7
the Coors family (of Coors beer fame) who is a major spokesman for the anti-working class, pro-capitalist forces in Colorado and the whole country. They also showed their support for the struggle of the farmworkers by large donations to the UPW.

A resolution was passed unanimously calling for the UFW to resign and for new elections to be held. Workers voted to go before the state supreme court to get the workers their wages and to take legal action against the company's secret police (the security director and his men) who are responsible for "more efficient" (more fascist) law enforcement. This merger attempt was voted down by district and county residents. If police terror is becoming "more efficient" in New Mexico, it is the police becoming more open. An Albuquerque City policeman, fired for pistol-whipping a man, threatening to castrate him and tying a bed sheet around his neck and threatening to hang him, stated publicly that "I was not improperly. We have been doing the same thing for a long time." This is undoubtedly true, but open admission of such police brutality by the police themselves is another sign of rising fascism. And last but not least, the new City Commission Chairman, Ray Bacca, formerly held the job of training the fascist Brazilian police in modern techniques of torture and murder. He is therefore well equipped to do the same job in Albuquerque, for the same purpose: that of keeping down the struggle of the working class and oppressed peoples for preservation of their democratic rights.

It is clear that the ruling class is pushing fascism in every area of its evil capitalist system. Thus to stop the drive to toward fascism, we have to do battle with fascism itself. And the only way to do this is with a highly organized working class, fighting together with the oppressed peoples in an anti-fascist united front under the leadership of a multi-national Communist Party.

GARDCO
cont. from p. 6
of the movement showing the connection between their struggle and the imperialist system as a whole, by consistently bringing socialist literature to the workers, and by making vivid political exposures of the whole economic and political system. They are concentrating this activity towards the most advanced workers through the consolidation of factory circles. The building of factory circles must be seen as the key link in our work at Gardco and any other factory. It is through these circles which the advanced workers are instilled with socialist ideas. Learn the workings of the system and act as a base to influence the rest of the shop - to make EVERY FACTORY OUR FORTRESS!

GARDCO
cont. from p. 6
of the movement showing the connection between their struggle and the imperialist system as a whole, by consistently bringing socialist literature to the workers, and by making vivid political exposures of the whole economic and political system. They are concentrating this activity towards the most advanced workers through the consolidation of factory circles. The building of factory circles must be seen as the key link in our work at Gardco and any other factory. It is through these circles which the advanced workers are instilled with socialist ideas. Learn the workings of the system and act as a base to influence the rest of the shop - to make EVERY FACTORY OUR FORTRESS!

CRIME
cont. from p. 4
of the working class criminals of the caliber of Nixon, Ford,...

Who is the real criminal? The junkie who rips off your TV set or the system which robs us of a decent way of life, of food of health, of education and housing! Capitalism is the crime against the vast majority of workers. The only way to solve "crime on the streets" is to wipe out crime in the White House, crime in the Pentagon, crime in the banks and establish a system of socialism, where the proletariat runs the government, where the production is in accordance with the needs of the people and not the desire of capital for maximum profits.

History has proven that the criminal system of capitalism cannot be wiped out without the guidance of a general staff, a conscious Marxist-Leninist Communist Party to lead the army of the working class to victory over the bourgeoisie.

Subscribe to the WESTERN WORKER!

Subscriptions are $3.50 per year. This service includes all mailing costs.

If interested, please write:

Communist League
P.O. Box 72306
Watts Station
Los Angeles, Calif.
MAY DAY cont. from p. 6
ranks of workers behind their union...- veterans of World War I...- some cripples, in their over-seas caps...- a contingent of Irish and another of Scottish workers, both in kilts, behind their respective bag-pipers...- from the Harlem ghet-
to;...and thousands of white-rob-
ed followers of the religious lea-
der Father Divine...And a contin-
gent from my own union about which I must say a few special words.

Most passenger ships then required licensed officers to wear uniform, as did some freight ships. In addition, many such men were at the same time officer members of the US Naval or Coast Guard Reserves. In our contingent, all marchers wearing uniform were placed together in the front ranks.

As we drew near to a street corner, I saw standing there a group of five German naval per-
sone...- 2 officers and 3 enlisted men. "Hilterites" I thought. As a challenge, as we drew up to them I raised my arm in a clenched fist "salute." I was astounded when first one of the officers and then quickly the other 4 men stood to attention and returned the salute. "Fool-hardy," yes, certainly. If some rat photographed the incident and turned the whole affair to German authori-
ties those men were in lots of trouble. But, the true meaning of May Day was affirmed; and the incident taught me, unforgettably never to pass judgment upon any person until knowledge is at hand to justify the judgment.

Already moving to the right before WWII began, counter-revolutionary social democrats in control of the CPUSA used the war as an excuse to help the Anti-CIO rightists abolish May Day demonstra-
ations. During the war, the working class everywhere observed May Day by staying on the job and producing the weapons...", said Alexander Trachtenberg, a member of the CPUSA Nat. Committee, in a 1947 pamphlet.

We who were using "the weapons" would not have felt any dif-
cerence, in supplies, if on just one day each year our class broth-
ers and sisters at home came into the streets to unite in demonstra-
ting their struggle against Fascism and to tell us they were still protecting our rights as workers for the day when we would come home. As it was, many men and women developed a bitter feeling that at home there was more interest in over-time and "patriotic" speeches than in getting the way over with.

WWII is long past, but in the USA counter-revolutionary so-
cial democracy still dominates and celebration of May Day is at a level not much higher than that of Ground Hog Day. When, once more, we travel the road of ex-
pansion without limit and prosperity without end; when Thank God we are walking down that "peaceful path to socialism" - who needs May Day?

Say it Loudly and Clearly: We, the Whole Working Class of the Whole World, Need it BADLY!

Inflation...unemployment... reduction of living standard... pollution of the air we breathe... and the water we drink... the threat of WWII (probably atomic) chaotic waste of raw materials already in short supply... all these and others like them, are inter-
national problems, needing inter-
national solutions, by the only class able to act unitedly on an international scale - the working class, US.

It will not be easy, and it will take time; but now is the time to revive May Day and make it live forever as the day of working class unity, in stride (in) half-way and improve the world we live in.
MAY DAY
cont. from p. 1
by the older Knights of Labor and industrial partials were made for the coming great event. Then the K of L refuted and tried to sabotage strike preparation. But, on May 1, 1886, 500,000 workers struck in cities across the land.

Chicago was the militant center. Strikers were attacked once by combine employeep- city police forces. Angered, many strikers took to the streets on May 3. Police killed six and wounded many other strikers at the McCormick Reaper Works.

On May 4, a massive demonstration of protest gathered in May Market Square. Police attacked the demonstrators. A bomb exploded and killed a policeman. Four strike leaders - Parson, Engle, Spies, and Fischer were arrested, framed and hanged. During the summer of 1886, employers conducted a vicious counter-offensive against unions.

The former OIU, now named the AFL, in a convention at St. Louis in the leadership of the 8 hour day strike to begin May 1, 1889. But, for the 1889 convention, the right-wing, led by Sam Gompers, castrated the plan by ramming through a decision that on May Day, 1890, the carpenters alone would strike; if they were successful, all other unions would strike later.

The 2nd International, formed in Paris on July 14, 1891, that date marked the 50th anniversary of May 1, 1890, as the day to renew the battle for the 8 hour day.

On May Day, 1890, carpenters were joined by other building trades unionists and calling demonstrations were common throughout the country and world. The 8 hour day wasn't won on any wide scale. The struggle continued, through many ups and downs, for more than 30 subsequent years. The 8 hour day was officially established in the USA until the National Recovery Act of 1933 was passed.

Even then, many workers were excluded from its coverage; and to this date, some still are.

During 1891, the right-wing of the 2nd International began to campaign to postpone celebration of May Day, but until the Ist Sun. after May last. Purpose: to make it unnecessary for any woman to work May Day. Because he would not be working on a Sunday anyway, and to turn the day into a day for plant labor unity into just another day of rest. But revolutionary, and the unfolding events of history, stood in the way.

From behind prison bars, in 1896, Lenin wrote and smuggled out a brief, hard hitting May Day letter to the workers of Petersburg. A month later, widespread strikes broke out in the tsarist empire. Many workers credited the leaflet with having inspired them to strike.

In May Day, 1907, edition of the Worker, a Socialist Party newspaper, the workers' beloved Eugene V. Debs wrote: "This is the first and International Labor Day, it belongs to the working class and is dedicated to the revolution."

After the USA entered WWI, in 1917, Left Socialists did not discontinue. On the contrary, they became special days of protest against WWI.

Having lost little success in substituting Labor Day for May Day, the AFL right-wing collaborating with Commerical and GOP Pres. Herbert Hoover, arranged in 1928 for May 1 to be designated as National Child Health Day! Now, said their convention report, "we will no longer be known as either strike day or Communist Day."

But, on Oct. 28, 1929, the thunder of the Great Crash drown out these feeble cries for 'child health day.' May Day, 1930, was still ever much a day of militant unity and protest. The size and power of the annual demonstrations grew with each succeeding year.

I have taken part in a May Day demonstration of some kind somewhere, every year since 1932. Two stand out especially vividly in my memory. May Day, 1973, in Paris, will have to be told about another time. Allow me to tell you now of May Day in N.Y. City, 1935.

250,000 people marching in solid ranks, to curb down Broadway to a Union Square reviewing stand. Ranks upon ranks upon ranks upon

GARDDCO
cont. from p. 2
be forced to greatly speed up production in recent months. With this speedup naturally comes injuries to the workers. In one week alone, 4 months back, two workers had their fingers smashed in the punch presses. One worker's fingers were mashed by the machine, severing his two fingers at the tips. Ray Brocker, scum plant supervisor, immediately picked up portions of the severed fingers and flushed them down the toilet. Nobody knew what happened. This attempt to destroy evidence of the company's negligence prevented any possibility of the workers' fingers being grafted together and showed the company's lack of concern for the needs of the workers. The company of course puts on a show of workers' safety, such as sending certain workers to a first aid training class for one day, knowing full well that more fingers will be needed in the future. The company's only real concern, of course, is their insurance, profits, and most importantly, Gardco cannot make a cent off the construction of the company's new plant, unless we are there to produce.

As Mao Tsetung has aptly stated: "Workers' struggle is oppression, there is resistance. The workers at Gardco have had a recent history of real struggle against the conditions at the shop. For instance, one day in early 1973, while the bosses were comfortably warm in their offices, the workers were freezing because of cold weather and lack of heat. The workers knew that nicely asking the company for heaters wouldn't do, so over half the plant walked out without waiting for out mistreated union leaders to tell us to work it out through other ways. The next day, heaters were installed, although the plant is still cold in many parts. The boycott of the lunch truck mentioned earlier, another example of the struggle of the workers at Gardco, showing the strength of the unity of the class.

At present, the whole factory is in motion around the upcoming contract dispute. The new offer from Gardco for negotiation this coming July. The workers at Gardco are presently under a threat of a lockout contract which sold out almost every imaginable demand and right of the workers. With inflation, rising out of this one year period, the workers naturally ask the question, "how could the company force such a rotten contract down the workers throats?" The reason is that the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers represents the interests of the capitalists and not the workers. The IBWE acts as an enemy within or a wolf in sheep's clothing to protect the interests of the capitalists while pretending to represent the interests of the workers. From the international on down to local 2131, hundreds of the IBWE have consistently sold out the interests of the workers.

The last Gardco contract gave the workers a starting rate of $2.11 with slight raises per year. This contract was "negotiated" by three IBWE "bishops" within the plant, Steve Price, Marcus Mendelson and Norman McClendon. They sold the messes of the workers out, while themselves receiving the bribes of sub-contractors, etc., for their services to the capitalists.

The workers are presently seeing the same state of affairs doesn't exist. The workers at Gardco have learned from their own bitter experience that to succeed in this struggle, we must break off the chains of capitalist leadership such as believing in the good will of the company or allowing the union leaders to call us out again and take the initiative in this economic struggle into our own hands so that we "call the shots". The workers at Gardco have learned from their own bitter experience that to succeed in this struggle, we must break off all the chains of capitalist leadership such as believing in the good will of the company or allowing the union leaders to call us out again and take the initiative in this economic struggle into our own hands so that we "call the shots". The workers at Gardco have learned from their own bitter experience that to succeed in this struggle, we must break off all the chains of capitalist leadership such as believing in the good will of the company or allowing the union leaders to call us out again and take the initiative in this economic struggle into our own hands so that we "call the shots". The workers at Gardco have learned from their own bitter experience that to succeed in this struggle, we must break off all the chains of capitalist leadership such as believing in the good will of the company or allowing the union leaders to call us out again and take the initiative in this economic struggle into our own hands so that we "call the shots". The workers at Gardco have learned from their own bitter experience that to succeed in this struggle, we must break off all the chains of capitalist leadership such as believing in the good will of the company or allowing the union leaders to call us out again and take the initiative in this economic struggle into our own hands so that we "call the shots". The workers at Gardco have learned from their own bitter experience that to succeed in this struggle, we must break off all the chains of capitalist leadership such as believing in the good will of the company or allowing the union leaders to call us out again and take the initiative in this economic struggle into our own hands so that we "call the shots".
S.F. Strike cont. from p. 1

Though the Social Democrats don't control the trade unions here like they did in Germany, the unions are playing a somewhat similar role with their class collaborationist policies. Political control and organizational weakness are the problems faced by the USNA working class. There's a need to introduce the concept of fascism, the capitalist class will use every opportunity to further this situation. It is in their interest to create the image of the strike and the role of the union 'leaders' must be seen.

The capitalist class thru the union leaders is using this strike as a furthering the disorganization that existed with the unions immediately preceding the strike and in the meeting the strike is not being handled. During the strike, this situation escalated. Consistently, the workers were not informed of the policy, information regarding laws, informed picket captains etc. Consistently, the union leaders promised to get things together. Consistently, they let us down. The effectiveness of the strike is almost clear if we look again to S.F. General Hospital. Striking a hospital is difficult when you are striking a factory. You don't "shoot it down". In fact the unity of the picket depends upon the strikers allowing at least emergency services to continue. This picket would not have been easily implemented. The union could have drawn up a list of those workers who were needed to keep emergency services running. Passes could have been issued, or a list kept of the names of those workers so that they could have crossed the picket line without any problems. This list was created so that the striking workers could distinguish their own from those who needed access - from the cops. Only one small group struck for such a list. Every night the union misleaders promised it "tomorrow". Every tomorrow never came.

The strike was also used by the capitalist class to further deepen the divisions within the union. They used their media to make us see the striking city workers from all other workers. And they used their labor liens to sharpen the divisions among the striking workers. Television coverage gave the impression of the workers being transferred out of the hospitals. And who did they blame it on, the hospital workers? Many columns inches of newspaper were devoted to talking about the hardships faced by old folks because the services weren't running. And who did they blame it on, the drivers. The lies and slander reached the peak around the question of the sewerplants. The City claimed that closing the sewer plants would create a health hazard. Their own Director of Public Health, Dr. Francis Dury, said it was a health hazard. In fact the sewer plants are closed approximately 80 days of the year due to rain. The City's Groups were going wild because of the rain which they claimed was polluting the water. Then, 5 days into the strike, in a collaborationist style, the union misleaders decided that the City was right and allowed supervisors to go into the plants. (Although the supervisors could have worked the plant during the strike). When the City was within the strike itself, the Trojan Horses (the union "leaders") performed their role. They consistently pushed divisions between those on the lines and those who were not. They even said "if something happens" they would say, "you can blame it on your fellow workers who didn't work," and worked hard to keep people sucking up to the cops. Another favorite of theirs was the division between the lowest paid workers, the miscellaneous workers who initiated the strike and who were their brain, heart and backbone and the bus Drivers who were higher paid and less supportive. This was to be exploited for important role.

The strike was used by the capitalist class to further deepen the divisions within the union. They used their media to make us see the striking city workers from all other workers. And they used their labor liens to sharpen the divisions among the striking workers. Television coverage gave the impression of the workers being transferred out of the hospitals. And who did they blame it on, the hospital workers? Many columns inches of newspaper were devoted to talking about the hardships faced by old folks because the services weren't running. And who did they blame it on, the drivers. The lies and slander reached the peak around the question of the sewerplants. The City claimed that closing the sewer plants would create a health hazard. Their own Director of Public

Ma Bell cont. from p. 2

has to close the grievance or be forced into arbitration.

No wonder that many workers get disgusted and disillusioned. It is clear that the main thing most people really don't know about the grievance procedure is how it works against us. It keeps all our protests inappropriate. It is a tendency to withhold the capitalistic class as a whole. They longer as long as there are just sitting in meetings, trying to convince them to be "fairer" to keep them in line if they are to get rich off of us, with few complications. We are at worst, that is the only thing that is important to them.

This was really shown when two summer months ago (1973) cops took up the weapon of the wildcat strike. Not only the operators, but also women operators, and the plant section of the company, including the association strike against the discrimination that was being used against Negro women operators. This action quickly turned to the courts -- that part of a state that serves the whole capitalist class in keeping all workers down. In no time, they had a situation against any more wildcat strikes.

This means that if we walked out they could break the union fi-nances with tens of thousands of dollars fines. They are the police in the union offices in jail and force job stewards to either help break the strike or put them in jail if they didn't. Of course, they'll tell us we have the right to strike -- on July 17th at midnight -- when they can plan and prepare for it. For example, in Des Moines, they are cutting all hotel and motel traffic to computers two days before the contract expires.

These "planned layoffs every three years" with no unemployment benefits are just a small inconvenience to them in keeping up the front that we do have the right to power. But ask any operator who was on strike three years ago -- they'll tell you that we were forced back to work by the union and the company even though we knew we were getting sold-out in the contract.

What the injunction against wildcats means day to day and year to year is that the capitalist class has, through its state, taken away our right to strike. This is just one step of the preparation for fascism in this country. It is in line with the president's emergency powers, the lowering of our standard of living, the filling of the Supreme Court with reactionary 'justice' and replacing military men (out of uniform) in the powerful positions of the government.

The capitalist class gives us certain rights, but under their complete control. This is the bourgeois "democratic" form of dictatorship. But when the economic crisis reaches crisis points and masses of workers begin to revolt, they won't hesitate to take these few rights and substitute a dictatorship of police and terror to control us.

Then our only choice will be total slavery or prison and death. Workers in Nazi Germany learned this and millions of workers are suffering today under fascist governments in the colonies of US imperialism.

IF WE WANT TO DEFEAT FASCISM, WE HAVE TO TAKE UP THE STRUGGLE AGAINST IT IN ITS PREPARATORY STAGES.

What leadership has our union given us in this struggle? They tell us that the "capitalists'" role is to defeat the injunction against wildcats and the Colorado Peace Act which prohibits wildcat strikes. OR we can give parties and talk to legislators to get them on our side, when even if they would not have been elected if they didn't have the money of the capitalist class they and both their parties, republican and democratic.

We are beginning to see that this road leads to nowhere. Every time C.O.P.E. (the Committee on Political Education which tries to exert pressure on or that bourgeois politician) is brought up, it is met with guffaws and complaints that "you're going to take on the oil companies with $50,000,000?" Union members voted more in their usual monetary support last year for a strike to organize a union in a plant controlled by...
SF Strike
cont. from p. 7
confusion, is that the capitalist class was able to isolate the most aggressive of those workers who walked the picket lines 12-20 hours a day in the rain, those workers who had their whole families out on the lines with picket signs, those workers who had something to lose for everything they did so that the strike could keep going. Those workers who walked 8 hours at the hospital, then on to the “Minor Barns” for another 8 hour stint, home for 16 hours of sleep and then down to the docks at 5am to set up the lines there. Those workers who stepped forward as the vanguard of their class, were set up and sold out by the henchmen for the capitalists, the union MISLEADERS:

What then are the lessons that the working class can draw from this strike? Firstly, we must have a political party that truly represents the interests of our class. We do not need the union “leaders” who sold out our strike (we got 445 and 1/2 of a dental plant) We need the labor (AFL-CIO) bureaucracy which directed and disorganized us so as to set us up for fascism. We do not need “liberal” politicians like Alf Landon. Landon supported the Fisherwoman’s Union. He then sprung to fame as the head of the S.F. Redevelopment Agency which effectively wiped out 2 of the largest working class communities in San Francisco. And now he steps forward as the “champion” of the rights of labor. No, we don’t need leaders who are one threatening to arrest us and the next saying that policemen should not be used to settle labor disputes. (Ha! Ha!) We need a party with a movement that can get out leaflets exposing the lies that the capitalist media spreads. We need a movement that points out that it is the capitalist class that doesn’t care about the patients in the city hospitals. Otherwise, they would hire enough staff and enough money for equipment in order to make the workers the decent health care in all year round. Leaflets that show that what capitalism itself class that doesn’t care about the environment. The garbage that flowed into the bay during the strike doesn’t hold a candle to the industrial pollution that pollutes our bay daily. We must have propaganda to show the workers that it is the capitalist class that doesn’t care what happens to old folks. Otherwise, they wouldn’t force them to live on fixed incomes while inflation skyrocketed. We must have a party that can set up study circles to teach Marxism-Leninism to the advanced workers who step forward to lead their class.

Footnotes:
1. Dimitroff, United Front Against Fascism.

MA BELL
cont. from p. 7

the Coors family (of Coors beer fame) which is a major spokesman for the anti-working class, pro-fascist forces in Colorado and the whole country. They also showed their support for the struggle of the farmworkers by large donations to the UPW.

A resolution was passed unanimously calling for President Nixon’s resignation and for new elections to be held. Workers’ rights are not going beyond the grievance procedure and the UFW’s action against the company’s secret police (the security department), which is searching labor plant, interrogating operators, and some even turning over phones of active unionists on the pretext of investigating illegal drugs. At the same meeting, they enthusiastically supported the miners in Harlan County, Kentucky, in their militant fight to organize mine workers in Appalachia.

We have to go beyond these few instances, though and begin to wage a struggle against fascism. As members of the working class, we face a capitalist class that sells us politically as well as economically. And we have to take up the political struggle against them. This means using every means at our disposal from the grievance procedure to leaflets, protests, demonstrations and our strikes to expose them, what they are doing to us, what they have in store for us: fascism and slavery.

We need to organize a general staff that will tie all the little droplets of struggle into a torrent of revolution.

Fascism
cont. from p. 6

The City of Albuquerque as a whole has increased the size of its police force tremendously and recently, in order to merge the city and county police for “more efficient” (more fascist) law enforcement, an all-out attack was voted down by city and county council.

If police terror is becoming “efficient” in New Mexico, it is also becoming more open. An Albuquerque Police manager, fired for insulting and threatening a man, threatened to strangle him and tying a bed sheet around his neck and threatening to hang him, stated publicly that, “it was not improper. We have been doing the same thing for a long time.” This is undoubtedly true, but open admission of such police brutality by the police themselves is another sign of fascism. And last but not least, the new City Commission Chairman, Ray Baca, formerly held the job of training the fascist Brazilian police in advanced techniques of torture and murder. He is therefore well equipped to do the same job in Albuquerque, for the same purpose: that of keeping in the struggle of the working class and oppressed peoples for preservation of their democratic rights.

It is clear that the ruling class is pushing fascism in every area of its capitalist system. Thus to stop the drive to fascism, we have to do battle with the capitalists, and the only way to do this is with a highly organized working class, fighting for the oppressed peoples in an anti-fascist united front under the leadership of a multi-national Communist Party.

GARDCO
cont. from p. 6

of the movement showing the connection between their struggle and the imperialist system as a whole, by consistently bringing to their literature to the workers, by making vivid political exposures of the whole economic system, and by beginning to concentrate this activity towards the most advanced workers through the consolidation of factory circles. The building of factory circles must be seen as the key link in our work at Gardco and any other factory. It is through these circles where the advanced workers are instilled with socialist ideas, learn the workings of the system and begin to influence the rest of the shop - to make EVERY FACTORY OUR FORTRESS!

CRIME
cont. from p. 4

Capitalism robs us of the value we create on the job.

Capitalism creates a government of ruling class criminals of the caliber of Nixon, Ford,....

Who is the real criminal?
The junkie who rips off your T.V. set or the system which robs us of a decent way of life, of food of health, of education and housing: Capitalism is the crime against the vast majority of workers. The only way we can solve "crime on the streets" is to wipe out crime in the White House, crime in the Pentagon, crime in the banks and establish a socialist society, where the proletariat runs the government, where the production is in accord with the needs of the people and not the desire of capital for maximum profits.

History has proven that the criminal system of capitalism cannot be wiped out without the guidance of a general staff, a conscious Marxist-Leninist Communist Party to lead the army of the people to victory over the bourgeoisie.

subscribe to the WESTERN WORKER!

Subscriptions are $3.60 per year. That price includes all mailing costs.

If interested, please write:

Communist League
P.O. Box 72136
Watts Station
Los Angeles, Calif.
MAY DAY
cont. from p. 6
ranks of workers behind their union banners... veterans of WWI, some crippled, in their over-seas caps... a contingent of Irish and Scottish workers, both in kilts, behind their respective bag-pipers... from the Harlem ghetto, masses thousands of white-robed followers of the religious leader Divine... And a contingent from my own union about which I must say a few special words.

Most passenger ships then required licensed officers to wear uniform, as did some freight ships. In addition, many such men were at the same time officer members of the US Naval or Coast Guard Reserve. In our contingent, all marchers wearing uniforms were placed together in the front ranks.

As we drew near to a street corner, I saw standing there a group of five German naval personnel - 2 officers and 3 enlisted men "Hitlerites" I thought. As a challenge, as we drew up to them I raised my arm in a clenched fist "salute." I was astounded when one of the five officers and then quickly the other 4 men stood to attention and returned the salute. For them, fool-hardy? Yes, certainly. But I had photgraphed the incident and turned the photo over to German authorities those men were in lots of trouble. But, the true meaning of May Day was affirmed, and the incident taught me, unforgettable, never to pass judgment upon any person until knowledge is at hand to justify the judgment.

Already moving to the right before May Day began, counter-revolutionary social democrats in control of the CPUSA used the war as an excuse to help the AFL-CIO rightists abolish May Day demonstrations. "During the war, the working class everywhere observed May Day by staying on the job and producing the weapons...", said Alexander Trachtenberg, a member of the CPUSA Nat. Committee, in a 1947 pamphlet.

We who were using "the weapons" would not have felt any difference, in supplies, if on just one day each year our class brothers and sisters at home came into the streets to unitefully demonstrate their struggle against Fascism and to tell us they were still protecting our rights as workers for the day when we would come home. As it was, many men over seas developed a bitter feeling that at home there was more interest in over-time and "patriotic" speeches than in getting the way over with.

May Day is long past, but in the USA counter-revolutionary social democracy still dominates and celebration of May Day is at a level not much higher than that of Day. When, once more, we travel the road of expansion without limit and prosperity with an end; when Thank God we are walking down that "peaceful path to socialism" - who needs May Day?

Say it Loudly and Clearly:
We, the Whole Working Class of the Whole World, Need it BADLY!

Inflation...unemployment... reduction of living standard...

LENIN and STALIN
cont. from p. 3
The foes of socialism were numerous, clever and pitiless. They fought “for keeps”; whoever expected to defeat them had to fight “for keeps”, too. No doubt, errors, excesses, injustices were committed in the course of the years-long struggles. These occur in every war.

Not Stalin alone, but the Political Bureau, Central Committee and Congresses of the CPSU developed and carried out the policies of 1924-53. That they were, in the main, correct policies is proved by the fact that they successfully carried forward, along the Lenin-charted path, the transition to socialism.

On Stalin’s grave should be inscribed: Under his leadership, Socialism was established irrevocably in the USSR.

My wife and I visited Lenin’s Tomb and Stalin’s grave in the burial place of the greats of international Socialism between the Tomb and the Kremlin wall, in the Spring of 1973.

The waiting line begins to form about 8 am, regardless of the weather, as it has every day since Lenin was first entombed (except when Moscow was under siege during WWII.) It is at that time 6 to 8 blocks long and grows longer as the day comes to an end. Then at 8:30 am, but had to stand in line in a pouring rain for 1-1/2 hours, waiting our turn. From 9 am to 1 pm, only foreigners are admitted; from 1 pm to 6 pm, only Soviet citizens. After passing through Lenin’s Tomb, those who wish continue through an entrance to the grave yard where Stalin rests in a special plot. It is a custom that they who wish especially honor someone will remove any medals or decorations they may be wearing and leave them atop that grave. At about 12 noon, when we arrived, Stalin’s grave already was literally carpeted with medals and decorations.

Once he lay beside Lenin in the Tomb. The counter-revolutionary liar and clown, Kruschev had him moved to a village graveyard. After Kruschev was booted out in disgrace, the PolitBuro had Stalin moved back to where he now rests. Half-way to where he now rests, beside Lenin; half-way to where one (not too far off, I believe) the Marxists-Leninists of the USSR will see that he is returned.

Let the living Kruschevites, the Solzhenitsyns and all such scum, wet the world with tears shed for their failure to destroy socialism.

On March 5, the poor and oppressed should mourn the death of Stalin on that sad day in 1953 and on April 3, we should rejoice as nearly all Soviet citizens do, that Lenin came into the world on that great day in 1970.

V.I. LENIN
J.V. STALIN

pollution of the air we breathe... the threat of Wall Street (probably atomic) chaotic waste of raw materials already in short supply... all these and others like them, are international problems, needing international solutions, by the only class able to act unitedly on an international scale - the working class, US.

It will not be easy, and it will take time, but nothing is impossible. It is time to begin, to revive May Day and make it live forever as the day of working class unity, in struggle to save and improve the world we live in.