Postal workers get ready for contract struggle

The present contract of 650,000 postal workers is due to expire on July 21, 1978. The upcoming contract has become a focus for organizing efforts by postal workers nationwide. They are actively building a broad movement to fight for a better contract.

On the other side, the postal service is glorifying the workers' economic status and bragging about their "high salaries" and "job security." The top postal union bureaucrats are warning workers not to expect much improvement this time, but that continued
The truth of the matter is that workers have already gone on the offensive! In Florida, for instance, postal workers refused to work in a new postal facility. They demanded the removal of an elaborate security system with TV cameras and 2-way mirrors designed to spy on workers. In Chicago, workers who have been forced to work overtime for 2 years threatened to walk out unless the bosses immediately drop mandatory overtime. In the Bronx, New York, postal workers at the GPO raised an uproar when they tried to eliminate a no-strike clause from the contract. They are realizing that they should rely upon the initiative of fellow rank and file rather than solely on these methods of struggle.
contract. They brag about how hard they’re working for the workers by running around in Congress getting votes on a piece of legislation. Meanwhile, tens of thousands of workers are losing their jobs or are facing speedups and deteriorating working conditions.

Because of the bureaucrats, many workers have refused to join the union. This weakens the union and thus the overall fighting strength of the workers. The struggle for the immediate demands of postal workers goes hand in hand with the struggle against the trade union bureaucrats and for a union that truly fights in the workers’ interests.

* * *

By keeping in mind the well-being of the majority, relying on the workers own efforts, exposing and isolating the union bureaucrats and building a strong fighting union, important victories for all postal workers in the upcoming contract battle will surely be achieved.

In fighting to bring about immediate changes however, workers must look beyond the contract battle and see that the bosses will always try to take away any victories workers are able to force out of them.

Workers should therefore be vigilant, fight hard for immediate improvements and protect gains won, while recognizing that no fundamental changes are possible without ending this exploitative system.