HUTZEL TRIBUNE

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AN OPEN LETTER TO AFSME LOCAL 140

This union is <u>not</u> acting in the interests of its members <u>nor</u> trying to: On January 28, 1976, at 4:30 P.M. there was a union meeting to discuss the upcoming contract. Memo's were not recieved by the majority of us, and the ones that were posted went up about three days before the meeting. And what about the afternoon shift? How were we to get there? I don't understand the logic of saying that you want peoples input and then make it so difficult for people to be there. There are a good many of us that have ideas about what we would like to see in the new contract. There should be some concrete way that we can voice our views. If a morning or early afternoon meeting is impossible, then some other way will have to be found.

One such way would be a petition campaign in which certain ideas, concepts, and plans are put forward and if people agree with it they can sign it and add whatever they want. It seems more than a little strange that a contract can be negotiated without the feelings of the workers known. It was a hard fight to get the union into Hutzel, but it's an even harder fight to keep it our union, a union with the interests of the working class as its interests. Let's keep fighting! We need the participation of all of us. Once we know what we want, we will be able to struggle for it. But we all must have a clear understanding of what it is. And then we must stick together - UNITED WE STAND - DIVIDED WE FALL! And that means not just the members of AFSME, but all the workers in the hospital (LPN's, RN assoc., and non-unionized workers). For whatever benefits one could eventually benefit us all and what is taken away from one will be taken away from all.

DARE TO FIGHT - DARE TO WIN An Angry Worker



1976 is a contract year for many of our working class brothers and sisters. Contracts expire this year for other hospitals, nursing homes, small shops, and the UAW. What these workers win directly affect us, especially the auto workers. Many of us have husbands, wives, brothers, sisters, mothers, fathers, and other relatives working in the UAW shops. When workers fight to raise their standard of living, they are not just fighting individual bosses, they are fighting against the entire capitalist class.

When our family and friends in the UAW get laid off, after a certain period of time, they lose their health insurance. Who can afford to pay for this with no money coming in? And in the event that a member of the family gets sick, who can afford a huge hospital bill with no insurance? This means less patients in the hospital, which means that many of us will get laid off. For the rest of us still working, that means speed-up! There is no reason that any worker should be denied decent medical care if they are ill and unemployed.

And what about our wages? Most of us that work at Hutzel are women. Historically, women have always been paid less than men. Yet, many of us are the sole support of our families. We don't even have a cost of living clause in our contract. We must demand the same cost of living the auto workers recieve. After all, the cost of living rises the same for all workers.

We must understand that one workers fight against the bourgeosie is every workers fight. The capitalists make us compete against each other to keep us divided. But we must stand united! We must realize that our fight for a decent standard of living against Hutzel is the same fight the auto workers are waging against the auto bosses. We must stop fighting each other and begin to fight united as a class against Capitalism, a system that oppresses us. Capitalism is a democracy for the rich. Only with Socialism, will we have a true democracy for the working people. Only with Socialism will we have control of our own lives.

FIGHT FOR SOCIALISM IN UNITY THERE IS STRENGTH

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ANGOLA

Recently the news media has been full of stories about Angola. There is a basic theme running through them ... "the menace of Communism". This spectre is being raised once again as it was during the Spanish Civil War, the Korean War and the war in Vietnam. Why does this always happen? What does it mean?

When the capitalists are in a period of economic depression, as they have been over the past couple of years, they need war in order to increase their profits and get the economy back to work. As terrible as it seems, there are some of the greatest profits for the capitalist class in the destruction and tragedy of war. Our own history in the late thirties and forties prove the point. The bourgeosie raises this "evil" of communism in order to get the workers of this country to fight workers of another country, and we are not the ones who make the millions. We are just fed lies about communism and never really told what the issues are.

In this article, and its second part that will appear in the following issue of the <u>Hutzel Tribune</u>, we will explain more about the struggle in Angola, and will try to show how this fight for liberation is part and parcel of the struggle of the working class in this country. We also want to show how this 'menace of Communism' is just a tool used to divide the working class of all countries. It is this smoke screen of "a moral crusade" against communism that the imperialists use to hide their greed and quest for domination.

Until a short time ago Angola was a direct colony of Portugal, just as the Negro Nation, Puerto Rico and the Phillipines are direct colonies of the USNA. The economic and political life of Angola was completely controlled by the Portugese,...a reign of terror and brutal white chauvinism. Portugal itself, had a fascist government for the last 50 years, which kept vast majorities of the people ignorant, illiterate and poverty stricken. Portugal is the poorest country in Europe, with a yearly average income of \$1,000 and the highest illiteracy rate. Now Portugal is in the midst of revolution itself, and much of this is due to the upheaval in

the armed forces. This upheaval and resulting coup was greatly influenced by the contact with the progressive and Marxist forces that the soldiers went to fight in Portugal's colonial possissions. The workers, soldiers and peasants in Portugal have been fighting under the leadership of the Communist Party and other progressive forces. This struggle to establish power for the owrking class helped set the conditions for the liberation of Angola from colonial domination.

The Portugese withdrawal from Angola was done in such a way that the control of the state apparatus could only be decided by armed struggle. The Portugese wanted the three factions, UNITA, MPLA and FNLA to set up a coalition government, but this was an impossibility. These factions have very different political ideologies and goals. On the one hand there are UNITA and FNLA. They are the forces of counter-revolution and reaction. Their policies don't really represent any change for the people. They will just aid the imperialists to set up a neo-colonial rule in Angola. This will leave the country technically "free", but still dominated and exploited by imperialists. The FNLA was formed in 1961, Holden Roberto, its leader, was trained by the CIA and the organization based in the neighboring Zaire. Roberto "talks Socialism", but underneath the words is continued exploitation and oppression by imperialism. Also, there is UNITA which was recently formed and is lead by Savimbi. This leader claims that he is not for capitalism or for socialism, but for "democracy". Like the FNLA, UNITA is supported by the USNA, which means that the "democracy" that he is talking about is probably like ours here --- democracy for the rich only!

The third group is the MPLA. This organization was founded in Angola in 1956 and has had broad support from the Angolan people as it has lead the struggle against the imperialist and colonial domination. The MPLA is a Marxist organization and wants to establish a socialist society in Angola where the workers and peasants will control the wealth of their own country. Since the 1950's, the MPLA has issued pleas for help in their struggle to the USNA, the UN, and other countries. The only ones to come to their aid are the Soviets, the Cubans, and some countries of Eastern Europe. On Nov. 11th, the People's Republic of Angola was established with the leadership and guidance of the MPLA. It was at this point that the USNA and other countries stepped up their attack on the MPLA and the revolutionary movement of the people:

We cannot be fooled about Angola like we were about vietnam. The situations have many similarities. We know that money and advisors were pouring into Vietnam long before they would admit it, and it was the same for Angola. Also many of the puppet, fascist leaders in Vietnam like Theiu were trained by the CIA to keep their country under USNA domination. As stated above, the leader of the FNLA is also a CIA trainee. The imperialists want Angola's vast mineral wealth, coffee reserves and large numbers of workers, and they are not going to withdraw without a struggle, and they will always find direct or indirect ways to support the pro-capitalist forces. They understand that the consolidation of the national liberation movements would spell death to imperialism, neo-colonialism and its accompanying exploitation and oppression.

In light of this, we must demand the end of all overt or covert support to the counter-revolutionary forces in Angola. We must not allow the imperialists to interfer with the legitmately established government under the guidance of the MPLA. We must also demand that the millions and millions of dollars spent against the Angolans and other fighters be spent here in the USNA to provide jobs for everyone who wants to work, for better housing, schools, and health facilities.

SUPPORT THE MPLA! LONG LIVE THE ANGOLAN REVOLUTION! JOBS WITH PEACE!

The second article in the series will deal with this alleged "menace of communism"--to explain what communists stand for and why the working class is always fed so many lies about communism.

Workers & Oppressed People of the World UNITE

NEWS BRIEFS

Detroit Memorial Hospital, a member of Local 140, has been without a contract since last July. The hospital is offering a small raise and no benefits. We must show our support for our fellow workers at Detroit Memorial. What they win affects us and vica-versa. We must show them we are with them all the way. They are going to take a strike vote in the near future if nothing better is offered them by the hospital. If they vote yes, we must support them by walking with them or any other way we can. Unity is our weapon!

Are there races? What is a nationality? Read The Negro National Colonial Question by Nelson Peery and find out. Learn the real facts about the South. Understand the history of capitalist oppression. Copies are available at Emancipation Books, 12024 Linwood, Detroit.



The Hutzel Tribune welcomes your comments and criticisms. This is your paper, the voice of the workers. We urge everyone to contribute by writing articles and passing the Tribune along to your friends. Leave articles and comments at Emancipation Books, 12024 Linwood, Detroit. All names held in strict confidence.

Read the Peoples Tribune and the Tribuno Popular, the political voice of the Communist Labour Party of the United States of North America.