Fellow workers:
I am sorry that I am not there with you this evening. I have looked forward to this for so long.
I hope you continue to fight with the same spirit that we fought with back in 1937. We were a group of workers with no history and no educational background for the strike. But because we stuck together and worked as one, with a common goal, we were able to defeat the largest corporation in the world.
Now carry on the battle, stick together and march forward. Victory will be yours.
-Nellie Hendrix,
512 Mathewson,
Flint, Michigan

**Steel delegates outline program**

Merrillville, Ind.—Some 800 delegates and observers from 96 steel locals attended the District 31 Conference of the United Steel Workers union on June 29 and 30 to map out a fighting program that targets the steel monopolies and the sellout policies of International President Lloyd McBride.

The annual conference was marked this year by the militant participation of rank-and-file steelworkers. They voiced unanimous opposition to the International's policies of continued support for the no-strike pact (ENA) and opposition to the demand for the right to ratify contracts. These policies have acted as a brake on the steelworkers' ability to fight against worsening conditions in the mills.

District 31 Director James Balanoff, taking note of the workers' angry sentiments, pointed to the battle for union recognition at Newport News, Va., shipyard and the recent victory against the Weber case as examples of what steelworkers can accomplish when they are organized and united.

In his opening remarks to the convention he stated, "Workers won't continue to sacrifice while company profits soar."

The following are some of the main points included in the program adopted at the conference:

- **Carter's 7% limit and the ENA.** The conference denounced Carter's anti-inflation plan and passed a resolution calling for a 30% wage increase when the USWA contract expires next year.

- **Health and Safety.** Balanoff cited health and safety as a number one priority for steelworkers in the coming year. Local 65 President Alice Puerula emphasized this by pointing to the high rate of silicosis in the steel foundries. The companies, she said, are using the threat of layoffs to hold workers hostage to dangerous working conditions.

- **The energy crisis.** Throughout the conference there was discussion and debate on the energy crisis and the ripoffs by the big oil monopolies.

- **Discrimination against minorities and women.** Numerous resolutions were submitted and discussed calling for an end to discrimination and for affirmative action for minorities and women in steel. Conference participants spoke of the defeat of Brian Weber's "reverse discrimination" suit as a victory for all workers.

- **Resolutions from the Local 1010 Women's Committee spanned a range of issues including company-financed childcare, expanded pregnancy coverage, abortion rights and equality within the union, including the creation of an International Women's Department.**

**Issue demands for 1980 contract**

This is the message that will greet UAW president Doug Fraser when he arrives with his contract proposals in hand. Fraser is scheduled to meet with the District 31 Executive Board on Monday. Delegate Bob Fyock expressed the hope that the board would vote to keep the contract in the hands of the delegates and to act negatively if Fraser doesn't.