The coal miners strike is still on. 160,000 UMWA miners are waging the hardest fought and biggest labor struggle in many years.

They are fighting to win and just doing that sets this strike apart from the usual kind. The union leadership is split between the workers' hands and those that just go through the motions of a fight. Not in the coalfields. The coal miners have gone up against cops and scalps and armed company thugs. They have rolled right over the union's top leadership, and they have stood firm in the face of all the rich man's TV and newspaper propaganda which blanmish them for all the country's troubles. And they have told Jimmy Carter to take his Taft-Hartley law and shove it down where it came from. Let Taft mine the coal and Hartley change over to smaller cars to automate the mines. There are already a lot of names on the list of those that have been blacklisted.

Today, the coal companies are out to drive the miners down, down to the level of the country's working class. Down to the level their friends and natal grandfathers fought so hard to rise above. Productivity and stability are the bosses' watchwords. Every worker has seen it in the shop. Speedup and no wage hikes. Contracts filled with takeaways of hard won benefits. Runaways. No strike deals. 160,000 coal miners are clear evidence that the workers have stopped the bosses and the hams as an incentive. The workers responded by organizing to make sure they get to keep the pay they were promised. They will have trouble convincing the Linden workers of that. Workers are organizing to stand with the miners to fight for their rights. The miners are showing that it is possible for the working class to stand together.

But unity and moral support are not enough. Active, organized struggle has to be built. The workers have to build a strong strike committee. They have to fight the bosses' offensive and strengthen the working class to fight against every attack, all the exploitation and oppression that is coming down harder and harder on working people these days. The working class and the exploiting class have nothing in common, Stand With The Miners!

The auto companies have already launched their own offensive against the workers, like the way they used the AFL-CIO top leadership, with their constant call of "what's good for the workers" is not the voice of the working class. And they are showing that the real fight is not with the union leaders, but with the employers. The coal miners' strike means the working man and woman can hold their heads a little higher. Many workers are following the events like they were in their own country. Every worker sees the miners deliver to him a message that all the bosses and their bought-and-paid-for government. Every action of support and unity means the working class is beginning to fight together. But active, organized struggle has to be built. Active, organized struggle has to be built.

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