Defend Unemployment Insurance!

The banner across the front of the State Capitol building in Madison made the message clear—"STOP ALL ATTACKS ON OUR UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE" and "UNION JOBS AT UNION WAGES." The state senators, the representatives, the army of bureaucrats who fill the massive state building and even the Governor stood up and took notice.

Around that banner 15 unemployed workers from Milwaukee, spokesmen of the Unemployed Workers Organizing Committee and the National Unemployed Workers Organization, pitched tents and stayed overnight. This action laid the demands of the unemployed on the steps of the Capitol where they could not be ignored.

Several senators and representatives, from areas in Milwaukee's Inner City and East Side where unemployment is like a poison leg, are putting forward a bill to extend the unemployment benefits for 13 weeks.

But they said it would take 4-5 months just to write it. The Secretary of Labor, Industry and Human Relations wouldn't even endorse this bill, saying he would favor it "if we could afford it," and "if it was feasible." This is all just bureaucratic double-talk for "Get Lost!"

When Governor Marty Schreiber approached the Tent City, he shook hands all around like it was a campaign stop, but listened instead of listening to bob stories about his hard life back when he was unemployed. But the workers cut him short. "We've got carloads of sympathy—we need jobs." Schreiber said what's needed is to make the present job programs really work, not to extend the benefits.

But make these programs work for what? These slave-labor job programs are working for the rich capitalists and killing us. We need benefits to live on until we can get jobs, so we can't be forced to take the first thing that comes along, even at half what we used to make.

Later that morning a press conference was due to open its final meeting of this session. The senators who couldn't afford to pay unemployment insurance were going to give themselves a $200,000 raise! The unemployed decided to pay these people a visit.

As soon as the roll call was over, a member of UWOC stood up and left the gallery. One up, self off as public servants, where these minimum wage job programs are turning us into public slaves, we won't starve slowly on these crummy jobs, and we won't starve outright with no benefits, either!" Cops were on hand as half the Senators headed for the door; the chairman was forced to adjourn the meeting.

Similar confrontations and demonstrations are taking place throughout the state. The capitalist class, responsible for the history of segregation, discrimination and oppression of minority peoples, the major companies who have profited and the struggle for affirmative action must be directed towards the goal of making the ruling class pay.

The ruling class and their media spokesmen use affirmative action, and that many students don't make it into medical school, to stir up divisions between Black and white. A real problem is that there are too few spaces in medical schools. Doctors apply for every place. But the American Medical Association (AMA) fights to keep most students in medical school places low so that there are less doctors so that what doctors there are can charge higher fees. And the steep tuition, $30-12,000 a year, is a giant road block for students from families with a poor or moderate income.

As for the children of the rich, getting into med school is no sweat. In a trial involving the Chicago Medical School in 1974 it was revealed that the family and friends of 77 of the 91 entering freshmen in 1973 had donated a per student average of $50,000 to the school. In short, they bought their way in.

The Bakke case is important. The decision of the Supreme Court will have a far-reaching effect. Already progressive forces around the country are battling against the Bakke suit by explaining the issues to the people and organizing demonstrations. The Medical Committee for Human Rights (MCHR), an organization of progressive doctors and other health professionals, and the Revolutionary Student Brigade are among the groups currently clashing against what they consider to be a clear case of reverse discrimination.

The gains of the Black liberation struggle and the gains of the workers struggle were paid for in sweat and blood. The people will not give them up without a struggle. The Bakke case is bound to be just one battle in a struggle to defend past victories and go forward.

**Demand For Jobs Taken To State Capitol**

The gains of the black liberation, and other minority struggles, will NOT BE TAKEN AWAY WITHOUT A FIGHT.

**Struggle For Equality Goes On!**

**Bakke Decision Hits Gains of 60s**

This month the U.S. Supreme Court decides on the case of would-be medical student Allan Bakke, Bakke's suit was brought against the University of California at Davis (UCD) charges that UCD passed him over, a "higher qualified" white, in favor of "less qualified" Bakke who were admitted to UCD under an affirmative action program.

Bakke contends that this is "reverse discrimination." Bakke was also turned down by 13 other medical schools but UCD got his court action because of its affirmative action program.

Bakke's suit was upheld by the California Supreme Court in September 1976 and goes hand in hand with other lawsuits and court decisions backing away from the rights of the unemployed.

The Bakke suit and other court actions are only the tip of the iceberg. These legal attacks are taking place in the context of a general assault on the gains of the civil rights movement, Black liberation, and workers' movements during the '50s and '60s. Out of these movements many concessions were won from the ruling class—search more equal opportunity in hiring and education.

This enabled more young people from minorities to go to universities, enabled more workers to bid into better jobs or get into apprentice programs.

Even as these gains were won, the ruling class began trying to take them back. As a result of struggle over 4900 places were added to medical schools. Yet this was turned around somewhat as the schools went ahead and filled 77% of the new places with whites, instead of more minorities who had been shot out first.

Overall, however, while these gains did not wash out discrimination, nor could they, they were a big step forward. Now many of the programs enable more workers to participate (which could be used to knock down some affirmative action programs).

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