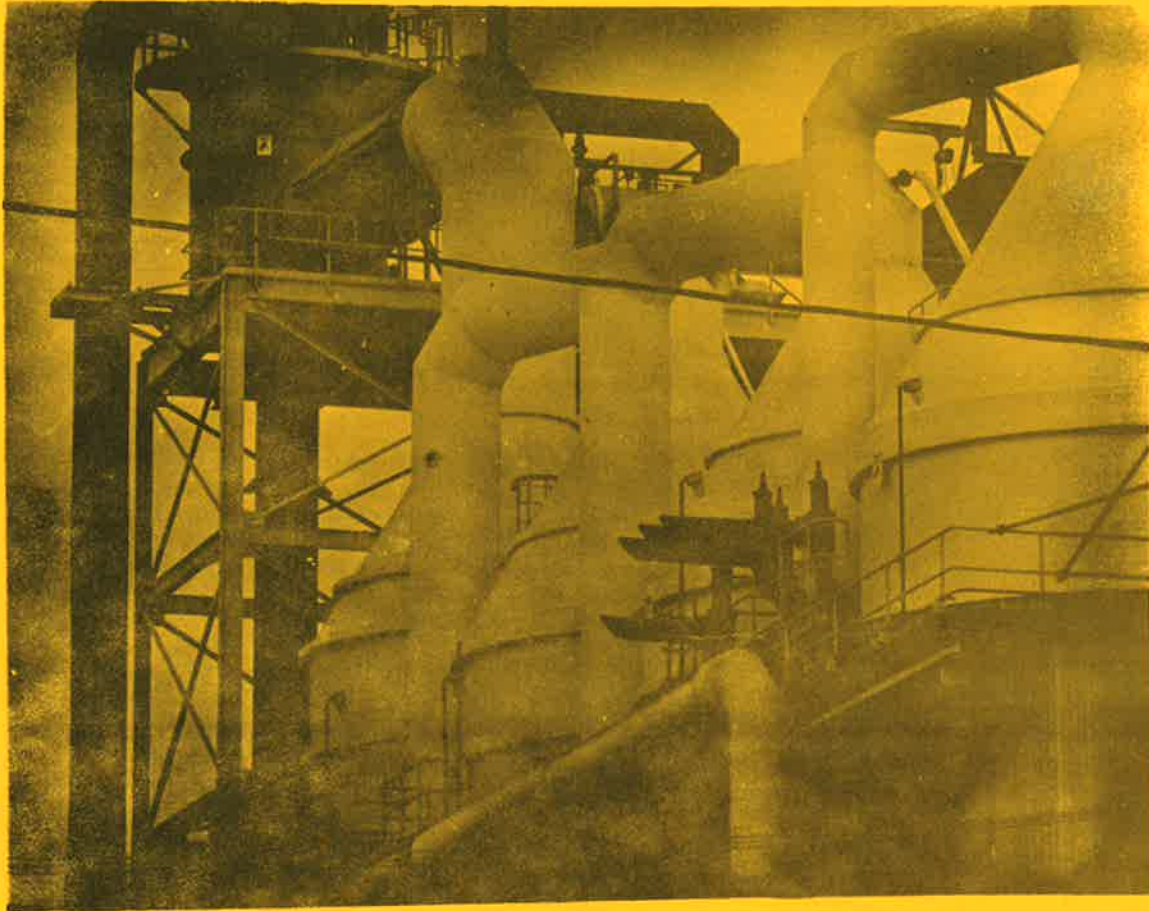


BUFFALO WORKERS' MOVEMENT NEWSLETTER



*Hooker
Chemical*

Love Canal



December '78

BUFFALO WORKERS' MOVEMENT

★★★ Who We Are ★★★

The Buffalo Workers' Movement is an organization of working people who are fighting to build a society based upon the needs of working people. We think the root cause of our country's problems is the system of capitalism - the system that makes decisions concerning the necessities of life according to the laws of profits only. The origins of layoffs, inflation, inferior schools, crime, etc. can be traced to this drive for profits. This country's most destructive people are the small number of men and women who make up the ruling class that makes the decisions that govern our lives.

We are committed to building a revolutionary movement to overthrow the present system and replace it with socialism. Socialism is the system where society is run by the working class and resources are divided according to peoples' needs, not for individual profit. We see capitalism as a system that is dying, and, as more and more countries realize this fact, they struggle to rebuild their societies upon socialist principles. Socialism is a living reality that works in such countries as China, Cuba and Vietnam.

We are part of the century-long tradition of socialism in this country. This tradition includes the fight for the 8-hour day and the struggles of the Wobblies. It includes the efforts in the 30's by the working class to organize unions, win social security and unemployment insurance, and defend its gains. This history also includes the fight against McCarthyism and the movement against the Vietnam war. The tradition is being lived out today in, among other struggles, the efforts to rebuild a strong Communist Party that can play its role in the working class's fight for power. Only with the formation of such a party can the potentially powerful but presently splintered and unorganized working class unite itself as a single force and win state power.

Our organization was founded by anti-war veterans, but rapidly grew to include many different people who realized that war is just one inevitable result of capitalism. In the struggles we have participated in, we have learned of the need to oppose political repression and fight racism and womens' oppression.

We are active in trade union work, in support of political prisoners, in defense of womens' right to choose and in support of third world liberation struggles. We are also part of a national trend to build a new Communist Party.

One key activity for our organization is the publication of a newsletter. Such a newsletter, which we hope to expand to a newspaper, will report news from a class viewpoint, give political direction and sum up political lessons, and act as an organizing tool for militants. To these ends and to the prople of this city we dedicate this newsletter.

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WORKING PAPERS

If you are interested in the political activities of the BWM and our perspectives on such issues as women's oppression, trade unions, national oppression, party building and the international situation plus other major issues - our working papers are now published. At the present time we are only distributing them on a person to person basis; not through the mail. If you are interested write us: BWM, P.O. Box 6, Station G, Buffalo, N.Y. 14213 or call 882-8232, 6 to 9 pm weekdays. Give us your address or phone number and we will contact you.

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THE "TAX REVOLT" ...a giveaway to the rich

Howard Jarvis, con man of the year, just missed coming to Buffalo. He's the author and chief mouthpiece of Proposition 13 - California's recent voter referendum that cut property taxes by 60%. Although Jarvis calls himself a friend of the little man, two-thirds of the lost taxes will show up as profits for corporations and commercial landlords.

He was coming here to tell his flock how to buy a referendum by bankrolling an inflammatory and deceitful media campaign. He canceled out of his "businessmen's breakfast" at the new convention center allegedly because of a cold. We wonder if the threat of a militant picket line called by some area unions and progressive groups was actually the reason. But one thing is for sure - we don't miss him.

The corporate elite in Buffalo don't need his advice anyway - when there's a voter referendum around here, they just roll right over it. That's how they got the convention center in the first place. Inviting Jarvis to help open it may seem ironic, but it also reveals something about the ruling class in this country that's as true in California as it is in Buffalo. With concentrated wealth and power such as theirs, referendums and elections are mere window dressing. When people's anger over inflation and government waste and corruption gets too big to be ignored, it's manipulated and co-opted.

That's the real lesson of the tax revolt. There are plenty of reasons to oppose the tax structure in this country, but so far the

losers of the revolt are the people most in need of tax relief. And with so many opportunistic politicians jumping on the bandwagon, things will get worse. Many of them, by their support of the convention center, helped put the future of Western New York in the pockets of the banks in the first place. When they have to choose between quality education or making an interest payment to their bosses, we don't need a crystal ball to see what their choice will be.

Despite all the claims that the center will revitalize Buffalo, it's really a \$20 million gamble. For one thing, there aren't enough hotel rooms in the City to attract conventions. So in order to protect their investments, the bankers and developers got Jimmy Griffin to give them another \$3 million in tax money for hotel construction. The same thing is happening with rapid transit and the waterfront projects - they are being developed with the goal not of serving the needs of the people of this area, but of protecting the investments and real estate of the corporate elite and major banks. Meanwhile, entire neighborhoods in the City are going under block by block and house by house.

Buffalo faces big problems; but the way to deal with them is not by believing two-faced con men like Howard Jarvis. Most of these problems are created by our insane economic system. Only under capitalism would self-serving politicians respond to the closings of firehouses and the layoffs of thousands of municipal and state workers by mortgaging our future in order to finance a concrete showcase for big business. And only under capitalism would they call this democracy. Unless the tax revolt comes to see this clearly, and direct its fire at the large corporations and banks who dominate the political and economic life of our country, it will continue to be used against us.

DOWN WITH THE SHAH!

"Death to the Shah" is now a daily chant unifying the opposition groups throughout Iran, a nation of 35 million people. The vicious dictator has finally received the people's genuine evaluation of his "enlightened rule" of the last 37 years. Since installation into absolute power in 1953 with the support of the CIA, His Imperial Majesty, Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi has relied on his army and U.S. imperialism for most of his power. His army has been touted as one of the most advanced in the world, receiving over \$16 billion in military equipment from the U.S. in just the last 4 years. Now even this military and the much-feared SAVAK (secret police) apparatus are losing their power to intimidate the Muslim, liberal and student-Marxist opposition groups.

More threatening to U.S. interests, the mass demonstrations have reached into the Iranian workplaces and oil fields. Finally, capitalists are forced to admit that human labor power is the essential ingredient in commodity production, even in the case of the high technology process of pumping oil. Iranian oil workers, the focus of much of SAVAK's most repressive network of spies, informers and torture are no longer passive. They have taken up political demands - release of all political prisoners, an end to martial law and an expulsion of foreign oil companies and their employees. These working people represent the most developed and potentially revolutionary sector of the Iranian social classes.

But why has Carter and almost every U.S. public figure displayed such unanimity in backing this seemingly isolated dictator? With only 6% of our oil imports coming from

LOVE CANAL:

Hooker's timebomb Explodes

If you watch TV, you know that Love Canal isn't a romantic ride at Crystal Beach, but rather a cesspool of poisonous and cancer-causing chemicals lying in the middle of a Niagara Falls residential area. There is no need to recount the personal tragedies of birth defects, miscarriages and crippling diseases caused by the chemical dump - the media has already done that. But there is a need to understand why Love Canal has happened and why other "Love Canals" are happening throughout the U.S.

Residents of the Love Canal area may be "lucky" in one respect - it's an election year and politicians are crawling all over the disaster site making promises, usually with someone else's money. Accusing and attacking each other, pointing fingers at various government agencies, they all have one thing very much in common. They are not attacking, accusing or even pointing to the real culprit - the chemical industry and the system of capitalism which thrives on profits at the expense of people's health and safety.

residents force politicians to act

People living around Love Canal have been complaining about the stench of chemicals and pools of "gunk" seeping into their basements for years. The Courier Express reports officials knew at least 90 homes were affected by seeping chemicals as early as 1974. State records show that in late 1976, public health officials confirmed homes in the area were contaminated with highly toxic chemicals. Pressured by angry residents, officials promised solutions but delivered bureaucratic paper shuffles - investigations and reports that did nothing to solve the problem. Gov. Carey and the State Commerce Commissioner, faced with a declining state economy, made sure the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) dropped any ideas for legal action against Hooker Chemical. At that time (1976), Hooker was also under public pressure for its Mirex pollution of Lake Ontario. The politicians' strategy then (as now) was to direct attention away from the industrial polluters and de-fuse the public's anger and concern about environmental health and safety.

This year, hollow promises didn't work. Officials were forced to act. In May, health officials acknowledged the air in area homes was contaminated with dangerously high levels of cancer-causing chemicals (called carcinogens). Residents, organized as the Love Canal Homeowners Association, linked the chemicals to the area's high rate of birth defects and miscarriages. In numerous mass meetings, the Homeowners Assn. pressed for action from local, state and federal officials.



234 FAMILIES FORCED TO BOARD UP AND MOVE OUT

The Love Canal Homeowners Association is made up of area families whose primary concern is the health hazard of Love Canal, especially as it affects their children. With women in leadership, the Assoc. has brought Love Canal to national attention by conducting a campaign on several fronts. A major emphasis has been building public awareness and exerting mass pressure - thru community meetings, demonstrations, press conferences and public forums. On the legal front, over \$1.4 billion in class action suits have been filed by the Association. In addition, they have conducted surveys and research to document the degree and extent of health problems and chemical contamination.

Officials responded to the Homeowners Assoc. with more foot-dragging - first legislating \$500,000 for yet another study, then suggesting that young children and pregnant women leave the "hazard zone" (the area immediately bordering Love Canal). But pressure by the Assoc. forced the declaration of a state of emergency and the evacuation of 234 families. Continued agitation compelled the state to pay \$7.5 million in compensation for the 234 homes - this after the State hemmed and hawed about where the money would come from.

The Homeowners Assoc. quickly rejected the State's makeshift "clean-up" plan because it was unsafe for those living outside the "hazard zone". The new plan, which they took an active role in formulating, will cost \$22.3 million - almost 30 times the State's

original estimate. Residents outside the "hazard zone" have not been so "lucky" - they are being ignored by State and Federal officials. Elevated levels of 7 other carcinogens have been found in basements as far as 3 blocks from the "hazard zone". 250 families, residents of a low-income project just one block away, are demanding emergency assistance - many already suffering from health problems. But Gov. Carey has reneged on earlier promises, and the State continues to focus evacuations on private homes east of the Canal site. As one woman in the housing project put it, "They forget about us low income people. They think we're trash."

a national crisis

Across Niagara County there are over 50 known, unmonitored dump sites - most containing wastes from chemical companies. Recent tests show the Hyde Park Dump, owned by Hooker Chemical, is leaking many of the same chemicals as Love Canal into a nearby creek (The DEC and Hooker made a quiet deal for Hooker to contain the seepage.).

Across the country there are thousands of industrial dumps. The EPA already knows of 300 that are an immediate threat to people's health and safety. The agency estimates it will take \$1.5 billion to "clean up" these 300. According to the EPA, 90% of the 345 million tons of hazardous wastes generated by American industry each year are not disposed of "in accordance with proper environmental standards".

the price of profits

Chemical Week, a newsweekly of the \$113 billion chemical industry, editorializes that the industry has greatly improved the quality of life, but that unfortunately, as the editorial's title puts it, "Every so often something goes wrong". Monsanto, the 4th largest U.S. chemical company, is about to launch a multi-million dollar advertising and public relations campaign to promote the "good life" created by the chemical companies. Other campaigns have been more low key (e.g. Dupont's "Better living through chemistry"), but Monsanto is taking the much more aggressive approach of putting a dollar value on human life by a "benefit-risk analysis" and the concept of an "acceptable risk". The question must be asked, "Acceptable to whom?"

Certainly not for the people forced to work and live with these profit grabbers. An EPA study released August 27th concludes, "The environment we have created may now be a major cause of death in the U.S. ... Cancer, heart and lung disease, accounting for 12% of deaths in 1900, and 38% in 1940, were the causes of 59% of all deaths in 1976." In the workplace, a National Institute of Occupational Health and Safety (NIOSH) report shows that 25% of people working in U.S. factories are exposed daily to substances that can cause death and disease. Is this the "acceptable risk" we must put up with? Is this the price of progress?

No. This is the price of profit. The root cause of the Love Canal disaster and the environmental crisis in general lies in the heart of capitalist industrial society itself. Capitalist philosophy is to promote and sell as much of anything it can for as much profit as it can get away with, regardless of social needs or consequences. Socialist countries, on the other hand, have the potential of controlling environmental abuse by weighing the safety needs of people. They demonstrate that chemical technology can benefit the people of society without the "risk" that capitalists accept. In China, many chemicals are simply not used because natural substitutes are available - for example, insecticides, fertilizers and many drugs. The Soviet Union's standards for community and worker exposure to toxic chemicals are generally the lowest of any nation because there the standards are based on the premise that any negative response to the chemicals is to be prevented. In the U.S. and other capitalist countries, the cost of control (i.e. industry's cost and industry's profit) is pitted against people's health and welfare - the result always being greater exposure limits with all the associated diseases and deaths.



'Cut pollution? Why that could cost these people their jobs!'

EPA and other "watchdogs"

The local papers and politicians have pointed the finger at the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as the cause of the Love Canal crisis. They say the EPA "is not protecting the public" and has "failed the American people by failing to issue regulations". According to them, the issue is the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) which is supposed to regulate hazardous wastes and for which the EPA is over 18 months behind schedule in issuing regulations and guidelines. They say that if only industry knew what to do, it would do it.

The fact is that the EPA was designed by government and industry to serve as a cushion between industry and the blows of public pressure and is being used locally as a smoke screen to protect the chemical com-

LOVE CANAL, continued from page 5
panies. In many respects, the EPA is used to legitimize exploitation of the environment and to promote the image of enlightened capitalism - instituting necessary reforms while maintaining the profit system. Government agencies like EPA, OSHA and NIOSH, along with the courts are typically used to legitimize industry's profits at the expense of people's health, safety and tax dollars.

Another example of how the politicians take the heat off industry and dissipate it using the EPA is Congress' enactment of Toxic Substances Control Act (TOSCA). Under TOSCA, the EPA is to review the safety and monitor the use of the 70,000 existing chemicals and 1,000 new chemicals industry brings into the market each year, ban or restrict the use of toxic substances and require industry to prove new products. But TOSCA is full of loopholes for the companies - they are not required by law to provide data about the chemicals (although EPA can ask for it). EPA must rely on industry's word that products are safe and the agency must consider compliance costs and propose substitutes before restricting any chemical. Needless to say, not a single chemical has been banned under TOSCA. The EPA has not even catalogued the existing chemicals, let alone monitored their use. So why should we look to the RCRA to save the day?

Locally, New York's Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) serves as a rubber stamp for industrial pollution. It was under DEC's watchdog eye that Hooker legally dumped Mirex, with Hooker's Durez plant having a permit to dump unlimited amounts of benzene and toluene (both carcinogens) and that Olin was able to "sneak" an extra 38 tons of mercury into the Niagara River. Residents of Lewiston have a \$20.5 million suit against the DEC for letting Chem-trol (now called SCA Chemical Waste Service) collect chemical wastes from all over the U.S. and Canada and then bleed them off into local waterways.

keeping the heat off Hooker

Meanwhile, Hooker Chemical sits back issuing press releases about what a "responsible corporate citizen" it is and how "deeply concerned" it is about Love Canal. Back in 1953, Hooker knew its poisonous wastes would come back to haunt them. The deed giving the Love Canal site to Niagara Falls is very vague about what is buried there, but very specific in absolving Hooker from any future responsibility. The Canal was nothing more than a big ditch which Hooker bought to dump its garbage in. Hooker knew that the wastes were not biodegradable, that the barrels which the wastes were in would corrode and that the chemicals would eventually seep into the ground. But using the Love Canal was cheap and easy - and that's why Hooker used it.

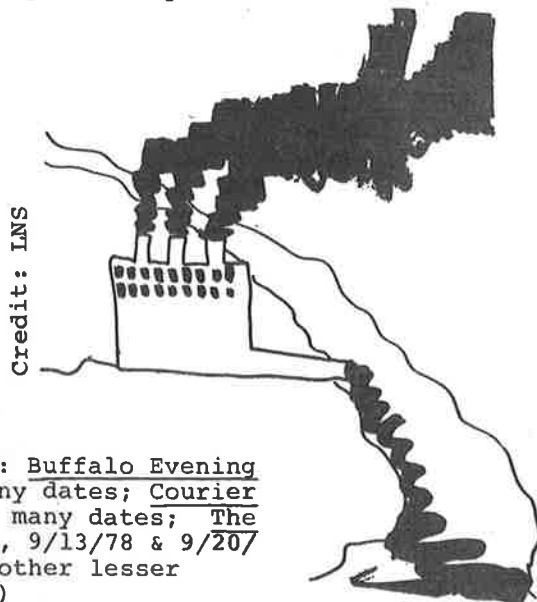
Hooker is a company with a long record of environmental abuse and disregard for worker health and safety. Yet it has not

come under the gun of sharpshooting politicians or the media. The chemical industry has New York State over an economic barrel. Faced with the constant blackmail of companies closing down and moving elsewhere and a high unemployment rate, the media was quick to point out that according to the State Commerce Department "chemicals are a \$5 billion-a-year industry (in N.Y. State), employing about 53,000 persons with an annual payroll of about \$720 million". In Erie and Niagara counties, there are 84 chemical companies directly employing over 3,400 workers. Hooker recently completed a \$60 million plant expansion (paid for largely by bonds financed with taxpayer monies) and is building new facilities in Niagara Falls and in Tonawanda. The politicians and media are bending over backwards to praise and protect Hooker's "commitment to the area", a "commitment" that comes with a definite price.

put people before profit

Love Canal lays bare in all its ugliness the fact that in this society the "right" to corporate profit takes preference over all others - even people's lives will be sacrificed for that "right". Love Canal also exposes how government, at all levels, works to further corporate interests - trying to sweep under the rug with its bureaucracies, the blame for "Love Canals"; setting up toothless agencies to "protect" us; and, when all hell breaks loose, spending our taxes to "clean up" the companies' messes.

Corporations pollute our communities and workplaces because for them, it is cheap - cheap because we pick up the tab with our health and lives. Companies like Hooker are responsible for the environmental crisis and must be compelled to clean their own mess up. As the Love Canal Homeowners found out, government must be pushed just to react to the problem, let alone deal with it - at best we can expect limited reforms. Ultimately, the environmental crisis can be solved only when the driving force of society is the needs of the people, not profit.



Credit: LNS

(Sources: Buffalo Evening News, many dates; Courier Express, many dates; The Guardian, 9/13/78 & 9/20/78; and other lesser sources.)

THE U.S. PRESS AND AFRICA

Media lies reflect government policy

Twenty years ago, the mention of Africa might have brought to mind visions of Tarzan, witch doctors and the rest of the racist hocus-pocus stereotyped by our North American educational and cultural institutions. Now the media image has changed; people are supposed to think of violence, trouble and revolution. As the uprising in Zaire during the spring of this year showed, the responses of the media and the government remain racist and predictable. The reality of imperialism's fight to maintain a firm grip over much of Africa, especially those areas comprising Southern Africa, is masked and misrepresented by the government of Carter and multinational business. Events have been distorted, taken out of context, fictionalized and presented in the most racist and/or communist slant possible. The larger story, however, has often been omitted or stuck in the most inconspicuous spot. Throughout Africa, the agents of imperialism have used all the tricks of their trade to maintain control over the economic destinies of Africa.

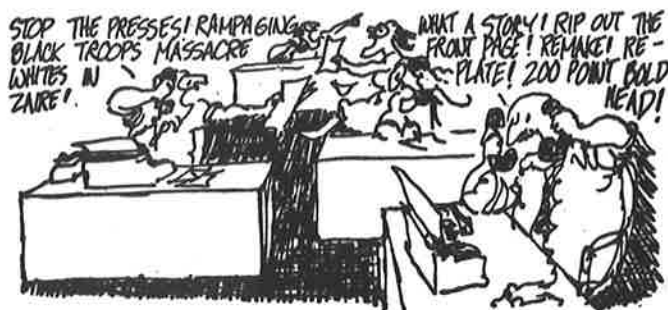
Zaire - European massacre Africans

Zaire, as mentioned, has been a typical showcase of the weapons used by imperialism to maintain control. Mobutu Sese Seko, President of Zaire, was installed in his office during the 1960's by a coup that was led and financed by the C.I.A. Ever since then, Mobutu has kept his countrypeople in desperate poverty while a small handful of international companies have made handsome profits from investments in Zaire. Centered in Shaba Province, international capital is largely concerned with mining and other related industries. Mobutu has maintained his own power with bribery, corruption, tribalism (playing one tribe against another), repression and terror.

In the spring of this year, a group of Zairian nationalists captured the central mining town of Kolwezi. For a while it looked as if Mobutu might soon depart for the quiet life of a French millionaire. But international capital came to his rescue and thereby maintained its ability to come and go at will in Zaire. Mobutu's savior was the French and Belgian troops, supplied and supported by U.S. money and airplanes. This intervention was justified as "saving the lives of Europeans" living in Kolwezi. The U.S. was treated to one of the most vocal press and TV orchestrations since the infamous "Gulf of Tonkin" attack of 1964. But in Zaire it wasn't giant U.S. warships being attacked by an imaginary fleet of Vietnamese P.T. boats; it was a group of "Europeans" (i.e. whites) being attacked by a mass of "communist inspired and led tribesmen" (i.e. blacks).

Walter Cronkite on C.B.S. News (5/19/78) could say, "Good evening. The worst fears on the rebel invasion of Zaire's Shaba Province reportedly have been realized. Rebels being routed from the mining town of Kolwezi are reported to have killed a number of Europeans." The U.S. press let it be believed that hundreds of whites were killed by revengeful rebels; little or no coverage was given to the deaths of Africans. Now it has been established that at the most, 73 whites were killed. This figure, given by Belgian authorities, probably includes the killing of 6 people by French paratroopers who went on a drunken rampage. Indeed, the U.S. press largely ignored the reports from survivors that Zairian and French military actions were responsible for many, if not most, of the reported deaths.

Meanwhile, as Jimmy Carter scurried about complaining of restrictions on his military power brought about in response to Vietnam,



AFRICA, continued from page 7

the publicity blitz built a bigger and bigger story of atrocities in Kolwezi and included stories of Cuban involvement and a rebel retreat with white hostages. Later reports indicated that the whole Cuban involvement report was a fabrication.

However, the racism which is a regular part of the news we are fed, left out the fact that hundreds, possibly thousands or more residents of Kolwezi were killed by the French and Belgian military actions. These were not well-to-do European technicians; they were black Africans, workers and poor peasants. The newspapers may have added this as an incidental, but the TV found it not worth its while at all.



"... they attack unarmed civilians and refugee camps by preference, and what follows is simply mass murder."

South Africa invades Angola

Meanwhile, on May 4th, South African troops in a terrorist attack, invaded a refugee camp operated by SWAPO at Cassinga, Angola, over 150 miles from the border of Namibia. SWAPO (SouthWest Africa Peoples Organization) has fought for the independence of Namibia against the colonizing efforts of South Africa. Most of the dead were young children sent by worried parents to what was hoped to be a safe and secure home. Despite the fact that at least 582 people were killed by the raid, which was carried out using U.S. built airplanes and gas which paralyzed many of the refugees, the U.S. press paid little heed to the action. The U.S. government paid even less; it merely promised to rebuke the South Africans for their violations.

Perhaps this should be expected since the U.S. government has always found South Africa to be a valuable ally in maintaining the (capitalist) order in Southern Africa. The murder of Steve Biko, a major figure in the black consciousness movement in South Africa brought virtually no protests from Jimmy Carter and his ilk, while the press allowed the idea of a suicide to stand for days. While the press and President Carter talked as if they would willingly risk war

with the Soviet Union over its alleged violations of human rights, they ignored the daily torture and murder by some of the U.S.'s favorite allies.

Ian Smith - power thru terror

In October the press followed Ian Smith about the U.S. while he attempted to whip up support for the government he created with his three black political puppets. Smith spoke glowingly of the recent abandonment of racial restrictions in Rhodesia. Meanwhile, both he and often the press failed to mention the exchange of laws from racial restrictions to economic restrictions. Now, if you are a poor black peasant or worker in Zimbabwe,

your children are blocked from public schools, hospitals, etc. because they are poor. The fact that over 90% of the population remains excluded has not changed.

Yet this form of legalistic fraud is not adequate to maintain the Smith regime in power. The Rhodesian army proudly recruits mercenaries from around the world, including ex-Vietnam vets from the U.S., Vietnamese exiles from the Saigon regime, some of Pinochet's finest from Chile and at least 4,000 troops from the bastion of racism and reaction, South Africa. These mercenaries plus various bands of Scouts (Africans paid to fight in areas of rival tribes) regularly use terror methods to intimidate or murder anyone who might turn against the Smith regime and side with the guerillas of the Patriotic Front. Indeed, it has become quite clear that the Scouts have been responsible for dressing as guerillas and murdering several groups of missionaries and a large number of native people, all with the hope of stirring up sentiment against the Patriotic Front.

Despite the fraud, racism and terror, the U.S. and its European allies attempt to maintain Smith in control. For Smith is more than a leader of the white settlers; he is responsible for allowing the continued exploitation of Zimbabwe by international capital at the great continued sacrifice of the people of Zimbabwe. CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

ABORTION RIGHTS CHALLENGED IN NIAGARA COUNTY

By a vote of 16 to 12, the Niagara County Legislature recently passed a law mandating the "informed consent" of women seeking an abortion. Restrictions imposed on teenagers and married women also include "parental" or "spousal" notification before an abortion is performed. "Informed consent" means mandatory sessions at which women are given a detailed explanation, including photographs, of the development of the fetus at the time of the abortion. It does not mean that they are informed of the dangers of pregnancy, nor of the affects of an abortion to their health. This is a cynical attempt on the part of the law's sponsor, John Caleggi, to impose his personal morality on the women of Niagara County by making legal abortions harder to obtain. It hacks away at one of women's most basic rights - the right of reproductive freedom. While the effect of such laws may be to reduce the total number of abortions, the main danger is that it forces more women, especially low income and teenage women, to seek much more dangerous illegal abortions, or to resort to self-induced abortions.

right-wing mobilizes

A wave of similar legislation has been pushed by the right wing at the local level in 21 other states to provide them with a "mass" issue based on emotional and moralistic grounds. The deliberate strategy of the "New Right" is to introduce restrictive abortion proposals in conservative counties throughout the country, thus pressuring state legislatures to enact similar legislation and to force gubernatorial candidates to take a stand on the abortion issue. The cumulative effect of all this is to create a favorable climate for the "New Right's" push for a Constitutional Convention to add an anti-abortion amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

In May, 1978, a U.S. District Court struck down a similarly restrictive law in Massachusetts. Though the sponsors of the Niagara County Law knew that the law was unconstitutional, and would be challenged in the courts, they have succeeded in building the platform from which to raise this issue.

The effects of this law are to intimidate and stall women trying to get an abortion and to deny women's rights to privacy. During the Niagara County legislative debate, Dorothy Fettes, the only woman legislator, urged her colleagues to vote against the law. She said, "...a fourteen year-old girl told me that when she told her parents she was pregnant and wanted an abortion, her stepfather threw her down the stairs twice and said, 'There's your abortion.' These are the teenagers I am worrying about - the ones who cannot go th their parents."

Buffalo CARASA is a coalition of groups and individuals who are fighting for women's reproductive rights. These rights include the right to decide whether to have or not to have children and other rights which make this decision possible: safe and legal abortion regardless of marital status, age or income, freedom from forced sterilization, education about our bodies, safe workplaces, and sexual freedom.

In the past year, CARASA has sponsored a demonstration against the Hyde Amendment, organized presentations and a demonstration for reproductive rights on International Women's Day, given talks to high school classes and teen and women's groups; participated in the march in Akron, and testified at the Niagara County hearings. At present we have set up a Speakers Bureau and Literature Committee; we will continue to give presentations to community groups and high school classes. On the 9th of December we will be holding a symposium on Reproductive Rights with the following speakers: Helen Rodriguez, a Dr. from the Committee to End Sterilization Abuse, who will speak on sterilization; Barbara Handschu, a local lawyer fighting the Niagara County ordinance, speaking on local action; Mary Jo Long, from N.Y.C. CARASA, and Bill Baird, birth control and abortion activist, speaking on teenage reproductive rights. It will be held at 8 p.m. at the Waterfront School, 95 Fourth Street, on the City's lower West Side.

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abortion - a womans right

To be meaningful and effective, "informed consent" should and must be based on two things: accurate and accessible information on sexuality, pregnancy and contraception for all women, and the guaranteed right to choose an abortion as the alternative to an unwanted pregnancy. All women need the protection of safe, legal abortions. It is the right of every woman to determine the size of her family and the role she will play in this society as a whole. Women's control over their own bodies and their reproductive freedom are the issues at stake here.

These legislators are using our tax money to build their careers by pushing simplistic, authoritarian and unenforceable laws. While preaching their moralistic hysteria, they ignore the root causes of the rise in abortions and fail to address the problems of an unwanted pregnancy. Problems such as teenage pregnancy, the increase in rape and child abuse, birth defects caused by industrial poison and radiation and the simple fact that it is getting harder every day to afford to support a family in these inflationary times are not solved by repressive measures aimed at the poor and powerless in society.

Resistance against the "right-to-lifers" continues. In September 1978, 600 people marched to protest the Akron, Ohio anti-abortion law. In October, representatives from the Western New York Coalition for Freedom of Choice and Buffalo's Coalition for Abortion Rights and Against Sterilization Abuse (CARASA) gave testimony in opposition to the Niagara County Law. The fight has begun against restrictions that limit women's choices to a life of enforced motherhood, the butchery of backroom abortions and the finality of sterilization.

Iran, why is this autocrat so vital to our "national interests"? Iran's strategic importance is the result of its oil to other capitalist nations and its geographic location in the Middle East. Iran is a major supplier for Japan (over 60%) and Europe. Israel and South Africa get over 80% of their oil supplies from Iran. Over half of the capitalist world's oil imports pass through the narrow sea straits that the Shah has, up to now, been able to guard. The machinations of U.S. imperialism in the Middle East is becoming apparent. The world politics of oil dictates that unless the leading imperialist nation can deliver continuous and stable oil supplies, that nation's world leadership goes under. This shows the U.S.'s role as world policeman. Capitalist nations like Germany and Japan, along with subimperialist powers like Israel and South Africa will try to impose their own military solutions in their search for oil if the U.S. cannot guarantee the supply. If the U.S. loses control of the oil states, trade pacts, "peace agreements", tri-lateral commissions and all those instruments used by the U.S. to maintain a semblance of capitalist economic cooperation will begin to unravel. The unravelling process has been in process since the U.S. military defeat in Vietnam.

The U.S. says it has no alternative but to back the Shah. But the anti-communist religious leader, Khomeini, who influences 90% of the people of Iran, does offer an option for U.S. control, if the Shah is not able to repress these uprisings. The more unstable liberal National Front and the potential student-worker Marxist Alliance offer no options for cooperation with the U.S. But the lid is off on one of the most "stable" oil regimes in the Mideast. Clearly, the Iranian people, led by the 30,000 oil workers and their urban counterparts are in revolutionary motion. And with over one third of the Western and subimperialist world's oil supply at a virtual halt, the world capitalist order is receiving a shake-up that will continue to change the global balance of power. The Shah is on his way out. It only remains to predict with what viciousness the monster of U.S. imperialism will react over its loss of world power.

QUESTIONS A POOR WOMAN MUST ANSWER TO GET AN ABORTION:

QUESTIONS A RICH WOMAN MUST ANSWER TO GET AN ABORTION:

WERE YOU RAPED?
VICTIM OF INCEST?
DID YOU REPORT THE INCIDENT WITHIN 60 DAYS?
FILL OUT THE REPORTS? HAVE YOU GONE THROUGH COUNSELING?
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KENNETH JOHNSON UPDATE

Appeal to be heard

Kenneth Johnson, the black Buffalonian framed on charges of rape, robbery and sodomy, has been granted leave to appeal to the New York State Court of Appeals, the highest court in the State. This is the final opportunity Kenny will get in the state courts to argue his innocence. The appeal is expected to be based upon the same grounds that were narrowly rejected by the Appellate Division - the misconduct by the prosecutor and the disallowing of defense testimony. The decision in the Appellate Division was marked by a sharply divided court, three judges voting to sustain the conviction and two, in a strong dissent, declaring that it should be overturned.

It is now almost three years since Johnson was arrested and beaten by the police on suspicion of being the man who had committed a string of six rapes in downtown Buffalo parking ramps. Although police were at first adamant that the same person had committed all six rapes, they soon changed their story as first one of the victims unequivocally identified Johnson as not being the man who raped her, and later a Supreme Court jury acquitted him of another of the rapes. A later jury, however, convicted him of one of the rapes and he was sentenced to 5-15 years in prison.

Johnson's case goes beyond the simple fact of his innocence. He has always pointed to his case as being symptomatic of the criminal justice system which cares little for the rights of the poor and minorities. He has also maintained that the rape laws do nothing to protect women and that the person who did commit the rapes is still at large in the community. A recent community forum entitled "Rape and Racism" co-sponsored by the Committee to Clear Kenneth Johnson and the National Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression, focussed on the racism that pervades the court system. The featured speaker was Delbert Tibbs, a native of Chicago, who spent three years in jail in Florida after being convicted of rape and murder in circumstances remarkably similar to the Johnson case. Tibbs, who was released from jail just a few months ago after his appeal was granted, noted that it was only a strong outcry from the community which put pressure on the judicial system and secured his release. He stressed the need for people to remain active in the Johnson case and not to allow the frame-up to continue.

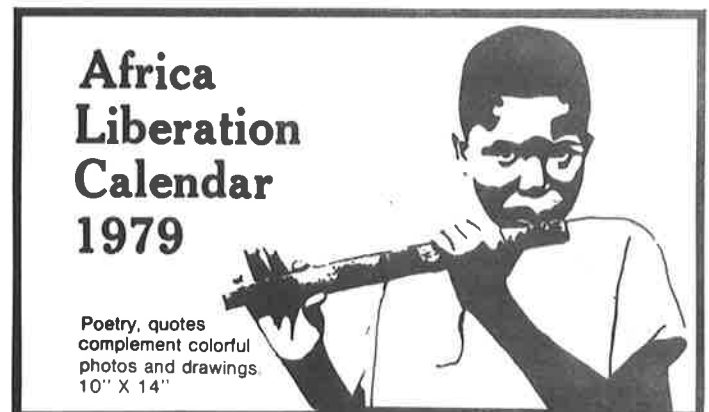
If you would like more information on the Johnson case, want to receive the Committee's newsletter, "The Choice", or wish to make a donation, contact the Committee to Clear Kenneth Johnson, P.O. Box #75, Station J, Buffalo, New York 14208 or call 854-0110.

AFRICA, continued from page 8

get the facts - support the struggles

These connections of the U.S. government and the U.S. capitalist press with the side of repression, racism and reaction in Africa could go on and on. The use of South African troops in Angola, along with the whole story of the C.I.A. there, the violations of sanctions against Rhodesia by major U.S. and British oil companies, the continual terror raids by the Rhodesian and South African governments into neighboring countries are ignored or distorted by the people who are supposed to represent us as our voices and as our eyes and ears. Yet it is important that we learn the truth of what is happening in Africa, and that we struggle here to build solidarity with and help bring final victory to the people of Africa.

(Sources: The Guardian; Africa News; Southern Africa Magazine; TCLSAC Reports)



LSM Press, P.O. Box 2077 **\$345**
Oakland, Ca 94604, USA

WEST VALLEY RADIOACTIVE DUMP

Can the West Valley nuclear waste dump ever be cleaned up? Will it ever be cleaned up? Who will pay the tab? The last step in the story unfolded November 24 with the publication of a report on clean-up options for the West Valley site by the Department of Energy (DOE). The next months will tell us whether West Valley will become the next Love Canal.

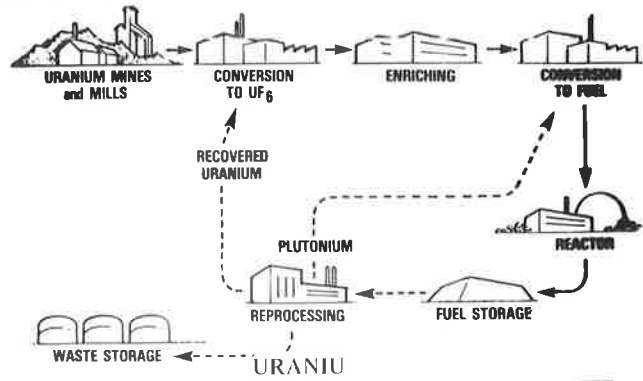
In the face of uncertainties on what to do with the West Valley site and who should pay, Congress appropriated \$1 million for a study by the DOE to answer these questions. The study lists only the options on how to clean up the West Valley site. The options vary from the unthinkable to the infeasible. The unthinkable "option" is to let the 600,000 gallons of hot nuclear waste remain in the tank. The infeasible option is to remove the waste from the tank and solidify it into glass. The problem with this latter option is that at this date, the technology does not exist to safely remove or solidify nuclear waste. Thus, the 800-page study is only a shopping list for options without any solutions.

The nuclear waste dump on the West Valley site is a remainder from past operations of Nuclear Fuel Services, a subsidiary of Getty Oil. Nuclear Fuel Services operated a nuclear fuel reprocessing plant at West Valley, New York from 1966 to 1972. After years of high releases of radioactivity to Cattaraugus Creek and high radiation exposures to workers, the company announced in September, 1976, that they were withdrawing from the reprocessing business and leaving the nuclear wastes to New York State taxpayers. New York would like to pass the hot potato on to the Federal government. The estimated costs to clean up the mess, assuming they knew how, range up to \$600 million. Getty's net profit last year was \$300 million. A growing number of labor unions and environmental groups (Labor Action Coalition, Coalition on West Valley Nuclear Wastes, Sierra Club) among others, are outraged that a wealthy oil company could walk away and leave us with the bill.

The Erie County Legislature has been active on this issue, passing several resolutions concerning West Valley and the clean-up costs. The Legislature has gone on record as being opposed to a big business bailout of Getty Oil. On October 24, the Erie County Legislature held hearings and requested the DOE to hold public hearings on the DOE report in Buffalo. These hearings by DOE are expected to take place in January to receive local input on the West Valley problem.

The study was completed on November 24 and copies are available free of charge from Sheldon Meyers, Office of Waste Management, DOE, Washington, D.C. 20545. After receiving the DOE report, you are encouraged to send comments to the Coalition on West Valley Nuclear Wastes, Sharp Road, East Concord, New York 14055, and request a summary of the Coalition's critique of the DOE report. The West Valley Coalition will be making a presentation to the U.S. Congress in February on what local people think about the situation at West Valley.

The next months are important in determining whether West Valley will become another Love Canal. The people of the rural Southern Tier communities and those from urban Buffalo have begun to forge unity in their resistance against the waste site. Further construction of this unity is just one of the many ingredients necessary to combat the dangerous wastes of the nuclear industry.



PUBLIC HEARING ON CLEAN-UP OF WEST VALLEY:
January 13 at 9 a.m. at the Erie County
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FIGHTING RACISM IN MISS.

United league stands up to klan - and more

"Blacks carry picket signs on Main Street in Tupelo, Mississippi, while Ku Klux Klansmen circle the area in cars and pickup trucks. A cross burns in Holly Springs, 50 miles northwest, at the church where a black protest march began one day earlier. The Tupelo city attorney tells a federal judge that his city is a 'powder keg waiting to explode'. And a 17 year-old white youth drinking beer illegally in a bar tells reporters he drives through black neighborhoods yelling obscenities 'to get them stirred up'.

It is the civil rights struggle of the past, only it is happening in Mississippi in 1978."

(From Southern Exposure, Fall, 1978.)

The United League of Marshall County was formed in 1966 when militant blacks broke away from the NAACP over organizational objectives. The main interest of the NAACP was in laws that would make it illegal to segregate openly. It failed, however, to politicize and organize the masses of black people around the role that racism plays in this society. Once the protests and demonstrations were over, blacks were left with surface gains and without the organization needed to continue the struggle. The United League, based primarily in Tupelo and Holly Springs, has attempted to overcome these shortcomings, and is experiencing a tremendous amount of success at the present time.

Today these two Mississippi towns are the stronghold of the United League (UL), and militant struggles are taking place weekly. "Jobs, land, police brutality, better streets" are some of the major concerns of the black community. Its support comes from this community, but their goal is to build black-white unity by organizing all poor people. The base of United League members are industrial workers, but also includes unemployed people, small land-owners, lawyers and teachers. By addressing the issues affecting people on a day-to-day basis, the League is building a strong organization. The heightened level of interest in the League is undoubtedly tied to the stepped-up repression in the black community. For instance, cases of police brutality in a number of communities sparked mass meetings of residents who were deeply worried and angered by the situation. Quick, positive action has caused an increase of hundreds of new League members in just a few months.



involve the community

The League's strategy is to involve the community in solving their own problems. Their program is action-oriented. Over the past thirty years, the Ku Klux Klan has killed over 150 blacks in Tupelo alone. Yet the United League has been able to mobilize thousands of blacks in the area to demonstrate and confront the Klan at any given time. Boycotts have been organized against local racist merchants and the League has brought legal actions against the police as well as city officials.

Given the constant threat of violence from the police and the Klan, the League has developed security precautions and stresses the need for discipline in dealing with racist provocations. This no-nonsense approach of the group and its armed self-defense have given members a stick-with-it attitude.

Discipline and armed self-defense are only two of the tactics the League uses in a campaign to "wake up the black community". The League will also actively participate in 1979 elections, hoping to install more blacks in office and oust blacks already elected who are not serving the community. Fred Robinson, founder of the League, says, "We're going to continue to march, to file litigations, to do other things to get people to wake up."

AGENT ORANGE & VIETNAM VETS

Chemical affecting vets' health

Just when some Vietnam vets were beginning to think they had put the war behind them, it came home with a vengeance. It is not something the Viet Cong did that is haunting them, but the actions of their own government. First, it poisoned them. And now that their sickness is showing, Washington is trying to sweep them under the rug.

Hundreds of veterans in different parts of the country have been reporting symptoms ranging from liver cancer to heart trouble to chronic skin disease. A fourth of them report stillborn babies or children with birth defects. Each case has a common denominator - while in Vietnam, these men were exposed to a chemical defoliant known as Agent Orange.

Some of them were in the units which sprayed over 5 million acres in South Vietnam in an effort to destroy crops and ground cover. Others were infantrymen or marines who were caught in the spraying operations or who passed through contaminated areas. None of them knew that Agent Orange, which the Pentagon called harmless to humans, contained dioxin - one of the deadliest chemicals in existence. It is so poisonous, its exposure limit is measured in parts per trillion.

But Dow Chemical, Agent Orange's producer, knew. So did the government. As early as 1966, government studies showed it produced birth defects and cancer in animals. And when the Vietnamese produced extensive proof of miscarriages and birth defects caused by the defoliant, Washington ignored it. Even when the United Nations backed up the Vietnamese findings, Uncle Sam called it communist propaganda. Now the proof has

come home, and it's not just the Vietnamese showing the poisonous effects.

The pattern of dioxin poisoning was first discovered by a Veterans Administration claims worker in Chicago, who was herself a cancer victim. By the time she had found more than 50 cases of suspected dioxin poisoning in the Chicago area alone, she was reassigned to another job, and excluded from staff meetings. The VA's last word on the subject came down in a memo saying that: "Whenever poisoning is suspected, inquiry should be directed to other sources of pollution."

Unfortunately, other sources of pollution aren't hard to find. In addition to chemical dumps like Love Canal, the U.S. Forest Service and the Department of Agriculture have been using millions of gallons of a slightly milder version of Agent Orange on American forests and cropland for over a decade. Dioxin poison - and related deaths from cancer - have been found in over half a dozen states. It's gotten so bad in Wisconsin that a farmer who fired at a government helicopter spraying near his land was acquitted by a local jury on the grounds of self-defense.

Chemical disasters like the Love Canal or dioxin poisoning are the inevitable consequences of capitalism. As long as the blind scramble for corporate profits is more important than the health and welfare of our people, the chemical companies and government bureaucrats who profit from these poisons will use all their political and economic clout to evade responsibility. Meanwhile, the suffering will continue to grow like a cancerous tumor in the heart of our country.

UNITED LEAGUE, continued from page 13

fight racism in Buffalo

Problems of unemployment, discrimination in jobs, lack of quality education, declining health services - the end products of an economy based on profits which encourages divisions among people - are problems common to black and poor people across the U.S. In Buffalo, we see segregated schools, dilapidated housing, redlining and high unemployment. In addition, we see the forces of racism and reaction on the move, with increased Klan and Nazi activity and attacks on reproductive rights and social services, to name only a few.

We have to meet these attacks, with a unified movement of blacks and whites, poor and working people, with an organization based in and drawing its strength and direction from the community. While we can't duplicate the work of the League, certainly we can apply many of the lessons they've learned. One of the most important of these is that people united and active have the power to meet the forces of racism and reaction head-on - and win.

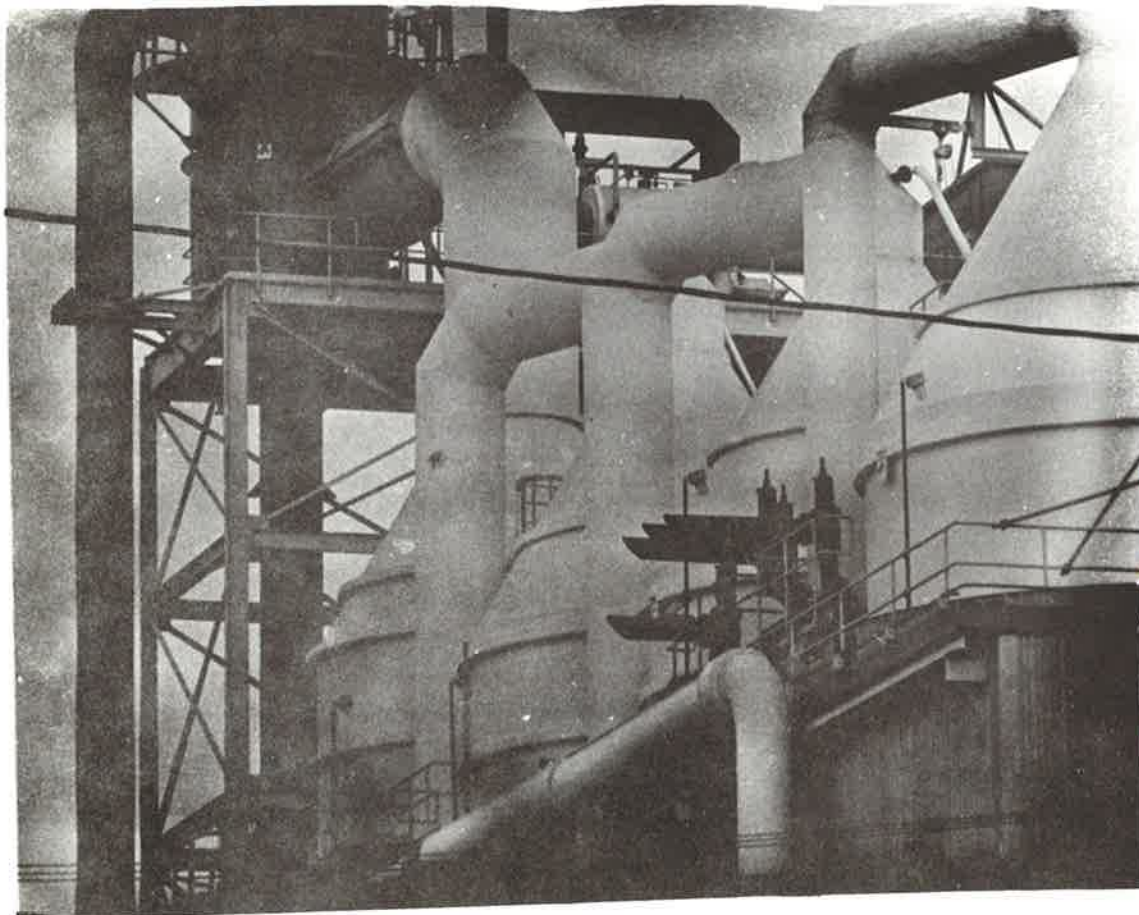
Source: Guardian, 9/20/78, 9/27/78;
Southern Exposure, Fall, 1978

The United League needs contributions to continue its fight. Please send them to: United League, c/o Ernest Cunningham, Route 3, Box 336, Holly Springs, Miss. 38635.

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★ **FROM THE NEWSLETTER OF BUFFALO WORKERS MOVEMENT**



* INSIDE *

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CORPORATE CRIMINAL**

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***LABOR NOTES**

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RIGHT TO KNOW**

Introducing the Labor Round-Up — — — — —

In this Labor Round-Up, we are moved to feature the disaster of the Love Canal. The Hooker Chemical Corporation has excreted over 80 toxic waste chemicals for more than 20 years in a massive ditch, abandoned by an engineer named Mr. Love who wanted to connect the Erie Canal with the Niagara River. These chemicals, known at the time to be highly corrosive as well as toxic, were stored in 50 gallon drums and unloaded into the ditch, Love Canal, and capped with a clay hat in 1953. Hooker then capped off their legal responsibility by deeding the land to the Niagara Falls School District.

With the certainty of death and taxes, the chemicals ate their way through the metal drums, combined with bedrock streams deeply underground and broke through a supposed

clay moat surrounding the dump site; by 1974, 90 families had reported being overwhelmed by toxic smells in their basements. Even earlier, couples had reared blind infants, children with 2 rows of teeth had been born; families had reported consistent headaches and small children were constantly sick.

Presently, with the rate of cancer accelerating, and adding the pressure created by the families through the Love Canal Homeowners' Association, 234 families were evacuated from the immediate Canal site. \$7.5 million in relocation money has been put up by the state for their move. But at least 250 families in low income housing near the Canal are also beginning to report the slow, cancerous impact of the migrating wastes. Are the taxpayers of the State of New York destined to pay this escalating bill for

Hooker's dump?

Have the New York Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) played out a supposed neutral role between those people seeking damages and Hooker Chemical, the polluter? We think not. These agencies are created for the appearance of the enforcement of legal restrictions on chemical polluters. What they actually do is provide a legal cover for illegal pollution. Legal permits are, in reality, infrequently granted to large chemical companies. Appeals are often dragged on for years in the courts during which time the polluting companies are legally blameless. If pollution comes to a crisis, the same government agencies are used to take the direct heat off the polluter. Witness the EPA's "soft-standards" and the DEC's "lack of enforcement" criticisms voiced by the Buffalo newspapers. These government agencies become the main problem in order to let Hooker off with paying a piddling \$280,000 as a humanitarian gesture. We have our own Kemp-Roth "help-the-poor-monopoly-business" tax cut bill in effect right here in Buffalo-Niagara Falls: New York State has advanced to Hooker alone \$17 million for hiring company personnel and over \$100 million in low cost loans for the construction of "pollution-free" facilities. The State is not a neutral party, but an appendage for the chemical industries.

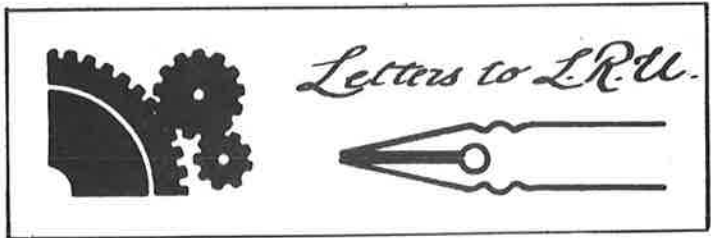
So where does that leave us with the \$113 billion per year chemical industry? Isn't cheap disposal of chemical wastes one of the main reasons why we export chemical products and are competitive with other capitalist nations? The EPA estimates that it will take \$1.5 billion to clean up the 300 chemical dumps that are an immediate threat to people's health and safety nationwide. Already we read that Carter has instructed the EPA standards not to be used to create "zero-growth conditions" for the chemical industry. The question becomes: how can people change an industry that dumps 345 million tons of wastes per year on our nation's environment?

First, we must examine the nature of the beast: in Hooker's case, the economic history of its rise to monopoly status by its takeover by Occidental Petroleum; what products are integral to its profitability and do those products produce wastes that are hazardous to our health and safety. The Round-Up article on Hooker is an excellent example of scientific research which critically analyzes a chemical monopoly. The article gives a historical account of the crushing economic logic behind a monopoly's ability to remain dominant by buying out smaller companies. For at least the last 40 years, Hooker Chemical has been responsible for knowingly polluting land, air and water with toxic chemicals. By knowingly responsible first, we mean that even if they did not know all the cancerous and mutagenic effects of certain chemicals (e.g. Mirex or Toluene), when they were first produced, Hooker did nothing to research these chemical's effects on humans, animals or the environment

before placing these products on the open market, or dumping the waste by-products. Secondly, Hooker is knowingly responsible for their complete disregard for safe storage or recycling of dangerous chemical wastes. In most cases, the toxicity and the extreme reactivity of certain chemicals go hand in hand. Even 40 years ago, the Hooker executives certainly knew which chemicals were highly reactive. What did they do with this knowledge? They suppressed it; stored the toxic wastes in steel drums and tossed them into dump sites like the Love Canal. These dump sites, with underground water streams, further hasten the deterioration of the chemical storage area and then provide easy transport for the toxic wastes into the surrounding lakes and rivers.

Finally, after Hooker's policies are exposed, what do we do? When the consequences of their aggressive monopoly practices are stripped down to the essentials, we can suggest actions against their pollution policies. For it isn't up to some economist's cost-benefit analysis that should determine how much pollution should remain. It's up to the people directly affected: the chemical factory workers and the community people living near a dump site. They should decide in an organized political direction what are the costs to their own safety and health. Once determined, these costs should be directly extracted from Hooker, not DEC or EPA. The Love Canal Homeowners' Assn. is an excellent example of an organized protest. Their reliance on their family ties and through the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9, LRU



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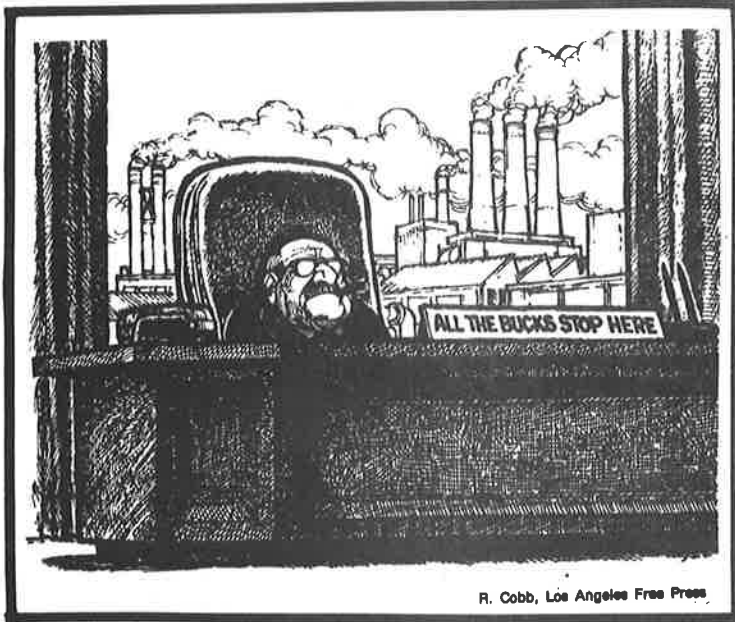
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HOOKER CHEMICAL

Profile of a corporate criminal

Hooker Chemical has done it again - another environmental disaster. This time it's Love Canal, the company's old dump site that has poisoned a Niagara Falls neighborhood with toxic chemicals. Before Love Canal, it was Mirex pollution of Lake Ontario, and before Mirex, it was mercury pollution. In the workplace, Hooker's record is just as bad, from deadly chlorine explosions at its Niagara Falls plant to fiery dust explosions at its North Tonawanda Durez plant. Abusing the environment, both in the community and in the workplace is Hooker's way of "doing business".



R. Cobb, Los Angeles Free Press

Hooker - part of Occidental Petroleum

Hooker is actually the Hooker Chemical and Plastics Corporation, a totally owned and financially-controlled unit of the Occidental Petroleum Corporation, the 26th largest corporation in the U.S. Hooker has over a dozen plants scattered across the U.S. and operates a large international division concentrated in Latin America. Local Hooker facilities include the 167 acre Niagara Falls plant (which makes chemicals), the Durez plant in North Tonawanda (which makes plastics) and a Research Center on Grand Island. 5,700 people work for Hooker in the U.S., 3,400 of these locally. Another 4,800 work in other countries.

Hooker started out as a small local company in 1903, but from 1955 to 1966 rapidly increased its size by taking over 11 other smaller companies. Then in 1968, already a fair-sized catch in the fish-bowl of chemical companies, Hooker was swallowed whole by Occidental Petroleum.

Occidental bought Hooker to increase its profits - and Hooker has definitely paid off,

netting Occidental an additional \$220 million in profits from 1971 to 1977. Hooker now accounts for 1 out of every 5 profit dollars that Occidental pockets. Occidental hasn't said much about Love Canal; it's too busy trying to buy up yet another company, the Mead Corporation. The price tag - a mere \$1 billion. Occidental has the money, but Mead is fighting the take-over.

polluting the environment

Hooker stopped dumping poisons into Love Canal in 1953, but that doesn't mean that it stopped dumping. Hooker continued to operate several other dumps in Niagara County, including one near Hyde Park. Tests of nearby Bloody Run Creek show what health officials term "very high" levels of the same chemicals seeping out of Love Canal.

Hooker has come under fire for yet another seeping chemicals dump - this one at its Montigue, Michigan plant. There, a 40-acre dumpsite containing over 20,000 corroded, leaking barrels of chemical wastes have contaminated a nearby lake and underground water supplies - including the wells of area residents. In 1977, the Montigue plant was temporarily shut down by the EPA and Hooker was fined \$300,000.

From 1959 to 1975, Hooker sold almost 3½ million pounds of Mirex - most of it made and processed here in Niagara Falls. In large doses, Mirex causes cancer; in small doses, it increases the cancer-causing ability of other chemicals. Mirex is stored in body fat, and is slowly converted to Kepone, a chemical that attacks the central nervous system, causing tremors, fatigue, and death. During the 17 years Hooker produced Mirex, it was dumped into Lake Ontario by the company, where it accumulated in fish and other wildlife. In September 1976, a temporary ban was placed on all Lake Ontario fishing - a ban that cost the area's economy an estimated \$50 million. Hooker has never paid one red cent of that cost.

Lake Ontario and the Niagara River have served as Hooker's chemical dump for years - anything Hooker didn't want it dumped into the sewers. For some processes, the sewer was a regular, "legal" (though not necessarily environmentally safe) part of operations. For others Hooker resorted to "midnight dumping", illegal dumps of acids, solvents, off-grade insecticides - just about anything that would flow down a pipe. Some of these chemicals are not only toxic or carcinogenic, but are also flammable or explosive. In 1972, Hooker dumped so much benzene (which causes leukemia) down the sewers that they exploded, sending manhole covers flying, shattering windows and closing area streets. The same thing happened in 1970, this time injuring 2 workers.

Hooker also took part in the mercury pollution of Lake Ontario, and in 1970,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4, LRU

HOOKER, continued from page 3, LRU was ordered to cut its mercury discharges by 75% or face shutdown.

In 1969, Hooker came under attack for its plans to use high pressure injection of toxic chemical wastes through a pipe drilled 3,000 feet into the earth. Scientists warned this could have contaminated groundwaters for 50 miles around the site - like creating thousands of Love Canals. The Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) refused to issue the injection permit to Hooker because of public opposition.

The facade of Hooker's "good corporate citizen" image was exposed when Durez plant memos were leaked to the local media. The memos gave specific instructions for delay tactics to be used against environmental inspectors so that certain operations could be cleaned up or shut down before being inspected.

health and safety - just as bad

A company that shows so little concern for the health and safety of people living around it can hardly be expected to show concern for the people working for it - and the facts bear this out. A review of OSHA records shows Hooker has an OSHA-incident rate (i.e. number of citations) two times the national average of the chemical industry. Last year, one in every 13 Hooker employees was hurt at work.

Workers at Hooker are exposed to Love Canal's poisons on a daily basis; it's part of their job. Over the long-term, low level exposure to these chemicals eats away at their health and their lives. Higher level exposure results in all-too-frequent trips to area hospitals. Many simply don't know what effect the numerous chemicals have on them - Hooker refused to release health records to federal health officials of 131 workers exposed to Mirex (Hooker conducted its own health studies and, of course, found nothing wrong).

In December 1975, a railroad car of chlorine exploded at the Niagara Falls plant. 4 workers were killed and over 90 people (mostly residents) were sent to area hospitals. OSHA was "unable" to figure out why the explosion had occurred, but did issue a \$900 fine because Hooker didn't look at what was inside the railroad car before it put the chlorine in - chlorine reacts with other substances to form new, highly explosive chemicals. Since 1970, there have been over 7,100 reported accidents at the Niagara Falls plant - one out of every five workers there will be injured this year.

In January 1969, a fire and explosion at the Durez plant killed 3 men and sent 26 others to the hospital. A major problem at Durez, besides toxic chemicals is the dust of finely broken-up pieces of plastic which explodes, just like coal dust or grain elevator dust. During the 5 year period 1972 to 1976, the Durez management admits to 17

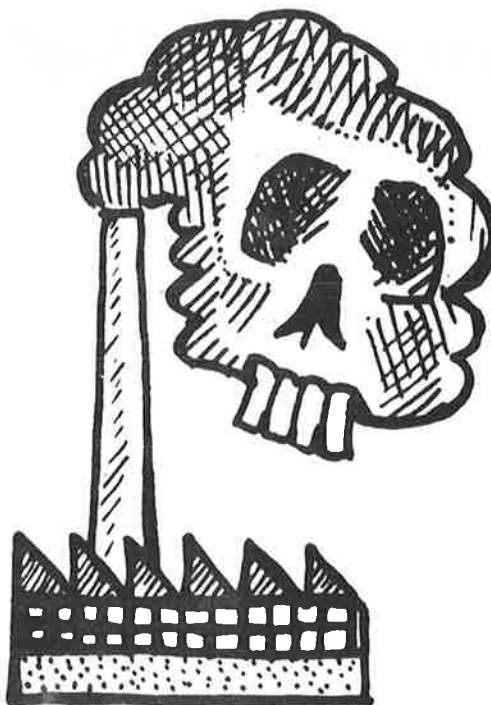
"major" fires, 63 "minor" fires and 2,081 injuries.

The list of other deaths and injuries at the two local Hooker plants is sickening. Most are the result of inadequate safety procedures, unsafe equipment, speed-ups and a generally poor commitment to health and safety. Even compared to other chemical companies, Hooker is among the worst.

make the companies pay

Hooker and its parent Occidental Petroleum have been getting away with too much for too long. There's definitely something wrong when giant multinational corporations like Occidental can commit such wholesale abuses like Love Canal on our communities and yet not face penalties or prosecution, nor even accept responsibility for doing it.

As people living and working in this country, we should expect and demand jobs and neighborhoods that are free from the hazards and poisons these companies make. We have to pressure these companies, through joint efforts of our unions and our community organizations to clean up the mess that's already been made and to prevent future environmental and workplace disasters and accidents. We can no longer afford to pay the price of their "doing business" - the health and safety of our families, our friends and ourselves is too high a price to pay.



Sources:

The Courier Express
The Buffalo Evening News
The Hooker Pipeline
The Durez Digest
Industrial Directory Metropolitan Buffalo
Occidental Petroleum Corp. Annual Reports:
1974, 1976 and 1977
Various other papers, articles & books

TEACHERS HOLD CONVENTION

Rank and file losing ground in AFT

In the past 15 years, teachers' unions have been one of the most militant and visible forces in the U.S. labor movement. The bitter teachers' strike in Buffalo 3 years ago and the demonstrations by high school students this year in defense of the Buffalo Teachers Federation is proof of this. One of the two most powerful teachers unions is the 450,000 strong American Federation of Teachers, AFL-CIO, headed by its president, Albert Shanker, who is also a top AFL-CIO vice president, and a likely successor to George Meany.

In this area, the AFT represents most suburban and rural teachers through its affiliate, New York State United Teachers (NYSUT), of which Shanker is still an Executive Vice President. The BTF was a local of NYSUT, but a few years ago, its membership voted to disaffiliate and join the rival National Education Association. There are only a few AFT/NYSUT locals in Buffalo proper at present.

Last August, the AFT held its 62nd annual convention in Washington, D.C. 2,273 delegates, including some from this area, represented not only teachers, but counselors, bus drivers, secretaries, therapists, custodians and para-professionals from locals across the country. In four days of general sessions, committee and caucus meetings, speeches and resolutions, the delegates elected AFT's leaders and set policy on a broad range of issues for the coming year.

Shanker - limousine unionist

One major surprise of the convention was the lack of resolutions or action by the leadership of the AFT on issues like support of striking teachers and the cut-backs forced on schools by tax-slashing measures such as Proposition 13. Considering the wave of strikes that opened the school year less than a month after the convention, it is clear that these are issues of primary importance to rank and file teachers. What kept these issues from surfacing in the convention was a combination of the lack of democracy in the AFT's caucus system (see article in box) and Shanker's increasing distance from his membership. He seems more interested in building his reputation in Washington than he does in fighting for rights and benefits for teachers and other AFT members.

Over the years, Shanker has built up his control of union offices and his dominance of the so-called Progressive Caucus (PC) into a strong power base. While the AFT as a whole is progressive by trade union standards in the U.S., Shanker is known for his red-baiting tactics and his record of trading large lay-offs of teachers in return for higher wages and benefits for those not fired. His lack of support for rank and file initiatives has seriously undercut some important strikes and he has consistently driven a wedge between teachers and parents - particularly in Black and Latino districts - by his emphasis on narrow economic gains.

heavy handed leadership

Shanker may downplay political issues when it comes to benefitting the AFT membership, but he's always willing to play politician when he personally stands to gain from it. A look at some of the key issues that came to the floor at the AFT convention shows how he does this. One key issue was the Transfer Amendment, a move in Congress that calls for the transfer of funds from the military budget to meet domestic social needs such as housing, education and health care. Other unions, such as the UAW and IAM, have come out in favor of it, but an AFT resolution calling for its passage was narrowly defeated because Shanker opposed it. He even brought in George Meany to speak against it. Once Shanker's position was clear, the PC meekly followed his lead.

Another controversial resolution called for support of Vietnamese refugees. This was introduced by the AFT Executive Council. Tacked on at the end was a statement providing retroactive support for the U.S. role in Vietnam - that even though we lost the war, the U.S. government was right to have been there. After mass opposition from the floor, led by the United Action and Black Caucuses, the statement of support for the war was dropped and the rest of the resolution passed.



In a similar vein were Executive Council resolutions calling for AFT affiliation with such CIA-front organizations as the International Federation of Free Teachers Unions (IFFTU) and the African-American Labor Council (AALC). A Chicago group's pamphlet detailing these CIA links was poorly distributed at the convention, and most delegates did not read it. A proposal to table this resolution for further study came from the floor. Shanker cut off the discussion with the simplistic response, "The IFFTU and the AALC are 'free' trade union organizations and the others (which were specifically mentioned in the resolution for non-affiliation) are 'communist'." By confusing the delegates as to the real issues, Shanker railroaded these resolutions through, but he widened the credibility gap between him and the AFT rank and file. As one area delegate told Labor Round-Up, "I don't want my union tied up in any way with CIA activities."

On the plus side for the AFT rank and file, a resolution calling for the defeat of California's Proposition 6 was passed. This is a right-wing backed bill, known as the Briggs Amendment, which would bar gay people - or anyone standing up for the rights of gays - from employment in public schools. (This proposition was subsequently defeated by the people of California).

one delegate's view

It's too early to tell what the impact of this convention was on the delegates or the union. It was notable as much for what wasn't said or done as for what was. One thing is clear, however, and that is that while the undemocratic nature and the isolation of Shanker's leadership are increasing, so are the militance and political sophistication of the AFT membership. A convention delegate summed it up this way:

"I came away from the convention with mixed reactions. Other labor unions suffer from lack of democracy, sell-out leadership or corruption. The AFT is still a relatively democratic and honest union, but it seems to be heading in the same wrong direction as these other large unions. Reform movements in them have developed to fight these tendencies - the Miners for Democracy in the United Mineworkers, Teamsters for a Democratic Union and Steelworkers Fightback in the USW. In the near future, union democracy may be a primary issue within the AFT. A convention is held so that membership can be represented and everyone can have a say, but what I observed, there was more of an attempt by Shanker and the Progressive Caucus to consolidate their power.

"I bring this up not to say that we belong to a terrible union and we should quit, but rather to say our union is headed for trouble and we should get in there and fight to keep it as democratic, honest and progressive as possible. The AFT has been a democratic union in the past, it has won many gains for its membership and it has worked to improve the quality of education. It's a worthwhile organization to fight for."



AFT CAUCUS MEETING

AFT Caucus system

Shanker maintains his hold on the AFT through his control of the union's bureaucracy and the Executive Council, but his real power base is the so-called Progressive Caucus. All the AFT's conventions are run on a caucus system - that is, caucuses are the main means of pushing positions and lining up votes.

This system sounds democratic, but in fact, the Progressive Caucus (PC) so dominates the proceedings that other views are easily swept under the rug. Most big city locals require that someone join the PC before they can attend the convention as a delegate. This gives Shanker about 40% of the votes from the floor. Coupled with his control of the Executive Council - all of them members of the PC - and the podium, he has a virtual stranglehold on the proceedings.

Other caucuses exist, but none of them come close to matching the strength of the PC. The two most important are the Black Caucus (BC) and the United Action Caucus (UAC). The BC has been in existence for several years and is growing in members and influence. It has some local chapters and keeps an organized presence between conventions. It's often accused of being a "single issue" caucus by the PC, but its practice disproves the charge. At the convention, the BC took stands on a wide variety of issues affecting all AFT members.

The UAC has its roots in the anti-war movements and has grown into a broader-based caucus pushing for federal aid to education, the Transfer Amendment, organizing the unorganized and so on. It appears to work from convention to convention, however, with little organizing on a local level.

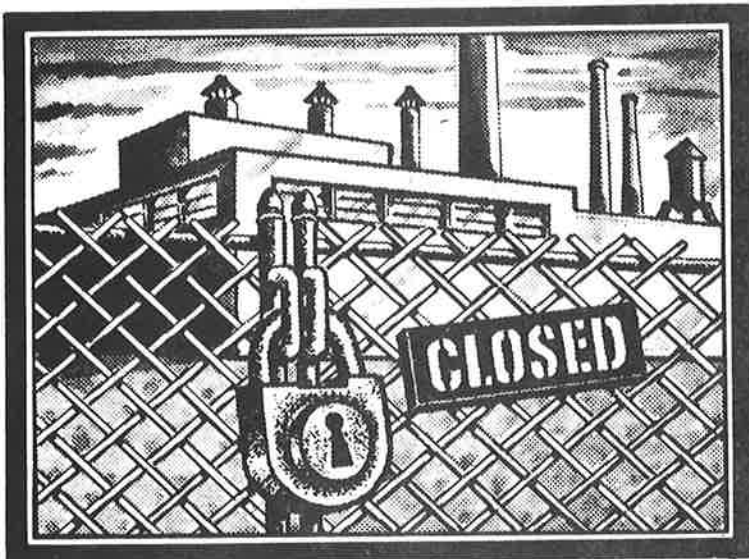
Technically, delegates can join as many caucuses as they want, but the leadership of the PC have long memories. When asked about voting the PC line, one delegate from New York City said: "You do it or you don't get elected again."

AMERICAN STANDARD IS SAVED BY WORKERS

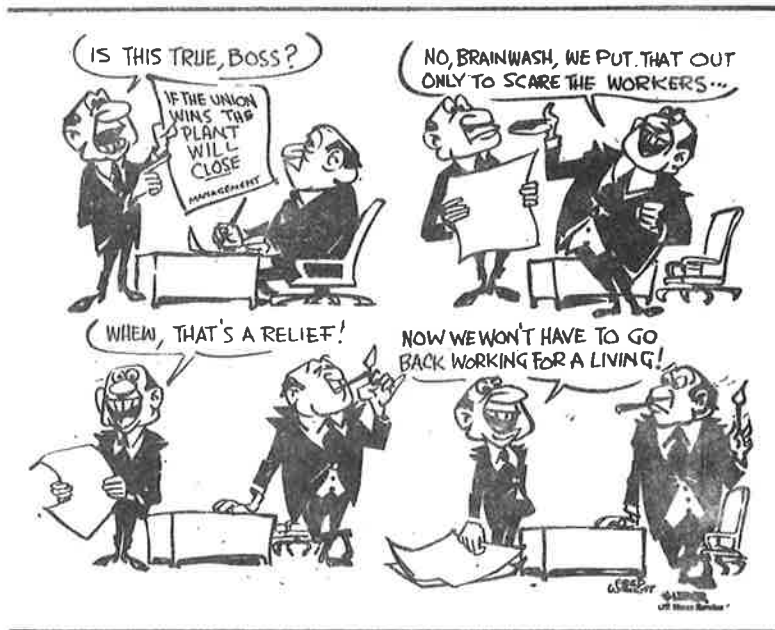
American Standard workers of United Steelworkers (USW) Local 897 voted on October 14 to accept a 3-year contract and end a 19 week-old strike. The 133 to 43 vote ends a conflict that marked the most blatant attempt at union-busting to date. American Standard, with up to 200 separate company divisions in the U.S. and abroad, had formally announced that they were permanently closing the Buffalo plant facilities. But the American Standard workers, skilled at labor politics as well as at their machines, were able to hold the line on most of the company's "take-away" strategy.

The approved contract provides for a 58 cent hourly raise the first year, 53 cents the second year and 58 cents the third year. The union membership won a major medical program, only a slightly improved pension and disability program and established a safety and civil rights committee. The contract language, despite the company's attempt to make it more vague, was clarified, especially in the grievance procedure. The union, however, did not win any cost of living clause.

American Standard tried every trick in the ever-increasing bag of "runaway shop lies". Fifteen weeks after the strike began, the company announced their intention to close the Buffalo plant permanently due to the inability of a negotiated agreement to be reached. At that time, the company offered a contract with no cost of living, half the salary increases, no increases in pensions and disability and no meaningful change in the contract language for the grievance procedure. How could strong trade unionists whose highly skilled work produces hydraulic valves and exchangers, accept such a take-away? With their second rejection of the company's "offer", American Standard tried their last trump, RUNAWAY.



AMERICAN STANDARD'S MAIN THREAT



Foremen of the Buffalo plant began circulating rumors. First, that there was property purchased in Oklahoma for the construction of a new, expanded plant. Then that the Board of Directors were considering a move to Cincinnati, a site of an already existing American Standard facility. Men and women of Local 897 were genuinely threatened by these rumors. But slowly they agreed that this still could be a company ploy, and they should not be stampeded into a take-away contract.

Finally, the company announced through their foremen (and the foremen then made the phone calls to the union members) that the Oklahoma site did not have a skilled workforce that they could draw upon and the Cincinnati site was not agreeable to the company's board. It sounded then like the company was ready to re-negotiate. Privately, some of the foremen were telling workers that the company's runaway threat was a ruse and that they should hold out for more in the contract since the company would give in if it had to. The foremen could give advice like that since they really had nothing to lose. After all, they were not out on strike.

The American Standard workers have halted the threat of a runaway in their contract fight. They have given the entire Western New York labor movement a "shot in the arm" by their struggle against American Standard. The only way we can all re-pay the workers of Local 897 for the 19-week strike is for the rest of us to intensify our fight for better wages and working conditions. The American Standard workers are an example for us all.

CETA FIGHTBACK CONTINUES

In the past few months, CETA administrators and City Hall politicians have heard the angry voices of CETA workers whose hours were cut back and programs cut off.

In August, the work week for some 1,000 Special Projects CETA workers was cut from 40 to 35 hours a week, and 150 were scheduled for early layoffs. The Special Projects people mobilized themselves and with the assistance of the organized sector, CETA Union Local 2008, fought to roll back the cuts. 150 rallied at the Painters Hall to develop a strategy which resulted in two militant demonstrations, one in front of CETA headquarters and the other in front of City Hall. There were also meetings with CETA and City administrators, an angry confrontation with Mayor Griffin, and a concerted effort of politicking, lobbying and petitioning. Finally, after 3 weeks of campaigning, the hours of the remaining 850 Special Projects workers were restored.

In September, the City of Buffalo decided to discontinue the Industrial Training Center (CETA Title I), at Main and Rodney, cutting off 250 trainees in the middle of the program. The City said that new training programs would be started, but made no promise that the CETA participants would be continued.

The trainees called meetings at the work center, contacted the CETA union and prepared a campaign to confront the City. They demonstrated at City Hall and met with administrators and Mayor Griffin before assurances were finally given that all trainees would be continued.



CETA WORKERS DEMONSTRATE OUTSIDE CETA OFFICES.

CETA union plays active role

An important factor in the success of these fightbacks has been the existence of the CETA Union which has been a rallying point for CETA workers caught up in periodic crises.

There are some 2,500 CETA workers in the City of Buffalo who are divided up into some half a dozen different titles and programs. The only organized sector are the some 450 Community Service workers who are represented by the CETA Union. The official name is Police Athletic League Employees Association, Local Union 2008, International Brotherhood of Painters, AFofL/CTO.

Since September, the union has been negotiating for a contract with the administrators of the Community Services program. Issues of grievances, wages, personnel practices, cost of living, will be hashed out on the bargaining table, providing an economic and political program that all CETA workers can struggle for. This contract may well set a precedent and establish the guidelines for the entire CETA program - a situation CETA administrators will do their best to oppose.

The CETA union has been successful in keeping an eye on the CETA program, exposing mismanagement, fighting for grievances and acting as an organized core around which CETA workers mobilize in times of crisis. Much remains to be done to consolidate these gains. Presently changes are being made in the program which threaten the union. The only new CETA jobs being created are temporary jobs (9 to 12 months), which undercuts a stable membership base, and a recent Federal law puts an 18-month limit on all present CETA workers. On the local level, Mayor Griffin's promise to transform the community service program into a job training program is being accomplished by having the Chamber of Commerce take over the program.

build labor-community alliances

The Chamber of Commerce, made up of the biggest industrialists and financiers in the area will be much tougher union opponents than the present CETA administration.

Local Union 2008 represents only one fifth of the City's CETA workers. Everything points out the urgent need for all CETA workers to be organized. Beyond this, the highly political nature of the program shows the need for CETA workers to join with community groups and public service unions to address common problems. This direction was initiated in October when the CETA union contacted municipal unions and community groups to oppose the appearance of Howard

WORKER'S "RIGHT TO KNOW"

Two new rulings from OSHA

Responding to pressure from unions and community groups working to improve occupational health, OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health Administration) has passed two new rules giving employees and/or their representatives access to health information previously only in the hands of their boss. The rulings apply to OSHA-covered workplaces (10 employees or more) and applies to both present and past employees.

First, employers must now keep a Log and Summary of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses (also known as OSHA form #200). This log is supposed to list all work related injuries and illnesses except those requiring only minor first aid. Entries are to be made by date, name of worker, occupation, department, the nature of the health effect, and its suspected cause and severity. Each year, the employer must post a summary of the log so that employees can read it. It is important that employees check the log and summary for accuracy, and for patterns of health problems. Employers are not likely to voluntarily list all minor illnesses that could possibly be related to a larger health problem. For example, a strong blast of benzene will make you dizzy or nauseous. Fresh air may appear to fix you up, but the damage is already done. With such short exposure, benzene can enter the body and could later cause cancer. The same is true for asbestos.

The second ruling on Access to Employee and Medical Records says employees have the right to see whatever information their employer has concerning their exposure to hazards, monitored levels of chemicals in the workplace, personal health records, insurance records and reports or the results of any studies undertaken by the employer on the effects of any toxic substance, etc. OSHA and NIOSH (National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health) also have access to this information in order to look for any trends of illness which might otherwise seem like unrelated, individual health problems.

The major flaw in this ruling is that these records are required to be kept by a company for only five years after the termination of employment of an employee. Many slowly developing diseases, such as cancer, take at least 10 years to show up.

These rulings are a positive step forward in our "right to know" about the hazards to which we are exposed. But, like other rulings, they are limited and are subject to problems of enforcement. Union workers should take positive steps to insure that these rulings are strengthened and enforced by seeing that contract language is reinforced on these issues, and by working together with other unions and associated community groups who are concerned about health and safety in the workplace.

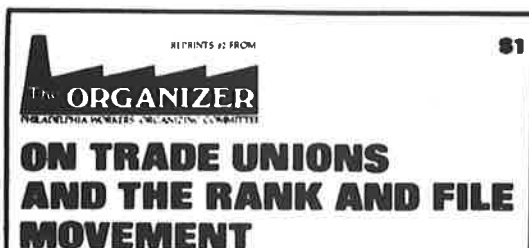
CETA FIGHTBACK, continued from page 8, LRU
Jarvis in Buffalo and the property tax cutting measures he advocates. The basis for the alliance was that property tax cuts mean tax cuts for the rich, service cuts for the poor, and unemployment for government workers. By this initiative, beginning contacts were made with New York State United Teachers, United University Professors and the B.U.I.L.D. organization.

To make the administration accountable for the CETA program, to insure a minimum of job security, and in order to have some say in how program priorities are made, the CETA union is compelled to address more than economic issues. Not only must all CETA workers be organized, but broader alliances must be forged to protect CETA workers and the communities that they serve.

INTRODUCTION, continued from page 2, LRU

adversity of all those being affected in the community, brings out an equality of struggle against hardship. They have linked their forces with local environmentalists and have filed class action and individual legal suits against Hooker, among others. We, from the Labor Round-Up commend the long fight of the Homeowners and encourage them to direct their fire more to Hooker Chemical Corporation. Since the chemical factory workers can't move away from these chemicals like some of the homeowners can, they must bring this struggle up on the shop floor, to fight over the same safety and health issues that the homeowners are fighting for. We should evaluate the overall societal use of the chemicals. And even those chemicals that have more socially necessary uses, where safer alternatives can be found, these should be used. Unlike the nuclear wastes at West Valley, these chemical pollutants at the Love Canal can be almost

totally avoided. It is up to our struggle to add safer jobs in the chemical industry, while forcing the monopolies to internalize the pollution clean-up costs. The social costs of organizing such a resistance against the chemical producers can only be compensated by better health during ours and our children's lifetimes.



HEALTH AND SAFETY UPDATE

OSHA & cotton dust standards

"Breathing cotton fiber is like drinking carrot juice. It doesn't feel good, but it won't hurt you." So stated Tennessee Governor Blanton at the Annual Southern Governors' Conference. Two cotton industry spokesmen also addressed the conference, but of course no workers were invited to present their side. The result- the Governors voted to send a delegation to the White House asking for cotton dust regulations more in line with industry's desires !

It is estimated that 35,000 workers over 45 years old are totally disabled from brown lung. Further, according to the Carolina Brown Lung Association, 30,000 are partially disabled and hundreds of thousands of others working in the mills suffer "Monday morning asthma" - the dreaded chest-tightening signs of brown lung.

OSHA originally had planned to have new standards for exposure set by Sept. 4 of this year (standards arrived at as a result of the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers suit), but Carter, bowing to pressure by industry, and using inflation as an excuse, has postponed the deadline, requiring only partial implementation for the next several years. Thousands more workers will be disabled while industry saves money on health and safety equipment which should have been installed years ago. (Source: New Times, Oct. 30, 1978)

nuclear plants and cancer

Radioactive releases from nuclear plants are causing serious increases in cancer deaths. This is the conclusion of a University of Pittsburgh medical school professor, Dr. Ernest Sternglass, who recently presented material based on HEW cancer-mortality rates to a Congressional committee. These statistics show that cancer rate increases are greatest in states with nuclear plants. These are usually unpopulated areas, not in heavily urbanized and polluted areas. States like Washington, Connecticut and Tennessee, with large nuclear reactors, have had significant cancer death increases. States without reactors have had declines (Alaska, Montana & New Hampshire). Growing numbers of workers are refusing to work in radiation areas in atomic power plants, as Con Ed workers at Indian Point recently have. With evidence like this, work refusal such as that, and community resistance which the Clamshell Alliance has used, are the only safe courses. (Source: Mother Jones, Sept.-Oct., 78)

asbestos - the companies knew

Half the 8 to 11 million people who worked with asbestos during the last 35 years may die from it. Sometimes taking 20 to 30 years for the diseases to develop, many are just now showing the symptoms of asbestos exposure. Prolonged exposure is highly dangerous, but one person has developed mesothelioma (a cancer caused by asbestos) 20 years after working only one day with asbestos.

According to a recent HEW report, asbestos causes 10-15% of all U.S. cancer deaths each year. 67,000 people a year will die from asbestos-related cancers for the next 30 to 35 years. Dr. Irving Selikoff of Mt. Sinai School of Medicine, the leading asbestos researcher in the U.S. contends that the dangers of asbestos have been known to government and industry for more than 4 decades, yet there has been little action on either part to restrict, inspect, or supervise its use.

In 1930, a British researcher found that 81% of the workers with more than 30 years working with asbestos had developed asbestosis, a non-curable, non-cancerous scarring of the lungs which makes it difficult, and eventually impossible, to breathe. Asbestos lung cancer was first noted in 1935, more than 40 years ago.

Shipyard workers have filed a class action suit against 15 asbestos producers because strong evidence shows that they deliberately suppressed and withheld information about its health hazards. The 5,000 shipworkers are seeking damages of \$1 billion for "unjust enrichment" - the amount of asbestos profits the companies have made since 1938. In addition, they are seeking \$1 billion in punitive damages and up to \$5 billion in general damages.

In a separate action, Local 9 of the Industrial Union of Marine and Shipbuilding Workers of America has petitioned for a criminal investigation of the asbestos industry. Citing the industry's deliberate suppression and distortion of information, the union's Executive Secretary, Steve Roberts, states, "This conscious choice of profit over the lives of working people who have unknowingly exposed themselves to this deadly substance is, in every sense of the word, criminal

LABOR NOTES

DEL MONTE: EXPANDING IN THE PHILIPPINES AND SOUTH AFRICA

In underdeveloped countries, Del Monte is the largest canning corporation. At a recent shareholders meeting held in early October, two resolutions were put forward regarding the company's operations in the Philippines and South Africa.

The first resolution asked that information be compiled on the impact of Del Monte's expansion on small farmers of the Philippines. On a recent trip, Robin Jurs of the Northern California Committee on Corporate Responsibility spoke with many farmers whose land was taken away by Philpak, a Del Monte subsidiary. Jurs produced a letter signed by more than 30 farmers pleading that their government do something to stop Del Monte from seizing their meager plots.

In 1960, Del Monte moved canning operations from California to South Africa, and is considering expanding there. It has contracts with 300 white farmers and employs from 12,000 to 15,000 black migrant workers. The second resolution put forward by John Harrington of the Senate Select Committee on Investment Priorities and Investments, called for no expansion, as this would support and strengthen the apartheid regime.

Both resolutions were defeated. Sponsors are now considering a national boycott of all Del Monte products. (Source: Guardian, 10/11/78)

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When workers make demands on business and industry for better wages, improved working conditions and health, safety and environmental regulations, the answer is always that the companies cannot afford it. The following figures on corporate profits point out that business and industry are making more profit than ever before, but refuse to use any of these profits to benefit working people.

10 Companies with the highest annual net profits:

1. A T & T	\$3,829,200,000
2. G M	2,902,800,000
3. Exxon	2,640,964,000
4. IBM	2,398,093,000
5. Ford Motor	983,100,000
6. Mobil	942,523,000
7. GE	930,600,000
8. Standard Oil of Indiana	892,968,000
9. Standard Oil of Calif.	880,127,000
10. Texaco	869,731,000

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION: WATCH OUT FOR WEBER

Kaiser Aluminum in Gramercy, Louisiana is located in an area that's 40% black. Yet, by the late '60's, only 10% of the workers were black, and these in the lowest paying, unskilled jobs. A series of lawsuits filed by black workers in the early 70's shook up both Kaiser and the Union, the United Steel Workers (USW). Facing the possibility of large fines and the loss of government contracts, Kaiser and the USW agreed to an affirmative action program to make up for past discrimination by increasing not only the total number of black workers, but also those in skilled (i.e. craft) positions. A key element in the program was that for craft apprenticeships, one black worker and one white worker would be accepted for every two openings posted for bidding - a dual seniority system. The program was to continue until black workers were more equally represented in the workforce, given the sizeable black population of the area.

Brian Weber, a white lab technician was passed over by blacks with less seniority, due to the implementation of this system. Like Bakke in education, Weber sued Kaiser and the United Steel Workers Union, charging them with discrimination based on race.

So far, he's won in the lower courts. The USW and Kaiser didn't put up much of a fight. The case has been sent to the Supreme Court where the Court may decide to hear it or simply not accept it, resulting in the lower courts' decisions being upheld.

The Weber case could be more dangerous to women and minorities than even the Bakke decision. The next issue of the Labor Round-Up will cover the significance of Weber and the need to support affirmative action in more detail. (Sources: The Guardian, 10/18/78; Transcript of Case)

"PIN MONEY"

Because secretaries "are mostly housewives (who) don't need to earn more than pin money", according to Colin Campbell, president of Wesleyan University in Middletown, Connecticut, wage demands of the Office & Professional Employees International Union were called unreasonable.

The secretaries and clerical workers are the lowest paid on campus. They won union representation last June, but the administration has failed to sign a contract with them. So the women went out on strike.

The strikers have won the support of students and faculty alike, and the Teamsters have refused to cross the picketline.

(Source: The Guardian, 9/20/78)

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WHAT'S HAPPENING

UNITY BOOKS - 426 Grant Street. Special holiday gift items such as Chinese baskets, papercuts, note cards, calendars, hand-made crafts, books & records are available. During the month of December will be open Saturdays from 11 to 4 in addition to regular Bookstore hours of Mon. to Thurs. from 6 to 9. Call 882-8232 for information.

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EMMA BOOKS - corner of Main & Greenfield Sts. Sun. Dec. 16: Children's party. Call for details, 836-8970. Women can display or sell handicrafts on consignment during holiday season.

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Two films: Controlling Interest: on economic penetration of international corporations in 3rd world countries and the disastrous social and economic conditions in those countries and Who Invited Us: film which explores the reliance on military interventions to protect U.S. economic interest in foreign countries and the role of the C.I.A. in triggering these military interventions. 7:30, Conference Theater, Squire Hall, U.B. Sponsored by Third World Students Association.

REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS SYMPOSIUM - sponsored by CARASA. Speakers include Helen Rodriguez, Committee to End Sterilization Abuse; Bill Bird, abortion rights activist; Barbara Handschu, Buffalo attorney; Mary Jo Long, N.Y.C. CARASA. Saturday, December 9, 8 p.m. at the Waterfront School. Nominal fee. Child care provided.

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SIMPLE GIFTS - will have a bazaar in January. Contact them for information, 884-5330.

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THE HISTORY BOOK - film which traces people's history from an anti-imperialist point of view. Animated.
Chapters 1-5: Friday, Dec. 8 at 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, Dec. 10 at 2 p.m.
Chapters 6-9: Friday, Dec. 15 at 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, Dec. 17 at 2 p.m.
Friday showings at Niagara Branch Library, Niagara & Porter, sponsored by PRCC.
Sunday showings at Unity Books, 426 Grant Street; sponsored by Unity Books. 882-8232.