

NEWSLETTER OF THE

BUFFALO WORKERS' MOVEMENT

\$.25

FALL 1977

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BUFFALO'S PRIMARIES - THE MAYOR'S RACE

Although this article appears after the primaries we think it important that we present our point of view on the elections.

The City's mayoral primary race is coming up this September 8 and has attracted wide attention. The major candidates challenging the endorsed Democrat, Leslie Foschio, are Arthur Eve and James Griffin, each possessing their own political base. The Democratic party headed by Joe Crangle is having trouble maintaining internal discipline as evidenced by the West Side Committeemen's refusal to withdraw the endorsement of James Arcadi for county legislator, and the defection of Sanitation Commissioner James Linder to the Griffin camp. Foschio's decision to run as an independent in November indicates that rather than support Eve or Griffin, Crangle would prefer splitting the party.

LES FOSCHIO - THE BANKERS CANDIDATE

Leslie Foschio the endorsed Democrat has served as a legislative aide in Albany, worked in the Buffalo D.A.'s office and was assistant dean of the Notre Dame Law School for six years. In 1975 Joe Crangle brought Mr. Foschio to Buffalo to be the City's chief legal council and deputy mayor. In that position he is most well known for the union busting tactics he has utilized against the Buffalo Teacher's Federation in last years strike, and the holding up of police pay increases for nearly two years. Mr. Foschio has come out publicly against the binding arbitration provisions of the Taylor Law.

Mr. Foschio has never held elected office. It was Joe Crangle who brought him to Buffalo and arranged for his Democratic endorsement. Foschio's campaign committee is made up of the wealthiest men in the City, among them: Seymour Knox III and Paul Schoelkopf, both on the Board of Director of the Marine Midland Bank, Charles R. Diebold, of the law firm Diebold and Milonzi, legal council to Western Savings Bank and M & T, and Charles Diebold III, President of Western Savings Bank.

Foschio has at his disposal hundreds of Democratic committeemen and poll inspectors. In addition, there are many City Hall employees who are dependent upon Democratic party patronage. Mr. Foschio will be spending approximately \$400,000 on the primary campaign.

The major issue he addresses is the one of attracting business to the City. For this he promises an aggressive public relations campaign to sell the City, tax breaks, modifying zoning restrictions and negotiating with unions to relax work rules and wage demands.

It is clear that this "selling of the City" will be done by passing the bill to its working people. Tax breaks for business will require cuts in social services or higher taxes for the rest of us. "Negotiations" with labor can only mean pressure to relinquish hard won gains.

Not only does Mr. Foschio have the support of the banks, but he is the banks' candidate.

ARTHUR EVE - A CONSISTENT LIBERAL

Arthur Eve a State Assemblyman has been representing Buffalo's predominantly Black East Side for the last 11 years. His founding of the minority caucus and becoming deputy majority leader has made him a political force independent of the Crangle machine. Much of Mr. Eve's legislative work has addressed the needs of the poor. He has helped develop higher education opportunity programs (S.E.E.K., E.O.P.), helped establish a day care program in Erie County, was instrumental in establishing the Masten Park Drug Rehabilitation Center and has been an effective lobbyist for state education aid for Buffalo. Eve was a negotiator during the 1971 Attica uprising and a supporter of the Attica Brothers.

To deal with the problems of funding social services and economic development he looks to increased aid from Albany and Washington. To deal with the problems of city corruption and mismanagement of C.E.T.A. funds Mr. Eve proposes administrative reforms.

Mr. Eve's campaign concentrates on his accomplishments as an individual and there is an emphasis on the subjective factor. His main slogan is "Believe in Eve--he cares." At a candidates meeting organized by C.E.T.A. workers in mid-July, Mr. Eve stated that there was a unity between the big commercial interests and the people of the City in opposition to the Democratic machine. Although he addresses the needs of poor and working people he does not have a clear view of the underlying causes of the City's difficulties.

People in the Black community have been inspired by Mr. Eve's campaign with the hope that a Black man with a history of addressing poor peoples needs, in the mayor's office, will make a difference in their lives. Mr. Eve's campaign has been concentrated in the Black community and has not reached out appreciably to those White liberal sectors whose support is essential if he is to win.



JIM GRIFFIN - APPEALS TO REACTION

James Griffin has been serving in the State Senate for the last 10 years representing South Buffalo and the South Towns, a largely White working class area. There he has a strong political base independent of the Democratic machine. In the last election he ran on three party lines and polled 110,000 votes.

Mr. Griffin has remained a political maverick isolated from the Albany power hierarchy. In the last three years of the 180 bills he has helped introduce only six have passed. He is identified as a law and order candidate and is opposed to increased aid to the poor and unemployed. His campaign appeals to the struggling White working class

sectors of the City. He has cultivated strong support from the police and firemen. The campaign has racist and sexist overtones. In addressing the fears of an economically threatened working class, Mr. Griffin blames the victims as the source of the problem. His point of view pits employed against unemployed, poor White working class against the most oppressed segments of the City such as Blacks, Puerto Ricans and Native Americans. At a C.E.T.A. meeting of mayoral candidates in July, Mr. Griffin came out against affirmative action programs for women and minorities, "There will be no ratio programs in my administration, you can bet on that."

Mr. Griffin sees no underlying contradiction between the needs of the people in this City and the needs of industry. He has stated to this writer that all difficulties between the two parties can be worked out by "discussion."

Mr. Griffin appeals to the reactionary tendencies in the working class, exploiting their fears and insecurities. By creating further divisions between White people and oppressed minorities he prevents us from perceiving and dealing with the real problems affecting us.



THE REPUBLICANS - WHAT THE ?

The role of the Republican party in Buffalo is to put up a token opposition and give some credence to the formality of a "choice" in the elections. It is informative to look at this relationship as it applies in the mayoral race.

John J. Phalen is the endorsed candidate in the Republican primary for mayor. He is an attorney, working for the largest law firm in the City, Moat, Sprague. Mr. Phalen has served as a legislative aide in Albany and has been a member of numerous civic development boards. He has never held elected office, but his natural constituency would be registered Republicans in the City. Mr. Phalen is running on a platform stressing his competency as an administrator. He feels that most of the City's problems are due to a deficiency of qualified personnel. He contends that the two parties have no ideological differences and that their function is primarily to give the voters a choice of personalities.

Mr. Phalen's downplaying of the realities of the power of the Democratic machine and his glossing over of party rivalries buttresses the impression that there is collusion between the two parties. The Republicans are allowed to exist to maintain the facade of a two party system. In return for not making effective attacks on the Democratic party

various patronage jobs and city business is steered their way. An example of this is the race for district attorney. Joseph Mintz is running on the Republican ticket against Ed Cosgrove. In return for playing the role of a loyal opposition, informed sources say that Joe Crangle will give Mintz a judgeship.

CAN EVE DO IT ?

Of the candidates Arthur Eve appeals to the most progressive tendencies in the City. He has a history of addressing the needs of poor people and his candidacy as a viable Black man for mayor represents a move to overcome racism. However, Mr. Eve lacks a clear analysis of the class structure of this society and the economic forces behind the City's problems. Such an understanding is essential if he is to consistently represent the interests of working people.

Another major obstacle in Mr. Eve's campaign is that he lacks a city-wide constituency. Both he and Mr. Griffin have built their political careers by developing a following in particular sections of the City. In this primary contest the democratic machine already has a developed city-wide organization, and this gives them a natural advantage.

SOME CONCLUSIONS

What is most important to realize is that the City's problems cannot be solved by a change of personality. The day to day operation of the City is dependent upon a bureaucracy and politicians controlled by a political party that is bankrolled by the City's commercial interests. Whoever is elected mayor will have to continue operating in that context.

Arthur Eve, as we have stated earlier, is not the messiah for blacks or for that matter all working people in the city of Buffalo. He is no more than a consistent liberal reformist. He does, however, represent a break with the Democratic machine and to some extent the two-party system, which we should encourage. He has consistently fought for the democratic rights of national minority people and has taken principled stands on Attica, police brutality and other issues (although his lack of a position on Kenneth Johnson is shameful). His position on CETA workers is excellent. His stand on quality education and his support of desegregation is his strongest and greatest accomplishment. It is on these major issues that we as Marxist Leninists should do vigorous political education within all mass organizations that we work in a principled and forthright fashion. In this framework we should always point out that he is not the answer to our problems and bring people into the struggle on the basis of their own experience for socialism. It is in this light that we utilize the bourgeois electoral process and heighten the struggle of the working class as a whole. It is this line with the struggle for democracy and reform and its relationship to socialism that demarcates ourselves from the ultra-leftist dogmatists and the social democratic forces within our movement.

WHAT SHOULD LEFTISTS DO ?

A correct approach to the mayoral primaries has been exemplified by the CETA Workers Organizing Committee (a mass organization of CETA workers that is currently in a union drive that could involve 4500 workers in Erie County). They have utilized

the elections to strengthen their unionizing effort. Not only have they put the tyrannical boss of the CETA programs but on the front burner they have placed squarely the question of CETA as a jobs program and the oppression and exploitation of CETA workers as a major issue in this September's elections for all the working class to see. They have used the candidates as a sounding board with a base in mass organization and agitation to address and present a concrete 6 point program that speaks to the needs of CETA workers. They've used the "bourgeois media," the "bourgeois legal system" and the "bourgeois mayoral candidates" to a degree that advances the struggle of the working class of our locality far beyond their real numbers.

We think that this is a correct approach to the question of participation in the bourgeois political arena at this time. A similar campaign on Ken Johnson and municipalizing utilities would have assisted those campaigns greatly. Comrades from our organization are quite active in CETA--we think we have a correct understanding of the relationship of reforms to revolution and difference between the two. This is where our dogmatist friends and all their idle revolutionary proclamations reinforce their isolation from the working class as a whole. It is on these issues that right opportunists (the CPUSA and most social democrats) act as hand maidens for the liberal elements of the bourgeoisie. We will utilize every bourgeois institution as long as it benefits the struggle of the working class as a whole.

DOGMATISTS HAVE THEIR HEADS IN THE CLOUDS

For some of our dogmatic friends it may be somewhat shocking that we would have an article about the "bourgeois elections" within the pages of this newsletter. Monkish creatures that they are they would not "lower themselves" to consider such an issue--they would emphasize that the workers should continue on their program of militant struggle. They advance the point of view that a boycott of the elections should take place because all politicians are the "same." Despite all of their rhetorical flourishes and childish posturing they have little or no impact on the working class. Now we are not saying that bourgeois elections are the path for emancipation of the working class; but only a fool could not understand that real differences exist between the participating mayoral candidates. We have just presented you with an analysis that points out in fact they are not all the same. The real tragedy of our dogmatist friends error does not lie in their lack of participation or their lack of analysis. The real tragedy lies in that they are pursuing this incorrect policy in the name of fighting opportunism in general and revisionism in particular. In reality they have surrendered to revisionism. As Lenin wrote:

"Marxism teaches us that to fight opportunism by renouncing utilization of the democratic institutions created and distorted by the bourgeoisie of the given capitalist society is to completely surrender to opportunism."

Quote in Original Works Volume 23, page 26.



KEN JOHNSON

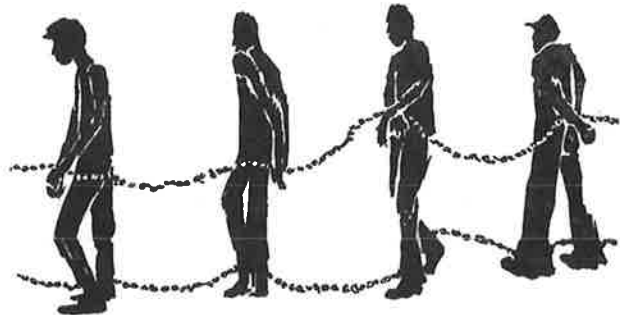
In December 1975 an event occurred in Buffalo which became a focus for Black and White people to unite to fight racism. A counselor at the Buffalo Community Mental Health Center on Goodrich Street was arrested and charged with being the "parking ramp rapist." The counselor, Kenneth Johnson is Black, all of the victims were White. While Johnson was awaiting bail, his friends formed a committee to aid in his defense. Dozens of organizations and hundreds of people have shown their support, thousands of dollars have been raised for legal expenses.

THE FACTS

Early this year Johnson was tried for two rape charges and resisting arrest. He was acquitted on one rape charge and of resisting arrest. On the second rape charge the jury was split 6-6. In June, Johnson was retried and convicted on the second rape charge. Johnson has been sentenced to 5-15 years in prison. After sentencing Johnson was granted an extension of bail pending appeal. In a dirty and humiliating move the prosecutor, Albert Ranni obtained the revocation of Johnson's probation from a prior misdemeanor marijuana charge. Johnson now sits in jail. What the courts give with one hand they take away with the other.

Since the moment of his arrest Ken Johnson has maintained his innocence. Those who have become familiar with the case are convinced of his innocence. The evidence of both trials clearly pointed to his innocence. The theory of the prosecution was that all the rapes occurred in the same manner by the same man--yet Johnson was acquitted of one rape and ultimately convicted on the other.

The case against Johnson rested almost exclusively upon the identification by one of the rape victims, Debby Richards. Johnson's defense was that it was a case of mistaken identification and that others could vouch for his whereabouts at the time of the crime.



CONTRADICTIONS IN EVIDENCE

There is no question that Debbie Richards was raped, nor that Johnson was in the area on the day of the attack. Immediately following the assault, Richards gave a security guard a description of the attacker that did not fit Johnson. This evidence was not allowed to be admitted at trial. Richards later gave a description to the police that included, in part, "...he had a retarded expression - his lips seemed to droop." Johnson does not have drooping lips or a retarded expression. The most immediately apparent feature of Mr. Johnson is that his upper front teeth are

missing. While giving a detailed description of the attacker's facial features, Debbie Richards made no mention of this.

Richards later picked Johnson out of a lineup which was held the day after Richards had been shown 18 photos, 4 of which were of Johnson exposed to different shades. At the lineup, the suspects were lined up left to right, shortest to tallest, except for Johnson (6'1"), who stood to the left of the shortest man (5'6"). Johnson was dressed in light clothes while all the others had on dark clothes. In addition, he was still bloody from the beating he received when arrested. These factors made Johnson stand out like a sore thumb.

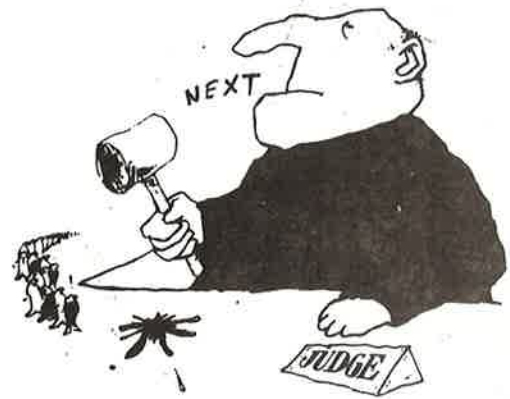
At the lineup, a victim of the "parking rapist", who had given a description used to draw a composite sketch, said positively that Johnson was not her attacker. She was not allowed to testify to this at either trial, despite defense attempts to bring her in. Johnson came under suspicion when a Buffalo General Hospital security guard saw a composite picture of the rapist in the newspaper and felt that it looked like Johnson, and then remembered seeing Johnson coming out of the ramp in which Richards was attacked. At both trials, several witnesses testified to being with Johnson nearly the entire period in which the rape could have occurred. Their description of Johnson's movements gave him no chance to commit the attack. The testimony of these witnesses and of Johnson remained firm under the most grueling and offensive cross-examination. Two of the jurors from the first trial were so convinced of Johnson's innocence that they became supporters of his defense.

A RACIST PROSECUTION

To understand Johnson's conviction, one must examine the jury and the way the trial was conducted. The strategy of the prosecutor, Albert Ranni, was to have a jury which had had minimal contact with Black people. The juries at both trials were entirely white, mostly middle aged, with eight women on the first jury and nine on the second. The members of the second jury were almost all from outside of Buffalo.

Ranni obtained a conviction by appealing to the jurors' racism. His case rested upon Debbie Richards' identification. This form of testimony is among the most unreliable and easily mistaken evidence. It was imperative for him to nullify the testimony of Johnson's witnesses. He spent most of his time questioning them not as to Johnson's whereabouts, but about past marijuana arrests, being on welfare, illegitimate children, whether white women had Black boyfriends, etc. The constant theme throughout the trial and summation was that they were Black, inherently criminal, and couldn't be believed. Richards is white, right and "good", so she is believable.

The judge's role in conducting a trial is vital. Consistently Judge Mikoll in the first trial and Ostrowski in the second, refused to mitigate the racist and unfair conduct of the trial. Mikoll dismissed a challenge to the jury composition out of hand. The prosecutor's action of subpoenaing witnesses before the grand jury was illegal. Though prohibited from using such testimony at trial, Ranni continuously brought up the barred testimony without censure from the judge. Many of the facts by which Kenny's supporters became convinced of his innocence were barred by the judges for being "irrelevant". Al Ranni, the



D.A., is an abrasive bully of a man. He is making a reputation for himself by convicting Black defendants. He is a man who certainly harbors ambitions for higher offices.

The railroading of Johnson shows that the police and courts are more concerned with justifying their positions rather than protecting women from rape. In late 1975, the "parking ramp rapist" was getting a lot of publicity. Women were afraid to go downtown for Christmas shopping and sales were slipping. Public "confidence" could be restored if people believed that the rapist was captured. The police apprehended Johnson in a way guaranteed to make headlines. Before the arrest, Johnson learned that he was a suspect and offered to cooperate. Instead, three plain-clothes street crime cops hauled him off in the middle of the day from his workplace. The arrest was not for rape, but based upon old traffic and family court warrants. Johnson was beaten and the papers reported a spectacular arrest with the headlines that Buffalo was safe for shopping again. The papers continued to assist in the frame-up and whitewash. A rape of similar pattern subsequent to the arrest was not reported. Trial coverage and demonstrations of hundreds in Ken's favor were relegated to back pages or ignored. Testimony of the prosecution witness was reported in detail, as was news of the conviction and sentencing.

WHAT DOES HIS CONVICTION MEAN ?

For many people, Ken Johnson's conviction is proof of his guilt. This, in spite of the evidence of his innocence, the biased manner in which the identification was made and the trial conducted, in spite of the actions of the police, press and business community and in spite of the racist use of the rape laws against Black men. Those who still equate a conviction as being proof of guilt have only to consider some of the cases of those framed because of who they were, and not for any crime they committed: the Molly McGuires, the Haymarket defendants, Tom Mooney, Eugene Debs, Sacco & Vanzetti, the Scotsboro Boys, the Rosenbergs, Martin Sostre, Ruben Carter, Gary Tyler, Leonard Peltier, etc.

In the case of Ken Johnson we see how the police, the courts, the media and business interests cooperate in effecting a frame-up. There is an over-lapping of personnel and community of interest of those that control the economic life of the city, the media, the political parties, appointment of judges and city policy.

RAPE AND RACISM

While Johnson's arrest and conviction served the immediate economic interests of the local ruling group, other more long-term interests are being served.

The crime of rape has been used as a special tool in creating divisions between Blacks and whites. It has kept them occupied fighting each other rather than dealing with the roots of their common oppression. Rape first became a crime punishable by death in the Southern slave codes and it continues to be used as a mechanism to inflame and terrorize the Black community and build hysteria among whites. In the last 40 years alone, 455 men have been executed for rape; 405 of them were Black and 398 of the executions took place in the South. Rape laws do not protect women. Firstly, they were never meant to be applied to Black women. A Black woman is three times more likely to be raped by a white man than a white woman by a Black man, but no white man has ever been executed in this country for raping a Black woman. Even for white women, a rape trial has traditionally put the woman's moral and personal life on trial. A woman is afforded "protection" by the rape laws only insofar as she is some man's property, some man's wife, or daughter. The woman who is independent or non-conformist and complains of rape is looked upon suspiciously and intimidated.

The racist use of the rape charge is only one aspect of Black oppression. Blacks and minorities are concentrated in the dirtiest, worst-paying jobs. The average income of Blacks is 60% that of whites, and unemployment for Blacks is double that of whites. In New York State, where only 13% of the population is non-white, 70% of the prison population is non-white.

Along with this oppression is a consciousness of the exploitative nature of this society and repressive role of the state. This was reflected in the fact that demonstrations in Ken Johnson's favor drew much broader sectors of the Black community than that of the white community. Being an oppressed sector with a certain consciousness, the Black community represents a threat to the ruling class, and repressive measures are necessary for maintaining their power.



Ten years ago the ruling class in this city blamed the riots and disturbances in Buffalo not on the bad material conditions suffered by Blacks, but rather on Martin Sostre. That frame-up became an internationally infamous case.

Similarly, in December, 1975, the "city fathers" were confronted with a series of rapes that became an intolerable situation, not due to the complaints of the victims, but due to the complaints of the downtown businessmen that they were losing money. A Black man was arrested and the press proclaimed the streets safe once again. A conviction was obtained on the flimsiest evidence. The full panoply of racist hysteria and innuendo was brought out in the courtroom and press - replaying the theme that Blacks are dehumanized and a threat to whites. (In fact, the KKK has distributed a leaflet locally accusing all Blacks of wishing to rape white women.)

SUPPORT KENNETH JOHNSON

- FIGHT RACISM !

The arrest and conviction of Ken Johnson is a direct attack on the Black community. It is also an attack upon all working people in the area who must work in alliance with Black people if they are to better their own lives. Ken Johnson will not give up his fight to free and clear himself, nor will his supporters. Though the Defense Committee has successfully mobilized many people and raised thousands of dollars, at this point it is being beset by difficulties and lacks organization. The major shortcoming is that the central unifying force, and person providing direction was Ken Johnson himself. With Ken now in prison, and without his leadership, the underlying weaknesses of the group are coming to the front.

In a more long-term view, what is essential is that those who don't yet know of Johnson's case first-hand familiarize themselves with it and be prepared to take up not only Ken's case, but others like his, as our own fight.

BY DEFENDING KEN JOHNSON WE ARE DEFENDING OURSELVES

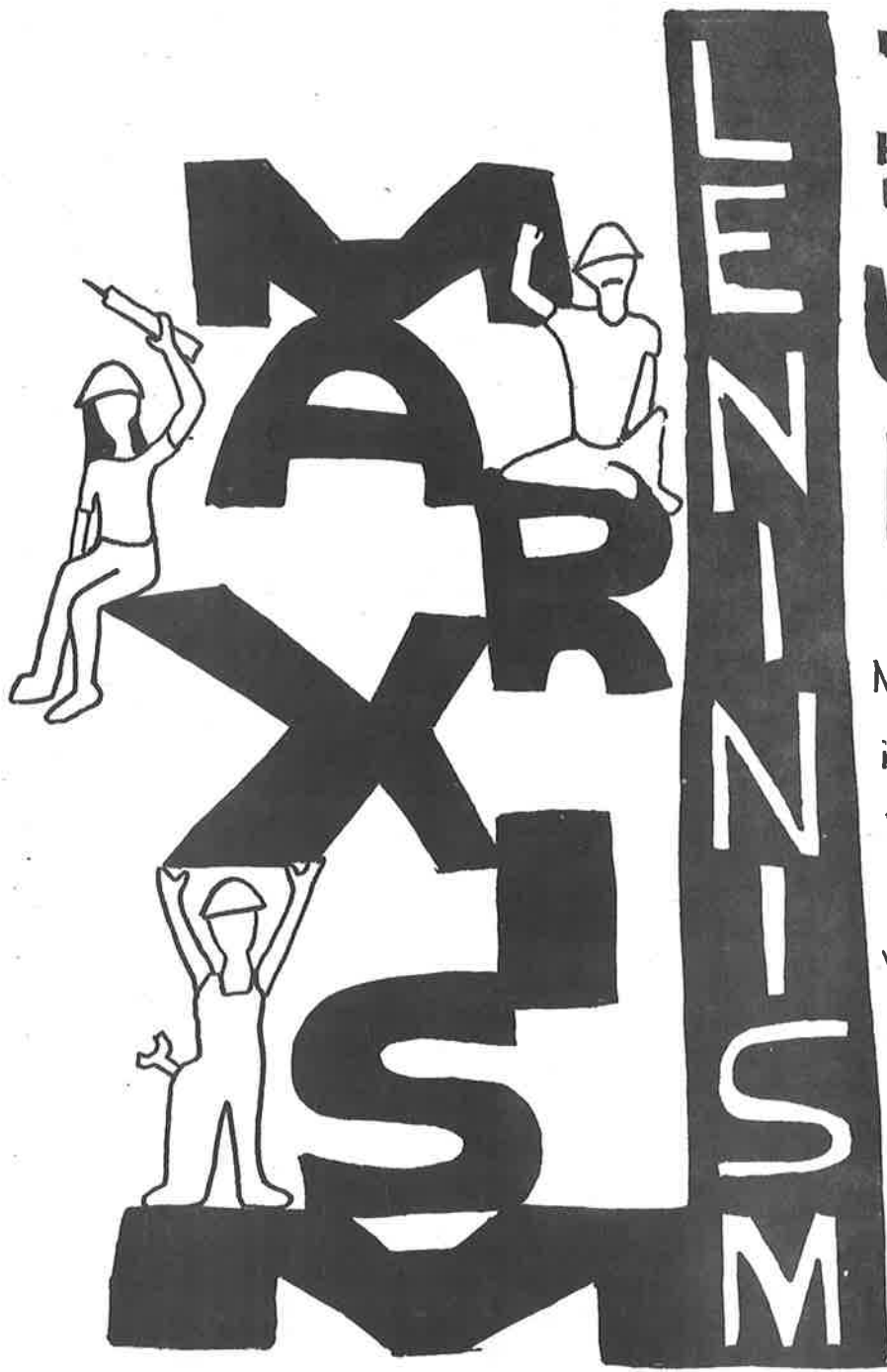


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BLACK LIBERATION TODAY -- AGAINST DOGMATISM ON THE NATIONAL QUESTION. PWOC's position on the Afro-American national question. Includes summary of the general Marxist-Leninist theory, concrete analysis of the Black Belt, historically and today. Plus discussion of the Black people today and strategy for liberation. Points out unity of dogmatist and revisionist.



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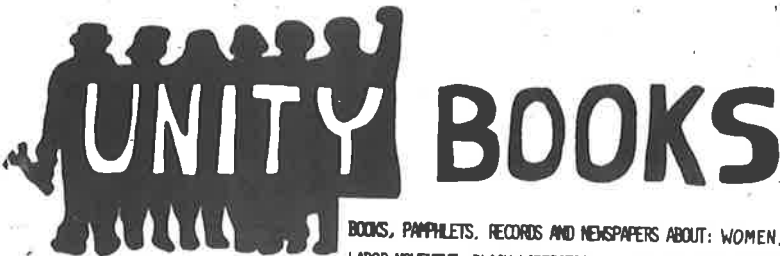
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1ST MEETING SEPT. 19 8PM 426 GRANT

ABORTION: Every Woman's Right

During the past several years, as a result of the economic crisis, there has been an increasing drive on the part of reactionary forces to deny the working class many of the gains which were made over the past decade of struggle. One of the major focuses of these attacks has been on the right of women to obtain a legal abortion, which was granted as a result of a Supreme Court ruling in January of 1973.

THE ANTI-ABORTION MOVEMENT

Since the time of this landmark decision that ruled that women had the right to decide whether or not to terminate a pregnancy, a small but powerful and outspoken anti-abortion movement has developed, mainly with the heavy financial backing of the Catholic Church. The largest organization representing this movement, the National Right-To-Life Committee, has conducted a well-organized, well-financed campaign opposing all abortion reform. It uses such tactics as deluging government representatives with letters stating their anti-abortion views, extensive lobbying and demonstrating, high-powered advertising campaigns to influence the public, and use of Church pulpits to expound their views to their Church membership (nonetheless, the majority of Catholics still support the right of a woman in consultation with her physician to make her own decision, according to Gallup Polls).

While approximately 85% of this organization's membership is Catholic, it maintains a strong alliance with other reactionary forces as well. A clear example of this is in Boston, where ROAR (Restore Our Alienated Rights), famous for its violent opposition to school desegregation, is one of the main forces in a strong local anti-abortion movement. These forces played a major role in the prosecution of Dr. Kenneth Edelin, a Black M. D., who was convicted of manslaughter for legally aborting a late-term fetus from a Black teenager.

This decision, which was a direct attack on the rights of women and national minorities, was made by an all-white jury including 10 Catholics and only 3 women out of twelve members. Although it is being appealed, the

effects of this decision have been felt throughout the country. The case of the "guilty" verdict is used as a means of intimidating other physicians and hospitals with the threat of similar legal actions.

'76 CAMPAIGN ISSUE

On the national level, these forces have forced the issue of abortion into a highlight of the presidential campaign and are pushing for a constitutional amendment to be passed through Congress, the only type of measure which would overrule the Supreme Court decision.

One proposed bill, a "states rights" amendment, supported by Ford, would return responsibility for abortion legality back to the generally more reactionary level of state control. Another type of bill, supported by Reagan, would declare the fetus to be a person from the moment of conception and would thus make abortion not only illegal --but would make it murder!

The other form of anti-abortion activity, supported by Carter, is the introduction of various restrictive measures on both state and national levels which limit the accessibility of abortion.

MYTH AND FACT

In the midst of this raging controversy, much confusion exists on the part of most people concerning issues surrounding abortion. In spite of this confusion, the overwhelming majority (64%) of the population supports the Supreme Court decision. What is myth and what is fact?

MYTH: *If available on demand, abortion will become a substitute for contraceptives as a method of birth control.*

FACT: Abortion is not a desirable method of birth control, and is not seen as such by the vast majority of those who advocate abortion rights. It is, in fact, only a stop-gap measure of last resort, which is necessary only because of the lack of accessibility, effectiveness, and medical safety of present-day contraceptives. No contraceptive method has been developed that is safe, convenient,

inexpensive, and 100% effective even if properly used. In fact, one out of every three couples practicing birth control will have an unplanned pregnancy within five years.

Furthermore, accessibility to contraceptive education and service is still extremely limited, particularly for working class, national minority and teenaged women. In fact, restrictive contraceptive laws still exist in many states!

NEED EXPANDED BIRTH CONTROL PROGRAM

In order to eliminate the need for abortion, positive measures requiring money, personnel, facilities and publicity for easily accessible, low cost birth control services, as well as new research into better techniques is needed. The People's Republic of China is an example of where the right to free abortion on demand is coupled with a positive program of dissemination of contraceptive information and devices. If a woman has an abortion, she then participates in an intensive birth control education program designed to insure that she will not need to return for another abortion.

MYTH: *Restrictive abortion laws help to curb excessive use of abortions.*

FACT: An estimated one million abortions were performed annually even before legalization. Statistics show that women who need abortions will get them by whatever means necessary -- the question is whether they will be safe, legal abortions performed by qualified personnel or illegal, dangerous ones performed by incompetent butchers, or by crude self-induced methods such as coat hangers.

In fact, botched abortions were the leading cause of death associated with pregnancy before legalization of abortion. Furthermore, during a three-year period 79% of New York City's abortion deaths occurred among national minority women. The abortion death rate was 4.7 times as high for Puerto Rican women, and eight times as high for Black women as for white women.

MINORITY WOMEN SUFFER

Meanwhile, 90% of the years' legal abortions were given to white women. Clearly where abortion was restricted or illegal, rich white women had access to safe abortions, while working class and national minority women had almost no access to information about legal or safe illegal abortion sources, nor to the money to pay the exorbitant charges involved.

However, even with the limited access to abortion existing now, striking changes have already occurred since legalization of abortion. During 1973, the first year that abortion was legal nationwide, there was a 40% drop in maternal mortality from abortions.

poor, reflecting the failure of public hospitals to provide abortion services to working class and national minority women.

RESTRICTIONS AFFECT THE POOR

This is mainly due to the various "restrictive measures" involved in abortion: "performance requirements" specifying when and where abortions are to take place, "consent laws" requiring parental or spousal consent, "conscience clauses" permitting hospitals to refuse the use of facilities for abortions; rules challenging whether Medicaid will pay for abortions; laws prohibiting Legal Services from handling abortion related cases.

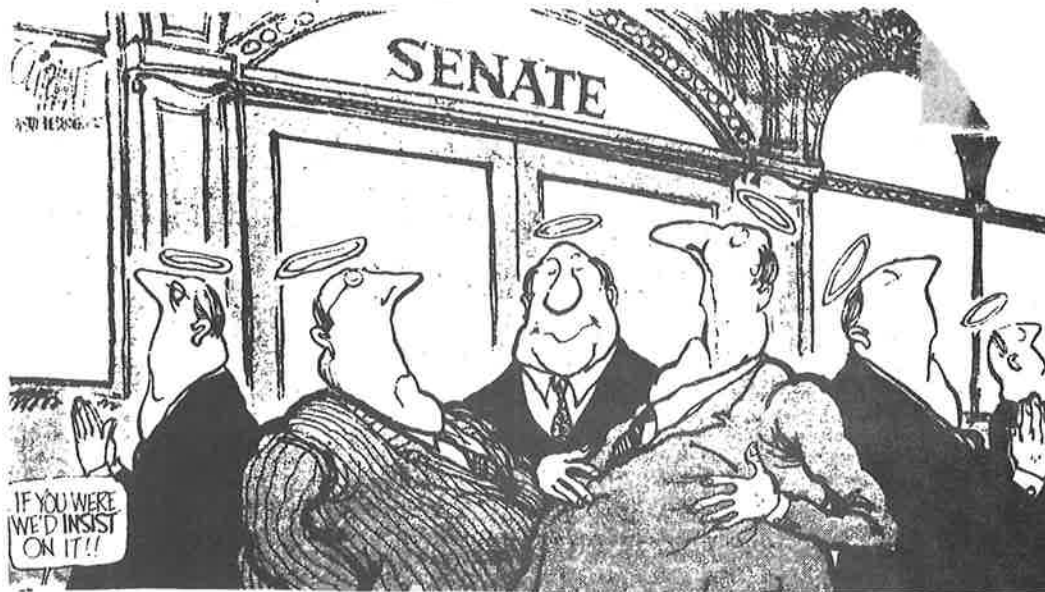
All of these restrict access to abortion, es-

propaganda, concerning population control and "decreasing the welfare rolls" are part of this policy.

The most vicious method presently being used against national minority women is that of forced sterilization as a condition for welfare benefits. The use of national minority women for experimental "guinea pigs" for new techniques (e.g. the pill) is likewise a racist policy in the use of birth control.

The working class movement must vehemently oppose all forms of coercion in birth control methods used by the US government against national minorities.

However, these facts cannot be confused and



'WELL, IF I WERE PREGNANT I CERTAINLY WOULDN'T HAVE AN ABORTION!'

During the first two years of New York's liberal statute, deaths from illegal abortions in New York City declined from an average of 23 to seven per year, while admissions to city hospitals for infected abortions declined drastically.

Furthermore, 70% of legal abortions have proven to be replacements of illegal ones, rather than abortions that would not otherwise have occurred.

MYTH: Abortion is now accessible to anyone as a result of the 1973 Supreme Court decision.

FACT: A 1974 survey showed that a full year after legalization, only 30-50% of women who needed abortions were able to obtain them. Only 15% of public hospitals reported even one abortion, while non-hospital clinics provided more than half of all abortions. Of the estimated 400-900,000 women unable to obtain abortions, about half were

especially for working class and national minority women, and will involve major court decisions to overrule. These, combined with the still often exorbitant cost of abortion and the reactionary atmosphere of intimidation, combine to make abortion practically unavailable to the majority of women in need of abortion.

MYTH: National minorities should oppose legalization of abortion as a form of genocide.

RACISM AND BIRTH CONTROL POLICIES

FACT: It is true that the US government is attempting to use certain forms of birth control as its answer to dealing with problems of poverty and unemployment, as well as problems of rebellion and revolution both in the US and abroad. Various forms of racist

result in a denial of the right of national minority women to the use of contraceptives and voluntary legal safe abortion, in order that they can freely determine when to have or not to have children. It is prly by access to these measures that the vicious discriminatory abuses sighted earlier in this article will be eliminated.

WORKING CLASS STAKE IN WOMEN'S RIGHT TO ABORTION

In view of these facts, what should be the approach of the working class movement towards the issue of abortion?

As is the policy in all socialist countries, we should fight for the right to free or low-cost abortion on demand, combined with a positive program for education on and development of contraceptive methods, accessible at low cost to all women. This is the only method by which we can guarantee the right of every woman to determine the size of her family and the role which she will play in society as a whole.



PUERTO RICO - THE FACTS (1ST IN A SERIES)

Most North Americans, when they think about Puerto Rico, think of the beaches, big hotels and palm trees. The TV ads portray Puerto Rico as a happy paradise for North American tourists. But when monopoly corporations in the U.S. think about Puerto Rico, they think in dollar signs. For them, Puerto Rico is a paradise of cheap labor, low taxes and super-profits. And as a result, Puerto Rico is a place where the masses of the Puerto Rican people can barely survive and are forced to emigrate by the thousands to the mainland, where they face continued exploitation in the barrios and the factories. The following facts show the real picture:

1. The amount of investment in Puerto Rico is about 13 billion dollars, an increase of 768% since 1960. This investment represents 5.5% of the total U.S. investment in the world. Only Canada, the United Kingdom and West Germany have greater U.S. investments. More capital is invested in Puerto Rico than in the whole of Africa.
2. In 1960, the total profits from U.S. investment in Puerto Rico was 115.7 million dollars. In 1974 it was \$1,345 million. Puerto Rico produces more profits for U.S. monopolies than all the Common Market countries combined, and four times as much as Japan. 10% of the total profits from U.S. foreign investment comes from Puerto Rico. Canada, with 4½ times the amount of foreign investment, produces approximately the same amount of profits for U.S. companies. The rate of profit in Canada is 3.6%; in Puerto Rico, it is 16.3%
3. Puerto Rico is the fifth largest market in the world for goods and services produced in the U.S. It is second only to Canada in this hemisphere. In per capita, it is the highest in the world.
4. The average industrial worker in Puerto Rico makes slightly more than 1/3 of the average blue collar worker in the U.S., yet the cost of living is 25% higher on the island than in the U.S.
5. Food prices are 23% higher than they are in the U.S.
6. Unemployment in Puerto Rico is 40%.
7. Over 10% of the arable land in Puerto Rico is devoted to U.S. military bases.
8. A U.S. government "population control" program has sterilized 32% of Puerto Rican women of reproductive age.
9. Over 2 million Puerto Ricans have emigrated to the U.S. That represents 40% of the population of Puerto Rico.



10. The U.S. has militarily occupied Puerto Rico since 1898.

11. Puerto Ricans drafted into the U.S. military bore the highest percentage of casualties in the Vietnam conflict.

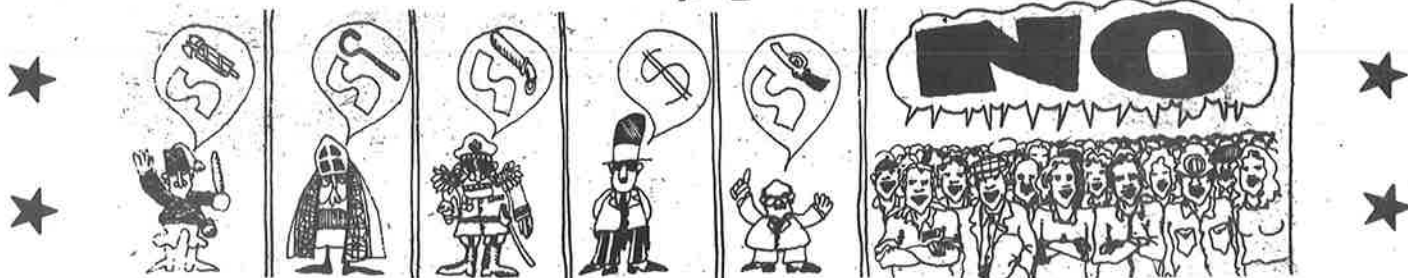
The colonial domination by the U.S. has meant the destruction of the indigenous Puerto Rican economy. There is virtually no national bourgeoisie. 85% of the investment in Puerto Rico is made by foreign capital. 85% of the industries and 40% of the agricultural production is controlled by North American capital.

Though Puerto Rico is a tropical country, agricultural production since World War II has been systematically destroyed. The central mountains, once covered with coffee plantations, now grow wild and untended. Sugar production has been declining and the government sugar corporation has consistently been losing money. Production of tobacco and pineapple has been almost completely ruined. Rice, a staple of the Puerto Rican diet, is no longer produced at all on the island. On the other hand, 90% of the California rice crop is sold to Puerto Rico. Several years ago, there was a project to revive rice production. The California growers lowered their prices, and ruined the Puerto Rican farmers.

The major industries on the island- petrochemicals, pharmaceuticals; electronics and textiles- all are owned by North Americans, and all are export-oriented. Corco, a huge oil refinery near Ponce, Puerto Rico, refines South American oil exclusively for American markets. Puerto Rico must import all of its oil and gas from the mainland. That is why it is said, "Puerto Rico imports everything it consumes and exports everything it produces."

The economic crisis that hit the U.S. in 1975 has been felt more intensely in Puerto Rico and the situation has continued to deteriorate. Over 2/3 of the Island's population receives food stamps, and the U.S. government is increasingly subsidizing the Island's municipal budgets. At this point, the costs of social services exceeds the amount of profits from the Island. It must be remembered that these costs are born by the American taxpayer, and not the corporations. Corporate taxes constitute only 18% of the federal government's income. In effect, the American working class is subsidizing the American corporations doing business in Puerto Rico.

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THE KU KLUX KLAN IN BUFFALO

On Friday, March 11, 1977, at the Airways Motel on Genesee Street, David Duke, a nationally prominent leader of the Ku Klux Klan, spoke to 78 people assembled from the Western New York area as well as from Mississippi, Tennessee, Toronto, Ontario and Quebec. The crowd, all white and predominantly male, was composed of a mixture of the very old and the young (15-20 years old), with very few middle-aged people present. The KKK locally is trying to pose as a "rights for whites" group, using the current economic crisis and its attacks on all working people as a platform to channel the just anger of white working people into a racist/white supremacist framework. This was the first major meeting by the local KKK to consolidate an organization in Western New York. They have formed the White Unity Party (WUP), a front group, and are attempting to run a mayoral candidate in this Fall's election. With all their rhetoric about being the friends of white people, they cannot hide the fact that they are a racist and pro-fascist terrorist organization to the core. Not only do they have a long history of cowardly anti-black terror, but they have also been consistently anti-Catholic, anti-union, anti-women and anti-semitic.

A SHORT HISTORY

The KKK was formed just after the Civil War by former Confederate officers backed by large plantation owners. Their first leader, Nathan Bedford Forrest, was a former slave trader and infamous for his cruelty during the war. They conducted a reign of terror - lynchings, rapes, castrations, torture - not only against the newly-freed Blacks, but against poor white as well. Then, as now, one of their special targets was education. They burned schools all over the South. The KKK was a major force in destroying the democratic innovations of the reconstruction era, in establishing "Jim Crow" laws and in instituting a reign of lynch terror that has continued to the present.

After World War I, the KKK expanded outside the South. They continued their racist terrorism, lynching Black veterans just back from France, and fomenting race riots in a number of cities. Their anti-Catholic and anti-Semitic activity grew. Violently anti-union, the KKK was a willing tool of the big industrialist. In Detroit, and in the coalfields, they beat and murdered union organizers. During World War II, the KKK was even pro-Nazi.

In response to the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960's, the KKK's activity increased drastically. They burned and bombed churches, homes, schools and newspapers. They beat, shot at and killed civil rights workers, voter registration officials and union leaders, both Black and White.

Today the Klan's underhanded and violent activities continue. They feed on sensitive issues and real fears to organize violence and propagate their racist/white supremacist ideologies. A good example of this is in Boston, Mass. After trouble broke out over court ordered bussing, the KKK moved in. Posing as sincere anti-bussing forces, they organized racist attacks and vigilante violence. And where has this led? To violence in the schools and killings in the community. They have organized similar incidents in Louisville, Chicago, among prison guards and prisoners, and

even within the U.S. Marine Corps at Camp Pendleton, California. This is what the bogus WUP and the KKK threaten to bring to Buffalo.

LOCAL ORGANIZING EFFORTS

The local fascists have their roots in Buffalo prior to WWII, where such an organization as the German-American Bund on Genesee Street held mass rallies in support of Hitler and Fascism. Squelched by the anti-fascist actions of the American people during WWII, the seeds of fascism did not sprout again until after the war with the onslaught of McCarthyism. The student confrontations of the 60's and early 70's brought new life to reactionaries of all stripes as progressive students were attacked by small fascist gangs. Of course, the racist onslaught against Blacks never discontinued throughout these periods. The leadership of the local Klan: Karl Hand, Wayne Whiteside and Ted Symczak, all participated in the start of a White Power bookstore on Bailey Avenue under the auspices of the National Socialist White People's party, aka Nazis. They were severely routed from the Bailey area, their bookstore trashed, and their organization made a shambles. They themselves left the Nazis, viewing them as un-American and a foreign organization to the U.S. Thus, only after a solid defeat on one front, they have now launched a new campaign, with the "more American" KKK. They are trying now to sell the KKK as the white man's last hope, as "American" as apple pie. Our previous historical summation addresses exactly what the KKK is - an enemy of all working people.



THEIR FRONT - THE WHITE UNITY PARTY

The KKK locally has focussed its efforts legally in the Mayoral race with the WUP and its mayoral candidate, Wayne Whiteside, a tall, ugly and unsuccessful Genesee Street gasoline station manager. They have held a few meetings to build support for the campaign - one being a cocktail fund-raiser held at the Plewacki Post of the American Legion, with 63 supporters in attendance, including visitors from Toronto (The Western Guard Party). Recently, their petitions for the mayoral race were refused. They were not capable of obtaining the signatures of 57 registered conservatives, so they will not be in the primaries in the fall. Both the Courier and Evening News have given them good press. They have produced Whiteside for Mayor bumper stickers, scrawled racist and KKK slogans (predominantly in the Bailey, Genesee and South Buffalo areas) and have done a little wheat pasting with KKK recruitment posters. Also, they produce a bi-monthly newsletter (paid, security-cleared subscription only) called the Shield and the Eagle, where they propagate their racist filth. There have also been numerous attacks on individual Black families, children, and progressives that can be directly attributed to the locals over the past year.

At a time when all working people are affected by an economic crisis characterized by inflation, chronic unemployment, cutbacks in education, health care and social services, the KKK offers no solution - only hate. They provide a cover for the monopoly capitalist class and try to direct the wrath of white working people against minorities, posing Blacks as the source of our city's problems, and not capitalism. They also provide fertile ground for recruitment on the part of the state to attack progressive organizations. Recently through a Freedom of Information Act suit filed by one of our members, we have found that the FBI has used the services of one James Easton, a worker at New York Telephone and a well-known right winger for surveillance activities against the Buffalo left. We have to stand united to oppose the KKK in Buffalo. They are an arm of the ruling class, directly tied to its repressive state apparatus.

WHAT WILL BE DONE

Unlike many milksop liberals in our community and social pacifists, the BWM does not support the constitutional rights of the KKK. They should be opposed forcefully wherever they are met - such as the trashing of their recent rally in Columbus, Ohio. We will not tolerate the distribution of racist filth and hatred in our neighborhoods. When Whiteside and his WUP creeps come out in the open in their mayoral campaign, we need to build unity across ethnic, racial and sexual lines and oppose them in the most vigorous fashion possible. The only way to stop them is to oppose them now. Haphazardly, at the last moment before Duke's last visit, the BWM called together a coalition to oppose the KKK. We will be making the call again soon to all progressives in Buffalo. This time we'll be prepared for them.



SMASH THE KLAN!

FIGHT RACISM AND FASCISM!



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WILFRED BURCHETT TO SPEAK IN BUFFALO

One of the great journalists and war correspondents of our era will be making his first speaking tour of the U.S. He is Wilfred Burchett, author of thousands of articles and books on contemporary political topics published in more than two dozen languages. Burchett will be coming to Buffalo in late October or early November, sponsored by the Buffalo Workers Movement.



Burchett, whose writings on the Vietnam War for the Guardian Weekly (for which he still writes exclusively in North America) have had a profound effect on the development of the antiwar movement in this country, has never before spoken on a U.S. lecture tour, although his written words have had an audience here of hundreds of thousands, and tens of millions around the world.

An Australian, Burchett began his journalistic career during the 1930's covering the China-Japanese war for such authoritative publications as the London Times. He was the first Western journalist in Hiroshima after the A-bomb attack; he was stationed in North Korea throughout much of the Korean war (causing the Australian government to deny him a passport for two decades); he met Ho Chi Minh during

the battle of Dien Bien Phu; was stationed subsequently in the USSR, Cambodia, Algeria, and in many other countries until the early 1960's, when he was the first journalist to report from the liberated zones of South Vietnam. (In hundreds of articles and several books, he predicted the precise outcome of the Vietnam War almost 15 years before the US was forced to withdraw.)

In more recent years, Burchett has reported from China (about which he recently published another book), reunified Vietnam (the subject of his most recent book, "Grashoppers and Elephants"), Portugal, the Middle East, Mozambique, Angola, Japan, North Korea, and Laos. Due to his recent in-depth reporting from southern Africa, he is specially prepared to discuss that region.

Although the subject of a virtual blackout in the US press because of his progressive reporting, it is fair to characterize Burchett as quite probably the most traveled, best known, and widely published foreign correspondent in the English language active today. Throughout his career he has spoken with many heads of state, innumerable foreign ministers (including former Sec. of State Kissinger) and the leaders of virtually every important national liberation movement in the last 30 years. In this regard he is the biographer of Norodom Sihanouk and Ho Chi Minh and his conversations with Chou En-Lai have provided insights into the former Chinese leader.

In sum, few - if any - people in the world today can speak on international affairs with the authority and first-hand knowledge of Wilfred Burchett. If you would like to assist us in setting up this important speaking engagement, contact the BWM at P.O. Box 6, Station G, Buffalo, N.Y. 14213, or call 882-8232 between 6 & 9 P.M.



VISITORS FROM ANOTHER PLANET?

COMIC RELIEF COLUMN

THE COUSML

Recently Unity Books has received a good deal of grief from the police at precinct 5 and some of our own neighbors on Grant Street. The focus of their wrath was the hundreds of posters that have been plastered throughout the City of Buffalo by the Central Organization of United States Marxist-Leninists (COUSML) - a local sect of confused and frustrated petty bourgeois intellectuals. We're being blamed for the postering. The posters are of Mao and Enver Hoxha, with another "hailing" a report on Albania urging all interested to migrate to Montreal. In their own demented way, the COUSMLites view their "glorious" postering campaigns as a method to bring Marxism-Leninism to the masses. Dogmatism and its sect builders such as the COUSMLites have nothing in common with honest Marxist-Leninists. Their "leftist" phraseology and monkish devotion are no more than a cover for the results of their presence



in our movement - anti-communism. They should be exposed as the parasites that they are.

THE OL

Recently the October League (O.L.) renamed itself. It has proclaimed itself the new Communist Party Marxist-Leninist (CP-ML). A party by declaration was the predictable outcome of the O.L.'s past party building effort. Proclaiming themselves as the center and leadership of the working class has not changed the sectarianism and isolation of the OL one iota. It is obvious that the recent party declaration by the OL will only serve to enhance and stratify their "development" as a sect in our movement. See you later, OL.



We Demand Justice

FREE NARCISO AND PEREZ

TO: Judge Philip Pratt
Detroit, Michigan



Filipina Narciso

Leonora Perez

We believe that Filipina Narciso and Leonora Perez have been unjustly convicted of charges stemming from the series of mysterious breathing failures at the Ann Arbor Veterans Administration Hospital.

These innocent nurses have been the target of harassment by investigation authorities ever since the incidents occurred. The withholding and tampering of evidence by the prosecution — which only topped the list in a long series of irregularities throughout the investigation and prosecution — marred the ability of Narciso and Perez to receive a fair trial. The prosecution has provided no eyewitness; no direct evidence connecting them to the crime; and no motive to explain why these nurses would commit such actions.

We must presume these nurses are innocent until **proven guilty**. And throughout this long trial, the scanty "evidence" presented has never established their guilt. Under these circumstances, we can only assume that Narciso and Perez have been convicted because of prejudice against their nationality.

We the undersigned, demand that in the interests of justice, their conviction be overturned and that a new trial be held for Narciso and Perez. We are convinced that with a new day in court, these nurses will be rightfully acquitted of all charges.

	NAME (please print)	ADDRESS	PHONE
1.	_____	_____	_____
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Please send these petitions as soon as possible to:
Buffalo Workers Movement PO Box 6 Station G Buffalo, N.Y. 14213



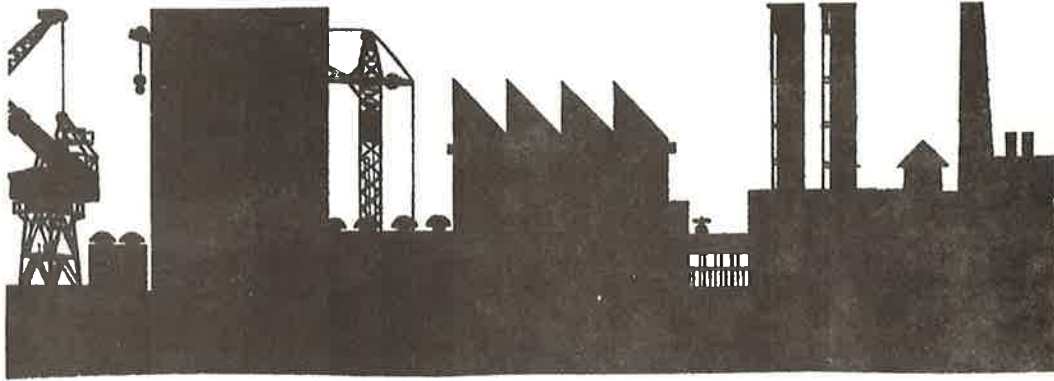
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AVAILABLE IN SEPTEMBER

THE WORKING PAPERS OF THE BUFFALO WORKERS MOVEMENT

If you are interested in the political activities of the Buffalo Workers Movement and our perspectives on such issues as womens oppression, trade unions, national oppression, party building and the international situation plus other major issues, our working papers will be published in September. Write for these at BWM-P.O. Box 6 Station G, Buffalo, N.Y. 14213 or call 882-8232, 6 to 9 P.M. weekdays. Give us your address or phone number if you have one and we will contact you.

Labor Round-up



★ FROM THE NEWSLETTER OF BUFFALO WORKERS MOVEMENT



The labor round-up is a bi-monthly feature of news and commentary on the struggle of Buffalo's working people. This column is produced by a joint effort of the Buffalo Workers Movement and worker correspondents who are either in the shops or by friends who are close to the shop struggle. We want to utilize our resources and through a unified effort stimulate and strengthen the growing militancy of our rank and file movement in the workplace.

We think that the bulk of the trade unions in the U.S. have to be rebuilt from the bottom up. At present they are dominated by bureaucrats that do not fight for the needs of their members but instead co-operate with big business, the bosses and government to stifle labor militancy. Labor mis-leaders such as Meany, Fitzsimmons, Lloyd McBride and locally George Wessel are typical of these business unionists. Their weak-kneed, collaborationist

approach to trade unionism is the reason why our unions are in the deplorable condition they are today--losing membership with only 26% of all workers organized. Women and minorities face discrimination and are forced to take the lowest paying jobs daily without an adequate response from our unions. Unemployment for these sectors are in the double figures. Speed-ups, forced overtime, lay-offs, runaway shops, declining wages, coupled with rampant inflation are the order of the day, and the "misleaders" sit on their hands and "hope" for a change in the economy, channeling labor's militancy into endless lobbying efforts, pressuring politicians who are controlled by the wealthy in the U.S. . We think that this approach to struggle within the trade union movement has to change, and it's up to us militants in the shops to do it. This sorry situation in our movement has brought us to the state we're in. We can't even defend our basic livelihood as well as take the offensive against the forces of capital. We have to remember that monied interests in our country are united in their efforts to take as much from our labor in the form of profits as possible. It is for this reason that we work for a united workers movement that has as its foundation strong and fighting trade unions.

We work to build a strong trade union movement. The trade unions that we work in are our major organizations of defense from the onslaughts of the current economic crisis. But they should not be limited to the position of purely defensive organizations. They must be forged into instruments that take the offensive - that not only fight for our day to day interests - they have to fight for our futures. To do this, we must fight class against class, that is the interests of working people versus the interests of corporate bosses. Then we will build a trade union movement that fights in the real interests of

all working people. The thrust of our fight has to be aimed directly at the capitalist class for us to win. But to achieve class struggle unionism, we have to rid ourselves of the excess baggage of labor bureaucrats, racism, sexism and

(continued on page 4)

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★ J P STEVENS BOYCOTT

★ TEAMSTER RANK & FILERS ORGANIZE

★ BETHLEHEM STEALS 3500 JOBS

CETA WORKERS UNIONIZE

The CETA program in Buffalo continues to be the focal point of much activity. The major thrust of CETA's rank-and-file organization, the CETA Workers Organizing Committee, has concerned its active involvement in the city's mayoral race, a task which has been carried out in conjunction with its efforts to unionize Buffalo area CETA workers. In this process, CETA workers are gaining invaluable organizational experience and political sophistication.

In the past few months, CETAWOC has been bringing the deficiencies and corruption of the CETA program before the public as a campaign issue. This was done with radio and TV shows, letters to Buffalo's capitalist press, leafletting and the sponsoring last July of an open mayoral candidates night at which four of the city's announced candidates made on-the-record statements of their intentions for the CETA program and heard, firsthand, the complaints of CETA workers. In late August, CETAWOC released a statement of support for one of the candidates, left-Democrat Assemblyman Arthur Eve, saying he shows the "best perspective on the problems of CETA workers and the potential of the CETA program in the revitalization of Buffalo." Eve, currently the leader of the Black-Puerto Rican Caucus in the State Assembly, is best known for his commitment to affirmative action and his support for the Attica Brothers and other political prisoners.

The continuing effort to build a strong and progressive union of CETA workers, led by CETAWOC, has taken a qualitative step forward with the decision by Council 66 of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) to provide active support. AFSCME is the fastest growing public employee union in the country and has a reputation for decentralization and rank-and-file democracy. Sometime soon, the 450 strong PAL sector of the CETA program will vote on a merger with AFSCME that could lead to the foundation of the first union local entirely made up of CETA workers in the country. This would provide a great boost to the organizing of Title I CETA workers as well as those employed in city and county white and blue collar departments. This effort was aided by the political campaign work in that it created a wider awareness of the need for change in the CETA program, caused some of the leading mayoral hopefuls to go on record supporting unionization and brought new rank-and-file workers into the forefront of the work.

The work of CETAWOC, although occasionally spotty and inconsistent, is progressing well. The odds continue to be high but the stakes - the organization of workers previously thought to be 'unorganizable' and their participation in planning and running publicly-funded local programs that should, but rarely do, serve the needs of the

people - are higher. And the work of the past few months has reduced the odds and brought CETA workers that much closer to the goal.



THE SITUATION AT TRICO

NO UNION AT TRICO YET

On May 19, 1977, the rank-and-file of the Trico Corp., by a slim margin, voted in the U.A.W. to represent them. According to the Taft-Hartley Act, the existing union, Trico Workers Union Independent (TWUI) has the right to challenge the election. This action has left 2,300 workers without a union or a contract.



POOR TRADE UNION APPROACH

The majority of the workers believed that once elected, the U.A.W. would represent them. Such is not the case. As of June 26th, the existing contract expired. The TWUI first filed charges against the NLRB for misconduct in the election. This process of deliberation and legal proceedings can take "up to a year or two", according to a U.A.W. official. Assuming the U.A.W. wins, it will take "another year or so" to gain legal certification to represent the production rank-and-file. Finally, there would be the negotiations for a contract which could take up to another year. This whole process would take up to 4 or 5 years to complete.

THE BOSSES PROFIT

The company is the main profitter of the prolonged fighting for union representation. They haven't had to pay any increases in wages, cost of living, or extended benefits. As a result, the company has been reaping well over 50% more profit compared to last year at the same time. With the use of forced overtime and speed-up, the company has accumulated a large stockpile of products. Now they have the upper hand. They are capable of laying off workers and further speeding up the rest. Increases in injuries have resulted from speed-up. Morale of the workers has never been lower. Technically, there are no union representatives or bargaining agents. The old contract still exists as "past practices", but there is no



means of enforcement through a recognized union. A union does not exist at Trico which leaves the workers defenseless.

The greedy opportunists of the T.W.U.I. are benefitting from the lack of a union. A so-called member of the board of directors is now a tool and die maker. Strong U.A.W. members have been offered company jobs and promotion. Some have refused; some have accepted. T.W.U.I. officials, like rats jumping from a sinking ship, are suspected of removing large amounts of money from the treasury. The U.A.W. is not without fault. They have discouraged any organization from being formed by the rank-and-file. They have held only irregular meetings with no information about what's happening now. U.A.W. members haven't leafletted the gates, and especially they haven't represented themselves on the shop floors.

WHAT CAN BE DONE NOW ?

What can be done now...

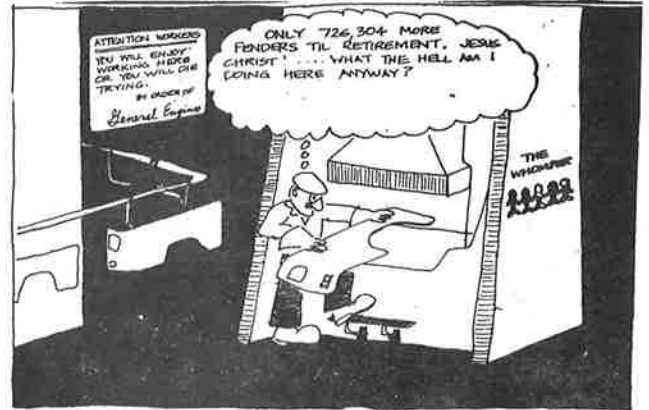
1. Trico workers have to produce reliable information about all aspects of the current struggle. This includes work grievances, NLRB hearings, investigation of T.W.U.I. funds.
2. The workers have to unite and form one strong union.
3. Write local and international representatives to pressure them into positive, immediate action to bring U.A.W. to Trico now.
4. More inter-plant communication among workers.
5. Be aware, organize, continue to fight for what we believe in - a united union.



THE SHENANGO STEEL STRIKE

Local 6372 of the United Steelworkers of America were on strike for over five weeks against one of the most reactionary iron and steel companies in the U.S., Shenango, Inc. Shenango (with its 4 plants, including the Buffalo Works on Fuhrmann Boulevard across from Bethlehem Steel) is the only company in the national basic-steel contract that has held up paying wage increases due May 1st under the new national basic-steel contract. This weakened contract, which was negotiated without the threat of USW workers going on strike, provides for less than 6% wage increase per contract year. It seems that Shenango is the national company being used to test the remaining strength and solidarity of the steelworkers who have already lost their right-to-strike through the so-called Experimental Negotiating Agreement, negotiated by the "business unionist" I.W. Abel before he left office.

In addition, the Shenango workers of Local 6372, U.S.W., were striking along with 21,000 other workers in iron ore fields and other basic steel plants to enforce local working conditions, work rule violations, local grievances and benefits. These working conditions have been the result of life and death struggles over plant safety and health and are really de-emphasized by the collaborationist USW leadership. But since the militant steelworkers movement behind Ed Sadlowski, who ran against the established candidate, Lloyd McBride, almost brought in new leadership (and still might), into the international, the current USW bureaucrats have been forced to



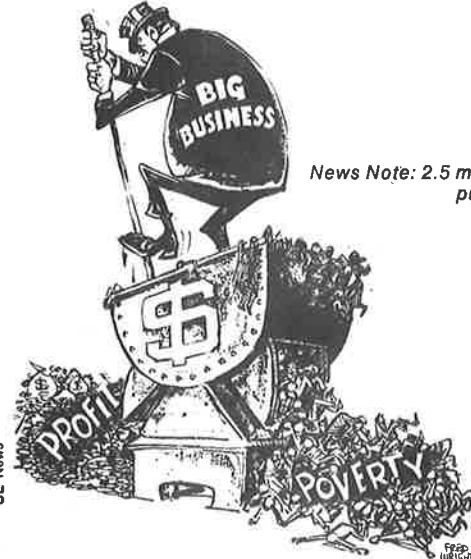
utilize an effective tool of class-struggle unionism, the industry-wide strike. It is only when the workers of all the national iron and steel foundries and iron fields hit the bricks over their local working conditions can they hope to win against large multinational corporations.

In their fight against Shenango, the 220 workers here and the workers of the three other plants in Sharpville and Neville, Pennsylvania have forced the company to distribute the Supplemental Unemployment Benefits (SUB) and the Savings Vacation Plan (SVP) through a common fund covering all four plants.

The Shenango workers have been militant in support of their strike in Buffalo. Over 100-strong, they turned out to stop a scab truck from attempting to haul finished steel from the main plant. They also halted their proposed back to work contract vote, when some of the mechanics learned the company was rewriting the contract-negotiated work rules. Shenango was again forced to back down from their blatant violations of the contract.

Now that Shenango workers are back to work, we all know they they must continue the struggle. Grievances are a daily fact of life in Buffalo's workshops, especially at Shenango where the company will be trying to recoup its losses to the union.

**ALL SUPPORT TO THE SHENANGO WORKERS !
CONTINUE THE FIGHT ON THE SHOP FLOOR !
POWER TO ALL IRON AND STEEL WORKERS !**



News Note: 2.5 million more people in U.S.A. pushed into poverty last year.

UE News

THE J. P. STEVENS BOYCOTT

TEXTILES CAN'T ESCAPE NEW UNIONISM

A unionizing effort by the ACTWU has been going on for 14 years at JP Stevens. JP Stevens is the second largest textile manufacturing corporation in America. It has 85 plants, mostly located in the South, and employs 46,000 workers. JP Stevens is the number 1 labor law breaker in the country. It has been found guilty of violating the National Labor Relations Act 15 times. Stevens has a blatant record of discrimination in employment practices. A breakdown of the company employment by sex and race shows that Black men and women are concentrated in the lower skilled blue-collar jobs while White women are similarly restricted. For example Blacks make up 20% of the company's work force but they have only 3% of the white-collar jobs. Blacks comprise 23% of the blue-collar employees and 56% of the service workers. Among the blue collar workers the skilled craft jobs are largely confined to Whites, with Blacks accounting for only 7% of the jobs. On the other hand Blacks occupy 38% of the unskilled laboring jobs. Women at Stevens comprise 87% of the low paying office clerical workers. Stevens in a racist and sexist fashion has spread rumors that the unionization effort taking place will mean a Black takeover thus using its own racist hiring practices tax as an attempt to divide the workforce and stifle unionization.



Working conditions at Stevens plants are atrocious with thousands of workers being disabled by byssinosis, (brown lung), caused by cotton dust levels almost three times as high as national minimum health standards allow. Wages are 31% below the average national factory wage. Stevens has also been guilty of tax evasion, price fixing and out of plant surveillance of union activists.

During the organizing effort Stevens has fired hundreds of union organizers and sympathizers. Despite these tactics, in 1974, 3500 workers in Roanoke Rapids, South Carolina voted to be represented by the ACTWU. The company has stalled in negotiations since then.

Similar to the Farah boycott in 1974 the ACTWU has launched a boycott of Stevens products to force recognition of the union and bargain with them fairly. At the present time through its economic power Stevens has been able to hold off unionization. The boycott on a national scale has to escalate.



BOYCOTT ACTIVITIES LOCALLY

Buffalo workers have a special interest in the Stevens boycott. In the past 15 years we have lost thousands of jobs by industry packing its bags and moving to the non-unionized South. Stevens is one of the bulwarks of non-union shops of the South. A victory in the unionization effort would be a victory for all workers. The boycott activity locally was initiated by the ACTWU and the AFL-CIO council. In May there was a showing of the film Testimony which portrays the Stevens workers struggle for justice. Local bureaucrats including George Wessel from the AFL-CIO council and others from ACTWU were on hand to shake hands, make speeches and act like, "progressive unionists". Since that time they have dragged their feet and stifled boycott activities. Many workers volunteered to assist in boycott activities but they have not been contacted or mobilized until the AFL-CIO's "Full Employment Week" where sporadic leafleting has been organized.

STEVENS PRODUCTS TO BOYCOTT

SHEETS & PILLOWCASES Beauti-Blend Beauticale Fine Arts Peanuts (Comic strip) Tastemaker Utica Utica & Mohawk	DRAPERIES J.P. Stevens MOSIERY Finesse Hip-Lets Spirit TOWELS Fine Arts Tastemaker Utica	WOOLENS & WORSTED FABRICS Boldeena Forstmann Hockanum Worumbo CARPETS Contender Gullistan Merryweather Tastemaker	SYNTHETICS & TABLE LINEN BLEND FABRICS Simtex Blen Tempo Coachman Consort Carousel Gesture Stevetex 20 Below Lady Consort Windsheer Linebacker Waftamatic (cotton-nylon knit)	COTTON FABRICS Academy Lady Twist Twill Twist Twill SLIPPERS Always in Step
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The bureaucrats have refused to single out specific retailers locally as boycott targets because of a recent court decision against the Mississippi NAACP for secondary boycotts. The NAACP was fined 1.5 million dollars for a general boycott of White owned businesses in a small Mississippi town. Until this court decision is reversed the bureaucrats refuse to target specific businesses that deal in Stevens' goods. They could get around this legally by not using the word boycott in their activities, but they refuse to seize the initiative. The basic underlying factor is the class collaboration of the union bureaucrats. They believe that labor and business have similar interests and they refuse to endanger this "friendship". It is this collaborationist approach and their fetish with legalism that has stifled the local boycott activities and must be overcome for an effective boycott of JP Stevens products locally

(Labor Round-Up opening statement cont. from L O) collaborationist trade unionism.

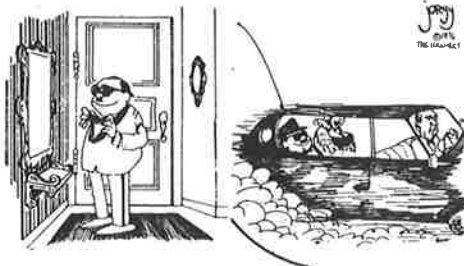
We present this round up to you from this class point of view,-the view of the working class. We see our tasks as getting news and information about working people in Buffalo as a way to help unify and focus the struggles of working people in this city. We will utilize our newsletter for these purposes. We encourage your response and input.

Drop in and see us at our storefront at 426 Grant St.. We are open weekdays from 6 to 9 P.M. and our phone number is 882-8232. If you have an article that you would like to put in the labor round-up, contact us or sent it to ; Buffalo Workers Movement, P.O. Box 6, Station G, Buffalo, N.Y. 14213.

SUPPORT THE J.P. STEVENS BOYCOTT



**TEAMSTERS FOR A
DEMOCRATIC UNION**



**BUILD A NATIONAL
RANK & FILE
ORGANIZATION**



On September 24 and 25 in Cleveland, Ohio, rank and file Teamsters from all over the United States will be meeting to chart a path to rebuild the Teamsters Union, one of the most undemocratic and corrupt unions in the United States. A key factor in the struggle is a consistent fight against the entrenched Teamster bureaucracy. As an example of a labor bureaucrat, Frank E. Fitzsimmons, Teamster President, is hard to match. Access to multiple Teamster payrolls and expense accounts has made "Fitz" a wealthy man, along with his 15 vice-presidents of whom many are known gangsters, at union members expense. Fitz has 3 homes: among them a condominium in Florida and a \$270,000 spread in Southern California with a golf course in the front yard. He enjoys the personal use of a 3.5 million dollar jet; and once dispatched it from Palm Springs, Calif. to Washington, D.C. just to fetch his golf clubs. It is these and many other abuses that rank and file Teamsters are struggling against to earn a decent living and rebuild their union. The convention in Cleveland will chart a fighting path within the Teamsters Union. If you are a Teamster and interested in attending the convention contact 882-8232 weeknights between 6 and 9pm. In the next newsletter of the BWM we will have a complete report on the convention.



BUILD A DEMOCRATIC UNION

BETHLEHEM STEALS 3500 JOBS FROM WNY



Before we demand that Congress protect our industry against cheap foreign imports manufactured at slave-labor wages, I'd like to remind you, sir, that WE own 67% of those foreign factories!"

The Lackawanna plant of Bethlehem Steel announced on August 18th they were reducing basic steel production by more than 40%. By the end of 1977, Bethlehem told United Steel Workers Union representatives the company will phase out 5 coke oven batteries, 4 blast furnaces, 1 basic oxygen furnace, the 54", 38", 40" and the 32" bar mills and the hot strip mill. This cutback means a loss of 3500 jobs and a \$71 million cut in this area's payroll. The impact of the loss will be felt in the tottering WNY economy to an even greater extent. For every dollar loss in take-home pay, most economists estimate two to three dollars drop out of the local economy. The severity of these cutbacks will hit the unskilled and young workers first, especially national minority workers-Black, Latin and Arab people.

WHAT ARE THE COMPANY'S REASONS FOR THE LAYOFFS

Bethlehem officials list three reasons for the major cutbacks:

1. Foreign exports of steel are being dumped on the domestic market by more than 40% of the total steel consumption this year.
2. Bethlehem claims that it has spent over \$50 million on water and air pollution controls over the last four years. Bethlehem threatens to leave the area.
3. Bethlehem also claims that N.Y. State taxes are so expensive several times.

In response to this carefully orchestrated blame-laying by Bethlehem (USWA) has tailed in behind the company international president of the USWA, emphasize the seriousness of the pro-of steel imports...our domestic steel at whatever price it takes to have been no demands to control the vestigate the financial records of edmonopolies in the US. The USWA, corporations' mouthing of how foreign

the United Steel Workers of America and their claims. Lloyd McBride, said on Aug. 25th, "I cannot over-blem caused by the increased flood market is at the mercy of foreign keep their mills operating." There steel price increases, or to in- perhaps on of the most poorly operat- instead, stands behind the steel steel guts out "our market."



causing unfair competition to US may be purchased from abroad. over \$50 million on water and air years. Pollution standards must be re the area. State and local taxes are so expensive several times. orchestrated blame-laying by Bethlehem (USWA) has tailed in behind the company international president of the USWA, emphasize the seriousness of the pro-of steel imports...our domestic steel at whatever price it takes to have been no demands to control the vestigate the financial records of edmonopolies in the US. The USWA, corporations' mouthing of how foreign

The political forces of WNY have also chimed in on blaming foreign imports as the cause of Bethlehem's layoffs. Javits, who was 'shocked' to learn of the cutbacks during his trip abroad, proposed to reduce pressure from foreign corporations through tariff controls which he calls, "multilateral trade negotiations" Kemp and Nowak, supposedly from different political parties both maintain that tax relief and dropping air pollution controls would improve Bethlehem's health...of course, everyone else's health would be damaged. But the facts are that Bethlehem has received large tax breaks already. In 1972, the state assembly granted Bethlehem \$13 million off their property taxes due to 'depreciated machinery'. These decreases in the tax rolls especially harm education opportunities of Lackawanna children. And if Bethlehem has indeed spent \$50 million in the last 5 years on pollution investments, it would only mean that pollution control costs were 5% of the total capital outlays (\$1 billion dollars). The honorable senator from New York, Moynihan, who suspected that the real reason for the layoffs is increased profits, and Rep. LaFalce, who stated that Bethlehem corporation is the poorest managed in the country, still carried out the discussions on tax relief and lowering pollution standards with the

Bethlehem corporation in Washington during the September 10th and 11th weekend. Nowhere have these political leaders questioned the 'right' of Bethlehem to raise their profits in total disregard to the laid off workers or to community needs. Nowhere have these political leaders done anything more than legitimize the power of Bethlehem to make any decisions they want. The politicians have uniformly satisfied themselves with the safe solution of going to the Federal Government for tax relief, tariff support and dropping the pollution standards.

THE ROOT CAUSES OF THE CRISIS IN U S STEEL CORPORATIONS

Most of the steel corporations in America are currently operating at 30% to 40% below full capacity. Bethlehem is dropping \$200 million from its present capital expenditure budget for the coming year. According to a US-Japan Trade Council report, labor productivity in Japan exceeds US productivity by 60%. In Japan, a worker produces 400 tons of steel in one year, whereas his counterpart in the US produces only 250 tons in a year. Japan even saves more energy in the production of steel. It takes 840 pounds of coke to produce 1 ton of pig iron in Japan; in the US it takes 1200 to 1300 pounds of coke. Is the problem that US workers don't work hard enough? Hardly. A look at the Lackawanna plant facilities are among some of the oldest in the world. The Bethlehem Corporation purchased some of the presently existing mill from Lackawanna Steel Company in 1913. And although they've made additions and modernizations (including the most recent \$100 million addition for the 13" bar mill) most US steel companies lack modern equipment, plant facilities and skilled motivated workers. So again in comparison to Japan, only 60% of US steel companies use basic oxygen furnaces (BOF) but Japanese steel companies produce with over 80% BOFs. 36% of Japanese steel companies use the continuous casting process--a faster steel making process that uses 45% the energy of the standard ingot slabbing process--whereas only 10% of the steel making in the US uses continuous casting. Why haven't the US steel plants, some which go back to 1890, modernize their facilities like the Japanese, where a plant built in 1955 is being dismantled to make way for more efficient facilities? The answer is in the rise of the giant monopoly corporations since 1890. Steel corporations as well as other major industries, were bought and sold to a smaller and smaller group of capitalists at the turn of the century. The field was reduced to four major corporations by the 1920's, who met at dinner convened by Mr. Gary, then head of the US Steel Corporation, to fix US prices for steel. With this monopoly, these corporate heads didn't have to worry about "competitive capitalism" that Barry Goldwater still wants to return to. We are now in an era living with the results of these monopoly decisions over a 50 year time period. Inefficient railroads; steel industries; mining and utilities are all examples of gouging monopolies who are charging higher and higher prices when less and less working people can afford the goods that these corporations' workers produce. The unskilled younger working people who are the first to be laid off in Bethlehem's cutbacks are leaving with very few alternatives; they haven't been trained as machinists or welders, but used as manual laborers and spit out from the steel mills with no job futures.

THE SOLUTION - A UNITED FRONT OF LABOR

The fight to save 3500 jobs at Bethlehem Steel has to be viewed as the immediate task by progressive people in the trade union movement. A beginning for those in the steel workers rank and file and their supporters is to break with the collaborationist approach by the USWA union leadership. It is progressive that the union is circulating petitions to investigate the Bethlehem decision to cutback. This petition also calls for an investigation into the firm's financial records. But the major focus of the USWA national leadership is to tail in with US steel companies' line that "foreign steel steals our jobs; write congress now." This just gives the steel companies some free time to continue higher prices without the threat of steel from Japan or Germany. The corporation and the union do not have mutual interests. We must agree with the demands of the dissolved Steelworkers' Fightback Organization and the Emergency Committee to Aid the Lackawanna Workers. The Fightback organization (supporters of Ed Sadlowske) have a 5 point plan to respond to the cutbacks: "shorter work week; 8 hours of pay for 6 hours of work; no forced overtime; a freeze on steel prices; no more subsidizing of foreign investments and a united action to work on a peacetime economy." Even though a mass organization of rank and file steel workers does not exist at this time; groups should begin to unite around demands such as these to begin the regrowth process of our unions. The Emergency Committee is demanding that the Federal Government should declare Lackawanna a disaster area. The USWA has done nothing to raise these demands. Even the Courier Express suggests "that at a time like this, the federal government should buy 2 million or more tons of steel to assure production. This steel can then be used in the construction of low cost housing." Now is not the time to be self-serving. We of the Buffalo Workers Movement will do everything in our power to assist the steel workers and their families in fighting the layoffs. We want to emphasize that this is a class wide struggle. Today it is the steel workers being laid off, tomorrow the layoffs are at your plant. We need retraining programs in this city for workers who are laid off; we need to force our demands on the corporations through militant class actions, not to shuffle along with the politicians and USWA leadership. We need union organizations that fight for their membership and the working class as a whole.

