

# WORKERS VOICE

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FORMERLY THE WORKER

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## Cash on the line in '79! Smash Carter's 7% guidelines

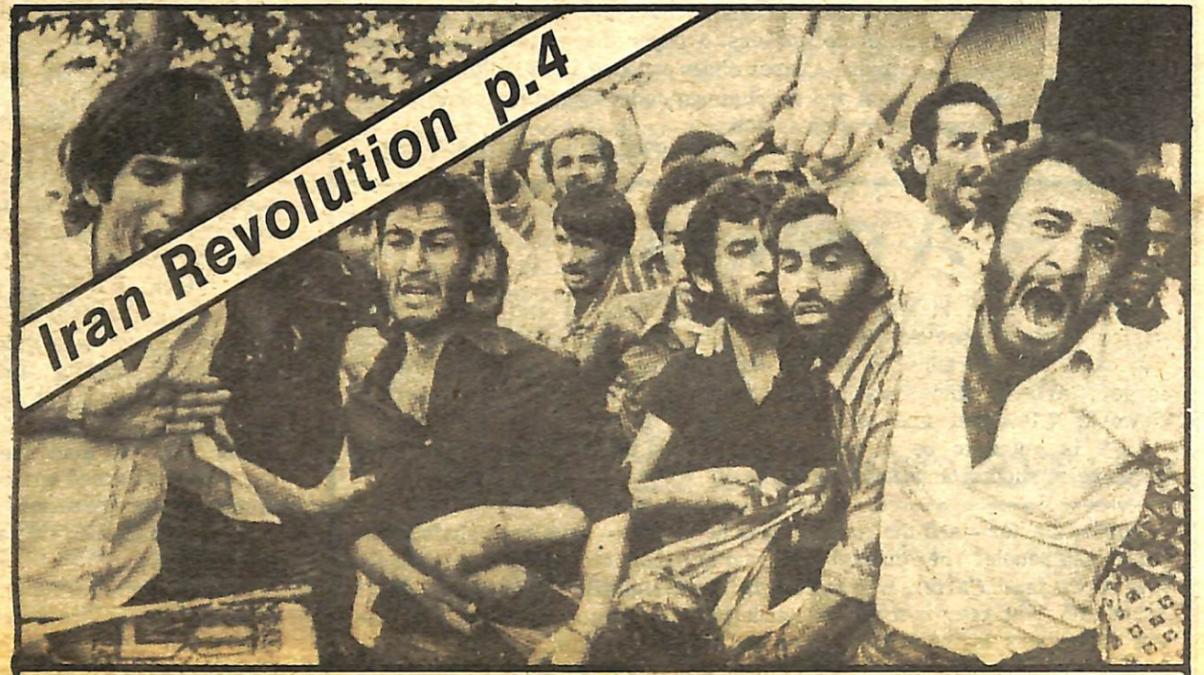
1979 promises to be a year of showdowns between labor and management, between labor and government. Union contracts for a whopping three and a half million workers expire this year. Squeezed between an unrelenting 10% inflation rate and Carter's 7% wage-and-benefit limit, oil workers, Teamsters, rubber workers, garment, electrical, packinghouse, auto, farm equipment and construction workers will go to the table in rapid succession. To get decent contracts these workers, over half of whom bargain in units of one thousand or more, will have to break the federal guidelines. The stage is set for a confrontation.

Workers took a beating in the last recession of '74 - '75 as prices soared and wages fell far behind them. And nobody caught up in the pathetic "recovery" of the last three years. They are in no mood to take the weight of another recession. All that calls for sacrifice have resulted in worse living standards and more calls for sacrifice. Now there are federal guidelines for contracts, plus the recession expected later this year. And the hardening mood of worker resistance opposes not only the wage and benefit limits, but the back breaking speed up called "productivity," runaway shops and lay offs, unsafe conditions and other abuses.

So far most companies with contracts expiring have tried to bully their unions into accepting the "fall behind" 7% rate, whining that government pressure is forcing their hands. 4,000 strikers in Pittsburgh did wrench an 8.7% hike in wages and benefits from Westinghouse Air Brake after a two week strike.

But many of these smaller strikes have not done as well - Pako, a photographic supply plant in Golden Valley, Minn. and Baltimore hospital workers were among the early Guidelines victims, forced into accepting inadequate raises of 7% or less.

15,000 west coast paper workers, already in the fifth month of a strike when the 7% Guidelines were announced, are refusing to be next on the sacrificial altar. They'd held out that



<b>INSIDE:</b>	<b>Hell in the cities in '79 . . .</b>	<b>p.3</b>
	<b>Cambodia . . . . .</b>	<b>p.4</b>
	<b>Weber case . . . . .</b>	<b>p.5</b>

long and won 21% over two years in agreements at a couple of the 28 struck mills.

But with the arrival of the Guidelines, the Council on Wage and Price Stability claimed that if the other companies signed equally decent pacts, they would risk losing their government contracts. The paper workers are suing the government for enforcing supposedly "voluntary" controls as if they are mandatory. And they're still picketing with the militancy that has characterized their independent union since its birth. One company,

Crown Zellerbach in Antioch, California, vows to fire 100 "troublemakers" for strike activities.

Workers in the major industries, like trucking, rubber, auto and chemicals aren't in a humor to sacrifice either. Inflation is gobbling their paychecks as necessities like housing, medical care and food prices shoot up even faster than the streaking 10% inflation rate. In addition, the rank and file is fed up with all the crap they're taking on the job.

(cont. on page 12)

## Youth, 15, fights murder rap

### Defended self vs. cops



A growing movement demands Free Terence Johnson.

HYATTSVILLE, MD. - Kids grow up fast these days. Six months ago Terrence Johnson was a fifteen year old Bladensburg High School student. This month he will be on trial in what has become one of the most politically charged cases to hit Prince Georges County, a suburb of Washington, D.C. For defending himself against the cops he is up on a first degree murder charge.

Like so many Black kids in the county, Terry and his brother Melvin ordinarily avoided the cops because cops are nothing but trouble. But June 26 they got picked up. They were taken to the county police station by two white cops. They were not allowed to call their parents. They were not even told they were there because the police thought they might have taken some change from a laundromat.

They wouldn't answer the questions

fired at them by Officers Albert Claggett and James Swart. So Terrence was beaten and kicked and Melvin was handcuffed to a bench. Claggett then hauled Terry into an interrogation room, sneering, "I'm going to break your neck." Terry was a youth, but he had to defend himself like a man.

Suddenly gun shots shattered the already tense atmosphere. Swart and another cop thundered down the hall to see what had happened. Claggett lay dead from the bullet of his own gun. As Swart burst into the room, he caught a fatal shot in the gut. Terry bolted, but was soon captured.

"Murder!" screamed the cops, the state's attorney and the press of Prince Georges County. "He must be tried as an adult." And so fifteen-year-old Terrence Johnson became a grown-up ruthless killer by official

(cont. on page 19)

## Editorials

### A new name

With this issue, we are changing our name to WORKERS VOICE. This paper has appeared in many cities for as long as 6 years under the name THE WORKER. We are changing our name because last year a group of people who formerly worked on THE WORKER gave up trying to put out a newspaper working people can use as a tool in their struggles.

Instead, under the name THE WORKER, they put out newspapers which are full of noisy slogans, long reports glorifying their own petty antics, attacks on the efforts of the laboring people of China to build socialism, and precious little news of the important battles of the present period. Turning back attacks, mobilizing people, forging unity, winning gains, advancing step by step to revolution – none of this is important to them. They want a newspaper that is a pulpit for them to preach their oh-so-wonderful ideas from.

We do not want to be associated with this garbage. The WORKERS VOICE will carry out the tradition of the old WORKER. The WORKERS VOICE will be a paper that promotes the demands of the common people, the short and long term interests of the workers. A paper that tells the truth about what's happening in the world. A paper whose purpose is to build the struggle and generate enthusiasm and revolutionary understanding among everyone fighting to change this rotten system.

The Revolutionary Workers Headquarters

### A new year

1979 was born kicking and screaming. Cambodia was fighting an invasion by Soviet-backed Vietnamese troops. The Shah of Iran was packing his bags. Oil workers in the US were telling the energy monopolies to forget Carter's guidelines if they wanted a contract. City workers in Newark, Cleveland and other cities were facing New Year's layoffs.

1979 is going to be a year of battles and this newspaper is going to be there to support and build them.

Jimmy Carter – and the owning class he serves – have been shafting the American people. They entered this year hell-bent on making this trend the law of the land. Carter, who ran as the representative of the "little guy," spent the last year cutting and guidelining us almost to death. Even his big supporters in the trade unions and the Black community are hurting. Meany and Co. saw labor law reform and other pet legislation bite the dust. Black politicians and bigshots expected some reward for turning out the vote for Carter. Instead they saw social programs they had a stake in cut to the bone and affirmative action gains under fire.

For working people, the economic crisis that began in the early 1970's has meant a falling standard of living, unemployment, speedup, deteriorating health and safety conditions, and more discrimination. With inflation in double digits and a recession likely later this year, the "captains of industry" are in a frenzy to rip more profit out of our hides while they can.

The attacks we have been facing in our shops and communities on our standard of living and the gains we won in the '60's are now being launched on a broader scale. The more the attacks mount up, the more the need for organized collective action becomes clear. Even the international problems of the high and mighty and the falling out among thieves like Carter and Meany provide good conditions for people to stand up.

Suffering in quiet dignity or letting big-talking leaders handle things have yielded no results. What is needed is power – the power that slaps a sticker on a machine saying shut it down or run it safe. The power that makes sure some racist flunky loses his job for practicing discrimination. The power that surges up in solidarity with bigger battles like the miner's strike and Tupelo. It is the power of millions and millions of people fed up with the deal they have been handed.

In 1979 this newspaper dedicates itself to these people and their battles, big and small, to the history they are making in our common fight for freedom.

## Subscribe

**\$4 for one year**

Send check to Workers Voice

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Main Post Office  
Chicago, Illinois 60607

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## Letters

### The case of the friendly foreman

Dear Editor–

The other day while shopping I heard someone calling my name. I looked up and saw the general foreman of a place I used to work at rushing toward me. I didn't know what to expect as he grabbed my hand, for I was quite a hellraiser in his department at Eastern products.

Believe me, we had stood on opposite sides. But here Jeff was telling me his life story – saying if I was working where he is now a foreman, we would be marching side by side against the company and the government.

What made him change sides in the class struggle? When he went to work as a foreman at William T. Burnett Co., which makes foam rubber, he started to have the same medical symptoms many of his workers were having, like trouble urinating and joints stiffening up.

Jeff went to his big boss and told him something was wrong. They told him to wear a respirator and make sure his workers did too. But the workers and foremen continued to be exposed to the chemical, Niax catalyst ESN, which is a nerve poison. The problems got worse. Jeff went to the company doctor who didn't know nothing about nothing and sent him to the hospital. There he insisted it was industry related. Luckily, one doctor who had also seen some of the workers agreed and contacted the Maryland Occupational Safety and Health. MOSH didn't do a damn thing for 6 months.

Finally, through some doctors interested in occupational medicine, they found the same thing was happening in a plant in Massachusetts and forced Barnett to stop using it... 6 months too late. The damage had been done. 85 workers and 100 in Mass. were poisoned by ESN. Some were affected so bad they have to go to the hospital to have their urine drained from them. It also left some impotent. It also left one foreman radicalized against the government and industry, because he got hit where it hurts.

Paybacks are a bitch.

Baltimore reader

### EKCO discriminates

Fellow Workers;

We are workers at Ekco Housewares in Chicago. Workers have to unite ourselves in order to put a stop to the racism that exists in the factory. We Latinos are relegated to the last grade, we can't get sick and we can't protest because nobody listens. They abuse us because we have no representative that talks Spanish. Even though there are many Spanish workers, we don't have enough unity now, and unity makes power. A couple of days ago they layed off 100 workers from Ekco at Christmas time. The majority were Spanish and they don't have anybody to defend them.

A Latino worker had an injury to his back. The company doctor ordered him back to work without treatment. But his personal doctor said he couldn't work because he needed treatments. When the accident happened, he couldn't report it because the 3rd shift has neither a nurse nor a union representative.

We are uniting to beat the exploiters and make sure they treat us like workers, not like slaves; we demand a nurse and a union representative on 3rd shift – also union representatives for the Latinos. And we demand that personnel stop the racism against Spanish-Americans.

Some Latino workers from Ekco

### Mississippi boycott

Dear Sir:

I got the address for your paper from a friend who got a copy being passed out in Lexington during the continuing selective buying campaign.

I work at a seat belt factory, Irwin Mississippi. The Steelworkers Union went in about a month ago. Union leaders and plant managers have been negotiating all week. I voted for the union.

If possible, send this paper in an envelope, unless you have previously sent them to Mississippi without problems.

A Mississippi Reader

### Appeal from Haitian exile

An Open Letter to THE WORKERS VOICE:

Under pressure internally and from abroad, the Duvalier government in Haiti launched a so-called "Campaign of Liberalization." In his speeches, Jean-Claude Duvalier, the fascist dictator, has stated many times that democracy exists in Haiti. But he didn't expect that some independent journalists would be courageous enough to take advantage of the situation.

As a matter of fact, two papers and a radio station started to expose the Haitian reality in all its brutality. Gasner Raymond of "Le Petit Samedi Soir" covered a strike at a cement

conditions and the intimidation to which the employees were subjected because they dared to strike. Reverend Neree, in his newspaper "Hebdo Jeune Presse" criticized the Tonton-Macoutes, an army used by the Duvalier government to crush any opposition to its rule.

On the microphone of radio station Haiti Inter, Jean Dominique dared to denounce the flagrant violations of our constitution. He went as far as to invite workers, peasants, small store owners and other victims of the regime to come and present their grievances on the air. And many courageous compatriots did.

Then the government decided to put a stop to this wave of denunciations.

1) Gasner Raymond of "Le Petit Samedi Soir" was found strangled.

2) The director of this paper was summoned to the government ministry to be threatened and intimidated.

3) Reverend Neree was beaten by a group of Tonton-Macoutes and left for dead. His newspaper "Hebdo Jeune Presse" has ceased publication. Two other newspapers were also suppressed.

The same intimidation methods have been used against Jean Dominique who is struggling to keep his radio station going. The government is trying to close this organ of the independent press through legal maneuverings, including demanding a high tax payment. The station's assets have been frozen and local businessmen have been ordered to stop payments for the advertisements.

A group of Haitians in the US have founded a committee to support Jean Dominique so he can continue broadcasting a voice of opposition to the government and conditions in Haiti. We invite all freedom loving individuals and groups to give their moral and material support to this cause. Radio Haiti Inter should not die, and neither should Jean Dominique!

To raise funds for his support we have opened a bank account, and all contributions are welcome.

Committee To Support Jean Dominique – Account #158-446  
Waltham Savings Bank  
702 Main Street  
Waltham, Mass. 02154

– Signed, a Haitian Activist

# Cities: Carter set to pull out rug...

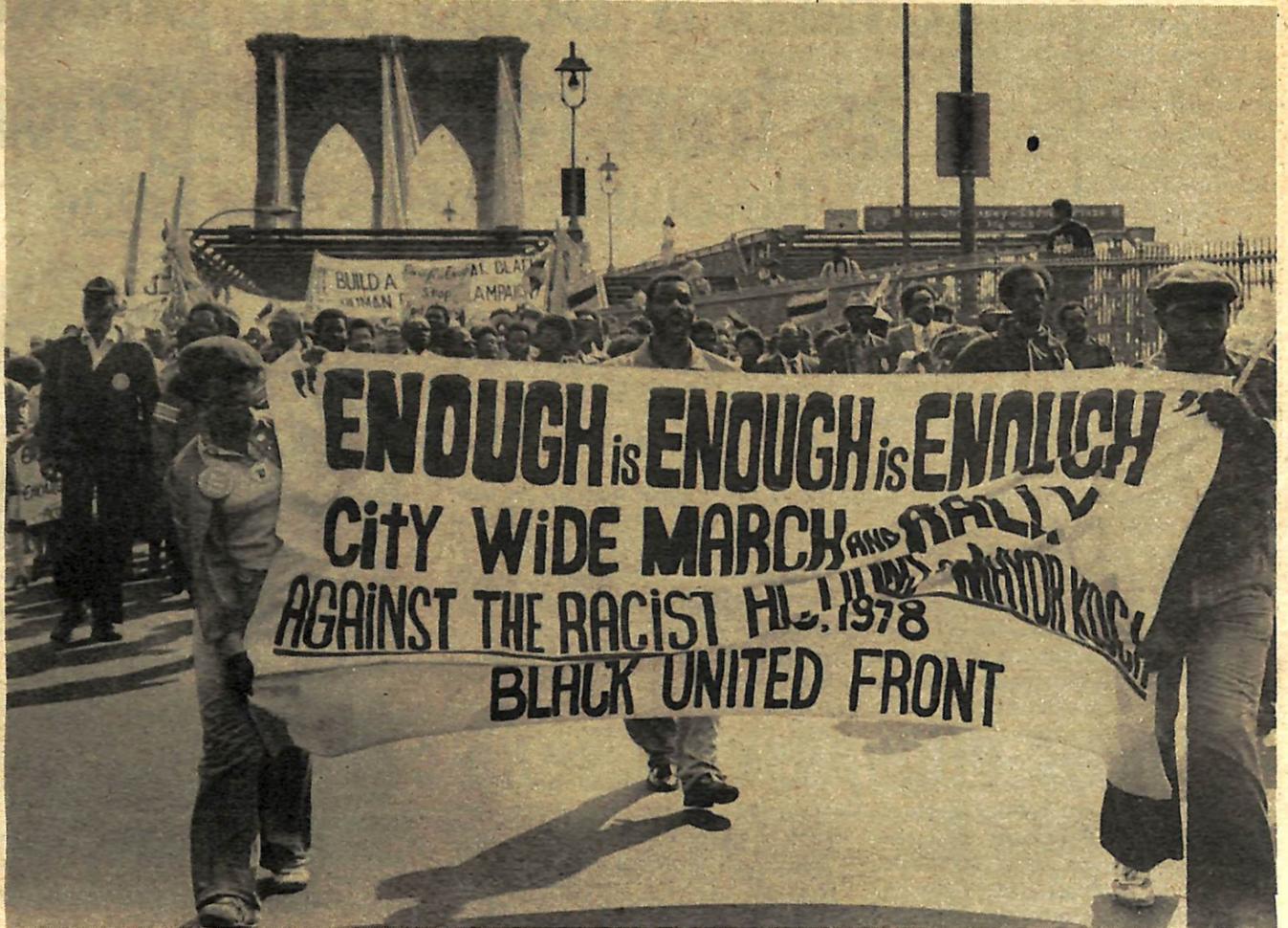
Jimmy Carter just let loose a plan for budget cutbacks that will rip the federal props from under local governments and make for hell in the cities in '79. The government is in the process of charting a federal budget that will boost military spending by \$15 billion, while slashing the guts out of social services, from jobs programs to housing projects, from hospitals to schools (see p.18 for details). The funding cuts will strike city by city, program by program, stretching over a period of many months. But they'll add up to the biggest series of cutbacks in years.

Urban areas will be the first to feel the screws tighten. City workers are already bracing to fight the expected layoffs. The crunch will come down the hardest on Black people and other minorities, already facing the burden of the worst living conditions in the country. Nearly two-thirds of Black youth have no jobs, Black people's average incomes are held down below the government's own estimate for minimum decent living standards. Jobs, housing, health, education cuts on top of this?? Black people are warning that the government won't get away with it.

The cuts go hand in hand with Carter's recently announced "voluntary" wage and price guidelines, which aim to hold workers' combined wages and benefits to 7%. Right now these are two key tactics the government has for grabbing what they can out of the standard of living of working people. And it sure is a time for grabbing. The rich and their government are trying to weather a chronic economic crisis.

The politicians and businessmen are coming off an election in which liberals as "financial conservatives" and conservatives had to scramble for some gimmick to distinguish themselves. They've been busy trying to figure out how to apply California's Proposition 13 to their locale in order to cut taxes (mostly corporate) so they can cut spending.

There will still be skirmishes within the government over the budget, but the final cuts are likely to be as deep as the proposed ones. At the Democratic Party mini-convention in Memphis in December, trade union, Black and minority delegates initiated a resolution rejecting the proposed cuts. Even though some



The government has reason to fear Black response to its cuts as the growth of militant grassroots organizations like the Black United Front in Brooklyn, New York.

party bigshots — like Ted Kennedy latched onto the resolution, Carter's forces managed to squash it. Contrary to the usual course of events, Congressmen are predicting even bigger cuts than the President is requesting.

## CUTS TARGET CITIES

The cuts will directly target urban areas. US cities are falling apart as it is, especially in the northeast and midwest. Companies are running away in search of tax breaks, room to expand and non-union labor, taking with them much of the urban tax base. As a result, many cities have become dependent on the federal government band-aids to patch the holes in their budgets.

Carter's orders for the tightest lid on spending in years is already taking their toll. Take Newark, for  
(cont. on page 18)

## ... military budget gets red carpet

In the 1979-80 Federal Budget an estimated \$15 to \$20 billion is to be axed from social programs and turned over to the generals and admirals as part of their \$136 billion allocation. This outrage is supposed to "beef up" the armed forces and "keep the lid" on inflation at the same time. The Carter administration's guns before butter policy is being "forced" on them for two reasons.

The Soviet Union, with whom the US is squaring off in many corners of the globe, has increased its military budget by 3% (after inflation).

So, the argument goes, must the US in order to keep up with the pace of the never-ending arms race.

Secondly, the US has been kicking its NATO partners in the behind to get 3% increases after inflation in their military spending every year. If the US doesn't do its 3% for the cause, countries like Britain and Italy aren't likely to meet their pledges especially since their governments have already spent themselves nearly bankrupt.

As long as America's rulers — the multi-national banks and corporations — try to dominate the economic and political life of dozens of Third World countries the US government must have all its diplomats and armies to defend the empire from rivals. With the other superpower, the Soviet Union, continually building up its own armed forces, future budgets will be "forced" into the same mold; guns, guns, and more guns.

## WHERE NEWARK'S \$10 MILLION IS GOING

While the city of Newark must lay off over 2,000 workers, slashing essential services, for want of a mere \$10 million the Pentagon exotic hardware freaks will have a field day. In times like these, many wild schemes for new, ultra-sophisticated super-weapons will have a few hundred million dollars thrown at them. A case in point is the new Missile X.

The US has 656 ICBMs riding Polaris submarines which the admirals claim are "invulnerable" (enough to cripple the USSR and one or two smaller countries that might get in the way). Yet the high brass constantly fret about having their even more numerous land-based missiles wiped out  
(cont. on page 18)

## City Workers vs. Newark firings "We won't pay for crisis"

NEWARK, NJ — Over 4000 workers marched here December 21 to protest massive layoffs of city and school board employees. Angry workers carried signs vowing "All Work or None Work!" The action came a week before the axe was to fall on 441 city and over 1000 school board employees.

The new year is being ushered in by a wave of government spending cuts at the city, state and national levels. Politicians claim they're responding to the people's demands to cut taxes and government waste, but the cutbacks most often strike at essential social services. The struggle developing in Newark may be the beginning of a different kind of wave as government workers and citizens alike move to save jobs and services.

The rollback began with an "emergency" Board of Education meeting December 8, held in violation of New Jersey's Open Public Meetings Act. A week later plans to lay off

over 1700 school employees, from teachers to cafeteria workers, were announced. Carl Sharif, Board of Education director, remarked that he didn't see any problems as a result of the reduction. He said that many of the teachers have "a callous non-caring attitude" and that many workers "have loafed and coasted and played it lazy for years."

With typical government doubletalk, the school board justifies the cutbacks as a "restructuring" that will lead to a stronger educational system. This is hogwash. Newark's 60,000 students are already far behind national averages on test scores. Not only will the cuts worsen the presently poor teacher-student ratio, but the home economics, industrial arts and physical education departments will be almost entirely gutted.

Right before the late December target dates for the layoffs the city tried its hardest to come up with

\$1 million to save the jobs of 200 police — so far they haven't.

Thus far, the layoffs have brought together six municipal unions, from the Teachers Union to the School Cafeteria Workers Union. In a mass meeting attended by some 1500 people after the December 21 march, workers' spirits were high because, as one person said, "For once all labor in the city of Newark is together." Resolutions were passed calling for the Recall of Mayor Gibson and for a general work stoppage of all municipal labor unions to protest the layoffs. Applause greeted the message of support given by a fired postal worker from the Jersey Bulk Mail Center.

Newark is a prime example of a deteriorating American city. The people have been cut back and cut back and cut back. Now the city workers are taking the lead in drawing the line.

# Shah's bags are packed as Iran rebellion grows

## Revolution enters new stage

The Shah of Iran has had it. The redoubled waves of revolutionary struggle launched by the Iranian people in the face of massacres and phony concessions have smashed the props out from under the Shah's Peacock Throne.

As the new year began, the Shah announced that he will be taking a vacation outside Iran. It looks like it will be a permanent one. Before announcing his departure, however, he set up a new government to keep the door open for a possible return.

Although this new government, headed by traitor Shahpur Bakhtiar promises reforms and will take credit for the Shah's departure, all the leaders of the anti-Shah opposition denounced it as a fraud. The government was met during its first day by angry demonstrations throughout the country. There is no way Bakhtiar's government, with its ties to the US and the Shah, can meet the demands of the people for independence and freedom. In the course of fighting to overthrow the Shah, the common people of Iran are learning how to take their destiny into their own hands.

### MILITARY RULE

The Shah's last chance had been the army. After the mammoth rebellion in Teheran November 4, when thousands of demonstrators were gunned down, he announced the formation of a military government, headed by General Azhari. Azhari quickly declared martial law and filled the streets of the cities with tanks and troops. The US government continued to pledge support to the Shah

and exchanged nasty diplomatic statements with the rulers of the USSR. Each warned the other not to meddle in Iran's internal affairs, demonstrating clearly that that's what both were up to.

The Shah had played the military card, because he couldn't find any cracks in the opposition. As one businessman told Western newsmen at a Teheran rally, "We would settle for the 1906 Constitution," which would leave the Shah in office but relatively powerless.

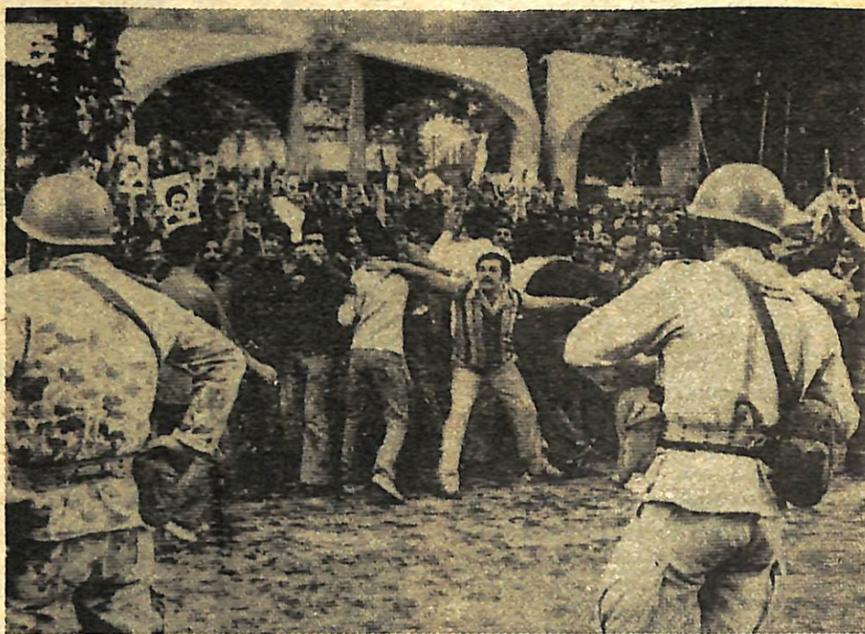
"But they," he said, pointing to the marchers, "They want the end of the monarchy and, as you can see, they are far more numerous."

Leading figures in the National Front, made up of politicians and intellectuals, wavered but refused to form a government under the Shah. They were under pressure not only from the masses, but from the main leader of the anti-Shah focus, Ayatollah (a Moslem religious title) Ruhollah Khomeini, an uncompromising foe of the Shah since 1963.

The mass rebellion paused a little in mid-November, as people checked out how to deal with the military government. Striking oil workers returned to work and production began to climb again.

General Azhari had National Front head Karim Sanjabi arrested but he still refused to make a deal with the Shah and was released. Demonstrations continued and grew in strength and militancy during the month. Bazzaris, the merchants in the huge markets, and the Moslem mosques could organize marches of tens of thousands in a few hours.

Workers in the Central Bank went



Carrying pictures of Ayatollah Khomeini, students in Tehran confront the Shah's troops.

on strike and published a report showing that from August through October, 180 wealthy Iranians had shipped over \$5.4 billion out of their accounts to foreign banks, preparing to flee the wrath of the people. Among them were nephews, nieces and in-laws of the Shah, former and present cabinet ministers and high-ranking military and secret police officials.

### THE GENERALS FAIL

On November 26, opposition leaders called a one-day nationwide general strike, which was almost 100% effective. In Isfahan, demonstrators burned down nine banks, government office buildings and several night clubs, porno shops and other symbols

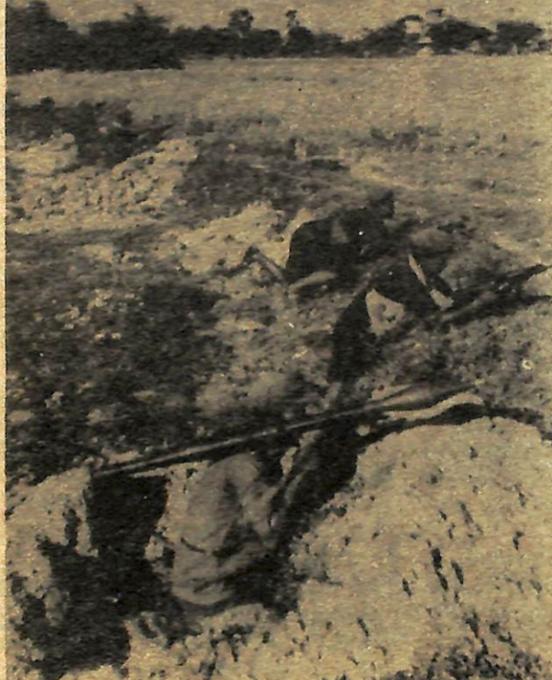
of Western-style decadence.

Over two million people marched in Mashad, chanting "Down With the Shah!" in defiance of General Azhari, who had warned he would "mercilessly suppress" street protests.

The fate of the military government was sealed during the Islamic celebration of Moharram, a holy period in early December. Ayatollah Khomeini, loved by the people for his leading role in the strongly Moslem anti-Shah struggle, called from his Paris exile for mass demonstrations on December 10 and 11. The generals were trapped. Their bans on protests had been ineffective so far and certainly weren't going to

(cont. on page 20)

## Down with Vietnam's Invasion of Cambodia!



Cambodian troops fight Vietnamese invasion.

In the name of a non-existent Cambodian liberation group, over 100,000 Vietnamese troops drove through eastern Cambodia after Christmas. On January 7, they claimed total victory as their columns rolled into the capitol city, Phnom Penh, which had been evacuated by the government of Democratic Kampuchea (Cambodia). There were Russian paw prints all over the invasion.

In line with plans announced earlier, the Communist-led government of Kampuchea pulled out of the sparsely populated cities ahead of the aggressors. They moved to bases in the countryside to launch a prolonged guerrilla war to liberate the country from Vietnamese occupation. In the service of their Russian masters, the Vietnamese are plunging into the same quicksand that sunk US aggression starting in 1970.

### VIETNAM'S PHONEY "CAMBODIAN FRONT"

Radio Hanoi and the Soviet press quickly hailed the capture of Phnom Penh as a victory of "Cambodian rebels." But the picture they are trying to paint of a civil war between the Cambodian people and their government is pretty shabby.

The Vietnamese announced the formation of the Cambodian "National United Front for National Salvation" less than two weeks before the military drive started. Vietnam came up with a few Cambodian traitors and Vietnamese of Cambodian ancestry to man this outfit. They will now be installed in Phnom Penh as the new Cambodian government.

The fighting, however, was done by 13 crack divisions of the Vietnamese Army, one of the five largest in the world. They had all the modern

equipment they needed, shipped in by the Soviet Union under the terms of the Vietnam-Soviet "Friendship Treaty" signed last fall.

The Vietnamese Workers Party, which under Ho Chi Minh led the country in one of the longest and hardest fought wars in history to defeat US

### THE REAL CAMBODIAN GOVERNMENT

The Cambodian government was established in 1975 with the victory of a five year-long battle to overthrow the US-installed dictator, Lon Nol. During those years, US bombing drove almost 50% of the population from the countryside into Phnom Penh, where they survived on food and other aid supplied by the US. It was like half the population of the US trying to live in New York City.

With the defeat of the US in '75, the new government had to disperse 3 million people from the capital back to the villages to begin to re-build the country. They stepped up food production to avoid mass starvation, and then developed a self-sufficient agricultural base for the country. Since '75, the Cambodian people have raised their per capita food consumption substantially, and have even had enough to export rice.

### BEHIND VIETNAM'S ATTACK

This mass population shift, which saved Cambodia, has been denounced for 3 years in the American press as a "bloodbath." The Vietnamese are taking advantage of these slanders, claiming they are rescuing the Cambodian people from "genocide." But Vietnam's motives are no purer than its actions.

(cont. on page 16)

# Weber case threatens Black gains

## "Blue Collar" Bakke

Will Black workers see their few hard-won gains in job upgrading be ripped away? The case of Weber vs. Kaiser Aluminum, now before the US Supreme Court, will decide just that. Brian Weber, the 'blue-collar Bakke,' is leading the charge against Black rights through his allegations that Kaiser is unfair to whites by giving Blacks access to a skilled trades training program.

Weber's case is as ridiculous as it is racist. The area of Grammercy, Louisiana, where the plant in question is located, is 39% Black. But Blacks are only 15% of Kaiser workers and only 2% of the skilled trades.

Stung by a discrimination suit that forced them to fork over \$225,000 for racist practices at their Baton Rouge plant, Kaiser established an affirmative action program at Grammercy in 1964. Blacks and whites were to be admitted to a training program for skilled jobs on a 50/50 basis until Blacks filled 39% of all positions. Women, historically denied any jobs at Kaiser, would be hired and upgraded until they held 5% of all jobs.

In all other matters—layoffs, benefits, vacations, etc.—the seniority system remained unchanged.

### KAISER'S ROTTEN RECORD

Kaiser refuses to admit any history of discrimination, for fear of new legal battles. But their denial doesn't change the facts.

Blacks have faced systematic discrimination since the plant's opening in 1958. Back then, when segregation was legally justified by calling it 'separate but equal,' Blacks ate in separate but more rotten cafeterias, went to separate but worse bathrooms and got the dirtiest and most dangerous jobs.

Segregation—at Kaiser and throughout the South—was dealt a severe

blow in the course of the massive Black uprisings of the '60's and was legally dismantled by the 1964 Civil Rights Act.

But history was never made by the passage of laws, and neither did discrimination end simply because segregation was outlawed—even though that's what Brian Weber is trying to imply by saying, 'It's not desegregation anymore.'

At Kaiser as late as 1973 previous experience was required for skilled jobs if a worker was Black but none was asked if he was white. The plant issued numbered work badges with a different series for whites and Blacks.

Nonetheless, both the Civil Rights Act and a 1968 Presidential Order that made companies with government contracts create "affirmative action" programs to offset discrimination became tools of the struggle.

If Weber wins, these legal weapons will be seriously threatened. The case can be used to end existing—if inadequate—programs to counteract racist practices. And where affirmative action has never been enacted, the case can be used to stall it indefinitely, both for Blacks and women.

Weber's view that "the guys that were really discriminated against are beyond their working years," is an outright lie. Access to education, jobs and housing for Blacks is still limited. Blacks are unemployed at twice the rate of whites. Even in industrial centers like Gary, Indiana, where the population is over half Black, only 40% of US Steel's plant there is Black. And skilled jobs for Blacks are even harder to come by (20% at Gary Works in 1974).

The long, brutal history of the steel industry alone shows systematic company policies intended to



Brian Weber thinks that these steelworkers should be kept out of the skilled trades.

keep Blacks in the most dangerous jobs—in the coke ovens, the blast furnaces and so on. This allowed the bosses to pay Black workers in these lower classifications who had 20 years seniority the same as whites with 5 years in a higher job.

Profits reaped from the labor of all steelworkers got an extra boost from this super-exploitation of Blacks. And the privileges, unfair disadvantages and resulting antagonisms were used to set workers against each other on the basis of race, a classic case of "divide and rule."

This pattern survives to this day in the steel industry and many others where seniority only applies within departments and is not plant-wide, so that to transfer to a better job means losing seniority rights. Blacks, originally slotted into lower categories by overt racism, are now locked into those same bottom-of-the-ladder jobs. In almost every industry Blacks make 25% less than whites

in the same age group.

Weber calls those who righteously resisted discrimination "Black guys with chips on their shoulders for something that never happened to them." He can try to tell that to the thousands of Blacks who marched, demonstrated, brought suits and filed grievances against the oppression they face every day.

Steelworkers at Bethlehem's Sparrows Point, Maryland mill took a series of militant actions demanding plant-wide seniority—a demand that won substantial white support and was eventually won, at least on paper.

But with all that, Blacks have just begun to wrench away a few concessions from company owners. The disputed Kaiser plan netted only a total of 13 trainees—7 Blacks and 6 whites. Weber, a 32 year old lab analyst who makes \$21,000 a year, challenged the Black rights to those jobs because he has more seniority than they do.

Weber claims his fight is defensive—defending seniority rights of older white workers. But in truth he's on the offensive against Black gains. He wormed his way into becoming a grievance man by provoking racial hatred. He also agitated as a delegate to last summer's USWA convention against affirmative action.

The lower court decided in Weber's favor in one day. The only witnesses who testified that there was no discrimination at Kaiser were Weber, two white co-workers and a Kaiser executive.

**DEFEND AND EXPAND  
AFFIRMATIVE ACTION:  
DEFEAT WEBER**

Neither the super-exploitation of Blacks nor the racial divisions benefit any workers. In Weber's union, the United Steelworkers of America, numerous locals have passed resolutions against the case. The Civil Rights Committee, as well as Black caucuses in the union are kicking off an anti-Weber campaign district by district coupled with a demand to defend and extend affirmative action.

Organizations of students and professionals that formed to oppose the Bakke case, which stripped a number of colleges of their affirmative action admissions policies, are beginning to gear up against Weber.

This potential for a broad fight against the Weber case must be rallied. As one steelworker in Gary said, "There's a long way to go before equality is more than a dream."

## First shocks from Bakke blast

When thousands of people took to the streets of the capital last spring (right photo) to protest the Supreme Court's racist Bakke decision, they knew the case had wide repercussions. Now steelworker Brian Weber has already got his workplace version of the Bakke case all the way up to the Supreme Court.

Various legal experts and commentators claimed that the Bakke decision would ONLY throw out the special admissions program at the medical school Bakke applied to. But now, just one semester later, professional schools across the land are taking their cue from Bakke:—the University of Pennsylvania Law School axed the school's special minority admissions committee in December;

—at Stanford Medical School in California, the faculty voted in December to dump the special admissions committee that had been functioning since 1968;

—at Wayne State University Law School in Detroit, minority students will no longer be chosen by a separate committee;

—the University of North Carolina



Law School just watered down its minorities admissions policies;

—the Harvard Medical School eliminated the subcommittee which has handled all minority applications since 1968.

The list is already long, but students are not going to stand by and watch it grow longer. Sixty law students at UCLA launched a hunger

strike in a campus building hallway December 29 to pressure the faculty to reject a proposed admissions policy based on the Bakke decision formulation. The strikers included members of the Chicano Law Students Association, the Asian American Law Students Association and the Black Law Students Association.

# N.J. workers strike "Cancer Alley"

BOUND BROOK, N.J. - "Welcome to Cancer Alley." That's the sign the workers have put up at the main gate to American Cyanamid's plant here, one of the largest chemical plants in the country. They are demanding more than Carter's measly 7% wage increase, a cost of living clause, a dental plan, decent health conditions, and sick days.

As the strike moves into its fourth week the company is still offering 44¢ an hour. They say the Carter administration is threatening to cancel all government contracts unless they stick to the wage guidelines.

The men are sticking to their demand for at least 75¢. As one younger worker with two years at Cyanamid put it, "The wage limit? It stinks! Everything around is getting raised. Hamburger costs as much as steak. Prices have doubled, but our wages haven't. They make us work with cancerous chemicals for peanuts and don't even tell us about it. We had to bring in college guys to tell us about it. It stinks!"

The health conditions in the plant are murderous. Men walking the lines with 30-40 years seniority have spots on their lungs, kidneys, and bladders. Over 1000 different chemical products are produced by these workers, many

of them carcinogenic materials.

144 men had to go all the way to Mt. Sinai hospital in New York for special tests because the company claimed they were fine. The results? Sixteen percent of the men with under 20 years service and 48% with over 20 had lung abnormalities. The men have already called in OSHA with no results. The company just doesn't care.

One worker who started at Cyanamid in 1937 had this to say: "We've got guys handling asbestos pipe coverings who get asbestos lung. Years ago when we worked in building 114 the dust was so thick you could hardly see. Now they have blowers in there but some departments are still pretty

bad."

The first night of the walkout in early December, the company called in more than 100 cops to open up the gates which were shut tight by 400 workers. Several hours later a notoriously corrupt judge slapped an injunction on the union, the International Chemical Workers Union, Local 111, limiting them to 8 men per gate.

Then 300 cots were moved into the plant so the scabs, mostly supervisors, could live inside. The cops are letting scabs in and out. One worker who has been through the two other strikes at Cyanamid, one in 1941 and one in '62, said this: "The scabs? It sure don't help us. They must be doing something in there. But who's going to train them. We're all out here. In the last strike it took two weeks just to repair the pipes that froze up while we were out. The first couple of days of this strike big clouds of blue smoke came out and people from Bound Brook were complaining. The only way we can stop them is with violence and they have already cleared a whole hall for us just in case the union members start trouble. But we have to hold out. That we all agreed on and have to do."

And that's what the Cyanamid workers are doing. It may be a long hard fight, but they are battling for their livelihoods and for their lives. They can't afford to give in to Carter's guidelines or the company's callous poisoning.



## New Death at Beth Steel Spurs citywide safety organizing

SPARROWS POINT, MD. - The death count at Sparrows Point has risen. Six workers died for Bethlehem Steel profits in 1978.

John Paul Smith, 47 years old, had worked at the Sparrows Point mill near Baltimore since 1951. Along with his fellow workers, he had watched one steelworker after another get killed on the job. One man scalded to death by 160 degree water. Another drowned when his fork lift slid into a 20 foot deep slime pond. Another poisoned by carbon monoxide.

On December 22 John Smith was working in a furnace when he fell through a hole in the floor that was improperly covered. He fell 22 feet onto a slag heap, dying instantly.

### "DON'T WORK UNSAFE"

Death by death, an atmosphere of tension grew at "the point." Some workers began their own safety campaign, putting up bright orange stickers on unsafe jobs and their hardhats. The stickers say, "DON'T WORK UNSAFE! USE ARTICLE 14-3!" Contract clause 14-3 gives workers the right to refuse to work in hazardous conditions.

They also built a joint union meeting between the two major "point" locals, 2609 and 2610, to discuss the rash of deaths. Workers proposed doing education among the workers about safety, bringing the union safety committee to full strength and making it more accessible to the rank and file.

Not too suprisingly, Mr. R.R. Jones the general manager of the Sparrows Point plant denies any problems. In a letter to a local newspaper, he calls any criticism of his practices "unjustified, untrue, and unfair." Apparently, workers there feel differently. They put out a WANTED poster blaming Jones and Beth Steel for the deaths. After this came out R.

R. Jones decided that, indeed, something had to be done about safety in the plant - his own safety. So now he walks around with a plain clothes police sergeant to protect him from "ungrateful" and "unfair" workers.

### SAFETY COMMITTEE FORMED

On top of the growing shop level concern, union officials and rank and file activists along with medical people began to organize. Over 50 people representing 24 different local unions attended a December 2nd "Conference on Occupational Disease and the Worker" in Baltimore. Participants talked about how to detect safety problems and spread information about dangerous chemicals and working conditions. David Wilson, president of Sparrows Point USWA Local 2609 said he became concerned when he discovered that 43% of the union members died before the age of 55. Other concerns voiced at the meeting included asbestos exposure, a big threat to shipyard workers in the Beth yards; improvements in the workman's compensation laws; and how to succeed in exposing and eliminating shop hazards.

Through this meeting the activists organized an ad hoc Committee for Occupational Health. Similar groups have sprung up in major US cities in recent years, many of them loosely affiliated under the name Committee for Occupational Safety and Health. They are a way for workers and unions to pool needed information and resources to be used in the fight for job safety.

One way or another, the word is getting out and spreading. Workers - whether at Beth Steel or anywhere else - are sick and tired of seeing brothers and sisters become corporation's "regrettable statistics" and then being written off.

## Stick-up at Cyanamid: Your babies or your job

WILLOW ISLAND, W. VA. - Now women have to choose between having kids and making decent money! Five women at the Cyanamid plant here had to be sterilized to keep their jobs. The policy is so outrageous that the bosses straight out lie that they're against women having the operations. Well mebbe so and mebbe not. The women, who hear what the company says when it's not in the public eye, tell a differnt story.

Last year, it seems, Cyanamid admitted that the pigment department exposed workers to so much lead that it would cause deformities in unborn children. Did they make the job safer? No, they said they'd move women who were under 50 and able to bear children to other jobs.

"They told us we could go to the janitorial department, but if there weren't enough jobs there some of us might have to leave," said Betty Moler, one of the sterilized women. Janitorial also has no overtime, which would mean a pay loss of several thousand dollars a year.

Two women who did not have the surgery were already transferred to Janitorial. Anthony Mazzochi, vice president of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers, said, "It's an outrageous situation and American Cyanamid is not the only company that is trying to force women out of work - place rather than clean it up."

Is Cyanamid to blame? You figure it out.

## Safety gets gov't. ax

4,760 workers died on the job in 1977. This was 21% more than in 1976. Research also revealed that 20% of all cancer deaths and 50% of all cancer cases are caused by workplace chemicals and other hazards. What did the government do about this in 1978?

\* OSHA (the Occupational Safety and Health Administration) had its powers to inspect worksites with under 11 employees, which represents 9.5 million workers, nearly eliminated by Congress.

\* The Supreme Court ruled that bosses can demand a search warrant from OSHA inspectors, while Congress said no fines would be charged for the first 10 violations.

\* Congress voted to postpone the enforcement of OSHA's standards for exposure to cotton dust in textile mills. Brown Lung disease, caused

by cotton dust, has completely disabled 35,000 and affected another 150,000 workers.

\* Another federal court ruled that OSHA's exposure level for benzene cut into profits too much. Benzene is used in the rubber, plastic and chemical industries and causes leukemia.

\* The Supreme Court ruled that companies have the "right" to fire workers who refuse to work under unsafe conditions.

\* Industry now uses 15,000 and introduces 3,000 new chemicals a year. Only 500 have OSHA exposure regulations.

Regulating these chemicals and catching the many other hazards is impossible for the understaffed OSHA inspectors. Cutbacks in the OSHA budget will reduce the little effect they now have.

That's what the government did.

# Abortion profiteers: rats in smocks

*Free, safe abortion on demand!*

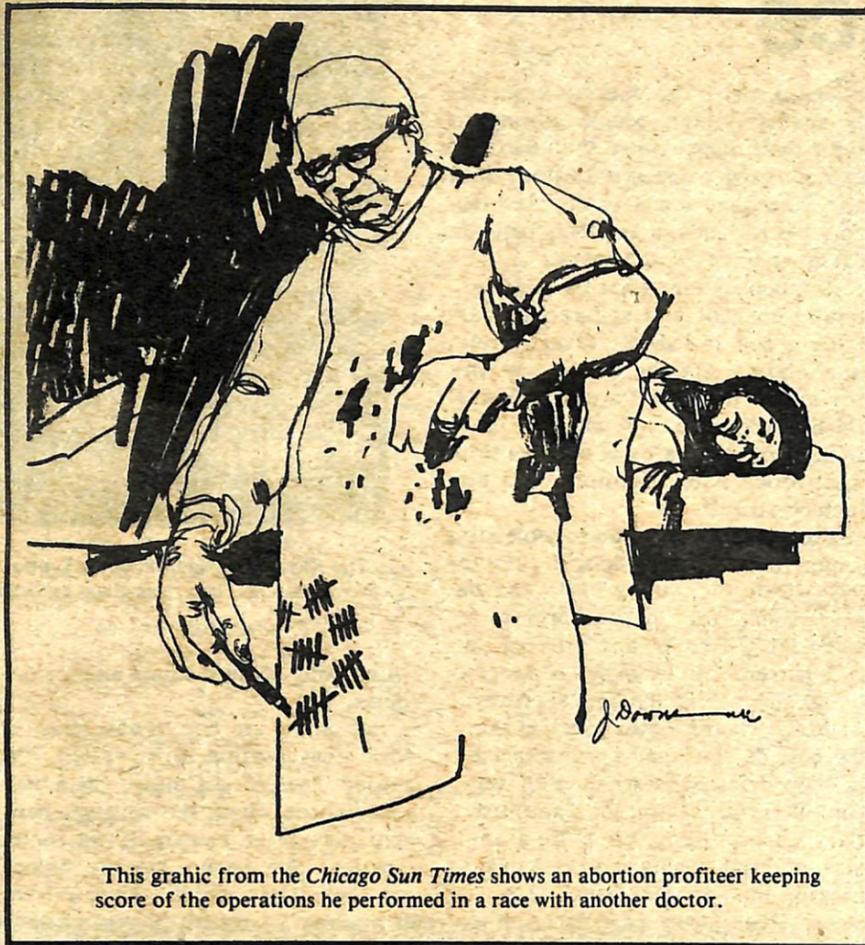
"The Abortion Profiteers: Making a Killing on Michigan Avenue." With that headline splashed across the front page of the Sunday edition, the Chicago Sun Times began a grisly and detailed expose of the abortion mills in Chicago. It was a grim reminder that a full six years after women won the right to legal abortions, they're still not safe or affordable.

The Supreme Court legalized abortions in January 1973 after women nationwide spent years mobilizing to press for their demand, in the streets and in the courts. Since then nearly one out of every 11 American women of reproductive age—5 million nationwide—has had an abortion. A network of clinics, referral agencies, so-called state inspection agencies, doctors, and people posing as doctors are raking in profits from the big abortion business.

## ABORTION PROFITEERS IN CHICAGO

In Chicago a whole string of private abortion clinics have sprung up since 1973. The Sun Times and the Better Government Association conducted a five month investigation of six of these clinics. As under-cover clinic staffers and patients, a team of women reporters turned up horror stories that rival the coat hanger and back alley atrocities of the past.

The story broke in the Sun Times on November 12th with a description of an elite section of Chicago known as the "Magnificent Mile." The clinics set up at these fancy addresses offer an air of respectability. But once inside the reporters found that unsterile and dangerous procedures are common, causing an alarming number of women to suffer massive infections and such severe internal damage that all their reproductive organs had to be removed.



This graphic from the *Chicago Sun Times* shows an abortion profiteer keeping score of the operations he performed in a race with another doctor.

They saw doctors, in the rush for more money, perform abortions in an excruciating 2 minutes, sometimes before the anesthetic took effect. In one downtown clinic, a Dr. Hah and a Dr. Klopfer would race each other to see who could perform the most abortions, each marking the totals on their aprons as they ran from one patient to another. Their motivations were clear. Hah has been paid \$776,636 in Medicaid payments alone since 1976; Klopfer \$465,175. Others pick up thousands a month

just moonlighting.

The reporters discovered that women are sold abortions whether they are pregnant or not. Four of the six reporters were declared pregnant on the basis of the urine samples they brought. The samples were from husbands and male reporters.

And when the operation is over, the clinics keep shoddy records, some falsified, preventing women from knowing whether they need post-operative care, or even whether or not the abortion was complete.

Twelve women died as a result of these abuses.

There is big money to be made in the abortion business. Poor attention to decent medical care translates into more money for the profiteers. State inspection agencies look the other way or don't have the authority to shut down the worst offenders.

The shock and outrage of Chicago residents who followed the grim 13 part series resulted in several clinics being closed down and the licenses of some doctors being pulled. Who knows how many of these clinics still exist in Chicago and in other cities around the country.

## FREE, SAFE ABORTION ON DEMAND

The struggle for free, safe abortion on demand certainly didn't end with the Supreme Court decision in 1973. State and federal medicaid funding for abortions has been and is still being challenged, with the aim of limiting abortions to wealthy women and relegating poor women to the back alleys.

"Right to life" groups, backed heavily by right-wing groups and politicians and the Catholic church are trying to turn the Chicago expose up-side-down by ignoring the evidence that safe abortions are needed, and insisting there should be no abortions at all.

Any attempts to overturn the "Freedom to Choose" decision must be met with fierce resistance. Women still have to battle hard to hang on to their gains. They have to fight to keep control over their ability to bear children while not letting it be twisted by profiteers to profit the few at the women's expense. **DOWN WITH THE ABORTION PROFITEERS. FREE, SAFE ABORTION ON DEMAND!**

# Florida migrants win tomato fight



From Arizona (above) to Florida, farmworkers are organizing.

The nearly 1,000 workers at the Everglades Labor Camp south of Miami walked out of fields full of ripe tomatoes December 7. The picking season was just beginning when the growers announced they'd pay only 30¢ for each 30-pound bucket of tomatoes, a cut from last season's rate of 40¢. At the end of a week long strike, the rates were back up, and the workers had made big leaps in organization.

The owners of Dade County's huge tomato industry, which provides the vegetables for most of the eastern US, whined that they couldn't afford what the workers were demanding. Strikers laugh at this argument. "We've made the growers rich for a long time," one said, "and we know they can afford another 15¢." Another explained, "In the store a 30 pound bucket of tomatoes would be worth over \$20. The farm worker gets 30¢."

The members of the United Migrants Association of Florida who launched the strike at Everglades quickly mobilized workers at other camps, almost completely stopping tomato picking in the area.

## THE STRIKE SPREADS AND WINS

Local officials tried to come to the aid of the growers to keep the strike from spreading. When 300 strikers marched from field to field on December 8, police arrested UMA leader

Benito Lopez and three other members of the strike steering committee. The strike leaders were charged with violating Florida's "right-to-work" law—a law in force in 20 states which aims at undercutting union organizing by banning the union shop. Within a few hours, workers raised \$1400 to bail them out.

The arrests didn't stop the roving pickets and the growing strike. On December 10, several hundred strikers marched to a nearby camp with flags bearing the emblem of the United Migrants Association and placards reading "Down with the exploitation of the workers." They lined up at the edge of the field chanting, "Strike, yes! Sellout, no!" and "Viva la Raza!" The pickers still in the field joined the strike right then and there.

By December 11 some of the growers were offering 40¢ a bucket. But the strikers still stuck to their demand of 45¢. They also raised other grievances such as having to pay their own rent and utilities in the miserable labor camps after being lured across the country on the promise that the bosses would pay these expenses.

On the 14th, a big march was assaulted by the police and 60 workers were hauled off in paddy wagons. The desperate growers united on an offer of 40¢ and other concessions and the United Migrants Association negotiators agreed. Buoyed by their victory, the UMA is actively organiz-

ing among the farmworkers for battles to come. One militant striker told The WORKERS VOICE "We feel we accomplished a lot, not just the 33%, but we let them know we're human beings so we can get a little respect."

## A LONG BATTLE AHEAD

Farmworkers have a long battle ahead to get organized and stand up for their rights. Though there are migrant farm workers in over half the states in the US, their publicized gains have been won mainly in California. Even there, victories by militant farmworkers and the United Farmworkers Union are hardly secure. In December, for example, a California judge finally nullified a phoney Teamsters-won election held a full three years ago at Gallo Winery. Even though he criticized the company for using "police state tactics" against the UFW, he still refused to order Gallo to recognize the UFW as the bargaining agent at the Gallo Winery.

Farmworkers around the country are stepping up their fight to overcome these obstacles, as evidenced by the tomato pickers' strike in Ohio this fall led by the Farm Labor Organizing Committee, numerous strikes in Texas last winter, the successful strike of undocumented Mexicano workers in Arizona this summer, and now the powerful strike of Florida migrant workers.

## Patsy Sims' "The Klan" New book misses Klan menace

Patsy Sims drove her MG sports car to a klavern meeting in Spartanburg, South Carolina and to a cross burning in Bogalusa, Louisiana. She taped conversations with the most rabid racists between Stone Mountain, Georgia and her home town of Beaumont, Texas. She learned the differences between the United Klans and the White Knights, between the thunderbolt symbol of the National States Rights Party and the drop of blood insignia of the Invisible Empire. She gathered up crates of hate literature and paraphernalia.

Her new, well-publicized book, 'The Klan,' is supposed to tell all about these notorious and secretive homegrown white American terrorists. But despite all her travels, Patsy Sims misses the point. She digs up a lot of facts that need to be out in the open. But she looks at each Klansman as an individual with some kind of hangup. Wizard Robert Shelton is a hustler. Terrorist Tom Tarrantes is a misguided youth. Dale Reusch is a real backslapper who needs a social outlet. Seventy year old James Venable is a patriarch trying to preserve the traditions of the Old South. 'Preacher' Killen is a deranged psychotic.

The Klan is all of these - but it's more. This assortment of twisted degenerates makes up a social movement protected by powerful interests and aimed at spreading

violence and intimidation - especially against Black people aiming to fight their oppression. With the Klan experiencing some growth these days, any book that tends to dismiss the role the KKK plays and their potential harm is wide of the mark.

Her book shows that the KKK is totally corrupt and splintered today. Each group is led by a rival hustler, who claims that he is the true inheritor of the title Imperial Wizard. Each strongman can make a nice living from the sales of memberships, mail-order hate literature, and the lecture circuit.

More importantly, these contending junior Hitlers are looking to get support from the ruling class and the government for their efforts in terrorizing Blacks and stirring up race hatred. The examples of powerful backing behind the Klan are many. Alabama wizard Robert Shelton got the post of state sales manager for B.F. Goodrich in return for KKK support of former Governor Patterson. Gary Thomas Rowe, one of the assassins of civil rights worker Viola Liuzzo, was an FBI agent. J.B. Stoner, the suspected bomber of the 16th St. Baptist Church in Birmingham in 1963, was recently saved from extradition by Georgia's governor. Ms. Sims shows how Louisiana wizard David Duke, the stylishly dressed, super-sophisticated 'Twentieth century racist,' is constantly in-



The Klan hole up in front of the Tupelo Post Office during United League demonstration November 25. These racist thugs are deadly enemies of Black people's struggle for justice.

vited onto TV talk shows and lecture dates.

But after all her transcripts of Klan conversation are edited, the reader doesn't get more than her speculations about the strange personalities of a couple dozen racist fanatics. She never clearly brings out the simple point: What they're doing now is what they've always done.

When the lash of the slavemaster gave way, KKK nightriders came on the scene to chain Blacks to the indebtedness of the sharecropping system. When Black tenants bought land or left the South to get a share

of the "roaring 20's," the Klan unleashed a wave of lynch terror. When the Civil Rights movement grew up to challenge the remnants of the plantation system, racist Klan gangs bombed churches and murdered freedom marchers. Now industrialization is bringing yet another change to the South. Black people are pushing forward to get their rightful share of the expanding jobs and economy in the "Sunbelt." Again the KKK has surfaced, trying through intimidation and terror to preserve white supremacy in the South.

### THE SAME OLD KLAN IN THE NEW SOUTH

Patsy Sims doesn't see the connection between the rise of Klan activity and the dramatic changes in Southern life today. The places where she found the most racism being stirred up were the most rapidly industrializing areas, the Gulf Coast of Texas and Louisiana and the Piedmont of the Carolinas. If she had held her book for another six months, she could have covered the intensive efforts of the KKK in the Tupelo area of Mississippi and the adjoining Tennessee River Valley counties of northern Alabama.

When sprawling factories spring up on land that used to grow cotton and corn, new expectations are born in the minds of Black people. A people who have been oppressed on that land for generations see a chance to fight. The age old demand for freedom becomes strong once again.

And yet the new companies, their hiring offices and their foremen, make tremendous profits by discriminating to the max. They hope to win white loyalty, hold Blacks to minimum wage, and control a divided work force. In these times southern Blacks are facing stepped up police brutality, the loss of Black teachers and principals that came with consolidation of the school systems, the likelihood of getting cheated out of rightful inheritances and land titles, a hard time getting loans, and attacks on social programs and services.

The South is at a crossroads. The struggle is over whether or not the system of strict white supremacy will continue to dominate every aspect of life in the "new South," whether it will stay an area of low wages, racial antagonism and misery for the majority of southerners, Black and white.

The Black response has been the biggest round of struggle since the tumultuous '60s: the Tupelo boycott. The demands in Georgia for funding of Black colleges. Anti-Klan and anti-

(cont. on page 19)

## Rallies in 70 cities hit JP Stevens Key Southern organizing drive

Boycott rallies in 70 cities gave the J.P. Stevens struggle a shot in the arm on November 30. From Gadsden, Alabama to Nashua, New Hampshire workers and others rallied in solidarity with the important struggle to unionize in the South.

J.P. Stevens, the nation's most notorious anti-union company, has been moving its empire over the last 25 years to the low wage South.

The workers have been fighting to bring in the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union for 15 years. The pay and benefits are pitiful. Cotton dust in the air is 12 times higher than the safe limit. The result is a crippling lung disease, called brown lung. Without a union, the textile giant is getting away with a lot of discrimination against Blacks. Women are fired for taking pregnancy leaves. Hundreds are injured from running machines without training and firings of injured workers are common.

At the present, the ACTWU has won elections at 18 plants. But J.P. Stevens refuses to negotiate. Instead they have harassed activists, bugged phones, used labor spies, and fired unionists. They have brazenly disregarded National Labor Relations Board decisions, figuring that the fines are cheaper than recognizing the union.

The key to the union fight lies in the aspirations and struggle of the 44,000 Stevens workers. Despite the numerous firings, harassment, and anti-union dirty tricks, the textile workers have kept the union alive. They are gaining a foothold even though the ACTWU has not won a union contract at any of the 85 mills.

At the Roanoke Rapids, North Carolina plant, the union is strong enough to fight and win grievances, contract or not.

One union activist told the Workers Voice, "This is a long hard road we're on, but things are better today than 4 years ago when I joined the negotiating committee. People who didn't want the union then now see us fighting and winning, so they get behind the union drive."

In recent months union activity has broadened to plants farther from the union base in Roanoke Rapids. For example textile workers at the Woolwine plant near Stuart, Virginia won collective bargaining rights in mid-August. This was the first victory in the state of Virginia. A mechanic there pointed out how important it is to build up militant organizations throughout J.P. Stevens' far flung network of mills in the Southeast. It would be easy for the company to transfer machines and work in the event of a strike. He said, "Stevens doesn't care about letting seven or eight plants close to stop the union's South-wide organizing drive."

To publicize the worker's demands and rally support, especially in the more unionized northern states, the ACTWU launched the boycott of J.P. Stevens sheets, pillow cases, and towels. In a number of cities including Chicago, Philadelphia, and Boston, the effort has succeeded in removing goods from store shelves. In Boston activists have hit the Jordan March Department store, picketing the J.P. Stevens products there. To show support and stand with the struggle to organize the unorganized, BOYCOTT J.P. STEVENS!



J. P. Stevens uses the following brand names:

**Sheets and Pillowcases**  
Beauti-Blend, Tastemaker, Beauticale, Utica, Fine Arts, Utica and Mohawk, Peanuts (comic strip figures).  
**Blankets**  
Baby Stevens Utica, Forstmann.  
**Carpets**  
Contender, Merryweather, Gulistan, Tastemaker.  
**Slippers (Washable)**  
Always in Step.  
**Draperies**  
J. P. Stevens.  
**Hosiery**  
Hip-Lets, Finesse, Spirit.  
**Towels**  
Fine Arts, Utica, Tastemaker.  
**Woolens, Worsted Fabrics**  
Boldeena, Hockanum, Forstmann, Worumbo.  
**Table Linen**  
Simtex.  
**Cotton Fabrics**  
Academy, Twist Twill, Lady Twist Twill.  
**Synthetic and Blend Fabrics**  
Bleu Tempo, 20 Below, Coachman, Lady Consort, Consort, Windsheer, Carousel, Linebacker, Gesture, Stevetex (cotton-nylon knit), Weftamatic.

# 1500 march in solidarity with Tupelo

## Union busting lays egg in Miss.



40 poultry workers on strike at Purnell Pride made up one of the spirited contingents in the march. 300 workers struck Purnell in mid-November, 17 months after the Meatcutters Union won a union recognition election there. Every time the workers threatened to strike, the company was forced to come up with a small raise in an effort to head off signing a contract.

Now after four raises, the wages are barely above \$4.00 an hour. But the strikers, 98% of whom are Blacks, have union on their minds. They need an end to the killing pace of 65,000 chickens a day, lack of seniority on the job, no pension and no insurance.

The company is trying to operate with scabs, most of them white. Purnell is one of many southern outfits trying to use discrimination to stay non-union. Another Tupelo company, Irvin Industries, fired 118 workers in one day last year to kill a union drive. 63% of them were Black.

Militants from Northern cities, campus activists from across the Midwest and veteran Civil Rights fighters joined Tupelo's embattled Black community in shoulder to shoulder solidarity. 1500 members and supporters of the United League of Mississippi marched for freedom on November 25 into downtown Tupelo.

They headed down streets nearly empty of Black shoppers for eight months in this expanding northeast Mississippi center of commerce—right toward fifty Ku Klux Klansmen on the sidewalk armed with everything from ax handles to semi-automatic rifles.

At the front, United League President Skip Robinson mounted a pickup truck with two rifles prominently displayed on its gun rack. He said we had come to march for a cause and weren't turning around now. "We are not here

to provoke anything. But if we are attacked, we have the right to defend ourselves."

The march streamed past the boycott targets. Signs in the windows of Deb's Dollar Store said "Going Out of Business." With Christmas shopping about to start, downtown merchants had begged Mayor Clyde Whitaker to give in to United League demands.

Whitaker met with Robinson during the week before the march and promised an affirmative action hiring plan for city jobs. But he didn't speak to many other Black demands.

Charges and fines against people arrested in the boycott were not dropped. The investigation of the North Mississippi Rural Legal Services, a legal aid group actively supporting the League and boycott, wasn't halted. Whitaker

(cont. on page 19)



The freedom the people of northern Mississippi have been waging highlighted a growing ferment of struggle and resistance in the Black communities nationwide last year.

## Mississippi cause reaches thousands Robinson to tour West Coast

Not many people had heard of the Tupelo struggle three months ago. Today its freedom call echoes from coast to coast. From Harlem, New York, where 550 heard Skip Robinson speak this fall, to the gates of the Caterpillar plant in San Leandro, California, where workers are collecting money for the United League, people expressed solidarity with Black people fighting back in the most hated of Southern states.

Currently the United League is on a speaking tour in California, Colorado, Washington, and Hawaii. Sponsored by the Anti-Bakke Decision Coalition, the tour will reach out to supporters on campuses, at churches, and among workers. On January 15, Legal Aid Lawyers from cities up and down the East Coast will demonstrate in Washington to demand the government keep its hands off the North Mississippi Rural Legal Services.

An earlier tour, organized in large part through the efforts of Tupelo Support Committees in over a dozen cities in the Midwest and East, drew hundreds to the Thanksgiving Day march, and spread the word to thousands more.



One thousand people from all over the country poured into Tupelo Thanksgiving weekend to show their solidarity with the struggle here.

Many different sections of the Black community—and a wide range of white supporters—took part in activities. Workers at American Motors and a steel foundry mobilized in their plants and neighborhoods for a benefit

party in Racine, Wisconsin, one of several held around the country. A fine local band played free, and 400 people showed up.

The Tupelo Support Committees in Gary, Indiana, Milwaukee, and other

cities went out to Black churches on Sundays, speaking at the invitation of the ministers who took up collections for the struggle.

The Boston committee took a slide show into the homes of supporters in a housing project in Roslindale. The inspiration of Tupelo kicked off efforts to organize against racial attacks and poor conditions in the project. Many Blacks were among the 70 doctors, nurses, lawyers, educators and others who attended a \$10 a head cocktail party in New York.

In Pittsburgh, the newspapers and television carried stories, and radio talk shows were falling all over themselves to get Robinson on the air.

And on numerous campuses Black and white students turned out in large numbers for support programs. In Amherst, Massachusetts 300 heard Robinson speak and 55 from the University of Wisconsin jammed into a rented school bus to make the trip from Madison to the Tupelo demonstration.

The Tupelo struggle has sparked admiration and solidarity in the North. At a time when Black people are being hard hit by government attacks, it is a beacon showing the road ahead—the road of struggle.

# US recognizes Peoples China

## Caves in after 30 years



On January 1, 1500 people marched through New York's Chinatown to celebrate the establishment of diplomatic relations. The march was overwhelmingly Chinese-American, showing the pro-Taiwan KMT is losing its death grip on the community. Over 1000 marched in San Francisco's Chinatown the same day.

After 30 years of pretending the world's most populous country didn't exist, the US government has been forced to cave in and recognize the People's Republic of China. On January 1, full diplomatic relations between the two countries were restored.

This defeat for the longtime US policy of encircling and isolating China highlights the big changes taking place in world politics. The potential benefits for the people of the world as well as folks here and in China are immense.

The US has had to drop the decades old myth that the tiny handful of traitors who make up the Taiwan government are the real representatives of the Chinese people.

### US DECLINE - CHINA'S STRENGTH

Today that myth, and the US strategy behind it, is a shambles. After defeats in Korea and Indochina, the US is solidly on the defensive. The Western world it heads is racked by crisis and social decay. More and more, people around the world are moving to determine their own destinies. Revolution threatens the US puppets in the Third World, as in Nicaragua and Iran.

Meanwhile, another superpower, the USSR, has emerged as a powerful and aggressive rival to the US for world domination. The Soviet rulers are behind Ethiopia's aggression in Eritrea, the recent coups in South Yemen and Afghanistan, and Vietnam's war against Cambodia. Everywhere the Soviets are reaching out to grab control from the US. Both sides are gearing up for the only showdown that can truly decide who will be number one robber of the world's people - a new global war.

As the US declines and the world moves closer to war, China has made giant strides. Desperately poor peasants leveled mountains and dammed mighty rivers with little more than their bare hands to create productive farmland. Whole cities sprang up in the icy tundra, as proud workers developed the oilfields foreign experts claimed didn't exist. Once an almost unreachable dream for the parents of China's children,

literacy and education are widespread among adults and universal for the young.

Through their own efforts, China's people have built a developing socialist country. Their accomplishments have earned the respect and support of people all over the world, and even the US has to reckon with it.

China has no desire for or stake in a new world war. The People's Republic has an active foreign policy aimed at uniting the peoples and countries of the world against superpower domination, colonialism and exploitation. Furthermore, war would wreak havoc with the enormous and complex task the Chinese have set for themselves - making People's China a modern industrialized socialist country by the year 2000.

### AGREEMENT BLOCKS SOVIET EXPANSIONISM

The normalization agreement also serves as a brake on developments toward war between the two superpowers. It does this principally by erecting a barrier to Soviet meddling and aggression around the world.

The US wants to block the USSR like an aging gangster threatened by an up and coming young hood. China, itself menaced by over a million Soviet troops on its border, has different motives. The less room the Soviets have to maneuver, the better are the chances for other countries to develop and grow in strength without interference. The leaders and press of the USSR responded nervously to normalization, and tried to paint it as an "anti-Soviet" plot.

Secondly, normalization restricts US as well as Soviet ability to make trouble in Asia. The agreement contains a clause in which both parties agree to oppose hegemony - attempts by one country to dominate another. Coming only two months after the China - Japan treaty, it locks the US into a network of agreements with China at their hub, which together erect a barrier to outside meddling in Asian affairs.

The agreement also cuts down on the weight the US government has to throw around in that part of the

world, because it can no longer use Taiwan as a military base - an "unsinkable aircraft carrier."

### BENEFIT TO AMERICAN AND CHINESE PEOPLES

With normalization, Americans will have many more opportunities to visit the People's Republic of China and to learn about socialist society. The miracles the common people of China

have accomplished since they began running their country in 1949 hold many lessons for us.

For their part, China's leaders freely acknowledge that China can benefit from access to this country's advanced technology, expertise and scientific accomplishments. Adapted to Chinese conditions, they can help speed the ongoing modernization program the Chinese see as their main task in this period.

## History catches up with Taiwan tyrants

To establish diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China, Jimmy Carter had to agree to three strict requirements the Chinese government laid down:

- \* End diplomatic relations with the Taiwan regime.
- \* End the mutual defense treaty with Taiwan.
- \* Remove all US troops from Taiwan.

The US has tried to salvage what it can from this defeat, declaring that it intends to continue providing "defensive weapons" to Taiwan, already the world's 6th largest military power. Further, it will continue to use the Seventh Fleet to patrol the Taiwan strait.

These actions are not acceptable to the People's Republic, although they were not considered important enough to prevent normalization. Such US actions can only encourage aggressive moves on the part of the Taiwan ruling clique, and hinder the process of reunifying Taiwan Province with China.

Taiwan has the longest standing military dictatorship in the world. It was set up after the victory of the Chinese revolution in 1949. Through the '40s the US backed the loser, Chiang Kai-shek, to the tune of \$5 billion.

Millions of Chinese people gave their lives to throw off Chiang's tyranny, his foreign backers and the system of exploitation he represented. When he was defeated, he and the battered remnants of his army fled in US ships to China's island province of Taiwan. There he set him-

self up as "President" of China, bankrolled by still more US billions.

The US government and media promoted the sorry myth that someday Chiang would reconquer and rule the mainland. In the meantime, American naval, air and ground units used Taiwan as a forward base in Asia.

American corporations took advantage of Taiwan, too. Taiwan law forbids strikes, all political dissent and any contact with the mainland. Wages for skilled workers in manufacturing average \$3 a day. Taiwan seemed like the garden of Eden to companies like RCA and Motorola who packed up whole plants and ran away from communities in the US.

Now, the rulers of Taiwan and a few vocal reactionaries in their US fan club, like Barry Goldwater, are screaming bloody murder. They can't believe they are being discarded by the same American ruling class that spawned them because they are no longer valuable enough.

In the normalization agreement, the US recognizes that the question of Taiwan is an internal matter to be resolved by the Chinese people themselves. This greatly improves the prospects for a peaceful reunification of Taiwan with the mainland.

In fact, the People's Republic has already made an offer to begin negotiations. But the road won't be easy. The response of the Taiwan ruling clique, headed by its new "President", Chiang Kai-Shek's son was to put the islands troops on alert. But bluster as they will, history's tide has left him high and dry.

This fall, I was a member of a three week tour of China with over a dozen other Americans, mainly workers. We wanted to learn more about current developments in China, especially the political struggle there and the drive to modernize the country by the year 2000. It was a chance to check out first-hand how people live and work in China. It was a chance to learn if the socialist system there really works, if working people can really rule society and run it in the interests of the great majority, instead of a wealthy handful.

We traveled extensively, visiting big cities and smaller areas and agricultural communes in the countryside, where three-quarters of China's peo-

ple live. Everywhere people were open, friendly and quite anxious about us and about America. We felt like honored guests, not outsiders.

Everyone of us left full of respect for the Chinese people and the socialist system under which they have accomplished so much. We are convinced that socialism and communism are the road ahead for the American people as well.

Now, with relations between the US and China normalized and China all over the news, I am writing some articles for the Worker's Voice. They are aimed at giving the paper's readers a worker's-eye view of the People's Republic of China today, starting with how people live in a Chinese city, Shanghai.

# China: A worker's-eye view

BY A MIDWEST TRANSIT WORKER

"In the old days, the sky served as a quilt, the ground as a bed, the wind swept the floor." The retired worker in the 'Squatters Village' neighborhood wasn't kidding. He was standing in front of a tiny, raggedy straw hut that couldn't have been much more than four feet high. The local government preserved it to show what misery and horror life in China had been before socialism.

The old guy served us tea in his current home, a three room apartment in a five story building in a housing project. He grinned as he described how "in 1963 when the project was completed and the first tenants moved in there was jubilation, beating drums, crying, drinking and shooting off guns."

Before liberation our host had been a beggar until he got lucky and became a rickshaw puller, dragging rich people all over Shanghai for starvation wages. After liberation when the Chinese Communist Party began reorganizing the country's economy, rickshaws were banned so no man would have to pull another around like a beast of burden. Like other former beggars and rickshaw pullers, our host had become a factory worker until he retired.

His pride in his life under the new society was unmistakable. "Revolution and socialism," he told us, "have wiped out the three fears of unemployment, old age and illness."

## CROWDED BUT CHEAP

The apartment was clean and full of well crafted hardwood furniture. On shelves were pictures of Chairman Mao and Chou En-lai, a radio and, still uncommon in Chinese households, a television set. His wife was cooking a tantalizing smelling dinner in the kitchen area as we talked.

Besides him, the apartment is home for his wife, two sons - a translator who is often away and a factory worker - the wife of one of them and their two young children.

With all three generations in three rooms, it was a little crowded by our standards.

The rent on the other hand had just been lowered from 7.2 to 5.8 yuan a month. That works out to under \$3.50 monthly. The total income of his family in salaries and pensions is 300 yuan a month. With necessities so cheap, they bank a third of their income every month!

Outside, one member of our tour commented, "This is a housing project? Back home a project means a dead end. Survival. Look here - it's clean with grass and trees and people are all over outside enjoying themselves." Furthermore, there was no landlord - the project was run by an elected committee of residents, mainly non-working mothers and retirees.

We met with several women leaders of this committee, who like many leaders of mass organizations in China, are members of the Communist Party.

We were told there were 35 other such projects in Shanghai, most of them larger than the one we saw. Everywhere we saw more under construction. This still can house only a portion of the city's millions. The others live mostly in older two and three story walkups, which don't look as 'Chinese' as buildings in the other cities we saw.

(Shanghai was long controlled by Westerners and in many ways was more familiar to us than other Chinese cities.)

Blocks and neighborhoods are organized the same way the projects are.

## A CITY TRANSFORMED

One of the most striking things about Shanghai, and China in general, was that we didn't see any rich people or any really poor people. The society as a whole is still very much marked by its impoverished past but everybody works and nobody lives high off the labor of others.

Shanghai before 1949 was a real cesspool where anything was available - for a price - and criminal gangs openly helped run the city. We saw no beggars, no hookers, no opium dens.

What's more, nobody's windows have grates or bars on them and people stroll alone or in couples through the parks at all hours of night and nobody seems at all worried. What few police we saw, mostly directing traffic, did not carry guns.

## DAILY ROUTINE

Because we were only in China for a few weeks, we couldn't get a really deep picture of how people live, but we learned a lot from the glimpses we did get.

Every morning, thousands of early risers do a series of traditional Chinese limbering exercises out in the streets. Some retired workers do them later in the morning.

People head to their jobs, which are mostly near where they live, by foot, bus and especially by bicycle. Almost no-one has cars, but once or twice we saw actual bicycle jams during the rush hour. Nevertheless, people stayed amazingly patient and even-tempered throughout.

Many workplaces and most neighborhoods have day-care centers for infants and toddlers. Older children go to school and many spend their after school hours at remarkable places called children's palaces. Here kids can pursue dozens of interests from art and acting, to sports, to scientific experiments to learning foreign languages.

Most neighborhoods, like the project we visited, have a bunch of small stores - bakeries, leather shops, photographic studios with wedding pictures in the windows, liquor stores, and so on.

We ourselves went on a shopping binge through a giant department store in downtown Shanghai. It was pretty impressive. All nine floors were crowded with people buying everything from tools to toothbrushes. We were surprised to see large and shopper-filled sections for things like electronic parts, art supplies and sporting goods.

Since there are no capitalists taking a profit, we were told, the government is free to sell clothing and other necessities at low prices. But as part of the national economic plans drawn up by the state under the leadership of the Communist Party, luxuries like TVs are kept relatively expensive. This way the government is able to accumulate money to bankroll economic growth and help pay the costs of running society.

After work, people cook at home or take home prepared meals from a small stand.

## AFTER WORK

In the evenings we saw many people

playing cards in front of their houses or watching televisions set up with chairs on the streets. Many folks study politics, a foreign language or other subjects either in free study classes or from radio courses. Younger workers also play a lot of basketball and other sports in the evenings and on the weekends. Young couples stroll hand in hand through the parks.

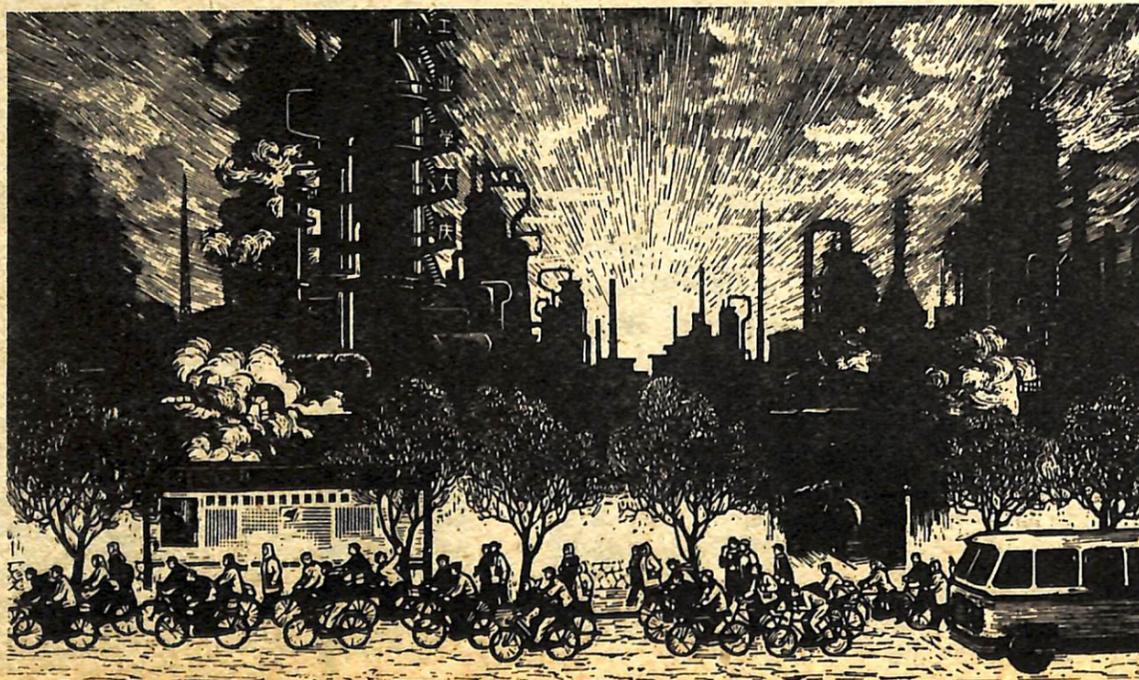
Night out-type entertainment is also available. We easily saw a dozen movie theatres, one showing an old British flick with subtitles. We attended an astounding acrobatic performance which goes on every night for a few pennies.

But it's not American style night life. Except in tourist hotels there are no bars or nightclubs, only restaurants. Despite this, Shanghai never rolls up its sidewalks. Some shops and public transportation are always open as the graveyard shift goes about its business.

We even got a look at what the future holds for the Chinese people at the Ching San Petrochemical works. This complex lies 45 miles south of Shanghai and churns out 200,000 miles of synthetic fiber every year. It was built over the last few years on land reclaimed from the sea so that valuable farmland wouldn't be destroyed.

This is a centrally planned alternative to expanding Shanghai, already one of the five largest cities in the world. Along with the plant a whole spanking new town has sprung up. Big enough for 42,000 people, it has wide streets laid out for motor traffic. White apartment buildings ten or twelve stories high with porches line the streets. And a real eye opener for anyone who has ever driven across North Jersey, although the plant is right next door, the pollution controls are so tight you can't tell by sense of smell.

(In the February Workers Voice, we will take a look at what it's like to work in the People's Republic.)



# '79 contract battles.

(cont. from page 1)

1978 saw the resistance in action. Miners defied the government, the coal bosses and their own union leaders when they were called on to take it in the ear in the name of national interests, and waged a mighty 111 day strike. Postal workers wildcatted against the early version of Carter's anti-inflation offensive, and are still battling to get their front line fighters rehired. In September, the Brotherhood of Railway and Airline Clerks paralyzed rail traffic when they struck nationwide in support of workers at Norfolk and Western, after they discovered that dozens of other rail companies were funding the union-busting efforts of the N & W. That strike may be renewed in January.

## BIG PACTS COMING UP

Strong rank and file sentiment has helped spur the leaders of many unions to say they'll bargain for as much as they can get.

Jerry Archuleta, a spokesman for the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers (OCAW) commented, "Our position is to bargain as if the guide-

lines do not exist. We have no obligation to front for Jimmy Carter's anti-inflation program when the whole system is aimed at the victims - the worker and the consumer."

Rubber workers, meatcutters and electrical union spokesmen have echoed this stance. Busloads of International Union of Electrical Workers' members picketed the White House against the guidelines on November 30.

The 60,000 OCAW members, whose contract with six major oil monopolies expires January 7, led off the batting order of big contracts in this heavy bargaining year. They demand money, fully paid health care, safety and retirement benefits. In a phone interview with the Workers' Voice, Archuleta debunked the myth that workers cause inflation, pointing out that wages are a tiny part of refining costs. Even if the oil workers' pay doubled, gas prices at the pump would only increase by about one cent.

The most significant of the early battles will be the Teamsters' demand for a solid Master Freight Agreement on April 1. Nearly 300,000 truckers will be seeking wage hikes, new work rules

(like an end to forced overtime), safety, pension and benefit improvements.

Fear of a possible national freight tie-up forced the Carter administration to pull back slightly from strict enforcement of the 7% limit. Already-won pension and health increases will be allowed to inch settlements above that figure.

But with Teamster rank and file more organized and militant than in many years, economy watchers predict that the agreement will go over the limit by quite a bit.

Tough talk by union officials doesn't always lead to tough action. For that matter, many aren't even talking tough. Doug Fraser of the United Auto Workers International actually welcomed the Guidelines. Citing a Guideline exception that allows higher raises for higher productivity, he said the 760,000 autoworkers should get wage gains on that basis. In other words, he'll okay upping the break-neck pace of the production lines if the workers get a little more money.

Glenn Watts of the Communications Workers, who can talk his trash a little more freely since the union doesn't have a contract this year, has

applauded Carter's "inflation stopping efforts" and criticized union leaders who oppose them.

## OTHER ISSUES AT STAKE IN '79

Wages and benefits are the main fuel firing workers' mood of resistance, but other issues are close behind. Demands for guards against the killer pace of productivity and job security are increasingly common.

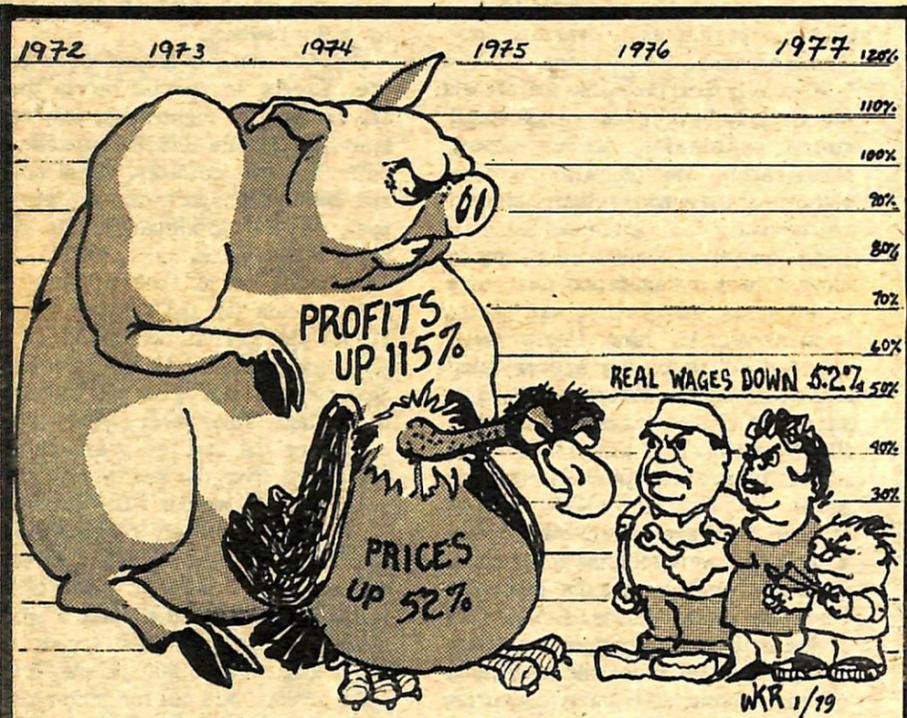
Rubber and electrical workers will be looking for penalties from companies which try to close plants. So many factories have shut their doors and run to other places from Akron, Ohio, traditionally the rubber capital of the world, that people there are starting to call it a ghost town. Tighter severance and pension clauses, advance notice of closings and provisions for organizing unions in the South are some of the upcoming demands.

In auto, mandatory overtime has many workers putting in 56 hour weeks. Autoworkers want the companies to institute only voluntary overtime to accompany pay increases, cost of living allowance, retirement and pension hikes.

## CASH ON THE LINE IN '79

Driven by the economic crisis that is heading for another recession in late

(cont. on page 14)



## 1979 Contract Calendar

Date Contract Expires	Employer	Union	Number Workers Covered
Jan. 8	Petroleum Refiners (ARCO, Gulf, Mobil, Texaco and others)	Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers	60,000
April 1	Trucking Management Inc. (National Master Freight Agreement)	Teamsters	400,000
April 1	New York State	AFSCME	130,000
April 1	Goodyear, Firestone, Goodrich, Uniroyal and GM	Rubber Workers	73,050
May 1	UPS	Teamsters	70,000
June 1	Dress, blouse, shirt, coat, suit, sportswear and others	ILGWU	200,000
June 30	General Electric	IBEW, UE, IUE	102,200
June 30	California Food Processors	Teamsters	56,550
July 1	Florida, Hawaii, Iowa, Minn., Wisconsin	AFSCME	172,000
July 16	Westinghouse Electric and others	IBEW, UE, IUE	56,000
Sept. 1	Wilson, Swift, Armour, Oscar Meyer and others	Meatcutters	31,700
Sept. 1	Men's shirts and single pants manufactures	ACTWU	60,000
Sept. 15	Auto (GM, Ford, Chrysler)	UAW	760,000
Sept. 24	GM (electrical)	IUE	30,000
Oct. 1	International Harvester, Deere, Caterpillar	UAW	125,000

# BREAK THROUGH GUIDELINES

**Q: What do guidelines mean?**  
**A: Bad news for workers.**

**Q: IF WORKERS GO ALONG WITH THE GUIDELINES, WON'T THAT BE BETTER FOR EVERYONE?**

**A:** No! Workers cannot afford to give an inch. The companies have never voluntarily sacrificed even a penny of their profits. If workers "do their part" all they'll get is a cut in their standard of living. The so-called anti-inflation guidelines, if they achieve anything at all, will push down wages.

The same goods that cost \$100 in 1957 now cost \$200. The papers are talking about \$1 a gallon gas and \$2 a pound hamburger. Medical costs rose most sharply, which explains why insurance plans have deteriorated so much in recent years.

Wages have gone the opposite direction. Since 1972 real wages have declined by 5.2%. For a worker making \$12,000 a year, this means taking it on the chin to the tune of \$600. The average earnings of minorities have fallen off even faster than for whites.

**Q: BUT WON'T THE GUIDELINES ALSO KEEP PRICES DOWN?**

**A:** In the 1974 controls period, capitalists found loopholes in the barrel to raise prices. Carter's Guidelines don't even

touch increases on raw products - like food and other necessities. He has indicated that he's willing to grant extra price hikes when profits are in danger. And Chicago's aldermen best illuminated how the rich and their politicians intend to play by the rules. They gave themselves a 28% pay increase in December.

**Q: IF WAGES AREN'T RESPONSIBLE FOR INFLATION, WHAT IS?**

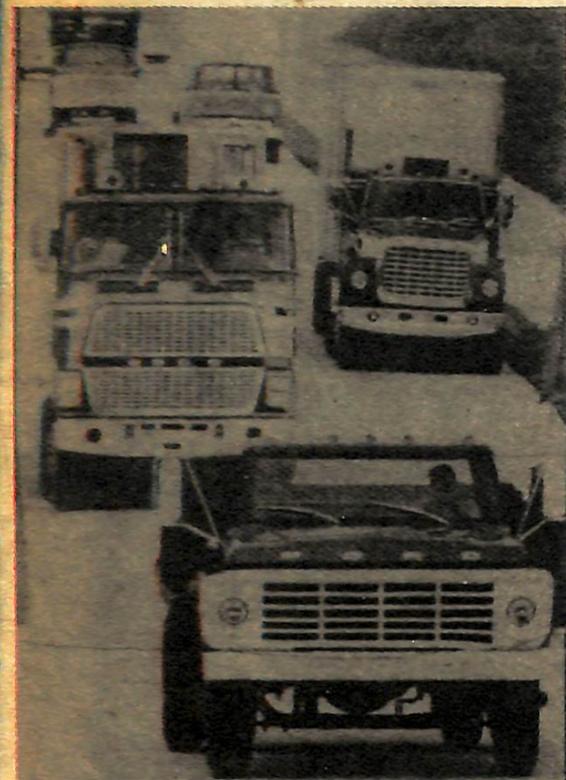
**A:** The source lies deep within the workings of the capitalist economy in this period - an era of stagnation and decline for the US dollar on the world scene. The cost of maintaining troops overseas, the heavy investment in armaments, deficit spending, an imbalance of trade - these are the biggest factors causing inflation.

**Q: WON'T WORKERS GET BACK AT TAX TIME WHAT THEY LOSE FROM THE GUIDELINES?**

**A:** Yeah, and maybe Michael Anthony will drop by an anonymous check for a million bucks. Carter did say he'd ask Congress to pass a tax rebate if workers take the wage restrictions and then inflation still goes up. But

# Rebels score in Teamster battle

## Good sign for contract battle



Teamsters rolled over the Fitzsimmons machine in local election as their contract nears.

The insurgent reform movement is rocking the International Brotherhood of Teamsters. Rank and file drivers' slates won November and December election victories in at least six locals and made strong showings in others. The insurgent momentum will have a significant impact on the current negotiations for a national freight agreement which expires March 31.

The growing strength of Teamsters for a Democratic Union (TDU) and the Professional Drivers Council (PROD) is giving a voice to truckers' demands at a time when the Carter administration, Trucking Management, Inc., and the Teamster International leaders are hassling over a pacesetter contract of the 1979 bargaining year.

The upsurge has been strongest in the car haulers locals whose contract expires two months after the master freight pact. TDU slates notched victories in Flint, Mich., St. Louis, and Jacksonville, Fla. These Teamster car haulers were especially angry because the International rammed through their 1976 contract even though the membership voted it down twice by over 60%. (The constitution requires a 75% majority to reject a contract! Naturally, a big demand is majority rule.)

TDU and PROD slates also took over locals in Boston, Green Bay, Wisc., Oklahoma City, Harrisburg, Pa., and Roanoke, Va. And they ran strong in New York City and Pittsburgh. In an interview with the Workers Voice, TDU national organizer Ken Paff said that even they "were surprised at how well we

did and pleased in general about the success of reform people" in the votes.

The gains were the result of a lot of phone calls and footwork among truckers. Campaigns were run by local chapters according to the needs of their areas. In New York City's corruption-riddled Local 282, the dissidents did their organizing in groups for protection. Their PROD-affiliated group, Fear of Retaliation Ends (FORE), saw its candidate, Ted Ktsaros, beaten up right in a union meeting two years ago. The assailants were thugs for racketeering union president John Cody, who directed the attack after Ktsaros said the local needed more democracy.

### THE OPPOSITION MOVEMENT

The big election challenge was coordinated nationally—TDU's national newspaper, CONVOY, goes out to thousands of truckers, supplemented by about 20 local papers. TDU held a rank and file conference in October attended by 400, which hammered out demands for the upcoming contracts.

The appearance of such a mass-based opposition movement in the nation's largest and most notoriously corrupt and undemocratic union is a significant development. It is similar to Ed Sadlowski's challenge to the established sell-out leadership of the Steelworkers Union and the miners' organized overthrow of the murderous Tony Boyle. In both these movements the rank and file gained a sense of their own power. In

(cont. on page 14)

## PO workers demand: Amnesty for fired strikers

The first fighters — and the first wounded in battle against Jimmy Carter's anti-inflation offensive — were the postal workers. Five consecutive days of actions by workers at New York Bulk, the Meadows in New Jersey and the San Francisco Bulk helped spark a rejection of a takeaway national contract last summer. In the

five months since then, workers continued to fight — against the massive firings and disciplinary actions the PO brought down in retaliation.

\* NEW YORK CITY — On December 15, 400 postal workers took to the streets demanding, "Amnesty for Fired Postal Workers Now!" In a demonstration called by the NY Metro Area

Postal Union, the workers crisscrossed Manhattan amidst tens of thousands of Christmas shoppers. Their flyers condemned the PO bosses for the firings and for the rotten conditions on the job. They were joined by day shift workers on lunch at Grand Central Station and later rallied at the GPO where they were met by delegations from a number of supportive NYC labor unions. Statements of solidarity arrived from the San Francisco Bulk fired workers and other labor organizations.

\* WASHINGTON, D.C. — Two busloads of fired workers and union stewards tried to meet with Postmaster Bolger on December 20. While 60 picketed outside the US Postal Service headquarters, a delegation was turned away at the door by Postal inspectors (the USPS Gestapo) who told them to "send a letter." So they piled back into the buses covered with signs demanding amnesty and a meeting, and they drove across the river to the plush, upper-class Alexandria, Virginia, where Bolger lives. They waited in front of his house for 8 hours while police and Postal inspectors swarmed all over the neighborhood. Finally, the bus drivers were ordered to drive away or be fired. Bolger stayed in hiding the whole time.

### WORKERS DEFEND THEMSELVES

PO bosses in New York, New Jersey and San Francisco fired 200 postal workers and disciplined 2,500 more for participation in the July actions. But their terror tactics couldn't douse the fire the Bulk workers had ignited. They failed to turn back a tide of opposition to the national contract which culminated in a rejection vote by the membership of all three postal unions.

Postal union leaders initially did little about the attacks. President Moe Biller of the NY Metro Local, who sure talked tough against the contract, delayed active support for amnesty until the casualty list was long

(cont. on page 14)

# THE MES

## es mean? kers!

if prices continue to spiral as most economists predict, this tax payback could total as much as \$15 billion. This sum (or anything approaching it) stands a snowball's chance in hell of getting through a cutback-minded Congress.

Q: BUT CAN WE WIN ANYTHING IF WE FIGHT?

A: We sure won't get anything if we don't. Rank and file organizations are key. A small but active group that really pays attention to what other workers want can clarify demands and agitate in the union for education and action in advance of the contract expiration. Bargaining committee elections, reform movements, contract demands, union meetings, basic shop struggles, strike support for other locals — all these strengthen the ability of workers to fight. The active core must constantly find ways for the rank and file to unite and join the struggle. Wherever possible, workers must go out broadly to other plants and unions. The '79 contracts can roll over the Guidelines if workers take things into their own hands.



400 postal workers marched through midtown Manhattan December 15, demanding amnesty.



The Fraternal Order of Steel Haulers (FASH) struck the Teamsters for the right to represent themselves. Above: Confrontation with scabs hauling steel at U.S. Steel, Fairless Hills, Pennsylvania.

## Steel Haulers still on strike

### Sick of Teamster sellouts

Angry men mass at the front gates of US Steel in Fairless Hills, Pennsylvania. It looks like a scene from the '59 steel strike: men are jumping up on truck cab running boards to urge the drivers to turn back.

Then you see the cops standing between two groups of gesturing men. One side is the Fraternal Association of Steel Haulers (FASH) striking to get out of the Teamsters' union. The other is the Teamsters, there to bust the steel haulers nationwide strike and all resistance to their stranglehold on the men's lives. Some leaders from the local Steelworkers union as well as several US Steel bosses line up with the Teamsters.

The Teamsters claim the steel haulers want to bust the union. The FASH men demand freedom. After several days of yelling, fist fights, some bombing and gun play the steel haulers are driven from the gates.

As the FASH strike enters its third month the CB air waves on major highways still crackle with noise of the day to day struggle. Fewer trucks are running. Those who must drive or lose their jobs do so only in daylight and then in convoys.

The steel companies maintain that the strike has had no effect, yet they've brought at least seven different suits against FASH to get them back to work. Lake Michigan barges have begun to carry steel. Smaller industrial users are screaming for a settlement.

#### FASH WANTS OUT OF TEAMSTERS

Since 1967 the steel haulers have struck nationally three times. Each time they have improved their situation, but only by battling the Teamsters as well as the trucking companies and the government.

The steel haulers have repeatedly asked the National Labor Relations Board to set up decertification elections so they can set up their own bargaining unit. With help from Teamster lawyers, the NLRB ruled that since most steel haulers are owner-operators they are employers and don't have the right to organize themselves and act collectively.

In 1976 Teamster officials forced

the steel haulers-25% of whom go out of business every year-to take a pay cut by removing their right to ratify the contract. Federal courts upheld this decision.

1979 will be no different. Steel haulers face nothing but trouble from the Teamster chiefs. In an interview with Workers Voice, FASH spokesman Paul Dietsch said, "If the rank and file took over the Teamsters we would affiliate with them in a minute. But we will starve before that happens."

Workers should support the steel haulers demand for sepeparation from the Teamster machine. Then they will be best able to fight for their own demands. In that way the conditions for unity between owner-operators and wage truckers can be established to take on the common fight against the trucking companies and the government and to clean out the sellouts from the Teamsters union.

## Teamster Rebels...

(cont. from page 13)

the coalfields the miners' organization and determination was responsible for the mighty 112 day coal strike last year.

"We were most successful," said Paff, "in locals covered by the national agreements." The upcoming national master freight agreement battle, he said, will "very definitely" be affected by the reform slate gains and the mood of rank and file militance that is spreading. Three hundred thousand truckers covered by that pact, who have seen their leaders in collusion and courtship with the companies, stand between Jimmy Carter and his dream of holding wages and benefits to 7%.

The government has already acknowledged that the Teamsters will definitely not accept the meager guideline figure. The unsettled question is how low they can be held. Once the Teamsters bust the 7% limit, it will be a pacesetter for the many big contracts this year.

#### THE "BUDDY-BUDDY" SYSTEM

The key issues on the drivers' minds stem from twin abuses from the trucking companies and the union of officials. The highly profitable trucking industry, whose bosses are often "buddy-buddy" with the union chiefs, may dispatch work out of seniority order, force truckers to drive overloaded vehicles on the highway, or require

## P.O. Amnesty...

(cont. from page 13)

and workers were angry. But as the PO bosses took union leadership inaction as a license to kill, firing and disciplining more people, workers organized themselves.

Fired workers joined others in a Postal Workers Defense Committee (PWDC). It held a number of picket lines, organized relief efforts and provided legal defense. The amnesty cry spread among workers outside the PO who saw the unfair firings as part of the government's offensive against all workers. Biller was pushed to join. The NY local formed an amnesty committee recently which includes representatives of the fired workers.

One of those fired said, "It was Biller's "big talk/no action" leadership that helped management continue these firings so long. Now, five months later, he is all for fighting for amnesty. Five months is a long time to wait but we think it's better late than never. We intend to keep fighting until we win."

PWDC members mobilized PO rank and filers for the amnesty committee activities. They went out to rank and file organizations in other industries and to many labor unions throughout the New York/New Jersey area. They held a workers' forum and spoke at a number of union meetings. At the Newark Teachers Union they showed solidarity with the teachers, who are themselves involved in a huge fight against massive layoffs. Amnesty stickers are appearing on mailboxes throughout the area.

Plans for the future will be proposed to the American Postal Workers Union national executive board meeting in January. To strengthen the fight to win the jobs back, the board will be asked to sponsor a series of demonstrations and picketlines throughout the country and to form a national amnesty committee.

#### AMNESTY NOW FOR FIRED POSTAL WORKERS

Last summer, Carter figured his lousy PO pact offer would get through easily - the workers are government employees without the legal right to strike and are represented by weak and divided unions. Then he figured to use it as a pacesetter to drag workers nationwide into lousy contracts.

Well, he figured wrong. He didn't count on the rank and file. Angry at oppressive speedup and job losses,

angry at being guinea pigs for the attack on living standards, angry at the shackles the no-strike law put on their struggle, they rallied en masse in three places.

The heroic actions of Postal Workers in Jersey City Bulk and Meadows Facilities and the San Francisco Bulk caused the defeat of the Carter administration's "anti-inflation" campaign against workers' wages. In spite of obstacles from the government and even their own union leaders, they waged a righteous fight and are still engaged in a battle all workers can join.

Support the fired postal workers! Contributions and letters of support may be sent to PWDC, 317 Grove Street, Jersey City, N.J. Fired workers also request that letters and telegrams be sent to Postmaster General Bolger, 475 L'Enfant Plaza, Washington D.C., and to Jimmy Carter (you know where).

## '79 CONTRACT BATTLES

(cont. from page 12)

'79, the capitalists are stepping up attacks on workers. In addition to speedup, discarding safety measures, layoffs and daily harassment that characterizes bosses at any given factory, the owners are also working more in collusion with each other - like the rail companies who funded N & W against the Railway Clerks' strike.

The rich and powerful are using their government to implement measures to aid this process. The guidelines and other anti-inflation measures - possibly even mandatory controls - will certainly not curtail prices, but they are a godsend for companies seeking to keep labor costs to a minimum.

The common nature of the attacks has meant that workers in many and varied jobs are raising very similar demands. And the mood of resistance brings confrontations with management closer for many with contracts this year.

This is an opportunity for workers to link their struggles, and stand together behind the individual battles of their class. While the bosses collude and connive to drive down the standard of living, workers, too, are standing with greater unity - widespread support for the miners in '78 gave a glimpse of how powerful such unity can be. The new battles in '79 require even greater determination to keep the bosses and their government from driving the working class.

overtime the rank and file has dubbed "70-hour slavery." In 1977 alone, 799 truckers were killed in work-related accidents.

But when it comes to grieving these abuses, one Atlanta driver observed, "It seems the union's too much with the company." There are widespread demands for elected stewards to replace the current system of International appointees, as well as for the right to strike over local grievances. Improved pensions and cost of living raises are also important.

The 400 largest trucking firms will be negotiating through an association called Trucking Management Inc. Director J. Curtis Counts could prove useful to them in handling the government, since he moved to this job from one as director of the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service. The companies seek to change work rules and push teamsters even harder. And they are only too happy to do their patriotic duty of holding down the pay.

The government is preparing to exert pressure against a decent contract. In addition to the guidelines, they threaten the union with the deregulation of trucking, which could cause job losses as a result of companies being driven out of business by the intensified competition and further monopolization of the industry. Besides the deregulation threat, they have plenty of dirt they can use to blackmail Teamster President Frank Fitzsimmons with - the Central States pension fraud scandal, the Hoffa murder, and who knows what else?

All workers will be watching the drivers, who have the power to paralyze this country. Teamsters will be stronger for their recent election gains. There's nothing better than winning some small fights when you're getting set for a big battle.

## Big strike in works at Va. shipyard

NEWPORT NEWS, VA. — Barbed wire is going up around the parking lot. Special buses are set for shuttle runs to the grounds. Water cannons have been mounted on fire trucks. Hundreds of cots have been set up, ready to accommodate the unlimited state troopers the governor has promised.

Does Tenneco, Inc. expect the invasion of the body snatchers at their Shipbuilding and Drydock Company here? No, they are just digging in for a last ditch effort to keep the plant from being unionized.

A year ago, the workers voted in the United Steelworkers of America, with 13,000 of the 19,000 workers going for the union. Since then, the company has appealed to the Labor Board and the courts to dump the vote while refusing to negotiate a contract.

The shipbuilders are sick of Tenneco's crap. They want a contract

and at a recent union meeting of 7,500 workers they voted to authorize a strike. They want a better wage scale, a retirement and pension program that isn't a joke and safer working conditions. Two men were just killed when faulty staging they were on collapsed. One was 64 years old — Tenneco is giving his widow \$139 a month.

### SHOWDOWN FOR THE SOUTH

There's alot at stake in this strike. Newport News is the largest shipyard in the country and it could be labor's "door to the South."

Tenneco has fought unionization for years. They had a company union called the Peninsula Shipbuilders Association. As one worker says,

"Everybody I talk to is for the Steelworkers or is glad the PSA left. We had no real representation

with the PSA — whatever Tenneco said went with them."

1,100 designers in another USWA local have been on strike for a year.

While they stall in court, the bosses have been harassing strong union men. Their strike preparations include ads in the paper for scabs — and a strike date hasn't even been set yet.

The government stands to lose a lot of shipyard work for the Navy if there's a strike. The Labor Department agreed to meet with both sides on December 28, at the union's request. But when the Atlanta Director of the USWA and 40 workers

arrived in Washington, the company refused to show.

Tenneco has powerful support from other southern employers who fear the shipbuilders' example will spread throughout their non-union "paradise." The local papers, owned by a company trustee, have been running out the company's line. The governor has pledged his support.

But the workers are getting ready, too. Picket signs have already been made. The union leaders have won strong pledges of support from other locals in the area, including Teamsters, Rubber workers, retail clerks and others. Most importantly, the shipbuilders are eager to walk and ready to deal with scabs and cops, as they did in a big wildcat in 1967.

## POST OFFICE Write up

Postal workers around the country have recently encountered a strange new trend — failure to be paid. One employee of the O'Hare mail facility in Chicago has not gotten a paycheck for six months (and was told he won't 'til April). In New York, the courts found USPS guilty of withholding pay at a rate that comes to about \$1000 per every worker!

Besides not getting their full pay, workers in Chicago have not yet been given their recent COLA increase, which was to have begun the first week in November. Because of what Chicago P.O. bosses claim are bureaucratic and computer problems (such as saying they haven't paid the worker for six months because his social security number is wrong), workers are being forced to try and live on pay vouchers which come to about two-thirds of normal income.

In New York City, the courts have found the USPS guilty of ripping off postal workers of hundreds of millions of dollars over the past four years by defying the Fair Labor Standards Act. The Postal Service's violations included failure to pay night shift differential and Sunday premium pay to workers on overtime, and failure to pay workers for time not "authorized" by a foreman.

Under court order, the P.O. bosses have begun handing some money back — but only to those who sign consent forms as part of law suits against the Postal Service, which has meant just about 10% of the workers. The U.S. Department of Labor recently filed another suit against USPS to gain back pay owed all workers. Such action was in response to mass discontent and anger among the workers, who circulated petitions at a number of stations demanding full compensation for all workers owed money and condemning the union's inaction in this fight.

In November, the Postal Service calmly announced that casuals — temporary workers hired for up to 6 months — would have their pay cut from the same wage as regulars (\$7.01 an hour for clerks) to \$4.76 an hour. Without union representation or job rights, casuals have become an important means for the postal bosses to keep down the conditions of all P.O. workers.

The number of casuals has catapulted since 1975. Non-regular workers make up a full third of the workforce at some facilities. Many regulars have seen their bid jobs rejected only to have the same work done by casuals. Casuals are sped up and then held up as an example for regular workers to follow.

Although this pay cut is the biggest attack since the no-layoff clause was crippled in the contract, the postal union bigshots are sitting on their hands. APWU President Emmett Andrews, one of the chief architects of the '78 sellout, looked stunned and mumbled, "There's nothing in the contract about this." Meanwhile, the rank and file continued to make An All Regular Workforce Now a key demand, and workers have organized and held demonstrations demanding that part-time workers be made regulars.

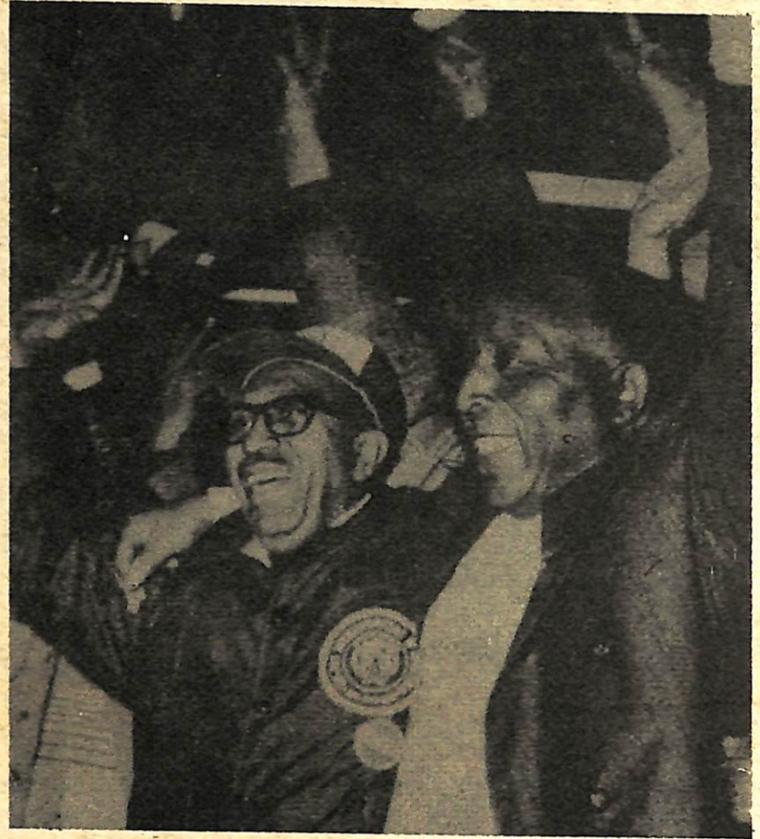
The scheduled opening of the New Morgan Station on Manhattan's West Side highlights a growing trend in the P.O.

When fully operational, Morgan will be the largest postal facility in the world — a giant and highly mechanized processing factory for 1st class mail in much the same way as the Bulk Centers are for parcels. Endless rows of ZMT's (Zoned Mail Translators), LSM's (Letter Sorting Machines), and OCR's (Optical Character Readers) will pull in the work the mail for half the NYC area.

The resulting disruptions in the workforce will be equally immense — wholesale transfers, reassignments, job changes, questions of seniority, new tours and days off.

More mechanization in the P.O. has only meant fewer and more unsafe jobs, and Morgan will be no exception to this trend. In some ways, Morgan is the postal management's dream machine — it concentrates and forces greater production from an ever shrinking number of workers.

But don't forget, it was not so long ago that the government pooled a large number of workers, in another brand-new automated facility in the New York area. What they created was the New York Bulk and Foreign Mail Center in Jersey City — and it's been a nightmare for them ever since.



Newport News shipbuilders are ready to strike to defend the union they won last year

## Sun Ship speedup scheme sparks strike

Chester, PA. — Over 3,000 workers at Sun Shipbuilding and Dry Dock Company hit the bricks on January 4, overwhelmingly rejecting the company's "generous" offer — takeaway wages and job combinations.

At a union meeting the following day they voted 1200 to 12 to reject the next terrific offer — the same takeaways with a change in the wording on absences.

The company used Carter's 7% as their guide for the wage deal, at a yard where the average earnings are under \$7 an hour. The three-year 8%, 7%, 6% package would come to about \$1.54 increase total, plus 36¢ more to be tied to increases in productivity. Sun Ship's "productivity" means one worker does the work two or even three workers used to do.

The company's job combination plan would give them total freedom to force workers to cross crafts (for example, to force shipfitters and pipefitters to weld) and would establish labor gangs in which workers have no specific classification.

In the '76 contract the company got a "voluntary" craft-crossing clause. They forced new hires to work outside their crafts and continually tried

to eliminate certain jobs. At a yard which is so unsafe that a number of workers have been killed or severely injured, job eliminations can be a life and death question.

Twice since the contract, Sun Ship workers have walked out on wildcat strikes which successfully prevented some of the company's schemes.

The company also seeks to stiffen their absentee policy, to split the maintenance department, creating two separate seniority lists where there had been one, to conduct time studies throughout the yard and to make the workers pay for all future increases in Blue Cross/Blue Shield payments.

The shipyard threw a bone to older workers — an extra week's vacation for those who accomplish the death-defying feat of lasting 35 years in Sun's deadly conditions and speed up.

These were the reasons the January 5 union meeting rejected the contract nearly unanimously. The key demands of the workers are: higher wages, no job combinations and no change in the six day per quarter excused absence schedule. Union leaders urged the rejection and have begun to organize picketing and other strike activities.

## TRANSIT

### On the move

MILWAUKEE - New rules from the transit bosses, unchallenged by union leadership, have spurred rank and file action here. Many of the "New Grade Book" codes tighten company control over workers. For example, under the old system a driver could be up to six minutes late forty times before he was fired. Now it is five times and out.

The new book also requires employee "loyalty". This ban on criticizing the company in word or print no doubt stems from the successful forty day strike last spring. One rank and file paper responded, "Most of us didn't think we were joining the army when we hired onto the transit company."

To top it off the union had absolutely no say in the new rules. Local President Jim Heidenreich even defended the transit system policies and told workers to file grievances if they had problems.

And that's what the men and women intend to do. For every warning under the new grade book, the rank and file's rule is, "Write 'em up." A petition and court case are also under way.

NEW YORK - New Transit Authority rules are one of a number of things jeopardizing bus and subway service near and dear to the lives of millions in this city. Two trackmen were killed in October. The deaths were the result

of new regulations which permit assigning men to work alone in the tunnels.

The T.A. instructs motormen with seriously ill passengers to keep going and just radio for help. In December, a rider died of a heart attack because the train went 13 stops, with whistle screaming, before help arrived. Two days later a motorman defied the rules, halted a train and carried a man to safety.

Unsafe vehicles endanger drivers and riders alike. A recent train derailment injured twenty-two people. Yet in the last few months alone over 250 jobs have been lost in car maintenance, and more are promised. Poor heating and ventilation are normal; steel dust and asbestos flakes, burning rubber and heavy use of car wash fluids indoors threaten workers.

At every turn workers in Transit Workers Union Local 100 run up against a union structure that talks sweet, is never in the yards, and undercuts every righteous outburst from workers.

Instead of fighting for the TWU members, the leaders scramble for more power. They recently rammed through 17 "minor changes to update the bylaws" by reading them aloud and calling for a vote. Most of them are for the worse. One rewords the pro-

cedure to recall officials from 50% of the members voting to a 50% vote of the section or branch concerned.

Since last summer's contract fight, several rank and file groups have grown stronger and tougher, and almost all of them have been meeting in an informal local-wide coalition.

The difficulties of fighting yard by yard against abuses has fueled a growing sentiment to pull together and challenge the union leadership, including in the next local elections in December.

BOSTON - On December 11 over half the Cabot Street garage bus drivers refused to drive. Their demand was simple. Fix the cracked windshields, bald tires, bad brakes, the broken heaters, the dangerous fume leaks.

The action came after nine months of complaints about unsafe vehicles. The company finally promised repairs by December 11. But that morning the buses were in the same lousy shape. That did it.

When the Metropolitan Boston Transit Authority officials heard that half the buses in South Boston, Dorchester and Roxbury weren't running, they got into gear. Mechanics were shifted to Cabot Street and put on overtime until the problem was relieved. The drivers agreed to return to work later that day. By the next morning a large number of buses had been repaired.

People who waited in vain for buses on that freezing Monday morning were furious. Some blamed the drivers, who had given no advance notice of the

job action. The drivers later apologized for the inconvenience to school children and people going to work. But they pointed the blame at MBTA officials who send out buses that jeopardize everyone's safety instead of hiring needed mechanics.

The drivers feel the job action was a success. "In one day of action we accomplished more than we had in nine months of talking."

ST. LOUIS - Unsafe conditions fueled picketing that began November 14 at five Bi-State garages here. Twenty-five mechanics gained support from 1,400 drivers in a strike against the hiring of non-union workers. They crippled the area's transit system. The nineteen new hires, paid only 70% of the full wage, were hired under a federal grant and weren't covered by the union contract.

Bi-State immediately secured a court order instructing the men to return to work. Nothing doing.

The Amalgamated Transit Union Local 788 issued a statement saying the hiring dispute was "only the tip of the iceberg". They pointed to system-wide safety hazards. "The management has just informed us that we will be required to operate buses in rush hour traffic with no stoplights, no horn, no emergency brake, no mirror..."

The men went back a week later, after the new hires were made part of the union at full pay, management promised to deal with the safety issues and agreed to no reprisals against the men who led the wildcat.

## On the line in

### AUTO

TOLEDO, OHIO - Jeep workers refused to work forced overtime after a six month battle against company productivity which saw two workers fired and another punched in the mouth by the general foreman.

Jeep's crusade to push workers harder included a threat that they'd close the plant for good unless they could get Saturday overtime whenever they chose. Jim Meagher and Ray Lopez took an angry stand and distributed flyers urging fellow workers to vote against this forced overtime at a June union meeting. They were fired. The meeting did vote to allow the scheduling of extra mandatory hours but workers were angry and the union protested the firings.

Then the company refused to shut down an unsafe line. When a worker demanded it be stopped the General Foreman there smashed him with his fist. The entire department sat down and refused to work. The next morning the whole shift joined the work stoppage. The company retaliated. 2,000 workers got disciplinary letters, almost all the first shift stewards got three-day suspensions and the shop chairman got 30 days off.

This was the last straw. The Local--over the opposition of the UAW International--cancelled all overtime, demanded the fist-throwing foreman be fired and that Meagher and Lopez be rehired. Defense activities have been held. The issues that sparked the sitdown haven't been resolved and will be taken up as part of the local contract negotiations.

DETROIT, MICH. - Chrysler is also issuing dire warnings about financial collapse if workers don't get in line. Faced with 50% higher inventories than projected, the company announced December 12 that it will put 17,000 on the street--1,200 of these the Detroit Dodge Hamtrac plant, an entire shift, will lose their jobs permanently. And two week layoffs there

and at the Newark, Delaware and St. Louis plants are slated for the other 15,700. The layoffs, coupled with intensive speedup from new automation-like "robot welders", are Chrysler's plan to save their necks by standing on the backs of the workers.

MINNEAPOLIS/ST. PAUL - Bosses at Twin City Ford are going wild. A worker dropped a radiator and was fired on the spot for industrial sabotage. The radiator was put in the next car. Ford's changeover from cars to all light trucks has meant a changeover from meanness to savagery against workers.

After a month shutdown last spring for retooling, Ford proposed a "shift change agreement" that basically threw the power of the union out the window. Line speed has climbed steadily from 37.5 trucks per hour to almost 43.

Old job standards were scrapped. The younger workers on the night shift have been pushed near death. In one five-man operation, three went home with back injuries. Firings are unbelievable. In October alone 234 new hires got their walking papers. In many sections every single employee on probation has received disciplinary warnings.

Rank and file resistance took several forms. Hundreds of harassment grievances have been filed. Work has been rejected like crazy--at times over half a day's production was sent to the repair hole. Some lines were even stopped completely for awhile because the repair area was overflowing.

The rank and file is raising the following demands:

- 1) Oppose disciplinary action on jobs that have no established standards.
- 2) Oppose time studies done on new employees and applied to senior workers.

(cont. on page 19)



Before the invasion, Cambodian food production was high enough to permit exports.

## Cambodia...

(cont. from page 4)

aggression, is now led by men who fought that war expecting that Vietnam would emerge as the bigshot of all of Southeast Asia. They want to establish an Indochina Federation, with Vietnam as the leadership, and everyone else marching in line. To that end they maintain 30,000 Vietnamese troops in neighboring Laos, a force as big as the Laotian army itself. Cambodia wanted no part of such a federation.

Party members who wanted to rebuild Vietnam by relying on the efforts of the Vietnamese people have been purged and replaced by people who got used to Russian aid to accomplish their ends. The Vietnamese plan to rebuild their country, let alone maintaining its enormous army, will require \$3 billion in foreign aid over the next 6 years.

Vietnam joined Comecon, the Russian dominated version of Western

European capital's Common Market. They signed a military pact with the Russian generals. Now, like the Cubans before them, they clear all their plans through Moscow. When Brezhnev says "Jump," they say "How high?" And the Soviets love the idea of a Vietnamese dominated Indochina menacing the southern border of Peoples' China, while they themselves have a million and a half troops poised on China's northern border.

Vietnam's aggression has shocked world public opinion, like the Soviet's 1968 invasion of Czechoslovakia. Many who supported the long Vietnamese liberation war are disgusted by Vietnam's acting the bully, pockets stuffed with rubles. As the Cambodian people begin to drive these aggressors from their homeland, support for Democratic Kampuchea will grow from peace and freedom loving people the world over.

# Soviets lead assault on Eritrea

The MIG 23 fighter-bombers swept low, sowing death in the tired dusty column of Eritrean refugees. The Soviet pilots were doing their level best to end the long struggle of the Eritrean people for liberation from Ethiopian occupation.

Six months ago, the Eritrean liberation forces were on the verge of victory. After being colonized by Italy since the 1800's, then annexed

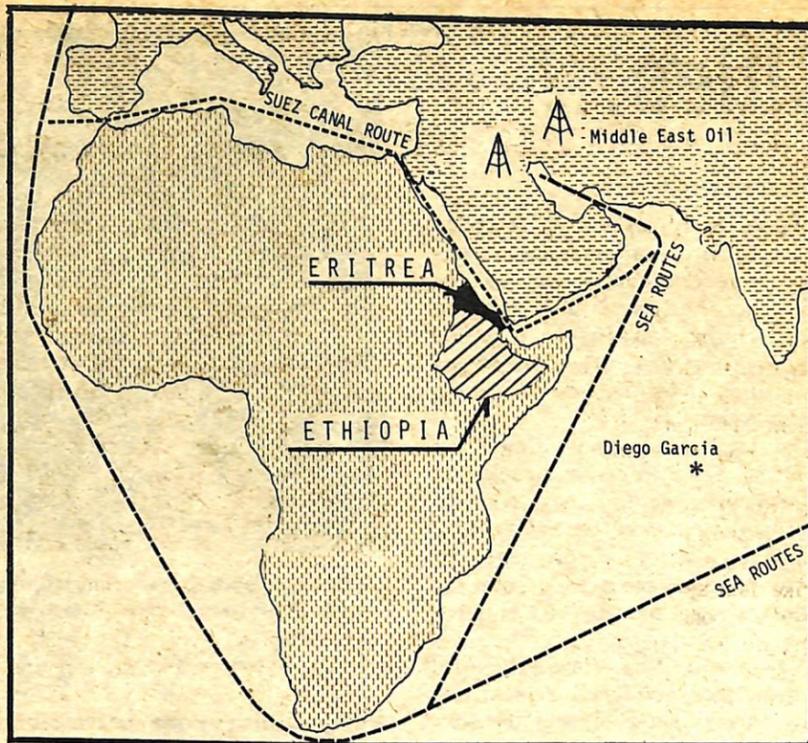
by Ethiopia after World War 2, independence was in sight. They controlled over 90% of their country and had a functioning government, agriculture, economy, and educational system going in the liberated zones.

The tide of battle was turned by massive Soviet intervention on behalf of the Derg, the fascist junta which runs Ethiopia. This time, the rulers of the USSR went all the way. On top of tons of supplies and thousands of Cuban army men, they sent Soviet troops into combat.

A statement by the Eritrean People's Liberation Front said, "It is no longer the Derg we are fighting, it is the Soviet Union. The MIGs are flown by their pilots, the heavy guns are manned and fired by Soviet troops. On each front, hundreds of Soviet experts are conducting the battles and shooting any Ethiopian soldier who attempts to retreat."

The final assault on Eritrea began as the head of the Derg, Colonel Mengistu, visited Moscow to sign a Soviet-Ethiopian "Friendship Treaty" on November 16. 120,000 Ethiopian soldiers took part in the assault, many of them fresh from the country's South, where thousands of Cuban troops took over military duties on the Somali border.

The Eritrean forces lacked the equipment - anti-tank and anti-aircraft weapons, motorized vehicles, etc. - they needed to take on the



Ethiopian-Soviet-Cuban offensive in positional warfare. Instead they withdrew fighting. The Derg's forces and foreign allies captured towns and villages, destroying everything except the port cities, which are Ethiopia's only outlet to the sea. The last city to fall was Keran, capital of the liberated zone, which had been freed only a year before.

The Eritrean withdrawal marks a

severe setback, but not defeat. An EPLF spokesman explains, "Our strategy is a retreat to the mountains where we will begin as we did three years ago."

For all the losses they have suffered the Eritreans have learned much about how to push their struggle forward to victory. The most important lesson is about the nature of the Soviet Union. From the time the Eritrean liberation struggle began in 1961, the USSR gave it verbal support and some aid.

But the Soviets were not interested in the justice of the Eritrean cause. They were looking for a way to extend their control over the whole area where Eritrea, Ethiopia and Somalia are located, the Horn of Africa. This strategic piece of real estate dominates the main sea route between Asia, especially the Persian Gulf nations with their oil fields, and Western Europe.

So when the rulers of the USSR got a chance to edge out their US rivals and become the main backers of the Derg, they jumped at it. Once they had a stake in Ethiopia, the largest and potentially most powerful country on the Horn, they dropped the Eritreans like a candy wrapper.

But until the recent offensive, the liberation forces in Eritrea saw this as a "mistake" the Soviets had made and would surely correct. Now there can be little doubt that the USSR is as deadly an imperialist master as the US was and must be fought and soundly defeated before the great goal of a free, independent Eritrea can be reached.



## Rumanians nix Soviet arms push

The people of the small Eastern European nation of Rumania know how to deal with vampires. In the Middle Ages they put a stake through the heart of Count Dracula, who ruled the Rumanian province of Transylvania.

Today they are standing up to the modern day bloodsuckers who rule the Soviet Union. At a top level meeting of the Soviet-organized Warsaw Pact countries in mid-November, Rumanian President Ceausecu stirred up a crisis when he said no to Soviet demands that Warsaw Pact states:

- (1) Increase their military spending by 3% annually;
- (2) Allow the Soviets the right to assume command of Warsaw Pact armed forces in the event of a "crisis" situation and commit the other country's armed forces to battle.

On the first point Ceausecu said that Rumania's military spending is adequate for its self-defense, and that money was needed for domestic social spending and wage increases that had been promised.

Rumania is the poorest country of Eastern Europe and has serious economic problems, worsened by member-

ship in the Comecon (the Soviet-dominated economic "alliance" that drains valuable resources out of Eastern Europe). There is great pressure in Rumania to raise the standard of living of the workers. The most dramatic outburst demanding improvements was a 3-day strike by 3,500 miners last year.

On the second point - who will control the Rumanian armed forces - Ceausecu said:

"Our armed forces will never take orders from other than those from the party and the state. They will always obey the command of the Rumanian people alone."

Despite its membership in the Warsaw Pact, Rumania has always sought to maintain an independent foreign policy from Moscow's demands. Last August, despite strong Soviet objections, Rumania invited China's Hua Kuo Feng to the country for an official visit, strengthening ties between the two countries. Rumania vetoed a Soviet sponsored resolution denouncing China at the Warsaw Pact meeting.

Rumania also has good relations

with Yugoslavia, an Eastern European country which refused to bow to Soviet pressure and is not even in the Warsaw Pact.

As a roadblock to the war preparations of the Soviet Union and the United States, Rumania's Ceausecu recently proposed in an Independence Day speech a neutral buffer zone of nations between NATO and Warsaw Pact countries, which would presumably include Rumania.

"It might be useful," he said, "to establish a zone between the two blocks where no arms would be located and no maneuvers take place."

An independent stand like Rumania's isn't too popular with the Soviets, who are bent on building a military machine to dislodge the United States as top imperialist dog in the world. Moscow wants Western Europe for its rich industrial facilities, and wants Eastern European countries to help pay the price of preparing and fighting a war. This would free up more Soviet divisions to move east against China.

War preparations aren't cheap. The Soviet Union has been steadily increasing its military budget, spending more than half of its overall budget on the military, which is a larger percentage than even the United States now spends. Moscow desperately hopes that other Warsaw Pact countries, which can ill afford increased military expenditures, will not in the future decide to lean towards Rumania's independent course.



Eritrean fighters have withdrawn to the mountainous North to continue their war.

# Cities...

(cont. from page 3)

example. Sixty percent of Newark's \$120 million operating budget comes from the federal government. But just two weeks after Carter announced the budget-cutting strategy in late November, Congress refused to renew \$10 million in federal anti-recession aid for Newark.

The local government aimed the resulting fiscal crisis directly at the school system. They laid off 1,700 full and part time teachers, almost a quarter of the teachers in the system (see article page 3).

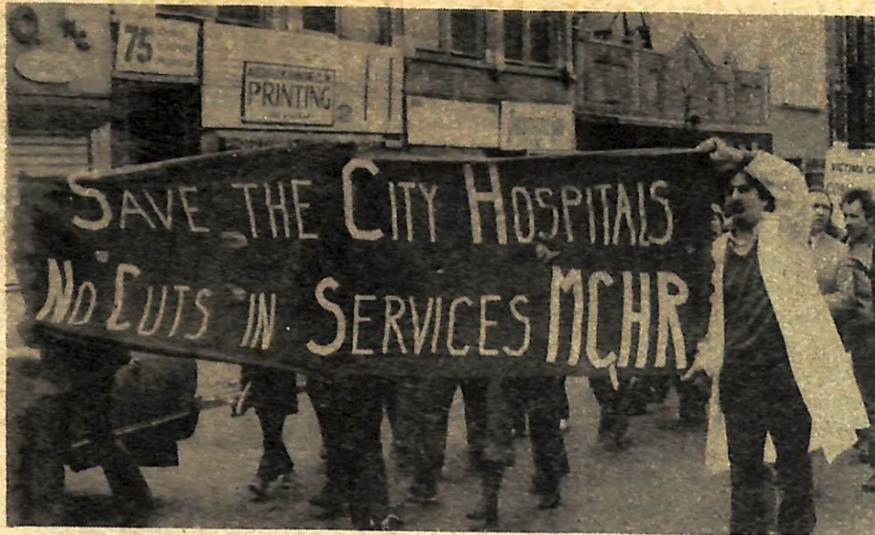
Newark's not the only city in trouble:

**\*New York.** New York City, with the granddaddy of fiscal crises, already knows not to expect the \$105 million in federal money it was slated for. And the bankers are getting worried about New York's money from its biggest urban program, general revenue sharing, which expires in 1980.

But the banks that stepped in to control New York in the wake of its last fiscal crisis in 1975 surely won't be the ones to take the brunt of these cuts. Instead, Mayor Koch is drawing up a budget with \$450 million in cutbacks. Niney-nine million dollars will be cut out of the school system alone. They'll make classes more crowded by decreasing the number of teachers through attrition; they'll close 15 schools; and they'll wipe out the programs that were begun just this year to improve the rotten education most kids get. These include reducing class size in first grade and creating transitional classes for students who need extra help.

The hospital system will be cut by \$190 million, through closing down some public hospitals and turning others into high-cost private ones. The city will lay off large numbers of hospital workers beginning July 1.

**\*Cleveland:** Cleveland defaulted on



Medical professionals and community residents have united to beat back N.Y.C. hospital closings in the last few years. Now a new wave of cuts is underway.

a \$15.5 million in loans December 15--the first major US city to default since the Depression. The city government couldn't come up with the money nor get their creditors, mostly banks, to renew the loans. When Cleveland Mayor Dennis Kucinich asked the White House for an advance on the city's federal revenue sharing funds to stave off default, the government stuck to its cutbacks campaign and refused the request.

Right now the banks are working out deals to try to milk the city without letting it go bankrupt. Kucinich is already making cuts in a manner aimed at preventing resistance. After announcing he'd lay off 2,000 city workers--one-fifth the workforce--he backed down to 400. He hoped everyone would be so gratified with "only" 400 layoffs that he could get away with more piecemeal cuts in the coming months.

**\*Detroit:** Just a week after Carter's "anti-inflation" announcement, Detroit Mayor Coleman Young warned of city budget cuts and the possible layoff of 1,000 city workers next year.

**\* SAN FRANCISCO.** The new mayor of San Francisco, Dianne Feinstein,

is suggesting that the city solve its fiscal problems by discarding city workers and their unions. City officials are now discussing the novel attack: cut wages and benefits by contracting out services to private firms.

They're also talking about eliminating half of San Francisco's bus routes and imposing and increasing fees for city services such as ambulances.

## WHAT THE CUTTERS FEAR

Newark, New York City, Cleveland, Detroit. This list is just a beginning. The federal government is driven to trim its budget deficit by robbing cities. The city politicians, in turn, are trying to balance their budgets by robbing people's jobs and social services.

The storm clouds will undoubtedly darken with the new recession economists are predicting. That will cause the tax base to shrink, while the people will need unemployment benefits and social services even more. A recession will blow Carter's \$30 million lid off deficit spending and make the government even more desperate for cash.

The people can't bear the burden of this mess. City workers like the teachers in Newark are beginning

to mobilize to divert the falling ax. Politicians especially fear the challenge that Black people will pose to their schemes. Carter has already gone through the charade of meeting representatives of Black organizations like the NAACP and the Urban League to try to pacify them and head off independent action.

But Black people aren't waiting for leaders like these. In scattered corners of the country they're organizing a potentially powerful force. In Brooklyn, New York, for example, the Black United Front is fighting the increasingly miserable living conditions of the city's two million Blacks. The BUF is a coalition of eleven Black Brooklyn organizations formed initially to fight police repression. The community rose up in anger after a cop, Robert Tornsey, shot a 15-year-old Black youth, Randolph Evans, and again this June when 16 police killed local Black businessman and block association organizer Arthur Miller.

The Front has become the main vehicle for Black outrage at the lack of jobs and housing, hospital and day care center closings, the way Mayor Koch has been taking back reform programs and administrative and political posts won by Blacks a decade ago.

The Black United Front has already mobilized thousands of people to demonstrate in their community, on Wall Street, on the steps of City Hall, and before the United Nations. Their battlecry is simple and popular: ENOUGH IS ENOUGH IS ENOUGH!

As the attacks increase, it will be heard throughout America's cities more and more.

# Military Budget...

(cont. from page 3)

in a Russian sneak attack. The MX is their answer -- a hide-and-seek missile.

Carter wants \$500 million this year to look into the MX (as well as another missile). To flight test the MX will cost upwards of \$7 billion. To deploy the weapons -- and the Pentagon is talking about a mere 200 missiles -- it is estimated that American taxpayers will have to shell out for at least \$30 billion.

The deployment plan for MX is still being debated. The goal is to fool the Russians so they never know exactly where the MX is hiding. The options for this gigantic shell game are:

- Dig 4,000 concrete-lined holes in the ground and cart the nuclear-tipped MX missiles around on trucks, dropping them into different silos at random;

- or, fly them around constantly on big airplanes, ready to land at different airports to fire them;

- or, dig 200 or so trenches, ten to fifteen miles long, and shuttle the missiles back and forth on subway-like tracks.

The Pentagon figures that either silos or trenches will mean evicting 50,000 people from their homes in the Great Plains.

As cities go bankrupt, food stamps get cut, job training programs are eliminated and subsidies to housing go by the way, the government is working to assure the American people they can sleep easy. It is going to spend billions and billions of dollars on every new piece of military technology the generals, think tanks and defense industries can think up.

This is the new "guns before butter" budget and goofball boondoggles like the MX are undoubtedly just the beginning.

## Cuts in the works

Massive social service cuts will start with the federal budget that Congress decides in late January and goes into effect from October 1979 to October 1980. Most of the suggestions show that the slaughter will be deep and wide-ranging.

**\* JOBS.** Front men in the Office of Management and Budget are floating the government proposal to cut \$2.6 billion (385,000 jobs) from CETA, the federally funded jobs program. This is in addition to the 100,000 CETA jobs the government already decided to get rid of last October. After the cuts, CETA will be down to a measly 267,000 jobs by 1981, from a total of 725,000 when the program started in 1973, although there are more than 6,000,000 jobless Americans right now. They also plan to cut summer jobs for teenagers in half, from 1 million this year to 500,000 next year.

Jimmy Carter's '76 campaign promise of "a job for every American who wants to work" has gone the way of all presidential campaign promises. The cuts will come down especially hard on Blacks, who face 11.8% unemployment according to official figures and about twice that at the actual rate.

**\* HOUSING.** The administration reports that it will cut federally subsidized housing from 333,000

units in this year's budget to 291,000 next year. This comes at a time when rents are higher than ever and the soaring costs of owning a house helped spark last year's tax rebellions.

**\* SCHOOLS.** Federal aid to education will be cut. The government will kill a plan to restore \$55 million in Head Start funds.

**\* HEALTH CARE.** Funds for the National Institute for Health will be cut by \$160 million, including cuts in funds for preventative health care and aid to minority medical students.

**\* PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION.** The government wants to slash \$150 million from subsidies due to go to public transportation in the biggest cities. In addition, they're dropping plans to request \$800 million to improve highways and transit.

**\* WELFARE.** Two-thirds of the federal share of welfare would be cut, slashing that portion of the budget from \$17 billion to \$6 billion. Cities and state governments depend on this funding to cover welfare payments.

**\* URBAN AID.** The federal budget would cut revenue sharing from \$500 million down to \$150 million. It would completely cut out two programs announced with great fanfare last spring as part of the ad-



Summer jobs were hard to find last year. New cuts will make it harder in '79.

ministration's urban policy. These are a \$3 billion, three-year public works programs meant to keep existing facilities in better repair, and a \$400 million, two-year program of grants to states for urban construction.

# Hands off Terrence Johnson! . . .

(cont. from page 1)

decree. He could spend the rest of his days behind bars.

## KILLER COPS

But Blacks of Prince Georges County read a different story in Terry's plight. In the last two years over 100 charges of police brutality have been lodged against the county force. Four Black youths are dead at police hands under "unusual" circumstances. One was shot in the back a year ago after he was arrested for stealing two hams and twice searched for weapons he did not have.

The late Officer Clagget himself was named in an earlier police brutality case. He and another officer stopped a Black man for a traffic violation and beat him to a pulp in front of twenty outraged witnesses. The victim, Thomas Peet, filed formal charges. But before the case came to trial, he drowned in a shallow creek - watched by several cops after they chased his car down a deserted rural road.

Blacks are about one-third of the county's population. Many of them moved there to escape the long-term depression in the Washington, D.C. Black community or were driven out by urban redevelopment. Many of them found they exchanged the problems of poverty and racist repression in D.C. for poverty and racist repression in Prince George's County.

Besides the rampaging cops, there is a growing incidence of Ku Klux

Klan terrorism which, of course, the police do little to prevent. The Klan boasts it will be at Terry's trial January 29.

## TERRENCE JOHNSON SUPPORT GROWS

But Terry will not be quietly railroaded to a lifetime in prison. A Terrence Johnson Support Committee based in Washington was formed several months ago, initiated by D.C.'s Unite to Fight Back. The word is out on the streets, and the people have come to Terrence Johnson's defense. Because of the mass outrage against the case, his bail was reduced from over a million dollars to \$100,000. And a vast fundraising effort including a 24-hour marathon at an open market returned Terry to his family.

250 people rallied in Washington on December 9, and the committee

intends to hold a rally in Prince Georges County on January 27, two days before the trial. The president of the Afro-American Police Officers Association has voiced support for Terry. Word of the case is starting to spread. Skip Robinson of the United League flew in from Mississippi to lend a hand.

Police terror in Prince Georges County cuts across racial lines. Whites as well as Blacks, especially youths, are constantly hounded and harassed. The press from Prince Georges County and from Washington has worked overtime to spread confusion about the case. They have played up the Klan, tried to smear Terry and to undermine the supporters, claiming they're just led by radicals who are using the struggle for their own ends. But Blacks, whites and Latinos have joined to demand, "Free Terrence Johnson. Stop police brutality!"

## School Board Condemns Klan Fan

RACINE, WISCONSIN - When a Racine School Board member suggested cross burnings for Black people who filed suit against her, she walked into a hornet's nest. Bernice Thomsen said, "I think maybe we should get the Ku Klux Klan in here and have some burnings."

She was speaking to a reporter for the Racine Journal-Times, using direct racial slurs against 17 Black community residents, most of them members of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). They had sued her for using public money to pay damages awarded to a Chicano student whom she had slapped in the hallway of J.I. Case High School.

When Thomsen's statements made the papers, the Black community was outraged. Two jam-packed meetings of the Racine School Board resulted in the adoption of a motion to censure her. Angry white and Latino parents were there, too.

At the second meeting, Thomsen failed to show up at all, sending her lawyer to say that she did not deny making the statements. The Board voted unanimously to censure her. After the hearing, the Racine chapter of the African Liberation Support Committee placed a white sheet with eye holes cut out and KKK scrawled across it at Bernice Thomsen's empty desk. An ALSC member suggested she should wear it if and when she tries for re-election.

## Cops "Quick draw" kills handcuffed man

PITTSBURGH, PA. - On December 4, Richard Hayes was murdered in cold blood. His assassin is still at large. In fact, she's still working - as a US Deputy.

Hayes, a 29 year old Black man, was shot while being transferred from court to jail. The two Federal marshalls involved claim he tried to escape by using karate. They might as well have tried the excuse that he was a magician, since his hands were cuffed to his waist and his legs shackled in irons at the time.

Marshall Elizabeth Quick now says she didn't mean to pull the trigger of her .357 Magnum. But the position of the bullet near the top of Hayes' head indicates he was lying on the ground when the shot was fired. The testimony that Hayes was a karate expert came from a flunkey prison guard, since

no one else thought he even knew any martial arts.

The cover-up was aided by collaboration between the city police, the FBI, and the Federal Marshall's Office, whose manufactured facts and distortions got an all-white Coroner's jury to bring in a verdict of "justifiable homicide" for Lizzie Quick.

But this "Starsky and Hutch" type story telling has only inflamed the anger of the people, especially the Black community. Soon after the shooting more than 100 people marched through the streets to the site of the murder at the Post Office Building, demanding justice and an indictment of the killer cops. That night a community meeting brought a number of groups and individuals together to form The Richard Hayes Coalition to Stop Killer Cops, which plans further actions.

## Tupelo march . . .

(cont. from page 9)

did not address the demand for jobs or advancement of Blacks in local industry.

As Skip Robinson addressed the jammed square from the courthouse steps, the Klansmen moved into view behind the rally two empty lots away, ducking in and out of the police station.

After the rally, Tupelo people treated their guests to a Southern Thanksgiving. A continuous stream of community residents brought cornbread, turkeys, black-eyed peas and hams until all 1500 were fed.

## KLAN ATTACK

Later, a carload of supporters headed home were hit by Klan shotgun fire near Guin, Alabama and two occupants were beaten by nightriders. The KKK had followed the Atlanta bound car for 30 miles. Local authorities harassed the injured demonstrators, members of the Southern Conference Educational Fund, as if they were to blame for the attacks.

Since the Thanksgiving weekend march, Mayor Whitaker has tried to stonewall on the United League demands. The city pressed court cases against the activists. Klan intimidation in and around Tupelo continues unchecked. Shortly before the march, a Black-owned gas station was burned down in the boycotted town of Okolona.

But as the long boycott and mighty march show, Tupelo's Blacks have raised their heads, demanding to be treated as men and women. The United League struggle will go on. As one of the local ministers likes to say, "No town has been shaken like this since Joshua went down to Jericho."



Marchers from across the U.S. went to Tupelo November 25 to support the United League's demand for justice in Mississippi.

## KKK book . . .

(cont. from page 8)

brutality movements from Wynne, Arkansas to Prince Georges County, Virginia. Leadership in many southern union drives. The outspoken militancy of a new breed of Black leaders. The rage of a formerly rural people caught between unemployment in Northern ghettos and the "no kinda money" in the Southern jobs that are

open to them.

All these are ingredients in a ferment that Patsy Simms looked at but never saw. She worked so hard at understanding the Klansmen that she didn't understand the Klan. In missing the renewed growth of the Black struggle, she missed the whole reason the KKK is crawling back out of the muck. She was listening so intently to their racist rantings that she didn't hear the cry for freedom echoing once again.

## Auto . . .

(cont. from page 16)

3) Demand that Ford set standards on jobs now--no more delay.

The national auto contract is up in September, 1979. The auto manufacturing giants will try to do then what they're doing now: push auto workers back into the Dark Ages. From Ford Mahwah in north Jersey to Pico Rivera in California, auto workers are looking to get some changes, looking for a way to fight back.

Already the buzz-buzz among the rank and file indicates some key contract demands: at least 7-8% in money and improved COLA with COLA on pensions, voluntary overtime, no subcontracting, improved grievance procedure, local right to strike over grievances, health, safety and job standards; shorter work week.

Rank and file anger over daily abuses had a big effect on the 1976 contract. It surged through Ford Mahwah in October 1975 to force the firing of the plant manager. It put Power House workers at Local 600 on the streets for the first walkout in 34 years to protest the '76 settlement. It rallied the largest No Vote ever (40%) on the '76 national contract after a four week strike.

In 1979 rank and file anger will focus on the contract. Already discussion and organizing among the skilled trades has begun. Now's the time to get ourselves together so the anger on the line can be united into a strong fist in every local prepared to fight in '79.

# Iran...

(cont. from page 4)

stop these.

What could the military elite do? Order the rank and file soldiers to shoot down their own mothers and fathers on one of the holiest days of the Islamic year?

On the 11th and 12th, millions marched peacefully through the streets. Devout Moslems were joined by increasingly organized workers, radical students, leftist organizers, merchants and professionals, peasants, and hundreds of deserters from the army. As in previous demonstrations, people of many different beliefs took advantage of the religious celebrations to advance the common struggle.

Slogans rang out demanding the Shah pay for his crimes, supporting Ayatollah Khomeini, calling for democracy and freedom and denouncing foreign, especially American, plunder of Iran.

Throughout the demonstrations, tanks and troops were nowhere in sight. The generals didn't dare take on the millions who marched.

## THE PEOPLE TEAR IT UP

The masses of people had proved that the pampered, bemedalled elite of the military government could not control the situation. Seeing that they had the upper hand, the Iranian people went to town. The oil workers went back on strike and this time oil production dropped to less than 10% of the usual six million barrels a day and stayed there. Government workers went out, too, and shops and businesses closed in solidarity.

Cracks in the army grew deeper between the privileged US-trained officers and sons of the worker and peasant families in enlisted men's uniforms. On December 15, several members of the Shah's own Imperial Guard burst into their officers' mess, automatic rifles blazing. Before these heroes were cut down, they had killed 12 officers and wounded 50 others. On December 19th soldiers in Tabriz refused orders to open fire on anti-Shah demonstrators.

But the mass movement was rolling – and learning, too. Strikes paralyzed the communications system, the national airlines, the fuel supply and the banks which had not already been destroyed by demonstrators.

No longer could troops fire on demonstrators without fear of reprisals. Armories were raided and home-made weapon factories sprang up. By the middle of the month, massive street barricades began appearing during the almost daily demonstrations in the heart of Teheran, the capitol city.

US corporations became a bigger target. Headquarters of firms like Grumman were burned to the ground. During December, most of the 47,000 Americans working for the Shah's armed forces and government or US-owned businesses were repeatedly warned by the people to leave the country or share the Shah's fate. Carter, already the second most hated man in Iran, continued making statements supporting the Shah and spoke out against Khomeini. It was clear to almost everyone that the US was a deadly enemy of the Iranian revolution.

In Mashad, the people took another step forward as the year was ending. They captured several Army officers who had ordered massacres during demonstrations there. Revolutionary tribunals established by the citizens found these dogs guilty and they were publicly hanged. In a savage reprisal, tanks rolled into the city, cannons and

machine guns blazing. Over 700 died, some crushed under their treads. Even this has not stopped the demonstrations in Mashad from growing.

## THE SHAH MUST GO

It was not until mid-December that it finally dawned on the foreign policy experts in Washington, D.C. that the Iranian people meant business when they said "The Shah Must Go!" For years the US backed the Shah as the key to control not only Iran but the oil riches of the Persian Gulf.

They had refused to even talk to anyone in the opposition. Now they were desperately looking around for some way to keep control of Iran that didn't involve the Shah.

US diplomats met with Ayatollah Khomeini and other religious figures and with leaders of the National Front. The Americans were trying to set up a deal where the Shah would stay on as a figurehead king, but a more democratic-looking form of government would be set up. The Moslem leaders and the National Front told them to get lost.

But the US pressured the Shah to leave "on vacation" while still proclaiming himself to be Iran's supreme ruler. And they shopped around among the few politicians so ambitious that they dared to oppose a mass movement. They found a National Front member, Shahpur Bakhtiar, who agreed to set up a civilian government.

## BAKHTIAR STEPS IN

Bakhtiar promised to establish democratic rights for the people, hold free elections, raise workers' pay by as much as 100%, stop Iranian support of Israel and South Africa, permit more say in lawmaking to the Moslems, and come up with other concessions.

But the Iranian people have had many of these carrots dangled in front of their noses before – and it didn't work any better than the army's stick. They want the Shah and his family gone for good – or better still, dead – and they don't

want the US government dominating their country from behind a new set of puppets.

The National Front promptly denounced Bakhtiar as a traitor and expelled him. In fact, these events helped strengthen the ranks of the opposition against making any deals with the Shah and his US backers. Two weeks after he agreed to set up a new government, Bakhtiar still hadn't found enough people to fill all the posts in his cabinet!

The departure of the Shah will mark the entry into a new stage for the Iranian revolution. For one thing, there is still a grave danger of a Chile-style takeover by the military. Most high Iranian officers were trained by the US. With American encouragement they could easily be won to launching a gigantic national bloodbath and seizing power – provided their troops didn't mutiny. The Pentagon has dispatched a Naval task force to the Persian Gulf in case it is needed.

If the Shah flees for good and the Bakhtiar government falls, there will still be many questions to resolve. At present, all the anti-Shah forces agree on a common immediate goal – a democratic republic which upholds the national interests of Iran and protects its Islamic traditions. But different forces in the opposition will have very different views of where this New Iran should go.

## A LIFETIME OF LESSONS

The workers, the students, the urban poor and the peasants have been the main forces in the thick of the battle.

And in a year of fighting the Shah, the common people have learned a lifetime of lessons about politics. They have seen the role of the US in bankrolling and backing their enemy and in robbing their country. They saw one politician after another vacillate and some go on to front for the Shah. They saw some conservative religious figures refusing to unite with non-Moslems and leftists in the anti-Shah struggle.

And most of all, they saw that they themselves, the masses in their mil-

lions, have the power to change the world. Revolutionary communists, who are especially active in organizing and leading the workers and students, have worked to bring this lesson home to the people. If they organize themselves, the future of Iran is theirs to create.

The people themselves have shown in many ways that they are beginning to understand this. Striking factory workers have been offered double or triple their previous wage to return to work and laughed at the bosses for it. We are out until the Shah goes, they said, and anyway, we are the ones who make this plant run. What do we need you for anyhow?

In late October and early November, the population of one city, Amol, near the Caspian Sea, took over the town for two weeks. After a mass demonstration to protest the Shah's murders, the citizens decided to clear the government and army garrison out of town. Then they formed a "Committee for National Protection" to run public services like sanitation, health, etc. People held meetings, tried captured SAVAK (secret police) agents, and put up wall newspapers and posters.

The committee declared "The Republic of Amol" and declared they stood in 100% solidarity with the struggle elsewhere in Iran. Word spread like wildfire through the country, forcing the government to announce formally that the "Republic" didn't exist.

After two weeks the government was finally able to send a column of troops and tanks into the town and crush resistance in a day-long battle. Most of the committee members went underground to avoid death, but the spirit of "The Republic of Amol" lives on in the hearts of the laboring people of Iran.

The Iranian revolution has all but accomplished its first goal – no longer will "the emperor of emperors" hold sway over Iran's people as their lord and master. Now the masses face new tasks, hammering out the future of their country, fighting to realize the dreams that were born in the struggle to overthrow the Shah and his backers.



Police car runs into Iranian students demonstrating at the posh Beverly Hills mansion of the Shah's sister. Having

stolen billions from the Iranian people, he and his family have emergency plans to flee the blood bath they have created in

Iran to live in luxury here. Now Carter is trying to deport these students for standing up against the coldblooded murderers of their relatives and countrymen.

## Abajo con las regulaciones de Carter

En 1979 mas de 3.5 millones de obreros en los Estados Unidos se enfrentaran a batallar por nuevos contratos. Obreros de petroleo, goma, ropa, camioneros, obreros de auto, de maquinaria, de agricultura, y de construccion enfrentan una tasa de inflacion de 10%. Enfrentan algunas de las corporaciones mas grandes y poderosas en el mundo y un gobierno que hara cualquier cosa para bajar los salarios. En cima de todo esto se espera que la economia entre en una recesion este ano.

Los obreros que han aceptado los controles de Carter de 7% no han podido ganar suficiente para compensar por la tasa de inflacion. Varias negociaciones y huelgas han ocurrido bajo enorme presion del gobierno en favor de sacrificios. Muchas de las uniones van a demandar contratos mas cortos.

30,000 obreros de papel y pulpa en la costa del oeste iban a ganar un aumento de salario de mas de 10%. Entonces se anunciaron los controles de

salarios y precios. Ahora los trabajadores de papel enfrentan una oferta peor de las companias. Sus abogados han disputado el derecho del gobierno ha bajar los salarios.

Se aproximan batallas mas grandes. 43,000 obreros de petroleo y quimicas van a demandar mas dinero, cuidado medico gratis, mejor seguridad y beneficios de retirar de las mayores companias de petroleo cuando sus contrato se termine el 7 de enero. Un lider de la union de Obreros de Petroleo, Chimiquas, Atomico, Jerry Archuleta, dijo, "Nuestra posicion es negociar como si no hubieran controles. Nosotros no tenemos obligaciones de apoyar el plan de Jimmy Carter cuando hace a los obreros y el pueblo sus victimas."

Otro contrato importante sera la batalla de los camioneros por un contrato sobre transporte. Casi 300,000 camioneros quieren aumentos de salarios, cambios en regulaciones de trabajo, seguridad y beneficios. Sus

poder de parrar el transporte es tan enorme que las companias, el gobierno, y el liderato de la union temen las negociaciones.

El contrato de los Camioneros es unas de las razones principales por que la administracion de Carter tuvo que aflojar los limites de 7% a los aumentos de salarios. Ahora el costo de mantener las pensiones y los aumentos de salud no forman parte del limite de 7%. Pero los capitalistas no van a dar ni un centavo mas de 7% en las futuras batallas de contrato.

Para ganar soporte para los controles de salarios Carter dijo que el Congreso iba a pasar un reembolso de impuesto para los obreros si la inflacion continua subiendo. Pero si los precios siguen aumentando este reembolso valeria \$15 billones. Hay poca posibilidad que el Congreso asenta a este tipo de reembolso.

Pero la tasa de inflacion sigue aumentando. Lo que costaba \$100 en

(vease pagina 2)

### Adentro:



Obreros agricultores estan organizando en varios estados fuera de California. Arriba: linea de piquete en Arizona.

Obreros  
Agricultores . . p.2

Caso de Weber y  
Discrimination . p.3

EEUU reconoce  
Republica Popular  
de China . . . . . p.4



### Iran Revolucion

Arriba: Iranios transportan a un camarada herido en el levantamiento contra el Sha.

## Sha listo para huir enfrenta rebeldia creciente

El Sha de Iran esta despachado. La lucha revolucionaria del pueblo de Iran a pesar de matanzas y concesiones falsas ha polverizado los ultimos soportes de su trono.

Al comenzar el año nuevo, el Sha anuncio que tomara una vacacion. Probablemente sera permanente, aunque con el apoyo de los EEUU a establecido un nuevo gobierno para mantener viva la posibilidad de regresar. El nuevo gobierno, encabezado por el traidor Shahpur Bakhtiar, fue denunciado por la oposicion al Sha como un fraude, y fue recibido por manifestaciones el primer dia.

### GOBIERNO MILITAR

El ultimo chance del Sha habia sido el ejercito. Despues de la enorme rebellion en Tehran el 4 de Noviembre, cuando miles fueron ametrallados, un gobierno militar fue formado, que rapidamente puso la ley marcial.

El rebeldio de masas pauso un poco a medio de Noviembre, mientras la gente descubria maneras de negociar con el regime militar. Obreros de petroleo comenzaron a regresar al trabajo y la produccion empezo a crecer.

Pero entonces las manifestaciones comenzaron de nuevo en desafio de la

ley marcial y crecieron a traves del mes. Comerciantes de los mercados enormes y lideres religiosos organizaron diez miles en unas cuantas horas. Obreros del banco central salieron en Huelga y publicaron un reporte revelando a Iranios ricos enviando \$5.4 billones a bancos en el extranjero en preparacion para huir el pais. Entre ellos muchos relativos del Sha, ministros del gabinete, y miembros de la policia secreta.

El 26 de Noviembre lideres de la oposicion llamaron una huelga nacional de un dia que fue casi 100% efectiva. Millones marcharon. Bancos,

edificios del gobierno clubs, tiendas de pornografia, y otros simbols de decadencia Occidental fueron quemados a pesar de una orden prohibiendo manifestaciones.

El ultimo golpe contra el gobierno militar vino durante el tiempo sagrado Islamico de la primera parte de Diciembre. Aya tollah Khomeini, un lider religioso admirado por el pueblo por su papel de lider en la lucha contra el Sha, llamo manifestaciones gigantes para el 10 y-11 de Diciembre. Que podian hacer los Generales? Sus

(vease pagina 3)

## Editorial

### Un nuevo nombre

Con esta edicion, estamos cambiando nuestro nombre a la VOZ DEL OBRERO. Este periodico a aparecido en muchas ciudades por seis años bajo el nombre de EL OBRERO. Estamos cambiando nuestro nombre porque en el año pasado un grupo de gente que antes trabajaba con EL OBRERO pararon de publicar un periodico que los obreros puedan usar en sus luchas.

En vez, bajo el nombre EL OBRERO, ellos empezaron a publicar periodicos llenos de lemas ruidosos, reportes largos glorificandon sus pequenas bufonadas, ataques contra los esfuerzos por los trabajadores de China por construir socialismo, y casi ningunas noticias de las batallas importantes de este tiempo.

Poner alto a ataques, construir unidad, ganar victorias, avanzar paso a paso hacia revolucion-- nada de esto le importa a ellos. Desean un pulpito para predicar sus "gloriosas" ideas.

No queremos ser asociado con esta bazofia. La VOZ DEL OBRERO seguira en la tradicion de EL OBRERO viejo. La VOZ DEL OBRERO sera un periodico que promovera las demandas del pueblo comun, los intereses de corto y largo plazo de los obreros. Un periodico que dice la verdad sobre lo que esta ocurriendo en el mundo. Un periodico cuya meta es construir la lucha y engendrar entusiasmo y entendimiento revolucionario entre cualquiera que este luchando para cambiar este sistema moribundo.

**Jefatura de Obreros Revolucionarios**

## Cartas

### Ecko discrimina

Nosotros Somos Trabajadores de Ecko Housewares en Chicago. Obreros, debemos unirnos para acabar con el racismo que hay en la factoria pues los Hispanos somos relegados a un ultimo grado, no podemos enfrentarnos y no podemos protestar porque no nos hoyen. Abusan de nosotros pues no tenemos representante de habla Hispana no somos un grupo minoritario pero estamos sin union; y la union hace la fuerza. Hace unos dias fueron a lay off 100 trabajadores de Ecko en tiempo de Christmas; en su mayoría hispanos sin tener quien los defenda.

Un hispano que se golpeo la es-

palda le mando el Dr. de Ecko a trabajar de nuevo sin tener tratamiento sin embargo su Dr. lo suspendio pues necesita ser tratado. Cuando se accidente no pudo reportar el accidente pues 3 turno no tiene enfermera ni representante de union.

Unamonos para derrotar a los explotadores y obligemolos a que nos traten como obreros no como esclavos, que nos den una enfermera en el 3 turno y un representante; tambien para los Hispanos-Americanos. Y que en personal termine el racismo para para los Hispanos-Americanos.

Algunos obreros latinos de Ecko

## Emigrantes en Florida ganan lucha de tomates

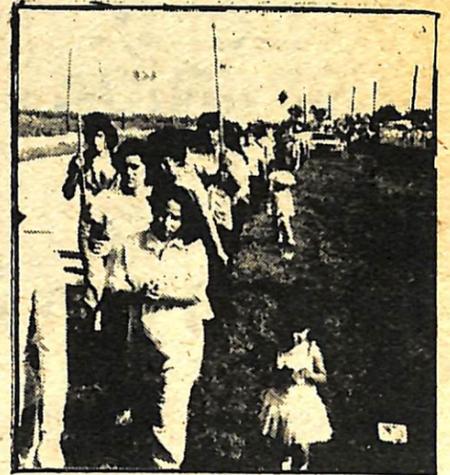
Casi todos los 1,000 obreros, la mayoría chicanos, en el campo de Labor Everglades al sur de Miami salieron de los campos llenos de tomates maduros el 7 de diciembre. La siega ya habia empezado cuando los cultivadores anunciaron que solo pagarian 30¢ por cada cubeta de 30 libras de tomates, un corto de 40¢ a la tasa del año pasado. Al fin de la huelga de una semana las tasas habian sido restauradas, y los obreros habian hecho grandes avances en organizacion.

Los dueños de la grande industria de tomates en Dade County que produce vegetales para la mayor parte del este de EEUU, gimotearon que no podian pagar la tasa viejas, sin hablar de los 45¢ que los obreros estaban demandando. Los Huelguistas se rien de este argumento.

"Nosotros los hemos enriquecidos por muchos años," dijo uno "y sabemos que nos pueden pagar 15¢ mas." Otro explico, "En la tienda una cubeta de 30 libras de tomates valeria \$20. El trabajador recibe 30¢."

Los miembros de La Asociacion de Migrantes Unidos de la Florida que comenzaron la huelga en Everglade rapidamente movilizaron trabajadores en otros campos casi parando completamente la cosecha de tomates en el area.

Oficiales locales trataron de venir a la ayuda de los dueños para evitar que la huelga se extendiera. Cuando 3000 huelguistas macharon de campo a campo el 8 de diciembre la policia arresto el lider del AMU Benito Lopez y a tres otros miembros del liderato de la huelga. Acusaron a los lideres de violar la ley de "derecho de trabajo" de Florida-- Una ley en efecto en 20 estados que se dirigue a debilitar los esfuerzos



Obreros agricultores de Florida.

de organizar uniones a tra vez de prohibir el taller de union. Dentro de unas cuantas horas, obreros reunieron \$14,000 en fianza para liberarlos.

Los arrestos no parraron los piquetes o la creciente huelga, El 10 de diciembre, cientos de huelguistas marcharon a un campo cercano con las banderas de la Asociacion de Migrantes Unidos y carteles que decian "Abajo con la explotacion de los obreros." Formaron una linea al borde del campo salmodiando "Huelga Si, Un Vendido No" y "Viva la Raza". Los obreros de ese campo se unieron a la huelga inmediatamente.

Para el de Diciembre algunos de los cultivadores estaban ofreciendo 40¢ por cubeta. Pero los huelguistas se mantuvieron firme en su demanda de 45¢. Ellos tambien levantaron otras quejas, tales como que tienen que pagar sus propias utilidades y rentas en campos miserables despues de ser atraido a tra ves del pais por las promesas de los patrones que ellos pagarian esto gastos.

El 14 una marcha grande fue atacada por la policia y 60 trabajadores fueron arrestados por la policia. Los patrones desesperados se unieron alrededor de una oferta de 40¢ y otras concessons y los negociadores de la Asociacion de Migrantes Unidos aceptaron. Aletados por su vitoria, la AMU esta organizando mas trabajadores migrantes para las luchas que vienen.

Un huelguista militante le dijo a la Voz del Obrero. "Nosotros sentimos que hemos realizado mucho, no solamente el 33% six no que le dejamos saber que somos seres humanos para que nos respeten."

Los trabajadores tienen una batalla larga por adelante para organizarse y luchar por sus derechos. Aunque hay trabajadores migrantes en mas de la mitad de los estados de los EEUU, sus victorias conocidas habian sido gandas en California. Y hai, victorias por campesinos militantes y la United Farmworkers Union no son muy seguras. En Diciembre por ejemplo, un juez de California por fin anulo una eleccion fraudulenta de representacion de union que se hizo hace 3 años por Gallo. Aunque critico la compania por utilizar tacticas de dictadura contra el UFW, el todavia rehuso ordenar que Gallo reconociera al UFW como agente de negociaciones en Gallo.

Campesinos a traves del pais estan aumentando su lucha para vencer estos obstaculos, como manifestado en la huelga de recogedores de tomates en Ohio este otoño encabezado por el Farm Labor Organizing Committee, varias huelgas en Tejas el invierno pasado, la huelga exitosa de obreros sin documentos Mejianos en Arizona este verano, y ahora la poderosa huelga de obreros migrantes de la Florida.

## LAS REGULACIONES DE CARTER...

(viene de pagina 1)

1967 ahora cuesta \$200. Los precios de comida han subido aun más. Despues de 12 años lo que valia \$10 ahora vale \$22. Los aumentos mayores fueron en el costo de medicina, y por eso muchos planes de seguridad han fallado en los años recientes. En los ultimos meses los precios de carne han subido 20%. El precio de gasolina puede subir a \$1 por gallon en los proximos años.

Los precios han subido tanto que los aumentos y los planes del costo de vida no han subido al paso con los precios. Desde 1972, los salarios actuales han bajado por 5.2%. Para un obrero que gana \$12,000 al año, esto significa \$600 cada año. Los salarios de las minorias han caido mas rapido que los de los blancos.

Y porque no debemos obedecer los

controles con la esperanza que los precios se estabilizen si todos trabajamos unido? Primero, la causa de inflacion no es el salario de los obreros. El problema es que bajo el sistema capitalista en esta epoca que significa muchos problemas para los EEUU en muchas partes del mundo. El gobierno tiene muchas tropas en otros paises, gasta mucho en armas, los deficits, comercio desigual todos estos han debilitado el dinero americano y han reado la inflacion,

Mas importante, sufriremos más si pensamos que los patrones van a sufrir igual que nosotros. Cuando habian controles durante la segunda guerra mundial, los capitalistas grandes hicieron enormes fortunas con los contratos del gobierno y subiendo los precios ilegalmente. En 1974 cuando habian controles, los patrones atacaron los salarios de los obreros.

Los controles de Carter no cubren los productos primarios- como la comida una de las causas principal de inflacion. El anuncio que permitiria aumentos en precios de 9.5% si las compañías no hacen suficientes ganancias. Ya los dueños de la industria de acero han dicho que van a necesitar precios más altos. Y los politicos de Chicago han mostrado como trabajan los ricos- se dieron un aumento de 28% a si mismos.

Es evidente que las corporaciones gigantes, los poderes que controlan la sociedad, no van y no pueden bajar los precios. Ellos tratan de controlar estrictamente los salarios de los obreros. Pero si hay problemas con sus ganancias ellos encuentran excepciones. El camino adelante para los obreros es organizar y luchar por cada contrato y contra los controles del gobierno.

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# Caso Weber amenaza victorias de Negros

## "Bakke de obreros"

Perderan los negros sus pocos y duros ganados mejoramientos de trabajo? El caso Weber contra Kaiser Aluminum decidira exactamente esto. Brian Weber, "el Bakke de Obreros" esta encabezando el ataque en contra de los derechos negros con sus alegaciones que Kaiser es injusto a los blancos por darle acceso a negros al programa de entrenamiento para oficios diestros.

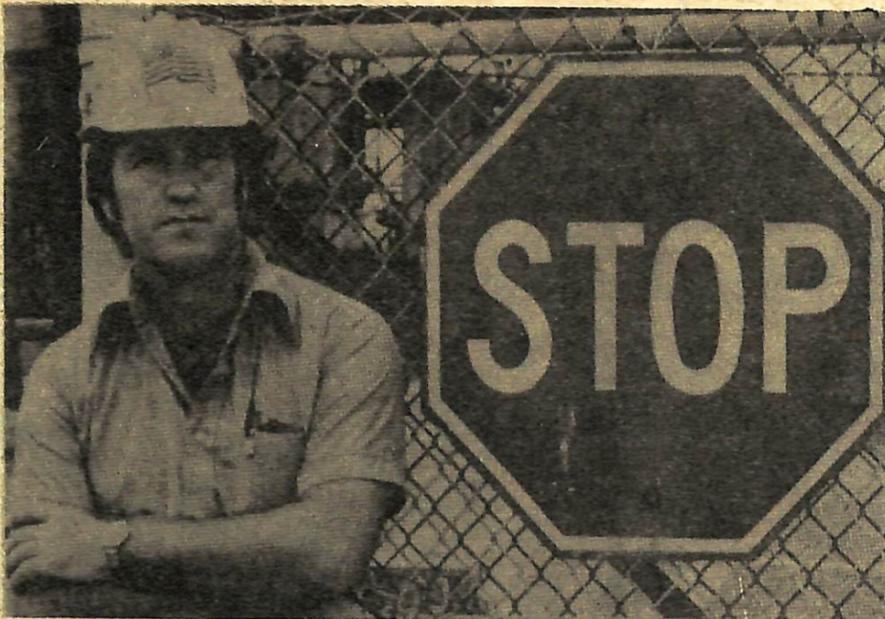
El caso Weber es tan ridiculo como racista. El area de Gramercy, Louisiana, donde la planta esta situada es 39% negro. Pero solamente 15% de los empleados de Kaiser y 2% de los oficios diestros son negros. Sacudidos por un pleito de discriminacion que los forzo a pagar \$225,000 por sus practicas racistas en su planta de Baton Rouge, Kaiser comenzo un programa de accion afirmativa en Gramercy en 1964. Negros y blancos iban a ser admitidos a un programa de entrenamiento a base de una tasa de 50% hasta que los negros llenaran 39% de todas las posiciones. Las mujeres que historicamente habian sido negado empleo en Kaiser, iban a ser empleadas y promovidas hasta que llenaran 5% de todos trabajos.

En todos otros asuntos - despidos, beneficios, vacaciones, etc. - el sistema de senioridad no cambiaria.

Kaiser rehuso a admitir haber discriminado, por miedo de nuevos pleitos legales. Pero su negacion no cambia los hechos.

Negros han enfrentados discriminacion sistematica desde la apertura de la planta en 1958. En esos tiempos la discriminacion se justificaba legalmente bajo la doctrina de "separado pero igual". Negros comian en separadas pero peores cafeterias, iban a separados pero peores excusados, y recibian los mas sucios y peligrosos trabajos.

Segregacion - en Kaiser y a traves del Sur - re cibio un golpe fuerte en el curso de las masivas rebeldias de los 60's y fue parada legalmente por el Acto de Derechos Civiles de 1964. Luego una orden ejecutiva requirio accion afirmativa por companias que tenian contratos con el gobierno.



Arriba: Brian Weber, su caso racista puede destruir avances de las minorias en empleos que fueron ganados en el pasado.

Pero la contencion de que "ahora no hay mas discriminacion" ignora a rrogantemente las formas en que la discriminacion ha continuado desde el Acto de Derechos Civiles. Hasta 1973 Kaiser exigia experiencia previa para trabajos expertos si el obrero era negro, ninguna experiencia era necesaria para los blancos. La planta tenia dos diferentes sistemas de identificacion para los negros y los blancos.

Kaiser no es un caso aislado. Discriminacion contra negros penetra a todas partes de la sociedad. Eso es lo que hace al caso Weber tan peligroso. Si Weber gana, companias lo usaran para terminar sus presentes e insuficientes programas para compensar por practicas racistas. En areas donde la accion afirmativa no ha sido efectiva, no se hara nada por los negros o las mujeres.

La opinion de Weber que "los hombres que en realidad sufrieron discriminacion no estan trabajando ahora" es una gran mentira. Acceso a educacion, trabajos, y viviendas para los negros toda via es limitado. La tasa de desempleo para negros es el doble de

los blancos. Hasta en centros industriales como en Gary Indiana donde mas de la mitad de la poblacion es negra solamente 40% de los empleados de US Steel Gary Works son negros. Y solamente 20% de los empleados en 1974 eran negros.

La historia, larga y brutal, de la industria de acero solamente muestra las politicas sistematicas de las companias, dirigidas a mantener a los negros en los trabajos mas peligrosos como los "coke ovens", "blast furnaces", etc. Bajo este sistema, los jefes le podian dar la misma paga a negros en estas clasificaciones y con 20 años de senioridad que a blancos con 5 años en mejores clasificaciones. Ganancias hechas de la labor de todos los obreros recibieron un empujon para arriba a causa de la super-explotacion de negros.

Aun hoy dia plantas en muchas industrias tienen senioridad basada en departamentos en vez de la planta entera.

Mas, a pesar de todo esto los negros han solamente comenzado a ganar algunas concesiones de los duenos de companias. El plan de Kaiser gano sola-

mente 13 nuevos novicios-7 negros y 6 blancos. Weber un trabajador de laboratorio de 32 años de edad que gana \$21,000 al año objeta a los derechos de negros a estos trabajos porque el tiene mas senioridad que ellos.

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Weber pretende que su lucha es defensiva- defendiendo los derechos de senioridad de los obreros blancos mas viejos. Pero en realidad el esta en la ofensiva contra las ganas negras. El se hizo un representante de quejas a traves de provocar odio racial. Tambien en la convencion de obreros de acero el año pasado agito en contra de accion afirmativa.

El Local 1300, de una planta cerca de Gramercy, voto a favor de defender accion afirmativa y oponer a Weber. Pero sus apoyantes ( en un area con un Ku Klux Klan activo ) llenaron la proxima reunion del local y derribaron la decision. La disension entre los obreros sobre este asunto es una tactica que los patrones han usado para poner obreros a luchar entre si mismo. Aunque Weber pierda el caso le ha hecho servicio a los patrones.

La decisiones de las cortes bajas en favor de Weber son basada en el testimonio de un día. La evidencia fue dada por Weber, dos otros blancos y un administrador de Kaiser, ellos testificaron que no hay discriminacion en Kaiser.

### DEFENDER Y EXTENDER ACCION AFIRMATIVA, ABAJO CON WEBER

Ni la super explotación de los negros ni las divisiones raciales benefician a ningun obrero. Muchos locales de la Union de Obreros de Acero han pasado resoluciones contra Weber. El Comité de Derechos Civiles, con grupos negros en la union estan empezando una campana en muchos distritos contra Weber, junto con una demanda de defender y extender accion afirmativa.

Organizaciones de estudiantes y profesionales que fueron formadas para oponer el caso Bakke, que destruyo muchas de las politicas de colegios de accion afirmativa en admisiones, estan comenzando a mover en contra de Weber.

## Iran Revolucion...

(viene de pagina 1)

prohibicion de manifestaciones no tenian efecto. Y no podian ordenar a los soldados de base a matar sus propios padres en unos de los días más sagrados del año Islamico.

El 11 y 12 millones marcharon sin incidente por las calles. No se veia ni un soldado o tanque.

EL PUEBLO LO DESBARRATA

Viendo que el gobierno militar no podia controlar la situacion, el pueblo Iranes se desencadenó. Obreros de petroleo salieron de huelga, y esta vez la produccion de petroleo bajo a menos de 10% de normal. Obreros del gobierno salieron tambien, y los negocios cerraron en solidaridad.

El Sha no podia contar con sus propias tropas. Los hijos de campesinos y obreros empezaron a pelear contra sus oficiales. El 15 de Diciembre miembros de la guardia imperial del Sha mataron a 15 oficiales y herieron a 50 mas. El 19 de Diciembre soldados en otra ciudad rehusaron ordenes de disparar contra manifestantes.

Corporaciones de los EEUU eran un blanco aun mas grande. Oficinas de companias como Gruman fueron quemadas. 47,000 americanos trabajan-

do para el Sha o para negocios de EEUU fueron avisado que salieran del pais y el presidente Carter continuo voceando su soporte del Sha.

El gobierno de los EEUU continuo apoyando el Sha hasta medios de Diciembre, a quien han apoyado por años como la clave para Iran y de las riquezas del Golfo Persio. Ahora estan buscando de prisa por una manera de mantener control de Iran sin el Sha. Diplomatas de EEUU tubieron mitins con Khomeni y otros miembros con Khomeni y otros lideres religiosos, y con miembros del Frente Nacional, quienes le dijeron que se perdieran.

Pero los EEUU apresuro al Sha a tomar una "vacacion" mientras continuando llamandolo el jefe supremo de Iran. Y encontraron un miembro del Frente Nacional suficiente ambicioso para oponerse al movimiento popular, que asentio formar un gobierno civil. Pero esto tampoco trabajo Bakhtiar prometio establecer derechos democraticos para el pueblo celebrar elecciones, y subir los salarios de obreros por 100% o más, pero el pueblo Iranes no asentio. Fue botado del Frente Nacional, y dos semanas despues que anuncio que iba a

formar un gobierno nuevo, todavia no ha encontrado a bastante gente para llenar las posiciones de su gabinete.

### NUEVOS PELIGROS NUEVAS TAREAS

La partida del Sha lleva la revolucion Iranica a una nueva etapa. Todavia hay un gran peligro de un golpe de estado por el ejercito al estilo de Chile. La mayoría de los oficiales altos de Iran fueron entrenado en los EEUU y con su apoyo pudieran hacer una matanza y tomar poder, si sus tropas no hicieran motin. El Pentagono ha enviado un escuadron naval al Golfo de Persia por si acaso.

Si la derrota del Sha es final, todavia habran muchos problemas para resolver. Todo el mundo musulmanes, estudiantes, campesinos, obreros, comerciantes, intelectuales, estan de acuerdo sobre formar una republica democratica que proteja los intereses nacionales de Iran y su tradicion Islamica.

Pero algunos lideres conservativos desean que el pais sea gobernado por ley Islamica, que significaria restriccion de fundamentales derechos democraticos, especialmente para mujeres y los que no son musulman. Hombres de negocio y profesionales desean una democracia como las del occidente con el derecho a votar,

derechos de prensa, etc., pero ellos quieren que las ganancias del petroleo, la labor de los obreros y la riqueza de la nacion, termine en sus bolsillos. Esto significaria que las masas de Iran tendrian mas libertad politica pero serian siendo esclavos economicos.

Los obreros y campesinos, han aprendido en el periodo de este tiempo revolucionario el papel de los EEUU en robar su pais y apoyar su enemigo principal. Han visto a varios politicos vacilar y algunos pasar a apoyantes del Sha. Vieron a lideres conservativos musulmanes rehusar a unirse con los no musulmanes y izquierdistas en la lucha contra el Sha.

Sobre todo vieron que ellos son la espina vertebral de la revolucion, y que tienen el poder de cambiar el mundo. Comunistas revolucionarios que estan activo en organizar y dirigir a los obreros y estudiantes los ayudaron a ver esto. Si se organizan el futuro de Iran estara en sus manos.

La revolucion de Iran a llegado a su primera meta. Jamas sera el pueblo de Iran gobernado por el emperador de emperadores como un dictador absoluto. Ahora las masas enfrentan nuevas tareas, planeando el futuro de su pais, luchando para realizar los ideales que nacieron en la lucha para derrotar al Sha y sus apoyantes.

# EEUU reconoce Republica Popular de China

## Arrepente despues de 30 años

El 1 de enero, se establecieron relaciones diplomaticas con la Republica Popular China despues de 30 años, marcando una era nueva en relaciones entre los EEUU y China y abriendo nuevas posibilidades para mas estrechos lazos entre los dos pueblos. La accion es una derrota para la politica del imperialismo EEUU de cercar y aislar a China, y una victoria para la creciente sociedad socialista de China. Objetivamente oponiendo la expansion Sovietica contribuirá significativamente a retrasar el brote de guerra.

Los EEUU fue forzado a parrar su apoyo del regimen de Taiwan que comienzo con la Revolucion China de los 1940's en cual EEUU apoyo el perdedor, Chiang Kai-Shek, con \$5 billones en ayuda. Millones de Chinos murieron parra derrotar a Chiang, sus apoyantes extranjeros, y el sistema que el representaba. Cuando el ejercito rojo desalojo a Chiang del continente, barcos de la marina de guerra americana los transbordaron a traves del estrecho de Taiwan, y el se hizo "Presidente" con dolares americanos. Durante y despues de la Guerra de Korea, Taiwan se convirtio en el portavion perfecto, mientras que el gobierno de EEUU promovía el mito que algun día Chiang regresaría a gobernar el continente.

Ahora esto mito, y la estrategia de EEUU detras de el, ha fracasado. Despues de derrotas en Korea y Vietnam, los EEUU ha sido forzado cada vez mas a la defensiva. El occidente esta atormentado por crisis y degeneracion social y varios aliados de EEUU se estan haciendo mas independiente. Los vientos de revolucion estan creciendo, como en Nicaragua y Iran. Mientras tantos la otra superpotencia, la USSR ha emergido como un agresor social imperialista (socialista en palabras, imperialista en hecho). La USSR esta apoyando la agresion del gobierno de Etiopía contra Eritrea, el golpe de estado reciente en Afganistan y la guerra de Vietnam contra Cambodia. En Africa, el Sureste de Asia, y



Arriba: Contingente de Obreros en una demonstracion de 2,000 que marcharon en el barrio Chino de Nueva York el 1 de Enero, para celebrar la normalizacion de relaciones entre China y los EEUU.

Europa, la Union Sovietica esta metiendo sus manos para arrebatarle el control de los EEUU; moviendo hacia una guerra con planes de reemplazar los EEUU como "policia mundial." Mientras la posicion de los EEUU deteriora y el mundo se mueve mas cerca de guerra, China ha avanzado considerablemente. Su pueblo a traves de lucha esta construyendo un pais socialista que ha ganado el respeto y el apoyo de gente alrededor del mundo, y a cual hasta los EEUU tiene que tomar en cuenta. Especialmente desde la caida de la "Camarilla de Cuatro" hace dos años la situacion en China ha mejorado, la vida politica se ha establecido, con su pueblo trabajando parra hacer China un pais moderno, industrializado, y socialista por el año 2000. La politica extranjera de China tiene como su meta unir los pueblos y los paises del

mundo en la lucha contra la dominacion de las dos superpotencias, el colonialismo, y explotacion.

Con normalizacion americanos tendran oportunidades para visitar y aprender la verdad acerca de la Republica Popular China y a traves del ejemplo de China aprenderan mas del socialismo. China por el otro lado aprovechara de nuestra tecnologia avanzada.

Objetivamente normalizacion es un bloque a las ambiciones Sovieticas y Vietnemesas de penetrar y dominar el sureste de Asia. Siguiendo rapidamente el pacto Chino-Japones (vease "El Obrero" Vol. 1 #7) el acuerdo entre China y los EEUU crea mas estabilidad en la region, pues ayuda a retrasar la erupcion de guerra en esta area del mundo. El boletin oficial, publicado por los gobiernos de los EEUU y China tiene una

calusa en contra de "hegemonia" - tratar de establecer control sobre otros paises - el cual es un poco mas fuerte que el Comunicado de Shanghai, firmado en 1972 por Nixon y Chou En-Lai. La Union Sovietica reacciona como un ladron cogido con las manos en la caja de seguridad declarando que temia que el acuerdo podria traer acciones anti-Sovieticas.

Ademas como un resultado de normalizacion, las posibilidades de una reunificacion pacifica de Taiwan con el continente han crecido. De hecho, la Republica Popular ya ha ofrecido comenzar negociaciones. Como respuesta los gobernantes militares de la isla pusieron sus fuerzas armadas en alerta.

Como una estipulacion para normalizacion, los EEUU acepto tres requisitos Chinos: un fin al reconocimiento diplomatico del regimen de Taiwan, un fin al pacto de defensa mutua con Taiwan, y sacar todas las tropas americanas de la isla. Los EEUU ha declarado que planea seguir abasteciendo a Taiwan con armas "defensivas", ya el sexto mas grande poder militar del mundo. Ademas continuara usando la "Flota Sextima" para patricular los estrechos de Taiwan. Estas acciones no son aceptables a la Republica Popular aunque no son considerada suficiente importante para prevenir normalizacion. Tales acciones de los EEUU solo pueden animar acciones agresivas por parte de la camarilla gobernante en Taiwan.

Taiwan es la dictadura militar mas vieja en el mundo (29 años). Huelgas, cualquier forma de disension politica, y tener contacto con el continente son castigables por encarcelamiento. No es accidental que Taiwan con salarios para obreros diestros en industria de \$3 diario es un refugio para fabricas que estan "emigrando" de este pais (RCA, Motorola, etc.). La expansion industrial de Taiwan ha sido comprado al precio de una dependencia aplastante en el capitalismo extranjero (principalmente los EEUU y Japon) y por la explotacion de la clase oberea de Taiwan. En cuanto a los capitalistas de Taiwan muchos han depositado su dinero en bancos americanos por se acaso tienen que huir el pais.

## Soviets encabezan ataque contra Eritrea

Los bombarderos Mig 23 cayeron a plomo dejando la muerte en la empolvada cansada columna de refugiados Eritreanos. Los pilotos Sovieticos estaban haciendo su mejor esfuerzo para poner alto a la larga lucha del pueblo de Eritrea por liberacion de la ocupacion por Etiopía.

Hace seis meses las fuerzas de liberacion de Eritrea estaban a punto de ganar. Despues de haber sido colonizado por Italia desde los 1800's, y entonces ser anexado por Etiopía despues de la Guerra Mundial, la independencia estaba a mano. Controlaban 90% de su pais, y tenian un sistema de gobierno, agricultura, economia, y educacional funcionando en las zonas liberadas.

La situacion cambio completamente despues de la intervencion masiva de la Union Sovietica en apoyo del "Derg" la junta facista que gobierna Etiopía. Esta vez los lideres de la Union Sovietica hicieron todo lo posible. En cima de toneladas de abastecimientos y miles de soldados Cubanos, mandaron tropas Sovieticas a pelear.

Una declaracion por el Frente de Liberacion Popular Eritreano dijo, "Ahora no estamos luchando contra el Derg, es la Union Sovietica. Los Migs estan volados por sus pilotos, ellos manejan la artilleria. En cada frente cientos de expertos Sovieticos estan dirigiendo las batallas y matando a cualquier soldado Etiopie que trate de retirarse."

El ataque final contra Eritrea comenzo mientras que el lider del Derg, Colonel Mengistu, estaba en Moscú firmando un "pacto de amistad" el 16 de Noviembre. 120,000 soldados Etiopies tomaron parte en el asalto, muchos de ellos recién llegados del sur del pais, donde miles de tropas Cubanas los reemplazaron en la frontera con Somalia.

Las fuerzas de Eritrea no tenian el equipo necesario para batallar contra las fuerzas Sovieticas-Cubanas en guerra regular. En vez se retiraron peleando. Las fuerzas del Derg

y sus aliados extranjeros capturaron las ciudades y pueblos, destruyendo todo excepto los puertos, que son las unicas salidas al mar que Etiopía tiene. La ultima ciudad que cayo fue Keran, la capital de las zonas liberadas que habia sido liberada solamente hace un año.

La retirada de Eritrea es un golpe duro pero no mortal. Un vocero para el FLPE explica, "Nuestra estrategia es retirar a las montañas donde haremos como hizimos hace tres años."

A pesar de todas las perdidas que han sufrido los Eritreanos han aprendido mucho acerca de como seguir luchando hasta victoria. La mas importante leccion es sobre la naturaleza de la Union Sovietica. Desde que comenzo la lucha de liberacion de Eritrea la Union Sovietica le dio soporte verbal y algunas armas.

Pero los Sovieticos no estan interesados en la justicia de la causa Eritreana. Estaban buscando la manera de extender su control sobre el area entera donde Eritrea, Etiopía, y Somalia estan situadas el Cuerno de Africa. Esta region estrategica domina la ruta de navegacion principal entre Asia, y particularmente las naciones del Golfo de Persia con sus depositos de petroleo, y Europa Occidental.

Asi que cuando los gobernantes de la Union Sovietica tuvieron oportunidad de tumbar sus rivales, los EEUU, y hacerse los apoyantes principales del Derg, la agarraron. En cuanto habian metido la mano en Etiopía, el mas grande y potencialmente mas poderoso pais del cuerno, botaron a los Eritreanos como un pedaso de basura.

Pero hasta la reciente ofensiva, las fuerzas de liberacion creian que esto era una "equivocacion" de los sovieticos que seguramente corregirian. Ahora no puede haber ninguna duda que la URSS es tan imperialista como los EEUU y que se debe combatir y derrotar antes que la gran meta de una libre e independiente Eritrea sea realidad.