

STEEL VOTE

Rank & File triumph at
Local 1397, Homestead, Pa.

see page 3

'79 CONTRACTS

Teamsters Pact
Punches hole in guidelines

see centerfold

25¢

SECCION
EN ESPAÑOL

WORKERS

VOICE

MAY, 1979

FORMERLY THE WORKER

VOL.II NO. 4

STOP THE NUKES!

3 Mile Island shows threat

During the first week in April the nuclear bubble burst. Not the hydrogen bubble inside the damaged Three Mile Island reactor. Sweaty palmed scientists and workers managed to shrink that one before it could blow the top off the reactor or block cooling systems long enough for the core to melt down.

No, what burst at Three Mile Island was the boom in nuclear power which has been pushed by the government and ridden to huge profits by giant corporations.

Now there is a confrontation shaping up over nuclear power which will have a major impact on this country. From Portland, Oregon to Portland, Maine, tens of thousands of Americans hit the streets in angry protests after Three Mile Island, demanding, "Stop the Nukes!"

Polls show that the majority of people are convinced nuclear energy is unsafe and that other ways of generating power should be developed. Despite this, the people who own this

country and their government intend to continue to build, rely on, and — most important — profit from nukes, no matter how unsafe they are proved to be. One industry spokesman said the crisis in Pennsylvania was "not the beginning of the end, but the end of the beginning."

OUTPOURING OF PROTEST

As soon as news of the accident hit the radio and TV, members of

(cont. on page 10)



In These Times

Anti-nuke protests are sweeping the country.

Cops arrest whole march in Miss.



Okolona marchers frisked in stockade.

United League continues freedom fight

OKOLONA, MISS. — April 14 . . . It was strangely quiet on the small main street, as 150 Black people slowly but deliberately walked towards the downtown. Okolona is a tough town and everyone knew it. Tougher even than Tupelo, 10 miles away, where the United League began its marches for justice over a year ago.

Suddenly the march stopped. Forty state troopers, in town on special orders from Governor Cliff Finch, blocked the street, lined up shoulder to shoulder with rifles poised. A few feet away stood Skip Robinson and other United League leaders, behind them the movement that threatens to tear down Mississippi's centuries-old system of white supremacy.

Workers Voice

A local policeman approached Herbert Trice. "You're all under arrest," he said.

Trice held his ground: "For what?"

The cop swung his rifle butt into Trice's chest. People started yelling.

In unison, the troopers cocked their guns. The sound was too noticeable to miss. Ten more troopers swung into position on the right side of the march.

The cops dragged Herbert Trice off. They hated the small but muscular member of the United League security force. Trice was one who never bit his tongue.

They went back for Clint, the retired civil servant who leads the League pickets of Okolona stores. People have been picketing downtown Okolona everyday, demanding that the stores hire Blacks. Everyday, the cops arrest someone, sometimes on charges like "swearing at a white woman", and Clint goes to the jail to bail them out.

(cont. on page 4)



MAY DAY '79

May Day is the workers' day. We claimed it as our own in 1886 in mass demonstrations for the 8 hour day. For almost a century, May Day has been celebrated by workers the world over. Year in, year out we fight the wealthy parasites who run society and grow fat off our labor. On May Day workers gather to sum up where we are in that struggle and to reaffirm our determination to carry it through to victory and emancipation.

May Day 1979 comes at a time of great change. The rulers of this country are making some serious adjustments in how their system works. If they have their way, our standard of living is going to fall, and fall substantially, over the next few years. Companies are tougher than ever at the bargaining table and the government openly stands behind them. Even if Carter's 7% wage guidelines collapsed tomorrow, they've already trapped millions of workers far behind inflation.

It's the same story with working conditions. Increased productivity, squeezing a little more out of each worker, is the name of the game as the capitalists battle to stay afloat in the chronic economic crisis that engulfs them. The forty hour week that our great, great grandparents fought for at that first May Day is still just a dream for workers in auto, trucking and a dozen other industries. Along with mandatory overtime, speedup and job combinations, cutting corners on health and safety and contract takeaways all make working a living hell - and profits a little higher.

The quality of life in general is going downhill. Proposition 13 fever has done little to lessen crushing taxes, but it has provided the government with a fine cover for stepping up cuts in social services. After two decades of hardwon progress, the gap between Blacks and whites is growing again in income, in employment, in education.

As the rich tighten up the operation of the system, the changes show up in the political arena. In general, both capitalist parties, the Republicans and the Democrats, are shifting to the right. Big corporations, organized in outfits like the Business Roundtable, are throwing their weight around more in policy debates, for instance, playing a big role in crushing the labor law reform bill of 1978.

And who speaks for working men and women? Not the top union bigshots, Meany and company, who've done nothing but preach compromise and cooperation with the bosses and their politicians. The system they serve can't even deliver crumbs for workers anymore and neither can they. Lloyd McBride has tied the Steelworker membership hand and foot with the no-strike deal, but it didn't stop the government from helping Tenneco break the USWA strike at Newport News, with barbed wire, dogs and state troopers.

May Day is a workers' protest day. And why not? The American people are sick and tired of being pushed around, of being driven down, of being sold out. We are beginning to show our dissatisfaction in action. Starting with the miners' strike last year, union after union has voted "no" when their officials came home with contracts a dog wouldn't eat - postal workers, N.Y. transit workers, United Airlines ground crews.

The answer to the soaring cost of living and government calls to sacrifice has been a rising sentiment demanding '79 wages for '79 prices. In the little over 6 months they've been in effect, the 7% guidelines were stretched, then bent, and now the Teamsters have cracked them.

Amid this growing resistance, the need for unity is felt more strongly and organization is developing. Sometimes it's visible, like the challenge the Teamsters for a Democratic Union and the Professional Drivers Council have launched against the dictatorship of Frank Fitzsimmons. More often, things are just starting to break open in individual plants and union locals. Militant workers seek each other out to lay plans. Small committees are formed. People learn that to get anywhere they have to both take up and organize the shop floor struggles, and at the same time, lead the rank and file in fighting to change the unions so they really defend the workers' interests.

May Day 1979 is a time to recognize that ferment bubbling up in the working class is not isolated there, but growing throughout society. At a time when the Bakke, Weber and Sears cases are spearheading a general attack on the gains Black people won in the '60's, resistance to discrimination and oppression is on the rise. The mass movement for justice and freedom in Mississippi, led by the United League, is over a year old and going strong. Black people in Philadelphia rebelled against racist Mayor Frank Rizzo and are looking for ways to challenge the political disenfranchisement they face.

Other sections of the people are in motion too. The farmers' rebellion, the wildcat by the owner-operators of the Fraternal Association of Steel Haulers, the mushrooming movement to Stop the Nukes, everywhere people are tired of being pushed around, driven down, and sold out.

It's May Day. Behind us stretches a proud past of struggle, rich in lessons and inspiration. Before us loom important battles, as the same class of robbers we fought in 1886 seek to rearrange things at our expense to protect their power and profits. It's time to stand together and fight. It's May Day.

Strike indicts asbestos bosses

WAUKEGAN, ILL. - The picket captain came back from writing down a truck license. Nodding toward the big Johns-Manville plant, he told the Workers Voice, "You'd think after all the publicity, they'd do a better job of cleaning up in there. We have these bright mercury vapor lights and you can see the little things floating everywhere.

He was talking about asbestos particles, little needles which are indestructible in the human body. They scar a worker's lungs so badly that there is a likelihood of severe lung damage (asbestosis) and cancer.

The nearly 1,000 strikers in this industrial suburb of Chicago had reason to be bitter. In their working years, they have helped make Johns-Manville the nation's biggest producer of fire resistant asbestos products. In this time they inhaled millions of particles.

When the workers struck on March 26, every key demand revolved around the health and safety threat. The

members of International Chemical Workers Local 60 wanted earlier retirement pensions, more medical insurance and union access to workers' medical records.

"A GUY MAY LIVE A FEW MORE YEARS"

An older striker who mentioned that he has spots on his lungs explained, "When a guy retires from here, he may not live but a few more years. Roy Grissom moved to Red Bay, Alabama after 23 years as a maintenance man. Four years later he was dead from lung cancer. All that time he was only getting \$164 a month pension. Why don't they let a man make enough to enjoy his retirement?"

The company refuses to give the union the results of medical tests that show at least 35 workers have serious lung disabilities. Johns-Manville says it won't let workers' privacy be invaded, but they really fear

(cont. on page 12)

DEFEND AFFIRMATIVE ACTION

"When Brian Weber came into this world he had opportunities. As Blacks we had nothing. I had nothing."

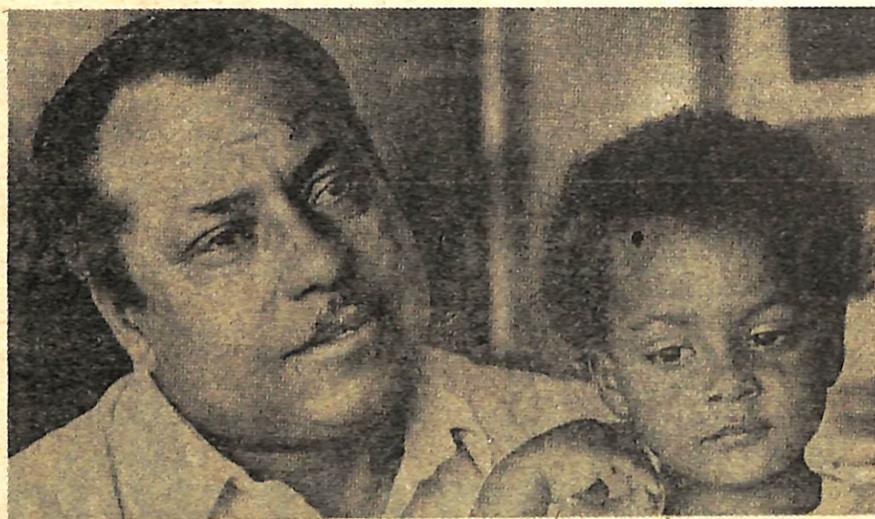
These were the words of James Nailer (see photo below) about the "reverse discrimination" case that Brian Weber is appealing in the Supreme Court.

Both men work at Kaiser Aluminum in Gramercy, Louisiana, where the population is 37% Black. For years Kaiser employed only whites; consequently they now have more seniority. Not one Black was in the skilled trades in any Kaiser plant in the country before 1974. Then a case against discrimination was filed at Kaiser's Baton Rouge facility.

Under this pressure Kaiser began a training program and reserved half of the skilled trades openings for

Blacks. Nailer, the son of a Black sharecropper, was accepted into the program. Weber, who has more seniority, was not. For Nailer, "affirmative action" meant a promotion to reverse years of discrimination. Weber called it "reverse discrimination."

The Supreme Court heard the Weber case on March 28 and will hand down its decision later this year. Many have organized against the Weber case. 500 people, mainly steelworkers, held a rally against Weber in Gary, Indiana on March 14. Other actions against Weber occurred in New Orleans, Los Angeles, San Diego, San Francisco, Philadelphia and New York while the court heard the case.



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Rank & File

steelworkers triumph

Sweep Local 1397 vote at Homestead

HOMESTEAD, PA. — A few hundred steelworkers waited in good spirits at the storefront headquarters for the victory that was three years in the making. Election night, April 18, was a time to talk union, drink beer, and sing. Every 30 seconds a call came in from another department of United States Steel's big Homestead Works across the street: the heat treating line, the 150-inch mill, the open hearth, the weld shop, structural 48", maintenance. Everybody wanted to know by what margin the "1397 Rank and File" was beating the incumbent.

Said one steelworker with 37 years in Homestead: "Shit, I haven't felt this good since I was with the Steelworkers Organizing Committee in 1937. How sweet it is."

And how sweet it was! By 9:30 the decision was final. The entire Rank and File" was beating the incumbents, better than 2 to 1, capturing nearly 70% of the vote in the biggest turnout ever. Five out of 7 Rank and File candidates for grievance man were swept into office, too.

The landslide in Local 1397 was an omen of things to come in the United Steelworkers of America. The April local elections in basic steel saw challenges by insurgent forces in dozens of mills, ranging from single candidates to whole slates.

SELLOUT ARTISTS IN OFFICE

For years the 1397 men have had no union to speak of. Finding a grievance man was next to impossi-

ble. If one did turn up, he was impossible to distinguish from a company lawyer.

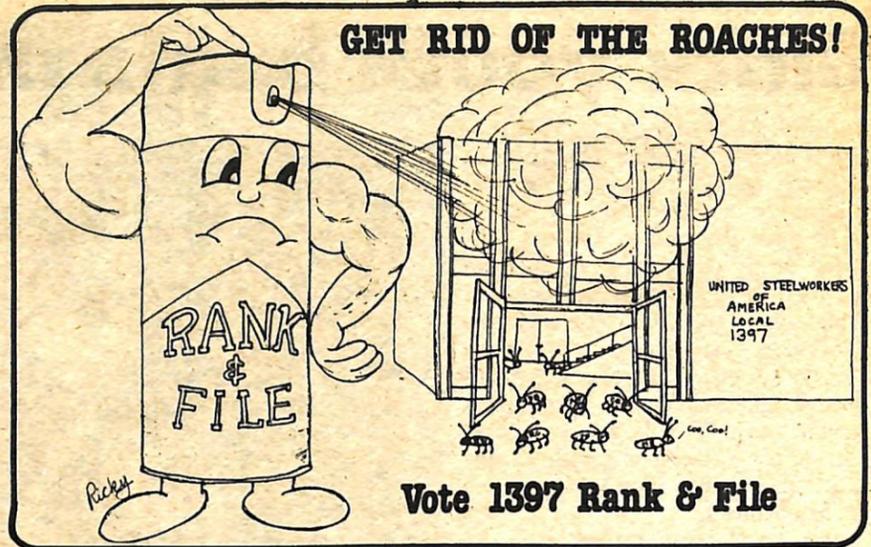
Union meetings were like court, complete with cops, judge, and jury. President Mike Bekich pounded his gavel every time someone got up to oppose him. Workers weren't even permitted to rent the union hall for weddings and parties anymore.

Meanwhile inside the mill the foremen's quotas were rising faster than the cost of living. Grueling speed-up, job combinations and harassment were as everyday as the 6 o'clock news. More and more people were getting maimed and even killed on the job.

RANK AND FILE FORMED

Fed up with this situation, three steelworkers got together in 1976 to form a militant organization called "1397 Rank and File." Their goal was to organize the workers to fight every company attack and take back their local from officers who were totally subservient to the sell-out machine of International President Lloyd McBride.

For three years, whenever a battle broke out in the mill, no matter how small or big, the Rank and File was there. They mobilized for a strike vote during the 1976 sell-out. They were the heart of the Sadlowski forces in the Pittsburgh area during the last International elections and easily swung the Homestead vote in his favor.



They used mass rallies and action to stop the company from ripping off \$400,000 in back pay from Homestead's maintenance men, while local officials did nothing but wring their hands in despair.

A newsletter was started and grew from 4 pages to 16. At the start only 500 were distributed. Now 6000 copies of every issue go out. Dozens of people contribute articles.

Last fall the entire Rank and File slate for USWA convention delegates won by a 24 to 1 margin. With the handwriting on the wall, the local union hacks, aided by the International, went all out to smash and influence the Rank & File leaders at Homestead. Nearly 2 dozen leaflets, newspaper articles and pamphlets were put out just before the elections by the local stooges.

The Rank & File were called reds, radicals, outside agitators, conspirators and every name in the book. Workers were told that if the insurgent slate got in, they would be on strike constantly and would lose their homes, cars and everything else. During the course of the elections

the Rank and File did what they had always done — told the truth and put their program out. For instance, when Bekich attempted to have a fellow worker fired and kicked out of the union, he was stopped by the NLRB. The Rank & File publicized this all over the mill when he wouldn't post the verdict as the Labor Board ordered.

When Joe Falls, the financial secretary, who had been in an office for years, crossed a picket line at a Burroughs strike last winter, the Rank & File put a picture of him in the paper — in the act of scabbing!

Such exposures were a big part of the back and forth struggle that characterized the election campaign. The real key to victory, however, was that the membership knew the Rank & File and had seen them in action, knew their program and what they stood for — union backing on the job, the union hall open to members all the time, an educational program. In short, a rank and file union that will be a fortress against U.S. Steel and sell-out International leadership.

Tenneco out for blood

Workers battle cops as shipyard strike ends

Sign a blank check to the company? Sign an unconditional agreement to return to work?

It didn't take strikers at the Newport News shipyard long to give an answer when they faced those questions after 10 and a half weeks on the picketline. Six thousand of them packed a meeting hall April 13 to say, FORGET IT, TENNECO!

The shipyard workers were determined to win recognition for the Steelworkers Union local they voted for back in January, 1978. The Newport News Company, owned by the giant Tenneco conglomerate, stood firm in its refusal to let the union in — into the shipyard and into the non-union South.

With the walkout in its third month, the Steelworkers Union got caught up in the red tape the National Labor Relations Board spun around it and on April 9 had called for a "suspension" of the strike.

That's when the company announced the outrageous unconditional recall procedure. The statement they wanted strikers to sign meant they couldn't ask for their prestrike jobs and might not even be rehired at all.

The workers were furious. At the packed meeting of Local 8888 they heard the union's back-to-work recommendation but refused to go under their conditions. Stay on strike was the word, and mass picketing for Monday was the plan.

The police and out-of-town state

troopers were ready. At 9 am Monday morning they swept down Washington Avenue, chasing and beating every striker in sight. They ran from plant gate to plant gate swinging their nightsticks.

The strikers fought back and busted all the windows in the offices of the hated Peninsula Shipbuilders Association, the company union they voted out more than a year ago.

The cops invaded strike headquarters but were beaten back when they tried to climb the stairs. They sent dozens of picketers and passersby to the hospital with head injuries, fractured bones, bruised kidneys. They even escorted strikers to the hospital so they could haul them off to jail for arrest after medical treatment. Nearly 100 were arrested.

Three days later, the company was forced to drop the recall procedure and the union called for every one to go back to work. Lots of workers grumbled about the "suspension" of the strike. They thought they should be out there fighting but went along with the union's decision.

Local 8888 says it can go back on strike anytime, presumably if they get a bad decision from the NLRB. (The NLRB held a month-long hearing this spring on last year's union recognition election. Though it heard no evidence of vote fraud, it aided the company's stalling by saying it wouldn't rule on the case till next fall). From the rank and file's point of view, there's no doubt they would go back out if necessary. But the "suspension" will leave them in a weaker position to hit the company. Cracking the non-union South is

a momentous task and requires extraordinary measures. If the workers strike again, they'll need more help from the USW International than they've gotten.

Lloyd McBride, president of the Steelworkers Union backed down on a critical point when he said it was a "tactical blunder" to call Newport News the gateway to the South. It can be a gateway if the union helps mobilize workers nationwide to view it that way and lend support. USW District 31 sent several busloads from Chicago to march with the Newport News strikers this spring, but the International barely organized anyone from the East Coast.

To apply maximum pressure on the nation's largest shipyard will require shutting down production. In Virginia that means going straight up against the union-busting right-to-work laws, which the union didn't do during this strike.

Besides keeping out scabs, shutting down the yard means organizing the strikers to stay out solid. Though the bulk of the main production workers, including most of the welders, shipfitters and pipefitters, were still out in April, nearly half of the 15,000 workers had gone back in, including union supporters. Company intimidation and the threat of economic hardship took their toll.

Virginia isn't union country. But the shipyard workers are getting a good education in struggle. They are determined to be Steelworkers and ready to fight for that. Right now, as one supporter said, "Newport News ain't nearly won. But Newport News ain't nearly lost."



Newport News strikers just after attack by cops.

Black youth beats murder one

PRINCE GEORGES COUNTY, MD. — They found 15 year old Terence Johnson guilty of manslaughter and illegal use of a handgun.

He beat the murder rap the cops tried to pin on him after he shot two of their colleagues in self-defense. This was a partial victory for the movement that grew up in Prince Georges County and nearby Washington, D.C. to defend the Black youth. As Johnson's attorney Carol Garvin put it, the cops got a message that "the license they have to lynch us has expired."

But Terry is not free. He still may do a long haul in jail for stopping Officer Albert Claggett from breaking his neck the night of June 26th at the Hyattsville police station.

The police were outraged by the verdict. They felt that their reign of terror was threatened. As soon as the jury foreman sat down, the head of the County Police Union, Lanny Hester, snarled: "If anyone threatens a police officer anywhere in this county, they better be ready to meet their maker." The next day, the police struck, demanding fewer restrictions on the use of their guns. April 15th, they staged a "protect our cops" demonstration. Gathering up relatives and close friends, they pulled 200 people to the steps of the courthouse.

Many more had actively rallied to Terry's defense before and during his trial, demanding that all the charges against him be dropped. Prince Georges' residents are well-acquainted with police brutality. Between 1973 and 1977, one excessive force complaint a week was filed against the police department. Forty percent of these were filed by whites. In the last year, the police have killed 3 Black youth, so it wasn't too hard to believe Terry's testimony



Terry Johnson addresses supporters at January rally.

at his trial.

According to Terry, two white cops picked him and his brother up and took them to the police station. There they beat and kicked him. Officer Claggett, himself previously charged with brutality, dragged Terry into a backroom, swearing "I'm gonna break this little Black m--- f---'s neck." Claggett nearly strangled Terry - and banged his head all over the room. In desperation, Terry grabbed Claggett's gun and fired at him.

Aware of their fellow officer's reputation, two policemen came running. "When we heard the shot, we all thought 'My God, Claggett's shot the kid,'" one of them testified at the trial. The other, Officer James Swart, wasn't available for

testimony. He had caught one of the stray bullets Terry fired as he ran. All that was on Terry's mind at the time was "I'm going to die."

Terry's trial is over, but the controversy around his case rages on. Residents of Prince Georges County are plagued by a high crime rate. Those who support the police in the Johnson case see a strong police force as their only bulwark against crime. But for years the police in Prince Georges have run with a free hand and have not reduced crime one bit. Those at the receiving end of the billy club, particularly Blacks and young whites, stand behind Terry. They are only too glad to see the police get a long overdue slap in the face.

Brutality victim wins battle vs. racist cops

On the night of March 8, 1976, Wallace Davis, a 27-year-old Black man, was shot in the back by a white cop and left for dead.

This was nothing unusual on Chicago's Black west side, but the Wallace Davis case took an unusual twist. Davis lived and went on to win the largest settlement ever in a police brutality case in the state of Illinois—nearly half a million dollars. Officer Joseph Freels, Wallace's would-be murderer is still on patrol in the Black community although the police department announced it would do an internal investigation into his conduct. The movement that grew up around Wallace put the heat on all the Joseph Freels on the force.

The story began when Davis called the police to report a burglary at his west side bar-b-que place. But when the cops arrived, Davis was the one they grabbed. Standing him up against a squad car, Freels shot a .357 dum dum bullet point blank into his back.

The doctors said he would die. The police charged him with attempted murder of the two burglars.

But Wallace fought to live. And Black men and women from all walks of life—journalists, politicians, common people—stood beside him. With the help of the Justice for Wallace Davis Committee, he beat the attempted murder rap and filed suit against the city of Chicago.

Although he is handicapped for life, Wallace is planning to use the money from the out-of-court settlement to set up a foundation to help others fight police brutality in the Black community.

Mississippi freedom fight (cont. from page 1)

The police said the League had no permit to march. In fact, Okolona Mayor Richard Stovall had revoked one League permit at the last minute. But he forgot that he had issued another one previously.

STOPPED BY A SHOT

The march turned the corner and headed out of town. People were angry. It was only 2 weeks ago, at the last Okolona march, that the Klan had run down Melvin Adams, like Trice, a League security marshal.

But the cops weren't through yet. Two squad cars sped up through the middle of the march. The officers jumped out.

"Stop. You've gone too far," yelled a burly blond cop.

People kept walking—slower now. A police rifle fired—into the air.



United League supporters gathering before march and mass arrest.

Three young girls panicked and ran. Two officers gave chase, rifles in hand. The crowd started to follow, afraid the girls would be shot.

Bone-Jack Jackson, chief League coordinator for neighboring Alcorn County, stepped out of the crowd. He'd been under enough fire in Vietnam to know what to do.

"Stop," he told the people. "Everyone over here in a circle."

People gathered around him and calmed down. Minutes later, on orders from the cops, they were on their way to the county jail, a block and a half away.

There was a new fence behind the Chickasaw County Jail, a pen built 3 weeks ago just before the marches began. As the cops herded people in, this reporter among them, someone started singing "Woke up this morning with my mind set on freedom."

Everyone joined in, in defiance of the cops, the troopers, the mayor and even the governor, all of whom had played a role in setting up the illegal mass arrest.

It was a first arrest for many, old-timers as well as youngsters. But they weren't afraid. "You remember this your whole life," Bone-Jack's wife, Betty, told her 10-year-old nephew. "You made history today."

An hour later, back at the gravel lot where the march had rallied that morning, Skip called his people together.

"This is a freedom-revolutionary movement," he told them. "They haven't learned yet that they can't stop a revolutionary movement."

"Okolona is ours," he continued. "Every other Saturday put on your marching shoes. We'll be marching in Okolona."

The people cheered. Like the words in the song they sang, they would not be moved.

A TOUGH TOWN AND TOUGH TIMES

When the movement began in Okolona last summer, demanding jobs and a voice in education, the Klan burned down a Black-owned gas station. Then in March, the school board fired many of the Black teachers in the system. The League resumed picketing and marching—but the repression has been heavy.

It's not just Okolona. The times are tougher too. Herbert Trice remarked on it: "It's worse this year than last. Last year it was peaceful. This year, they're provoking us, trying to get someone hurt."

Trice should know. Only the day before, despite demonstrations on his behalf, he got 90 days in jail, a 2 year suspended sentence and 3 years probation for a charge stemming from a Tupelo picket line August 4.

But the sentence didn't stop Trice. He was as bold as ever the next day in Okolona.

This is the spirit that pervades the United League and the people who have joined the freedom movement it is leading. In the last year, they have proven their viability and staying-power. The League is now boycotting in 5 Mississippi towns: Tupelo, Okolona, Lexington, Canton and Indianola. Last month, they beat the charges filed with the federal government against Northern Mississippi Rural Legal Services for its legal aid to the movement.

They have also proven themselves to be a threat to the Mississippi power structure. And now that power structure is moving against the League in a coordinated way. A year ago they relied on the Klan to do their dirty work. But the League backed the Klan down and taught people not to fear them. So now the politicians, judges, police and businessmen are openly joining the attack. Besides the Trice case and the repression in Okolona, the League is presently in court in Lexington fighting a \$392,000 merchants' law suit for "disruption of trade", filed in response to a successful boycott.

But the United League will not bend—that's what chief counsel Lew Myers says. Black people in Mississippi will never let things go back to the way they used to be.

Welfare groups converge in Albany 2,000 demand long-overdue hike

ALBANY, NY—Some of the welfare mothers standing on the steps of the state capitol had never been to a demonstration like this before. Some had, but not since the early 70's.

On March 14, 2000 people, many Black and Hispanic, took their demand for a 100% across-the-board increase in welfare grants to Albany. Welfare recipients, welfare organizations, housing groups, union reps, legal service workers, churches, social workers' agencies, politicians and community leaders — they all were there.

They constituted the first major welfare demo in NY since the ebb in the welfare rights movement about 7 years ago. And they let the Governor and the Legislature know that they, like the other people of NYC, would not be an expendable item in the politicians' budget balancing schemes.

NY Governor Carey played Hot Potato. Of course, he recognized, welfare recipients need an increase — maybe not 100%, but something — but the state budget can't swing it. The money would have to come from the federal government.

NYC Mayor Koch played along. "I believe that when you have a welfare grant set at 1972-cost-of-living levels and this is 1979, it is a mean and wrong policy." So he proposed a 10% increase — but not from "his" budget, either.

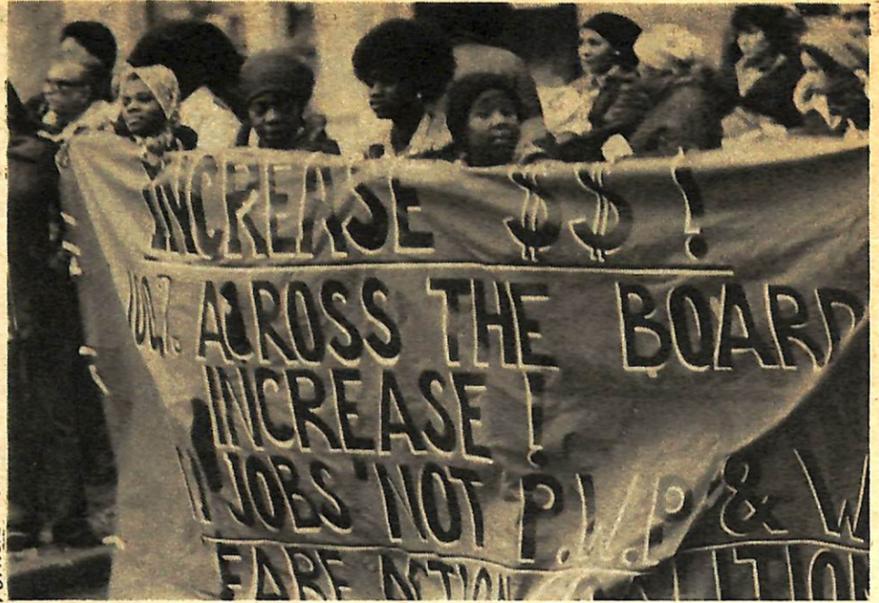
At the other end of the line, the House budget committee in Washington cut the "targeted fiscal assistance" measure for New York from \$400 to \$150 million, dashing Koch's and Carey's hopes that the federal government would bail them out of

their "what to do about NYC" nightmare.

For the politicians, NYC is a nightmare in power politics. For the city's people, particularly its 1.3 million welfare recipients, it's a nightmare just trying to survive — literally sometimes. On February 9, an 8-month old baby froze to death in Queens because the family didn't have the money to pay the Con Ed bill. A family of four gets a monthly welfare grant of \$258, plus rent and food stamps. Cost-of-living in NYC has practically doubled since 1969 but the only hike in welfare was 11% in 1974 (based on 1969 cost-of-living estimates). The 11% raise is deceiving though, because welfare recipients can no longer get special grants for clothing, furniture or moving.

For most welfare recipients, there is little hope of getting a job and escaping the whole mess. NYC has lost 600,000 jobs since 1970 and the experts predict that in the 1980's, the number of jobs will scarcely increase at all. The state gave up placing people in jobs with hourly wages in 1976, and instead is forcing people into temporary work assignments for their welfare checks. One of the demands people raised at the Albany demo was for an end to this program, the Public Works Project, and for union jobs at union pay.

These conditions are bringing some of the welfare activists from the 60's back into the struggle and spawning new ones. New organizations, like the Welfare Action Coalition in the Bronx, are developing a base. Social service agencies and welfare advocate centers are becoming more action oriented.



Workers Voice

Already angry welfare recipients have created enough turmoil to force Mayor Koch to ice Human Resources Administrator Blanche Bernstein. During her term in office, Ms. Bernstein kicked 100,000 people off the welfare rolls. "I'm proud of my record of accomplishment" said Bernstein, upon "resigning" March 27. "She carried out the policy I wanted," concurred the Mayor.

Nonetheless, Bernstein had to go. Mayor Koch has been coming under fire from all quarters, especially

from the Black and Hispanic communities, for his cuts in social services and failure to provide jobs. There's a petition campaign for his removal going in Harlem, where he was a moving target for eggs and insults at a recent community meeting. With more cuts on the horizon — the NYC Planning Commission is calling for the closing of 200 schools by 1990 and the phasing out of 5000 hospital beds — Koch is hoping that Bernstein's removal will buy him some breathing room.

Union, community plan march May 1 Stop N.Y. hospital cuts

On May 1, City Hall will be the target of one of the biggest demonstrations in years. Thousands of hospital workers and city residents will stand up against massive cuts Mayor Koch has planned for the municipal hospital system.

Organized by District Council 37 of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, and literally dozens of community-based groups, the planned march could be a turning point for New Yorkers in fighting the wave of cutbacks that has swamped the Big Apple.

Anger has been building since last December when Mayor Koch let word out that maybe half of the 17 public hospitals would be drastically cut back, sold or given away to private hospitals, or shut down for good.

Which facilities will get the ax was never announced. Rumors and bureaucratic bickering abound. No one wants to commit political suicide by calling for the closing of a particular hospital. So there is no plan saying how and where to cut, how much money will really be saved, or what will be done to insure health care for the people of the nation's largest city.

About the only thing that is clear is that any cuts will meet a storm of resistance. As soon as the cutback proposal became public knowledge, the Committee of Interns and Residents, the doctors organization, staged a very powerful 1 day walk-out. The CIR demanded that more, not less, money be put into the hospital system and that all cuts be dropped.

The walkout drew wide publicity and was followed by meetings, rallies and picket lines in hospitals and neighborhoods the length and breadth of the city.

The loudest protests began coming from forces in the Black community. The vast majority of people served by the municipal hospitals are working poor and unemployed, and most of them are Black or Latino.

The NAACP came down heavy on the cuts. Its blast opened a flood-gate of criticism from Black groups already mobilized against the Koch administration because of its naked

racism.

Finally, District Council 37's leaders threw themselves into the battle, pulling together hospital locals and professionals to call for the May demonstration.

Union officials are predicting a turnout of 50,000 to 100,000. It is pretty hard to see where numbers like this are going to come from. Although the hacks are promising a last-week publicity blitz, the vast majority of union members have not yet been organized or even given much information about the demonstration.

Furthermore, past demonstrations and strikes have left a bad taste in many a worker's mouth. A 1976 strike by local 420, the largest hospital local, was just picking up steam when union bargainers brought home a lousy contract. Things got even worse in 1978 when they signed a pact that gives workers a pathetic 4% annual raise — with no cost of living! To top it off, the city has yet to pay the raise.

Within some of the hospitals, like Central Bronx, Lincoln, and King's County, groups of activists are working to build the demonstration. In addition to putting out their own leaflets, they are pushing shop stewards and officials to get off their duffs and organize things.

Meanwhile, community organizing is stepping up. It includes the Black United Front, which developed in Brooklyn after the police murder of Arthur Miller in the spring of last year. Groups like the United Tremont Trades, an organization of minority construction workers fighting for jobs, are coming together for the first time with welfare rights groups, tenants unions, neighborhood associations and so on.

When May 1 comes, and thousands of angry New Yorkers converge on City Hall from the Bronx, Queens, Staten Island, Brooklyn and Manhattan it could mark the start of big changes in New York — the first logs on a roadblock to the cutback-happy rulers of the city and the beginning of a broader, stronger and more unified movement to defend the interests of the people of New York.



CETA WORKERS MARCH

PHILADELPHIA — Three thousand workers and unemployed took to the streets of Philadelphia, March 22, to protest cutbacks in the federal government's job program, CETA. They demanded that the government fill 1500 CETA jobs now open in Philadelphia and make CETA jobs permanent.

Philadelphia has a 7.5 per cent unemployment rate, and 17.5 per cent among Blacks. The city is getting ready to lay off 2,600 CETA workers October 31, because of a new federal law. In New York, they'll lay off 10,000.

Hundreds of the marchers were members of the AFSCME District Council 33 who marched despite the

threats of discipline from city officials for taking off work. Public workers see the short term CETA slots as a hardship on those who get trained and then lose their jobs after 18 months. They also see the present CETA setup as a threat to the union.

John Dykes, head of the AFSCME sanitation union, said, "They think that we're trash. Use once and throw away. We are NOT trash and we're here today to show that we won't be treated like that."

It was Philly's largest march for jobs in a long time. With anger simmering over 145,000 jobs lost in the city in the past 8 years and new plant closings on the horizon, it's sure not to be the last.

U.S. in trouble in Mideast

Arabs unite vs. Sadat-Begin pact

The finalization and signing of an Israel-Egypt peace treaty at the end of March has been widely hailed as an historic victory for President Carter's personal diplomacy and US foreign policy in general. In fact, this "victory" is extremely fragile and contains within it the seeds of future disaster for US efforts to continue to dominate the strategic and oil-rich Middle East.

The goal of US negotiators was to establish a strong center of pro-Western influence by linking up the most developed country in the region, Israel, and the most populous, Egypt. But the treaty has created, not one, but two strong poles of influence in the area. Opposition to Egyptian President Anwar Sadat's betrayal of the Palestinian people and the other Arab countries has forged the greatest degree of unity in the Arab camp in recent history. Even governments with close ties to the US like Saudi Arabia and Jordan have agreed to break most diplomatic and economic ties with Egypt.

Nor is this Arab independence and unity the State Department's only cause for worry - the rulers of the Soviet Union have redoubled their

efforts to extend their influence and domination in the turbulent situation there.

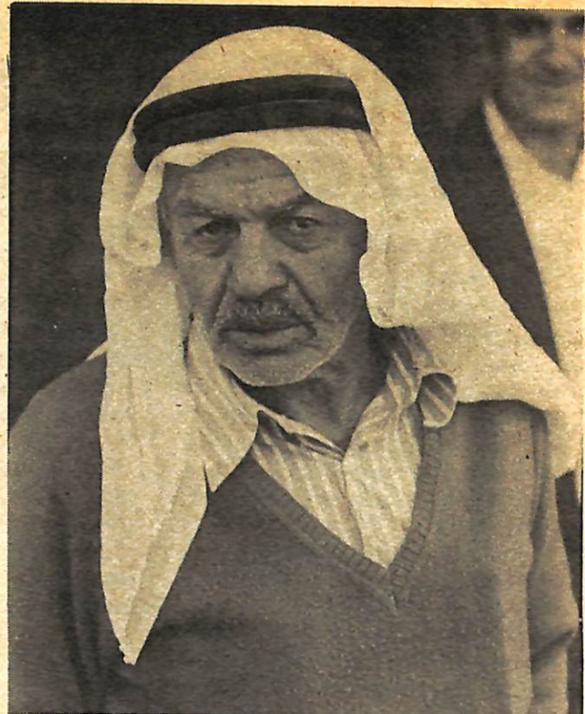
THE US BUYS A TREATY

The walloping it took at the hands of the Iranian people forced the American ruling class to make big shifts in Mideast policy. Under the Nixon doctrine, Israel and Iran at opposite ends of the region were armed to the teeth to serve as policemen for US interests. Meanwhile, the government tried to stay on good terms with such influential Arab powers as Egypt and Saudi Arabia.

With the Shah of Iran gone, the option Washington chose was to step up the process of reconciling Egypt and Israel. This meant ignoring Arab opposition to the pact. Fearing the whole thing would collapse if the ball wasn't kept rolling, the US diplomatic effort went into high gear in February.

Carter pushed the treaty through by promising additional US aid to clear up difficulties the pact might cause. Conservative estimates place the new

(cont. on page 12)



Workers Voice

The Palestinian people will never accept the Begin-Sadat treaty. Thousands demonstrated for 2 weeks straight, despite casualties suffered on the West Bank at the hands of the Israeli army, including the death of a 17-year-old.

Arab unity ends Yemen war

Soviets fuel conflict

A recent border war in the desolate southern tip of the Arabian Peninsula highlights the winds of change sweeping through the Mideast. South Yemen (The People's Democratic Republic of Yemen) armed and backed by the Soviet Union, invaded US and Saudi backed North Yemen (The Yemen Arab Republic) for three weeks in late February and early March, before Arab League peacemaking brought fighting to an end.

Smarting from Saudi criticism of US impotence in the face of the events that toppled the Shah of Iran, Carter made a big public show of supporting North Yemen. The aircraft carrier Constellation was dispatched to the Arabian Sea and over a half a billion worth of fighter planes, tanks and other hardware were shipped to North Yemen's capital, Sanaa.

North Yemen's army fought well and slowed to a crawl the advance of the invading forces, even though they were equipped with all the latest in the Soviet arms catalog. North Yemen's backers in Saudi Arabia were extremely disturbed at this blatant effort by the Soviet Union to grab the whole strategic southern tip of the peninsula. Encouraged by the US government's quick response, they mobilized troops on the border with North Yemen.

Other Arab nations were also concerned. Jordan joined Saudi Arabia in calling for the Arab League to sponsor a ceasefire and then talks to unite the two Yemens peacefully.

In a very significant move, both Iraq and Syria, two states where the USSR has had considerable clout, supported the truce call and helped make it a reality. They even issued a pointed criticism of "any party whose forces cross the border of another."

The actions of all these countries shows a growing tendency on the part of Arab leaders to try and resolve their own problems, while trying to steer an independent course between both superpowers, the US and the USSR.

This was most awkward for Brezhnev and company, who can hardly go against Iraq and Syria when they hope to make the most of Arab dissatisfaction with the Israel-Egypt peace treaty.

The Saudis, for instance, have been more critical of the United States and even improved relations with the Soviets slightly. One top official said of the Carter administration, "It is pushing a Middle East peace agreement that is bound to fail. When this happens - and we have told the Americans it will happen - it will only add to the unrest in this region and further

damage America's real interests."

US actions in the recent conflict were basically in line with Saudi interests in protecting their borders, defending their allies in North Yemen and containing Soviet influence. Nevertheless they and North Yemen had some complaints about how the US handled it.

A cabinet minister in Sanaa said, "You people don't seem to understand. In the first place, it's not particularly comfortable for us to look like a client of the Americans when you have just negotiated a peace treaty between Egypt and Israel. In the second place, it gives the people in the South a perfect pretext to

tell the Russians they need more arms too."

Iraq and Syria acted in part to diminish US opportunities in the area, but they were also looking over their shoulder at the Soviet threat. They knew the invasion was planned after a military coup put a hard-line pro-Soviet clique in power in South Yemen last year, replacing a more vacillating regime.

Since then the government has been straight-out flunky of Moscow. When Vietnam invaded Kampuchea (Cambodia) and set up a pathetic puppet government there in January, South Yemen was one of only four nations

(cont. on page 12)

—Buck-a-gallon gas—

Who's to blame?

People used to joke about gas selling for \$1 a gallon. Some joke—that's what people are already paying in Hawaii, and looks like many of the other 49 may follow before the year is out.

To listen to President Carter and the media, it's all a plot on the part of some greedy Arab sheikhs. Who would ever guess that the oil price increases which the Arab countries are demanding are in line with world market prices? Or that American oil companies have been getting a fat bonus for themselves with each hike at the gas pump?

The latest jump in gas prices followed a meeting of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) which announced a 9% raise, bringing the price to \$14.50 per barrel. OPEC also decided to let member countries charge above the \$14.50 rate if they wanted and to limit oil production.

President Carter immediately went on TV and announced a new crisis in the energy crisis. He denounced the Arab raise as "untimely and unjustified." Senator Henry Jackson called it a "combination of greed and punitive doctrine."

Arab oil prices, however, have increased only 33% since 1974. That's less than the decline in value of the U.S. dollar, less than the inflation rate in the U. S., and less than the increase in the price of manufactured goods American companies sell to OPEC countries.

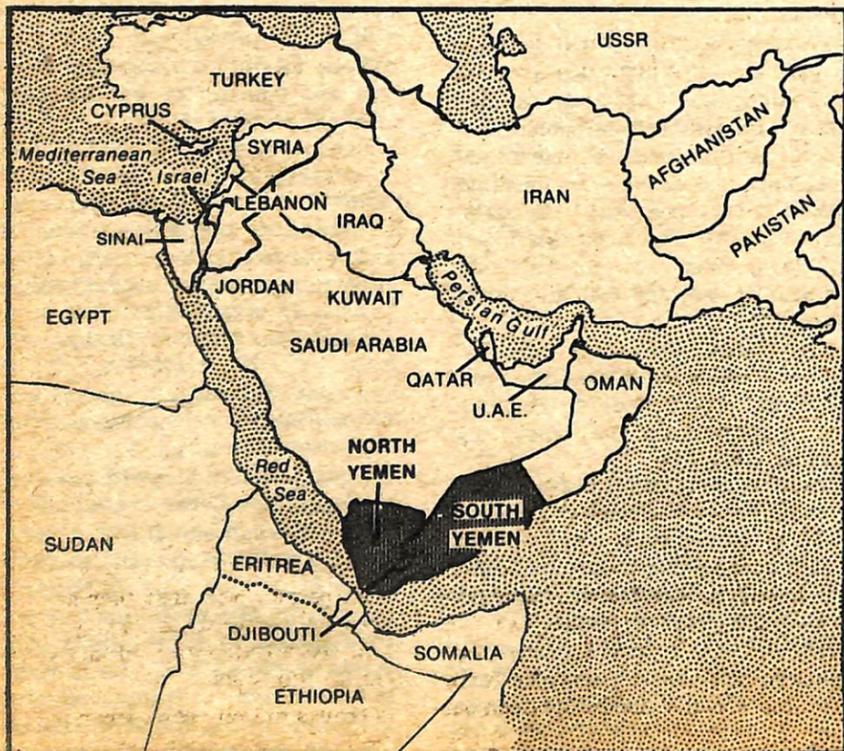
What would be "timely" in President Carter's eyes is a return to the pre-OPEC days when the U. S. bought Arab oil at cut-rate prices and used its control of the oil market to stifle the development of these countries.

Now, by banding together, the Arab countries are able to demand a price more in line with the oil's value and to determine a rate of production that avoids lopsided economic growth.

The U. S. wants, for example, to double its oil purchases from Saudi Arabia by the mid or late 1980's. If Saudi production went up anywhere near that high (16 million barrels a day), its resources would be depleted in ten years, literally leaving the country high and dry.

The price at American gas pumps, however, reflects much more than the OPEC raise. American oil companies have consistently driven the price of oil up and fought to have the government raise it even more. Every time crude oil prices rise, they pass it on to the consumer and tack on an additional hike for themselves. They sell stored oil, bought earlier at cheaper prices, at the new rate. And they hold back on what they've got, inducing an artificial shortage, until they get the price they want. The energy crisis has been a bonanza for them. In 1978, Standard Oil of Ohio raked in 149% more profit than the year before, Phillips Petroleum 37% more, and Atlantic Richfield 15%.

President Carter's National Emergency Energy Crisis program, the second emergency energy program he has announced in his first term, doesn't even pretend to reduce oil prices for the consumer. In the name of decreasing dependence on foreign oil, he wants to decontrol prices. The oil companies won't drill in the US unless they can turn as high a rate of profit as abroad, regardless of the need for oil. So Carter's proposing to give them a free hand to make as big a killing as they can.



Striking farmworker: 'I've learned what people united can do'

SALINAS, CAL. — The hard-fought farmworkers' strike is moving north with the season to Salinas, the center of the nation's spring and summer lettuce region outside San Francisco. The strikers mobilize every day at dawn to go out to the fields that line the city's edge. A row of cops stand at the field entrances to keep them from going in to talk scabs out of working.

The bare fields in Salinas are one sign of the effectiveness of the strike so far. The lettuce there was planted by scabs, many never farmworkers. It was done crooked, incompatible with the irrigation system, and never weeded. The big Salinas growers are in for a bad crop.

Further south, the winter crop lies rotting, unharvested in the fields. Farmworkers fought there bitterly, with one striker killed, many arrested, and all strikers fired. Some of the strikers there will remain on picket duty while most are coming north to join the Salinas strikers.

The farmworkers, mostly Mexican, have much at stake in the strike. While they provide America with one of its basic needs — food, they remain at the bottom of the economic ladder.

The growers stated in contract negotiations they'd limit any wage increase to Carter's 7% guidelines. That's when 5,000 farmworkers at 11 companies walked out of the fields in January. They knew that most farmworkers, who average only \$3.70 an hour, are supposed to be exempt from the guidelines. The growers' prices are exempt, too, and they've been taking in \$195 million in profits in the past eight years.

For the farmworkers, their union is at stake as well as the wages and benefits, because growers' tactics are aimed at squashing the UFW in this strike.

The following is an interview, translated from Spanish, with a leading member of the United Farmworkers in the Salinas Valley. Since he came to the U.S. in 1966 he has been a farm worker doing jobs from picker

to his present job as an irrigator.

An irrigator is considered a skilled laborer controlling the water during the growing season. Irrigators work 10 to 12 hours a day and 7 days a week with no holidays. Not only is there no 40 hour week in the fields, overtime pay for irrigators is unheard of.

What does the UFW mean to you?

Most of us who come from Mexico don't have any experience with unions. We didn't know what our rights were.

Now because of the union we can communicate to other farmworkers what their rights are and what the union can do for them. I have gone to rallies and demonstrations, fought bad legislation and most of all have learned what people united can do.

What are the main issues in the strike?

We are asking for \$5.25 an hour and better working conditions. We want to protect the workers, for example, against pesticides. The growers don't want to set conditions regarding insecticides. Many times planes have come in and sprayed our people. Farmworkers are also exposed to many health problems like sunstroke and cut hands. The growers have had nurses and doctors in the fields during the Imperial Valley strike to protect strikebreakers but usually they have nobody qualified to take care of medical problems. And they don't set up any housing for the families, only for single men. We want a better life for farmworkers.

We will stay out on strike as long as needed. Until our demands are met.

What are the growers doing to break the union?

Their main concern is to intimidate the strikers. The strikebreakers they bring in are not even farmworkers. The company also comes up with all kinds of tactics to scare the workers. During the strike they have



hired community guards and scabs and put barbed wire around the fields.

What is the role of the police in the strike?

Police say they are neutral, that they are there to protect the strikers and the strikebreakers. But they are more the growers' hired hands. If one of the strikers does a minor thing like talk back, he gets busted. The growers' scabs have pulled guns on us and all they did was take away the gun with no arrests.

The growers hired public relations expert Bill Roberts — who ran the Reagan and Ford campaign — to polish the growers' image. Roberts formed the white "citizen committees" from the town. He has also recruited in high schools to harass striking farmworkers. We have also heard the Ku Klux Klan offered the growers help.

It is true. Most of this has gone on in Imperial Valley. Here several companies have gotten students from Fresno State to harass the strikers. Most of them are big muscular guys on the picket line. We have women, children and old men.

How do you feel about the tactics to divide people along color lines?

They also use American flags on their trucks. Like the UFW flag is another country. I feel sad when I see the growers use the white folks' discrimination against us because there has always been discrimination against browns and blacks in the U.S. It is an unfair thing the growers are doing using the people's prejudice against us.

Has the injunction limiting pickets to 150 at each field weakened your picketlines?

Yes, it has. Because the fields are very big and they have up to 120 in each crew. It's hard to put pressure on the scabs with the police in between you and them. The court ruled that 1 person per 15 strikebreakers could go on to the fields to talk to scabs. The growers have been importing strikebreakers from California, Arizona, Texas and Mexico and some of them come here without knowing there was a strike and when we talk to them, some walk off.

How effective is the strike on cutting back production?

The strike has been 100% effective. The growers haven't done any harvesting, planting or anything else. It has cost them a lot of money, more than the produce is worth.

Showdown at Mexican border

Harassment triggers bridge barricade

EL PASO, TEXAS — On March 9, 650 Mexicans turned the tables on the US government's Immigration and Naturalization Service. They barricaded the bridges crossing the border into the US. After years of harassment and brutality, the INS, more commonly known as La Migra to the Mexican people, went too far.

That morning La Migra tailed buses leaving Juarez, Mexico, into El Paso. When the passengers disembarked, La Migra arrested 130, most of them women on their way to jobs as maids. The agents forced the men and women to strip in front of each other, made sexual advances towards the women, then revoked all the "temporary visitors" passes and deported them.

For the rest of that day and all of the next, hundreds of Mexicans demonstrated at the border crossings. They took control of 3 of the 4 bridge crossings, barricading them with buses, cars and trash cans. No one was allowed to pass. One car gunned its way through the Cordova Bridge bar-

ricade, mowing down two children and killing a 10 year old girl.

Demonstrators burned effigies of Uncle Sam and tore down American flags, ripping them to shreds and throwing them into the Rio Grande. Anti-American feelings were running high. It was just a few weeks after President Carter had visited Mexico. Mexican President Luis Portillo gave him a cool welcome and warned him that friendship between the two countries could exist only if the US began treating Mexico as an equal.

STRUGGLE IN THE BORDER AREA

Meanwhile in El Paso, 300 Chicanos (Mexican-Americans) picketed on the American side of one bridge in support of the blockade.

The border area is a focus of conflict between the Mexican people and the US government. It's a heavily populated region and most of the people who move there do not come by choice. Many were forced off their

land by American agri-business and came to the border to get jobs in one of the string of US-owned factories located there.

Some find jobs and get a concentrated dose of American-style speed-up and layoffs, while making a fraction of what American workers are paid. And because of a 10% ceiling on raises imposed by the International Monetary Fund, their paychecks are falling further and further behind rising prices, up 50% since 1976. The IMF, financed mainly by the US, ordered the ceiling three years ago, in exchange for a \$1.2 billion loan to the Mexican government.

Still, there are not enough jobs. So some people cross the border into the US in search of work. In the last year, however, Carter's been making loud noises about cracking down on illegal immigrants, and border patrols have tightened up. The US started to build a wire fence, which Mexicans call "the Tortilla Curtain," on one stretch of border where many immigrants cross. They were forced to stop construction by Mexican outrage. Twenty-seven miles of the Tor-

tilla Curtain still stand, a daily reminder of American arrogance and exploitation.

Now Mexico has found it's got something new the US wants — oil. Possibly as much oil as Saudi Arabia. The Mexican people want the oil to be used in a way that will best develop their country, hoping it will mean a better livelihood for them. The US wants it pumped out of the ground as fast as possible, so Mexico can meet as much as 30% of the American demand. For the people who barricaded the border, US designs on the oil are a living example of how American companies have kept Mexico in an underdeveloped state since 1900 to best suit the needs of their profits.

President Portillo has held firm to his position of expanding oil production slowly so as to promote balanced economic growth in Mexico. INS harassment like the March 9 deportations is one form of American retaliation.

But one thing the US government did not take into account was the Mexican people. Now that they have successfully stood up to La Migra, things will be a little different on the banks of the Rio Grande.

(Thanks to Unity newspaper for some of the above information.)



Teamsters picket bargaining talks.

Teamsters rumble past guidelines

But rank and file sold out on work rules

Teamster discontent rolled past the President's pay guidelines like a fleet of 18 wheelers going over the double nickel speed limit. But exceeding the 7% pay limit in these times of killer inflation isn't exactly "putting the hammer down".

For a wage gain of 30%, the rank and file is expected to trade off needed improvements in contract wording around rights and work rules.

The nation's 300,000 drivers and warehousemen were up against a nation-wide employers' lock-out, the threat of a Taft-Hartley injunction, wage-price board interference, and union head Frank Fitzsimmons' sell-out selective strike strategy. Fitzsimmons pulled out drivers from only 73 companies, leaving the bosses the opening to lock out the rest.

As soon as they heard the details of the pact, steelhaulers broke loose with a wild-cat that paralyzed all steel transport in the Midwest. At the same time, the Teamsters for a Democratic Union (TDU), one of the leading dissident groups, began to crank out a "Vote No" movement.

EROSION OF RIGHTS TO CONTINUE?

The most organized opposition movement in the history of the Teamsters was a reflection of widespread discontent in the nation's most notoriously corrupt union. Gripe sessions in many a union hall and truck stop had been filled with talk against the "70 hour slavery", the 7 days on, one day off schedule drivers are forced to work. Other complaints hit at the introduction of production standards in warehouses, the unsafe conditions that killed 900 over-the-road drivers last year, job security, and the stranglehold of the international over grievances and union democracy.

As one TDU leader put it: "The companies rewrote the contract in practice over the last 3 years."

Yet in negotiations, Fitzsimmons barely touched these, the most emotional issues. In fact, he didn't even bring them to the bargaining table until after he had ended the strike, 41 minutes before the union treasury would have to begin paying its members \$10 million in strike benefits.

The only changes he made were superficial ones at best, takeaways at worst. By leaving article 20 intact, Fitzsimmons is allowing the companies to institute production standards. In the Chicago area agreement, the fixed starting time was given away, meaning local truckers will

no longer get overtime pay for starting before 8 a.m. (But this provision was rejected 1200 to 7 by the Chicago drivers at the meeting when the change was announced. This sent local Teamster Louie Pieck back to the bargaining table.)

RESISTANCE WON WAGE HIKES

It was only the discontent of the rank and file that forced Fitzsimmons to stay at the table long enough to get a raise equaling about 30% in wages and benefits, the largest in any major industry so far this year. The resistance, not any bargaining finesse by Fitzsimmons, sent White House experts scrambling for excuses to bend the guidelines. They were "bent" wide enough to allow an extra dollar an hour in pay and fringes over the life of the 3 year contract.

The settlement included enough to strengthen the pension funds that Union and Mafia heavies have squandered in shady investments. But at the clip inflation is moving now, even the 30% will not fully keep up.

In order to keep other unions from demanding more than 7%, the White House came up with three separate excuses to say that the total package was within the guidelines. This weak hype will not be enough to strictly enforce the dirt-low 7% restriction—especially in the major bargaining to come, like rubber and auto.

ACTION KEPT AT THE TOP

The maneuverings of the companies, the government, and the union misleaders kept all the action at the top. When the TDU sponsored a picket line at the bargaining talks in Washington, DC, the sessions were changed to Hollywood, Fla., at the union's request!

When Trucking Management, Inc. responded to the union's weak-kneed "selective strike" strategy with their nation-wide lockout, potential rank and file momentum was stifled. A TDU spokesman said, "The companies seem to know more about the power of collective action than the goddam union leaders do."

There were some exceptions. Overnight, a big non-union outfit in Western Pennsylvania had to tow 4 of its rigs back to its Pittsburgh terminal after striking Teamsters wrecked them.

As we go to press the rank and file is voting on the sellout. The dissidents are going all out to win a rejection in the mail ballot, but in the words of one activist, "The members don't count the votes."

Cash on the line in '79!

Five thousand auto workers, many retirees, loaded onto buses in their home towns of Pittsburgh, Cleveland, Lansing and Flint on April 17 and headed for Detroit. They went to tell their union in no uncertain terms that COLA on pensions should be a high priority in the upcoming auto contract. Like the contingent from Local 594 in Pittsburgh yelled, "COLA in '79 or Down with the Line!"

They went to Detroit to pressure the United Auto Workers Union special Bargaining Convention, which sets contract demands. They went in such numbers that the International had to let them inside and listen to their case.

The UAW's 205,400 retirees and 29,100 surviving spouses haven't seen a pension raise in six years. That's six years of doubling prices with soaring inflation. They have no cost-of-living allowance either. They won't take it anymore.

By the end of the convention, UAW agreed that "COLA on pensions is a top priority for the UAW in '79. It's

From East Coast tugboat crewmen to northern California foundrymen, American workers are fighting for more money. Every time the bills come in, they're reminded of today's galloping 14% inflation rate. How can anyone be expected to accept pay limits only half that big?

Despite the Teamsters over-the-guidelines settlement, they also were held down. They did not win the kind of gains they made in 1976. They will not keep up with inflation. But their 10% pact does prove that it's possible to resist Carter's damper on wages.

One of the most important battles against the guidelines now is the United Airlines strike. A key issue is a cost of living clause in the first year. The present offer of 35% over three years has C.O.L. raises in the second two years, but these are to be "capped" at 17¢ and 18¢.

The UAL machinists overturned their national leadership twice when they recommended weak offers. Now

AUTO R FOR COLA First blo

a demand for a built-in allowance that the International hasn't made till now. It will be a tough one to win from the big four auto companies.

The union also resolved to disregard the Carter administration's 7% wage guidelines and go for a substantial wage increase protected by COLA, an increase in frequency of COLA adjustments, and improved benefits. Fraser emphasized that the union would not stand for part of the health insurance costs being put on the members. They also came up with a complicated plan to make overtime more costly for the companies.

Rank and file auto workers are getting into motion to make sure the

Steelhaulers wildcat, win pay hike voting rights

PITTSBURGH -- Phones at the Teamsters for Democracy headquarters here were ringing off the wall. One Teamster steelhauler after another was calling in from Canton, Youngstown, Wierton, Steubenville, Cleveland, Detroit, Harrisburg, Sharon, and Gary. All the midwest steel towns were being shut down. In contrast to the just-ended lock-out, this was a wildcat. It had the spirit of the rank and file.

The shutdown was pulled off by a section of Teamsters who have been getting the shaft. Both those who own their own rigs and those who drive for brokers have been getting shorted on their percentage (pay). Also, the Teamster drivers are owed six sick days from the last contract.

The abuses led to a two month shutdown led by the Fraternal Association of Steelhaulers (FASH) last fall. But this strike was defeated by a court injunction largely because its support was restricted to owner operators and didn't draw enough strength from drivers who work for brokers. FASH was fighting to get bargaining rights away from the Teamsters, something most non-owning drivers do not support.

With the national freight shutdown

just ending, the steelhaulers, with some leadership from TDU, saw their chance to strike again. This time they demanded official Teamster backing. FASH united with the wildcat. In turn the drivers made demands like a fuel surcharge (to keep up with the rising cost of diesel fuel), tarping charges and other points of benefit to owner operators.

A key demand in this struggle was for all steelhaulers to be able to vote on the iron and steel supplement to the Master Freight Agreement.

At first the official Teamster stance was that the walkout was illegal and should be ended immediately. But when rank and file pressure forced officials of Pittsburgh's Local 800 to endorse it and wildcat fever spread both east and west, the International caved in. After 3 days, Fitzsimmons legalized the strike that was choking steel companies with finished, but unshipped, coils and bars.

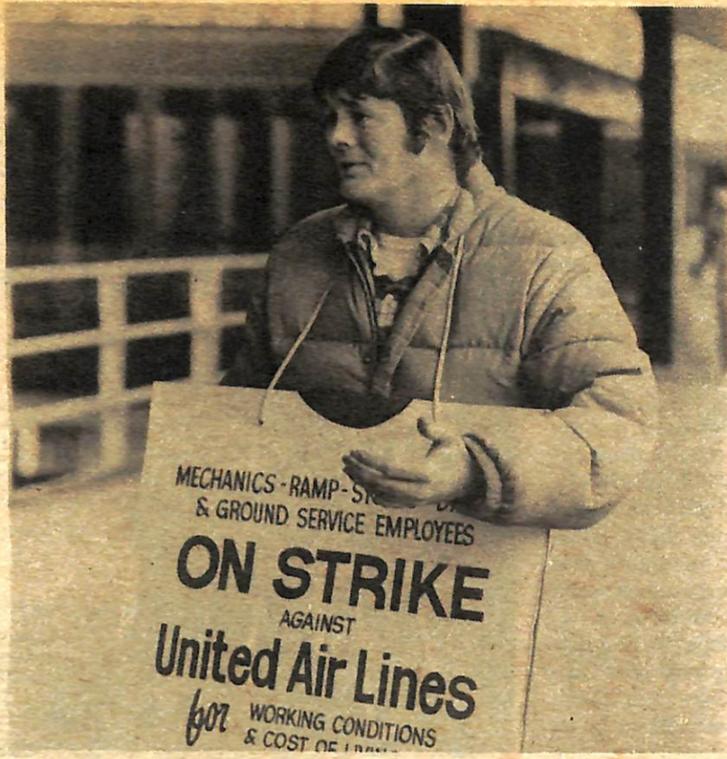
When Fitz tried to back off, drivers who knew they had victory in their grasp stood solid. With layoffs in steel resulting, the haulers' association gave in on every demand. In addition the steelhaulers won the right to vote on their own supplement. Rank and file organization and unity won a big victory!

they are "striking united."

Another ongoing battle that hits against pay restrictions is the strike of 2,000 Machinists at Ladish Drop Forge in Cudahy, Wisconsin. Not only is the company refusing to budge on the union's demand for a re-opener after the first year, but they also want to take away important grievance language, including the right to strike.

Three days of mass picketing, honored by the other 6 unions at Ladish forced the company to put 3000 non-striking employees on lay off and eligible for unemployment benefits.

The employers have been strengthened by Carter. But workers haven't given up fighting. As rubber, electrical, packinghouse, auto, and other workers take up contract fights in the coming months, there's no question that they'll want to fight. The unanswered questions center on how to build struggle and unity in the face of misleaders in the unions and the combined efforts of the companies and the government.



Workers Voice

United Air Lines striker says, "I can't live on the money they pay me. Not the way things are going nowadays."

URW defies Carter

The rubber workers went into the '79 bargaining with a cloud hanging over the contract talks. The rubber industry is in the midst of a drive to relocate out of Akron, the traditional center. Eleven rubber plants have been closed in the past 3 years. The move has been to non-union areas like Winston-Salem, Nashville, and Lawton, Oklahoma.

The week before the bargaining hit full swing, General Tire, the 5th largest tire company and the URW announced a special deal in advance of their May 15th contract expiration.

In exchange for a tentative promise to build a new plant in Akron, URW Local 9 agreed to a 36¢ wage cut and sweeping changes in work rules, including a seven day work week if the new plant is built. General Tire said it would build if the union members abide by the worsened work rules and "if business conditions are right."

In the wake of this attack, URW head Peter Bommarito announced big money gains in negotiations with the Big 4 (Goodyear, Goodrich, Firestone, and Uniroyal). He said that a guideline breaking economic package (\$1.14 in pay over 3 years) had been reached and that a breakthrough was achieved in the cost of living formula insuring 100% catch-up with inflation.

As soon as the gain was announced, Uniroyal backed off and President Carter tried to call Bommarito on the White House carpet. As we go to press the URW is working without a contract. It is unclear if they have won provisions to discourage plant shutdowns.

If the rubber settlements is anything like the freight, postal, and coal mining pacts, the 68,000 URW members will end up with a little extra money--and screwed on contract rights and job conditions.

RETIRES MARCH COLA ON PENSIONS

blow in '79 contract battle



Pensioners at pre-bargaining convention.

union fights for these demands and better, especially on wages and forced overtime, where the union has hedged. Alongside the Cost of Living on Pensions Committee, which organized the April demonstration, auto workers are building up the Autoworkers for a Better Contract (ABC), founded in December. ABC is a coalition of local union officials and rank and file activists, with chapters from New York to Chicago. An ABC conference in Detroit on March 24-25 targeted four key areas for improvement in '79:

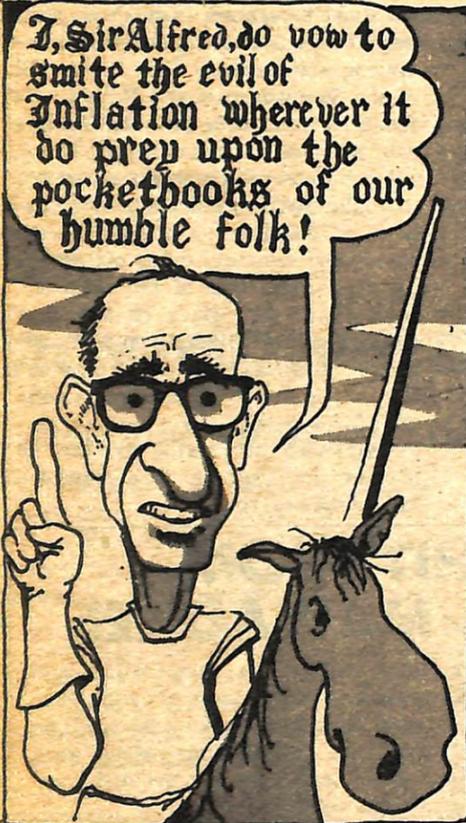
- *20% wage increase the first year, reopen negotiations for wages in the second and third years;
- *COLA on pensions;
- *No forced overtime, 30 hours work for 40 hours pay;

*Stop the speedup.

ABC is planning a demonstration in Detroit when negotiations begin in July.

The Cost of Living on Pensions Committee and Autoworkers for a Better Contract are similar to a number of broad-based organizations that are springing up in the labor movement today. By working from a base of strength in one local or one section of the work force, organizers have been able to have an influence in key struggles. In the case of ABC, it was initiated by Pete Kelly, a leader of skilled tradesmen in Detroit. The same pattern is true in the steel industry, where pockets of organized militancy, like Homestead (see p. 3) and District 31 in the Chicago area have provided impetus for broader resistance. Also in the Teamsters recently completed struggle and the Postal Workers contract fight last year organized centers played an important role.

ABC can be contacted at P.O. Box 21307, Detroit, Mich. 48221.



KAHN-MAN FRONTS FOR GUIDELINE FRAUD

Alfred Kahn has a lot of nerve! When the Teamsters were negotiating for gains of 10% in wages and benefits, he called their demands "a declaration of war on the American people."

Did Kahn get outraged when profits jumped 26% in the first quarter of this

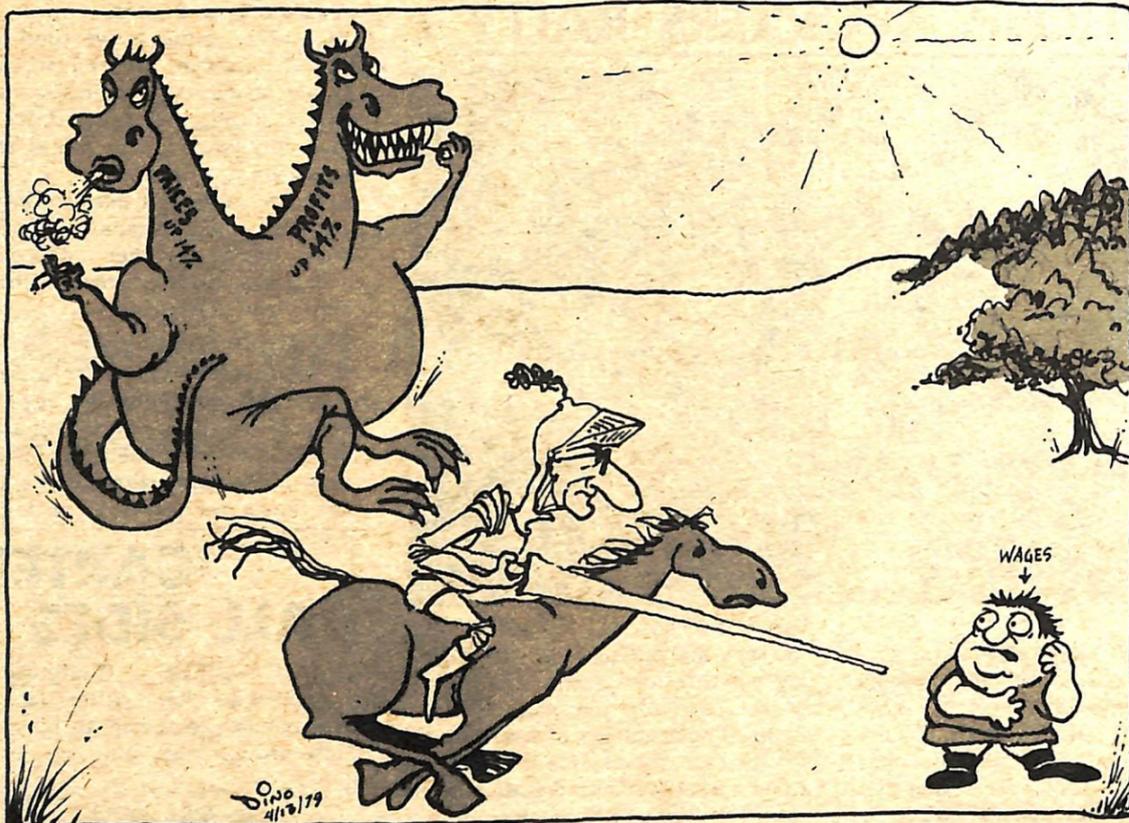
year? Did he say the companies were declaring war on the American people?

When his boss Jimmy Carter announced de-regulation of oil prices, did Kahn say a word of protest against the soon-to-come dollar a gallon gas prices? Hardly.

When the Teamsters got 10% Kahn changed his tune. The government didn't want other workers to view the pact as a precedent, so Kahn juggled the figures to say the guidelines

weren't broken - just bent.

These guys have a different rap for every occasion. For example, Carter knew oil de-regulation would arouse the ire of already hard pressed people. So he quickly added his intentions to push for a "windfall profits tax" against the oil companies. But this will probably go the same way as the tax rebate scheme for workers who get burned by the guidelines - straight into the Congressional wastebasket.



To all the struggling people threatening to join the teamsters' convoy and break the pay barriers, Kahn pleads for them to wait 3 or 4 more months. Sure, just wait till after rubber, electrical, and auto contracts are locked up! Or maybe Kahn is counting on a recession to hit.

Kahn's double talk isn't impressing too many workers. They saw the guidelines broken. It's time to let convoy roll. 10-4.

STOP THE NUKES!

(cont. from page 1)

the anti-nuke Northern Sun Alliance in Minnesota hit the phones. The next day 250 protestors marched in front of Northern State Power headquarters in Minneapolis. Similar protests were organized by word of mouth in over a dozen other cities.

As the crisis deepened, more actions were called. Several thousand rallied in Boston, chanting, "Hell No, We Won't Glow!" At a vigil at California's Rancho Seco reactor, a twin of the Three Mile Island nuke, people released helium balloons to demonstrate how the wind would carry radiation in an accident. The balloons showed up in towns as far as 70 miles away.

After several demonstrations and a 32-hour building seizure, students at New York's Columbia University won a major victory. The school pledged not to activate its TRIGA Mark II reactor, located in densely populated upper Manhattan.

UNSAFE!

In 1966 there was a partial meltdown at the Fermi reactor in Michigan which led one engineer there to exclaim, "Let's face it, we almost lost Detroit." Media coverage and public protest were practically nonexistent. Even three years ago when a fire in the control room shut down the Brown's Ferry, Alabama reactor, it was effectively covered up.

The massive outpouring of concern and anger this time is due in large part to the efforts of the growing anti-nuke movement. They have alerted people to the dangers through educational work and actions like the Clamshell Alliance occupations in Seabrook, N.H. The movement gave birth to the popular and, experience now shows, very realistic film, "The China Syndrome."

For millions of Americans, the recent drama in Middletown, Pa. was

confirmation of what anti-nuke militants have been saying.

A disaster of the type so narrowly avoided at Three Mile Island would kill thousands immediately and tens and even hundreds of thousands as the years went on, not to mention rendering whole areas uninhabitable. Even if such accidents were as impossible as the utility companies used to claim, nukes still wouldn't be safe.

Every year, each reactor produces many tons of highly radioactive waste material. No way has yet been devised of moving and storing these lethal substances with any assurance that present or future generations won't face contamination from them.

A reprocessing plant for nuclear wastes, built on state land near Buffalo, N.Y. a few years ago, didn't work well and was abandoned by its owner, a Getty Oil subsidiary. Now the state is sitting on more than a million feet of improperly stored radioactive garbage from Con Ed reactors, garbage which will cost \$2 billion to dispose of.

PROFITS FIRST

The rich and their government have been gung ho for nuclear power in the '70's. With oil producing countries taking control of their own resources and coal miners waging troublesome strikes, nuclear power seemed quite attractive. Jimmy Carter called nukes a "last resort" when running for President, but once in office he said the US "needs" 350 by the end of the century, up from 76 now.

Need, of course, is not enough. There would be no nukes today unless there was a buck to be made. And billions have already been made on nuclear power.

Big utilities have their rates fixed by government commissions, which allow them to make a fixed percentage on every dollar they invest.



I'll see your billion and raise you one planet earth.

\$3 billion is the price tag on a reactor like Seabrook, started before recent price increases.

Under this setup, Metropolitan Edison is preparing to demand rate increases to cover the costs of the Three Mile Island accident, including the price of a new reactor if the old one has to be buried in concrete. The very people whose lives were disrupted and whose very survival is threatened will have to pay the company for the privilege.

The firms which manufacture nukes have done o.k. by themselves, too. The cost of building a nuclear plant has gone up 1,000% since 1964. And once the plants are built, they provide the uranium for fuel - which costs \$50 a pound, up from \$7 six years ago.

It is the profit drive of the companies involved that ensures that accidents will happen. Three Mile Island is full of examples. The plant was rushed into operation without proper preparation in the last few days of 1978 so that Metropolitan Edison could save millions in taxes.

Some people at the plant had been worked over four weeks without a day off - while putting in overtime hours too! The company ordered employees to take shortcuts on maintenance and record keeping and threatened to suspend any worker who raised safety questions.

To preserve their precious profits, companies will always cut corners. Every worker has seen it happen. But with nukes, cutting corners will eventually lead to catastrophe.

THE COMING BATTLE

The rich are not eager to see the goose that laid the golden egg killed, even if the eggs are a little radioactive. The government and big business are quick to agree that existing and future nukes must be made safer,

although they have no concrete plans to offer, other than some patch-up of the most obvious flaws. However, they still consider bringing an end to the construction of new nukes to be unthinkable, to say nothing of phasing out existing reactors.

Even so, the upsurge in anti-nuke sentiment is beginning to have effect. Right before Three Mile Island, Congress was expected to pass, with no significant opposition, a bill to make licensing new atomic plants quicker and less complicated. Now, all of a sudden, senators and representatives are falling all over themselves calling for investigations of nuclear safety to get their names in the headlines.

Don't worry too much about the nuclear companies, though - they are not without friends in high places. Last fall, Westinghouse gave \$133,463 to Congressional candidates and G.E. coughed up \$90,550. Most of it went to incumbents on committees dealing with the nuclear industry.

The real battle is just beginning. With help from Three Mile Island and the "The China Syndrome", the anti-nuke movement is mushrooming. New forces are being drawn in, including some unions like District 31 of the Steelworkers and United Auto Workers Local 833, near the Sheboygan, Wisconsin reactor.

More tens of thousands of people will take part in the many demonstrations on the drawing boards for the spring and summer, many of them for the first time. One of the most important will take place on May 6, a big national mobilization in Washington D.C. As "Stop the Nukes" develops from a popular sentiment into a political force through such actions, major victories in slowing the pace of nuclear development to a standstill are on the horizon.

CHI. HOSP. WORKERS RALLY



Dietary aides, housekeepers, nurses and doctors - over 600 workers and staff members altogether - rallied April 17 outside Cook County Hospital and at Oak Forest Hospital in Chicago. It was the first time that 5 of the hospitals' unions, joined by the Technicians' Organizing Committee, took united action.

The situation demanded it. Contracts had expired, some of them over a year ago. The Health and Hospitals Governing Commission was refusing to settle new ones unless workers and staff gave up the hundreds of dollars owed them in back pay. Nurses haven't even gotten the step increases due them under their old contract.

Like many public hospitals across the country, the future of Cook County Hospital is uncertain; and it's the

only public hospital in Chicago. The workers and professionals are fighting not only for themselves, but for decent care for the hospital's patients. Understaffing and salaries so low that private hospitals raid Cook County for experienced staff can only hasten the hospital's demise.

The Governing Commission says it shares the workers' concern for keeping Cook County Hospital open and serving the community. But the Commission has chosen to attack the people who actually provide health care, threatening employees with layoffs and cutbacks if the state government doesn't come across with \$37 million in needed funding.

At the rallies the unions joined in demanding that the Governing Commission stop these attacks so that all can unite to save the hospital.

CARTER HIT FROM ALL SIDES IN MILWAUKEE

MILWAUKEE - If Jimmy Carter seemed to glow a little when he hit Milwaukee on March 31, maybe it was the after-effects of his just completed

stroll through the Three Mile Island reactor to prove nukes are safe. Then again, it could have been the spotlight that over 500 demonstrators were shining on his broken promises and attacks on the people.

The Coalition Against Carter had been pulled together to slam Jimmy when he came to the city for a \$100-a-plate Democratic fundraiser.

Marching together were: the Mobilization for Survival and the Chiwaukee Radioactivists (anti-nuke groups); the Coalition for the Right to Choose (abortion rights); workers from the various shop committees of the Milwaukee United Workers Organization; the Milwaukee Organization of Black Unity; and the Fight Back Organization.



Students on the move on many fronts

Oberlin, Brandeis in forefront anti-apartheid fight

106 students from Oberlin College in Ohio face suspension for "disturbing" a Board of Trustees meeting April 6 when they demanded the college divest itself of stock in companies with holdings in South Africa. As they demonstrated, 300 students at Brandeis in Waltham, Massachusetts were occupying their administration building, seized April 5 around the same demand.

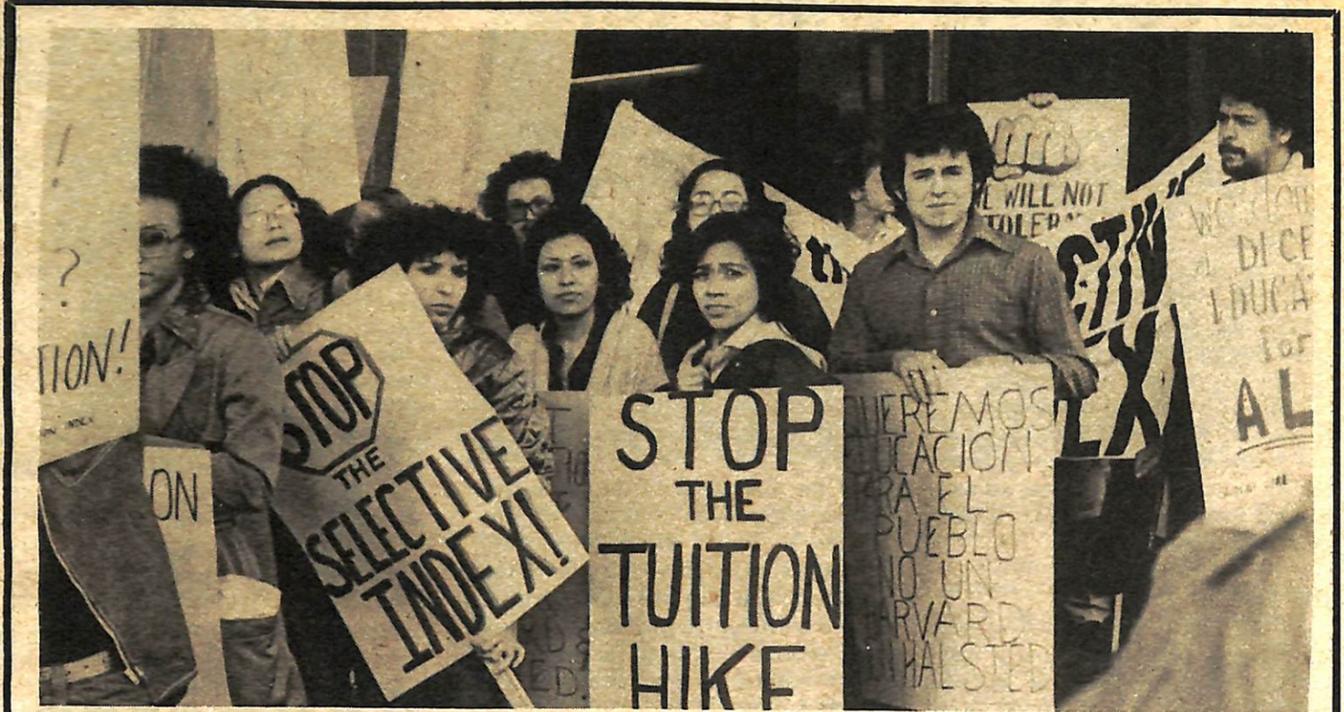
The actions were among the most militant in the campus-based April 4-11 National Week of Action in Support of the African Liberation Movement.

The Oberlin demonstration took place in direct defiance of administration threats. While administrators jotted down names, students chanted and pounded on the gallery window separating them from the Trustees' meeting. The Trustees had just refused to discuss divestment, commenting "Let's wait until June, when the students are gone." Unable to compete with the noise, the meeting finally moved to another room.

Afterwards students decided to turn over all their names to the administration rather than allow individuals to be picked off. Some students who left the protest early sought out the list later to sign.

Oberlin students began organizing around divestment years ago, mainly through "legitimate channels." The Trustees consistently put them off, saying that they would only invest in corporations that abide by the Sullivan Principles.

The Sullivan Principles, drawn up by a Black minister on the General Motors Board of Directors, supposedly commit U.S. corporations to remedy discrimination in their own o-



Latino students joined Blacks and whites to protest new restrictive admissions policy at U. of Illinois-Chicago Circle.

Chicago plan targets minority enrollment

"We probably cannot continue to enroll as many severely underprepared students as we have attempted to deal with in the past."

Despite the careful wording of their report, the Council on Student Recruitment, Admissions and Retentions (CSRAR) tipped their hand. Chicago's University of Illinois, Circle Campus is laying the groundwork for excluding minority and poor students. Already minorities are enrolled in numbers well below their proportion in the population.

The trustees scheduled a meeting March 30 to pass the report. 250 students, mostly Black and Hispanic, blocked the doors to the meeting room so they couldn't get in. The session adjourned without a quorum or a vote.

At issue is whether Circle Campus will aim towards serving the people of

Chicago or closing its doors to them.

Chicago high schools do not prepare people for college. Without adequate remedial programs, many students at Circle drop out. Of the 1504 Black freshmen who enrolled in 1976, only 647 made it into their sophomore year.

Instead of improving the quality of educational services, the university wants to "improve the quality of the student." In 1977, Chancellor Riddle tried to push through the Selective Index as the criterion of admission. This is a rating system based on aptitude test scores. Studies show that on the average, the higher a student's family income is, the higher his or her score on this test will be.

Big protests by students and faculty stopped Riddle in '77. Now the CSRAR report guardedly calls for the Selec-

tive Index again.

Learning from the March 30-meeting-that-never-was that they can't get away with passing the report in secret, the trustees are planning to vote on it April 27 at a meeting where the university community can observe, but not participate.

Student groups, including the Black Student Organization of Communication, the Union of Puerto Rican Students, the Union of Mexican-Chicano Students and the Revolutionary Student Brigade are organizing their classmates to pack the meeting and take it over. On April 20 over 2,000 Circle students wore armbands, saying "Stop the Index!" They sent the administration a message. Trustees have no right to restrict minority enrollment and students are determined to stop this effort to do it.

perations in South Africa. But students point to hard evidence that the very presence of American corporations in South Africa bolsters the racist regime and that corporations refuse to violate the country's laws, which enforce apartheid. How, ask students, can firms like G.M. change things in South Africa when they dis-

criminate in their plants in the U.S.?

Picket lines at Oberlin continue every other day.

The five day Brandeis University takeover followed a 75% effective student strike. A number of professors cancelled classes in support. Students left the building when vacation started, after administration threats to call in the police. Brandeis agreed not to buy any more South Africa stock, but refused to sell its current holdings.

At Marquette University in Milwaukee, the basketball team donated its sneakers to the Patriotic Front of Zimbabwe. In New Jersey, Princeton activists sponsored a conference with Black high school students under the theme 'Southern Africa, Black America, Same Crisis, Same Fight'. Demonstrations, marches and forums also took place in New York City, Boston, Amherst, Philadelphia, Chicago, Atlanta, Portland, San Francisco, Los Angeles and other cities.

Boston profs win union contract

BOSTON—Boston University President John Silber has tried every trick in the book to stop the faculty there from unionizing. He never let adverse NLRB rulings or court decisions faze him. Money was no object - he dipped into tuition funds to finance his union-busting efforts.

But John Silber and his backers on

the Board of Trustees have met their Waterloo. On April 13, the BU faculty won their first union contract after a 6 day strike. It was the first faculty strike and the first contract at a large private university.

The pact had originally been negotiated in late March. At the last minute however, the Trustees had reneged, precipitating the strike. They were holding out for tighter control over the selection of deans, curriculum, enrollment, budgets, workload and expansion.

The strike was 95% effective among the professors, about half of whom were signed up with the American Association of University Professors (AAUP). Nine hundred clerical workers and librarians, also targets of BU's union-busting policies, struck for recognition at the same time.

The clerical workers and librarians are still out. Although the faculty voted to go back before them, the AAUP is considering starting a strike support fund. A significant minority of the professors are teaching on the lawns and in students' apartments to avoid crossing the picket lines, despite a clause in their new contract prohibiting sympathy strikes.

Student support for the faculty came in the form of two rallies of about 400 each. Professors from Harvard, Tufts and Brandeis came to faculty-campus worker rallies to express solidarity.

The AAUP announced there are presently organizing efforts on at Harvard, Farleigh Dickerson and a university in Washington DC.

New building seizure at Columbia - this time it's workers

NEW YORK CITY - At 2 p.m. on March 22, 100 Columbia University workers took over two campus buildings and vowed not leave until Columbia gave them a decent contract.

They held the buildings for seven hours before the city's tac squad broke down barricades at Hogan Hall's Comptroller Center and dragged the last of the workers out. As the police loaded 35 into paddy wagons, 200 students chanted "Let our people go."

The workers, members of Local 1199 of the Health and Hospital Workers Union, had been working without a contract since December 31. When the university fired a union cook early on the 22nd for allegedly sabotaging the food with salt, it was the last straw.

With the 35 arrested workers on suspension and the university still refusing to give ground, the 450-member union voted to strike on March 25th. "If Columbia expects us to collapse, they are in for a

disappointment", said 1199 vice president Jesse Olson. This was the third campus workers strike at Columbia in ten years.

Further, student support for the workers came in the form of a march of 300 outside a Trustee's meeting. Besides demanding dismantlement of Columbia's TRIGA Mark II reactor (see article on Nukes p. 1) and divestment of South Africa stock, the students called for the administration to meet the workers' contract demands.

Two weeks after the strike began, the workers had a contract. It represented a partial victory. They made substantial gains on pension benefits and compromised on wages, with a 12% raise over two years. The raise was not retroactive. Columbia used the money it saved to give \$150-500 bonuses to professional librarians and administrators who'd scabbed.

The arrested workers received two week suspensions, again a compromise with the four week suspensions the university wanted.

Rhodesia elections last gasp for white rule

The so-called elections in Rhodesia turned out to be what everyone expected -- a sham. They were intended to convince the world that power in Zimbabwe (the African name for the country) had been transferred from the white minority, 4% of the population, to the African majority. With a combination of strong-arm tactics, bribes and lies, the government turned out a respectable number of voters in some areas.

There will be Black faces in high places, as there have been for the last year. Even with a Black prime minister, real power will stay in the hands of the white minority, as it has for over a century.

THE VOTE

Before the election, there were widespread predictions that a mass terror campaign would be launched by the guerillas of the Patriotic Front to stop the vote. Instead, even reporters from the American press wrote of the Zimbabweans driven to the polls by the armed forces of the Ian Smith regime and the private armies of the Uncle Toms, like Muzorewa and Sithole, who are collaborating with Smith.

The pattern of voting tells the story very clearly. In areas where the government has herded the inhabitants into barbed wire-enclosed "protected villages", voter turnout was high. In rural regions where government control is shaky, it was a different story. In a section southwest of Fort Victoria, only 150 people out of a population of 40,000 cast ballots.

There are other and more meaningful ways of "voting." Blacks are being drafted in large numbers by the hard pressed Rhodesian army to protect the sham government being constructed. In one recent call-up of 1,500, only 200 showed up for training. Yet young men and women are flocking to Patriotic Front training camps in neighboring countries in numbers so great there are not enough arms for them.

Mideast

(cont. from page 6)

costs at five billion dollars a year over the next three years. And this is on top of the two billion a year the US already gives Israel and the one billion Egypt collects!

Also the US government pledged to cover Israel's oil needs for the next 15 years, even though Carter has no idea how to meet US requirements during this period.

For signing this so-called peace treaty, Egypt will get Hawk missile systems, destroyers, submarines, tanks, armoured personnel carriers, and F-4 fighter planes. More important is massive economic aid.

The Egyptian economy is in shambles. The common people live on the naked edge of starvation. Their anger, combined with an Islamic revival and sympathy with the Palestinians Sadat sold out, make for social dynamite.

Sadat did gain in popularity by ending the Israeli occupation of the Sinai and promising a generation of peace. Nevertheless, he knows US aid can be of great value in staving off the possibility of a revolutionary upsurge like the one that toppled the Shah.

But as much of our tax money as the government was willing to bid for this treaty, it cannot and will not

THE RESULTS

Robert Mugabe, head of the Zimbabwe African National Union, one of the two groups in the Patriotic Front, summed up what the results of the elections will be: "All that will have happened really, is a change of heads -- a Black head being substituted for white but with the body still the same -- the same armed forces, the same civil service, the same judiciary, the same economic structure. The position will be one of a head acting as a megaphone."

Of the 100 seats in the new legislature, a minimum of 28 have to go to whites. No senior official in the army, the police or the administration can be replaced, and they are white to a man. It will be illegal to challenge the present economic set-up. Industry and large-scale commerce are entirely in white hands, as is over 50% of the farmable land in the country.

The whole election fraud is designed more for foreign than domestic consumption. Already, reactionary politicians in this country are calling for the U.S. and Britain to recognize the "new" regime and end the half-hearted economic sanctions that have been imposed on the illegal settler government. The main view in the U.S. ruling class, however, is that there is no point in staking a lot of money on such an obvious loser. Smith and his Black sidekicks may do better in Britain, where elections this spring are expected to bring the pro-Rhodesian Tory Party to power. This would be a definite boost to Smith's desperate maneuvers for survival.

Even if it enjoys a small amount of success, this last bid by the old oppressive system is looking more and more like its last gasp. The Patriotic Front fighters, who have gone from victory to victory in the last few years, vow to redouble their efforts until the people of Zimbabwe can truly rule their own country.

bring peace to the Middle East. On the weekend of April 1, leaders of every Arab nation except the Sudan and Oman, 18 in all, voted after sharp debate to break all diplomatic relations with Egypt. Furthermore, much trade and one billion dollars in aid that oil-producing countries like Saudi Arabia have been giving Egypt every year will be cut off.

Few experts expected this degree of unity in the Arab response. The Saudi rulers, for instance turned down American pleas to go easy on the treaty. They intend to continue close relations with the US, but they aren't prepared to jeopardize their own rule by going against the interests of their neighbors and the sentiments of the people.

No treaty can bring peace which does not recognize the basic rights of the Palestinian people, who have been robbed of their homeland by the Zionist settler state of Israel. The treaty calls for future talks to arrive at a plan to give some form of self-rule to the Israeli-occupied Gaza Strip and West Bank areas.

Begin has publicly made a mockery of this scheme by proclaiming "We never agreed to autonomy for the territories but only for the inhabitants." This double-talk shows that Israel fully intends to hold on to the land it stole in the 1967 war and before, and to keep the Palestinians a nation without a country.

Angry Palestinians under Israeli rule demonstrated for two weeks straight against the sellout treaty.



J-M strikers in front of plant that meant an early death for many co-workers.

Asbestos

(cont. from page 2)

the data would cripple them in bargaining and in court. The union is suing the company for \$25 million for covering up the dangers of asbestos for so long.

COMPANY BACKS DOWN - SOME

As the strike entered its second week, Johns-Manville was getting very little production from scabbing supervisors and catching a lot of bad publicity in the press.

Recent exposures have highlighted a number of asbestos threats: high death rates among shipyard workers who handled it during World War 2, asbestos-coated school ceilings and most recently the recall of hairdryers. Pioneer industrial health researcher Dr. Irving Selikoff estimates asbestos will cause 17% of all cancers in the next 25 years.

On April 7, the company gave in on

Some were killed by Israeli security forces, including a 17 year old girl, but the demonstrations continued. Arab elected officials in the occupied zones were unanimous in denouncing the proposed 'autonomy' as a total fraud.

GROMYKO GOES SHOPPING

One other factor increases the likelihood of continued conflict in the Mideast. The Soviet Union, although cut out of the US/Egypt/Israel deal, sees a chance to make some headway in the angry reaction. Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko flew to Syria to sell the USSR to the rulers of the Arab countries as a friend against the treaty. The Soviets had some success -- Abu Iyad, one top leader of the Palestinian Liberation Organization, called publicly for an alliance of the USSR with his group, Syria, Iraq, and Libya to combat the forces the US has lined up.

It will not be smooth sailing for the Soviets, however. Many Arab nations are suspicious of their motives. And the very strength of the Arab countries' united front shows that it is not necessary to hook up with one or another of the superpowers to defend against the schemes of the other.

The treaty just signed shows the continuing bankruptcy of US policy in the crucial Mideast. There are some new wrinkles -- it is no longer possible to rely on Israel alone, so the Zionists have been pressured and

two issues -- full retirement at age 62 with 25 years seniority, and a doubling of major medical insurance. But on pensions, nothing doing. A full pension now is \$210 a month. By 1981 it will be \$255. Older workers are faced with a grim choice -- retire early and live on this pittance or keep working, even though they're getting short of breath.

The small pension increase drew heavy criticism as vocal rank and filers strode to the microphone at the April 8 ratification meeting. But the majority figured that was about the max the bargaining committee was going to fight for and voted the contract up by a narrow margin.

The Johns-Manville workers are back on the job. They took a stand with coal miners who demand black lung benefits and the right to strike, with brown-lunged textile workers, with coke oven workers, with chemical workers, and all the others who are building a fight against the killer chemicals and health hazards of industrial America.

bribed to link up with a neighboring power as a bloc. The US has had to step up its direct diplomatic and military role in the area. Overall, the strategy has not been altered greatly: arm and aid junior partners, hoping they remain stable enough to be a powerful force for protecting US interests.

Yemen

(cont. from page 6)

not formally in the Soviet bloc to recognize it.

The Soviets tried the same thing in the Sudan several times without success, but did succeed in Moslem Afghanistan last year, at least temporarily. Closer to home, Iraq has discovered secret cells of the pro-Soviet Communist Party of Iraq plotting against the government in the army.

The Yemen war is a microcosm of the Middle East today. Taking advantage of different political forces and local contradictions, the Soviets are seeking to expand their influence and undercut key US allies like Saudi Arabia.

The United States, which still holds the upper hand on its Soviet rivals, is scrambling to stabilize the area, but with methods which have had mixed results. For their part, the Arab nations, while maintaining ties to one degree or another with the superpowers, are more prepared than in the past to go their own independent way.

Confrontacion en la frontera Mexicana

Hostigamiento provoca empalizada de puente

EL PASO, TEJAS -- El 9 de marzo 650 mexicanos volvieron las tornas al Servicio de Inmigracion y Naturalizacion. Empalizaron los puentes a través de la frontera a los EEUU. Despues de años de hosti-

gamiento y brutalidad, el SNI, ordinariamente llamado La Migra por el pueblo mexicano, se atrevio demasiadamente.

Esa mañana la Migra siguió a autobuses que iban de Juarez, Mexi-

co, a El Paso. Cuando los pasajeros desembarcaron, La Migra arresto a 130, la mayoría de ellos mujeres que iban a sus trabajos como sirvientas en los EEUU, los agentes forzaron a los hombres y mujeres a desnudarse en frente de todo el mundo, hicieron gestos sexuales hacia las mujeres, y entonces revocaron todos los permisos de "visitantes temporarios" y deportaron a todos.

Por el resto de ese día y el siguiente, cientos de mexicanos demostraron en los puentes de la

frontera. Tomaron control de 3 de los 4 puentes, formaron empalizadas con autos, autobuses y latas de basura. Nadie fue permitido pasar. Un auto insistió en empujar a través de la empalizada del puente Cordova, arrollando a dos niños y matando a una niña de diez años.

Los manifestantes quemaron effigies del Tio Sam, arracaron y hicieron pedazos de banderas americanas antes de tirarlas al Río Grande.

Mientras tanto en El Paso, Tejas, 300 chicanos piquetearon el lado (vease pagina 3)

25¢
SECCION
HISPANICA

VOZ DEL OBRERO

MAYO, 1979

ANTERIORMENTE EL OBRERO

VOL. II NO.4

ALTO A REACTORES NUCLEAR

"3 Mile Island" monstra Riesgo

Durante la primera semana de Abril el movimiento pro-nuclear se estallo. Los ansiosos científicos y trabajadores de al reactor en Three Mile Island por fin triunfaron en sus esfuerzos por controlar el reactor antes de que explotara o que el centro se deritiera. Pero al movimiento pro-nuclear promovido por el gobierno y administrado con muchas ganancias por las enormes corporaciones a sufrido un golpe agudo.

Ahora se esta desarrollando una confrontacion sobre la energia nuclear que va a tener un mayor impacto en estepais en los proximos anos. Desde Portland, Oregon a Portland, Maine, diez miles de Americanos manifestaron despues de Three Mile Island en protestas airadas demandando "Alto a la Energia Nuclear."

Conjuntos de opinion montran que la mayoría de Americanos creen que la energia nuclear es peligrosa.

A pesar de esto los capitalistas, y su gobierno intentan seguir construyendo, dependiendo en, y mas importante - haciendo ganancias de energia nuclear, no obstante sus peligros.

AGUACERO DE MANIFESTACIONES

El día despues que la noticia del accidente estuvo en el radio y la TV 250 manifestantes marcharon enfrente de la jefatura de Northern State Power en Mineapolis y en una dozena de otras ciudades. A par con la intensificacion de la crisis mas acciones fueron celebradas. Diez miles (vease pagina 4)



Protestas anti-nuclear recorren el pais.

Huelga acusa jefes de asbestos

WAUKEGAN, ILL. - Los vagones estaban vacios, listo para transportar material de techar de asbestos de Johns-Manville. Entre la locomotora y los desembarcadores de Johns-Manville sesenta miembros de la Internacional de Obreros Quimicos estaban parados.

Los huelguistas permanecieron en la via por dos horas en un aguacero. Por fin el supervisor para el Ferrocarril de "Eastern, Elgin y Joliet" tuvo que sacar al tren vasio de la fabrica de Johns-Manville que es-

taba en huelga.

Los casi un mil obreros en este suburbio de Chicago es un grupo amargo. En sus años de trabajo, ellos han ayudado a hacer a Johns-Manville el productor mas grande de productos de asbestos en el pais. Y en ese tiempo han respirado millones de particulas de asbestos. Estas agujas microscopicas son indestructibles en el cuerpo humano. Las sicatrices que le hacen a los pulmones de los obreros son tan malas que la probabilidad (vease pagina 4)



Today demandas en Johns-Manville eran relacionadas a la salud y seguridad.

Camioneros astillan controles de salarios

El discontento de 300,000 camioneros vencio a los controles de salarios de 7% de Carter. A pesar del aumento, el mas alto de los contratos firmado este ano, apenas alcanzara la creciente tasa de inflacion. Ademas los obreros de base tubieron que abandonar muchos derechos tocante a condiciones de trabajo.

Los camioneros y guardalmacénistas estaban luchando contra la junta de salarios del gobierno y su amenaza de una orden de corte para forzarlos a regresar a trabajar. Tambien estaban luchando contra la estrategia del liderato de la union de hacer huelgas contra solamente 73 de las 500 principales compañías de carretaje.

En cuanto oieron los detalles del contrato, los camioneros de las compañías de acero salieron en una huelga sin autorizacion, parando todo el transporte de acero en el centro de la nacion. Al mismo tiempo, los Camioneros por Union Democratica, un grupo de obreros de base comenzaron una campaña para recharzar la oferta.

La lucha sobre el contrato vino al mismo tiempo en que camioneros y guardalmacénistas estan muy inflamados sobre las desmejorantes condiciones de trabajo que ellos enfrentan. Por ejemplo, muchos trabajan siete dias seguidos y solamente reciben un dia de descanso. Se llama la esclavitud de 70 horas. No hay paga



Camioneros piquetean sitio de negociaciones subrayan demandas de regulaciones de trabajo.

para tiempo extraordinario por que los salarios son computados por milla. Ademas los camioneros se estan enfrentando contra condiciones de produccion, los camiones y cargas peligrosas que han matado a 900 camioneros el ano pasado, la mudanza de terminales y empleos hacia otros pueblos, y la falta de democracia en la union.

En las negociaciones, el presidente de la union Fitzsimmons casi hablo de estas demandas importantes. Cuando el cambio algunas de las reglas de trabajo en el contrato, solamente fue un mejoramiento pequeño de un 'takeaway'. Por ejemplo los

camioneros de la Ciudad de Chicago no seguiran recibiendo paga para horas extraordinarias por comenzar antes de las 8:00 de la mañana.

Las negociaciones se enfocaron casi totalmente sobre salarios, 41 horas antes de que la union hubiera comenzado a pagar a los miembros \$10 millones en beneficios de huelga, la union y la compañía llegaron a un acuerdo aprobado por el gobierno. Solamente despues que las líneas de piquetes habian parado fue que los negociadores comenzaron a hablar sobre las condiciones de trabajo.

El descontento de los obreros de base forzo a Fitzsimmons a seguir

negociando hasta que gano un aumento de 30% en salarios y beneficios a traves de un periodo de tres anos. Los expertos de salarios del gobierno ajustaron las regulaciones tres veces para hacer parecer que el contrato caia bajo los limites de los controles de Carter. Pero aun este aumento que estallo los controles no sera suficiente para mantenerse al par con la inflacion sobre los proximos tres anos.

Ahora que los controles han sido aflojados, se espera que otras uniones como las de los trabajadores de goma y los de auto, tambien luchen para mas de 10% el año que viene.

El 'lock out' siguiendo la huelga limitada fue diseñado para evitar que la iniciativa pasara a los obreros de base. Hombres que conozen las carreteras tan bien que pueden distinguir entre los camiones vacios y los llenos segun la distancia entre la carretera y el piso del camion, de pronto estuvieron confundidos. No sabian quien estaba en huelga y quien no. Muchos pararon las patrullas en busca de esquiroleros y regresaron a sus casas. Una excepcion vino cuando los huelguistas destruyeron 4 camiones de Overnight, una compañía sin union de Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

A esta hora los miembros estan votando sobre el contrato. Los grupos de oposicion estan abogando por un voto de no. Pero en las palabras de un lider de los obreros de base, "Los miembros no cuentan los votos."

Si los camioneros son forzados a aceptar este contrato, sera uno mas en la serie de aumentos de salarios pequeños en respuesta a las protestas de los obreros — en combinacion con persistentes ataques contra las condiciones de trabajo.

ALIANZA PUERTORRIQUENA

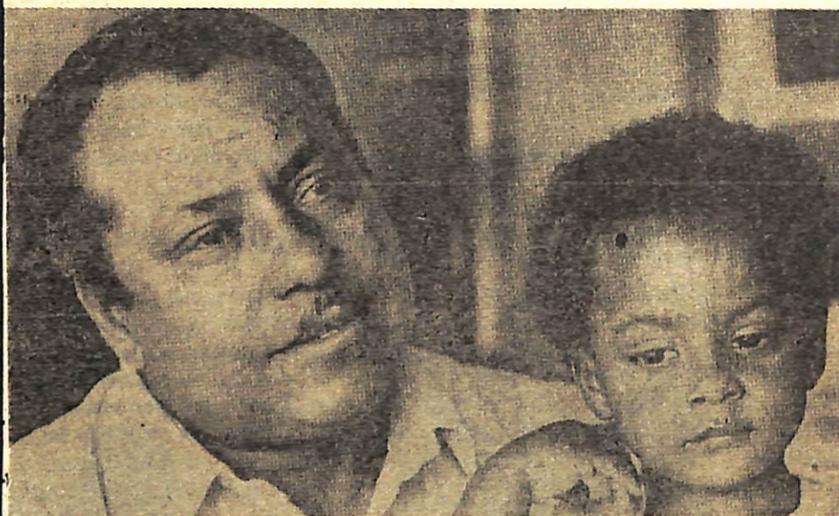
FILADELFIA, PA. -- 400 de los 120,000 puertorriqueños de esta ciudad se reunieron a medios de Marzo y formaron La Alianza Puertorriqueña, un grupo que crecio de unas cuantas organizaciones mas pequeñas, activas en la comunidad local y formada en la bayalla del Noviembre pasado para parar la reeleccion del notorio alclade racista de esta ciudad, Frank Rizzo. Entres los 400 participantes habian obreros Puertorriqueños, negociantes pequeños, estudiantes, y activistas veteranos de la comunidad Puertorriqueña.

La Alianza ya ha estado activa en organizando a Latinos a participar en una marcha principalmente Negra de 2000 personas que demandava la construccion de un proyecto de viviendas en una anteriormente integrada y ahora predominantemente blanca seccion del sur de Filadelfia. Ademas algunos de sus miembros formaron partes de un grupo de 150 personas que pararon la expulsion forzada de una señora Puertorriqueña de un apartamento en un

edificio publico. El grupo tambien demando la substitution de un racista y abusador director del PHA con un director de habla hispanica mas sensitivo y simpatico a los principalmente Puertorriqueños residentes del proyecto.

La Alianza fue formada de una variedad de organizaciones mas pequeñas activas en la comunidad Puertorriqueña alrededor de problemas comun a los Puertorriqueños en las ciudades grandes de los EEUU: la destruccion de viviendas y comunidades enteras para construir viviendas para familias de ingreso medio o alto; la brutalidad policia contra joves y aun contra hombres casado y empleado; descrimination en la educacion de la juventud Puertorriqueña en las escuelas publicas, incluyendo la falta de programas bilingues; descrimination en el empleo, y la falta de uniones y derechos de obreros basicos en los talleres explotadores de Filadelfia - los unicos lugares donde Puertorriqueños pueden encontrar trabajo.

Defende Accion afirmative!



"Cuando Brian Weber vino a este mundo la oportunidad lo estaba esperando. Como hombres negros, nosotros no tenemos nada. Yo no tuve nada."

Asi dijo James Nailar (vease foto arriba) acerca del caso de 'discriminacion reversa' que Brian Weber llevo hasta la Corte Suprema. Ambos hombres trabajan en Kaiser Aluminum en Gramercy, Louisiana. Situado en el rio Mississippi en el condado de San Jaime, donde 37% de la poblacion es Negra. Por años Kaiser empleo solamente blancos en su fabrica, conseqüentemente todos tienen mas senioridad que los Negros. Por eso no habia ni un Negro entre los trabajadores adiestrados en todas las fabricas de Kaiser a traves del pais hasta 1974, cuando le pusieron un pleito de descrimination en la fabrica de Baton Rouge.

Eajo presion Kaiser comienzo un

programa para enseñar oficios diestros en Gramercy y reservaron la mitad de las posiciones abiertas para los Negros. Nailar, hijo de campesinos Negros, fue aceptado al programa. Weber, que tenia mas senioridad no fue aceptado. Para Nailar la "accion afirmativa" es una necesidad. Segun Weber es "discriminacion reversa".

La Corte Suprema oyo el caso de Weber el 28 de Marzo y haran su decision luego en el año. Mientras tanto habran muchas gente organizando en contra del caso. Quinientas personas, principalmente obreros, llenaron una reunion acerca del caso Weber el 14 de Marzo en el centro siderugico de Gary, Indiana. Acciones en contra de Weber ocurrieron en New Orleans, Los Angeles, San Diego, San Francisco, Filadelfia, y Nueva York mientras la Corte oia el caso.

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Campesino huelguista: 'He aprendido lo que la gente unida puede hacer

SALINAS, CA. -- La aguda huelga de los campesinos se esta trasladando al norte con la temporada hacia la region de Salinas cerca de San Francisco, el centro de la cosecha de lechuga de primavera y de verano para la nacion. Los huelgistas se reunen cada mañana por la madrugada para ir a los campos que bordean la orilla de la ciudad. Una linea de policas bloquean la entrada al campo para prevenir que los campesinos convezan a los esquiroles que paren de trabajar. Pero la huelga ha sido militante y piquetes han invadido los campos en el area del sur de California donde la huelga comenzo el 19 de Enero.

Los desnudos campos de Salinas son un testimonio a la eficacia de la huelga hasta este punto. La lechuga ahi ha sido planteada por los esquiroles, muchos de cuales nunca han sido campesinos. Fue hecho sinuosa-mente, incompatible con el sistema de irrigacion y las malas hierbas nunca fueron arrancadas. Los terratenientes grandes de Salinas vana tener una cosecha mala. Mas hacia el sur la cosecha del invierno se esta pudriendo en los campos. La lucha fue aguda ahi con un huelguista asesinado, muchos arrestados, y todos los huelguistas despedidos. Algunos de los huelguistas ahi permaneceran piqueteando mientras la mayoría van hacia el norte para unirse a los huelguistas de Salinas.

Para los campesinos, principalmente Mexicanos, mucho depende de esta huelga. Mientras proveen a America con unas de sus necesidades basicas - comida, permanecen al fondo de la orden economica. Los dueños dijeron al principio de las negociaciones que iban a limitar cualquier aumento a las regulaciones de 7% de Carter. A este punto 5,000 campesinos en 11 compañías salieron en huelga el 19 de Enero. Ellos sabian que la mayoría de los campesinos, que ganan solamente \$3.70 por hora no son supuesto ser incluidos en los controles. Los precios de los terratenientes tampoco estan incluidos, y han estado haciendo mas de \$195 millones en ganancias en los ultimos ochos años.

Para los campesinos, ademas de sus salarios y beneficios el futuro de su union tambien esta arriesgado, por que las tacticas de los dueños tienen como su meta aplastar el UFW en esta huelga.

El siguiente es una entrevista con un lider de la Union de Trabajadores de Campo del valle de Salinas. Desde que vino a los EEUU en 1966 ha sido un obrero agricultor haciendo trabajos como recogedor e irrigador, su presente trabajo. Un irrigador es considerado un obrero adiestrado controlando la provision de agua a la siembra. Irrigadores trabajan de 10 a 12 horas al dia, 7 dias a la semana sin vacaciones. Los campesinos no tienen una semana de 40 horas, y paga para horas extraordinarias no existe.

Que es lo que significa la Union para usted?

La mayoría de nosotros que venimos de Mexico no tenemos ninguna experiencia on uniones. Nosotros no sabemos cuales eran nuestros derechos. Con la union podemos comunicar a otros campesinos cuales son sus derechos y lo que las uniones pueden hacer para ellos. Yo e ido a manifestaciones, he luchado contra malas leyes y encima de todo he aprendido lo que la gente unida puede hacer.

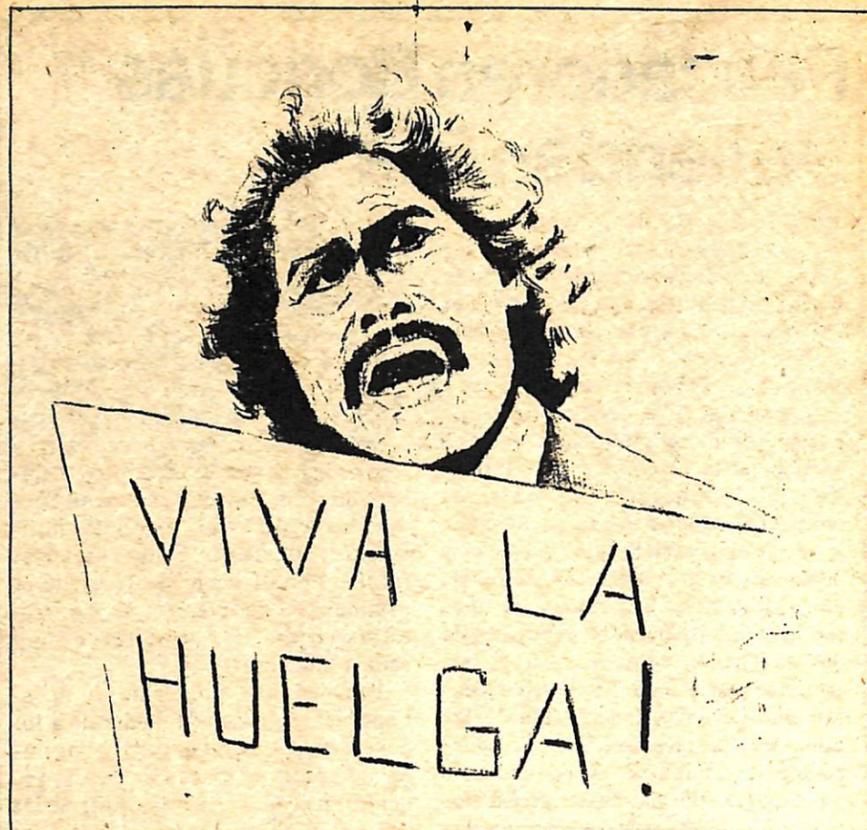
Cuales son las cuestiones principales en la huelga?

Estamos pidiendo \$5.25 por hora y mejores condiciones de trabajo. Queremos proteger a obreros, por ejemplo contra insecticidas. Los dueños no quieren establecer condiciones tocante a insecticidas. Muchas veces los aviones han venido y rociado a nuestra gente. Campesinos tambien son expuesto a muchos problemas de salud como insolacion y manos cortadas. Los dueños han tenido enfermeras y doctores en los campos durante la huelga del Valle Imperial para proteger a los esquiroles pero usualmente no tienen a nadie cualificado para tratar problemas medicales. Y ellos no proveen ningunas viviendas para las familias o gente soltera. Queremos una mejor vida para los campesinos.

Continuaremos con la huelga que sea necesario. Hasta que accedan a nuestras demandas.

Que es lo que estan haciendo los dueños para aplastar la union?

Su preocupacion principal ahora es intimidar a los huelguistas. Los



esquiroles que estan usando no son campesinos. La compañía tambien ha inventado muchas tacticas para asustar a los campesinos. Durante la huelga han empleados guardias de seguridad y esquiroles para poner alambra alrededor de los campos.

Cual es el papel de la policia en la huelga?

La policia dicen que ellos son neutral, que estan ahi para proteger los huelguistas y los esquiroles. Pero se parecen mas a los empleados de los terratenientes. Si uno de los huelguista hace algo menor como responder a la policia, es arrestado. Los terratenientes nos han amenazado con pistolas y todo lo que han hecho es quitarle las pistolas sin arrestarlos.

Los dueños han empleado a expertos de relaciones publica como Bill Roberts — que dirigió las campanas de Reagan y Ford — para pulir su imagen. Roberts formo "comites de ciudadanos" blancos de los pueblos. Tambien he recrutado en escuelas secundarias para hostigar a los campesinos en huelga. Tambien hemos oido que el Ku Klux Klan ha ofrecido su ayuda.

Es verdad. Casi todo esto ha ocurrido en el Valle Imperial. Aqui varias compañías han obtenido a estudiantes de Fresno State para hostigar a los huelguistas. La mayoría de ellos son grande y fuerte y nosotros tenemos mujeres, niños, y viejos en nuestra linea de piquete.

frontera hacia los EEUU en busca de trabajo. En el ultimo año, sin embargo, Carter ha estado amenazando castigar a los emigrantes ilegales y patrullas de fronteras han aumentado. Los EEUU comienzo a construir una cerca, que los mexicanos llaman la cortina de tortilla, en una parte de la frontera donde muchos emigrantes cruzan, pero pararon a causa del ultraje mexicano. 27 millas de la cortina de tortilla permanecen, con sus filos de navaja de afeitar diseñados para mutilar a cualquier que se atreva a cruzar, un recuerdo diario de la arrogancia y explotacion yanqui.

Ahora Mexico a descubierto que tiene algo nuevo que los EEUU quiere - petroleo, tanto como Sudi Arabia. El pueblo mexicano quiere que ese petroleo sea usado en una manera que allude a crecer a sus pais, esperando que signifique una mejor vida para ellos. Los EEUU

Que es lo que piensa de las tacticas de dividir a la gente segun lineas raciales?

Tambien usan banderas americanas en sus camiones. Como si la bandera del UFW fuera de otro pais. Me siento triste cuando veo los terratenientes usar la discriminacion de la gente blanca contra nosotros por que siempre a habido discriminacion contra Latinos y Negros en los EEUU. Es una cosa injusta lo que los terratenientes estan haciendo usando el prejuicio contra nosotros. Mucha de la gente no nos entienden y por que estamos en huelga.

Ha debilitado sus lineas de piquetes el mandato limitando los piquetes a 150

Si. Por que los campos son muy grande y ellos tienen hasta 120 personas en cada grupo. Es dificil poner presion contra los esquiroles con la policia entre tu y ellos. La corte decidio que una persona por cada 15 esquiroles puede entrar a los campos para hablar con los esquiroles. Los dueños han estado importando rompehuelgas, desde California, Arizona, Texas y Mexico y algunos vienen aqui sin saber que hay una huelga y cuando hablamos con ellos algunos se van.

Que eficaz ha sido la huelga en reducir la produccion?

La huelga ha sido cien por ciento efectiva. Los terratenientes no han cosechado, o plantado nada. Le ha costado mucho dinero, mas que lo que vale la cosecha.

quiere que se saque de la tierra lo mas rapido posible, para que Mexico pueda proveer hasta 30% de la demanda americana. Para la gente que a bloqueado la frontera, los planes de los EEUU hacia el petroleo es un ejemplo de como las compañías americanas han mantenido el nivel economico de Mexico bajo desde 1900 para mantener sus altas tazas de ganancias.

El Presidente Luis Portillo se mantenido firme en su posicion de aumentar la produccion de petroleo poco a poco para promover desarrollo economico balanceado. El hostigamiento del SNI como las deportaciones del 9 de marzo es una forma de represalia americana.

Pero una cosa con quel gobierno no conto fue el pueblo mexicano. Ahora que se han enfrentado victoriosamente con La Migra, las cosas seran un poco diferente en las orillas del Rio Grande.

Confrontacion en la frontera Mexicana

(viene de pagina 1)

americano de unos de los puentes en solidaridad con el bloqueo. El sentimiento anti-americano era agudo. Hace solamente unas cuantas semanas quel Presidente Carter habia visitado a Mexico. El Presidente Mexicano Luis Portillo le dio una bienvenida fria y le advirtio que la amistad entre los dos paises se podia establecer solamente si los EEUU comenzaba a tratar a Mexico como un igual.

El area de la frontera es el foco de conflicto entre el pueblo mexicano y el gobierno de los EEUU. Es una region de alta poblacion y la mayoría de la gente que se mudan el area no lo hacen voluntariamente. Muchos fueron arrojados de sus

tierras por compañías agriculoras americanas y vinieron a la frontera buscando trabajo en unas de las numerosas factorias situadas ahi.

Algunos encuentran trabajos y reciben una dosis concentrada de aceleramiento y despidos estilo americano. Y a resultado del limite de 10% en aumentos impuestos por el Fondo Monetario Internacional hace 3 años, sus salarios caen cada dia mas atras de los aumentos en precios. La inflacion desde 1976 ha sido 50%. El FMI financiado principalmente pro los EEUU, ordeno el limite como condicion de un prestamo de \$1.2 billiones al gobierno Mexicano.

Aun, no hay suficientes trabajos. Asi que algunas gente cruzan la

Pescadores Boricuas Defienden Isla

VIEQUES, PUERTO RICO—Cientos de pescadores y otros residentes locales se han convertido en un dolor de cabeza para los ejercicios navales de los EEUU en esta isla cercana a la costa sureña de Puerto Rico. Pararon los ejercicios cuatro veces en la primera parte de este año.

Por los menos 70% del terreno de Vieques esta ocupado por la Marina de los EEUU, que usa esta isla como un campamento de tiro para barcos, aviones, y tropas de varios países. Peces y otros recursos naturales han sido devastados. Miles han sido arrojados de la isla, 11,000 a la cercana isla de St. Croix, miles más a la isla principal de Puerto Rico, y frecuentemente de ahí a los ghettos de las ciudades Americanas. Los pescadores que permanecen son cohibidos en su propia tierra, hasta prohibidos por un mes entero pescar en las mejores áreas.

Usando una variedad de tácticas, incluyendo la navegación de botes de pescar entre los acorazados realizando una invasión de madrugada de un campamento de los Marineros y estableciendo su propio campamen-

to, los pescadores y sus apoyantes paralizaron efectivamente la Marina y el Cuerpo de Marineros.

El ejército americano continuo bombardeando un área cerca del campamento, insensiblemente ignorando el peligro para las vidas de los residentes locales. Pero sus esfuerzos principales han sido obtener una orden de corte contra los manifestantes (la corte negó una petición dirigida a parar los ejercicios militares) y amenazar a los residentes locales con el corte de la ayuda de estampillas de comida si las protestas continúan y la Marina es forzada a mudarse.

También han producido la acostumbrada propaganda llamando a los pescadores "comunistas" y "agentes" de poderes extranjeros, a la vez que tratan de salvar las apariencias después que sus mejores divisiones fueron sorprendidas.

Los pescadores planean continuar sus protestas, llevando su causa hasta las Naciones Unidas. Ellos dicen, "la marina de los EEUU se va a ir de Vieques, por que el pueblo de Vieques los van a forzar a irse."

Alto a reactores nuclear

(viene de pagina 1)

celebraron una reunión en masa contra el reactor en Diablo Canyon, California, el reactor de Columbia University, TRIGA Mark II, y en Boston también.

En 1966, parte del reactor Fermi en Michigan se deritió dando causa a que unos de los ingenieros exclamara, "La verdad es que por poco perdimos a Detroit." Este incidente, y además el fuego en 1976 en el reactor de Browns Ferry en Alabama, fueron ocultados eficazmente.

El aguacero enorme de ansiedad y furia esta vez es un resultado en gran parte de los esfuerzos del creciente movimiento anti-nuclear. Para millones de Americanos, el drama reciente en Middletown, Penn. fue una confirmación de lo que los militantes anti-nuclear habían estado diciendo.

Un desastre similar al que por poco ocurrió en Three Mile Island hubiera matado a miles inmediatamente y a diez y aun cientos de miles en los años siguientes, no mencionando el hecho que grandes regiones se hicieran inhabitables. En adición, no se a descubierto ninguna manera segura de transportar y almacenar las toneladas de desperdicio radioactivo que cada reactor produce.

GANANCIAS PRIMERO

Con los países que producen petróleo tomando control de sus propios recursos naturales y los mineros de carbón librando huelgas impetuosas, la energía nuclear parece muy atractiva para los ricos y su gobierno. Jimmy Carter ha llamado por la construcción de 350 plantas nucleares antes del fin del siglo, un aumento sobre las 76 que existen ahora.

Pero no hubiera reactores hoy si no fuera por los billones en ganancias que se han hecho y que se harán de ellos. Las compañías tienen sus tasas fijadas por comisiones del gobierno que le permiten hacer un por ciento en ganancias de cada dólar que ellos invierten. \$3 billon es el precio de un reactor como el de Seabrook,

antes de que los precios subieron hace poco.

Bajo este sistema, Metropolitan Edison esta preparando a demandar aumentos en sus tasas para cubrir los costos del accidente en Three Mile Island, incluyendo el precio de un nuevo reactor si se tiene que enterar el viejo.

Las compañías que producen reactores también han hecho grandes ganancias de la construcción de las plantas y de proveer combustibles.

En el anhelo por ganancias de las compañías que asegura que accidentes ocurran. Three Mile Island esta llena de ejemplos. La construcción de la planta fue acelerada sin precauciones adecuadas en los últimos días de 1978 para que Met. Ed. pudiera ahorrar millones de dólares en impuestos. Algunas de los empleados en la planta han trabajado 4 semanas sin un día de descanso

Huelga

(viene de pagina 1)

de daño extremo y cáncer de pulmones es muy alta.

Johns-Manville ha sabido del peligro hace años, pero el productor de asbesto no advirtió a sus empleados. En vez la compañía tuvo un papel principal en esconder los efectos mortales del mineral resistente al fuego. Solamente recientemente es que han tomado medidas para reducir la concentración de partículas dentro la factoría.

Cuando los obreros salieron en huelga el 26 de Marzo, casi todos los puntos claves eran acerca del peligro a la salud. Los miembros del Local 60 demandaron una pensión más temprana y mejor, más seguro de salud, acceso de la unión a los archivos médicos de los obreros.

"SE PUEDEN VER LAS COSITAS POR TODAS PARTES"

Un huelguista mayor que declaró que tenía motas en sus pulmones le dijo a la Voz del Obrero, "Cuando uno se retira de aquí, a la mejor no vive más que un cuantos años más. Roy Grissom se mudo a Red Bay, Alabama después de 23 años de consejer. Cuatro años después estaba muerto de cáncer del pulmón. Todo ese tiempo solamente estaba recibiendo \$161 al mes de pensión. Por que no por los menos le dan a un hombre suficiente para disfrutar su retiro?"

Un capitán de piquetes regreso de

en adición de trabajar horas extraordinarias también. La compañía ordeno a empleados que se apuraran en el mantenimiento y amenazo con suspensión a cualquier empleado que se quejara de problemas de seguridad.

LA LUCHA EN EL FUTURO

El gobierno y las compañías grandes estan de acuerdo que los reactores que existen se deben de hacer más seguros, aunque no ofrecen ningún plan concreto excepto arreglar algunas de las faltas más evidentes. Pero, ellos todavía consideran imposible para la construcción de nuevos reactores, o cerrar gradualmente a los que existen ahora.

De todos modos la nueva ola de sentimiento anti-nuclear esta empezando a tener un efecto.

copiar el número de licencia de un camión y le dijo a la Voz del Obrero, "Uno pensaría que después de toda la publicidad ellos harían un mejor trabajo de limpiar ese lugar. Nosotros tenemos estas brillantes luces de mercurio y se pueden ver las cositas (partículas de asbesto) flotando por donde quiera. Yo no veo porque no lo transportan en cajones de metal. Usted sabe como los sacos siempre se rompen durante transporte."

Los exámenes médicos de Johns-Manville han determinado que 35 de los corrientes empleados tienen incapacidad serias de pulmones. Pero cuando la unión pidió los records para usarlos en las negociaciones para proteger la salud de sus miembros la compañía rehusó. Johns-Manville afirmó que proveer la información sería una invasión de la privacidad de los obreros! La unión esta luchando para averiguar cuales de los obreros han sido "red-tagged" en un pleito de practicas de empleo injustas que sera decidido el 11 de Junio. El "derecho a saber" acerca de la salud y seguridad es una creciente demanda de los obreros a la vez que los numerosos venenos industriales son hecho publico.

LA COMPAÑIA SEDE - UN POCO

Mientras la huelga entraba su segunda semana, Johns-Manville le estaba sacando muy poca producción a sus capataces. Además estaba recibiendo mucha mala publicidad en los periodicos locales y en noticias nacionales. Toda esta publicidad no iba a ayudar los asuntos de Johns-Manville, especialmente con la unión de Waukegan pegándole un pleito de \$25 millón por faltar de explicar el peligro de asbesto.

Con la tempestad de revelaciones nuevas como las altas tasas de muertes de los insuladores de asbestos y más reciente su uso en secadoras de pelo, esta substancia excedida por radiación nuclear como una inmediata amenaza de salud y seguridad. El investigador de salud industrial, Dr. Irving Selikoff, estima que el asbesto causará 17% de todos los cáncers en los próximos 25 años.

El 27 de Abril la compañía se rindió tocante a dos demandas relacionadas a la seguridad - retiro temprano a la edad de 62 después de 25 años de trabajo, y hacer doble el principal seguro médico. Pero ellos no han mejorado significativamente la pensión. Bajo el contrato viejo un retirado de 30 años estaba recibiendo \$210 por mes. La oferta de Johns-Manville aumentaría la paga de un retirado a \$225 para 1981. Esta pequeña cantidad hace una broma del retiro temprano. Pero el chiste no es tan comico a un hombre que no tiene ninguna otra opción excepto retirarse porque no puede respirar.

Cuando el plan de retiro temprano fue anunciado en el mitin de ratificación del 8 de Abril, recibió la más fuerte crítica de una sección vocal del los miembros de base. Oradores airados caminaron hacia el micrófono para incitar a que rechazase a resultado de esta y otras flojas provisiones (como la sección de cambio de trabajo). Pero la mayoría creían que el comité de negociar no iba a luchar por mucho más.

Los obreros de Johns-Manville estan trabajando de nuevo. Se pararon al lado de los mineros de carbón que demandan beneficios de pulmón negro y el derecho a salir en huelga, con obreros de textil padeciendo de pulmón marrón, con trabajadores de hornos de coque, y con obreros químicos, y otros que estan luchando contra productos químicos peligrosos y peligros a la salud en las industrias de America.



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