Dr. Kissinger Tells The UN: "Nuclear war looms!”

BY DAVID NORTH

The threat of drastic economic sanctions and direct military action against the Arab oil producing countries has been clearly raised by President Ford and Secretary of State Kissinger in two speeches delivered last Monday.

Both Ford and Kissinger, in a meeting with leading capitalists in Detroit, Ford blamed the economic crisis in the Arab world on the brink of an economic catastrophe of unprecedented dimensions, and neither man left any doubt that American imperialism would stop at nothing—not even world war—to survive this crisis.

Speaking in the United Nations, Dr. Kissinger, in an audience of silent delegats: “Nuclear catastrophe looms more plausible—whether through design or miscalculation, accident, theft or blackmail.”

At the same time, addressing a meeting of business leaders, Ford stated that a world war would result in further stabilization of the Arab world and a rise in oil prices which “inexorable prices can only distort the world economy, run the risk of a worldwide depression, and threaten the breakdown of world order and security.”

In an ominous passage, Ford declared: “Throughout history nations have gone to war over national advantages such as water or food, or convenient passages on land or sea.”

In their attempts to blame the crisis on American capitalism of the Arab countries, the speeches of Ford and Kissinger resemble the Hitlerian diatribes of the 1920’s on the reed for German “Jewocracy.”

As Ford and Kissinger spoke, the US Commerce Department was compiling statistics that showed that this country suffered in August the worst monthly balance of trade deficit in its history: $1.1 billion. This figure surpasses the previous record of $800 million in August, 1971.

The US has already piled up a $2.1 billion balance of trade deficit for the first eight months of 1973. This figure compares with a $1.3 billion trade surplus last year.

The amount paid for imported oil and oil products during August totalled $3.5 billion, an increase of more than $100 million from July. From July to August, three times the $978 million spent on such imports in August, 1973.

But to blame the Arabs for the rise in oil prices is a reactionary imperialist fraud. The sky-rocketing oil prices—like those of all raw materials—are the product of the world inflationary crisis, not its cause.

And what did Abel propose to meet this situation? “It is up to the Ford admin-

Steel Delegates Blast Abel

BY A REPORTER

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J.—The 17th Constitutional Convention of the United Steelworkers, which opened Monday, has been a grotesque display of the utter bankruptcy of the trade union bureaucracy in the face of the worst economic crisis in history.

Both I.W. Abel, president of the union, and George Meany, president of the AFL-CIO, told the delegates in their separate addresses that the United States stands on the brink of a depression.

But neither man, who between them represent 20 million workers, had any policies to pose outside of further collaboration with the Ford government to help make capitalism work.

Although there were no provisions—even an agenda—to guarantee any real discussion of union policies, delegates who spoke from the floor denounced the Executive Negotiating Agreement (ENA) and the deterioration of working conditions in the mills.

A Canadian delegate from local 1066 was applauded when he stated that he was “our right to strike was taken away from steel-workers by a few hundred delegates.”

Another delegate received an ovation when he attacked the collective bargaining process of ENA as “collective begging.”

There was no opportunity for delegates to vote directly on ENA. All resolutions directly in opposition to Abel had been previously removed from the resolution booklet.

But the stage-managed proceedings and the orchestrated hymns by goons and bureau-crats to Abel’s infallibility cannot cover up the enormous crisis of the leadership. Everything Abel said about the crisis revealed his own fright and paralysis. He stated: “Brothers and sisters, this economy of ours is in a downhill slide. You know it as well as I do.”

“No issue today is as critical as the economic mess that generated today’s inflation and tomorrow’s unemployment. If raging inflation and spreading unemployment are not halted, both the United States and Canada will be plunged into a depression and no working person’s job or standard of living will be safe.”

And what did Abel propose to meet this situation? “It is up to the Ford Ad-

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The statements by Ford and Kissinger on the oil crisis and the Middle East give the clear indication that this economic crisis poses depression and world war.

Only our policies for nationalization of industry without compensation under workers control can defend the working class from these attacks. These pose the urgent necessity of a party of the working class to carry through the fight for a socialist program. We must build a revolutionary leadership before it is too late. We must have the funds to take this campaign into the labor movement and to expand the Bulletin to reach the masses of workers who are already fighting back.

We appeal to every member, reader, and supporter to push forward with our Fund Drive to meet our goals in full and on time. Send checks or money orders payable to Labor Publications, 15 W. 14 St., New York, NY 10013.

(Continued On Page 12)
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“Nuclear war...”

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Oil prices must rise because the withdrawal of gold backing to the dollar in August 1971 by Richard Nixon transformed paper currency into so much worthless paper. The controlled inflation of the postwar period (1945-1971) has given way to three years of uncontrolled inflation.

The rise in oil prices and the staggering drain out of the Arab countries express the outcome of economic laws which neither the oil sheiks nor anyone else can control.

This economic crisis threatens millions with starvation, fascism, and war unless the working class puts an end to capitalism through the social revolution.

The international prospects for capitalism were described with icy clarity by Dr. Kissinger: “We have long lived in a world where the consequences of our failures were manageable. In the new world where local conflicts were contained, nuclear weapons threatened primarily those nations which possessed them, and the cycle of economic growth and decline seemed primarily a national concern.”

The world is quite the case; we confront a fundamentally changed situation. It is no longer possible to believe that conflicts, weapons and recession will not spread.

He stated that the world is in one of the “brief moments when an old order is giving way to a new pattern of order and decay. But, also of opportunity for fresh creation.”

No doubt Kissinger had in mind one of his favorite “creations”: the fascist junta in Chile.

Directing his comments toward American policy in the Middle East, Kissinger warned that “tolerance in local conflict tempers world holocaust. We have no guarantee that some local crisis—perhaps the next—will not explode beyond control.”

Kissinger added: “The world is poised on the brink of a return to the 1930s and we should be stimulate the nationalism which accompanied the collapse of economic order in the 1930s and, that should occur, all would suffer—poor as well as rich, producer as well as consumer. “Many nations will not be able to withstand the pace and the poorer could be overwhelmed. The complex, fragile structure of global economic equilibrium could collapse.”

Our Fund Drive total to date is $754,19.

We must step up the campaign for funds at once. Although we are still at the beginning of our fund drive, we cannot allow it to fall behind a single day. We must raise $19,127.67 by next week to meet our goal of one-third by September 30.

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Rockefeller Stranglehold

BY JEFF SEBASTIAN

The Senate Rues Competition on the nomination of Nelson Aldrich Rockefeller as Vice President represent a colossal white- whale of Wall Street power and influence of the Rockefeller family empire.

For Rockefeller, obviously we have a lot to gain in the knowledge that his Senate interrogators would not ask too many embarrassing questions, an opportunity to portray himself as a moderately wealthy man whose family interests had been greatly exaggerated.

He would, of course, explain, 'I hope that the myth or misconception about the extent of the family's wealth and control over the economy of this country will be totally dispelled and exposed and dissipated.'

For weeks the debate has been raging over the question of whether Rockefeller trusts for himself, his wife and children.

This includes a average income over the last ten years of $4 million, automobiles, boats, airplanes, real estate, jewelry, coins and art collection estimated at $25 million, holdings in some 90 corporations.

A worker clearing $10,000 a year after a lot of overtime would have to put in 21,000 years on the assembly line to amass such a personal fortune.

But even if Rockefeller forgot to count a few gold coins lying about in his Fifth Avenue duplex or on a parking space somewhere on his 3,000 acre Pocantico Hills estate, the extent of his wealth is absolutely nothing to do with the power exercised by the Rockefeller Dynasty.

The real extent of the family's power lies in its control in secrecy which the Senate will do nothing to expose. It is exercise of this power in control of vast blocks of capital which give the family the decisive word in an array of banking, insurance companies and multinational corporations affecting the lives of virtually every person on earth.

The family has dominating interests in banking, oil, insurance, retail sales, food, communications, electronics and aerospace, real estate, hospital, and even more fields too wide to even measure.

The family fortune is pooled to provide an enormous clout through more than 75 trust funds, an array of tax-exempt foundations and the Rockefeller Corporation, the holding company occupying 24 acres in Manhattan including 21 skyscrapers and estuaries worth an estimated $1 billion. Although many of the trusts and foundations such as the Ford Foundation with assets of nearly $1 billion and the Rockefeller Brothers Fund with assets of over a quarter billion bear the family name, dozens of others operate with dummy names and no obvious connection to the family.

It is through these institutions that the Rockefellers dominate major corporations. Modern corporations are run by the major shareholders. Possession of a very small percentage of stock is sufficient to provide control. This gives the large shareholders a leverage over billions in assets.

It is in this that the Rockefellers control the Standard Oil empire. They have the largest block of Exxon stock as well as effective control over Mobil, Amoco and Standard of California.

Through control of the Chase Manhattan, together with Chairman David Rockefeller and assets estimated at $8 billion last year, they dominate the globe.

A Senate study released in 1968 showed that the bank had direct or indirect holdings worth $8.5 billion in assets. Northwest Airlines, Eastern Airlines, CBS, NBC, America Life, Security Stores, Sperry Rand, Reynolds Metals and the Intermountain Express represent only a few of the giants directly controlled by Rockefeller family interests.

Through its power over credit, Chase representatives sit on the boards of the major banks in the world and direct the flow of credit into the corporations.

In the oil field interests the Rockefellers operate in Aramco which owns tens of thousands of square miles of Arabian oil land. Chase Manhattan prop up the apartheid regime of South Africa tugs away at its market in Latin America Rockefeller holdings in oil, land, and mineral extraction are enormous.

With its banking and oil interests alone the Rockefellers are in a position to exert a stranglehold on the world economy.

Rockefeller's promise to place his holdings in a blind trust is simply absurd. There is not an area in the world where the Rockefeller interests are not involved and threatened.

The movement of the Arab masses is a direct threat to the Rockefeller oil interests. The collapse of the Portuguese empire in Africa imperils their vast South African holdings. The strike in Chile is putting into action a number of Rockefeller enterprises. The worldwide credit and inflation crisis places the Rockefeller banking interests in the very center of the decisions to restrict credit and force a wave of bankruptcies and mass unemployment.

It is precisely the world financial crisis which forces capitalism to prepare counter-revolution on a world scale.

CIVIL WAR

The decision to place Nelson Rockefeller with Vice President Ford represents a new and dangerous stage in the struggle for control of the world by the Rockefeller family empire.

The most powerful representative directly in power in order to prepare for counter-revolution and civil war.

The nomination of Rockefeller is a warning to the working class of the urgency with which it must prepare for power through the construction of a labor party.

French Company Occupied

BY A REPORTER

2700 French workers are continuing the occupation of the three plants of Tintin Coder which went bankrupt on September 16.

The collapse of Tintin Coder, a major manufacturer of railroad equipment, is one of the largest corporate concerns in the increasing wave of bankruptcies in French industry.

On September 20, the union federations represented at Tintin Coder held two demonstrations against the threatened closing, one outside Paris that brought 700 workers and smaller one in Marseilles.

At the same time, in Angouleme, 1200 demonstrated in support of the occupation of La Prairie, a manufacturer of tents, caravans and boats, which laid off 130 workers.

On September 18, a massive march that swelled to 5000 people for the time the occupied city hall was held in Mau- ber- berge in support of the Tintin Coder struggle.

The trade union leaders are supporting the occupation but are seeking to lead it into a blind alley. In their discussions with local and national government officials, they have demanded Renault, the auto manufacturer, take over and operate the three plants, Renault, however, has made it clear that if it does take control, it would not guarantee the jobs and would probably convert it to some other kind of production.

WILDFIRE

This occupation is just the beginning of a wave of factory occupations that will spread like wildfire throughout the country as the international trade war and recession drives French industry under.

The Stalinist leadership of the CGT (General Federation of Labor) refuses to take a fight against the bankruptcy of the capitalist system that is at the heart of these closures and thus turns the revolution into a futile protest.

What these occupations pose is that workers must nationalize and control industry under a workers government. This is now the burning issue facing workers throughout Europe.

British Ford Workers Walk Out

BY FRANK MARTIN

The refusal of 1800 Ford workers in Britain to return to work in direct defiance of the Social Contract agreed to between the Labor government and the trade unions.

The press shop workers have been on strike at Ford's two giant complexes at Dagenham and Halewood for over two weeks. They are demanding a 9.20 per week increase. Their strike has picked the layoff of 15,000 workers.

When Ford promised to reopen wage talks with all its employees, the press shop workers refused to abandon their claim, which falls outside the Social Contract. At the same time, 4000 workers at a mass meeting in Dagenham demanded a National Stewards Conference to take the measures to prevent mass layoffs due to the slump in the car industry.

The refusal of the Ford workers to accept the Social Contract has created major problems for TWU (Transport Workers Union) Labor Party bureaucrats who are in the middle of the strike campaign for the October 10 election.

Wilson has staked everything on the possibility to police the wage demands of the union and, in that way, save British capitalism. The Labor Party election manifesto states this explicitly:

"At the heart of our program to save the nation lies the social contract between the Labor government and the trade unions, an idea derived from our enemies, but certain to become widely accepted by those who genuinely believe in government by the people, for the people."

Although the labor leaders reject an open coalition with the two capitalist parties, the Tories and the Liberals, what they really propose is a coalition based on policies that corre-

Code: 6432

Ford Dagenham workers at a mass meeting.

What Justice For Claude Reese Means

The real architects of this violence are those who give the police their orders—the Ford and Rockefeller government, the Democrats as well as the Republicans who speak for big business.

This government fears the strength of the working class which is in a struggle against soaring inflation, the destruction of its right to a job and the attempts to take away its basic right to organize.

Every act of repression like the murder of Claude Reese is not an isolated act but exposes the police state measures the government is preparing against millions of workers, both black and white.

The fight against police terror requires the unity of the working class with the youth in a political struggle against this government to build a labor party that represents the interests of the working class, independent of the Democrats and Republicans.

All workers must demand their unions call a Congress of Labor to build this party now and fight for:

10 hours work at 40 hours pay to provide jobs
Nationalize all basic industries and banks under workers control
Full cost of living protection in every contract
Restoration of all cutbacks and a crash program to provide funds for housing, education, and other programs

The labor movement must not only launch a full inquiry into Claude Reese’s murder but they must take the lead in organizing workers’ defense guards in the neighborhood.

The nationalistic Congress of African Peoples headed by Imamu Baraka from Newark, New Jersey has come into Brownsville for one purpose—to divert the struggle and prevent youth from turning in a revolutionary direction.

Baraka has a long history in Newark of deepening racial divisions and directly working for the capitalist politicians.

In Newark, Baraka gave support to Gibson, a black Democrat for Mayor. Three weeks ago, it was Gibson who ordered the police to bust up a demonstration against police brutality and then occupy the black and Puerto Rican neighborhoods.

Last year, when fights broke out in the high schools between black and white youth, Baraka joined together with right wing racist Anthony Imperiale to “cool” things off.

Baraka has sought to bring the Ad Hoc Committee in Brownsville under his control, to stifle any political discussion and to drive out most of the housewives, workers and youth who originally participated in it.

His proposal for an all-black police precinct in Brownsville “under the control of the people” is completely reactionary. This will not stop repression any more than the election of a black mayor in Newark did.

The only force to whom Baraka could turn in the September 25 demonstration he organized for City Hall were some of the gangs, the most backward and anti-working class elements who attempted to provoke an incident with their “hate white” rhetoric. This rally was directed against the working class, both black and white, and only a very small number of youth turned up for it.

The nationalists stand for the division of the working class and the acceptance and maintenance of the capitalist system which breeds poverty and racism. The Young Socialists and Workers League came to the City march in order to fight to unite black, white, and Spanish-speaking workers and youth in a revolutionary movement against this system.

An election rally for the Workers Party is scheduled to be held in Brownsville on September 28, to fight for the building of a labor party as the only alternative to the Democrats and Republicans and the police terror they are unleashing.

Our aim in this election campaign is to build the revolutionary leadership to unite the working class against every attack on its rights and conditions by the government and to lead the struggle against the capitalist system.
Boston Cops Aid Racists In School Fight

BY A REPORTER
BOSTON, Mass.—The anti-busing campaign here is changing rapidly and deepening its impact, posing tremendous dangers to the entire working class.

Columbia Point, a black housing project located on a peninsula in Dorchester adjacent to South Boston, has been cordoned off by police, who watch all cars entering and exiting the project. Residents, telling how cars full of whites have driven through the project shooting racial insults and firing shots, have formed their own security guard.

Buses carrying children from the project were stoned. The gunman has come from cars driven through the project and from nearby suburbs. The police dispute these statements, and claim that the shots were fired from the projects at the police cars patrolling the area.

At the same time, October 24 was declared "A Day of Prayer" in Charlestown and middle-class West Roxbury, both predominantly white areas not directly affected by Judge Arthur Garrity's busing order. Students were kept out of classes in sympathy with the anti-busing demonstrations in South Boston, and attended religious services instead of school. On the day before, over 400 students boycotted school in Charlestown and about 100 students held a march up to the Bunker Hill monument.

At the top, they were met by a squadron of mounted police who drove them back down the hill. A teacher stated, "It's repression. There's no need of this."

In the face of this situation, the Boston Teachers Union has only petitioned for a "Bicural, Parent and Teacher" to make an integration work.

Busing has been used to split the working class and divert the against the budget cuts and deteriorating conditions in every school. The Ford and Rockefeller government is behind the scheme of the KKK as they prepare more inflation and unemployment to drive back and destroy the labor movement.

The trade unions must act to defend youth against the racist attacks and the police. The Boston Workers League and Young Socialists will hold a meeting of workers and youth to form a following program:

- "Cops out of the schools! Trade unions must set up defense guards to protect youth!"
- "Stop the budget cuts!"
- "Call a Congress of Labor to build a labor party to fight for full employment and the defense of living standards!"

Data Processing Workers Without Contract

BY A LOCAL 2827 MEMBER
NEW YORK, Sept. 25—The City of New York is refusing to bargain with data processing workers in Local 2827, District Council 37 of the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees, which has been without a contract since July 25.

At the first bargaining session held with Local 2827 on September 20, the City simply replied to the demands and set the next session for October 21.

Local 2827 is demanding a two year contract with a full cost of living escalator clause, a 46 percent wage hike, ironclad guarantees against layoffs, and tightened-up work rules. The local is also fighting to get the city to give and promptly grade Civil Service exams and promptly appoint workers from the top of the Civil Service lists.

Although these demands were approved unanimously at a membership meeting in June, the 2827 officials have done nothing to force the City to bargain.

President Dennis Weiscope is trying to divert the members into useless demonstrations over only a part of the contract—to get Civil Service tests graded and workers appointed to Civil Service jobs.

A victory on any of the issues facing different titles within the local is possible only through a fight to unite all data processing workers to win the whole contract, since the loss of City revenue and the layoff of provisional workers begun this summer is affecting every city worker.

The membership meeting planned for October 24 must make the local's delegation to District Council 37 to fight for strike sanction from DC 37, set a strike date, and win pledges of support from other locals. The delegates must be mandated to fight for reopening of all DC 37 contracts to win full cost of living protection, job security, and a 20 percent per year pay increase.

On Monday, September 25, Ira Hartzoff, a member of the 2827 negotiating committee, was suspended for five days without pay, allegedly for not keeping an accurate time sheet.

The Teamster administration has refused to pay the $300 owed each computer operator for over a year. Many workers wait six or more months before receiving overtime pay.

IBM 370 computers at the Human Resources Administration's main installation at 2 Broadway are being run with only one-third the needed staff.

A new timekeeping system is being started at 2 Broadway, requiring computer personnel to account for every hour of their work day. This information will be fed into the computer itself and used to increase work loads.

Workday

The Human Resources Administration is now attempting to implement an 8 to 5 pm workday, plus Saturday work, on Local 351 caseworkers, Local 1548 aids, and other workers in welfare centers. Local 351 is also under attack as the city tries to merge case loads in the Bureau of Child Welfare and speed up probation workers to generate more caseloads to be handled by Child Welfare employees.

New York City is going bankrupt. The Beame Team has just pledged nearly $3,000,000 in interest to a consortium of banks in order to borrow $400,000,000 for one year. This interest is being paid instead of workers salaries.

Mayor Beame's "balanced" budget of June 30 is now turned into a vicious attack on every city worker by the deepening economic crisis. City income is being cut as inflation and the slowdown in business bite into tax revenue. Welfare rolls are rising along with unemployable people.

A new leadership must be built in DC 37 which will lead city workers against the effects of inflation and the deepening recession. The fight for union endorsements of the Workers Party candidates in the Brooklyn Congressional elections is now a critical part of building a labor party to throw out the Republicans and Democrats and to nationalize basic industry—including the banks—under workers control.
Interview with a member of the Workers Internationalist League, Greek section of the International Committee of the Fourth International.

The Stalinnists said that the events at the Athens Polytechnic were just an accumulation of things that had happened before, a gradual development. Therefore, they reasoned that if we start with petty demands, eventually we will overthrow the junta and establish socialism.

The Stalinnists physically deserted the movement of students and workers. They instructed their cadres not to intervene. They didn’t even put out any leaflets or anything.

ATTACKED

They attacked the slogan for a general strike, saying that it was the work of agents. Their policy was to support the occupation of the Polytechnic but we have nothing to do with it.

They sought to sow illusions in the working class with the slogan “faction is dying today.”

The most critical factor in the Polytechnic events was the lack of leadership. Our comrades were few and couldn’t influence the masses. We supported the general strike slogans and called on the Communist Party to break with the bourgeoisie.

Amidst a lot of confusion, the centrist were able to dominate. The student upsurge raised the question of power which could not, however, be solved in the Polytechnic.

This powerful movement of the working class terriorized the junta and aggragated their splits. After one week, Gikitsos overthrew Papadopoulos. The ruling class was at an impasse and didn’t have any long term plans.

There was a section of the army ruling class backing Gikitsos which didn’t like to mix politics and economics. They were against the Papadopoulos regime’s relations with the United States.

The changed economic situation of the junta and the thinking of the military. A section of them saw themselves as a caste with certain privileges but inflation prevented them from keeping up with the way of life they were accustomed to. This aggravation and sharpening of the class struggle was also reflected in the ranks.

All the plans of the ruling class were smashed by the events at the Polytechnic. They tried to avoid further confrontations by seeking to implement popular measures, such as subsidizing food.

They were no longer interested in trying to plan out long-term policies and this turn to short-term maneuvers undermined the economy even more.

REPRESSIVE

In order to try and head off the working class, a wide range of repressive measures were carried out against the leadership of the working class. Five of our comrades were arrested and members of the Central Committee of the Communist Party and all the Maoists.

The so-called democratization plan which was begun in August 1973 when political prisoners were granted amnesty then ended up in these arrests in November 1973.

The splits in the ruling class, internationally were aggragated by the oil crisis. Every country was out for itself.

The discovery of oil in the Aegean Sea led to further friction between Turkey and Greece, but there was a political impasse because of the splits in the army and the Greek ruling class.

The events in Cyprus exposed the weaknesses of the Greek dictatorship. The plans of the ruling class were interrupted by the working class.

Makarios represented the last of the independent third world figures. The United States backed direct control in the Middle east as a staging post to the Arab revolution. They tried to extend the Greek dictatorship to Cyprus.

INVASION

However, they didn’t anticipate the Turkish invasion. With the American ruling class split over Watersgate, the Greek ruling class was helpless.

There was a breakdown in the military. Officers were running guns to other countries and pocketing the money. The army was not disciplined and beat up officers to demand better food, shelter. Soldiers walked out of their barracks and deserted without retaliation.

Everyone blamed these conditions on the class and therefore would not go to war against Turkey for the junta. The cabinet just disappeared.

There was an absolute collapse. The president (General Gizikis) overthrew the Macintosh (Papadopoulos)— this became a very popular expression.

Caramanlis was forced to go from a political government. The junta was blamed for everything and the call for “national unity” and cooperation was issued. The Stalinnists were the first to oblige.

The Stalinnists demanded to be included in the government. This sowed tremendous confusion in the reactionary Caramanlis government which seeks to do what Gikitsos and Papadopoulos couldn’t do.

The Stalinnists see this as the first real step toward democracy and create many illusions in the government. In reality, civil war is on the agenda because nothing has been solved. We must begin with the international crisis and recognize it.

We must construct the Fourth International in Greece. There are great opportunities and tremendous ferment in the working class.

We must have a youth movement in Greece to reach all the youth who’ve been disgusted by the Stalinnists.

The main point is to train cadres in the unions, among the students, everywhere. The working class will come forward but there is a danger of liquidating into this movement and not fighting the backwardness and confusion in the working class.

It’s not just a question of being more militant in the Stalinnists. We must develop transitional demands to expose the Stalinnists. We were the only ones who supported the policy of revolutionary defeatism: to turn the war into a civil war against the Greek military.

The training of cadres can’t take place outside of developing our newspaper and building a youth movement.

The Stalinnists have always been the traditional leadership of the Greek working class—there was no other.

CYPRUS

Greece was a setback for US imperialism. We must see from this that the ruling class does not have the initiative all the time.

Things do not go according to preconceived plans but are determined by the struggle of classes. The working class has the strength but has backward thinking.

The same international crisis which split the Greek ruling class also split the American ruling class, making it hard for the US to intervene in the Greek events. We must understand these events from an international viewpoint.

The moves to “democratization” were a maneuver to break the isolation of the Greek junta from sections of the ruling class.

Caramanlis was forced to walk out of NATO because the Greek ruling class feels betrayed by the US government’s role concerning Cyprus.

We can’t be misled by the temporary measures of the ruling class toward democratization, we can’t see things in a hasty way. We must prepare for civil war.

CONFUSES

If you have the Stalinnists in the government, it means they are accepting responsibility for the economic situation and this position confuses and splits the working class. The Stalinnists, for example, could be used to break strikes.

The Stalinnists must come out openly against the working class, denouncing “wreckers” and “extremists” who fight for the independence of the working class from the capitalists.

There is a very real danger of a fascist movement developing. We could have another Chile if a popular unity government is built.

In Chile the crisis broke out under a popular unity government. In Greece, it was the opposite. The crisis broke out under dictatorship and that’s why they had to move toward “democratization.” They had to try and provide a channel for the people’s hatred of the junta.

Everyone was united against the junta, but this is very dangerous as the developments in Chile showed clearly that the working class must fight, independently of all sections of the ruling class.

In Chile, the popular unity government accepted responsibility for the economic crisis which was not theirs. The Communist Party in Chile participated in this betrayal.

With Caramanlis in power, it is now the Greek ruling class itself which is in power, not a CIA plant, and the Stalinnists are ready to help. Whatever happens in Greece will affect all of the Mediterranean and the workers of the Balkans. All the developments of the international crisis are expressed here.
INTRODUCTION

Victimization at Cowley, a pamphlet published by the Workers Revolutionary Party of Britain and which we now reprint as a series, is the story of the struggle for principles within the British labor movement under conditions of the deepening world economic crisis. The book is a manual for American trade unionists as well as for trade unionists in all countries who now face the same attacks, which stem from the international character of the crisis.

This pamphlet is the story of the struggle of Alan Thornett, a member of the Workers Revolutionary Party, who together with other leading trade unionists fought to defend auto workers in the largest industrial combine in England. Because of this fight, he became a victim of management. It is the story of how that victimization failed due to the principle struggle waged by Thornett and his supporters.

The great importance of these events lies in the fact that the trade unions, Thornett fought at every point to defeat the trade unions from attempting to divide the working class and the government to undermine the unions. He understood that these attempts were being made and he led a campaign to defeat management. For these reasons, the defense of the trade unions could be led only by those who grasped the crisis and were prepared to fight the all way through for socialist policies.

This is why Thornett and the Workers Revolutionary Party have a history of struggle within Leyland which is principled. Thornett led the resistance to Measured Day Work (MDW) in the British Leyland car manufacturing plant in England. MDW was finally forced through, but Thornett was in the leadership of the struggle to defeat the trade unions under these severe conditions.

The answer was to be carried out at every point to educate a leadership in the factory in Marxism, a leadership prepared for the tasks posed by a revolutionary period such as we are now entering.

American readers must understand this struggle within the framework of the somewhat different situation of unions in England. There is usually more than one single union within a major industry. These unions coordinate their work through various committees. However, the shop stewards have considerably more influence than shop stewards in American unions.

As the pamphlet explains, piece work was introduced in British industry as a way of speeding up workers in an earlier period. But the price the capitalists were forced to pay for this change was the huge amount of work that shop stewards were required to do to negotiate any changes in what is produced and which might affect the piece rates.

Through this mechanism, the shop stewards were able to have a decisive influence over workers' wages and production conditions and achieved for a period relatively high wages and decent working conditions, particularly in the auto industry in the boom period.

Today, the capitalists are struggling to do away with this piece rate system and to weaken the shop stewards, paid up line, and lower the standard of living of the workers. They do this by introducing Americanizing techniques. This is the same MDW. This historical situation determines the form of class struggle discussed in these articles.

In every other respect, it is a struggle now familiar to millions of American workers. In this country, workers were able to achieve certain gains and working conditions through the power of a single industrial union covering a whole factory and, as in the case of the UAW, a whole industry with a master contract. These unions were formed more recently and suffered the great slowdowns of the 1930s. Today, these contracts have become, in the hands of labor bureaucrats, straight-jackets binding the workers, while working conditions worsen and living standards are slashed.

Under this specific form of trade union struggle, a Marxist leadership can't rely on the traditional approach. A Marxist leadership is a task of learning from the struggle of the UAW and the UAW by itself, the experience of the UAW and the experience of management. This task falls to the International Committee of the Fourth International of which the Workers Revolutionary Party is a part, and which the Workers League supports.

FOREWORD

Since the victimization of Alan Thornett, the subject of this pamphlet—the economic crisis has transformed the situation within the British-Leyland combination. Leyland is in the grip of the recession. Few workers have any illusions. The future they face will be one of struggle against layoffs and speedup on the assembly line. As this foreword is written, management at the company's Cowley plant in Oxford, the scene of the victimization, is engaged in a work-study and speedup program which is threatening layoffs of at least 20 percent.

It is already clear to thousands of workers that it is not enough to fight layoffs and speedup on the assembly line. They are determined to fight and win a new and substantial class war.

It is the responsibility of the Workers Revolutionary Party to fight on the maximum political and economic principles necessary to win a decisive victory over management. The Workers Revolutionary Party has already fought on these principles in defense of workers' rights and the struggle for socialism. In the coming period, this struggle must be taken up in a new form, with new methods and new tactics.

The Workers Revolutionary Party has already taken the lead in this fight. The Workers Revolutionary Party has already taken the lead in this fight. In the coming period, this struggle must be taken up in a new form, with new methods and new tactics.

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Alan Thornett
British Leyland and the Crisis
Chronology of important dates
January 14, 1971
British Leyland force in measured day work at Cowley.
December 1971
Thornett and senior stewards negotiate mutuality clause.
March 21, 1974
Widespread speedup in south side assembly.
April 5
Strikers receive sack threat from company.
April 6
Strikers vote to go back against advice of senior stewards.
April 9
Plant shut down over strike in transport section.
April 10
Management withdraws recognition from Thornett.
April 16
Transport section say they will not return until Thornett recognized.
April 17
Leyland chiefs tell national officials Thornett stays victimized.
April 22
Transport drivers vote to stay out.
April 23
First demonstration by Miller outside Cowley plant.
April 24
Second demonstration by Miller. Company re-call workers.
April 25
Transport drivers vote to stay out.
April 29
Transport drivers go back and demand official backing. Vote of confidence in Thornett at 5/65 branch meeting.
April 30
Special branch meeting at Town Hall breaks up in chaos.
May 6
Region 5 inquiry into allegations against Thornett begins.
May 23
Region 5 inquiry published.
June 4
Senior steward, and deputy senior stewards election at Cowley.
June 5
Leyland Lift victimization on Thornett, announced by National Organizer of the Transport and General Workers Union, Moses Evans.
Thornett brigade, lost and the key post of chairman passed to a man who was known to have stood by Thornett during the period of greatest isolation, Cy Blake. In addition there is every indication that the policies of the 5/55 branch will be just as progressive as those of the 5/55 branch which has been the center of resistance to speedup and layoffs at Cowley.

This outcome is also a condemnation of the activities of the International Marxist Group, who are the subject of Chapter six. Their handful of members in the Cowley plant concluded before the elections for the new branch that trade unionism at Cowley was "in complete disarray." Their so-called "faceless bulletin"—in fact a duplicated sheet called The Organizer—stated on July 1: "We have no policies, no unity, and no leadership maneuvering for advantage instead of fighting the layoffs and speedup we all know are coming."

This objectivism is a direct result of the IMG's method. Like all middle-class groups they exist on surface impressions (impressionism), are dominated by the appearance of the bourgeoisie and the trade union bureaucracy and always fail to grasp the transformation of the class struggle caused by the development of the crisis itself.

Leyland would have undoubtedly liked to give the right-wing a breathing space. But the crisis made this impossible. After Thornett's successful fight against victimization the company had to proceed immediately to launch the attack against the whole labor force. This has enabled many workers at Cowley to understand the real purpose behind the offensive on Thornett and the plant leadership. The crisis and its direct impact on Leyland's had created a new situation favorable for a development of consciousness.

But this development was not spontaneous. It could not have taken place without the determined stand taken by the leading stewards against workers caught up in the witch-hunt—a stand taken under the most difficult conditions, where the danger of further victimization was always present.

It was the conscious practice of this leadership that was decisive. The leadership stood on its policy, which was to warn the workers that the crisis—no matter what the company said—would mean layoffs. It explained that the victimization of Thornett raised the whole issue of the future of trade unionism at Cowley and it avoided futile gestures and adventures which would only have allowed the company to sack Thornett and a group of militant workers.

It was leadership that also carried out a successful fight against the trade union bureaucrats who virtually abandoned Thornett and his transport section to the witch-hunt. In other words the transformation at Cowley required an opposite to pose the real questions facing the working class.

Its principal weapon was its ability to analyze the contradictory development of the class struggle in the plant, not to be panicked by the witch-hunt, but to understand that workers in the right-wing camp could be transformed by events into defenders of the trade unions and, above all, to fight for and anticipate this transformation.

This method requires the sharpest changes and a continuous struggle to avoid an abstract conception of the class war. One of the most important steps in the Cowley effort was the united effort to raise money for a return to work among the transport section who were striking for the reinstatement of Thornett at their shop steward. To many viewers this seemed a shocking course of action, yet it was this move that was decisive in preventing the company from achieving its objective.

Another rapid turn was the decision to fight for leadership in the new branch—a branch that had all the appearances of being a creature of the right wing. But it is now emerging as a powerful instrument for the working class—not at all w that the company expected or the bureaucracy intended.

These stages of the struggle are covered in detail in the pamphlet. Without a completely flexible and principled approach to the fight at Cowley based on a socialist understanding of the class struggle and its contradictory development, an ability to anticipate transformations and, above all, an understanding that the working class must take up the issues posed by the crisis, the struggle could not possibly have been won.

This is the Marxist leadership the Workers Revolutionary Party sets itself the task to build throughout the entire labor and trade union movement.

The economic crisis of capitalism poses the construction of a socialist society in which land and industry and the banks must be nationalized without compensation and under workers' control. But to achieve this, the building of the Workers Revolutionary Party is required. Only the WRP poses this historic task before the working class and fights to train a leadership to carry it through.
VICTIMIZATION AT COWLGY
by stephen johns

INTRODUCTION

Victimization at Cowlcy, a pamphlet published by the Workers Revolutionary Party (WRP) in February 1971, deals with the struggle of Britain's largest workers' cooperative, Cowlcy, and its struggle to maintain its cooperative identity. The pamphlet outlines the history of the cooperative, its achievements, and the challenges it faced. It also provides a comprehensive analysis of the struggle within the cooperative and outlines the lessons that can be learned from it.

Chronology of Important dates

January 14, 1971: British Leyland force in measured-day work at Cowley.

December 71: Thornton and senior stewards negotiate a mutual agreement.

March 21, 1974: Widespread strike action in south side assembly.

April 5: Strikers receive sack threat from company.

April 9: Thornton and senior stewards vote to strike in support of workers.

April 15: Management withdraws recognition from Thornton.

April 17: Leyland chiefs tell national officials Thornton stays victimized.

April 22: Transport workers vote to strike out.

April 23: Second demonstration by Miller. Company re-call workers.

April 28: Transport workers vote to stay out.

April 29: Transport drivers go back and demand official backing.

May 3: Region 6 inquiry into allegations against Thornton begins.

May 23: Region 6 inquiry published.

June 4: Senior steward, and deputy senior stewards elected at Cowlcy.

June 5: Leylands victimization on Thornton, announced by National Organizer of the Transport and General Workers Union, Moss Evans.

FOREWORD

Steer the victimization of Alan Thornton—the subject of this pamphlet—the economic crisis has transformed the situation within the British-Leyland combine. Leyland is in the grip of the recession. Few workers have any illusions. The future they face is not the one they dreamed of. There will be one struggle against layoffs and speedups on the assembly line. As this foresaw was written, management at the company's Cowley plant in Oxford, the scene of the victimization, was preparing a series of work-study and speedup programs which push the assembly line still faster in an attempt to outstrip the German and American competition. In the pamphlet, we will outline the nature of this struggle and its implications.

It is already clear to thousands of workers in Cowley that British-Leyland's refusal to recognize Thornton as a shop steward is an essential precondition for no one workers' rights. This conflict has the potential for defining the role of the trade unions in the future. It is clear that the future of the trade unions will depend on the outcome of this struggle. The pamphlet will outline the strategies that management is using to defeat the workers and the tactics that we believe the workers can use to win.

We believe that the pamphlet will be useful to all workers who are facing similar situations in their own workplaces. It is clear that the workers in Cowley are not alone in their struggle. This pamphlet will provide an outline of the struggle and its implications for all workers who are facing similar situations.

TO BE CONTINUED

July 23, 1971

British Leyland workers coming back after meeting.
Green Berets vs Indians

BY CYNTHIA BLAKE

The open military invasion of Wounded Knee is just one aspect of an anti-Indian military program that poses grave dangers to the entire American working class.

Since American troops began to be forced out of Vietnam, military planners—particularly the Special Forces or Green Berets—have been rapidly attempting to use reservation lands and surrounding areas for training maneuvers.

In this way, the Pentagon’s guerrilla units receive training that is highly relevant to the revolutionary struggles of people all over the world, and at the same time prepare for attacks on the Indians and all American workers.

The operations are based on the same “pacification” techniques that are used in ‘the nands and the hearts of the people.” Major General Henry E. Emerson, who commands the JPK Center for Military Assistance, the Green Beret Training Camp, says that their activity among the Indians “allows us to practice organizing support among indigenous people, which is needed in almost every way.”

At the Penasco reservation in Maine, intelligence gathering took the form of door to door “medical surveys.” Officers from the Fort Bragg Special Forces Center visited Indian organizations in New Mexico to ask how they could help “develop their communities.” Another team from the John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center in North Carolina was sent to Albuquerque to survey communities and said they were “generally finding ways Green Beret men could relate to the Indians.”

They said they were authorized to offer military road equipment, transportation, and medical resources and funds.

The northern Cheyenne mountain range was also used as a training area to report that the teams compiled dossiers on the tribal government, dissidents, cultural strengths and weaknesses, and personal relationships in the community.

In 1975, they had actually drawn up plans to train counter-insurgency agents by paramilitary groups in Mexico to apply to practice medical procedures. The advance man explained that “the community can see the people who are protecting them, these Special Forces. You can sleep better at night, as the saying goes.” They even offered to deliver babies for the town-women.

Indian youth are actively recruited into the Special Forces to work on special “dark-complexioned” teams. 24-year-old David Bepay detected and told UPI reporter John Leahight that his team had been sent by the CIA to kill three leaders of Al Farabi, the Palestinian resistance organization, and make it look like the work of Israelis.

Former members of these teams figure largely among the special units of US Marshals that have been sent to Wounded Knee to break up the occupation.

Anti-Indian training is also used in preparing National Guardsmen. Near Fort Lewis, Washington, where Indians have been fighting to defend their fishing rights, a special training battle was set up to resemble conditions at Wounded Knee.

This military program must be seen in the context of the tremendous class confrontation that is developing in the working class back to conditions worse than the 1930s.

The use of special intelligence teams within the unions and paramilitary terrorists by the state have already been documented in Britain.

President Ford has openly endorsed the CIA’s program of subversion against the Allende regime in Chile.

This means that the Special Forces are not just being trained for use against other nations, or against any section of American workers, but to operate in the neighborhoods and trade unions against the entire working class as the capitalists move toward dictatorship.

His church is also tied to right-wing industrial circles in Japan, Korea, and Taiwan. Every year the fanatical anticommunist Park government of Korea sends provincial officials, militia leaders, teachers and village chiefs to his training center outside Seoul for instruction.

Colonel Pak is head of the Korean Cultural Association which broadcasts Radio Free Asia (RFA) that has raised over $1 million for “Korean America” goodwill. When the North Koreans attempted to force two of his employees to register as Korean agents, a former CIA director intervened as attorney for the group to stop the prosecution. Colonel Pak is believed to have numerous contacts in the CIA.

The Federation for Victory over Communism, The Freedon Leadership Foundation in the US is its American affiliate. It puts out a right wing publication and sponsors the World Freedom Institute to train young people in the “ideological war against communism.”

It was Moon’s American church which provided the forces for pray-ins at the White House against President Nixon and as a token of his gratitude Nixon provided Reverend Moon with Federal Tax exempt status in the US.

For all the simple minded absurdity of his message, Moon cannot be taken lightly. Here is a man who preaches fanatical anticommunism, combined with a worship of America’s role as imperialistic master of the world. His appeal is conspicuously directed to the middle classes promising a new messiah and a world cleansed of all contradiction, with a perfect people raising perfect children.

That such a man mixes with the great politicians in Korea, has friends among wealthy industrialists and found easy access to the White House is no accident. The bourgeois press has to keep him in sight to publicize his movement and to avoid exposing his real connections.

With capitalism entrusting its greatest danger to the forces of nationalism and mysticism, represented by Moon that the bourgeoisie must also use to construct the right-wing and fascist movements of the future.
Teachers in Chicago Face Mass Layoffs

BY WILL ROEMER
CHICAGO, Sept. 24—A tentative contract has been reached between the Chicago Teachers Union and the Board of Education. The proposed agreement, not yet ratified by the union membership, is supposed to provide salary increases of between 4 percent and 10.3 percent depending on the job experience and training of the teacher. Teachers with 15 years experience and a bachelor’s degree are to get a 10.2 percent increase.

Other items in the contract agreement call for playing additional teachers in schools in which students have a low reading level, a dropping by the School Board of their plan to lay off 27 playground teachers and to close 12 playgrounds, and the formation of a new board-union committee to deal with student discipline.

Salary and job security are undoubtedly the two central questions facing the teachers. Last week 14 teachers were laid off at Marshall High School and only 4 of these have been recalled. Similar layoffs have occurred at Austin and Cooley High Schools. The layoff and cancelling of vocational programs at Cooley resulted in parents boycotting the school and marching down to the school board demanding the rescinding of the cutbacks.

Wildcat Hits Steel Door Contract

BY NANCY RUSSELL
YOUNGSTOWN, Ohio—Steelworkers at Youngstown Steel Door Company continue to disrupt production in protest of their recently-signed, Able-style contract.

The local union leadership secretly signed the agreement, and there is no protest of the contract expiration date. Three Wildcats have followed, as workers refuse to accept the terms at Steel Door, a manufacturer of railroad cars.

The new contract gives workers a flat 28 cent raise the first year, followed by 16 cents and 15 cents, even less than the Big Steel Strike which expired in March.

The deal was signed over the Labor Day weekend, and within two days, the plant had walked out.

UPGRADED

"It started with three painters walking out, and then the whole electrical department. The company hadn’t upgraded the hookers and councillors at all, because the company said we weren’t important enough.

But when we went out, the whole plant had to shut. Everybody’s grade here is making at least 10 cents an hour less than the mills," said Dominick Leone.

"We have been under a no-strike agreement for the last 10-11 years, that’s why it’s all a wildcat."

"It’s all the big men with the layoffs, there’s all kinds of money passing hands," said another Steel Door worker.

Every time that wildcats have happened here, the local leadership always walks back with the people back to work.

"The contract is a real blow against all Steel Door workers wages. Incentive pay has become the main issue because of tremendous inequality in rates," Dominick said.

USES

"They upgraded people in the assembly plant, now did well, some did well and some didn’t. The company uses this to play one man against another."

Rick also agreed, "The way the incentives were arranged, it was like bribing some men to the company’s position. You’ve got to watch for the company men now.

With inflation, no one makes what they should, and if you don’t have any program or anyone to stand up for the working man, you’re done.

The union leadership does the talking while we do the walking. The union tells us to get back to work and they’ll settle it later.

Meanwhile, the company is continuing to try to get more for less. Who are they to get a no-strike agreement? It’s like asking who voted for our president and vice-president?"

Putnam Tool Workers Demand Cost Of Living

BY A REPORTER
DETROIT—A cost of living clause, which the company refuses to pay, tops the list of 14 issues in the strike at the Putnam Tool Company, organized by the UAW. Putnam is a small shop which makes tools and drills mostly for use in auto production.

After the contract expired on August 23, and nothing was offered, a strike vote of 225 to 7 for not returning to work without a cost of living increase was taken. The company employs about 300.

"They said they’d close the place down before they’d give you a cost of living," one worker stated angrily. "They’re ridiculous in there. Every man in the place is at least $2.00 an hour overdue. The company has been here 22 years. They don’t give you any rate for skills, but anybody can expect you to know your skill.

The average hourly pay is $2.40 an hour, with starting pay only $3.31. Unlike the big three, there is no classification for skilled workers.

Anywhere else we’d be classified skilled trades, but not at Putnam. Most of the people in here work two jobs in order to put food on the table," Richard McWhirter explained. "I worked nine hours here, and then 4 or 5 more hours doing landscaping all summer. If we don’t get the cost of living, we can just look forward to being laid off. We can’t live on that. ‘cause that’s all we can afford to live on. We can’t stay out here as long as it takes. If the company won’t budget, neither will we."

FROZEN

"Last contract they froze us out. That was in 71, during the war," one worker said. "The company said we couldn’t strike, and the union said the same thing. I don’t think I’m doing wrong to use the Putnam Tool. If you ask Leonard Woodcock, he couldn’t tell you," another worker with 23 years seniority explained.

Thousands of UAW members in Detroit work at small shops like Putnam. Many have lost their jobs when the companies went out of business or moved away.

Graphic Arts Strikers Charged For Picketing

BY KEN WESTON
DETROIT, Sept. 23—Sixteen members of Graphic Arts Local 20-B have been issued summons charging them with participating in and "inciting others to participate in an unlawful mass picket."

Having failed to break up picketing and terrorize workers back to work, Helm Inc. is seeking an injunction to halt all picketing by members of Local 20-B who are in the 7th week of their strike for wage increase and to eliminate any cap on cost of living raises. The significance of this strike is growing as one of the most organized union-busting campaigns in Detroit in recent history.

Loraine McClure, a strike leader and one of the main names in the sewers, told the Bulletin: "Helm has ten week strike insurance and they have been four weeks left. That’s why we feel he is seeking an injunction at this point. He has to go it alone. We know they’re hurting. This warehouse because it’s block stock. They haven’t moved any of it."

Saturday morning over 50 members of the GAU Local 109, a lithographers local in Detroit, came out to walk the picket line. Henry Dillon from the Graphic Arts International also carried Local 18’s line. He told the Bulletin: "We have determined since the merger of the Lithographers and the Dock- binders Union into the GAU that there’s going to be improvement in the conditions of our members. The binders have made up their minds we’re not going to make this progress. They have decided to not have a contract at all and to get the union out."

McClure told us: "Our strike started out badly. Our business agent was called out of town and we found out our steward was on salary with the company and was involved in a profit sharing plan. In effect he was pushed out there for steward’s position by the company. He worked for the company all the time. They knew everything about us."

"Naturally if Helm should succeed, everyone of the other binders and printers would do the same thing. He’s one of the larger ones. They figure he should try first."

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Construction Industry In Crisis

The construction industry has been the hardest hit by government policies of inflation, tight money, and mass unemployment. The recent pre-summit meeting on construction bank storm shown the devastating slump now hitting the industry, which began in the area of housing and is now rapidly spreading to every aspect of construction as well. The current 15 to 17 percent construction financing rates, combined with the growing recession are leading to massive cutbacks in planned outlays for government construction, utilities projects and plant expansion.

In addition, long-term mortgage financing rates of 10 percent are making it impossible for the vast majority of workers to secure financing a home.

According to AFL-CIO estimates, about $100 billion in construction contracts were lost in 1973. The projected figure for 1974 is $97 billion. With an estimated 10 percent increase in costs over the year this means a $1 billion in the real volume of construction.

Electric utilities, for example, now plan construction of nearly $5 billion for 1974. The company eliminated $1.4 billion from its construction budget, Boston Edison $700 million, Southern California Edison $550 million, and none of these are new

New York State recently announced that all community college expansion projects are at an end and that no new schools are planned.

With a 3 percent decline of 13 percent in office buildings, skyscraper construction in New York City has virtually ceased. A survey by the American Institute of Architects indicates that permits formed by its members is down 55 percent over 1969.

But the most devastating slump is in the area of housing. At least 80 percent of real estate developers feel that construction starts for houses and apartments is now running at an annual rate of 1.3 million units, down 2.2 million in 1973.

New permits are down 43 percent over last year. The enormity of this decline can be grasped if one realizes that 700,000 units of housing a year are lost to fire, floods, demolition, etc.

It is virtually impossible to find a house for less than $50,000. It is now estimated that less than 50 percent of Air Force personnel can afford the mortgage payments of their own home. In the early 60s the figure was 70 percent.

The chances of obtaining financing are disappearing. The savings banks which have provided the lion’s share of housing loans are being forced to level massive withdrawals of funds in search of higher interest rates. In July and August over a billion dollars was withdrawn from these banks.

It is the inflation in land values and the skyrocketing interest rates that is largely responsible for the housing slump. From a 6 to 7 percent price of labor is the main determinant are refuted by the statistics.

The relative decline in labor costs compared to the escalating prices of labor, materials, and financing make it clear that the employment are subjected to an extreme squeeze on their rate of profit. To resolve this, the employers hope to use unemployment to break the power of the construction unions and increase the risk of exploitation through speedup and automated methods.

Nearly one half million construction workers are now unemployed. This is 11.1 percent of the workforce, compared to a national unemployment rate of 5.4 percent. In some areas, as much as 35 percent of construction workers are unemployed.

Fears are growing that this is only the beginning. The Home Builders Association claims that numerous firms are very close to a collapse. It must be emphasized that construction is one of the first to be hit because of its extreme vulnerability to inflation and interest rates. But the situation emerging in construction is in the future of every industry as the recession begins to bite.

While millions of American workers are forced to live in substandard housing and are unable to purchase new homes, construction workers are being told to build these homes are denied employment. This is a picture of the anarchy of the capitalist system.

The construction of the construction, materials, and credit industries under workers’ control through the building of a labor party can resolve this crisis.

by Jeff Sebastian

Bridges Joins Carveup Of San Francisco Port

BY MARTY MORAN

SAN FRANCISCO—The real purpose of Mayor Pete Wilson’s $800 million “takeover of the San Francisco port and its biggest shipping line PFEI (Pacific Far East Lines) is to get in ahead of the land grab which is now beginning.

Most of the port’s 70 piers have fallen into disuse. Three have burned to the ground in the last two years. Located close to Fisherman’s Wharf, Telegraph Hill, and downtown, the land on which the piers are built is a real estate developer’s dream.

Bidding has already opened for Pier 45, closest to Fisherman’s Wharf. Five companies that develop the piers have placed bids, one of them including Mayor Alioto’s brother, Frank, and a cousin. Most developers plan to build a huge hotel-restaurant complex.

The chief member of the committee advising the port on which bid to select was Cyril Magnin, formerly appointed by Alioto as a port commissioner, but forced out of that post because of conflict of interest.

Magnin is an executive for the Hawaii-based conglomerate Amfac, which is participating in two of the five bids Magnin is sitting in judgement on.

As this absolutely blatant corruption has come to light, Alioto has arrogantly defended it, saying that as long as everything is done out in the open he has the right to do anything he wants.

“When I am going to do this (make an appointment) I first look to see if I have any qualified friends. If I can’t find any, I look for qualified neutral. If there aren’t any of these, I look for qualified enemies. I just so happens that the circle of my friends is so wide, and they are so loaded with talent that I never get away from the first category.”

The third member of the Port Commission, besides Alioto connected businessmen, is Harry Bridges, president of the International Longshoremen and Warehousemen’s Union (ILWU). Just as he refused to fight mechanization, allowing the number of longshoremen in Bay Area Local 10 to drop from 6000 to 2000 in ten years, Bridges has sat back and watched the carve up of the port.

In fact, many longshoremen suspect he has gone further, and is actually taking part in one of the speculators bidding for Pier 45 in Alexander’s Wharf. Former Local 10 longshoreman and associate of Bridges Magnin has made a standing offer to buy the site of the Local 10 hiring hall and top whatever bid is made for it by any other group.

The Local 10 hall and offices occupy a full city block in the heart of Fisherman’s Wharf, adjacent to Pier 45. Because of the decline in membership, the local is unable to pay property taxes on the hall.香味 increasing in dues has failed to offset rising taxes due to runaway property values in the area.

The hall was built by Local 10, but is owned by the Bay Area Longshoremen’s and Teamsters Memorial Association (BALMA), a private corporation whose owners are the members of Local 10. BALMA was set up as a device to protect the hall from seizure by the courts for fines that might be levied against the local under the antitrust Landrum-Griffin Act.

Bridges has pressed for the sale of the hall and the dissolution of BALMA. Early this year, rank and file longshoremen showed their aspersion of Bridges by voting out the incumbent local president and voting in Frank Stout, the head of BALMA, and the leading opponent of the sale of the hall.

Recently Local 10 voted in referendum overwhelmingly to move the hall, but to elect the slate rather than sell it outright. Bridges’ policy was repudiated by four to one.

Bridges response to this defiance was swift and brutal. A campaign was launched in the local by his supporters charging the union with financial irregularities. At a local meeting, a vote was pushed through accepting moni- torship by the International. Rather than just keeping tabs on the cash flow, the monitors have tried to impose virtual trusteeship over local and give direct orders of the officers.

When the local officers refused to obey, international vice presi- dent William Chester published an International Bulletin to the Local 10 membership demanding that all the elected officers and executives against the plan.

This kind of bureaucratic intervention in the affairs of a local, while common in many other unions, has been rea- sonably rare in the ILWU. For Local 10, which has tradi- tionally been the leading local in the union, it is unprecedented.

This is not just a matter of Bridges or friends of Bridges having their fingers in the pie, as many longshoremen suspect. It shows the complete collapse of the labor bureaucracy, and its tremendous desire of local control of the rank and file as mass unemployment begins to threaten the party and democratic. Most longshoremen work only three or four days a week. Only the guarantee of 36 hours pay for five days reporting to the hall among the few benefits they receive.

But the bankruptcy of any big shipping company will threaten the guarantee. Last fall, San- train Lines was forced to abandon its West Coast run to Hawaii and Guam, and sold out to Matson. PFEI is nearly broke. Amer- ican President Lines hopes to eem to by virtue of sharing facilities and expenses with Matson and Sea Land. Earlier this summer, the Pacific Maritime Association discussed the possibility of requiring longshoremen to report to the hall seven days a week in order to get the guarantee, although there was no vote taken then.

The shipper will be forced by the crisis to try to take back the guarantee, and provoke the greatest struggle in the ILWU’s history.

The Local 10 leadership offers no alternative to Bridges, who is at the center of this crisis. The methods of trade union mili- tancy, the hallmark of Local 10 for forty years, are completely inadequate to fight the new crisis facing longshoremen. The only answer to the shipper’s bankruptcy is the construction of a labor party pledged to national- ize the docks and shipping.
BY SHEILA BREHM
BORON, Calif.—US Borax has stepped up the battle to break ILWU Local 30. So far this week 20 striking miners have been arrested.

Fighting between strikers and Kern County sheriff's deputies and a mob of US Borax officials began hiring men to replace 80 striking miners who have been on strike since June 15 against the largest borax mining and processing facility in the world.

When strikers lined the two roads leading to the plant at the time the mob was on its way to begin and end, Kern County sheriff's deputies declared an unlawful assembly.

According to Gene Pope, ILWU member: “Within less than a minute, many of the arrests and beatings began. There were about 50 deputies in riot gear.”

Of the workers arrested, several were beaten including Paul Williams who had a previous back injury. Kay Baron, six months pregnant, was beaten in the stomach with a hilly club. Another ILWU member who was a paraplegic was also beaten, while police tried to force him to climb into the paddy wagon.

The county roads leading to the borax mine and plant have been closed, and all cars are currently being stopped, questioned, and in many cases searched.

Gene Pope said, “This is like a conflict in Vietnam. As I saw the Vietnam situation, it was the government sponsoring violence for the subjugation of the workers and peasants. Now they’re trying to do the same thing to union people. There is no doubt in our mind that they want to break this union.”

Less than 20 of the union’s membership is crossing the line. But the AFL-CIO in the area is conditioning the scabbing by 150 building and trades workers. Harry Bridges, international president of the ILWU, has also refused to lift a finger to defend the local. According to a strike, although $20,000 was contributed by the ILWU international, “Bridges just agreed to sit back and watch us fight.”

An immediate campaign must now be launched to demand that the AFL-CIO stop the scabbing, and that the ILWU black all US Borax goods, as well as Rio Tinto Zinc cargo. (RTTZ owns Borax.)

E. Oakland Residents Jam Meeting On Housing Loans Crisis

BY A REPORTER
OAKLAND — Over 100 housewives, workers and youth attended a meeting called by the East Oakland Housing Committee on September 19. The meeting was called to discuss the crisis in housing finance which has led to over 1200 homes being taken in foreclosure from workers who could not keep up the payments. Most people wanted to know why they had been turned down for loans for repairs, refinancing, or purchase of homes owned by the Federal Housing Authority.

The Committee invited institutions ranging from the Bank of America to savings and loans companies and the Department of Housing and Urban Development, on the theory that these capitalists and the working class housing workers would sit down and work out a solution.

This bankrupt reform was enforced first of all by these companies which refused invitations to speak. Olin Pinney Savings and Loans wrote, “We have no funds. There is nothing to discuss.” Another wrote, “We have no funds. With the market being what it is we would not make a statement on future finances.”

The bankers and brokers who did attend were unable to answer questions like, “You’ve got the houses, how do we get them?” We want them.” Instead they dropped any pretense of being liberal helpers of the community and one by one launched vicious denunciations of the working class residents of East Oakland for “vandalism.”

One banker said, “We can rehabilitate the houses, but we can’t rehabilitate the neighborhood. We can’t change the character of the neighborhood. That’s up to you people.” Another banker admitted that the collapse of housing finance was part of “a world economic slump.”

SAN JOSE—Joinders in the Bay Area are being forced to work a five day week for four days pay or take similar wage cuts because of the piecework system being used by Drywall and Sheetrock subcontractors.

The contract states that piece work rates can only be paid if the work exceeds the total hourly rate. There is a guaranteed hourly rate of $10.95 per hour for joiners.

Frank, a member of Carpenters & Jionders Union Local 216 for 11 years, was interviewed by the Bulletin:

“With the drywall workers should call a special meeting and strike until we can get our choice of hourly or piecework pay.”

“The use goes out of work as a wadeg with those against the wages.”

The sub-contractor can call from plenty of jobs. If you want to work you have to go along with the contractors or else there’s no bread on the table.

“They’ll tell you over the phone that pay $39.00 per 100 square feet of sheetrock put up, but when you get there they say they have guys who will work for $39.00 per 1000 square feet.”

“I got a job working on a big elevator shaft downtown in San Jose and I told my boss I didn’t want to work by piecework but by the hour. Two days later they laid off my two sons and myself. I got paid for 16 hours but I worked 20. I don’t know what we’ll do when we run out of money, except lose everything we own. It’s been getting worse as the inflation rises.”

“We went to the union and the business agents questioned us like criminals. They said we could not be trusted to report our hours and that we should have come to more union meetings.”

“I think the union gets money from the companies. They cut the cake two ways.”

Piece Work Slashes Joiners Wages
BY CYNTHIA BLAKE
BROOKLYN, N.Y.,
September 25—Over 200 workers and youth, attending the first Workers Party election rally, called by the Bedford
Stuyvesant Young Socialists and Workers League.

The wide response from Bulletin subscribers and other workers and youth from the city confirms the perspectives behind the launching of the Workers Party. In recent days, thousands of workers can be mobilized and trained in the fundamental task of joining the Democratic and Republican parties and their bankrupt systems.

Postal and construction workman, housewives and members of several New York City unions help with the campaign. During the spirited street dance after the rally, youth from SONY's High, Clara Barton and other area schools signed up to join the Young Socialists.

Terry Delgado, Congressional Candidate in the bordering 12th Congressional District, said that only our movement has fought for a concrete program to defeat racism and police terror.

"This Ford and Rockefeller government knows that the conditions of millions unemployed and soaring inflation will pro-

voke an explosion in the working class. The brutal murder of Claude Reese in Brownsville last week was an act of violence di-
rected against the working class as a whole.

"We demand that the trade unions act now to defend the working class, act politically within this government and its system. We are preparing a leadership among the youth and trade unionists, against all of those who pit race against race, whether it is the crimes of the bosses or the busing issue in South Boston or the nationalists who say that "Workers Against the Enemy.""

"The construction of a revolu-
tionary leadership in the course of a fight for a labor party, uniting all of the working class, is the only way to fight for our right to a job, to decent living conditions, our very right to live. We will be campaigning every day to pose these questions before thousands of people.

Tyrone, a member of Trans-
port Workers Union, Local 101, at Brooklyn Union Gas, said that 14 BUG workers have been killed in the last year because the company refused to make necessary repairs, and BUG workers face constant brutality both on and off the job.

Helen Halfyard, Workers Party congressional candidate in the 14th CD, said that it was the decay of the apatricial

tion that has caused prices to rise over 14 percent and the jobless rate to rise 7.5 percent in New York.

"Our election campaign is directed at the trade unions and to build a revolutionary leader-
ship. Your vote for the Workers Party means a break with the policies of the Democrats and the Republicans and a prepara-
tion for revolutionary struggle." ABEL

(Continued from Page 1)

The cooperatives are in cooperation with the American Victory Committee and the International Committee of the Fourth International.

It is now a necessity for workers to deepen our struggle against the trade union bureaucracy and the Stalinists and fight for the building of an alternative revolu-
tionary leadership of the American trade unions.

We must step up our fight in the trade union movement, which is led by the Ford and the Democratic Party politicians and construct a labor party that will work with all workers in the working class against Ford in order to defend its jobs, living standards and basic rights.

This requires that we campaign with every issue of the Bulletin to reach the broad sec-
tions of the working class now entering into struggles, broadening and training our forces in the trade unions and communities among workers, housewives, the youth and unemployed.

![La lucha obrera en falso](Image)

**Atto al Terror Police! Construyamos un Partido Obrero**

El asesinato de Claude Reese, Jr., no es un incidente aislado. Así como el asesinato de Clifford Glover y Ricky Bodden, es un acto de violencia dirigido contra todos los trabajadores y la juventud.

La policía hace el trabajo sucio para Ford, Rockefeller y las grandes compañías. Estos señores trabajadores no aceptarán su programa de desempleo masivo, acoso-
damiento de la producción y continuo aumento de los pri-
cios. Esta es la razón por la cual utilizan la violencia policial, la represión.

En la semana pasada, Ford defendió el rol de la CIA en el desencadenamiento del gobierno chileno y la preparación de un régimen fascista que durante el último año ha asesinado a miles de reivindicadores. Las grandes corporaciones querían hacer lo mismo aquí.

El nivel de vida de todos los trabajadores está bajo amen-
zada. La inflación de cerca de 15 por ciento anual. Los sala-
ríos reales se han reducido en un 6 por ciento en un año. La tasa de desempleo de trabajadores adultos ha sobrepasado ya 7.5 por ciento en Nueva York. Entre la juventud, la tasa de desempleo es por lo menos tres veces más alta.

Los trabajadores están luchando contra estos ataques, en todo el territorio del país. Durante los últimos meses hemos visto la mayor ola de huelgas desde la Segunda Guerra Mundial. Fue la fortaleza de las fuerzas obreras lo que causó la renuncia de Nixon.

Es por esto que la clase dominante trata de dividir a la clase obrera. Su arma más importante en hacer esto es el racismo. Tratan de hacer que los trabajadores blancos contra los traba-

Y Los trabajadores de Brownsville, los políticos y los nacionalistas también están en claro con la clase dominante de apoyar a Baraka. Ha venido a Brownsville desde Newark para decirle a los traba-

jadores y a la juventud que debemos de tener más poderes más para nosotros. Podemos hacer esto. El alcalde negro Kenneth Gibson—apoyado por Baraka—and en el jefe de las policías de Brownsville, apoyado por Baraka. Se debe de estar haciendo esto. Los trabajadores de Brownsville, los políticos y los nacionalistas deben de estar haciendo esto.

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200 Attend First Election Rally

BY CYNTHIA BLAKE
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The wide response from Bulletin subscribers and other workers and youth from the area confirms the perspectives behind the launching of the Workers Party. In Bedford-Stuyvesant, many thousands of workers can be mobilized and trained in the local party and for the Democratic and Republican parties and their bankrupt system.

Postal and construction work, housewives and members of several other groups are helping to help with the campaign. During the spirited street dance after the rally, youth from Boys' High, Clara Barton and other area schools signed up to join the Young Socialists.

Terry Delgado, Congressional Candidate in the bordering 12th Congressional District, said that only our movement has fought for a concrete struggle against racism and rape terror.

This Ford and Rockefeller government knows that the conditions of millions of unemployed and soaring inflation will promote an explosion in black workers. The brutal murder of Claude Reese in Brownsville last week was an act of violence directed against the working class as a whole.

We demand that the trade unions act now to defend the working class, act politically against this government and this system. We are preparing a leadership among the youth and trade unions, against all of those who pit race against race, whether it is the flight-riding wing using the housing issue in South Boston or the nationalists who say that "Revolution is the enemy.

The construction of a revolutionary leadership in the course of a fight for a labor party, uniting all of the working class, is the only way we can defend our right to a job, to decent living conditions, our very 'right to live. We will be campaigning every day to pose these questions before thousands of men and women.

Tyrone, a member of Transport Workers Union, Local 161, at Brooklyn Union Gas, said that 14 BUC workers have been killed in the last year because the company refused to make necessary repairs, and BUC workers face blacklisting and brutal working conditions.

Helen Haliday, Workers Party candidate in the 14th CD, said that it was the decay of the political system that has caused prices to rise over 14 percent and the jobless race to rise over 7.5 percent in New York.

"Our election campaign is directed at the trade unions and to build a revolutionary leadership. Your vote for the Workers Party means a break with the policies of the Democrats and the Republicans and a preparation for revolutionary struggle."

ABEL . . .

(Continued From Page 1) The minister and the Congress to face the facts and lead us back to a full and decent economy," he declared, "now people can work, and make their contribution to society."

In other words, the task of deflating jobs and living standards is to be left to the Ford and Rockefeller, the spokesman of Congress and the State Department, outlined in bold letters their plans for deflation and recession.

Abel had absolutely no intention of policies or actions to propose to steel workers and the rest of the trade union movement.

Instead, he launched a vicious red-baiting attack on delegates and leaders of the trade unions. At the same time, this attack won little support from the other AFL.