Big Three in Auto Must Act

BY MELODY FARROW

The 800,000 workers in the auto industry have been thrust into a fundamental struggle to defend the right to work.

The Big Three auto companies, Ford, General Motors and Chrysler have mounted an unprecedented attack on the jobs of thousands of auto workers that will effect every worker in American industry.

While auto workers must begin to launch massive resistance to this attack, the coal miners all over the country are leading the fight for wages by preparing for a shutdown on November 12.

It is the struggle of these two powerful sections of workers together that has sent the desperate auto and coal bosses and Ford’s government into a panic.

Last Thursday, GM announced it was laying off 6000 workers at four plants and an “undetermined number” at parts plants, bringing to 36,000 the number of GM workers on indefinite layoffs.

On November 15, the second shift of 2000 men at the Tarrytown, New York plant will be cut. 1500 will be eliminated at the Leeuwarden, Missouri plant, and 1600 at Van Nuys, California. The line speed at Willowrun, Michigan will be reduced from 70 to 60 cars an hour, and another 700 laid off on December 5.

Falling GM sales have fallen 22 percent in the third quarter and profits were down 94 percent from 1972. Industry officials said production in the fourth quarter would be slashed by 80,000 cars.

GM spokesmen made it clear that this is only the beginning. GM is reviewing all its capital expenditures and indicated that there could be more layoffs and shutdowns before the end of the year.

Ford and Chrysler have already cut capital spending.

At the same time, Ford announced it is laying off 900 skilled trade workers, mostly tool and die workers, at five plants. Workers at Ford’s Dearborn Assembly plant in Michigan will be working eight hours in November and most of the 545 tool and die workers have already been laid off.

Ford is also consolidating its trim plant operations in Lyons, Michigan, with other facilities.

cost cutting, speedup, and more.

Auto industry spokesmen are meeting with Ford in Washington this Tuesday to get the green light to eliminate virtually all safety features, such as emergency controls and safety belt interlocks.

At a meeting of auto engineers in White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia, Ford President Lee Iacocca said productivity had to be increased as one way to fight inflation.

"Labor costs have risen faster than productivity," he said and that the company would continue to suck up profits. "Our problem is to get back some profits we can plow back. We must generate profits and then put them to work.

Auto workers cannot accept the criminal reaction of the UAW leadership to try to prevent workers from accepting these layoffs. The layoffs are the result of the fundamental economic crisis of the capitalist system that is rapidly leading to a depression worse than the 1930s. As unemployment spreads throughout every industry, the basic right of every worker to a job is at stake.

Ray Cahow, president of the Tarrytown local said in a New York Times interview: We’re beyond the scope where the union and management can help. With the economy as it is, I can’t see where 3000 people are going to find jobs.

On Michigan TV last week, UAW vice-president Douglas Fraser shrugged and replied: “There’s nothing we can do.”

The truth is that inflation is a product of the decay and bankruptcy of the capitalist system and that it is the drive to constantly expand and make profits that has led to this crisis.

It is a lie spread by the employers and the government that if workers sacrifice their jobs and wages, this will help the economy and increase employment.

On the contrary, the crisis has reached the point where from the capitalists’ point of view, (Continued On Page 11)

By a Reporter

Boston Labor

BOSTON, Mass.—The Boston Workers League and Young Socialists have called on the Greater Boston Labor Council to act against the racist attacks and the calling of federal troops.

Hundreds of signatures were gathered at Rights Week and workers at factory gates, union meetings, in the neighborhoods and at city schools and universities. The petition’s demands were then forwarded in the following telegram:

We, the undersigned demand that the Greater Boston Labor Council take immediate action to defend all students right to a decent education and resist attacks and police terror; to condemn the closed occupation of Boston by federal troops and to defend all worker’s right to jobs, housing and decent living conditions against the attacks of the Ford and Rockefeller government.

Organize defense guards for the buses and in the schools and neighborhoods. Call a mass demonstration of Labor against the attempts to divide black and white workers and to unite in defense of their basic rights.

Fight for jobs for all. Billions for education and housing. Call a Congress of Labor to build a labor party against the policies of unemployment, inflation and racism now being carried out by the Democrats and Republics.

Signed by members of the following unions:

Big Three Slash Auto Jobs

BY MELODY FARROW

The 800,000 workers in the auto industry have been thrust into a fundamental struggle to defend the right to work.

The Big Three auto companies, Ford, General Motors and Chrysler have mounted an unprecedented attack on the jobs of thousands of auto workers that will effect every worker in American industry.

While auto workers must begin to launch massive resistance to this attack, the coal miners all over the country are leading the fight for wages by preparing for a shutdown on November 12.

It is the struggle of these two powerful sections of workers together that has sent the desperate auto and coal bosses and Ford's government into a panic.

Last Thursday, GM announced it was laying off 6000 workers at four plants and an "undetermined number" at parts plants, bringing to 26,000 the number of GM workers on indefinite layoffs.

On November 15, the second shift of 2000 men at the Tarrytown, New York plant will be cut, 1500 will be eliminated at the Leeds, Missouri plant, and 1600 at Van Noy, California. The line speed at Willowrun, Michigan will be reduced from 70 to 60 cars an hour, and another 700 laid off on December 5.

Stating that GM sales had fallen 22 percent in the third quarter and profits were down 54 percent from 1973, industry officials said production in the fourth quarter would be slashed by 30,000 cars.

GM spokesmen made it clear that this is only the beginning. GM is reviewing all its capital expenditures and indicated that there could be more layoffs and shutdowns before the end of the year.

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At the same time, Ford announced it is laying off 900 skilled trade workers, mostly tool and die workers, at five plants. Workers at Ford's Dearborn Assembly plant in Michigan will be working eight days in November and most of the 545 tool and die workers have already been laid off.

Ford is also consolidating its trim plant operations in Lyons, Michigan, with other facilities which will reduce the workforce from 130 to 110 in the next two months.

Chrysler has announced a "stringent and intensive" cost cutting program. The Newark, Delaware plant will be closed three weeks in November and December. White collar layoffs will begin January 1 and the Jefferson plant may be closed for good.

Figures released by the industry revealed that all efforts to recoup falling profits by price increases have only intensified the collapse in sales. Between October 11-20, sales fell 25 percent, over 1973. In early October sales had fallen from an annual rate of 9.5 million in August to seven million.

The auto companies, with the full support of the Ford government, have launched a war on auto workers, in the name of profits. Everywhere, the word among industry officials is for cost cutting, speedup, and more work for less.

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"Labor costs have risen faster than productivity" and inflation had soaked up profits, he said. "Our problem is to get back some profits we can plow back. We must generate profits and then put them to work."

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On the contrary, the crisis has reached the point where from the capitalists' point of view, (Continued On Page 11)
Kissinger’s Trip To Moscow

BY FRANK MARTIN

Kissinger flew from Moscow to Moscow to indicate that Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev blew up during talks with US State Secretary Henry Kissinger. Although the joint communiqué issued after the talks remained secret, there was a division between the US and the USSR to continue to improve steadily.

Brezhnev was reported to be furious over the administration’s blocking of a grain shipment to the Soviet Union. Sharp differences came out over the Middle East.

The Soviet bureaucracy is desperate to maintain “detente” with the West, yet, on key issues discussed—the Middle East, European security, and Soviet-American trade—Kissinger and Brezhnev reached absolutely no agreement.

For Kissinger and the Americans, the Russian ruling class detente is a cover for their preparations for imperialist war. Developments in recent weeks have made this clear:

• The Middle East. Both Kissinger and Ford openly threatened the Arab oil-producing states with war two weeks ago if they do not lower the oil prices. Kissinger was totally unsuccessful in his recent foray to the Middle East to convince the Arab sheiks to lower oil prices.

Meantime, he has abandoned even the pretense of a Middle East “peace agreement” in Geneva, in which the Stalinists have backed their whole policy.

• Security. Kissinger recently warned of the dangers of a new “cold war” with the US. He has been preparing for a new round of counter-revolutionary aggression.

In a recent interview with The New York Times, Kissinger made his real intentions very clear: “If we do not get recognition of our independence, the Western civilization that we now have is almost certain to disintegrate because it will lead to a series of rivalries in which each will try to maximize its own special advantage.

• Europe. In an article for the Christian Science Monitor, Kissinger outlines the new factor in the making of a European community in which each will try to maximize its own special advantage.

• The world is being transformed by the demands of new forces. The world is being transformed by the demands of new forces. The world is being transformed by the demands of new forces. The world is being transformed by the demands of new forces. The world is being transformed by the demands of new forces. The world is being transformed by the demands of new forces. The world is being transformed by the demands of new forces.

Kissinger’s only purpose for detente is to use the Stalinist bureaucracy to hold back the people’s movement for independent revolutionary mobilization of the working class for socialist policies to end the war.

One tiny MP said that the uprising in the trade unions might turn Wilson into Britain’s General Spindola. It is this fear that is driving the Tory Party into a reaction- tionary frenzy and prompted Conservative Shadow Cabinet Minister Sir Keith Joseph to make a speech calling for sterilization of the “lower classes” and a “moral purification” campaign. The utterly reactionary doctrines elaborated in Joseph’s “return to traditional Tory values” prompted Jack Jones, the leader of Britain’s largest union, the Transport and General Workers’ Union, to say: “Sir Keith’s words are very typical of the thoughts expressed by Hitler in Mein Kampf.”

But if Jones is genuinely alarmed by Joseph’s speech and his bid for the Tory leadership his actions disproves it. Instead he was leading his two million-odd members in a struggle to defend wages, jobs, living conditions, and basic democratic rights. Jones has been in the forefront of condemning workers’ struggles for proper wages.

Only the Workers Revolutionary Party, the British section of the International Committee of the Fourth International, is conducting a campaign in the workers’ movement for the independent revolutionary mobilization of the working class for socialist policies to end the war.

Giscard Sees World Catastrophe

BY MELODY FARROW

French President Val- eiry Giscard d’Estaing said at his news confer- ence last Thursday that the world was in an “enduring crisis” and “all the curves are leading us to catastrophe.”

Europe is in decline,” he complained, “a fact in popu- lation and an impoverish- ment in resources. It is going downward to others who are going up.

“The Europe we have to build now is a Europe on penury.”

Giscard’s speech is a grim reminder that the economic crisis is forcing the European statesmen to try to simplify the working class, as it breaks up any collaboration in the Com- mon Market. Each nation fights to defend its own “national in- terest.”

SUMMIT

Giscard called for a summit of the Common Market on infla- tion, energy, the balance of payments, and unemployment, and a European Council of foreign ministers to determine the highest body in the EEC.

Giscard has already specified what issues would not require a unanimous vote in the Common Market. This was to destroy any common agree- ment by countries like France and West Germany to defend their interest at the expense of the weakest countries, such as Italy.

The actions of Ford to deepen the recession, in the US, through tax cuts and massive trade restrictions. Tremendously intensifies in Europe.

BANKRUPT

The economies of Italy and France are bankrupt and the trade deficit of every country, including France, is growing out of control.

Giscard wants the Interna- tional Monetary Fund to fix the official price of gold so that it can be bought, sold, and valued at the market price. This would benefit France, one of the few nations with sub- stantial gold reserves. He is also hoping for a confer- ence representatives of the major capitalist countries, the underdeveloped nations, and the oil producers, to pressure them to lower oil prices because “we have a responsibility in their interest.”

CONFLICT

No amount of conferences, however, can halt the drive toward an imperialist war.

Giscard admitted this when he said the nuclear powers should agree only to atomic weapons against countries without nuclear powers, or in case of invasion of their territory.

Massive unemployment, poverty, and war are the solutions of the capitalists to their crisis unless the working class takes power.
Real Wages Fall Behind Inflation

BY DAVID WORTH

The 12.1 percent rise in the Consumer Price Index over the last 12 months has had a devastating impact on the living standards of workers.

Statistics, even those released by the government's Labor Department, prove that all contracts have failed. Workers cannot wage-fight far behind the actual rise in the cost of living.

However, the actual impact of the inflation has been even worse, since several million workers are still tied to contracts signed during the period when government wage guidelines limited increases to about 5.5 percent.

Workers in basic industry have been hardest hit by inflation. The contract signed by UAW President Leonard Woodcock last September tied auto workers to a three percent wage increase in each year of the three-year contract.

INCREASE

This average auto worker's wage increase over the entire life of the contract does not equal the CPI increase in one year.

Although auto workers have a cost of living escalator clause in their contracts, the government consistently trails behind the galloping pace of inflation.

Workers, who are also tied to a three percent, three year contract, have repeatedly complained that COL adjustments are extremely difficult to make.

Often, the COL adjustment is delayed until so late in the life of the contract that the workers face months of consistently shrinking incomes with no protection whatever.

Electrical workers in General Electric and Westinghouse were stuck with a three-year pact signed shortly before the Phase Three guidelines expired.

LOSS

An official of the United Electrical Workers announced that, between April, 1973 and September, 1974, workers in the industry suffered a loss of 32 cents per hour in the buying power of their paycheck, even after wage increases are calculated.

So far, electrical workers have received only 0.0 percent of the CPI. At the end of the month, they will get another adjustment of 4.5. This will still leave GE and Westinghouse workers $1.50 per hour below their standing when the contract went into effect.

District Council 27 (Welfare and hospital workers), earning less than $10,000, are to get a 5 percent increase of about 2 percent over a 21-month period. Even if the rate of inflation does not rise any faster, the cost of living will increase about 30 percent during the same period.

These workers receive a COL adjustment of $21 per year for each 4 percent rise in the CPI. But this provides only marginal protection because there is a considerable lag between the last COL, the payment and the signing of a new contract.

A large section of New York City trade unions are in even worse shape. Transit workers and sanitation workers are receiving only a 14 percent hike over two years.

INJUSTICE

These statistics are an enormous indictment of the trade union bureaucracy, which has openly collaborated with both Nixon and Ford over the last three years to control wages in the name of "fighting inflation."

The fact is that the trade union bureaucracy and the government have been partners in wage-cutting.

The defense of living standards requires more than a reaction by the working class. Workers have the right to wage hikes signed during Phases One to Three must demand an immediate reopening of their contracts to win at least 25 percent across the board wage hikes.

All new contracts being nego-
tiated must include 100 percent COL escalator clauses adjusted monthly according to inflation statistics monitored by the AFL-CIO.

The trade union movement must convene a Congress of Labor to construct a labor party to mobilize the entire working class against the government which defends the corporations that make millions in profits.

BY A REPORTER

"I don't want this case to have what we call a carnival atmosphere attached to it," stated Judge John J. Sirica on the nineteenth day of the Watergate trial.

But this is exactly what has become of the much-publicized trial of the Watergate defendants: John Mitchell, H. R. Haldeman, John Ehrlichman, Henry Kissinger, and Robert Mardian.

After nearly three weeks of testimony, 90 percent of the trial has been wasted with bickering between the defense lawyers, the prosecution lawyers, and Sirica. The proceedings have an air of being stage-managed.

EXCHANGES

One of the exchanges goes like this:

Mr. Frates, Ehrlichman's lawyer is sitting reading a book by E. Howard Hunt with cover turned towards the jury. Mr. Benveniste, one of the prosecutors, accuses Frates of "improper procedure." This is the signal for Frates to jump up and raise his own objection.

FACES

He claims that the prosecutor are "making faces" every time the defense asks questions. "We have repeatedly asked those people not to try this case with their faces. He demands that they stop mewing."

Benveniste: "I am not doing that. Anyway, he can't tell because he's looking at the back of his head.

Frates: "You're easy to see through."

At this point, Sirica intercedes, saying that Frates' comment reminds him of an anecdote he once heard. A lawyer was once speaking to a jury with his back to his opponent. The lawyer turned to the judge and claimed his opponent was shaking his head. Asked how he knew, the lawyer responded: "Well, I could hear it rattling and it's got it."

But all this has a conscious intention. The trial has become a critical part of the cover-up of the real facts in the Watergate case. The judge, prosecution, and defense have a common interest in covering up these facts because they know it would implicate whole sections of the reliable class and their politicians who have publicly "washed their hands" of Watergate.

At the same time, everything is being done to make sure that the defendants get off acetate. On Friday, Sirica, referring to three sets of plans proposed by Gordon Liddy to John Mitchell, stated: "It's too bad that Mr. Mitchell and Mr. Liddy are out of here, get them out fast, you wouldn't be in this courtroom today. Too bad it didn't happen that way."

Whatever else may happen to the Watergate defendants, Sirica at least provided grounds for declaring a mistrial--because of a biased judge.

NIXON

Meanwhile, the chief witness upon which everything hinges, Richard Nixon, has yet to make his appearance in court. And if he can help it, he never will.

There was some discussion earlier in the trial of sending court-appointed doctors to examine Nixon to see if he would fit to travel from California to Washington to attend the trial.

As soon as Nixon got wind of this, he headed for the nearest hospital. According to his colleague, the president's health was suddenly aggravated and he is now in the process of "dinnining his blood."

Headlines in all the capitalist press have been screaming about possible "surgery" on Nixon's leg. One can only think that if they cut Nixon's leg off, this would permanently solve the problem of Nixon testifying.

UPS Men Demand IBT Act

BY CYNTHIA BLAKE

NEW YORK, NY—Team

President Frank Fitzsimmons has refused to back the strike of United Parcel Service workers in New York, which is entering its ninth week.

The Teamsters leadership has refused to let Local 804, representing the striking metro-areas workers, reenter parcel lines at the UPS warehouse in nearby Secaucus, New Jersey. Pickets were immediately turned back by the national's insistence after local 804 business manager John D'Amico had threatened to use the breaking truck driver.

Because Fitzsimmons has refused to close down the Secaucus facility, UPS has been able to refuse much-needed food to the strikers.

"We could break the back of this strike in two weeks," one picker at the Manhattan terminal told the Bulletin.

$7 MILLION

A recent news report reports that the Seventh Avenue garment industries have lost about $7-million dollars because of the slower service they've gotten on orders shipped to the parcel post rather than UPS.

"That's Fitzsimmons' doing too," a picker said bitterly. "Almost all of UPS is Teamster-organized, and we've been ripped off so much that it takes us two days to do a delivery that the post office takes in one day."

The strikers are anxious for action concrete action to Fitzsimmons to move, but the UPS threat of legal action at any point of direct confrontation National representatives on the line up from Washington last week were not taken to the pickets at all and an early call to send backhands of pickets down to International headquarters in Chicago where Fitzsimmons has been dropped.

The New York State Council of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America recently wrote to Fitzsimmons demanding immediate action to shut down Secaucus, but no move to establish picket lines without International representatives on the scene. The John Davis, a driver for eight years, told Bulletin reporter: "I've been out seven weeks and we won't go back and get nothing at all and then throw them out."

But they operate just like General Motors--take people up and see if they can survive, or we can eat, UPS gets theirs, they raised their rates 5.25 cents a parcel before the strike. Now we need ours."

UPS men must demand an immediate meeting of all Local 804 members to demand the leadership take action, including sending a delegation to Teamster headquarters for official backing.
BY A REPORTER

“We do not simply commemorate the tenth anniversary of the Bulletin. We celebrate a triumphant achievement and prepare for even greater achievements.”

“The achievements of the Bulletin make it possible for us to go forward confidently into the next stage of revolutionary struggles in generations.”

Fred Marzelis, national secretary of the Workers League, addressed an enthusiastic audience of 200 trade unionists, students, and young people who attended Debs Hall at the headquarters of District 1199 on October 25 to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Bulletin newspaper.

Other speakers were Adele Sinclair, editor of the Young Socialist; Helen Halyard and Terry Delgado, candidates of the Workers Party for Congress; and Dennis Cribben, leader of the Trade Union Alliance for a Labor Party in the Social Services Employees Union.

International greetings were brought by Alex Mitchell, news editor of the Workers Press, organ of the Workers Revolutionary Party in Britain, which celebrates its fifth year as the first daily Trotskyist newspaper on Sunday, October 27.

DEFEND

Only the Bulletin, and the Workers Press, have fought continuously to defend the working class and fight in every struggle for the political independence of the working class, for the development of a revolutionary leadership, based on the principles of Marx, Lenin, and Trotsky.

“The building of revolutionary leadership is an urgent necessity,” Marzelis told. “The purpose of our paper is to tell the truth to the working class, which is the only revolutionary class, to defend it.”

“We are fighting to represent the future in the present struggles of the class.”

He stressed that the publication and development of the Bulletin, as a Marxist-Leninist paper, is only made possible by the support of the International Committee of the Fourth International to take forward Trotsky’s fight against Stalinism and to expose and fight all the revisionists who abandoned this struggle.

The Bulletin was launched in 1966 after the founding members of the Workers League were expelled by the Socialist Workers Party and two of its members—David Whitaker and the Pahlavi revisionists—moved one year earlier.

“Indeed, we didn’t have the Bulletin, so you can’t postpone the difficult, slow, often disappointing but vital work to assemble a leadership. When the working class comes forward to fight for its survival, and to take power, a leadership must be prepared.”

“Our perspectives and principles are confirmed. Capitalism is being undermined by economic devastation. Stocks are tumbling; the recession is deepening; inflation is rampant in every country; unemployment is 3.3 million and rising.”

“The quadrupling of oil prices means the bankruptcy of nations. These are the conditions under which revolutionary struggles are now a reality in Europe. The revolutionary period is now and we must prepare for this.”

“Either we prepare for the revolutionary overthrow of this system, or the working class faces a bloody defeat.”

STRENGTH

“The strength of the working class holds the capitalists back. This is their dilemma. This ruling class is led by frustrated, desperate men. The official leaders of the labor movement and the Stalinsts are the last weapon the capitalists use to hold back the revolution and revolutionary leadership. We must begin with this crisis and turn the revolutionary tasks that flow from it.”


10th Anniversary Of The Bulletin

“The Bulletin’s 10th birthday was celebrated in several displays (above). Much literature was sold and $1200 collected by supporters. A worker from the 12th CD (left) contributed $50.”

The 10th Anniversary of the Bulletin was recorded in several displays above. Much literature was sold and $1200 collected by supporters. A worker from the 12th CD (left) contributed $50.

FINALLY

“Finally, we are not isolettes to others,” Marzelis asserted. “The Bulletin, with $7000 and 50 workers, is one of the most important to come forward.”

“Furthermore, the Bulletin has a clear program and a clear place in the revolution.”

UNIONS

Dennis Cribben said: “The record of the Bulletin shows that it has consistently fought to defend the working class and fought every attack on the unions. This fight has been carried out against the trade union bureaucracy.”

“This is the very issue, September 9, 1984. We launched a struggle against the bureaucrats of the United Auto Workers union and the betrayal of the auto strike. In 1966, 1967, and 1968, we fought to build a new union in District 60, Local 1199, and the SEIU based on the demand to make the labor party the center of the fight.”

Only the Bulletin, he said, government’s attacks on the students and minorities were preparations for battles with the working class.

FOREFRONT

“Youth must be in the forefront of the fight for a revolutionary leadership and must turn to the unions, to the struggles in the factories, and take our program to the working class.”

Alex Mitchell, who was recently in Portugal during the revolutionary struggles there, said: “Portugal represents the revolutionary upsurge in all of Western Europe. Who would have reckoned that in the short space of weeks, dual power would be on the agenda, and the means to carry out a revolution. There were 48 years of fascist dictatorship, no unions, no free speech, or free assembly.”

“April 25 changed all that. In 24 hours, tens of thousands were forced on the scene of history. Republicans and the determination to fight. During the campaign, the Workers League has been able to take the struggle for a labor party into the unions and neighborhoods.”

appeal

The meeting was concluded with a fund-raising appeal to maintain and expand the Bulletin. The magnificent sum of $1300 was contributed. One longshoreman gave $50, a Teamster gave $100, and many other workers and youth contributed generously.

The success of this meeting lays the basis for a new stage in the building of the Workers League and the Bulletin.”

The Bulletin must be taken in every struggle of the working class, to fend the fight against every attack by the Ford workers and to prepare the working class, and to recruit workers and youth into the Workers League.”
Stalinists Accept Army Rule

The Portuguese Communist Party is prepared to accept permanent rule of the Armed Forces.

Stephen Johns, correspondent of the British Trotskyist daily paper, Workers Press, attended the first Congress of the Communist Party since the overthrow of the fascist Caetano regime on April 25.

As members of the Armed Forces applauded, CP general secretary Alvaro Cunhal called for the removal of any mention of the "dictatorship of the proletariat" from the party's program.

The Stalinists in Portugal, as well as internationally with their policy of "peaceful coexistence," do not want the working class to smash the capitalist state and establish socialism.

In this article, Stephen Johns explains how the Stalinists try to prevent the working class from taking power.

The situation in Portugal is one of acute economic and political crisis that cannot be resolved by the taking of power by the working class or the return of fascism.

The capitalist class must deliver a shattering blow to the working class to survive. They are preparing to do this behind the cover of the provisional government.

The workers, despite the open counterrevolutionary role of the Stalinist Party, led by government minister Alvaro Cunhal, are groping forward to establish their own power.

In a political situation that encompasses the arrest of 23 building workers in Porto under the anti-strike laws as well as the imprisonment of one of the country's leading bankers and capitalists, Count de Caria, after complaints by his workers, political power has passed momentarily to the petty bourgeois radicals of the Armed Forces Movement.

Reformist politicians, and especially the Stalinists, pay scrupulous tribute to this movement, based on the officers' caste, and praise their openly procapitalist program. But despite their swaggering display of power and confidence, the AFM is an organization rent with uncertainty, doubt and a simple lack of comprehension as to what is going on in Portugal—a country in the process of a revolution.

As one of their leaders told a Brazilian newspaper, "We know that the state must be the real power, but we haven't found a way of controlling state capitalism yet."

CIVIL WAR

This classic Bonapartist group is stabilized only by the Stalinist and social democratic leadership who agitate 24 hours a day against strikes, against factory occupations, and in favor of working longer hours, working on Sunday, etc.—to safeguard the democratic revolution.

This situation cannot last. Already officers are talking about civil war in the armed forces between left and right. But these splits are a reflection of the fundamental divisions now breaking to the surface of Portuguese society—between the capitalist and the working class, the landlords and the poor peasants, and between the conscripted rank and the officers and generals.

In his history of the Russian Revolution, Trotsky made the point that concealed dual power was "reflected" through the divisions within the petty bourgeois circles.

Trotsky said the "mirror-like" character of the Provisional Government in Petrograd enabled the Bolsheviks to better understand epochs in history when the same thing (dual power) appears as a full-blooded episode in a struggle between the two regimes. The feeble and reflected light of the moon makes possible important conclusions about the sun.

Equally, the splits in the Portuguese Armed Forces Movement are the portent of revolutionary struggle by the working class.

A section of the army is adamant: preparing the elite COPON (in English, Continental Operational Command) is being expanded rapidly to become the force of law and order in place of the discredited police and the fascist national guard.

This corps is being formed with as little contact as is possible with the soldiers who are infected by the revolution.

The provisional government presents COPON as the guardian of democracy. In fact, it is the guardian of capitalism and privilege. Its major action to date has been against the working class COPON was the instrument used to break the strike of TAP workers at Lisbon airport.

The roots of today's situation in Portugal can be found in the events of September 28, the day workers manned the barricades against an attempted fascist counter-coup.

Coup is perhaps too strong a word to use. What happened on the night of September 27-28 was an attempted palace revolution by Spinola—the now deposed president—supported on the streets by the fascist hordes from the old regime.

Spinola gambled that he would have sufficient support in the army (he already had the allegiance of the national guard) and he lost. The crucial factor was the strength of the working class and its ever-growing revolutionary will.

The events of September 28 were not just a conspiracy. The characters involved represented classes of forces. The acute and delicate balance established after the 28th reflects all the tension of the dual power in the country.

The key figure in this intrigue is a man called Odelo Saraiva de Carvalho. He is the head of COPON and a leader of the army. He is not the leader of the Armed Forces Movement. De Carvalho is a young petty bourgeois brigadier with democratic and even "socialist" pretensions.

He sees himself as the Bonapart of Portugal. His main strength, however, is that he has some understanding of Stalinism. He recently said with well-founded confidence, that the Communist Party was an important force, but that it did not want to take power.

Spinola, who was backed by big capital, called de Carvalho to the Belem Palace in the early hours of September 28 with the intention of preventing any interference by COPON and the sections of the army hostile to fascists.

De Carvalho claims that when he entered the assembly room to see gathered before him the combined staffs of Spinola, the now Portuguese President Costa Gomes and the Prime Minister

Vasco Concelhes, he was completely unaware of any plot to overthrow the provisional government.

This only became clear, he said, as the night wore on. Spinola ordered the commercial radio off the air because they were calling people to the barricades. He instructed the state radio to broadcast statements from the president only and instructed the police to occupy the radio stations in place of the soldiers.

Finally, when de Carvalho made a second attempt to leave the palace, one aide approached him and asked him not to go—"because he was a balance between Spinola and Costa Gomes over their disagreements about the barricades."

This was a truly revealing remark. De Carvalho became at that moment the most powerful and decisive figure in the palace. Not because of any inherent support from either of the two major classes in Portuguese society, but because of a situation of dual power had indeed emerged. The workers had erected barricades all round the city against the reaction. But the capitalist class could not rely on the army to intervene in their interests. On the contrary, as events were to show, the sympathy of the ranks was entirely with the working class.

Spinola admitted defeat and he was removed. The official head of government is now Costa Gomes—but the government and even the junta has assumed far less importance. COPON and the Armed Forces Movement are what counts.

TO BE CONTINUED
A New Branch at Cowley

It began building the T&GWU at Cowley mainly with the collaboration of 500 members and before the split represented nearly 3,000. After the split, 3,000 members were taken through a strike by its militancy. This is in line with the efforts of the T&GWU through most important members of British trade unions.

On the other hand, the relationship with the branch has a unique record. Meetings are very strict and are taken through a strike of weekly times and sometimes of daily times. Members are encouraged to express their views very clearly and are taken through lack of time they get priority at the next meeting. The executive committee is always prepared to accept suggestions for better attendance, and they are always ready to participate in various activities from reading the typesetting, T&GWU and News, the most important journals in the history of shop-floor organizations.

Take this example of a Branch News appeal to the membership:

"It may well be that many of our members are not fully aware of the purpose and importance of the branch, or the most important body of the union. Its policies are the policies of our union within the plant, and these are carried out. The branch however is not a shop stewards' committee or a committee run by branch officers. It is the membership organization (Original emphasis). It has the same right of expression and the same power through its vote as the senior shop stewards. In other words, every member of our union has the right to attend any branch meeting, to speak, or participate in any discussions, or criticize the actions of the senior shop stewards or branch chairman. The branch should be such that every member of the union can take part in it.

The appeal called for better attendance at the meetings. The meetings were frequently held in the Cowley News which also argued that the meetings are to make sure that they attended to report back discussions and decisions to workers in their own sections. The purpose of the "underground conspirators" who "manufacture" the trade union machine at Cowley.

The ludicrous charges of the Regius report do not stand examination. They were angry that the branch was written "improving democracy at Cowley." The reports were greatly derogated from a familiar source. It was the right-wing in the plant who put round the accusation that the stewards and the branch were "undemocratic." It was the right-wing in the T&GWU national office for the election of senior shop stewards by workers ballot, and it was the right-wing who wanted a "new branch" to fight this.

They had their position clear on all these incidents. Galloway, M. Reid and Roy Gatehouse, extreme right-wingers and leaders of the so-called Organization to Repress Resistance (OSR) and their "friends" (See Chapter 4), raised the call for a new branch for senior shop stewards. Galloway and his allies were the stewards in the April 1973 Bulletin of the OB, Galloway and his allies were down from office... and submit themselves, with others, to an election, to give the right-wing an opportunity to change their leader..." Later, two of his supporters, R. M. Reid and Roy Gatehouse, were nominated for the fifth branch meeting for election of stewards.

The splitting of the 5/5 branch was a long time in the making. It was a group of 250 members from the paint shop stewards. In January 1974, they began the process of the withdrawal of the shop stewards from the branch and contacted Mothers and the draft committee.

It was this anti-class action section of the branch which had been formed to support the withdrawal of the plant stewards from the branch and contacted Mothers and the draft committee.

The most blatant bureaucratic manner. They and the T&GWU national leaders ignored the protests of the 5/5 committee over the report's recommendations and the attack on Fryer. Again without any consul- tation, the branch officers blocked the election of a new steward and seven deputy senior stewards was organized. Bai- ley senior steward brought in on Tuesday, July 10, in most extraordinary circumstances.

A meeting of Cowley members was re- fused a request for scrutineers. The count took place in the early hours of June 5. In front of Grant Edwards, Track, Ed Teddy Milne, a member of the branch, present, Parsons, who ran against Thur- ough, ran against Fryer for senior steward, came top of the poll.

Another curiosity was the timing of Leyland senior stewards' vote. There was no indication that the vote would, after all, grant Grant Stewart's request. This was a strange phrase from heart. Days before, management was still having its circulars, the plant claiming regularly. This circular was sent to the contrary of an official strike. But Leyland contradicted themselves by recognizing Parsons before they knew he had been de- termined as the "beneficiary" of the "mistaken" of the financial "Times" article.

The company announced its lifting of the "Times" article on the morning of June 5 while the vote took place. So the decision of the union to部分内容未显示。


VICTIMIZATION AT COWLEY

by stephen johns

subscription check from the firm to union head office and collect their percentage. In short, it undermines the independence of trade unions—organized as a weakness seized upon by the National Industrial Relations Court that ruled that fines against unions could be collected from dues collected by management who operate the check-off system.

The other suggested "reform" was the direct election of the branch secretary and the branch chairman. Again this is unprecedented and again it militates against the development of leadership in the plant. In large factories like Cowley, it means that the inevitable backward, right-wing or simply unconscious block vote in the plant, made up of workers who never attend the branch meeting, can be used against the leadership of the factory, that is those workers who do go to meetings, are aware of the essential role of the union and do stand out for principles during strikes and disputes. The pattern of trade unionism the bureaucracy would like to see at Cowley is quite clear. First they want to undermine a tested leadership that has been a thorn in their side since the start of the measured work struggle. Second they want to replace this with a streamlined chain of command—from the national office, to the full-time officials in the regions and districts, on to their "hand-picked" right-wing convenors, branch secretary, chairman etc. through them direct to management. This is designed to by-pass, or at least to block, the most powerful force in the labor movement—the independent organization of the working-class expressed in its factory leadership.

There is, therefore, a 100 percent conflict between the militant and conscious workers in the Cowley and the bureaucracy. The victimization of Alan Thornett was resisted gives grounds for tremendous confidence that the working class will win this struggle. Despite all their rules and regulations, the bureaucracy cannot control the rapid development of the class struggle or curb the strength of the working class. They and Leyland have failed. But to succeed they must build a shop stewards and a leadership will be built in the new branch.

In the first chapter we noted that the driving force behind all development was the economic crisis of capitalism. No bureaucracy, company bosses or right-wing shop stewards can avoid the consequences of this crisis. Neither can any worker at Cowley. They have already undergone a great change. They know now that they face the biggest fight for jobs in the history of Oxford. They know that only a principled leadership can lead this fight.

The struggle at Cowley has been a great lesson. The retreat that started during the QT strike allowed the bureaucracy to intervene and strike a blow at the plant leadership. The inquiry became a vehicle for the right-wing, who, in turn, were the political agents of the company. But the events at Cowley cannot simply be seen as a conspiracy involving the management and the company. Such a view would be superficial. Rather the elevation of Parsons and the attempt to destroy independent trade unionism at the plant is the result of this process, the development in the crisis of capitalism.

In common with the other giant capitalist corporations, Leyland requires an end to independent trade unions. The crisis forces them to close all avenues of compromise. They demand of the bureaucracy that it becomes transformed into its political police.

The bureaucratic leaders respond since they are reformists and, as such, wedded completely to class compromise. They go to conference to discuss how they can get the company out of the crisis. At national level they attempt to subordinate the movement of the working class to "social contract"—which is nothing more than a plan for wage cuts.

At Cowley, verbal gestures of support can be made, but basically the bureaucracy must move in against the 5/55 branch committee and the senior stewards because they represent a leadership that fights against class compromise and the independence of the working class.

What is the tendency behind this rapid development of the bureaucracy towards the interests of capitalism? In Trade Unions in An Epoch of Imperialist Decay Trotsky wrote: "By transforming the trade unions into organs of the state fascism invents nothing new; it merely draws to its ultimate conclusion the tendencies inherent in imperialism."

But the working class is stronger than the capitalist class and its bureaucratic allies. The decision at Cowley to go outside the 5/55 branch and set up a rival organization was a declaration of weaknesses and desperation on the part of the TGWU leadership. The working class at Cowley will be in the vanguard of the fight. But the victimization of Thornett does show that the defense of basic democratic rights cannot succeed under a reformist leadership. It is a revolutionary question involving the expropriation of a bankruptcy and degenerate system including the nationalism of British Leyland, without compensation under workers' control.

This requires the construction of a revolutionary leadership—the Workers Revolutionary Party and its industrial section, the All Trade Unions Alliance. For Thornett's membership of the Workers Revolutionary Party being incompatible with his leading position in the trade unions. It was the revolutionary political training that the leadership at Cowley had undergone that made them able to withstand the biggest management onslaught in the company's history. They emerged from this fight still in the vanguard at Cowley, and still with the only policy to meet the capitalist crisis, to defend jobs, wages and working conditions.

TO BE CONTINUED
BY DEBRA WATSON
CHICAGO, ILL.—The labor unions must take action to drive the Nazi Party out of Chicago.

The Nazi Party campaign for alderman in the fifth ward is trying to appeal to the most virulent, racist filth and is an open call for attacks on blacks.

The fifteenth ward has changed racially in the past seven years—from virtually white to 46 to 50 percent white. Many black families moved from the deteriorating conditions of the West Side Chicago ghettos to new FHA-conceived State Street Projects.

When the first black families moved in, the real estate companies immediately moved in action to oust them.

There is an average of one home per block in the 250 block ward presently abandoned because many families who finance the homes on FHA cannot get home improvement loans. Then the real estate companies move in to foreclose mortgages.

This was widespread last January when the jump in real estate taxes pushed some notes from $135 a month to as high as $180 a month. After the real estate agents reclaim the houses, they attempt to sell.

But this practice is not the major source of income. The money rolls in when block-busting and panic peddling start.

A block is “busted” when a black family is moved in to an all-white block. Then the real estate company goes around and encourages all the white families to sell, offer it below the market value. Then the companies can sell at a higher price to the black families who need a place to live.

This has absolutely nothing to do with open housing, because the area is still an all-white area. Public services can be cut back and schools allowed to deteriorate. Then a campaign is waged on the other side of the line to try and get the concern that the black workers for decent homes into racism against the black workers.

The issue facing both black and white workers is how to defeat the money hungry real estate speculators. Many white residents have their life savings invested in these homes and realize that the real estate companies are out to squeeze more blood money from them through the panic peddling.

While the money making went on, organizations of the right were allowed to step in and spread their racist poison in the neighborhood. The present combination of Dr. Francis Lawlor, a Catholic priest, has campaigned to keep black families out.

In his second term, Lawlor, having failed to hold the line, embarked on a campaign to keep Gage Park High School white as possible by getting the area rezoned, sending black students to Englewood or Harper High Schools.

Students at Gage Park High School told the Bulletin about the attempts by the Nazi Party in this circuit at the school and to exploit tensions among Latin, black, and white students.

From the day they moved into the neighborhood in 1936, they have been greeted by both black and white residents with contempt. They were thrown off the Coalition of Concerned Parents. Their offices have reportedly been bombed three times.

In 1972, they ventured into a western suburb where some blacks had moved, and attempted to make a speech. White workers threw them out of a bar and beat them to a pulp before they could say a word.

Last summer, in mixed-borderline areas, Lawlor’s men campaigned on flyers door to door for the increased interest rates on home loans, while the Nazis patrolled the streets and threw “Back to Africa” tickets out car doors.

Neither the Republican or Independent Democratic candidate offer any alternative to workers in Chicago. Just as they do in Brooklyn, the Democrats allow the blacks and fascists to operate freely and are tied to the big real estate and corporate interests who they defend.

The trade unions remain silent on these issues. Defense guards of both white and black workers must be organized to throw the Nazis out of the Fifteenth Ward. A campaign must be mounted to throw them out of the city.

The crisis in housing can only be resolved by the nationalization of the real estate companies, home building associations, construction companies, and all industry under workers control.

The labor movement must call a Congress of Labor to build a labor party to carry this out and to provide a crash program of billions for new inexpensive housing for all workers.

City Slashes Welfare

BY A REPORTER
NEW YORK, N.Y.—Business at the Vietnam Veterans’ Income Maintenance Center in Brooklyn starts early.

Around 3 a.m. that is when a tiny line starts to form in the cold, dark street.

They come down at 9 a.m. when the office opens, they won’t be seen. So they come earlier and earlier.

Almost all of them are out of work. The rate of unemployment among veterans is high discrimination by the employers coupled with the economic lack of jobs caused by the economic crisis.

They are there to get money to which they are entitled, to live, to feed, and clothe their families and to pay the rent. But the money paid by federal and state programs is getting tighter.

New eligibility requirements have removed tens of thousands of needy cases from the welfare roll. One of the stringent regulations that is beneficiaries have to turn up with a battery of documents to undergo face-to-face interviews.

CLOSING

If you fail to show up, your “case is closed.” This means you come off the register. You are “out of the system.” You do not get any welfare.

Even if you get through the interview, the department has a policy of harassing people off the role. It is becoming common practice to use the bureaucratic red tape to get people removed from the social service program.

This is a dramatic change from the 1960s, the years of raging liberalism when anyone was presumed eligible until proven otherwise. Now, it is the other way around. Every case is “suspense” until his or her need is absolutely confirmed to the letter.

There is supposed to be a procedure for hearings and appeals. This has been transformed into a bureaucratic backhanded to screw the needy.

Let’s take a case worker’s family.

Joe X is married with four children. He is considered “employed” so he has to work at the minimum wage rate in order to receive his check.

CLEANING

He has been put in a local hospital to do odd cleaning jobs. He is not paid civil service rates and does not get any of the benefits or protection of civil service employment. In other words, he is a kind of indentured slave.

A few years ago, it would have been very different. Joe could have been included on a vocational training program, learning a trade. This was abolished by the Nixon administration as part of a “reform in the welfare system.

Joe has no future as a cleaner maintenance worker. As part of an unorganized labor force, part of the corporate poor, he could be threatened to join a race force in the event of strikes at the hospital.

Welfare is paying him $129 for two weeks. Once his bills are paid—food, clothing, utilities, transportation, cigarettes—he has nothing left. In fact, he owes some money to the local grocer and there’s a big electricity bill to come which he won’t be able to pay.

Joe and the many families like him receive about $5,000 a year in welfare (rent included). This is half of the income which govern- ment statisticians said was adequate for a New York family—in 1972. That was before the soaring increases in the cost of living.

IMPACT

The impact of this attack on basic living standards is visible in many districts of the city. On the subways, in the parks, and streets, there is a growing army of panhandlers. It is no longer confined to the Bowery and one or two city blocks. You can find derelicts at Rockefeller Center.

In this situation, the extreme right-wing Conservative party candidate for the 14th Congressional District said on the radio last week that the single most important issue in the election is “crime.”

He is right—but in the wrong way. It is the “crime” of the monopolists who want to make the working class pay for the crisis of spiralling inflation and recession.

The Fords and Rockefeller’s want to return the working class to the “lusty thirties,” to let the unemployed lines grow, and to turn working people into a mass of pappus.

That is the meaning of Ford’s “anti-inflation” program.
BY SHEILA BREHIM
BORON, Calif.—US Borax miners have bitterly ended their four and a half month strike.

The miners voted 460 to 83 to accept a contract that every miner baskets because ILWU President Harry Bridges refused to carry out his pledge to shut the docks to defend the strikers.

The contract lasts three years and provides a 1 percent increase the first year, 7 percent in the second year and a severely limited cost of living escalator clause.

Over 300 scales hired during the strike will be allowed to return and will join the union in 30 days.

When the 800 miners shut down on June 15, they demanded a 25 percent wage increase in one year and a full cost of living clause. They were immediately met with one of the most vicious union-busting campaigns in recent history.

Owned by Rio Tinto Zinc, Ltd., which faces a deep financial crisis, Borax set out from the beginning to break the union and impose the slave labor conditions that exist in their gold and diamond mines in South Africa.

US Borax spent hundreds of dollars hiring scabs and a special elite guard during the third month of the strike. Boron's population 2000 was occupied by police for two days when they opened the gates to scabs.

ARRESTED

110 miners were arrested, and others severely beaten, including a pregnant woman who lost her baby. Every miner's family was harassed by police. Over 200 families moved out. Many lost their homes and have gone to other towns to look for work. Others, embittered by the betrayal of the strike, are planning to move. The vice-president of Local 25 moved out.

And there are rumors that President Kenny Jordan also plans to leave.

But it was not the brute force of US Borax that set back the miners. It was the strike itself. The strike displayed a tremendous determination to fight and had the support of the entire town behind them.

As one miner said: "This strike was entirely different from 1968. Every member was involved. We all knew the issue—the right to a union."

It was the cowardly betrayal of Bridges who starved Local 25 out, that led to this settlement.

When Bridges spoke before Local 25 and told them they were foolish and he was going to let them sit it out, he was nearly booed out of the meeting. When the ranks demanded action. Bridges pledged if necessary to shut the docks and drain the ILWU treasury.

It was only two weeks later that Borax realized that Bridges would not take action and that it was just militant talk. At this point, it brought in the scabs and cops.

DOCKS

Even after this onslaught of police terror, Bridges refused to act on his pledge to shut the docks. At another meeting, on the demand of one Local 25 member, Bridges representative Bill Percy, had pledged to go to all the dock unions and ask them not to handle any Rio Tinto products anywhere. But the minute Percy returned, this demand was dropped.

Bridges refused to shut the docks because he knew it meant a confrontation with the Ford government and the Democratic-controlled Congress.

The Borax strike shows sharply that every struggle for wages is a political struggle against the government and its parties. Governor Ronald Reagan, a long time backer of Borax, was responsible for the sending in of police while opposition was raised by any Democrat.

Despite the outcome of this strike, there exists among many miners a determination to build a new leadership against Borax, based on these experiences. The Trade Union Alliance for a Labor Party, an industrial arm of the Worker's League, met with miners during the strike to fight for a towards longshoremen and for the need to raise the demand for a labor party.

As a miner said: "Now I can see what we should have done that. This is why Borax isolated us but I didn't understand it when we were going through it. We never had confidence in Bridges but we thought we could carry out the fight in Borax and avoid Bridges, and making longshoremen aware of what they face or what he was going to do."

Another miner, Dennis Cartet, said: "We may have lost a battle, but we didn't lose the war."

FAUD

A parity clause, which teachers were told would in their pay if other workers got a higher percentage increase, was revealed as a fraud. The clause is only valid in relation to other city employees with "comparable salary or higher." City blue-collar workers, who won a 10 percent yearly increase through a militancy this city strike, are now being shunted aside. Despite decreasing overall enrollment, class sizes have continued to increase. First year eighth grade history teacher, says: "The conditions are terrible. I have one class with 44 kids in it and another with 35. I have to come to school every day. I'd have quit three weeks ago.

Teachers who have requested course reassignments and many due step increases in salary have faced long delays and mistakes due to understaffing at the Board of Education offices. Costs of many programs are not even covered by the limited reimbursement provisions of the current contract.

Charles Wheatley, head of the Maryland State Teachers Association, recently stated in the PSTA Newsletter:

"We want to see the elimination of the need for arbitration in the public sector, and we will push for an era of mediation and arbitration to that end. Recent PSA questionnaire asked teachers how they would trade off demands for smaller class size, fringe benefits, or wages if this became necessary in the negotiations.

The present two-year contract, which expires in June, was rammed down the throats of the membership after a month-long strike last February.

At that time, a strike meeting of 4000 teachers agreed to accept the contract against the recommendation of Karl Brown, PSTA president. PSTA leaders then said the strike would continue by the election in the day after teachers had gone home. This betrayal left teachers only 9 percent in salary increases over the two years, a partial fulfillment of the mandated contract, plan and better benefits.

There was no reduction of class size negotiated.

Mayor Ties Firemen's Pay To Productivity

NEW YORK, NY.—The new productivity committee set up by Mayor Beame and four city unions is being used as aogression against the city firemen.

Their bitterly-fought contract, settled early in the summer, has never been signed by the city, and 10,500 firefighter's are owed about $300 each in retroactive pay increases. Rich and J. A. Vizzi, head of the Uniform Firefighters Association, has filed "improper labor practices charges."

Vizzi's charges that the city wants to undermine the UFA's productivity clause by replacing it with the new city wage agreement, is clear and ready to get the benefits of the new contract into the paycheck of the uniformed firemen, but not until the UFA leaders win the same commitment to improved productivity that we received from the office of the Mayor. Mayor James Cavanaugh replied to this.

City workers covered by the new committee, which includes, in addition to firefighters, Sanitation, and Salvation Army, the sharpest warning from Cavanagh's administration. The agreement which Vizzi is defending over the two union-busting parties calls for binding arbitration of any productivity issue that cannot be settled by a UFA-management committee.

Cavanaugh's accusation that Vizzi is "attempting to erode the city's management prerogatives won at considerable expense in past contracts" means that the city wants a free hand to impose brutal speed-up and layoffs in every city department.

Vizzi himself has no perspective for leading a fight against these attacks. Just hours before he filed the charges, he spoke in support of a conservative Republican Governor Malcolm Wilson, whose administration has just announced a five hour walkout last month. At the same time, Victor Gobum of DC-120 calls the list of supporters for Demo-
In the November 1 issue of The Militant, the newspaper of the revisionist Socialist Workers Party, the following questions were raised in a published letter sent by a reader, Patrick Clay from Chicago.

"I really appreciated The Militant's coverage of the Boston police riot," he wrote, "but I don't understand why you demand that federal troops be sent there to protect the black students. If the troops were sent to Boston, wouldn't they be used against the black community as easily as against the racists? It was the National Guard that shot down students at Kent State.

"You point out that the racist antibusing campaign has been actively supported by Congress, by Nixon and Ford, and lately by the Supreme Court. I agree. But if this is the case, wouldn't it be better to teach the oppressor to rely on their own power rather than on the government?"

Patrick Clay has asked the right questions, and we propose to answer him. This must be done, because the reply published by The Militant represents a complete rejection of basic Marxist principles and a reactionary turn against the most burning issues of the working class.

Furthermore, in defending their call for federal troops, the Militant has attacked the Workers League, our "sectarian," thereby opposing the struggle of workers for opposing the invasion of Boston by the military bodies of the state or class.

If this makes the Workers League "sectarian," then yes, V.I. Lenin whose State and Revolution makes absolutely clear the position of the workers toward all revolutionary organizations on the role of the state.

Basing himself on the writings of Engels and Marx, Lenin stated, "The state is a product and a manifestation of the irrepressibility of class antagonisms. The state arises where, when, and insofar as class antagonisms are not yet reconciled.

"The militant position was the opposite of the revisionist position, stated Lenin, which views the state as "the instrument for the reconciliation of classes."

Lenin declared that the power of the state "consists of special bodies of armed men, having prison cells at their command." He added, "The state is a special organization of force, it is an organizational form of violence for the suppression of some class.

The conclusion drawn by Lenin was that the working class must smash the state in order to establish workers' power. If this was the case.

According to SWP leader Peter Camejo, when black people in Boston are reprinted in The Militant, as part of the answer to Patrick Clay, this position is sectarian.

"Sectarians argue from scheme programs which express the objective and historical interests of the working class must, according to the Co-Optation Theory of the SWP, be discarded. That is all "make-believe."

"What is here is the capitalist state and its organs of repression. Since the working class has not yet created defense guards, Camejo considers it positively unattractive to call for them. But since the capitalists do have a state and an army, the working class has no choice but to do the best it can with it. When the SWP attacks us for fighting for defense guards that do not exist, they are actually throwing the entire international Program of the Fourth International, written by Leon Trotsky, overboard. The Transitional Program serves to overcome the gap between the maturity of the objective conditions and the consciousness of the working class in order to prepare it for power. It seeks to mobilize the masses for the conquest of power.

As for the question of defense guards, the Workers League did not invent this proposal. We took it straight out of the Trotskyist Program. Trotsky wrote: It is necessary to find a way to incorporate this slogan into the program of the revolutionary wing of the trade unions."

We are proud to continue Trotsky's struggle.

Camejo's arguments are as vulgar as those of the most bankrupt trade union functionaries who consider it pointless to fight for jobs when the capitalists close their factories. It is "make-believe" as far as we are concerned, as far as the future of the working class is concerned to fight for what no longer exists. For every revisionist, every "bourgeois" socialist, the struggle today for the abolition of the state and the new power of the working class must support the lesser of the two presently existing evils, the Democrats or Republicans.

OPPORTUNISM

The SWP countersposes opportunism to revolutionary practice.

As all pragmatists, the revisionists pride themselves on their practical measures for the conquest of power. They measure their "practical" measures against the success of the trade unions. In Boston, the SWP is willing to accept working class support from the army and National Guard.

But in order to do so, the working class must support the lower of the two presently existing evils, the Democrats or Republicans.

The Workers League is proud of the fact that its comrades in Boston have intervened in the struggle against Ford and his attorney. We are proud that we have made the trade unions and the community realize that trade union defense guards are necessary to unite all sections of the working class against the government.

We are conducting a campaign opposing the federalization of any troops into Boston and demanding the construction of a labor party by the trade unions in opposition to the capitalist state.

We will continue this fight, building the Workers League on the strength of the battle of our comrades in Boston, in this way, training the revolutionary party that will lead the working class to victory.

When opportunists call us sectarian because we are determined. Because they are attacking that which is our strength—the defense of the trade union defense guards, and making clear the class lines which divide revisionism and Trotskyism.

Answer To The SWP's RETRATUL

The logic of the SWP's line is shown above as police are brought in to attack black youth in Boston.

Peter Camejo

Patrick, in his letter, states, "As the situation develops, stated Camejo. "They say: (1) the bourgeois state represents the workers; (2) the army and police are part of the bourgeois state; (3) therefore, everything they do is against the interests of the workers."

This is perfectly clear from what Camejo says that when revisionists oppose sectarianism, they are attacking a serious commitment to basic Marxist principles and refusing to subordinate the working class to the ruling class. For the SWP, the defense of the working class against the state's armed bodies of men is sectarian.

By placing itself at the forefront of the campaign for federal troops in Boston, the Socialist Workers Party has taken a class position which places itself in the camp of the capitalists. Camejo stated: "The demands to bring in federal troops puts the right rear position in its hands: in Washington, they're placed on the spot, and forced to produce or not produce."

"Produce what?" said the American ruling class, which has organized the murder and oppression of millions of workers all over the planet, but must confront the working class in this country. It must go on to war against the workers in order to defend the profit system.

The poison of racism is spread deliberately by the capitalists to divide the working class and divert it from the fight against the government's attacks on jobs and living standards.

Just as the British imperialists used religion in Northern Ireland to create the conditions to send in the army and launch a reign of terror against Protestants and Catholic workers alike, the Ford governmentwhips up racism as a weapon to replace the repression of all workers. In 1960, the British co-thinkers of the SWP, the International Marxist Group, would not fight against the sending of troops to Ulster. They went along with the fraud that imperialist troops would prevent a Protestant pogrom against Catholics.

British troops in Ulster.

Today, the SWP takes the lead in demanding troops.

The SWP seeks to block out the class issues posed in Boston. The demand for troops, it claims is supported by the "black community" and opposed by the "racists."

"By "black community, the SWP means the reactionary bourgeois nationalist politicians to whom it has adapted. By "racists, the revisionists mean all white workers."

As they write off the white workers, the revisionists openly state in the program that the government in so-called "all the past gains made by black workers."

Camejo can barely contain his enthusiasm for the role played by black federal troops during the Selma to Montgomery march in 1965.

"Troops" was there. I marched. I saw the troops. I was glad they were there. We would camp at night—there were about 2000 of them in the early part of the demonstration—and the guards would stand all the way around us all night. This enabled the march to continue, and that was a victory.

The SWP is guilty of an enormous deception of the working class when it claims that federal troops would defend the youth of Boston against racist elements who have been openly encouraged by Ford, Patrick Clay is absolutely right to refer to the murder of students at Kent State. But the implications of troops in a major city are in fact much more dangerous. With federal troops come curfew, laws barring demonstrations, provocations against trade union rank and file, arrests and killings.

That is what occurred in Ulster. If Ford does not yet send troops to Boston, it is because he knows that such action would meet powerful resistance from the working class.

Nothing outrages Camejo more than the call of the Workers League for trade union defense guards to protect youth against the racist attacks intensifying against the government. He writes: "The call for trade union defense guards isn't realistic right now. There are no trade actions that even have defense guards, much less any that have offered them to defend black students. It's not a serious proposal. It has nothing to do with meeting the needs of the black community today."

"You sectarianists live in a make-believe world of slogans sowing anarchy. In your world, trade union defense guards are counterposed to federal troops. But in the real world, they're not counterposed because the trade union defense guards do not exist."

This, of course, is the argument to end all revolutionary practice. Policies and
The Truth About Ramon Castro’s Death

BY KEN WESTON
DETROIT, Mich.—On the morning of September 11, Ramon Castro, a 53-year-old metal finisher at the Bud Manufacturing Company, was crushed to death beneath a steel stock rack.

At work on his grinding machine, Ray, as he was known, was working on Congressman’s car. He was in the first-floor work area. As he was working on the car, he was crushed to death by a large metal plate.

Ramon and his wife, Doris, and their three-year-old daughter, Ramonita, as well as two other children, were killed.

Ramon Castro is angry and bitter over his wife’s death. She was 22 years old and was a mother of three children. She had been working at the plant for six years.

“Ramon was a hard worker,” said a coworker. “He was a good employee.”

Ramon Castro was a good worker, but he was not a good father. He was a drunk and a gambler. He was constantly in debt and was always in trouble with the law.

The plant was closed down due to the death of Ramon Castro. The company has suspended all operations and is trying to settle with the family.

AUTO JOBS...

(Continued From Page 1)

...only the liquidation of tremendous amounts of capital, the wiping out of competition abroad, and the return to slave labor in the plants can solve this. As a result of this attack, the auto companies have been more than ever a menace to our economic stability. Strikes have exploded at the St. Louis and Brownsville plants.

GM plants, at Delco Mramore and Delco Remy, and now at GM’s Framingham plant near Boston.

Each strike, the UAW bureaucrats make a secret deal to force the men back to work, with not one issue resolved.

Auto workers must use their strength to demand in our local that Woodcock mandate an immediate national auto strike to halt all layoffs and to recall all those still laid off from previous cutbacks.

Such a strike immediately raises the question of who shall run these plants, and who shall run the government that backs the employers.

The workers must demand that if GM, Chrysler and Ford cannot provide jobs and decent wages the industry must be nationalized under worker control and without compensation. Now is the time to prepare for occupations of any plant that shuts down and to win labor support for such action.

The UAW leaders who begin with the interests of big business and are no longer interested in the functioning of the working class must be answered by the demand for organizing a labor party, to break with the Democrats and Republicans, and for a fight for socialist policies to organize production of basic industry for need, not for profit.

The most urgent question facing every trade unionist is the need for an immediate Congress of Labor to plan action to stamp out unemployment and inflation and to launch the labor party now.

NY Bus Co. Drivers Reject Deal

NEW YORK, NY—Drivers for the New York Bus Company have refused to end their three-month walkout, saying they achieve full parity on wages and cost-of-living protection.

Negotiators for Local 100 of the Transport Workers Union reached a compromise settlement with the New York City Transit Authority last October, 1975, but the agreement was rejected by a wide margin. Union officials refuse to disclose the terms of the latest offer.

The New York Bus Company runs express bus service from the busy Co-op City apartment complex in the Bronx to Manhattan, and also handles special service to area race tracks, Jones Beach and Shea Stadium. These runs carry some 11,000 riders a day.

Drivers walked off the job July 1 after the company brought in a last-minute offer of three percent for 1974 and five percent for 1975. They are demanding full parity with TWU Local 100 drivers for the New York transit Authority, who won an eight percent/six percent settlement last spring and one of the nation’s strongest escalator clauses.

The drivers have also demanded improvements in pension and medical benefits. No new negotiations are scheduled.

Proposition L: Threat To Basic Union Rights

BY SUSAN FREDERICKS
SAN FRANCISCO, Calif.—"L NO!" is the cry being raised among thousands of San Francisco city workers from the civil service unions, building trades, and transportation unions.

They are fighting Proposition L, slated for the November election.

This proposition, constructed carefully by the big business interests in the Chamber of Commerce, proposes the complete abdication of collective bargaining for wages and benefits for all city workers. This will be left to the whim of the board of supervisors, which require a two-thirds vote to increase wages or benefits. It also takes away the emergency power of the Mayor to relegate labor disputes to the board of supervisors for direct collective bargaining.

This is the second step being taken this year to try and take away the basic rights of city workers. Already, thousands of city workers have been denied a raise of $6 a month and a dental plan, passable July 1, which was agreed to after a strike last March. The union’s leadership made no move to fight this, except to challenge the injunction against the raise in court.

CANNABUSING

Saturday, November 4

Hundreds of bus drivers, social service workers, hospital workers, and laborers have spent the day canvassing in working class neighborhoods and shopping centers to get out a massive “no” vote.

One leaflet put out by the joint campaign committee is the lie being told about the Municipal Railway. The layoff of 250 service workers $21,000 to $22,000, of whom 122 are monthly, nearly wages come to $12,000.

One driver told the Bulletin: “When a young man gets off his run at the end of the day, he is one very frustrated, tene

Chills...

"It sent cold chills through me the other day when I walked through the plant on my way to see the security. If I had known how bad it was, I wouldn’t have wanted my wife to work there.

Doris said the company attitude has changed. "We haven’t heard anything from them. Every time I asked, they sent a company nurse to my house. She told me Ray had a serious accident and that I had to go to the hospital right away, so I fixed myself up to look fine for Ray. I thought maybe he broken his leg or something.

HOSPITAL

“At the hospital, I asked a nurse, 'Where was my husband was... was he gone already'? She shook her head yes.

“The next day Bud sent a car out to take me to the morgue to identify his body. I’ve heard nothing from the company since.

Mrs. Castro feels the company and the union are covering up what happened. Henry Mclntire, one of Ray’s closest friends at the plant agreed. He was working right next to Ray the day the rack fell on him.

They had no business stacking those racks close to a guy where he’s working. Ray complained about it plenty of times, and so did the union. The company is trying to protect itself now, but they knew about the danger.

The Bud Company is one of the largest manufacturers of wheels and parts for automobiles and trucks in the country. The present slowing down of car sales and production effects suppliers who depend solely on auto production. Shortcuts in production, meaning fewer men and elimination of maintenance workers is more profitable for these companies.

A huge billboard outside the Budd Plant on Charlevoix on the East Side of Detroit, urges workers to “Think Safety.” The only way that these giant plants will ever be made safe for those who have to work on the inside is to nationalize them under workers control.

Ray Calore, President of UAW Local in Tarrytown, NY.
El 23 de octubre, con la asistencia de 200 obreros, estudiantes y juveniles, se conmemoró el 10 aniversario de la publicación del Bulletin, en el local de la Unión 1199 (Debs Hall).

Fred Inselman, Secretario Nacional de Liga Obrera, describió este acontecimiento como de singular importancia para el trotskismo internacional por la continuidad del periódico, que ha fomentado la construcción de un liderazgo revolucionario en la clase obrera, luego que el SWP dejase de publicarlo en revisiónismo en 1963.

Los trabajadores del acero, que forman parte del "Workers Revolutionary Party" de Inglaterra con Alex Mitchell, editor del "Workers' Press", se unieron al colectivo.

En un recordatorio de 10 años, el Bulletin ha destacado el papel de la actual biennal de 12 páginas N y representó la continuidad histórica de la lucha por el marxismo en Estados Unidos.

"Nuestro nuevo aniversario coincide con el quinto aniversario del Workers Press de Inglaterra, el que representa el legado de la historia del trotskismo. Y coincide además con la pro fundización de la crisis económica y política del capitalismo. El periódico revolucionario debe ser propagandista, agitador y organizador del movimiento de partícula en que era necesaria una campaña propagandista, el Bulletin se separó del desarrollo de la lucha de clases en las uniones." (Ed Inselman, 1971)

El Bulletin se ha esforzado continuamente por la lucha de clases y en el capitalismo. El que el gobierno de la Unión 1199 ha dejado de publicarlo en revisiónismo en 1963.

A pesar de su corto periodo de existencia, el Bulletin ha tenido un papel importante en la lucha por el marxismo en Estados Unidos, y ha tenido un papel importante en la lucha por el marxismo en Estados Unidos.

Por lo tanto, la felicitación al Bulletin por su 10 aniversario es un homenaje a su contribución al trotskismo internacional.

El aumento del salario medio ha sido de 100 por ciento para los nuevos trabajadores. Esto se debe a un aumento de 2.3 por ciento anual en el salario.

Sin embargo, el impacto real de la inflación ha sido aún mayor, debido a que los trabajadores en la industria aún están bajo contraatos y que el gobierno de los trabajadores en la industria aún está bajo contratos en el periodo en que el gobierno de los trabajadores en la industria aún está bajo contratos.

Los trabajadores de la industria básica son los más afectados. El aumento del IPC en el periodo de dos años que se inició a partir del segundo trimestre de 1973 es más que el aumento del IPC en el periodo de dos años que se inició a partir del segundo trimestre de 1973.

Aunque los trabajadores del acero están por arriba del IPC, no han podido evitar la inflación. Los trabajadores del acero están por arriba del IPC, pero han podido evitar la inflación.

La lucha de los trabajadores del acero por un aumento justificado es un paso importante en la lucha contra la inflación.
POR DAVID NORTH
El aumento del 12,1 porciento anual en el Índice de Precios del Consumidor (IPC) ha tenido un impacto devastador en el nivel de vida de los trabajadores.

Las estadísticas son una enorme denuncia de la burocracia de las uniones que han colaborado abiertamente, primero con Nixon y ahora con Ford, en estos tres años para controlar los sueldos con la "hucha contra la inflación". La defensa de nuestros niveles de vida ha requerido una accion de clase obrera.

Un acuerdo típico que se ha llegado de esta manera incluye un aumento salarial de sólo 9,8 porciento para los nuevos trabajadores. Esto significa un corte de 2,3 porciento anual en los salarios.

Los sindicatos y la UAW, con su política de "supervisión" de las negociaciones, han contribuido a la baja de los salarios. Pero los trabajadores no pueden tolerar más esta situación. Han decidido que, a partir de ahora, se tratará de los sueldos y salarios con la misma seriedad con que se tratan cualquier otro aspecto de la vida de los trabajadores.

Para lograrlo, los trabajadores han decidido que deben tomar medidas drásticas para proteger sus intereses, y que el precio que deben pagar por su apoyo a la política de los sindicatos no debe ser más que una cifra.

Una huelga general en todos los sectores de la economía sería la medida que se requiere para que los trabajadores puedan defender sus derechos. Pero esta huelga no debe ser sólo una protesta, sino un paso decisivo hacia el establecimiento de una nueva situación de lucha.

En este momento, los trabajadores deben ser conscientes de que la única manera de lograr sus objetivos es unirse en un solo frente y luchar juntos.

La Liga Comunista, como organización de clase, está dispuesta a apoyar a los trabajadores en su lucha contra la explotación capitalista. Pero para lograrlo, es necesario que los trabajadores tomen el control de sus propias destinos y que no se dé ningún paso atrás.

La lucha por la defensa de nuestros derechos es una lucha por el futuro de la humanidad. Y sólo juntos, como trabajadores, podemos lograrlo.