In Elwood, Indiana
by Kathy Whalen

Elwood, IN — Carol Frye, a 25-year-old striker, has been shot on the picket line at the Essex Wiring Company in Elwood, Indiana. She was shot by the Essex guards "because the company knew that was one sure way to get the police in here."

The strike, by Local 1663 of the UAW, began April 6, the result of a contract dispute. The Essex employees, 85% of whom are women, were offered $68 an hour over the next three years. This would bring their wage to $3.36 an hour by 1980.

The strike was peaceful for the first six weeks. On May 18, however, the company opened its gates and began hiring scabs. It told the strikers, in a letter, to return to work or lose their jobs.

The strikers succeeded in keeping scabs out, but Essex kept its guards and supervisors in the plant. They then claimed that these company personnel were being held under siege. The guards then began the shooting.

Soon there was shooting coming from both sides. "They were shooting at us from the roof and shooting flares down on us like it was Vietnam," said one woman. "Widows, divorcees, grandmas, women with families — a bunch of little old ladies," said another.

The shooting continued until Monday, July 11, at 3 a.m. when Carol Frye was shot in the back. She now lies paralyzed in a nearby hospital.

Strikers in Stearns, Kentucky

Stearns, KY - There is a wooded slope that runs between the trenches and sandbags of a band of striking Kentucky miners and the Blue Diamond Coal Company’s Justin Mine.

It is now called "a free-fire zone, a man's land." Bullets from carbines, shotguns, even AR 15’s — automatic rifles — fly irregularly across the miners' barricades.

Fifty yards behind the barricades is the miners’ "union hall" — a small building that is now ruined, riddled with bullet holes.

Thus far six men have been shot — one miner and five guards.

The miners shoot back. The Stearns strike is more than one year old. It began July 17, 1976, and is now the bloodiest conflict in the coalfields since the famous Harlan County Brookside strike.

The miners, who are striking for union recognition, now face the possibility of another long, cold winter on the picket lines. Arnold Miller, the president of the UMWA, has refused to call a national work stoppage in the miners’ memorial period, as he finally did in the Brookside strike. He has not even visited the picket lines.

Mahan Vanover, a miner who has worked at the Justus Mine for 35 years, says he is "afraid to think of what it will take to win this strike."

"Lawrence Jones (a Brookside striker) was killed by gun thugs, before that strike was settled. I guess they may have to kill one of us here, because we're not going back without a contract."

by Cal Winslow

Striker Phil Tucker on the line at the Justus Mine: sand bags and a warning.

50 Years Ago

Sacco and Vanzetti

Executed August 23, 1927

see pages 6 & 7
New York City is the capital of the richest empire the world has ever seen. It is also the center of world capitalism.

Into the city comes the richest of the world—the returns from investments in gold mines in South Africa and oil fields in the Middle East. The profits of tin mining in Bolivia and the rubber plantations of South East Asia.

The giant corporations have their headquarters in New York. The bankers of the city own at least a little of almost everything.

New York’s wealth is unbelievable. In its vaults, its banks, its skyscrapers, and in the mansions of its pleasant suburbs, there is sufficient wealth to clothe the world’s poor. To rebuild every slum.

To turn the desert into wheatfields.

HORDED

The loot, however, is horded. It is saved, either to be reinvested, or to entertain the whims of the few, the rulers of New York—the directors of industrial companies, the manufacturers and insurance magnates, the bankers who dominate the city.

Underneath all this affluence however, in the shadows of the tall buildings, there live many of the very poorest people in this land.

One million New Yorkers live in what is politely described as “substandard living units”—that is in the tenements and slums of the ghettos.

The unemployment figures are appalling. While national figures for unemployment of black teenagers are put at 39.4%, in New York they are 49.9%. And in the poorest areas, areas including the South Bronx and the Lower East Side, the jobless rate is 75% for youth.

In addition, Starveeant about 40% of the families exist on public assistance. In New York City the maximum monthly welfare grant for a family of four is $282, a payment calculated on 1971 cost of living standards for “minimal needs”.

ANIMALS

And these are the people, today mostly black and Hispanic, who were called animals by the police officials and the media, when they went into the streets the night of the blackout. These are the people that Mayor Abraham Beame singled out to be treated “most forcefully, most harshly.”

They were. Thousands were arrested and detailed, as police swept the looted areas indiscriminately picking up anyone who was young, or black. Hundreds were beaten. And at the height of the city’s worst heatwave in years, prisoners were detained incommunicado in nightmarish quarters.

The detention centers were crowded, short on sanitary facilities. There were no kitchens, and bedding was almost unheard of. And their cries, “Yeah, I took some stuff,” said one man. “And why not.”

Another said, “They’ve been rippin’ us off all year,” pointing at the ruins of an appliance store. “Why shouldn’t we take some back. These people are hungry.

New York, 1977: Living it up at the Met.

They don’t have jobs.”

Out Edition, the private utility, blamed the blackout on lighting, and said it was no fault. New York, in the meantime, has the highest utility rates in the country which the rich and poor alike must pay. Con Ed registers $254 million last year in profits.

Isn’t that footing? Amid isn’t the whole city built on footing? The poor looters of New York were merely getting in on the action.

and ‘Animals’ in the Night

New York, 1900: The poor wait for alms.

Consider the following editorial, taken from the New York Times—

“The class of people...who are engaged in this matter have many elements of a dangerous class. They are very ignorant...They do not understand the duties or the rights of Americans.

“They have no inbred or acquired respect for law and order as the basis of the life of the society into which they have come.

“Resistance to authority does not seem to them necessarily wrong, only risky, and if it goes to be risky the rest of us can have on their passions is very small.

“The instant they take the law into their own hands, the instant they begin the destruction of property and assault peaceable citizens and the police, they should be handled in a way that they can understand and cannot forget...let the blow fall instantly and effectively.”

“Those riots were plainly desperate. They meant to defy the police and were ready for severe treatment. They did not get treatment nearly severe enough and they are therefore far more dangerous than they were before...”

This was not written about the blackout.

It appeared in the New York Times on May 24, 1902.

The people described are not the “looting poor” of New York’s black and Hispanic ghettoes. They were poor and disorderly immigrant Jewish women, mostly verminous and mostly living on the Lower East Side. They were protesting the high price of kosher meat and they boycotted the retail butchers, battered butcher shops that remained open, threw meat into the streets and poured kerosene on it. They prevented non-buyers from buying meat. Dozens of women were beaten by the police, arrested and fined.

WOLVES

A New York World reporter compared the women to a pack of “wolves.” But when a judge asked Mrs. Rebecca Ahlows, one of the women arrested, “Why you do it?” Her answer was simpler—

“Your honor, we know our wonds. We see how thin our children are and that our husbands haven’t the strength to work.

“The rich, the powerful, the highly educated and the staidwarts of society, have always referred to the poor as ‘animals.’

“When there were disorders among the Jersey City Irish seeking wages due them from the Erie Railroad in 1859 the Jersey City American Standard called them ‘animals...a mongrel mass of ignorance and crime and superstitition.’

“A generation later, the Chicago Post referred to the city’s Bohemian poor as ‘depraved beasts.’ And the city’s discontented East European residents were scorned by the Chicago Times as “Savonic wolves’ from ‘European dogs.’

“The poor people of New York today are very much like the poor people of yesterday, and indeed, the Jews are women who punished retailers by destroying their merchandise and property.

“They are not ‘animals,’ the are the victims of a system which treats people like animals. And they are it victims of a city in which rich can enjoy any luxuries imaginable, amid the suffering of the many.

In August, due to vacation schedules, Socialist Worker will be 12 pages only. In September, we will return to the normal format of 16 pages.
On July 4, about 15 members of the Ohio Knights of the Ku Klux Klan attempted to hold a rally on the steps of the capital building in Columbus, Ohio. But before they could begin, two to three hundred demonstrators attacked them, thereby ending the rally.

Imperial Wizard Dale Reutch was pelted with eggs and knocked to the ground. Earlier that same week, another rally was disrupted. A man drove his car into the speakers' platform during a Klan rally in Plains, Georgia. Too bad for the poor old Klan! Not quite. Reutch was unable to give his speech in Columbus, but he did manage to tell newsmen what he had in mind.

KILL

"The Klan will fight. We will kill. We have to rebuild." Yes, the Klan will kill. They have done so in the past. They will kill again in the future. The Ku Klux Klan was started in 1865 by a group of Confederate veterans. It was quickly taken over by the Southern ruling class, the planters who had taken fright at the sudden upsurge of radicalism among not only the blacks but also the poor whites. The Klan used terror to preserve the planters' superiority. Lynchings of "uppity" blacks and scalawags (Southern white radicals) destroyed the radical movement.

The membership of the Klan has fluctuated greatly, and today there are 12 different Klan groups — each one, however, remains dedicated to white supremacy, and each has a policy of genocide toward blacks.

Right-wing groups flourish in periods of economic crisis, and it is no accident that at the period after the 1970 recession, the Ku Klux Klan has grown rapidly, possibly by as much as 50%. Today it is estimated to have at least 2,000 members.

The Klan has its own explanation of the problem of the day — inflation, unemployment and urban decay. It also has its own solution — just as Hitler had his solution in the 1930's. The Klan exasperates the sclerotic society by claiming that it is a Jewish conspiracy to pillage the South and Washington, D.C., an unchained black 'population that has learned the teachings of the "naturally superior" white race.

The Khrlan has actually been able to take a lead in a number of conflicts where racist whites have mobilized to attack the rights of blacks.

In Pennsylvania, the leadership of the anti-busing movement was in the hands of the Klan. Among other things, the Klan distributed anti-Semitic literature. In Indiana, the Klan organized white picketing lines, carrying crosses.

The Klan made its way into the plants as well. At the big General Electric plant, Klansmen went into the plant itself, and forced them to leave.

The work force at GE was divided right in half — blacks on one side, whites on the other.

HELPLESS

When GE then laid off some 500 black workers, the union, so divided that the workers were helpless. There was not even a protest.

In the end, the Klan grew. GE benefited as the planters had in the past, and as before the poor, the workers, black and white, were kept in their place.

The City of Philadelphia, when the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) came to the defense of the blacks, the ACLU announced that they were "distressed that the Klan's rights had been violated."

What rights? The "right" to lynching. The "right" to kill. The "right" to go on a race hatred, and to present a program of intimidation of blacks. Jews, socialists, and every other minority.

The demonstrators in Columbus, the driver in Plains, Georgia, to be congratulated for standing up to the Klan. If we are to stop the Klan now, while their numbers are still few, the alternative is their own destruction, as Ku Klux Reutch's words.

"The Klan will fight. We will kill."
Why Volkswagen Came to the U.S.A.

by Joe White

Pittsburgh, PA—The automobile industry is an almost perfect example of contemporary international capitalism.

Straddling the capital goods and consumer goods sectors, the economy, auto both mirrors and determines the economy's overall performance.

Every capitalist country which aspires to achieve the international big league status must have a car manufacturing sector. Once having made it into the big leagues, no capitalist country can hope for a consistently healthy balance of payments unless lots of cars are successfully exported.

SUCCESS

Volkswagen was the capitalistic success story par excellence of 1966. Inexpensive, own and run, relatively durable and easily repaired, VW's accounted for a clear majority of all cars imported to the U.S. by the mid 60's.

Since car sales were rising, Detroit essentially ignored the challenge, preferring to turn out full sized models on which the rate of profit per unit was higher than for compacts and subcompacts.

But 1970 VW sales in the U.S. peaked at 570,000. By this time the Beetle was no longer a laughing matter. Detroit countered with the Pinto and Vega. But — even more importantly — the overall economy was reeling from the effects of the Vietnam war, and for the first time in the 20th century the U.S. balance of payments was showing a deficit.

 Nixon attempted to stop the hemorrhaging in 1971 by devaluing the dollar. U.S. devaluation — coupled with the West German revaluations — had the identical economic effect upon Volkswagen sales in the U.S. of a 25-30 per cent tariff.

As a direct result, profits and sales plummeted. Between 1973 and 1975, VW lost a cool $400 million and, for the first time in a generation, had to lay off West German workers.

In contemporary capitalism, misery loves company. If VW was having its troubles, so was the state of Pennsylvania.

Public relations hypo to the correction, for state's industrial base in the 1970's still rested largely on coal, steel and heavy electrical goods, while the newer auto and aerospace industries were hardly to be found.

The state's economy was stagnating and was hit especially hard by the 1974-75 recession — unemployment running at about 11%.

Pennsylvania had one thing going for it. In the late 60's, Chrysler had started construc
tion on a new plant at New Stanton, 35 miles southeast of Pittsburgh in order to have a final assembly operation close to the large northeastern market, something Ford and GM had had for decades.

However, before the floor was laid and a single machine installed, Chrysler abandoned the plans in 1971 — citing losses in the recession of '71 and a shrinking share of the market.

At this point the New Stanton plant looked like a very large white elephant.

It would have remained one, had it not been for Volkswagen, who had in 1975 decided that the best and only way to recoup its losses in the U.S. was to produce in the U.S., a perspective made more appealing by the fact that U.S. labor costs in car manufacturing were now about on a par with those in European countries.

Accordingly, the Pennsylvania Industrial Development Authority began to hustle VW through the final stages of the Rabbits in Pennsylvania. By 1979 New Stanton's obvious advantages had turned out to be difficult and costly, because other states, mostly Missouri, were able to offer factory to factory competition.

What the issue boiled down to was which state would make Volkswagen's auto in the form of tax abatements and other financial incentives.

WINNER

The "winner" in the bidding was Pennsylvania, and the final deal, clinched in September 1976 was a bonanza for VW.

The state agreed to build $225 million worth of highway and railroad lines around New Stanton. In addition, the Pennsylvania Industrial Development Authority approved a $40 million loan, with the interest rate — less than half the open market rate.

The school teachers' retirement fund was tapped for another $46 million and $52 million in state and federal management funds for training workers was also thrown in.

Finally, VW was granted state and local tax relief for 5 years. Nothing like it has been seen since the 19th century state giveaways to railroads.

There should be no celebration, however. For solving either VW's or Pennsylvania's economic problems, the VW deal will only highlight the problem.

In the short run, VW's hopes for a 30,000 jobs to the north share of the U.S. market may be temporarily realized. However, VW will only find itself on an equal footing with the other big companies. And, it will share in the instability and stagnation of the auto industry.

Nor should workers jump for joy. The state estimates that the New Stanton plant will generate some 8,000-10,000 new jobs in southwest Pennsylvania — over and above the 5,000 jobs at the VW plant itself.

Yet when one considers that metropolitan Pittsburgh has lost more than 30,000 industrial jobs since 1970, the best that can be said is that VW will temporarily reduce the rate of decline.

The IAW has joined the politicians of Pennsylvania in welcoming VW with open arms. It has already begun an "organizing drive" (the plant opened in 1978 and has openly declared its intent to "organize with VW").

Pennsylvania, offered, and Volkswagen, faced, a similar economic climate for corporate profits and docile workers. That's all.

The task of the workers and socialists is to see that those corporate hopes are not fulfilled.

Black Books Banned

Many books in South Africa are banned, especially if they include the words black or red in the title. Obviously they don't like subjects which might deal with black liberation and the fight for socialism. But one book on the list, at least until recently, was Black Beauty.

Pay As You Stay

In Uruguay

The Uruguayan government spends 55% of its national budget on its military apparatus, but it still can't pay off its jails. And there are more political prisoners in Uruguay per capita than in any other country.

The government's solution is forcing the prisoners to pay room and board. They seize the prisoner's personal assets, and if these are not enough, they keep the prisoner in jail, while the debt continues to grow.

An Offer They Couldn't Refuse

In Gary, Indiana, the U.S. Steel corporation has posted billboards which read: "Buy American. Steal from Foreign Steel Steals American Jobs."

Recently, however, when workers at one of the mills were "honored" for high productivity, the each received a stainless steel pocket knife. And, stamped on the blade of each knife was "Made in Japan," U.S. Steel got a deal they couldn't refuse.

They Start 'Em Young!

Starting them young. In Kentucky, kids wear hoods and carry shotguns. At a eight-time rally near Louisville, children watched as a giant cross was burned. In Kenncott, Grand Dragon Sherman Adams says it's the "Junior Klan," and that it has a "substantial" membership.

According to Adams, "Public schools are just not doing their jobs. They give our kids a distorted view of history, about the role of white people and the colored folks."

Adams, who has been released on a $200 bond, the result of beating up some teenagers, while he and ten local Klansmen were smashing up their apartment, says the purpose of the Junior Klan is to offset the popular notion that the KKK is "a bunch of arsonists, murderers and terrorists."

Speaking of cops . . . who left the cage door open on this one?

God Punishes California

Of course, according to Anita Bryant, the orange juice queen, the drought in California is the result of the Wrath of God. Why? According to Ms. Bryant, God apparently feels there are too many gays in the Golden State.
Bhutto Overthrown

Prime Minister Bhutto's regime has collapsed, after four and a half months of spectacular agitation — with between 350 and 1,000 people killed and, at times, up to 50,000 in prison.

The Mafia of the Pakistan People's Party, Bhutto's government since 1971, has been overthrown. Bhutto and his cronies inherited power from the military after the break-up of Pakistan in 1971 and the formation of an independent Bangladesh out of the former East Pakistan.

Discouraged by the rhetoric about the socialist revolution and the destruction of the top capitalist families of the country, Bhutto built as corrupt and dictatorial a regime as any of his military predecessors. In the province of Baluchistan, he fought a civil war against the Baluchi independence forces.

His jails overflowed, the press and courts were terrorized. Far from fighting for socialism, his policies drove down the mass of the population. Any who protested disappeared into his prisons.

But enforced silence sometimes makes dictators deaf. They mistake the lack of sound for enthusiastic support.

That is how Bhutto came to call a general election in March.

BRITAIN IN FOCUS

18,000 Trade Union Pickets Stop Grunwick

London — Monday, July 10 was the Grunwick Pickets' high spot. Some 18,000 unionists from all parts of Britain attended. Most rank and file travelled with the intent of closing the factory altogether. However, the militants were head off by trade union officials who called for an "orderly march" instead of on-going mass picketing.

The Grunwick strike will be one year old this month. Ninety strikers, most of them Asian workers, have stood on the picket line facing bailiffs, the mass support by large forces of police and hostile press.

TERRIBLE

The women are film processors, working in terrible conditions for starvation wages of about $40 for 35 hours work. Their trade union has little recognition. For nine months they had received little justifiably from anyone but the socialist press.

The union, the traditionally conservative white collar APEX, became aware that the success of Grunwick's management in resisting unionization was due to encouragement from other employers. So in late May they began to call for mass picketing. During the month of June, the growing picket line was brutally assulted by large squads of police. Over 200 arrests were made.

The most exciting aspect of the past few years has been the solidarity action of the London postal workers. They have defied government, courts and their cowardly leaders to stop the movement of Grunwick mail from the local sorting office. A further mass picket has been called by the strike committee for August 14. A turnout of 20,000 is predicted.

A high court judgement favorable to the union in mid-July suggests that the continued mass picketing is wearing the state authorities, who would certainly prefer an orderly court judgement that would end the conflict to a mass rank and file workers action involving many thousands of workers, including the wholesale interruption of the mail service.

Furthermore, Britain's labor government is in trouble. Its wages policy is in ruins, defeated by rank and file actions at two major union conventions. This fall British workers will be seeking to beat inflation as an all-out fight for wage increases. A militant victory for Grunwick workers would be a real boost in that fight.

by John Charlton

It was an impressive sight — shop stewards banners from the four biggest ports in the country, Hull, London, Merseyside and Southampton, lined up right across the road.

The police made a couple of half-hearted attempts to clear the road, but there were just too many people.

We saw five hostages of the Special Patrol Group making towards us. But, 100 yards away, the Special Protection Group turned round. They obviously didn't fancy the odds.

Having failed with that group of animals, the police sent in the cavalry — three dozen mounted police. These horses and riders looked very big in the flesh, especially when they were trotting down a hill right towards you.

At that moment, I thought it was just a matter of time until line was broken. But as I looked round, the mass of pickets had linked arms to form a wall right across the road, about 50 or 60 deep and with thousands more struggling up the road.

The police just could not get through. They were absolutely stuck. A few seconds before, they had all looked brushy.

But now, as their horses stood still and the crowd jeered and laughed at them, they just looked embarrassed, like mounted clowns.

There's nothing in the policeman's manual about what to do when trade unionists are determined enough not to be intimidated.

So, after ten minutes, the more intelligent horses turned and took their riders away.

It was about the most exhilarating moment I've ever experienced on a demonstration.

You could sense a charge in the air, a mood of confidence and determination.

At that moment the Grunwick's factory was totally blocked. There was nothing the police could have done to get the scabs' bus through.

Wall Across the Road

By Bob Light

Transport and General Workers Union, Royal Docks, London

"...about the most exhilarating moment I've ever experienced on a demonstration. You could sense a charge in the air, a mood of confidence and determination. At that moment the Grunwick's factory was totally blocked. There was nothing the police could have done to get the scabs' bus through."

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ARREST

Bhutto was driven to concede, at least formally, all the opposition's demands. But he still tried to keep the final say, to capture his own personal survival.

When the opposition threatened to intensify the agitation, the army swiftly intervened to arrest Bhutto and his government and the PNA.

The defeat of Bhutto was a great victory for the workers and peasants of Pakistan.

In the words who fought, who made the enormous sacrifices required to defeat Bhutto, but the generals have reaped the victory.

Such a victory.
No Strike at Inland Steel

East Chicago, Indiana—Union and management negotiators at Inland Steel reached agreement July 25 on unresolved local issues of the contract three weeks before a scheduled strike. Details of the pact were not announced.

The negotiations at Inland concerned in-plant conditions, health and safety, incentives, and craft training programs. The national steel contract covering wages, pensions and insurance was signed in April by union and industry reps.

PROFITABLE

Inland Steel is the most profitable U.S. mill and the cheapest to its workers. Conditions at Inland are far behind those at the nearby US Steel, Bethlehem and Republic. And for one reason, higher profits. Last year Inland had record sales and profits—more than $9 million.

Earlier this spring it appeared a strike wave would sweep District 31. All major mills in the area were taking strike votes. But, one by one, local settled, leaving only Inland unresolved.

LIES

With the contract unsettled, the company launched a campaign of lies and rumors meant to weaken strike sentiment. Workers were told the strike would be a long one: 2 to 3 months, and that they would lose their insurance and even their homes.

The company also began blaming shut downs and lay offs on foreign imports from Japan and West Germany.

All of these lies were unanswered by the U.S.W. leadership. Jim Balhoff, the "militant" District Director led the negotiations. Ed Sadlowski, the "Tough talker," headed the strike committee, which never met. Throughout the negotiations, union officials deliberately held back the ranks from organizing. While the union's talk was tough, their words were cheap. Motions to hold strike rallies were tabled again and again.

Some of the reasons behind the Inland settlement were determined by events within the steel industry. The steel companies set production and sales records during the second quarter of 1977. This was a result of a very slow first quarter due to energy shut downs and stockpiling of inventories due to a pre-announced 7% price increase on July 19.

NO ORDERS

After weeks of forced overtime, workers at Inland are being laid off because "there just aren't any orders." Facing with the prospect of a long local strike or indefinite lay off, steel workers find themselves with their backs to the wall.

There is only one answer—break the national no-strike agreement, the ENA.

Still Inland Steel, with 23,000 members, would have been a good place to begin. Nevertheless, the strike would have had the broad support to be really successful. While a local strike can cripple a company temporarily, only a national steel walk-out has the muscle to win steel workers what they need.

Until the rank and file movement, independent of local union bureaucrats, can be built within the union to smash the ENA and the company unionism which supports it, steelworkers will continue to face the prospect of sell-out contracts and lay offs. It is the ENA which shapes the steel industry and keeps the workers under the company's thumb.

In the Socialist Party, there were 120,000 foreign-born members. When the Communist Party was founded in 1919, it was led and dominated by the foreign-born language federations.

Nicolta Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti were arrested in the spring of 1920.

They believed that they were to be questioned about their political beliefs, for why else would two poor men, "a good shoemaker and a poor fish peddler," be arrested by the police. They had committed no crime.

They were radicals, however. Vanzetti had led a strike of shoe workers, and, as a result, had been blacklisted in the trade. They were both active in supporting other workers—they had helped the textile workers in the great Lawrence strike.

They were anarchists, simple men who wanted freedom, and who, in Vanzetti's words, dreamed of "a society free of hate and exploitation."

Yet, when they were jailed, it was not for a political offense. Instead, they were accused of a brutal holdup of a payroll truck, with murder, in South Braintree, Massachusetts, on April 15, 1920.

They denied their guilt. Hundreds of witnesses testified in their behalf. They had been nowhere near the scene of these alleged crimes.

Sacco and Vanzetti fought for their lives and their freedom. For seven years, they waited in prison. Internationally, there was an enormous movement of protest. Workers on every continent demanded their release.

FIFTY YEARS

Nevertheless, they were executed, in July, 1927, fifty years ago this month. Why? Sacco and Vanzetti were foreign-born workers—Italians.

The foreign born were the backbone of the revolutionary movement in the United States in the years just following the first World War.

In the Socialist Party, there were 120,000 foreign-born members. When the Communist Party was founded in 1919, it was led and dominated by the foreign-born language federations.

Others, like Sacco and Vanzetti, were anarchists, and others were syndicalists members of the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW).

The revolutionary movement among workers in 1908, 1909, 1910, was under way before or since. There was against the miners, the steel workers, the blacksmiths in 1909. In 1910, the Boston pug strike, testifying to the need for unions, for unionism and anarchists.

GENERAL STRIKE

In Seattle, there was the general strike, during which workers took over the city and ran it themselves. Washington state was, as it is now, a "soviets." Internationally, the working class was in revolt, urged on by the slaughter of millions, the capitalists' war, and the success of the workers' revolution in Russia in 1917.

The United States government became increasingly desperate, until finally
launched a reign of terror directed against the revolutionary movement — first and foremost against the foreign born. Sacco and Vanzetti were the victims. There were many others as well, but the two Italians from Massachusetts were the best known. They were sacrificed as an example to any worker who would dare challenge the rule of capital.

BRAHMIN

Judge Webster Thayer, an aging Back Bay Brahmin, tried Sacco and Vanzetti. He hated foreigners. He openly instructed Vanzetti’s jury that, although this man may not have committed the crime attributed to him, he is non-French morally culpable because he is the enemy of our existing institutions — the defendant’s ideals are c�gnate with crime.

Judge Thayer was vile in his contempt for the two men. On the golf course with society’s “finest” he referred to Sacco and Vanzetti as ‘dago’ and ‘sons of bitches.’ At the Dartmouth football game he boasted to a friend, “Did you see what I did to those anarchist bastardards?” Thayer allowed the defendants’ political beliefs to be considered as evidence. He refused a motion for a new trial despite the fact that one jury member told another that he hoped to see Sacco and Vanzetti hang.

Even when another man confessed to the South Braintree murders, Thayer refused to grant a new trial.

MOVEMENT

Sacco and Vanzetti, as anyone who will read their letters or listen to their words can understand, inspired millions.

On the eve of their execution, 6,000 Colorado miners struck. Sixteen thousand workers marched through Rochester, New York. Hundreds of thousands demonstrated in New York City.

There were demonstrations almost everywhere. Twelve thousand workers clashed with police in London. There was street fighting in France — in Paris, Brest, Lyon, Marseille. There was a riot in front of the American Embassy in Geneva. American flags were burned in Casablanca. There were riots in Berlin, Warsaw, Buenos Aires, Mexico City.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts placed an armed garrison around the Charleston death house — to ensure that these two men die.

And then, as if not content with their blood, police attacked the mourners who marched in Sacco and Vanzetti’s funeral procession.

They also inspired poets and writers. Albert Einstein, Anatole France, H. G. Wells, and Jane Addams marched in the demonstrations. Katherine Anne Porter, Edna St. Vincent Millay, and Dorothy Parker walked on the picket lines. Sacco and Vanzetti’s own words, however, will remain the finest testament, and these words will never be forgotten. They will ring forever, at least as long as there is hatred, exploitation and oppression. Vanzetti’s last words were these: “If it had not been for these things, I might have lived out my life talking at street corners to scaring men. I might have died, unmarked, unknown, a failure. Now we are not a failure. This is our career and our triumph. We do not want the future to be reborn two other times I would live again to do what I have done already. I have finished. Thank you.”

The Good Shoemaker and the Poor Fish Peddler.

Vanzetti’s Own Defence

“I am suffering because I am a radical, and indeed I am a radical.”

“I am not only innocent of these two crimes, but I never commit a crime in my life. I have never stolen a pigeon and I have never kill and I have never spit blood and I have fought against the rich and I have sacrifice myself even to eliminate crimes that are part of the church legitimate and sanctify. This is what I say. I would not wish to a dog or to a snake, to the most low and misfortunate creature of the earth — I would not wish to any of them what I have had to suffer for things I am not guilty of. But my conviction is that I have suffered for things that I am guilty of. I am suffering because I am a radical and indeed I am a radical. I have suffered because I am an Italian and indeed I am an Italian. I have suffered more for my family and for my beloved than for myself. But I am convinced to be reborn two other times I would live again to do what I have done already. I have finished. Thank you.”

We Are Two Nations

John Dos Passos was a revolutionary writer in the 1920’s. He wrote this about Sacco and Vanzetti in “The Big Money,” part of his trilogy OSA.

America our nation has been taken by strangers who have turned our language inside out, who have taken the clean words our fathers spoke and made them slimy and foul.

their hired men sit on the judges benches sit back with their feet on the tables under the dome of the state house they are ignorant of our beliefs they have the dollars the guns the armed forces the power-plants

they have built the electric chair and hired the executioner to throw the switch.

all right we are two nations

America our nation has been beaten by strangers who have bought the laws and fenced off the meadows and cut down the wood for pulp and turned our pleasant cities into slums and sweated the wealth out of our people and when they hire them to throw the switch.

but do they know that the old words of the immigrants are being renewed in blood and agony tonight do they know that the old American speech of the hatred of oppression is now tonight in the mouth of an old woman from Pittsburgh of a hussy boisterous from Maine who hopped freight cars clear across the coast to come here in the mouth of a back bay social worker in the mouth of an Italian printer of a hobo from Arkansas the language of the beaten nation is not forgotten in our ears tonight.

The men in the deathhouse made the old words new before they died.

August, 1977 Socialist Worker Page 7
FOR WORKERS CONTROL

Workers create the wealth under capitalism. A socialist society can only be built when workers collectively control that wealth and democratically plan its production and distribution, including that wealth created by their labor.

The working class is the key to the fight for socialism. Freedom and liberation will only be achieved through the struggle of workers themselves, organizing and fighting for real workers' power.

REVOLUTION NOT REFORM

The capitalist system cannot be patched up or reformed into one under which workers have any control over their lives. The working class will have to change society completely.

WHERE WE STAND

come to control society and create a system based on freedom and a decent life for all by overthrowing capitalism and replacing it with revolutionary, democratic socialism.

FOR A WORKERS' GOVERNMENT

The present state apparatus (federal and state government, the courts, army, and police) was developed to maintain the capitalist system. This apparatus cannot be taken over as it stands and converted to serve workers. The working class must use its own organizations—unions, workers' parties, newspapers, cooperatives, etc.—to replace the state apparatus.

FIGHT OPPRESSION

Capitalism produces the working class. It pits men against women, workers against capitalists. Capitalists use and abuse these divisions to prevent the only necessary for its operation. Their oppression means more for their members—men, women, youth, workers, women, youth, workers, and the poor.

We fight for workers' liberation. We are for equal pay for all workers' wages. We fight to end all forms of racial and ethnic discrimination and for the right to own and control the means of production. We are for freedom from all forms of oppression.

INTERNATIONALISM

The working class has no nation. Capitalism—international and global—is the only way to struggle for socialism. The world capitalist system must be overthrown.

We champion workers struggles in all countries, from Portugal and Spain to Chile and Puerto Rico, from Central and Eastern Europe to China and India. We support all genuine national liberation struggles. We call for victory of the black Vietnamese fighters in Zimbabwe and South Africa. We oppose all forms of oppression and oppression against the United States' workers throughout the world. We support the workers' interests of all countries. These countries are not allowed by any nation to control them by a small bureaucratic class. A revolutionary communist party must be built in these countries to achieve workers' control.

REVOLUTIONARY PARTY

The activity of the ICP is directed toward the construction of a revolutionary party in a working class that is today fragmented and cut off from socialist ideas. Revolutionary parties are essential in the day to day struggles of workers and other oppressed groups. We are fighting for the right of workers to self-defense and self-organization. We are fighting for the right of workers to control the means of production. We are working to build a revolutionary socialist movement, a movement that will challenge the current order and lead to the victory of socialist democracy and socialism.

RANK AND FILE ORGANIZATION

The trade unions are large business machines that today are party to a struggle between workers and employers. We are fighting for the right of workers to control the means of production. We are fighting for the right of workers to self-defense and self-organization. We are working to build a revolutionary socialist movement, a movement that will challenge the current order and lead to the victory of socialist democracy and socialism.

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Dear Socialist Worker:

Well done for splashing the issue of the latest illegal Mexican immigrants (SW, June, 1979).

The attack on foreigners—and on foreign goods, imports, is the reason for the current use of register classification in all the Western capitalist countries now as the crisis deepens and wages are cut.

Just think of the impudence of corralling us all behind their fences, and then asking us, with their license to exist, a price. Only they have the right to exploit us, and every other ruling class can keep its hands off us.

Now the issue in Washington in which all American workers will have to assert an internal passport at all times, the "secure ID, to distinguish them from "illegals." In South Texas they call it a pass-system.

And all this just to divert attention from the responsibility of U.S. business for the unemployed by blaming a scapegoat, the most oppressed of all, the "illegal immigrant." Yet they don’t even believe it. The farm lobby in the Senate has twice blocked a bill to fine employers for employing "illegals," for this form of sweat- shop labor is the lifeblood of the farmers. Indeed, whole sectors of the U.S. economy would die if illegal workers were obliged to work at $800 or less an hour (as the Wall Street Journal admitted, June 16, 1976).

The hypocrisy, as Mary DeVan’s article suggests, profits Mexicans and Chicano from persistent attack. In 1975, 760,000 people were expelled by the Immigration Authorities from the United States. In 1976, border patrol agents arrested 26,000 Mexicans in El Paso alone.

The border is now getting like the crossing at Berlin in its heyday — electronic sensors, trip wires, dogs, aerial reconnaissance. In Mexico, there are stories of Mexican women being sterilized, torture in the detention centers, bodies found in the desert. There are no political tribunals, too, if you are willing to betray your friends.

The AFL-CIO plays a vile role in all this: Their salaries depend on the survival of U.S. capitalism and keeping workers divided.

As a result, they have been among the first to say unemployment is not the result of capitalism, but of too many foreigners (Mexicans, Filipinos, Puerto Ricans this year, Jews and Italians next year.) And there are too many foreigners abroad. The rubber shoes, steel shoes, textiles, television sets into a market that should be the market of American capitalism. It was the AFL-CIO to farm unions! That, in late 1964, forced an end to the Bracero program of legal immigrant farm labor, driving the Mexican workers back into the States from Mexico; none, they didn’t recruit the seasonal workers to the union and start a fight to get them on the permanent payroll at the same rates as American workers — they expelled them.

All the same issues are now rising in all the advanced capitalist countries. As the crisis deepens, the ruling classes are united in offering their sole solution — the barbarization of labor and unemployment.

The only way to fight it is to be equally united, to mobilize the rank and file to protect all foreign workers in the United States, to support them in their battles and strive to extend their conditions, to fight in the unions to force an end to the use of foreign workers as scapegoats.

That means supporting Mexican workers in their fight against U.S. employers in the Status, and in their fight against U.S. and Mexican employers in Mexico.

Fraternally,
Nigel Harris
London, England

Christina Bergmark reviews "an inside look" at the Klan.

"We say give us liberty and give them death. There’s many times I’ve felt like picking up a gun and shooting a nigger." This reads like a praise quote from some rabid Klu Kluxian in the 1960’s. It could have been, but it isn’t. David Duke, Imperial Wizard of the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, one of many national KKK organizations, made this statement in 1975.

Duke is the Klan leader accused by rival Imperial Wardens of not being "serious" because he appears on talk shows and uses the term "blacks" instead of "niggers." Duke and certain local Klan leaders have worked up a slick new package for the KKK, but the contents remain the same.

Klansdellite: The Untold Story of Delmar Dennis and His Role in the FBI’s War Against the Ku Klux Klan, William H. Melhany II, Arltong House, New Rochelle, N. Y., 1975, 238 pp., $8.95.

Klansdellite is useful for its insights into the Klan: How it tricks prospective members into joining; its internal functioning; its understanding of the need for organization and strategy.

The book details the experiences of Delmar Dennis, an arch-conservative Mississippi preacher, who fell for one of the KKK’s recruitment tricks.

Dennis was a member of the White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan of Mississippi from 1964–1967, the years when Sam Bowers was Grand Dragon.

Bowers was responsible for ordering some 300 bombings, burnings, and assaults in addition to at least 15 planned murders in these three years. Some 6,000 men were recruited to the Mississippi organization in this period.

SLAYING

Dennis became disillusioned with the Klan after the Neshoba County slayings of civil rights workers Schwerner, Goodman and Chaney. He was disgusted by the degree of violence and revolted by the lack of democ.

We quote Bowers as saying: "The typical Mississippi red-neck doesn’t have sense enough to know what he is doing. I have to use him for my own cause and direct his every action to fit my plan." The FBI contacted Dennis in 1964, as they contacted many Klan members at that time, and he talked. They convinced him to stay in the Klan and act as an FBI agent.

He managed to keep his cover intact and within a couple of months was even promoted, within the Klan structure, to the office of provincial Titan. The inside information about the Klan itself during the height of Klan strength in Mississippi is invaluable. This is true despite the fact that the author (like the star of the book, Dennis) is a member of the John Birch Society. In fact the distinctions made between militant right-wingers and conserv.

Much of the recent publicity leads people to believe that the Klan is harmless, bumbling and insignificant. That is far from the case.

The Klan has played a major role in American society four times in our history: 1) right after the Civil War during Reconstruction; 2) after World War I and the Russian Revolution, when the United States experienced its first Red Scare; 3) right before World War II, before the Nazis made white supremacy look as ugly as it really is; and 4) in the 1960’s in response to the civil rights struggle.

Our task is to do everything in our power to keep it from happening again. Shopping, or even slowing down, the Klan is no small assignment. The KKK is a highly organized and very serious group of racist intent on fomenting race war. To fight it we must understand it.

We do not believe that "they have a right to follow their own beliefs, even though we may disagree." The KKK kills. They must be met every step along the way. When possible we will keep them from marching, meet them with counter-demonstrations. They mean business. So do we. (1)

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Essex Wire Strike

Elwood, IN — The pickets at the Essex Wire Company plant in this small, central Indiana town were solid for the first six weeks of their contract strike, and they were prepared to stay out until they won.

On May 16, however, Essex Wire sent each of the strikers a letter saying that the gates would be opened and that they should come back to work or else they would lose their jobs.

The company then kept its promise. The gates were opened and carloads of scabs were brought in to replace the strikers.

Soon, it became quite clear that the management's plan was to defeat the union altogether. If they could hire ill scabs, a potential majority, then they could hold a new election and decertify the union.

**ACTION**

So when the number of scabs working reached 90, the strikers decided it was time to take action, or face losing their jobs forever.

One night they attacked the first car load of scabs to leave the plant, "using bricks, rocks, sticks, anything we could find."

But after this, they agreed among themselves to let cars pass in and out of the plant, on the condition that no more scabs be brought in.

The remaining scabs left, but eight security guards and a number of supervisors remained behind, saying they were there to protect the company's property.

Later, the company issued the statement that these people were "under seige."

And then they began randomly firing at the strikers. They supplied the guards by helicopter, and several strikers were even fired on from the air, when they attempted to see just what sort of supplies were being landed.

**SHOT**

Carol Frye, one of the picketers, was shot in the back by one of the guards, and she is now in the hospital, paralyzed.

Floyd Buxer was with the strikers, and when they saw her (Mrs. Frye) go down, he said. "Then I saw two men go hurtling through a hole in the factory fence and off into the factory. I saw the barrels of their guns."

Carol Frye has no feelings now from her hips down, and doctors have been unable to operate, fearing they might cause even more serious damage.

Essex Wire now says that "Due to the violent, lawless actions and life-threatening conduct during the strike" everyone will not have a job, regardless of the outcome of the strike.

Yet the only lives that have been threatened have been those of the strikers, who also face the threat of the loss of their livelihood.

The company merely stands to lose some profits, but they hope they can defeat the union.

**WOMEN**

Essex hires older women by and lets them work a hole in their other skill and who most often are attempting to raise families alone.

They hope they can replace the strikers, with new, inexperienced, and unorganized workers, no doubt at wages even lower than what they pay now.

The strikers, however, have pledged not to return until everyone is guaranteed a job back. Workers in the surrounding towns have shown their support by joining the picket lines and bringing food and money to the Essex strikers.

They certainly deserve all the support possible. They have already shown fantastic courage and determination.

by Kathy Whalen

800 People Support Nurses

Ann Arbor, MI—800 people gathered here July 17th to protest the convictions of Filipina Narciso and Leonora Perez, the two Filipino nurses, convicted in the Veteran's Administration Hospital killings.

The nurses, free on appeal bonds, were both present and both spoke briefly to the cheering crowd.

"On the 13th of July, 1977, justice died," Narciso said. "I don't know how many innocent people will be convicted. I hate to think that one of you will find yourselves in our shoes."

Kathy Robinson, an alternate juror from Ann Arbor, sat through the entire trial. She termed the convictions "an incredible, incomprehensible miscarriage of justice."

"I can only conclude that the verdict was the result of a series of major and tragic misunderstandings of fact and misapplication of law."

The two nurses were convicted despite the fact that there was at best only circumstantial evidence against them and the fact another hospital employee confessed to murdering the patients before committing suicide.

More Deaths in Mines

Birmingham, Ala.—Coal mining continues to take its bloody toll. Three men died here when an elevator in a west Jefferson County mine broke loose and plummeted 300 feet. These deaths: J.W. Painter, 42, David Annwion, 37, and Randy Allen Townsend, 25, bring to 79 the number of miners killed in job-related activities this year.

Two weeks earlier in July four miners were killed in a methane gas explosion in St. Charles, Virginia. They died in the P & P Coal Company's No. 2 mine. Harold Johnson, Danny Tester, Randall Wells, and Bill Perkins died 1,200 feet down, near the center of the explosion.

When the coal miners' national contract expires in December, there may well be a long strike. And when the newspapers and government officials begin their denunciation of the "greedy miners," it will be worthwhile to remember these men—and the many more to be gone before the contract expires.

I want to join

I want more information about

the International Socialist Organization

send to: ISO PO Box 18037 Cleveland, Ohio 44118

Waiting for the bodies at St. Charles, Virginia.
Why We're Here

What's Behind the Struggle at Kent State

By Ron Kovic

"We're in for a big struggle. We're in a very critical situation right now. And you'll tell us one thing you've got to remember... and never forget as this struggle increases in intensity... We are right... it's so mistaken about it, we are right!"

By Nancy Grim

"It's pretty clear that the Administration wants to build a building here to cover up the history of people's struggle and the history of the state violence against the people... And it's got to be prevented..."

By Bill Pauvuk

"The reason I'm here is for basically only one thing... to stop this gymnastics from being built on this spot... Four people died and others were seriously wounded here on May 4, 1970... Building a gymnastics on this spot would be akin to building a McDonald's on Booker Hill..."

The Fight Continues

On May 4, 1970, National Guard troops opened fire on unarmed students at Kent State University near Akron, Ohio, killing 4 students and wounding 9. Since that time there have been several attempts by Kent State students to win official University commemoration of this event to honor the fallen students on May 4 of each year. The University Administration has consistently refused to recognize these student demands. Instead, they announced plans to build a gymnatorium on the site of the 1970 killings. Hundreds of students occupied the proposed construction site with a "tent city" on May 12, where they stayed until arrested on July 11. Doug Patterson of Socialist Worker visited Tent City a few days before the arrests to get the students' story.

Student Leader Test

By Alan Canfora

"What happened this year was that on May 4th there was a sit-in at the Administration Building with about 300 people... This came about as a result of two years of negotiations with the university and the frustration concerning May 4th related issues... And this year we had the additional problem of the University planning to build a gymnatorium on the location of the historic confrontation in 1970... This was one of six sites under consideration three times promising to get rid of Cambodia..."

Bill Arshfield - member of the May 4th Coalition and a high school teacher in Lorain, Ohio

"I was a student here in 1970... I had a friend killed and I was indicted myself in the Kent 25... I had a personal stake in Kent State... But even if I wasn't personally involved I would be here... This is a symbol of the repression during the Nixon era... Somehow Kent State gets remembered, whereas some of the other campus massacres and Attica and the ghetto massacres go forgotten... Hopefully if we can remember one of these, it will show people what the government can and will do again if it's not stopped... and things aren't turned around..."

Cambodia

"This is a very symbolic location which represents the great mass movement which rose up in 1970 against the criminal invasion of Cambodia by Richard Nixon. After Kent State and after the invasion of Cambodia over the three times promising to get rid of Cambodia..."

This spot is a valuable part of the people's struggle... a very black spot on the establishment's history... That's why the Administration wants to cover it up... We want to preserve this historical location..."

Today is our 50th day on the hill. They've been threatening us, trying to create divisions in our ranks, spreading rumors and other tricks to try to get us off the hill... We are very determined to stay here and win the struggle..."

LESSON

We think that when we do win, it will be a valuable lesson to students and working people across this country. That is that when you unite masses of people, you can win your struggle against your oppressors, whether it be a university administration, the boss in the factory, or the government or whoever. The key to victory is to unite your forces behind you and fight on... You can win your struggle..."
Strike Ma Bell!

“This is the Year to Win”

“I’m mad as hell and I’m not going to take it anymore” is the official motto of the Communications Workers of America (CWA) as preparations are underway for a national strike against the Bell System. Strike sentiment has grown rapidly in the last few weeks. A poll of several major Locals shows the ranks of CWA to be voting nearly 9 - 1 to strike in balloting called for by the International.

After months of stalling, AT&T made its first offer last week. It is an insult. With a 5% wage increase the first year, and 2 1/2% the second and third years, the offer made no mention of union proposals or job security, traffic upgrades and pension improvement. In addition, it proposed to add 40 hours, paid in lieu of overtime.

No doubt the company wants to continue their tradition of record-breaking profits — at the employees expense. First quarter profits were 20% over last year. Total profits this year will top $4 billion, making Bell the richest corporation in the world. That $4 billion in profits comes to nearly $400 million off each employee.

WAGES

While the company has propped telephone workers higher, pay is not.

Real wages — what you can buy after inflation — are at least 1 or 2% below where they were in August, 1974. Since 1970, 80,000 jobs have been lost. Automation and speedup have meant a constant stream of petty harassment on the job. Operators continue to be belittled, underpaid and over worked. Older members have retirement on poverty-level pensions.

CWA bargaining demands include: 32-hour week, early retirement, job security and COLA on pensions removal of all personne entries after one year, COLA that covers inflation.

As the saying goes: “Ma Bell is a cheap mother.” Winning these bargaining demand will take a well organized strike. Unfortunately, there is little reason to believe the CW International has the guts to lead a real strike.

HAFE

Anyone with more than three years service will remember the last minute settlement and lousy contract of 1977. The 97 strike ended after the first week when the International settled for hardly half of the original wage demands. We can expect more of the same this year.

Organizing an effective strike will be up to the ranks of CWA Mass picketing is needed to keep out scabs — including management scabs. Regular mass meetings should be called to keep up the high moral of the strikers.

Harold Kincaid
Steward
Louisville, KY

Soweto Students Score a Victory

The Soweto Students Representative Council has scored another victory. Three school boards succumbed to student pressure and resigned.

The Soweto Students Representative Council this black township in South Africa, had demanded the resignation of the supervisors of black schools.

The students accused the ethnically composed boards of being “useless and allowing the government to practice tribalism at schools. We feel it is time for these things to go. We have enough of being separated.

SSRC demands led to the resignation of May in the Urban Bantu Council, the only government-recognized body to represent the black community.

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