

Socialist Worker

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John Anderson on the History of the Taft-Hartley Law

see pages 14 & 15

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NO PEACE
FOR
MIDDLE EAST

THE RAPE OF LEBANON



The dream of peace in the Middle East is shattered again.

The invasion of southern Lebanon by thirty thousand Israeli troops, leaving in its wake vast destruction and thousands dead, shows the real plans and policies of Menachem Begin and the Israeli leaders.

They do not want peace. They want land and more land. That is why they expanded their settlements in the occupied land, even as the peace talks were taking place.

And that is why they have conquered southern Lebanon, while the Syrians and Egyptians simply watched.

At the same time, the U.S. government applauded the invasion, putting aside its feud with Begin, for Israel is still the foundation of U.S. imperialism in the Middle East.

There will be no peace in the Middle East, not as long as the Zionist state exists.

We support the Palestinians, against the Israelis who have stolen their land and attacked them in country after country.

But we don't believe that victory will come by relying on the Arab governments, or through the creation of a new mini-state on the West Bank of the Jordan.

A new state in the Middle East would further split Arab working people. It would create a new

wealthy Palestinian ruling class.

Our solution is in the slogan, "Class, not country, divides us."

The creation of new countries based on race or religion can never solve human problems. The state of Israel has not solved the problems of the Jews—on the contrary, it has given them permanent war.

But there is an alternative—the creation of a new society based on cooperation and democracy of working people. □

Special Supplement

THE LESSONS OF THE MINERS' STRIKE

Two pictures from California...



and a song by Stevie Wonder

*Would you like to come with me
down my dead end street.
Would you like to come with me
to Village Ghetto Land.
Broken glass is everywhere, it's a
bloody scene.
Children play with rusty cars,
sores cover their hands.
Families buying dog food now,
Starvation roams the land.
Politicians laugh and drink,
drunk to all demands.*



THE ISRAELI BLITZ

An army of terrorists

What We Think

The Israeli troops who have blitzed their way into the Lebanon are *not* "seeking reprisals for terrorist raids."

They are not "looking for a buffer zone to protect their defenses."

They are an army of occupation.

They are the terrorists.

Their government wants more land. It wants more property. It wants to kill more Arabs.

It is waging a holy war more horrible even than either of its two dreadful predecessors in 1948 and 1967.

The movement called Zionism, which sought a "homeland" for the Jews, has always set its heart on the Litani river in Lebanon as its northern boundary.

Thirty years ago, David Ben Gurion, Israel's first prime minister, said: "The Achilles heel of the Arab coalition is the Lebanon...A Christian state should be set up there, with its southern frontier on the Litani river."

CRIMINAL

That is exactly the policy of the present Israeli government under Menachem Begin. He is a former leader of the criminal Irgun gang. He has not changed.

Ever since the Lebanese civil war in 1975, the Israeli government has courted the right-wing Christian movement in Lebanon. 3000 Christian terrorists under Major Hadad have been fed, paid and armed by the Israeli government. They had orders to plunder the Arab villages and create an enclave through which the Israelis could invade.

Recent Palestinian attacks have threatened Hadad's positions. Begin ordered full mobilization of his armies. He needed only an excuse—which was provided by the Palestinian raid on Haifa last week.



Israeli tanks in Southern Lebanon

Thirty thousand Israeli troops swung into the Lebanon in 24 hours. Their orders were to smash their way through to the Litani river.

Nothing was to stand in their way. Arab and Palestinian villages were to be razed to the ground. No prisoners were to be taken. No refugees were to be allowed south

of the troops' advance.

The atrocity has grown in horror day by day. 1000 people are dead, most of them civilians. Tens of thousands have been maimed.

More than 150,000 people have been uprooted from their homes and have fled northwards to the swollen slums of Beirut and Sidon.

This sort of outrage has gone on and on and ever since Israel was formed.

In 1948, 750,000 Arab people were terrorized out of their homes. In 1967, another 300,000. These Palestinian refugees have been left by the Israeli government—and by the world—to rot.

But they refuse to rot. They will not lie down.

In the Lebanon today, 6000 lightly-armed Palestinian troops, fighting with tremendous fervor and courage, are giving the invading armies a bloody nose. Time and again Israeli tanks and infantry have been held up and damaged by a handful of guerrillas.

This great fight by the Palestinians is our fight. It is the fight of dispossessed people all over the world.

The Israeli armies must get out of Lebanon. Not next month. Not next week. But now. □



Begin-Carter feud didn't stop U.S. support for invasion

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South African tennis

3,000 PROTEST DAVIS CUP

By DAN PETTY

NASHVILLE, TN—3,000 people marched in the streets of Nashville to protest South Africa's policy of apartheid and Vanderbilt University's hosting the South African tennis team in the Davis Cup competition.

The march was largely organized by the NAACP, drawing people from as far away as New York.

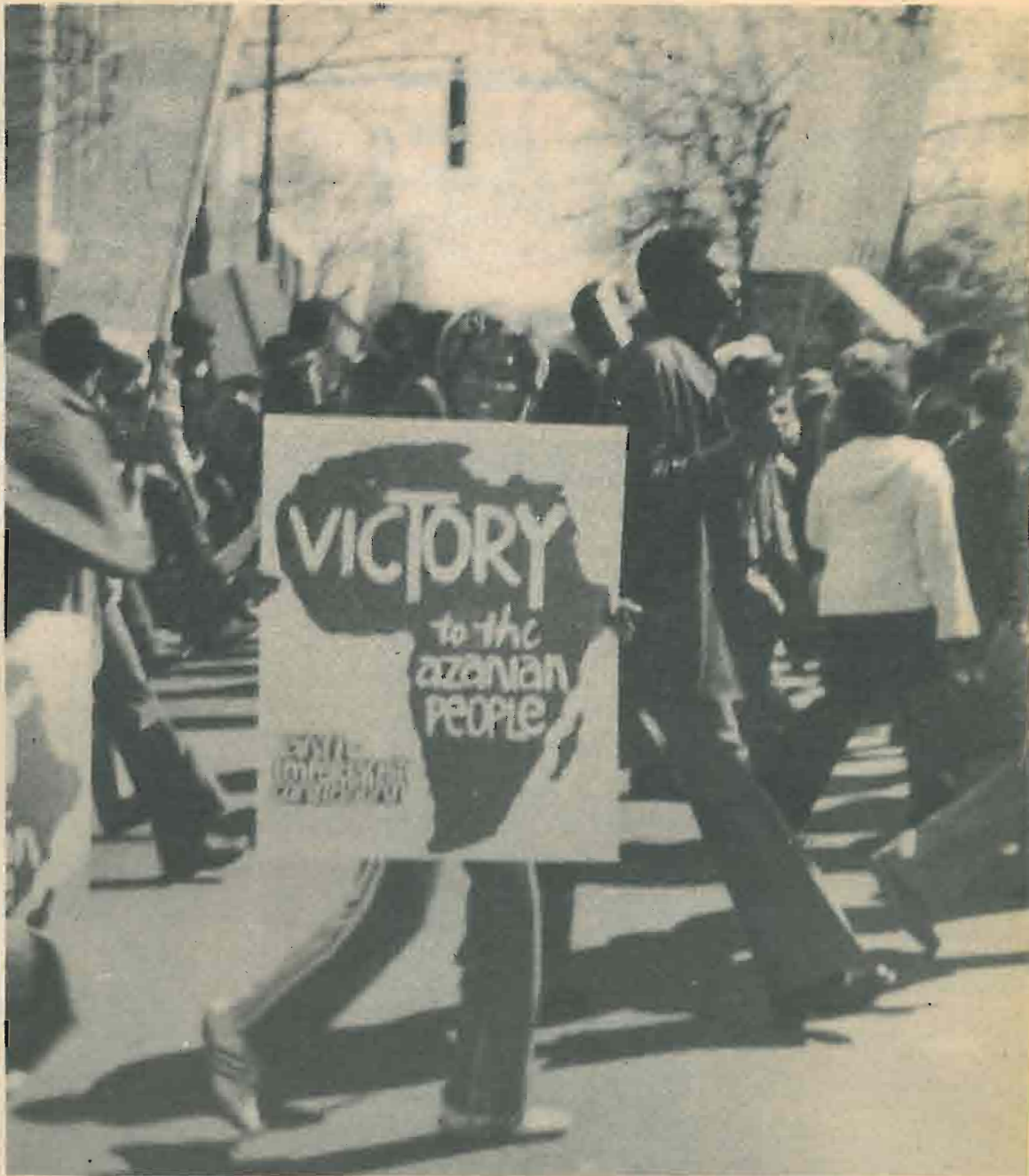
The NAACP march marked the second of three days of protest brought together by the Tennessee Coalition Against Apartheid. A thousand people swelled a picket line in front of Memorial Gymnasium where the tennis match was being held. The attendance at the Davis Cup was reduced to a mere 13% of the gym's capacity on both Friday and Saturday. The Davis Cup has gone unmistakably into the red.

The NAACP march ended

in a rally at Centennial Park about a half mile from the gym. The march signified what was called a "new era of activism" for the organization under the leadership of Benjamin Hooks. It was the largest march organized by the NAACP since the civil rights days.

But many left the rally unhappy with the NAACP strategy to end apartheid in South Africa which consists of prayer, reliance on Congress and the United Nations boycott of South Africa. About 500 people broke off from the march to join a militant picket line in front of the gym. And it was this, the picket lines, which kept the tennis fans away—not the NAACP prayers.

The Cup was put into the red, forcing the Davis Coal Company to subsidize the remaining money. □



Demonstrators at the Davis Cup protest

FIGHTING SEXISM IN AN AUTO PLANT

"We demand respect"

Would you describe the situation which led to the filing of this grievance?

"Our foreman began making degrading remarks about women, asking for kisses, sexual favors, and making sexual jokes at our expense. At first we were not aware that this was a general problem. We felt isolated and helpless. We knew that the foreman, Burt, had been there for thirty years, and that it was his word against ours.

"Not until we began talking to each other did we realize we faced a similar situation, and that the only way we could do something about it was to stick together and take joint action. So we put in a call to our committeeman, and filed a joint grievance against Burt."

Would you be a little more specific in the ways in which your foreman was acting sexist?

"Whenever we needed him for anything, he would expect some sexual favor. For example, when Ruby asked him for a letter of recommendation for school, he said to her, 'What am I going to get out of it? Are you going to sleep with me?'

"Frequently, he would come to our area at work and catch us when one of us was alone. He'd ask for a kiss, and if we said 'no,' he'd still persist. He would always hit Ruby on the rear, and she would tell him to stop."

Was there any penalty for not submitting to Burt's advances?

"As it turns out, one of the women, Alice, had Burt as a foreman a year and a half ago, before her 90 days were up—while she was still on probation. When she refused to kiss him, he refused to give her her break that evening.

"Recently, when Alice was talking

These three women are fighting for dignity and respect on their jobs, but as they are afraid of additional harassment, they have asked that their names and the name of their plant not be printed.



fresco by Diego Rivera

to a male worker, Burt ordered her away from him, and said, 'You can sleep with him later.' Alice, a mother with two children, considers the job especially important because of high medical expenses for one of the children who is sick. But she feels the job is not important enough to be treated as a whore at work."

There are more women working at your plant now than ever before. When the second shift was rehired a year and a half ago, more women were hired due to affirmative action. How have the male workers responded to the presence of more women on the shop floor? Is there any open anti-women feeling to support this foreman?

"Many of the men feel that women have just as much right to work there as they themselves, and there are those who admit that often women

workers are more conscientious than men. But there is still an anti-woman feeling, particularly among the older workers."

Would you describe how this grievance was handled?

"Ordinarily, grievances are handled between the parties involved and the Committeeman. However, the Committeeman felt that this accusation was serious enough to go directly before labor relations, and the Committeeman-At-Large. Each woman had to go in and present her accusations to the Committeeman, Committeeman-At-Large, and two representatives from labor relations, all of whom were men. After that, these people met with Burt, and the Supervisor of the Department. The Committeeman told us of the decision they had reached, which was that we would go up individually, and that Burt would apologize to us in front

of everyone, and that from then on all our dealings with Burt would be strictly business, and that there would be no repercussions."

Were you satisfied with this decision?

"No. We felt that had it been a worker that had done something minor, the punishment would have been much more severe."

What happened then?

"Further negotiations are still going on, but in the meantime, Burt has been transferred to days in another area in the plant. The union officials are asking for separation. They are up for election and are taking this case seriously."

What has the response in the plant been to this grievance?

"Many of the male co-workers have supported us and have said they wouldn't want their wives subjected to any similar harassment. However, there are a few men who are saying that this was a set up by the women to trap Burt."

How about the response of other women?

"They were glad that we confronted Burt and hope that our victory will discourage sexist behavior.

"Some men think that women like to be treated as sex objects and think that if you work in a factory they can treat you differently than they treat their wives, or how they would want their wives to be treated. These men feel that any woman who gets a job in a factory is asking for it, and so they can treat us like whores.

"By confronting men like Burt we are demonstrating that we demand respect as equal co-workers."

SKOKIE DEMONSTRATION

Why we're marching against the Nazis



Jewish prisoners at Buchenwald, April 1945. Inset: Chicago Nazis

CHICAGO, IL—Chicago Nazis have announced their intention to march through the predominantly Jewish suburb of Skokie, IL. The march was originally set to commemorate the birthday of the Nazis' favorite murderer, Adolf Hitler, on April 20, but has

been delayed by a 45 day "cooling off" period.

The "cooling off" period is to allow Skokie lawyers to complete their appeal against previous rulings upholding the Nazis' right to march. If as expected the appeal fails, all legal obstacles to the Nazi

march will have been removed and the Nazis will have the blessing of the Illinois Supreme Court to parade in Jackboots and swastikas through Skokie where 40,000 of the residents are Jews, 6,000 of them survivors of Hitler's concentration camps.

Already massive opposition to the Nazis in Chicago is growing. The Jewish organization, B'nai B'rith has called for a counter demonstration at the same time and place and has appealed for 50,000 Jews to join the rally.

This is a tremendous

advance on last year when Jewish organizations appealed to people to ignore the Nazis and relied on court injunctions to stop the march.

The Illinois Governor Thompson had stated publicly that he would lead a counter demonstration but backed down when he heard that B'nai B'rith had scheduled their rally to directly confront the Nazis.

The organizers have declared that the counter demonstration will be peaceful but to be successful it must prevent the Nazis from marching.

If the Nazis succeed in marching in face of such opposition, it will give heart to every racist worm who dreams of genocide and jackboots, and the Nazis will continue their vicious attacks on blacks with renewed confidence.

FAILURE

In Germany in the 1930's liberals, as now, argued that the Nazis had the right to free speech and that it was best to ignore them. The failure to smash them allowed them to grow as the depression ruined the German middle classes.

When they finally seized power they set about murdering 6 million Jews, as well as socialists and communists, and destroyed the German Trade Union movement. We must not let this happen again, we must stop them now.

At present the date of the march is unknown but will probably be a weekend at the end of April or the beginning of May. The rally will be at Skokie City Hall.

An anti-Nazi demonstration to build support for the Skokie rally has been called by the anti-Fascist coalition, Workers Defense, at the Daley Plaza, Chicago at 11 a.m. on April 25.

The only way to ensure that such hideous displays of racist intimidation do not continue is to organize to drive the Nazis off the streets.

By PETER MOORE



Yvonne Wanrow speaking at Olympia rally

OLYMPIA, WA—On March 13th a hearing was held in the Washington State Supreme Court on the self-defense of Yvonne Wanrow. Yvonne is a Colville Indian, who in 1972 killed William Westler, a 62 year old white neighbor and a known child molester, in an effort to protect herself and her children.

Yvonne's lawyers presented appeals on the constitutionality of Yvonne's felony/murder charge. Under this charge the prosecutor only has to prove that she was in the process of committing the felony of assault on Westler, and that as a result of that assault, he died.

They do not have to prove that she had intent to kill. Washington is one of the few states that still accepts the constitutionality of the felony/murder charge.

The Supreme Court Justices will probably not make a

decision for at least three months if not longer. Even if Yvonne wins this appeal, the prosecutor will have the option to recharge or dismiss the case.

Support for Yvonne is still strong. There were 250 people at a rally outside the hearing, despite the fact it was a Monday morning. There were Native American and women drummers and solidarity messages were given.

Between now and whenever the Supreme Court hands down the decision, the Defense Committee will be working to publicize the facts about her case and organize a benefit to raise funds for her legal defense.

If you want to organize a benefit fund raiser for Yvonne in your area contact the National Defense Committee, 1206 Smith Tower, Seattle, Washington 98199.

By GRETCHEN ENGLE

Government attacks health clinic

By GLORIA PARK

PORTLAND, OR—The Fred Hampton Memorial People's Health Clinic is a community clinic which is located in the Albina area of Northeast Portland.

The clinic has been struggling since 1969 to become a viable alternative to existing high cost health care. The clinic has worked its way through a lot of problems and in the last year has been able to extend more health care to the public.

As part of the government's continuing and growing abuse of the grand jury process, the F.H.M. People's Health

Clinic has been subpoenaed to appear before the Portland Federal Grand Jury and turn over its financial records and confidential patient records and charts.

The clinic serves the needs of poor and Third World people, providing humane, dignified and quality health care extended with feelings of respect, warmth and friendship.

Those who work at the clinic feel that part of good health care is decent living conditions, and they have joined the struggles for jobs, housing, education, child care

and the right to live in peace and dignity.

The right to the same freedom of choices and options for all people, are now available only to those in more fortunate circumstances.

For some time now, grand juries have been used as "fishing expeditions" with the government using the process as an excuse to "fish for" all sorts of information.

The government is not required and will not reveal to the clinic what it is they are looking for.

Persons testifying before a grand jury have no right to

legal representation with them in the grand jury room or to know why they have been called. They can be forced, or tricked, into unknowingly testifying against themselves.

Refusal to cooperate might result in being sent to jail for the duration of the grand jury although no crime has been committed. In this case, someone could go to jail for not violating patient's rights by not turning over their confidential records.

TRUST

The clinic is determined not to violate the trust and con-

fidence of their patients. They have collectively decided, as a matter of principle, to not cooperate with the Federal Grand Jury inquisition.

It is an outrage that the government should indulge in such relentless harassment of a clinic that serves the needs of the poor. We know that the real reason the Clinic is being harassed is because they do speak out against social injustice.

In other areas, struggles such as this have been won by mobilizing lots of people, which is being done in Portland. □

Why you should be a socialist

SOCIALISTS AND THE 'RED' BRIGADES



The day after the so-called Red Brigades kidnapped former Italian Prime Minister Aldo Moro and murdered his security guards, they issued a long message "to the Italian workers."

They claimed that the kidnapping and murders would "mobilize a vast and unified armed initiative for the further development of class war and communism."

Their actions, they went on, are a "fundamental attack" on the "imperialist multinational state."

They claim to be revolutionaries, and that their actions are in the interests of the working people of Italy. But whose interests do they really serve? Who benefits?

The army and the police have thrown a cordon round Rome, and are systematically searching the houses of all known to be on the revolutionary left.

The minister of the interior has given orders for unlimited telephone tapping. Hundreds of private houses, local sections of the left groups and newspaper offices have been ransacked.

CRACKDOWN

Many left-wing militants have been arrested without charge.

Stronger public order laws, increased powers for the police, a crackdown on the right to demonstrate, all these can be expected in the wake of the Red Brigades' so-called revolutionary actions.

Democratic liberties in general and the revolutionary left in particular are the losers from the kidnapping of Moro. The winners are the right.



Members of revolutionary organization Avanguardia Operaia demonstrate against Red Brigades

The Tory Christian Democrats, in power since the war, have been presented with a martyr and a saint.

But, argue the Red Brigades, "we have destabilized the state," we have struck a mortal blow at the institutions of Italy.

The press, both U.S. and Italian, seems to agree with them. "Italy is a society at the end of its tether."

What nonsense. Amid all the hysteria of the past few

weeks, one thing has stood out distinctly. The Italian Government will move to the right following the Red Brigades' action, but it will not crumble. We are not in 1922, when the fascists took power.

When news of the kidnapping spread through Italy, there were massive demonstrations of protest—nearly 200,000 in Rome, 100,000 in Milan.

The majority were sympathizers with the commu-

nists, the socialists and the revolutionary left. There were thousands of workers, hundreds of banners from the factory councils.

The working people of Italy don't like the Christian Democrats—or Aldo Moro. The speeches praising Moro or the Christian Democrats' commitment to democratic aims were greeted with silence, if not with open abuse. The communists' attempted alliance with the Christian Demo-

crats is still treated with open distrust.

But on one thing everyone was clear: democracy was preferable to dictatorship and if democracy was going to be defended, it was the left who would have to do it.

The Red Brigades argue that their actions could provoke a fascist coup which will force the workers to act.

But the extreme right is isolated. It has no militant mass base. There is no chance at all of an attempted coup or a fascist solution.

Instead of promoting workers' action, as they pretend, the Red Brigades have pushed the workers back, and given a powerful boost to their real enemies—the Christian Democrats and their security police.

Thus the Red Brigades, far from being treated as they would hope as a revolutionary vanguard, are widely regarded by socialists and militants here as either criminally stupid or else infiltrated by the fascists.

FASCISTS

There are many who remember that in December 1969, when a bomb killed more than 30 people in a Milan bank, the whole of the capitalist press blamed red terrorists. The anarchist Pinelli was arrested and mysteriously fell to his death from the top of the police headquarters.

It was then discovered that the fascists, in close contact with certain sections of the secret service, were almost certainly responsible for the bomb. They have not yet been brought to justice. □

The Palestinians

'Instead of bowing their heads, they resisted, my son...'

Abu Sadek tells of what it's like to be a Palestinian refugee:

I am a Palestinian Arab, born in a small village in what used to be called Palestine.

My father was a self-employed peasant. We had a small house made of mountain stone, strong and resistant. I was the fourth child among eight, and we all helped to plough the land.

Every night we gathered round the fire and my father told us stories about clashes between Jewish settlers and Arab peasants.

He told us how many of his friends who worked on large farming estates were forced to leave the fields that they watered with their sweat when the landlord sold his land to the settlers. He told us of the feelings of helplessness and bitterness that ate the heart of our people.

'But instead of bowing their heads, they resisted, my son, and turned their frustration into anger; they fought.'

Soon his words ceased to represent mere images for us children. My older brother joined the popular resistance movement and was martyred. Hundreds of others fell alongside him.

My mother wore black ever since. Never again did she smile.

The reality of his death and the cause for which he and his comrades died were to assert themselves on me more and more forcibly.

When in 1948 terror and violence reached a new pitch, when rumors spread like wildfire that the Zionists were destroying whole villages, murdering men, women and children alike, burning their houses and fields, my mother decided it was time for us to leave.

By then, my father and both uncles had already left to join their brother Palestinians in their fight for freedom.

BABIES

We were getting ready to leave, and every day people passed by our house, some on foot, some on their mules, women carrying babies and old men following, with their handkerchiefs on their heads to protect them from the sun.



Palestinian fighters in Southern Lebanon

They brought with them tales of atrocities and destruction. They mentioned Deir Yassin and wept. My mother decided we would leave the next morning.

She left everything in the house the way it was. 'For your father and uncles,' she said. 'When they come back, and they will soon my son, inch'allah, they will find everything the way we left it.'

She left the door unlocked, as is the custom in Palestine, and carrying my baby brother, dragging my sister by the hand, the rest of us following, she led the way to the Lebanese frontier.

'We will wait for them in Lebanon. Then, all together, we will come back.'

My mother is dead, but my people are still waiting.

We walked for days, and when we eventually reached the city of Sidon, on the Lebanese frontier, too many refugees were already there, like us, baffled and helpless. We had to move on.

We headed for Beirut.

There, we were transported in trucks to the camps, like cattle.

The eight of us were allocated a hut. It had a tin roof and tin walls. When we asked why, the official sneered back saying: 'You won't stay long, I guarantee you. Anyway, that is good enough for you. You flee and expect us to welcome you like kings, do you?'

Our camp had a small school, a tin hut like all the others, as cold and as muddy in winter. We often tried to cover the roof with cardboard and wood, but never really managed to stop the rain filtering in.

In this school, as I learned to read and write, I learned the history of my country and the great feats of my people. These were never to be forgotten by any of us.

Soon afterwards, one of my elder brothers was to join the Palestinian Resistance. My sister and I were to follow in his steps. □

'We are equal...'

Nidal is twelve. When I met her in the camp of Burj-el-Barajneh in Beirut, she was just coming back from her militia training.

She wakes up at dawn and goes daily to her training sessions with her two elder brothers.

Nidal is not exceptional. Girls and women undergo thorough military training, and most proved intrepid fighters in the face of the Jordanian enemy in 1970 and the Lebanese fascists in 75-76.

The revolution needs all its children, and when it comes to struggling for freedom and for the right to regain one's land, all barriers fall.

The Palestinian Revolution has entered every camp, every house. It has upset the old traditional family structure with the reigning father and the subservient daughters. These daughters have grown into courageous fighters who risk their lives for their right to survive.

A girl we met told us: 'Since I have become involved with politics and armed struggle, my relationship with my family has changed drastically: we're on equal terms, now.'

Through the involvement of their daughters, the whole attitude of Palestinian mothers underwent a drastic change. This is the experience of one of them:

'Many of my children have been imprisoned and subjected to torture more than once. It hurt me deeply and I used to live in a continuous state of worry and agitation. □



Sixteen year old fighter

'But I never did object to their political activities, never. It is their duty to fight, if they are to contribute to the liberation of our land and our people.'

'One night some Israeli soldiers came to the house and asked for my daughter. "Investigations," they said. It was almost three o'clock in the morning and I objected to it.'

'Take any one of her brothers instead, I told them, and come and get her in the morning. But they took her by force, and it was the first time ever this happened to her.'

'I was afraid they'd torture her. You know, she's only twenty, and she's fragile.'

SLEEP

'I had heard so much about their so-called investigations and the way they try to get information out of our people. Sometimes they rape our women if they refuse to 'co-operate' as they say.'

'I was imagining all these things and did not sleep that night nor the following nights.'

'But then, when I knew that many of our girls were taken for the same reasons, when I knew that they were keeping their heads up in these prisons and holding out against the enemy, I became proud. Proud of my daughter and her Palestinian sisters...No more fear torturing me anymore.'

'On the contrary! We, the mothers, had to act. We staged demonstrations, sit-ins, distributed pamphlets about the conditions in Israeli prisons and demanded the release of all our prisoners.'

'In 1967, we were kicked out and we came to Lebanon. Our struggle has grown and I feel that if it weren't for my children, and especially my daughter, I would not have understood properly revolution as a guerrilla fighter.'

'We are equal in the eyes of the enemy, aren't we? So why should we differentiate among ourselves?' □



Burj el Barajneh refugee camp near Beirut

SOCIALIST WORKER
POCKET PAMPHLET NO. 3

ISRAEL
-A RACIST
STATE?

25¢ from Hera Press

New setbacks for women's rights

LOUISVILLE, KY—Described by one of its own members as the "most conservative in recent history," the Kentucky legislature has just turned back the clock on women's rights.

In addition to passing three anti-abortion bills, the legislature rescinded its ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment to the Constitution.

In 1972, hard pressed by a strong women's movement, the Kentucky legislature

joined the states sponsoring ratification of the ERA.

Now, even harder pressed by Stop ERA groups and anti-abortionists, the legislature has made Kentucky the 10th state to take back its word and rescind its ratification of the ERA.

VETO

The case may not be closed, however. After participating in a March 18 demonstration

in Frankfort protesting the rescission, on March 20, Acting Governor Thelma Stovall vetoed the rescission resolution. (Lt. Gov. Stovall was filling in for the vacationing Governor.)

If the repeal of the ratification is valid, Louisville alone stands to lose up to \$15 million in convention trade, according to the Louisville Convention Bureau.

Sixteen conventions now booked for Louisville through 1980 say they will not convene

here if Kentucky repeals its ratification.

Unfortunately, the anti-abortion bills have not been similarly challenged. One bill asks the U.S. Congress to call a special convention to add an anti-abortion amendment to the Constitution.

Another prohibits health-insurance companies from covering elective abortions in their contracts except by an optional rider for which an additional premium must be paid.

In other words, a woman would have to predict whether or not she would need an abortion during the term of her contract.

Finally, the legislature added injury to insult by prohibiting the use of any public money to pay for abortions or abortion facilities in any way shape or form. A woman's right to choose has been taken away from a large sector of the female population in Kentucky.

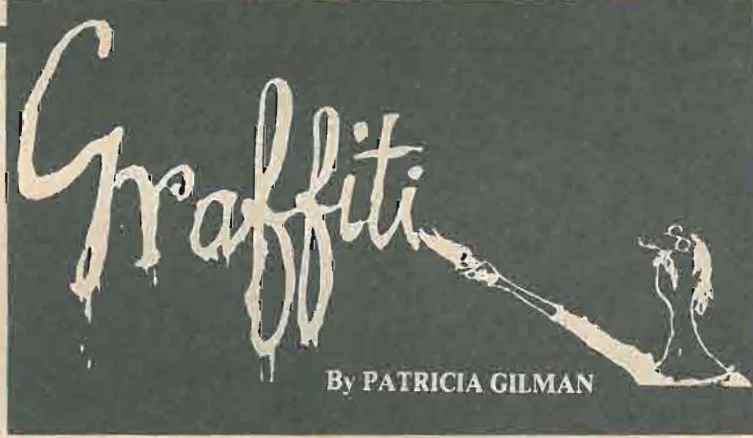
By CHRISTINA BERGMAR

Quotes

"There was no such thing as Palestinians...They did not exist."—Golda Meir, prime minister of Israel, 1969.

"They are not human beings, they are not people, they are Arabs."—David Hocothen, chairman of the foreign affairs committee of the Israeli Parliament, July, 1967.

"The preponderance of Arab workers in Jewish agriculture is a cancer in our body."—Israeli Minister of Agriculture, July 3, 1975.



During the funeral of Hubert Humphrey, his friend, the Rev. Calvin Didier, compared him to labor martyr Joe Hill.

Hill was an I.W.W. orga-

nizer and writer of labor ballads. He was framed on a murder charge and executed before a firing squad in 1915.

How to be a bad businessman

Financial Managements Associates of Phoenix, Arizona is promoting a new book. It's called **Why Son's of Bitches Succeed and Nice Guys Fail in a Small Business.**

It tells how to be the baddest business person around. Chapter Two explains "how to screw your employees first (before they screw you)—how to keep them smiling on low pay—how to maneuver them into low paying jobs they

are afraid to walk away from."

The book also recommends ways to hide money from the tax man and "sell a business turkey at filet mignon prices."

If none of it works, there is a chapter on how to "cover your tracks and save your ass" by declaring bankruptcy.

The book is in its 25th printing, has sold more than 100,000 copies and costs only \$20.65 tax deductible.

So who needs land...

Valley Camp Coal Co. operated three Kanawha County, W.VA strip mines illegally and four others unsatisfactorily. Yet the Department of Natural Resources allowed the firm to start a new pit larger than all its others.

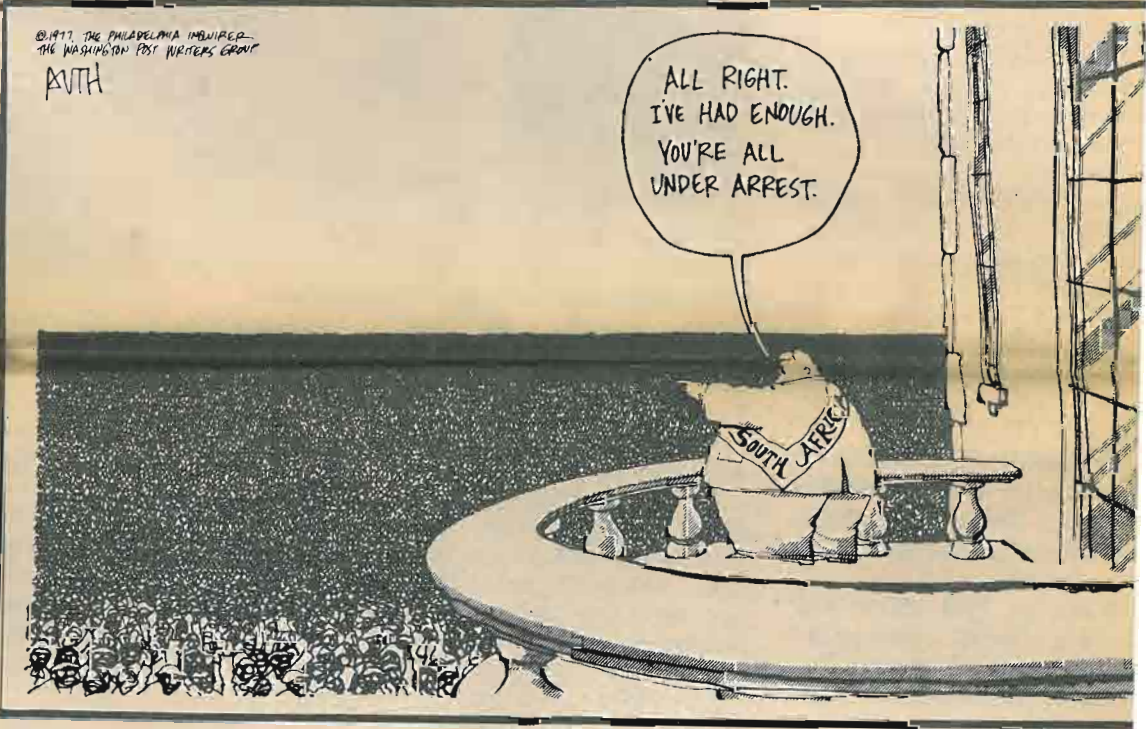
It obtained the new permit after it joined the state surface mine association, headed by two ex-DNR officials whose former job was to protect the state against strip mine abuses.

The officials say the company has "got religion, they've become reclamation-

conscious." But acid conditions in the soil are already so severe in the proposed site that reclamation and revegetation might be impossible.

The DNR won't close the mine because then the state would have to take on the cost of reclamation. Roger Hall, head of the DNR reclamation division said "it's better if DNR keeps pressure on coal companies."

If pressure is granting them license to destroy even more land, we'd hate to see what would happen if the DNR encouraged the companies to run amuck.



Cocktails anyone?

Christie Hefner invites you to join her and Dr. Benjamin Spock at a luncheon in support of Ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment in Illinois.

Sponsored by the Playboy Foundation

Cocktails and Luncheon

**Cabaret Room
Chicago Playboy Club
919 North Michigan Ave.
Sunday, March 12
11:30-2:00 pm**

Contribution: \$25.00 per person

Due to limited seating advance reservations are required.

For further information call: The Playboy Foundation 751-8000 X 2717

Birds of a feather

The Ku Klux Klan offered to "keep order" at the demonstrations protesting the Davis Cup matches between the United States and South Africa.

The police declined the offer, but the Klan said,

"We will be present to keep an eye on the situation and to see what is happening."

Next opponent for the U.S. tennis team? After welcoming South Africa in sport, they will be playing Chile.

SOOT, W.VA— In an unprecedented move, executives for the American Bituminous Coal Co. have gone into the mines

in defiance of striking coal miners.

Thirty executives flew in from New York and Cincin-

nati, donned mining gear and went into the dark shaft of mine #7 in the W.VA. coal fields.

The executives explained that they hope to set an example for all other industries that are threatened by strikes. "We want to let the mine know that if they walk out fine. Good riddance."

R. Drake Benson, chairman of ABC, said "We have had trouble doing their work. Once we figured out how to operate the digger thing, we mined right straight through till cocktail time." (Thanks National Lampoon.)

Nixon with gold edges

Remember all the sympathy letters that were sent to Richard Nixon in San Clemente after he left the White House?

Well, Nixon didn't throw them away. He saved every one. He is now having his book publisher contact each of the writers with an offer to sell autographed copies of his forthcoming autobio-

graphy for \$250 dollars a copy.

The \$250 "Presidential Edition" is bound in genuine leather with a design pressed into the cover in 22 karat gold. The pages are edged in gold, with endsheets and ribbon bookmark in satin-like cloth.

The bookstore version will sell for \$19.95.

Time on the red menace—and pink, green...

Time Magazine's March 13 issue featured a special on socialism, lumping together all the "left" trends of the world under the title "an ideology that promises more than it delivers," assuming of course that Russia, China, Cuba, "3rd World Socialist" countries, and countries where the state partially controls the economy, are socialist.

A map of the world delineated by colors the different types of economic systems,

and by each country was listed, on a scale of 1-100, the "political freedom" of that country.

The "Marxist-Leninist" countries (marked in dark red of course) and the "3rd World Socialist" countries (indicated by light pink) received no higher than 17 for political freedom. Most of the major "pure" capitalist (bright green), however, received no less than the full 100, meaning (presumably) citizens enjoy

complete political freedom there.

This included West Germany, a country where a public employee will be dismissed if found to have a connection with left-wing groups, and where recently a playwright had his play banned because it criticized the Government.

Great Britain also got 100, which means that there is no political repression in Northern Ireland!

Special Supplement

SOCIALIST WORKER

April, 1978

10¢

THE LESSONS OF THE MINERS' STRIKE



The coal miners' strike was an inspiration.

The miners did not get all that they wanted, but they may well have accomplished far more than anyone ever imagined possible.

They fought the coal operators—companies owned by the most powerful corporations in the world—to a bloody standstill.

They fought small armies of state troopers, national guardsmen in Indiana, thousands of company guards and goons. Three coal miners were shot dead on the picket lines.

Hundreds were arrested, and thousands more fined.

The coal miners also fought the

government, and Jimmy Carter, who was even prepared to cut off food stamps from the families of strikers. They made a joke of Taft-Hartley, the "slave labor law," which has been used for a generation to subdue and chain American workers.

In the end, only hunger forced them back. "The men voted with their stomachs, not their heads," Ken Wagnild of UMW local 1810, Powhatan Point, Ohio, told Socialist Worker. And even then, Ohio's District 6 rejected the settlement, and, nationally, 43% of the miners were willing to fight on.

Compared to the 1974 contract, the new agreement is a setback. But,

put up against what the operators wanted—a "1930's style" contract, with the right to fire strikers, big health deductibles, punitive absentee control—it was a victory.

And they won it on their own, in opposition to their own union leadership, which allowed them to begin a strike in the worst possible circumstances. There were months of coal stockpiles on the ground.

More importantly, the miners may have won far more. Millions of workers watched the coal miners' strike. There was massive support.

For nearly three months, rank and file miners—ordinary workers—were at the center of the stage. Not bureau-

crats, not managers, not politicians and advertising agencies. Ordinary workers—they were magnificent.

Nothing has happened quite like it in decades. Open conflict between workers and capital.

It will not quickly be forgotten. The courage, the confidence, the sacrifice and the power of the miners has already made a very deep impression. All workers will be stronger because of it.

And the struggle will continue. There will be no peace in the coal-fields. Never. Not as long as a system exists which puts the dollar bill before safety, and which profits on death, disaster, and destruction. □



Interview by
JENNY JACKSON
 and **BARBARA WINSLOW**

Tony Bumbico, local union 1473, UMWA, tells how the Miners' Relief Fund was started, and why District 6 miners voted 'no'

'We'v we ca

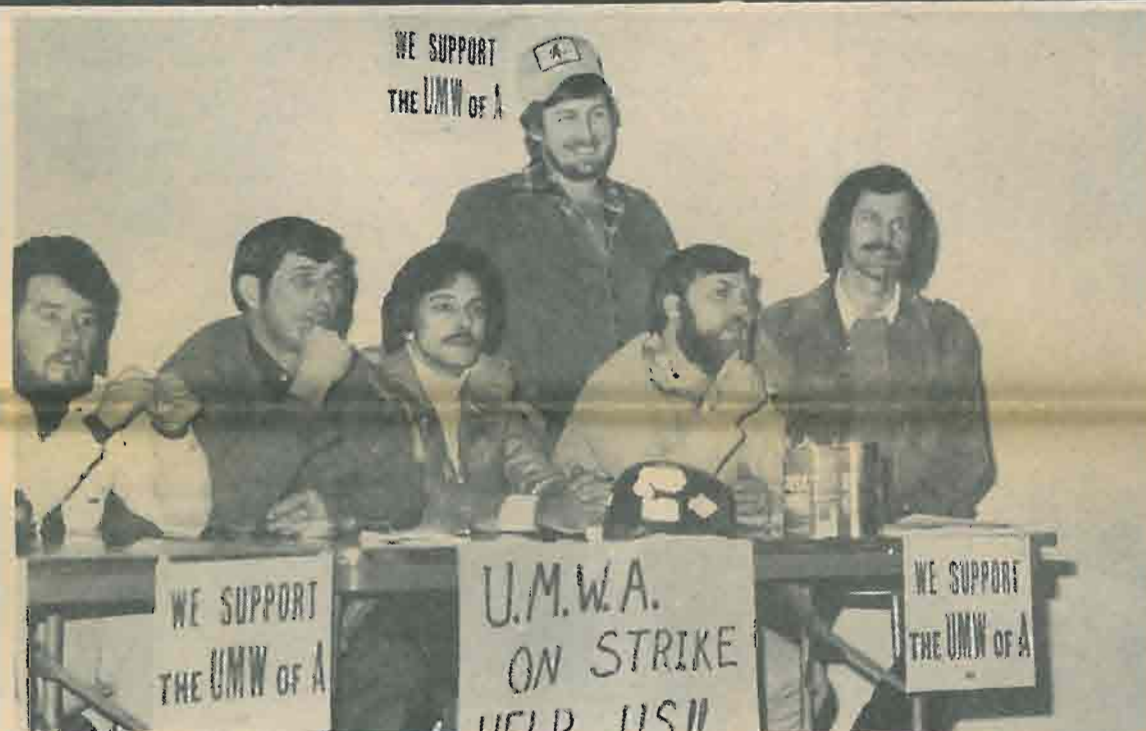
Six weeks into the strike we were getting real negative press. They were threatening us with Taft-Hartley injunctions. They had the police down here pretty strong.

So we had a local union meeting. We decided to send out informational pickets—to

tell people what they were offering us and what we wanted. We went to power plants. We got military support, but they unloaded non-union coal.

Next we went to steel mills. They use a lot of coal. We got their support. Money started coming in. So the dis

How we helped the coal miners



Miners at Indiana University strike support rally

The coal miners' strike inspired a new spirit of solidarity in the labor movement, a spirit that has been unknown in this country for the better part of a generation.

There was a massive outpouring of sympathy, support and solidarity for the striking miners and their families.

We in the International Socialist Organization (ISO) were proud to have played a part.

In Seattle, the ISO sponsored a rally featuring Greg Hawthorne, an Ohio miner representing the Miners' Relief Fund, District 6, UMWA.

125 people attended, and \$625 was raised, more than twice the amount contributed by the King County AFL-CIO. In Portland, Oregon, ISO members helped organize another meeting for Hawthorne, and \$250 was contributed.

APPEAL

In Cleveland, Ohio, ISO members hosted a benefit party for the Miners' Relief Fund. Joe Hoskins, the president of the Relief Fund, and president of UMW local 1810, Powhatan Point, Ohio, appealed for support for the coal miners, as did rank and file miners Ron McCracken, Ken Wagnild, and Tony Bumbico.

Cynthia Bumbico spoke on behalf of the miners' wives. \$1,000 was collected and presented to Ron McCracken, the secretary-treasurer of the Fund.

ISO members in Bloomington, Indiana, helped organize the rally at Indiana University, where ten rank and file Indiana miners spoke to an enthusiastic audience of nearly 200, who gave \$400.

In Western Massachusetts, the Miners' Strike Support Committee, which ISO members helped organize, raised \$225 for the Stearns strikers and \$350 for rank and file

Pennsylvania miners.

In Dayton, Ohio, the ISO co-sponsored a rally featuring Jim Russell, of the Executive Board of District 6, UMWA.

In Chicago, ISO members worked in the Workers' Defense Mineworkers Support Committee. In Gary, Indiana, ISO members in the Steelworkers union participated in leafletting and plant gate collections in support of Illinois and Indiana miners.

ISO members in United Parcel (UPS) organized support for the strikers and helped use the rank and file paper, UPSurge, to spread the word to Teamsters.

In addition, ISO members attended, and helped to build rallies and demonstrations in Boston, Los Angeles, Louisville, Providence, New York, and Indianapolis.

We also got news of the strike out to miners and socialists in Britain. The Socialist Workers Party of Britain, our fraternal organization, sent \$100 to the Miners' Relief Fund.

The Collier, the paper of rank and file British miners also collected money and sent messages of support.

PAPER

We used our paper, Socialist Worker, to carry the story of the miners to other workers and to socialists around the country. We featured interviews with rank and file militants, first hand accounts of the strike, and analysis from a rank and file and socialist point of view.

We wish that we could have done more. We are still a small organization, however, little more than a year old. But we were involved.

The struggle in the coalfields will continue, and there are bigger battles coming. We want to stay involved, but we will need help. Join us. Help us do more. □



More than 1,000 striking miners marched near downtown Pe

The next step

The rank and file miners lost a good deal in this new contract—in health and welfare, on pensions, with the reintroduction of incentive pay. But they are now much stronger in terms of their confidence and organization.

They have shown a fantastic potential power—with no leadership from the top, with no rank and file organization, and in the face of an all-out attack by the operators, the courts, and government.

Yet they face enormous problems.

The companies did not win a contractual right to fire strikers and to fine miners who honor picket lines. But they already have a ruling from the top arbitration board (ARB 108) which not only allows them to fire strikers and "instigators" but which prevents miners from "passing out" materials concerning disputes at the mine.

Under the last agreement, the miners' main weapon to enforce the contract was the wildcat strike. The companies

are certain to try to revamp the new contract in their favor in practice and in arbitration. The wildcat strike and tradition of solidarity refusing to cross picket lines must be maintained, matter what.

The development of union sources of coal, particularly in the West, must continue. Now only a small amount of coal mined in the U.S. is UMWA coal.

ORGANIZE

A program must be developed to organize Kentucky and the West, even if it means sending the miners out to work. And the Stearns strike must be won. Other miners in Kentucky will continue to be a disgrace and a thorn in the side of the union.

The top leadership of the union is now totally discredited and Miller himself is a sick man, with no hope of reestablishing himself.

But replacing him will not be easy. The recall provision of the union constitution

What we've seen what we do ourselves'

to set up a fund. There were about 20 rank and file miners on it.

We have been traveling all over—Seattle, New York, Rochester, Cleveland, Toledo, Detroit. We got \$40,000 in weeks.

We learned several things from this strike. We learned

about workers' solidarity. We'd go out and get support from other people. We don't have too much of that in this country. It's the first time in years that organized labor got behind any strike.

Plus we learned how the American press treats us. Most reporters present the

image of being impartial. But they're not. We found out that if you put them on the defensive before you even get into the interview, you get a lot better reporting.

The strike showed that the Taft-Hartley Act which orders strikers to go back to work is ineffective. They couldn't

force us back to work with it.

They couldn't throw 160,000 miners in jail. The law is a joke, and we showed every worker in the country about that.

Our district voted the contract down. I'm sure that if other districts had had their own relief funds, the contract

would not have passed. We want to get in touch with other areas so we can start working together. We want to use the relief fund to keep together and to form a rank and file group. We've seen what we can do ourselves.



... following a memorial service for miner John Hull

Why we voted 'no'

Basically it's the 1974 agreement. The only changes are not to our benefit. Here are some of the worst points:

- Two days absence without authorization or a doctor's note and you're fired.

- The incentive clause, which hasn't been worked out in detail yet. If you put the dollar sign in front of safety, you can't have safety.

- Pensions. The 81,000 miners who retired before 1976 get only \$275 a month. (A working miner gets \$900-\$1000 a month and a miner who retires after 1976 gets \$475.)

- Cost of living. We've lost it for one and half years. We had it from 1974 to 1977 and gained an extra 60 cents an hour because of it.

- Health benefits. We had 100 per cent health benefits for 30 years. Now we have to pay the first 200 dollars for the family medical bills a year. Through most of the coal-fields you can only get care from the clinics. This change will probably close the clinics. We don't know how the new system will work.

The other thing they tried to get in the contract was that no miner's wife who got pregnant during the strike could have any pregnancy-related benefits. They had to drop that.

- Wildcat strikes (unofficial strikes). They tried to get a clause to fire any leader of a wildcat strike. If someone came out and shouted "This damn mine is going to be closed down!" he could be fired. This clause was removed. They also wanted to fine us \$20 a day if we were on a wildcat. That was taken out.

The reason we have so many wildcats is that we are supposed to receive an answer on a grievance from the arbitrators in 45 days. But the average is 6 months. And then 63 per cent of the decisions are against us anyway.

The whole grievance thing is useless. It costs \$1500 or \$2000 for an arbitrator. It costs too much to take a small case there—even if it's black and white. So management gets away with a lot of things.

for the rank and file miners

next to impossible to remove the president (thanks to Chip Yablonski and the Miners' for Democracy who drew up the constitution).

Nevertheless, plans are now underway to demand a special convention. At the end of March, leaders from seven districts met in Gallipolis, Ohio, to discuss replacing Miller.

CANDIDATES

There are already a number of potential candidates: Jim Russell of Ohio, Cecil Roberts, the vice president of District 17 in West Virginia, Ken Dawes of Illinois, and Leroy Patterson, the right-wing, former Boyle lieutenant from Western Kentucky.

What is to be done? The key weakness of the rank and file is organization, in particular between districts. When it was announced that another proposal was going to be voted on in late March, a wave of demoralization went through the coalfields.

The picketing had stopped

after Taft-Hartley, and many miners concluded that they would have to accept the contract, even though it was hardly different from the one they rejected by four to one two weeks earlier.

A rank and file movement, with members throughout the districts, with a reliable and trusted newspaper, could have rallied the militants, and organized another rejection. The truth is more could have been won. The operators were up against the wall.

Now, a rank and file movement is all the more necessary, for the operators' offensive will surely continue, and the problems of the miners—Western coal, Miller, the right to strike—are all connected with the state of the union.

Building a rank and file organization will not be easy, but the alternative is more of the same—or worse, a victory for Patterson, and the old corruption.

Here are some points worth considering, especially in light of the failure of the union

reform movement, the Miners for Democracy, which put Miller and Harry Patrick into office.

- The rank and file movement must be built independently of the union leadership and on a permanent basis.

Otherwise what is to stop the best candidate or officer from becoming another Arnold Miller?

- The rank and file movement must be built from the bottom up, based in the mines and controlled by the coal miners themselves. It cannot be simply the electoral organization of some candidate, no matter how promising.

- The movement must be based on the struggle in the mines, on 100% trade unionism, and on uncompromising support for the miners against the operators.

- There must be complete equality inside the union, especially for blacks, women, and minorities. The idea that "an injury to one is an injury to all" must be put into practice.

- The government, the democrats, and republicans alike, are not the friends of the miners. The movement must be independent.

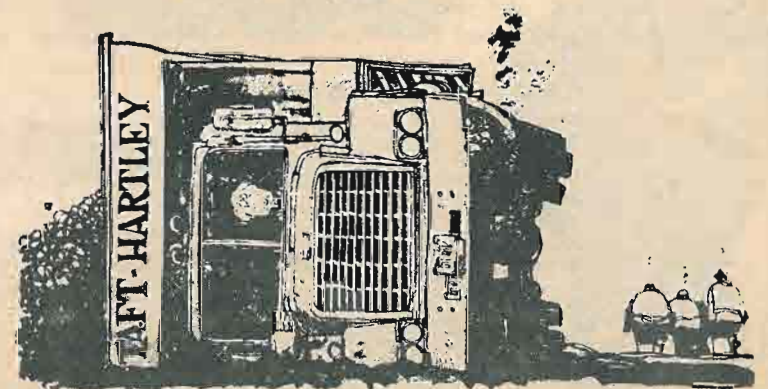
- Anti-communism continues to hurt, not help the miners. Surely, miners must have seen that time and time again, it was socialists and radicals who responded to the calls for solidarity help. The problem is that the socialist movement is too small.

- Rank and file miners need their own newspaper to unite and organize the rank and file movement. The strike has

shown that the press is no friend of the miners. And Arnold Miller has used the *Journal* against the rank and file.

- Solidarity with other workers must become a rule—the miners can no longer hope to win totally on their own.

Certainly all this may not be achieved at first or easily, but a solid rank and file is worth fighting for, not only to avoid the mistakes of the past, but to lead the way in the future. One thing is undisputed: the miners will continue to be in the advanced guard of the American labor movement. □



Socialist Worker

IN STEARNS, KENTUCKY

The miners' fight continues

STEARNS, KY—180 miners here went on strike for union recognition against the Blue Diamond Coal Company on July 17, 1976.

Now, 20 months later, 140 miners are still on strike, and 86 women in the Stearns Miners Women's Club are supporting them.

There miners deserve a victory, and so does the United Mine Workers. The recent national contract strike showed all too clearly how non-union coal is hurting the miners.

The following is an interview with Irene Vanover, president of the Women's Club, with several additions by her husband, Mahan Vanover, the president of the Stearns Miners. □

Interview by CHRISTINA BERGMARK.

Pictures by JOHN EVERETT.

I understand that you've been on strike now for 20 months. What prompted the strike and what are the main issues involved?

Irene: Well, it's 20 months yesterday, and the men are on strike to get a real union in this mine. The other one was no union at all. I wouldn't have my husband or my son to go back into the mine like it was before. The strike was all about benefits and safety, and the pension.

What were the safety conditions like before the strike?

Irene: Well, it was just terrible. Most parts couldn't have passed inspection if anybody had of looked at them.

Mahan: Blue Diamond (the owner of the mine) would just take the inspectors to the parts they'd have cleaned up all nice. The inspectors didn't know where to go but where they took them. It would take a man from in the mine to really know where to look and what to be inspecting.

There was one rock that we all knew was sometime going to fall and get somebody...It took a boss getting killed for them to even clean it up.

Before something like that kills somebody, they'd just as soon to leave it there. All they care about is getting the coal out.

Was there any pension plan?

Irene: None at all. They had nothing but the Social Security



Irene Vanover talks to Christina Bergmark of Socialist Worker

to go on when they got out of the mines and you know that wasn't enough to take care of them.

So after the strike got going, how did the Women's Club come to be organized?

Irene: Well, it started when we got that injunction back in October (limiting the pickets). The women protested around the court house and the judge was up there and all and then since the men were in jail and all, somebody had to do something, so we decided to organize and form a women's club.

I know that on October 17, when the pickets were limited, the men gathered on their own land near the picket site and state troopers moved in to clear them away. How were the women involved in the events of that day?

Irene: Well, we was there too, only down the road. First about 20 or 30 cars (of state troopers) passed through to where the men was. And then

the next 17 cars that came through, they stopped where we was. They was trying to scare us off but we was staying.

They drug an old woman, she was 72 years old, across the street. And Ila, she expected a baby in 2 or 3 weeks, they arrested her same as the rest of us and beat on her and all.

They arrested us all just the same as the men and beat on us with clubs and just anything they had.

We couldn't really fight them because they had on that riot gear and everything, and not even those men could fight them and win because they didn't have anything on their head or any of the same things to fight with.

All that time after they arrested us, we didn't know where our husbands was or what happened to them.

We were over at the jail and they wouldn't tell no one where their husband was. When we asked where they was, they just laughed in our face.

As far as I knew he could have been anything—dead. It was 2 o'clock when that happened and it was six o'clock before I heard from the hospital that he was there with his arm shattered and his head busted open.

Mahan: And then I had to go to jail. I spent 56 days in jail. I'd never been in a jail before in my life.

Irene: When he stayed in jail over there it was real lonely for me staying alone

nights. I never had before and it was real lonely. But we went every day to the jail.

We took ham and chickens whole dinners up there and fed all of them in jail. We didn't just go and feed our own husband, we'd feed them all.

What has the Women's Club done to support the strike.

Irene: We started to pay a the drug bills for the striking families and the dental bill and everything. We pay the rent on this building (the local storefront office).

And, well, we certainly have managed to keep food on the tables, clothes on everybody's back and keep everybody warm. People have been so generous.

The UAW brought a truckload of food and clothes down here last week. There was a truckload of food and clothes from Boston and two truckloads from Michigan...I'll never forget all this. We could never repay all the things people have done for us. We could never have gotten this far without all the kind help we got.

What are the prospects for winning? How do you feel that the strike is going?

Irene: We got lots of support and I'm sure we're gonna get more support. We have got to win this strike and we're not going to stop until we do. It's the women's strike as well as it is the men's and we're going to fight beside them to the very last. □



Mahan Vanover, President of Stearns miners



Join Us

I want to join
 I want more information about the International Socialist Organization

Name _____

Address _____

ISO PO Box 18037, Cleveland, OH 44118

Contributions and messages of support can be sent to the Stearns Miners Women's Club, Whitley City, Kentucky.

Letters

Write to Letters, Socialist Worker
P.O. Box 18037 Cleveland OH 44118

TWO LETTERS FROM ELWOOD, INDIANA

To the Editor:

Everyone can draw a sigh of relief now. President Carter is going to put the Taft Hartley Act in effect. He will get those stubborn miners back to work. The national guard or even the army can send them back with bayonets. The miners won't be too surprised, after all they have been beaten and shot or went to jail for their belief for years. Perhaps the rest of us had better stop and think a moment. If the miners get this for refusing to give up rights they fought for and won years ago which union will get shoved back in front of a bayonet next.

The news media has been flooded with stories of violence by the miners. We see the nails on the roads, broken windshields etc., but there was very little publicity about the three miners murdered on the picket lines. Not during wild confrontation, but deliberate murder...

These men have not stayed out for three months with no strike benefits just because of wages...

The biggest fight is over health benefits. Miners fought for and won health care benefits more than 30 years ago. These are to be abolished and replaced with private insurance plans partly paid for by miners and in some cases containing up to \$700.00 in deductibles...

Miners have retained their basic right to refuse to work under unsafe conditions, and to honor picket lines put up by their brother miners for this reason. This too will be taken away. Most other unions lost the right to wildcat, sit down or sympathy strikes under any condition long ago.

Most people have no idea of conditions in mines, they speak of them as being modernized. Going down in a black hole and then riding on your belly on a flat car for



Georgia Ellis, speaking at the ISO International Women's Day conference on March 4, 1978, in Cincinnati, told the 85 people who attended that she would "never stop fighting Essex."

She recounted the full story of the bloody eight month long strike at Essex Wire, in Elwood, Indiana, where more than 100 strikers, mainly women, faced bullets, baseball

bats, police, and strikebreakers on the picket lines.

Ellis and Lola "Tiny" Green also asked for help for young Carol Frye, the mother of two children, who was shot on the picket line the night of July 10, 1977. She is paralyzed today.

The conference collected \$250. But more is needed. Please send contributions to: Carol Frye Fund, Security Bank, 125 South Anderson Street, Elwood, IND. 46036. □

miles in a tunnel every day to get to your job doesn't sound like much fun to me. Most have miners stoop caused from working in low vein coal. This means coal that is in a strip 2 to 3 feet high you work stooped over because tunnels are too low to stand up. They also have in many cases arthritis of the spine aggravated by standing in mud and water up to their ankles. Callouses an inch thick on the knees are all too common from years of crawling in tunnels. Of course every one has heard of black lung. If you think this doesn't happen today go to Dugger or Linton, Indiana or Harlan

County, Kentucky and see for yourself.

Face it now days when union members ask for more than the giant corp. want to offer or fight to keep rights they have already won from being gutted away they are considered militant. Yet most of those who say they do not believe in strikes or violence freely accept the benefits. Who do you think fought hardest for the 8 hour day you enjoy. The paid holidays and overtime and paid vacations or health and safety benefits and the pensions. These were not given out of the goodness of the hearts of the corporate boards, men fought, went to

jail and yes some even died.

When the struggle at the Essex plant in Elwood was at its worst last summer and one of our sister members lay gravely wounded in a hospital our people, mostly women were frightened and demoralized. One of the first calls we received was from our brother union members, the miners. They asked what they could do to help. Their message strengthened and encouraged us.

In the 30's when unions fought so long and so desperately for decent wages and conditions all stood together. The slogan "A slap

to one is a slap to all" had meaning. Perhaps we forget too soon and we shall hear once more the cry of "Bullets instead of bread" heard in the early days.

I have not heard one person say, "Why not ask the coal giants to give back any of the rights they are stealing from these men." Instead Union members beamed their approval while Gov. Bowen called out his private army to hold the strikers at gun point while he tried to break their strike. The truck caravan with a few tons of coal not enough to serve any useful purpose covered up and drew attention away from the train loads of coal being brought in from non union mines in the west.

Now that these men have endured the hardship of three months with no income the cry is take away the food stamps. It is common knowledge that no matter how brave a man is if you starve his kids you can beat him. I for one say at least look at their side of it, stop thinking of yourself for a change. I for one would rather sit in the dark and heat with my wood stove than see one more American worker stripped of rights they have fought and earned. The miners are not black mailing the country they are against the wall and feel their rights are more important than money.

There is an old song from the miners the title "Which Side are You On." It is time for every member of every union to make that decision or the next time you have a contract negotiation you may find the wall is up against your back.

I would like to close with a word that has been used so often in connection with unions that it has lost some of its meaning. The meaning of the word is, true unity of purpose. The word is SOLIDARITY.

Georgia Ellis
Member UAW 1663



Lola Green

To the Editor:

I am writing this letter to apologize to the taxpayers of this country. (Of course, I have been a taxpayer myself all my working life.)

Working at the Essex Plant here in Elwood many of us were eligible for food stamps because Essex does not pay you enough to live on. When you retire, the taxpayers have still got you because there is no pension plan at Essex. After nine years of work I will get \$155 per month social security when I retire at 62 years of age. There is no way that you could live on that, and no way that you could save on the money that we were earning. The taxpayers are subsidizing the Essex Cor-

poration and Mr. Harry Gray, chairman of United Technologies, which owns Essex. Mr. Gray is one of the highest paid executives in the United States.

We struck for nine months for better pay, better conditions, and a pension plan, but we did not have the power to win these from Essex. If people are going to work for Essex, I feel the government should offer them combat training, as I was shot at for one afternoon and one night at the strike site. Because of this, I felt it was time for me, as a U.S. citizen, to march in front of Essex's gate carrying the American flag and a sign that said "Essex, this is America."

I was afraid. I waited for the government to come to my rescue. Instead, the state police came and escorted non-union workers through our picket lines. Our strike was lost.

Essex has got me beaten down now so I want to apply for Federal aid, because I am tired of trying to survive on five to six thousand dollars a year. I was taught to believe that government assistance was a disgrace, but now I am beginning to understand that it is more to the benefit of corporations than people like myself.

Yours very truly
Lola M. Green
Member, UAW Local 1663

The law democrats and labor bureaucrats learned to love

Since its enactment in 1947 the labor bureaucracy has tried to conceal from the ranks the responsibility of Presidents Roosevelt and Truman and that of the Democratic Party for the passage of the Taft-Hartley Act and other anti-labor legislation.

But on June 15, 1943 FDR vetoed the Smith-Connally Bill. He vetoed it not because its restrictions against labor were too severe. He vetoed it because it lacked a labor conscription clause. FDR wanted the power to conscript into the labor force all workers between the ages of 18 and 65.

The Smith-Connally Act provided for the seizure of plants for strike breaking purposes, a 30 day cooling off period, government supervised strike votes, and a \$5,000 fine and a year in prison for anyone violating the Act.

On Jan. 11, 1944 FDR, in his annual message to Congress, called for a "national service Act," to outlaw strikes, "that will prevent strikes and...will make available for war production or any essential services every able-bodied adult in the nation."

DRAFT

That Harry Truman was continuing the anti-labor policy of FDR is indicated when during the railroad engineer's and fireman's strike in May 1946 he asked Congress, "immediately to authorize the President to draft into the armed forces workers who strike against the government."

Truman's bill provided that those who went on strike in the seized plants would be subject to a \$5,000 fine and a year in prison. Philip Murray of the CIO and William Green of the AFL characterized Truman's Bill as a "beachhead for those sinister forces which seek to use the military power as a means of crushing labor."

In Feb. 1947 there were 250 anti-labor bills pending in Congress. Organized labor had not one spokesman in either House to oppose these bills. In the face of these facts, neither the AFL or the CIO, then representing 15 million workers, were prepared to fight back.

William Green of the AFL indicated his willingness to accept some of the



John Anderson was president of UAW Local 15 when the Taft-Hartley bill was passed. He helped organize a demonstration of a quarter of a million workers to oppose it.

This article is part of a pamphlet he is preparing.

anti-labor proposals. The CIO's answer was to designate April 1947 as "Defend Labor Month."

PASSED

By that time both houses of Congress had agreed on a bill. It was introduced into the Senate by Senator Taft of Ohio and into the House by Congressman Hartley of New Jersey, both Republicans. The Bill passed the House on April 17 by a vote of 308 to 107; the Democrats voting for the Bill by a 93 to 84 majority. The Bill passed the Senate 68 to 24. The Democrats were split 21 to 21. With the Senate's approval the bills were merged into the Taft-Hartley Act.

While the Bill was being debated in Congress the leaders of the AFL and the CIO carried on a vociferous campaign denouncing it as the Taft-Hartley Slave Labor Act.

We in the UAW took very seriously the danger of this law to the labor movement. At a city wide meeting in Detroit the local leaders called on the International Executive Board to authorize the closing of all the auto plants in the Detroit metropolitan area at 2 P.M. on a Friday. The Board was meeting in Buffalo, NY, on April 15th. It voted unanimously to authorize the closing of the plants at 2 P.M. on Friday, April 24th.

Between April 15th and the 24th Walter Reuther must have had a change of mind about the evils of the

Taft-Hartley Act. A few days before the demonstration was to be held in Cadillac Square, Reuther's assistant in the GM Department, Art Johnstone, called a meeting of the GM local leaders in the Detroit area. He advised them not to carry out the order of the IEB. He said the closing of the GM plants at 2 P.M. would be a violation of the GM contract and would subject us to disciplinary action by the Company.

I was President of UAW Local 15 at the time and received a telegram signed by Walter Reuther "ordering" me to close the Fleetwood plant at 2 P.M. on Friday April 24th.

The demonstration in Cadillac Square was the largest in the history of the UAW-CIO. The auto workers were joined there by thousands of steel workers and members of other CIO and AFL unions.

SPEAKERS

It was estimated there were a quarter of a million workers at the demonstration. There were several speakers from the UAW: Vice President, R.J. Thomas, George Addes, Victor Reuther and others. There were also speakers from the AFL and the MESA (Mechanics Education Society).

Walter Reuther, who had sent out the telegrams "ordering" the demonstration, was not present. Instead of attending the demonstration Reuther was meeting with General Motors officials. The demonstration was marred by the fact that three GM plants, Ternstedt, Fisher #23 and the Chevrolet Gear and Axle plants failed to close at 2 P.M. The leadership of these plants were members of Reuther's right-wing caucus. Workers from these plants appeared at the demonstration an hour late. They waited until quitting time at 3 P.M. as they were advised to do by Johnstone, before leaving their plants.

This split in our ranks encouraged the Company to discipline the leaders of those locals who carried out the order of the IEB. No one was disciplined in either the Ford or Chrysler plants. After we had been penalized Reuther made no effort to negotiate a reduction in our penalties from discharge to time off. Those penalized belonged to the Thomas-Addes caucus.

Reuther's half-hearted support of the demonstration caused a further split in the ranks of the UAW. This split would spread to other CIO unions.

The Taft-Hartley Act contained a clause that would serve the interests of the right-wing forces in the labor movement. This provision in the Act required the officers of international unions to sign an affidavit stating they were not a member of the Communist Party. Those not signing the affidavit would be denied the right to be on the ballot of NLRB elections held for the

purpose of determining what union would represent the workers.

Some AFL and CIO unions welcomed this provision of the Act for they saw it as a weapon to be used against unions under the control or influenced by the Communist Party. The leaders of several unions while not members of the Communist Party had principled objections to signing the affidavits.

The passage of the Law on June 23rd provoked a number of protest strikes. The Los Angeles CIO Council sent a caravan to Washington to protest the passage of the Act. Active trade unionists, both AFL and CIO, joined the caravan along the way. When they arrived in Washington they were told by both AFL and CIO leaders to end their protesting. They were not permitted to speak in the name of either body.

When the Act was passed leaders of the AFL and the CIO swore they would never comply with provisions of the Act. On August 6, 1947, Richard T. Leonard, Vice President of the UAW, in negotiations with the Ford Motor Company obtained an agreement in which the Company agreed not to use any provision of the Taft-Hartley Act against the UAW.

On the same day David Dubinsky, President of the AFL-ILGWU (International Ladies Garment Workers Union) sent a memorandum to 450 ILGWU locals suggesting they comply with provisions of the Act. Dubinsky was a friend and adviser to Walter Reuther. Following the ILGWU compliance a number of CIO unions announced their intention of complying with provisions of the Act.

ELIMINATE

When the AFL met in convention in October 1947 the leadership with the exception of John L. Lewis were determined to comply with the Act.

John L. Lewis refused to sign the anti-communist affidavit. Being a vice president of the AFL he was preventing the AFL from complying with the Law. To remove Lewis as an obstacle to compliance the Convention amended the AFL constitution, eliminating the office of vice-president. In retaliation Lewis withdrew the United Mine Workers from the Federation.

On October 10th the CIO Executive Board adopted a policy of neutrality toward the Act, leaving it up to each international union to make its own decision. A few days later the CIO convention endorsed the Board's decision.

On October 31st Walter Reuther announced that the UAW would comply with the provisions of the Taft-Hartley Act. There were no members of the Communist Party in the leadership of the UAW but some of the officers had principled objections to

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These miners defied Taft-Hartley in 1950

signing the anti-communist affidavits. These objections were a factor in Reuther's winning complete control over the UAW at its November 1947 convention. He promised the delegates he would work for the repeal of the Act.

The only unions refusing to comply with the provisions of the Act were the United Mine Workers and the International Typographical Union.

Once the right-wing unions had complied with the Act their leaders were more interested in using it against the Left than in having it repealed.

There was no legal requirement in the Taft-Hartley Act that required all local union officers sign the anti-communist affidavits. Most locals like those in GM, Ford and Chrysler would never require the services of the NLRB. Despite this fact the Reuther forces in the International and the locals made it mandatory, not only for the local officers but also the members of the shop committee and their alternates to sign the affidavits. Anyone who refused to sign them were branded communists.

During the two years following the passage of the Act, Murray and his right-wing supporters imposed a policy on all affiliated bodies that would drive a million members out of the CIO. In the later part of 1949 several CIO unions were expelled, others withdrew from the CIO.

Once the Taft-Hartley Act was passed President Truman lost little time in using it against the workers. He first used it against the United Mine Workers when 400,000 went on strike to enforce the provisions of the 1947 contract. The operators were withholding \$30 million in health and welfare benefits.

Truman also used the Act against the Packinghouse Workers and against the ITU in Chicago when it struck the five Chicago daily papers. Anti-picketing injunctions were issued in every city where a strike was called by the Packinghouse workers. A Chicago judge issued an injunction against the ITU ordering an end to the strike against the Chicago news-

papers. When local police attacked the packinghouse workers' picket lines the strike was broken. The workers were forced to accept a settlement of 9 cents per hour, the recommendation of Truman's fact finding committee. These workers had been demanding a 29 cent raise to meet the fast rising cost of living. After more than a year on strike the ITU strike was broken.

It became increasingly difficult for the workers to win strikes with the courts, the police and other government agencies supporting the employers in their strike breaking.

The UMW with its open defiance of the law was able not only to win wage increases but were able to establish the right of workers to bargain for pensions. On June 22, 1948 Judge

Goldsborough ruled the miners' pension demand was legal.

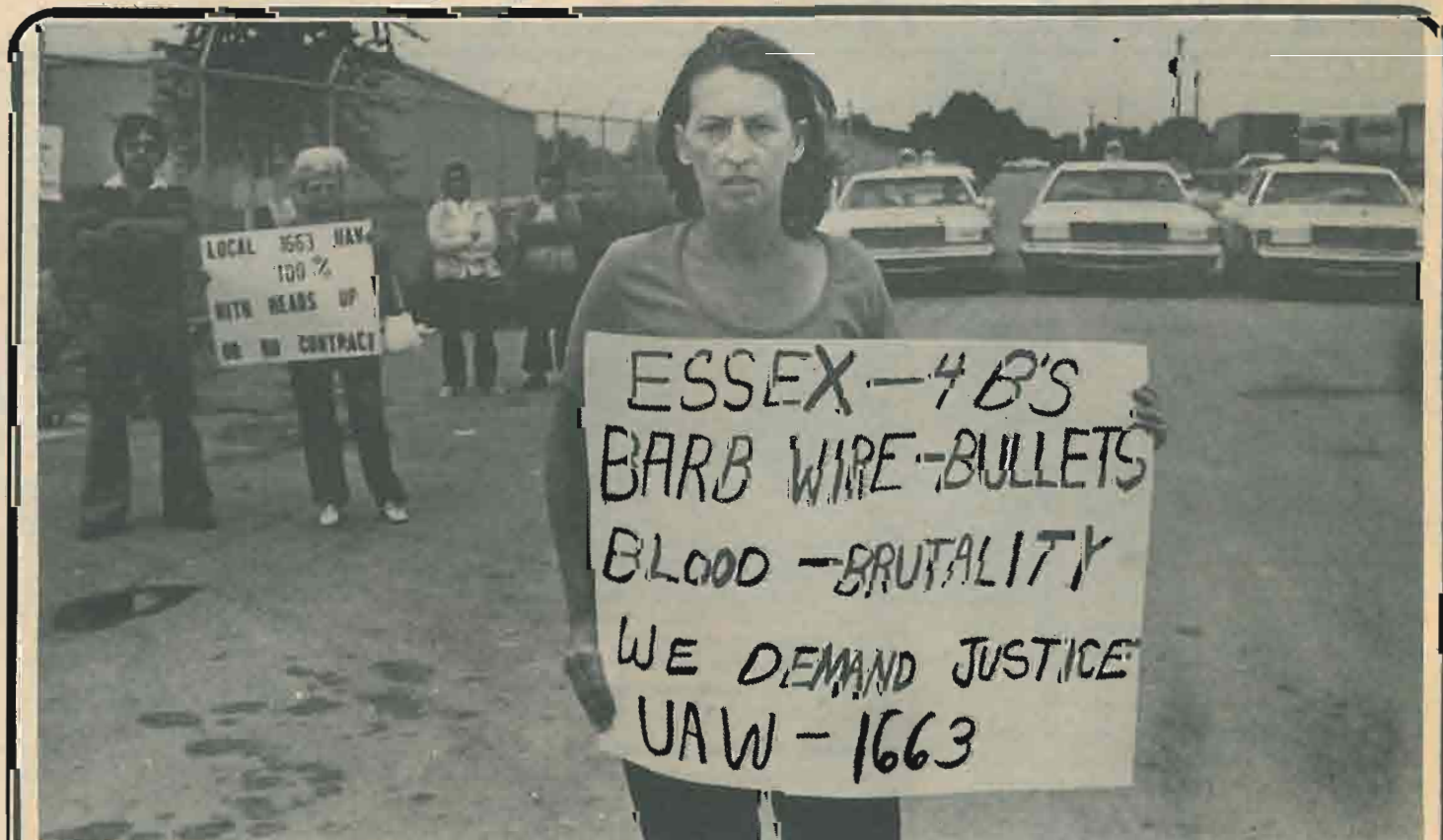
On May 10, 1948 Truman obtained an injunction against the Brotherhoods of Engineers and Firemen. He seized the railroads making the presidents of the companies colonels in the U.S. army. This in no way affected the management of, or the profits of, the railroads. Truman's sole purpose was to break the strikes thus preventing the workers from winning the wage gains the inflationary prices required to maintain their standard of living.

During the first year of the Taft-Hartley Act President Truman used it 12 times to obtain anti-strike injunctions.

Since 1948 there has been no serious effort on the part of organized labor to have the Taft-Hartley Act repealed.

In 1947 we were told that every member of Congress who had voted to override Truman's veto would be opposed for reelection by organized labor. One of them, Senator L.B. Johnson of Texas, was not only supported for reelection, labor gave him its support for vice president in 1960 and for president in 1964.

The labor bureaucracy has not only learned to live with the Taft-Hartley Act, they have learned that it is an important factor in their remaining in power. They recognize the Taft-Hartley Act as an important weapon to be used against the rank and file who want a democratic union. They will authorize a strike only when it is forced on them by the employer or by the rank and file. □



The provisions of the Taft-Hartley Act make it illegal to boycott the products made in scab shops. The practice of solidarity by the workers is made illegal. This was illustrated during the eight month strike at the Essex Wire plant in Elwood, IN. This plant, which makes wire harnesses for the Ford, continued to ship its products to Ford

plants during the strike.

Although Essex, owned by United Technologies, is one of the most profitable corporations in America, the UAW signed a contract settling for sweatshop wages and conditions. The Taft-Hartley Act played a decisive role in the strike and its settlement.

Seattle ISO holds miners' strike support rally

SEATTLE, WA—An enthusiastic audience of over 125 came out the night of March 17 to show their support to the striking miners at a benefit sponsored by the International Socialist Organization.

The meeting began with a slide show of Harlan County, Kentucky and Appalachian music. Several speakers, including Greg Hawthorne, a striking Ohio miner, representing the Miners' Relief Fund, District 6, UMWA, then outlined the miners' fight and its political meaning.

Hawthorne explained in great detail the crucial issues of the strike and their meaning to the 160,000 striking miners.

The coal operators value their profits more than human

life, and the government with the Taft-Hartley injunction has clearly shown which side they are on.

He appealed to the audience for funds to help the rank and file miners meet their daily needs now that food stamps, electricity and gas have been cut off.

Although the exact nature of the latest contract proposal was not known, he hoped that the miners would have the strength to hold out for a contract they can live with. He concluded with an inspiring poem written by a coal miner.

CONNECT

Scott Winslow, of the Seattle chapter of the I.S.O., connected the miners struggle to the general attack on

workers' rights and the present union-busting offensive. Capitalism was said to be the root cause and he called on the audience to help the I.S.O. build a revolutionary alternative.

Will Parry, a retired pulp and paper worker and presently the strike support organizer for the eleventh month long, bitter auto-machinist strike here, called on those in attendance to help on the picket lines and to attend an upcoming demonstration. On April 1 the King County Central Labor Council has called for a mass demonstration organized along the twin themes: Support the auto-machinists and Support the miners strike.

A speaker from the newly

formed Seattle Mineworkers Support Committee, which the I.S.O. helped form, announced plans for another benefit to be held April 2 which will feature the award winning film "Harlan County USA."

The 125 people there then contributed \$635 to the struggle, an amount which was more than twice what the King County Labor Council, with its far larger resources, saw fit to give.

The next day in Portland, Oregon, a group of 35 heard Hawthorne and contributed over \$250.

In Portland, Hawthorne also attended a Portland Trailblazer's basketball game, thanks to Bill Walton, who donated two tickets to the cause. □

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WHERE WE STAND

For Workers' Control

Workers create all the wealth under capitalism. A socialist society can only be built when workers collectively seize control of that wealth and democratically plan its production and distribution according to human needs instead of profit.

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

Revolution Not Reform

The capitalist system cannot be patched up or reformed as some union leaders and liberal politicians say. Capitalism is based on the exploitation of workers. No reforms can do away with this exploitation. The only way workers can come to control society and create a system based on freedom and a decent life for all is by overthrowing capitalism and replacing it with revolutionary, democratic socialism.

For A Workers' Government

The present state apparatus (federal and state governments, 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 needs an entirely different kind of state based upon mass democratic councils of workers' delegates.

Supporting the present state apparatus is a vast network of propaganda—newspapers, radio, television, movies. Workers are bombarded daily from all directions with capitalism's point of view. The working class needs its own sources of information. To help meet this need, we are dedicated to building a newspaper that the work-

ing class can trust and use in their fight against the present system.

Fight Oppression

Capitalism divides the working class. It pits men against women, whites against blacks. Capitalism fosters and uses these divisions to prevent the unity necessary for its destruction. As capitalism moves into crisis, oppressed groups—blacks, women, latins, native americans, youths, gays—suffer most. We support the struggles of these oppressed groups.

We oppose racism in all its forms. We fight segregation in the schools and housing and against racist firings and harassment. We demand freedom for all political prisoners.

We fight for women's liberation. We are for equal pay for all women workers. We fight for an end to forced sterilization and for free abortion. There should be free quality child care for all who need it. We fight for the opening up of jobs for women and an end to sexual harassment and firings. We are for an end to discrimination and harassment of sexual minorities.

We support the independent organization and struggles of oppressed peoples to strengthen the working class struggle for socialism.

For Rank And File Organization

The unions today are largely business machines that long ago stopped fighting seriously for the interests of the working class. Business union leaders either act as brakes on workers' struggles, or as police, delivering workers into the hands of the bosses. We fight to change this.

To make the unions fight for workers' interests, power must be built on the shop floor. This can only happen if the rank and file organize themselves independently of the union bureaucrats. We work to build rank and file organizations in unions and companies wherever we are employed.

Internationalism

The working class has no nation. Capitalism is international and that is why the struggle for socialism must be world-wide. A socialist revolution cannot survive in isolation.

We champion workers' struggles in all countries, from Portugal and Spain to Chile and Puerto Rico, from Palestine and Eastern Europe to China and India. We support all genuine national liberation struggles. We call for victory of the black freedom fighters in Zimbabwe and South Africa. We oppose all forms of imperialism and oppose sending U.S. troops anywhere in the world to impose U.S. interests.

Russia, China, Cuba and Eastern Europe are not socialist countries. These countries are not governed by workers' control but by a small bureaucratic class. A revolutionary movement must be built in these countries to achieve workers' control.

Revolutionary Party

The activity of the ISO is directed toward the initial steps of building a revolutionary party in a working class that is today fragmented and cut off from socialist ideas. Revolutionaries must be involved in the day-to-day struggles of workers and other oppressed groups at the work places, in the unions and in the communities. We build every struggle that will strengthen the self-confidence, organization and socialist consciousness of workers and the oppressed.

As the working class movement gathers strength, the need for revolutionary leadership becomes crucial. We are part of the long process of building a democratic revolutionary party rooted in the working class. Those who agree with our stand and are prepared to help us build toward revolutionary socialism are urged to join us now.

International Socialist Organization

- National Office, P.O. Box 18037 Cleveland, OH 44118
- Amherst, P.O. Box 446 Amherst, MA 01002
- Bloomington, P.O. Box 29 Bloomington, IN 47401
- Boston, P.O. Box 131 Kendall Sq. Station, Boston, MA 02142
- Chicago, P.O. Box A-3698 Chicago, IL 60690
- Cincinnati, P.O. Box 8909 Cincinnati, OH 45208
- Cleveland, P.O. Box 18037 Cleveland, OH 44118
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STEVE LEIGH ON NUCLEAR POWER

THE UNVAILABLE OPTION

Anyone who has doubts about the safety or necessity of nuclear fission power should read this book. It details graphically all the safety problems from catastrophic meltdowns to the "normal" release of radioactivity from wastes and plant operation. It documents the overwhelming danger of nuclear fission.

But the most interesting aspect of the book is the treatment of the political and economic aspects of the problem.

NUCLEAR POWER, THE UNVAILABLE OPTION by John J. Berger, Ramparts Press, 1976.

From 1957 to 1971 nuclear power was considered experimental and was granted massive government subsidy. The subsidies that went into it were necessary to its development and continuation.

Nuclear power has never been "viable" economically on its own and is less so now than ever before. Since the late '60's the price of uranium has increased 10 times. Electricity produced by uranium is now only marginally cheaper than coal produced power, and if we include the massive government subsidy to atomic energy, coal electricity is probably cheaper. The cost of nuclear power plants has risen dramatically and, along with the price of uranium, has caused the cut back of orders for new nuclear plants. Left on its own without government

support the industry would quickly die.

What are the specific government subsidies? The U.S. pays for all high level waste processing. It provides enriched uranium cheaply to the plants—uranium has to be enriched before it can be used to generate electricity.

The government does all the research on plant safety and new fuels.

Perhaps the biggest financial guarantee is in the insurance field. Under the Price-Anderson Act, liability for any one nuclear accident is limited to \$560 million in spite of estimates of possible damage from an accident going as high as \$17 billion.

LIMITED

Yet even though the government limited liability to such a low figure, private insurance companies refuse to insure the plants for more than \$125 million. The remaining \$435 million is provided again by the national government under special program. Without these insurance guarantees, the nuclear industry would collapse.

The government does more than subsidize the industry. It also constantly covers up studies of atomic energy which come to embarrassing conclusions.

Some people argue that the federal government is justified in doing all this because nuclear power is necessary. Berger refutes this claim very

well. He shows that even under the estimates most favorable to it, fission can only produce 5% of the needed electricity. He goes on to document that through a combination of conservation, solar power and wind power more than enough electricity can be produced.

Berger also explains why the government has promoted nuclear power in spite of the risks, costs, and the availability of better alternatives.

POWERFUL

The "Atomic-Industrial Complex" includes some of the most powerful corporations in America. Exxon, for example, through its subsidiary Exxon Nuclear, owns uranium properties and produces nuclear fuels. Kerr-McGee, the largest uranium producer, has an interlocking directorate with G.E. G.E. also makes nuclear plants.

The largest banks in the U.S. are heavy investors in the 200 privately owned utilities which build nuclear plants. Banks are supporters of nuclear plants because they require large loans for construction and other capital expenses.

Many of these banks also are directly connected to the energy conglomerates which invest in uranium production and plant operation. The largest corporations also tend to be the biggest recipients of "defense" contracts. The defense establishment is closely related to the nuclear

industry through development of nuclear technology.

Berger's account clearly shows why the energy policy of the U.S. since World War II has been pro-nuclear. The government is dominated at all levels by the very corporations that profit from nuclear power. As long as corporations are allowed to dominate the economy and hence the government, they will bias energy policy to meet their needs for profit. This is shown even in the development of solar energy. It still receives only \$89 million a year in government research funds, compared to the billions in nuclear subsidy.

STOP

Whether or not a strong enough anti-nuclear movement and the growing economic crisis in the industry can stop nuclear power remains to be seen. But one thing is clear—energy policy under capitalism will always be shaped to meet the need for profit. Only when the population as a whole democratically owns and controls the economy will a safe, sane, and rational energy policy be possible.

Berger doesn't reach these conclusions in his book. His book isn't socialist, but it gives all the information and arguments necessary to develop a socialist analysis.

It is an exciting contribution to the nuclear power debate. It should be required reading for anyone interested in the subject. □

THE UNIONS

Norwood, Ohio electrical workers in longest strike yet



Strikers at Seimens—Allis

NORWOOD, OH—650 members of the International Union of Electrical Workers (IUE), Local 765, have been striking the Seimens-Allis Plant in Norwood since Feb. 2. Workers voted to strike after rejecting the company's contract proposal by 94%.

The company's proposal included a raise of 50¢ an hour. Workers have not received a cost of living raise since 1976, which would have amounted to 47¢. This means the actual raise works out to 3¢ an hour.

The company has used the tactic of withholding cost of living during a contract year before.

The strike, now over two months old, is the longest in 36 years at the Norwood branch.

Union members who see the danger in remaining isolated should make every effort to link-up with other workers in their local as well as other unions.

WORKING

Seimens-Allis has another branch, Allis Chalmers, just a few blocks away. The 250 workers at that branch, also in IUE Local 765, have agreed to work under the present contract until a new one is negotiated. They are working overtime every day.

This division within the local is not seen as a threat by many of the strikers. However, some of the striking union members realize that as long as some of the members are working the company will be able to outlast the strikers.

"They're going to let us walk while they work and cash in on the better contract," said one picketer, who has worked at Siemens-Allis for 26 years. □

By KATHY STEWART

Black hospital worker framed

BOSTON, MA—Bill King, a black ex-airforceman with eight years service in the dietary department behind him, was fired for molesting two women from the Peter Bent Brigham Hospital. He categorically denies the charge.

The Peter Bent is a large hospital in Boston employing over 2,000 people.

The circumstances of the firing are bizarre. The two women are young students and new to the hospital. They didn't report the incidents until three weeks later.

Employees close to King, and workers connected with the rank and file newsletter of the hospital, were amazed. They have called the firing a racist frame-up. Minority workers are always harassed at the hospital, and there's no doubt that if the students had been black, the incident wouldn't have gotten anywhere.

The question remains as to why the frameup. Although the anti-union administration of the hospital (which is affiliated with Harvard University) has always exercised its power without thought to employees or community, this move exceeds even their boundaries. If the frameup was arranged simply to keep people in line, then the sheer audacity of the administration is great.

The grievance board ruled that King should get his job back, but since there isn't a union the board has no power, and the ruling was ignored. Lawyers are working on the case, but it looks unlikely that legal procedures alone will get King his job back.

The newsletter group put out a special issue about the firing, and held a party-disco at a local union office which attracted over 250 people and raised over \$1000 dollars. But, as Bill King said to me, "A lot more is needed to change the administration's mind."

By KENT WORCESTER

Boston taxi drivers fight to save their union

BOSTON, MA—The drivers for Checker Cab Company, the largest taxi company in the Boston area, are entering their third week on strike.

The drivers, in Teamsters and Chauffers Local 496, are on strike because the company is trying to force the drivers onto a leasing program rather than receiving a commission and being on the payroll.

The leasing plan requires that drivers pay \$7 per day plus \$0.26 per mile and gas, which must be bought at Checker's pumps. In other words, if a driver went 100 miles on a shift, he/she would have to pay the company \$34.

Besides being a severe blow to the drivers' earning power, the leasing plan would destroy the union. Under the plan, drivers are no longer considered employees of the company, but are "self-employed."

As such, the company could claim that its contract is with individual drivers on lease, not with the union. Health benefits, vacation pay, and pensions—secured by the union—would disappear.



With a labor force of "self-employed" drivers, the leasing plan absolves the company of all responsibility for the cab driver. Besides the other leasing charges, the driver would also have to pay \$2 per day for insurance. And even this would not cover drivers for liability. Drivers could be held responsible, or liable, for damages to parties injured in accidents. The company also has no responsibility for social security or workman's compensation. As "self-employed" individuals, drivers would have to file their own tax returns. Social security taxes increase beginning April 1st. This is one reason the company is trying to force drivers on a lease now.

Frank Sawyer, who owns Checker Taxi, also owns Town Taxi in Boston, Brookline Taxi, Copley Motor Tours, Airways Transportation, Avis Rental, Transportation Mutual, and General Leasing. His holdings might endear him to Mayor White and local city politicians, but he is hated by cab drivers and his other workers throughout the city.

Some of the drivers at Checker have been driving for his company for over twenty years, and now they are faced with the possibility of not being able to earn a decent living, or getting a pension.

Besides forcing cab drivers to "hustle" more to squeeze out a living, leasing places the full burden of the economic crisis on the cab driver. Should the price of gas increase, for instance, under leasing the driver pays, not the company.

FORCE

Since the oil "crisis" of 1973, cab companies across the country have been trying to force cab drivers on lease. There have been strikes against leasing by cab drivers in other cities. Here, in Boston, Town Taxi and Boston Cab Company, the two other largest cab companies in Boston besides Checker, have forced their drivers onto a lease plan this year. In Cambridge, Arthur Goldberg, owner of Cambridge Yellow Cab, tried to force the drivers there onto a leasing plan last January, but the talk of a strike and unionizing was so threatening that Goldberg dropped the plan.

When some drivers informed the Cambridge City Council about the leasing plan, the Council reaffirmed the city law, which forbids leasing. But should the strikers at Checker lose, Goldberg would have extra incentive to lobby to change the law, and to try again to force leasing on the drivers.

The strike at Checker is important for all cab drivers. Unfortunately, the strike has gotten hardly any publicity. Except for Sawyer's anti-union full page ads in the *Boston Globe*, the news media has ignored the strike.

A city wide strike of all cab drivers would be the most effective way of publicizing the issue, as well as overturning leasing at the other companies. But, unfortunately, there has been no movement or organizing for such an action. □



Political Prisoners USA



Skyhorse

LOS ANGELES, CA—Last month, 300 people marched through a working class neighborhood in Los Angeles demonstrating their support for Paul Skyhorse and Richard Mohawk and in defense of Native American rights.

Skyhorse and Mohawk were arrested in 1974 and charged with the murder of George Aird, a Los Angeles tax driver.

A.I.M.

Skyhorse and Mohawk both American Indian Movement (A.I.M.) activists, state they fled from Southern California out of fear. They were later captured in Arizona.

What has angered supporters of Skyhorse and Mohawk recently is the role of the F.B.I. in the case.

On the day of the murder Virginia Deluce, alias "Blue Dove" who has admitted to being a paid F.B.I. informer, drove the two defendants to a demonstration in Los Angeles. There they were secretly photographed by the F.B.I.

Another paid F.B.I. informer, Douglas Durham had risen to the position of "security director" in A.I.M. In this role he was given the task of investigating the murder. In his report to A.I.M., he stated that Skyhorse and Mohawk were guilty. A.I.M. support ended until a year later when Durham's F.B.I. role was found out.

Amnesty International has included Skyhorse and Mohawk on its list of political prisoners. □

By SUE DOAN



Mohawk

BOYCOTT PACKARD'S!

By **BEN BLAKE**
and **WAYNE STANDLEY**

NORTHAMPTON, MA—At 10 P.M. on March 1st, the waitresses and cook at Packard's bar and restaurant in Northampton, Mass., walked out on strike.

They were joined by more than seventy customers in the bar at the time in a tremendous show of community support.

Since then the picket line has been maintained for over twelve hours a day, with many other workers and students joining in to help.

The union members at Packard's waited to strike until the owners made it clear they were refusing to negotiate a contract.

After discussions with the management proved ineffective, the women workers decided to take action.

As one of the waitresses explained, "We got together and found that we faced the same harassment and conditions. We basically decided that we didn't have to put up with it just because it's the general state of affairs of restaurant workers who are largely women...Organized as a group we felt we would have more power to resist."

MAJORITY

By the end of January 1978, over a majority of the workers had signed membership cards for Local 116, Hotel and Res-



Picket line at Packard's

taurant Employees and Bartenders Union, AFL-CIO. At a meeting with the management on January 23, one owner asked to see the cards to confirm that a majority supported the union, in effect legally recognizing the union.

The day after recognition, the Packard's management posted new work rules, which were later only enforced against union members. The one free after hours drink and food discount for the em-

ployees was discontinued. Waitresses were told they could not sit down on the job.

Any infringement of these rules "would be grounds for immediate dismissal." Subsequently, one union member was fired for "bad mouthing" one of the owners during her off hours at the University of Massachusetts. In addition, new people were hired to replace union members. Under these circumstances, Packard's management peti-

tioned the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) for an election in an attempt to bust the union.

After four weeks of attempting to get the owners to negotiate a contract and NLRB inaction, the waitresses and cook decided to counter the owner's attacks against the union by striking.

The strike was timed to support the restaurant employees union in a recognition election that was held the following day at another Northampton restaurant, Fitzwilly's. In the words of one Packard's striker, "We knew all they'd been through...the distortion and lies and we wanted to give them strength. We wanted them to know that we would stand up and support them."

In addition to receiving the support of other restaurant owners in strike breaking, Packard's was also offering 25¢ drafts and free taxi rides for anyone who would cross the picket line. A goon was even hired to take pictures of the strikers for possible blacklisting.

On March 23, the NLRB announced it will issue a complaint against the management of Packard's in the support of the claims of striking workers.

The complaint will charge that the management took benefits away from certain workers to discourage unionization and bypassed the

union by trying to negotiate with individual employees.

But the striking women know that a real victory is up to them. They are holding firm to their basic demand, "No contract, no work." And it is definitely **not** "business as usual" at Packard's.

Truck drivers have refused to cross the picket line to deliver liquor and other supplies. The union busting and strike breaking techniques have just not been effective—the number of real customers is way down.

The strikers deserve the support of all people in the area. You can support the striking Packard's workers by:

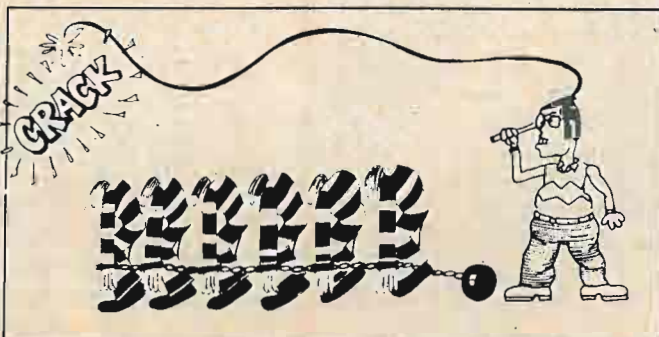
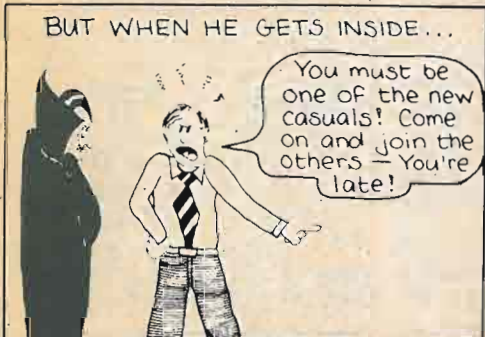
● Refusing to patronize Packard's.

● Walking the picket line at 14 Masonic St., Northampton, between noon and midnight.

● Calling the owners at 584-5957 or 584-5850 and telling them to negotiate now.

● Donating money and/or food to the strikers.

A victory at Packard's will mean better working conditions for the waitresses, cooks, and bartenders, and better service for the customers. A strong union at Packard's is critical to the success of the union organizing drives in the other area restaurants. □



From "Postal Strife," rank and file paper of D.C. bulk mail center

SOUTH AFRICA DEMO

LOS ANGELES—The drive to force the regents of the University of California to divest over \$900 million in companies doing business in South Africa continued March 17 with a demonstration at the Regents Los Angeles meeting.

Some 200 students from UC campuses in the Los Angeles area took part.

The Coalition United Against Apartheid, a statewide campus group, is also circulating petitions on all UC campuses demanding an

end to South African investments. Rallies were held around the state prior to the Los Angeles demonstration to gather signatures and build the demonstration.

At UC Irvine in Orange County, 150 students gathered to hear speakers.

UCLA students rallied March 15 and in Berkeley, over 4,000 signatures have been gathered since the petition campaign began three weeks prior to the demonstration. □

Last year in Ohio

145,000 people had
their electricity shut
off, many in the
heart of winter...

NOW DAYTON POWER HAS ARRESTED NINE PEOPLE WHO PROTESTED

Stop the shut-offs!

Socialist Worker

Paper of the International Socialist Organization 25¢ monthly

By GARY STAIGER

DAYTON, OH—When Dayton Power and Light shut off utility services to Mrs. Gloria Johnson, it left her and five children in the cold and dark.

She was unable to stretch a meager Aid to Dependent Children's check to pay ever increasing gas and electric bills. Gloria is just one of thousands of people across

the country to lose essential utility services in recent months.

On Monday, March 20th, Mrs. Johnson and four others, members of the Miami Valley Power Project, a consumer utility group, and the Peoples Action Union, a welfare rights organization, were arrested when they refused to leave

the Power Companies main office until her service was turned back on.

Mrs. Johnson and Gary Staiger of the Power Project were negotiating with Customer Service Representatives when ordered to leave. The Company had refused to accept half of the \$400 due to restore service.

When five guards dragged Staiger down the main aisle of the office, Gloria and Power Project members Pam Davis, Terry Davis, and People's Action Union member, James Hoard, locked arms, as Pam Davis said, "If you're going to arrest him you'll have to take me too." All five were arrested and charged with criminal trespassing.

On Wednesday, March 22nd, Gloria Johnson returned to Dayton Power and Light (D.P. and L.) to demand they accept partial payment with Logan Martinez as advocate from the Power Project and a support picket outside of 30.

A group of about 6 entered the office to determine the status of the negotiations and became angry when informed D.P. and L. still refused Gloria Johnson's payment. Three guards threatened the group with arrest if they did not leave. Logan Martinez refused, demanding reconnection, but the rest of the group started through the lobby to the doors.

Ellis Jacobs was punched by a guard and assaulted in a corner. As two guards dragged Ellis into an office, threw him down and handcuffed him, a female guard slammed Connie Coker into a wall, threw her on the ground and sat on her. Ms. Coker was taken to the hospital, treated for injuries and released.

The arrests at D.P. and L. were a sharp escalation of a three year old struggle between the Power Project and the Company. The Power Project had worked on a state-wide ballot campaign in 1976; fought rate hikes in the streets

and in the hearing rooms of the Public Utilities Commission; picketed and protested the inhumane policies of shutting people off in the winter time.

HOTLINE

Last fall a shut-off hotline was set up and the calls began pouring in. There was little doubt people were ready to fight.

According to the Ohio Consumer Counsel, a state agency, D.P. and L. shut-off over 1,000 families per month in the last half of 1977. D.P. and L. spokesman Jim Mann admitted in a newspaper interview that of the nearly 4,000 shut-offs since Nov. 1, 1,785 have not been reconnected.

"Stopping shut-offs means organizing," said Ellis Jacobs, Power Project member. "Utility companies want people to feel separated from each other as bill payers, but together we are stronger than the Company.

"When we go to court on these ridiculous charges we intend to put D.P. and L. on trial. They are the real criminals in the community."

Trial dates for the Dayton Power and Light "Nine" are slated for mid-April in Municipal Court. The Miami Valley Power Project and the People's Action Union have organized a defense committee to carry the campaign against shut-offs and the charges into the community.

Funds are urgently needed and may be sent to the Miami Valley Project, Box 252 Dayton, Ohio 45401.

Thanks from the miners



Cynthia Bumbico of the Miners' Relief Fund

DILLES BOTTOM, OH—Cynthia Bumbico (above) was one of the miners' wives who helped organize relief for families who suffered during the strike. She told Socialist Worker that the Miners' Relief

Fund collected over \$40,000 in just four weeks. She also said "thanks to all those who contributed money and food—there are many people here who need it and appreciate it."

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