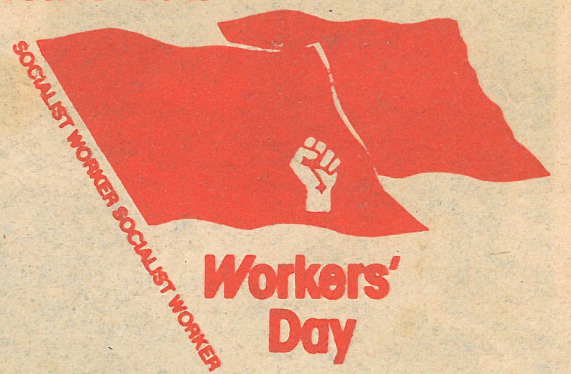


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MAY DAY



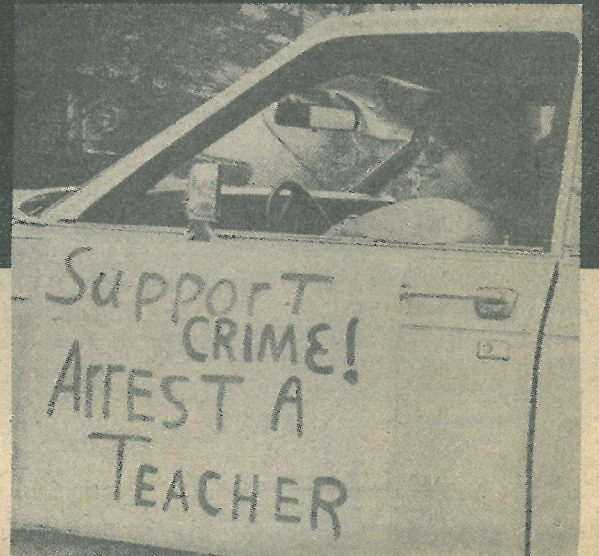
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NUMBER 14

SCHOOLS: A CRISIS THAT NEVER ENDS



WE
SUPPORT
THE
TEACHERS

A teacher in Ohio today is likely to be working without pay, working without a contract, about to be laid off, unemployed, on strike, or in jail.

In Toledo, 2400 teachers and 1400 non-teaching employees walked off their jobs on April 26, and struck defying a back-to-work court order.

Judge Peter Handwork threatened to fine the Toledo Federation of Teachers \$10,000 a day—individual teachers \$100 a day for striking.

The teachers demanded a wage increase, they have been without a contract since August, 1976.

Teachers have also struck in Aurora, North Olmsted, Ashtabula, and Rocky River. Cleveland teachers worked weeks without pay when the state's largest school district went bankrupt.

In January, 400 teachers in Canton struck—250 were jailed. In April, the Brunswick teachers struck—38 were jailed, finger printed, skin searched—for defying a court order.

The Brunswick community supported their teachers. 600 people marched in protest in front of the Medina jail. A plant gate collection at the nearby Ford plant got \$5,569. The teachers said, "If the coal miners can do it, so can we," and a student, 8th grader Kathy LaRue, said, "We want our teachers back, and we want to go to school, and if we have to go to jail too, we'll do it."

The teachers were released six days later, only to return to work with a far from satisfying contract.

Meanwhile, in Cleveland the school crisis goes from bad to worse. The voters rejected a new school levy, and the schools were to close in May. A state loan will keep them opened until fall.

But in the fall Cleveland's thoroughly segregated schools are to be integrated with busing. So the city's most blatant racists are mobilizing against integration, while the respectable racists support them by saying busing can't be afforded. □



Ohio is not a poor state. A recent Ohio Magazine boasted of the industrial wealth of the state and detailed the enormous profits that are made here each year.

So there is no reason why the teachers can't be paid, the schools kept open, the systems integrated and made equal for all the children in the state. No reason except that there is no profit to be made on equality, on good education, on good schools.

The banks of Ohio, the Corporations—Republic Steel, Armco, Proctor and Gamble, Sohio, Kroger's—and their politicians care no more for education than they do for the coal miners. But they have the money.

The Brunswick teachers were receiving a base salary of only \$9050. They asked for only \$9502. A family cannot live on that.

The teachers are right to fight back, and their courage and dedication must be supported.

But we must also fight the whole system, for there will be a crisis in our schools as long as we have a system which will sacrifice anything—even the school children—to profits and the almighty dollar. □

Jailed Brunswick teacher