

STOP THE WARMAKERS
U.S. OUT OF EL SALVADOR



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WHY NURSES STRIKE

8 & 9

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JULY 1983

SEVEN MINERS DIE IN VIRGINIA

**MARY
'CAT'
COUNTS**



**SEE
PAGE 2**

Killed by the coal bosses

On June 21, seven miners were killed in a methane explosion in Clinchfield Coals No. 1 mine in McLure, Virginia.

The miners were working because they were lucky. 5,000 of the 11,000 miners in Virginia are out of work today, many of them with benefits exhausted.

Tragically, there will be miners eager to take the places of the seven killed, despite the fact that the McLure No. 1 mine is known as a deadly mine. 11 miners died there between 1979 and the latest disaster.

by JERRY JONES

ter. Today the fatality rate in the mines is rising.

But miners have always faced a terrible dilemma—starve or face death in the mines. More than 100,000 miners have been killed in mining in this century alone.

It is a terrible choice—but it will continue to be the choice of millions, as long as capitalism, the system that puts profits above human life continues. □



IN REAGAN'S AMERICA

A strong-willed woman who loved her children



Mary "Cat" Counts was 51 years old when the methane gas explosion took her life.

She and 4 other miners, members of UMWA Local 2274, died on Thursday, June 21, burned to death in the methane explosion in the Clinchfield Coal Co.'s McLure No. 1 mine.

Mary "Cat" Counts will be remembered, according to her friends, as a strong-willed woman.

CARE

"She loved her five children and she tried to take care of them. That's one reason she went to work in the mines."

MARY 'CAT' COUNTS WAS A GOOD UNION MINER

She went into mining in 1978 at Clinchfield's Splashdam mine in Haysi, where she worked for 15 months.

AWFUL

"The first day was awful," she recalled. "Me and Lois," another woman hired on with her, "walked past a line of men and they just looked at us."

Cat told them, "I'm as afraid of you as you are of

me." That broke the ice, and afterwards she felt she was pretty well accepted.

She was laid-off and out of work for seventeen months before she got hired on at the McLure No. 1 mine.

Changing mines meant that she lost her seniority. Her first day at work was supposed to be a tour of the mine, but she was handed a shovel instead and put on the beltline.

"I shovelled eight hours a day by myself. They laughed and called me a continuous miner."

She hoped to become a shuttle car driver which she did. She worked that job until the day she died.

UNION

She was an exceptionally beautiful woman, according to friends. In her heyday she looked like Marilyn Monroe.

"Cat was one of a kind," said Don Prang, a friend. "And she was a good union miner. The union stands for what she stood for." □

Health care: one system for the rich, another for the poor

The baby was feverish and had been crying all night.

Joan gave him some Tylenol and a cool bath, but nothing seemed to help. She knew he needed to go to the clinic.

There was no one to babysit, so she packed up her three children and got on the bus. It was the end of the month, and her AFDC money was nearly gone, but she managed to scrape together 85 cents for the fare.

They transferred buses downtown and arrived at the hospital at 10 a.m. There were 50 people in line ahead of her waiting to register.

When she finally made it to the registration desk and showed them her medicaid card, she felt like she was just another number.

WAIT

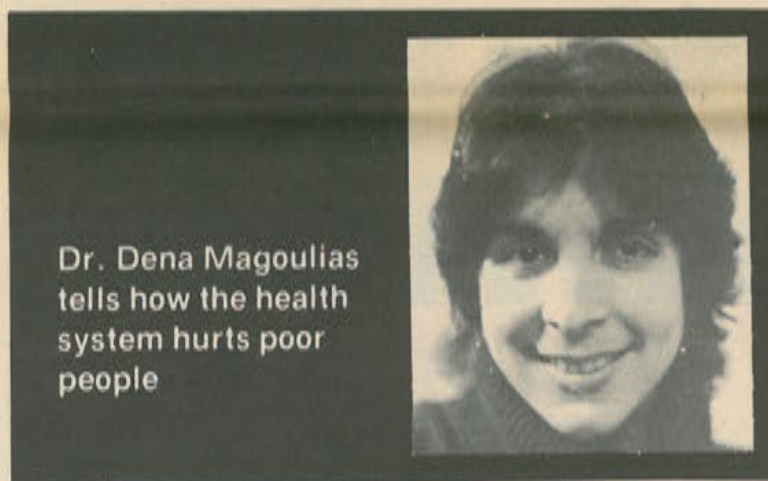
In the pediatrics clinic, she was told that since she didn't have an appointment, she would have to wait several hours. She tried to explain that the baby was sick, but was told to be seated in the crowded waiting room.

The kids were hungry and began to whine.

At 2 p.m. the baby was seen.

It was a different doctor than before. He did not realize that her first baby had had a seizure with a high fever and that she was frantic.

He ignored her worried eyes, handed her a prescription, and hurried out of the room, saying "it's just an ear infection."



Dr. Dena Magoulias tells how the health system hurts poor people

Joan felt exasperated as she left the clinic, and she had a right to be. Medicaid was supposed to eliminate the two-tier health care system—but has it?

There is still one standard of care for the rich and one for the poor.

It is true that medicaid has made health care more available financially to some people who otherwise would not have been able to afford it.

However, the poor still attend predominantly public clinics run by city and county governments that are often crowded and understaffed.

Private doctors still refuse to see Medicaid patients because they can charge rich patients more than they can charge the government.

Clinics connected to public hospitals are usually staffed by resident physicians.

These physicians work 80-100 hours a week and are being used as slave labor by the hospital in return for training.



They are often exhausted after being on call 36 hours straight with no sleep and sometimes take out their frustrations on the patients instead of on the hospital, treating patients rudely and coldly.

Since residents rotate month to month, patients see a different doctor every time they come to the clinic.

The doctors don't become personally committed to the patients, and the patients in turn feel no sense of the caring and continuity that develops with going to the same doctor every time.

SYSTEM

Although the system could be changed, hospitals have no financial incentive to do so. Therefore, the system continues as it is.

Another way that medicine for the poor dehumanizes people is by forcing them to wait for care.

An hour wait in the registration line, three

hours in the clinic waiting room, another one to two hours in the pharmacy.

Another barrier to health care for the poor is transportation.

Welfare used to provide cab fare and bus tickets, but Reagan's budget cuts eliminated this service.

Language barriers also make it hard to get health care.

For example, many Hispanics cannot communicate with the predominately Anglo health care system and receive poor health care as a result.

In our hospital, translators are not provided in our clinics, even though the hospital is in a Puerto Rican neighborhood.

One must wait up to an hour for Spanish-speaking employee to be able to leave their regular job and translate.

ELIGIBLE

Health care for the poor is not just dehumanizing. 60% of the nation's poor are not eligible for Medicaid and have no coverage at all—this includes the recently unemployed and people cut off AFDC when restrictions were made tighter.

So even with Medicaid there is a two class health care system. Hospitals charge \$65 for every patient they see in their clinics and yet the patients receive cold, impersonal treatment.

We must all unite and fight against a medical system which makes such profits while the quality of health care remains poor. □

TAHOE'S FANTASY CONDOS

There is a new luxury today—for some.

No, luxury is too mild a word, try fantasy—the only word to describe a new condo development on 18 acres of Lake Tahoe.

Even in the worst of times, new housing is being built for the rich.

But Fleur de Lac, as this twenty-two home development is called, is something else again.

For a basic price of \$2.7 million, the modern prince or princess gets a home on the lake with gold fixtures, designer wallpaper, 20 foot ceilings, state-of-the-art kitchen equipment, a Jacuzzi in the master suite, a bar in the living room and Honduras mahogany paneling in the sitting room and study.

The oak front door costs \$10,000.

At one time the land was proposed for public purchase by California's state legislature. But then-governor Ronald Reagan vetoed the bill.

Socialists must build from today's struggles

There are some promising signs for the revolutionary left in the United States—for the first time in some time.

Reagan, despite his heralded business recovery, remains overwhelmingly despised by Blacks and blue collar workers—and this at a time when for the first time in two years strike activity is on the increase.

His war in Central America is equally unpopular, despite his dredging up the rhetoric of the Cold War days of the fifties.

WORKERS

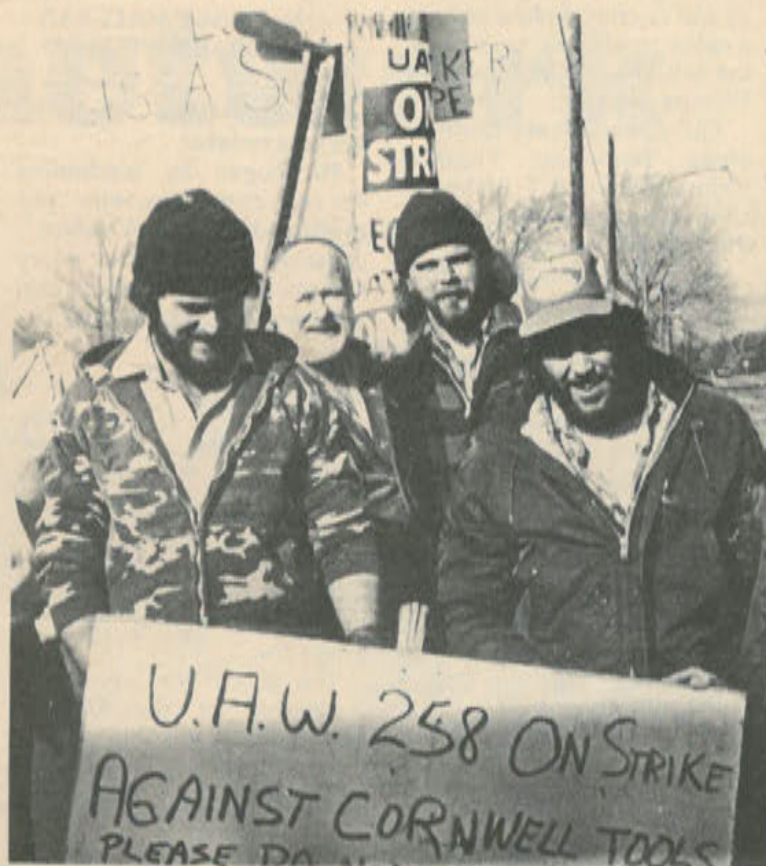
Wherever he goes he is met by demonstrations—demonstrations which nearly always include significant numbers of workers, in addition to opponents of the intervention in El Salvador and other causes.

The election of Harold Washington in Chicago has sparked a flourish of political activity in the Black community, and, despite the shortcomings of politicians such as Jesse Jackson, the talk of Black political power is once again raising the hopes and activity of Black people—in a time of increasing desperation.

struggles

Socialist Worker

WHAT WE THINK



At the same time, a small, but real movement of unemployed workers has developed.

There are active groups of the unemployed in many unions and dozens of cities, and while their numbers are still small, they represent much more in terms of working class feeling.

DEMANDS

On August 27, in Washington, D.C., there will be what promises to be an enormous demonstration—combining the demands of the unions for jobs and Blacks for civil rights.

The two are actually inseparable, with Blacks facing double the unemployment rates of whites, and whites increasingly being pushed into poverty levels previously known only to Blacks.

All this should be seen as a great opportunity for revolutionary socialists. For the first time in decades there is a working class audience for the arguments of genuine socialism—the socialism Marx and Lenin described.

The boom is over, there is no more American dream. Capitalism has outlived its usefulness. The concepts of

class, crisis and struggle are once again becoming part of working class outlook.

The main problem is that there are so few revolutionary socialists. The toll of the seventies was much greater than anyone imagined.

RETREAT

And worse, there are still socialists, primarily veterans of the sixties, who today argue not for independent revolutionary activity and organization, but instead for a retreat into the Democratic Party as the alternative to Reagan.

They are led by the Democratic Socialists of America (DSA), but there are also the remnants of the Maoist movement, who use Harold Washington's cover to try and disguise the fact that he is in the party which gave us Vietnam, sent federal troops into Detroit, Watts and Newark, and now offers us a choice between John Glenn and Walter Mondale as an alternative to Reagan.

Socialists have to reject a return to the Democratic Party, no matter the difficulties of size and influence.

Similarly they have to reject putting off revolutionary socialist activity and argument until some unnamed time in the future.

A revolutionary organization can be built in the United States, but it will only be built brick by brick and over time.

PREPARATION

There can be no substitute for starting now. The new strikes, the El Salvador solidarity movement and the preparation for the March on Washington, all give socialists real opportunities.

We should take them. After all, this summer is also ten years from the time that the generals in Chile were preparing and the socialists were not.

The absence of a revolutionary working class party put Pinochet in power and cost tens of thousands of workers' lives.

We don't have to make that mistake. We have time to build. But not forever. □

Supreme court backs abortion but our fight continues

On June 15th, the Supreme Court ruled 6-3 to uphold and defend the legal right to abortion as outlined in the historic 1973 Roe v. Wade decision.

The Supreme Court struck down laws that had been passed in 22 states, all designed to deny women their right to abortion.

RULES

These included rigid rules requiring minors getting the consent of parents, a 24 hour waiting period, requirements that second trimester abortions be performed only in full service hospitals, "informed consent" provisions requiring doctors to describe the fetus as a human being and explaining that abortions cause mental anguish, even suicide.

The court did uphold some of the restrictions, requiring pathology reports after abortions and that two physicians be present at third trimester (after 6 months) abortions.

The court also let stand a ruling that says women aged 11-15 must have either parental or court approval if they are not considered to be "mature minors."

The ruling caught both anti-abortionists and reproductive activists by surprise.

The court had already ruled against the right of choice when, in 1978, it upheld the Hyde amendment which cut off Medicaid funding for poor women who needed abortions.

Also, it seemed that—given the Reagan administration and the push by the organized right-wing—the court would have to give in somewhat to the anti-abortionists.

Nevertheless—despite the ruling—the fight to keep abortion safe, legal, funded, and available to all women must continue.

A number of states will introduce anti-abortion laws

aimed at women ages 11-15, denying them their right to abortion.

Medicaid funding has been cut off and only 9 states provide funds for poor women who need abortions.

This summer the Senate will be hearing a number of proposed constitutional amendments prohibiting abortions, initiated by both liberal democrats—Eagleton, and right-wing republicans—Hatch and Helms.

And finally, the Supreme Court's decision will no doubt galvanize the organized anti-abortionists to continue their violence and harassment of clinics.

There are a number of lessons from the court's ruling.

The first shows the disastrous policy of the National Organization for Women (NOW) in supporting a woman—any woman—as a Justice of the Supreme Court.

Sandra Day O'Connor, a rich, white conservative, wrote the dissenting opinion.

In it, she argued that Roe v. Wade should be overturned—that the rights of the fetus are more important than the rights of women.

NOW supported O'Connor

and even testified on her behalf at her Senate confirmation hearings.

Perhaps they were hoping that if they supported a Reagan Supreme Court Justice, Reagan might support the ERA.

Or perhaps they thought that just because she's a woman, she would favor abortion rights.

The second lesson is not to trust the court.

While it has ruled to uphold a woman's legal right to abortion, it has also ruled against Medicaid funding for poor women.

If women can't afford abortions, it doesn't matter whether they are legal.

The struggle to keep our right to abortion rests with the capacity of working women and men to struggle and fight for that right.

It won't be won by the courts or congress.

We have to continue demanding that Medicaid funds be used to pay for women's abortions.

We have to defeat the anti-abortion constitutional amendments, and we have to defend the clinics from anti-woman anti-abortion violence □

FIGHTING WORDS

Without struggle there is no progress. And those who profess to favor freedom, yet deprecate agitation are men who want crops without digging up the ground. They want the ocean without the awful roar of its waters.

—Frederick Douglass

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Women coal miners fight for dignity and equality

DAWSON, PA—On June 24, 25 and 26 one hundred and ten women coal miners met at the 5th annual Conference of Women Miners.

The miners came from Indiana, Tennessee, Virginia, Ohio, Colorado, Alabama, Utah, Kentucky, Illinois, West Virginia and Pennsylvania.

Sixty-six women from other unions and 25 male coal miners also attended.

The conference was called by the Coal Employment project, a support organization which helps women get and keep coal mining jobs.

Women were first hired as coal miners in August, 1973 by Bethlehem steel.

Today there are almost 4000 women miners.

They represent only 2% of the UMWA, although 5% of all union officials on the local level are women.

Rich Trumka, the president

by NANCY MACLEAN
and BARBARA WINSLOW

of the UMWA, was the keynote speaker.

He began by condemning the coal companies, who "put profit and speed over safety," causing the death of Mary Counts and six other coal miners in Virginia on June 21.

PRAISE

He went on to praise the efforts of women miners, saying that "It has been our good luck, rather than our bad luck, to have you join us."

This was the first time that a UMWA president addressed the Conference of Women Miners.

The extent to which the leadership of the UMWA supports and will help women miners remains to be seen.



Many of the women at the conference taped Trumka's speech and stated in workshops that they were going to play it back to the men at their next union meeting.

The problems facing women miners are enormous.

They enter a male preserve with all the suspicions and

superstitions against them.

A woman in the mines is bad luck runs a popular myth.

One Appalachian legislator said that if women became coal miners the price of coal would double.

Why? Because it would take two women to do the work of one man!

Once at work, they face sexual harassment from foremen and from many brother miners—ranging from sexist remarks to rape.

The women miners feel very committed to what they are doing and to the CEP.

One group of miners came from a town in Utah where unemployment is 3000. The town has a population of 9000!

The women made quilts and sold raffle tickets to raise the \$500 to attend the conference.

These women miners can give working women everywhere a tremendous example. Their jobs as miners and as unionists is very hard.

Their struggle for dignity and equality won't come easy.

But they have the guts to make their jobs and their union better. We can all learn from them. □



BY ANY MEANS NECESSARY: BLACK POLITICS IN AMERICA

Crime is the result of a violent system

Malcolm X

When summer finally came to Detroit, it came swiftly, definitely, hotly.

Sending temperatures and tempers racing toward the boiling point—also sending a good woman from a family who loved her to the store to buy something nice for the 5-year-old daughter who held her hand.

Instead, she got a bullet in the brain as a result of two men firing at each other from speeding automobiles.

Her little girl watched in fascination as she lay bleeding and dying on a sidewalk outside of a party store.

Across town, two neighbors were arguing across porches about a parked car.

TRIGGER

Just as one man pulled the trigger, his mother stepped onto the porch to stop her son.

She was killed instantly by a bullet to the heart.

The police sergeant sighed as he called the newspapers to tell reporters about the two tragedies that happened within hours of each other.

The reporters, in order not to crowd advertising space, wrote a round-up story about the murders.

by RETHA HILL

Since the two just occurred, the reporters began the article about the two women then went on to report on the 8-year old boy who was shot to death as he played in front of his house by two quarreling neighbors, a man who was shot to death on a beach from bumping into someone, the man who was stabbed to death by his girlfriend, the four who were gunned down as they stood outside of a store, and the man who was shot to death by his best friend.

And, of course, the statistics that show that 1983 is fast becoming the most violent year in the city of Detroit.

Violent crime. The other side of unemployment.

With Detroit wallowing in poverty and unemployment in excess of 20 percent, is it any wonder that human life has become as cheap as the cost of a single bullet?

The 10 people killed in a recent 48 hour period in Detroit shows just what despair can do to people.

Anger, hopelessness and uncertainty about one's future

create the atmosphere which breeds violent crime.

Eight years ago, Detroit was crowned "Murder Capitol of the World."

Eight years ago, Detroit was still reeling from the recession which had socked the auto-

Human life is cheap under capitalism



mobile industry, forcing thousands of workers out of their jobs.

Today, the current recession has forced the lay-offs of many more workers, a good percentage of whom will never get back to work.

For the thousands of Black autoworkers in Detroit who have now been declared obsolete, who have gotten a final answer to their dreams of economic stability, anger has become a constant companion.

(There has also been a notable increase in violent crime in Detroit's white suburbs).

Violent, senseless crime is a result of capitalism, a senseless, violent system.

People are not evil, and Detroiters are certainly no more evil than anyone else.

Detroit is, however, poor and ugly and wretched, and its people are frustrated with the ups and downs of the capitalist economy.

Violent crime can be eliminated if the system which has so cheapened human life is destroyed.

END

Build a socialist system and watch violent crime end.

Only through socialism can we provide a society which values human life as well as the earth on which we live.

Only through socialism can we put an end to frustrated anger, murder, robbery, rape and other crimes. □

NOT HAVING A JOB CAN BE DEADLY

One of the most difficult, and some times deadly, aspects of unemployment is the lack of health insurance.

Few people can afford proper nutrition and health care while on unemployment insurance.

INSURANCE

Dr. Taylor found that 53% of those examined needed immediate hospital care, but 82% of Baltimore's unemployed had no health insurance.

Added to this, fourteen hospital emergency rooms (the last refuge of the poor) have been closed and four other hospitals are in financial trouble.

With the help of the United Committee of Unemployed People, and other concerned people Taylor has formed the Baltimore Unemployed Clinic, to treat those who have no jobs and no insurance.

Taylor, who participated in the workshop on health care at the National Unemployed Network founding convention, in Erie, Pa., will co-ordinate a national newsletter related to health care for unemployed workers.

Ron Ballenger, unemployed since the Worlds Fair left Knoxville, Tn., told the conference about the forming of Solutions to Indigent Care in Knoxville, S.I.C.K., to fight for decent health care, with dignity, for unemployed and retired workers.

S.I.C.K., which was formed by a coalition of 13 groups representing the elderly, poor Blacks and unemployed workers, got off to a slow start until a person died.

He had come to a Knoxville hospital Emergency room with a head injury, and was sent home with a bottle of Tylenol, and died during the night.

FREE

For four and a half months S.I.C.K. demanded free hospital care for poor people of Knox Co., and forced the Knox Co. Commission to appropriate the \$4 million to implement it.

Five hospitals in Knoxville now provide complete health, dental, and prenatal care for residents that cannot afford it.

If you wish to submit articles to the NUN Health Care Newsletter send them to: 1522 Ralworth Rd. Baltimore, Md. 21218 □

by JOE DENTON

Unemployed form national network

by NANCY MACLEAN

On the weekend of June 10-13, 250 delegates came to Erie, PA, for the founding conference of the National Unemployed Network (NUN).

The delegates came from unemployed councils in 15 states and over 50 cities.

Most were blue-collar workers from the industrial areas of the Midwest and East, but there were also clerical workers, teachers, and people from as far away as California, Washington state, and Tennessee.

TALK

Most workers at the conference believed that all the Reagan administration's talk of recovery is just that: talk.

For the 50% of the nation's steelworkers still out of work, the crisis is still on.

In states like West Virginia, one in five workers is out of a job.

Nationwide, eleven million workers are still unemployed, and another ten million underemployed or too discouraged to look for work.

And despite all the bright claims about jobs in the high-tech industries, *Business Week* predicts that the number of jobs created in high-tech over the next 10 years will be less than half the number of manufacturing jobs lost in the last 3 years.

People are losing their homes, utility service, and medical care along with their jobs.

Two million Americans are homeless today, and 10.7 million workers have no health insurance because the family breadwinner is jobless.

Local unemployed groups around the country and some unions have begun to fight back, however, and the conference was an attempt to bring these groups together.

As Jack Baublitz, a NUN organizer from the Erie Unemployed Council, said: "The only people who are going to clean up this mess is us."

Delegates to the conference discussed strategies for fighting plant closings, utility shutoffs, and mortgage foreclosures and for getting extended compensation, retraining, and health care. Activism and numbers had won victories in many places.

DISRUPTIONS

Through disruptions of sheriff sales, rallies, and sit-ins at the FHA and VA, the Mon-Valley and Cleveland Councils have won temporary moratoriums on mortgage foreclosures. West Virginia unemployed groups have stopped utility shutoffs.

In Rochester, besides their other activities, council members are selling apples on the street as a way to get publicity and meet other unemployed workers.

These are just some examples of the kind of work local groups are doing. Union locals



There are still 11 million unemployed

of the Steelworkers and Miners also have set up food banks for their laid-off members, and unemployed councils have set up free health care clinics in some cities like Baltimore.

Self-help projects like these are providing things the unemployed and their families desperately need.

But workers didn't cause the crisis, and they won't be able to pay for it much longer.

While helping people get by day-to-day, the councils must continue to demand that employers and the government pay the costs of the crisis they have created.

In general, the committees represented at the conference seemed action-oriented, but there were some problems.

A few groups saw lobbying for legislation as a main focus.

Once demonstrations had won them a hearing, they planned to drop activism and hold negotiations with politicians.

STRATEGY

Such a strategy would be deadly for the movement.

First of all, it wouldn't work.

Without pressure, and the fear of disruption if they don't act, legislators won't grant anything.

In the 1930s, it was the

militant activity of the Unemployed Councils—massive demonstrations, physically stopping evictions, and sit-ins at relief offices—that forced local agencies to make concessions and forced Congress to pass the Federal Emergency Relief Act and the Social Security Act.

Second, unless there is ongoing activity, people will drift away from the committees.

Action builds numbers and confidence: mass leafletings, pickets, demonstrations, and occupations.

Where groups have used such tactics, they have grown in size and won things.

Delegates to the conference passed resolutions against discrimination and for cuts in military spending.

This is good, as are the efforts of local groups to work with civil rights and disarmament groups.

In order to keep employers and politicians from turning groups of workers against each other, though, further efforts are necessary.

Teenagers, for example, have the highest unemployment rate of all groups, and if plans for sub-minimum wages for young people succeed, they will undermine the wages of all workers.

To prevent this, NUN must take on the issue of youth unemployment, and local groups must bring teenagers into the movement.

Likewise, by inviting retaliation from other countries, protectionism will actually destroy more jobs.

One in five jobs in the U.S. today depends on exports, and protectionism can only pit steel and autoworkers against these workers.

UNIONS

Finally, the involvement of several unions in the unemployed movement is a good sign, and one that other unions should follow.

If the movement wins income and benefits for unemployed workers, they will be less likely to scab on strikes or to accept jobs undercutting union wages.

In the meantime, there is much to do.

NUN has endorsed the August 27 "Jobs, Peace & Equality" March on Washington.

Local groups should build for the demonstration and use it as a way to bring new unemployed workers into local activity too.

Even if this recession ends, the crisis will not end for most of the unemployed.

Millions of workers will be left without jobs and without income unless there is a fightback now.

Check out your local committee to see what you can do, or write to NUN for information: 600 Walnut St., McKeesport, PA, 15132. □

Charleston electricians pull together

CHARLESTON, WVA—Construction electricians shut down Charleston's new downtown 16-acre mall for a week and successfully held off the contractors' demands for a new round of concessions.

The electricians, members of IBEW Local 466 won a two-year contract, plus 30 cents an

hour the first year, 70 cents the second year.

One of the strikers told *Socialist Worker* "the raise was pitiful," but went on to say that the contractors had started out demanding no raise, a cut in apprentices wages, no travel allowance and a three year contract.

"The local pulled together, it was the first strike since 1954, I think. And it was militant.

"We started to relearn the basics of brotherhood. It was real encouraging.

"We weren't going to take any more concessions." □

Graffiti

by KENT WORCESTER

Under the bed . . .

According to Representative Larry McDonald, D-GA., some 85 of his House colleagues are "committed to a totalitarian socialist state." □

Low potential . . .

Everyone's worried about declining educational standards these days.

The new right think tank, the Heritage Foundation, blames the handicapped students.

In a report issued last month the foundation argued that Federal pandering to "special interest groups" such as the handicapped has "favored the disadvantaged pupils at the expense of those who have the highest potential to contribute positively to society." □

Living well is the best revenge . . .

Ronald Reagan and the other Western leaders ate well at the economic summit conference in Williamsburg, according to chief chef Wayne Monk.

Monk reported that "I don't know who ate what, but they ate everything I cooked."

A typical lunch included servings of Lexington barbecue, with beef and chicken mixed in, plus fried Mississippi catfish and side dishes. "They had enough on their plates to feed five or six people," he said. □

The man behind the university . . .

Bob Jones Jr., chancellor of segregated Bob Jones University, is no moderate.

In a recent interview he not only attacked typical far right targets like ecologists, television, and immodest dress, but railed against some untypical ones as well.

For instance, he claims that the peace corps is "being used to work with Roman Catholic schools and organizations, and is therefore promoting the worst kind of totalitarianism."

And while demon possession is less common in the West than in other parts of the world where people, such as Buddhists, worship "terrible gods," it is still to blame for most cases of mental illness.

Silliest of all was his comment after the Supreme Court decision to deny tax-exempt status to openly segregated schools.

The 8-1 decision, he said, was made by "eight evil men and one vain and foolish woman." □

Harvard workers strike and sit-in

CAMBRIDGE, MA—One day after their contract expired, Harvard University food service workers staged a one day strike and sit-in, and won a ten day extension of their old contract with the university.

The extension was granted only hours after 150 workers occupied the office of Edward W. Powers, Harvard's chief negotiator.

The contract, which expired on June 19, was extended to June 30, offering continued protection against firing, and depriving Harvard, at least temporarily, of the opportunity to force a strike during the

by SUSAN ARNOTT

summer, when only 20% of the 500 union food service employees are working.

The two sides have returned to the bargaining table.

Local 26 of the International Hotel, Restaurant, Institutional Employees and Bartenders Union, one of Harvard's most militant unions, has been pushing for months for an across the board \$1 wage hike, free medical benefits (employees now pay a minimum of \$28

a month), a ban on outside contracting, an anti-discrimination and seniority provision.

The university refused the union's demands that the bargaining talks be open to the press and public.

CONCESSION

Thus far, the only concession that they have made is a commitment that no Harvard workers would lose their jobs if the university were to contract work to outside catering firms.

The university has decided not to act against the protesters because not all of the

workers "understood the seriousness" of the action.

The strike is the first in the service workers 45-year history of representation by Local 26.

According to Domenic M. Bozzotto, president of Local 26, the union does not intend to close the dining halls down, adding that instead they would try to "close down Harvard" by disrupting business "more essential" to the university.

Bozzotto expects an agreement to be reached by June 30, but does not rule out the possibility of another strike. □

TALKING ABOUT SOCIALISM

Revolutionary socialists must relate to workers in struggle

While Reagan & Co. congratulate themselves on their recovery, many of us look around and wonder at the apathy of workers kicked in the teeth for three years by these jokers.

For many the apathy comes from a realization that the jobs they once had are gone forever.

Car sales recently shot-up seventy-three percent, but over half of all car workers laid-off will never be called back to produce cars.

CARROTS

Retraining or relocation seem the only choices. And even these carrots are withering as Sunbelt unemployment lines continue to grow.

It is important to remind ourselves that apathy is not a permanent condition.

People can change overnight. One day of successful struggle can do more to change a worker's mind than a whole year of reading about labor's past victories.

I'm not arguing against studying history, but rather emphasizing the importance of activity.

While it is impossible to predict when or where struggle will break-out, we do know it will happen sometime. We need to be ready.

The recent explosion of strikes and demonstrations in Chile after ten years of Pinochet dictatorship, would give us confidence that even under brutal conditions struggle cannot be contained forever.

While it is true that active struggle moves workers' consciousness ahead, it is also true that not all of the workers participating learn the same lessons or learn everything at once.

Inside any strike there are always intense discussions on which policy to follow. Workers shed the effects of

by BILL ROBERTS

capitalism at different speeds.

Some see that relying on themselves and fighting hard against the company is the only way forward.

Others will continue to trust the full-time union official. Others will buy the company propaganda of poverty. A few will even support the boss by scabbing.

What is true in a strike situation is also true in a mass revolutionary movement.

The same workers, who are helping to destroy the power of the bosses continue to believe that only members of the bosses' class can run society.

In Germany in 1918, the real power lay with the workers' councils.

But delegates of these councils did not feel confident enough to run society.

Instead they voted to give back power to the very labor leaders who were working with the old army chiefs like Ludendorff and Hindenberg. These same rulers were later to hand power to Hitler.

In 1968 in France, a large number of workers who supported the successful general strike still put their trust in General de Gaulle when the election came soon after the strike.

POWER

The Chilean workers' movement was crushed in 1973 because workers put their trust in a leader whose policies effectively disarmed them and gave power to the army generals and the capitalist class.

More recently we have the example of the Polish workers' movement, where the argument of a "peaceful" road in alliance with the Church has led the movement and helped to dampen the struggle,

Apathy is not a permanent condition



Workers change in struggle

keeping the power in the hands of the old ruling order.

In such situations it is not enough for socialists and militants to wait for workers to learn the lessons on their own. To see through the bad arguments that take place inside a movement requires an organized response.

The ruling class does not sit back and wait for movements or strikes to run their course. It uses all its resources to maintain control.

It uses its press, radio and TV to argue for the ideas that divide workers from one another.

It organizes all the time to its own advantage—luring some workers away from the struggle, isolating others, and in any way necessary weakening worker's organization.

If the militant leaders of a struggle are to win the arguments, then they have to be organized.

They have to be able to counter every argument, every tactic of the bosses, with propaganda and tactics that build unity and push the struggle forward.

LINK

This will only happen if there is an already existing organization, a revolutionary party, linking together the most militant workers in every workplace.

In this organization militants can develop the experience and confidence necessary for relating every struggle they are involved in to the overall aim of overthrowing capitalism.

Only with a revolutionary party, built over the long-haul, relating on a day-to-day basis to the small as well as the large struggles, is it possible to insure the centralized response necessary to achieve victory over the bosses. □

Mexico's social contract crumbles in world crisis

MILT FISK REPORTS FROM MEXICO CITY

Inside Mexico's deep crisis workers are increasingly restless.

Their recent actions have centered on wage increases.

Inflation will easily pass the official estimate of 50% for 1983, after rising much more last year.

Unemployment is in excess of 30%, and the large auto industry is running at only 43% of capacity.

ROOTS

The crisis had its roots in the drive of Mexican capitalists during the past decade for quick growth on the basis of Mexico's increased oil wealth.

As world oil prices dropped, foreign debt—already enormous—rose to \$80 billion.

Whereas in 1981 capitalists could convert their endangered pesos into dollars, in 1982 and 1983 inflation and devaluation took inescapable revenge on the working class.

The government of Miguel de la Madrid, which was elected in 1982, offers no hope for workers.

It is managing the crisis to make workers continue to pay for capitalist overextension.

In addition, Madrid's National Plan for Development, which covers his remaining years in office, projects further growth.

This growth is to be achieved by profits coming from still higher prices, from austerity that is designed to impress foreign bankers, and from a nationalistic appeal for a cross-class social contract to share the burden without complaining.



Mexican workers protest de la Madrid's austerity measures

At the labor parade on May 1 in Mexico City, there were signs that a social contract was likely to become a thing of the past.

With Madrid and the octogenarian head of the Congress of Mexican Workers, Fidel Velasquez, on the stand, 1.5 million workers passed by.

Traditionally they have shouted their thanks to the government for its wise policies.

This time they shouted their defiance at Madrid for his refusal to curb prices and unemployment.

CONTRACT

There has been a successful social contract since 1958.

At that time there was a strike wave resulting in the sacking or imprisonment of leftist union leaders.

But Velasquez, the architect of labor passivity who came into prominence in 1936, now

seems no longer able to deliver labor's cooperation for Madrid's program.

Indeed, on May Day, a Pact of Unity and Solidarity was signed by 12 unions in open defiance of Velasquez's 34 union Congress of Workers.

Something had to be done! The creaking Congress of Workers's bureaucracy was threatened with losing its place in the structure of the state.

RESPONSE

In response, May 12 Velasquez called for an emergency 50% wage hike. Companies not agreeing to the hike would be struck on May 30.

On May 18, 174,000 firms were to be informed of the strike deadline. Surely here was something to soften the militants with—a general strike that would put the burden of the crisis back on those who created it.

What followed illustrates

the pattern of manipulation and bureaucratic cynicism that has been Velasquez's trade mark.

● May 24. Velasquez reduces the wage demand from 50% to 25%.

● May 27. He postpones the strikes from May 30 till June 9.

● May 30. He embraces, on the day of its announcement, Madrid's Plan for National Development, despite its implication of labor austerity.

● June 1. He unveils a plan for a six month wage-price freeze which could only lock labor into a desperate situation, even starting with a 25% rise.

● June 3. He links the wage demand with an expected increase of 15% in the current minimum wage of \$3 per day. A 10% raise contracted with an employer plus the 15% legal minimum wage increase would satisfy the overall 25% demand.

● June 9. Most unions have settled: the pilots for 5%, textile workers 15%, telephone workers 20%, restaurant workers 25%.

● June 10. The Minimum Wage Commission announces a 15% increase. Only 500 firms have yet to settle. A few lifeless strikes go on.

PLAN

The postponement was demoralizing. Madrid was allowed to take center stage with his plan. The injection of the wage-price freeze diverted momentum from the wage increase.

Everything was designed so that nothing would happen. Velasquez proved to the state and the companies that he could still sucker labor.

But he only bought a little time for himself and his chief, Madrid.

Despite the loss of dignity to labor, the defiance of May Day is still there.

The 70,000 strong union of university workers went on strike May 29.

These non-academic workers are outside the Congress of Workers and they signed the Pact of Unity and Solidarity.

This strike is a beacon of firmness compared with the fizzle of the Congress of Workers' strike.

Velasquez is losing his constituency and can no longer claim to speak for labor.

Cracks are opening up in the old three-cornered unity of labor, state, and capital.

There is now impoverishment on a new and more massive scale.

There is exploitation to increase exports dramatically just to pay world bankers.

BURDEN

And there is a clumsy attempt at deception about sharing equally the burden of the crisis.

Together these provide conditions for a real split in the social contract which has coopted labor for capitalist expansion since 1958. □

POLAND: DANGERS BUT ALSO OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLIDARNOSC

The stakes in Poland are high.

The Pope and his Polish lieutenant, Archbishop Glemp, obviously feel that they have the chance to dramatically change the balance of forces in Poland in favor of the church.

GUIDANCE

There is already a proposed farmers' organization under the guidance of the church—replacing rural Solidarnosc.

They no doubt hope for the possibility of a union as well, but under the guidance of the church—not a union like Solidarnosc.

That is why they say that god favors unions, while at the same time agreeing with Jaruzelski to pressure Solidarnosc to stop street demonstrations. The Pope favors unions, but not those which strike,

whether in Poland or Central America.

And that is why they have asked Lech Walesa, the symbol of Solidarnosc, himself a

religious Catholic, to withdraw from union activity.

Jaruzelski, on behalf of the Polish state, hopes that a deal with the Church will guaran-



tee him a breathing space—time to put the "communist" regime back in order, free from strikes and protests.

But there is a grave danger for both the Pope and Jaruzelski, and that is the simple fact that the gatherings of millions of somber Poles, under Solidarnosc banners, undoubtedly emboldened those who want genuine trade unions and a truly workers' Poland.

They cannot have helped but see they are not isolated. They still represent the overwhelming majority of Polish society.

OPPORTUNITY

And that is Solidarnosc's opportunity. They must take the confidence gained during the Pope's visit and turn it into organization and power in the factories. □

WHY NURSES

STRIKE

Buffalo nurses fight for a contract

BUFFALO, NY—Eight hundred registered nurses at Buffalo General Hospital (BGH) and its Deaconess Division go into their third month on strike as the hospital refuses to concede the union's first contract.

UNITED

The nurses, who have been out since May 1st, are members of Nurses United, C.W.A. Local 1168.

Bargaining sessions with Buffalo General have been erratic, and points of contention remain on a number of economic issues, the duration of the contract (the hospital wants 3 years, the union wants 2), and representation on the Nursing Practice Committee (presently appointed by the hospital, the union wants to choose their own representative).

Also, the union is demanding that all the nurses return to their previous positions, while the hospital says that the scabs they hired are permanent.

Meanwhile, the hospital is trying to obtain a court injunction to limit picketing, which they've termed "disruptive".

Injunctions are a common weapon used by the bosses to make a strike less effective—to get one, all they need is a sympathetic judge.

Yet Buffalo General let eight weeks in the strike go before filing.

The union will contest the injunction at a hearing on 28 June.

In another maneuver, the hospital corporation suggested in early June that it might file for financial reorganization under Chapter 11 of the bankruptcy laws.

It's not clear how such a move would affect the strike, if at all.

"The hospital hasn't actually filed at this point. It's probably just a scare tactic," one striking nurse told *Socialist Worker*. "They want to give the impression that they can't afford to settle."

But the hospital has plenty of money to hire an expensive union-busting lawyer, as well as a small army of security guards to watch the pickets.

For a while the hospital even gave the scabs in the hospital free meals.

APPEAL

They've discontinued them after their appeals to "keep helpings to human levels" failed.

Since the strike has lasted beyond 49 working days, the nurses

by BRIAN ERWAY

will soon be able to collect New York State unemployment benefits.

What is more, the hospital must reimburse the state, dollar for dollar, for all benefits paid out.

And this includes not only the 800 striking nurses, but also the 1,100 other hospital workers who were laid off when the strike began.

ELIGIBLE

According to one nurse, if Buffalo General had laid off the others because of "insufficient work" rather than a "labor dispute," these workers would have been eligible for unemployment right away.

Instead, they have not received anything up to this point, and the hospital has used the layoffs as a way of pitting one group of workers against the other.

The Nurses United union has responded: by raising money for the laid off workers through bake sales, benefit basketball games, and other events.

Support from the community for the nurses remains strong.

The union called a mass picket at the hospital gates on June 11, that involve many trade unionists and supporters.

And the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra (whose musicians are organized) recently gave a benefit concert for the nurses.

This apparently upset two doctors on the hospital staff so much that they withdrew as patrons of the orchestra.

After two months on strike, the nurses show no signs of slowing down.

They continue to build their support, holding gate collections at factories, participating in benefits staged for them by other unions. Fewer scabs are crossing the picket lines now than when the strike began.

STRONGER

Nurses United vice president Terri Francis told *Socialist Worker*, "The membership appears stronger and more determined as the strike goes on."

Another nurse echoed the same thoughts. "If we've been out this long, we're not going back for just any contract."

"We're in this strike to win." □

Nurses are taught in school that nursing is not just a job—it's a profession.

But whatever the privileges are that come with being a professional, they are rarely felt by nurses and, once in the workforce, the myth is quickly shattered.

96% of nurses are women, and many are heads of households.

Many find themselves barely able to support their families.

Nurses face rotating shifts, floating to floors they are unacquainted with, nursing administrations unresponsive to their needs, high levels of stress, and hazardous work conditions.

UNIONS

Never successful in battling these conditions as individuals, nurses have turned to unionization.

But the nursing school mentality lingers on, and many nurses are represented by state nurses' associations.

These are schizophrenic organizations.

They act like unions—when forced to by their membership, going on strike, bargaining for better wages and conditions. Yet they also hold to the idea of nursing as a profession.

They support policies like the phasing out of LPN's (licensed practical nurses) and the four year college program as the only preparation for a "professional nurse."

These policies, however, are elitist and divisive. The additional fact that the state organizations will only organ-

Akron: an unnecessary defeat

AKRON, OH—The three months long strike at Akron General Hospital is over.

SCABS

The hospital management, strengthened by the entrance of over 300 scabs over the 3 months, forced a losing contract on the nurses.

The nurses walked off their jobs March 23, over issues of wages, benefits, promotions, and most important—union security. When the strike began nearly all of the nurses, about 400, went out strong and solid.

But as the weeks rolled by, nurses trickled back in, until by the end about 25% had gone back.

The hospital hired many new nursing graduates and recruited nurses out of the community.

By the end of June, 200 of the striking nurses had been replaced.

FAITH SIMON, A REGISTERED NURSE IN CLEVELAND, ON NURSES AND HOSPITALS

ize RN's sets the stage for the isolation of nurses from other hospital workers.

Not all nurses are represented by their state organizations, of course.

Others unions including AFSCME, SEIU, and 1199 organize nurses, but in numbers much smaller than the state organizations.

Until recently, things looked good for nurses.

Nursing shortages did result in increased nursing control over hours, shifts and fringe benefits.

You knew for a fact that when you got out of nursing school you would be able to find a job—and for a while maybe even pick the job you wanted.

SHORTAGE

But the nursing shortage is over and jobs are now hard to come by in most cities.

Reports are that hospitals are closing beds and slashing services as a result of cuts in Medicaid and declining patient census.

Every major hospital in Cleveland has a hiring freeze in effect, and at least 100 people have been laid off.

Northwestern Hospital in Chicago has cut 156 positions, including 18 RN's.

In Des Moines, Iowa, Lutheran Hospital laid off 175 employees, 30 RN's.

The situation in the South is no better, where not a single new graduate was hired this year at the University of South Alabama Medical Center.

In March, 77 Massachusetts hospitals reported they had laid off 3,000 employees—out of a total of 145,000 hospital jobs.

The Hospital Association calculates that at least 1,000 nursing positions will be lost during the current fiscal year.

Wage and hiring freezes, layoffs, increased workloads, and takebacks of benefits—these are the order of the day for hospital workers today, nurses included.

The official explanation for this is that the health care

nurses were forced to make concessions.

The wage settlement was a nickel more than the offer when the strike began, keeping Akron nurses at wages \$2 less than in neighboring Cleveland.

New nurses will have to pay a premium on their health insurance amounting to 20%.

And the issue of the clinical ladder—a return to the merit promotion system—will remain under "consideration" for the next few years.

The nurses ratified the contract by 188-19. They were desperate and saw no alternative.

ALTERNATIVE

But there is an alternative to defeats like this one.

Had all the hospital workers, aids, orderlies, clericals, dietary workers, all facing the same kinds of attacks from management gone out together, the strike would have been won in a single day. □

by FAITH SIMON

The scabs have 31 days to decide whether to join the union.

If they chose not to they can retain their jobs as exceptions to the closed shop contract.

JOIN

"But at least we still have an ONA (Ohio Nurses Association) contract," says Kathy Cash, chair of the negotiating committee.

"We'll try to get the scabs to join the union. They have to work under the same conditions, it's their contract too."

The nurses who have been replaced, including 5 of the 7 negotiators, must sign a priority list to get their jobs back.

In the meantime, they are laid off and may have to wait two years to get their jobs back.

On almost every issue the

KE

GE IN HOSPITAL STRIKES

industry is hit by economic recession.

The argument goes like this.

First, health care costs are skyrocketing.

Second, unemployment has meant people have lost their health care benefits and are not coming to the hospital.

Throw in medicaid reimbursement cuts and that's it.

The hospitals can't keep up with rising costs, decreased patient census, and less money from the government—so they are forced to ask workers to take up the slack.

COSTS

But health care costs are always soaring.

It's the way hospitals, drug companies, medical supply companies and construction companies make their profits.

In 1982, health care costs increased by 11%, three times the increase in the general cost of living.

But despite this, hospitals still manage to pay doctors exorbitant salaries, still hire new management and administrators, still manage to buy expensive equipment, and still build new facilities out in the suburbs.

Many people have lost their health care benefits, but they still come to the hospital, often in critical condition.

Cuts to clinics at most city hospitals make their situation even worse.

Lynn nurses solidarity rally



When all hospital workers unite victory is possible

Cuts to clinics at most city hospitals make this situation even worse.

An Ohio nursing director stressed—"That's the reason the critical care units are over full."

LIVES

The real problem with medicaid cuts, of course, is not the fall in hospital profits, but the devastating effects they are having on peoples' lives.

The Reagan administration boasts that health cutbacks enacted in 1982 will save \$17 billion over 3 years. The money "saved," probably for defense, means thousands of people will go without any medical care at all.

In addition, during 1981 and 1982, medicaid programs were cut severely in 35 states, dental care in 22, and funding for drugs and medical supplies in 31.

This is just the tip of the iceberg.

The fight for health care workers to save their jobs, and the fight for the right of health

care for all people are one and the same.

More important, health care workers have power to take on the hospitals. If all the workers in any hospital walked out together, a strike could be won in a day.

We can win the fight for more jobs, better care, against the cuts.

But by separating off from other hospital workers, nurses

cut their own throats.

Hospital management can put up with a strike of one group of workers, as long as everyone else is still doing their job.

The long term gain of breaking or weakening a union is worth the short term cost.

STRATEGY

Nurses on strike must change their strategy from

going it alone, to uniting with all workers against the management.

At the same time, other union's attitudes of hands-off strikes, while their own members are facing the same attacks, must change.

The way forward is to fight together, in solidarity for decent conditions for health care workers and health care services for everyone. □

Lynn nurses strike for better staffing and higher pay

LYNN, MA—On June 6, 1983, 300 registered nurses, members of the Massachusetts Nurses Association (MNA), went on strike against Lynn Hospital.

by GERI D'ANNIBALLE

radiation to know exactly what they are exposed to and what effects these substances might have on their health.

The hospital says it agrees in "principle" but will not agree to a strong statement in the contract.

The nurses and the hospital also are far apart on economic issues.

Among them is the nurses' demand for a one-year contract with a ten percent pay increase which the hospital counters with a "final offer" of a two year contract with a five percent increase, immediately, then three and a half percent after six months.

The negotiating committee met with a federal mediator on Friday, June 24, but no progress was made.

Meanwhile attacks on the nurses have escalated.

In one week, six nurses have been struck by cars, while picketing in front of the hospital parking lot.

ISSUE

The nurses, who had been working since February 17, without a contract, consider the main issue to be staffing.

A MNA fact sheet states: "Critical areas of the hospital are poorly staffed."

The nurses have proposed a nurse/patient ratio that will assure safe, quality patient care.

The hospital refuses to even address this issue, denying that a problem exists.

Bob Bottomly, an emergency room nurse, put it this way—"The administration doesn't want to meet the needs of the nurses or the patients."

Another important issue is the nurses' demand for a "right to know clause in the contract.

This would allow nurses who deal with hazardous chemicals or

Elaine Casavant, chair of the union negotiating committee, walks the picket line on crutches, after being shoved by a hospital employee security guard, then struck by a lab technician's car.

But the nurses remain strong in their resolve to stay out until they win. Over 90% of the nurses are out.

They maintain 24-hour pickets and hold weekly informational rallies. The last rally was attended by 200 strikers.

ROAST

They also have the support of the community and local unions.

Representatives from IUE Local 201 and the teachers' union turned out at a rally and "Scab roast" barbeque on Saturday, June 11.

The Lynn nurses need support to win their strike. And, as Kevin Marr, president of IUE Local 201, said at the Saturday rally, "Your fight is our fight."

Please send donations and messages of support to: MNA Strike Headquarters, 157 Franklin Street, Lynn, MA 01902. □

Letters

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

'COME OUT AND FIGHT'

Dear Socialist Worker,

A record 18,000 people demonstrated in this year's Lesbian and Gay Pride March in Boston.

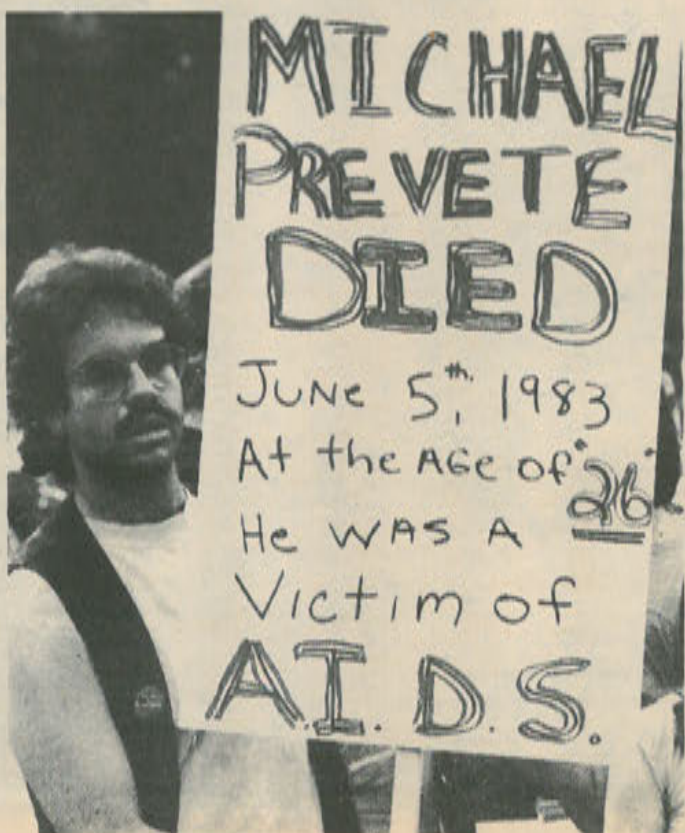
Prominent among the organizations participating in the march was AIDS Action Committee, a new group that has formed in response to the gay men's health crisis here.

There were many signs demanding that the government spend more money on AIDS related research.

According to one marcher, "There haven't been this many people out since Anita Bryant came to town."

"I think that AIDS has really brought us closer together. I saw a banner that said, 'come out and fight'. I think that's what we have to do."

George Axiotis,
Boston, MA



Gay Freedom Day, New York City

Dear Socialist Worker,

On May 20, Judge Redden dismissed the charges against American Indian Movement (AIM) activists Ken Loudhawk, Russ Redner, Kamook Banks and Dennis Banks.

He held that their right to a speedy trial was violated. Seven and a half years would have passed from indictment to trial. Meanwhile, key defense witnesses have died or been murdered.

Dennis Banks is still fighting extradition to South Dakota. Messages of support for Banks should be sent to New York governor Mario Cuomo in Albany.

Kirk Lambert,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Socialist Worker,

Your feature on protectionism was very interesting, but I think that you overstate the case.

Let's take the case of South Africa, for example. When miners in the United States picket ships unloading South African coal, are they protectionist? Would you oppose them?

And what about the boycott of goods from Chile? Is that protectionism?

Protectionism per se is in fact reactionary, but there are cases which we might call democratic or even socialist protectionism—that is cases where a boycott is in fact an act of solidarity, as in the case of American workers standing up for their Black brothers in South Africa.

Gordon Freeman,
Berkeley, CA

HEALTH AND SAFETY NOTES

BY MATT FILSINGER

THEY'RE SAFE

What do Love Canal and Times Beach have in common?

They're both safe!!

At least that's what Dr. Bruce Karrh, the medical director of the Dupont company, would like us to believe.

Recently he testified before Congress, on behalf of the Chemical Manufacturers Association, concerning waste disposal sites.

There are places where hundreds of companies have dumped their chemical wastes (including the infamous dioxin, 150,000 times more poisonous than cyanide).

UNMARKED

These wastes sit in rusting metal drums in thousands of locations around the country.

For the most part unmarked, nobody is told what is in the drums.

Love Canal is a fine example. Hooker Chemical Co., a division of Occidental Petroleum, used to have a plant there.

They put their poisonous chemical wastes in a large unmarked shallow grave, surrounded by a housing development.

When Hooker was done with the dump site, they sold it to the local school board.

They never told the school board what was buried there. So an elementary school was built.

And the chemical wastes bubbled into the playground, and into people's basements, and into the water supply.

Many of the people had great difficulty giving birth to healthy children.

There were problems of sterility, miscarriages, and birth defects.

POISON

Hundreds of Love Canals and Times Beaches are out there. Poisons are leaking into the water supply.

Children innocently play amongst the wastes. And yet the "experts" from the companies say "wait, there is no evidence of a health hazard to the public."

We must make the companies accountable for their crimes.

'Slaughter in meatpacking wages'

A recent *Business Week* article calls it the "slaughter of meatpacking wages." And that's what it is.

The \$50 billion worth meatpacking industry is being transformed from being highly unionized and with decent wages to being low waged and only partially unionized.

Employers such as Armour and Wilson Foods are asking for cutting wages to half of those set by the United Food and Commercial Workers' master contract.

When persuasion doesn't work, meatpacking companies use force.

Without warning, Wilson Foods declared its Oklahoma City plant bankrupt and abrogated its union contract.

Workers were then told that under bankruptcy, wages would be cut by 40%—to \$6.50 an hour.

Now the plant's 4,800 workers are on strike.

SLASH

But Wilson Foods, feeling the pressure from smaller, non-union packing plants, is determined to slash wages. And they may succeed.

Clearly, then, Lewie Anderson of the UFCW is correct when he says that "the rawness of the maneuvers to extract concessions amounts to total war on the workers."

He continues: "At some point, we'll be back to pick up

by KENT WORCESTER

what we lost—and labor relations will be substantially worse."

Well, hopefully the wages will be recovered. But the fightback will have to begin now.

Not only must concessions be opposed, but the growth of non-union firms has to be halted and reversed.

MASTER

A fancy master contract is useless when fewer workers are covered by it.

SOMERVILLE, MA—On June 10, the food preparation workers at Bel Canto Restaurant's commissary in Somerville, MA, voted 12 to 4 to join Local 26 of the Hotel, Restaurant, Institutional Employees Bartenders Union.

Their victory was the culmination of a four month campaign by the commissary workers to win union recognition.

The union drive arose out of low pay, no benefits or job security—conditions typical in the restaurant industry.



Wilson meatpackers protest scrapping of union contract

Total war on the workers demands an appropriate response. And now—not in the by and by. □

BEL CANTO WORKERS WIN UNION DRIVE

Though the election was a great victory, it's going to be a hard fight for a contract. Patterson, Bel Canto restaurant president, said in one of his last letters to the workers that he was not legally obliged to sign a contract.

RETALIATE

Management has already retaliated against the workers and any sympathizers in the restaurants.

Access to the employee phone has been restricted, people have been told they

can't cut their hours, no time off, and one worker who also works in one of the restaurants has been squeezed off the schedule in the restaurant.

Local 26 has filed several unfair labor practices charges against the company in response.

The latest management stunts however, will not stop the Bel Canto workers from fighting for a decent contract which guarantees their wages, benefits and working conditions. □

by JOE ALLEN

"no power greater"

by BARBARA WINSLOW

THE SAN FRANCISCO GENERAL STRIKE

One of the greatest examples of labor solidarity, one of the greatest strikes in American history, took place in 1934 in San Francisco, when all the city's unions rallied to help the hard pressed maritime workers.

In the 1930's, the waterfront was the heartbeat of San Francisco.

The longshoremen who loaded and unloaded the ships, however, received little for their labor. They averaged \$10.45 a week.

SLAVE

Their biggest grievance was the "shape up" system of hiring, also called the "slave market."

Every morning at 6 am, longshoremen would crowd the embarcadero hoping to find work.

The foremen would then stand over the men, picking out who would be hired.

The effect was that no one could count on steady work. You had to bribe the foreman, or work to exhaustion or not be hired again.

Worse, maritime workers were powerless against a multi-million dollar industry.

Some belonged to the do-nothing International Seamen's Union or the International Longshoremen's Union.

A few belonged to the militant Communist Party controlled Maritime Industrial Workers Union.

Most were forced to belong to the Blue Book Union, an employers' organization controlled by gangsters.

Beginning in 1933, rank and file longshoremen began joining the International Longshoremen's Association (ILA), under the leadership of Harry Bridges, an Australian who moved to the U.S., and formed a rank and file organization within the union.

Bridges, a member or close ally of the CP, was the prominent leader of the strike, loved by the longshoremen and hated by employers.

The rank and file of the ILA called a West Coast conven-

tion in February 1934 from which they excluded paid officials as delegates and forced the ILA officials to accept a program they had no intention of fighting for—abolition of the shape up, replacement by a union hiring hall—they called for a strike in two weeks.

On May 9, 12,000 longshoremen went out in San Francisco, Seattle, Tacoma, Aberdeen, Grays Harbor, Astoria, Stockton, San Diego, Bellingham and other Pacific ports.

The Maritime Workers Union followed and soon 35,000 were out.

CONFLICT

Police brutality turned the longshore strike into a general strike.

The employers believed there was nothing to negotiate—this was the final conflict between communism and free enterprise.

J.M. Maillard Jr., president of the Chamber of Commerce declared, "The San Francisco waterfront conflict is out of hand."

"It is not a conflict between employee and employer—between capital and labor—it is a conflict which is rapidly spreading between American principles and un-American radicalism . . . the welfare of business and industry and the entire public is at stake in the outcome of this crisis."

Newspapers echoed this hysterical theme with headlines like the San Francisco *Chronicle* reading "Red Army Marching on City!"

Employers announced they would smash the picket lines on the Embarcadero on June 23.

Facing thousands of pickets, police captain Thomas M. Hoertkorn flourished a revolver and shouted the port is opened!

A deafening roar went up from the pickets. Bricks, picket signs and clubs battered skulls.

The Embarcadero became a surge of fighting men.

The police fired into the crowd with revolvers, tear gas and riot guns.

Police on mounted horses charged. They were dragged from their horses and beaten. The fighting continued for hours.

TRUCE

There was a one day truce. But the following day thousands of working people, union and non-union, went down to the Embarcadero to battle side by side with the longshoremen.

Scabs were recruited from the University of California at Berkeley. The battle raged for a full day.

Unionists were declaring, "If they win this, there'll never be another union in Frisco."

At the end of the day, after governor Merriam ordered 2,000 fully equipped national guardsmen to the scene, Brid-



A wounded worker

ges called off the fighting. "We cannot stand up against police, machine guns and National Guard bayonets."

Hundreds were wounded. Two men were killed. 35,000 marched in the funeral procession.

Following the funeral, led by the Painters and Machinists, union after union, local after local, joined the call for a general strike.

William Green, the reactionary president of the AFL, tried to stop it, but failed. 160 local AFL unions representing 127,000 voted for a general strike.

On July 16th every union but two walked out. Industry was at a standstill.

San Francisco was a silent town. Labor had shown its enormous strength and power.

But the employers and their right-wing allies continued their violent attacks on labor.

Union halls, Communist, Socialist Party and IWW halls were wrecked and raided. The police arrested over 500 people.

But in spite of the right wing violence, for three days, the city was a tomb. Little moved.

But conservative elements within the labor movement, terrified at the power of the rank and file, started to undermine the strike.

On the fourth day of the strike, the Central Labor Council voted to end the strike.

But the workers went back with a feeling of power and victory.

On July 30, 35,000 maritime workers went back to work. The longshoremen were forced to accept arbitration of all issues by the Longshoremen's Board.

But they won the right of the union hall, although controlled by the employers, a six hour day, a 30-hour week, time and a half for overtime. Wages were raised.

After 1935 longshoremen resorted to direct action—strikes—to improve wages and working conditions.

SUCCESS

Like the great Toledo and Minneapolis strikes, San Francisco showed the power of the working class when confident, organized and willing to stand up to the bosses' bullets, tear gas, jails and clubs.

The success of the longshoremen on the west coast led to the organization of mass production workers in later years. □



Street Battle in San Francisco

WHERE WE STAND

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.

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, the education system. 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 working class can trust and use in the fight against the present system.

FIGHT OPPRESSION

Capitalism divides the working class—pitting men against women, whites against Blacks. Capitalism fosters and uses these divisions to block the unity necessary for its destruction. As capitalism moves into crisis, oppressed groups—Blacks, women, Latinos, Native Americans, gays, youth—suffer the most. We support the struggles and independent organizations of oppressed people to strengthen the working class struggle for socialism.

BLACK LIBERATION

Our support for the struggle against racism is unconditional, and we oppose any attempt to subordinate this fight. We fight racism in all its forms, from institutionalized "legal" racism to the activities of groups such as the Nazis and the Ku Klux Klan.

We fight segregation in the schools and in housing, we support affirmative action, and we oppose racist firings and harassment. We support armed self-defense in the face of racist attacks. We support independent self-organization and the right to self-determination of the Black community. We demand freedom for all political prisoners.

WOMEN'S LIBERATION

We fight for women's liberation. We support equal pay and equal job opportunities for all women. We demand free abortion and an end to forced sterilization, and quality child care. We oppose all forms of violence against women including sexual harassment at work. Under capitalism the state intervenes to maintain women's subordination within the family, to maintain oppressive sex roles and her exploitation at work.

We support lesbian and gay liberation. We demand quality sex education in the schools; we are for lesbian and gay custody rights and the right to be open lesbians and gays at work, home and in school.

RANK AND FILE ORGANIZATION

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

To make the unions fight for workers' interests, workers must organize their power 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, so the struggle for socialism must be world-wide. A socialist revolution cannot survive in isolation.

We champion workers' struggles in all countries, from Poland to Puerto Rico, from Palestine to El Salvador. We support all genuine national liberation struggles. We call for victory of the Black freedom fighters in South Africa and Namibia. 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. They are state capitalist and part of one world capitalist system. We support the struggles of workers in those countries against the bureaucratic ruling class.

REVOLUTIONARY PARTY

The activity of the ISO is directed at taking the initial steps toward building a revolutionary party in a working class fragmented and cut off from socialist ideas. Revolutionaries must be involved in the daily struggles of workers and oppressed groups at the workplace, in the unions and in the communities. We build every struggle that strengthens 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.

For more information about the International Socialist Organization (ISO), please write to Box 18037, Cleveland, OH 44118.



What's ON

BALTIMORE
Educational Series. Bob Bernotas on **Malcolm X**. July 17, 1:00 p.m. Call 235-4620 for details.

BLOOMINGTON
Marxism Study Series. **Socialism and Economics**. July 25, 7:30 p.m. Ballantine Hall.

BOSTON
Gerl D'Anniballe on **Women and the Russian Revolution**. July 10, 7:00 p.m.

Cal Winslow on **The Coal Wars**. July 31, 7:00 p.m. Call 427-7087 for details.

CHICAGO
Bob Ginsburg on **Cuba**. July 8, 7:30 p.m. Call 288-7572 for details.

CINCINNATI
Fourth of July Picnic. Linda Filsinger on **The American Revolution**. 12:00 noon, July 4. Call 721-2134 for details.

CLEVELAND
Dan Caplin on **The Industrial Workers of the World**. July 8, 8:00 p.m.

Sharon Smith on **The Great Depression and the CIO**. July 22, 8:00 p.m. Call 371-2370 for details.

DETROIT
Christina Bergmark on **The Russian Revolution**. July 9, 7:00 p.m.

Sharon Smith on **The Chinese Revolution**. July 23, 7:00 p.m. Call 833-0621 or 527-2180 for details.

KENT
Cal Winslow on **Deindustrialization**. Kent Student Center, 7:30 p.m.

ISO NATIONAL CONVENTION

Sessions include:

- The working class today
- The Central American Revolutions
- Women and the revolutionary party
- Socialists and the Democratic Party
- The lessons of the Civil Rights Movement

There will also be solidarity greetings, workshops and educational sessions

Observers welcome
Please write ISO, Box 18037, Cleveland, Ohio 44118 for details.



CLEVELAND, OHIO AUGUST 12, 13 AND 14

Marxist Study Group. June 30, 7:30 p.m. Call 673-1710 for details.

ROCHESTER
Mike Ondrusek on **The Black Panther Party**. July 4, 6:00 p.m.

Don Ziegler on **Angela Davis**. July 18, 6:00 p.m.

Greg Chambers on **Frederick Douglass**. August 1, 6:00 p.m. Call 235-3049 for details.

SAN FRANCISCO
U.S. Out of El Salvador Demonstration. Sunday July 24. Assemble 1:00 p.m. at Concord BART. Rally 3:00 p.m. Concord Blvd. Park.

SEATTLE
Discussion Group. **The Nuclear Disarmament Movement in Britain and Germany** with Scott Winslow and Steve McFadden. 7:00 p.m. Call 722-4133 for details.



"The philosophers have merely interpreted the world. The point is to change it."

— Karl Marx

*If you want to help us change the world and build socialism, join us.
There are ISO members and branches in the following cities:*

- Baltimore, MD
- Bloomington, IN
- Boston, MA
- Charleston, WV
- Chicago, IL
- Cincinnati, OH
- Cleveland, OH
- Detroit, MI
- Fort Wayne, IN
- Indianapolis, IN
- Kent, OH
- Los Angeles, CA
- Madison, WI
- Minneapolis, MN
- Muncie, IN
- New York, NY
- Northampton, MA
- Philadelphia, PA
- Portland, OR
- Rochester, NY
- San Francisco, CA
- Seattle, WA
- Toledo, OH
- Washington, DC

ISO National Office, P.O. Box 18037, Cleveland, OH 44118

'Deindustrialization' and the crisis

In late 1979, U.S. Steel announced its intention to shut down 14 mills, mainly in Ohio and Pennsylvania, thus permanently laying off 14,000 workers.

Between January 1979 and December 1980, auto makers in the United States shut down twenty plants, employing 50,000 workers. Chrysler alone closed thirteen plants, employing 31,000 workers.

The downturn in these two years is estimated to have reduced employment in the auto supplier industry from 350,000 to 650,000 jobs.

Then, things got worse—quickly.

Carter's recession became Reagan's depression, and by the end of 1982 there were more than 12 million workers unemployed, the highest since the great depression of the thirties.

Steel production fell to less than 40% of capacity. Plant closings affected every industry—even Atari—and every part of the country.

ALARM

Business Week sounded the alarm early on. In June, 1980, its editors wrote:

"The U.S. economy must undergo a fundamental change if it is to retain a measure of economic viability, let alone leadership in the remaining 20 years of this century."

But what kind of a change?

The U.S. government gave U.S. Steel a \$850 million tax break for shutting down its old mills, a decision which the *Wall Street Journal* called "courageous".

Barry Bluestone and Bennett Harrison, two Boston area professors, have produced a book in which they attempt to pose an alternative to the industrial crisis—and to government policy which rewards corporate "restoring", no matter the cost to workers and the others who live in the declining industrial centers.

"The Deindustrialization of America," \$19.95 from Basic Books, New York, argues for a program of "democratic socialist reindustrialization."

They document the extent of the problem.

They calculate, for example, that "when employment lost as a direct result of plant, store, and office shutdowns during the 1970s is added to the job loss associated with runaway shops, it appears that more than 32 million jobs were destroyed."

Of course, new jobs were also created, particularly in the service and public sectors.

Still, the figure is staggering.

And it has had, and will continue to have, enormous consequences for American industry and the American working class.

CAL WILLIAMS REVIEWS AN IMPORTANT NEW BOOK ON AMERI- CA'S ECONOMIC CRISIS

American industry, for a start, no longer dominates world manufacturing.

TRADE

The 1980 trade deficit of \$10 billion with Japan illustrates this sharply, though in a somewhat overstated way.

In 1980, Japan's exports to the United States, ranked by dollar value, were: passenger motor vehicles, iron and steel plates, truck chassis, radios and motorbikes.

In turn, the United States exported to Japan, in order: soybeans, corn, fir logs, hemlock logs, coal, wheat and cotton.

The United States is not yet a colony, but the American share of world manufacturing has declined from its peak of 25% to 17% today.

This has had its effect on American workers, for it was above all else the power of the American economy in the years after World War II which led to American prosperity.

But today there are a dozen countries with higher standards of living than the United States—Switzerland, Sweden, Denmark, West Germany, Luxembourg, Iceland and France for a start.

DISRUPTION

And the story is worse than these statistics indicate. The disruption and suffering caused by these changes are enormous.

Bluestone and Harrison calculate that seven million people moved to the South in the seventies—another 4.7 million moved to the West, and these included millions of workers, forced to move by an economic catastrophe.

The book was published before Houston's unemployment rate reached 9.9% this May, but the writers show that moving to Texas does not guarantee respite.

In Los Angeles, between 1978 and 1980, eight companies alone (including Uniroyal, U.S. Steel, Ford, Pabst, and Max Factor) shut down plants eliminating 18,000 jobs.

Today there are no auto



Cleveland's Fisher Body plant scheduled to close this year

assembly plants in California. There once were five.

On an individual basis the story is more tragic. Ric Ayres was a rigger at Youngstown Sheet and Tube's Campbell Works in 1979. In 1980 he was selling women's shoes for \$2.37 an hour.

Perhaps this is an extreme example, but consider the fact that there was a cost to "reindustrialization" in New England.

When that region's economy "shifted" from old manufacturing to "hi-tech"—it did so at the expense of workers' wages, which fell in relation to other regions.

And the story goes on. Harvey Brenner calculated the number of suicides and homicides associated with rising unemployment.

Perhaps he underestimated the results, if this summer in Detroit is considered.

School systems decline. San Jose's is bankrupt. Medical care becomes unavailable. Cities default—keeping Chrysler alive kept Detroit afloat, but barely.

Why is all this happening? Bluestone and Harrison make a simple case.

Since the sixties, the economy has, for all practical purposes, ceased to grow.

In the sixties, the overall economy grew at 4.1% per year. In the seventies, this declined to 2.9%. Then came the recession.

The profit rate has declined. In the sixties, corporations could count on 15% profits. By the mid-seventies, the rate had fallen to 12%. After 1975, profit rates did not rise above 10%.

No wonder U.S. Steel took its tax windfall and its profits and bought Marathon Oil—for \$6 billion, putting off indefinitely its plans to build a brand new mill in Conneaut, Ohio.

But Bluestone and Harrison object:

"The essential problem with the U.S. economy can be traced to the way capital—in forms of financial resources and of real plant and equipment—has been diverted from productive investment in our basic national industries into unproductive speculation, mergers, acquisitions and foreign investment."

They argue "a long process of radical political change in this country" and along the way they suggest a moderate program of progressive and punitive taxes, partial public ownership, liberal protectionism, and, in extreme cases, worker buy-outs.

But nowhere do they suggest how any of these will begin to cure an economy which has been stagnant and declining now for decades—when the decline in the rate of profit is a worldwide phenomenon.

PROFIT

The problem is that investments follow profits, and that is the way capitalism works, national interests aside.

Surely the stockholders in U.S. Steel were quite happy to see the corporation get into the oil business.

And the investors in Ford Motor must have been happy that the company's overseas investments made 94% of

its profits—they lost a fortune in this country.

So how can the profit rate be raised in this country? It can't, but that is another story.

Certainly taxing corporations won't do it, though of course taxation is unfair—it is outrageous that, as they cite, a fifty-five year old bricklayer actually pays more taxes than one of the five largest banks in the country.

But capitalism is unfair. And the interests of the millions of workers affected by deindustrialization are increasingly incompatible with the needs of capital.

Most important, nowhere do they suggest anything for the workers to do—the workers of Youngstown, Detroit, and Houston—the people who are the victims of this process.

OBJECTS

The workers are merely the objects of this process, and they play no part in the authors' alternative.

Consequently, one wonders why Bluestone and Bennett even use the word socialism.

"The Deindustrialization of America" makes a strong case that something is fundamentally wrong, but it gives no clue of what to do about it—certainly not for workers.

The essential problem in the economy today is that the whole system is in crisis—and there is no way out short of an economic catastrophe on the scale of the thirties.

Unless, that is, workers challenge the system itself—a system based on irrational competition, and, boom and bust, profits above all else. □



ZAYRE ISSUES: WAGES AND RACISM

WARRENSVILLE HTS, OH—The strike at Zayre, which began on May 4th, is still on.

The major issue of the strike is wages, although underlying the wage issue is that of racism.

Local 880 of the United Food and Commercial Workers have charged Zayre with racial discrimination.

One striker, Mary Price, has filed suit charging race discrimination.

She was told by the Ohio Civil Rights Commission that they would not look at her case since she was on strike!

The strikers are picketing every day, asking people not to shop at Zayre.

They claim that they have slowed down business by 75%.

On the weekend of June 18th, picketers handed leaflets at the other 6 Zayre stores in the area. Workers at the other

by BARBARA WINSLOW

Zayre stores are not represented by a union.

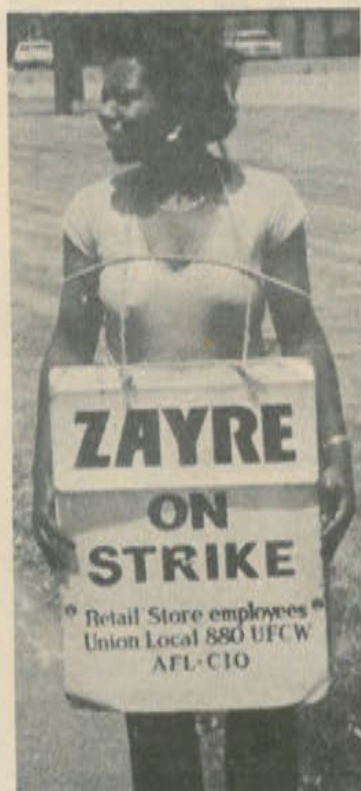
Zayre has been able to bring in scabs.

Originally, out of the 70 workers, 20 of them stayed in—all white. But now, Zayre has been able to recruit Black scabs.

DELIVER

The strikers are getting some support from teamsters who won't deliver goods, and they are looking to other labor organizations as well as community groups, such as the NAACP, to publicize and help them win this strike.

Send contributions and messages of support to Local 880, UFCW, 2828 Euclid Ave. Cleveland, Ohio 44115. □



Zayre striker

Bessemer: raw case of union busting

by JOE DENTON

BESSEMER, PA—Bessemer is a small town—the second largest employer is the Croatian Club, a social club.



The largest employer and only industry is the Bessemer Cement Co.

Bessemer closed the plant in October of 1982, claiming bankruptcy, after the employees refused to renegotiate their United Steelworkers contract, and take a cut in pay of over \$5.00 per hour.

One hundred and fifty-nine

workers were fired, most of them with over 25 years seniority.

In March '83 the workers got the good news that the company had been bought and would reopen.

But there was a hitch: the new owners, SME Bessemer Cement, said that they would not honor the contract, set to expire in August.

"We had a contract with Bessemer Cement and their successors," said Ken Porter, who with 16½ years experience at Bessemer had expected to be called back.

But the former employees had to stand in line with the other 3,500 people who applied for jobs.

Only 30% of the old hands were rehired—none of them union activists.

SME plans to make a profit, and in order to compete SME has cut the cost of their cement by \$4.00 a ton.

They were able to do this by cutting wages by \$4.00 per hour, reducing the work-force by 40%, and by not paying benefits and pensions.

Under the USW contract people who worked inside the plant were paid twice as much as outside workers, because the cement dust and dirt are so bad.

New hires on the inside get the same as outside workers, although they are slowly killing themselves with cement dust.

"It seemed to me such a raw case of union busting," said Staughton Lynd, a labor lawyer and writer, as he walked the picket line in front of SME.

Lynd has filed suit against SME Bessemer with the National Labor Relations Board and is actively supporting the fired workers. Lynd joined about 60 other protesters marching and singing in front of SMW on June 25.

Supporters came from the Workers Solidarity Club, of Youngstown, Oh., unemployed workers councils, and union members from several unions, many of them unemployed themselves.

On the previous Saturday, a woman supporter from Youngstown was shoved onto SME Bessemer property by the police, and then arrested for criminal trespass.

EXPERIENCE

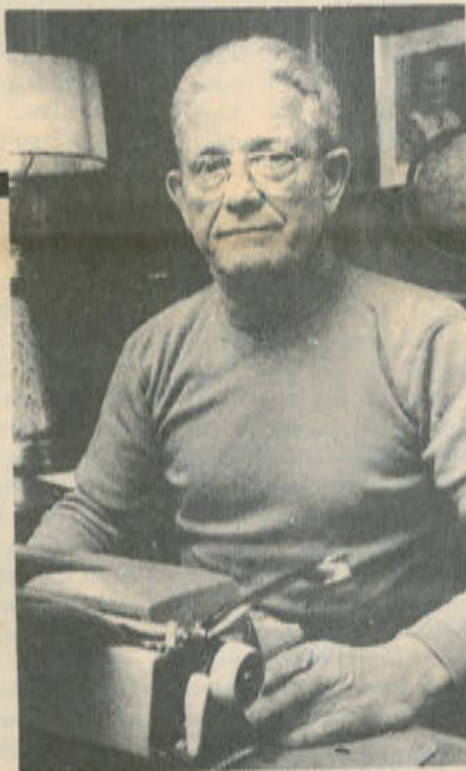
Workers in this former steel producing region have been hard hit by the depressed economy but it has been a learning experience for many.

"Do you know what a boss is spelled backwards?" asked a laid off worker from Youngstown.

"No," I said.
"That's a double s.o.b."
We agree, and if you do join them on the picket line every Saturday from 11:00 till 1:00 at the plant. □

TALKIN' UNION BY JOHN ANDERSON

THE POLITICAL IDEAS OF LABOR ARE A LIABILITY



John Anderson is a lifelong militant and socialist. He was formerly president of UAW Local 15 in Detroit.

The American unions are the wealthiest in the world. The UAW has more than \$500 million in their strike fund. Despite this money the UAW continues to lose strikes. The Plymouth Stamping plant strike has been going on for almost two years. The strike at Detroit Federal Tubing looks as if it may go on for many months, with the outcome in doubt.

SERVE

Since 1979, Douglas Fraser, Marc Stepp, Don Ephlin, Owen Bieber and Steve Yokich have served not only the auto barons, but American industry in supporting wage cuts not seen since the depression of the 1930's. They accuse Reagan of serving the rich at the expense of the poor. Who do they think they are serving? Their ideas put profits first, wages second.

The political ideas of the American labor movement make them a liability not an asset. A recent poll taken by George Gallup indicated that "Labor backing may be a liability." A report in the Detroit Free Press of June 12, 1983, said in part: "For every voter

who said he or she would be more likely to vote for a candidate who receives labor's endorsement, two voters said they would be less likely to do so . . ."

The Gallup poll asked, "Would the endorsement by labor unions of a presidential candidate make you more likely to vote for that candidate?"

Thirty-five percent answered less likely, and 18 percent said more likely. The remaining 47 said labor's endorsement made no difference or had no opinion.

The UAW leadership has sponsored numerous junkets to Washington in recent years. They will continue to do so, in spite of the fact they serve no useful purpose as far as the membership is concerned. These junkets like others are part of oiling the political machine, buying the loyalty of local leaders.

EMPLOY

By now the UAW knows that their idea of restricting imports will fail. Some foreign manufacturers will build

plants in the U.S. These plants will employ no more than 20,000 workers, not the 600,000 Fraser promised if his domestic content bill were passed.

NLRB

Having their economic arm tied behind their backs by their no-strike contracts and the courts and their political arm a liability, the UAW turns to government agencies such as the NLRB. This route took eleven years in the Kohler strike. With no better idea the UAW continues their bankrupt policies.

The recent UAW convention delegates having given their approval to this leadership there is little hope their ideas or policies will change. Dissenters are under attack from the UAW and the employers. The depression of the 30's brought a left-wing movement to the fore. Can this crisis of capitalism do less? □



Seattle metal workers' strike fails in face of corporate "solidarity"

"Seattle used to be a union town," quipped a striking machinist picketing the front gate of Jorgensen Steel.

He had just learned that members of seven other striking unions had just ratified a takeaway contract and knew that his fellow strikers of Friday might be crossing machinist picket lines come Monday.

SLIDE

The slide began in 1977 with a long and disastrous auto trades strike.

It progressed through a stalled organizing drive at Sea-First (teetering on the brink of being the nation's largest bank failure), the destruction of the union at the area's largest meat packing house (Cudahy), and an unsuccessful strike by Teamster beer drivers.

There was union busting at the downtown hotels which caused the cancellation of some national union conventions, and presently the employer attacks on the Oberto meat products workers and the metal trades workers.

The thousands of shipyard workers whose contract expires July 1, and the many thousands of Boeing workers who renegotiate this October are not unmindful of this series of labor defeats.

Against this bleak backdrop the present metal trades strike is the most ominous.

In the beginning, eight union locals (Boilermakers, Machinists, Ironworkers, Teamsters, Molders, Painters and Car Builders) under the Metal Trades Council began negotiating with twenty-eight area shops.

The shop owners negotiated as the Washington Metal Trades, Inc.

Three of the larger shops broke away from the owners organization and hired a union busting firm to handle their labor relations.

They said they would implement their last offer to the unions in place of the expired contract.

The last offer consisted of demands of wage reductions of up to \$5.00/hr, loss of union shop, loss of all pension benefits, a one-third reduction in health and welfare benefits, reduction of overtime pay from double-time to time-and-a-half, loss of two paid holidays, and restriction on vacation eligibility.

This provoked a strike which was joined by all members of the Metal Trades Council and involved about 1,700 workers.

The strikers, at first, were relatively high spirited and optimistic. They organized two support marches, each drawing about 350 strikers and their friends and families, and held a picnic/rally which drew 800.

But these examples of solidarity masked the very real lack of solidarity among the union's leadership.

by STEVE MCFADDEN

This became most apparent when seven weeks into the strike the companies made a "last and final" offer, little-changed from previous proposals except for an expiration date which would now cause any future strikes to be held in the winter.

The employers threatened to dissolve the Washington Metal Trades Inc. unless the strikers accepted the contract that they had rejected the week before.

Under those conditions the machinists voted, but refused to pool their votes with those of the seven other unions, as they had earlier.

The seven unions voted to ratify the pact 324-156, while the machinists rejected the proposal 283-116.

BALANCE

However, the IAM headquarters ruled that the votes must be pooled and the proposal squeaked by 440-439.

There were some voting irregularities that undoubtedly tipped the balance. Painters union officials, just prior to voting, told their membership that the machinists had ratified.

The boilermakers had their members vote on the proposal twice.

The result was the acceptance of a contract that was "the worst since 1953", as one seasoned striker put it.

One of the more dangerous, and shameful, concessions was basically a wage freeze for present workers and a much lower entry level wage for future workers.

A formula guaranteed to divide the workforce and threaten the very existence of the union.

Keeping scabs out of the three breakaway companies that remain struck has presented an enormous problem to the strikers.

Locally, unemployment in the metal trades exceeds 35%.

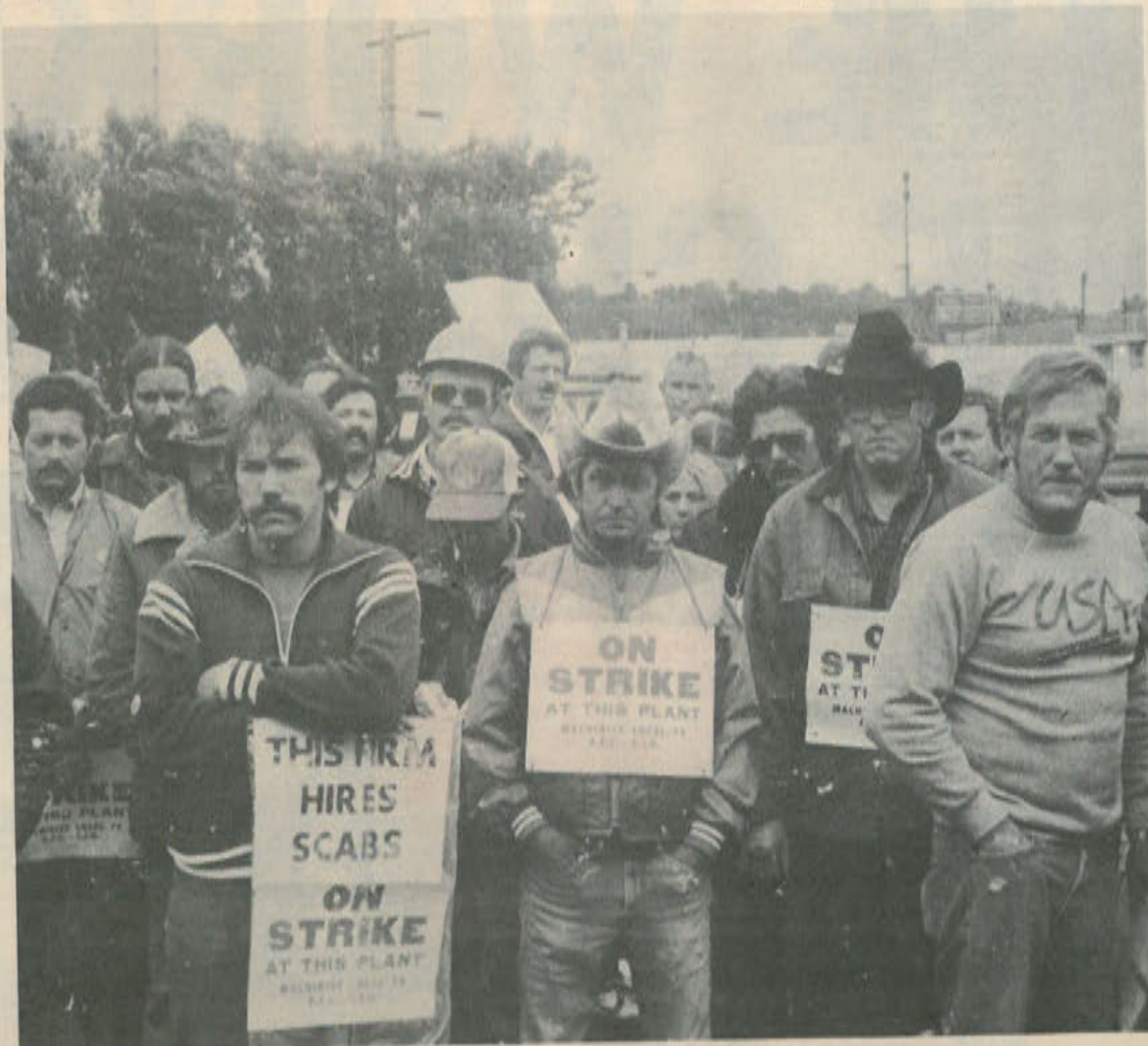
The bargaining unit encompassing the 28 firms has dropped from 5,000 to 1,700 in the three years since the last contract settlement.

LEAVE

Bethlehem Steel, whose Seattle workforce has dwindled from 1,200 to 700 in recent years, now plans to leave the Northwest entirely. Its Seattle plant is up for sale.

The scab workforce at Jorgensen Steel is almost 100% of pre-strike levels, partly due to an injunction limiting picketers to six.

Jorgensen initially spread rumors that laid-off workers would lose their unemployment compensation if they refused to accept employment.



Seattle metal workers support rally

Earl Jorgensen is a good friend of Ronald Reagan. They own adjoining ranches in California.

Earl is also part of Reagan's kitchen cabinet of corporate advisors and donated \$50,000 to remodel the White House after Ronnie moved in.

The Machinist local has tak-

en considerable initiative in trying to link the present trade union struggle with activist community groups in their mutual fight against Reaganomics.

It hasn't been nearly as successful in getting the necessary support from the 20,000 member IAM District right

across the street from strike headquarters.

It is this solidarity, or lack of it, that will prove crucial in deciding the outcome of the strike.

Not until the needed labor solidarity is resurrected will Seattle be on its way to becoming a union town again. □



Join Us

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

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address _____

ISO PO Box 18037, Cleveland, OH 44118

Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALIST ORGANIZATION

THE WORKERS OF CHILE REVOLT

Ten years after the military coup in Chile, the workers are fighting back.

For the last month the military junta of General Pinochet has been rocked by strikes and street battles.

A decade after the coup which butchered 70,000 workers and outlawed trade unions, the workers are back on the streets.

Pinochet has publicly pledged to smash the revolt.

In an effort to stop the strikes, he's banned mass meetings of workers, and threatened that troops will be used to smash illegal strikes.

WAVE

Heading the revolt are the miners who produce the copper on which Chile's bankrupt economy depends.

Pinochet ordered the arrest of the miners' leader, Rodolfo Seguel, who was dragged from his bed by unidentified gunmen and has now 'disappeared'.

Immediately 900 workers at the El Salvador mine walked out demanding his release.

They were joined by two other mines. Further national strike action has now been called for the end of this week.

The wave of protest began when tens of thousands took to the streets of the

TEN YEARS SINCE THE COUP

capital, Santiago, and other towns and cities, in the second nationwide protest against the dictatorship in less than a month.

The protest was called in opposition to the economic policies of the junta—which has closely followed the monetarist policies so beloved by Reagan.

Last year unemployment reached 30 percent, while inflation runs at around 100 percent.

In late June, a bomb exploded in the officers' mess in a barracks in Sanitago. Railway tracks were dynamited and steel tacks scattered across the roads to stop traffic.

Fifteen hundred students barricaded themselves in the Macul Campus, east of



Above: Chileans take to the streets

Right: Rodolfo Seguel



Santiago, chanting: "The people united will never be defeated" and "Down with the fascist Pinochet".

Riot police were forced to retreat again and again under hails of stones from the demonstrators.

They were only able to regain control for a short time in the afternoon after they saturated the university in tear gas.

As evening fell, thousands of men, women and children took to the streets of Chile.

In the shanty towns of Santiago there was vicious fighting between workers and riot police.

Barricades were set alight, and the tear gas grenades and rifle shots of the police were met with stones.

CENTER

In the center of Santiago thousands of women surrounded the presidential palace banging saucepans in protest against food prices.

The noise was so great Pinochet was forced to leave his palace by helicopter!

Chile's military rulers attempted to deal with the protests by the same repression they'd unleashed in 1973 after the coup.

Fifteen year old Patricio Yanez was shot and killed when riot police fired on demonstrators.

Two other protestors have since died from wounds, and another twenty people are seriously wounded.

The number of those arrested totalled 1,350—half of them in Santiago alone.

But the massive support for the protests has rocked the junta to its knees.

REMOVED

Now there is open talk in the army that Pinochet will have to be removed.

The workers were joined on the streets by middle class housewives, students and other groups.

Children boycotted school, while public transport and industry was brought to a halt.

Many of those—like the copper miners and truck drivers—now at the center of the confrontation, supported Pinochet's coup ten years ago.

The self-employed truck drivers twice struck against the left government of President Allende before its overthrow.

The copper miners also supported Pinochet after their strike in the early '70s had been crushed by Allende's Popular Unity government.

The military junta now looks highly unstable.

It has already been deserted by its middle class supporters as the economic crisis worsens.

As cracks begin to appear in the dictatorship, workers have begun to rebuild their organizations.

Unfortunately, their union leaders are hesitating about calling further mass strikes against the junta.

Even so, the protests of the last month have already shown that the ability of workers to fight back has not been smashed.

In a remarkably short time a working class, which had been defeated in the military coup ten years ago, has shown it possesses the power to overthrow Pinochet and his gang.

Their confidence has helped draw behind them even those sections who initially supported the coup. □

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