

# workers' power

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## Vega Speedup Revolt

Across the country, Lordstown, Ohio, is becoming a new word for speedup -- and for resistance to it. GM's toughest management team has run head on into the youngest and most militant local in the United Auto Workers.

The Vega plant in Lordstown -- a technological showpiece -- was built especially for speedup; it was designed so that the line would run twice as fast as other auto plants. And to help it live up to its potential, this vicious plant found a management that was equally ruthless.

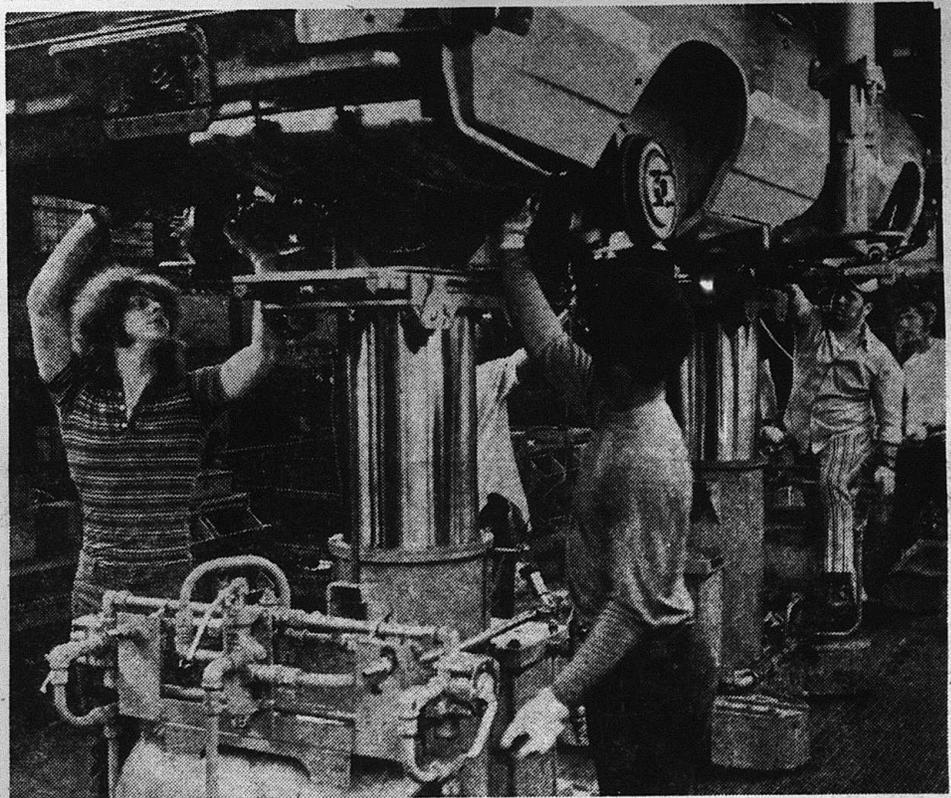
The General Motors Assembly Division (GMAD) took over operation of the plant last October. GMAD laid off over 700 workers without reducing the speed of the line. When the rest of the workforce resisted the increased work loads that resulted, GMAD began sending entire shifts home early, hoping that smaller paychecks would outweigh resentment against speedup.

GMAD was made for Lordstown, and Lordstown was made for GMAD.

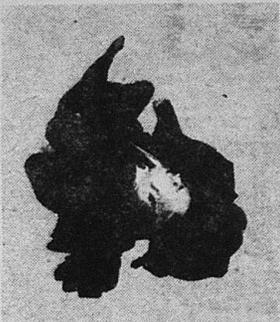
General Motors didn't build the world's most modern hell-hole because it wanted to combat unemployment, make friends, or even build quality cars. And it didn't send in GMAD because it wanted to give preferential treatment to its Lordstown workers. Lordstown's up-to-date technology and its pace-setting management were assembled around a common purpose: profit.

General Motors is in the auto busi-

*(Continued on page 6)*



## British Army Murders 13 Joan McKiernan



ONE OF DERRY'S 13 DEAD

For 45 minutes on Sunday, January 31, British troops opened fire with automatic weapons on thousands of unarmed anti-internment demonstrators in Derry, Northern Ireland. At the end of the shooting spree, 13 civilians were dead, 16 were injured, and 60 arrested.

The British forces now have another Bloody Sunday to add to their list of atrocities committed in Ireland and the Third World. The last Bloody Sunday in Ireland occurred in 1920 when British mercenary forces, the Black and Tans, fired on a crowd at a football match, killing 12 civilians.

The British troops came in force to Northern Ireland in 1969, supposedly

to protect the Catholic population from attack by the police and Unionist mobs. Quickly their role as peacekeepers was replaced by actions directed against the Catholic working class.

The attacks by the troops and reprisals by the IRA led to the Northern Ireland state interning without trial over 500 men. Recently a second concentration camp had been opened near Derry, a city whose population is mainly Catholic and strongly nationalist.

On what became Bloody Sunday, the Northern Ireland Civil Rights Association led a march through the Catholic areas of Derry to protest the govern-

ment's internment policy. As the march of 15,000 unarmed persons came to the city center, they were stopped by a barricade of British troops.

While the stewards of the march negotiated with the officer in charge of the troops, the troops led a water cannon directly into the crowd, spraying the demonstrators with purple dye and CS gas. As the narrow street was tightly packed with people, they could not escape and were badly gassed.

Finally, however, the crowd regrouped at the Free Derry Corner where the anti-internment meeting was to begin. As Bernadette Devlin ad-

*(Continued on page 11)*



# Workers' Power

**WE STAND FOR SOCIALISM:** the collective ownership and democratic control of the economy and the state by the working class. We stand in opposition to all forms of class society, both capitalist and bureaucratic "Communist," and in solidarity with the struggles of all exploited and oppressed people.

America is faced with a growing crisis: war, racial strife, pollution, urban decay, and the deterioration of our standard of living and working conditions. This crisis is built into capitalism, an outlived system of private profit, exploitation, and oppression. The capitalist ruling class, a tiny minority that controls the economy and politics alike, perpetuates its rule by dividing the working people against each other — white against black, male against female, skilled against unskilled, etc. The result is ever greater social chaos.

Workers' power is the only alternative to this crisis. Neither the liberal

nor the conservative wings of the ruling class have any answers but greater exploitation. The struggle for workers' power is already being waged on the economic level, and the International Socialists stand in solidarity with these struggles over wages and working conditions. To further this struggle, we call for independent rank and file workers' committees to fight when and where the unions refuse to fight. But the struggles of the workers will remain defensive and open to defeat so long as they are restricted to economic or industrial action.

The struggle must become political. Because of its economic power, the ruling class also has a monopoly on political power. It controls the government and the political parties that administer the state. More and more, the problems we face, such as inflation and unemployment, are the result of political decisions made by that class. The struggle of the working people will be deadlocked until the ranks of labor build a workers' party and carry the struggle into the political arena.

The struggle for workers' power cannot be won until the working class, as a whole, controls the government and the economy democratically. This requires a revolutionary socialist, working class party, at the head of a unified

working class. No elite can accomplish this for the workers.

Nor can any part of the working class free itself at the expense of another. We stand for the liberation of all oppressed peoples: mass organization, armed self-defense, and the right of self-determination for Blacks, Chicanos and all national minorities; the liberation of women from subordination in society and the home; the organization of homosexuals to fight their oppression. These struggles are in the interest of the working class as a whole: the bars of racism and male chauvinism can only prevent the establishment of workers' power. Oppressed groups cannot subordinate their struggle today to the present level of consciousness of white male workers: their independent organization is necessary to their fight for liberation. But we strive to unite these struggles in a common fight to end human exploitation and oppression.

The struggle for workers' power is world-wide. Class oppression and exploitation is the common condition of humanity. US corporations plunder the world's riches and drive the world's people nearer to starvation, while military intervention by the US government, serving these corporations, awaits

those who dare to rebel. The "Communist" revolutions in China, Cuba and North Vietnam, while driving out US imperialism, have not brought workers' power, but a new form of class society, ruled by a bureaucratic elite.

Whether capitalist or bureaucratic-collectivist ("Communist") in nature, the ruling classes of the world fight desperately to maintain their power, often against each other, always against the working class and the people. Through both domestic repression and imperialist intervention (the US in Vietnam, the USSR in Czechoslovakia), they perpetuate misery and poverty in a world of potential peace and plenty. Socialism — the direct rule of the working class itself — exists nowhere in the world today.

We fight for the withdrawal of US troops from all foreign countries, and support all struggles for national self-determination. In Vietnam, we support the victory of the NLF over the US and its puppets; at the same time, we stand for revolutionary opposition by the working class to the incipient bureaucratic ruling class. Only socialism, established through world-wide revolution, can free humanity from exploitation and oppression; and the only force capable of building socialism is WORKERS' POWER.

Eleven picketers were arrested on January 25 for demonstrating outside the Chromium Plating and Polishing Company in Brooklyn, New York. They were part of a picket line supporting seven workers, who had been fired for refusing to join a crime-controlled union with which the company had signed a sweetheart contract.

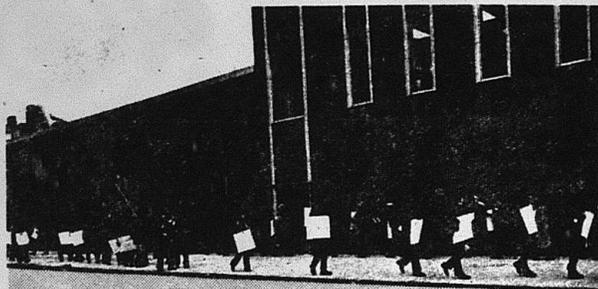
Among those arrested were members of the Puerto Rican Socialist Party, the Black Workers Congress, Harlem Fightback, and the International Socialists. The workers themselves were prohibited from picketing by a court order. In addition to the picket lines, the PSP led an enthusiastic parade through the surrounding Puerto Rican community on January 17 in support of the workers.

The court injunction had been issued against the fired workers after they had successfully taken over the factory to demand their jobs back and to force the "union," the Amalgama-

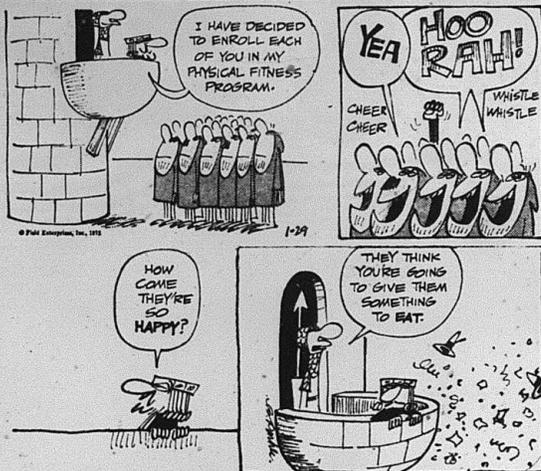
ted Journeymen Workers, to negotiate for the workers' demands. This outfit, which has 17 charges of illegal practices pending against it with the Labor Relations Board, signed a contract with Chromium Plating without even consulting or informing the workers.

Chromium Plating is one of the many small factories in the New York area that have made deals with racketeer unions in order to maintain substandard wages and working conditions. Its employees, mainly Puerto Rican and black, are paid barely above the minimum wage for difficult and dangerous work and have no job security and few fringe benefits.

The workers and the organizations supporting them are planning to continue the protest picket lines. They are also planning to extend the fight to other shops facing similar substandard conditions. ■



## Workers Fight Gangster Union



# Workers' Power 51

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## N.Y. Phone Strike:

# Beirne Does It Again

Brian Mackenzie

Six and a half months after selling out the national telephone strike, Joe Beirne, President of the Communications Workers of America (CWA), has turned around and sold out the militant strike of New York Telephone Plant workers. Accepting an offer that is economically no better than the July 18 offer rejected by New York CWA members, Beirne has again shown himself to be an obstruction to militant unionism among telephone workers.

The "new" offer grants \$1 a week more than the July settlement for those with over 5 years service in the company -- a small minority -- and grants 10 percent premium pay for Saturday work, instead of time and half. That is it, in terms of money or benefits.

On the other hand, the back-to-work agreement gives the company the right to fire any striker arrested, charged, or convicted as a result of strike action. This means that the over 100 strikers who were arrested, many of whom had their charges dismissed, can all be fired.

Moreover, under the new contract the company will pay time for fewer stewards or chief stewards at the second level of the grievance procedure and none at the third level, eliminating steward representation above second level and putting protection solely in the hands of the union bureaucracy. In short, *there is nothing in this settlement for New York telephone workers but disaster.*

### MASS ACTION

This sell-out follows a period of growing militancy in the strike and a political crisis in the New York City Local, 1101, the largest of the 23 striking New York CWA locals. For several weeks, mass actions had been increasing in frequency, militancy, and size.

The January 12 rampage of nearly 4,000 telephone workers (see *Workers' Power* No. 50) was the largest, but there have been several similar mass marches, including one following the January 31 Local 1101 membership meeting. This membership meeting marked a new level of militancy along programmatic lines.

Fearing an attempt to disrupt or adjourn the meeting by President Ricky

Carnivale, hundreds of militants wearing red arm bands (mostly organized by Brooklyn Division Steward Tom Schaefer), occupied the front of Manhattan Center to guarantee an orderly meeting. A series of motions jointly supported by Schaefer's organization, Ed Dempsey (Vice President from western division), and United Action, was fought for and mostly won. Those that were voted on by the 4,000 or more members present were almost unanimously passed.

The passed motions included: the rejection of binding arbitration; the establishment of regular out-of-state picketing for the purpose of closing down other Bell System Companies; support for operators who recognize CWA picket lines (i.e., who walk out), and a public call for them to do so; and weekly mass demonstrations in the streets. Taken together, it was understood, these motions spelled out a militant strategy for bringing the strike to a rapid and victorious conclusion.

The fact that the membership had to organize against the local and international leadership to fight for this program was already an indication of the bankruptcy of that leadership. What followed two days later was a shocking reaffirmation of that fact.

At the Wednesday Executive Board meeting of Local 1101, Ricky Carnivale announced that the membership meeting, which he had chaired from start to finish, was null and void. The reason: a cheap technicality.

During the generally stormy meeting, a fight broke out over the microphone. Carnivale claims that at some point he declared the meeting adjourned. Whether he said those words or not, the fact is, he reconvened the meeting and conducted the most serious meeting in 1101's history. No one but Carnivale's hacks, who are few in numbers, bought his story about adjournment.

An immediate fight to stop this treasonous act was needed. United Action began the fight at once with a leaflet demanding a retraction of Rick Ricky's action and also demanding that Schaefer and Dempsey, as the only oppositionists with an organized mass base, call a rank and file membership meeting to carry on the strike. But before further action could be

taken, Joe Beirne intervened to change the context -- and to add a stab in the back to Carnivale's dictatorial betrayal.

By Friday afternoon every militant knew that we had been sold out. Carnivale and Beirne have no significant political support remaining in 1101, or in any of the down-state New York locals. It is clear, as it has been for a long time, that Beirne and Carnivale must go.

The problem is still how to win the strike. The program voted on by the January 42 meeting of 1101 could bring victory. Carnivale has already been defeated politically; only the formality of voting him out remains. Beirne was forced by the New York Locals to back off once before, and even to open the CWA defense fund, and he can be forced again -- and eventually thrown out of office as well.

The United Action Caucus, as well as TELRUM (a Black Workers Congress group in New York Telephone), are too small as yet to lead a rejection and carry out the strike on their own. Schaefer and Dempsey, on the other hand, have the organization and the respect to enforce the January 31 votes, organize a rejection, and carry out a mass strike action. Whether or

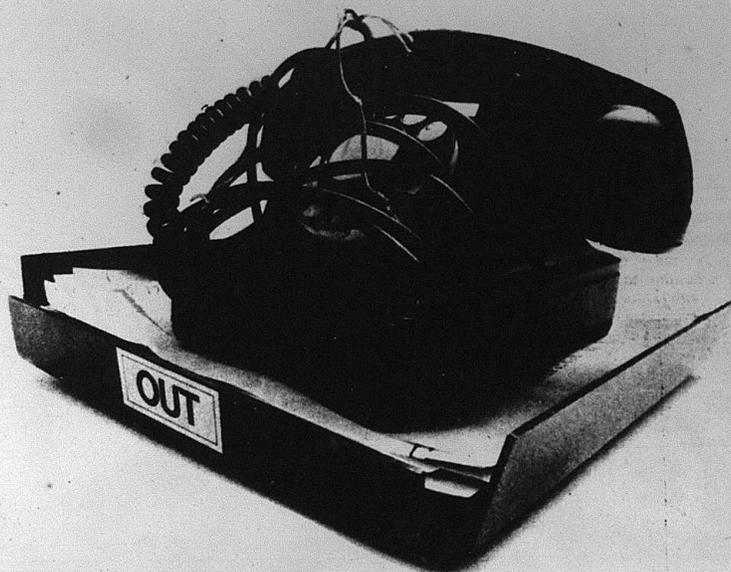
not they do this will demonstrate their worth as union leaders.

It is no secret that Schaefer and Dempsey are now maneuvering to be the next leaders of 1101. So far, they have not been willing to build a real rank and file movement; their organizations are largely geographic baronies. If they fail to lead the strike, whether by action or inaction, the ranks must reject them as thoroughly as they have rejected Carnivale and Beirne.

### VOTE NO!

As it stands now a vote for rejection of Beirne's settlement is a real possibility. Not only are 1101 militants furious, but other downstate locals have expressed opposition to the settlement as well. Unfortunately, Local 1102 President Keenen is calling for arbitration as an alternative. This, as the 1101 membership knows, is a total fraud. Arbitrators are no more neutral than corporation presidents, or the cops and judges that have been harassing us for nearly 7 months.

The alternative to Beirne's sell-out is the militant action program voted on by the 1101 membership. Those bureaucrats and traitors who stand in the way of carrying out this program must be pushed aside. ■



## Puerto Rican Phone Workers Continue Strike

Since January 18, employees of the Puerto Rican Telephone Co., an affiliate of IT&T, have been on strike. From the beginning, the strike of Puerto Rican phone workers was militant and effective. Most phone service to and from the island has been cut off.

According to the pro-employer *San Juan Star* (an English language paper) there have been hundreds of acts of sabotage. IT&T has offered a \$25,000 reward for saboteurs. In spite of the company's attempt to encourage "bounty-hunting," and its insistence that the strike is "illegal," the strikers have held firm.

The strikers are represented by the Union Independiente de Empleados Telefonicos, which is affiliated with the North American Teamsters union (IBT). ■



# Nixon's New War Plan

Kit Lyons

On January 25, prime-time TV was briefly disrupted by the latest of President Nixon's one-man spectacles. Nixon's subject was the Indochina War; for some 30 months, he announced, the US had been conducting secret negotiations with the North Vietnamese, and he had chosen this moment to make public the latest US offer, an "Eight-Point Peace Plan."

Nixon did his best to put across the idea that this new plan was a great breakthrough toward peace -- but it wasn't. Nixon's Peace Plan is a device for prolonging the war. To understand why this is so, three different aspects of the situation must be sorted out: the state of the war, Nixon's plan itself, and the timing of his announcement.

## STALEMATE

A military and political stalemate has prevailed in Vietnam since the early days of 1968. The NLF has won the Vietnamese people; in a sense, it is the de facto government of the majority of the people of South Vietnam. Only a wholesale escalation of the war, including the use of tactical nuclear weapons, could conceivably bring an end to the Vietnamese struggle for self determination -- and this approach has been precluded by the strength of the American anti-war movement.

But the US is still in Vietnam, barricaded in the cities and in fortified enclaves; its B-52's are free to bomb Indochina at will. The US cannot defeat the NLF -- but the NLF cannot, by itself, expel the US either.

At least up until the end of the Laotian invasion, Nixon was still hoping to somehow salvage a victory in Vietnam. His strategy of "Vietnamization" was designed as a kind of holding action.

Administration rhetoric notwithstanding, it has been obvious for some years that the US has no real chance of establishing a stable puppet regime in South Vietnam. The real purpose of Vietnamization, of the replacement of US ground troops by ARVN forces, was simply to buy time, to quiet the anti-war movement and give Nixon some limited room for maneuver.

The invasions of Cambodia and Laos were the fruits of Vietnamization. In each case, Nixon hoped that a sudden, splashy escalation of the war somewhere else in Indochina would throw the NLF off balance and thus break the stalemate in Vietnam.

As it turned out, of course, the

Cambodian invasion was a farce and the Laotian invasion was a disaster. Rather than breaking the stalemate in South Vietnam, Nixon succeeded merely in extending it throughout all of Indochina. There have been indications in recent months that Nixon has at last reconciled himself to an eventual US defeat (see *Workers' Power* No. 45).

*Within this context, Nixon's latest Peace Plan was clearly designed, at the very least, to delay this defeat until after the US elections and to limit it to South Vietnam.*

In presenting his plan on US television, Nixon got a lot of mileage out of provisions calling for a complete US withdrawal from South Vietnam within six months of an agreement and an exchange of all military and civilian prisoners of war by both sides. But these points were hardly the decisive ones, in so far as determining the final outcome of the war is concerned. Most US ground troops have already been withdrawn from South Vietnam; officially, there are no US forces in Laos and Cambodia.

*Nixon's plan really offers nothing more than a new presidential election*

in South Vietnam, supervised by an "international body" and organized by an "independent group" supposed representing "all political forces in South Vietnam, including the National Liberation Front." In exchange, he demands a cease-fire throughout Indochina and the withdrawal of all North Vietnamese troops from Laos, Cambodia, and South Vietnam.

At a minimum then, Nixon's price for peace is continued US domination over Laos and Cambodia, since the US puppet regimes would be left in charge following the cease-fire and North Vietnamese withdrawal. In addition, Nixon's plan at the very least would delay an NLF assumption of power in South Vietnam until well after the US presidential elections, given the amount of time required to come to an agreement in the first place, complete US withdrawal and the prisoner exchange, set up the election machinery, and carry out the campaign.

Moreover, despite the overwhelming support which the NLF enjoys among the South Vietnamese people, the election Nixon proposes could still be engineered to deny them clear-cut control of the country -- whether or not President Thieu fulfills his

pledge to resign one month in advance of the election.

Thieu's resignation would still leave his troops and police in control of the government. A cease-fire would allow Saigon authorities free access to NLF-controlled areas.

Most "impartial international bodies" have proven to be dominated by one imperialist power or another. Even if a genuinely impartial international body could be constituted, free of US control, its "supervision" could do very little to safeguard the "guaranteed" right of the NLF to participate freely in the election, or to stop intimidation and fraud by the Thieu forces.

For that matter, the elections could simply be postponed or cancelled altogether after the cease-fire had taken effect, forcing the NLF to remobilize forces after giving the government valuable time to strengthen its position.

The North Vietnamese might well be willing to trade Cambodia for a genuine end to US intervention in Vietnam (see *Workers' Power* No. 49), even to accept a continuation of the see-saw status quo in Laos. But it hardly seems likely that they would give up their present military position -- which is growing stronger all the time, as the nearness of the US elections forces Nixon to speed withdrawal -- in exchange for a dubious electoral gamble based on nothing more than US promises.

## RUNNING SCARED

Thus, the question arises, what did Nixon hope to gain? Why did he in effect break off the secret negotiations in order to make an unacceptable plan public at this time?

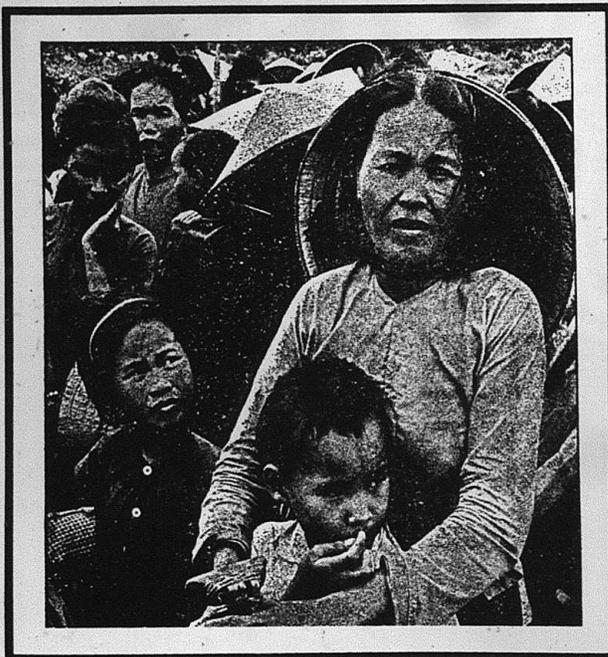
As he himself as much as stated, of course, Nixon's intent was obviously to defuse the war as a political issue, to convince people that he is really doing his best to bring the war to an end, that the NLF and the North Vietnamese, not the Americans, stand in the way of peace. Popular patience with Vietnamization is wearing thin, and recent polls have shown that the war is very much alive as an issue, despite the dwindling US presence on the ground. The continued mass bombing of Indochina is hard to ignore.

But to make the basic point that Nixon was trying to patch up his shaky credibility on the war question is not to explain why he made the effort now, some months in advance of the elections -- leaving plenty of time for people to see through this latest deception. Nixon's timing was apparently determined primarily by developments in Vietnam, not at home.

Until recently, the North Vietnamese and the NLF appeared to be holding back, content to let Nixon thrash around in his futile efforts to tip the military balance in the US's favor. Now unprecedented Pathet Lao advances in Laos have been followed up by what are being described as preparations for a major North Vietnamese-NLF offensive in South Vietnam.

As the fiasco in Laos clearly demonstrated, a really big North Vietnamese offensive in the South would very likely demolish the South Vietnamese Army. Despite all the money and materiel the US has poured in over the last several years, the ARVN still rests on a foundation of sand.

Despised by the bulk of the population -- like the Thieu regime it is supposed to defend -- the ARVN forces



have been kept alive only by the wholesale and continuous support of US air power. Given an offensive on something of the scale of the Tet offensive in 1968, the ARVN would just melt away. Already, draft evasion and desertion are at an all-time high, even for South Vietnam.

Several broad hints dropped in the course of his presentation left no doubt that it was this possibility which was uppermost in Nixon's mind when he decided to take to the airwaves once again. "If the enemy's answer to our peace offer is to step up their attacks," he warned, "I shall fully meet my responsibility as Commander in Chief."

Well aware that a large scale US escalation would be the only way he could save the Thieu regime from an all-out NLF offensive -- and that any such escalation would have an explosive political impact in the US -- Nixon hoped another TV spectacular, with dramatic revelations about more secret Kissinger missions and a new, 1972 model Peace Plan, could partially defuse anti-war sentiment -- could undermine his Democratic Party critics and leave room for one last US push, just enough to keep Thieu afloat until after the elections this fall.

## ANTI-WAR OFFENSIVE

To a degree, Nixon's plan has been successful. His liberal opponents in the Democratic Party, who have attacked the war primarily because it has been unsuccessful, rather than because it was imperialist, and those sections of the anti-war movement who have called upon Nixon to "Set the Date," rather than for immediate withdrawal, helped set the stage for the sort of confusion Nixon's speech was designed to create.

But each new ruse, each new scheme for prolonging the war under the guise of suing for peace, has left more and more people more and more cynical about US policy in the war. As Nixon himself admitted, "Some of our citizens have become accustomed to thinking that whatever our government says must be false . . ." As repeated polls have indicated, for "some" Nixon should have said "most."

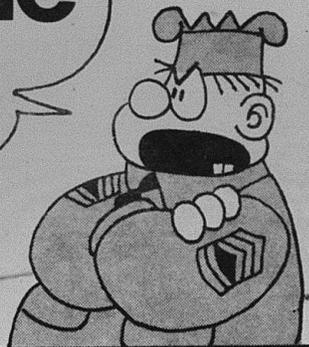
The overwhelming majority of the American people are opposed to the war. Most of these are for immediate withdrawal. The US has been waging war to preserve its hegemony over Indochina -- to deny the South Vietnamese their right to self determination. It has no right to impose any settlement, to demand any conditions. It should withdraw immediately, unilaterally and unconditionally.

The war has continued because the anti-war movement has failed to mobilize in an effective way the vast pool of anti-war sentiment that has developed. If there is a major North Vietnamese-NLF offensive in the next few weeks or months, and if the US begins to re-escalate the war in a desperate effort to save the crumbling Thieu regime, the anti-war movement must respond with a massive offensive of its own.

At the time of the Cambodian invasion in 1969, popular outrage all but shut down most of the nation's colleges and universities. This time, we must go much further. The anti-war movement must prepare to organize a national anti-war work stoppage against any new escalation of the war. If we shut down American industry, we can shut down the war. ■

# Back To The Old Action Army!

R.F. Kampfer



*Hey, you knuckleheads  
Dumb dumb knuckleheads  
Marching down the avenue  
Eight more weeks and we'll be through  
I'll be glad and so will you*

*Basic marching song  
If I had a low IQ  
I could be a lifer too  
Suppressed verse*

When the Army modified its Basic Training program last year, veterans said it was too good to be true. Sure enough, it was. The barracks beer machines, the colorful curtains, the cheerful recruiting posters, are all being phased out. The despized drill sergeants and the daily dozen are coming back.

Nobody who has not been through basic training can quite grasp what it involves. A large number of gifted and twisted minds have devoted generations to perfecting methods for breaking the human spirit. Every possible method for inflicting mental and physical agony has been thought of and used.

It's true that certain ground rules are supposed to be followed. For example, drill sergeants are not allowed to hit or kick trainees. But they have found plenty of ways to get around the letter of the law. Low-crawling over gravel, for instance, or double-timing uphill with a 75 pound duff-bag across the shoulders and a canteen full of water pounding the kidneys, is just as painful as being beaten with a stick.

About 30 recruits fail to survive basic training every year. Most of these deaths are due to heart failure, heat

stroke, meningitis or pneumonia, all provoked by exhaustion and overexertion. (This among young men supposedly in top physical condition). Suicides may also stem from the same circumstances.

Training deaths for 1971 were as high as ever, indicating that the "improved" conditions were largely window-dressing. Nevertheless, the fact that some changes were made, and then revoked, is indicative of some basic shifts in US military policy.

The "liberalization" drive was a desperate attempt on the part of the Army to reverse a situation that had been growing ever more serious since 1967. Draft evasion and refusal were steadily increasing, as were desertions and rank-and-file resistance. Typically, the brass thought that discontent could be contained by throwing the troops a few crumbs.

This policy has clearly failed. Despite a tremendous advertising campaign, the upsurge in recruiting the Army hoped for did not materialize. The troops are less willing than ever to move against popular movements at home or abroad.

Because of this, and because of certain changes in the international situation, the Pentagon is reorienting the whole military establishment. There has been a shift in the balance of power at the top. The Army is losing ground to the Air Force and the Navy.

Naturally, the Army generals have resisted this change, which means a loss of power for them, but their failure to win a military victory in Vietnam made it inevitable. In the coming period the borders of the empire will be protected by bombers, missile-firing

submarines, and diplomacy.

This means that the Army will have to retrench itself and hope for better days. Eventually a situation will come up that the slide-rule jockeys can't handle, and the ground-pounders will be given another chance.

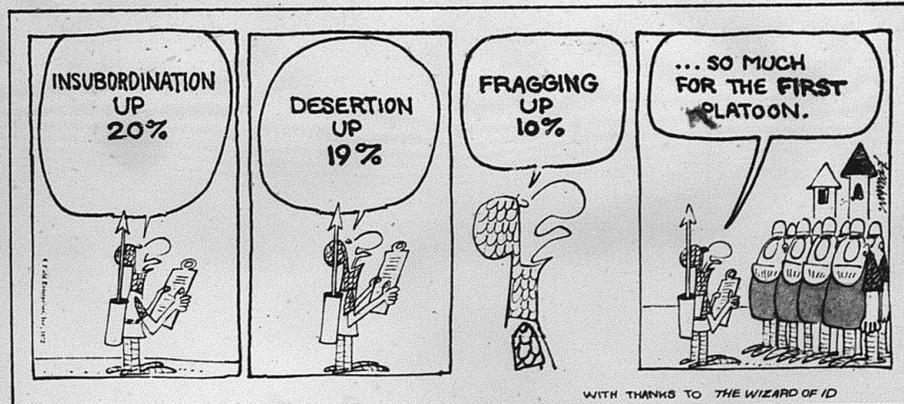
Until that time the Army must preserve its trained cadre of officers and NCO's. The ranks can be swelled with new conscripts at any time -- but only if the cadre is on hand to whip them into shape. It is for the sake of preserving this cadre that basic training is reverting to its previous barbarous state.

An Army lifer gets very little in the way of pay, working conditions, and living conditions compared to most civilians. What he does get is almost unparalleled power.

This is why most lifers, drill-sergeants especially, stay in the Army: for the opportunity to harass and torture men they know to be better than themselves. The more degraded the trainee, the more exalted becomes the NCO.

Thus, the lifers saw the new, "liberalized" army, especially the reforms in Basic Training procedures, as a fundamental threat to their whole way of life. Men with 15 and 20 years service left the Army in 1971 when it seemed their reign of terror might be coming to an end.

Having scuttled "liberalization," the Army will have to depend on draftees for victims; despite the high level of unemployment, there is very little chance of a volunteer army being established. The rank and file will have to continue their fight for basic human rights. ■



WITH THANKS TO THE WIZARD OF ID

# Lordstown Militants Prepare For Strike

Ted Farrow

[Continued from page 1]

ness, but profit is its most important product. Profit-making is about the only thing GM does really well; it does that much better than it makes cars. 1971 was the second most profitable year in GM's history; its net profit amounted to nearly two billion dollars. But even billions aren't enough for General Motors.

The people who run GM are worried about the same economic problems that are bothering all US businessmen. The economy is in a slump. Since 1968, GM has had a steadily falling profit margin (profits related to total sales). New car sales have increased, but profits haven't increased as fast.

## FOREIGN COMPETITION

Worse, US business is running into greater and greater foreign competition, particularly from Germany and Japan. The Volkswagen and the Toyota, for example, have been winning a larger and larger share of the US auto market.

Nixon's New Economic Policy was designed to try to solve these problems. His approach is basically a very simple and straightforward one. "How can we cut costs and meet foreign competition? Control wages and increase productivity." Or to put it another way: "What do we need? More profits.

How can we get them? Squeeze the workers."

Speedup is the essence of Nixon's program for meeting foreign competition. More work for the same wages means lower prices and thus more sales, and higher profits all around.

Lordstown is just exactly what Nixon has in mind. The Vega is the key to GM's hopes of besting its foreign competition. The workers on the assembly line are being asked to subsidize GM's war with German and Japanese capital. In the words of Curtis Cox, plant supervisor of standards and methods:

*"The worker must take responsibility for productivity for this country to remain competitive."*

Unfortunately for GM and Nixon, the workers of Lordstown have refused to accept responsibility for GM's profits. The rank and file revolt against speedup and bad working conditions, which has been gathering steam nationally since 1965, has come to a head at Lordstown.

The Lordstown workers began with a slowdown, which crippled Vega production at the plant and drove GMAD crazy. When GMAD retaliated with early dismissals and heavy threats, the Lordstown local, UAW 1112, scheduled a strike vote for February 1 and 2.

*With 85 percent of the eligible voters turning out, the vote was 97 percent in favor of a strike. The strike*

*vote was the most representative and successful election the UAW has had in years.*

Whether or not the strike actually takes place will depend upon the negotiations now going on between the union executive board and the company. The local leadership hoped the strike vote would put pressure on the company to settle without a strike: the union leaflets handed out at the plant announcing the vote made that clear. But, determined to make its speedup stick, GMAD may prefer to force a strike rather than back down, hoping the recession will soon break the strike and discipline the work force for them.

The Lordstown militants will have to be wary of the role of the UAW international. In the past, the International has not hesitated to put locals into receivership for striking over working conditions.

Unlike fights over wages and fringe benefits, struggles over working conditions threaten what business sees as its basic "prerogatives" and require the mobilization of the rank and file -- which the union bureaucrats oppose, since an active rank and file can be as much a problem for the bureaucrats as it is for the company.

In this case, the UAW International has so far avoided a direct move against the Lordstown local. But it has shifted the negotiations from Lordstown to UAW headquarters at Solidar-

ity House in Detroit -- perhaps in the hope that, far removed from the militant atmosphere of the Lordstown assembly line, the local leadership may be persuaded to accept some kind of face-saving compromise, allowing GM to whittle away at working conditions.

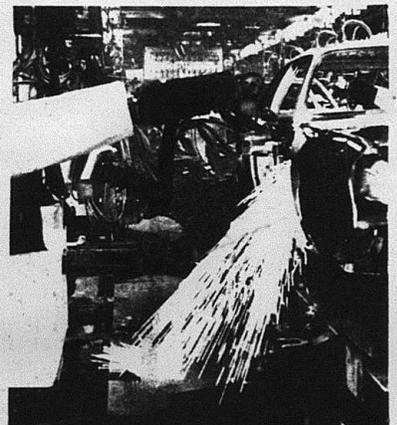
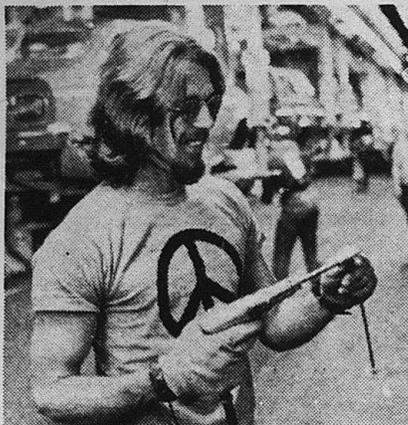
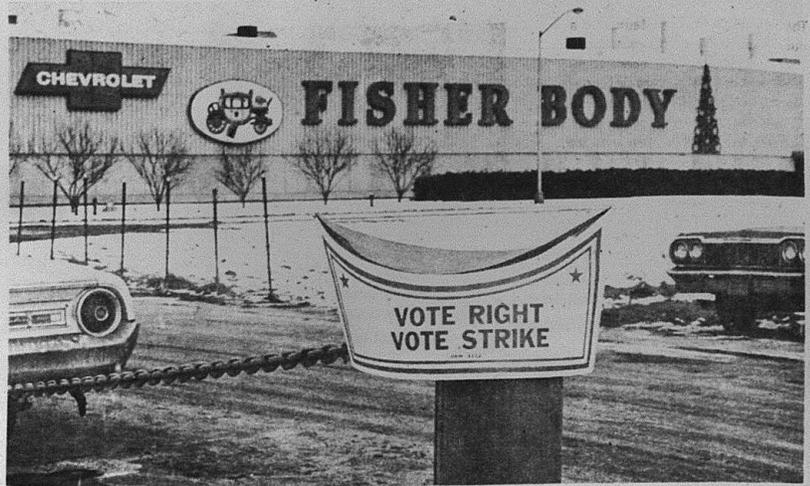
## TRIAL RUN

All UAW locals -- indeed, American working people generally -- have a stake in the outcome of the Lordstown struggle. Speedup and the revolt against it are moving toward a head-on collision at Lordstown. The outcome will affect the situation of every American worker in the decade to come.

Lined up on one side are GM and Nixon's New Economic Policy, the forces of speedup. If GM wins, it will try to create a "Lordstown" in every plant. A GM victory would aid Nixon's effort to make speedup a national norm.

Lined up on the other side are the Lordstown rank and file, young workers typical of the new generation of militants coming to the fore throughout American industry. If they defeat GMAD, they will set back GM's whole productivity campaign, and set an example of resistance to speedup for workers all over the country.

On both sides, the Lordstown plant is a sort of laboratory, the conflict over speedup an experiment. It offers us a trial run, a preview, of the shape of the class struggle in the 70's. ■



Vega workers on the line at Lordstown; robot welder (right) has not joined slowdown.

The City of Detroit has launched a vicious attack on its employees. Some 1400 city employees have been "temporarily" laid off. Many crucial services in the city are being cutback or eliminated; recreation centers have been closed, the zoo has been affected, even sanitation workers have been laid off.

The story that one generally gets from the media is that the layoffs are temporary and that all of these employees will be rehired at the end of a 30-day period. Unfortunately, this is far from true. Only 300 of the 1400 employees affected by the layoffs have any assurance of returning to their jobs at the end of the 30-day period. The remaining 1100 employees do not know when they will return to work, if ever.

#### 24-HOUR DEMONSTRATION

Involved in the layoffs are members of 15 AFSCME (American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees) locals and 43 other employee associations. Council 77, the statewide AFSCME structure representing some 9000 city employees, called a 24-hour demonstration for Wednesday, February 2.

For most of that time the picket lines in front of the Detroit City-County Building were well-manned and enthusiastic. AFSCME called for participation by the general Detroit community and senior citizens, children, and many others were represented, in addition to union members.

Lloyd Simpson, Executive Director of Council 77, stated that the demonstration was called to "bring the plight of these city employees to the attention of the citizenry of Detroit and to Mayor Gribbs." Simpson said that AFSCME plans to call on the Michigan State Federation of Labor, the AFL-CIO, and all of labor in Michigan to "present the case forcibly to Mayor Gribbs."

Unfortunately, Simpson's idea of "presenting the case forcibly" seems to go no further than demonstrations and conferences with the Mayor. He later said that the demonstration had been a success in its goal of "bringing the people out in their off hours to ex-



Alice Greenwood

press their feelings about the layoffs." Many people on the picket line felt that this was not enough; that immediate forceful action is needed to ensure that these employees are rehired.

Such is undoubtedly the case. AFSCME should adopt a policy that no Detroit employee works until all employees are rehired. By accepting even a partial rehiring of the laid off employees, AFSCME capitulates to the city's plan to make the residents

of Detroit and its employees pay for the financial crisis of the city.

In the midst of cutbacks and layoffs, the City continues with plans to build a multi-million dollar Waterfront Stadium. Mayor Gribbs recently hired nine new assistants for himself at a salary of about \$25,000 per year for each. These boondoggles must be scrapped to solve the city's immediate crisis.

The plight of city employees in De-

troit is not an isolated instance of cutbacks and layoffs. It is something that is happening all over the country. Many local governments are coming up against the same financial crisis, and all are responding with the same formula: cutbacks in services and employment. In some places services formerly provided by city employees are being bid out to private firms.

Blacks, other minority groups, and working class white inner-city dwellers are the hardest hit by such cutbacks. It is they who are dependent on the services provided by the city -- and it is they who hold the jobs that are cut.

In Detroit, city employees have the right to strike. Many employees on the picket line felt that now is the time to do so. The rank and file of the union must demand that Simpson and other AFSCME leaders employ this basic weapon now, before it is too late, before the unionists too weak and demoralized to do so successfully.

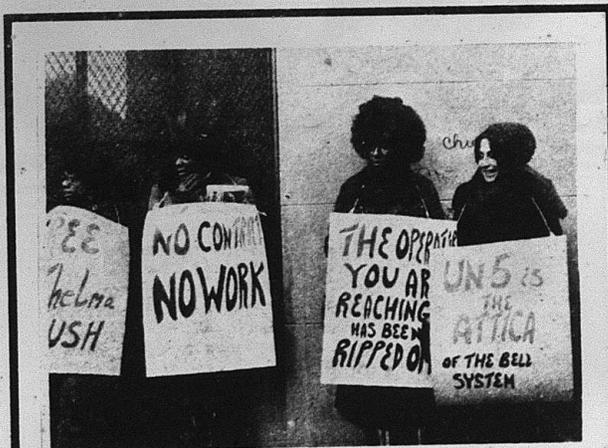
#### CRUMBLING MYTH

Most public employees do not have the right to strike. With this basic defense removed, it is very difficult to fight the employer, the state, effectively. It is a right that is being demanded and must be won for all public employees.

For the past few years, there has been a growing wave of militancy among public employees some of the most poorly paid workers. For many years they have been encouraged to accept poor working conditions and poor pay, the reasoning being that public employees at least have job security. The myth created was that the government never cuts back, even in the midst of depression.

But there is a new generation of public employees, many of them black. They are unwilling to accept the myth. They want the same working conditions and pay standards realized by the rest of the American working class. Now the myth is crumbling altogether as city, state, and even the federal government begins massive cutbacks in employment. Such cutbacks can only add to the wave of unionization and militancy displayed by public employees in recent years. ■

## Operators Walk Out Against Racism



Operators picket line in New York

After weeks of on-the-job resistance to harassment by white New York Telephone management at the 108th St. building (See *Workers' Power* No. 49), about half the operators there walked off the job on Monday, January 31. The strike leaders, all black operators, passed out a leaflet calling for an end to racist and sexist harassment.

Among the 30 demands put forth by the operators was the demand that a recently fired operator at the West St. Building be reinstated (See *Workers' Power* No. 50), that racist managers be fired, that Martin Luther King Day and Black Solidarity Day be paid holidays, that service to the Harlem Community (which 108th St. serves) be improved, and many more.

The operator's picket line was supported by striking Communication Workers of America craftsmen, mostly members of United Action and TELRUM (which is affiliated with the

Black Workers Congress). Both the operators and the craftsmen hope to spread the strike of operators to other buildings.

The 108th St. strikers went to the CWA Local 1101 meeting to appeal for support and were cheered by the Plant Department strikers. A motion was put on the floor calling for 1101 to publicly and actively support this and any other operator walkout. The motion passed unanimously.

The 108th St. operators have shown that Traffic Department women can fight back even though they are trapped in a company union, the Telephone Traffic Union (TTU). They have, both at 108th St. and at West St. exposed the uselessness of the TTU. They have also shown that it is possible, indeed, necessary, for the traffic women and the plant men and women to work together to beat Pa Bell. ■

# Soft Drink Scabs

Workers at the Vernors Bottling Plant in Detroit have been on strike against the Vernors Corporation for the past three weeks, in a bitter dispute over wage levels and layoffs. The strike has now spread to all 700 workers in the plant, and the company has moved to attempt to break the strike through use of scab labor.

The strike, called by Local 297 (AFL-CIO), began last month over an attempted pay cut for Vernors' delivery drivers and helpers. These workers are paid on a "commission" (i.e. piece-rate) basis; drivers had been earning \$.15 per case delivered, their helpers \$.12 per case. The company attempted to reduce the pay rates to \$.09 and \$.06 per case respectively -- which would cut these workers' paychecks an average of \$.60 a week.

The union also learned that the company was planning to lay off 200 workers at the plant, and to increase the workloads of the remaining workers to pick up the "slack." Opposition to this blatant form of speedup was added to the union's list of demands.

Negotiations are continuing. But a spokesman for Local 297, union steward Joe Gordon, stated that "the company is not negotiating in good faith. They seem to be more interested in crippling the union than settling the strike."

For two weeks, Vernors has been



employing scab truck drivers to handle cargos at the plant. Gordon stated that these scabs have ignored union picket lines, and that each truck contained a guard "armed with a shotgun and a pistol."

Gordon has also charged the Vernors management with attempting to illegally coerce the strikers back to work. He stated that the company sent telegrams last week to all employees, ordering them to return to their jobs and threatening to hire permanent scabs to replace them if they refused.

This open attack on the living standards of Vernors' workers is part of the general offensive by American corporations against unionized workers and the whole of the working class. This offensive is being carried out with the approval and participation of the Nixon Administration in Washington, which has led the attack with wage controls.

The striking workers at Vernors deserve the support of the Detroit labor movement as a whole and its friends and supporters. If Vernors is successful in breaking this strike and imposing its interests, it will make it that much harder for other workers to defend their own interests in the future. ■

[Adapted from an article by Ken Fireman in *The Fifth Estate*, February 11-24, 1972.]

## Maids Fight Layoffs At Columbia



Thirty maids at Columbia University, all black and Latin women, received termination notices on January 8. The maids, members of TWU Local 241 (a company union organized at Columbia in the late forties), are receiving no support from their union leadership.

Pickets have marched in front of Low Library, the administration building in which Bill McGill, president of Columbia, has his office, to protest the lay-offs and alert the rest of the campus. Their major demand, featured in chants and on signs, is "Equal Pay for Equal Work/Stop the Lay-Offs." (Maids and janitors, who do essentially the same work, are paid \$118 and \$136 a week respectively.)

Other basic slogans are "McGill says cut-back, We say fight back" (the

administration attempts to justify the lay-offs as part of a general budget cut-back), and "O'Brien gets paid off, maids get laid off." O'Brien is the head of 241.

Joining the picket line have been maids and other rank and file members of 241, including janitors and people from the electrical and carpenters shops; members of Local 1199, Drug and Hospital Workers Union of New York; the Women's Affirmative Action Coalition; and many student groups, including the Latin American Students Organization, the Barnard Organization of Soul Sisters, and the Columbia Anti-Imperialist Movement.

1199 is the union of the cafeteria workers and about 2/5 of the clerical workers on campus, primarily those in the libraries and accounting divi-

sions. The rest of the clerical staff, including most of the departmental office workers and secretaries, are unorganized.

The Women's Affirmative Action Coalition (WAAC) is a group organized around the issue of sex discrimination on campus. It is composed of women not only from the staff (custodial and clerical), faculty, and student body, but also the administration at Columbia. (Sex discrimination at Columbia is so blatant that the university is threatened with the loss of all federal funds unless it comes up with an "Affirmative Action Plan" acceptable to the Department of Health, Education and Welfare.)

The WAAC has brought a court suit against both Columbia and Local 241. The suit is aimed at getting the maids rehired and abolishing the difference in job classifications between maids and janitors.

The job classifications affect not only pay but also seniority. There are separate seniority lists for maids and janitors. Lay-offs follow seniority within job classifications -- and most of the women laid-off had more seniority than a number of janitors, and had there been only one list, would not have been laid-off.

On January 28, WAAC lawyers obtained a temporary injunction restraining the university from firing anyone except for cause, until the state has finished its investigation of sex discrimination in the job classifications. The maids will retain their jobs at least for the duration of the investigation.

The current suit, if won, would be only a first step in fighting lay-offs at Columbia. It would not stop the ad-

ministration from laying off thirty workers, both women and men, for "budgetary reasons," according to seniority. Continued action by organized workers is essential.

The situation at Columbia is not unique. All over the country, workers are being laid off. As jobs become scarcer and prices higher, the need to fight against lay-offs is increasingly obvious.

The maids at Columbia are fighting back. Although the administration has offered to place individual women in other jobs, that would not help the rest of the Columbia workers, or guarantee security in the new jobs.

The maids have decided to fight now for job security. This is already bringing them into conflict with the sellout union leadership. The next few weeks may see the development of a rank and file movement to dump O'Brien and make the union responsible to the needs of its members. How possible this will be remains to be seen.

The situation is complicated by the fact that organized Columbia workers are in two different unions and that many are in no union at all. We in 1199 should press our leadership to work closely with the maids.

Obviously, members of 1199 should honor their picket lines. In addition, in the interests of making it more difficult for the university to attack individual groups of workers, all campus workers should be invited to join 1199.

In the next few weeks we should form liaison committees to establish a working relationship between the two groups of organized workers. We will then have begun to build the basis for protecting both the maids' jobs and our own. ■

## bread & roses

### Abortion Injunction

A judge in Ottawa, Ontario, acting on behalf of a man and the "infant plaintiff," the unborn child, has issued a permanent injunction restraining the man's wife from having an abortion. Lawyers said it is the first such injunction issued in Canada.

The woman, a 37-year old teacher, and mother of four, was 16 weeks pregnant when she went to an Ottawa hospital seeking an abortion. In Canada, abortion is permitted for therapeutic reasons determined by a committee of hospital doctors.

The operation was recommended by a doctor at the hospital who said that a continued pregnancy would risk the mother's life and might result in an abnormal baby. The husband at first approved this recommendation but later took his wife to her former physician in Montreal who prescribed medicine and rest.

The husband told the court that after the hospital committee approved

the abortion, one of the doctors told him that the decision had been based on "principles of a philosophic order." At this point the husband objected and sought court action to prevent the operation.

The defendants in the case were the hospital and the two doctors involved. The wife was not represented by counsel.

David Dehler, the lawyer who successfully sought the injunction, told reporters that from now on, even when both parents and a hospital committee approved an abortion, a third party could prevent the abortion on behalf of the fetus. "The next step is to have a guardian appointed for all unborn children in Ontario," he said.

Such "guardians" have recently been appointed to represent fetuses in court in New York State and in Michigan. Their actions are supported by anti-abortion groups which stress the "right to life" of the fetus. The right of women to life and health, and of parents and children to a decent standard of living, is apparently not a subject of concern to such groups.

### Walking Advertisement

"Any woman, no matter what post she occupies, should remain a woman. She should know how to cook and how to keep house nicely. If she does not, she is not a woman."

These were the words of Yekaterina Furtseva, the minister of cultural affairs and highest-ranking female official of the Soviet Union, when she was questioned by reporters during her visit to the US last month.

She said that, "The most important thing for the liberation of women is that there be an equal number of men and women in parliament . . . women elected as governors and senators . . . then there will be equality."

According to a *New York Times* report, Mrs. Furtseva, although "apparently uninterested in fashion during her climb, and early years in power, is now a walking advertisement and spokesman for Soviet couture." Her tweed dress, custom-made gold jewelry, and her mink coat were described in some detail.

### Ms. Nude Michigan

Thomas Wishart, who runs a nude photographic and body painting studio in Highland Park, Michigan, is trying to promote a "Ms. Nude Michigan" pageant.

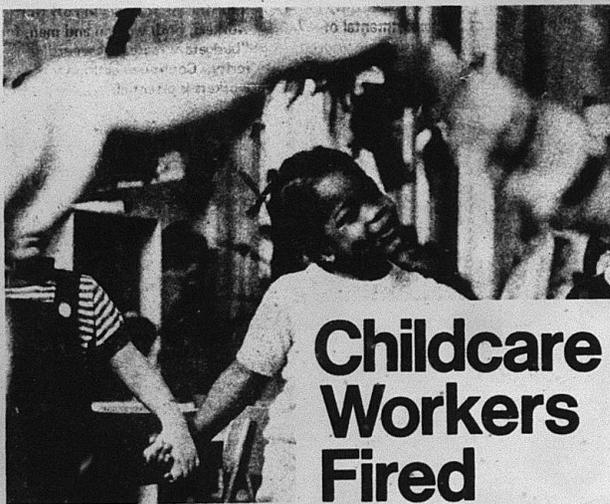
Wishart's request to hold the con-

test in Detroit's Cobo Hall was turned down by the mayor and other city officials, who decided that such an event was not in the public interest. One councilman was quoted in *The Fifth Estate*, a Detroit underground paper, as saying, "If those gals want to parade around in the nude, tell 'em to go over to Belle Isle (a city park) so they can freeze their fannies."



Wishart plans to go ahead with the pageant anyway. Interestingly enough, the project was originally billed as the "Miss Nude Michigan" beauty contest, but later he changed the "Miss" to "Ms.", the form of address preferred by some women because it doesn't reveal one's marital status, just as "Mr." is used by all men, married or single.

Apparently this was an attempt on Wishart's part to gain support for his sexist and exploitative venture by masking it as a "liberating" event. ■



## Childcare Workers Fired

On January 7, an all-day picket line was formed in front of the Holley Center in Hackensack, New Jersey. The demonstration was called to protest the recent sudden dismissal of six childcare workers, who had served as counsellors to the seventeen young girls in the residential treatment center.

On December 16, the six workers — the entire child care staff — staged a symbolic two day walkout to show their disapproval of the administration's continual petty harassment and its refusal to respond to requests concerning working conditions. The following morning each of the women received telegrams stating that, due to their walkout the previous day, they

were dismissed.

The six contend that their dismissal was in retaliation for their union activities and their past attempts to question administration policy. Two days before their walkout, a representative from Local 1199, Drug and Hospital Workers of New York, had notified Julian Stone, executive director of Youth Consultation Services of Newark, which operates Holley Center, that the child care workers intended to join that union.

The women had been trying for several months to improve their effectiveness in working with the children by requesting in-service training. The young girls at the center are abused or

neglected children with emotional problems. The workers wanted to be more than babysitters to these children, and felt that they needed professional training in order to work more effectively with them.

They also wanted permission to read the children's case histories. The workers, not the administrators, worked and lived with the children, but did not have any voice in matters concerning the young girls. Their low salaries, \$5,000 a year, reflected the attitude of the administration toward the work done by the child care workers.

When the women attempted to discuss these problems with the Director, Mrs. Jessie Stern, they were treated with hostility and were refused most of their requests. They were promised a token 5.5 percent increase in salary pending the end of the wage freeze.

Board of Directors members such as Dr. Ernest May, president, and Bishop G. E. Rath of Newark, honorary vice-president, refused to investigate the situation. The Board relied solely on the word of the administrators and thereby denied the workers the right of appeal guaranteed by established procedure.

At first Bishop Rath agreed that there should be an appeal, but later changed his mind after director Stone made slanderous allegations concerning the workers — allegations contrived by the administration to try to end any further inquiry into the dismissals. The workers were also refused the pay due them for many hours overtime that they had put in since September.

Jim Esbenson, the representative from Local 1199, gave no support to the fired workers, after he had just attempted to organize them, and in fact

betrayed them by telling the press that 1199 did not support the picketing. (Although he had told the six women that he would join the line himself.)

The women feel not only that they have received oppressive treatment from their employers and deception from the union, but also that the children have been oppressed and abused by the very institution that pretends to protect them from negligent parents. The workers for a long time had accused the Center of treating the children's welfare as completely secondary to the welfare of the institution itself. The sudden dismissal of people whom the children had learned to trust and love was an inhuman act of neglect of the emotional and psychological welfare of the children.

For several weeks the Center was unable to hire new counsellors and provided only custodial care for the children. Holley Center also forbade any contact between the children and the dismissed child care workers, or any other persons associated in any way with the ex-counsellors — including many volunteer workers and friends of the children. The six women are very bitter about the effect of all this on the young girls who have gone through so much abuse and rejection in the past.

The women are attempting to have the Holley Center investigated for child abuse. They also filed a complaint with the NLRB (National Labor Relations Board) for labor law violations, but the NLRB claimed it had no jurisdiction since not enough interstate commerce was involved. The ruling has been appealed and if the appeal is denied, the six will attempt to bring Holley Center to court in New Jersey. ■



Burning stores in Rhodesian capitol of Salisbury

# Rhodesian Riots Explode Myth of "Happiest Africans"

Roger Tembo

The British Foreign Office made its usual noises about "regrets."

The following five days saw similar riots in Gatooma, Salisbury, Umtali, Que Que, and Fort Victoria. The police behaved with their customary barbarity, using dogs, tear gas, machine guns, armoured cars, and helicopters.

The regime feared, above all, uprisings in Salisbury and Bulawayo, the largest cities, and it was here that security had been tightened. Much to its annoyance it was in the small industrial towns of Gatooma and Que Que that violent riots began.

White Rhodesia began screaming for blood. The regime's reaction was typically desperate. It banned Sir Dingle Foot, arrested the Todds and numerous African National Council officials.

The ANC in fact has repeatedly called for calm. But the regime had to find agitators. It had to appear to the manic white Rhodesians to be ruthless. That is the main reason why casualty lists are made public. The 14 Africans shot dead are enough for the moment to placate white supporters of the regime.

## GROWING DEFIANCE

In spite of its ruthlessness the regime continues to face a more defiant African population. "The happiest Africans in the world" boiled with rage at the force that was being performed before them.

The defiance is not merely against the sordid settlement but against a whole system of repression and deprivation that has been created in Rhodesia for the past 80 years. British imperialism and its miserable child, the Rhodesian government, are being spat upon by five million African workers and peasants. The settlement is being universally rejected, exposing at the same time the entire system.

The Pearce Commission hearings are now being used by the Africans to express general indignation at white rule. The cry now is not only about constitutional guarantees but for land, for jobs, for education, and for freedom.

This is taken by reporters to mean that Africans do not understand the terms. But they understand them very well. The legal jargon of British civil servants, specially developed to confuse rather than explain, has been rejected in favor of a clear discussion about basic issues.

The revolt of the Rhodesian Africans has effectively buried the possibility of entrenching the alliance of the Rhodesian middle classes and British capital. But the revolt against this alliance must go beyond the settlement and prepare to take power in Rhodesia.

[Roger Tembo is a member of the British International Socialists.] ■

A month ago, Ian Smith, the Rhodesian premier, impudently declared that he had "the happiest Africans in the world."

It was this assumed apathy on the part of the Africans that was the basis of the deal between Rhodesia and Britain. It was never considered important that the African masses ought to be consulted, never mind included, in the making of decisions that affected their lives.

It never occurred to the opulent, well-fed Lord Goodman and his bosses the British government, nor to the white parasites in Rhodesia, that the ordinary African worker and peasant had the power of reason; that he had feelings or that he was a human being.

As in all ruling classes, the assumption remained that in a police state (like Rhodesia) any sordid, filthy policy could be dished out to a hungry, suppressed population.

## VOTE IN THE STREETS

The urban unemployed have since then spearheaded a dramatic intervention of the African masses to smash this Anglo-Rhodesian confidence trick. Up to 90 percent of all Africans giving evidence to the Pearce Commission have said "No" to the settlement terms. In the cities this "No" was reinforced by a tremendous outburst of violence, which has shaken white Rhodesia to its very foundations.

The pattern of violence, which now characterizes all Pearce Commission hearings, started long before the arrival of the commission. Ever since the beginning of January there have been attempts to organize African opinion against the Anglo-Rhodesian deal.

As the campaign intensified, police harassment reached unbearable proportions. People began to disappear from the townships of Salisbury and Bulawayo. Meetings were broken up and even discussions in beer halls were pounced upon by informers and police.

In the tribal areas, the district commissioners, arch-representatives of Bri-

tish imperialism, began threatening people with arrests and suppressing meetings. Militant African nationalists began to be detained on the pretext that "they were talking to others about politics."

All this was preparation by the regime to ensure a "yes" to the settlement. Again, the assumption was that the vast majority of Africans were too frightened of politics after 10 years of Rhodesian Front rule. All you had to do was remove the agitators and the settlement would be saved. The Smith regime actually believed its own propaganda.

## DESPERATE REPRESSION

This happy illusion was shattered by the spontaneous violence that flared up after January 11. The dismissal of 10 miners in the Shabani asbestos mines for "not obeying orders" provoked a massive response from the 3,000 miners. They immediately went on strike and prepared for demonstra-

tions, demanding reinstatement and a pay rise.

The police response was frantic. The commission had arrived and any African manifestation had to be suppressed quickly. On the evening of January 12 the police opened fire on a demonstration.

While retreating, the miners, in sheer frustration, began burning the beer hall (municipal property), all administrative offices and cars (all cars are assumed to be owned by whites). Eye-witnesses claim that they saw at least seven people shot dead.

It is the usual practice of the Rhodesian police in these circumstances to surround the township, impose a curfew, and begin indiscriminate shooting from armoured cars against anything that moves. At dawn a truck full of sacks tours the township to pick up the dead. The regime claimed that only one miner was shot dead and nine were wounded.

By then the commission had arrived.



# Chiefs Paid By Regime

As Africans fight back against the Smith regime, the Rhodesian authorities and their friends in the Tory press will put much stress on the fact that the settlement has been accepted by the tribal chiefs, who are said to be "responsible" representatives of African opinion.

Who are these chiefs? Far from being spokesmen for their people, they are paid agents of the white minority

regime. From the earliest days, colonial administrators enrolled them as managers or office-orderlies.

Most chiefs remain illiterate or semi-literate and imbued with the idea that the white man is boss and the African his slave. As bearers of the message of white supremacy, they receive a minimum of 36 pounds (about \$86.40) a month. Their loyalty is thus guaranteed.

To ensure that the people would

not object to this sell-out by their traditional leaders, a law was introduced which made it an offence for an African to criticize a chief in speech or writing. He can be fined 30 pounds (about \$72.00). A white person may say what he likes about a chief.

The few chiefs who have rejected their new role, such as Chief Mangwende, who supported African nationalism, were deposed and detained. ■

# Mass Protests Against British Massacre in Derry

[Continued from page 1]

dressed the crowd urging them to "Stand firm because we outnumber the British Army. We shall hold our meeting," the sounds of gunfire crackled through the air. Several bursts of automatic fire ripped through the crowd around the platform.

The crowd was too large; people stumbled over each other in their attempt to escape the bullets. But each time people tried to move, the bullets whistled through the air. As the demonstrators finally reached cover, they left behind an area covered with dead and wounded.

## "SHOOT TO KILL"

But the British paratroopers continued to fire. Those who went into the open with their arms raised in surrender were shot down as they attempted to aid their wounded comrades. Priests were shot at as they aided the dying. Members of the Red Cross were shot at. All moving objects were considered fair game for the British murderers.

The British justification for the massacre was that their troops had been fired on by snipers. Those who recall the official excuse for the killings at Kent State University in 1970 may find this rationale grimly amusing.

Whatever credibility the British line might have possessed was blown away when a British paratrooper who deserted just before the shootings asked for political asylum in Dublin.

Lance Corporal Peter McMullon, 24, testified that he fled to Southern Ireland because the paratroopers were ordered to shoot to kill before the march on Bloody Sunday.

## GENERAL STRIKE

The people of Ireland, north and south -- outraged by the massacre -- are planning actions to end both the role of British troops in Northern Ireland and the hypocritical policies of the southern government.

The Provisional and Official IRA gathered together in Derry for a press conference where they promised there would be reprisals for the mass murder of 13 innocent people. In the South, the British embassy in Dublin was burned down. Students in Belfast and Cork led marches protesting the killings and the internment policy.

A general strike virtually closed down many cities in Northern Ireland. Bernadette Devlin proclaimed:

*"For a start there should be an all-out general strike until the British Army is withdrawn. No work, no kids at school, no nothing until we see the backs of the British Army getting out of our lives."*

On January 31, Bernadette Devlin personally delivered her own response to British Home Secretary Reginald Maudling. As the Tory aristocrat spoke in Commons to defend the actions of the troops, Devlin rose to ask recognition to speak. She was denied recognition, despite the fact that she was the



British embassy burning in Dublin

## only member of Commons present at the bloody rally.

Enraged by this crowning insult, she assaulted Maudling on the floor of the Commons. When asked later if she regretted her action, she snapped: "I am only sorry I didn't get to his throat."

The atrocity in Derry sparked angry protests throughout the world. On February 2, hundreds of demonstrators invaded the British consulate in New York City, burnt a British flag, and systematically disrupted the offices. Ten were arrested.

In London, on February 4, thousands of English staged an angry march on 10 Downing Street -- Britain's equiv-

alent to the White House -- which erupted into a battle with police. When it was over, 90 people were hospitalized -- 50 of them cops.

Then on Sunday, February 6, -- one week after the killings in Derry -- insurgents in North Ireland faced down the British by staging a well-planned protest march in the border town of Newry. Over 30,000 people attended -- the most massive demonstration in Ulster since the civil rights campaign began.

The march, which avoided a direct confrontation with British troops, gave notice that the struggle for freedom and self determination in Ulster would not be frightened out of existence by terror and repression, but would only

grow stronger. Following the massive Newry march, spokesmen for the Civil Rights Association announced plans for a day of "national disruption" on Wednesday, February 9.

The brutal actions of the troops, the reaction of the people in the South, and the threat of continuing strikes and protests has forced the hand of the politicians in the North, South, and Britain. The moderate program of tacit support for the Stormont regime and cooperation between the Republic of Ireland and Britain has been exploded.

Jack Lynch, Prime Minister of the southern government, had recently arrested members of the Provisional IRA and had been readying his own internment camps in his attempt to stay on good terms with Britain during the Common Market negotiations. He is now calling for an international inquiry, international troops such as a UN force, and the end of internment in the North.

Conor Cruise O'Brien, Irish Labor Party spokesman for foreign affairs, had been placing the blame on the IRA for all the actions of the troops in the North. Now he states that "Those of us who had been working for a peaceful solution feel near to despair." He also calls for an international inquiry, although he adds that "Britain would have to agree to any UN inquiry."

## NO DESPAIR

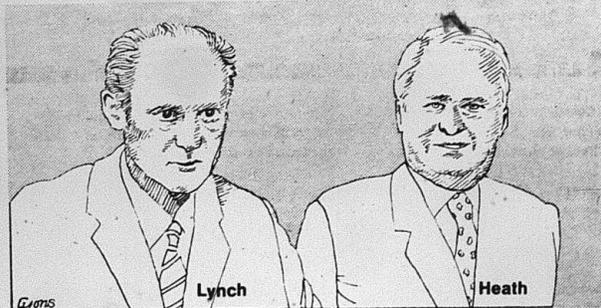
The people of Northern Ireland do not feel that despair. They do not call for any inquiries, international or otherwise. They know what happened and who is to blame. British inquiries have had their day in Northern Ireland and in the world.

In 1919, the British troops fired on a meeting of 5,000 Indians. 379 persons were shot dead. The British court of inquiry said the incident had been "an error of judgement." What more will they say to the people in Northern Ireland today?

The British parliament has appointed Lord Chief Justice Widgery as a one-man committee of inquiry. But parliament approved the internment policy, accepted Heath's increasing the British forces in Ireland, and Heath's sending the paratroopers into Derry. Is it now going to say the whole policy was a mistake?

The people in Northern Ireland have seen that any protest is a threat to the security of British imperialism. The workers in the south learned the same when they attempted to strike and protest Ireland's entry into the Common Market. Jack Lynch will not be angry with Britain for very long. Workers in Britain and Ireland know that when the going gets rough they cannot expect support from Heath or Lynch.

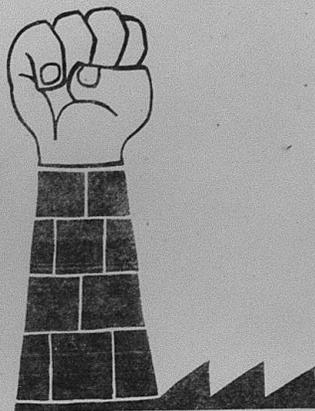
The workers in Ireland must appeal to the British working class for support. Together the workers in Britain and Ireland can put a stop to the Tory policy of murder. ■



# Under New Management

## British Workers Occupy Factory

Roger Protz



**Under New Management:** the words are spelled out in giant black letters along the wall surrounding the Fisher-Bendix factory in Kirkby, near Liverpool, England.

The new managers are the 1,000 workers who are occupying the plant 24 hours a day to prevent its being shut down. The vote to start a sit-in was taken unanimously on January 5, when management refused to withdraw their notices of closure and removal of machinery.

The management was given 10 minutes to leave the grounds. Then the workers took over. It was another collective refusal to accept the bosses' belief that profits are more important than people.

In six months, the tactic of factory occupations has spread south from Scotland with the realization that those who produce the wealth and run the machines have the power and the right to take such action to save their jobs.

With each new occupation has come a growing militancy, a greater determination. The respectable "work-in" on the Clyde with friendly relations between workers and managers (See *Workers' Power* Nos. 43 and 47) has been replaced at Plessey, Allis-Chalmers and now Fisher-Bendix with an authoritative declaration:

*"We're not working their machines — they're not having their machines until they guarantee our jobs."*

### WORKERS' TRUTH

The Kirkby factory was built 1½ years ago, with the aid of a 3½ million pound (about \$9,400,000) government grant. It was then a subsidiary of the British Motor Corporation and the main product was the Bendix washing machine.

BMC sold the firm in 1968 to Parkinson-Cowan, who were swallowed last year by Sir Jules Thorn's multi-million domestic appliances combine. Production of washing machines at Kirkby was run down in preference to central-heating radiators.

The stewards were told that Thorn was stopping the production of washing machines completely. Radiators were just a convenient stop-gap for the management until they closed the Kirkby plant.

The story about stopping Bendix production was a lie. It took a workers' occupation to find out the truth. Management correspondence files have been most informative.

While the stewards were being told that Bendix machines were, so to speak, all washed up, Mr. K. Booth, the Kirkby branch manager, rushed

out a letter to the trade:

*"Dear Bendix Customer: This letter is to clear up any doubts you may have as to the future of Bendix in the Domestic Appliance Industry. It has been reluctantly decided to cease the manufacture of Bendix Washing Machines at the Fisher-Bendix plant. . . This does not mean the departure of Bendix from the washing machine scene; Bendix products will continue to be marketed and the range will be expanded."*

With some excitement, Mr. Booth told the trade that a new tumble-dryer would be added to the Bendix line.

Other letters in the management files answer the apparent contradiction between closing the Kirkby plant and stopping production of washing machines while the trade was being given a glowing report of exciting new machines.

Elaborate plans had been under way for a year to have Bendix machines made under license by a firm called CARSA in Spain. The new tumble dryer machine had been developed at Kirkby. Now it was to be put into production in Spain where a police state makes trade unions illegal and wages and conditions are so bad as to ensure the maximum profits for Fisher-Bendix.

The whole sordid business throws an interesting light onto the "morality" of capitalism: exploit the skills of Lancashire workers for 1½ years with the aid of lavish sums of public money, then threaten to close the works at a time of high unemployment and minimum new job opportunities while you prepare to switch your exploitation to the workers of fascist Spain.

Now secrecy and lying have been replaced by workers' democracy. Weekly mass meetings — they can be held more frequently — discuss the progress of the sit-in strike and future plans.

Special committees have been elected to run the occupation on a 24-

hour, six-shift basis: they include press, propaganda, security, hygiene, attendance, refuse collection, canteen and entertainment. Every worker gets an attendance card each day and reports to a committee for duties.

Once grubby and with unappetizing food, the canteen is a good example of the pride the workers' now have. The kitchen staff scraped a quarter-inch of grease off the floors and keep it clean while excellent meals are prepared.

The employees are working for themselves, not Thorn. The giant presses that once thundered out an endless stream of washing machines and radiators stand idle and, as far as the stewards are concerned, will remain idle until they receive a guarantee of work and no layoffs.

The management's disregard for its workers' livelihoods is not matched by its concern for the machines. When supplies of oil for heating the plant were cut off after the occupation began, the workers threatened to light fires under the presses. Oil supplies restarted — and Thorn will have to foot the bill.

*The workers know that the plant, worth 2 million pounds (about \$4,800,000), is a trump card.*

We were shown around the Fisher-Bendix plant by Archie Breden, the electricians' steward, now in charge of organizing trips to raise support and money for the occupation.

Factories and building sites throughout Merseyside have been visited. Support is rolling in: food for the kitchens, donations to the strike fund and promises of physical support if Thorn attempts to evict the workers.

I told Archie Breden that I had been struck immediately by the authority and efficiency of the occupation. What did they feel about the "necessary" role of management?

*"Management are redundant," he*



Fisher-Bendix workers discuss occupation

*said: "We could run the factory. Of course, we would have problems, but we would get assistance from other experienced trade unionists."*

*"People became immediately responsible. They no longer feel subservient."*

The key to victory is a solidarity campaign that will hit at the whole giant Thorn empire. The first step is effective action within the Thorn combine and all Thorn shop stewards were invited to Kirkby last Saturday to discuss the situation.

The Kirkby workers struck last year when 500 were threatened with the sack but they seemed isolated until workers at the Birmingham plant responded to their appeal and threatened to strike themselves. Thorn backed down within hours.

Kirkby is also appealing to the wider trade union movement to boycott Thorn products. The strikers hope that dockers will refuse to handle the Spanish made Bendix machines now being imported into Britain. Because of their shoddy materials, they would quickly rot on the quayside and help bring Sir Jules to heel.

Last week Thorn announced pre-tax profits of more than 19½ million pounds (about \$46,800,000) for the six months to September last year. Experts expect a colossal 48 million pounds (about \$115,200,000) in profits in the next period. Action that hits at those profits can force the bosses to retreat and agree to keep the factory open.

### LAYOFF THE BOSSES

The Fisher-Bendix factory hums with quiet determination and conviction. There is a struggle that deserves and must have the active support of every trade unionist in Britain.

Along with the other factory occupations, it is a declaration that working people, whose skill and enterprise creates the profits and wealth of the minority, will fight for the most basic of democratic rights — the right to work.

It is a demonstration, too, of the enormous enterprise and organizing ability of working people, a pointer to a sane society where production is for use not profit.

Under New Management is a sign that needs to be hung on every factory gate in Britain. It is not the workers but Sir Jules Thorn and the rest of his class who should be laid off. ■

*[Excerpted from Socialist Worker, the weekly newspaper of the British International Socialists, January 22, 1972.]*

# British Miners Fight Unemployment

The miners' strike is as strong as ever after three weeks. Reports show that thousands of power workers, dockers, lorry drivers, and railmen are respecting the miners' picket lines.

They recognize that men who work in a dangerous and precarious job are having to fight an arrogant and vicious government merely to keep up with the soaring cost of living.

The Tories and the press see the strength of this support and try to undermine it with lies. Their favorite story is that they sympathize with the plight of the coalworkers, but that a further pay rise would damage the economy, make the mines unprofitable, and push up unemployment even more.

The truth is quite different. A victory for the miners can help the unemployed.

The biggest single cause of unemployment in recent years has been the spread of productivity deals throughout industry. Even Edward Heath inadvertently admitted this in parliament on Monday when he said that:

*"Last year productivity rose by the exceptional amount of 5.5 percent... thus slightly more was produced using only 19 workers for each 20 previously."*

The Coal Board's offer in the pre-



Miners from the Coventry area on picket duty at the giant West Drayton coal depot in West London seen discussing with a lorry driver on Tuesday. The pickets have mounted a 24-hour guard on the depot and have successfully turned away a number of lorries

sent dispute rests on the same argument. It demands productivity increases that cannot be fulfilled without closing more pits.

If the miners smash the Tory policy on wages, then they will feel strong enough to take on the Coal Board over the question of pit closures as well. And all other groups of workers will see that pay increases can be won

without accepting cuts in the work force.

The fastest way to cut unemployment in Britain today would be for the trade union movement to fight for an end to overtime working, so forcing employers to take on more men. But this is not easy while the average worker has to put in 7½ hours overtime a week in order to earn enough

to live on. If the Tory policy on wages is beaten, real struggle against overtime working can begin.

For these reasons, it is essential that every section of the working class redoubles its efforts in support of the miners. The official leaders of other unions have been slow in organizing support.

Leaders of the four unions in the power industry have called for an overtime ban, but have not issued the call for a more militant more effective form of action, a work-to-rule, that would hit big business immediately.

The leaders of the miners union have been slow in at least one respect as well. Tens of thousands of single miners are beginning to face hardship. Now is the time for a real hardship fund to be set up and for the miners to demand that the leaders of other unions organize massive support for the fund throughout industry.

Real solidarity action, effective boycotting of coal, and a united front of miners and power workers can win a major victory for the entire labor movement and ease the misery of un-the million unemployed.■

[Reprinted from *Socialist Worker*, the weekly newspaper of the British International Socialists, Jan. 29.]

The naked violence of the British Tory government's rule in Northern Ireland has a more subtle counterpart at home. Recent months have seen a step-up of repression by the police and lawcourts.

On the one hand, police corruption and brutality against minorities -- the left, blacks, youth, hippies -- is growing. Crime and corruption among British "bobbies" come to light almost daily. Recently two Leeds police officers were found guilty of repeatedly assaulting a Nigerian vagrant and -- only just -- not guilty of hounding him to suicide.

On the other hand, an ideological offensive is being mounted in the lawcourts. Three recent, well-publicized cases illustrate the aims of the system of "justice" and the police, and the limited role of the jury, even when they reject patently fabricated prosecution evidence.

In the *OZ* trial, the editors of this underground magazine were accused of publishing obscene material -- their "Schoolkids' Issue," which savagely attacked the tyrannies of parents, school, and police (high school students had helped produce it).

Several magazines like *OZ* in Britain cater to the largely inward-looking and utopian hippie culture. Most of them run, from time to time, discussions on political subjects such as Ireland, and semi-political attacks on the system in general.

The prosecution at the trial laid as much stress on the "corrupting power" of anti-authoritarian articles as on the bawdy cartoons. The editors were found guilty by the jury, and they had unprecedentedly savage sentences imposed by the judge.

On appeal, the sentences were revoked, but the appeal judges' reasons for declaring a mistrial amounted to a new set-up for obscenity trials: one obscene item is sufficient, and no evidence of literary or social merit admissible. The teeming porn merchants of London's Soho aren't worried -- the decision is a move in the ideological war against the underground press, not a threat to the "honest" obscenity trade.

The "Carr bombing case" arose out of an explosion at the home of Tory Employment Minister Robert Carr. The responsibility for this and other minor bombings last year was claimed by "the Angry Brigade."

There may be a small number of anarchists in Britain crazy enough to carry out this self-important "terror campaign," but the police had a field

day attacking anarchist groups in general. They finally rounded up seven-teen people, and the first two, Purdie and Prescott, were tried in November.

Purdie, a middle class film technician, was found not guilty of all the charges of bombing and conspiracy. (He is still in prison, awaiting trial on fraud charges.) Prescott, a working class youth with a criminal record, was found guilty of conspiracy -- in effect, of addressing three envelopes.

The jury's decision was a slap in the face for the police, since the rest of their elaborate evidence was rejected. The judge, however, sentenced Prescott to fifteen years' imprisonment, a sentence more normal for serious crimes against property.

(In fact, two members of the fascist fringe were found guilty a year ago of "damage to property," and sen-

tenced to two and three years' imprisonment. They had thrown petrol bombs into a crowded West Indian party, and many of the guests were hideously injured. In contrast, Mr. Carr, to the relief of Tory ladies, was not injured at all, though his suburban front door was, alas, ruined.)

Behind the trial of the "Mangrove Nine" in December was a pattern of police racism in a predominantly black area of London. The nine young black defendants were accused of "conspiracy to riot" -- a very serious charge -- for a demonstration in protest of police harassment of the Mangrove restaurant, a popular black social center and meeting place. During the trial, defendants were repeatedly silenced, removed from the court, and threatened with further charges.

The jury cleared all nine of the main charges against them. Their rejection of the police evidence as a pack of lies was not simply implied by their vote for acquittal -- drinking afterwards with the defendants and newspaper reporters, some of the jury openly said this was their attitude.

So the Mangrove Nine went free, and British "justice" was vindicated, but not the British police. One public humiliation will not stop police brutality against blacks, however. The defendants are now marked men and women; in fact, one of them was re-arrested within twenty-four hours.

Police brutality, phony evidence, and bloodthirsty judges are nothing new. The Tories are using the normal state machinery in a normal way -- but to give satisfaction to the "law and order" lobby that helped elect them, they are making it a bit more open and vicious.■



## British Police Step Up Repression

Norah Carlin

# THE FRENCH CONNECTION

## a review

Chris Winslow



*The French Connection* is a fine thriller in the tradition of cops and robbers (this year, it's cops-and-pushers). It is playing to full houses. Unfortunately, it is also a reactionary movie, which demonstrates contempt for human life and repeats some of the major ideas of classic American right-wing propaganda.

The reactionary concepts are not apparent at first. *The French Connection*, which is based on actual incidents, portrays a dumb, bumbling but stubborn narcotics cop and his somewhat reluctant but loyal sidekick.

We learn that some time previously a goof-up by the team resulted in a policeman being killed and that the Department thinks very little of them. Now, "Popeye" Doyle, the cop, suspects he is on to a major heroin ring, involving at the top a wealthy businessman and a slick, sophisticated supplier from France (the French "connection").

Criticism of the police appears in several scenes showing Popeye and his buddy at work on the street. They break into bars and pool halls in the Brooklyn slums, slap the customers up against the walls, beat and threaten them.

"Never trust a nigger," Popeye snarls, while his sidekick ineffectually

protests, "But suppose he was white?" It seems to be an unsentimental picture of the true cop -- dumb, brutal, and racist as in real life.

This impression is heightened in the central chase sequence between a car and an elevated train. Popeye lights off after a sniper, who has already wounded a woman -- a woman we hear no more about.

The sniper manages to make it to an el train and forces the motorman to roar through several stations. He terrorizes the other passengers and shoots two Transit cops, while on the street below, Popeye commandeers a passing car and gives chase.

Screaming through crowded Brooklyn streets, the cop nearly kills a woman with a baby carriage, until the el train rams into another and stops. Popeye emerges from the smashed car in time to shoot the sniper in the back.

Still later, shooting at a shadow he thinks is the French "connection," Popeye kills another cop.

The thing is, we are supposed to dig all this. Popeye, the bumbler, is set against the smooth professionals -- he is the underdog, the modern version of the country bumpkin against the city slicker. We are supposed to root for him.

We are not supposed to care about

the bodies strewn around, the blacks battered against the bar-room wall -- if he Gets His Man. When Popeye finally uncovers the heroin cache, after the Department has concluded he is crazy, we are supposed to triumph with him. You can't make an omelette without breaking eggs, after all.

The brutality, the racism, the disregard for rights, are the way the police really act. The core of the movie is that *all this is justified*. If there is any doubt about the message, it's dispelled at the end, when we learn that the suspects were all given minor sentences or had their cases dismissed for "insufficient evidence."

The point is clear -- those bleeding-heart judges and civilian juries, with their respect for the constitution and rules of evidence, are responsible for the continuation of drug traffic.

But in real life, police complicity, and not civilian softness, is in good part responsible for the drug traffic. And the brutality and racism so well portrayed by *The French Connection* are directed not just against minor junkies and pushers, but against blacks, long-hairs, and now white working class teenagers.

The brutality and racism portrayed in the film were a minor attempt at realism because in these days, no one

would believe in the dedicated, cuss-less cop of the gangster films of the '30's, '40's, and '50's.

In *The French Connection* the tough brutal cop is pitted against soft or corrupt civilian authorities. We are supposed to root for the cop, against the very inadequate restraints of law.

The theme of drugs is introduced because, like Communism in the '50's, the drug traffic is the one crime horrible enough, in the middle-class mind, to justify anything. So it is used to soften up the audience for the real point -- that the police should be freed from the interference of civilians and the law. *We need less law, and more order -- that is the message of the film.*

### RAMPANT RACISM

*The French Connection* goes one step further as a sophisticated right-wing hate film. Its racism is rampant. Though the partner tries to answer Popeye's "Never trust a nigger," the film never does. All the junkies are black, and the pushers are all Italians. The "connection" is a Frenchman (consistently referred to as "the Frog"), and the wealthy businessman who runs the show and takes the money is a Jew. Race prejudice, hatred of cultured intellectuals and foreigners, and anti-Semitism -- the classic themes of American right-wing hate propaganda.

It would be a mistake to dismiss the effect of the theme of such a movie on the grounds that *The French Connection* is "only a gangster film." Much of the public, never going near the black ghetto, never encountering cops for any charge worse than a traffic violation, finds their view of the world both shaped and reinforced in "entertainment" like this.

Insofar as people don't take this film seriously as political propaganda -- which means that they don't notice its racist assumptions -- it does its work of laying the groundwork for repression.

Curiously, but appropriately, one of the film's producers is G. David Schine -- whom some may remember from the '50's as a protege of Senator Joe McCarthy. Once a pig, always a pig. ■

## PUERTO RICAN POLITICAL PRISONERS:

### The "Yoruba" Trial

Bob Lang

On January 27, Pablo "Yoruba" Guzman, Minister of Information of the Young Lords Party, was convicted by a Federal Court jury in New York of two counts of draft resistance -- failing to report for a preinduction physical examination and refusing to report for induction into the US Army.

The trial, which lasted only three days, was attended by members of the Young Lords Party and other Puerto Rican militants, who shook up Judge Charles Metzner with shouts of "Viva Puerto Rico Libre (Free Puerto Rico)." Metzner refused to allow Yoruba's supporters to witness the final day of the trial, allowing only ten representatives.

Yoruba's defense centered around the nationalist convictions of the Young Lord militant, who argued that his resistance to the draft was "a conscious act" to fight the draft and the American military.

As Yoruba and the Young Lords Party point out, Puerto Ricans were forced to become American citizens against their will by the Jones Act of 1917, and so should not be subject to

the US draft. Also, since Puerto Ricans in the US were forced to leave Puerto Rico because of oppressive conditions created by US exploitation of Puerto Rico, Puerto Ricans in the US should not be forced to serve either.

Both Yoruba and his lawyer, Daniel Meyers, attacked the American ruling class as the guilty party. During his testimony, Yoruba denounced American attacks upon the Vietnamese people and American racism and oppression of Puerto Ricans in Puerto Rico and the US.

Assistant US Attorney George Wilson, insisted that the war in Vietnam and racism were not relevant. Opposed to the right of self-determination for Puerto Rico, Wilson, before a courtroom packed with Puerto Rican nationalists, told the jury that "Puerto Ricans are stuck with American citizenship, whether they like it or not."

During the 1930's and 1940's, many Puerto Rican nationalists went to jail for resisting the draft. Today, the draft resistance movement in Puerto Rico is so strong that the US govern-

ment can no longer attempt to prosecute draft resisters. The trial of Yoruba reflects the attempt to extend the draft resistance movement in Puerto Rico to the Puerto Rican people in the US and the efforts of the US government to crush such a movement.

The conviction of Yoruba is another in a series of attacks on Puerto Rican militants. Carlos Feliciano, active in the Puerto Rican nationalist movement for over twenty years, soon faces trial on frameup bombing charges. Cruz, and Melendez, Humberto Pagan, William Tapia, and numerous others are recent victims of US repression.

On March 10, Yoruba will be sentenced by Judge Metzner. The maximum sentence is five years and \$10,000 fines on each of the two counts.

The courtroom must be packed on March 10, and on any other date when Puerto Rican political prisoners go to court. The government repression against Puerto Rican militants can not be left unchallenged. ■

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On December 28, Bob Reaume, an employee in the shipping department at a colloids plant in Port Huron, Mich., was fired. He was told he was being fired for being "drunk and abusive" at a company Christmas party and for taking part in a "fiasco" in Detroit more than a year earlier.

The real reason for the firing was Bob's activity as an organizer of the Port Huron Gay Liberation Front. This activity first came to the attention of management in November, 1970, when Bob's name appeared in the *Detroit News* as a participant in a protest by the Gay Liberation Front against the Episcopal Church, which had denied GLF the right to hold organizational meetings in church facilities. This demonstration was the "fiasco" later referred to by management.

Since then, Bob had been harassed in petty ways by management. For instance, although the contract says management can require a doctor's excuse only after three days off for sickness, Bob was asked for one after being out one day, and when he refused, was given one day's suspension. Before the Christmas party in December, Bob was warned through "the grapevine" that he would get in trouble if he went.

### FLIMSY CHARGES

The charges against Bob were flimsy. Being drunk at a Christmas party is like sweating in hell. The witnesses management counted on to testify to Bob's abusiveness would not do so. In any case, while the contract forbids drunkenness on company property, the party was held off company property. The demonstration in Detroit had occurred a year before and was an exercise of constitutional rights. Neither the alleged drunkenness nor the demonstration had anything to do with job performance.

But although the charges were weak, Bob was a publicly acknowledged homosexual -- indeed, he was open and proud about being gay. This made it

easy for management to label him an "undesirable."

Bob, however, decided to fight. He filed a grievance through his union, Local 339, International Brotherhood of Teamsters. Although he himself did not expect this to accomplish much, the Local promised to go to arbitration.

After failure to resolve the issue in two-party negotiation, arbitration was scheduled. However, before the arbitration hearing took place, management, warned by its lawyers that its

## Gay Worker Wins Rehiring

James Coleman

case would not stand up, agreed to rehire. Offered part payment of back wages, Bob held out for full payment, and on January 25 was rehired with full back pay.

This may be the first case in the United States where a worker fired because of homosexuality has fought the case through his union grievance procedure. Job discrimination against known homosexuals is almost universal. This causes gay men and women to keep their identity secret at work. The fear of losing one's job if found

out causes gay people to accept discrimination in every part of their lives. For example, many gay people would fight "morals" charges in court if they were not afraid of publicity.

Until now, gay people have been afraid or ashamed to fight back when fired. Bob's case shows that this is mistaken. Although IBT Local 339 is not a militant local -- in fact, most employees feel the local does not fight at all -- even this unaggressive local was forced to take a stand on the issue of job security.

Bob also found that his fellow employees overcame whatever prejudice they might have had against him. He reports, "About half the workers were really mad at the company because I was fired for no cause. The rest figured what the hell, it wasn't their job." Bob did not hear of anyone taking the attitude that "the cocksucker got what he deserved."

### FIGHT DISCRIMINATION

Many gay people assume that if they are exposed, their fellow employees will be out to get them. But the support by Bob's fellow workers shows that at least when the issue is discrimination by management, this is not necessarily the case.

Bob's case shows that the fight to protect the job rights of gay workers can be started through the traditional union principle of no firing except for job performance. In jobs where there are large numbers of gay employees, such as teaching, welfare, hospital, and others, gay employees can form groups to raise the issue in their unions. Eventually, non-discrimination against gay employees can be made a contract demand, just as non-discrimination against blacks and women can be.

Bob has already been warned to "watch his step" now that he is back at work. But by standing up courageously for his rights, he was able to win the backing of his union and the support of his fellow employees, and if he is victimized again he will have them on his side. ■



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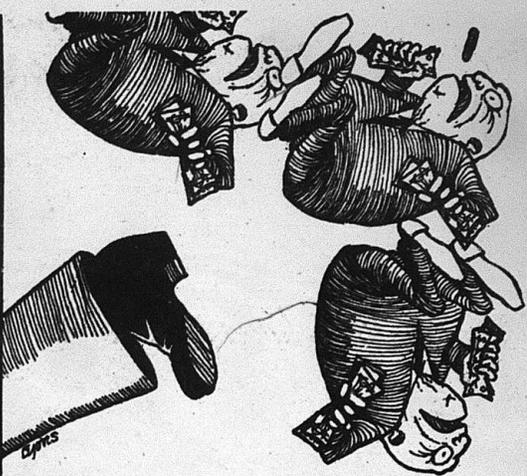
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