FBI Knew B’ham Church Bombers 13 Years Ago

KLANSMAN ACCUSED

DID IT REALLY TAKE 14 years to find out who murdered the four Black children? Not a bit of it.

Peggy Roberson, a special correspondent for the Afro-American newspaper, writes: "Within a year of the bombing of the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church in Birmingham in which four young girls died, FBI investigators were pretty sure who did it. They had suspects as well in most of the other 20 bombings which rocked Birmingham's Black community in the eight years leading up to the murders which horrified Birmingham, the country and the world.

One of those "other bombings was the 1958 bombing of the Bethel Street Baptist Church. Rev Fred Shuttlesworth, President of the Alabama Christian Movement for Human Rights, was pastor. J.B. Stoner, head of the National States Rights Party, has just been indicted for that bombing—19 years later.

WHY DELAY?

Why the delay? Federal prosecutors claim they didn't have evidence, or witnesses willing to talk, in order to get convictions.

But lack of evidence or witnesses never stopped the FBI or Justice Department when they set out to crush the Black Panther Party and other militants.

Lack of evidence never stopped FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover’s years-long campaign to sabotage and do away with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The reality, of course, is that one unpunished racist bombing simply led to the next.

Five years after the bombing of Shuttlesworth’s church, no one was arrested. The bombers who struck the Sixteenth Street Church knew they would get away too.

Four children died because the FBI, which knew who committed those other 20 bombings, brought no one to justice for them.

It was too busy trying to destroy every Black leader who stood up against the bombers and what they stood for.

Fourteen years later, Alabama Attorney General Bill Baxley has brought charges against Chambless and Stoner. But he can’t indict the Federal Bureau of Investigation, J. Edgar Hoover and the U.S. government.

Denise McNair would have been 25 years old, this year.

Her friends Cynthia Wesley, Carol Robertson and Addie Collins would have been 28.

They were killed when a powerful bomb destroyed the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Alabama, while they were in the basement changing out of their choir robes.

That was September 15, 1963.

That same night, the Alabama National Guard occupied the Birmingham Black community to prevent "disorders."

Several more Black children were killed, including an 11 year old boy who was shot in the back while riding his bicycle.

But let no one say the wheels of justice don't turn in America.

The State of Alabama charged a Klansman named Robert Chambless for the murder bombing of the church in Birmingham.

That was two weeks ago. It only took 14 years to indict him.
STOP THE KLAN'S TERROR!

Would you believe that the Ku Klux Klan "does not promote violence as a means to effect political change"? Would you believe that Klan cross-burnings are "a symbolic exercise of free speech"? Would you believe that a Klan rally scheduled for a school playground in Mississippi was "销 the peaceful assembly that is a part of public, regardless, of race, of color, or of religion?" Would you believe that nobody in the Klan had any knowledge or experience of the Ku Klux Klan? Yet, the Klan is not even mentioned in its brief that the rally was to be a peaceful assembly open to all.

The ACLU took this action over the strongest objections of half the members of the Mississippi ACLU Board of Directors. At a special meeting on August 28, the Mississippi Board split 7-7 on whether to continue to defend the Klan. Clint Deveau, a member of the ACLU National Board of Directors, was flown in from Atlanta to argue that the new KKK had abandoned its old ways.

None of the Blacks on the Mississippi ACLU board agreed with him.

The 7-7 tie was broken when Mississippi ACLU President Dick Johnson, who had indicated earlier he would oppose defending the KKK, switched sides. What makes the action more scandalous is that in 1971 and 1972 the ACLU refused to come to the defense of members of a Black nationalist party, the Republic of New Africa. The ACLU was on trial in Mississippi.

The ACLU was not asked to endorse RNA's political positions but only to defend their constitutional rights which had been violated by illegal searches and seizures, and failure to notify defendants of constitutional rights. But ACLU would not take up this case.

To their credit, a number of Mississippi ACLU board members, led by Henry J. Kirksey, refused to accept the decision to defend the Klan and resigned from the organization.

"The ACLU does not and will not submit to the pressures of the National ACLU, representatives that have come here to sell us on acceptance of the Klan as a client," they said in a press statement.

"Efforts to appease us ... have only served to make us more resolute in our convictions and to strengthen us in our struggle against racism, oppression and the denial of human rights in this country.

"We hereby tender our resignations from this organization and call upon our constituents and friends to register their support of our position we take here today.

"The people who have resigned from the ACLU are the ones who understand civil liberties.

Because this is a case of civil liberties. The acts of Black people to be free of racial intimidation and terror are at stake.

Those rights are not compatible with defending the Klan's "rights" to burn crosses and organize for terror.

There is only one way that our right to be free of racial terror—the right to live—can be guaranteed.

And it won't be by counting on the Harrison City School Board, the State of Mississippi, or the FBI. The only way is to clean the racist scum off our streets.

by Woody Grimsley

The National Peach Council has a better idea. In a letter to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), they suggested that the side effects of a pesticide, DBCP, might be used to the better of society. DBCP causes sterility in males. Laborers in peach orchards regularly come in contact with the chemical. "Couldn't workers who were old enough that they no longer wanted to have children accept such positions voluntarily?" suggests the Peach Council.

Working in peach orchards can also be "a means of getting around religious bans on birth control."

The idea is intriguing. Seeking further information, I phoned Philip Fillmore, Director of OSHA's Industrial Safety Department.

"You won't believe the number of calls we've received in the last few days," said Mr. Fillmore.

"Employees from Maine to California have phoned to suggest ways that the health hazards in their particular industries might be put to good use."

"From the coal industry comes the suggestion that lung cancer victims could be sent into the mines."

"Fillmore quotes one coal executive: "Who worries about black lung when you've got no lungs?"

"A steel industry spokesman expressed his concern for the plight of the elderly. "In a board meeting the other day where we were sitting around thinking about how hard it is going to be for older people this winter. Many can't afford to pay for heat, I hear that some even freeze to death," he said."

"We've got a solution. Let them tend our coke ovens. It's warm and comfy. Eight hours a day, and we won't even charge em."

A novel idea comes from Trucking Employers Incorpora-
ted. "Let's put insomnia into working drives. They can't sleep—the industry needs people like that. We could extend maximum hours on the road. Twelve, fourteen, sixteen hours a day, with no danger of drowsiness. We'll benefit, the public will benefit, and the insomniac will have something to do at night besides pace the floor."

Suggestions continue to pour in.

Alcoholics could be concentrated in industries with high rates of liver disease. The dead could work in high noise areas.

People who are missing limbs could be employed employing machines without safety guards.

Fillmore confided to me that some of the same sort of thinking has led to changes in the building in which he works.

"Used to be it cost a fortune to keep this place warm in the winter," says Fillmore, "but then one of the younger guys got the idea to run a pipe directly over here from the White House. And hot air cuts our fuel bill in half."
Teamster Rebellion Shakes Canada's Largest Local

by Jim Woodward

On October 3, a Canadian court teamed up with Ed Lawson, vice president of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, to evict reformer Jack Vlahovic from office as Secretary-Treasurer of Teamsters Local 213.

The case is particularly important for two reasons. First, it involves the largest Teamster local in Canada. Local 213's jurisdiction covers British Columbia and the Yukon, from the U.S. border to the Arctic Circle.

POWER GRAB

More important, the case involves a blatant power grab by the officials defeated in Local 213's January elections. After a rank and file reform slate won the local's offices, the defeated officials, led by Lawson, brought charges against Vlahovic. In kangaroo court proceedings, he was expelled from the union for life and barred from holding any Teamster office.

Local 213's membership rallied to Vlahovic's defense. There were some 15 stoppages, and rank and file members came out in Vlahovic's office to prevent his removal.

That came to an end Monday, when a Canadian judge granted an injunction ordering Vlahovic out by midnight. The membership is "not too happy about it," Vlahovic's assistant, Ron Jones, told Workers' Power.

"Hell, they elected Jack, and it was a fair election, a democratic election, and he's down the drain now... he's had it vacated."

WHAT'S AT STAKE

At stake in this fight are two things.

For the membership, the issue is whether they are going to have a militant, democratic union, with the right to elect their own officers.

For the former officers of the local, the struggle is to regain their power and privileges.

Vlahovic, Jim Blomfield, and Ron Columbus of Local 213 attended the Teamsters for a Democratic Union (TDU) national convention in Cleveland recently. While there, they told Workers' Power about their situation.

Blomfield described what things were like when he got involved in the struggle:

"I got into this because it was really apparent to me that the members were no longer being represented by the union. It was just sickening.

"TDU didn't care, they were just about the golf game after golf games, cocktail lounge after cocktail lounge. So somehow, it had to be stopped."

"Now what's happened?" added Columbus. "Is this that Ed Lawson lost the election to Jack Vlahovic, so

what he's saying is, 'All right you guys—I don't like to lose and I'm gonna get back at you.'"

"He's like a little boy in the school yard who says, 'Ah, you beat me but I'm gonna get you.' I'm gonna get you. And the members seem to get angrier and angrier when they start learning really what's been going on."

FIGHT NOT OVER

Though Vlahovic is out of office for the moment, the fight is not over by any means.

Vlahovic has demanded a hearing before the union's International Executive Board. If that goes against him, he will be free to take the issue back to court.

And at the same time, the Local 213 reformers are trying to build rank and file power within the union. They are organizing Teamsters for a Democratic Union chapter in their local.

At the TDU convention, Vlahovic told Workers' Power, "I want to say that I fully support the members of the TDU, their aims and objectives."

"Hopefully, with the people here and the enthusiasm that's here, the members will begin to grow on the basis of that common goal—to give the rank and file power within their own organization."

TDU is publicizing the case in the U.S. and Canada and is collecting petitions to the International supporting Vlahovic.

Strikebreaker Re-elected Mayor of Atlanta

by Jack Bloom

ATLANTA — Mayor Maynard Jackson has been overwhelmingly elected for a second term.

He won his second election with over two-thirds of the vote, and he helped swing some of the city council elections. His prestige and power have never been greater.

Atlanta's Black community now determines who will sit in the mayor's office, but they do not determine what he will do.

Jackson swept to an easy victory because there was no credible Black candidate to challenge him.

Everyone knew even before the election campaign began that Jackson was going to win, even though he failed to get labor council endorsement and AFSCME, the city workers' union, endorsed an opponent.

FIRST BLACK MAYOR

Jackson is the Superman of Atlanta. He graduated from Morehouse College at 18. At 35 he was the first black mayor and the youngest person to be elected mayor of this city.

The issue in 1973 was clear: Black vs. white. Jackson fought a bitter campaign against the incumbent Sam Massell.

Massell was a liberal who had unsuccessfully sought to break a strike of the city workers. Jackson had taken their part, and was backed by AFSCME and by labor generally.

Massell tried to win by stirring white fears of black domination.

When Jackson won in 1973, the Black community felt that it had won. Blacks felt they would finally get a crack at equal treatment.

The white middle class community, which is large in Atlanta, felt dispossessed. And the white Chamber of Commerce, which had run the town as long as anyone could remember, felt up against the wall.

BATTLES AND CHANGES

The 1973 Jackson victory meant some changes and some changes.

Black workers stopped hiring and promotion.

The white police chief, when he failed, simply created a job, Public Safety Commissioner, and rendered the chief powerless.

He fought for a Black share of city contracting.

Almost everything he did was seen in racial terms, including even his attempt to get a new central library.

So the Black community has drawn solidly behind him and has tended to see an attack on Maynard as an attack on them.

When Maynard Jackson broke the city workers' strike some months ago and became the biggest scab in the nation, most of the Black community didn't know what to make of it.

And many people came to his support because they were used to supporting Maynard when he was under attack.

The business community quickly moved from opposition to support. They saw that Jackson could break a strike, hold down costs, and remain popular.

He was obviously their man. They bought him. The respectable white candidates who they might have otherwise preferred were ignored.

FOUR MORE YEARS

The campaign has been boring and lackluster. Jackson has refused to run for office on platforms with his opponents so he would not give them credit.

Jackson continues to get support from the Black community because he has always been opposed by racists. This makes him look better than his actions.

So there are four more years of Jackson. In this time period, mayors will have the opportunity to learn lessons and prepare for the future.

To prepare not just for a Black candidate, but for a Black labor candidate. That is what is needed.

And it may be possible by then. In the meantime, city workers in particular will have a tough row to hoe.
ZIMBABWE

Are African Presidents selling out freedom fighters?

While western politicians and governments talk about peace in Zimbabwe (Rhodesia), the war goes on. A series of armed Black children, boys and girls, were killed by Rhodesian security forces as they were travelling toward the Mozambique border to join the liberation forces. Not a single western paper made a headline out of this atrocity.

The government of Botswana has records of no fewer than 26 separate raids by Rhodesian forces. They have struck up to 40 miles inside Mozambique, and carried out bombing raids on Zambia and Botswana. The border post of Fieria in Zambia was strafed with napalm. The government of Botswana has no fewer than 26 separate raids by Rhodesian forces.

Ian Smith, Prime Minister of the white minority government of Rhodesia (Zimbabwe) has met secretly with a prominent Black African leader, President Kenneth Kaunda of Zambia.

The secret meeting, held in Zambia September 25, was report-
ed in an Associated Press news story the following weekend. Few details of what took place at the Smith-Kaunda meeting are available.

The only published account so far simply says they met "to discuss the latest American-British plan to bring Black majority government to Rhodesia."

But the fact that such a meeting took place means very serious damage to the Zimbabwe freedom fighters.

Kenneth Kaunda is a prominent spokesman for the leaders of the "front-line states"—the independent African countries which border on white-ruled Rhodesia.

The front-line states provide the Zimbabwe liberation movement with bases for military bases and headquarters.

Even more important, all military supplies, clothing and other supplies must go through these front-line countries in order to reach the guerrillas.

The front-line governments have maintained a consistent policy of support for the Zimbabwe armed struggle.

In recent weeks, however, there have been increasing indications that the leaders of these countries are ready to accept the American-British so-called peace plan.

Tanzania, Botswana, and Mozambique joined Zambia in proclaiming that the plan represented a "basis for negotiation." What does this mean?

This plan is supposed to be a blueprint for a peaceful transition to Black majority government in Zimbabwe.

But the real aim of the plan is to disarm the Black liberation fighters and open the way for a neo-colonial puppet state controlled by western money.

MONEY AND MUSCLE

The plan calls for a $1.5 billion "Zimbabwe development fund" to guarantee white minority property interests.

The U.S. government has already stated it will withhold the money if an "unacceptable" Black government comes to power through an armed liberation struggle.

Besides this blackmail, the U.S. exerts economic and political pressures on the front-line states. Only the front-line governments could force the Zimbabwe liberation armies to make concessions to the western plan.

NKOMO AND ZAMBIA

One of the Zimbabwe liberation armies, ZAPU (Zimbabwe African People's Union) has close ties to the Zambian government.

ZAPU's leader, Joshua Nkomo, spoke to an opening session of the United Nations last week. He did not reject the terms of the American-British plan, saying the plan was acceptable if it was "sincere."

Nkomo was in the Zimbabwe capital the same weekend Smith and Kaunda met there. He may well have been indirectly involved in their discussion.

The other liberation army in ZANU (Zimbabwe African National Union) has bases in Mozambique, Tanzania and also many rural districts inside Zimbabwe itself.

ZANU has many more active soldiers in the field than ZAPU. ZANU is also more consistently committed to a struggle for complete national liberation.

DIRTY GAME

The American-British peace plan, in fact, is aimed first and foremost at disarming and crushing ZANU.

Until last year, many of ZANU's important military leaders were being held in Zambian prisons, as part of a deal between Kaunda and the western powers to try to weaken ZANU.

Kenneth Kaunda has showed before that he is willing to play the Western powers' game, in order to get American and South African credits for his sagging economy.

Now that the freedom fighters are near victory, the same game is being played again for much higher stakes. Much of the future of southern Africa may depend on the outcome.

FRENCH LEFT COALITION COLLAPSES

Playing by the Bosses' Rules

There's a small industrial town along a river valley where 1,600 steel workers have lost their jobs in the last year.

A few months ago the government announced the steel plant would close completely. The town erupted in protest.

Youngstown, Ohio? Johnstown, Pa.? Could be, but it's not. It happens to be the town of Thionville, in the northeast corner of France.

Thionville, like many American towns, is a victim of the world crisis of the steel industry. But there are some differences.

For one thing the mayor of Thionville, who was just elected, is member of the French Communist Party.

French workers have been looking toward the Communist Party to be part of a left-wing government coalition with the Socialist Party next year.

Many other French industrial cities facing the same crisis as Thionville, places like Nanterre, St. Etienne and Mulhouse, are already run by local Communist or Socialist Party administrations.

MORE AUSTERITY?

But the coalition of the SP and CP, called the "common program," now seems to be collapsing.

The leaders of these parties seem to be terrified of what might happen if they tried to run the French capitalist economy—and failed.

A prominent Communist Party union leader, Serge Vani, put it this way:

"Imagine the reaction among the workers. They want higher wages. They don't want any more austerity."

"They'll begin to say the left (means the Communist and Socialist Parties) are just like the right (the bosses). That's what they'll say."

Why is this Communist Party leader so afraid of winning the election that he thinks it might even be better to lose?

Because, as he said, he knows his party will do essentially the same thing that the conservatives are doing. They are doing now.

He knows that the Communist and Socialist Parties would impose an austerity plan.

This high level Communist knows this because he also knows that his party will play by the rules of capitalism.

The Communist-Socialist coalition is pledged not to establish a socialist economy.

Rather they promise to reform capitalism—a hard job when the economy is stagnant.

Because of the impossibility of making capitalism meet the needs of the workers, the Communists and Socialist Parties have taken to arguing over the amount of nationalization of sick industries.

In this dispute, the Socialist Party has been more afraid to offend the employers than the Communists. So the election coalition has fallen apart.

The employers are pleased because their reactionary old parties can continue to run the show. The Communist union leaders are happy because they're off the hook.

But in Thionville, we would guess, the unemployed steel workers are disappointed and bitter.
GAUNT MONUMENTS to the capitalist concern for human rights were viewed on Wednesday, October 5, by Jimmy Carter. He claims to be the people's champion. Jimmy Carter toured the South Bronx, and gave its destitute residents a dose of what everyone in the working class has received since he has taken office: no réponse.

Jimmy C., the people's "New Hope" looked upon the devastation, the mile upon mile of gobbled up and burned out apartment complexes and said, "Some of this can be saved."

He was speaking about the buildings, not the people. To the jobless and hungry, he offered a smile and a handshake.

TRENTON SEVEN:

Federal Judge Felkins found the Trenton Seven guilty of criminal contempt of court, October 6, in Detroit. They were convicted of violating an anti-picketing injunction.

The seven were autoworkers and stewards at Chrysler's Trenton Engine Plant, where thousands of workers walked out in August to protest firings stemming from a previous heat walkout.

All seven have been fired by Chrysler, who claim most of the strikers are back at work.

The judge summarized the prosecution's case, then found the defendants guilty. One of the judge's lawyer's clients is Chrysler.

A lawyer for the seven, Buck Davis, said that it was as if the judge were "sitting in a glass booth" during the defense argument. None of the arguments was answered in the verdict.

Roger Ekins, one of the defendants, told reporters that "the judge was in Chrysler's back pocket. People refused to work because they wouldn't be treated as animals. It's as simple as that."

"The Seven were turned over to the Probation Officer for a pre-sentencing report, which is expected to take at least six weeks."

They face a maximum of six months in jail and fines. The verdict will be appealed.

Several local unions have support for the Trenton Seven.

No UAW leader has opposed them, but the UAW International and the majority of the Trenton Local 372 leaders were conspicuously absent when the verdict came down."

RANK AND FILE FIGHT BACK IN STEEL WORKERS LOCAL 1531

PITTSBURGH—Rank and file at United Steel Workers Local 1531 here are beginning to fight.

At the September 29 local union meeting, 90 members (out of 350 total) turned out to defend a local officer who was fired for allegedly leading a wildcat strike.

John "Lefty" Lefkakos, recording secretary of the local, had been trying to generate a rank and file response to the company's blatant contract violations. The employer involved is McConroy and Turley, a producer of railroad couplings.

Like all the other small shops in the Pittsburgh area, McConroy and Turley is a real pit. The company ignored the contract, and health and safety is a joke.

Lefty was elected recording secretary of the local earlier this year because he was known as a "troublemaker"—exactly what the rank and file wanted.

He is now out on the street for keeping his campaign promise, and that's why the rank and file has risen to his defense.

At the last union meeting, rank and file overwhelmingly passed resolutions to the effect that the union back Lefty to the hill, and that the union take the offensive in dealing with grievances and disciplinary harassment.

They intend to build toward a fight around their contract, which expires in April, 1978.
Steel Imports: The Big Lie

It happens every day in the mills. They tell you that it's perfectly safe to work a dangerous job on a short crew. Better not take your life for it. Not if you give notice!

Or maybe the corporation is claiming it just can't afford to provide working gloves for your department. Why that's ridiculous. Except that it doesn't provide gloves in other departments. And it doesn't provide gloves to avoid any trouble according to its latest safety study project.

Chances are you think twice before accepting that job. You don't want to lose your job and the company reeling into poverty. Chances are, in fact, you know the company's pitch. And you know. To support its own position and its own interests. And you know it has no qualms about presenting so-called "facts" and "figures" and "evidence" as God's Truth in order to get what it wants.

So better stop and think now, when they say, "Foreign Competition's Taking Your Job Away." From the industry that brought you one lie after another on local issues, scheduling, manpower, and wages. It may just be The Biggest Lie of All.

The steel corporations, of course, don't expect us to dig any deeper. They figure that if they repeat the Foreign Competition Lie often enough, we'll believe it. If they blit the television, radio, and newspaper headlines with their propaganda, we'll start thinking it's true.

But is it? Is there a different reason—a reason that the steel companies would like to cover up—that so many steelworkers' jobs in this country are being sacrificed?

In this special feature, Workers' Power presents the facts.

The companies won't like it. Lloyd McBride may not want to hear it. But steelworkers will have a chance to make up their own minds, to draw their own conclusions.

And if enough people have a chance to do that, the company propaganda will be revealed for what it is.

Where have the jobs gone?

Thousands of jobs have been lost in the American steel industry. That is a fact. And year after year, the companies have been offering a solution: "Foreign Competition". But what is the truth behind this claim? Are the jobs really being lost to foreign competition?

Imports and Production

In the past decade, the amount of steel produced in the United States has gone up by 25%, while the number of steelworkers has gone down by 20%. China, Japan, and Germany have increased their production of steel by 20%, while the United States has decreased its production by 10%.

IMPORcST AND PRODUCTION

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Steel Giants: Behind Closed Doors

The job losses are real—these are not just numbers. The companies are not telling the truth about where the jobs have gone.

WHERE HAVE THE JOBS GONE?

Jobs have been combineed. A bigger scale of production means a hit to morale. Workers in the mills find a steel furnace with pounds of steel and hot, hot molten steel.

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A New Party for the Labor Movement?

"I'M ALL FOR IT"

"About three or four months ago, I would have said we could work within the Democratic Party to force the kind of legislation that we need that's progressive to the working people of this country. "I will not say that today."

And I think that if we don't form some kind of coalition, if labor doesn't form some kind of coalition and have our own party, then we're going to continue to go down the drain. "The labor movement's got to get together, and if we can start a labor party in this country, I'm all for it."

Harry Patrick, Secretary-Treasurer of the United Mine Workers, spoke to the national convention of the rank and file Teamsters for a Democratic Union two weeks ago. Patrick was part of the insurgent Miners for Democracy (MFD) slate that won UMW elections in 1973. Patrick's message to the activists at the TDU convention was this: rank and file Teamsters could succeed in reforming their own union, just as rank and file miners succeeded in overthrowing a gangster regime in the UMW.

But Patrick's remarks went beyond the nuts and bolts of labor movement reform today. He talked about the declining membership, the "stagnation" as he calls it, of the organized union movement in this country.

And he talked about how the Carter Administration and the Democratic Party have betrayed the promises they made to working people in the 1976 election.

We think Harry Patrick's statements reflect the sentiments of a growing number of angry American workers who are beginning to feel the same way. "I have to look back to January and to Jimmy Carter, and all the dreams that he promised labor. And he has labor to thank."

"I was part, by the way, of a labor coalition that included a lot of the major unions in this country, that helped elect Jimmy Carter. I am so disgusted with his Administration...the first thing that was shut down with no help from the White House was the Senate Select committee on hillbillies. And you go on from there, it's just one disaster after another.

"Read the new minimum wage law that was just passed, Jesus, if you read between the lines you're ready to shoot yourself as a working person. You know one of the things in there? If a waitress works at a place and makes $5 an hour, and she gets $4 an hour in tips, then they pay her only $1 an hour.

"Black lung, brown lung. We got a black lung bill now, it's watered down, it's not worth the paper it's written on...."

LABOR PARTY
These are a few of the reasons why Harry Patrick says he would welcome a new coalition of forces for a new political party, a labor party to fight for the needs of American workers.

Workers' Power agrees with Patrick one hundred per cent on this issue. Here is an amazing, but true, fact: all of the major countries in the capitalist world, the United States is the only one where there is no political party that in any way, shape or form represents the interests of workers.

We live in one of the very few industrialized capitalist countries in the whole world where the unions support a political party that officially supports the private property system and is directly controlled by the employers. Because that's what the Democratic Party is.

This means, plain and simple, that American workers have less actual political power than workers in countries like France, Italy, Britain or practically anywhere in western Europe.

As a fact of matter, American workers have less actual political influence than workers in Spain, which was run by a fascist dictator before just two years ago! Now that the Democratic Party is in office, it's starting to become clear just how high a price American workers pay for not having any kind of party of their own.

The price is highest for Black and other minority workers. They have seen the Carter Administration do nothing about minority unemployment.

Harry Patrick mentioned some other important examples. "The one chance we had to reform the NLRA (National Labor Relations Board), we had a real chance to change that around this year, and we didn't do it."

"Labor didn't get together on that...I blame labor a lot for this but I sure as hell have to blame the Carter Administration."

A NEW VISION
But the worst thing about the Democrats' betrayal of labor and effective thing has been the hundred COPE campaigns for the Democratic Party—because it would represent more of a political threat to the bosses.

Unfortunately, a labor party isn't around the corner—and won't be as long as most major international unions are controlled by their present leadership.

But the idea of a new political movement of labor in this country is part of a vision that will grow, with the rank and file movements that are just taking root today.
STEELWORKERS NEED JOBS - NOT EXCUSES!

JAPANESE STEEL "UNFAIR COMPETITION"?

By Kim Moody

How is it possible for Japan to ship steel thousands of miles and still sell cheaper on the American market? The American steel companies are running a big campaign claiming that Japanese steel is "unfair" methods. We're not against free trade," says the American steel giants, "as long as it's fair."

It's not fair, they claim, because the Japanese are supposedly selling steel below its price in Japan, and even below cost. How can they do this without losing money? Because, the US industry says, they are subsidized by the Japanese government. It's a lot of baloney, say the financial experts from Merrill-Lynch, the Wall Street analysts. (They use somewhat more polite language, however.)

The price of Japanese steel in the US is generally above its price in Japan, and well above the cost of production. Japanese steel, in other words, is sold at a profit wherever and whenever possible. Just like American steel companies, the Japanese occasionally lose money on particular sales. But in general they are out to make a profit, and they usually succeed.

The so-called government subsidies turn out to be loans from the Bank of Japan. These loans are made at high interest rates, and must be repaid, like any bank loan.

COSTS AND WAGES

The real difference, says Merrill-Lynch, is in the cost of production. Because Japanese plants are so modern, and so gigantic, the average worker produced 458,000 tons of steel in 1976, while the American figure was 301,800 tons—a difference of more than 50 percent.

Ten years ago, the Japanese got 349 tons every year from each worker, while in the US it was 239 tons—a relatively small difference. In other words, in the past ten years, as Japanese mills modernized, expanded, and new technology was introduced, the gap grew even greater.

What about wage levels? Well, American workers do make a good deal more than the Japanese, but that difference is getting smaller. Ten years ago, an American worker made almost 400 percent more than a Japanese steelworker. In 1976, the difference was about 250 percent.

And the difference is actually smaller than that; Japanese companies in the past could not cut costs by laying anyone off in slow periods. Never. The Japanese labor movement simply would not stand for it. "Fair" greed.

There is another major reason, for the price difference: Japanese companies are willing to accept far lower profits than are the US corporations. Although they claim they can't make a decent back, the facts tell a different story: American steel companies make far higher profits than the Japanese.

In 1976 US companies averaged a profit of $14.50 per ton. The Japanese averaged $3.35 per ton.

In the boom production year of 1974, the difference was even greater: US, $21 per ton; Japan, $4.13 per ton.

THEIR RULES MEAN MONOPOLY

The truth, then, is both different from the steel companies' propaganda. The truth is that the American steel companies keep prices high in order to keep profits high.

The truth is that the American steel companies would rather keep their profits per ton high—and cut back on production. The truth is that American steel bars are not interested in competition, "unfair" or any other kind—but in super profits through monopoly price-fixing.

As this 18-year-old copy of STEEL LABOR shows, the union leaders know the real problem. But as the tens of thousands of jobs lost since then testify, they have never done anything about it. Now they are trying to pin the rap on imports.

by Steve Lautier

Steelworkers need a concentrated drive to tie the jobs to steel. But the United Steelworkers of America is not leading any fight for jobs. Tariffs would mean higher prices on all consumer goods made from steel. That would hurt steelworkers, and everyone else.

Then, as one country after another retaliated with their own import controls, tariffs would spread to other products. Prices on everything would increase even more.

3. It is a losing strategy. The bulk of American big business (and therefore the government) is firmly opposed to higher tariffs. They know that other countries would retaliate, which would lead to a shrinking of world trade, and possibly a major depression. They will not risk their profits to help raise prices in the steel industry.

President Carter and his advisors were crystal clear, just last week. "I don't think any basic changes need to be made in our import laws or in the national statutes."

So import controls actually saved jobs—which they didn't—it would be very difficult to win them. It wouldn't be any harder to win the kind of government action which would actually help, as described below.

4. Finally, the strategy of fighting for import controls is a mistake for the union because it is a smoke-screen—a diversion from the real fight.

To put it plainly, the union leaders are using imports as an alibi for their failure to do their job—which is to protect the jobs and working conditions of the membership.

Import controls are the wrong strategy for the union. What should the USW be doing? Part of the answer is found in a rank and file resolution being proposed to the District 31 (Chicago-Gary) Conference of the Union in October.

The resolution calls on the USW to cease its support for import controls, and instead to call on the Federal government to roll back steel prices.

It demands that the government take all necessary steps to make sure the companies don't then cut back on production.

And it calls for a program to rebuild our long-neglected cities, thus creating far greater demand for steel, more jobs for steel workers—and for millions of other Americans. This kind of program—combined with scuttling the ENA and productivity committees, with a whole new attitude by the Union, to fight for its members instead of the corporations' profits—that is the way to save jobs.

Because, in reality, there is a great need for steel. The "over-capacity" they talk about is like the "wheat surplus"—how can there be too much wheat while people go hungry and the price of bread is so high?

It is the same with steel. There's too much of it only because we don't build the housing, the rapid transit systems, the consumer goods that people want and need. The "over-capacity" of steel is only an "under-capacity" to make high profits. For them, for the people who get the profits, that means that too much steel is produced.

They are the ones who say the system—the profit system, "free enterprise," capitalism, whatever you want to call it—they say it works.

We say it only works for them. There is a need for steel. There are thousands of men and women able and willing to make steel. If the profit system won't do it, it's time to find a better way.
West Coast To Hold Workers’ Conference

We’re Building A Movement For Freedom

If you live on the West Coast, there is only one place to be on the weekend of October 22-23 - at the I.S. West Coast Workers’ Conference in Los Angeles!

Is this the first time you’ve read Workers’ Power? Interested in what you see? Then come to the conference and find out more.

Or maybe you have worked with IS members in your union or community organization, and you want to find out what we are all about. This is the way to do it.

Because the IS is more than trade union and community activists. It is more than anti-racist struggles and fights for decent working conditions. It is all that and more. It is an organization.

This conference will tie it all together.

Come and hear Teamster activists talk about why they are building a movement to reform their union. And why they are also working to build a movement to revolutionize society.

Hear speakers tie in the fight against police abuse to the struggle for freedom in southern Africa. And hear how they are both linked to the fight for socialism.

See two beautiful films on the struggles of the working class for justice - today and yesterday.

Come to the West Coast Workers’ Conference for political discussion, recreation, and a chance to meet an organization and a lot of people who are building a movement for freedom.

Come and help us. You can make a difference.

Contact the IS in Los Angeles at PO Box 1545, Los Angeles, CA 90262.

WE SUPPORT

"The Rank and File Movement"
The unions protect workers from their employers. The today’s unions are run by privileged officials who sell out because they represent the capitalist system. They want labor peace, not labor power. We support the struggle for rank and file control of the unions.

"Liberalism from Oppression"
By people and people of color.

We support the struggle against capitalism, for workers control of the unions, and for labor power.

"Workers’ Revolution"
If the working class is to win, it must be built by the working class.

We support the struggle for socialism.

"Internationalism"
The struggle for socialism is world wide.

We support the working class of all countries in their struggles for power.

"Revolutionary Party"
The most conscious members of the working class have the responsibility to lead the struggle toward socialist revolution. To do this they must build an organization to put their consciousness into action and make their leadership effective.

I.S. NATIONAL SOCIALISTS

The IS is an organization of revolutionaries committed to the destruction of capitalism. We stand for the destruction of the capitalist system.

The New York State, the I.S. branch of the I.S., is committed to the destruction of capitalism. We are a revolutionary party committed to the destruction of capitalism.
Prime Time Slime

Television

In Soap, the story revolves around murder, adultery, and sex. In other words, it is too close a mirror of a degenerate society.

ALL THAT GLITTERS

Norman Lear's ALL THAT GLITTERS has already been cancelled. Glitter is a program about a world that is run by women. Women are in power, women make all the money, women control society, and even God is a woman.

ACCEPTABLE SHOWS

Shocking, isn't it? Well, apparently some station management in New York didn't see it, it's too late now...

Other shows which have been aired but caused no problems are:

- CHIPS (California Highway Patrol), a show about daredevil police who ride (dashing) along on motorcycles and "keep the law."
- CARRINGTON, a show about a Black New York cop who is working in the deep south. The Southerners display an incredible amount of racism.
- SCHYNSKI, a program about a tough ex-Marine sergeant whose main goal is to reform a bunch of street-wise kids into disciplined, school-loving people.

"SLIME"

It is no wonder that television programs that are viewed as acceptable reflect the type of society and behavior that the capitalists would like us to emulate. When you stop to consider the fact that it is the large corporations that keep the networks in operation through advertisements, it is easy to understand why a show displaying women as leaders, or a gay person coming out would cause such a stink.

Concerning television, there are no worse men than those of Frank Zappa when he sang, "I am the slime on your video, can't stop the slime people look at me go."

This article was reprinted from "The Red Tide," the newspaper of the Red Tide, youth organization of the International Socialists.

E. Clarke

Pickets Rattle Police

Imagine a police department that is responsible for the shooting deaths of 50 Black and minority people in the last nine months. Now imagine that the same police department hosting a conference of 200 police chiefs from 22 countries including the repressive regimes in Chile, Argentina, Iran, and South Africa. And imagine that this same police department, through the International Police Chief Ed Davis outdoor dinner for his friends, is celebrating "Police Week," "From Johannesburg to Watts—Same Struggle, Same Rights and..."

The demonstration was led by the Coalition Against Police Abuse (C.A.P.A.) in coalition with other groups, including Black Political Prisoner Defense Alliance, the Southern African Support Committee, the Black Panthers, the National Lawyers Guild, the Revolutionary Student Brigade, and many other groups across the nation.

A big demonstration of housing and social workers was held outside the headquarters of the Coalition Against Police Abuse in Chicago. This was a political and tactical error. Not only could the police have been challenged from their considerable base in L.A., but a unified struggle against the police and bosses cannot be weakened and undermined by the suppression of one group from our own ranks of working and oppressed people.

The objective of the conference was to compare notes on techniques of smashing political dissent and to demonstrate the efficiency of the latest advances in weaponry. The demonstration was led by the Coalition Against Police Abuse (C.A.P.A.) in coalition with other groups, including Black Political Prisoner Defense Alliance, the Southern Africa Support Committee, the Black Panthers, the National Lawyers Guild, the Revolutionary Student Brigade, and many other groups across the nation.

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**Workers' Power**

**UAW Local 47 Members Uncover Lost Time Bonanza**

DETROIT—Most auto workers make in the neighborhood of $250 a week. But one union official at UAW Local 47 claimed $1313.19 "lost time" wages for one week. Lost time is supposed to compensate union officials who have to miss work due to union business. At Local 47 (Detroit Forge), abuses of lost time have brought the local to the brink of bankruptcy.

Workers' Power spoke with Local 47 members Don Quenneville and Bob Machado. Quenneville and Machado are both members of The Coalition, a group of rank and file activists in the local.

The Coalition was shocked when they heard the local was about to go under financially, and they decided to find out why.

"We didn't go looking for a scandal," Don told Workers' Power. "But we were quite aware that the local was having a problem."

"They had exhausted the general fund and asked the International for permission to borrow $3000 from the new membership fund to pay for convention expenses," Don requested of Local President Evans Ray permission to see the union's lost time vouchers. He was refused.

"I wrote my Congressman, I went down to the Labor Department, I wanted to see if we were legally entitled to see these things," Bob added.

"My Congressman, his legal staff, the Labor Department—they all confirmed that we had a right to see the lost time vouchers."

"Bob added: "We made it clear that we were getting a lawyer and we were going to go to court. The law was on our side and—no one else, no matter how long they took—we were going to see the lost time vouchers."

"They got the message, and the Executive Board overruled Evans Ray."

**WHAT THEY FOUND**

Workers' Power: "What did you find when you finally saw the vouchers?"

Bob: "We found that the majority of the union officials, particularly the stewards and committee members, were claiming lost time for every possible hour they could forgo.

"They not only went for the eight hours that they would have lost for attending a union function, but they pleaded on every hour of overtime that they possibly could."

"For example, one steward who went to the UAW Convention in Los Angeles claimed $1313.19 lost time for the week."

"If that was all at a typical week for him, he'd be making 65 grand a year, which is completely out of the ordinary."

Don: "Another time, the union officials had to go to a meeting at Cocho Hall to hear the International officers explain the terms of the national contract."

"One committee member claimed 20 hours lost time for this meeting; a steward claimed 15; another steward claimed 20; and one other claimed 15.2 hours."

"But the worst part of it is that not one of these union officials bothered to tell the membership what was in the contract."

"Instead of staying around to attend the ratification meeting, our stewards and committee members all went hunting. The meeting was cancelled!"

Workers' Power: "Who is paying for lost time?"

Bob: "We are. That's the thing. We know as a matter of fact that these guys get a lot of money from the company."

"They come in early, they hang around—they collect a lot of overtime pay."

"It's bad enough that they've compromised their ability to fight the company, but they're ripping us off, too."

"Our union officials have the attitude: We're not going to do a damn thing unless we get paid for it. I have a service which I sell to the membership and unless they're willing to pay they don't get the benefits of my skills."

"There's a complete lack of dedication to any kind of union principles—any kind of idealism, any social consciousness—any kind of anything that is over and above plain old ordinary business unionism! It's play for pay."

Don: "To give you an example of the way these guys represent us, we had one of our officials get up at a union meeting and imply that he isn't going anywhere unless he gets paid."

"He said he wasn't going to walk to Chicago, in fact he wasn't going to walk to Birmingham—he was going to travel first class. And that's what he meant, first class, not coach."

**40 HOURS**

Bob: "I'll tell you what I think. I think nobody should ever claim more than 40 hours lost time per week, even if they spent more than that amount of time."

"And I think union officials should spend more than that amount of time, but they should do it on their own time."

"And if they feel they can't make it, they should remember that a lot of those of us that they're representing do make it."

"And if we get down on our knees and ask the company to give us that, it's an outrage."

"And if they're so opposed to our doing it, then they should fight for better wages—and not finding their own special way of ripping off our dues money to get what all of us pay in the union contract."

Workers' Power: "What do the local officials say in their own defense?"

Don: "They blame each other, they blame as for misconstruing the issues. They deny everything, they refuse to comment."

Bob: "We made a decision before we began that we would report our findings with absolute honesty, regardless of who helped or hurt politically."

"We did a lot of work on this thing. It took us two days at the local union hall to copy down the last time vouchers for the last 18 months."

"We're still in the process of analyzing all the information we got. We have copies of the financial reports for the last ten years."

"And it isn't over yet: There'll be a lot more stuff coming out in the next couple of months."

**MEMBERSHIP ASTOUNDED**

Workers' Power: "When The Coalition published this information in its newsletter, what was the reaction in the plant?"

Don: "The membership, yes, they're upset about it. They're astounded that this stuff is going on."

"The real fact of the matter is that the membership's never been informed about what was going on before The Coalition started publishing our newsletter, Forge Workers Speak."

"Before the Coalition began there was an apathetic opinion in the plant that we as individual members couldn't do a thing, that was useless to fight."

"And now the membership is starting to realize that they do have a say in the local, that they can make a change."

Emily Sharpe