

Miners Set To Strike Dec. 6

On December 6, 130,000 of the men and women who mine America's coal will walk off the job.

They will be striking for safe jobs, for a pension you can live on, to stop the theft of the health programs it took decades to win,

and, perhaps most of all, to protect the right to strike.

The United Mine Workers of America will go on strike because their employers won't give an inch. In fact, the employers want the miners to give up more and more of what they have won over the years.

And who are these employers?

They are among the biggest, most powerful corporations in the world. United States Steel. Mobil Oil. Gulf Oil. International Telephone and Telegraph.

These billion dollar operations are not out for safety, health, or a decent life. They are

out for profits, profits, and profits.

Yet, they will tell you that the miners are greedy, unreasonable, unmindful of the "public interest."

For a closer look at this monstrous lie, see page 8. □

WORKERS' Power

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BANKS SEIZE SCHOOLS

New York, Cleveland, Philadelphia -- Who's Next?

by Kim Moody

THEY AREN'T experts in education. They weren't elected to manage schools, or even appointed by School Boards. Chances are their children don't even attend public schools. But they control more and more of the nation's public schools every year.

They are Bankers, hoarders and lenders of wealth. They are responsible to no one but themselves and other multi-millionaires.

Yet, these money-lenders already dictate policy to the educational systems of three of the nation's largest cities—New York, Philadelphia, and Cleveland.

New York came first. There the Bankers took over the entire city administration.

POUND OF FLESH

Short of funds, that beleaguered city turned to the big banks for help. In 1975 the banks organized the Municipal Assistance Corporation—known as Big MAC. Big MAC sold bonds and lent the

money from their sale to the city.

The banks, of course, must have their pound of flesh. So the city pays interest to the banks. And every year, the city gets deeper and deeper in debt to these banks.

Through Big MAC, the banks tell the city how many employees it must lay-off, what programs it can finance and what programs it must drop.

New York City changes Mayors, but its masters remain the same. The Bankers call the shots.

Generally, the Bankers and Big Businessmen that compose the capitalist class are content to leave the day to day administration of

government to the politicians and bureaucrats. But as the financial crisis infects and erodes one area of life after another, they step in to give direct orders.

DRUG PUSHERS

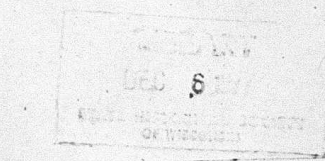
And now, as other cities approach the crisis that hit New York years ago, the Bankers move in like drug pushers to hook their victim and then take control.

In recent weeks, the Bankers have made their moves on the ailing school systems of Philadelphia and Cleveland. Always their intervention means cut-backs, a declining educational system.

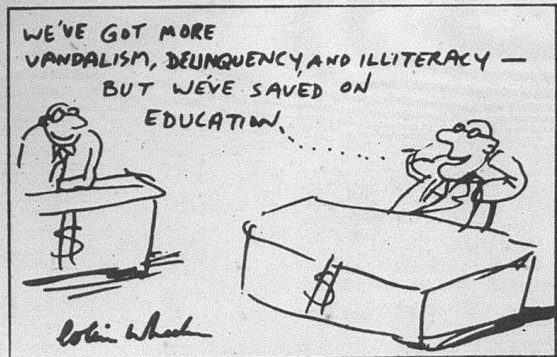
It is the public school systems of the central cities that educate much of the American working class.

Apparently the Bankers have decided that an educated working class is a luxury that they can no

longer afford. So they will trim it course, make a few extra bucks. longer, cut it back, and, if need be, Will your city be next? □ close it down from time to time. Philadelphia page 2 And while they're at it, of Cleveland page 3



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PHILADELPHIA:

Where The Banks Run The Schools

PHILADELPHIA—A total shut-down of this city's public schools was narrowly averted November 17 when Judge Eugene Gelfand approved a \$50 million bank loan to the debt-ridden school system. That's the good news.

The bad news is that in return for their "generous assistance," the banks demanded and got from the School Board a promise to cut back on spending during the next five years.

A representative of the local bankers will work with the School

Board to make sure that the terms of the agreement are carried out.

In effect, the banks have almost total control of the schools system's budget.

DISASTER

With 2500 school employees already laid off, further cutbacks will be disastrous for the 250,000 Philadelphia students and 27,000 school workers.

Yet the banks insist that the "fat" from the school budget must

be removed as a condition for providing the loans.

The "fat" that will be removed during the next five years included librarians, counselors, non-teaching assistants, and foreign language instruction.

The maintenance staff will suffer further reductions.

By spreading the cutbacks over five years, the banks, with the approval of Mayor Rizzo and the School Board, hope to blunt public criticism of the crisis in the school system.

So far, they've succeeded.



The School Board was forced to pass a Student Bill of Rights which limited arbitrary discipline decisions and gave students more input into the curriculum.

It was the era of reform and expansion for the Philadelphia schools, but it was short-lived. The school system now staggers from one crisis to another with no end in sight.

How did it happen in so short a time?



the city and state's funding of the schools, and a ceiling on school spending, Bunting offered to lend \$50 million more on a long term basis.

The plan was acceptable to all the people involved.

Mayor Rizzo, who wants to run for a third term, would rather see cutbacks in education that raise the taxes to pay for the existing programs.

The School Board, which is appointed by Rizzo, supports anything that Rizzo tells them to support. They went along with Bunting too.

... MAKE THE WORKERS PAY!

THE BANKS, the School Board, and Rizzo realize that to implement the Bunting plan, they have to break the back of the three school unions.

The largest and the strongest of the school unions is the Philadelphia Federation of Teachers (PFT) Local 3, which represents 20,000 out of 27,000 school employees.

The PFT's contract with the School Board expires next September. For the teachers' union, this upcoming contract fight is literally a life or death struggle.

If the School Board is able to hold down wages, attack working conditions, and lay off large numbers of workers, the union may never recover.

Many of the important gains that the PFT won during the last 10 years will be severely eroded.

Although the teachers realize that Bunting and the School Board are out to bust the union, no one is looking forward to the contract fight.

The PFT barely survived a long and bitter strike that occurred five years ago. A lot of teachers remember this and are reluctant to go out on strike again.

The union leadership has done little to build up the confidence of the rank and file either.

Many teachers are still bitter at the leadership's inaction when the School Board temporarily laid off 7000 teachers last summer.

PFT President Frank Sullivan resisted attempts by some members to organize mass actions and work with community groups to fight the cutbacks.

Instead, he told the rank and file to wait patiently while he and other PFT leaders lobbied city and state legislators for more money.

That kind of patience will just add up to more money in the bank for John Bunting and Frank Rizzo.

TEN YEARS OF REFORM...

TEN YEARS AGO, the situation was entirely different.

In response to the civil rights movement and the drive for union rights among school workers, the School Board, under the leadership of liberal Democrat Richardson Dilworth, initiated an ambitious program to upgrade public education in Philly.

Many new schools were built, while some old ones were renovated.

Innovative programs like the Parkway Alternative School were put into effect for the first time. Pre-school training got increased emphasis through the Head Start and Get Set programs.

For schools workers, working conditions and wages improved dramatically.

The teachers' union, in particular, fought for and won smaller class sizes, more time to prepare for classes (prep time), and improved benefits.

Membership in all the school unions grew substantially.

STUDENT RIGHTS

As the unions asserted their power, high school students organized to gain greater control over the functioning of their schools.



... FINANCED BY BIG LOANS...

WHEN THE NEW SCHOOLS were being built and the new programs introduced, and when the school workers got better wages—the American economy was still expanding.

To pay for the improvements in the system, the School Board depended on increasingly larger revenues from the city and the state.

With more money around, the Board got most of what they asked for.

But as the economy got worse and worse, the city and the state were less willing to come up with the money to pay for the expanded programs.

The fact the Philly schools depend heavily on city property taxes to fund education made the situation even more difficult.

When businesses and middle-class whites left the city in the late 60's and early 70's, the property tax base shrunk as spending for schools continued to increase.

By the end of the 1976-77 school year, the deficit for the school budget totaled \$173 million out of a \$700 million budget.

CUTBACKS

The local banks had already loaned the School Board \$50 million. They decided that the only way to make sure that their loans would be repaid was to get the School Board to make huge cutbacks.

John Bunting, president of the First Pennsylvania Bank, met with school, city and business leaders last August, to devise a plan to balance the budget.

In return for a small increase in

by Candy Martin

It's a real dog's life for some company executives. Like Ralph H. Bowles, executive vice-president of Genesco, Inc.

At a time when some people have trouble affording enough gas to run their cars, Genesco, Inc. allows Mr. Bowles the use of two company jets for the personal use of his dog.

Bowles and his pet, Harpers Hawkeye, use the company jet when they are pressed for time to get to dog shows around the country. The jet comes in useful because, as the Wall Street Journal reports, "Mr. Bowles finds it difficult as an extremely busy \$166,000-a-year executive to attend all of the dog shows he would like."

The trips, of course, have never been reported on tax returns, as the IRS requires, or mentioned to stockholders in financial statements, as the Securities and Exchange Commission demands.

THROWS STONES

But Bowles doesn't seem too worried about sitting in a glass house. He recently made news by flying to New York to fire John Schumacher, chairman of Bonwit Teller, a Genesco subsidiary. Schumacher was canned for creating a scandal when he used company resources to lavishly decorate a Park Avenue apartment for his personal use.

It's a nice case of capitalist reality for many of our readers who often tell Workers' Power that socialism is "utopian" and "unrealistic."

\$166,000 a year for Ralph H. Bowles and a company jet for his dog.

While many Americans are forced to choose between how much heat to have in their homes or how much food they can put on their tables.

While many elderly on fixed incomes are forced to eat dog food to stay alive.

In the richest country on the earth.

IT'S A DOG'S LIFE



Is it number 1 number 2 or number 3?

Local 299
THE WORKERS PARTY

Keep Bob Lins

VOTE FOR THIS TEAM

Keep Bob Lins

President: **BOB LINS**
 Vice President: **ALAN GRAYWICK**
 Secretary: **JAMES (Jimmy) MOUSSETTE**
 Treasurer: **WILSON HOLMES**
 Trustee: **ED PATRICKO**

President: **ROBERT (Bob) LINS**
 Vice President: **RAY BANCOS**
 Secretary: **EARL GRAYWICK**
 Treasurer: **JAMES (Jimmy) MOUSSETTE**
 Trustee: **WILSON HOLMES**
 Trustee: **ED PATRICKO**

Watergate: Teamster style

by Jim Woodward

DETROIT—Some of the tactics in Teamster Local 299's elections would make any Water-gater proud. Like the "dirty tricks" that the Nixon Administration used to disrupt the campaigns of its opponents, in the final days of this election campaign several fake leaflets have appeared.

First came Bob Lins' trick. Lins is the incumbent 299 president facing strong opposition.

Just as the ballots were being mailed out, a leaflet appeared which attempted to discredit Lins' strongest opponents: Pete Karagozian, candidate for President; Pete Camarata, candidate for Vice President; and Dennis Wade and Walter Ruff, candidates for Trustee.

Karagozian is a business agent, popular with the rank and file, who is running a reform campaign against Lins. Camarata, Wade, and Ruff are on the Teamsters for a Democratic Union (TDU) slate.

The leaflet, signed the "Workers' Party," (a non-existent group) endorsed Karagozian, Camarata, Ruff, and Wade. It said that they "deserve our support, for they have thrown off the yoke of imperialism..."

It urged 299 members to vote for these "courageous friends and comrades."

This attempt to "red bait" the challengers closed by asking for financial contributions, giving the TDU post office box and phone number.

By and large, the leaflet was a failure. Most members saw that it was a hoax. If there was any doubt, it was erased when Lins' Business Agents were seen passing it out at truck stops and other locations.

TDU demanded an apology and retraction from Lins, saying "Bob Lins and his slate cannot run on the issues in Local 299. They have resorted to a hoax and fraud to try and confuse the membership."

Lins did not have long to chuckle over his trick. A day later, another fake leaflet appeared, this one aimed to disrupt Lins' campaign.

It was an exact duplicate of a leaflet Lins sent out, except that the names and pictures were "different. Instead of Lins' candidates running with him, Andy Provenzano for Vice President and three other independent candidates for other offices were substituted.

Most believe that Provenzo is responsible for this leaflet, attempting to make it look like he and his friends are running with Lins.

This electoral sideshow is typical of the Teamsters Union. Instead of centering the campaign around the issues, dirty tricks, car bombings, and personalities make the difference.

But TDU refuses to play the game. As one disgusted TDU member put it, the two fake leaflets have only one thing in common—"a total contempt for the membership. [They think] the rank and file is just there to be manipulated by tricks like these... that the members aren't intelligent enough to vote on the issues."

Lins' leaflet is an indication of his desperation. He knows that the chances are very good he will lose.

In several weeks the mail ballots will be counted. The repercussions of a victory for the TDU slate and Karagozian will be felt in the union throughout the country.

Teachers told to work for free!

by Eric Hopper

CLEVELAND—Ten thousand employees of the Cleveland Board of Education have not been paid since November 11. The Cleveland schools are broke.

There is no money because the school board is in hock to the Cleveland Trust and City National Banks to the tune of \$15 million.

Back in October, the school board was ready to set aside the money for the banks and shut down the schools.

They would have gone through with it, if U.S. judge Frank Battisti had not ordered the schools to remain open so that the court-ordered desegregation plan for Cleveland could be carried out.

The banks appealed the decision, claiming that Battisti had no right to interfere with their business deals. The school board, not

wanting to offend the courts or the banks, chose to screw its workers.

TEACHERS SAY "NO DEAL"

Members of the Cleveland Teachers Union (CTU) didn't think much of the board's solution. The day after the Thanksgiving Holiday, five schools were closed as teachers-called in sick to protest working without pay.

The next day 20% of the teachers stayed home, forcing 14 schools to close down.

Six thousand members of the CTU then voted on a resolution that said if paychecks were not received by November 30, "the Board of Education has not honored its contract with its employees and the employees cannot afford to work until paid as scheduled."

Supporters argued that the resolution was needed to pressure the courts, the legislature and the school board to find an immediate solution. The resolution carried 3336-2130.

Arnold Pinkney, president of the school board, said he was "disappointed" by the teachers' vote. "I would have expected that they would act in a more professional manner."

Pinkney threatened that those who didn't report to work wouldn't be paid. He also claimed that those not working would be ineligible for unemployment benefits.

Edward Heffernan, union chairman and social studies teacher at Audubon Jr. High, disagreed. "This is not a strike, we have a legal right to be paid for our services. The board's failure to pay us is a breach of our contract."

During this time, the banks have attempted to portray themselves as well-intentioned victims of a bureaucratic screw-up.

In case people might think them heartless bloodsuckers, three banks ran ads in the local papers announcing they would make "special loan accommodations for school system employees during the no-pay crisis, which would be particularly troublesome during the holiday season."

The "special treatment" amounts to loan applications being processed within 24 hours. It doesn't include lower than usual interest rates or easy money for people with poor credit ratings.

Unfortunately, this "good news" from the banks came too late for Betty Adams, a school reading instructor, who had her family's gas cut off by the East Ohio Gas Company for nonpayment.

With snow on the ground and a busted paycheck, Betty Adams has to come up with \$184 to keep herself and her family warm.

Thousands of other school employees who live from paycheck to paycheck are in the same boat as Betty Adams.

HEATING UP

There is growing resentment and anger on the part of many who are being asked to pay for a mess they didn't create.

William Gregory, industrial arts teacher at Audubon, said that no matter what the outcome, "I think people—both students and teachers—will lose faith. Their faith has been shaken in the ability of the system to operate as it should."

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RHODESIA

phony peace plan...

by Sandy Boyer

THE AMERICAN MEDIA has been hailing Ian Smith, the leader of the white minority government in Rhodesia, as the greatest peacemaker since Anwar Sadat.

The acclaim came after Smith announced he would open negotiations with three Black "moderates" for a new constitution.

The new constitution would provide for "free elections" on the basis of one man, one vote. □

Smith's proposed constitution will leave whites in control of the army and the courts and even guarantee the pensions of all the current white civil servants.

White property rights will also be guaranteed. The 4% white minority will continue to own over two thirds of the farm land, and all of the mines and factories.

And to make sure that no future Black government tries to take any of this away, whites will be guaranteed enough seats in the new Parliament to defeat any proposed constitutional amendment.

Smith's version of "majority rule" turns out to be cushy jobs for a few Black politicians and no change at all for the rest of the six million Black people in Rhodesia.

ELECTIONS

Any "free elections" that result from these negotiations will be a joke.

The election will be run by the white government. The voting will be "protected" by the white army.

And white government officials will count the votes. Ian Smith will be able to decide the winner in advance.

But the world is supposed to believe that these elections will transfer power from the 4% white minority in Rhodesia to the 96% Black majority.

In reality, it is a last, desperate attempt to protect white rule and prevent the victory of the freedom fighters of the Patriotic Front.

Smith hopes that by pretending to grant majority rule, he will be able to get economic and military support from the U.S. and Britain. So far it doesn't seem to be working.

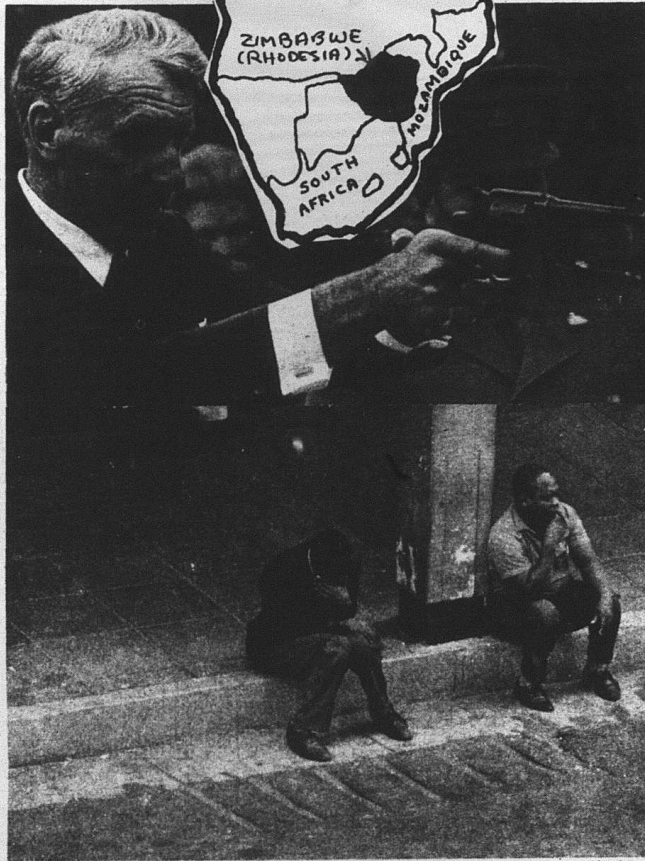
The U.S. and British governments know that this maneuver won't stop the freedom fighters. And they know that if the freedom fighters continue their guerilla war, the white minority regime is doomed.

ZANU SPOKESMAN

Tirivafi Kangai is the North American representative of ZANU (Zimbabwe African National Union), the organization most of the freedom fighters belong to.

Kangai recently told Workers' Power that, "even before the current rainy season began, the military situation was decisively in our favor."

"Military operations are now



Street scene in Rhodesia. Prime Minister Ian Smith's (above, left) proposed new constitution would guarantee property rights and Parliamentary majority for nation's 4% white minority under guise of "one man, one vote." He has enlisted the support of Black Rhodesian "moderates" Rev. Ndabaningi Sithole (above, center) and Bishop Abel Muzorewa (above, right), but freedom fighters will continue the struggle for a free Zimbabwe.

going on in two thirds of the country.

"As soon as we can get anti-aircraft weapons, we will establish areas where Smith's army cannot go either by land or by air. Then it is our objective to begin occupying the towns."

But the three so-called "Black Moderates" whom Smith has chosen to negotiate with have been trying for the past few months to outdo each other in assuring whites they can be trusted to maintain white domination.

The Rev. Ndabaningi Sithole is

reported to be Smith's candidate to become the first Black Prime Minister.

He has been making speeches saying that if he came to power he would "retain the existing Rhodesian security forces and economic structure."

His press secretary released a statement saying, "He [Sithole] has been telling the people that there is absolutely no reason for the whites to panic. We do not intend to dismantle the existing instruments of law and order."

At the same time, Bishop Abel Muzorewa, another of the "moderates", was hinting that even one man, one vote might be negotiable.

He said, "I think it does not help us very much to shout at each other about one man, one vote."

"I have reached a point where I think that this must now be left to a round table meeting. The discussions are the main point."

The third of these "leaders", Chief Jeremiah Chiari, doesn't have to reassure the whites. He is already on the white government payroll.

His organization is made up of tribal chiefs who are also on the payroll. It was created on Ian Smith's orders so that there would be at least one Black organization ready to endorse whatever "peace plan" he came up with.

Ian Smith and the few Black leaders who support him know that once the freedom fighters win there will be no place left for them in Zimbabwe, (the African name for Rhodesia). That is why they are making this pathetic attempt to preserve white rule by putting a few Black faces at the head of the government. □

...real massacre

One day after Ian Smith announced his "peace plan," the Rhodesian army invaded Mozambique—the neighboring Black-ruled country that has aided the ZANU freedom fighters.

Rhodesian forces hoped to smash the ZANU bases in Mozambique and kill ZANU's military commanders.

After the raid, the Rhodesian Army Public Relations Officers proudly announced that they had killed 1200 guerilla fighters.

But reports from Mozambique make it clear: the vast majority of the people killed were Black civilian women and children who had fled Rhodesia.

British reporters who visited

one of the refugee camps attacked by the Rhodesian army described seeing the bodies of 20 girls between 10 and 14 years old. They had been sitting in their classroom when the attack occurred and were machine gunned to death by a helicopter gun ship.

MOTHER AND CHILD

Near the camp's clinic they found a woman with a child in her arms, both dead.

The ZANU commanders the raid was supposed to kill were in Maputo, Mozambique's capital, meeting with Mozambican President Samora Machel when the invasion was launched.

None of them were hurt.

The first reports from Mozambique are that more than 80 people were killed and 600 wounded—200 seriously. The number of dead will probably rise as final reports from the camps come in.

The Mozambican Army said they killed five Rhodesian soldiers in driving them away from one of the camps.

The attack on these refugee camps in Mozambique shows exactly what kind of "peace" Ian Smith wants. His idea of "peace" is having the Rhodesian army murder any Black people who stand up for freedom. □

S.B.

DOCKERS SETTLE

by David Katz

MOST STRIKING longshoremen have voted to accept their new three-year contract and are going back to work. Some, however, are being dragged back.

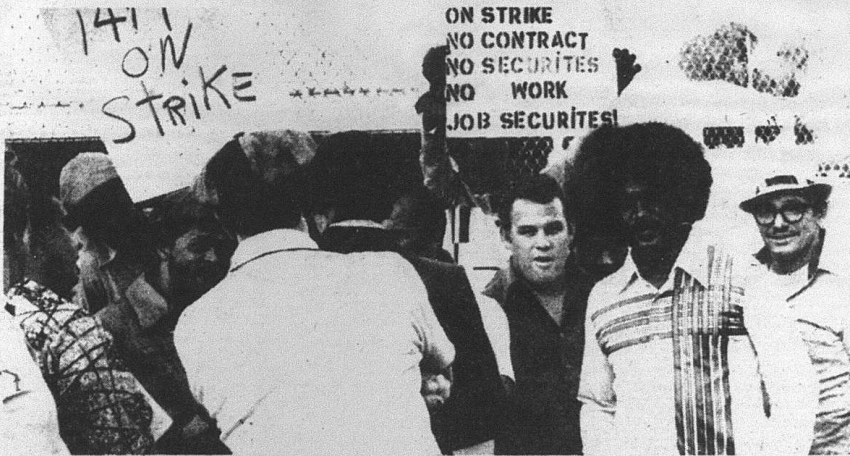
One of these is Garris McFadden, president of International Longshoremen's Association (ILA) Local 333 in Baltimore. In a telephone interview, McFadden said ILA President Teddy Gleason has "just turned his back" on Local 333.

McFadden's local, the largest of five ILA locals in Baltimore, rejected the contract by a nearly 2-1 margin and stayed on strike. Dock workers in New Orleans and Mobile, Ala. were also opposed to the contract.

A tentative agreement in the strike, which has stopped all east and gulf coast container shipping since October 1, was reached November 13.

This was only five days after the employers had hosted a luncheon celebrating Gleason's 77th birthday. At the top, it seems that this strike was not too bitter.

Some locals reluctant



New Orleans longshoremen on the picket line early in the strike.

INCREASE

This master contract contained a 30.5% increase in wages and benefits over three years. It also won guarantees that the union's pension and welfare funds won't be allowed to go bankrupt.

The terms of the master agreement were apparently acceptable to most dock workers. Local 333's McFadden called it an "excellent" contract. Where the anger developed was on local port conditions.

McFadden said Local 333 had rejected the contract for three reasons:

- Most of the money set aside for the "Guaranteed Annual Income" (GAI) has not been paid. The GAI

is a fund which pays longshoremen their regular income for a certain number of hours each year if there is no work for them. The actual number of hours guaranteed varies from port to port.

McFadden said that of nearly \$9 million paid into the fund in Baltimore since 1969, the workers have received less than half a million dollars. This is because of a "debit system" which provides the employers a loophole.

- Management controls a seniority program which is "totally unfair." "Their only right as far as we're concerned," McFadden said, "is that they ask us for labor and we should supply it."

- Racism is the third factor in the contract rejection. McFadden explained that his local is partly Black and partly white. Two of the other Baltimore locals are predominantly white and two are predominantly Black.

QUALIFYING

The problem involves qualifying for the GAI. "My local and the two Black predominantly locals have to play the game," McFadden said.

"We have to go down and badge in. The other two locals don't have to badge in, don't have to do anything that we have to do, and yet

they're guaranteed the same \$19,700 a year."

McFadden added that the employers showed favoritism in hiring relatives of members of the two white locals.

Despite their contract rejection, Local 333 was under heavy pressure to go back to work. "I happen to be boss," Teddy Gleason said at a November 30 press conference, ordering Baltimore to go back to work.

The Steamship Trade Association of Baltimore also did some bossing. They went to court and got a 10-day injunction ordering Local 333 back to work. The injunction

specifically prohibits McFadden from encouraging further strikes.

At press time, the situation was still unsettled. But Garris McFadden was unhappy.

"I really can't understand that angle of the law," he said. "When we sit down to negotiate here in the Port of Baltimore, each local has a different contract with management. The pay scales are different, the working conditions are different.

"I can't understand where they would say that if three other locals vote yes for their port conditions, that it should settle my port conditions. We don't work under the same conditions." □

Strange Truth of Steel "Dumping"

The Japanese are playing dirty, American steel corporations keep telling us.

Japan is accused of "dumping" their steel on the American market—selling their product for less than it costs them to make it.

How can these companies stay afloat if they keep selling below cost? Here's a little known fact that may shed some light on the matter.

When the steel companies talk about "cost," they're including what they consider to be a "fair" profit.

So, it turns out that the Japanese are not generally selling below their actual costs, but simply settling for a smaller profit.

Japan's modest profits are what the steel giants here are crying about.

According to Greg Palast, an economist who has been a consultant for several unions including the Steelworkers:

"In Pittsburgh they've now filed a suit claiming that the Japanese companies are selling steel here and taking only a 2% profit on their investment capital.

"They're saying this is unfair because the U.S. companies would never dream of producing steel unless they can get 8%—minimum.

"And so they're claiming that's an unfair practice."

Who's playing dirty? □

Candy Martin

STEEL UNION STRIKE BOYCOTT PET PRODUCTS

THANKS TO A READER who sent Workers' Power information on the nationwide boycott of all Pet products, called last month by the United Steelworkers of America.

Hussmann Refrigeration, Inc., a subsidiary of the mammoth Pet conglomerate has been trying to break the union and break the members of USWA Local 13889 for seven months.

The workers at Hussmann's Bridgeton, Missouri plant have been on strike over a new contract since May. The company has hired permanent scabs to replace the 15,000 workers.

According to the union's monthly publication, Steel Labor, USWA President Lloyd McBride explained that "the company has not met with our union's Bargaining Committee since August, despite all efforts by the union in the interest of reaching a collective bargaining settlement."

The boycott has received solid support from labor councils in the area and other unions.

Jack C. Lovett, District 6 Vice-President of the Communications Workers of America (CWA) commented in the St. Louis Labor Tribune:

"The intransigent attitude of the Hussmann company and its parent corporation, Pet, is a threat to all Organized Labor. We cannot sit back and let an operation like this simply scab a Union out of its plant.

"If it can happen to the Steelworkers, it can happen to everyone of us, anywhere in Missouri."

Not just Missouri either, but anywhere in the country. Support the brothers and sisters of Local 13889.

Don't buy any Pet products! And spread the word □

C.M. United Steel Workers' leaflet lists Pet products to boycott.

TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC

Do Not Patronize Stores

9-0-5 Liquor Stores; Stuckey's Roadside Stores

Products

- Pet Dairy Products — (Milk, Ice Cream, Etc.)
- Whitman's Chocolates
- Musselman Fruit Products
- Gulf Belle & Orleans — (Shrimp & Oysters)
- Old El Paso — (Mexican Foods)
- Compliment — (cooking sauces)
- Funsten Nuts
- Heartland — (Cereals & Syrup)
- Sego — (Evaporated Milk & Liquid Diet Food)
- Spoon-Up — (Diet Pudding)
- Reese Finer Foods — (Gourmet & Specialty Food Items)
- Hussmann Refrigeration Products — (Retail Store Equipment)
- Pet-Ritz — (Frozen Fruit & Pies)
- Downyflake — (Frozen Breakfast goods)
- Easy Jacks — (Pancake Batter)
- Hot 'N' Buttery — (Waffles)
- Pet Frozen Non-Dairy Whipped Topping
- Milady's — (Frozen Blintzes)

Members of the United Steelworkers of America, AFL-CIO, have been on strike at Hussmann Refrigerator in Bridgeton, Missouri, since May 11, 1977. The company, which is part of Pet, Inc., a diversified, broadly based, billion-dollar corporation has recruited and hired permanent strikebreakers to replace 1500 striking steelworker members.

The United Steelworkers Union respectfully requests your support by boycotting all retail stores owned by Pet, Inc. and refuse to buy any product produced by Pet, Inc. and its subsidiaries.

Your support is deeply appreciated

Lloyd McBride
Buddy Davis
District 6 Director

Paid for and distributed by United Steelworkers of America, AFL-CIO

INTERVIEW

How Steel Workers Are Fighting For Clean Air

by Jim Woodward

EAST CHICAGO, Ind.—Steelworkers aren't supposed to be interested in clean air and clean water.

If they don't actually like breathing dirty air, goes the popular conception, they prefer it to losing their jobs, which would surely happen if they pressed the companies to clean up. This is an image that the steel companies have carefully cultivated.

As a ploy to avoid anti-pollution expenses, the companies have at one time or another threatened to close down and move out of virtually every steel town in the country.

But there's a group of steelworkers at Inland Steel's huge mill here who don't like breathing dirty air. They believe they have a right to both their jobs and their health.

Mike Olszanski is an electrician at Inland and chairman of the Environmental Committee of United Steel Workers (USW) Local 1010. He's also part of the Rank and File Caucus which won control of Local 1010 early last year and which supported reform candidate Ed Sadlowski in the International union's elections earlier this year.

Recently, Workers' Power had an opportunity to find out what his Environmental Committee has done. We asked Olszanski what issue the committee is concentrating on.

LUNG CANCER

"Coke plants," he said. "It's our number one issue for several reasons."

"First of all because it's life and death. We've got ten times greater lung cancer deaths for people on the [coke] batteries." And in the surrounding community, "deaths from lung cancer are twice the rate of the general population."

"So it was clearly the most vital issue we had to take on. But also,

this whole issue of jobs and environment really comes to a head in terms of the coke ovens.

"Coke oven emissions are what they call fugitive emissions," Olszanski explained. "They don't come out of a stack. They don't lend themselves to just sticking a precipitator or something like that on it and that's the end of the problem."

MORE JOBS

"The problem is basically going to be solved only with adequate operating and maintenance personnel. The Environmental Protection Administration (EPA) has mandated a whole series of procedures when charging and when pushing a coke oven. And those procedures call for more manpower."

"The government has been unwilling, and there's no federal legislation that gives them the right, to mandate crew sizes. So the crew size issue is the most vital one in making the whole thing work."

"This flies right in the face of what the companies are saying about environmental control costing jobs. There's no way they can do it without creating jobs here."

LOCAL CONTRACT

With their priority set on the coke oven problem, Local 1010's Environmental Committee worked on drawing up proposals for the



Coke plants, such as U.S. Steel's Clairton Coke Works shown here, are both dirty and unhealthy. Top: Mike Olszanski, chairman of USW Local 1010's Environmental Committee, which is trying to do something about it.

1977 local contract negotiations, and developed support for these proposals.

"We got resolutions on the floor of the [USW International] Convention in Vegas and brought it to the local union floor, educated the membership through a series of articles in our local union paper, went to the media, and got some good coverage incidentally in the local papers," Olszanski said.

"Right before contract talks came to a head we were hoping to really hit the company hard with this thing. They did their first monitoring of exposure on the [coke] batteries—they have to do this every three months for OSHA."

"They found that the exposure of two jobs—two of the worst jobs on the older batteries—were 120 times the OSHA standard. Just fantastic levels."

"Most of the jobs were 10 or 20 times the level OSHA recommended. And the Steelworkers Union maintains that the OSHA exposure level is too high."

Despite this evidence, only small gains were made in the contract. "We lost that issue," Olszanski says. "I'd be bullshitting you if I told you any different. We did get an additional 20 minutes relief time [for coke oven workers]. We got nothing on crew sizes."

"Frankly," he said, "the reason we didn't get it was we didn't get a big enough strike authorization

AIR POLLUTION	
INLAND STEEL BOX SCORE	
TONS OF POLLUTION PER YEAR	
1976	
PARTICULATES	18,175
SULFUR OXIDES	36,823
NITROGEN OXIDES	8,346
HYDRO CARBONS	9,395
CARBON MONOXIDE	307,511
TOTAL	380,250
OR	
20 TONS PER YEAR FOR EACH	
OF 18,000 UNION EMPLOYEES	
OR	
ABOUT 270 POUNDS OF POLLUTION	
FOR EACH TON OF STEEL SHIPPED	
SOURCE: U.S. EPA	

vote—we didn't have the muscle. We weren't able to shut them down."

EDUCATION

"We've got to go back into negotiations next time and get it, that's all there is to it. We've got to do a lot of education in the meantime," Olszanski said, talking about the future now.

"We've got to try to deal with EPA, and try to make them keep Inland on those timetables. We've got to do the same thing in trying to move OSHA."

"Now OSHA has that new [coke oven] standard; they haven't done anything with it yet. They haven't even come into the plant yet and done a wall to wall inspection, which they're supposed to do."

"So we've got to deal with those two agencies. But eventually, there's no way we can get around negotiating into the contract some crew sizes. They're not going to do that for us—we're going to have to get it."

Then doesn't it seem like the coke oven issue goes hand in hand with re-building the union and getting a better strike vote next time? We asked Olszanski.

"Absolutely," he replied, adding: "There's been a problem getting coke plant workers out. And that is, I think, because for too long they've seen their union fail to

take a position or take a weak-kneed position, or just sell them out. They become hardened, you know."

"But," he said, "at Local 1010, I think we've broken some ground." □

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"WE'VE ALWAYS TAKEN A GET-TOUGH ATTITUDE"

We deal with both the EPA (Environmental Protection Administration) and OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health Administration).

We sat in on the meetings EPA had with Inland Steel. We insisted on being there as the union representative—which hadn't been done before—to make sure it was going to be in our interest. And we pushed them to get tough with the companies.

So they came out with some consent orders that were pretty good. They specified the procedures that had to be followed.

The whole problem is the company signs the order—and they call for timetables and all that—and they don't comply. And the government is reluctant to take any action. If they go to court it takes years.

But we have found that EPA at least is sensitive to a certain

extent to public pressure. When the Steelworkers Union comes out and says, 'Hey, we want you to get tough,' this does give them a good kick in the ass because, in the past, the Steelworkers Union in a lot of cases has said, 'Hey, ease off.'

We haven't done that. At 1010 we've taken them on; we've told them to get tough.

We've dealt with some other issues. Whenever legislation comes up, we try to keep up with it. We try to comment on it.

When public hearings come up—whether it's water or air—we try to send representatives and to speak intelligently on behalf of steelworkers, and we've always taken a get-tough attitude.

It's raised some eyebrows on some people in government, because it's unusual for the Steelworkers to be doing this.

Essex Wire Strikers Demand UAW Support

by Elissa Clarke

DETROIT — "Why does the UAW leadership lead retreats, when the membership is willing to stand and fight?"

That question was posed at a meeting here November 29 as 70 auto workers gathered to discuss support for a strike at Essex Wire Corporation in Elwood, Indiana.

The meeting was called by the Independent Skilled Trades Council.

Three strikers were there to tell their story. On strike for eight

This is what will happen unless the UAW leadership decides to fight on this one. And they may be forced to—by rank and file members from many different locals who are demanding that their union lead an aggressive fight at Essex.

There are signs that the International may be forced to action already. On the day following the meeting, Georgia Ellis, Anita Bell and Paul Couch (president of Essex Local 1663) met with the UAW International Executive Board at Solidarity House.

us to draw the money out of our Emergency Salvation Fund. That fund is set up to support people when they really need it—foreclosures on loans, utility bills.

"I said no. We're not pulling this money out of the Emergency Fund. It would leave us broke."

"I said we'd prefer to go to jail."

The audience vowed that they would take buses to Elwood and demonstrate on the jail house steps. The next day the International saw its way clear to paying the fines.



Essex strikers Anita Bell, Georgia Ellis, and Paul Couch address Detroit auto workers.

months, they are more determined than ever.

As Georgia Ellis, an Essex employee for nine years, explained: "We were so naive! We thought that a strike meant that you went outside and you walked around with a sign and the company did nice things and that was the end of it."

But that wasn't the way that Essex wanted to play the game, another striker, Anita Bell, told the audience:

"Essex brought in professional, armed strikebreakers," Bell said.

"Our International Rep told us to stand up and stop those trucks from moving our molds out of the plant."

"So we did! Our women stood up there to those guards and they wouldn't move. Essex had to call the sheriff in. Every day, the sheriff's deputies escorted the scabs in and out.

BEATINGS

"We got fed up and we decided to shut that plant down tight. After five days, the strikebreakers came at us with fire hoses and plexiglass shields. They beat our people to the ground.

"They beat us and beat us. My husband was shot. Another girl was shot, the mother of two young children.

"Essex got what they wanted: sixty riot trained police to sit there and protect the scabs."

Scabs still run the Essex plant. The company is sitting tight, waiting until they can legally hold a de-certification election.

At the meeting, the Executive Board agreed to pick up the tab for \$2700 in fines that would have sent 22 of the Essex strikers to jail. Previously, the International had steadfastly refused to pay this fine.

As Paul Couch told the audience: "The International refused to pay any of it, even the legal fees. In two days' time, our local was supposed to come up with \$2700 or go to jail."

"Our International Rep wanted

It certainly shouldn't be too difficult for a powerful union like the UAW to bring Essex Wire to its knees. But it's going to take pressure from rank and file members to get their leadership to fight.

A strike support committee was set up. If you are interested in helping the Essex strikers, write: Essex Strike Support Committee, PO Box 179, Elwood, Indiana 46036.

JOIN US!

If you agree with the views expressed in this paper and would like more information, or would like to join the International Socialists, then send this form to: **INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS, 14131 Woodward Ave., Highland Park, MI 48203.**

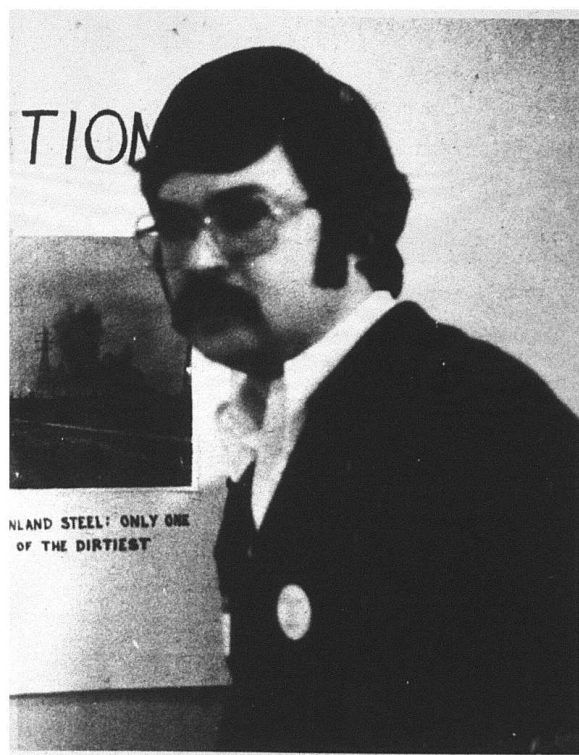
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Inland's Blackmail Started Committee

The existence of the Local 1010 Environmental Committee is closely related to the rank and file movement which swept through the local and through District 31 of the United Steel Workers in recent years.

"It was back in '72 that our rank and file caucus started the whole thing," Olszanski said. "We held no offices within the local and were in a hostile environment to even go into union meetings to try to put anything on the floor."

"But I think it speaks well of our membership that when an issue came up around the Inland land fill—which was a very visible issue because oil and pollution was being spread all over the lake—we got mad about it."

The company's response was to suggest that environmental action would take away jobs.

"We said, 'Look, we can't put up with this kind of blackmail; we ought to form a committee,'" Olszanski related. "So we put our

president on the spot, and he was forced through floor action to set up a committee.

"That committee didn't work too well, but then when we took over the local in 1976, I think there was a great commitment on the part of Jim Balanoff, our president at that time, to make that committee work.

POPULAR ISSUE

"I think we started to move at that point. But it was a rank and file action that started that committee, and it was something that the people responded to very greatly."

"We're all political animals here," Olszanski added, "and I think Jim would admit to the same thing—environment was part of our campaign platform in 1976. It was a campaign issue and it was one of the things I think helped win that election for us."

"People see it as a need. I think it's only the Steelworkers leadership that hasn't responded fast enough to it."

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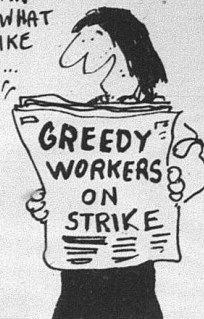
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Miners and Millionaires— Whose Interest is the “Public” Interest?

Labor Notes

by Jim Woodward

Members of the United Steel Workers Locals 1098 and 1157 held a gate collection for striking iron ore miners November 18. Their efforts raised \$739 at Republic Steel's Cleveland mill. The idea of supporting the striking miners was pushed by **Steelworkers Rights** a rank and file group, but discouraged by USW District 28 Director **Frank Valente**. Valente was worried about setting a "precedent," but Local 1157 voted to take up the collection, and Local 1098 supported it.



The **Blue Diamond Coal Company** has admitted it plans to reopen its **Justus Mine in Stearns, Kentucky**. The United Mine Workers union has been on strike there for 16 months. During that time, no coal has been mined, though there have been many shootings and battles between strikers, security guards, and state police. There will certainly be more of the same if the mine is reopened. Blue Diamond has not set a date for resuming work, but state mine officials crossed the picket lines November 21 to inspect the mines.

The **Retail Clerks** union is supporting a bill in Congress which would prohibit employers from using **lie detector tests**. Requiring lie detector tests as a condition of employment has become common in recent years. The Retail Clerks call this practice an "insult to human dignity." The bill, sponsored by Indiana Senator **Birch Bayh**, would also ban similar devices such as voice analyzers, which can be used without a person's knowledge.

Between 1000 and 2000 **J.P. Stevens** workers attended a rally in **Spartanburg, South Carolina** November 20 in support of the **Clothing and Textile Workers' drive** to organize that company. Union charters were presented Stevens workers at 11 plants where the union now has a majority. These included three plants each in **Virginia, Georgia, and North Carolina**, one in **Alabama**, and one in **Connecticut**.

The **National Football League Players Association (NFLPA)** has a complaint about working conditions, specifically the artificial turf in many stadiums. NFLPA statistics show that of the 12 stadiums where the most injuries occur, 10 have artificial turf. Of the 11 stadiums with the fewest injuries, only one has artificial turf.

Now that Thanksgiving is over, **Workers' Power** is proud to present its **Turkey of the Year Award** to **Joseph Trerotola**, president of **Teamsters Joint Council 16** in **New York** and **Third Vice President** of the **International Union**. Trerotola gets this award for urging that state and local taxes levied on employers should be reduced. The labor movement usually argues the opposite—that corporations should pay most of the taxes. Trerotola, however, says this means workers get lower wages: "What government extracts from the individual employer irrevocably reduces the amount of money the employees of that employer will be able to secure through union collective bargaining or individual negotiation." That depends on the union, Joe.

At \$103,680 a year, Trerotola is certainly the richest turkey to ever win this award. Maybe he's planning on going into business.

What's happening where you work? Send items for this column to: **Workers' Power, Labor Notes, 14131 Woodward, Highland Park, Michigan 48203. Or phone 313-869-5964.**

by Candy Martin

As I was walking to work on a bitter day in November, I passed a corner newsstand. Big, bold, black letters cried out to passers-by: "COAL STRIKE THREATENS JOBS, HOMES."

The **Detroit News** meant the upcoming miners' strike, scheduled for December 6.

I realized that I was supposed to fear for my job, my heat, and my apartment; nasty miners were going to try to take it all away.

I remembered other headlines I'd seen during other strikes to prove that the workers were acting against the "public interest."

Like when the bus drivers in **Pittsburgh** went out, and the media would show people shivering and freezing as they walked or hitchhiked or rode their bicycles to work.

Or how during the last coal miners' strike, steelworkers, especially in **Pennsylvania** and **Ohio**, were told that their jobs would be taken away.

The media, of course, never said that the **U.S. Steel** owned many of the mines too and that the same company the steelworkers worked for was responsible for forcing many of the miners out on strike.

FIREMEN

Reaching in my pocket to get out 15c for the News, I also remembered the coverage I'd seen of the current strike by firefighters in **Britain**. How the newscasters always ask some striker, "But people are burning, don't you have a conscience?"

And I remembered the answer of one fireman: "Sure, we have a conscience—or we wouldn't be doing this job. But a conscience won't pay the bills."

As the miners' strike, which is sure to take place early this month, goes on through the cold weeks of the winter, there will be lots more media coverage like the **Detroit News** headline threatening danger.

We will be told over and over again that the miners are acting against the "public interest" as the mine operators, the government, and even the mineworkers' **International Union** try to turn the public against the strike.

Wondering just how common an average miner, or I myself, might have in common with some of the people who will be telling us about our common public interest, I looked up some of the salaries of the chairmen who own several mines.

I found out that **Harold Geneen**, who is the chairman of **ITT** which owns the large coal company



Carbon Industries, makes \$852,398 a year.

U.S. Steel's Edgar Speer, chairman of the company which owns several mines and will be telling its workers that their jobs are threatened by the strike, makes a lot less—only \$438,000.

And **Howard Blauvelt**, who is the chairman of **Continental Oil** which runs **Consolidated Coal**, gets an annual \$524,842.

I couldn't help wondering how much common interest he has with the poor widows of the many miners who have been trapped in simmering hells by explosions **Consolidated Coal** didn't take the time and money to prevent.

Or how much any of these men could have in common with the miners and other working men, and women who make up the **American public**.

I wondered if they face the same occupational accident and illness rate as the miners who work for them: more than 10 out of every hundred.

Or how afraid they were of getting black lung, and dying from it without ever getting any benefits because the government said that the coal just hadn't hurt you.

Or whether, on 6-figure salaries, they were forced to live in mobile homes like thousands of **West Virginia** miners.

WORRIES

Did **Geneen** and **Speer** and **Blauvelt** wonder as they went to work about methane explosions or roof falls or how many different ways they might die that day?

I doubted it. I doubt that these executives and the men who make government and media policy—the ones who define "public interest"—ever have to worry about any of the problems that any working **American** families face.

We've already gotten a pretty good idea of what the oil companies mean by public interest and "working harder for you and **America's** energy needs."

Billions of bloated profits for

them as they cut back production to create scarcity and crisis. And the cost of gas and heat reaching luxury-item levels for us.

They're the same oil companies that own and control much of the nation's coal reserves. And, as they have with gas, more and more they will be shaking down the **American public** on coal production. All the time telling us that they're working for us, the **American people**.

THE PUBLIC

At the same time, they'll be forcing **American** workers in their mines to live with danger, death, cuts in health benefits and lousy pensions, and a gutted grievance procedure.

And when these workers strike for what they need to stay alive, they'll tell us that they are striking against the **American "public."**

What they will really mean is that the miners are working against the conglomerates', not the people's, interest in billion-dollar profits, six-figure salaries, maintaining deathly working conditions in the mines, and maintaining prices for energy the **American public** can't afford.

Throughout history, the ruling class has always used propaganda about the "public interest" and the "national interest" to mean their own private capitalist interests, which, like the oil companies', have nothing in common with the needs of working people.

But the fight of the miners does. At a time when the right to strike is under attack by contractual agreements and government-proposed legislation, rank and file mineworkers stand out from the entire labor movement.

They have been unwilling to let their right to strike be gutted. They have remained prepared to use this most basic right of labor in their own self-defense against the coal operators, the oil companies, and big steel.

That makes their fight something that is very much in our public interest, a common fight that deserves our strongest support. □

Comrades,

Your coverage on the police powers scandal in Canada made two substantial errors of omission.

First, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police are far more than a combination of the U.S. Secret Service and the FBI.

The division responsible for the break-ins and barn burnings is called the Security Service (SS). This division combines the parts of the FBI which carry out "cointelpro" operations against such "menaces" as the U.S. Black Panther Party, with the U.S. Secret Service, and the CIA!

"Intelligence" in Canada is virtually all centralized into the SS, which is basically a kingdom unto itself, independent of the rest of the RCMP and from the government.

The "regulars" of the RCMP are the national "detective" agency as well as the drug squad.

They have exceptionally close ties with the FBI, so close that they consider themselves to be the northern extension of the FBI.

All RCMP "criminal" files are stored in the FBI's computer in Washington.

In most of the country, the RCMP also make up the State Police, the Highway Patrol, the County Sheriff, and often, the city police as well.

The "Mounties" are truly a "national" police force in the sense of Hitler's Gestapo!

Yet, they also combine many of the functions of the National Guard. That is, the RCMP is a paramilitary organization, rather than "police" in the usual sense of the word.

In fact, the name originally proposed for them was the North West Mounted Rifles!

This "police" force has also fought like any army would in the two world wars.

Working people throughout history in Canada have come up against the RCMP on the picket line and during demonstrations and so on.

The Mounties' horses don't seem like much of a tourist attraction then.

During the 1930's, the RCMP's official publication reported on the rise of fascism and nazism in glowing phrases of praise and goodwill, thanking Hitler and Mussolini for "freeing" the people of Europe from the "menace" of communism. The government had to tell them to cool it a little.

Your second error was in failing to mention the War Measures Act in Canada, which can be invoked at any time, placing the entire country under military rule.

It was last used in 1970 by [Prime Minister] Pierre Trudeau to arrest hundreds of political opponents of Trudeau's friends in Montreal prior to an election there. Needless to say, Trudeau's friends won.

This was done on the excuse of two people being kidnapped! The Act was also used outside Quebec. Many U.S. draft dodgers were rounded up, driven back to the border, and arrested by waiting FBI agents.

Demonstrators were also arrested. A TV episode of Inroads was banned "in the interests of national security"!

At this time, the Canadian Armed Forces as well as the RCMP are preparing for another invocation of the Act.

Few attempts are made to hide the fact that these agencies are now training for civil war.

Workers in the U.S. should think twice about letting the powers that be create a permanent Northern Ireland situation in Quebec, and a Banana Republic along America's northern border.

R. Helmer
Calgary, Alberta

Dear Workers' Power,

Last week in my plant, auto workers on the night shift from Local 422, GM's Framingham, Massachusetts plant, walked off their jobs for the second time in a month.

Ever since model change this past summer, the company has had only one thing on their mind: get those cars to the dealers.

As a result of this, we have been faced with extra work and speed up. And because Framingham will be closed for weeks after Christmas, they want the work done now.

Many grievances have been filed for too much work. Despite this, the company and the union have done little to settle complaints.

So when we were told without any notice that we had to work nine and a half hours one Tuesday night (while the contract states voluntary overtime after nine hours) workers walked out and shut down the line.

And again on Thanksgiving eve, because the company would not honor our legal holiday, workers walked out at 12 midnight and shut down the plant in no time.

This is not just an issue of forced, illegal overtime. Many of us are fed up and refuse to swallow what the company dishes out.

Some workers who volunteered for overtime on Veteran's Day were denied their sub pay. Other workers who have 78's filed [grievances on too much work] have been taken off their jobs and their jobs have been given to new hires who cannot complain about the work load.

Threats have been circulating about the possibility of a layoff and this only serves to scare workers and deny us our union rights.

So the company continues to tell us they want quality and they

blame us for inferior cars.

Why, I have seen the big boss myself give the okay for shipping cars that are missing stripes and have bad paint jobs as well as other problems.

And he stood there himself and said, "Let the dealers worry about it."

At one time it was a tradition to walk out on Thanksgiving in Framingham. This year we had a point to prove. There is some bull we will not eat.

Jean Lindsay
Massachusetts

Dear Workers' Power,

Yesterday as I was fumbling with my keys to lock up my apartment and unlock my car, I thought about what a waste of time keys are. Under socialism there won't be any keys.

You know how nice it is on a camping trip in the woods—no keys? My key chain is heavy, clunky, inconvenient and aggravating. The only thing worse than having to deal with it is having to deal with losing it.

If everybody had enough, cars

could just have buttons to start them, no keys.

Houses could just be left open. Workplaces would belong to all of us, so they wouldn't have to be locked. Bicycles could just be parked, not locked.

And all those people who make and design and repair keys and locks could be freed to contribute their energy to something useful, something positive.

Socialism is the only key we need, folks.

Toni Hawk
Austin, Texas

Editorial Comment:

When national Black leader Steven Biko was dying of brain injuries in prison, a doctor told the South African Security Police that he should be hospitalized. The police refused. Instead he was carted 700 miles, lying naked in the back of a truck, to Pretoria.

When Colonel Peter J. Goosen of the Security Police was asked by a lawyer for the Biko family whether he would treat a dog that way he first said no but then said, "If it was deadly dangerous I would."

Twenty-one Blacks have died in detention in the last 20 months under South Africa's brutal racist regime.

Printed without comment in the Cleveland Plain-Dealer. The disparity in treatment of owls and Blacks apparently didn't strike them as noteworthy. "Or would you rather be an owl?"

An Ohio Reader



In surgery
A horned owl, apparently hit by a car near Cape Town, South Africa, undergoes repairs at a veterinary hospital. Splints were placed on his broken legs, and he is reported to be recovering.

Education American Style

by Al Ferdnance

GOING TO SCHOOL in America may appear, on the surface, to be anything but adventurous. But if you happen to be Black, it can be a traumatic experience.

Getting an education "American style" could get you killed.

In Louisiana, Gary Tyler, a Black male student, went to school one day in a district under Federal court order to desegregate. Angry whites surrounded his school bus and a white youth in the mob was shot by an unknown assailant. Gary Tyler wound up on death row.

In Chicago's South Side, Melaine Turner, a Black seven-year-old girl who suffered from Sickle Cell anemia, died from an attack of the dread disease.

The attack was probably brought on from the trauma of attending classes through the torturous route of a police cordon. Rock-throwing whites did not want her or any Blacks in the school.

BOYNTON, OKLAHOMA

If this sounds extreme, consider the Boynton, Oklahoma story that made national news recently.

No police or troops were necessary to get Blacks into the

classrooms in Boynton. The population of 500 is about half white, half Black. They have lived for years with a certain degree of harmony.

Yet today, there are sharp divisions along racial lines. Why they are divided says a great deal about American education.

Sherida Jones, female student, age 17 and Black, entered a talent show in her high school. This seemingly innocent act of participation in an educational event raised the specter of racism. At least that's what the superintendent, Harold Cantwell, charged.

Sherida wanted to recite Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech as her offering. From that moment on, things escalated to the point of being ludicrous.

"You can't give that speech!" Cantwell declared. Enter Rick Duncan (the school's principal) to buttress Cantwell's objections. However, Duncan "would" allow Sherida the option of reciting the Gettysburg Address.

"You just want me to say the words of a white man," Sherida complained.

By this time she was in tears. The latent bias had caught her

unawares. She was hurt.

The offer by the officials to substitute something from Booker T. Washington or George Washington Carver did not make matters any better!

HIGH COST

At this point I would like to stop. I believe to continue quoting the overreaction of the school officials to this student's desire to identify with the peer or peers of her choice would not serve the purpose of clarifying the issues at hand.

That issue: the terribly high cost Black Americans must pay in their search for quality education in this country.

Each of these incidents have a cause and effect. One the one hand we have a school system that no one can deny is under-funded in many areas. But the real tragedy of American education is its exclusionary approach to ethnic participation in our history.

Even though the Supreme Court has yet to complete its rollback of the gains made by Blacks and other social groupings during the 50's and 60's, the schools are way ahead.

Already they are obliterating

Black history for future generations. Destroying the evidence of struggle.

Black study courses are being dropped from the curriculums of higher education institutions throughout the country. The excuse is "no funds available" but the effect on young minds is devastating.

When we observe the destruction of ethnic identity of other non-whites in this country such as the American Indians and the Chicanos, it is not hard to understand the abnormally high drop-out figures attributed to non-whites.

Still there is a positive side to the Boynton story. The Blacks organized against institutionalized racism. They fought and made meaningful gains.

Once organized, they even began to push for Black faculty appointments, something that had not been seen as an issue previously.

They ignored the bumper stickers around town which read, "God, Guns and Guts Made America Free, Let's Fight to Keep All Three." The Blacks proved they were not lacking in any of those departments. □

Black Women Talk About Liberation

by Elissa Clarke

DETROIT—"Women's liberation is the time to say I'm not just a wife and mother, I'm a person."

That is how Tonia, a young Black woman, described what women's liberation meant to her.

Several young women recently met to discuss women's liberation and the special problems of Black women. They are members of the Red Tide, youth organization of the International Socialists.

Most said they were not originally convinced that the women's movement was an important part of the struggle for socialism.

As Retha said: "I grew up thinking that women's lib was only for white women. Even when I first came around the Red Tide, I wasn't interested in the women's caucus. I was always 'busy'."

"When the women's liberation movement started in the 60's, I was only seven or eight years old. But I remember that the women in my neighborhood didn't get involved in it, not even the young women who were always advocating civil rights and Black Power."

"The Black Power movement was militant as hell in equal rights for Black people, but it stinks in the way they treated Black women."

"Now I see the women's movement as the answer to a lot of our problems. Only through unity among ourselves and with white working class sisters, can we win all of the things necessary for our survival."

ON THE JOB

Tywana spoke about the oppression that Black women have faced as workers:

"We were exploited as slaves, oppressed as women. Even after we fought to be legally free from slavery, the oppression continued."

"Black women were not allowed into factory employment until World War I. Then 48,000 Black women flooded into the factories. We worked in steam laundries or other little jobs such as pressers,



Tonia

“
It is essential that
we get together and
stay together,
until the end,
until we have won!”

cleaners, or as sweepers. Very few Black women actually worked on the machines themselves.

"Black women worked longer hours for less pay. And when the war periods were over, we were fired and forced back into the home again."

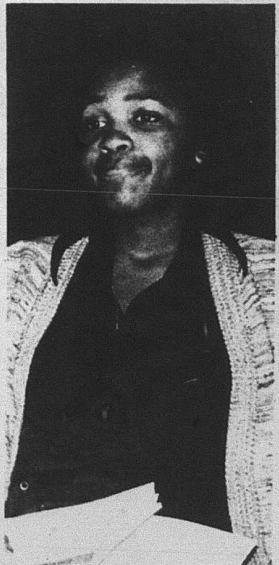
"Even today we are the worst paid, and we suffer the highest unemployment. Unemployment is more severe among women than men, and twice as severe among Blacks as among whites."

"Even on my own job, I feel the only reason I was hired was because I am Black. They need a certain percentage of minorities to receive funds from the state."

"But the state doesn't ask how many people they fire or harass until they quit."

"They kept a big file on me. They put in all the bad things that you did; the good things didn't count. I knew they were setting me up."

"Women' have to fight for liberation. But it's more than that. Our enemy is the capitalist system."



Tywana



Retha

To fight this battle, we need not only Black women, but the working class as a whole."

WOMEN'S MOVEMENT

Retha pointed out some of the problems that kept Black and white women from joining together:

"The demands that were raised by the women's liberation movement were not essential to a Black woman who's been pounding the sidewalks all day looking for a job and trying to raise her kids."

"White women would picket the Playboy Club, and they would burn their bras and take off their slips and really be acting kind of silly. To a woman who's been on welfare, trying to get off, it didn't set right with her."

"The sexist news media played up the feminists as man-haters. The progressive demands that the movement raised—birth control, abortion, good jobs, equal pay, or day care facilities—these were played down."

"They brought out all the old myths of how Black women are domineering and how Black women emasculate Black men."

"The Black Power movement accepted this—hook, line and

sinker. They felt that by getting involved in women's rights, Black women would weaken the fight for equal rights for Black people."

"Now there is a growing consciousness among working women. We have gone past the consciousness-raising of the sixties."

"It is essential that we get together and stay together, until the end, until we have won!"

WELFARE

Anita spoke about the oppression and humiliation that women on welfare face.

"Welfare has always been under attack, and those on it are called lazy, no-good welfare cheats."

"But the truth about welfare is that it has failed to provide help for the majority of the poor."

"Carter's new welfare plan would force hundreds of thousands of welfare recipients into minimum wage jobs, or cut off their benefits."

These jobs are not training for real, non-welfare jobs, but they will replace some unionized public employees. Welfare recipients will be forced to take these jobs or go hungry.

"Under Carter's program, food stamps will be abolished and a family of four will receive \$4200 a year. This small sum of money is to buy food, clothes, shelter, and other necessities for a full year."

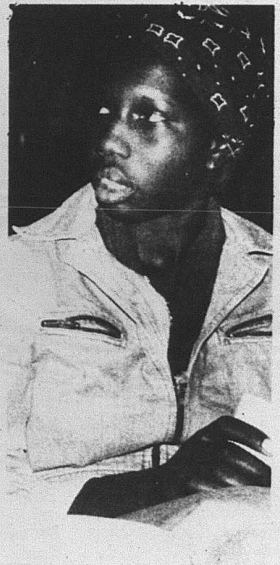
"Very difficult to live on, isn't it? This plan is, in three words, forced slave labor."

FOR LIBERATION

Tonia concluded: "The Black woman is liberated in her own mind. She's been out there working, raising her family, surviving. But the system as a whole oppresses women."

We need to have choices. To work, or stay in the home. When and if to have children. Liberation for us is equality, breaking stereotypes, and ending discrimination and sexism.

"How do we get there? When women unite, we will begin to fight!"



Anita

Where
We
Stand

WE OPPOSE

***CAPITALIST EXPLOITATION**
We live under the capitalist system. The wealth produced by working people is stolen from us by private employers. They prosper from our labor.

***CAPITALIST CONTROL**
Capitalists use their profits only to make more profits. When they need fewer workers, they create unemployment. When they need more money, they speed up work, downgrade safety conditions, and raise prices. The capitalist system spends little on health care, a clean environment, or social services, because these things make no profit.

***OPPRESSION**
Capitalism needs inequality. Because it needs profits, it can't provide enough for all. So it gives some groups of people worse jobs and lower pay, and labels them inferior. In particular, capitalism locks Black people into the bottom of society, and spreads racist ideas to keep them there. Capitalism keeps women responsible for taking care of the work force when it is not at work, including children, who are too young to work. Women who work for wages have two jobs.

***CAPITALIST GOVERNMENT**
The government serves the capitalist class. Its only purpose is to protect the private profit system. It protects its interests abroad through economic control of other countries, spying and wars.

***BUREAUCRATIC COMMUNISM**
Russia, China and other countries with economies like theirs are also oppressive class societies, run by a privileged ruling class of bureaucrats. They are not socialist and must be overthrown by the working class of those countries.

WE SUPPORT

***THE RANK AND FILE MOVEMENT**
The unions protect workers from their employers. But today's unions are run by privileged officials who sell out because they support the capitalist system. They want labor peace, not labor power. We support the struggle for rank and file control of the unions.

***LIBERATION FROM OPPRESSION**
Black people are an oppressed national minority in the United States. They have the right to self-determination—to decide their own future. The struggle of every oppressed group for equality is a just struggle—Blacks, women, gays, Latinos, American Indians. We are for the independent organization of oppressed peoples to fight for their freedom. Support from the entire working class movement will make the struggles of both—the oppressed and the working class movement—stronger.

***SOCIALISM**
Society should be run by the working class. The wealth produced by those who work should go to fill people's needs, not to private gain.

***WORKERS' REVOLUTION**
But the capitalist class will not give up their rule and profits voluntarily. Socialism can be created only when the working class seizes control of the factories and makes their own government. The working class will rule democratically because it can own society's wealth only together.

***INTERNATIONALISM**
The struggle for socialism is world-wide. We support every fight of the working class against exploitation, and every struggle by nations fighting for independence from foreign rulers. We support every struggle for freedom—from the people of southern Africa against racism and western colonialism, to the struggle against bureaucratic rule and Russian imperialism in Eastern Europe. We demand complete independence for Puerto Rico from U.S. colonial rule.

***REVOLUTIONARY PARTY**
The most class 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.

***INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS**
The I.S. is an organization of revolutionary socialist workers. We are open to all who accept our basic principles and are willing to work as a member to achieve them. Join with us to build the I.S. into a revolutionary party, to build the movement to end exploitation and oppression and to create a socialist world.

Workers' Power
313-869-5964

VIEW FROM THE AUDIENCE

VIETNAM WE'VE ALL BEEN THERE

by Paul Broz

"No man, I'm sorry, he's just too crazy for me... all's you got to do is look in his eyes, that's the whole fucking story right there."

It was cool and damp, one of the first days of winter. Several of us stood outside a Detroit bar getting some fresh air and shooting the breeze.

The conversation turned to our military experience and Vietnam. A bearded fellow with frizzed out hair, an embroidered T-shirt, and open sweater had been there.

Dispatches, by Michael Herr, Alfred A. Knopf, New York, 1977. 260 pages—hardcover \$8.95.

Under the influence of smoke and drink, he told this story:

"Once we went into a village and all these gooks was lying around dead. I picked up two of them by the hair and my buddies cut off their heads with machete knives.

"I got pictures at home to prove it."

Vietnam. Filed away now in the back of your mind. It happened. A lot of people marched to stop it. A lot of people died.

A war that came home. Pictures on Walter Cronkite of running burning children.

Hawks and doves. Napalm. People you went to high school with killed or maimed.



"Grunts" in Vietnam. America's war machine cranked into action. In "Dispatches," Michael Herr tells what he saw.

Michael Herr has just written his first book, "Dispatches." He was a correspondent for Esquire and Rolling Stone who "went to cover the war and the war covered me."

He wrote from an apartment in Saigon and from the battlesights, from helicopters and from bunkers.

He spent most of his time with the "grunts," the marines who did most of the fighting and dying, who scrawled peace signs on their helmets, and

nicknames, and graffiti like "Hell Sucks."

He wrote about the rock music, the dope, the battles, the fears.

And about the people who covered the war, the reporters and photographers, the people who provided the raw material for what became, in editors' hands, "public opinion."

Some correspondents mindlessly repeated the story of the war put out by the military command, dividing their time bet ween bars and briefing rooms.

The real reporters, who went into the field, who knew that "pacification" didn't work, that body counts were fabrications, that the war was not really being "won" were often treated by their home offices as eccentrics.

"Whenever the news chiefs and network vice-presidents and foreign editors would dress up in their Abercrombie & Fitch combat gear and come by for a firsthand look, a real story would develop. Snow In The Tropics, and after three days of high level briefings and helicopter rides, they'd go home convinced that the war was over, that their men in the field were damn good men but a little too close to the story."

Ten thousand miles and five years later it's hard to fit it all into place:

"A fat marine had been photographed pissing into the locked-open mouth of a decomposing North Vietnamese soldier..."

"... a reporter friend looking totally mind-blown, he woke up that morning and heard two marines lying near him making love..."

"... twenty of us in a straight line that suddenly ballooned out into a curve, wide berth around a Vietnamese man who stood without a word and held his dead baby out to us."

They taught you in school to love your neighbor, that the color of a person's skin didn't make any difference.

Then when you got 18 they sent you to boot camp where they taught you to about "gooks" and "dinks." Communist bastards... animals. "They're not like us."

They taught you to kill. And you did it. You deadened the pain with booze and dope and an occasional R & R.

Then the war wasn't fashionable any more. The congressman who sent you off with stirring calls to duty now said that the war was wrong.

And you came back to a country that needed you to fight but didn't need you to work.

The story of Vietnam that Herr doesn't write is the one that happened back home.

The war started short and clean, a simple case of "fighting communism in Vietnam so we don't have to fight it on the shores of California." It became, instead, pain, frustration, and lies.

As the war was slowly stripped of glory, of purpose, Americans lost confidence in their leaders.

Conventional wisdom said it was just politics. Some said economics.

Thieu and Ky. Westmoreland with his maps and pointers, his "light at the end of the tunnel." Junior executives demonstrating at the White House.

In the end it became too much to bear. America lost its first war since 1812.

"Dispatches" is being hailed as the best book so far on Vietnam. Maybe it is. Maybe it isn't.

I suspect that we're just beginning to figure out what the war was all about. This book will help fit some of the pieces together.

Now the grunts are back home. No more peace marches. No more napalm. No more Richard Nixon. But Vietnam still lingers on. Herr's last sentence is our last sentence:

"Vietnam, Vietnam, Vietnam, we've all been there."

WHO'S THAT KNOCKIN' AT THE DOOR?

by A Patriotic American

THE OTHER NIGHT I had the tremendous honor of a personal visit from the President of the United States, Jimmy Carter himself.

Well, to be absolutely truthful, I missed seeing the President personally, as he arrived at my door sometime before I got home.

The reason I know he was there is that a printed envelope was slipped under my door with the return address "Jimmy Carter, Washington, D.C. 20036."

Presumably Jimmy had a lot of other calls to make, so he just left the letter behind and split.

In any event, deeply warmed by the honor of this attention, I opened the envelope fully expecting an engraved invitation to the next twelve-course diplomatic dinner banquet for which this "no frills" Administration is so justly famed, or whatever.

To my surprise, however, it

turned out to be an appeal to join something called the "President's Club".

"The Democratic Party has formed this club," Jimmy's letter read, "to attract the support of Democrats who will help our Administration to carry out its commitments to the American people."

OH NO!

Then I saw it. An appeal for funds. Tucked neatly under the form letter.

Oh, no! The President of the United States wants ME to give HIM money??

What the hell for, I snarl. To solve Bert Lance's cash flow problems? To carve Jimmy's figure on Mt. Rushmore? To buy up Panama for Rosalynn or Amy?

However, I discovered I was totally and shamefully mistaken. Jimmy Carter isn't asking for my money for his personal gain.

It turns out that the Democratic Party National Committee is just trying to raise a few million dollars

for the 1978 Congressional elections, one year from now.

What really shocked me were some of the figures provided by the National Committee itself.

It seems that in 1975-76, the Democratic National Committee had to scrape by on receipts of only \$20,000,000.

SEND GROCERY MONEY

That's why the Democratic Party needs your money today. Send in your hard-earned grocery money to attract a few more friends of labor and the Black community to Congress, and you'll see some real changes made. Sure you will.

That's Jimmy Carter's message: without your money, the system can't work.

An appeal like this one simply cried out for a burning response. And I had one.

Slowly lighting up the President's appeal, I watched it disappear to ashes and subversively dialed the heat up to 75 degrees. □

Workers' Power

PUERTO RICAN TEAMSTER ORGANIZER MURDERED

by Kim Moody

Juan Rafael Caballero Santana was a shop steward in Teamsters' Local 901, San Juan, Puerto Rico. On Tuesday, October 25, his body was found in Puerto Rico's El Yunque rain forest.

Brutally murdered, his hands were bound and he had been strangled by electrical wire.

It wasn't the usual kind of thing you associate with murdered Teamsters. It wasn't a hit by the Mob. It wasn't the work of a rival Teamster chief. Or even a move by the Marble Palace to silence an enemy.

The hit men in this job were agents of the Puerto Rican police. The paymasters, the Mr. Bigs, in this operation were the governments of Puerto Rico and its colonial master, the United States.

NEW BREED *

Juan Caballero was one of a new breed of labor leaders in Puerto Rico. He fought for his union and its members, the tronquistas as the Teamsters call themselves there. He also fought for his country, Puerto Rico, and its independence.

On November 10, over ten thousand Puerto Rican workers demonstrated in San Juan to back up the Teamsters and protest the murder of Caballero.

The demonstration was called by the Teamsters and a coalition of 38 other unions. That afternoon, public transportation in San Juan came to a halt.

Teamster General-Secretary, Luis Pagan, Local 901 organizer Luis Carrion, and many of Teamster leaders share Caballero's commitment to fighting for unionism and national independence for Puerto Rico.

In their view, Puerto Rico is a colony of the United States, a truly captive nation.

While they oppose the American captivity of Puerto Rico, and the exploitation of the island by U.S. big business, they are not "anti-American," when it comes to

working people. In a speech delivered in New York on November 11, Carrion said:

"For our labor organization, the struggle of Puerto Rican workers is closely linked to the struggles of workers the world over and especially to the struggle of the North American workers within the context of a most profound international ideal."

INDEPENDENCE

In recent years, more and more Puerto Rican workers have come to support the fight for national independence. This has been reflected by the election of more union officials holding those views.

The American employers, local Puerto Rican businessmen, the government of Puerto Rico, and, of course, the various U.S. intelligence operations have fought this new unionism and nationalism with increasing vigor.

It was, in fact, part of this growing anti-union activity that led to the murder of Caballero by the Puerto Rican police.

An American corporation lawyer named Alan Randall had organized a series of seminars for big business in Puerto Rico on how to weaken or break unions.

These seminars, according to the Puerto Rican Teamsters were organized with "the participation of leading figures of the North American intelligence apparatus."

Randall himself is thought to be an agent or collaborator of the CIA. Randall was assassinated on September 21. The police decided either that the Teamsters were responsible or that this was a good opportunity to harass Teamster leaders.

DETAINED

On October 31, the police picked up Luis Carrion and Local 901's

secretary, Benita Vasquez and illegally detained them for questioning.

Then came the murder of Caballero.

The Teamsters say they have affidavits of witnesses who saw Caballero at a Federal detention center in El Yunque just before his murder.

Suddenly the U.S. Justice Department appeared and took over the investigation of both the Randall killing and the Caballero murder.

Smelling a cover-up, the Teamsters have refused to turn over their evidence to the Justice Department.

They are demanding, instead, that the investigation be overseen

by the Puerto Rican Bar Association and representatives from organized labor.

The workers of Puerto Rico deserve the support of American workers in their struggle for militant trade unionism and national independence. □

Messages of solidarity or requests for more information can be sent to:

Union de Tronquistas
Local 901
Parque 352 Pda. 23
Santurce, Puerto Rico.



Over 10,000 Puerto Rican workers demonstrate to protest the murder of Teamster Juan Caballero and the growing attack on the unions.

IRON ORE STRIKERS ASK FOR MORE

by Terri Ferguson

IN THE LONGEST STRIKE in the history of the Steelworkers' Union, 10,000 striking iron ore miners in Minnesota have again displayed militant determination.

Company hopes of a settlement rose last week when 5,000 miners agreed to the latest company offer, in what looked like a Michigan-based back-to-work movement.

But strikers still out in Minnesota have responded by demanding new concessions from the steel companies.

While some workers were agreeing to end their strike under the compromise incentive pay plan for 75% coverage, miners at one Minnesota local (Elevith's Oglebay-Norton Taconite Co.) voted by

a wide margin last week to reject the settlement.

Joe Samargia, president of striking local 1938, told Workers' Power that the 75% plan would serve to "break solidarity" in the iron ore mines and divide their ranks.

LOCAL LEADERS UNHAPPY

Local leaders of the key iron range local at U.S. Steel's large Minnesota taconite operation also have appeared to be unhappy with the compromise.

District Director Linus Wampler said that the locals remaining on strike intend to press for 100% coverage under the incentive pay plan, rather than the 75% coverage

agreed to by the locals that have returned to work.

"If they feel they can win it, they should try to get it," said Wampler.

The miners will be asking for other concessions, according to Wampler, including moving the effective date of the plan up by more than a year, from Nov. 1, 1979, to Aug. 1, 1978.

As the companies feel the strike more and more in their pockets, and the International Union tries to steer strikers toward a settlement, the miners are resisting: pressing for more and refusing to settle for less than what they need.

And in Minnesota, against big odds, they have maintained the solidarity that it will take to win. □

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