Ford Motor Co. Offer: An Attack on All Auto Workers

For An Industry-Wide Auto Strike!

September 14 should be the date to launch a well-prepared industry-wide strike of all North American auto workers against the giant and profit-hungry auto industry. Such a strike would very quickly smash the schemes of the auto capitalists to take back many of the hard-won gains of United Auto Workers (UAW) members, and would just as quickly compel the companies to grant substantial improvements in wages, benefits and working conditions.

"Pattern Bargaining"—Recipe for Defeat

The present UAW leadership, however, has no intention of waging such a strike. UAW president Leonard Woodcock and the rest of the union's top brass have designated Ford as the union's target company. If the union is unable to come to a new agreement with management by September 14, Ford operations will be struck. Meanwhile UAW members at General Motors, Chrysler and American Motors, whose contracts also expire on September 14, will be forced to work, in effect, with no contracts.

According to the Woodcock-Reu- ther school of trade unionism "pattern bargaining" permits the union to apply maximum pressure on the strike companies by allowing its competitors to continue to produce and sell cars. It is abundantly clear, however, that so far as the UAW is concerned the auto giants approach the union with a united face.

It is no accident that General Motors, Ford and Chrysler all complain in union that fringe benefits costs have risen "too swiftly" and demand that in the future increases in fringe benefits must either come out of the auto workers' pockets directly (in the case of medical care insurance) or out of the cost-of-living allowance (COLA).

More Speed-Up—More Profits

The 1976 model year ended with the auto companies taking in enormous profits. GM, Ford and Chrysler all amassed record or near-record earnings. In the case of GM these totalled approximately $7 billion in the first two quarters of 1976.

These huge returns were not merely the result of high sales or of a policy of monopsonistic price-gouging. Since Woodcock's last sellout in 1973, the companies have been systematically speeding up the assembly lines and intensifying the rate of exploitation. GM's sales during the second quarter of 1976 totaled 2.37 million units worldwide, slightly below the record 2.80 million units it sold during the same period in 1973. But this production was achieved with tens of thousands fewer workers.

Over 25,000 auto workers still remain on indefinite layoff. An even greater number have lost both their union membership and their recall rights and will likely never be rehired. Yet by scheduling grueling overtime and engaging in systematic practices of speed-up, cutting corners on health and safety and resorting to widespread harassment the auto companies have managed to jack productivity up to the point that they are making the same number of cars with a substantially smaller workforce.

Instead of combating this all-out offensive on working conditions, the treacherous Woodcock bureaucracy has actively abetted the companies in their criminal activities. In every auto plant in the country thousands of grievances are permitted to gather dust while Woodcock and his local hangers-on turn their backs on victimization of the union's militants.

Such bureaucratic treachery is not new. The UAW brass has traditionally capitulated to management, giving it a free hand in setting shop-floor conditions in exchange for relatively high wages and benefits.

Unemployment Looms

While some bourgeois commentators have optimistically forecast strong sales in auto, predicting 1977 sales to rival the record sales of 1973, it is more likely that the industry will experience another slump in the near future. In the U.S. capital spending remains low. According to statistics compiled by the magazine Business Week (13 September) capital spending is making its slowest comeback from any recession in the postwar period. At the same time new orders for consumer goods, for goods.

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Abel Whips Reformer Sadlowski at Steelworkers Convention

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Down with the Emergency Measures, North and South!

What's Behind Anti-Violence Marches in Ireland?

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Pre-Contract Harassment Campaign at Mahwah

Militant Black Auto Worker Victimized by Ford Motor Co.

Interview with Richard Bradley

Richard Bradley works at Ford Motor Company's Mahwah assembly plant in New Jersey and is a member of the Militant Solidarity Caucus (MSC) of UAW Local 906. For the last six months Bradley and other MSC members have been the target of a company harassment campaign that has reached a crescendo during recent weeks.

WJ: How has Ford management been victimizing you and why does this harassment campaign come just at this point?

Bradley: It started when the job I bid for five and a half years ago was taken away from me in the last week of February. Since that time I have done a total of something like 40 different jobs, a lot of which is nothing more than the copying of my contractual rights and classifications. The latest incident was a couple of weeks ago when Labor Relations suspended me for doing a job my doctor stated was dangerous to my health. After the company realized they didn't have a case, the company dropped the suspension, but they want me out bad.

WJ: Can you spell out just how the company has been harassing you?

Bradley: They are violating the contract on a day-to-day basis such as by assigning me to a rated job and not paying me the rate, by refusing to give me a permanent job, by loaning me out of my department. And especially by disregarding my medical restrictions. My bronchial tubes are swollen from the fumes in the machines that comes from working in the pits. I developed a case of bronchitis and went to my physician, who sent a letter back to the company doctor saying I should no longer work in the pit. It's a danger to my health, and that I should be given another job. But the company continued to harass me in the pit and on the front fender and so forth, and the foreman refused to let me have medical treatment.

What they're trying to do is build up a case of disciplinary offenses so the company can fire me, terminate me on the basis of my work record. There's also a rumor going around the plant that the company is trying to frame up me and Lisa Diamond [another MSC member] by implicating us in someone trying to steal something out of the plant.

WJ: Why were you removed from your steady job after bidding it so long?

Bradley: Because starting last October I had filed grievances on the lines. Mike Peterman, for turning the line speed up two to three hundred fast. This continued from October right through February when they pulled me off the job.

The line speed, you know, should be set at a certain amount, but then the company just turns up the line speed any time they fall behind. When you're working on the line, when your line speed is running two to three hundred fast, it's just hell. All of us were running after the cars on the assembly line. Ford Motor Company is continuing to assign jobs to me and my contract is running out just so they can keep up their profits. For that they'll run the line speed up so high it physically destroys you.

WJ: What does this attempt to drive you out of the company mean for other workers at Mahwah?

Bradley: It's a program of the Militant Solidarity Caucus to win out for other workers at Mahwah. I've been an outspoken militant and oppositionist for more than six years. If the company can fire me it will destabilize the whole plant. Everybody knows I stand up for union rights and for a tough fight against the company. If they're successful in knocking me out of the plant it'll take some of the fight out of all the ranks at contract time.

I'm known as a spokesman for the Militant Solidarity Caucus and last September it was the MSC that was pushing to get the plant and 906 geared up for a strike over speed-up. Management noticed this and they would like to go into this contract without any militants around. That's why other members of the MSC have stepped in and I'm sure there have also been targets of company harassment.

WJ: How long have you been a member of the Militant Solidarity Caucus?

Bradley: I have been a member of the MSC ever since it was founded in 1973. September or October I think. Before that I was in the Rank and File Coalition, but after a while I could see that while the Rank and File criticized the bureaucracy it also caved in to it a lot. It didn't call for a completely new working-class-struggle leadership of the union, either in the Local or the International.

The MSC started up after some of us were kicked out of a United Action in a meeting at which we were supposedly going to discuss a program. I stood up and made the point that they should call for a labor party and a workers government. But they ignored it and kicked out those of us who had come to put forward that program. So then we formed the MSC.

Besides calling for a workers party to fight for a workers government, the instance. There are people who work for the plant for ten, fifteen years, but the jobs in places like quality control, the freight department, maintenance, and so forth are just given to someone who knows someone in management. That's all wrong, these jobs should be assigned by seniority. The MSC has a program that calls for a union hiring hall on a first-come, first-serve basis in the worker's society wherever it exists. So the MSC has done a lot around the busing issue. We are for busing and we say that it should be extended to the suburbs, that black kids should be able to get out of the ghetto school and that there should be a quality integrated education for all.

We are against federal troops being involved in this battle. We believe that the MSC calls for labor black defense to stop the racists from attacking black students in Chicago, UAW Local 67. We've been trying to firebomb it. That stopped the racists in their tracks.

A lot of people say that demands for a workers party are "too advanced" and "irrelevant." What's your answer?

Bradley: Irrelevant! Look at how many huge white voting blocs are voting for the Republicans out. If there's a strike, Woodcock more than likely would end it after four or five days; if it continued any longer it would be an embarrassment to the Democratic Party and Leon Woodcock, who was the labor leader to endorse Carter. So then what do we get? A peanut boss who runs an open shop — no union — and pays his hands nothing. And after the MSC was defeated in the company, I've filed something like

WW Photo

Militant Solidarity Caucus raises other demands like nationalization of industries without compensation, and a shorter work week with no loss in pay to create more jobs and fight unemployment. Also our program calls for union-controlled hiring on a first-come, first-serve basis, free 24-hour child care paid for by the company or the government, for opening up the skilled trades with special training programs for women and minorities, that there should be no discrimination in hiring or job bidding, and so on. Also, the line speed should be fixed in the contract: that's one of the things we were fighting for last fall.

HJ: What about racism at Mahwah, and what is the MSC program to fight it?

Bradley: I've been working here for over six years and I've seen plenty of examples of racism, in the hiring, for
Fremont Bureaucrats Float Call for UAW-Wide Strike

FREMONT, California—Several hundred members of United Auto Workers (UAW) Local 194 met on August 23 to pass a strike authorization motion in preparation for the upcoming auto contract battle. But the pro-Woodcock Local bureaucrats under shop chairman Earl Mays received more than they wanted when the workers overwhelmingly passed a motion put forward by the Committee for a Militant UAW (CMUAW).

"In order to prevent the weakening and division of the union's power, as has happened in previous contracts, the position of UAW Local 194 is:

1) No stockpiling no overtime;
2) No contract extension noncontract work;
3) For a union-wide strike September 14th;
4) For elected strike committees to enforce this policy."

According to a spokesman for CMUAW interviewed by WJ, the worried bureaucrats began lining up votes after the above resolution passed. Thus, another CMUAW motion—"to inform the International of the Local's position and to set a date for electing a strike slate"—was defeated. However, a separate motion against working overtime, co-sponsored by two reformist opposition groups ("Militant Action Caucus" and "Resistance"), was then passed despite the opposition of Mays and his flunkies. One bureaucrat proposed a special membership meeting for August 26, and a motion to this effect was passed.

But Mays & Co., along with Woodcock's International, are clearly afraid of any mobilization of the rank and file. Thus the very next day after the strike vote meeting, the executive board met and simply decided to ignore all the motions passed by the membership. In a disgusting bureaucratic leaflet, the executive board denounced the overtime proposal as the work of "irresponsible people in this membership who are attempting to violate our UAW-GM contract by encouraging our members to walk off their jobs after 8 hours."

Having denounced the 8-hour day, the board proceed to repeat the warnings of CMUAW International representative Joe Alvarez that "it is illegal for this local union to encourage its membership to slow down or stop production... we abide by and support the International contract and the position of the International union that any motions contrary to International policy procedure are illegal and not valid.... We, as responsible elected officers can stand by and allow you to be misled.... And just to make sure the membership would not be "misled," the executive board summarily canceled the special membership meeting!

The cancellation of this special membership meeting, the Standup: Resistance coalition attempted to bypass the obstacle of the executive board by holding a rally on August 26. Only about 30 people showed up, and a desperate Resistance sticker called for working with anybody who is for more union democracy and against overtime. However, the speaker had no proposals for further action.

Ironically it was the Standup group, politically supported by the Maoist October League (OL), which had enthusiastically joined with Mays & Co. in the June 1973 local elections through a lash-up called the Brotherhood Caucus. The Brotherhood ran on a lot of empty "people power" rhetoric but no program. The July 1973 issue of the Call, newspaper of the OL, boasted that the election of the Brotherhood "should break the stranglehold of the Internationale UAW leadership...." In contrast, militant opponents who later formed the CMUAW warned against voting for the opportunist Brotherhood slate.

Having spawned nothing but a new bureaucratic, Standup now threatens to repeat the experience by joining forces.

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Margaret Martinson

Militant Phone Worker Fired

"Standing Up Has Been Outlawed, Miss Martinson"

SAN FRANCISCO—In an incredible display of the arrogance toward women employees for which it is notorious, Pacific Telephone on September 7 fired militant operator Margaret Martinson for the "crime" of standing up while she worked at her position! Martinson, a directory assistance operator at the Sloat II office in S.F., is a member of the Militant Action Caucus (MAC) of Local 144, Communications Workers of America (CWA).

Martinson told WJ that she was flattened by the force of the experience. John Johnson peremptorily announced that "standing is now outlawed" and ordered her to sit down forthwith. For failing to do so immediately, she was charged with insubordination, and suspended and finally fired at a hearing September 7!

The phone company still thinks it is running a 19th-century sweatshop with 4) For elected strike committees to enforce this policy."
Integrate Cleveland Schools Now!

The Working Class and Left
All the ingredients of Boston are here: growing racist sentiment, an organized right wing and anti-busing school city officials backed by racist cops. But there is a significant difference between Boston and Cleveland, and that is the social weight of Cleveland's working class.

Cleveland, unlike Boston, is a heavily industrialized city with a large working class. An estimated 30-40 percent of the work force is black and the AFL-CIO, UAW, CWA and Teamsters have organized 210,000 workers organized into unions here. The objective basis upon which the SL has continually called for labor defense is black defense guards can be readily seen in Cleveland. Given the array of forces only an integrated defense guard organized by the unions and black organizations can guarantee peaceful desegregation.
What’s Behind Anti-Violence Marches in Ireland?

The Republic Suppresses the Republicans

The immediate pretext for the state of emergency in the South was a recent series of bombings. On July 15 the Spanish government, reportedly misled by its intelligence service, issued a general warning of an impending bombing. As if to confirm this prophesy, bombs exploded in two city centre locations that afternoon, killing one and injuring several. The bombings were quickly followed by a series of similar attacks, both in Belfast and in the North.

Prime Minister Liam Cosgrave warned that "the three bombings were a warning to the international community that the Republic and its major trade partner, Britain, would not be deterred from its efforts to stabilize the situation in the North." The British government was quick to respond, announcing an increase in military personnel and the deployment of additional police units.

Repression in the North

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Repression in the North

But now the specter of civil war growing out of the sharpened communal violence in Ulster has sent tremors of panic through the Green Tiers. A curious footnote to the adoption of the emergency measures in the Republic was the utterly hypocritical hue and cry raised by London over the release in Dublin of a report by the European Commission on Human Rights that found Britain guilty of torturing Roman Catholics ("suspected terrorists") in the North during 1971. Although neither the British government nor anyone else disputed the charges, British Secretary of State for Northern Ireland Merlyn Rees reproached Cosgrave in the most painless terms: "We regret the Irish Government's persistence in thus raking over the events of five years ago." With police-state measures being stepped up both North and South, apparently the Hon. Mr. Rees considers it bad form to make any mention of the suffering and torment this means for the victims.

The Peace Movements

In late 1969 the IRA Provisionals won broad support among the Catholic population of Belfast for their determined defense of the Catholic ghettoes against marauding Orange gangs and Protestant police. However, the Provos' indiscriminate sectarian violence has led to their growing isolation and provided a convenient pretext for the far more massive terror of the police and army.

A new element in the Ulster political equation has been the emergence in recent months of "peace" movements against the sectarian violence, particularly the "Women's Peace Movement," that has burgeoned in the last month. The British troops' brutal occupation of the Catholic ghettos, the 1972 "Bloody Sunday" massacre and the wire-cage internment camps (most notably Long Kesh) crammed with Republican supporters—as well as the exclusive reliance on the RUC and Ulster Defense Regiments (UDR) to "restrain" ultra-rightist paramilitary Orange gangs—soon punctured the veil of imperialist "neutrality." Today a

Women's Peace Movement marchers from Catholic Andersonstown and Protestant Shankill in Belfast, August 28.
LAS VEGAS — The 18th Constitutional Convention of the United Steelworkers of America (USWA) concluded here September 3. The convention marked the first major test of strength between forces loyal to outgoing President J.W. Abel and challenger Edward Sadlowski since local union elections this spring, when Sadlowski captured several important posts. For Sadlowski, the convention was a dismal flop as he proved unable to win a single floor fight.

Abel consistently recorded large majorities in support of policies which had been a part of his administration, including the no-strike Experimental Negotiating Agreement (ENA) and the "affirmative action" Consent Decree. Abel also easily succeeded in amending the constitution to increase the number of international union officers from three to five, a step necessary to resolve a squabble within the Union.

Abel's camp over choosing a slate for the February elections. The reformist Sadlowski cut a pathetic figure. Outnumbered, with support largely limited to delegates from his Chicago-based District 31, he clearly lacked the courage to wage a floor fight. Unable to find a cheap and popular issue to capitalize on, his supporters made weak and lackluster interventions. In fact, the discussion and debate never became nearly as heated as it did during the 1974 USWA convention, which had far less organized opposition, when there was a major battle over a dues increase and a hike in floor pay. Abel's opponents were able to gain support by highlighting the good labor relations of the Sadlowski dominated USWA.

The bulk of Abel's opening speech was directed toward discounting Sadlowski's "outside" forces. Abel accused Sadlowski of "spinning" the names of prominent union officials in an attempt to prevent the discussion of key union issues. Abel's opponents were able to gain support by highlighting the good labor relations of the Sadlowski dominated USWA.

Abel's opening speech was the first blow. Abel forces conducted a running hatchet job on Sadlowski for the duration of the convention. The agency for this was a collection of local union presidents who called itself "Steelworker Members Against Radical Takeover" (S.M.A.R.T.). S.M.A.R.T. dedicated itself to exposing "outside" socialist groups, Nazis and opposition groups within the Steelworkers.

This organization's outpourings were crude anti-communist stuff, such as a photograph of Sadlowski with actress Jane Fonda, a noted anti-Vietnam War activist, at a July 4 People's Bicentennial rally in Washington, D.C.

However, S.M.A.R.T. also raised a number of legitimate questions about Sadlowski's record. Thus, its literature pointed out Sadlowski's poor record as a negotiator and his unwillingness to organize the unorganized in his district. S.M.A.R.T. also scored Sadlowski for failing to take positions on key issues, such as the Consent Decree and imports of foreign steel.

Sadlowski was clearly rattled by this continuing attack upon him. Encouraged by the red-hating atmosphere, a rabid, right-winger proposed special union trials "to get the commies." Sadlowski actually took the floor to counter this proposal, with great effect.

The Left Waits on Sadlowski
Sadlowski's open meetings drew around 200 delegates. His supporters came hoping to hear an announcement of a counterattack against S.M.A.R.T. and for an aggressive offensive at the convention. Such was not to be the case. Sadlowski, for his part, refused to commit himself to anything. When one person questioned him on his position on a 30-hour workweek, he answered: "You get up on the convention floor and raise it." And when oneSimple delegate demanded to know if Sadlowski was going to put forward a program, Sadlowski brushed him aside, promising to talk with him after the meeting!

Interestingly, the only piece of literature which he urged his supporters to distribute was a reprint from the Australian press concerning Abel's tour of that country last spring. In Australia, where the workers' movement is considerably more class-conscious, calling on the government to intervene in the trade...
unions is considered a scandal by militant unionists and is a tactic engaged in only by extreme right-wingers. Aware of this, the shrewd Abel spoke out strongly during his tour against pending legislation in Australia that would institute government-run balloting in the unions, linking this to the tactics used by his opponents in the Steelworkers. The shameless Sadlowski, who regards government intervention as a virtue, urged that his supporters "expose" Abel by circulating the Australian news reports.

Meanwhile, the ostensible left liquidated itself into the Sadlowski non-entity at the convention. The Communist Party-backed National Steelworkers Rank and File Committee (NSRFC) published a daily bulletin. However, it did everything possible to ensure that it would not upstage Sadlowski. Its members never once identified themselves organizationally on the convention floor. Likewise, the NSRFC paper program, including demands for dumping ENA and full plant-wide seniority, was never brought to the floor, so as not to embarrass Sadlowski. The NSRFC canceled its scheduled public meeting and delegates who did show up at its hospitality suite were redirected to Sadlowski headquarters. Its craven liquidation was graphically demonstrated at a Sadlowski-called meeting when a supporter of Abel, co-chairman of the NSRFC, for a copy of the NSRFC "Report." Edwards refused, saying "This is Eddie's meeting."

The Rank and File Team (R.A.F.T.) delegates from District 26 (Youngstown) issued a leaflet with a minimal program, including demands for dumping ENA and full plant-wide seniority, which teetered on the brink of becoming the first citywide general strike in thirty years. WV was there. From the initial call "For an SF General Strike Against Anti-Labor Offensive!" (No. 103, 2 April) to the final report on "SF City Workers Strike Knit in the Back" (No. 109, 14 May), WV was on hand every week with the program for extending and deepening the strike through labor solidarity and elected strike committees—the program needed to wrest control of the strike from the vacillating union bureaucrats whose policies led the militant workers of San Francisco down to defeat. WV was a crucial component of the campaign to save Chilean miners leader Mario Muñoz from a murderous manhunt in Argentina. WV published the declaration launching the international campaign (No. 122, 23 April) and followed it up every week with reports and interviews which exposed the bloody reality of the "government's coup" in Argentina and the plight of the tens of thousands of political refugees for whom massive publicity and international solidarity was the only hope. And WV was on hand (No. 122, 20 August) for Muñoz's dramatic arrival in Europe.

During this first year of the weekly WV, a $5 subscription brought readers hard-hitting articles on such subjects as: ferment in the Portuguese army; Patty Hearst and the SLA; Lillian Hellman's account of the witchhunt years; a factory occupation in Milan; Nazis in Chicago and the Klan in Houston; "Why We Don't Celebrate July 4"; Soviet dissidents; miners and Teamsters wildcats; gun control; Rev. Moon and the reactionary function of religion; for labor/black defense of Boston school busing; the rifts between Moscow and the European Communist Party; the women's movement; Ernest Mandel and revisionist economics; the Chilean torture ship Escada; the civil war in Lebanon; apartheid in South Africa.

To know the world and to change it...Subscribe now to Workers Vanguard, the only authentic Trotskyist weekly paper in the world. $5 for 48 issues.
Transsexual Challenges Tennis Establishment

Last week Dr. Renee Richards competed in the women's singles of the Tennis Week Open at South Orange, N.J. At the instigation of the Women's Tennis Association (W.T.A.), 25 of the 32 original entrants withdrew to protest her participation. Until a sex change operation last year Renee Richards was Dr. Richard Raskind, an eye surgeon and nationally ranked tennis player.

Dr. Renee Richards, who had won the New York State clay court title in 1964. The decision of this transsexual to play in the major women's tournaments has driven the tennis establishment into a furor. "Cries of 'nfonst' " have been raised amid speculation that Richards can overpower a Chris Evert or a Billie Jean King and turn the women's tennis world topsy-turvy. To prevent Richards from competing in the U.S. Open at Forest Hills, the U.S. Tennis Association is now instituting, for the first time, a chromosome test for all women entrants.

Renee Richards was the cry of "unfair competition" is undoubtedly a phony horror about having to deal with a transsexual. The only way the tennis establishment's hostile, even hysterical, reaction to Richards has little to do with the transsexual's physical makeup. The hostile reaction to Richards from the tennis bigwigs is typical of what the tennis and justify men or women who undergo sex change operations are usually fired from their jobs, abandoned by their friends and face social ostracism.

After the operation, Richards understandably tried to balance her public and private lives and moved from New York to California for that purpose. However, Richards' attraction for competitive tennis gave her the way. After winning a local tournament, a reporter investigated the tall, mean-looking fellow who had tried to sink into anonymity. However, Richards had the mental courage to openly challenge the system and demand to play in the major women's tournaments. Richards is neither a publicity seeker nor a cynically attuned type to exploit her supposedly superior physical prowess to achieve stardom in women's tennis. The main argument against Richards is that she has a man's strength and is somehow more feminine (2 in. Height and strength are precisely the qualities that make for male superiority in tennis and justify separate sexual competition in the sport.

The assertion that Richards has a man's body with a woman's external genitalia is far from the truth. As a result of taking the hormone estrogen, Richards has lost more than 50 pounds, most of it in muscle, since the operation. Furthermore, at 42, Richards neither has the stamina and demand to play in the long tournaments. Richards was defeated in the semifinals by a mediocre 17-year-old, Lee Antipollon, who herself was easily defeated by the eventual winner.

To speak of some genuine democratic right of transsexuals to compete in women's athletic events is meaningless. The Richards case is obviously exceptional. The likelihood of top-flight male athletes having sex change operations and wanting to compete as women is virtually nil. Renee Richards is competing in major women's tournaments and to do so by the long tournament, Richards was defeated in the semi-finals by a mediocre 17-year-old, Lee Antipollon, who herself was easily defeated by the eventual winner.

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The number of transsexuals is still a matter of dispute. However, the socially correct scheme for transsexuals is closely linked with democratic rights for the far larger homosexual population. The scheme of the lie persists that homosexuality and prejudice lie organized religious obscurantism and not a tradition. To change the system and fight for the rights of the transsexuals, i.e., to the male-dominated capitalist society and the subservient of women.

Auto...

(continued from page 1)

in process and for materials are dripping, pointing to a downturn in the economy at the beginning of the year.

Auto workers thus face the prospect of yet another grim round of layoffs in the next period. With GM and Chrysler's SUB funds nearly bankrupt and Ford as unlikely as able to be with

standing massive layoffs as the other funds were, the prospects are truly bleak.

But just as the UAW bureaucracy abroad manages a forehand defense from its shop floor, so too does it lie down in the face of the threat of new layoffs. Despite signing the $73 million contract over 100,000 auto workers lost their jobs while Woodcock & Co. did absolutely nothing. The end result of such criminal apathy is a vicious cycle where auto workers are alternately laid off, then subjected to a new and intensified round of grueling overtime and speed-up. Between unemployment and 60-hour work-weeks a large section of the union is effectively prohibited from actively participating in the life of the union.

Clearly the UAW must launch a militant and massive campaign to break this pattern. The need for a scaling side of wages and hours for an unlimited 100 percent COLA and a shorter work week with no loss in pay (30 hours work for 40 hours pay) has never been more evident.

Woodcock's Flexible Approach

Auto workers will recall that among the president's standard claims of Woodcock's $73 contract was the provision for " voluntary overtime." In essence, the UAW tops three of the 40-hour week in exchange for making overtime " voluntary" after the auto worker worked a 54-hour week! That 54 hours just happens to be the standard overtime week at most assembly plants was hardly an accident.

In 1976 these same misleaders are making noises about the need to establish "job security" by "reducing work time." This is pure eyewash! At the UAW bargaining convention in March, Renée Woodcock peremptorily ruled out of order a mete-mouthed motion urging the union to end the "principle" of a shorter workweek as a priority demand in 1976.

Referring to various "short work time" schemes advanced by the union, UAW Ford negotiator Ken Bannin said, "We're not wedded to any particular shaping" (Detroit News, 30 July 1976). A shorter workweek at no loss in pay or three more minutes break time it's all the same to Mr. Bannin! As best, the Woodcock bureaucracy will try to get a few more paid holidays, probably at the expense of tightened work rules aimed at turning holiday pay into absentee control devices. More likely, Brown will "sign" a "short work time" hoax such as the one now in effect in the agricultural implement division.

This theoretical scheme which has absolutely nothing to create jobs, is merely another company absorbance. Another way. A union with perfect attendance "bank" one half hour a week, enabling them to take off a day if they want to manage 16 weeks of perfect attendance?

Companies On An Offensive

With auto worker hierarchies has demanded little of the auto companies, in line with its policy of "keeping our options open," the auto bosses have taken a hard line and are aggressively pushing for a rollback of many union gains. Banking on the conservativism of the effects of the hundreds of thousands of layoffs over the past three years and on the demoralization and apathy of a major strike that could embarrass the Democratic Party presidential hopeful, ranting work racist Jimmy Carter (the Woodcock hopes to cash in on his anti labor support to Carter's campaign by becoming "Labor friendly" (in the cabinet), the auto companies have put forward a number of proposals designed to destroy the union. Among the demands being advanced by Ford management are:

• Make employees pick up part of the costs for health services...
• Repeal the "job security" on holiday pay eligibility.
• Extract supplemental unemployment benefits (SUB) without additional contributions of the auto workers...
• Reduce the starting pay and benefits of newly hired employees and after being reduced after losing rights while on SUB ...
• Increase wages from 37 cents to 77 cents during the three-year contract, a tax the auto bosses are to make below the traditional yearly wage hike of 3%搬家...

Consider diverging wages and cost-cutting allowances (DOA) to give the auto companies the power to cover costs of other contract items...

• Take the current $1.14 in COLA monies and "launch" it into the contract ... for an additional agreement but not add it to the base wage. That distinction... would hold down inflation...

• Detroit News, 1 Sept 1976

Particularly dangerous are the company demands to restructure SUB benefits and extend the probation period for new hires to one year, starting them out with $1 an hour less wages. The companies want to make SUB benefits available only to high seniority workers (the Woodcock bureaucracy also favors such a step). This scheme, along with the proposals on new hires will go a long way toward creating a layer of second-class workers in the industry. This plants will divide the workforce along racial and sexual lines and will result in vicious exploitation of women and minority workers. Anyhow who has worked in an auto assembly plant with this high turnover and frequent layoffs can easily appreciate the incredible stamina that must be used away from such a division of the union. Militants must instead demand: Full union rights and cost-cutting for all new hires...

Auto Attack on UAW

Worker made by Ford along with GM and Chrysler is an outrage and an
attack on all auto workers. It must be decisively rejected! But militant auto workers must also dump the arrogant and treacherous Woodcock bureaucracy whose treasonous policies have encouraged the capitalists at every step. Woodcock and Bannister are up at the auto companies' outrageous demands not because of what these demands mean for the workers who stand in the assembly plants, but because they will kindle the just anger of every auto worker and make it so much more difficult for these agents of the bosses in the labor movement to pose as militant union leaders.

The labor-faker leaders of the UAW are currently putting on a militant act. In the light of Ford management's demands it now is likely they will lead a strike. But as in the case of the recent United Rubber Workers strike, victory will be achieved in spite of and not because of these managers. The great danger is that Woodcock and his pals will call a brief strike to blow off steam and then try to force another rotten contract down the membership's throats. This happened in 1973. Woodcock hypocritically complains that the auto companies' wage offers amount to less than 3 percent a year and that the COLA formula is inadequate. But in 1973 Woodcock forced a three-year, 3 percent a year contract on the union and settled for a COLA that covered only 80 percent of the rise in the cost of living. Now Woodcock screams because the auto companies want to divert some of the inadequate COLA monies to pay for new fringes. But in 1973 the UAW brass agreed to permit the diversion of 10 percent of the COLA to pay for the workers' share of the fringe benefit package.

Defend Wage Parity

It goes without saying that a settlement which does not exceed the 3 percent per year wage packet of the 1973 contract will be a big defeat. Already this year the Teamsters and United Rubber Workers have won wage settlements running 32 to 36 percent over three years. Compared to what Wood­
crack has in store, such a settlement would represent a gain in real wages, especially if it were accompanied by an unlimited, uncap­ned COLA. Certainly the UAW has more than enough muscle to force such a settlement. The obstacle is the pro-company Solidarity House gang.

A particularly important task in connection with the question of wages is the necessity to defend the wage parity between U.S. and Canadian auto workers. A healthy wage increase for both American and Canadian auto workers would leave the Trudeau government's wage-control law a sham­bles and immeasurably strengthen all North American union solidarity.

Auto workers certainly shouldn't look to Woodcock to struggle for a meaningful wage increase. But in 1973 the UAW brass agreed to let Woodcock administer a wage-control program, to give him the "friend of labor" Democratic Party. A repetition of the defeat suffered by the UAW in 1973 will be a serious setback not only for the auto workers but for the entire North American labor movement. The bourgeoisie will pay close attention to the union in the coming months. It knows that significant gains by the UAW will set an example for hundreds of other unions—most importantly for the giant United Steel­

workers whose contract will expire in 1977. It is the duty of every class-conscious auto worker to do everything in his or her power to guarantee a successful strike. Above all it is necessary to patiently explain to the union members the treacherous role of the Woodcock bureaucracy. We require a clear victory over the bourgeoisie or we will pay the price of our capitulation. "Victory or defeat, we will never alter our revolutionary course," the Teamsters executive board announced in May, "under the UP."

We alone refused to give up our arms and trust in the "anti-fascist" government coalition; now the Stalinists and other treacherous sectors of the bourgeoisie, far from hastening the downfall of the hated butcher Pinochet, constitute, with the "left" parties, to whom the Communists and Social Democrats have revealed their true nature, the genuine front of the "anti-fascists". This is the Leighton wing, which confuses the Trotskyists with the Stalinists in order to distort their attacks against the reformist policies of the "anti-fascist" government coalition; now the Stalinists and other centrists and reformists cannot defend their own treacherous role in the acid test of Chile that they try to escape revolutionary critique by physically excluding Trotskyists from Chile demonstrations.

As we stated in the "Declaration of Fraternal Relations" between the inter­national Socialist tendency and the Organización Trotkist Revolucionaria de Chile (in WWP's No. 111, 28 May 1976), "The events of 1970 to 1973 in Chile, and continue to constitute a fundamental test of the revolutionary capacity of all who claim to speak in the interests of the oppressed. The question of the popular front—what Trotsky termed "the main question of the present epoch"—did not simply go up in smoke as the Moneda was burning in Santiago. It is ever-present today, in Portugal, Italy, in France and Chile, where the Stalinist and social-democratic mislead­
ers seek to repeat the tragic experience of 1970-73. Sugar-coated lies about a mythical "peaceful transition to democracy" or a "beautiful victory" of "new people's democracy" are not true solidarity with Chilean workers. The real test of an authentic and genuine internationalism is to tell the truth to the working class, however painful. And the truth can only be the call for permanent revolution, through the establishment of working-class rule based on the permanent exploitation and oppressed sweep away, once and for all, the Picchinos and their benches."

Partisan Defense Committee Forum for International Working-Class Defense

A discussion of the class-struggle, anti-fascist forces and the Partisan Defense Committee upon which the campaign is based.

Speaker: BERNARD SHIFFMAN
PDC Co-Chairman
Friday, September 10, 7:30 p.m.
Parson's Phillips Brooks House Hall, Harvard University
CAMBRIDGE
Ireland

(continued from page 5)
i.e. the left Panther set up its own neighborhood committees in the Catholic neighborhoods of the city. On Thursday, August 28, a procession of thousands of Catholic neighbors marched through the Shankill Road and the Falls district, calling for an end to the conflict. The procession was met by a counter-protest organized by Protestant nierhoods. This protest was also supported by the right-wing paramilitary groups of the Irish Navy and the Ulster Volunteer Force. The tension in the city continued to rise, and the police were called in to maintain order. The next day, Saturday, August 29, a large demonstration was held in Belfast to protest against the killings. The marchers went up the Shankill Road and were met by a counter-protest organized by Protestant neighbors. The marchers were stopped by the police, but they continued to march despite the violence. The police used tear gas and batons to disperse the crowd. This incident was followed by further violence and protests, and the situation remained tense. The British government was accused of failing to address the underlying causes of the conflict. The situation in Northern Ireland continued to escalate, and the situation remained unresolved.
Steelworkers...

(continued from page 3)

battle that occurred in the Mine Work­
ers union. The Michigan-organized Min­
ers-United (SWP)—while it supported Miller-
their alliance with the Jim Crow
capitalism, points out that CIO leaders only
took the struggle up to build industrial unions
to major breakthroughs in the ranks of the workers.
No More Popular Fronts!
The Chilean Proletariat Will Rise Again!

On the third anniversary of the September 11 coup in Santiago, militant workers and radical youth throughout the world proclaim their solidarity with the beleaguered Chilean proletariat. We renew our determination to smash the bloodsoaked Pinochet junta which massacred more than 30,000 of our class brothers and sisters. The international working class will not forget this monstrous crime. We will avenge our martyred comrades by destroying the brutal capitalist system which cut them down.

To demonstrate solidarity with Chilean workers, the first task faced by every class-conscious militant is to understand how the fight against the junta must be waged. Is it by forming the "broadest possible anti-fascist popular front" as the Communist Party and its various Chile committees say? The ignominious collapse of the Allende popular front painted in strokes of blood the crucial lesson that the working class must reject the class-collaborationist policies which allowed the reactionary plotters to prepare their murderous plans for decapitating the proletariat.

The Pinochet regime, which never had more than a narrow base of committed social support, is now more isolated than ever. Even sections of the bourgeoisie are disaffected because of the economic collapse of the country, which still shows no sign of recuperating despite many months of Milton Friedman's "shock treatment." The Stalinists say the workers must scale down their demands in order not to scare away this anti-junta bourgeoisie. They call not for proletarian revolution, but rather a first "stage" of "new people's democracy." That way things will be easier, and the junta demonstration at NYC's Town Hall last March.

"It is the most elementary duty for revolutionary Marxists to irreconcilably oppose the Popular Front in the election and to place absolutely no confidence in it in power. Any 'critical support' to the Allende coalition is class treason, paving the way for a bloody defeat for the Chilean working people when domestic reaction, abetted by international imperialism, is ready."

"Chilean Popular Front," Spartacist, November-December 1970

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Anti-junta demonstration at NYC's Town Hall last March.

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