

LOUISVILLE-BUSING SPLITS LABOR

Louisville, Kentucky, calls itself the "Strategic City of the Seventies." That bit of Chamber of Commerce advertising has taken on a grim meaning as fascist groups have made Louisville an example of both their intentions and their political strength.

Even before school busing to desegregate the city and county schools started last September, white chauvinist groups had started organizing. The first week of school brought school boycotts by Anglo-American students that were 60-70% effective in Anglo-American working class areas. Anti-busing demonstrators stoned buses carrying Negro national minority children to and from formerly all Anglo-American schools. Two schools were hit by unsolved arson attacks. Hundreds and sometimes a thousand anti-busing demonstrators confronted police, state troopers and National Guardsmen. Police and FBI spokesmen said that these riots were obviously "coordinated," "probably by the Klan" and promised strong counter measures that never materialized. Demonstrators arrested for disorderly conduct, trespassing and even assault have been acquitted, had their cases "filed away," or fined \$10 or \$20. "Peaceful" anti-busing marches downtown (where at least two Negro onlookers were beaten and a Negro policeman had to pull his gun to protect another Negro onlooker and himself) have drawn up to 8,000 people.

The backbone of this white chauvinist attack has been a coalition of over 60 union locals representing over 100,000 workers (out of 105 locals with 155,000 members in the county). This coalition, "Union Labor Against Busing," (ULAB), has been the financial underwriter of the anti-busing movement in Louisville both by using union funds and by sponsoring donation drives on shop floors. ULAB alone has brought over 5000 workers to demonstrations and sent over 1000 people on a bus caravan to Washington, D.C.

ULAB was started by the largest union local in Kentucky, Local 761 of the IUE at the General Electric plant in Louisville. Local 761's contract expires this year. Rank-and-file demands were being solicited

at a meeting one day, and a ULAB meeting held the next. The union will go into negotiations and possibly a strike facing two court suits by Negro members seeking repayment of all union funds spent on anti-busing activities!

The IUE local recently pulled out of the ULAB group under apparent pressure from the international. The reason the local officers gave was that ULAB had recently met to coordinate efforts with some groups that were "too radical," including the KKK and John Birch Society. Kenneth Cassady, the Local 761 president who was instrumental in starting ULAB, said, "Local 761 as a union cannot and will not be involved with organizations that are making the busing issue a black and white, rather than an educational issue."

Yet ULAB has been co-sponsoring marches and rallies with local fascist groups for months! The Nazi Party recently surfaced—a Local 761 member said he expected that the party would have a fairly sizeable chapter in Louisville within a couple of years.

Another group, the "Christ Church Hunting and Hiking Club"—also known as the Possee Comitatus—advocates harassing Negroes, "hanging a few judges" and organizing secret groups to engage in "guerilla activity." The organizer of the Possee has announced he will run for county sheriff next year. His "hiking club" regularly practices self defense and target shooting.

These fascist gangs, along with the KKK, John Birch Society, a local ROAR chapter and a proliferation of other groups (STAB—Stop Tyranny and Busing, Concerned Parents, Parents for Freedom) have exchanged support back and forth with their counterparts in Boston and recently sent a 200 car caravan to the aid of anti-text book groups in Charleston, West Virginia. They have also sent lobbyists to the state legislature to buttonhole legislators for anti-busing bills (and at the same time, for rescission of the Equal Rights Amendment in Kentucky).

Needless to say, local bourgeois politicians have fallen all over themselves to gain support from these groups by bad-

no prof at this time, that the Klan is well represented on the Memphis police force.

The CLP has often stated that in colonies like the Negro Nation, the imperialists rule through out and out fascism. Need we offer any better proof? All the various reactionary southern mayors and politicians who have been calling for shoot to kill ordinances are merely seeking to formally legalize what has been going on all the time.

mouthings and sabotaging the busing order. Some school buses taking Negro children to school are forced to carry 50 or 60 students instead of the 30 they were meant to, because the county refuses to purchase more buses and coordinate the ones they have. The county judge (the chief official of the county) has been too busy organizing a National Forum on Alternatives to Busing and going around the country speaking to whoever will listen about the "negative experience" of Louisville. This stand effectively isolated the federal judge who ordered the busing—having to "take the blame" by himself he resigned as chief judge. President Ford is now considering a replacement.

The Negro community has been unable to mount any effective resistance to this fascist onslaught. The churches, the traditional voice of the Negro people in this southern state, have not even been able to organize a tutoring program to help the Negro children catch up from their years of inferior education. At a march and rally on Martin Luther King's birthday, over 2000 demonstrators carrying pro-busing and anti-Klan signs, were offered a hodge-podge of black nationalist, trade-unionist, bourgeois pacifist and Trotskyite analyses and solutions, but it was obvious from the mixed reponse to each speaker that, as one spectator noted, "there are no leaders in the Black community right now."

Comrades and friends, we must realize that what the fascists have done in Louisville, they will do elsewhere unless they are stopped. GE, Ford and International Harvester have large plants in Louisville. All have contracts to be negotiated this year. All are members of the historically pro-fascist National Association of Manufacturers (NAM). All have gained a lot of maneuvering room at the negotiating table through

disproving the Negro workers' demand for justice, and injected a fear that any of them might be the next victim.

Our task, here as elsewhere, must be to break this stranglehold and to help unite the Negro and Anglo-American workers to resist fascism, and to channel into the struggle for socialism, the anger and fighting spirit which we know is deep in the hearts of the workers in the Negro Nation.

their fascist gangs in the streets.

Using the struggle for busing as a rallying point, these capitalists have deepened the split between the workers of Louisville. Skillful use of white chauvinism on the eve of major contract negotiations has weakened the position of the workers to bargain collectively. The tactics of the capitalists are clear for all to see. It must be equally clear to every Anglo-American worker that unless they unite with the demands of the Negro workers for busing and against the misappropriation of union funds for the fight against busing, all the workers will be defeated in the upcoming contract negotiations. The busing furor has provided a smokescreen behind which the capitalists have prepared to once again trample upon the rights of the workers by further dividing them. Anglo-American workers who stand in opposition to the Negro worker, stand on the side of the capitalists against the entire working class movement. This suicidal stand must be opposed. The fight against chauvinism, for busing and for a united working class movement is the only hope of the working class to achieve a decent life with jobs, peace and equality.

