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WORKERS VOICE

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AUTO WORKERS BATTLE BIG 3



The 1976 Ford strike. UAW members discuss the issues outside the River Rouge works, Dearborn, Mich.

Retirees fighting to keep up with the cost of living...Assembly line workers in places like Ypsilanti, Michigan and Lakewood, Georgia fighting to slow down the freeway-like speeds of the new production standards...Upwards of 70,000 laid off workers fighting to expand Supplementary Unemployment Benefits...Chrysler workers fighting to keep from being saddled with an inferior contract...750,000 fighting to get a good pay increase and cost of living and to protect benefits.

Coast to coast, UAW members have been watching negotiations, voicing these demands, voting strike authorizations, and getting ready for a fight. Numerous local contract battles are shaping up.

The strike target was chosen. GM, with its record treasury, is on one side, and almost half a million GM workers at 130 plants are on the other.

GM's first offer was a standard pay increase with 7 extra paid personal holidays thrown in for a sweetener. The offer, which spoke to few of the key issues, was intended to split active workers from the many retirees whose agitation for-

ced the UAW officials to make cost-of-living on pensions the number one demand.

GM is out for blood in these negotiations, trying to turn back the clock on the autoworkers in these times of recession.

* GM's offer didn't upgrade the cost-of-living formula to fully insure auto workers against inflation. The present formula only makes up for 80% of the price increases. Autoworkers need the .26 formula that the United Rubber Workers won by striking Uniroyal this summer.

* The straight pay offer is the same 3% which Big Auto has called the annual productivity improvement index. In fact, productivity has gone up over 24% in the past three years.

* GM has threatened to widen the pay differential between new hires and more senior workers and lengthen the time required for new workers to draw full benefits.

* GM wants to hold down medical benefits and not introduce any new programs. They suggested a two year freeze on medical costs, which have

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Cleveland wildcatter defies bosses, hacks

The Crunch in Transit

Workers, riders say:
'We Won't Pay'

Outbreaks Nationwide

see pages 4-5

Boat People: Why They Flee

see page 12

Read Fat Cat Funnies!

see page 2

Young forced out, U.S. policy keeps shifting

Uproar among Black leaders

The final resignation of Andy Young as U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations on August 15 has made big waves. It had far more drama and political repercussions than Jimmy Carter's grandstand dumping of five other cabinet members less than a month earlier.

Young's departure was different for two major reasons. It was a rare glimpse of the bitter struggle inside

U.S. ruling circles over shifting policy in the Mideast away from 100% support of Israel toward developing better ties with the Arab world. Young's removal was far from a big victory for pro-Israel forces.

It also highlighted the question of political representation for Black people in the United States and set important forces in the Black community into motion.

WHY YOUNG WAS FIRED

The news reports said that Young

was pressured to quit because he had spoken with a representative of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) at the home of a fellow U.N. ambassador. This violated a 1975 promise Henry Kissinger made to Israel never to talk with the PLO. He was also accused of not having reported the contact to the State Department properly.

The fact is that the current administration is moving away from past policy and Young was one leading figure in that shift.

After almost 25 years of aiding,

arming and promoting Israel against the Palestinian people and the Arab nations, the U.S. is being forced to establish ties with the PLO.

For instance, U.S. Ambassador to Austria Myron Wolf, a Jewish businessman, met three times with senior PLO officials over the course of the summer.

As soon as the story leaked out, Young was made a target by Israel and by influential Zionist and other pro-Israel forces in the U.S. ruling class, which include people like Ronald Reagan and Senator Henry "Scoop" Jackson. Already controversial for moves like admitting that the U.S. has political prisoners, Young was a visible and vulnerable symbol of the shift in policy these forces want to stop.

(Continued on page 15)

Tenants on offensive in Baltimore

Rents out of control

In late August, Baltimore activists won round one in a fight to get a rent control law. In under seven weeks, they collected three times the number of petition signatures needed to put rent control on the November ballot.

The housing situation in Baltimore is critical. Over 24,000 families are on waiting lists for 16,000 public housing units. The city's vacancy rate is only 1-2%, allowing rampant rent gouging. As the economy slides, rent control is becoming a major class battlefield. Similar efforts are taking place in over 16 states, notably California where several major cities have already won rent control.

The Baltimore city council lifted a one-year freeze on rent increases after landlords promised to keep increases under 10%. But a 1977-8 Housing Department study shows that rent hikes were way above 10% in many areas. For example, increases in the downtown area averaged 12%, 40.5% for one-bedroom apartments in the white workingclass areas, and 45.6% for three-bedroom apartments in East Baltimore, largely Black.

As rent rage rose this past year, the city saw its first public housing rent

strike and sit-ins at City Hall by people demanding relocation to city-renovated houses. In March, activists decided a City Council member's rent control bill was hopelessly weak, so they wrote their own. A coalition of tenant groups, neighborhood associations, churches, political groups and labor unions was formed to campaign for the proposal. Over 200 volunteers took the campaign to shopping centers, ethnic festivals, churches, work, and door-to-door. 55 organizations endorsed the basic provisions: 4-7% limit on rent increases during the first year, NO increases on the 39% of area units with housing code violations, and the setting up of a Tenant-Landlord Commission to rule on tenant and landlord complaints raised under the referendum.

The big landlords are gearing up. The Property Owners Association, the Homebuilders Association, Baltimore Board of Realtors, Greater Baltimore Committee, and the Maryland Mortgage Association are pulling together and are expected to pour big money into a media blitz aimed at winning homeowners to their defense.

Scientific breakthrough Solar power's future brightens

There's been a breakthrough in solar power research! A private research center in California has discovered a 90% cheaper process for producing silicon, an essential element in photovoltaic cells.

The sun is already used to economically heat water and buildings, but high costs have prevented practical production of electricity directly from the sun by means of photovoltaic cells. The new one-step method of producing silicon is an important advance in creating viable alternatives to nonrenewable fossil and nuclear energy sources.

Before this, silicon was 20% of the cost of a photovoltaic cell. The new process will make it only 2-3% of the cost (and it would undoubtedly be even less if the research corporation wasn't keeping the process secret in order to license it out at high fees).

The main ingredient is a cheap, unwanted by-product of phosphate fertilizer manufacture and the sili-

con produced is an amazing 99.999% pure. The fast and efficient process produces its own heat, enough to carry on the reaction and other steps like the drying of chemicals. Further savings can come from the sale to aluminum manufacturers of sodium fluoride, a by-product of the reaction.

After all the ridicule the government, energy monopolies, and media wiseguys have heaped on the idea of solar power, this discovery indicates that anti-nuclear activists are right in arguing for a national shift toward renewable energy sources.

How much more progress like this could have been made if the government hadn't spent 10 times as much on nuclear power as alternative energy research? Even today the administration's new policy slights renewable resources like solar and conservation technology for an \$88 billion scheme to turn vast stretches of the American West into an arid, polluted wasteland in the course of squeezing oil out of megatons of rock.

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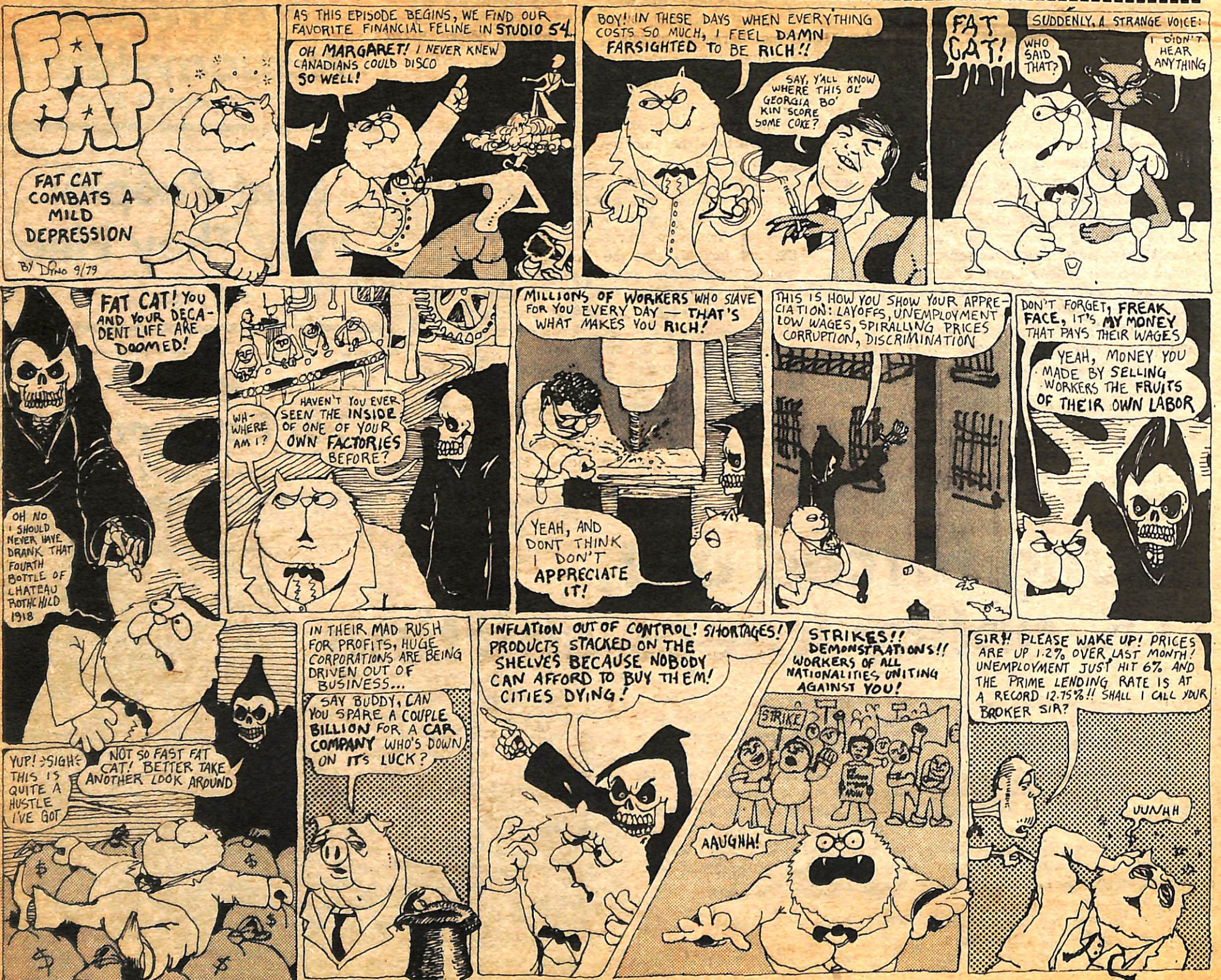
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Feds charge Philly cop terror

'Rizzo's private army' threatened

On August 13, the US government announced that the Philadelphia Police Department carries out systematic brutality against the city's citizens, particularly the large Black and Puerto Rican communities.

As a hot news story, this is like announcing that Detroit makes cars. The kicker, though, is that the Justice Department is suing the city government and a favorable verdict could cut off hundreds of millions of dollars in Federal funds to Philadelphia.

The government suit comes after 10 years of outrages and 10 years of resistance. Many people have criticized it as "too little, too late." On the other hand, there is a real danger that it will be dropped altogether.

POLICE TERROR

Police terror has been the open, if unwritten, policy of Mayor Frank

Rizzo, who claims, "My cops can do no wrong." The front-page picture of Black Panthers lined up naked against a wall in a 1969 nighttime raid, when Rizzo was Police Commissioner, sticks in people's minds. So do the 75-100 unarmed people the cops have shot every year since Rizzo graduated to Mayor in 1971.

He has molded the cops into his private army - even setting up a 34-man secret squad to spy on and harass his rivals in the local Democratic Party. The cops act as a force in city politics, demonstrating in the hundreds against brutality charges or unfavorable press charges.

Crime is bad in Philly - it has the third highest crime rate in the nation. But 5 of every 6 victims decline to report incidents to the police. People figure the cops are more dangerous than the criminals.

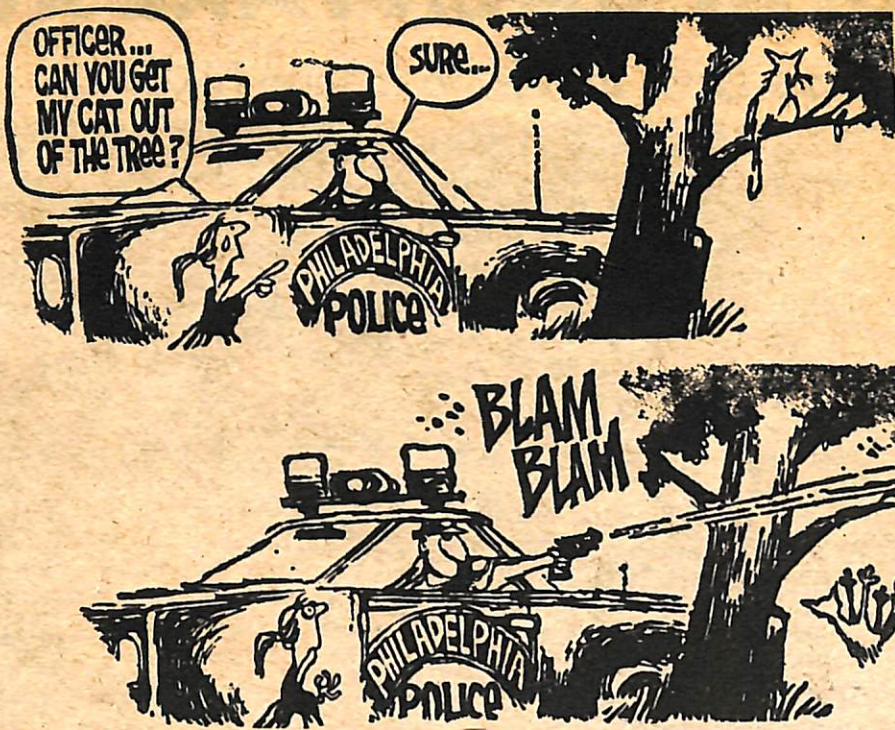
RESISTANCE

Hatred of police terror coalesced in 1978 in a community effort to defend MOVE, a mainly Black radical commune that Rizzo was out to destroy. The Mayor ordered a police seizure of the MOVE house, and the cops poured into the neighborhood, not even allowing local residents in and out without checking their IDs. "Hey, Rizzo, have you heard, Philly ain't Johannesburg!" became the watchword of resistance on the streets of Powelton Village.

Months later, when the cops finally moved in for the bust, shotguns blasting and nightsticks flying, even after MOVE members had surrendered, the community responded with a massive demonstration at City Hall.



Youth are part of the many protests against self-styled dictator Rizzo.



Rizzo and his cops had to go.

The Black community made good on its word. Over the next year, Black activists united forces throughout the city to send Rizzo's proposed change in the City Charter, which would have allowed him to run for a third term, down to a resounding 2 to 1 defeat at the polls.

The movement that had caught fire against police brutality continued, taking up housing, education, and political representation as well. In June, 350 Latinos joined by many Blacks marked the 2nd anniversary of the murder of Jose Reyes with a militant march.

THE LAWSUIT

The Justice Department lawsuit is way overdue. In fact, it comes only 5 months before Rizzo's stint as Mayor ends. When Rizzo goes, so will his sidekick, Police Commis-

sioner O'Neill. With the two main defendants about to be severed from the suit, and a new administration on the way in, the city may be able to get the case dismissed entirely.

The government's beef is not so much against police brutality as against a police force which makes a mockery of the law and whose loyalty is to one erratic individual rather than the system as a whole. For the Carter Administration, filing the suit is also a cheap way to come off as a champion of human rights and make an appeal to Black voters.

THE FALL-OUT

Rizzo's reaction to the suit was like one rising from the dead. His charter change defeat threw him into a prolonged sulk, but now the mayor's back on the front pages and news broadcasts, running out his usual garbage about how Philly cops, the best in the world, are the only defense that law-abiding citizens have against the savages who roam the streets.

His cronies on the bench are also making their opinions known. The judge trying the case of three cops charged with brutality in the MOVE raid tried to dismiss the case for lack of evidence even though network news showed to millions of people the three mercilessly beating MOVE member Delbert Africa to the ground and then stomping him.

Just after the suit was filed, another judge found Officer Thomas Bowe not guilty of the murder of Cornell Warren, a Black man Bowe had handcuffed, forced to the ground, and then shot dead.

Black people were outraged and fearful. "We might as well be living in Alabama twenty years ago," one bitter woman in the subway remarked.

Republican Mayoral Candidate David Marston has asked that his name be entered in place of Rizzo's as a defendant in the suit in a bid for Rizzo's constituency. Democratic hopeful Bill Green has been spectacularly evasive about the whole affair.

Only Lucien Blackwell, the Black candidate on the Consumer Party ticket, has come out in support of the federal charges.

Perhaps the most outrageous reaction of all came from the police themselves, who are going about their business with their usual brutal bravado. On September 1, only 3 weeks after the suit was filed, in an all-white community in Northeast Philly, a K-Mart manager named Charles Israel made the mistake of going next door to inspect a friend's burglarized garage. One of Rizzo's finest shot and wounded Israel, then accused him of the robbery.

UFW STRIKE BEATS BIGGEST GROWERS

In August, the United Farmworkers won two of the best contracts ever to put a dent in the growers' assault on their union. The victories are sweeter in this bitter fight because they came against the largest growers--the Meyer Co. (tomatoes) and Sun Harvest (lettuce).

The Meyer Co. pact August 14th was the breakthrough. In addition to a wage increase to \$5 an hour and a guarantee against layoffs due to mechanization, farmworkers won the first cost of living increase in agribusiness history. It forced other firms, like Gonzales Packing and West Coast Farms, to soon settle at similar terms.

The Sun Harvest pact September 1st was key because the UFW was going to hit its parent company, United Brands, with a boycott. Such popular products as Chiquita bananas, A & W root beer and John Morrel meats would have been involved.

Each year the lettuce harvest moves up California's central valley starting at the southern end in January and reaching the northern limit in November. The typical farmworker makes \$3,973 a year, migrants even less. Since January, 5000 farmworkers have been striking the six largest growers, fighting pitched battles with armies of goons and cops. In this "salad bowl" of the nation, growers lost millions of dollars as a record iceberg lettuce crop rotted.



Above scene is the conclusion of the March To Salinas from San Francisco.

To heighten the struggle, the 20,000-plus member UFW organized a "March To Salinas" (California). Farmworkers walked from San Francisco, 150 miles north and San Ardo, 70 miles south. While the media totally ignored them, the marchers picked up hundreds more supporters and inspired one-day work stoppages of up to 1000 workers in the fields they passed.

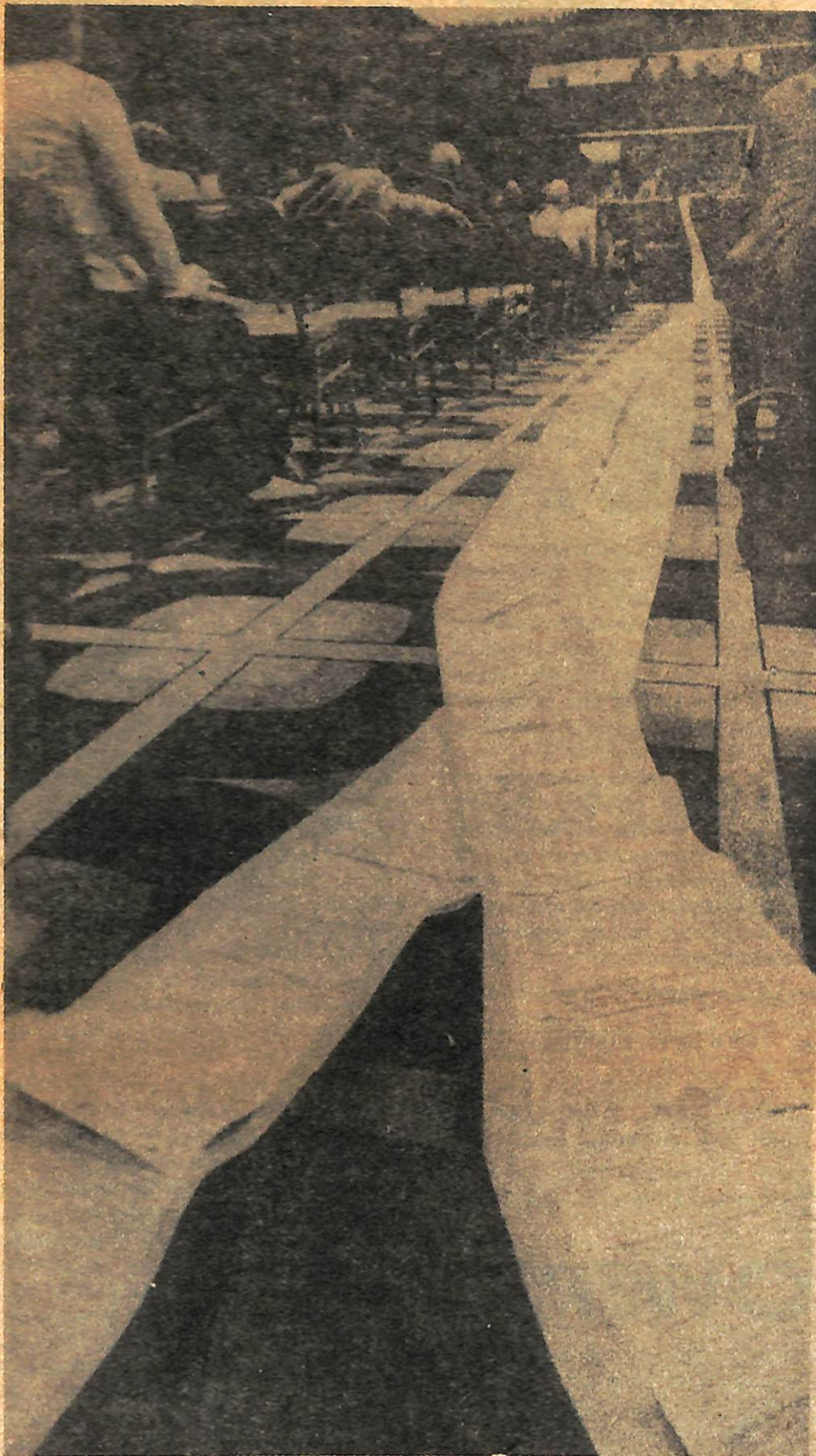
On August 11th, first day of the summer harvest, they converged in Salinas. They marched through, 10,000 strong, low in energy but high in spirits. They raised clenched fists and cries of "Viva La Huelga!" and "Viva La Raza!"

Under the banner of the Farmworker flag's eagle, the predominantly Mexican and Chicano farmworkers are turning yet another page in one of the most sustained and inspiring battles of the modern labor movement. The eagle, long a symbol of Mexican independence, is flying high as the growers are beginning to concede to the farmworkers.

At the end of the march, 450 UFW delegates met for a union convention. Their plans to strike more growers bore fruit when hundreds of workers stayed out of the fields September 5. As we go to press, they are still out, striking 17 more growers.

CHICAGO RIDERS BEAT BACK FARE INCREASE

Illinois Gov. moves to rescue hike



Thousands of signatures helped turn back fare increase on Chicago trains

100% WILDCAT SHUTS CLEVELAND TRANSIT

While Cleveland, Ohio slept, a group of militant drivers at the Woodhill St. bus garage blockaded their depot. It was 4 AM, August 26. They then spread out to agitate at other garages; the walk-out spread like wildfire. By 8:15 when Cleveland was still waking up, the strike had completely shut down the Regional Transit Authority (RTA).

The walkout stopped a contract vote scheduled for later that day; union officials impounded all the ballot boxes. The 1,800 members of the Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU) local had already voted down three previous sellouts; a fourth "no" vote would have meant binding arbitration.

It's no surprise they didn't want to waste a vote on the proposed contract. It offered a 7% raise the first year, then 6.5%, and only 5.7% the third year; a complex, rotten, and slippery COLA was no consolation. The RTA hissed that it couldn't give more because of Carter's obsolete guidelines.

The ATU had been driving for 30 days without a contract. They were also fed

up with unsafe buses, harsh discipline for Mickey-Mouse infractions, and the use of part-time drivers.

Local union officials begged them to go back. The president claimed that "no one profits from a strike. As long as they are out, nothing will be accomplished." Officials also tried to isolate the active core by claiming that fewer than 25 dissidents were keeping the other 1,800 out with threats of violence.

But the mass sentiment was voiced loud and clear at a mass meeting in Edgewater Park on Saturday, the second day. The rank and file repeatedly shouted down the union president despite the bullhorn clutched in his sweaty hand. In exchange for no reprisals, they agreed to go back to work, but not until Monday. They vowed to walk again if there wasn't some serious bargaining.

When talks resumed on Tuesday, the union agreed to binding arbitration the first chance they got, and the rank and file is fighting mad.

"It might hurt now, but one day the public will learn to appreciate it"--that was the gist of Illinois Governor James Thompson's comment on the transit package that the State Legislature passed on September 6.

The heart of the package increases the sales tax for Chicago residents from 5% to 6%, which will go towards underwriting the \$56 million public transit deficit, and new funds for road construction downstate. An unwritten kicker is that bus and train fares will go up 5¢ October 1, and probably continue to rise each year until 1984.

The package is not exactly what the politicians wanted. Last June, the Regional Transit Authority (RTA) had proposed raising the fare im-

mediately from 50¢ to 70¢.

But Chicago's beleaguered transit riders greeted the proposal with such a storm of protest that the politicians had to find a slicker way to put the burden of financing the RTA system on people's backs. No way were people going to swallow a 40% hike when their own paychecks were strait-jacketed by Carter's 7% guidelines, and when transit service was woefully inadequate and getting worse.

Last winter, trains through two of the city's largest Black communities stopped running altogether. The rest of the year, service is so undependable that a 10 minute ride takes 45--which lands people in a lot of hot water at work when they get in late.

PATH OPENS THE FLOODGATES

So when People Against the Transit Hike (PATH) formed and began circulating a petition against the increase, people jumped at the chance

(Continued on page 16)

TRANSIT CRISIS: RIDERS AND DRIVERS HIT

When the gas crunch hit again this summer, Carter boarded a paddle wheeler and urged the American people to use mass transit instead of driving. His appeal missed the boat--by miles.

Mass transit in most urban centers is so bad that people will pay incredible gas prices and wait hours on clogged highways rather than use public. Others work on suburban beltways, where public transportation isn't even available. But a growing majority have no choice but to take mass transit to go to work or just to get around.

As mass transit becomes more of a necessity to increasing numbers of people, it gets more expensive and less dependable. Like everything else in the older cities, it's going downhill. Before the current city crises, the politicians never allocated the money needed for upkeep of the system.

Now, with city governments cutting public services to try to balance their budgets, not only do transit riders feel the crunch, but transit workers as well, who are hit with job loss, speed-up, and lousy contracts. In fact, the government at all levels is demonstrating its refusal to underwrite a decent, low-cost system.

Because of this, transit has become a focus of struggle in the big cities. Community organizations and ad-hoc groups of riders have fought fare increases and service cuts. Among transit workers, strikes are common and in many locals militants are organizing to democratize and strengthen their unions.

An important element to the success of these struggles will be the support which transit riders and drivers give each other in their efforts to force the government to provide cheap, efficient mass transit.

How GM ate LA's transit system

Ever wonder why Los Angeles, with the largest land area of any American city, has one of the worst mass transit systems? It wasn't always this way. Until just after WWII, LA was graced by the model Pacific Electric (PE) train system, which spanned 75 miles and annually carried 80 million passengers. That is, until General Motors and cohorts got a hold of the PE.

In 1936, General Motors, Firestone, Standard Oil of California and others set up a joint subsidiary called National City Lines (NCL). NCL bought up electric train systems across the country and converted them to lousy bus services. Cities contracted with NCL for mass transit, and GM and friends were the exclusive equipment suppliers.

First, GM and NCL scrapped LA's electric cars. Then these bandits tore up the tracks and transmission lines to block any return to trains---effective to this day.

Buses have 28 per cent shorter lives, 40 per cent higher operating costs, and 9 per cent lower productivity than electric trains. People turned away in droves from the slow, expensive and irregular buses. As more cars clogged the streets, bus service got even worse.

To top it off, NCL usually dropped the collapsing bus systems after looting them for about ten years, forcing the cities to buy the systems to keep them running. Huge bond issues were floated to cover the costs. The taxpayers footed the bill for the municipalized system--and we're still paying.

By the end of the '40's, GM had participated in the elimination of over 100 electric train systems around the nation! In its lifetime, NCL itself made \$13 million in direct profits. And this was peanuts compared to the auto market opened wide by inadequate mass transit.

But don't think the corporations got away scot-free with gutting mass transit city after city. In 1949 GM and other members of NCL were convicted of conspiring to eliminate electric transportation and monopolize the sale of buses and parts. GM was fined a grand total of \$5,000 and a chief executive of the scheme was fined one dollar!

With today's energy crisis, city planners have been forced to take a long look at the efficiency of NCL's legacy. For instance, in San Diego just south of LA, transit officials have come up with a plan for fast, efficient urban transportation--electric trolleys!

Transit Caucus "Running Hot" Bus Contract, Elections in Milwaukee

The following article sums up a year of activity in a Midwestern transit local, beginning with a contract strike and ending with an election campaign. We hope other union activists will find its lessons useful, especially concerning the relationships between the core of militant fighters and other forces active in the union as united fronts develop around particular battles.

MILWAUKEE--In mid-June Amalgamated Transit Workers Union Local 998 held its executive board elections. Incumbent James Heidenreich, a one-man show, was soundly defeated. This was a major victory for the membership, resentful of Heidenreich, a one-time reformer who had undercut a 6-week strike last year.

At the same time, candidates from RUNNING HOT, a rank and file group that was born during the strike, lost in bids for two top offices. The election culminated a year of struggle by Milwaukee's 1,200 drivers and mechanics against management attacks and a do-nothing leadership.

THE STRIKE

In May, 1978, Local 998 members voted 4:1 to strike, against the unanimous recommendation of their executive board. They were after basic demands: a two year contract (standard for the local), an improved cost of living allowance, a significant wage increase, a living pension (retirees only got \$340 a month), and against a new health plan with a deductible of nearly \$400.

The vote to walk over the recommendation of the board is part of a trend in recent area contract disputes. This differs from the 1974 wave of strikes, which generally had official sanction.

Once on strike the transit workers found themselves disorganized and with absolutely no leadership. Heidenreich took the strike vote as a personal insult and did almost nothing, even refusing to rebut editorial attacks by area television stations.

In this situation a broad united front of union members pulled together. It began with several drivers who put out a button saying "Ride the Strike to Victory." They were helped by the Milwaukee United Workers Organization, a group of militants that has surfaced as a center of worker opposition within several locals in the area.

Strikers loved the button and its slogan became a theme of the walk-out. The drivers who put it out called a meeting that pulled together a diverse group that ranged from rank and filers with little union experience to politicians in the

This group moved to give leadership by defining key demands and building a sense of organization. One main way was leaflets, some aimed at unifying strikers and some at winning support from the public.

The real, although fragile, unity of the group was based on carrying out the strike against Heidenreich's no-win policies. From the start there were debates over whether demands should be "more realistic" and fear by many of being branded as radicals.

Still the union leadership attacked both the rank and file core and their allies in the United Workers Organization as "communists." They were helped by the County Sheriff's Department, which launched a well-publicized "investigation of outside agitators" in the strike.

The fragile unity broke down under this redbaiting. Many in the united front, including the executive board members who backed it behind the scenes, preferred to roll over and play dead rather than risk being called communist.

THE CORE KEEPS FIGHTING

A core of mainly younger rank and file drivers saw that the battle had to be maintained. Vowing not to back down, they united to rally the membership to keep fighting and to expose the redbaiting as a divide and conquer trick.

By speaking to the real needs of Local 998 members, this core was able to mobilize them to reject almost identical contract offers two more times and keep the strike alive. Many of the vacillators who had retreated before the redbaiting started coming back in various individual ways.

The local went on to win a two year contract and some improvement in benefits after six weeks. The militants, by staying together and continuing to organize the strike, had rallied the membership and began publishing a newsletter called Running Hot.

RUNNING HOT

Union elections were just nine months off, but RUNNING HOT decided not to concentrate on them from day one. They focused on the day-to-day concerns and problems of the drivers, while also making Heidenreich the target of rank and file anger for his sabotage.

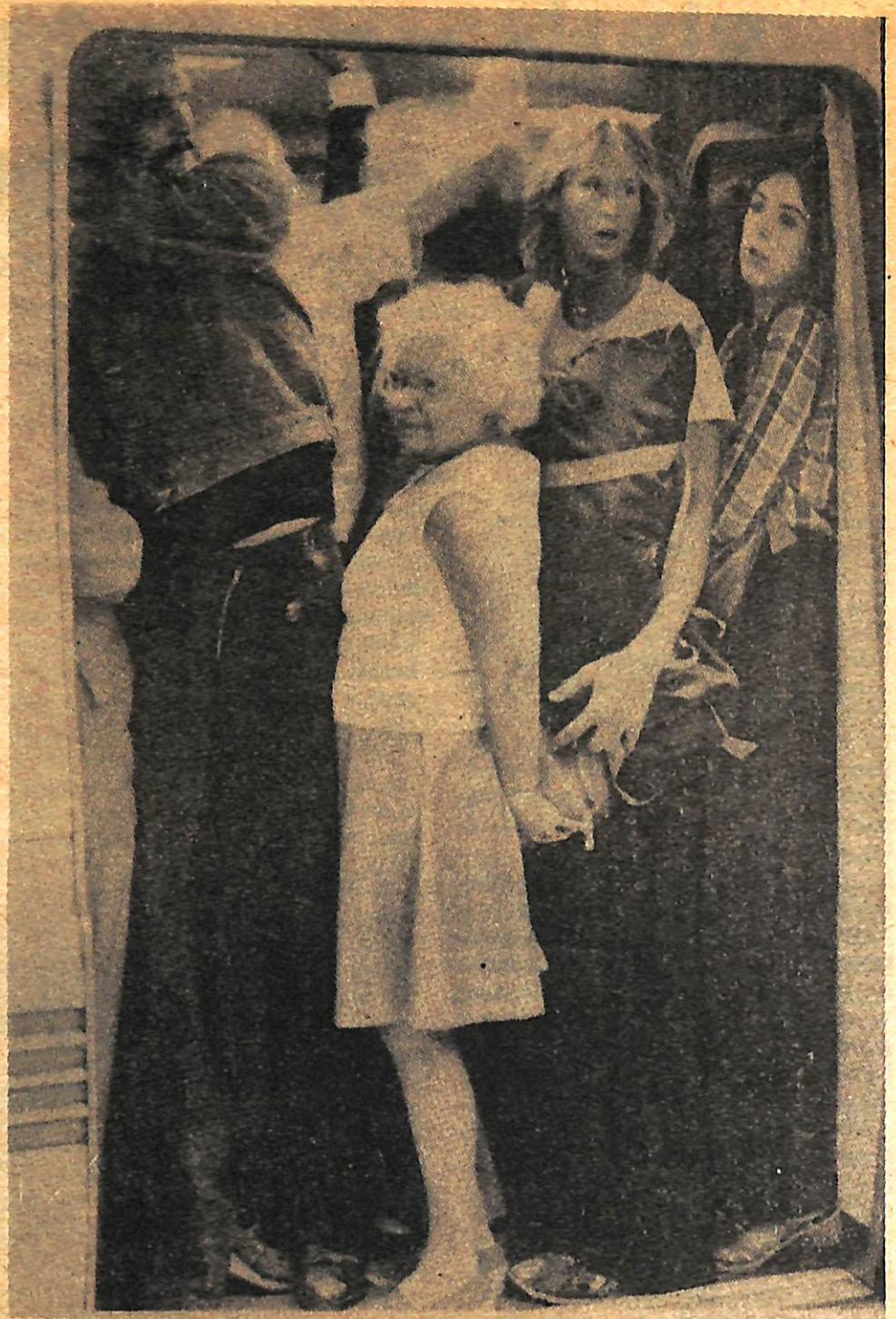
Within a highly charged political situation, this was the best way to strengthen the rank and file while preparing the broadest possible election front against Heidenreich.

When Heidenreich refused to fight a company-proposed loyalty oath, RUNNING HOT got the Wisconsin Civil Liberties Union on the case. The group also initiated a drive which got stewards on night shift for the first time, a decision which the new leadership has since reversed.

As the election primaries approached, RUNNING HOT tried to pull together a broad anti-Heidenreich slate. Both of his main rivals for the presidency refused to join. Vice-President James Brown, a former leader of Black drivers' struggles, and Phil Conn, who'd lost in the previous election, feared association with RUNNING HOT.

RUNNING HOT decided not to back Conn, Brown, or any of the 5 other presidential candidates. The group ran candidates for vice president and recording secretary, focusing its agitation against Heidenreich. Without a united slate, this was the best way to remove the main obstacle, while putting the new president on notice: the drivers and mechanics want a fighting and democratic union.

The primary turnout was very high. When the votes were tallied,



The crunch in transit brings service cuts and fare hikes. Pay more for this?

Transit battle erupts

The Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) squealed to a halt late Friday, August 31, when train operators called in sick and BART locked out the rest.

No strike has been called, and the 1,700 locked-out members of United Public Employees Local 390 and Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1555 have filed for unemployment en masse.

A shutdown had been coming since the contract expired June 30.

In return for keeping the full COLA escalator they've had for four years, the union offered to forego a base pay increase.

BART refuses renewal of the COLA and binding arbitration, and instead is offering only a 12.5% hourly increase over three years.

The workers have been taking on BART every way they can, and BART

has been out to destroy their attempts.

When 200 mechanics refused to do overtime they were suspended. When someone put 34 cars out of action all three shifts at the Concord maintenance yard were suspended August 28.

And when BART came to hand out letters of suspension, they had their cops ready to prevent a yard takeover like the one three weeks before.

But they couldn't stop a shutdown, and the workers are still holding out against BART as we go to press. BART workers join another western transit strike. In LA 5,000 united Transportation Union members and 1,685 from the Amalgamated Transit Union and the Brotherhood of Railway and Airline Clerks have struck for the fourth time in seven years.

Heidenreich was out and Conn and Brown were facing each other in the runoffs. RUNNING HOT's vice presidential candidate came in first and the one for recording secretary was in the runoffs, too.

Heidenreich had been defeated by the broad united front born in the strike and kept loosely together since. The victory was spearheaded by RUNNING HOT, which many workers had come to see as their voice. One older worker put it this way: "after the strike there were nails in his coffin. And you guys drove them home."

THE UNITED FRONT IS BROKEN

The final election was a different story. Both Running Hot candidates lost, one by only 150 votes.

Brown, who had been endorsed, although not strongly, by RUNNING HOT edged Conn by 100 votes.

The militants around the newsletter had opted for Brown, even though he had backed out of a proposed slate and joined Conn in endorsing RUNNING HOT's opponents. His record as a former leader of a Black caucus and the fact that he had broken with Heidenreich toward the end of the strike made him somewhat preferable to Conn.

Heidenreich was active in the final campaign too, pouring his venom on the RUNNING HOT candidates. He clearly planned on remaining a power in the local.

998 is a mainstay in the local labor movement (Heidenreich is
(Continued on page 16)

Black parents fight School Board doublecross

Discrimination, decent education at issue in Milwaukee

"We're tired of the contempt these people treat us with. The first thing they did after they opened New North was to announce that half of us were getting shipped out. That would never happen in a white community."

Four hundred Black parents, students and community supporters were getting ready to enter the August 28 School Board meeting as Howard Fuller, head of the Coalition to Save North Division High, ran down the community's grievances. It was the last meeting before the opening of school. People had turned out in force to show the School Board that the summer recess had not weakened their resolve to fight to keep the \$20 million school they'd fought so hard to get.

North Division stands in the middle of Milwaukee's Black community. Unlike most Black schools, it's brand new. It took 15 years of marching, demonstrating and student walk-outs to get the School Board to finally agree, not only to rebuild Old North, but to rebuild it in the Black community, its original site.

But New North had been open only 9 months when the Board announced that over the next 2 years, almost all the Black students would be phased out. As of September 1979, no ninth graders would be registered and the following fall, the current students would be reassigned.

Instead, whites who wanted to take North Division's new medical specialty program, along with a "more acceptable" class of Blacks, would be enrolled.

According to the School Board, which had denied North Division the

money, teachers and materials that it needed to operate successfully its first year, this was the only way to raise the school's achievement level. A bunch of "low socio-economic status underachievers", claimed the Board, could not be educated unless they went to school with whites.

The battle was on. May 8, a week after the School Board announcement, 600 North Division students marched 5 miles to a School Board hearing to protest the racist plan. No way were Black students going to be bused out of the school they'd just won, particularly when the school had 1000 empty seats that could accommodate whites who wished to attend.

The 1600 Black students at North Division wanted to graduate - and they wanted those 1600 seats to continue to go to Blacks so that their brothers and sisters behind them would also have a chance to get a decent education.

Under pressure, the School Board postponed its decision on North Division

THE COMMUNITY PLAN

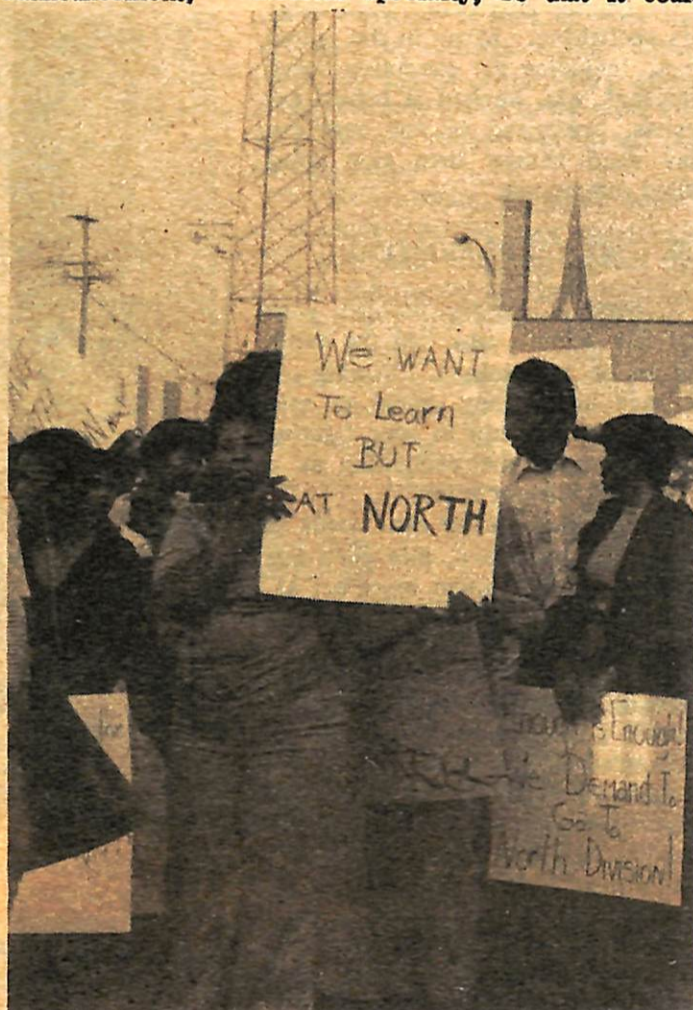
Under pressure, the School Board postponed its decision on North Division

vision, hoping that resistance would die out with the end of the school year. Meanwhile, they told the parents to draw up an alternate plan, which they promptly did. The plan had 4 points:

*** North Division should remain a comprehensive high school with a medical specialty, so that it could

serve the needs of a broader range of students than just those who wanted to go into the medical field.

*** North Division should be an integrated, but predominantly Black school. A 60% Black-40% white student ratio would fall within the guidelines of the 1979 out-of-court settlement. (Continued on page 16)



Over 400 parents converged on a School Board meeting August 28th to demand "Save North Division!"

Workers Voice

DESEGREGATION Who's paying?

What the Milwaukee School Board is trying to do at North Division High is typical of their idea of desegregation. After 13 years of fighting all efforts to desegregate the school system, the Board has developed a plan that intensifies discrimination against the Black community, while cutting back on overall school spending.

Under the Milwaukee plan, white students can volunteer to bus but Blacks are forcibly reassigned. Under a magnet plan aimed at attracting white students, certain Black schools were upgraded and turned into specialty programs. The catch is that most of the Black students are bused out, not only to make room for whites but also to ensure that whites would never be in the uncomfortable position of constituting a "minority."

When MacDowell Elementary School was first built, for example, it was the scene of protest against an obvious School Board plan to make it an all-Black segregated facility. As part of the new desegregation plan, it was made into a Montessori specialty school. Most of the Black children were reassigned. The school was then able to attract whites, who got the benefit of a free Montessori program for which they otherwise would have had to pay a fancy tuition.

Across the city, the pattern was the same. The result was that between 1976 and 1978, 13,100 Black students were bused out of Black schools, most of them scattered in small groups throughout the rest of the system, but only 1,625 whites were bused in. The hardship this posed in the Black community, with -30 degree winters and a poorly organized school bus system, gave rise to a movement for "2 way or no way" busing.

What's more, Black parents whose kids still attend the older inner city schools and who've been fighting to get those schools rehabilitated or rebuilt, find the Board turning a deaf ear than ever. It's cheaper for the Board to send Black kids to partially empty schools in the city's suburbs, which get between \$2000-\$2400 in federal subsidies for each child bused in, and tear down the inner city schools. Among the casualties so far has been Lincoln High, the home of a star basketball team that dominated the state league during the 60's and the alma mater of Seattle Supersonics captain "Downtown" Freddie Brown and a Milwaukee city council president.

Next door to electric chair

PONTIAC BROTHERS PLAN STRATEGY

CHICAGO—The room where the Pontiac brothers first met with their lawyers is next door to the electric chair. For the 17 Black men facing the death sentence under charges stemming from the July 22, 1978 Pontiac prison uprising, this was simply another of the countless acts of brutality that they face.

Three white guards died during that uprising and Illinois Governor James Thompson, along with his new Commissioner of Corrections, Gayle Franzen, is out for a pound of flesh. The 17 have each been charged with killing each of the guards in three different ways—at least 9 counts of murder a piece! Fourteen more brothers face lesser charges carrying life imprisonment. If Thompson gets his way, he could preside over the largest legal

execution in this country in nearly 100 years.

Shortly after the rebellion, Thompson branded the inmates "animals." That attitude has been the basis of his prison policy from the day he took office. Illinois has one of the most archaic prison systems in the country.

Thompson's response to prisoner grievances? Beef up security "to show the inmates who's boss."

What that would mean if you were an inmate at Pontiac is living jammed into a 5 1/2 by 9 foot cell with another man, because the prison is operating at twice its capacity. Temperatures in your cell hit 100 degrees in the summer and 38 degrees in the winter. You have no opportunity for job training or educational programs because these were cut starting in 1973.

You would probably be Black (80% of Pontiac's inmates are) and live at the mercy of white guards who turn off the water in the middle of one of your rare showers when they are joking around and hold you up against a burning radiator when they are serious. Most of the guards are from small conservative Illinois towns, for whom the street life of Black Chicago (100 miles to the Northwest) is another world. Many have KKK affiliations.

July 22, 1978 was one of those 100 degree days. A fight broke out at lunchtime on the mess line. In minutes it erupted into a full-scale riot throughout the prison. When the dust finally settled, 3 guards were dead and the whole prison was put under dead-

lock, where it stayed for months on end. Inmates were locked in their cells 24 hours a day without medical care, toilet paper, toothpaste, cigarettes, exercise, showers, or visitation.

By the time the deadlock ended, most of the 31 men under indictment for the rebellion had been moved to Statesville, under the watchful eye of Thompson's new TAC Squad, an orange-uniformed platoon of thugs that wield batons and use attack dogs; they are responsible for "prisoner movement."

The State's strategy is to try the 14 non-capital cases quickly and quietly, hoping to get convictions to lay the groundwork for the legal lynching of the other 17. The Court has barred the brothers from retaining out-of-state lawyers, on the basis of expenses, thereby depriving them of a number of attorneys who've rallied to their cause.

Originally the State wanted to try the cases in the Pontiac area, which would have guaranteed all-white juries. The defense has won a change of venue to Cook County (Chicago) for the capital cases but is still fighting for a similar order for the other 14.

The brothers feel that the only thing that will stop a railroad is vocal and visible public support. At their request, defense committees in Chicago have held fundraisers and rallies demanding that the charges against the Pontiac 31 be dropped and Illinois' racist prison system be indicted.



Four of the 17 Pontiac brothers.

MISSISSIPPI STRUGGLE WINS CHANGES

United League looks ahead

OKOLONA, MISS.—Although a mainly white grand jury refused to indict Deputy Hansel Rogers for the June murder of a Black inmate in the Chickasaw County jail, Rogers left town, fearful for his health and safety. In a town where whites used to beat and murder Blacks with impunity, 1000 people had marched to protest his killing of 18-year-old Leander Carouthers.

In the 2 years that the United League has been leading Black people to stand up for their rights in Okolona, a number of things have changed. As Donald Pack, League Coordinator for Chickasaw County, says, "The power structure has given some." But he adds, "They haven't given nearly enough."

When Pack's six-year-old, Danny, started school this fall, he was put in a remedial class, although obviously a bright child. What was different this time was that he wasn't kept there. The day after Danny's mother, Alice, called the principal to complain, the boy came home with a note saying he'd been assigned to a regular class.

After a year long school boycott, the new high school cheerleading squad is half Black. Several Black teachers were promoted to teach courses at higher grade levels. Still, Black teachers are far underrepresented in proportion to the 60% Black student body and no new ones have been hired.

The League is still boycotting most Okolona stores. In those which Blacks



League victories change people's lives. Alice Pack (far left) knows. are patronizing, they are now treated with civility, where they used to meet only disrespect. If a storekeeper steps out of line, a phone call from the League reminding him of the boycott is usually enough to straighten him out.

It took standing up to Klan ambushes, trigger-happy police, kangaroo courts and diehard city officials and businessmen, but the United League has brought change to Okolona. Nonetheless, they refuse to sit back and be satisfied with what they've won so far — the League feels that a trap Black people have fallen into in the past is being appeased by a few relatively small concessions. The Okolona chapter is now discussing where to take the struggle from here.

NEW BATTLES—MORE ADVANCES

—Holly Springs...For the first time in the history of Marshall County, 68% Black, a string of Black candidates won the Democratic Party primary. In fact, with Blacks controlling the Democratic Executive Committee, every League-supported candidate came out on top.

In a futile effort to sabotage the election, the local sheriff arrested several League leaders, including President Skip Robinson, on election day.

—Ripley...There's a new League chapter in Ripley. Already it has held 2 marches. One protested the beating of a Black prisoner in the jail and the other came after a 2 hour delay in treating a Black baby in the Emergency Room of the local hospital.

—Corinth...As in a number of Mississippi towns, the issue of who's on the cheerleading squad is a symbol of many broader and more serious forms of discrimination. Last spring, no Black cheerleaders were selected at Corinth High, 22% Black, and the fight to get 2 Black girls on the squad continued throughout the summer. On August 31, the School Board again refused to meet the community's demands. Several Black football players are making good on their threat not to play, and the United League and the NAACP are planning a boycott.

—West Point...Struggle against discrimination in education has spread to Clay County, where Black parents and students are also threatening a boycott of classes if they don't get a bigger voice in the schools. The Clay County school system is 80% Black, and the School Board says it may have to shut down the entire system if the boycott holds.

A LONG-RANGE ORGANIZATION

On September 1, members and supporters of the League from the various towns and struggles gathered in Tupelo for the United League's first Annual State Banquet. The League's President, Skip Robinson, called for building a long-range organization

(Continued on page 16)

1500 commemorate Chicano moratorium



The march was such a success, plans are already underway for next year's 10th anniversary.

Unity

Los Angeles — 1,500 marched through the streets of East Los Angeles pressing their demand of "Economic and political power for Chicanos in the Southwest."

The occasion was the 9th anniversary of the Chicano Moratorium, a militant 1970 anti-war demonstration that has become very important to Latinos in this area.

Although originally denied a permit, the September 1 march followed the route of the first one down Whittier Boulevard, through the largest Mexican-American barrio in the US. The community was enthralled by the long march and lined the route shouting approval and raising their fists or joining in.

The walk ended at Ruben Salazar Park, named (under community pressure) after the LA Times reporter killed by police during the 1970 Moratorium. The

column also paused at the Silver Dollar Cafe, where Salazar was fatally wounded in the head by a tear gas shell.

The Moratorium in 1970 brought Chicano oppression into national exposure. The exploitation of farm workers, police terror in the Southwest and racist barriers to Latino political power became national issues, alongside the Black Liberation movement.

But the effect the 25,000 strong march had on Chicanos was even more important. Although only 5% of the population, Chicanos accounted for 20% of US casualties in the Viet Nam war. An organizer of this year's march said, "The Moratorium gave many of us the understanding that it was the same imperialist system responsible for oppressing Chicanos at home and for sending Chicanos to the front lines to try and conquer Viet Nam."

It also had a unifying affect on struggle; the East LA high school

student "blow-outs" and the anti-war movement were all brought together into one strong statement against war and oppression. The lessons and spirit of the original march are part of what anniversary organizers are working to keep alive.

This year's march was the biggest and most successful since the original. There were coalitions in 11 California cities and over 60 groups endorsed the march. Contingents from the United Farm Workers, Barrio Youth, MECHA, La Raza Unida Party, marched with the Leonard Peltier Defense Committee, the Iranian Student Association, the Nicaraguan Support group, and the League of Revolutionary Struggle.

The rally featured cultural events as well as speeches from many of the contingents. Unity and enthusiasm was so high that a meeting was held the very next day to start planning for a South-west-wide 10th anniversary.

'Supermill' threatens steel towns

Youngstown, Ohio was once a thriving mill town. Now the steel yards resemble a ghost town, with rusted metal buildings and railroad yards vacant for over a mile.

The worst destruction was to the community itself. The Lykes Co. threw 4,600 workers onto unemployment lines when it shut the mill in 1977.

Now US Steel is planning to build the largest, most up-to-date steel mill in the world up on Ohio's Lake Erie shore.

This super mill would provide some employment at its Conneaut, Ohio location. But it would also threaten the jobs of thousands, as the older mills in towns like Homestead and Clairton could be shut.

A coalition has been formed to "Stop Conneaut," stressing concern for the environment as well as for job losses.

For families who have been steelworkers for generations, more than a job is lost. They are closely-knit, proud, and hardworking people. But a mill shutdown forces

them to move or take welfare. Familiar local merchants go out of business, and the town begins to die.

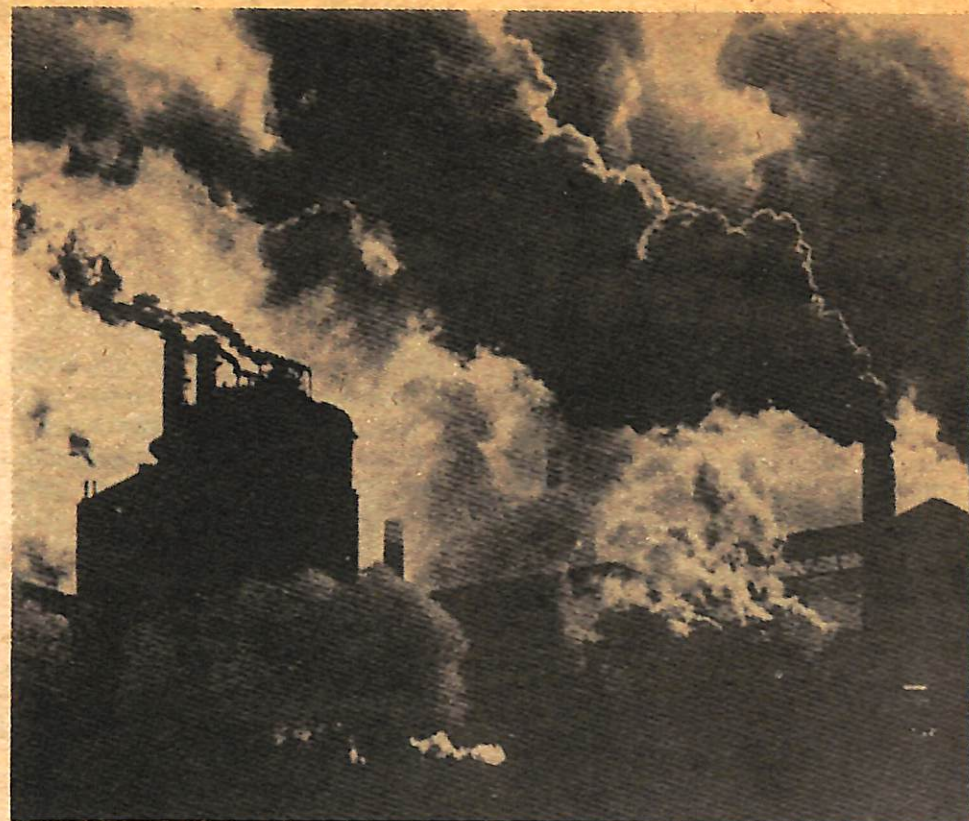
FALTERING STEEL COMPANIES MAKE THE WORKERS PAY

Boarded-up steelyards are stark proof that the companies don't give a damn about the mill town people.

US Steel certainly doesn't. It wants to build Conneaut's ovens and furnaces in Ohio to take advantage of weaker pollution laws and the offices in Pennsylvania to be favored by easy corporate laws.

Instead of putting money into modernizing or even keeping up these older mills, steel companies are investing in other industries--like chemicals, petroleum and real estate--where profits are higher.

Since 1953, the US has built only two fully integrated steel mills. Meanwhile, foreign competitors, especially Japan, have moved ahead because they entered steel later than the US and have built more modern and produc-



Tens of thousands of steel jobs have been lost in the last decade? How many more will be sacrificed to Big Steel's profit drives?

tive plants.

The result of the US steelmakers' policy is that in the past two years, 25,000 steelworkers have been laid off. This fall 1,200 more will join them when US Steel closes two Illinois plants, Waukegan and Joliet.

The drop in auto sales--20% of the steel market--has worsened the problem.

James Brown, Local 1066 president, recently said that Gary Works (Ind.) was losing about 100 workers per week for the past few weeks.

Further, a steel industry insider warned that a probable large loss of shipments "could mean 20,000 unemployed steelworkers by yearend."

THE FIGHT TO SAVE STEEL TOWNS

But these steel towns aren't going down without a fight.

On July 19th, 11 USWA locals, the ecumenical Tri-State Conference on the Impact of Steel, and the Lake Erie Alliance for the Protection of the Coastal Corridor filed suit in Federal District court to rescind permits for the US Army Corps of Engineers to build Conneaut.

Environmentalists and residents are concerned because a government study shows that the mill would release unacceptable amounts of cyanide and ammonia into Lake Erie.

They are also strengthening the workers' fight, because they stress job loss as the key issue.

THE LESSONS OF YOUNGSTOWN

This coalition against Conneaut was preceded by a similar one which tried to save Youngstown. The Youngstown movement failed, but what people learned from it can greatly aid the Conneaut struggle.

The Ecumenical Coalition at Youngstown planned to get \$360 million in government loans over 8 years, and run the mill with 3,600 workers at a modest profit. They would run it with Community Steel, Inc., a worker-management collective.

Their dreams were crushed when the government refused them loans for two straight years.

The big steel shots lobbied against it, opposed to a mill not run by Big Steel. And leading them was the biggest steelmaker of all, US Steel, whose plans for their mill at Conneaut were already on the drawing board.

Local union leaders say that the campaign did not involve their members enough. Rank and file enthusiasm may have been dampened by the fact that the workers would have had to give up some vacation and pension benefits, put their steel contract incentive into Community Steel stock, and waive seniority rights in obtaining the jobs.

In the fight against Conneaut's super mill, the workers will have a clearer target. Even if they cannot defeat US Steel outright, any delays can be costly. So quickly are construction costs rising that it could force US Steel to at least scale down its plans.

Bay Area strike saves stewards

Militant rank and file building strong union

SAN LEANDRO, CAL. --1600 members of Local 284, International Association of Machinists (IAM), could barely believe their sleepy eyes as they arrived to work at Caterpillar Tractor Monday morning, August 20.

There stood IAM District Rep Ray Gable with a crew of Business Agents, picket signs in hand, calling them out on behalf of 3 fired stewards (one a chief steward). So began a ten-day walkout which beat back union busting schemes.

Anger against the firings ran high among the workers, but no one expected the union to do anything. The union had sold out their 14 week strike in 1977, calling International President William Winpisinger in to personally conduct the railroad. In the two-and-a-half years since, the union sat back as Caterpillar waged

a campaign of terror, pushing production, harassing inplant activists, firing 16 of 34 stewards and 10% of the membership. Workers held nothing but contempt for Gable, Winpisinger and Co.

But this time things were different. Gable called the strike, turned the union hall into strike headquarters, issued daily bulletins and held press conferences. He sent union lawyers to court against company attempts to get an injunction and hauled CAT before the NLRB. When CAT threatened to fire 100 strikers, the union raised the demand, "Amnesty For All."

Naturally, the workers jumped in and united behind the union. Only 200 crossed the lines. Within ten days, a negotiated settlement was won.

The company reduced the penalties on the three stewards to suspensions, agreed to update and arbitrate a huge backlog of grievances, to stop harassing stewards, and to drop a lawsuit against the union. The union agreed to take five firings and nine suspensions to arbitration, all of which are expected to be won.

This ten-day victory contrasted sharply with the 14-week strike defeat in 1977. This time the union stood up for the workers instead of stabbing them in the back. Many workers still wonder what caused this turnaround.

Today, Ray Gable and Co. claim all the credit for the strike victory. But the facts are that they were under the gun, completely isolated from the membership, and forced to act.

Against a long history of sell-out union "leadership," rank and filers had organized a district-wide reform movement--Machinists For Democracy (MFD), demanding an end to Gable's dictatorship and for the right to directly elect their Business Agents.

Bitter experience and strong inplant leadership had turned the Caterpillar workers into a strong base for MFD, with 3/4 of the plant having signed "direct election" petitions. Effectively, Gable and Co.'s careers were placed on the line.

So strong was rank and file anger that IAM International President Winpisinger personally intervened once more. He flew out for a secret meeting and is rumored to have put the screws on Gable to do something fast to regain union authority.

It was the threat of rank and file revolt that caused the union to come to. The CAT victory wasn't Gable's victory, but the victory of years of struggle to put Gable and Winpisinger up against the wall. For future victories, the heat must stay on.



Caterpillar thought it could break this unity.



P. O. amnesty advances

The amnesty/democracy battle in the American Postal Workers Union continues. When Ken Leiner was expelled from the union vice-presidency for being one of 200 workers fired by the P.O. in last year's contract battle, condemnation of A.P.W.U. President Emmett Andrews rolled in from all quarters. A national conference of local presidents in San Diego passed a resolution urging the National Executive Board to overturn Leiner's dismissal. In another resolution, a conference of union editors--the Postal Press Association--united to step up the fight for amnesty.

Right to Ratify showdown nears

Insurgents in basic steel are getting ready to take on the USWA International at the December Basic Steel Conference. The issue this time -- the right of the membership to vote on contracts. Locals 1397 (US Steel, Homestead, Pa.), 1010 (Inland Steel, Gary, Ind.) and the Mesabi Iron Ore miners led a floor fight for the "right to ratify" at the USWA convention last year. But International President Lloyd McBride shunted the whole question back to the upcoming conference.

With a new contract coming up in 1980, the insurgents don't want a repeat of 1977. Then the International gave up fringe benefits in exchange for a meager 3% raise.

Rumor has it that McBride may try to undercut the issue by accepting Right to Ratify, if he can get a clause requiring two thirds vote to reject, instead of a simple majority.

Right to Ratify is the key fight in Basic Steel now. Its time to unshackle them for a good fight in 1980.

Besides, not voting on contracts is no way to run a union.

Arnold no favorite son

Arnold Miller, president of the United Mine Workers, wasn't even elected as a delegate from his own home local!

The discontent with Miller is so widespread that he scheduled the coming union convention for 10 days in Denver, far from the Eastern coalfields just before the Christmas holidays. It costs a local \$2000 to send each delegate. With many locals strapped by fines and layoffs, the number of delegates who can make the trip is expected to be down from the large and very representative turnout at the last convention which was held in Cincinnati, much closer to the heart of coal country.

Nevertheless, Miller will run into a lot of opposition for his sabotage of the health program and his support for the new arbitration procedure. Both were changes in the last contract.

He'll also undoubtedly catch heat from delegates from District 6 (Ohio and the West Virginia panhandle) whose Executive Board member Bill Lamb has been twice removed by Miller against membership mandate. District autonomy is a key point here.

Other issues sure to surface include how real are Miller's intentions to organize the unorganized, especially in light of his pull-back of strike benefits and sell-out of the strikers in Stearns, Ky.

Local 750's denial of delegate status to its "favorite son" was not a fluke. A local at a Bethlehem Steel-owned mine in Pennsylvania passed a resolution calling on Arnold to resign.

Strikers halt grain

Although they number only 400, striking grain millers in the Duluth (Minn.) - Superior (Wis.) region have the grain companies and the government in fits. Their two-months-old strike, along with the Rock Island railroad employees strike, has stopped grain from leaving the region that produces 10 to 20% of US grain exports. Gov. Bernard Quie has twice appealed to President Carter to invoke Taft-Hartley. Carter says it isn't serious enough yet. But, he hasn't asked the grain companies. They are losing their profits in full grain elevators and stranded storage tankers.

The militant millers may be able to defeat the Goliaths of grain, yet.

A runaway union?

Whatever happened to coordinated bargaining? Leaders of the IBEW broke ranks and accepted a contract a week before the IUE and the UE settled. The IBEW leaders forced through the early agreement after Westinghouse backed down on its proposal to make workers contribute to their own pension plan. The IBEW didn't get the security provisions against runaways that UE and IUE workers won the next week. After 47 days on strike, they also forced the pension up to \$13 per year of service each month but fell short of their goal of \$14.

Another death at Beth

On August 10, tragedy struck at Bethlehem Steel's Sparrows Point (Maryland) shipyard, when two men were killed as a huge crane collapsed while lifting a 320 ton deckhouse. A cloud of fear engulfed the yard, as people thought how it could have been them crushed under all that twisted steel. Those "ultra-modern" cranes were supposed to be safe. Two weeks later, OSHA issued 3 citations against Bethlehem: for failing to plan the complicated lift operation properly, not training supervisors and operators adequately, and overloading one of the four cranes. The fine? --A mere three thousand. Thirteen other union brothers have been killed on the job, in the shipyard and adjacent steel mills, over the past 17 months.

Indian miners die from smoking?

In Grants, New Mexico, site of the largest nuclear spill to date, 200 of 3500 former miners, many of them Navajos have died of lung cancer--5 times the normal rate.

The government is balking at compensating the victims, even though they knew of the dangers yet failed to provide for safety.

If the men got sick in Colorado, that state says it happened in Utah. If they got sick in Utah, Utah says it was from smoking, not mine radiation.

The American Miners Commission testified that any settlements should be "prudent" so as not to set a bad precedent for uranium companies. How prudent is radiation--or cancer?

The Dynamics of layoffs

When General Dynamics got some big orders in 1977 at their Quincy, Mass. shipyard, they lured hundreds of workers to give up seniority at other jobs. The promise was "long-term economic security." Well, now they have lost bids on construction and repair jobs. By 1980, its workforce will have gone from a high of 6000 to only 700. Their promises turned out to be General, but not too Dynamic.

Teachers go for a record

Last fall there were 176 teachers' strikes in 23 states. This year the teachers' unions are going

STRIKERS PUT SCABS THRU MILL



A Labor Day strike scene in Clinton, Iowa. Scab directs fire hose at hard hatted striker.

Scabs at the Clinton (Iowa) Corn Processing Company no longer have to worry about keeping their windshields clean after what happened this Labor Day. During the shift change they made the mistake of hitting picketer Marcia Franks with a car.

Local 6 of the American Federation of Grain Millers had been on strike 34 days come Labor Day against the union busting drive at Clinton Corn. They feel real strong about union busting in these parts, especially after a UAW union was decertified by scabs after a long strike at the West Des Moines Delavan plant. People were a little upset about safety conditions, seniority and pay at Clinton Corn. They got kinda peeved when the company refused to negotiate a new contract. And they got downright irritated when somebody

fired five shots into a union member's house and car a few nights before.

3,000 people from several states were rallying near the plant in support of Local 6 when they heard about Marcia getting hit. A sizeable crowd then headed over towards the plant for some binding arbitration. As the outnumbered cops watched, strikers and supporters smashed the windows of every scab car that came through. In all, 17 people got hurt, including some cops and three people hit by cars. When reinforcements came, the cops detained six people, but they were convinced to release them if the crowd dispersed.

A few others got charged with disorderly conduct--yet none of the strikebreakers was arrested.

\$3.21 for a Big Mac?

Wanna make \$48,802 a year? Just wait until 1999! Forbes magazine estimates that at the rate pay has been going up since 1962, that's what the average production worker will gross. But there's a catch -- a Big Mac will cost \$3.21, a haircut \$16.93, and the average one-family house \$368,979! Your 48 grand will be worth the same as \$8,688 was in 1962 -- and in 1962 the average production worker made \$10,156. In other words, 20 years from now workers will be 15% behind where we were in 1962.



for a record. Their demands are the same as most unions in these times--more money and better working conditions. Last year, Michigan led the way with 34 strikes. Thus far, they are a pacesetter again with 6000 out in 25 districts.

Not so fast J.P.

In an unprecedented case, the J.P. Stevens Co. was ordered by the National Labor Relations Board to reimburse the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers for its 1974-75 union organizing drive in Wallace, North Carolina. They were also told to recognize the union of 1,000 employees. Stevens earned this distinction with an "illicit campaign" which destroyed "a fair election atmosphere" in 1975. The union lost the ballot, 540-404, although 561 union authorization cards had been signed. Such practices have enabled Stevens to keep ripping off the workers while fattening themselves--they just reported their highest quarterly earnings in five years.

AUTO WORKERS BATTLE BIG 3

(Continued from page 1)

increased 100% in the past five years.

*GM has said nothing about fully guaranteeing the Supplementary Unemployment Benefits fund. Now workers with less than 10 years seniority lose the benefits every time the fund runs dry.

*GM has not granted automatic recognition to new locals, a demand coming from workers in newly built plants like the Oklahoma City X-body complex. Presently, two new Ford locals--in Windsor, Canada and at the Saginaw Steering Gear in Athens, Alabama--are pushing for recognition.

*Grueling production standards as high as 75 front wheel drive compacts an hour must be dealt with. It took the threat of two day strikes at 7 GM small car assembly plants to get any progress on local issues. The UAW has been trying to rush through the "early bird" settlements to prevent carry-over strikes around local issues once the master pact is sealed. They publicized early agreements at 4 GM and 3 Ford plants. But the going is reported to be slow in many places. There are 302,000 unresolved grievances at GM alone and 44,000 local demands industry-wide.

*Other issues in the present battle are GM's unwillingness to: further limit mandatory overtime, now a soul-killing 54 hours a week; allow more union representation, including for skilled trades; streamline, not further complicate, the grievance procedures; extend the right to strike; and set up ongoing talks on automation on a local basis. They have threatened to tie days off to a workers' attendance record, complaining that absenteeism has gone up since the paid personal holidays program was instituted.

Auto workers president Fraser says that a GM-wide shutdown is unrealistic, that it would be foolish and wasteful of the strike fund to strike plants where there is a backlog of unsold cars.

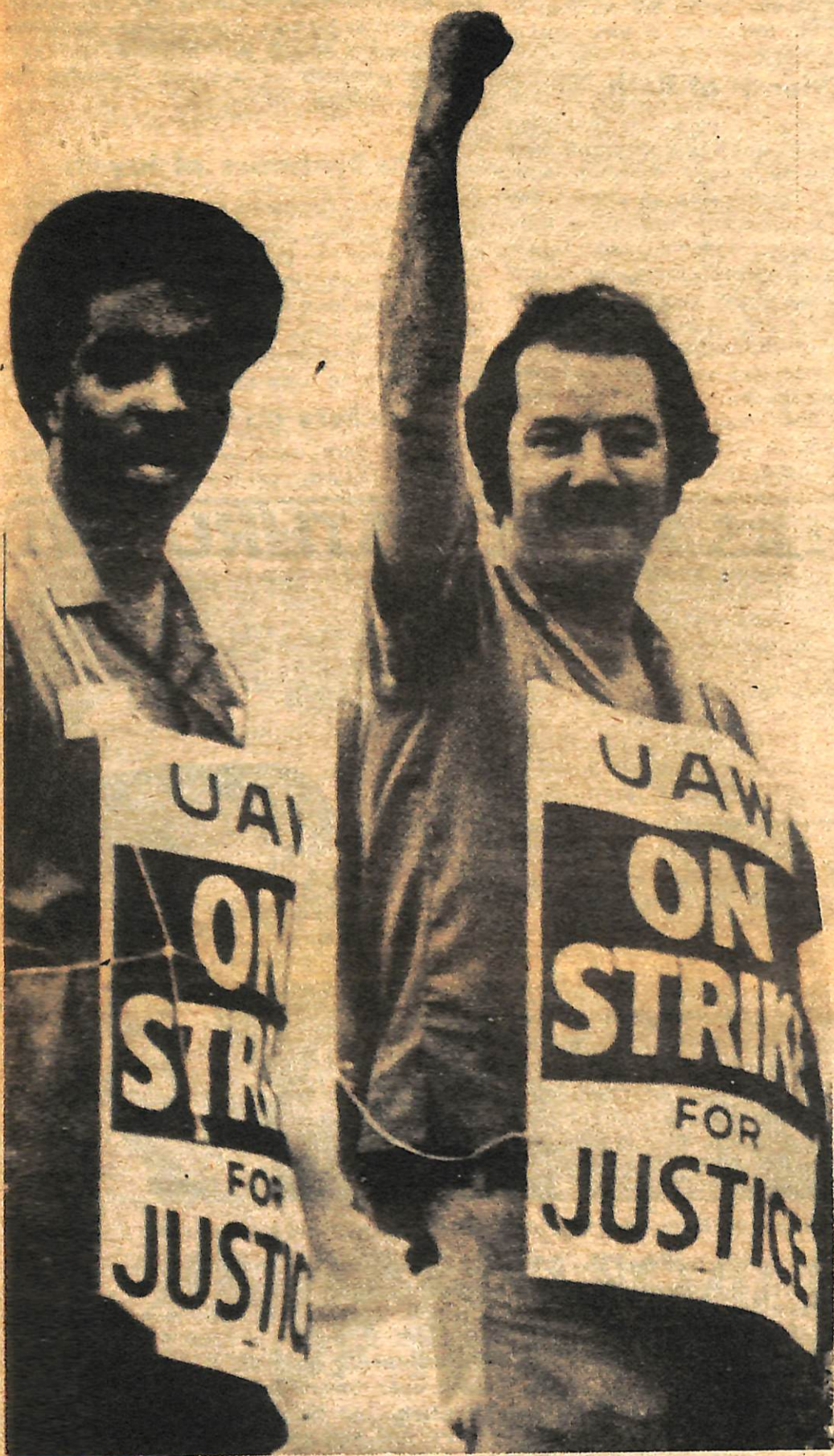
STRIKE STRATEGY

Hitting only the hot-selling cars may save Fraser some of the record \$280 million strike fund, but it will not shut off the 1980 model just as it is being launched. While it is true that the recession and the rebates are cutting into demand for cars, the Big 3 and their local and foreign competitors are fighting each other for every possible per cent of the market for each size and each model. GM has to get its 1980 models to the showrooms to make them as available as Fords and Chryslers.

The whole strategy of limiting the number of strikers to just one target company or one part of that company is part of the UAW outlook that sees the membership as a pressure group to be used against the auto companies, but never mobilized or unleashed to fight in their own interests.

With the recession and the energy crisis on, the UAW leadership is reaching the end of the contract innovations they can wrench from the Big 3 in exchange for harder work and more labor discipline.

Rank and file organizing and activity are what can turn the tide. The large Detroit pre-contract and Save Dodge Main demonstrations, local struggles around union democracy, and the general resentment in the ranks are an indication of a growing struggle--that can win a good national pact from GM.



A scene from the 28-day strike at Ford in 1976.

Auto execs to make \$1 a year?

The Chrysler top bosses are all for self-sacrifice, right? Chrysler President Lee Iococca and Board Chairman John Ricardo are taking salary cuts to just \$1 annually through 1981, right? That's worse than their wanting Chrysler employees to take a two-year wage freeze, right? Sure.

But what about the \$400,000 in stock options that Iococca will receive during '79-80? Iococca sure knows how to sacrifice in style; he will also continue to receive the \$1.5 million bonus he got for jumping from Ford to Chrysler; and it turns out that his wage cut is only a delay--he's guaranteed repayment of his \$365,000 base salary as soon as Chrysler gets back into the black. One wonders how close

to collapse Chrysler really is. But what can you expect from the lizard who introduced the Pinto, a motorized Molotov cocktail?

A look at other top industry salaries shows similar "selflessness." George Morris of GM has a base salary of \$500,000. But he sure must be jealous of colleague Thomas Murphy, who gets \$996,000. But there's plenty to go around when there are so few bosses. GM made a record after-tax profit of just short of \$4 billion last fiscal year, an astounding 28.4 percent return on the investment. Henry Ford is not to be outdone, however; he "earns", in salary alone, \$1,057,070 a year.

If a Ford worker makes \$20,000 does Henry make a 50 times greater contribution to society?

AUTO WORKERS STOP

October 17

actions planned

The UAW's call to "Stop the Rip-offs" touched a nerve among the country's autoworkers. Thousands signed postcards to Jimmy Carter, wore protest buttons, and stopped work for 6 minutes to protest the way oil companies and the government have manipulated oil supplies and prices.

The August 22 day of protest was the biggest political job action in years. And although the UAW did their best to keep the activities mainly symbolic, they succeeded in pulling off a big media event and got the ball rolling for future energy protests.

The auto companies take a dim view of anything that would crimp the flow of new cars for even one-tenth of an hour. After the first 6 minute protest at the Ford Twin Cities Truck Plant in Minnesota a week early, the automakers announced that workers would be docked for the time the lines went down.

The companies' disapproval caused alot of union officials to back down in fear from pulling off the 6 minute shutdown. When local officials asked higher-ups if Solidarity House would back anyone reprimanded for stopping work, the word was "Use your own discretion." Often stewards were instructed to pass out the cards and have them filled out on breaks.

But in some cases, backlogs of grievances, tension around the coming contract and the memories of long gas lines proved to be a volatile combi-



Plant gate rally at American Motors in what the crowd thought of Jimmy Carter's

nation. When General Motors posted notices that workers at the Framingham Massachusetts assembly plant would be docked pay for the 6 minutes, the whole shift walked out for the rest of the day.

The right combination of rank and file agitation and some guts by union leaders produced some effective actions. At the American Motors plant in Kenosha, Wisconsin, stewards passed out protest buttons from the International up and down the lines and then shut them down 6 minutes before lunch. The plant had been heavily

Kenosha News

Who'll pay for Chrysler's crisis?

Workers and taxpayers nominated

The stunning \$260 million loss by Chrysler in the first half of 1979 rocked the world of finance from Wall Street to Tokyo. It caused a flurry of political wheeling and dealing in the haunts of Washington legislators, lobbyists and opinion-makers.

The government is coming up with a bail-out scheme that many politicians, including Carter, have been hesitant to be associated with. But the Treasury Department has announced a willingness to guarantee from \$500 to \$750 million in loans for the faltering number 3 automaker.

To get this aid, Chrysler has to agree to conditions set by the government. They will be required to sell off some parts of their empire. But the restructuring will be designed to put the most weight on the backs of the overburdened taxpayers and most of all, Chrysler workers.

The Treasury announcement of the loan guarantees came the same day as a meeting of the presidents of 71 Chrysler locals from around the country. UAW President Douglas Fraser emerged from that meeting with enough of a consensus to declare "We will take into consideration whatever is needed for the survival of Chrysler." In other words, Chrysler workers will probably be saddled with contract terms inferior to the Ford-GM pact.

The leadership body rejected an outrageous suggestion that Chrysler workers accept a two year wage freeze.

Fraser pointed out that frozen wages in times of steep inflation would mean a 25% reduction in purchasing power by 1982. But the union council's willingness to concede on other items was dead wrong.

When Chrysler gets its gifts from the union and the taxpayers, what will they do for the workers? Will they give retroactive increases in areas where contract concessions were granted?

Will they agree to keep Dodge Main open? 5000 autoworkers at the 70-year-old assembly plant in the central city Detroit town of Hamtramck are scheduled to lose jobs in 1981 when that plant will be closed for good.

What about the Supplemental Unemployment Benefits fund? Will that be guaranteed? This fund, which brings laid-off workers up to 95% of their regular take-home pay, has run dry just as layoffs are mounting.

What about the conditions in the Chrysler plants where safety hazards and harassment have become routine?

By making the most of scare tactics, Chrysler executives hope to weaken the pay, rights, and benefits of the workforce. Just like the oil companies, they are overplaying a real crisis in order to make the most gains. In fact, there is very little chance of Chrysler folding at this time.

UAW President Douglas Fraser has gone a step further than either Chrysler or the Treasury Department. He called

on the government to invest \$1 billion in tax dollars directly in Chrysler. He also called for a third of the seats on Chrysler's Board of Directors to be turned over to the UAW.

It's easy to understand why someone who's bucking for a seat on Chrysler's Board would call for such a giveaway. His outlook that workers and bosses can peacefully cooperate in the running of a monopoly corporation only serves to promote a confused and dangerous strategy. It doesn't arm the 137,000 Chrysler workers with the fighting attitude they need in the face of this threat to jobs, wages, and working conditions.

Ricardo and Iococca are pinning their hopes on a government bailout because this gift of federal tax money, along with attacks on the workers, would allow them the quickest route back to profitability. They could pur-

sue several other strategies for rescuing the faltering giant.

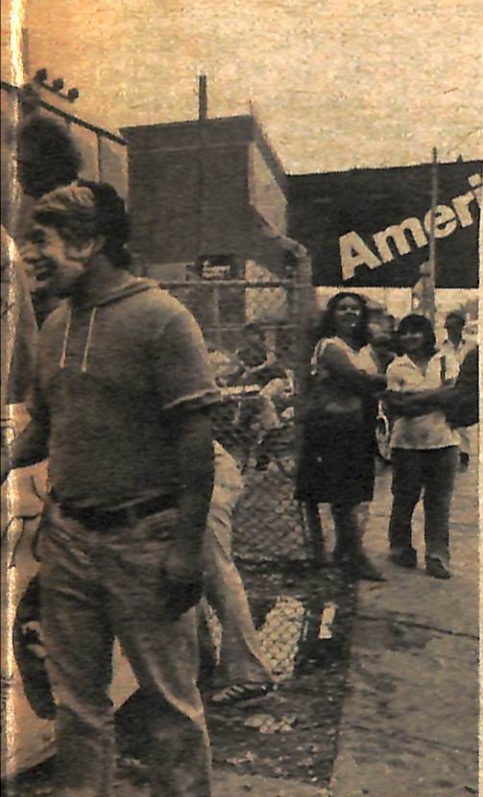
They have explored loans from their Japanese associates, the Mitsubishi group; sold realty companies in Michigan; given up an option to control the Taiwan Machinery Company; traded outstanding car notes to Household Finance for cash; sold European operations, and even held merger talks with Volkswagen. Another option they are seriously considering is to sell their highly profitable defense plants.

As the 13th largest corporation in the world, they could restructure in many different ways, and draw in enough capital to remain competitive in the heart of the world's largest auto market. But rather than risk any danger of being swallowed up by another financial interest group or being dismembered and diminished, they are trying to tough it out on the backs of working people.



Lee Iococca, the man who has been chosen to direct Chrysler's recovery.

LINES VS. GAS RIPOFF



Kenosha. Peanuts on the ground show role in energy hoax.

leafletted and the presence of a UAW film crew from Detroit reinforced the atmosphere of protest.

On the lunch break, the United Workers Organization caucus sponsored a plant gate rally complete with an effigy of Jimmy Carter. Two hundred attended and tossed peanuts at Carter--all in front of TV cameras from three Milwaukee stations.

The Kenosha action and the whole day of protest showed that attacks like the energy hoax are gradually creating a more political climate in the plants.

As the UAW legitimized the action, it was opened up to a very wide and discontented section of the union. The combination of good stands by some union officials, bold organizing by militants and the willingness of the majority to take action foreshadows an important shift coming about in today's unions.

Despite the widespread nature of the protest and the few advanced actions, the UAW top leadership generally kept the initiative out of the hands of the rank and file. In addition, parts of the UAW program were treacherously off the mark. Targeting windfall oil company profits, the government's lifting of price controls, and the manipulated underuse of US refineries was good.

But the UAW's emphasis on OPEC as a villain in the crisis was either a cynical way of seeking some unity with the auto companies and of rallying people around a widely-held backward idea or a straight-up bid to tie workers to an imperialistic foreign policy.

To call OPEC the cause of the shortage as the union's preprinted cards did was like saying, "Don't rip us off. Rip off the Arabs."

An October 17 follow-up day of activities has been announced by a coalition of unions and consumer groups. If activists step boldly into the organizing and fight to squarely target the oil companies and the government, not the Arabs, the local protests can again unleash the anger of the American people.

In August, thousands told the likes of Exxon and GM, "Stop Ripping Us Off!"

CHRYSLER BREAKDOWN?

Dependable as a Dodge?

If Chrysler Corporation had on hand 80,000 fewer LeBarons, Newports, and Dodge Vans and 100,000 more 4-cylinder Horizons and Dodge Omnis...or if they had come out with small cars in '69 to compete with the Pintos and Vegas...if they had featured fuel-efficient models in '74 when the Arab oil embargo hit...if they had pushed big cars in '75 when buyer tastes were swinging back to the full-size models...or if their front-wheel drive "L" models were rolling off the assembly lines now instead of next year...

THEN?

...then Chrysler might not be \$1 billion in debt and lining up for government relief hat in hand behind such other needy characters as Lockheed, New York City, and Penn Central.

But all these speculations are no more than smoke in a corporate board room. The reality of Chrysler's plight is inescapable. Even though they are the 10th largest corporation in the US, with \$13 billion in sales last year, Chrysler is losing out in the dog-eat-dog world of capitalist competition.

What looks like an uncanny ability to come up with the right styling innovation at the wrong time, to zig when they should have zagged, is more fundamentally a string of defeats at the hands of 2 more powerful rivals. What is chalked off to mismanagement should be credited to the pressures of competition between giant monopolies in a time of growing economic crisis.

General Motors, the far and away giant of the industry, controls just shy of 60% of US auto sales and is 4 times bigger than Chrysler. Ford is twice Chrysler's size. The 2 front runners com-

bine to shoulder Chrysler back into the pack where the foreign automakers and AMC are also getting in some licks.

Chrysler simply can't keep up with GM's dizzying pace of re-tooling and new models because of the massive investment required for frequent radical changeovers. Even designing, market research, and advertising call for super budgets--if you want to buck Number One. Chrysler didn't have enough 4-cylinder engines to pump out any more of the hot-selling Horizons because financial strains forced them to abandon their New Stanton engine plant half-built and sell it to Volkswagen.

Chrysler complains that the costs of complying with federal standards to make cars cleaner, safer and more fuel-efficient hit them more heavily than their two larger competitors. They say that regulations add \$620 to the price of each new Dodge or Plymouth. When these costs are spread out over GM's much larger production run, it only amounts to \$340 per car.

Complicating and intensifying the basic auto industry in-fighting are the ravaging effects of recession, inflation, and energy uncertainties. The number of autoworkers already laid off is headed for 100,000 as consumer purchasing power plummets. These chaotic economic tendencies spring from the unplanned competitive free-for-all that is the capitalist system.

Neither mismanagement, poor designing, nor bad luck are at the heart of Chrysler's problems. The overall competition for profits got them in the hole they're in. Any solution they and the government rig up will be designed to get Chrysler back into the race so that they can keep up this blind striving for profits.

Ethnic Chinese targeted

Boat People Still Fleeing Viet Nam

Horrifying numbers of families are still being driven out of Viet Nam, despite international condemnation of the Vietnamese mis-leaders' savage purge.

Extreme poverty, racism and repression are still so widespread in Viet Nam that hundreds of thousands prefer to cast off in rickety tubs for unknown futures.

At least 400,000 have reached miserable refugee camps on foreign shores. By many accounts, half again as many men, women and children have drowned in the attempt.

There could be no starker proof of the betrayal of the Vietnamese revolution. Its mis-leaders are carrying out a genocidal policy against ethnic Chinese to ease the way to domination of all Southeast Asia.

There was a spurt of people fleeing Viet Nam immediately after Saigon fell in 1975. But several years later, a new and bigger exodus of refugees has begun. These are mostly regular folks who rejoiced when the US devastation ended and expected liberation to bring socialism and better living conditions.

Instead, they got new foreign domination, a continued war economy, the invasion of neighboring Kampuchea (Cambodia), military conscription for all men 16-45, and widespread famine.

Instead of collective socialist construction, Viet Nam's rulers used "new economic zones" in a punitive fashion. Instead of uniting with and relying on the general populace, the Vietnamese Communist Party (VCP) shipped people off to these zones to harvest a bumper crop of land mines in the most unproductive, defoliated and marshy parts of Viet Nam, and now-occupied Kampuchea.

Ethnic Chinese, known as the Hoa, have been singled out as victims of



At least 200,000 Vietnamese refugees have died at sea, driven from their homes by the policies of the Hanoi government. racism. At least two-thirds of the boat people are Hoa.

To drive them out Vietnamese authorities have been harassing them with thugs, confiscating their houses, kicking Hoa children out of schools, cutting their already meager food rations, firing them from jobs, laying off large numbers of the Chinese--especially in Northern coal mines. The Hoa also don't want to be drafted to go fight Kampuchians or even other Chinese.

What has happened to Ho Chi Minh's homeland? Viet Nam is now run by

an extremely pro-Soviet clique. Under them, the military and economic system have been thoroughly infiltrated by Russian "advisors."

After the defeat of the U.S., they continued to build up a war economy instead of an agricultural one, resulting in widespread rice shortages and famine. Viet Nam's rulers plead for foreign aid, but the USSR doesn't give enough food, and other donors now give to the starving boat people.

Since 1975, the regular Vietnamese military has increased from a mil-

to a million and a half troops. With vast amounts of Soviet arms aid it maintains one of the six strongest conventional armies in the world. This came well before the border war with China, and was needed for the occupation of Kampuchea and Laos.

The New York Times recently reported that gold extorted from refugees has become Viet Nam's chief export commodity, with most of it going to the USSR to foot the military bill. In contrast, victorious Kampuchea sent much of its military into the fields and until Vietnam stepped in actually exported rice.

THE FINAL SOLUTION

This is the background to the decision that the final solution is to force out the Hoa. Conditions are so bad that many Vietnamese have fled, but it was the Hoa Chinese whom the Communist Party consciously targeted in a February 1978 meeting. This was confirmed by Hoang Van Hoan, who recently fled from house arrest to China. Hoang was a veteran comrade of Ho Chi Minh's and vice-president of the National Assembly until last year. Also under arrest are General Le Quang Ba, former chairman of the Minorities Commission and three other top party leaders who are all said to have openly disagreed with the Kampuchean invasion, mistreatment of minorities and domination by the Kremlin.

Viet Nam's most empty explanation for the exodus is that the refugees are rich Chinese merchants from Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon), upset at having their property nationalized. This is doubtless true of some. But a large portion of the Chinese refugees come from the North, where the exodus began.

The North was collectivized in the '50's, and there haven't been rich merchants there for decades. In a few months last summer, 160,000,

(Continued on page 14)

HAITIANS: BOAT PEOPLE OF THE AMERICAS

Monday, August 13 was a tragic day. Elaine Lorfilis and her 5 children, along with 12 other Haitians, set out from their stopover in the Bahamas aboard a small smuggler's boat for the U.S. For a year, her husband had been tending the grounds at a Miami golf course to send her the \$1500 she needed to pay the smugglers for her family's flight.

Only 10 of the 18 made it to the U.S. alive. As the boat approached the shore, police spotlights pierced the darkness and the smugglers panicked. At gunpoint, they forced all 18 Haitians to jump into the ocean 1/2 mile from shore. Elaine's body washed up on the beach hours later and the bodies of the 5 children, ages 4-11, were found bobbing in the sea surrounded by sharks.

The 2 men who forced the Haitians overboard have been arrested and charged with 6 counts of murder. This is small consolation for Elaine's husband and his 2 remaining children. And it is in no way justice for the 8 who died or for the millions of Haitians who are caught between the terror of the U.S.-backed Haitian dictator, Baby Doc Duvalier,

(Continued on page 14)



Haitians mourn drownings. Loved ones died fleeing Baby Doc's terror.

PUERTO RICO

A NATION BORN IN BATTLE

Part I:

September 22 is the proudest and most solemn of Puerto Rican political holidays, the celebration of "El Grito de Lares," an 1867 uprising against colonial domination. The Workers Voice is honoring El Grito de Lares by this month starting a four-part series on the long struggle of the Puerto Rican people for independence and freedom.

Originally called "Boriquen" (land of courage) by its inhabitants, Puerto Rico ("rich port," because of its gold deposits) was renamed in 1510 by the Spaniards, beginning a long history of foreign domination.

The 111-mile long island, at the center of a chain of islands extending from the north Venezuelan coast to Florida, has a tropical climate cooled by ocean breezes and is a land of great natural beauty.

The Puerto Rican people have had no choice in who rules them and have fought all invaders. This is the history of a proud people who have sacrificed their lives for their beloved country and of their determination to carry on this struggle until all who menace the people with misery, hunger and oppression are finally driven off the island by any means necessary.

THE TAINO INDIANS

For thousands of years before the Spanish conquest, the island was inhabited by the Taino Indians, who had a culture free from systematized oppression, although the European invaders slandered them as savages, little better than animals.

They were a farming people who domesticated animals and also had a developed fishing technology using traps, nets, hooks and boats. They wove cotton fabrics and used many herbs to cure illness and were creative, making music and sculpting in gold, copper, clay,

ment." For a while, this prevented any effective resistance. A famous story tells how this ended. One day a conquistador named Diego Salcedo entered a village and ordered the people to carry him across the river so he wouldn't get wet. A cacique (chief) named Urayoan who disbelieved Spanish immortality volunteered to help carry the Spaniard across the river. In mid-stream, Urayoan seized him and held him underwater until he stopped moving. The chief quickly sent word to all the other tribes.

Emboldened, the Tainos launched a war in defense of their homeland and ambushed many Spanish soldiers, burned the forts, and disposed of the weapons. Taken by surprise, the Spanish suffered many defeats but rebounded with genocidal fury. Led by the Governor, Ponce de Leon, they crucified or shot men, women and children. Within twenty years of Columbus' "discovery" 45,000 Tainos were killed of the original 50,000. By 1521, seven years later, as few as 600 Taino survived, mainly hiding in the central mountains of the island. Though defeated, the Tainos have always been remembered by following generations of Puerto Ricans for their heroic stand against brutality and oppression.

AFRICAN SLAVE TRADE

After practically exterminating the Taino, the Spaniards looked to Africa for more slaves. In 1553 there were 1,500 African slaves in Puerto Rico. By 1830 there were 30,000, all forbidden to speak their own language, use their given names, or practice their religion and culture.

In 1527 a big revolt of Black slaves took place but the Spanish army was able to crush the unorganized rebellion. This revolt was the first spark in a series of slave uprisings that lasted almost 350 years until slavery was ended. In these revolts many slaves found refuge in the central mountains with the surviving Taino Indians. All over the western hemisphere, except the US and Brazil, the struggles for political independence from the Europeans became inseparable from the struggles for independence made abolition a reality.

PUERTO RICAN NATION

Through the four hundred years of Spanish rule in Puerto Rico, the Tainos, Blacks, and poor Spaniards who came to the island to work and farm were drawn together through common struggle against the Spanish crown. These peoples began to mingle and marry, and a new, distinctly Puerto Rican racial group developed in the countryside, beginning in the 1600s. This people is traditionally known as "Jibaros," which in the Taino language means "someone running to be free." This mixing of peoples is why today Puerto Rican culture has strains of African, Native American, and European cultures.

Puerto Ricans became not just a new racially and culturally mixed people; they developed into a genuine nation desiring complete independence from Spain. By the late 18th century the Puerto Rican nation had developed its own merchants and manufacturers trying to establish trade and commerce apart from Spain. Fearing economic and political independence, Spain began issuing prohibitions of trade, commerce and political freedoms; resistance was met with curfews, house searches, executions, and other repression.

Spain was being challenged all over Latin America by the people who had endured its butchery for so many years. Puerto Ricans became inspired in the early 1800s by revolutions in other Latin countries, like those of Simon Bolivar, who led an army of peasants and ex-slaves in crushing the Spanish military in five countries.

During the 1820s and 30s the independence movement on the island had developed enough to start a series of revolts. Spain, worried about losing Puerto Rico and other Caribbean islands, imposed a reign of terror. Suspected independistas were executed without question in their homes, on their jobs, in public and in jails.

RAMON BETANCES

In 1865, a group of Cubans and Puerto Ricans

FOUR HEROIC FIGHTERS FREE!



Lolita Lebron (center) celebrates release from jail after 25 years along with three other freed nationalist heroes and the Chicago Puerto Rican community near Humbolt Park on September 10.

in New York formed the Sociedad Republicana de Cuba y Puerto Rico--Republican Society of Cuba and Puerto Rico. Ramon Emeterio Betances, known as the father of the Puerto Rican nation, was head of the Society. With his Cuban comrades, he developed plans to overthrow the Spanish regimes in both countries simultaneously. This marked a turning point in the history of both countries.

Betances, born to a rich land-owning family studied medicine in France. There he was greatly inspired by the Paris working class, which played a major role in the Paris Commune and the French civil war in 1848. On return home, he won the respect of the people for his medical treatment of the poor. Betances concluded from his observations of the impoverished masses that their well-being demanded a fundamental change in social conditions: a revolution.

He organized revolutionary committees across the island and led the creation of an alliance among the poor farmers, the merchants, and Black slaves. A price on his head forced "the father of the poor" into exile on St. Thomas Island.

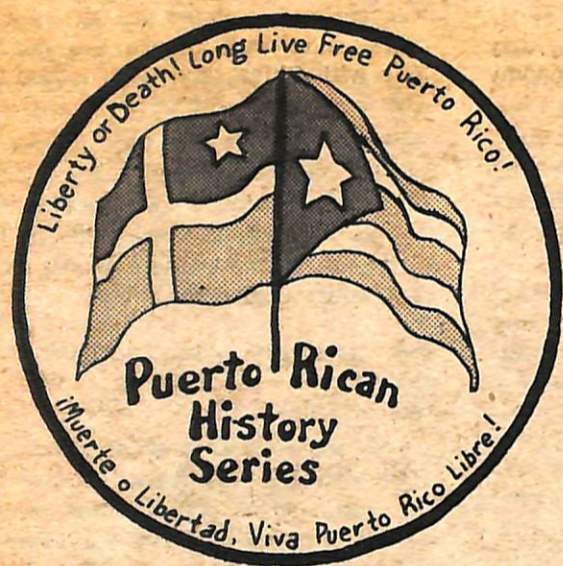
LARES REBELLION

In July 1867, Betances went to Santo Domingo and acquired weapons for an uprising planned for September 29. The plan was unfortunately discovered by the Spanish and he and some of his people were arrested before they could sail for Puerto Rico. But in the town of Lares the revolutionary committee heard of the arrests and a woman leader of the committee, Mariana Bracetti, decided to launch the attack without delay, six days ahead of schedule.

About 400 men and women armed only with machetes and a few pistols attacked and captured the city after a small battle with Spanish soldiers. The people of Lares rejoiced, the slaves were freed, the jails emptied, and the mayor, city officials and the remaining Spanish soldiers were arrested.

The Puerto Rican people for the first time had openly confronted the Spanish army and were able to free a portion of the land in their country. Over the town square, the Spanish flag was taken down and two other banners were raised, the flag of the new republic and a white streamer with the words: "Liberty or death, long live a free Puerto Rico!" The Revolutionary Provisional Government was formed and it declared the birth of the new Republic of Puerto Rico. They were determined to defend it with their lives.

But the Republic did not last long. The Spanish came back with cannons and vengeance, recapturing the city. Guerrilla battles continued in the mountains but many rebels were hunted down and killed, and the independistas of Lares were executed. The Spanish won the battle but in a larger sense they lost the war. The spirit of the Lares uprising continued and the great examples of Betances and the freedom fighters have inspired Puerto Rican patriots to this day.



and stone. In Taino society democratic councils governed the tribes, both men and women played leading roles in their society.

Many towns in Puerto Rico, like Mayaguez and Lares, were named after legendary Taino heroes. The current culture reflects its Taino ancestry in foods, music, dance, spiritual beliefs and even parts of the language.

SPANISH CONQUEST

Soon after Christopher Columbus "claimed" Boriquen in the name of the Spanish crown in 1493, Spaniards began establishing settlements all over the island. At first, the Tainos were very friendly to the Spaniards and helped them avoid starvation by teaching them to grow crops and survive in a new environment. The Tainos felt no conflict in sharing their land, since their religious belief taught them that the land belongs to no one.

When the Spaniards discovered gold on the island, there was an influx of foreigners and they began to dig everywhere for it, including on ground sacred to the Taino religion. The Spanish search for gold grew desperate and they killed men, women, and children. In their long history, the people had never seen men maim and kill for something worth so little to them.

The Spaniards began to enslave the Tainos in the gold mines. They employed religion to justify their murder and brutality, claiming they were immortals and gods and that enslavement was "holy punish-

WANT PEACE? FORGET SALT 2!

Since July 9, the Senate has been officially debating ratification of the second phase of the Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty and a vote is not expected until Thanksgiving. SALT II was signed three months ago in Vienna--after seven years and 300 meetings between the two superpowers.

At that time, Jimmy Carter hailed the SALT Treaty as "crucial to peace in our time." The USSR said it shows that "there is no reasonable alternative to detente." The world was told that a new nail had been driven into the coffin of the spectre of nuclear holocaust.

But the terms of the treaty itself, to say nothing of the lengthy Senate debate, prove exactly the opposite. SALT II is a flimsy smokescreen of peace talk. It covers a stepped up and streamlined arms race between the rulers of the US and USSR, which resembles more and more the escalating war preparations of European nations during the years before World War II.

THE HYPOCRISY OF SALT

Just look at the terms of the Treaty. Each side is permitted to build a total of 2,250 weapons systems capable of landing nuclear warheads on the other's territory. This total includes only intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs), submarine-based missiles and long-range bombers.

Furthermore, 1,320 of these systems are allowed to carry multiple warheads, each with a separate target. To top it off, each side gets to build 4,000 new atomic warheads, giving the US a total of 12,000 and doubling the Soviet stockpile to 8,000. Some arms limitation!

Even the specific limitations can hardly be described as advancing disarmament. The USSR is freezing manufacture of SS-19 medium range missiles and the enormous SS-18 ICBMs, which can carry up to 40 warheads each. They aren't upset by this, because instead they can concentrate on hardening their launching sites and increasing the accuracy of such miss-



iles--very poor compared with US systems.

Likewise, the US is not allowed to deploy the new MX mobile missile during the term of the treaty. But the 200,000 pound monsters won't be ready until the late 1980s anyway.

In the meantime, development continues. \$40 billion will be spent on the MX System, in which 200 of the huge missiles will be shuffled around from silo to silo in the Southwest at random like the peas in a deadly shell game. Arizona and New Mexico are to become a sponge to absorb enemy missiles fired at mainly empty launching sites.

What's more, many new developments in nuclear devastation aren't even mentioned, such as the Soviet Backfire bomber and the US cruise missile, which can hug the ground below radar level on its way to detonating its warhead within 50 feet of a programmed target. And the intense

buildup in nonnuclear weaponry falls outside the scope of SALT entirely.

During the last seven years of dickering at the negotiating table and technical leaps on the testing grounds, the danger of war has grown. Ironically, the expansion of their abilities to devastate the world has led the masters of the US and USSR to reconsider the theory, long dominant in diplomatic circles, of "mutually assured destruction" (MAD).

This theory holds that as long as each side can reduce the other to radioactive rubble, neither would dare start a war. Now, for the first time in two decades, both superpowers have open advocates of the "winnable war" proposition. The massive Soviet civil defense and evacuation plan is intended to help "win" despite a nuclear attack. The pinpoint accuracy of US missiles is useful mainly for taking out protected Soviet launching sites in a first strike, not for holding big

contradicts their claim that propaganda causes northern Hoa to leave. If expansion were really China's aim, China would surely want sympathetic Chinese ethnics to remain as a fifth column.

Viet Nam and its Russian overlords are intent on militarily dominating South-East Asia. This ambitious plan has been such an incredible drain they can't put their economy in order.

So they must drive out hundreds of thousands of hungry mouths to protect their scheme. Who could be a more convenient target than an easily identifiable ethnic minority.

HAITIANS

(Continued from page 12) and the callousness of the U.S. Department of Immigration.

The horror of this incident has called attention to the plight of thousands of Haitians who come to this country in small boats 714 miles from Haiti or from a stopover in the Bahamas. They are fleeing from a country where over 35,000 have been executed since 1967 for political opposition, where peasants are forced off their land to make room for the foreign companies that dominate the Haitian economy, and where unemployment is over 60%.

Over 1 million Haitians, 1/4 of the population, have fled to other countries. But while the U.S. govern-

ment welcomes refugees from Cuba, Vietnam and Nicaragua (where pro-U.S. governments have been overthrown) with open arms, Haitian immigrants are greeted with jail cells and deportation. "Starvation," claims the Immigration Department, "is not a political issue," so Haitian immigrants do not qualify as "political" refugees.

A movement against deportation is growing among Haitians in this country, particularly in Miami where there were protests and marches last spring. A Miami immigration judge responded by temporarily halting deportation hearings for Haitians requesting political asylum, while the State Department did an investigation. Shortly after the State Department determined that Haitians who were deported back home were in fact in no danger. But this ruling has come under a lot of fire. It was conducted by interviewing refugees already back in Haiti who would not dare speak out against the government for fear of their lives.

The Miami Haitian Refugee Center, backed by the Council of Churches, is demanding a blanket political asylum for Haitian refugees. The deaths of a mother and 5 young children have called attention to the Haitian "boat people". But unless the U.S. State Department and Immigration Service reverse their policy towards Haitians, tragic incidents like this will happen again.

population centers hostage in the MAD scenario.

THE SENATE DEBATE

The initial stage of the SALT debate in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee was a forum for the Pentagon and its pet academics to holler about the momentum Soviet war preparations have gained since SALT I in 1974.

Before the hearings began, presidential hopeful Senator Howard Baker came out against the Treaty. So did some notable Senate Democrats like Henry "Scoop" Jackson and Sam Nunn.

By August, however, the main question was no longer support for or opposition to SALT II. The real issue surfaced when two key figures testified.

Instead of opposing the Treaty as the administration feared, they opened the road to unity and passage. Former Nixon aide and former NATO chief General Alexander Haig said he supported SALT - if the US moves to double defense spending over the next few years.

Henry Kissinger, who negotiated SALT I, repeated Haig's pitch. He also proposed that future arms limitation talks be stopped if the Kremlin does not practice military restraint around the world.

His call for a policy of "linkage" between arms talks and other issues reversed his own stand while Secretary of State under Nixon and Ford. Then he opposed linking policy on US-Soviet trade with Soviet foreign policy or the early SALT II negotiations with Russian and Cuban intervention in Angola.

SALT II now stands a good chance of winning in the Senate--provided it becomes the vehicle for a profound shift in US defense policy. The administration and liberal establishment fell all over each other uniting with Haig and Kissinger in agreeing to step up military preparations and in a tougher stance against Soviet expansionism around the world.

THE REALITY OF SUPERPOWER RELATIONS

The Senate's warlike approach to a Treaty that has been peddled to the public as a triumph for peace and disarmament is not surprising. It just underlines the growing clash of interests between the rulers of the US and USSR.

The New Czars of the Soviet Union are on the move. They didn't stop in Angola but have expanded their armed interference in Ethiopia, in Afghanistan, in Kampuchea (Cambodia) and elsewhere. For their part, the rulers of this country see that their dominant position in much of the world is in mortal danger from the USSR.

Both sides know that eventually the question of who is to be top dog can only be settled on the battlefield. Both sides are preparing. SALT II serves as a propaganda vehicle to hide their intentions and actions.

It also shows that the drive to war is not yet all-out. The two superpowers can still meet jointly to set certain minimal and mutually advantageous limits on their expensive and unpopular arms race.

But in the final analysis, if you are concerned about Soviet expansion, SALT won't stop it; if you oppose the US arms build up, SALT won't slow it; if you want peace, SALT won't get it; and if you fear the devastation of a nuclear war, SALT won't prevent it.

BOAT PEOPLE

(Continued from page 12)

mainly workers, fled across the border to China.

Rich Chinese merchants from Ho Chi Minh City wouldn't travel all the way up North to enter a communist country. They no longer deny it, so how do the Vietnamese authorities explain why common laborers would flee their "socialist paradise?"

Vietnamese spokesmen claim that China has been issuing propaganda that urges northern refugees to leave Vietnam. This claim is preposterous.

First of all, China's policy has been to discourage refugees from leaving Vietnam and entering China, particularly since the 250,000 refugees China reluctantly admitted over the past year place a heavy strain on her economy.

Secondly, the Hoa people in Vietnam hardly take their orders from China. They have lived in and helped build Vietnam for generations. In fact, many were members of Vietnam's Communist Party and had served in the army fighting the United States. They had suffered along with the rest of Vietnam under the most intensive bombing in history.

Vietnam also sobs that China is an expansionist power trying to gain hegemony over all Indochina. This

World recognition drive gaining

PALESTINIANS TAKE CENTER STAGE IN MIDDLE EAST

The drive of the Palestinian people to win a national homeland after three generations in exile has taken center stage in the Middle East. A major diplomatic offensive by the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) has increased pressure on the U.S. government, long Israel's main backer, to recognize Palestinian rights.

The Israelis are lashing out in desperation. Their offensive consists mainly of terror attacks on Palestinian refugees in Lebanon and forcing residents of the occupied West

Bank off their land. They, too, are applying political heat on the Carter administration, as the firing of Andy Young shows (see accompanying article), but have had trouble keeping the U.S. in line.

Self-government for the West Bank and the Gaza Strip is the main agenda point in the continuing Camp David talks between the U.S., Israel and Egypt. The Arab oil-producing nations want to see some progress soon, and the issue will be on the floor of the House again this year.

This country's rulers have some hard decisions to make. What they decide will have a major impact on world affairs for years to come.

THE PALESTINIAN OFFENSIVE

The Palestinian campaign has several aspects. One is a moratorium on military actions outside Israel and the occupied territories. When a small splinter commando team seized the Egyptian Embassy in Turkey on July 14, PLO negotiators flew in and arranged a peaceful surrender. The grateful Turks let the PLO set up an office in Ankara.

The PLO has also focussed on Western Europe. On July 6, PLO head Yassar Arafat met with Austrian Chancellor Bruno Kreisky and former German Chancellor Willy Brandt.

The real target in this flurry of activity is the United States. Although the U.S. has backed their Israeli enemies for the last 25 years as the linchpin of its Mideast policy, the Palestinians see huge pressures on the U.S. to change its position.

PRESSURES ON THE U.S.

Most obvious is oil. Sheik Yemani of Saudi Arabia recently indicated that continued cooperation with the U.S. on keeping petroleum production high and price increases low requires action on the Palestinian problem.

More, America's future influence in the Mideast is at stake. The U.S. government claims that it alone can pull together a "peace process" that will ease tensions and strengthen the independence of Mideast nations.

The Camp David agreement and Israel's return of the Sinai to Egypt was the first step in this process. Unless it continues towards an Israeli withdrawal from the other occupied lands, this process will stall and collapse. The Soviet Union is eagerly awaiting such a U.S. failure, and the chance to become the number one superpower in the region.

With so much on the line, the Carter Administration realizes it has to put some distance between itself and Israel and make some concessions to the Palestinians. To achieve the immediate goal of the Palestinian struggle, an independent national homeland in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, the majority of the PLO is prepared to make some big concessions, too.

The Palestinians have always refused to recognize Israel, a settler state built on land stolen from the Palestinian people. Repeatedly asked if he would acknowledge Israel's existence in exchange for autonomy in Gaza and the West Bank, Arafat finally told one newspaper, "Don't ask me that question. I'm not going to put my cards on the table."

THE ISRAELI OFFENSIVE

Israel's position so far has been intransigent. Prime Minister Begin vows Israel will never recognize the PLO or permit a Palestinian state on its borders, no matter what the Camp David Agreement, the U.N., or anybody else says.

Instead, Begin and his cabinet have been fanning the flames of war in Southern Lebanon, the PLO's main base area, where great numbers of Palestinians are crowded into miserable refugee camps.

Before the treaty with Egypt, the Israeli Army could not chance more than periodic raids into the area. Since April, it has employed "massive fire from afar, by land, sea and air...any time, any place," in the words of one Israeli military correspondent.

These attacks, carried out by American-supplied artillery and F-15 fighter planes, have killed and wounded thousands of refugees and Lebanese citizens and uprooted over 100,000, the U.N. reports. Israel is funding, arming and advising a reactionary Christian militia, through which they intend to rule Southern Lebanon.

FAILURE AND SPLITS

The vigorous resistance of the Palestinians and their Lebanese allies has deprived Begin of cheap military triumphs and exposed Israel as a brutal bully, not a besieged underdog. In addition, the U.S. has been greatly embarrassed that weapons it supplied "for defensive purposes only" are being used to sow havoc in a neighboring country.

Israel's efforts to step up the construction of a network of settlements and military strong points on farm land seized "legally" from Arab residents of the occupied territories are also going badly. When Israel pressured Carter to cut Andy Young loose, U.S. policy wasn't reversed and many Americans were angered by its meddling in American affairs.

Now the winds of change are blowing through Israeli politics as well. To the dismay of Begin, Moshe Dayan, one of the country's most prominent politicians, has met with PLO sympathizers, and others in the country's ruling circles advocate opening dialogue with the Palestinians. The common people, plagued by an annual inflation rate of over 80%, favor moves likely to bring peace and stability.

WHAT WILL U.S. DO?

The U.S. is on record as upholding UN Resolution 242, demanding Israel's withdrawal from occupied Arab territory, and the Camp David talks call for "full autonomy for the inhabitants" of the West Bank and Gaza.

But talk is cheap. Now the government must decide. It can continue to support Israel, insuring the enemy of the Arab countries and freedom-loving people around the world and opening the door for the U.S.S.R. to pose as their friend.

Or the U.S. can continue on the path it has taken the first few timid steps down, the path of dealing with the PLO, the sole representatives of the Palestinian people. As Yassar Arafat has pointed out in explaining the PLO's current policy, the U.S. is not just another country, it is a superpower.

More than any other nation, the U.S. has the power to remove the roadblocks it itself has helped create to the Palestinian's long march for justice and a homeland. This is the only path that deals with the actual situation in the Mideast, the only one that holds out the promise of reducing the danger of war there and the only one which upholds the interests of the American people.



Yassar Arafat, head of Palestine Liberation Organization and undisputed spokesman for the Palestinian people.

YOUNG FORCED OUT

(Continued from page 1)

Initial news reports on the Young-PLO meeting were short and matter-of-fact, but within two days the media had generated a storm of front page controversy. Pro-Israel congressmen made noises about impeaching the Ambassador. Coupled with pressure exerted privately within U.S. ruling circles, the furor was sufficient to make Carter lean on Young to resign.

THE POLICY FIGHT

The symbol fell, but Israel and U.S. advocates of gunboat foreign policy were unable to dent the shift that Young had been implementing. If anything, the whole incident further weakened the disastrous policy of continuing to rely on Israel as the U.S.'s Mideast mainstay.

For decades, the American people have been educated to sympathize with the Israeli "underdogs."

Now these underdogs were exposed as meddling in U.S. politics to sabotage any move toward talks with the Palestinians. Such talks are a reasonable step and a necessary one if U.S.-led peace negotiations are to have any chance.

Developing resentment towards Is-

rael and sympathy with, or at least openness toward, the Palestinian position, was most obvious in the Black community.

THE BLACK RESPONSE

Black politicians and public figures were unanimous and impassioned in condemning the firing. Andy Young was more than just a Blackface in a high place.

Young had been a co-worker of Martin Luther King and a leader of the pro-integration center forces in the Civil Rights movement. Although he is a close friend and long-time political ally of Jimmy Carter, his appointment to such a prominent post was also a symbol of the concessions the Black struggle of the '60s had forced from this country's rulers.

Following the resignation, meetings took place among the leaders of the largest Black-oriented organizations, like the NAACP, the Urban League, the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and Jesse Jackson's PUSH. In addition to strong statements of support for Young, these meetings produced two more deep-going developments.

One was an open call for considering the plight of the Palestinian people and some actual dialogue between Black leaders and PLO representatives. Despite similarities in the oppression of the two peoples, mainstream Black leaders had previously taken a hands-off attitude. They feared losing the support, especially financial, of liberal Jewish profes-

(Continued on page 16)



On September 8, Black community residents took to the streets against the Bell murder cover-up. State Senator Monroe Swan is at foreground, right.

AFTER 21 YEARS KILLER COP FINGERED

MILWAUKEE - It's common for a cop to kill a Black person, claim self-defense and get off scott-free. In Milwaukee, however, the Police Department has been caught cold in a 21-year cover-up.

Louis Krause, who was on the scene when his partner, Thomas Grady, shot and killed Daniel Bell on February 2, 1958, decided he couldn't live with the lie any longer, and told his story.

That night in 1958, Grady had stopped Bell for a burnt-out tail light on his car. Bell, who didn't have a driver's license and had been stopped before without one, panicked and ran.

Grady and Krause, along with other cops, gave chase by motorcycle, car and on foot. But rather than tackle him, Grady shot Bell point-blank in the back - and then planted a throw-away knife in his hand to make it look like self-defense.

Krause originally told the truth in his report but the investigating detectives told him to change it. He was never called to testify in court. Now that the story is out, Grady has been convicted of reckless homicide and perjury, but faces only a maximum of 10 years in jail.

In no way does Milwaukee's Black community think that justice has been done. On September 9, people demonstrated to demand that the DA release the names of other Police Department employees who took part in the cover-up.

Among the suspects is the Police Chief Harold Breier himself, whose firing people have demanded for some time. Breier was a captain of detectives at the time of the murder, but vigorously denies any connection to the incident. His long and bloody reputation for racist brutality, however, doesn't help his credibility.

nation, he has denounced as "ridiculous" some aspects of U.S. foreign policy, like Kissinger's pledge to Israel. He intends, he says, to continue to speak out for a foreign policy that will recognize changing world realities and advance U.S. interests more in accordance with them.

The returns are not yet all in on this episode. Already it has given the American people a most interesting picture of the difficulties their rulers face in figuring how to meet the challenges both of a changing world situation and continued demands for equality and justice from established Black leaders.

Mississippi

(Continued from page 7) that could unite the many battles Black people are waging in Mississippi and carry them forward through their ups and downs.

In every area where the League has a chapter, they are planning an ongoing project based on what the people in that area most need. The United League has already started their own newspaper and future plans include a radio station, an after-school program, and a League teacher core. Guest speaker at the Banquet, Minister Louis Farrakhan of the Nation of Islam, underlined the responsibility that each person there had to support and defend the League, which in its early stages is facing heavy attacks from a power structure anxious to nip it in the bud.

Chicago riders

(Continued from page 4)

to give the RTA a piece of their minds. Each day the PATH mailbox was stuffed with petitions that people had gotten their co-workers and neighbors to sign. Secretaries called offering to run off more leaflets on their job and others sent donations. When PATH called for a "phone-in" to RTA Chairman Lewis Hill, Hill had to admit to the press that his lines were jammed all day.

The first round of the battle culminated in the public hearings which the RTA was obliged to call by law before it can raise the fare. Six, of seven, were held in the suburbs, although opposition was the strongest in Chicago itself. Even here, the Board made every effort to get the politicians to the mike and keep the 400 people who turned out in their seats.

It didn't matter. People voiced their anger from the floor, and PATH took over the mike to present the 10,000 signatures on their petition. If Chairman Hill didn't have a few drinks earlier, the ridicule he got at the meeting undoubtedly sent him out for several afterwards.

The meeting sent the RTA into

turmoil. In June, they had voted 9 to 1 for the 20¢ increase. By late August, they couldn't even take a scheduled revote to reaffirm their position. Instead, they threw the ball to the State Legislature.

For all the talk about "commitment to public transit," the debate among the politicians now centered on how much to raise the fare, how much to raise the sales tax, how much to cut service, and occasionally, how many limousines Chairman Hill really needed.

The sales tax package the State Legislature finally passed--the Governor's brain-child--did no more than rob the people out of their left pockets, instead of their right.

Only after Illinois took that further step in passing transit costs onto the public, did the federal government release badly needed federal funds.

These last few months of bureaucratic shuffling have clearly revealed the government's LACK of commitment to public transit. The Chicago system is still in shaky financial shape. In the coming months, the RTA will look for ways to cut non-rush hour service, substitute part-time drivers for full-timers, and stonewall the transit unions in the December contract negotiations in order to shore up its sagging budget.

Bus contract

(Continued from page 5)

the son of a big shot in the Machinists) and the United Workers Organization is a big headache for Milwaukee's entrenched AFL-CIO bureaucrats. Highly concerned about developments in the Transit union, they showed up at the inauguration in force, indicating intense efforts were underway to bring Brown into line.

They weren't disappointed. Heidenreich's farewell speech tried to turn defeat into victory with denunciations of RUNNING HOT. Brown took up his invitation. His election, he said, was a victory. Why? Not because the hated Heidenreich had been dumped, but because "outsiders" had been kept out of office!

The united front forged in the contract fight almost a year before was clearly broken.

NOW WHAT?

Brown was mandated by the rank and file to take a tougher stand toward the Transit system.

But the labor establishment is on his case, too.

Only continued pressure from the rank and file can force him to honor his campaign promises of an open, democratic local; if he sells out, disgust will run deep.

RUNNING HOT plans to organize to keep the fight for memberships interests moving ahead. What stand the group will take on Brown and the new executive board will depend more than anything on their actions in the months to come. Although a majority of the membership was not ready to put leadership positions in the group's hands, its stands and opinions enjoy wide support and respect.

Through its part in building a movement that knocked Heidenreich out, RUNNING HOT opened things up in 998. The militant core has ties at every station in the system. Now 18 months old, it is a strong force for building and popularizing the basic struggles of the workers on the job and in the union. And RUNNING HOT, like other rank and filers, is looking toward the March 31, 1980 contract expiration

School Board

(Continued from page 6)

ment of a desegregation suit brought against the School Board.

*** All students currently enrolled should be allowed to graduate from North Division and ninth graders should continue to be enrolled.

*** Supportive services programs should be developed to prepare students to enter the medical and technical specialties.

THE BATTLE CONTINUES

In the blatantly racist manner in which they'd made a mockery of desegregation every step of the way, the School Board never even considered the community plan. On May 28, and again on August 28, despite a room packed with angry parents and students at both meetings, they voted to go ahead with their original proposals.

It didn't even faze the board that they could never officially dedicate New North. The threat of a student walk-out forced the school administration to call off the ceremonies.

Throughout the summer, the Co-

alition to Save North Division remained active, drawing in forces like the NAACP and the Urban League, who've been fighting for desegregation, as well as those who have been working to build and defend Black institutions. Far from giving up after the August 28 meeting, the Coalition is gearing up for a new fall offensive.

On the heels of the 400-person turnout for the August 28th meeting, the Federal Monitoring Board for the implementation of the desegregation plan has ordered the Board to reopen discussion with the Coalition. On the first day of school, the Coalition held a demonstration to demand that ninth graders wishing to register be allowed in.

The School Board is spreading lies and rumors in an attempt to discredit the Coalition, trying to paint its leaders as wild-eyed disrupters out to use the issue to push separatism. But its efforts are in vain. Milwaukee's Black community fought too long and too hard to get North Division built to give up the struggle to save it now.

Young

(Continued from page 15)

sionals, intellectuals and businessmen, many of whom are ardent Israel-can-do-no-wrong Zionists.

The other major development was the realization that Blacks can and must try to extend political influence beyond traditional "Black issues". The Young firing, and the questions it stirred up about Mideast policy, showed the important stake Blacks have in foreign policy, as well.

Firing Young was about the last thing Jimmy Carter wanted to do. Young has done wonders for U.S. relations with underdeveloped countries, especially in Africa. And dumping him was a slap in the face to Black voters, one of the few hopes Carter has left for re-election.

Carter has moved quickly to cut his losses. The furor probably won him more support, at home and abroad, for the policy shifts Young was associated with. A replacement for Young was quickly found in his aide, Black career diplomat Donald McHenry. McHenry was given a quick publicity boost as negotiator in the Russian ballerina affair, then appointed.

Furthermore, Andy Young has said that he intends to campaign hard for Carter through the next year.

Young, himself, did not come out badly at all. He is now probably the best-known and most respected Black political figure in the country.

In statements following his resign-

CUATROS LUCHADORES HEROICOS LIBERTADOS!

El movimiento pro-independencia puertorriquena gano una victoria mayor con la liberacion de cuatro prisioneros nacionalistas. Los cuatros habian sido encarcelados por mas de 25 anos por sus partes en ataques contra el Congreso de los EEUU y el Presidente Truman. En libertarlos incondicionalmente el Presidente Carter cedio en frente a la crecientes demandas por parte del pueblo puertorriqueno y paises del tercer mundo. Despues de ser liberados los cuatro Lolita Lebron, Irvin Flores Rodriguez, Rafael Cancel Miranda y Oscar Collazo se reunieron en Chicago por primera vez en anos donde fueron bienvenidos por una desfile de mil gente por el barrio Boriqua. Los cuatros patriotas expresaron su determinacion de continuar la lucha por la independencia de su pueblo rehusando proscibir cualquier metodo.

Voz del Obrero



Lolita Lebron, centro, fue prisionera del gobierno de los EEUU por 25 anos.

25¢
SECCION
HISPANICA

VOZ DEL OBRERO

SEPTIEMBRE, 1979

ANTERIORMENTE EL OBRERO

VOL. II, NO. 7

1,500 Celebran Moratorio Chicano



Unity

Cientos celebraron los dias inspirantes del moratorio Chicano marchando en el noveno aniversario en conmemoracion.

Los Angeles, Cal. - 1,500 marcharon a través las calles del este de Los Angeles demandando "Poder Economico y Politico para Chicanos en el Sudoeste. La ocasion fue el noveno aniversario del Moratorio Chicano, una manifestacion militante contra la guerra en Vietnam que ha

adquirido mucha importancia para latinos en esta area.

Aunque originalmente no recibio permiso, la manifestacion siguio la ruta de la original por Whittier Boulevard a través del barrio Chicano mas grande en los EEUU. La comunidad fue cultivada por la marcha formando

lineas a su large, dando su apoyo con los punados lanzados al aire o uniendose a ella. El desfile termino en el Parque Ruben Salazar, nombrado bajo de pression de la comunidad por el reportero de el Los Angeles Times asesinado por la policia durante el Moratorio de 1970. La col-

umna hizo pausa en frente del Cafe Silver Dollar, donde Salazar fue herido fatalmente en la cabeza por un proyectil de gas lacrimogeno.

El Moratorio en 1970 trajo atencion nacional a oppression nacional del pueblo Chicano. La explotacion de los campesinos, terror policiaco en el Sudoeste y obstaculos racista a poder politico Latino se hicieron cuestiones nacionales al lado del movimiento pro-liberacion negro.

Pero el efecto que el desfile de 25,000 tubo sobre los Chicanos fue aun mas importante. Aunque son solamente 5% de la poblacion, Chicanos constituyeron 20% de los soldados americanos heridos y muertos en Vietnam. Un organizador del desfile de este ano dijo, "El Moratorio nos dio a muchos el entendimiento que el mismo sistema imperialista era responsable por la opresion de Chicanos aqui y por mandar Chicanos a morir en las lineas de combate para tratar de conquistar a Vietnam.

Ademas tubo el efecto de unificar a la comunidad Chicano. Los campesinos, en la lucha por tierra en New Mexico, las huelgas de los estudiantes de escuelas secundarias en Los Angeles, y el movimiento contra la guerra todos se unieron en un grito contra guerra y opresion.

Las lecciones y el espiritu del desfile original forma parte de lo que organizadores del aniversario quieren recordar.

El desfile de este ano fue el mas grande y exitoso desde el original. Hubieron coaliciones en ll ciudades en California y mas de 60 grupos apoyaron el desfile. Contingentes de La Union de Campesinos (UFW), Barrio Youth, Mecha, La Raza Unida Party marcharon con miembros del Comite de Defensa de Leonard Peltier, La Asociacion de Estudiantes Persicos, Grupo de Solidaridad con Nicaragua y muchos otros.

La reunion en masa incluyo actos culturales, entretenimiento, discursos por parte de varias organizaciones. La unidad y entusiasmo fue tan fuerte que un mitin fue celebrado para comenzar a planear para la celebracion del decimo aniversario a través del Sudoeste.

BATAILLAS SOBRE CERCA DE FRONTERA CONTINUAN

La Patrulla de Fronteras de los EEUU esta construyendo una nueva cerca y aumentando el numero de sus agentes en San Ysidro, con la esperanza de desviar el flujo de obreros sin documentos hacia las montañas y losornos del desierto hacia el este. Esto "matara a muchos a causa de desabrigo y sed," segun un oficial de la Patrulla de Fronteras. Las temperaturas en el desierto llegan hasta 120 grados.

San Ysidro, al norte de Tijuana, es el punto de entrada mas usado en la frontera Mexicana-EEUU, con 40 millones cruzando legalmente cada ano, y el numero de cruces ilegales estimado hasta a 100,000 cada ano. Es el punto de la frontera con menos obstaculos geograficos.

San Ysidro tambien es el sitio de la resistencia mas tenaz a la represion de la Patrulla de Fronteras. Autos de la Patrulla son atacados por bandas de extranjeros y fuegos de madera son encendidos en la frontera. Agentes de la Patrulla enfrenta ataques con balas o piedras cada noche. La resistencia se reporta ser mas fuerte este ano que en cualquier otro tiempo.

La Patrulla de Frontera ha respondido con violencia y brutalidad, asesinatos, golpeaduras y otras formas de maltrato son comun. Un activista por derechos de los Chicanos llama a San Ysidro "el Vietnam del Sureste."

El marzo pasado dos obreros sin documentos fueron balaciados, uno

fatalmente, mientras estaban siendo detenidos con esposas por la Patrulla de Frontera 30 yardas dentro de los EEUU. El Fiscal del Distrito de San Ysidro rehuso tomar cualquier accion, decidiendo que los dos fueron heridos mientras tratando de escaparse hacia Mexico. En otras palabras fueron heridos en las espaldas. De toda manera, pretendio el fiscal, el asesinato ocurio en ambiente de "zona de combate," que lo justifico.

La Patrulla de Fronteras ha admitido matar por los menos seis obreros sin documentos hasta este punto en el ano. Ningun agente ha sido acusado por cualquier de estos asesinatos. La Oficina local del Defensor Publico del Gobierno Federal a acusado el Departamento de Justicia de tapar acusaciones contra la Patrulla.

Unas lista de 25 heridos, golpeaduras, y otros abusos cometido por la Patrulla contra ambos Mexicanos y ciudadanos americanos hispanicos en San Ysidro ha sido enviado al Departamento de Justicia y al Congreso de los EEUU por el Comité pro-derechos Chicanos, un grupo local que mantiene a la Patrulla bajo observacion.

Herman Baca, presidente del comité, llamo a la lista "la punta del tempano de hielo" y condeno a la Patrulla de Frontera como "una agencia fuera de la ley" comprometida solamente a la "militarizacion de la frontera."

"Ellos solamente estan buscando soluciones policiaacas al problema de inmigracion," Baca le dijo al

New York Times. "Despues que describan que helicopteros no trabajen y despues que encuentren que 300 agentes mas no son la solucion, comenzaran a pedir armas nucleares."

Dimision y traslados de San Ysidro son los mas alto de cualquier estacion de la Patrulla. Cuando la resistencia llego al punto mas alto en junio, agentes rehusaron a entrar a las areas mas peligrosas cerca de la frontera, o a salir en patrulla solos. Traieron refuerzos temporariamente de otras partes del pais. Una ley en el Congreso que le dara 14.5 millones adicionales a la Patrulla le provera mas de 200 agentes adicionales a San Ysidro.

Pero la razon verdadera por los asesinatos y maltratamientos es que son parte del trabajo. Los esfuerzos del Departamento de Justicia para proteger a la Patrulla demuestran esto. Y tambien la construccion de la cerca. Los agentes trabajan por un sistema que fuerza a la gente a luchar por una vida decente.

En ambos lados de la frontera grandes manifestaciones han protestado las brutalidades de la Patrulla. En San Ysidro manifestantes tambien han demandado "Alto a la Cerca." Tal expresiones de coraje han forzado al Servicio de Inmigracion y Naturalizacion ha parar la construccion de la "cortina de Tortilla", una cerca impenetrable similar en Texas, a primeras de este ano.

Cuando Carter se reunion con Lopez Portillo en febrero, codiciosa-

(Vease pagina 4)

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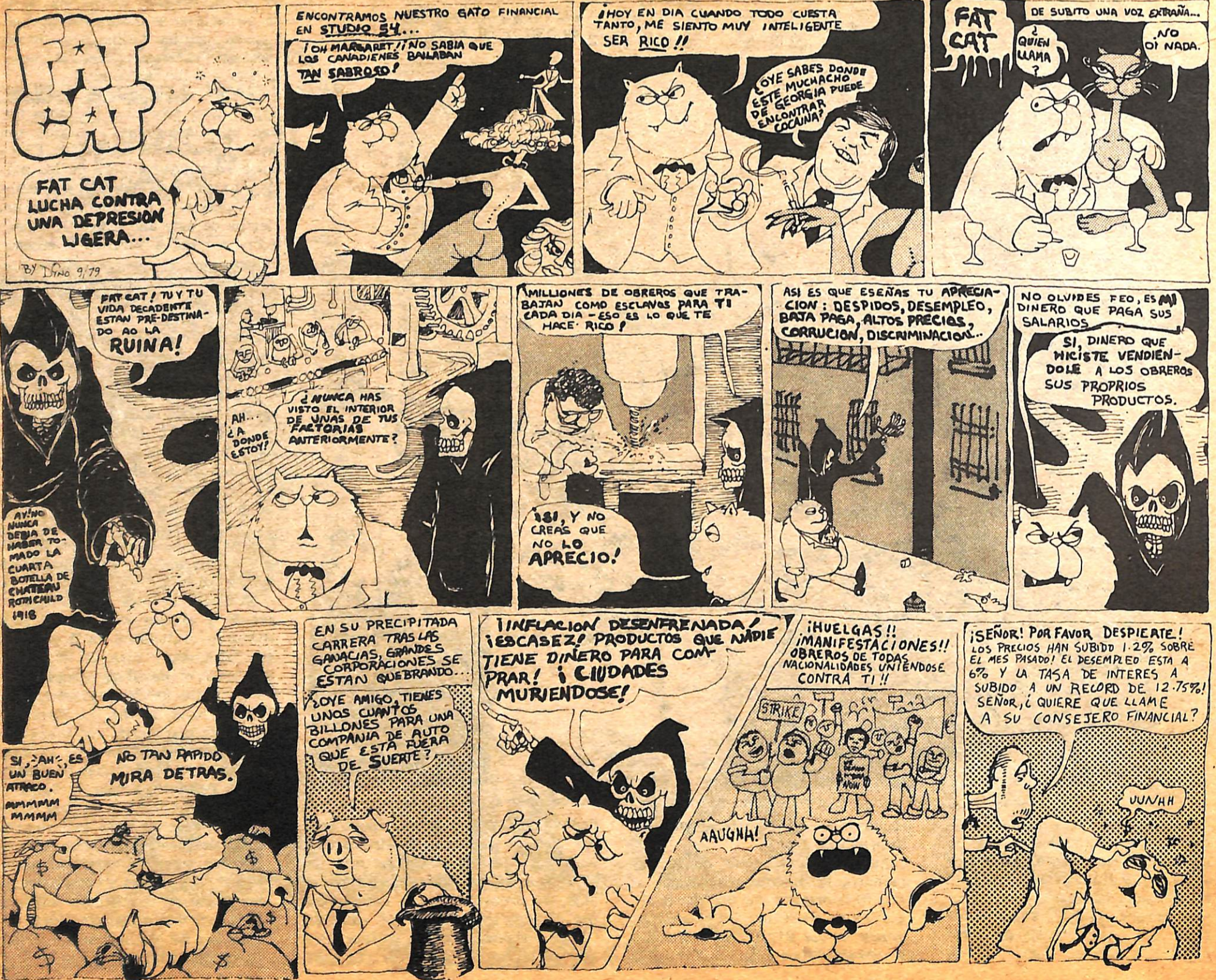
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Refugiados aun huyen Viet Nam

Chinos etnicos perseguidos

Horrosos numeros de familias siguen siendo expulsados de Viet Nam, a pesar de condenacion internacional de la purgacion salvaje dirigida por los lideres en Viet Nam. La pobreza, racismo, y represion son tan comun en Viet Nam que cientos de miles prefieren salir en barcos en mala condicion en busca de mejor futuros.

Por los menos 400,000 han llegado a los miserables campos de refugiados en otros paises. Segun muchos

estimados mas de la mitad de los hombres, mujeres, y ninos que han atentado el cruce han ahogado. Inmediatamente despues de la caida de Saigon hubo un chorro de refugiados. Pero unos cuantos anos luego un nuevo mas grande exodo de refugiados a comenzado. Por mayor parte la gente comun que celebro el fin de la guerra y esperaba que la liberacion hiba a traer el socialismo y mejores condiciones.

En vez, recibieron dominacion por otro pais extranjero, la continuacion de una economia belica, la invasion de Kampuchea (Cambodia), conscripcion militar de todos los hombres entre 16-45 anos de edad, y hambre.



Por los menos 200,000 refugiados Vietnemeses se han ahogados, en el mar, expulsados de su patria por las politicas del gobierno de Hanoi.

En vez de construccion socialista colectiva, los nuevos lideres de Viet Nam usan "nuevas zonas economicas" de manera punitiva. En vez de unirse y depender en el pueblo comun, el Partido Comunista Vietnemes envio la gente a estas zonas a cosechar una siega de minas y explosivos en las partes menos productivas, y pantanosas de Vietnam y ahora de Kampuchea.

Los Chinos etnico, los Hoa, han sido escogido como victimas de racismo. Por lo meno dos tercio de los refugiados son Hoa. Para forzarlos a irse las autoridades Vietnemeses los han hostigados con pistoleritos, confiscado sus causas, expulsado sus ninos de las escuelas, reducido sus raciones de comida, y los han botado de sus empleos--especialmente en las minas de carbon en el norte. Los Hoa no quieren ser llamados al ejercito para pelear en Kampuchea o contra otros Chinos. Asi que huyen.

Que le ha pasado a la patria de Ho Chi Minh? Vietnam es ahora gobernado por una camarilla pro-Soviética. Bajo su administracion el sistema economico y militar han sido infiltrado por "consejeros" Rusos.

Despues de la derrota de los EEUU ellos continuaron reforzando la economia belica en vez de la agricultura, resultando en grandes escasez de arroz y hambre. Los lideres en Vietnam han dependido en ayuda del extranjero, pero donantes como los paises de Europa estan enviando su ayuda, en vez, a los campos de

refugiados hambrientos en Asia. En constrate Kampuchea despues de la guerra envio la mayor parte de su ejercito a los campos y antes de la invasion Vietnemesa estaba exportando arroz.

Al mismo tiempo el ejercito Vietnemes aumento por mas de medio millon. Con la ayuda de grandes cantidades de petrechos militares Sovieticos mantiene unos de los seis ejercitos mas grandes en el mundo. Esto ocurrio antes de la guerra de frontera con China, antes de que fue necesitada para la ocupacion de Kampuchea y Laos. El New York Times recientemente reporto que oro robado de los refugiados se ha hecho la exporte principal de Vietnam, con la mayor parte destinado a pagar por la ayuda militar de la USSR.

LA SOLUCION FINAL

Estos son los antecedentes de la decision que la solucion final es la expulsion de los Hoa. Las condiciones son tan mala que muchos Vietnemeses habian huido, pero fue el pueblo Hoa que el Partido Comunista premeditadamente escogio como blanco en un mitin de febrero 1978. Esto fue confirmado por Hoang Van Hoan que recientemente escapo detencion y huyo a China. Hoang fue vice-presidente de la Asamblea Nacional hasta el ano pasado. Tambien bajo detencion esta el General Le Quang Ba ex-Presidente de la Comision de Minorias y tres otros lideres de alto nivel en el partido que no estaban de acuerdo con la invasion de Kampuchea, el hostigamiento de las minorias, y la dominacion por el Kremlin.

Vietnam ha explicado el exodo con la mentira que los refugiados son ricos comerciantes Chinos de la Ciudad Ho Chi Minh (Saigon) que estan disatisfecho porque su propiedad fue nacionalizada. Esto es indudablemente verdad de algunos. Pero una gran proporcion de los refugiados Chino vienen de Norte Vietnam donde el exodo comenzo.

El Norte fue colectivizado en los 50s y no han habido comerciantes ricos hai en anos. En unos cuantos meses, el verano pasado 160,000 obreros huyeron a traves de la frontera con China. Comerciantes ricos de la ciudad Ho Chi Minh no hubieran viajado hacia el norte para emigrar a un pais comunista. Ya que no lo pueden negar como explican las autoridades Vietnemeses que obreros de base quieren huir un "paraiso socialista."

Portavoces Vietnemes pretenden que refugiados en el norte estan huyendo debido a propaganda de la Republica Popular China. Esto es absurdo. Los Hoa han vivido y ayudado a construir a Vietnam por generaciones. Muchos participaron en la lucha contra los EEUU y tenian posiciones en el partido. Permanecieron en Vietnam a lo largo del bombardeo mas intesivo en la historia. Mentiras propagandisticas no los hubiesen forzados a huir el pais.

Viet Nam y Rusia intentan dominar a Asia Surena militarmente. Este plan ambicioso ha torcido su economia. Asi que tienen que botar a cientos de miles de gente hambrienta para proteger sus ambiciones. Que blanco mas conveniente que una minoria que no quiere participar en su blitzkrieg a traves de Asia.

HUELGA DE UFW VENCE A GRANDES RANCHOS

En agosto, la Union de Campesinos gano dos de sus mejores acuerdos dandole un golpe al ataque de los duenos contra su union. Las victorias han sido mas gratas, en esta lucha amarga, porque se ganaron contra las fincas mas grandes--Meyer CO. (tomatoes) y Sun Harvest (lechuga).

El contrato con Meyer Co. el 14 de agosto fue la clave. Ademas de un aumento en salario a \$5 por hora y una garantia contra despidos causados por mecanizacion, campesinos ganaron el primer aumento de gasto de vivir en la historia de negocios agricolas. Forzo a otros negocios, como Gonzales Packing y West Coast Farms, a ceder condiciones similares.

El acuerdo de Sun Harvest el primer de septiembre fue clave porque el UFW hiba a comenzar un boicoteo contra su compania propietaria United Brands. Productos populares como guineos Chiquita, A & W root beer, y carnes de John Morrel hubieran sido afectadas.

Cada ano la cosecha de lechuga atraviesa el valle central de California comenzando en el sur en Enero y llegando al norte en Noviembre. El campesino tipico gana \$3,973 cada ano, migrantes ganan aun meno. Desde enero, 5000 campesinos han estado en huelga contra seis de las fincas mas grandes, librando batallas contra pistoleros de las companias y la policia. Los duenos perdieron millones de dolares mientras se podria unas de



Enfrentados con este tipo de solaridad, United Brands firmo contratos de lechuga. Arriba, foto del fin de la manifestacion de Salinas a San Francisco.

las cosechas mas grandes de lechuga en anos.

Para alientar la lucha la UFW, con su mas de 20,000 miembros, organizo una "Marcha a Salinas" (California). Campesinos caminaron de San Francisco, 150 millas al norte y de San Ardo, 70 millas al sur. Aunque fueron ignorados completamente por la prensa, cientos se unieron a los manifestantes e inspiraron huelgas de un dia de hasta 1000 campesinos en los ranchos que pasaron.

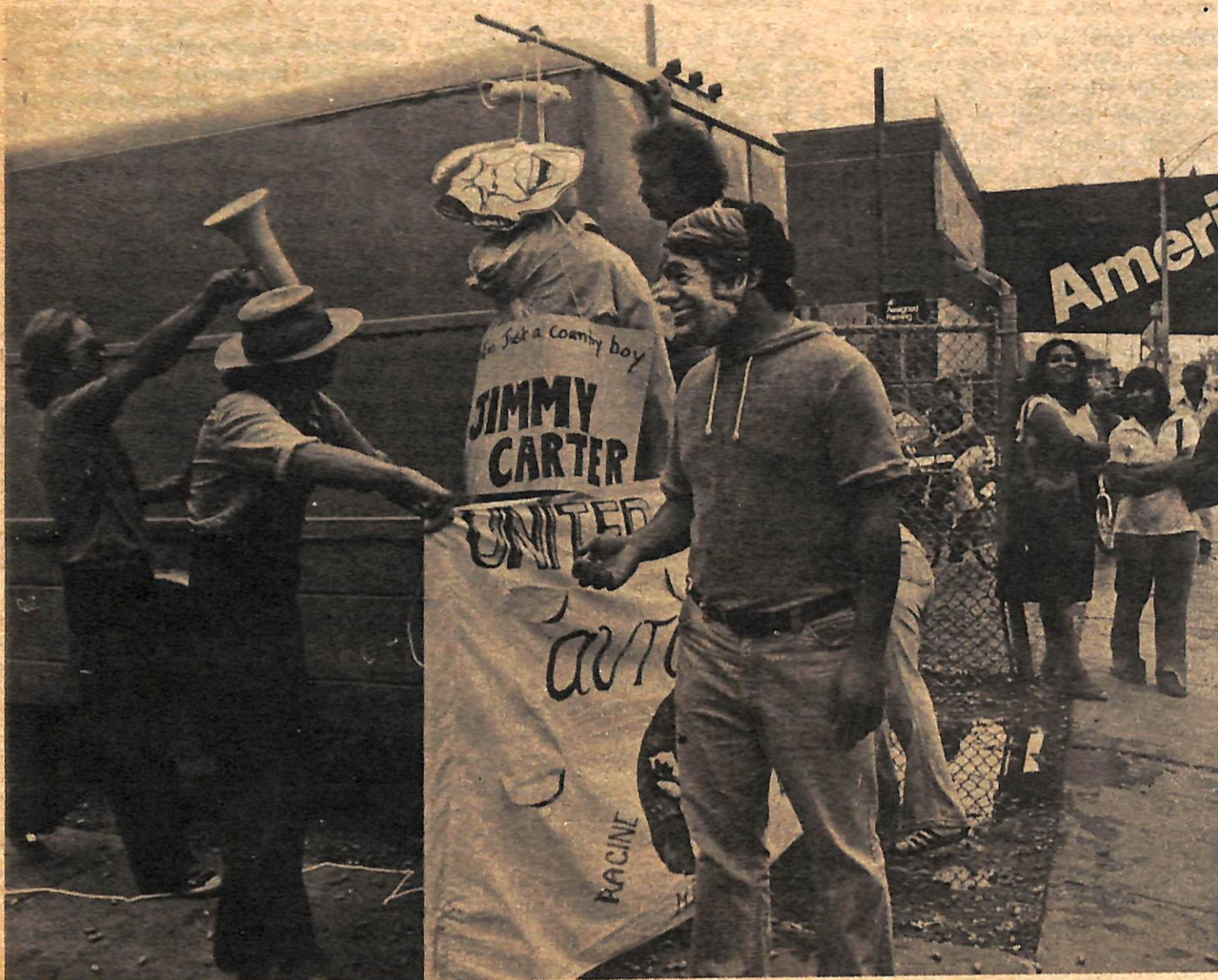
El 11 de agosto, el primer dia de la cosecha de verano, se unieron en Salinas. 10,000 pasaron por el pueblo, bajo en energia pero en altos espiritos. Alzaron punados al

aire con gritos de "Viva la Raza!" y Viva La Huelga!"

Bajo el aguilas de la bandera del UFW, los campesinos por mayor parte Mexicanos y Chicanos estan escribiendo otra pagina en la historia de unas de las mas larga e inspirante batallas en el movimiento sindical moderno. El aguilas, que siempre ha sido un simbol de independencia Mexicana, esta volando alta mientras que los capitalistas agricolas comienzan a conceder a los campesinos.

Al fin de la marcha, 450 delegados del UFW se reunieron en una convencion del sindicato y votaron unanimente ha salir en huelga contra 20 mas ranchos en Salinas.

OBREROS EN AUTO PARAN. LINEAS CONTRA ROBO DE GASOLINA



Reunion en frente de fabrica de American Motors en Kenosha. Cacahretes sobre la tiena montran lo gre los obreros piensan del papel de Jimmy Carter en el atraco de energia.

La Union de Trabajadores de Automovil causo un furor entre los obreros de auto en el pais con su llamada de "Alto al Robo." Miles firmaron postales dirigidas a Jimmy Carter, se pusieron botones de protesta, y pararon de trabajar por seis minutos protestando la manera en que las companias de petroleo y el gobierno han manipulado las provisiones y los precios de petroleo.

El dia de protesta de agosto 22 fue la accion politica por obreros mas importante anos. Y aunque el UAW trato de mantener las actividades a nivel simbolico, ellos sucedieron en causar gran publicidad y preparar el terreno para otras manifestaciones sobre energia en el futuro.

A las companias no le cayo bien cualquier cosa que interrumpiera la produccion de nuevos autos por un decimo de hora. Despues de la primera manifestacion de seis minutos en la planta de camiones de Ford en

Twin Cities, Minnesota, una semana adelantada, la compania anuncio que los obreros no iban recibir paga por el tiempo de la manifestacion.

La desaprobacion de las companias causo que muchos oficiales de Union cojieran miedo y cancelaran la protesta de seis minutos. Cuando oficiales locales le preguntaron a los lideres de la Union si Solidarity House los iba a respaldar si las companias los castigaban por parar la produccion, la respuesta fue "Usen su discrecion." A algunos stewards le instruyeron que le dieran postales a los obreros para que las llenaran durante sus periodos de descanso.

Pero en algunos caso, acumulaciones de quejas, tension acerca del proximo contrato y las memorias de las lineas para comprar gasolina causaron condiciones explosivas. Cuando General Motors anuncio que los obreros en la planta de Framingham, Massachusetts no iban a rec-

ibir paga por el alto de trabajo de seis minutos, la tanda entera salio en huelga por el resto del dia.

La propia combinacion de agitacion entre los obreros de base y lideres de union bravos resulto en acciones efectivas. En la fabrica de American Motors en Kenosha, Wisconsin stewards distribuyeron botones de protesta del Internacional a los obreros en las lineas y entonces pararon las lineas seis minutos antes la hora del almuerzo. La fabrica habia recibido muchos volantes y la presencia de un grupo cinematografo produciendo una pelicula para la union renforzo el ambiente de protesta.

Durante la hora del almuerzo, la Organizacion de Obreros Unidos organizo una reunion en masa enfrente de la planta. Dos ciento asistieron y tirandole cacahuetes a unos de los miembros de la organizacion que estaba disfrazado como Jimmy Carter--enfrente de las camaras de las

tres estaciones de television de Milwaukee.

La accion en Kenosha y el dia entero de manifestaciones mostraron que ataques como la decepcion de energia estan gradualmente creando una receptividad a accion politica entre los obreros. Porque la UAW le dio legitimidad a la accion mayores y descontentas secciones de la union participaron. La combinacion de buenas posiciones por lideres de union, organizacion audaz por militantes, y una disposicion por la mayoria a tomar accion presagia un cambio importante que esta ocurriendo en los sindicatos hoy.

A pesar de la amplitud de las manifestaciones y el punado de acciones avanzadas el liderator del UAW guardo la incitativa fuera de las manos de los obreros de base. Ademas partes del programa del UAW estaban peligrosamente equivocadas. Echarle culpa a las altas ganancias de companias de petroleo, el alto de control de precios por el gobierno, y la manipulacion de petrechos por las companias era correcto. Mas el emfasis del UAW que OPEC era culpable por la crisis o era un atento cinico a mantener alguna unidad con las companias y de unir la gente alrededor de una idea retrograda o era un atento abierto a atar los obreros a una politica extranjera imperialista. Llamar a OPEC la causa de la escasez como dijeron las postales de la union es casi decir "No nos robe a nosotros, roben a los Arabes."

Mas a pesar de los aspectos malos de la politica de la UAW, dondequiera que los obreros mismo organizaron la lucha la accion fue un avance. Miles le dijeron a Exxon y a GM. Paren de atacarnos!

Battallas de frontera

(Viena pagina 2)

mente buscando petroleo Mexicano, que pudiera proveer 30% de la demanda de los EEUU y rescatar la baja popularidad de Carter, Presidente Portillo hablo de la represion por la policia de fronteras como un obstaculo a la cooperacion entre los EEUU y Mexico.

Mas importante, Portillo quiere conservar el petroleo Mexicano para que pueda ser usado para el desarrollo economico de Mexico. Los dias en que los EEUU robaba los recursos naturales de paises en el tercer mundo a precios dictado por ellos han pasado. El robo de materias naturales para la produccion Estadoundidense es la razon que hay una tasa de desempleo de mas de 50% en muchas partes de Mexico, forzando al pueblo a dejar se patria y arriesgar sus vidas para entrar ilegalmente en los EEUU en su busca de empleo.

Tijuana es la ciudad que esta creciendo mas rapida en la frontera Americana-Mexicana. Cada mes 30,000 Mexicanos llegan hai, muchos de ellos han sido arrojados de sus tierras por capitalistas agricolas Yankee detras la fashada de "desarrollo agricola." Vinieron buscando entrar a los EEUU, para escapar la pobreza y el desempleo que ha resultado del sub-desarrollo causado por los EEUU.

Celebrar el Grito de Dolores

Septiembre 16

El Grito de Dolores es una orgullosa celebracion de la determinacion del pueblo Mexicano de ganar libertad e independenciam. Esta conmemoracion del comienzo de la larga lucha contra el colonialismo e imperialismo es observada cada 16 de septiembre dondequiera que se encuentren Mexicanos o Chicanos.

El 16 de septiembre 1810 el padre Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla sono las campanas de la Iglesia de Nuestra Senora de Dolores al pueblo de Dolores. Hidalgo exhorto a los campesinos obreros, indios y mestizos que pusieran fin a la devastacion de Mexico y la exportacion de sus re-

ursos naturales a Espana. as que nos han atado por tanto tiempo!" Hidalgo exhorto al pueblo que "Para romper estas cadenas nomas que tenemos que unirnos."

En repuesta a su discurso un grito surgio del pueblo por Mexico y contra el gobierno. Este grito de batalla, el Grito de Dolores, fue repetido a traves de Mexico y el ejercito de campesinos crecio a 100,000. En una sangrienta guerra de 11 anos, el pueblo Mexicano derroto los colonialisistas Espanoles.

La lucha por la libertad continuo, en la guerra de 1862 contra el colonialismo France y la revolucion de 1910 contra la aristocracia feudal. La lucha continua hoy a medida que

los campesinos Mexicanos demandan la tierra que le pertenece a ellos. Cuando el gobierno quiso mover el cuerpo de Emiliano Zapata al Monumento Revolucionario en Ciudad Mexico para el centimo cumpleaños, el hijo de Zapata rehuso. Dijo que los campesinos que Zapata unio con su grito de "tierra y libertad" todavia son oprimidos, y demandando que todos los campesinos arrestados sobre disputas de tierra en el estado de Morelos fueran libertados, llamandolos "prisioneros politicos."

La conmemoracion del dia de Independencia Mexicano celebra la historia de la lucha por autodeterminacion, y senala la victoria final de esa lucha.