

THE WORKER

For the Milwaukee Area and Wisconsin

DECEMBER 1976 VOL. 2 NO.3

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SELLOUT, LAYOFFS THREATENED WISCONSIN AUTOWORKERS GEAR FOR CONTRACT

The focus of the contract struggle in the auto and agricultural implements industry is now in Southeast Wisconsin. In a short time thousands of workers at American Motors and AllisChalmers will be faced with attempts by the UAW International and the corporations to shackle them with the same sellout patterns established at Ford and John Deere.

One of the key weapons in the International and company's arsenal to cool out the momentum in the shops and the fight back at contract time has been to play up the massive layoffs and possible plant closings. At the same time they maintain a complete black out on information, whether negotiations are in progress or not.

Throughout the contract fight Auto Workers United to Fight in '76 (a national rank and file organization) and the United Workers Organization for the Milwaukee area have issued regular bulletins acting as a rank and file center of struggle and information.

In the first week of December the UWO organized a car caravan from the Milwaukee AMC plant and another from Kenosha AMC that joined together at the Allis Chalmers plant in West Allis and converged on the UAW International Headquarters on Mayfair Rd.

Signs on the sides of the 25 cars carrying representatives from most of the large auto and UAW shops in the area carried the message of the contract struggle, "Stop the Vicious Speedup", "No Layoffs" and "No Sellout in '76". In freezing temperatures one speaker after the next testified as to the growing struggle of autoworkers. As one brother from Allis Chalmers said, "A few months ago everyone in the shop said 'I' and 'me', now since we walked out in the foundry and almost walked in Tractor you hear 'we' and 'us' a lot more."

Next a speaker from Auto Workers United to Fight in '76 in Detroit, who had recently been fired for his part in the wildcats of 35,000 Chrysler workers brought word of the massive struggle sweeping the auto plants. From day one of the contract struggle one of the main roadblocks in the path of the rank and file has been the traitorous role of the International.

Ray Majerus, International director of Region 10, had been invited to the car caravan to answer the charges of a sellout. As long as he's sitting comfortable in his office he can write articles praising the Ford settlement to the skies. But when the rank and file was standing on his office doorstep,

AUTOWORKERS AT UAW HEADQUARTERS AFTER DEC. 4 CAR CONVOY.

he was nowhere to be found.

Even further, the International had gone out to sabotage the car caravan the week before. In the front page of

the Kenosha News a "spokesman" from the UAW called the United Workers Organization a bunch of "dissidents"

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SENTINEL SERIES MISSES A SCOOP WELFARE FOR THE RICH

Trumpeting inflammatory headlines the Sentinel began a series last month on what it calls "welfare for the well off". The series tries to show that taxpayers' money is being wasted on people who are working and getting welfare. The Sentinel uses a few outlandish cases to take a "cheap shot" at all people on welfare. But it never mentions the "welfare" that big Wisconsin corporations get, millions and millions of dollars every year in the form of tax breaks.

The Sentinel tries to portray itself as an independent "crusading" newspaper exposing wrongdoing. But in fact their welfare series is part of a well-planned call by the ruling class for cutbacks at a time when more and more people are out of work, running out of unemployment compensation, and forced onto welfare. The series uses some real inequalities and a few out-and-out flukes to attack people getting welfare. In one case the Sentinel searched all the way to La Crosse and found a family of eleven with four mentally disabled members, drawing \$15,000 through social security, veterans' aid, and welfare payments. The series also uses wild speculation like one Family Court commissioner's statement, "I can see it coming...I fully expect to see a Rolls Royce--and the wife and children about to go on welfare."

The Sentinel articles imply that there are thousands of people on welfare able to work, that jobs are available and that these people are living high on the hog. They appeal to the pride workers feel at working for a living and not taking any

handouts.

In fact, most people on welfare barely get by on subsistence level grants. For instance, one northside Milwaukee family of three gets \$350 a month for food, rent and clothing. Another woman who has six kids of school age, is receiving \$500 a month. These are the average and the vast majority of cases. In addition, the overwhelming numbers of people on welfare are children, disabled people, and the elderly.

Compare the Sentinel's exposes to the \$200 million ripoff in tax breaks corporations get each year in the state of Wisconsin. The Sentinel's "crusading" reporters and editors would never touch this story because they're out to attack the people and prop up the rich.

Let's look at some of these "give-aways".

THE MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT RIP-OFF

This exemption allows companies not to pay any property tax on machinery and equipment they use for manufacturing. Altogether about \$2.5 billion worth of factory property, 1/3 of it in Milwaukee County, goes untaxed every year and Wisconsin corporations save around \$75 million a year.

The Machinery and Equipment exemption, passed in 1973, is a "double dose" of bad medicine for Wisconsin taxpayers. They pay the corporations' taxes twice over--first through Wisconsin State income tax, which is used to reimburse cities for their lost property tax revenues. Secondly through increased city

property tax. The predominantly working class suburbs are especially hard hit. For instance, in West Milwaukee in 1975 two years after the Machinery and Equipment exemption law was passed, the property taxes went up by 48%.

INVENTORY EXEMPTION SCHEME

Under this law Wisconsin companies don't pay a property tax on 80% of their inventories. In other words, say AOSmith has 100,000 frames stored on their lot worth hundreds of thousands of dollars. This property would go

virtually untaxed. Right now Wisconsin companies save roughly \$90 million a year. But this may eventually go up because the original plan was to increase the exemption to 100%.

MUNICIPAL BOND SWINDLE

Under a 1969 Wisconsin law, companies raise money to build new plants by getting cities to sell municipal bonds to raise money for them. Municipal bonds only pay 3 1/2% to 5% interest instead of the

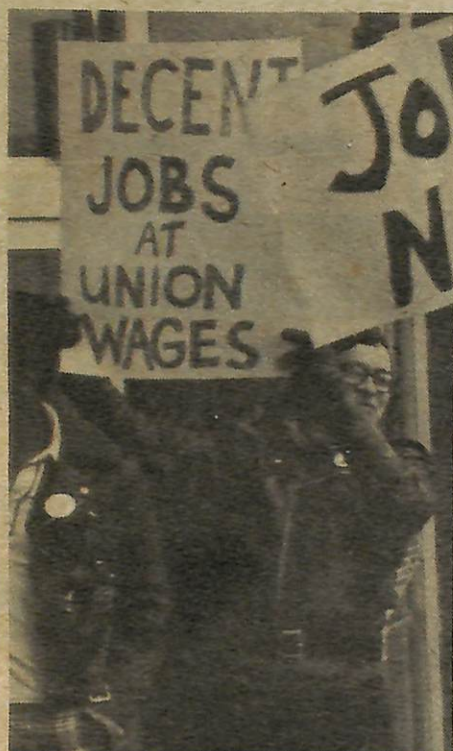
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UNEMPLOYED TO
HOLD XMAS
"JOBS"
ACTIONS



SEE CENTERFOLD

Pat Huck 1947 - 1976



PAT HUCK, A FIGHTER FOR OUR CLASS

On November 16 in the hold of the Yugoslav freighter, Mararska Split, Pat Huck, a Milwaukee longshoreman, was killed by the same profit system he had spent the last nine years of his life fighting.

A hatch that should have been closed. A door that should have been locked. No lighting. And the rush to get one of the last boats of the season out of the harbor. Unsafe working conditions caused Pat Huck to fall 40 feet to his death. So unconcerned are the bosses of Hansen Seaway Service about the safety of the men that Pat's body was not found till the next morning when dock workers in Kenosha opened up the hold.

Pat had been deeply involved in the dock workers' struggle for the past five years, from the port-wide wildcat in 1971, up to a nine week suspension

he received this past fall. Then he was disciplined for spreading the word to the men in the hiring hall that warehousemen had walked off against a suspension of one of their fellow workers. Pat, who ran unsuccessfully for president of his local, ILA #815, this past season, constantly fought to expose the tricks of the company and the sellouts in union leadership.

Pat Huck knew it was a killing system. Up till the time of his death he had thrown his energies into building the revolutionary workers movement. He was a photographer for The Worker, a member of the Unemployed Workers Organizing Committee, and of the United Workers Organization. In the days of the Vietnam War, he was a leader of the student movement and got kicked out of Purdue University for his role in a demonstration against the US invasion of Cambodia. He helped organize and run Rhubarb Bookstore, a revolutionary bookstore near 16th and Wells. He spent countless hours contributing to the workers' and peoples' struggle.

Now the fight will be to force the waterfront employers to pay for the murder. The same profit drive that makes them cut corners on safety has them notorious for trying to avoid paying accident benefits. It's rumored that they are trying to make a case that Pat's death is not on their hands--that they will say he was on his way to pilfer the cargo. This is an insult that turns your stomach. Just as they regularly violate the men's safety, they could care less if Pat's widow and his baby boy get benefits to live on. It's a disgusting move that Pat's co-workers and workers around the city can not stand for.

The death of Pat Huck was a great loss. He was a revolutionary. He fought the conditions and the class that were responsible for his death. We must continue to build that struggle. ■

TO THE WORKER

It was cold outside, but temperatures rose to the boiling point Sunday night, November 29. Many of us came to watch a Sunday night full of musical entertainment. The main attraction was supposed to be "Kool and the Gang" and "New Birth". But, instead we were treated to numerous long delays and doubletalk--two shows; one at 7 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. But no "Kool and the Gang". By the time the second performance was supposed to start, people were still waiting from the first show, many having paid their money and seen no show.

At 8:30, "Baby Brother" finally appeared as a warm up group which was hardly needed at that time. Comedian Tyrone Pierre followed and attempted to entertain the crowd. After another long wait, LTD performed. To be honest, it could be questioned whether or not the group that played was LTD. It wasn't until I looked at their picture on the album cover the next day that I was convinced it was, in deed, LTD.

By this time, the audience's frustration and doubts had come to a head. The show was a rip-off. They began challenging the sound crew on the stage, asking if Kool and the Gang was really

there. WAWA's big mouthpiece, O.C. White, full of hot air and with a sot story in his mouth, came out and said that New Birth would perform in a very short time, and to be cool, making us wait and wait, because Kool and the Gang just wasn't there. One of the guys from New Birth had to come on the stage and said, "I know all are mad as a --- but we ain't playing till we get our money. I know you wouldn't go to work tomorrow if the man wasn't going to pay you."

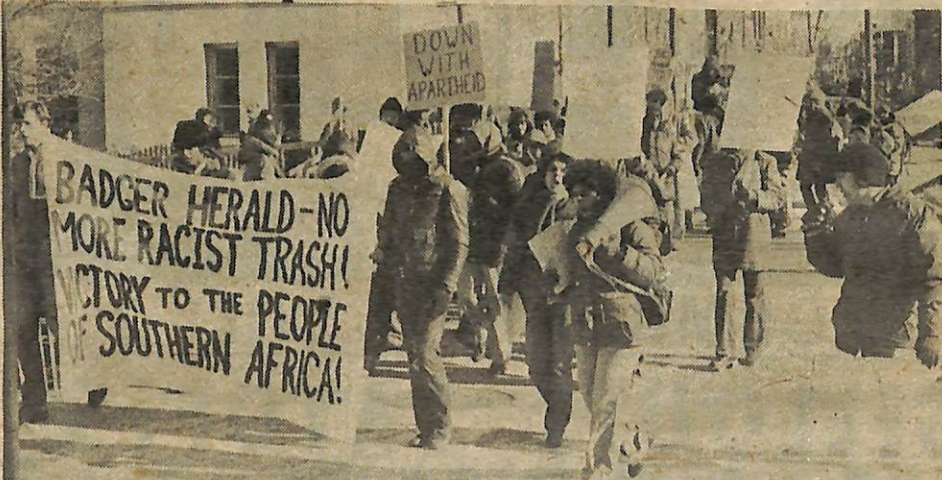
So, with the crowd ready to tear the sound equipment apart, O. C. White worked something out with New Birth and they put on a hell of a show.

We, the crowd, left the theater well after midnight; mad, disappointed and \$6 or \$7 per ticket poorer. You know, you work all week and spend your money for a show and you want a show. But the people promoting the shows, from the big money behind them to their big name advertisers are interested in only one thing--the almighty dollar.

That's what happened to the saying, "The show must go on!" The gang was there but the "Kool" wasn't!

DIS-CONCERTED

UW Students Demonstrate in Support of Southern Africa



100 STUDENTS MARCHED IN SUPPORT OF THE AFRICAN PEOPLE.

"Can Africans rule themselves?" This is the question a student paper at the University of Wisconsin-Madison asked in an editorial last month. On Dec. 1 100 American, African, and other foreign students marched on the paper's office. They said to their fellow students that not only can the African people rule themselves, but are fighting imperialism to do it.

The Badger Herald is a mouthpiece for the ruling class on the UW campus. The paper was started at the height of movements against the war in Vietnam, in support of Black peoples' struggle and resistance to the corporations that control our lives. From the beginning, the Herald stood in opposition to these.

The basis of the editorial is that Africans have benefitted from 400 years of colonial rule and exploitation. One line in the article says, "Does a mountain of copper belong to a pack of half dressed savages whose only reaction to a steam turbine might have been to worship it." Then they go on to challenge any right for Africans to control their lives. They say, "Can black Africans at this time rule themselves? Can they efficiently run a modern political economic system without the assistance of whites? Probably not."

They kept at this by saying, "Europeans took on the task of erecting industry, taming the land, and educating a segment of the native populace to help run things."

They make it all seem like whites are superior people who came to the rescue of helpless Africans. Actually, the imperialists obtained their knowledge and money by exploiting working people of many nationalities. They use control of this great wealth to expand and take over other people.

The African people have dug the mines and built the mills with their own sweat and blood. A handful of parasites have reaped profits. Now they are fighting to regain their resources, years of labor, and control of their future.

Much of Rhodesia has been freed from the control of the white regime. This fall students and workers in South Africa faced bullets, beatings and jail to stop foreign control in their country. The struggle of the people of southern Africa is growing stronger by the day as they stood up to the U.S. backed white minority regimes. As their rule draws closer to its final days, the U.S. imperialists are getting more desperate, trying any scheme they can come up with to hang on. The Badger Herald is rushing to their defense. In the face of this it is important to build support for the struggle of the people of Southern Africa against any imperialist power trying to control their country and their lives. This demonstration was a big step in the fight against our common enemy. ■

ASHBY LEACH TO SPEAK

SUNDAY DEC. 19 2:00 PM

WORKER CENTER 4409 W. NORTH

"I stood and looked at the Soldiers and Sailors Monument. Then I looked up at the Terminal Tower--at that Castle of Capitalism--and I knew what I had to do. . . . The barrel of my shotgun was stuffed with all the letters I've written to change the system for vets."

\$1.00 DONATION FOR THE DEFENSE OF ASHBY

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 643-4672 OR 445-5816

THE WORKER

This paper exists to build the struggle of the working class against the capitalist system of exploitation and oppression. It puts forward the political line of the Revolutionary Communist Party, USA on the major questions and struggles facing the workers.

The Worker for the Milwaukee Area and Wisconsin is one of many such papers across the country. The staffs of these papers are made up of members and supporters of the RCP, USA.

We want to be in touch with all the struggles of our class. We need and welcome your letters, articles, and any kind of contribution or criticism.

To contact us or for more information, CALL 445-5816 OR WRITE:

RCP, USA
Box 3486
Merchandise Mart
Chicago, IL

The Worker for the Milwaukee Area and Wisconsin
Box 08305
Milwaukee, WI 53208

UNITED WORKERS ORGANIZATION

CHRISTMAS PARTY

SAT. DEC. 18 8:00 PM - 2:00 AM

SUNNYSIDE TAVERN 1039 S. 5th

FOOD RECORD SPIN LIQUOR

DONATION

\$1.00

Ashby Leach Battle Heats Up

Amidst cheers from his supporters, Ashby Leach was released on \$5,000 cash bond from jail in Cleveland. This Vietnam veteran took a militant stand in defense of veterans who are "used once and then thrown away". On Thanksgiving Day he was free to join his family, friends, supporters, and the Vietnam Veterans Against the War. They have set up the Ashby Leach Defense Committee to coordinate his case into a nationwide campaign. A kick off rally has been scheduled for his home town of Huntington, West Virginia and a coast to coast speaking tour is already planned.

Ashby Leach had waged a 5 year battle to get his benefits from the Chessie System, the third largest privately owned railroad in the country. On August 26 he took direct action. After using and going through all of the systems "proper channels", Ashby Leach seized the executive offices of Chessie in the Terminal Tower building in Cleveland. He held

13 hostages (including one Chessie vice-president) for nine hours raising his demands that: 1) Chessie extend all benefits of the GI Bill to it's vets, 2) that Chessie reimburse past employees who they had been cheated out of their benefits, and 3) extend and expand the GI Bill for all vets. He also demanded that his action and his demands be carried on nationwide TV. Millions of people saw it that evening. A short while later, Chessie agreed to his demands. Ashby released his hostages and surrendered. During the day, many people in Cleveland heard of the takeover, and by the time Ashby surrendered, a crowd of almost two thousand had gathered in front of the Terminal Tower. As the police were bringing Ashby out of the building, people began cheering and raising clenched fists.

No sooner had Ashby given up, when Chessie went back on their promises and the Chessie owned and controlled

Cleveland media--newspapers, TV and radio mounted a campaign to discredit him as some deranged vet, looking for attention. Chessie and the system of profit that they're part of extends all the way into the so called "justice system". The court appointed psychiatrist who is trying to prove that Ashby is insane turns out to be a member of the Board of Directors, and a principal stock holder in the Chessie system.

One of the most vicious attacks on Ashby has come from the pages of The Chessie News, the company newsletter, which devoted the front two pages to an article entitled, "Disgruntled ex-apprentice quit job with another railroad before harrassing Chessie hostages." The next three pages were devoted to interviews with Chessie's "happy vets" all of whom, according to the publication, are delighted with their jobs and the way Chessie is treating its vets.

The Chessie System is the product of the continuing decline of the railroad industry and the cut-throat competition among the railroad companies. The system is made up of smaller lines that either went bankrupt or whose assets were acquired through forced sales. Chessie moves coal, iron, oil, autos and grain. The Chessie System also includes a half million acres of prime coal lands,

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ASHBY LEACH

City Cutbacks Cause Greater Injury NY Gum Factory Explosion Kills 2



55 WORKERS INJURED IN EXPLOSION - MANY HAD TO GO OUT OF NEW YORK CITY FOR TREATMENT DUE TO CUTBACKS IN HOSPITALS.

The heavy steel machinery roars, 6 days a week, 24 hours a day at the American Chicle Co., a division of the Warner-Lambert pharmaceutical company, in Queens, N.Y. The machines chew up the molten lava-like gum and spit out thousands of tiny pieces of gum every minute. And always present, spewing out of the machines in huge billow clouds is the white dust mixture of sugar and magnesium stearate, a chemical lubricant.

The workers rush about the machines, under the hawkish stares of foremen and supervisors who know only one purpose--making more production. There is much grumbling among the workers about the speedup and forced overtime, the dangerous machinery where a finger or hand could be snapped up in a second, and the dust, thick as fog, which makes breathing difficult. But in this nonunion shop, complaining gets a worker transferred, suspended or fired. Most of the workers are immigrants, some without papers, and the company takes advantage of this. The company doesn't want to hear a word from the workers. Good slaves are quiet and hard working. Like the rest of their class, these

bosses are driven by profits, and production is all they want to know about.

Saturday, Nov. 20, was like any other Saturday night at the plant. The night shift was working the usual overtime. The machines were roaring away and the workers were toiling through the night, looking forward to the day of rest the next day and the upcoming Thanksgiving holidays.

But there were troubles in the Freshen-Up Gum Department. This was a new product, and production schedules were even heavier in this department. Four machines were down for cleaning blowing out the white dust thicker than usual. A fifth machine began vibrating and shaking violently. The workers complained, but the bosses turned a deaf ear. They allowed the broken machine to run for an hour. Suddenly a spark shot out of the machine, the white dust ignited, and a thunderous explosion rocked the plant, blowing out dozens of big glass and steel windows and hurling workers and machines into the streets four stories below. Thick globs of molten gum were thrown through the

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SADLOWSKI ELECTION BATTLE Steelworkers Shake Abel Machine

Union elections don't usually draw much public notice, but the current race in the United Steelworkers of America (USWA) has been in the news a lot. The candidates, Ed Sadlowski, director of the Chicago-Gary District 31, and Lloyd McBride, handpicked heir to current president I.S. Abel, have even appeared in televised debates in steel producing cities. The story is different in the USWA this time because of the growing struggle of the rank and file against the companies and the union machine. This situation has given rise to an election battle which can lead to real advances for the struggle of the rank and file.

Abel Machine A Dictatorship

McBride is the candidate of the Abel machine, a corrupt and ruthless dictatorship, which has consistently sold out the interests of the workers to the steel companies in the name of "a company-union partnership." The Sadlowski campaign has to a large extent drawn on

and reflected the upsurge among steel workers in recent years. Many active rank and filers are supporting it as a way to break the Abel machine and build the struggle in steel.

Steel company productivity drives have resulted in layoffs, job combinations, short crews, deteriorating health and safety conditions. Abel and his crew have gone right along with this. In basic steel they got together with the companies to push through a no-strike deal called the Experimental Negotiating Agreement (ENA) which gave away steel workers' right to strike, even over the national contract, through 1980. Similarly, Abel and Co. pushed through the notorious Consent Decree, which in the name of attacking discrimination, attacks the fight against discrimination and tries to shift the payment for it away from the companies onto the workers themselves.

The STEELWORKER

This union leadership treachery combined with steel company attacks has been met with growing anger. Strikes in non-basic steel plants (not covered by the

ENA), slowdowns and illegal walkouts in basic steel mills are on the rise.

Rank and file steel workers from many of these individual struggles are moving to link them up; some of them have started a national newsletter, The Steelworker.

The Steelworker has played an active role in struggles in their own shops and departments. Through this newsletter, militant steelworkers have begun to take up battles with a nationwide scope--such as the recent USWA convention and the fight to free Ohio Local 3059. Now they are calling on their fellow steel workers to take part in the Sadlowski campaign as "a vehicle to bust up the Abel-McBride machine" and all that it stands for. For the rank and file now rising in struggle, McBride's election would be a real slap in the face, reinforcing the line that the Abel-McBride machine has pushed all along--that you "can't fight city hall."

The Sadlowski campaign in contrast, has to a significant degree spoken to and reflected the sentiments and aspir-

ations of the rank and file. A growing movement is hitting the companies, for a more unified and democratic union, and the right to strike.

It would be a big mistake to take up the Sadlowski campaign as a cure-all. Getting Sadlowski elected is not the only task now in steel, as some forces within the union have urged. Sadlowski's election alone will not insure a better day for steel workers.

Why Support Sablowski Campaign

Realizing this situation, many have reservations about voting for Sadlowski. They might have heard about his passive no-fight performance at the August union convention when he backed off in the face of Abel's attacks. Others feel that his program isn't clear enough. Much more commonly, many workers feel that they've seen professional union officials come and go, and none of them have made much difference. Abel himself

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ITS TIME TO KEEP ON FIGHTING AND ORGANIZING Dues Increase Pushed Thru At AO Smith

The union officials at A O Smith have succeeded in raising the union dues despite the fact that the majority of the members of local 19806 opposed it. The members didn't want to pay 4 more dollars a month to a clique of union officials who don't do a damn thing for the men in the shop and help the company get away with murder.

The union membership gained a lot in the six month struggle against the dues increase. They put up a hell of a fight against the company machine that handcuffs the workers struggles against AOS and made steps in putting the union in the hands of the membership. This fight will continue and as a result of it the workers are stronger, more united and will be better prepared to stand up to any attempt to sellout their '77 contract.

Leaflets were put out by Fighting Times/United Workers Organization, the auto section of a city-wide workers organization with some members from AOS. The leaflets spread the word that Paul Blackman (local president) and his gang were trying to sneak the dues hike through. The members were furious! The officers deliberately scheduled the vote on a Wednesday night when the 1500

on 2nd shift couldn't vote. They didn't give one reason for the increase. In response 1000 signed petitions against the hike that said, "We want our union to RAISE HELL, NOT DUES!"

Over 300 came to vote last May, only to see the pro-company officers railroad through the hike. But the crooked way they passed the increase was exposed and a revote was scheduled.

Throughout the thing the union hacks tried to avoid the issues by using vicious lies and scare tactics. First they said the union would go broke. They attacked the membership for being cheap and anti-union. They accused Fighting Times of being "extremists". They ridiculously charged the United Workers Organization was responsible for the Meatcutters union getting busted.

But the hard working men and women at Smith aren't a bunch of suckers, they've had years of experience of union officials siding with the company. Many can remember the sellout in 1974, where the officers kept the membership in the dark and disorganized. They traded away hundreds of grievances like they were useless scraps of paper.

At the second vote on August 14th over 500 came out, booing down the

crap the officers tried to run, and made a large no vote - 340 to 190.

But the union hacks didn't give a damn that the members voted down the dues hike. They violated the democracy of the union and made an all out attempt to pass the increase on Nov. 16th.

As a result of all the hell the membership was raising the officers were forced to drop the automatic increase of the AFL-CIO per capita tax. They had to put out weekly flyers, devote three issues of the union newspaper, ten union meetings, posters in the shop, and all but two of them signed a flyer endorsing the dues hike.

They threw the entire weight of their pro-company machine into getting the dues increased and were forced into spending more time in the shop to look like they were doing something.

But the members know that the grievance committee members are paid \$25,000 a year by the company and are only concerned with sitting pretty to boost their careers at the expense of the membership. Like a lot of union bureaucrats they spend their time drinking coffee in their office, filing grievances in the wastebaskets, and dis-

couraging members from fighting

But the membership continued to organize the fight and stickers were plastered all over the shop and on some of the drivers hard hats to build for the no vote, saying, "COMPANY OUT OF OUR UNION!"

By a hair the vote passed. 1853 voted, 978 voted yes (53%), and 869 voted no (47%). They were able to pass the vote through slick maneuvering, they scheduled only a one day vote and dropped fines for people who didn't vote. Also many were so disgusted they didn't vote because they felt the union big shots would get the increase by hook or by crook.

The 47% no vote represents a rising storm in the struggle to put the union in the hands of the membership and start dealing with the company. A.O. Smith and their faithful servants in the union office have been shaken up but good. With the upcoming union elections in March the mood of the membership is for change.

The strength of our unions is the organized strength of our thousands of working class brothers and sisters. Our unions should be about fighting company

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USE PSYCHO AS EXCUSE Gov't Brings Back Death Penalty

Since Gary Gilmore was 14 he has been in prison and now he wants to die by execution. It's been in the papers almost every day how he was sentenced to death for savage murders, then his sentence was changed to life imprisonment and how he's fighting in court to be allowed to die anyway. This guy has been in prison almost his whole life and has pretty much gone out of



GARY GILMORE

his mind because of it.

Now the press has been talking about this nut and saying, "This guy wants to die, he says it's his right, so why don't they let him?" They almost make it look like it's a heroic thing he's doing--demanding to be killed. Why are they playing this psycho up so much?

Since 1967 no one has been executed

in the United States. The death penalty was stopped in the midst of a decade of protest over social injustice and growing outrage over state executions. Ever since the capitalists who run this country have been trying to bring it back. Now they are using Gilmore as an opening wedge. After all, this guy is so desperate, he's even tried to commit suicide--so a lot of people might say if he wants to die that bad, maybe we should let him.

The rulers of this country don't give a damn about Gary Gilmore, one way or the other. They want the death penalty as one more powerful reminder to the masses of people that they hold the power in this country, even the power of life and death. They want to be able to point to the gas chamber, the electric chair, the hangman's noose, the firing squad when they say to the swelling ranks of those who are fed up with their lousy system, "Don't organize, don't fight for a better world! Step out of line and you're in trouble."

Now the capitalists' basic justification for restoring the death penalty--like for their attempt to make firearms illegal--is that it will "stop violent crime." The hell it will. In England in the Middle Ages petty theft carried an automatic death penalty, but pickpockets plied their trade nonetheless--even in the crowds at public hangings! When the death penalty was in force before

1967 it didn't cut down on the number of murders, assaults, rapes and other crimes. The ruling class runs this line because they know the masses of people in this country are plenty mad about crime, but not only don't they have the cure, they are the cause. It is their economic crisis, their whole decaying and decadent system that pushes people toward crime and produces twisted killers like Gary Gilmore.

In the past the capitalists have used the death penalty to murder leaders in the fight against them and tried to use this as an example to terrorize people and keep them from rising up. When the state of Utah, where Gilmore is jailed, executed Joe Hill, a revolutionary working class organizer in 1915, he answered them in this last message to his fellow workers: "Don't waste any time in mourning, organize!"

Of course the rich don't need a law to kill revolutionaries. In 1969 they shot Fred Hampton, leader of the Black Panther Party in Chicago, while he was asleep in bed. They shot college students in 1970 at Kent State in Ohio and Jackson State in Mississippi during a wave of demonstrations against the war in Vietnam. Still, having the death penalty on the books would make it easier for them.

The TV and newspapers try to make Gilmore seem "noble and dignified" for begging to die! It's like they're

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Mexican Peasants Arm, Sieze Land

As Mexico's new President, Jose Lopez Portillo was sworn in December 1, with Henry Kissinger and Mrs. Jimmy Carter at his side, the Mexican people were letting loose a storm of struggle against the miserable conditions that the rulers of Mexico and U.S. businessmen have kept them in so long.

A wave of land occupations shook the country throughout November, as poor peasants seized the land kept from them by a handful of very rich landowners, then armed themselves to protect the land that they'd taken. In the face of these moves, outgoing Mexican President Luis Echeverria was forced to concede to some of the peasants demands and give them legal title to some of the land that they'd already taken, in order to try to keep them from taking more.

The wave of takeovers started in October. On November 19th, thousands of armed peasants in the states of Sinaloa and Sonora in Northern Mexico seized hundreds of thousands of acres of

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AFTER 7 YEARS GOV'T MORE EXPOSED ASSASSIN STILL UNPUNISHED Long Live The Spirit Of Fred Hampton

December 4th marked 7 years since Fred Hampton was murdered in his sleep in a raid planned and executed by flunkies of the ruling class, the Chicago cops and FBI. Mark Clark was also killed in the raid. Early in the morning several dozen cops opened up the front and rear doors of his apartment with machinegun and shotgun fire. They broke into the apartment, still firing, and one cop ran into Hampton's room, shooting repeatedly into his bed.

Why was Fred Hampton marked for execution? What did he stand for that the state was so afraid of? Hampton was a leader of the Black Panther Party and of Black people against their oppression. He pointed to the imperialist system as the enemy of all oppressed people - Black, white, Latin and Indian. "It's a class struggle, not a race question", he said.

Hampton talked boldly about the need for revolution. He scared the capitalists when thousands responded to his shout, "I am a revolutionary!"

This raid on Hampton's apartment was part of a wave of repression against the Black Panther Party nationwide in the late 60's. Attacks on Panther offices were met with armed self defense.

Before his death Hampton had been framed and sent to jail on charges of stealing an ice cream truck. The judge showed the true nature of Hampton's "crime" when he refused bail saying, "He advocates armed revolution". Hundreds of people built a political campaign to free Hampton which proved Hampton's words, "You can jail a revolutionary, but you can't jail the revolution."

5,000 Chicagoans attended the funeral of Fred Hampton and Mark Clark and resolved to "avenge Fred Hampton" by continuing the revolutionary struggle. The year after Fred died, workers at Melrose International Harvester, where Fred had worked, organized to demand a ten minute break in his memory on his birthday August 28. The plant was plastered with posters reading, "Ten minutes for Fred, August 28th. He died for us." On the 5th year anniversary of his death hundreds marched and rallied in cities across the country saying, "Long Live the Spirit of Fred Hampton."

Today the families of Hampton and Mark Clark are suing the FBI, the Chicago police and the State's Attorney office in a multimillion dollar damage suit. The courtroom has been tense as the judge has tried to prejudice the jury in favor of the government. On Nov. 11 Judge Perry jailed one of the family's lawyers for contempt of court. In their own courts the ruling class is being exposed, as the trial continues to bring into the open the blatant role of the government in a planned assassination.

The rich know that leaders like Fred Hampton, fighting against the oppression of minorities, fighting for the unity of the working class and pointing the road to revolution, threaten their system of exploitation. They hoped that by murdering Hampton they could weaken our struggle. But the murders of Hampton and Clark only helped to further expose the vicious nature of this system and to strengthen the fight against it. As Hampton said, "You can kill a liberator, but you can't kill liberation." ■



THE MURDER OF FRED HAMPTON HELPED EXPOSE THE VICIOUS NATURE OF THIS SYSTEM AND TO STRENGTHEN THE FIGHT AGAINST IT.

WHERE DID HE GET ALL THAT MONEY?

Schlitz Head Uihlein Dies

Robert Uihlein Jr., head man at Schlitz brewery from 1961 until his death last month, has been held up as a great humanitarian--a patron of the arts and the man who brought polo to Milwaukee. The Uihlein family bought this image with the millions a year in profits they rake off the backs of working people. After clearing \$30-\$40 million a year the Uihlein family, a figurehead for the ruling class, can afford to throw around a million here and there. But beneath the surface of service awards and glowing newspaper reports was Robert Uihlein really a "good guy"?

Ask the workers who brew, bottle and ship out the Schlitz--workers who

had to strike in '53 to win a pension and again in '69 to win a decent wage increase--workers who had to fight against city police that Uihlein called in during the last strike when they stood on the railroad tracks to stop Schlitz from shipping out beer.

Ask the residents of the inner city that borders the elaborate arch and cobble street that separates off the brewery on the North 3rd St. side. Residents who boycotted Schlitz beer in 1967 because the Uihleins, with all their great charity, would not support a bill for open housing. Residents who protested because in 1970 Schlitz employed only 209 Blacks.

Ask the hundreds of Schlitz workers

who lost their jobs when whole plants were closed down. A bunch of fat cat executives sat in their board room and decided that to increase profits they needed to close down operations in Puerto Rico in '69, in Brooklyn New York in '72, and in Kansas City in '73. Or ask the workers in Chile, Pakistan and Panama who work for starvation wages in fisheries and canneries owned largely by Schlitz.

When Robert Uihlein became president of Schlitz in 1961 the company had been losing sales and profits for the last several years. Robert tightened the screws and laid off over 400 white collar workers. He automated out hundreds of production jobs. Big sales drives were launched to beat out cut throat competition. Kickbacks, payoffs and price setting helped make Schlitz the second largest seller of beer in the U.S.

Robert Jr. got Schlitz into the big time when it joined other large corporations on the stock market in New York. It became a "blue chip" investment. The Uihleins are one of the wealthiest families in the country. They own nearly 80% of Schlitz stock with a value of close to \$350 million. Just by sitting on their stock the family gets \$15.4 million a year in interest alone.

Schlitz does not operate on its own, it's part of the capitalist class. It's finances and power are closely tied to the 1st Wisconsin National Bank. Robert Uihlein was a leading member of the board of directors at the bank, which makes decisions like which corporations get loans and which don't. 1st Wisconsin has millions to lend to Schlitz, but has an unwritten policy of making it hard to get a loan to buy or repair homes in the inner city. This has been a major factor in the disintegration of these neighborhoods.

The 1st Wisconsin also had its fingers in Chile where it has a partner bank and Schlitz has investments. When Allende was elected president he opposed U.S.

big business interests in Chile. So the ruling class of this country used its tool, the CIA, to help overthrow and kill Allende. The 1st Wisconsin directly loaned \$1 million to a Chilean newspaper that opposed the Allende government.

Robert Uihlein was a figure head for the ruling class, especially in Wisconsin. And the ruling class would like us to remember him as the charitable man who brought us the July 4th circus parades--as a man with buildings named after him. This image that he spends millions to create is supposed to make us think this system is great and that capitalists like Robert Uihlein are good guys with big hearts. But a few circus parades and a new art center can't begin to make up for the years that the Uihlein family and the rest of the ruling class built their power and fortune on the backs of the working people here and around the world. ■

DEATH PENALTY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

pointing at him and saying to the rest of us, "Why can't you be like him and take your punishment like a man?"

Gary Gilmore gave up living and this country would like us to copy him, to accept all the misery they create without complaining. They want us to give up any hope of changing things and live out our lives as obedient slaves.

They may be able to get one guy, already psychotic, ground down to the point where he'd rather die, but they'll never get millions of us to give up and accept the way they force us to live. We're not going to accept things as they are, we're going to keep on fighting all their attacks, including the murderous death penalty. ■

AO SMITH

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

attacks and making gains for the members. Our potential is enormous!

We have to get organized to fight the two headed monster of the companies and sellout union officials. It's time to put our unions in the hands of the members!

A.O. Smith workers have taken a big step in doing this. IT'S TIME TO KEEP ON FIGHTING AND ORGANIZING!!!! ■



ROBERT UIHLEIN BOUGHT HIS IMAGE AS A GREAT HUMANITARIAN WITH THE MILLIONS HE MADE IN PROFITS OFF THE BACK OF THE WORKING CLASS.

Local Steelworkers Make Gains In Sadlowski Campaign

The Steelworkers fight is growing in Milwaukee. This past month, steelworkers built fights to nominate Sadlowski at most of the large Steelworker shops. They went up against the forces of the Abel-McBride machine and won some big victories. Steelworkers nominated Sadlowski at Nordberg, Evinrude, American Can, Motor Castings, Milwaukee Forge, Wehr Steel and Schlitz Can. From the mills of Gary, Pittsburgh, upstate New York to the fab shops of the Midwest and the mines of Canada and the West, steelworkers are building up momentum to dump the Abel machine in the February elections.

A local chapter of Steelworkers Fight Back, a national organization working to elect Sadlowski, has been active in fighting for these nominations. Taking leaflets and banners to the plant gates, they are drawing the lines in the fight to get the company out of the union. Steelworkers from shops all over the city are joining together in this fight. This kind of unity hasn't been seen for a long time in Milwaukee.

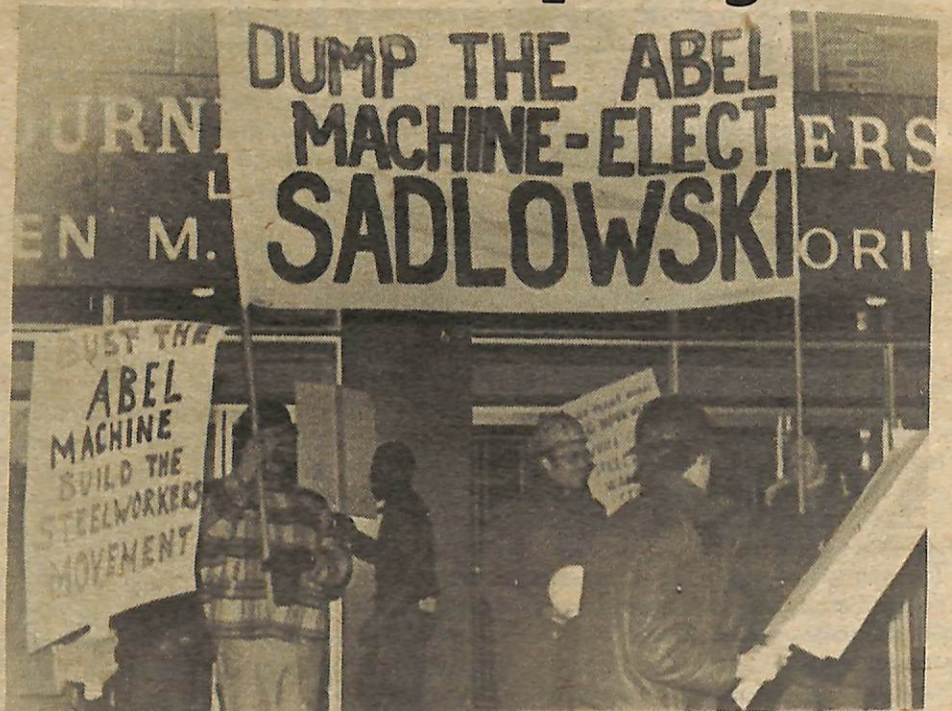
Many local officials and most of the International staff men are supporting McBride. The strategy of the International here has been to firm up the support of local officers and keep things quiet among the rank and file.

District Director, McNamara has been calling local officials downtown for pep talks about McBride. At Rexnord, Local

1527 President Medley boasted at the September union meeting that this District was going for McBride.

But the International is trying to hide the election among the guys in the shop. McBride was supposed to speak in Milwaukee on Dec. 2. The only people who knew about it were local officials who got a letter 2 days in advance from McNamara. When a couple guys at Harnischfeger asked their steward if they could come to the meeting, they were told it was a closed meeting. A group from the Milwaukee Steelworker Fight Back picketed at the rally. They chanted, "Abel-McBride, there's no place to hide, we know you're on the company's side."

At some shops where momentum is growing for Sadlowski, the International has counter attacked. They have labeled Sadlowski as a tool for "outsiders" and radicals trying to gain control of the union. SMART (Steelworker Members Against Radical Takeover), headquartered coincidentally in Pittsburgh along with the International Union, has been distributing smear literature against Sadlowski. This group made up mostly of local officials, fears any break in the privileged status they have riding herd on the rank and file. So, when the "smash the Abel machine" stickers started appearing in several departments at Bucyrus Erie, some local "SMART" officials counter attacked with postings labeling Sadlowski backers as incompet-



DEC. 2 MILWAUKEE STEELWORKERS PICKETED MCBRIDE'S CLOSED SPEECH TO LOCAL HACKS, SHOUTING "ABEL MCBRIDE, THERE'S NO PLACE TO HIDE, WE KNOW YOU'RE ON THE COMPANY'S SIDE!!!"

ent and malcontents.

As steelworkers get organized, they know they're the ones who are going to smash the Abel machine and elect Sadlowski. They're taking up the fight to break the chains of the Abel-McBride company union and build the steelworkers' struggle. ■

Join the fight! Contact the Milwaukee Steelworkers Fight Back, call 643-7117 or 481-9671.

Steelworkers March in Pittsburgh Ohio Babcock Wilcox Local Freed From Abel's Grip

A big victory was won in November by steel workers--a step in the fight against the stranglehold the company agents in union offices have had over the rank and file in the unions.

Six months ago the top leadership of the steel workers union (USWA) put Alliance, Ohio Local 3059 into administration. They removed the elected local president and replaced him with a well-known, pro-company traitor loyal to them. They clamped down their dictatorship on the Local because it had been fighting hard against the steel companies for the interests of the workers. The Local threatened the cosy arrangement the high officials of the USWA have

with the companies. But things have turned out opposite to what these fatcats planned. Instead of putting a stop to the struggle in the local, the struggle has now stepped up and spread.

Local 3059 members and The Steelworker, a national rank and file newsletter, spread the word throughout the industry about what the International had done. This brought out a strong response from many other steel workers who face similar obstacles in the fight against the companies from the very union officials who are supposed to help this fight. On November 5, 100 steel workers from the East Coast and Midwest held a demonstration in front of USWA head-

quarters in Pittsburgh, chanting "Free Local 3059!" and other demands for the right to strike and to vote on contracts. The International officials called the cops on the protestors, and there were beatings and arrests. But the militant action won a lot of support in Pittsburgh and from steel workers across the country. Plans were made to carry the fight to free Local 3059 even more broadly to the rank and file.

Shortly afterward, the USWA announced that the local will be let loose from administration in November. The International hacks claimed that they planned this move all along. But, at the same time, the charges against the two

steel workers arrested in the protest were greatly reduced, showing that not only the union hacks but the whole class of people they run with have been really jammed up. A leaflet summing up the protest sums it up this way:

"Make no mistake about it. Local 3059 would never be free if people didn't organize to fight. The action in Pittsburgh showed that more and more the rank and file is able to unite steel workers from different cities and districts for important battles. Campaigns like the fight which freed Local 3059 and the efforts to raise rank and file demands at the recent convention of the USWA are laying the basis for broader, more solid organization among steel workers.

We've only just begun. We will take this union back and turn it into the fighting organization our fathers sacrificed to build." ■

Letters of support and donations for the fight against the charges for the two workers arrested at the Pittsburgh demonstration can be sent to The Steelworker, P. O. Box 5170, Baltimore, Md.

STEEL CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

ran as a "reform" candidate before he settled down into being an incumbent.

But the guys around The Steelworker and many others who are taking up the Sadlowski campaign don't see supporting Sadlowski as simply a question of what stand he now has on the issues. They see mobilizing the rank and file in such a way as to raise the issues and unite the rank and file around a program based on their interests and demands. By fighting to elect Sadlowski and break up the Abel machine in a way that will build their organization and understanding, rank and file steel workers can come out of this election stronger and better able to fight all the battles they'll have to fight no matter who's in office.

To defeat the Abel machine will be a real step forward for steel workers and lay the basis for real gains in the struggle around the no-strike deal and the rest of the companies' attacks. ■



STEELWORKERS FROM THE EAST AND MIDWEST UNITED AND CONVERGED ON NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS TO DEMAND THE RELEASE OF OHIO LOCAL 3059 FROM INT'L DICTATORSHIP.

Hit Repression On Reservation Menominees Defeat Sheriff Fish

On the Menominee reservation the sheriff's race between the present sheriff, "Paddo" Fish and one of his deputies, William Waukau, really brought the voters out. In that election, Fish was thrown out of office as record numbers of Menominee came to the polls. His defeat marked a step forward for the tribe. In a hundred ways they have been struggling to push back the rip off of their land, culture, and people. The high point of this struggle came around the time of the abbey takeover. Since then the system has come back with heavy repression. The Menominee have fought back as part of their overall struggle for freedom.

Two years ago, "Paddo" fish, a known bar room brawler on the reservation, bragged that he could crack down on the Menominee Warrior Society. With the Alexian brothers abbey takeover fresh in their minds, Ada Deer chose him and Governor Lucy appointed him sheriff. Fearing the militant spirit of Wounded Knee and the novitiate, they increased the police force from 6 to 70 deputies in two years. The tribal leadership diverted federal funds from job training programs to pay the salaries. The deputies were hand picked for the job. At least three were convicted murderers. The new "goon squad" as it came to be known among the 3,000 Menominee living on the reservation, made it a practice to arrest and beat any young Indian they considered to be a member of the Warrior Society.

Every week there were new cases of police brutality. Sixteen year old Leslie Grignon, brother of one of the five main defendants from the abbey takeover, was beaten into a coma on the night of April 10, 1975. Tommy Tourtillot's car was forced off the road by a deputy's. Now he is paralyzed. "Peeko" Askenette, lost 4 teeth when punched by a deputy. Dale Kakkak had his jaw broken. The list goes on and on.

The most glaring crime of "Paddo" Fish was the murder of John Waubanasum and Arlin Pamanet. The holes in Fish's story about how he "fired in

self defense," fit right in with his history of threats and beatings against the Warriors. The Menominee people were outraged at the reign of terror.

The only reason the vote was close was due to the large federally funded tribal bureaucracy headed by Ada Deer. People with management jobs at the tribal sawmill, working as deputies, or in the courthouse were a base of support for the Deer-backed "Paddo" Fish ticket. Fish's supporters held a car caravan around the reservation.

On the other hand any car with a Waukau bumper sticker on it was likely to be stopped and harassed by Fish's boys. The day following his election, Waukau was suspended from the force by Fish. Now Fish is challenging the election results, claiming 70 votes were cast by non-residents.

The Menominee youth have suffered the most under the policies of harassment and repression, led the way in this struggle. They visited house to house, drove elderly people to the polls, and made it clear they were for throwing Fish out. Not only have they suffered a lot of physical abuse--and the two deaths--but many are in jail or still facing charges. At least seven Warriors are doing time in Waupun. One of them had his parole revoked when authorities suspected that he was a witness to the Waubanasum/Pamanet murders. Another Warrior spokesman, Neil Hawpetoss, will go on trial on January 7th, in Federal court in Milwaukee on fabricated charges of harboring a fugitive.

A significant victory was won against the repression when in two separate cases, juries found Menominee defendants not guilty of federal charges. Jennette Chevalier, Buddy Chevalier, Donald Chevalier, and John Coon had been charged with "assaulting federal officers." In fact, their family home was assaulted by an FBI SWAT team. Last April the FBI men converged on a houseful of Chevaliers and their supporters, thinking they would find Robert

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13



JOHN WAUBANASCUM, A MENOMINEE WARRIOR, WAS KILLED BY FISH.

AMY CARTER GOES TO SCHOOL

It's been decided. Nine year old Amy Carter will attend a Washington DC public school.

For Jimmy Carter it's great publicity. He becomes the first president since Teddy Roosevelt in 1906 to send one of his children to public school. He gets the publicity of sending his daughter to a school that was first opened for freed slaves in 1868 and has 90% minority students. The next president comes off smelling like a rose. A "common man," a "friend of Blacks," someone who keeps his campaign promises to send his kids to public schools.

But wait a minute. Do they mean to tell us that the President-elect is sending his kid to a ghetto school? Is this well brought up daughter of a wealthy politician going to face the same lousy, rundown, overcrowded public schools as millions of sons and

daughters of workers in this country?

Of course the Carters won't have to worry about this because this "common school" they're sending Amy to is a showcase school. Whereas many schools in the area are located in the midst of rundown tenements and apartment houses, housing conditions which helped spark the 1968 riot following Martin Luther King's murder, according to the Chicago Sun Times the area around this school has changed as "the little houses around Foggy Bottom once occupied by freed slaves families became fashionable, high-priced 'Townhouses' or were replaced by office and apartment buildings."

Or take the student body. 90% are minorities--but many (30%) are children of personnel from the diplomatic corps. Students from 26 different countries are enrolled.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13

A Great Moment In History 1919-Packinghouse Workers Built Class Unity

In 1919, in the face of one of the worst race riots in this country's history, stockyard workers in Chicago stood together, Black and white, and pointed the way to working class solidarity. They shook their fists at the divide and conquer schemes the ruling class was using at a time the working class movement was making great strides.

The rich had brought thousands of Blacks from the South to the industrial cities of the North. They needed them during the war time boom. Many were recruited by the steel mills, packing houses and railroads as non-union help. When veterans returned from the war they had to compete with newly arrived Black workers for a livelihood. This job competition is part of the capitalist system. By forcing workers to fight each other for jobs, the bosses tried to divide the workers and drive down everyone's working and living conditions.

These attempts at division were focused at the stockyard workers who had won the first bargaining contract in a mass industry in the U.S. The workers took advantage of the war situation in 1918 by threatening a strike that would have cut off the ruling class' super profits and hurt their war efforts.

Some "so-called" Black community leaders were agents for the industrialists in recruiting non-union workers. One of them Richard E. Parker boasted, "I've imported more Negroes than any man in Chicago...any time a Negro wanted a job, I'd give him or her a note to get a job, but if they joined a union, I wouldn't."

All the while these agents for the



STAND OF PACKINGHOUSE WORKERS IN 1919 HELPED BUILD UNITY BETWEEN BLACK AND WHITE WORKERS FOR YEARS TO COME.

bosses were recruiting non-union workers, the Stockyard Labor Council was organizing all workers. The leadership of the Stockyard Labor Council were militant, class conscious workers. Two of them, Wm. Z. Foster and Jack Johnstone, later helped form the Communist Party in the 1920's.

They pushed for all packing industry workers, stockyard, maintenance and butcher workers to be in the same union. The active organizing of Black

workers, who most unions ignored, built the strength of the workers' movement in Chicago. By 1918, the stockyards had 2000 Black union members, the largest body of Black unionized workers in the world at that time. This unity was just what the ruling class attacked as soon as the war ended. A consolidation of the union in the 1919 bargaining sessions would be an example to workers gearing to unionize steel, mines, and rail.

The bosses used sensationalism in the press to inflame prejudice and pit one section of the working class against another. The day after the 1918 mayoral election the Chicago Daily Journal ran a huge headline, "Negro Vote Elects Thompson". The Black southside voted Republican, the party that had the reputation for freeing the slaves, even though Thompson was a notoriously corrupt politician with open ties to the Chicago gangsters.

Segregation in housing was another way the ruling class told each section of the working class they could advance only at the expense of another.

When the stockyard contract came up for bargaining in July of 1919 the situation grew tense. The packers threatened to use scabs to break a possible strike. This was part of a post war offensive by the ruling class, which took the form of union busting, deportations of foreign born workers active in the movement, and wholesale attacks on working peoples' standard of living.

Trying to calm tensions the Stockyard Council held a march through the Black neighborhoods of the southside. As they wound their way through the streets, people came out to show their support. The cops prevented Blacks and whites from marching in the streets together. But the two lines of marchers flowed together once they reached the rallying point, unity was growing. But the storm broke on Sunday July 27. A fight at a southside beach spread to the Downtown Loop, and the north and west sides of the city. For two weeks the race riots continued.

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Unemployment

FREE BORNSEN Workers Got AND DAVIS !

Tom Bornson and Lonnie Davis are two unemployed workers sentenced to jail for taking over a food stamp office in Portland, Oregon last February. The Unemployed Workers Organizing Committee (UWOC) is currently launching a nationwide campaign to set them free.

The local press in the Portland area has called Bornson and Davis everything from "welfare frauds" and "cheats" to "professional con men." But these two men are not kooks. They are workers, who like millions around the country couldn't find a job. Bornson's last job was in Lubbock, Texas, working in a cotton oil mill. He was laid off in April, 1975, and unable to find work, he and his wife packed up their six kids and took off in an old school bus to follow the crops and look for more permanent work. They came to Oregon where they met Lonnie Davis who had been laid off from a Missouri highway construction project and was also traveling, looking for work. Both men hoped to prune trees but, due to warm weather, couldn't find any work.

Bornson and Davis went to the unemployment office two or three times a week looking for jobs, too poor to live in anything but an old school bus in a state park. They received emergency welfare assistance in December and January, and to raise money for gas and rent they sold their blood.

But in January they were told they had exhausted their emergency funds and were not eligible for any more assistance because they lacked a "permanent address," the kind of disgusting excuse the unemployment and welfare offices are known to use time and time again to deny thousands the benefits they need to feed their families. Bornson's family was eating one meal a day; they had a sick baby and a young daughter with a

heart murmur who needs medical attention.

He and Davis considered turning to robbery. But this went against the grain of these two men who had spent their lives working to support themselves and their families.

Instead, pushed up against the wall, they decided to take decisive action. Armed with knives they took over the food stamp office for several hours, holding the office supervisor and several office workers hostage. They issued four demands: 1) Food stamps for the family; 2) Medical attention for the sick baby, Brian; 3) Press coverage to get their story out to other working people; and 4) That only Tom and Lonnie be charged. After their demands were met, Bornson and Davis surrendered and the rest of the family was released and the hostages released unharmed.

After this action, there was a lot of controversy among those who heard of it. While most sympathized with the plight of the Bornson family and Lonnie Davis, still there were disagreements over whether or not the action was justified. But, their action was directed not against the office workers held, but against the government as their demands and statements make clear.

ACT OF REBELLION

It isn't so surprising that two unemployed workers took such an action when thousands of unemployed just like them are thrown out of their jobs and stand day after day in long lines, many times facing the denial of benefits and the prospect of not being able to feed their families. In fact, it is a justified act of rebellion coming out of years of frustration and anger spawned by a system



Jobs Actions D

Christmas will be here soon. The unemployed have little more than an empty table to give our families. We demand work, we demand Jobs we can live on!

Unemployment is rising, and sweet-talking Jimmy Carter is telling us we can take 6 or 7 % unemployment and shove it--after promising to lower unemployment during his whole lying campaign.

And the federal government is talking about eliminating the two 13 week extensions of unemployment benefits. The Senate already passed it, the House will consider the issue in January. As of now, the extensions will run out on March 31st, cutting benefit weeks from 65 to 39. This would push millions

Jobs Now! No Benefits C

BORNSEN AND DAVIS...

which leads to the impoverishment of the masses on the one hand, the accumulation of wealth in the hands of the privileged few on the other.

They saw their action as a political statement. As Bornson said later, "I was naturally looking out for my family,

but felt like if I had to do it, then I was going to do it for a bunch of other people, too. I was going to get everybody involved. And I still want to get everyone involved."

This is why the action of Bornson and Davis, only two individuals, scared these privileged few. In their action the capitalists saw and feared the anger of millions of workers against this system which breeds unemployment. The nine and seven years Bornson and Davis got sentenced to were supposed to be a warning to others of the heavy consequences they would face if they fought back against unemployment.

In fact, their repression is backfiring for them. Bornson's and Davis's freedom is becoming a popular cause. UWOC and the Committee to Free Bornson and Davis have built strong support from the working people in the Portland area through several demonstrations and thousands have come forward to sign petitions, seeing the fight to free the two men as part of their own struggle for what they need--jobs--or enough income to live until there are jobs. Already there have been results. Bornson's 18 year old son was set free with only one year's probation--bad enough for a "crime" of demanding food--but a victory considering the original charges of kidnapping.

NATIONWIDE SUPPORT

At present, with Bornson and Davis both having their bail denied, UWOC and the Committee to Free Bornson and Davis are focusing the struggle on the demand for bail during appeal. A "writ



Bornson and Davis saw their action as a political statement. As Bornson said later, "...I felt like if I had to do it, then I was going to do it for a bunch of other people too. I was going to get everybody involved....".

on the Rise - to Organize

SLAVE WAGES ON THE COUNTY



ec. 20! 6th & Wells 11am

more onto welfare and slave labor jobs like the County Project here in Milwaukee.

A brother in Portland stood up and demanded food and medical care for his family, and they are trying to destroy him to intimidate us all into silence.

Neither Jimmy Carter nor anybody else is going to solve our problems for us. Only we ourselves can fight these attacks. DEMONSTRATE 11 am, December 20th at the Job Service on 6th and Wells!

ts! Free Bornson!

"I was on that project twice, one time for almost a year. I never got trained to do nothing. We're talking about jobs we can live on, jobs at union wages! Supervisor Mett, can you live on \$2.00 an hour?"

A member of Unemployed Workers Organizing Committee (UWOC) put the question to the chairmen of the County Board of Supervisors Welfare Committee, at a meeting Dec. 3rd. Mett was stunned. Finally he sat up there in his 3-piece suit and joked with the other Supervisors, "That's almost what I make already."

It may be funny to the politicians who make their living with their tongues but it's no joke to the hundreds of workers on the County Work Experience and Training Project who have had their wages cut from \$2.20 to \$2.00 an hour starting January 1st. The working hours will be cut from 40 hours to 32 a week so somebody on the work project will be bringing home about \$55 a week after taxes!

STARVE OR WORK FOR STARVATION WAGES

The County work project is aimed at unemployed workers who run out of unemployment insurance and end up on general relief. The welfare department orders people onto the work project. If you refuse, you are cut off of general

assistance. The Board is telling people "work at starvation wages or starve outright".

While cutting wages The Board also created 600 more of these jobs, and called it aiding the jobless. In the same budget the Board eliminated 562 county union jobs. The new people on the work project will be filling many of these same jobs, while some like at the County Hospital Annex at 24th & Wisconsin, will be eliminated entirely. So the Board is attacking the unemployed or cutting wages and using the project to attack union county workers at the same time. It all falls in line with the rich mans general plan to pit unemployed and employed workers against each other as the capitalists try to rise out of their deepening crisis.

Workers on the County project don't even have the right to form a union. When workers at Jackson Park held a meeting to organize around conditions on the job, they were threatened with firing and the group was broken up with transfers to other work sites.

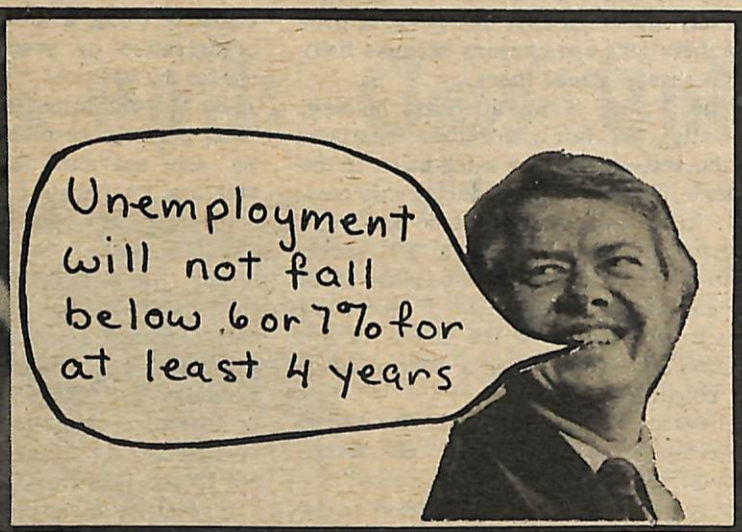
At the meeting on Dec. 3, the committee created a commission to study the program. But the wagecuts will already be in effect before the commission even reports! UWOC is going on to fight this attack. The unemployed need jobs we can live on--Jobs at Union Wages! ■

of habeas corpus" has been filed in court and plans are being made for rallies and other actions around this.

The nationwide support that has already been built, including mailgrams and letters of support have been real instruments in building the fight so far. They have given real encouragement to the family and the campaign locally, and at the same time given the capitalists real cause for alarm.

Now the Unemployed Workers Organizing Committee is calling on all working people and workers' organizations to help make the struggle to free Bornson and Davis a nationwide campaign. A petition is being circulated in almost every major industrial city. A slide show focusing on the development of the campaign so far is being prepared by UWOC for showing to interested groups. Mailgrams demanding their freedom can be sent to Governor Straub at the Oregon State Capitol, with copies to the committee to Free Bornson and Davis and the Unemployed Workers Organizing Committee at Post Office Box 14712, Portland, Oregon 97 214. Letters of support can also be sent to Tom Bornson, No. 38268, 2605 State St., Salem, Oregon and Lonnie Davis, 3-67-A, 3405 Deer Park Dr. S.E., Salem, Oregon 97310.

This campaign is a fighting example that working people will not be crushed, will not sit idle and watch everything they have worked so hard and long for be taken away, their families faced with starvation. As Tom Bornson said, "Why I done what I done was simply to say that this can't go on. You can't put people in a corner like that and not expect them to come out. They're going to come out." ■



Carter is giving us fair warning: like the workers on the left, we will have to fight his class tooth and nail for jobs or income.

CARTER ON UNEMPLOYMENT

President-elect Jimmy Carter is bidding for a place in the Guinness Book of World Records for the fastest back-off from a campaign promise by a newly elected official. During his campaign Carter blasted Ford for his stand on unemployment. Carter called Ford "callous" and said that he was a man who "lacked leadership." Ford, of course, had said that he, too, wanted to see unemployment go down but had pointed out that after another four years the rate would only be down to 6 or 7% (it's around 8% now).

Carter campaigned on this issue hard and strong, pointing out that with all the work which needed doing in America it was a crime for so many able-bodied people to be without work. Carter said, "I see an America with a job for every man and woman who can work." He promised if elected he would bend every effort to bring the unemployment rate down to 5% fast, and then down to 4%.

Less than two weeks after the election and over a full month before he takes office, Carter has changed his tune. In talks with reporters he said that unemployment would not go below 6 or 7% for at least four years, the end of his first term. This is the same position Ford had taken and Carter had blasted him for. This was a part of the big differences between the two presidential hopefuls that the AFL-CIO had put "labor's faith" in.

What this shows is not that Carter lied more than Ford, although politicians hold every known record in both distance and endurance for lying. What it does show is that unemployment is built into the capitalist system. Economic crisis, especially, breeds massive unemployment, and crisis can't be willed away by capitalist politicians or they would have done so long ago. Carter knows full well that he can't provide a "job for every man or woman who can work," so he

wants to cool out ahead of time the demands of workers for jobs for the unemployed.

Even Carter's current claims about unemployment leveling off at a rate of 6 or 7% for a period of years are both a slap in the face and wishful thinking. 5 or 6% in the statistics means over five million without jobs not counting the millions who never make it into government statistics. And while it is possible to force the government to come up with some jobs programs, there is certainly no guarantee that the economic crisis will not go through another convulsion like that in the winter of '74 - '75 when it went over 9%.

Carter is giving the working class fair warning: the only way to get jobs or income for the unemployed will be to fight him and the rest of his class tooth and nail. ■

MIA Smokescreen : US Vetoes Vietnam

When the Socialist Republic of Vietnam applied for UN membership in November 1974, 124 nations voted in favor. One didn't, the United States, whose lone "no" vote vetoed Vietnam's UN admission. The U.S. imperialists haven't stopped messing with Vietnam.

The excuse the U.S. rulers are giving for the veto is the "unsettled question" of some 800 U.S. servicemen still listed as missing in action--MIAs. This issue, which rears its head every year or so, is 100% bogus. It has been completely fabricated by the U.S. as an excuse to try to re-intervene in Vietnam's internal affairs.

When the U.S. signed the agreement with Vietnam to withdraw its army the Vietnamese agreed to account for all U.S. servicemen missing or captured

and the U.S. agreed to pay Vietnam \$3 billion to help repair war damage. Vietnam returned the POWs and accounted for the MIAs. But, because the Vietnamese refused to knuckle under to the aggression and provocations of the puppet south Vietnamese regime and finally defeated it militarily, the U.S. refused to pay any reparations.

Now the U.S. is demanding that Vietnam let 1,000 GIs charge around the back country of Vietnam to compile dossiers on the MIAs. This is after the Vietnamese have made a sincere effort to gather as much information as they could on the missing men. In view of the reality that American pilots flying over Vietnam were hardly on a mission of mercy, the Vietnamese cannot

be faulted for not digging up the countryside looking for bodies.

What about the MIAs? The bitter fact is that after World War 2 there were thousands and thousands of U.S. troops who were "missing in action". They were never found and never will be. Unfortunately, for the families of Vietnam War MIAs, it is not likely that much more will be found out about those servicemen lost in the jungles of Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia. To the U.S. these men are just as much pawns of imperialist policy dead or "missing" as they were alive.

The U.S. government explains its concern for the families of the missing servicemen. How humanitarian! Meanwhile, they've cut 3.7 million living

veterans off the GI bill and thousands of crippled vets are getting daily mistreatment in underfunded VA hospitals. The U.S. rulers get pretty righteous about the MIA issue. At the end of the war thousands of Vietnamese babies, supposedly "orphaned", were flown out to the U.S. Now many of their mothers want them back. Will the U.S. allow 1,000 Vietnamese soldiers to come over to look for the lost orphans?

Alot of government officials like to talk about how the U.S. "learned its lesson" in Vietnam. The facts show that the U.S. ruling class hasn't changed a bit. But in spite of whatever tricks the U.S. may pull out of its hat, Vietnam will eventually win its seat in the UN, as it rightly deserves. ■

Woody Allen in The Front New Movie Dumps On '50s Red Hunts

The 1950's nostalgia craze has added a new dimension with the latest movie Woody Allen stars in, *The Front*. It's an entertaining reminder that those years were not all bobby sox, Frank Sinatra records, the N. Y. Yankee dynasty and the birth of rock and roll. They were also the years of the Cold War, the Korean War, the execution of "atom spies" and anti-communist hysteria. It was the era of Joe McCarthy waving around lists claiming to name hundreds of communist infiltrators in the government. It was the heyday of the House Un-American Activities Committee, set up as investigator, judge and jury to flush out communist "dupes" and sympathizers and launching as a byproduct the career of Richard M. Nixon. It was the decade of blacklists, the invisible index of so-called communist sympathizers which no employer would admit exists, but which cost thousands of people their jobs and careers because their names were placed there.

The Front is an attention holding, amusing, and fairly accurate treatment of the anti-communist witch hunts in the entertainment industry during this period. Allen plays a two bit bookie who is approached by a friend, a TV script writer unable to get work because he is a "communist sympathizer," who asks him to pretend to be the author of his scripts in exchange for a percentage of the royalties.

Eventually Allen himself comes under suspicion from the guardians of Americanism in the industry and is called before a congressional committee to explain the fact that he has been seen associating with known communists and sympathizers. Disregarding advice to

take the Fifth Amendment, he tries to double talk his way through the hearing. But, finally overcome with disgust at the ruin he's seen these inquisitions bring to the lives of his friends, he tells the committee what to do with itself, as the musical score breaks into the '50s hit tune "Fairy Tales Can Come True."

As Allen's success story unfolds, the film focuses on the role of one of the most disgusting forces in the period: the professional blacklisting services which compiled dossiers of thousands of people. Working hand in hand with the FBI they searched the pages of the *Daily Worker* and other Communist Party publications, pouring over petitions signed in support of the Spanish Republic battling Franco's fascist forces, or in opposition to racial discrimination. These groups issued lists of anyone who had ever been associated with or accused of being associated with any left organization or progressive cause. In one of the heaviest scenes in the movie, Zero Mostel, himself blacklisted in the '50s, plays an actor blacklisted because he once marched in a May Day demonstration. Desperate for work, he grovels before the superpatriot who runs Freedom, Inc. (which had a real life counterpart in a blacklisting organization called Aware, Inc.) pleading that he'd only marched because he was trying to score with a girl who was a party member. He is forced to write a phony confession denouncing communists and to spy on Woody Allen in order to prove his "sincerity."

In reality, many actors and people in the media stood up to these witch hunts and told the investigators to go to hell. Some like the ten writers, producers



THOUSANDS RALLIED IN THE '50s OPPOSING BLACKLISTING AND OTHER REPRESSIVE MEASURES.

and actors (known as the Hollywood Ten) called before the committee in 1947 spent time in jail for their courageous refusal to co-operate. Others collapsed in the face of the pressure and gave names and other information--true and fabricated--to the "red hunters."

BEHIND MCCARTHYISM

One of the weaknesses of the film is that it doesn't show what was behind the red hunts in the entertainment industry and throughout the country during the late '40s and '50s. The U.S. ruling class needed to use the movie and television industry to try to mold public opinion to go along with their policies at home or around the world. The Soviet Union, then a socialist country

ruled by the workers, had been a wartime ally of the U.S. But, after the war, the role of the Soviet Union became a big obstacle to U.S. ruling class efforts to build a worldwide profit empire.

They needed to portray the Korean War as some sort of war for freedom and democracy instead of the dirty war of aggression and plunder that it was, and many sensed it to be. And it was necessary to portray the Communist Party, which had won real respect from millions of workers during the '30s and '40s for their role in the fight for unemployment insurance, for industrial unions, during the war against fascism, etc., as a bunch of underhanded, unscrupulous manipulators mindlessly fol-

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New Attacks at Peck, Amaro Fired

In November, Peck Meat Packing fired Manuel Amaro, a packinghouse worker of twenty years. Manuel's offense? He broke his finger in an accident at home. His doctor said he'd be off five to six weeks. For this, Peck fired him on the spot.

That's how things are going in the non-union Milwaukee packing houses. Manuel had been a solid striker for the entire 15 months of the recent meatcutters strike. He was an influence of unity among the men. The Peck family is trying to make an example of him to intimidate the rest of the men. The Pecks, who are locked into the competition of the beef boning industry, went all out to break the union in the strike of '75. But they were forced to take around fifty of the union men back last July. They don't want any of the men standing up for their rights, or even reporting accidents on the

job. Manuel had worked at Peck for the last nine years. Before that he had worked 11 years at Armour before it shut down. He was one of the most respected Spanish speaking workers in the valley. Especially with many of the new workers also Spanish speaking, the Pecks felt Manuel's example would spread.

During the same week that Manuel was fired, Peck issued its blue rule book. This is the first of the Packing association's rule books posing as a substitute for a union contract. It was "ratified" by a company appointed committee of lackies. Peck's book was a total attack on the packinghouse workers. The time needed to be eligible for vacation benefits has been upped from 1400 hours to 1800 hours. Time and a half for Saturday work is now only after you work 40 hours during the week. The book keeps the terms of the

pension a mystery, wipes out job transfer by seniority, and leaves wages unspecified. Also the skyrocketing cost of insurance has Peck changing from one cheap company to a cheaper one. Very likely his firing of Manuel was to intimidate the men and cut down on the number of insurance claims.

But packing house workers, many of whom walked the streets for 15 months against the Pecks and their kind, haven't said the last word. Manuel's firing and other attacks like long hours, discrimination, harassment, falling real wages, and unsafe working conditions are only more fuel for the workers anger and add more determination to the struggle. Like the most recent issue of *The Packinghouse Worker* said "Try your scare tactics, Bernie, but in the end you will become the best organizer of a union you spent so much time and money to break." ■



MANUEL AMARO

HUNDREDS MEET ON WORLD SITUATION DISCUSS THREAT OF WORLD WAR

On November 20, over 2300 people took part in a New York City conference to discuss the international situation, including the growing threat of war, the development of revolutionary struggles worldwide, and what it all means for the American people.

Only a little while after the end of the war in Vietnam, many people smell another war in the wind. The rulers of the US and the USSR are talking about detente, but both sides are stockpiling more and more weapons. At the same time, as people in the Mideast and Africa are rising up for their liberation, we hear all sorts of warnings from our own and the Soviet rulers that these struggles are threatening to explode into war.

It's this situation which led so many people to come to the New York conference. The participants included people who have recently come forward in the workers' movement, many students and youth, other people previously active in the movement against the Vietnam War, teachers and intellectuals and others. They came with a sharpening sense of the threat of wars of aggression, even world war. They wanted to debate how this affects the American people, and how we can struggle against this possibility. They wanted to discuss how these struggles of other peoples in the world are related to our own struggles. Above all, they wanted to understand things clearly so that they could take action.

The conference began in the morning with some introductory speeches on how to see things in the world today. The discussion broke down into workshops in the afternoon.

The first set focused on the issues and

tasks arising in particular areas and countries (Angola, Latin America, Southern Africa, East and Southeast Asia, Mid East and the Arabian Gulf Area, and Europe); the second on specific questions (US Foreign Policy, the Nature and role of the Soviet Union, China's Foreign Policy, the Third World and the New Economic Order, Fascist States and Junior Partners of imperialism, Detente and Disarmament.) Then there was a debate at night.

Basically the discussion and debate boiled down to three different points of view. Some people said that the main thing shaping the course of world events today is, as it was in the '60s, the struggle against US domination by the people of the underdeveloped countries. In this picture, the Soviet Union is seen as a lesser factor. The other two views both said that the rise of the Soviet Union as a capitalist-not socialist-country since Khrushchev took over and especially since their growth today into a major power rivaling the US across the globe was an extremely important question. In fact their rivalry was leading toward world war.

But those with this opinion in common drew quite different conclusions. Some argued that because the Soviet Union is such an aggressive danger, particularly to socialist China, it must be seen as the main enemy of the world. A third position, put forward by members and supporters of the Revolutionary Communist Party and other people, argued that the people have no stake in backing either side in this superpower conflict--which amounts to rivalry in worldwide robbery-- or in the war this rivalry threatens. The American people do have

every interest in especially opposing our own rulers, opposing all aggression and interference, in standing with all those--especially our fellow working people around the world--who resist it, and in fact, in struggling to overthrow our own rulers who have already dragged us into so many of their wars.

The conference was not meant to arrive at any unified conclusion or to form any sort of on going coalition. But it served an important purpose--to bring together many different kinds of forces who have been politically active around these kinds of questions in order to discuss and debate what stand to take and how to move forward.

Through this discussion there developed a better understanding by more

people of what stand to take on these issues, which is an important step, since only a correct understanding of what's going on and what to do about it will make it possible for the masses of people in this country to stand up and fight for their own interests and the interests of the overwhelming majority of the world's people. Further, the conference made it clear that it is necessary and possible to find ways to unite all who can be united to carry out concrete action opposing the aggression, interference and war preparation of the US imperialists in this country and both superpowers internationally and support the struggles of the peoples of the world, such as right now in southern Africa.



2300 PEOPLE FROM AROUND THE COUNTRY ATTENDED WAR CONFERENCE

92 Iranian Students Arrested In Houston

Iranian students are under attack. In France, two leaders of the World Confederation of Iranian Students are facing trumped up charges of shooting an Iranian diplomat. In the U.S., 92 members of the Iranian Student Association (ISA) were jailed in Houston after a demonstration to protest the French incident and were ruthlessly attacked by police and Iranian secret police (SAVAK) operating in the U.S.

Events jumped off on November 2, when an Iranian diplomat was shot and wounded in the streets of Paris. Responsibility was claimed by an outfit calling itself the "International Brigade." In spite of the communique, the next day French police raided the home of the International Affairs Secretary of the Confederation and arrested everyone there. Four Iranians were immediately deported to Sweden and three of them are facing further deportation to Iran.

Membership in the Confederation or any of its affiliated organizations, like the ISA in the U.S., is illegal under Iranian law. Punishment is severe and often includes torture and execution. If these Iranian students are deported they will get harsh treatment at the bloody hands of the ruling Shah of Iran and his Gestapo-like SAVAK.

Immediately on hearing news of the attack, the ISA mobilized for action in the U.S. On November 9, in Houston, members and supporters of the ISA began a 24-hour demonstration in front of the French Consulate. Around noon of the next day, Houston police closed all the streets around the consulate to cars and pedestrians and all possible witnesses were whisked away. Police, in uniform and plainclothes, as well as SAVAK agents, gathered.

After giving a two-minute warning to disperse, the police attacked. Many wore gloves lined with iron straps and used brass knuckles. Once a cop missed one of the Iranians and put a big dent in a car with his iron glove. Students were

brutally beaten and 92 were arrested. The next day an ISA member went to bail out the students and was also arrested.

FACE DEPORTATION

The cases of the Iranians were turned over to the Department of Immigration and so these students also face deportation and the terrible consequences of falling into the grip of the Shah.

The Confederation has been involved in a lot of struggle against the Shah's reactionary regime and has been a part of fighting for revolution in Iran by working among Iranian students studying in other countries and by building support for that struggle among students and others in Europe, the U.S. and elsewhere. For this reason, the Shah and SAVAK

have been trying to stamp out the Confederation. The recent incidents are a step-up in this campaign.

The U.S. CIA put the Shah in power in 1953 and has been backing this reactionary, and making billions off the Iranian people, ever since. Iran is a big part of the U.S.'s oil empire. The French have just signed a contract with the Shah that could mean up to \$8 billion in business for the French companies. These imperialists are more than willing to trade the lives of the Iranian students in order to continue exploiting Iran.

In this country and internationally, the working class and people must defend the Iranian students now under assault by the combined forces of the Shah U.S. imperialism and French imperialism. ■



IRANIAN STUDENTS BEATEN DURING PROTEST AT THE FRENCH CONSULATE IN HOUSTON.

\$700 Million For B-1 Bombers

The B-1 bomber has been approved to be built. At the incredible cost of 93 million dollars each. A total of 244 B-1's would cost us \$22.9 billion over the next 10 years. The jet is designed to fly at high altitudes and then to drop down to treetop level to go under radar. The "goodies" include protection against the affects of nuclear blasts and it would be armed with air to ground missiles and bombs.

The Pentagon awarded a total of \$704.9 million in contracts to produce the first three B-1's, with an option to build eight more, and to tool up for full production. Rockwell International got the contract to build the plane, General Electric will make the engines and Boeing the electronic equipment.

The way the ruling class would like to make it look is that Carter had been handed a thorny problem by Ford. During the election Carter said he would not allow the B-1 to be built. Now Ford approves the manufacture of the plane while Carter sits in Plains, Ga., waiting to move to Pennsylvania Ave. This phoney debate hides the real issue. The arms race of the U.S. and the U.S.S.R. ruling classes as they vie with one another to control the world's people, market's and resources.

The question of whether the U.S. is #1 or #2 in the world militarily has taken up a good deal of time in the media lately. Time after time we're reminded that the Soviet Union is armed to the teeth.

But number 1 or number 2 its clear both superpowers are dedicated to ripping off countries around the world.

The U.S. bigshots say they need the B-1's to protect us, but they never gave a damn about the American people. War has always been a prime mover of the U.S. economy. The ruling class fights for new markets, factories gear up production, workers bust their backs and send their children off to war.

This is where the B-1 fits in. It's to be a super weapon, to be used by a super power in a likely super war. Its not in our interest to support that war, a war that would enrich our masters and bring unheard of destruction. ■

76 Auto Contract Struggle

THE BIG THREE BATTLE SHIFTS TO WISCONSIN

Last month more contract battles were waged by auto workers. Following the Ford contract fight in which a significant nationwide rank and file movement emerged and the contract received the largest "no" vote in UAW history, the UAW International resorted to even more frickery and underhanded maneuvering to get Chrysler and GM workers to ratify their sellout. "It's already been settled" they told these workers after the Ford ratification.

But everything wasn't settled. At the very time UAW top officials were putting their signatures on the Chrysler pact, 30,000 Chrysler workers were walking out on wildcat strike. At UAW Vice-President Doug Fraser's home local at Brownstown near Detroit, the wildcat was especially strong with hundreds of workers massing on the picket lines to keep the plant closed despite the sabotage of the International officials.

In leaflets and newsletters, Auto Workers United to Fight in '76 (AWUF), a nationwide rank and file group of UAW members, spread news of these struggles nationwide and helped build for a strong vote against the proposed contract. The Chrysler contract was eventually jammed through, but not before skilled tradesmen (who vote separately on the contract) narrowly missed voting it down by 622 votes and 18,000 production workers (over 1/3 of those voting) voted no--not exactly what you'd call an overwhelming vote of approval.

By the time the General Motors contract expired, the news of the sellout reached at Ford and Chrysler had spread. As a decoy, the UAW officials made a big issue out of GM's six non-union shops in the South. But instead of demanding these shops be made part of the national contract, all they demanded and eventually received was a good will "promise" from GM not to interfere in future union organizing drives. This kind of "promise" will do about as much good as a breath of GM's exhaust fumes.

"MINI-STRIKE" STRATEGY

The rank and file anger over GM's outrageous takeaway proposals and demands that action be taken around speedup, job combinations, forced overtime, and many other grievances, forced another short strike. But instead of calling a strike against GM nationally, the UAW International resorted to its "mini-strike" strategy of just striking a few plants--while GM retaliated by scheduling overtime in many of the non-struck plants.

Rank and file anger over this underhanded maneuver ran high and again AWUF helped fan the sparks of resistance. In a leaflet passed out around the country AWUF stated: "The UAW International is scared of GM and af-



FORD WORKERS IN THEIR 28 DAY STRIKE.

raid to really take them on. GM is big and really has a lot of power. But 400,000 GM workers united have even more potential power. And we demand the International stop playing games, holding us back from using that power. Our union was founded at GM and our forefathers weren't afraid of its size. In fact, they took it on because it was the biggest, and therefore the most important to hit."

The upsurge going on among rank and file auto workers during these contract battles is significant for the entire working class. Although they didn't break through the sabotage of their union leadership and the companies completely, the beginnings of a powerful nationwide rank and file movement has emerged in one of the country's largest industries (with 750,000 production workers).

Now the fight against the rotten contract will go to AMERICAN MOTORS. AMC workers will have the chance to build on the resistance made by the Ford, GM, and Chrysler workers. The fight has just begun! These contracts, while important battles, aren't the beginning of company attacks, and they won't be the end. And through this years battles, a solid foundation of nationwide organization among the rank and file has been laid to take on these and all other battles in the future. ■

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trying to stir up "discontent among workers and trying to take over the International". But as the spokesman for the auto section of the UWO answered at the rally, "The International is telling the truth on both accounts. There's a hell of a lot of discontent among auto workers over the vicious speedup and loss of thousands of jobs. And the International has been taken over a long time ago by the company men from President Leonard Woodcock on down to Ray Majerus. And we gotta take it back and put it in the hands of the rank and file so we can get down to the job of fighting the bosses."

At Allis Chalmers workers have real contract demands, like making 30 and out a reality, stopping outside contracting, and halting the increasing rate cuts. More and more there is a feeling that it will be necessary to hit the bricks to get any results.

At AMC the stakes are very high this year. The present situation calls for resistance to the Ford sellout pattern; as well as drawing a sharp dividing line against any attempts by the company and the International to take away many of the hard won gains.

This contract battle is a tough one for UAW members in Wisconsin. Plagued by thousands of layoffs and the loss

of jobs, the companies are crying its time to pitch in to sacrifice together until good times come around again. Among many autoworkers real questions are being raised over how much power we can bring to bear on the companies and will tightening our belts help us out of the present economic crisis.

Hovering like a vulture is the loss of 60 jobs at Allis Chalmers in the beginning of December and the thousands who remained on indefinite layoffs at AMC and the thousands of others who only work every other week.

In all of these battles auto workers have no interest in compromising an inch with the bosses. It is our class that has created the enormous wealth that has made the capitalists of this country rich. In the face of layoffs or threat of plant closings, we have no choice but to figure out how to fight, mobilize all forces and go all out to defend ourselves.

The car caravan was a step in taking the contract demands of auto workers out to broader numbers throughout Milwaukee, Racine and Kenosha. It represented a fighting focus for the contract struggle and linked the struggle of auto workers with the ranks of their fellow workers in other industries. ■

The Front



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lowing orders from Moscow.

It wouldn't do to have writers and actors who supported the Communist Party, who wouldn't buy the Korean War and who were sympathetic to the Soviet Union. Instead, Hollywood turned out such trash as, I was a Communist for the FBI, I Led Three Lives, and Ronald Reagan movies about the Korean War.

But even more to the point, by attacking well-known Hollywood personalities, the rulers were able to spread an atmosphere of fear and intimidation far beyond the confines of Hollywood. Together with the big "purge" in Hollywood, came blacklists in other industries and the notorious Taft-Hartley Law which, in addition to limiting the right to strike and boycott, made it illegal for communists to hold union office. The red hunts of the time were not because some people got caught up in their own patriotism. Behind the attacks on Communists and other progressives were the class interests of the capitalists.

THE RESPONSE TO RED-BAITING

Since The Front portrays attacks on communists one might expect to see some sort of revolutionary opposition to what was coming down. But this does not come through in the movie and, unfortunately, this is partly because the role the CP played at the time left much to be desired. They did rally people to oppose and fight these witch hunts and repression as an outrageous violation of democratic rights and mil-

lions of honest people were won to take a stand against HUAC and blacklisting, and the purges of communists and fighters for the working class in the trade union movement on this basis. But like this movie, the party failed to expose the real purpose for which the capitalists had set up and were using these tools of repression and intimidation.

Instead of mobilizing people to fight these attacks and at the same time show that the capitalists will trample on people's "constitutional and legal" rights whenever they think it is necessary and they can get away with it to protect their system of profit and exploitation, they tried to base everything on appealing to the principles of American justice and democracy. They wrapped themselves in the American flag as true defenders of freedom and liberty, failing to see that in the end this was no protection. In fact, this whole approach is part of what later led the CP to abandon the working class and revolution all together. In the last scene of The Front, as Woody Allen is taken off in handcuffs for his contempt of the committee, supporters are clustered around carrying signs that proclaim him to be the "real American" and denouncing HUAC for being "Un-American."

But the movie does expose some things about McCarthyism, it mocks the congressional committees and the professional patriots, and better yet, its star is a man who learns to stand up to this attack. All of which make it an enjoyable and basically progressive film. ■



AUTOWORKERS SHOWING THEIR GOOD SPIRITS, & SHUTTING DOWN FORD.

GUM FACTORY FIRE

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air, and a flash fire swept the floor.

Workers poured into the streets running, screaming, with clothes and flesh burned by the boiling gum and the fire. One witness said they looked like pictures he had seen of napalm victims in Vietnam.

The toll was heavy--55 workers injured, many seriously with 3rd degree burns covering much of their bodies. Two workers later died from their burns.

But Warner-Lambert's murder and maiming of these workers in their drive for more profit and still more was not the only crime in this explosion. The owners of this company are part of a whole class of capitalist bloodsuckers who rule not only the prisons of labor but the whole society outside its walls.

The constant cutbacks that the capitalists class has forced on the people of New York City, of which Queens is a borough, compounded the effects of the tragic explosion. In New York City where 8 million people live and hundreds of fire alarms sound each day, there had never been an adequate burn treatment center, and the cutbacks of the last two years have turned the situation from bad to intolerable. In the whole municipal hospital system, there are only 37 burn unit beds, and the cutbacks have reduced the staff for these by 50%. In Queens where 2 airports and the largest factory district in the city are located, there are no burn

centers at all.

Of the 55 workers injured in the explosion, 27 were hospitalized and 15 had to be sent to hospitals outside the state, some as far as Chester, Pennsylvania. In one burn center in New York, 6 workers were able to be treated only because the company brought in private nurses.

Who can say how the hours of waiting for treatment, the long ambulance rides to hospitals all over the city, the shifting from ambulances to helicopters to hospitals a hundred miles away affected the victims?

Perhaps the two could have been saved. Perhaps the scars on the others' would not be so deep. But these are not the terms that govern the rule of capital. The profit system in crisis demands increased productivity in the plants, cutbacks in social services, and the results are misery and death for the masses of people.

Many workers are now openly talking about the brutal conditions that laid the basis for this tragedy to occur, and they are beginning to take steps to change them. And throughout the city, every instance, every example of the toll that the cutbacks of the city crisis have made on the health, safety, education, the very livelihood of the people is deepening the determination not to be driven down and forced to pay for the capitalist crisis. ■



THE FIGHT AGAINST FISH GREW OUT OF A MOVEMENT THAT REACHED A HIGH POINT DURING THE ABBEY TAKEOVER IN 1974.

MENOMINEES

"Quill" Chevalier, who faces charges for his role in the abby takeover. The Milwaukee juries saw the attack for what it was and they acquitted the four.

Behind the scenes in the campaign to destroy the resistance of the Menominee people are the federal men. Since the Menominee land was transferred back to reservation status, the FBI Bureau of Indian Affairs marshalls, as well as the Shawano County District Attorney are cooperating in planning the charges, beefing up and arming the police force, and whipping up the deputies against the youth of the tribe.

It is becoming clear that these forces plan to keep up the repression. They want to appoint Fish "tribal sheriff" and make Waukau a figure head "county sheriff." This way he will be a federal officer, still acting in the interest of his rich bosses.

At the bottom of all the repression is a web of local tribal sellouts, corporate and banking interests, and fed-

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eral officials. The Ada Deer leadership group in the tribe has arranged everything on the reservation to serve the needs of the capitalist system. From the clear cutting of timber, to allocating much of the tribal funds to the police, to keeping wages to a minimum, the high unemployment, and other concessions to big land banking interests--everything is set up to make big money for few and hold the Indian people down.

In November, the Deer leadership group rammed through a new tribal constitution that gives the federal government control over the tribe and severely limits the power of the Menominee people.

But the Menominee--the mill workers, the native religious people, those living away from the reservation, the youth, want an end to the oppression and discrimination that falls on them. The defeat over Sheriff Fish was a sign of their unity and determination. ■

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with a free hot breakfast and ends when the school finally closes at 6 pm late enough so the children can stay and learn ballet until their parents pick them up.

Jimmy Carter says sending his daughter to this school will allow him to learn firsthand the problems of the urban school system. Most likely he'll make a big splash on TV by going to a PTA meeting, signing Amy's report card or going in for parent-teacher conferences. It's bad enough to try to make political gains off your kid's activities. But then to try to say this school will teach him the problems of inner-city schools adds insult to injury. ■

AMY CARTER

Most Washington DC schools face cutbacks, some the elimination of extra-curricular activities. Teachers face layoffs. Some predict the school system will run out of supplies by the spring. Not so at Thaddeus Stevens School. There children as young as 3 can study ballet, photography, music, dramatics and gymnastics. If the older kids tire of any of this they can learn to operate an expensive electronic turtle on which they can learn computer programming. Classrooms are carpeted.

Day care, a headache and financial burden for most working families, is no problem at this school. The school has a free day care program that starts



ASHBY LEACH

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

coal mines, real estate and control over several power companies.

The reason that the whole system has come down on Ashby Leach so hard is because his action and statements exposed their whole "use once and throw away," attitude towards vets and they would like to turn his positive example of fighting back into a negative example that if you stand up to the system you'll be crushed. They are afraid that Ashby's action will set a militant example to millions of vets around the country and become a focus for the anger and frustration of millions of others.

The fight to free Ashby Leach is starting to pick up momentum. November 11 (Armistice Day or the traditional Veterans Day), was used as an opportunity to light the fuse. In actions from Philadelphia to L. A., vets hit the streets demanding the freedom of Ashby Leach, proclaiming that vets will not be used again as pawns of the capitalists in their wars, or simply lay back and let them cut the GI Bill benefits to shreds.

PACKING HOUSE RIOTS

FROM PAGE 7

Active in the riots were the "athletic clubs" of young men from neighborhoods on the southside. The Hamburg Club, which mayor Daley was a member of, was proven to be responsible for the beatings of many Blacks as they passed through their neighborhoods in streetcars.

A week into the rioting, homes were burned in the Lithuanian and Polish neighborhood, "Back of the Yard". The arsonists have not been determined to this day. These fires caused rioting to spread to the stockyard area, as confusion spread.

Throughout the rioting the 6000 police and army troops carried on a campaign of terror in the Black neighborhood, by burning homes and murdering people.

The stand of the members of the

Stockyard Labor Council throughout the rioting was a great example of working class solidarity and leadership. These workers stood up as workers and tapped the potential of the working class in fighting all oppression. On one front they fought the national oppression of Black people when 30,000 white workers rallied, demanding the removal of army troops and an end to police terror.

Furthermore they said they would control their lives and the world around them. They would not let young punks or uniformed thugs make a situation that would smash the gains it had taken them years to win.

The stand of the members and leaders of the Stockyard Labor Council of Chicago in 1919 was one of the finest moments in the history of the U.S. working class. ■

... We Can't Go On Meeting Like This ...



Detective Harry Makoutz of the special assignment or "Red Squad" got so shook up by a photo of him and Channel 12 reporter Mike Loebel "putting their heads together" that he paid Loebel a special visit. The photo and an article on the Red Squad in last month's Worker exposed Loebel working with the Red Squad. The two men were trying to figure out how the cops and reporters can go on cooperating and still keep themselves covered.

The Red Squad has been feeling the heat lately. The Common Council, reacting to the peoples' anger at police spying, went through the motions of taking away the squads' money. On Nov. 11, a Council Committee voted to do away

with the squad. But then the Common Council as a whole voted to keep the squad going.

There are some differences among the aldermen over the Red Squad. Blatant police harassment doesn't always suit politicians who are trying to look good in front of their "constituents". Some also wanted to get publicity for talk of trimming budgets. But on the other hand all of these politicians know who pays their bills. The capitalist big shots running the city need a spy unit to help protect their system. So the aldermen gave their approval of the Red Squads "special assignments" -- like visiting Mike Loebel. ■

A CHRISTMAS STORY

Jess Stuart ducked his head through the doorway into the two-flat. "Pssst," he hissed, "are the kids in bed?" "Yep," Sara replied. "They're fast asleep. Your sister and John are here, too."

Jess stepped back onto the stair landing, disappearing for a moment, and then walked into the apartment, his arms loaded with bags from Sears and K-Mart. He laid the bags on the floor and walked over to kiss Becca, who was coming out of the kitchen. "Hi, Sis. How're you?" Becca's husband, John, walked out of the bathroom and he and Jess shook hands.

Jess began pulling GI-Joes, doll's clothes, baseball equipment, and such out of the bags. "You should see all this stuff. Jesus, you should see all the stuff they got in the stores! They didn't have half this stuff when I was a kid."

Sara's face broke into a broad smile. "Oh, Jess, they're gonna love this stuff. Are we gonna eat the rest of the month? she joked.

"No meat," he laughed. "Well, what the hell. Right, John? Christmas only comes once a year. I tell ya, when I see the looks on their faces when they get up and see what all's under the tree, I'd like to almost cry. They deserve it all and more."

"Sit down. Take a load off your mind, John. Let me just get otta these clothes and I'll bring you a beer." He called from the kitchen, "Third four day week since Thanksgiving. I need the money, but that job is kicking my butt. You can't win for losing. He changed from his work clothes and rejoined John.

"So," Jess asked, "how's business?"

"At Christmas? You got to be kidding! There won't be ring-around-the-collar in the whole damn city. I'm moving washer-dryer combos at my store like they were going out of style. Real fat city."

"No kiddin? How the hell are people payin' for all that?"

"Credit, Jess. It's the name of the game."

"How many of those combos are going to be coming back come summer? Jess asked quietly.

"As many as don't pay, Jess. That's the way it works."

"Seems like you're gonna make money twice when it all totes up in the end."

"Hell, man. I don't make the rules. Business is business and I'm just trying to make it work for me. If I don't get the stuff back, I get the big boys on my back, finance companies and the like. That's life."

Jess paused for a moment to think. "What happens when Spring turns out to

be worse than a guy planned, or the 'little lady' has to go to the hospital or whatever, ya don't have to be so anxious to get his stuff from him. Christmas shouldn't have to be a time for people to get deep in the hole. Things don't HAVE to be that way."

"Can you afford all that stuff for the kids?"

"Nope. But there's a hell of a lot of stuff I'll do for the kids that I wouldn't do if it was just Sara and me. For my kids I just can't figger what the bottom line is." Stubbornly, he added, "they're the future."

Jess and John sat not talking to each other. Soon, the silence was felt in the kitchen and Sara and Becca came out with the coffee cake and some conversation. They talked of little things, safe things. Jess and Sara wrapped the presents Jess had brought home and John and Becca left, but not before finalizing plans for Christmas morning when they would all be together again.

Jess stretched his lanky frame.

"Well," he said, "no work tomorrow. What say we watch some tube?"

"Nah. Let's turn the couch around and turn off the lights and watch the snow fall. It looks so pretty under the streetlights, so peaceful and all, and we can just sit and talk."

"About what?"

"About anything, everything. We never talk so much anymore. Remember before we got married how we'd sit and talk about havin' kids, about what we was goin' to do for 'em? About what we was goin' to do, where we was goin'. It was so romantic." Sara looked at Jess and he smiled. "Oh, you're not romantic anymore."

"Sure, babe," Jess said. "Let's talk. Let me just catch another beer first."

Sara and Jess sat together on the couch, looking out the window. With one arm, Jess encircled Sara's shoulders, with the other he held the beer on his knee.

"Y'know," Sara began, "Christmas makes me feel funny. I feel like I want to go love everybody. You know, get to know the neighbors better, invite over the gals from work who I've wanted over

WELFARE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

usual 6% to 8%. But they are very safe and profitable to the big banks and insurance companies who buy them up. They are backed by the cities and untaxed by anyone. When the companies repay the loans to the cities, they save millions on the lower interest charges.

IT'S ALL PART OF "THE SYSTEM"

Today the capitalist system is in a crisis. The percentage of companies' profits has fallen from a high of 16% in the mid-60s to about 6% today. As

MEXICAN PEASANTS SEIZE LAND

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

land owned by a handful of rich families who had either let the land lie idle or else grown rich while others worked it. A week later, as the government began moving troops around through the area, 10,000 peasants staged a tremendously militant march, threatening to fight to the death to defend what rightfully belonged to them.

Some of Mexico's capitalists and especially the big landowners, most directly hurt demanded that the government move in. They closed down their businesses and started a lockout of workers to back up their demands. But others, including the President, realized that this would only lead to more trouble for them. When Echeverria finally decided to tell the peasants they could keep some of the land, he claimed that this proved that his government represented the interests of Mexico's masses, thus, he said, the peasants should lay down their arms and stop their struggle.

But the peasants were not taken in. Leaders of various peasant organizations announced that the amount of land given

all year. I wish'd I'd seen more of my family. Ain't that funny?"

"No, I feel the same way. John don't. To him, you can't. He can't see beyond the dog-eat-dog, so everythin's a matter of grabbing more."

"That's sad. He really don't do as good as he thinks he does. Becca says he owes the bank up to his ears."

This morning's paper wanted to know 'Where's the Christmas spirit?' The rest of the year the same paper can't wait to say how some Black guy just stuck a knife into some white guy--so everybody gets all afraid."

"Jess? Ya think little Jess is gonna grow up, get married and then end up livin' just like us?"

"There's a lot of good in that woman."

"That's not what I mean but you're sweet for sayin' it. I mean, is things goin' to be better, really better, like different?"

"Spose not. Ol' Christmas spirit don't seem to go round for a full year."

"What do you 'spose that Christmas spirit really is? Goin' to church?"

"Feelin' good about others, I guess. Helpin' people, workin' together. Not everyone. I can't feel good about the mayor or the dude who owns the plant. They're different. Real different. Not a color thing or where you're from. I don't think they understand the way we live or what we want for ourselves and kids. Even John can't hardly understand and he's just small change. You know, if'n the guys on the top understand they sure don't act like it. Cattle gets it better than we sometimes; they's well-fed from the time they're born till when they die. Not me, by God."

"How's it all gonna change?"

"Not by waiting for Santa Claus, that's for damn sure. I don't know f'sure, but you got to make your stand. I could get up in the union meetin' when they's tellin' us we got t'take the layoffs and raise some hell. It's a small thing but it does its part. I tell ya, babe, there's no magic in this world except what magic folks like us makes."

Think they'll ever be a time when it's Christmas all the time? And you don't got to be payin' bills until Spring?

"Well, it's not about Christmas all the time. It's much bigger."

part of this growing crisis thousands and thousands of workers have been thrown out of work and thousands more have been added to the welfare rolls. All because the capitalists can't make the right money. Trying to increase their profits the ruling class has launched a general attack on peoples' standard of living. Welfare services are scheduled for cutbacks because welfare and other social services are not profitable. And this crisis is also why they are doling out so much "welfare for the rich."

But "welfare" for the rich companies

"Jess, y'know that Don Williams song, 'Amanda?' It's got this line in there about 'fate shoulda made you a gentle-man's wife.' That line always makes me cry. The guy in the song loves his wife so much he thinks she should've married some rich guy 'cause he's so poor he can't give her what she deserves. It's terrible people love each other so much they feel like that. Don't you never feel that way? If people ain't gettin' what we need, what we deserve, let's just reach out and grab it together, even if'n it takes a fight. That's what it's all about."

Jess smiled and leaned over to give Sara a kiss. "You're a smart woman, Sara Louise. We shouldn't be lettin' anyone walk on our dreams. We can't do it alone, but, dammit, there's millions of folks just like us. When it's time to hand things over t' little Jess and Annie, we'll tell 'em, here, it's yours now, we fought like hell to get it this good, you got to carry on."

U.S. MASTERS JUNGLE WARFARE

An international wildlife preservation federation recently put a species of Vietnamese spider monkey on its "endangered species" list. The story of how this monkey came to be facing extinction is an interesting footnote to the whole story of the U.S. ruling class' unsuccessful attempt to crush the liberation struggle of the Vietnamese people.

It seems that one scheme the Pentagon came up with was supposed to locate concentrations of National Liberation Front fighters--airplanes dropped small expensive metal balls containing both "people detecting" devices designed to pick up the vibrations of movement from troops or vehicles and radios to broadcast this information. The problem was the monkeys thought the spheres made great toys and threw them around or went swinging through the jungle with them. This triggered the radio messages and soon waves of B-52s were dropping thousands of tons of high explosives--blowing little monkeys to kingdom come by the score.

While great for wiping out monkeys, all the costly highpowered technology the government came up with didn't stop its defeat in Vietnam--an important step in putting the U.S. ruling class on the "endangered species" list where it belongs. ■

isn't really a matter of "loopholes", "tax breaks, giveaways or schemes". In fact this aid is a regular part of the capitalists' system itself. The government and the companies are both part of that same class. They use their money anyway they have to insure profits. This is why the Sentinel's tears about taxpayers' money being wasted is a joke. Welfare cutbacks wouldn't put any extra change in our pockets. The money would only go to a more "charitable" cause--like bailing out some giant corporation. ■

expensive and therefore less competition for Mexican manufacturers. They especially want to attract more investment by American capitalists in Mexican plants which make goods for export to the U.S. But while this makes life easier for many Mexican and U.S. capitalists, it means tremendous inflation in the cost of food and other basics used by the masses of working people.

Even before the land takeovers, this situation was leading to massive and militant action, including strikes and protest marches by workers in many industries. On the day the devaluation was announced, there was a march of 1,000 angry workers in Tijuana. This is the stage that Mexico's new president is stepping onto, as his predecessor's handpicked successor, he will inherit the same storm of struggle that the outgoing president failed to halt - a gathering storm which threw Lopez Portillo's inauguration into dark shadows, and undoubtedly threw a chill into the representatives of the U.S. ruling class who stood beside him that day. ■

"STIFF" Competition

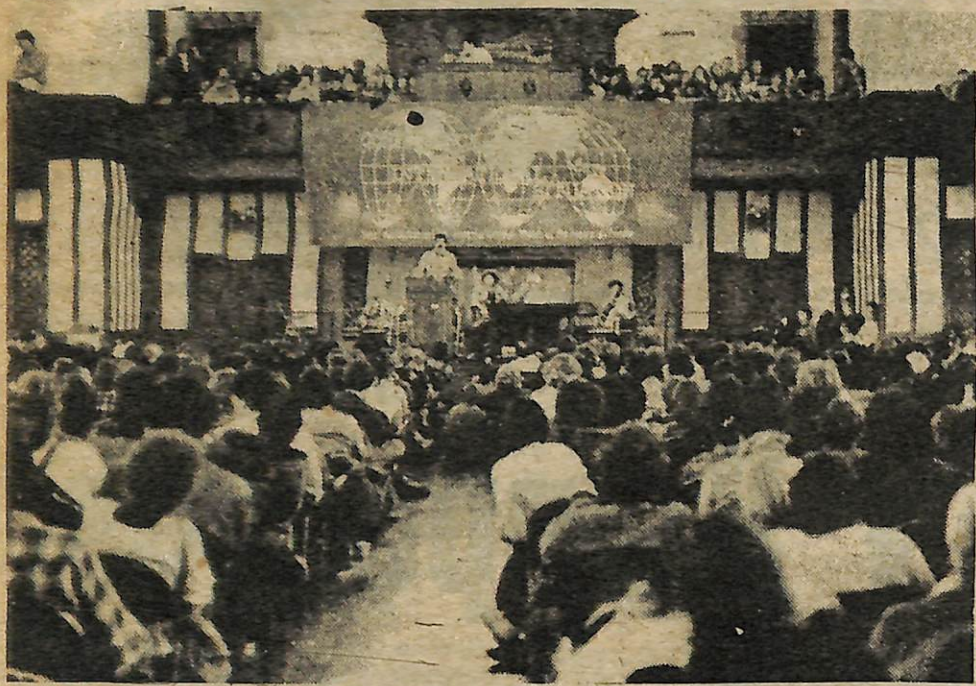
On December 3, 1976, Siegfried Frankenthal, president of Packerland Packing Co., Inc., a notorious union buster and scab herder, died of a heart attack as he was being arrested by the FBI.

Frankenthal and his daughter were being picked up for three counts of trying to intercept oral communications by electronics devices from other packing houses. Realizing they had gone too far in freaking out one of their own the G-men desperately flopped down on Ziggy. Frankenthal died despite mouth to mouth resuscitation from two FBI agents. What a way to go!

In their cut-throat competition, Packing house owners will stop at no ends to beat each other out in their mad drive for profits. These capitalists not only attack their workers but even each other. Three years ago Frankenthal led the union busting drive at Packerland in Chippewa Falls. The anti union drive at Peck and Wisconsin Packing were in response to Packerland's competition.

Frankenthal, apparently trying to up the ante again, spied on other union busting packing houses in an attempt to beat them out of the beef market. When he got caught, he freaked. As one employee at Wisconsin Packing, Butler, said, "The chicken came home to roost."

ENCUENTRO DE 2300 SOBRE SITUACION INTERNACIONAL



UNA CONFERENCIA EN NUEVA YORK ACERCA LA CRECIENTE AMENAZA DE GUERRA Y LO QUE SIGNIFICA TODO ESTO PARA EL PUEBLO AMERICANO.

El 20 de noviembre más de 2300 gente tomaron parte en una conferencia en Nueva York acerca de la situación internacional, incluso la creciente amenaza de guerra, el desarrollo de luchas revolucionarias a través del mundo y lo que significa todo esto para el pueblo americano.

A poco tiempo después del fin de la guerra en Vietnam, mucha gente tienen sospechas de que ya viene otra guerra. Los gobernantes de EEUU y la Unión Soviética hablan de la paz--"detente"--pero se puede ver que van aumentando sus armas cada día. A la vez, con los pueblos del Medio Oriente y África levantándose para su liberación, se escuchan todo tipo de amonestación de los gobernantes de EEUU y la URSS

que estas luchas amenazan estallar en guerra.

Es debido a esta situación que tantas personas vinieron a la conferencia en Nueva York. Los asistentes incluyeron gente que han surgido adelante recientemente en el movimiento obrero, muchos estudiantes y jóvenes, otra gente que fueron activos en el movimiento contra la guerra en Vietnam, profesores y intelectuales y otras. Vinieron con un sentido del peligro creciente de guerras de agresión, hasta una guerra mundial. Querían plantear como esta situación afecta a la gente americana y como podemos luchar contra la posibilidad. Querían discutir como las luchas de los otros pueblos del mundo se relacionan a las nuestras. Sobre todo querían en-

tender las cosas bien claro para así tomar acción.

La conferencia empezó por la mañana con unas intervenciones preliminares sobre como ver a la situación del mundo actual. A continuación hubo un serie de pláticas.

Las primeras de las pláticas trataron de problemas y tareas surgiendo un áreas y países particulares (Angola, África, América Latina, África sureña, Asia del este y sudeste, el Medio Oriente y el área del Golfo, y Europa); las siguientes en cuestiones específicas (la Política Exterior de EEUU, la Neutralidad y Papel de la Unión Soviética, la Política Exterior de China, el Tercer Mundo y el Nuevo Orden Económico, Estados Fascistas y los "Socios Menores" del imperialismo, y "Detente" y el Desarmamento). Por la noche hubo un debate.

Basicamente el debate y la discusión se enfocaron alrededor de tres puntos de vista distintos. Alguna gente dijeron que la cosa principal afectando el desarrollo de los sucesos en el mundo actual es igual a los 1960, o sea, la lucha de los pueblos de los países subdesarrollados contra la dominación de EEUU. Según esta perspectiva, la Unión Soviética es una fuerza menor. Los dos otros puntos de vista dicen que es muy importante tomar en cuenta la subida de la Unión Soviética como un país capitalista--y no socialista--desde la toma del Poder por Jrushov, y que hoy en día la URSS es una potencia imperialista y el competidor de los EEUU. De hecho esta rivalidad nos está llevando a una guerra mundial.

Pero los que abogaron por esta opinión llegaron a muy distintas conclusiones. Alguna gente dijeron que porque la Unión Soviética es un peligro tan agresivo, sobre todo hacia China so-

cialista, uno debe estimarla como el enemigo principal del mundo. Una tercera posición, abogada por miembros y apoyantes del Partido Comunista Revolucionario y otra gente, dijo que el pueblo no tiene ningún interés en respaldar a cualquier lado en esta rina entre las superpotencias--lo que es nada más que una rina entre ladrones a escala mundial--ni tenemos ningún interés en tomar ningún lado en la guerra que no enfrenta a causa de esta rina. Los intereses del pueblo americano son oponerlos especialmente a los que nos dominan a nosotros--oponiendonos a toda agresión y interferencia, y tomar el lado de todos los que las resisten, sobre todo nuestros compañeros la gente obrera a través del mundo--y de hecho luchar para derrocar a nuestros dominantes que ya nos han arrastrado a tantos de sus guerras.

La conferencia no tenía el propósito de llegar a conclusiones unificadas ni de formar ninguna coalición permanente. Pero logró algo bien importante--reunir a muchas distintas fuerzas políticas que han estado activas políticamente acerca de estas cuestiones para discutir y tener debate sobre que posición tomar y como mover adelante.

Por el transcurso de esta discusión se desarrolló un mejor entendimiento por mas gente del al posición correcta acerca de estas cuestiones, que es un paso importante, porque solo un entendimiento correcto de lo que pasa en el mundo y de que hacer nos hará posible a las masas de gente que nos levantemos para luchar por nuestros propios intereses, y los intereses de la abrumante mayoría del pueblo del mundo.

Además, se hizo claro por la conferencia que es necesario y posible encontrar medios para unir a todos que puedan ser unidos para llevar a cabo acciones concretas para oponerse a la agresión, interferencia y preparativos de los imperialistas de EEUU en este país y de ambas superpotencias a escala internacional, y apoyar las luchas de los pueblos del mundo, tales como la lucha actual en Sudáfrica. ■

VICTORIA PARA OBREROS DE ACERO-LIBERADO EL LOCAL

Trabajadores de acero en noviembre ganaron una gran victoria, un paso en la lucha contra el apretón que agentes de las compañías disfrazados como oficiales de unión ahora tienen sobre los trabajadores de base en las uniones.

Hace seis meses el alto liderazgo de la union de acero--la USWA--puso en "administración" al Local 3059 de Alliance, Ohio, quitándole su puesto al presidente elegido del Local y reemplazándolo con un traidor bien conocido pro-compañía que es leal a ellos. Ejercieron su dictadura sobre este Local porque había desplegado una lucha consecuente contra las compañías para los intereses de los trabajadores, lo que amenazaba dañar el arreglo provechoso que el liderazgo de la USWA tiene con los patrones de acero. Pero el caso resultó todo el opuesto de lo que planeaban estos tipos, porque en vez de parar la lucha, la lucha se ha escalonado y difundido.

Miembros del Local 3059 y The Steelworker, un noticiero nacional de base en la industria, difundieron a través del país la noticia de lo que habían hecho los caciques de la USWA. Otros trabajadores de acero respondieron fuertemente, pues que todos enfrentan obstáculos semejantes en la lucha contra las compañías, obstáculos eschados en su camino por los oficiales de unión que deberían apoyarlos en esta lucha. El 5 de noviembre 100 trabajadores de acero de la Costa del Este y el Medio-oeste tuvieron una manifestación frente a la jefatura de la USWA en Pittsburgh, gritando: "Liberar al Local 3059!" y otras demandas para el derecho a la huelga y el de votar sobre los contratos. Los jefes de USWA llamaron a la policía y hubo arrestos y golpes



TRABAJADORES DE ACERO TUVIERON UNA MANIFESTACION FRENTE A LA JEFATURA DE LA USWA

a los manifestantes. Pero la acción militante ganó el apoyo de muchos trabajadores de Pittsburgh y de otros trabajadores de acero por todo el país. Se hicieron planes para llevar la lucha para liberar al Local 3059 aun más ampliamente a los trabajadores de base.

Pocos días más tarde, el liderazgo de USWA anunció que se soltara el Local en diciembre, diciendo que así lo había planificado desde el comienzo. Pero al

mismo tiempo se redujeron los cargos contra los dos trabajadores arrestados en la protesta, lo que muestra que no sólo los jefes de unión sino también toda su clase fueron bien apretados por la acción. Un volante resumiendo la protesta lo explica así:

"No cabe duda, el Local 3059 nunca sería liberado si la gente no se hubiera organizado para luchar. La acción en Pittsburgh demuestra que más y más

CAMPESINOS

VIENE DE LA PAGINA 1

decesor, heredaría la misma tormenta de lucha que el viejo presidente falló a parar. Esta creciente tormenta puso a la sombra la inauguración de López Portillo, y sin duda, echó en escalfío a los representantes de la clase dominante de EEUU que estuvieron a su lado. ■

SADLOWSKI

VIENE DE LA PAGINA 1

no consideran que la cuestión de apoyar o no a Sadlowski tiene que ver sólo con su posición sobre los "issues". Quieren movilizar a los trabajadores haciendo destacar los "issues" y uniendo a los de base en turno a un programa basado en sus necesidades y demandas. Luchando para la elección de Sadlowski y la quebrada de la camarilla de Abel en un modo que avanzará su organización y entendimiento, los trabajadores de acero de base pueden llegar a ser más fuertes y más capaces de pelear las batallas que tendrán que luchar después de la elección no importa quien sea presidente de la unión.

Una derrota para la camarilla de Abel en esta elección sería un verdadero paso adelante para los trabajadores de acero, y los ayudaría a lograr avances importantes en la lucha contra el acuerdo de no-huelga y el resto de los ataques patronales. ■

los trabajadores de fila pueden unir a trabajadores de acero de distintas ciudades y distritos para batallas importantes. Campañas como la lucha que liberto al Local 3059 y los esfuerzos para hacer saber las demandas de base en la reciente convención de unión (de la USWA) están estableciendo la base para organización más amplia y sólida entre los trabajadores de acero...

"Sólo hemos empezado a luchar. Vamos a devolver a nuestras manos la unión y hacerla la organización luchadora para cual nuestros padres sacrificaron tanto para construir." ■

EL OBRERO

Para el Area de Milwaukee y Wisconsin

DICIEMBRE 1976 VOL. 2 NO 3

25¢

Obreros De Acero Utilizan Campana De Sadlowski Desafian a Abel y Companias

Por regla general elecciones sindicales no crean mucho interés público. Pero el contesto actual en la unión de trabajadores de acero (USWA) ha recibido mucha publicidad. Los candidatos, Ed Sadlowski, el director del Distrito 31 de Chicago-Gary, y Lloyd McBride el heredero escogido por el presidente actual I.W. Abel han aparecido en debates en la televisión en ciudades donde se produce el acero. También por regla general las elecciones sindicales son una formalidad nomás, en que los que tienen un puesto son aprobados de nuevos, y los trabajadores de fila son estafados. Pero este año en la USWA, hay algo diferente, debido a la lucha creciente de los trabajadores de base contra las compañías y una camarilla de unión. Esta situación ha hecho posible una batalla de elección que puede conducir a verdaderos avances para los trabajadores de fila.

McBride es el candidato de la camarilla Abel, una dictadura corrompida y despiadada que siempre ha vendido los intereses de los trabajadores a las compañías de acero bajo la consigna "la gerencia y la unión deben ser socios." Por otro lado, hasta cierto punto, la campaña de Sadlowski ha cogido fuerza de la oleada de lucha de los trabajadores de acero en la plantas en años recientes y lo ha reflejado. Muchos trabajadores de base activos están apoyando la campana de Sadlowski como una medida para plastar la camarilla de Abel y avanzar la lucha en la industria.

CONDICIONES EN LA INDUSTRIA DE ACERO

Las campanas pro-productividad en las compañías de acero han resultado en despidos, combinaciones de trabajos, falta de mano de obra suficiente en los equipos y condiciones de salud y seguridad emperorandose. Abel y su camarilla lo han aprobado a todo esto.

En la industria de acero básico (donde se hace el acero) se han juntado con las compañías en un acuerdo de no-huelga, lo que entrega el derecho a la huelga de los trabajadores, incluso respecto al contrato nacional, hasta 1980. Del mismo modo, Abel y Cía. tiene la culpa por el infame acuerdo sobre la discriminación, lo que en nombre de atacar a la discriminación en realidad ataca a la lucha contra la discriminación, tratando de echar la culpa (y el costo) a los trabajadores mismos en vez de las compañías.

Esta traición del liderazgo sindical, combinada con los ataques de las compañías, ha sido enfrentado con el coraje creyente de los trabajadores. Ya están subiendo huelgas en las plantas no básicas (o sea los fuera del acuerdo de no-huelga), y aflojamientos del paso de trabajo y paros ilegales en las plantas básicas. Trabajadores de fila de muchas de estas luchas individuales están moviendo para ligarlas. Algunas de ellos han empezado el noticiero nacional The Steelworker.

THE STEELWORKER

Gente que trabajan con The Steelworker han tomado un papel activo en las luchas en sus propios talleres y departamentos y están emprendiendo a llevar a cabo unas luchas con enfoque nacional, tales como la reciente convención nacional de la unión y la lucha para liberar al Local 3059. Ahora llaman a sus compañeros trabajadores de acero a tomar parte en la campana de Sadlowski como "una medida para quebrar la camarilla Abel-McBride" y todo lo que representa ésta. Para los trabajadores de fila que ahora se van levantando en lucha, la elección de McBride seria una bofetada dura, sirviendo para reenforzar la linea que la camarilla Abel-McBride ha empujado desde el principio, de que "nada se gana luchando."



OBREROS USAN ELLECCIONES PARA AVANZAR SUS PROPIOS INTERESES.

La campana de Sadlowski, por su parte, hasta un punto significativo ha referido a y reflejado los sentimientos y anhelos de los trabajadores de base para tener una unión que luche contra las compañías, para una unión más unificada y democrática, y para el derecho a la huelga.

Sin embargo sería un error emprender la campana de Sadlowski como fin en si mismo o considerar la campana para lograr su elección como la única tarea en la actualidad, como lo han planteado ciertas fuerzas dentro de la unión, promoviendo la ilusión de que la elección de Sadlowski por si sola aseguraria un día mejor para los trabajadores de acero.

Dándose cuenta de esto, muchos trabajadores tienen duda acerca de votar por Sadlowski. Quizas hayan oído con rehusa a luchar en la convención de la unión en agosto cuando se retiro frente a los ataques de Abel, o quizas piensan que su programa no es suficiente claro. Lo que es mucho mas común, muchos trabajadores piensan que ya han visto a montones de oficiales de unión profesionales y ninguno de ellos ha mejorado las cosas. Claro que el mismo Abel se llamó un candidato "reformista" para escalar el poder.

Pero las fuerzas de The Steelworker y mucha otra gente que están activos en la campana para elegir a Sadlowski

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Campe sinos Mexicanos Toman Tierras

Mientras se inauguraba el nuevo Presidente de Mexico Jose Lopez Portillo el 2 de diciembre, con Henry Kissinger y la Señora Carter a su lado, el pueblo mexicano estaba soltando una tormenta de lucha contra las condiciones miserables en que los han mantenido por tanto tiempo los gobernantes de Mexico y los negociantes de EEUU.

Una ola de tomas de tierra estremeció el a

el país en noviembre. Los campesinos pobres tomaron las tierras perteneciendo a un puñado de terratenientes muy ricos y después se armaron para defender la tierra que habían tomado. Frente a esto, el Presidente Echeverría, antes de salir de su puesto, se vio forzado a conceder a unas de las demandas de los campesinos y darles el título de propiedad a parte de la tierra ya tomada, esperando así evitar que tomaran más.

La ola de tomas empezó en octubre. El 19 de noviembre miles de campesinos armados en los estados de Sinaloa y Sonora en el norte de Mexico

tomaron 100,000 hectarias de tierra de familias ricas que antes las habían dejado incultas o se habían hecho ricos por el trabajo de otra gente. Una semana más tarde, el gobierno empezaba a mover tropas en el area, 10,000 campesinos llevaron a cabo una marcha muy militante, amenazando a pelear a muerte para defender lo suyo.

Algunos de los capitalistas grandes y especialmente los terratenientes grandes que fueron mas directamente danados demandaron que el gobierno desalojara a los campesinos.

a los campesinos. Cerraron sus negocios y empezaron un paro patronal. Pero otros capitalistas incluso el Presidente Echeverría se dieron cuenta de que tal movida solo llevaria a mas lucha. Al fin Echeverría se dieron cuenta. Al fin Echeverría decido a dejar a los campesinos permanecer en las tierras, diciendoles que así se comprobo que su gobierno representaba los intereses de las masas mexicanas, y que por esto debieran de bajar sus armas y dejar de luchar.

Pero los campesinos no se engañaron. Los líderes de varias organizaciones campesinas anunciaron que la cantidad de tierra que el gobierno les otorgó para repartir entre los campesinos sin tierra fue muy lejos de lo suficiente. El 29 de noviembre los campesinos del estado de Durango llevaron a cabo la toma de tierra más grande en la historia de Mexico.

MEXICO EN CRISIS

Una de las cosas que despertó las tomas es el desempleo tremendo en Mexico, que es más severo en los estados del norte. La inversión masiva y la maquinaria llevadas al area por los capitalistas mexicanos y estadounidenses han causado mucha cesantía para los campesinos.

los campesinos pequeños y obreros campesinos. A la vez, debido a los problemas económicos gereal enfrentados por esos capitalistas, muchos de los obreros que antes fueron campesinos ahora han perdido los trabajos que habían encontrado en las fábricas.

La situación se va empeorando aun

más para la gente obrera debido a la reciente devaluación del peso de 8 a 5 centavos. Los capitalistas de Mexico habían esperado que la devaluación fortaleciera sus negocios al hacer más baratas las mercancías mexicanas exportadas a EEUU y otros países, y al hacer más caras las mercancías importadas a Mexico desde EEUU y otros países, así haciendolas menos competitivas con mercancías hechas en Mexico. Especialmente quieren atraer mas inversión de los capitalistas americanos en sus plantas ubicadas en Mexico que hacen cosas para exportación a EEUU. Pero aunque si la devaluación ayuda a los capitalistas, significa una inflación tremenda en el costo de comida y otras necesidades para las masas de gente obrera.

Aún antes de la ola de tomas de tierras, esta situación llevaba a acción militantes y de masas, incluso huelgas y marchas de protesta por trabajadores en muchas industrias. El día en que se anunció la devaluación, hubo una marcha de 1000 trabajadores enojados en Tijuana.

Esto es el escenario en que entra el nuevo Presidente de Mexico. Como es el sucesor escogido por su pre-

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