

Bulletin

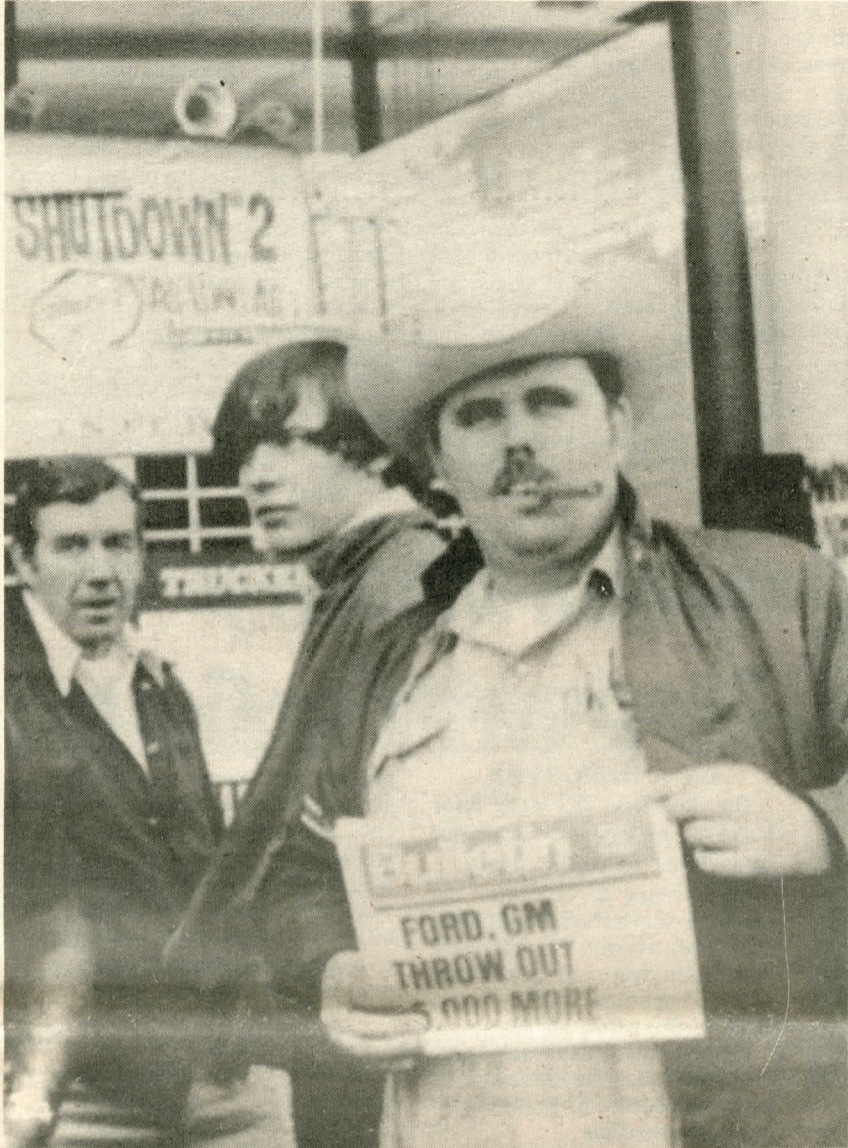
NOW
TWICE A
WEEK!

Twice-Weekly Organ of the Central Committee of the Workers League

VOLUME TEN NUMBER TEN 346

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 1974

FIFTEEN CENTS



Los Angeles truckers on the picket line.

TROOPS MOVE AGAINST TRUCKERS

BY THE EDITORS
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Civil war conditions now exist on the highways of Pennsylvania and Ohio with armed troops called in against the strikers.

Even the first few days of the strike are having an enormous impact on the economy. Michael Parkhurst, editor of *Overdrive*, an independent truckers magazine, estimates that 90 percent of the country's 100,000 independent truckers are out. Parkhurst claims the strike is now hitting 28 states.

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Nixon Removes All Price Controls

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prospered in 1973." Official statistics prove that real wages declined last year. Inflation has been deliberately jacked up to record levels, while wage increases are held to 5 percent.

Nixon lies when he says that "production and employment have risen rapidly."

The Bureau of Labor just reported that unemployment rose from 4.8 percent to 5.2 percent in the last month. Economists predict that it will rise to at least 7 or 8 percent.

The so-called rise in production is non-existent. The Gross National Product rose 8 percent, but only 1 percent of this was actual growth—the rest was inflation.

On the contrary, production is being consciously slashed in all major industries. In the auto plants, over 225,000 have been laid off.

The biggest lie of all being pushed by the White House is

that inflation is necessary to curb unemployment.

This is now the official justification for the complete removal of price controls from virtually every single commodity.

The working class now faces a staggering leap in prices far beyond anything seen in the past year.

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On January 30, controls were removed from petrochemical feed stocks. These are the basic materials used in plastics, fibers, and rubber.

The petrochemical industry is predicting layoffs will reach one million.

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While funding is cut off for Model Cities, social security, education and welfare, Nixon proposes \$600 million for aid to South Vietnam, and pledges "maximum possible assistance" to the corrupt dictatorship in Cambodia.

The Democrats were the biggest cheerleaders of Nixon in this obscene spectacle in Congress.

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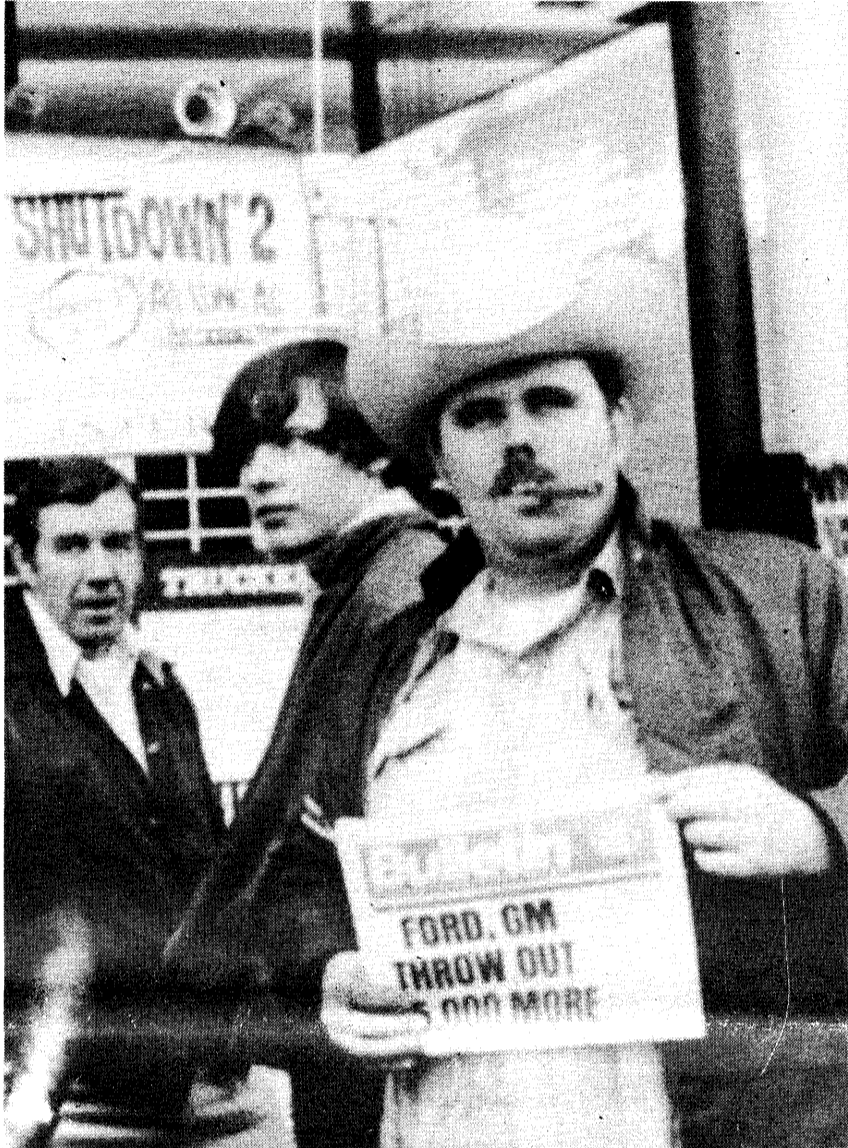
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Britain: On The Eve Of General Strike

The decision of British miners to launch a nationwide strike means that the British working class stands on the eve of a general strike that can throw the hated Tory government out.

The British workers are rapidly entering a revolutionary situation. The miners strike raises directly the burning issue of whether the working class will take power or whether the Tories, the bankers, and millionaire industrialists will destroy 200 years of rights and bring in dictatorship.

What We Think

The struggle unfolding in Britain has important lessons for American workers, as the very same struggle is already underway here against the Nixon government.

Every worker must ask himself why the CIA—with the approval of the US government—has recruited 40 agents to infiltrate British trade unions and gather information on militants.

Nixon and every capitalist ruler is watching Britain closely as a test case for class war in the United States. Nixon knows that if the miners defeat the Tories, it will be a decisive blow against the capitalist system.

As the working class here moves into struggle to defend its jobs and living standards, Nixon seeks to prepare a strategy similar to Heath's to smash workers and their unions.

The Tories are out to defeat the miners because they

stand in the way of the mass unemployment and wage cuts that they want to impose on the entire working class.

Food prices are rising at an astronomical rate, and unemployment is over two million and may double in the next month. Under Phase Three and the National Industrial Relations Act, it is a "crime" to demand higher wages, and it is "illegal" to picket.

The Tories put everyone on a three day week, cut power and laid off thousands of workers to isolate the miners.

Heath created an atmosphere of panic and hysteria by bringing tanks and machine-gun toting troops around the airports, as a dress rehearsal for civil war.

Behind the facade of negotiations with the miners leaders, Heath has built up special forces of picket busting police, and mobilized the Army in order to break the miners strike with violence and provocations.

But the Tory campaign of blackmail and intimidation failed. The miners have withstood every pressure, refused to accept Phase Three, and won the support and solidarity of millions of workers throughout Britain.

It was this determination that forced the mine union leaders to call off negotiations and endorse a strike. They could not impose a settlement because the miners would not have taken it.

It was this determination that forced the Tories to the brink of a new election and then forced them to back off because they feared defeat.

There are key lessons to be learned from this experience.

There will be no more compromise or reforms.

British capitalism, the weakest of all European economies, is bankrupt. The Tories desperately and ruthlessly seek a way-out of this crisis by impoverishing millions of workers. Every wage struggle today means a political fight against the government.

Britain demonstrates that the working class has the power to defeat the government. The miners strike now creates the conditions for the entire British working class to go on the offensive.

What is now decisive is the leadership of this working class. If the working class has the power to reject the betrayals of the reformist union leaders, then they also have the power to throw them out and build a revolutionary leadership to fight all the way.

In Britain, the leaders of the Labour Party joined with the Tories in defense of sending troops against the miners.

The Stalinists in Britain and the "left" union leaders they support openly declare the miners strike is not a political fight and refuse to fight for Heath's removal.

The struggles of American workers are rapidly following on the heels of those in Britain.

The truckers strike is a political challenge to Nixon. In this struggle, we can see the tremendous power of the American working class.

This must be brought forward politically, in the construction of a labor party against the Democrats and Republicans.

This party will be built as we enter revolutionary struggles in this country. What is essential is that in the fight for a labor party, workers must build the revolutionary leadership in the unions and a revolutionary party that prepares workers to take power.



Peasants manning barricades in Cochabamba Province before troops moved in.

Bolivian Miners Wildcat

BY THE FOREIGN EDITOR

The 4800 tin miners of Bolivia went on a 48 hour wildcat strike over the weekend against the Banzer dictatorship and declared "solidarity with the peasants of Cochabamba."

Thousands of Bolivian peasants are regrouping and building new barricades in Cochabamba Province after government troops tore down three roadblocks leading out of Cochabamba, Bolivia's second largest city.

Despite brutal repression, the peasant movement is spreading while thousands of factory workers are staging one day protest strikes against the

doubling of food prices.

At least nine unarmed peasants were killed, and 30 more wounded when tanks and armored cars, backed up by Air Force fighter-bombers overhead, busted through the barricades.

Troops freed General Juan Perez, the Governor of the province, who was taken hostage by the peasants when he came to negotiate with them.

General Hugo Banzer, who seized power in a military coup in 1971, declared a state of siege throughout the country. All rallies and demonstrations are banned and the police can make arbitrary arrests and searches.

EXPANDED

Peasants have expanded their struggle against the food price increases to include the demand that Banzer resign.

The revolutionary character of

the peasants' struggle is in sharp opposition to their conservative leaders, who have met with Banzer in the capital, La Paz.

Banzer has called the strike movement "a subversive international plot."

Arabs Refuse To End Boycott

BY DAVID NORTH

Arab leaders are scoffing at predictions made by Secretary of State Henry Kissinger that the devastating oil embargo is about to end.

Kuwait's Foreign Minister Sheik Sabah al-Ahmad al-Iaber declared Thursday that his country "would not reconsider lifting the oil embargo on the United States unless Washington provides guarantees that Israel will withdraw from all occupied territory."

Kissinger's hopes for a quick end to the boycott are based upon the sharp move to the right by Egyptian President Anwar Sadat, who has become the leading apostle of compromise with Zionism in the Middle East.

Sadat praised Kissinger for "making an effort to carry out the United States's responsibility as a world power to

Italian Military Prepares For Coup

BY A REPORTER

On January 26, a 48 hour state of emergency was put into effect in Rome, Italy.

On January 27, L'Unita, the paper of the Italian Communist Party, stated that reports were coming in from all areas that army troops had been put on a state of alert that Sunday.

L'Unita also said that generals were holding meetings all over the country to examine the political situation.

In Rome, the police set up special surveillance of all public buildings, the homes of leftist political and trade union leaders, as well as ministers and leaders of the Chamber of Deputies.

At Bergamo, there were reports that various military divisions were engaged in exercises on controlling the city.

In Emilio-Romano, Communist and Socialist Party leaders stayed away from their homes for the night.

The Minister of Defense has tried to minimize the reports by saying that the state of emergency was a precaution against Arab terrorists.

The Communist Party is

playing the same role as the Chilean CP by refusing to warn the Italian workers of the tremendous danger of a right-wing military coup, by saying that the arrest of military officers in Venice, on suspicion of being involved in a right-wing plot, are only isolated cases.

PLOT

The state of emergency is particularly sinister in light of the recent discovery of a well-financed right-wing fascist plot, called "Compass Rose," which had drawn up a list of over 1000 people to be assassinated in the event of a coup d'etat.

A declaration of martial law in Italy would be immediately followed by mass arrests of socialist and trade union leaders and a crackdown on the working class.

Early in January, the military chief brought in armored cars and troops around Rome's Campino Airport, declaring as the British government did that they were searching for terrorists. It was later announced that the army had no government authorization for the operation.

preserve peace" and called on other Arab countries to "reciprocate with a positive attitude in the same direction, in order to prove we are not rigid and inflexible."

He has sought to split Arab solidarity by signing a separate agreement with Israel, and by placing heavy pressure on the Syrian government to conclude a treaty on the disengagement of military forces in the Golan Heights.

The refusal of Syria to enter into talks with Israel would destroy any chance for an end to the boycott, because even the most conservative regimes in the Middle East, like that of King Faisal in Saudi Arabia, have stated that they will recognize no agreement in the Middle East that is not signed by Syria as well as Egypt.

But Syrian President Hafez al-Assad faces powerful opposition

within his own Baath Party and other elements in the Progressive Front coalition to any compromise with Israel.

The long standing opposition of Syria to any compromise—it refused to attend the Geneva talks in December—has been buttressed by the warnings of military leaders that troop disengagement from the present cease-fire lines would serve to strengthen Israeli control of the Golan Heights.

At the same time, Libya and Iraq have denounced Sadat's deal with Kissinger. A conference of Arab oil producers is scheduled for February 14 in Tripoli, and it is unlikely that Libyan President Khadafi will sanction an end to the boycott.

Kissinger's repeated claims that the boycott will end are therefore threats to the Arabs in order to renew oil exports to the US.



Workers Revolutionary Party march in support of miners in London.

Coal Miners Vote Strike Against Tories

BY MELODY FARROW
Members of the National Union of Mineworkers in Britain voted 81 percent to shut down every mine in the country. The strike is scheduled to begin February 11.

The powerful movement of the miners to defend their standard of living gives a lead to the rest of the British working class in the fight against the Tory government. The task now facing the British labor movement is a general strike and the bringing down of the Tories.

Before the vote, a president of the National Mine Union declared in Yorkshire that, "We shall expect in the event of us taking strike action, the 10 million workers in the TUC to come on strike with us."

Prime Minister Heath, having failed to coerce the miners into accepting the government's pay offer, now seeks to split the miners from the rest of the trade union movement.

He has offered the Trades Union Congress (TUC) to join with the Confederation of British Industry in setting up machinery to hold wages within Phase Three guidelines.

Three labor leaders from the electricians, engineers and teachers union have declared they will not challenge Phase Three and Jack Jones, leader of the Transport Union, the biggest in the country, denounced the call for a general strike.

Despite this open treachery by the trade union leaders and the Labour Party, millions of British workers are prepared to support the miners.

Over 3500 trade unionists and youth marched through London on January 27 in support of the miners and to demand a campaign to force the Tories to resign.

The march, the biggest anti-Tory demonstration held in Bri-

tain, was organized by the Workers Revolutionary Party.

Hundreds of young workers and students carried flags and banners while strong delegations of workers came from the coalfields, auto plants, docks, rail and the printing and entertainment industries.

The enthusiastic marchers chanted, "Tories Out, Socialism In," "Tories Out, General Strike," and "Phase Four, Martial Law" as army cars followed the march.

Dave Fisher, a miner, told the rally, "The miners want a triple alliance with the railwaymen and the engineers and this must lead to a general strike to throw out the Tory government."

RESOLUTION

The Workers Revolutionary Party put forward a resolution at the rally which will be fought for among every section of workers in the country.

The resolution pledged complete solidarity with the miners and all workers fighting Phase Three.

The resolution stated that the miners, as they did in the 1926 General Strike, stand between the whole working class and unemployment. What is required, it said, is a general strike, occupation of the factories against closures and layoffs, and nationalization of the food monopolies to halt rising prices.

The resolution called for a campaign, as part of the demand for a general strike, to create the industrial and political conditions to bring the government down, and mobilize every worker behind the miners, through councils of action in every area.

The demonstrators pledged a recruitment drive for the Workers Revolutionary Party and to build support for a National Conference of the All Trades Unions Alliance, the industrial arm of the WRP, on February 24 at the Alexandra Palace in London.

How Oil Companies Make Their Billions

BY JEFF SEBASTIAN
The Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations hearings on the oil industry are providing a tiny glimpse into the operations of the giant oil monopolies.

With evidence mounting daily of huge windfall profits for the oil companies while millions of workers face layoffs and shortages of gasoline and heating oil, the hearings are a stage-managed farce.

1973 figures reveal fantastic profit increases. Exxon's fourth quarter profits were up 59 percent over 1972 and Texaco and Mobil boosted profits 70 percent and 68 percent respectively.

In 1973 these three giants alone increased profits by approximately 50 percent, with Exxon leading with almost \$2.5 billion.

ARROGANCE

The only thing the hearings have exposed is the arrogance with which the giant oil monopolies control resources and make decisions affecting countless millions of people.

Figures on oil production and reserves are concealed from the government. Oil has been withheld even from the United States military.

In negotiations with oil producers, the oil companies operate with the power of

governments and at the same time maintain the closest relations with government agencies to assure their profits.

Columnist Jack Anderson recently revealed in the January 10 New York Post that Aramco, a consortium of four US oil giants that exploits Saudi Arabian oil, engaged in secret negotiations with the Arabian government to raise the price of crude oil.

SUPPLIES

At the same time Senate hearings have revealed that when the embargo on US oil was launched by Saudi Arabia, Aramco cooperated in holding off Arabian fuel supplies from the armed forces in order to protect its profitable arrangements with Saudi Arabia.

Henry M. Schuler, a Hunt Oil vice president, has testified that the London Policy Group, a united formation of oil companies, conducted negotiations with the oil producers in 1970 to hold down price increases.

The Justice Department simply ignored the anti-trust implications of the united front and gave full presidential backing to the oil negotiators.

MIDDLE EAST

Fully 20 percent of all profits from foreign investments come from Middle Eastern oil. The five leading American oil producers made \$4.5 billion in profits last year, but paid hardly a cent in US taxes.

This is done through foreign tax credits. Under this device foreign taxes are simply deducted from the US tax bill.

ROYALTIES

The oil producers list royalties charged on oil as taxes. If the companies were forced to treat the royalties as a cost of doing business, they would be able to deduct only half on their taxes. In this way, they deduct the entire amount, paying scarcely a penny in American taxes.

Oil companies also deduct the costs of drilling a well from taxes. If a well turns out dry, this costs them almost nothing. The Treasury Department estimates that the oilmen saved \$600 million in taxes this way in 1972.

The famous 22 percent oil depletion allowance is estimated to have saved the oil giants \$1.4 billion in 1972.

Under this scheme, 22 percent of gross revenue can be deducted from taxable income to compensate for declining value of the well as oil is pumped out.

If a well took a \$100,000 investment and produces \$500,000 of oil a year for 10 years, investors can deduct 22 percent of \$500,000 each year for 10 years.

In these ways, vast fortunes are raked in for oil company stockholders almost totally subsidized by the taxes of American workers.

"I am not embarrassed," J.K. Jamieson, chairman of Exxon, told a news conference when asked about his company's huge profits.

Frank Ikard, head of the American Petroleum Institute, announced, "This is a time of urgent national need for oil companies to seek out new sources of petroleum here and abroad. We therefore would oppose tinkering with any aspect of tax treatment of the industry at this time, including foreign depletion."

The Senators will do little more than deliver a slap on the wrist to the oil majors with a few proposals for minor tax reforms.

Boston Mayor Cuts City Workers Payroll

BY CATHY BROWN

BOSTON—The city of Boston and the State of Massachusetts have moved to dismantle the jobs of thousands of city and state workers.

In 1973, Mayor Kevin White cut the city payroll by 1200 workers. In the second year of his austerity program, an average of 89 jobs a month will be cut.

Although the city has stated that the cuts are to be accomplished mostly by a hiring freeze, 41 workers were laid off just last week at the Boston City Hospital. In the Health and Hospitals Department alone, 780 jobs were cut in 1973.

These attacks go hand in hand with a threat from the Division of Employment Security that unemployment compensation will run out in April if three

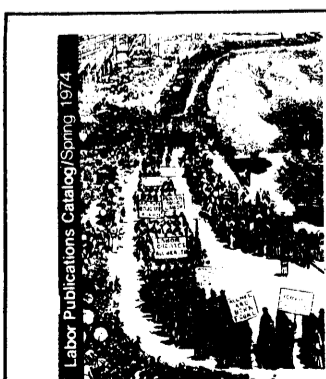
million dollars in federal funds are not granted to the State.

It is in this situation that 2200 members of the Social Workers Guild have accepted the State Welfare Commission's offer of a contract that would double the caseloads of all workers.

FINAL OFFER

At Tuesday night's meeting, the workers rejected the Commission's final offer and have authorized job actions to prevent a separation of services, which would split workers between social service and assistance payments functions, with no new contract.

Workers must strike against the state offer and demand the SWG leader Quirk break off talks with the State Welfare Commissioner, Minter.



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Bethlehem Steel Men Forced Back

**BY A USWA MEMBER
BALTIMORE, Md.—**
A federal court order has forced coke oven workers at Bethlehem Steel's Sparrows Point plant to return to work after a four day wildcat strike.

The wildcat was sparked by the refusal of the company to even discuss the grievances with the men.

These grievances are over job reclassifications and working conditions. According to one older worker, the conditions at the coke oven were "so damn bad, they (Bethlehem) wouldn't allow reporters in."

On the oven batteries, workers face tremendous levels of heat. This is especially difficult in the summer, when according to one worker, "If it's 100 degrees outside, it's 200 degrees on the battery."

The other major health hazard is the continuous exposure to dust and smoke. The masks that are used by coke oven workers filter out some of the dust, but do nothing at all about the smoke.

BLACK DUST

One worker stated that after several days away from the ovens, his nose would still be filled with the black dust, and what was in his nose was only a small portion of what was in his lungs.

Because of these conditions, the life expectancy of a coke oven worker is 10 to 15 years less than that of other workers.

The strikers also demanded a reclassification of their jobs.

Bakery Union Drops Fight

**BY A LOCAL 3 MEMBER
NEW YORK, NY—**The leadership of the Bakery and Confectionary Workers Local 3 caved in to the threat of mass layoffs and shop closings and accepted the demands of the employers.

The union has agreed to drop the cost of living clause and to accept a wage increase within Nixon's 5.5 percent wage guidelines. The settlement only provides for cost of living increases owed from last year.

At a mass membership meeting, the leadership told the workers not to expect too much in a deteriorating industry.

Vice-President Cane from the Bakers International stated that: "Local 50 of the big companies like ITT's Continental Baking is like an albatross over our heads, waiting to gobble up restaurant and specialty bakers."

This union has lost 2400 members in the last six months.

Presently the jobs range from Class 2 at \$3.63 an hour to Class 11, paying \$4.51 an hour, not including incentive pay. The men feel that the job should be reclassified from Class 6, \$4.02, to Class 22, \$5.59. Many of the men are forced to work 16 hour double shifts, in order to support their families.

The militancy of the ranks, however, was not sufficient to fight the court order. One younger worker said: "The injunction put fear into the guys. They hadn't thought of it, they hadn't faced an injunction before, this was the element of surprise."

The leadership of Local 2610 and the International are responsible for this.

Ernie Parrish, International representative of Local 2610, claimed at one of the strike meetings after the court order had been issued, that the fight was not with the government, but just with the company.

The USWA leadership caved in to the injunction because they have already accepted massive speedup and the destruction of working conditions by signing the no-strike pledge with the steel companies.

The outcome of the struggle at Sparrows Point shows how the Abel leadership will conduct the contract fight. Negotiations in the basic steel contracts have just begun.

Abel is trying to hint that he will ask for more than the 3 percent guaranteed in the ENA, but the no-strike pledge means that any higher amount goes to binding arbitration.

Abel will seek to impose the same sellout deal that he just signed with the aluminum companies.

Abel has agreed to a 40 month pact for aluminum workers which includes less than a 5 percent wage increase. The wage increase is 15 percent over the life of the contract, or a total of 69.7 cents an hour.

In addition, the retirement age is reduced from 65 to 62, with cost of living supplements for men who retire.

Those who "retire" because of permanent shutdowns or layoffs will receive full pensions for life and another \$230 a month, until they reach 62.

AGREEMENT

Abel called the agreement "outstanding" and declared it would have "a good affect and impact on other negotiations."

The aluminum contract is a blatant acceptance of the mass layoffs ahead in steel and aluminum and is designed to split the younger from the older workers.

We call on all steel workers to unite around the program of the Trade Union Alliance for a Labor Party, which is fighting to abolish the no-strike pledge and productivity clauses, and for a contract that guarantees a \$2 an hour increase, full cost of living clause, an end to speedup, and no layoffs.

The Sparrows Point workers must link their demands to this fight and take their struggle forward by fighting for a nationwide steel strike.



New Jersey truckers picket Hess refinery as part of nationwide fight against Nixon government.

UAW On Strike At United Aircraft

**BY A REPORTER
QUEBEC, Canada—**
Provocations, violence and court orders have failed to break the three week strike at United Aircraft in Longueuil, Quebec, in Canada.

This strike began on January 11 after police evicted 300 workers who broke through locked gates and occupied the plant in response to the company's attempts to destroy the union.

One week ago, a second injunction was issued to limit pickets to three men at a gate and off duty cops have been brought in as strike-breakers.

LOCKOUT

The lockout came one day after 2600 United Aircraft workers, members of the United Auto Workers, walked out against the refusal of UA to recognize the union and to grant their demands for a new contract.

The company was demanding all nonunion employees man the plant, or they would be fired.

After locking out the men, United Aircraft announced that no worker could return unless he signed a statement pledging to cease all union activity and to refuse to join any union action.

PATROL

Every day of the strike the Quebec provincial police have been mobilized to patrol the plant and harass the pickets.

Workers have repeatedly torn down the closed circuit TV cameras, and a company photographer attacked workers who sought to take away his camera with a fire axe.

The UAW is demanding the UA recognize union shop stewards,

an end to seven days work at straight time, the right to choose the days off, and a 31 percent wage increase.

STRUGGLE

Roland Fourgere, who was gashed in the struggle with the photographer, said: "The guys are sticking together. They told us 'you've got no union.' But

we're getting the staff to join the union. If there's any guys inside, we'll get them out. It's a show-down now. This year we've got the power."

United Aircraft's attempts to break the union are a prelude to unemployment.

There are rumors that United Aircraft plans to lay off 56,000 in its Connecticut plants.

Thousands To Lose Model Cities Jobs

**BY MITCH PATTERSON
NEW YORK, NY—**On June 30, 1974, the whole Model Cities Program in the state of New York will be terminated.

On March 31, thousands of workers employed by Model Cities will be thrown out of their jobs. This marks the beginning of the end of the largest poverty agency in the history of the United States.

The Central Brooklyn Model Cities facility, one of the largest in the country, will be laying off 3000 workers. The closure of the Harlem facility will slash 600 jobs.

PHASING OUT

The phasing out of the New Jersey locations has not been announced but they will follow close behind New York.

According to official statements released by the Brooklyn location, the \$150 million allocated for the Model Cities Programs nationally by Nixon has already been distributed to the regional offices of the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

They state that the \$11 million

for Model Cities Region No. 2 is being used as a source of "political patronage for locally elected officials" instead of the Model Cities Program.

Most of the workers employed by Model Cities are members of District Councils No. 37 and No. 371 of the Social Service Employees Union.

INFLATION

James Oliver, a Model Cities worker, told the Bulletin: "You put all these people out of work and you get more inflation. All of Model Cities will be closing across the country because if you tear something down in New York...everything will soon go."

"If you have a job you cannot afford to live. What happens now that I will not have any job at all?"

Bob Davis, another Model Cities employee for four years in the Emergency Repair Program, said: "I live in this community and before Model Cities came here I was on welfare. Now they are throwing me back on welfare. To lay all these people off will really hurt the community. The union will fight these layoffs by supporting the Young Socialists unemployment rallies."

YS Says 'Throw Nixon Out'



BY A REPORTING TEAM
New York, NY—Over 100 unemployed youth, students and young workers joined the first Young Socialists march and rally against unemployment in Brooklyn on February 2.

The spirited contingent represented youth from Brownsville, East New York, Bushwick, Bedford Stuyvesant, Lafayette Gardens, the Lower East Side, Queens, the Bronx, and Bethlehem and Philadelphia in Pennsylvania.

Carrying banners and red flags, the marchers passed through the working class neighborhoods and shopping centers in Bushwick and Bedford Stuyvesant chanting, "Down with Nixon, Down With Ford—Build a Labor Party," "Nixon Out, General Strike," and "We Demand Jobs—Throw Nixon Out."

All along the route of the march, workers and youth

cheered the marchers on, and eagerly bought the Bulletin and Young Socialist newspapers.

RHEINGOLD

The march passed only blocks away from the Rheingold brewery, where workers are occupying their plant to prevent PepsiCo from shutting it down, which will throw 1500 out of work without any pension or severance pay.

The march was held to rally the youth and the working class against Nixon and to demand a campaign by the trade unions to stop the layoffs and force Nixon out.

At the end of the march, a rally was held in Tompkins Park. Helen Halyard from the Workers League said: "This march is only the beginning of a campaign all over the country against unemployment. We must see that the Young Socialists has the responsibility to take this fight forward; that we must be in the forefront of the fight to force Nixon out and to lead the working class."

"We will be marching in Washington on March 16 to demand the unions act against

the layoffs and that they construct a political party for the working class.

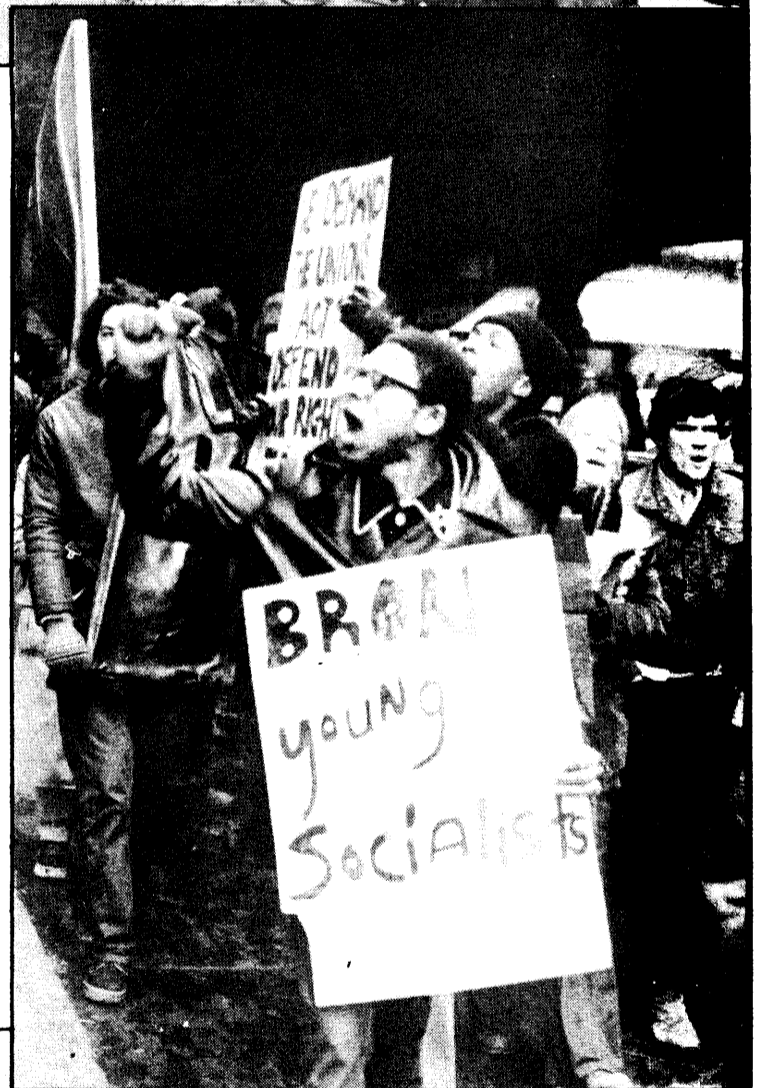
"The Young Socialists are the only ones leading this fight. This means we have to go forward now and build the Young Socialists. Everyone here should join today."

George from the East New York Young Socialists said that the rate of unemployment among Indian youth is almost 99 percent. "The Indians have seen all the corruption of this government. We have to build the Young Socialists and take up this fight before it is too late."

Jose from the Lower East Side YS said that the workers in his country, Santo Domingo, were oppressed by a dictatorship, "the same fight that workers face in this country."

"Santo Domingo workers in the US have to fight a common struggle with American workers against capitalism."

The youth pledged to join the next march, to be held in the Lower East Side on February 23. A dance featuring the "Rare Experience" was held at Brooklyn College that night.



WATERGATE AND REVISIONISM



Part Two

An Answer To The SWP

By Melody Farrow

For years, the Socialist Workers Party turned its back on the trade union movement and the struggles of the working class and devoted itself to building mass middle class protests around the Vietnam War, women's rights, and similar issues.

The fight of the Workers League for a labor party, for the political independence of the working class was ridiculed by the SWP because in their view, the working people were hopelessly reactionary.

Suddenly, the pages of *The Militant*, weekly newspaper of the SWP, are filled with calls for a labor party and article after article about the "socialist alternative" to the energy crisis.

All the "left" sounding propaganda being churned out by the SWP, far from representing a real turn to the working class, represents the most right-wing turn they have taken in their history.

The SWP has embarked on a very conscious turn towards alliance with the "progressive" section of the labor bureaucracy and the liberal Democrats, just at the point when the working class is moving independently against Nixon and his policies.

We showed in the last issue how the SWP refuses to recognize an actual crisis in capi-

talism and the particular stage this crisis has reached today.

Since the SWP sees no economic crisis, they deny that Watergate reveals the dangerous trend within the government towards dictatorial methods of rule.

This new turn by the SWP exposes the extent to which the years of involvement in middle class protest circles has deeply entrenched the SWP in liberal bourgeois politics.

It is no longer just that the SWP uncritically collaborates with the liberals in demonstrations, but now they have openly joined these forces. They have moved from a denial of the actual changes taking place in workers thinking to open contempt for the working class and its independent movement.

How else can we interpret the statement of Les Evans in his article "Watergate and the White House" in the December *International Socialist Review* when he says:

"...It would be wrong to misjudge the depth of the crisis or its causes. It is not a crisis of bourgeois rule or even of its long established forms. The working class in this country has yet to create its own political organization, a labor party. It is even further from drawing the anticapitalist con-

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Evans concludes that workers are so blind and ignorant that they need to be "educated" by the lofty and superior intellectuals of the SWP.

Why then does the SWP take up the slogan for a labor party? This demand, which poses a fight for the political independence of the workers from the bourgeois parties to prepare for the struggle for power, has been turned by the revisionists into a vehicle for their alliance with the bureaucracy.

Leadership

The SWP's refusal to see any movement among the rank and file in the unions is what leads Allen Myers in the December 17 issue of *Intercontinental Press* to make the slanderous accusation that:

"Having thoroughly frightened themselves with the specter of a military coup, the Healyites work themselves into a position of trying to provide a left cover for Meany."

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movement of the working class against Nixon as well as the Democrats.

We welcomed this move, not because we expected Meany to carry through a fight against Nixon, but in order to take forward an independent struggle of the ranks to demand that a policy to force Nixon out actually be implemented and that the unions establish a labor party.

In this struggle that pits the rank and file against the bureaucracy, a revolutionary leadership will be built in the unions.

Because we fight at all times for this leadership, Myers, who is completely cynical about the working class, is really attacking us.

Myers's "left" attacks on Meany amount to nothing more than support to the "progressive" wing of the labor leadership around Cesar Chavez of the United Farm Workers and Arnold Miller of the United Mine Workers who are hailed by the SWP as a model for the trade union movement.

Denying the crisis and the development of the class struggle, Les Evans concludes:

"The major task that Watergate poses for socialists is education.

"The measure of socialist success in the Watergate debate will be the number of people who become convinced of the certainty of the implicitly anticapitalist con-

clusions they have already begun to consider."

The SWP states openly that Watergate is not a call to action to throw Nixon out, but is useful to expose the "undemocratic" nature of the government and of capitalism in general.

Watergate and now the oil crisis have been seized on by the SWP as an opportunity for socialist propaganda of the most simplistic and formally "correct" kind that actually covers their closer and closer ties to the liberal Democrats.

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The Militant either says that the oil corporations want to "increase their share of the pie" or somehow squandered the oil, but cannot explain why this crisis erupts now or what it means for the working class.

Marxism has been reduced by the revisionists to explanations that capitalism is an inhuman system in which profits come first, a conclusion that most workers have already arrived at out of their own experiences.

But under what conditions and why does the profit system lead to recession and monetary collapse, to mass unemployment and inflation? This the SWP cannot answer.

Marxism is not a set of pat formulas, but is a science, a dialectical method to enable us to understand the changes within capitalism so that the revolutionary party can prepare the working class to politically organize for power against the capitalist class.

This understanding of the new stage reached in the crisis means that the working class must construct its own party and fight for power.

Since the SWP only sees capitalism as "unjust," but not in crisis, the socialist propaganda is a collection of ideas which are meant for some far off future.

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"Such a party could fight for a workers government that would take both economic and political power out of the hands of the monopolies and reorganize production on the basis of human needs rather than profits.

Reformist

"The energy crisis is a world crisis. The fight for a socialist world is the only way forward for humanity from the crises, poverty, and war bred by capitalism."

But we read in another issue of *The Militant* that the task of countering "the propaganda of the ruling class" is "more immediate than the Congress of Labor."

What distinguishes the reformist from the revolutionist is not how well he can recite general socialist demands, but how he takes forward the struggle for a workers government.

The SWP is not talking about the labor party and a Congress of Labor as an urgent immediate task to mobilize millions of workers against Nixon, not as something they intend to put into practice, but as an "idea" that will "eventually" take place.

What is absent from *The Militant's* editorial is the demand that workers actually fight to force Nixon out. Without the struggle to bring workers into action, the socialist demands of the SWP are reduced to a series of reforms.

This type of propaganda places the SWP in the same camp as the Social Democrats, the reformists whom Lenin fought on the eve of World War One and whom Trotsky continued to fight in the construction of the Fourth International.

Compromise

Lenin broke from the Social Democrats when in 1914 all the Social Democratic parties in Europe voted to support their own national bourgeoisie in the imperialist war.

This betrayal was prepared by years of work within the bourgeois parliaments and the development of an increasingly conservative apparatus in which bureaucratic routine dominated the party. Socialism was relegated as Trotsky said to "holiday

speechifying."

There was no bridge or connection between the socialist propaganda and the day to day reformist activities of the party.

The Social Democrats based their policies on a firm belief that compromise and reforms were possible and that capitalist expansion would continue forever.

Thus on the eve of Hitler's rise to power, they refused to recognize the Fascist danger and relied on a section of the bourgeoisie to stop Hitler.

This is the very same basis upon which the SWP now stands.

As Allen Myers puts it, in *Intercontinental Press* on December 17, the problem



Ed Heisler, SWP candidate for Illinois Senate.

facing the ruling class is to strike "a new balance between the required centralization and perpetuation of the democratic myth..."

Like the Social Democrats, the Socialist Workers Party sees a future of unlimited social reforms.

In the *Transitional Program*, the founding document of the Fourth International, Trotsky wrote:

Revisionism

"Classical Social Democracy, functioning in an epoch of progressive capitalism, divided its program into two parts independent of each other: the minimum program which limited itself to reforms within the framework of bourgeois society and the maximum program which promised substitution of socialism for capitalism in the indefinite future.

"...Insofar as the old, partial, minimal demands of the masses clash with the destructive and degrading tendencies of decadent capitalism—and this occurs at each step—the Fourth International advances a series of transitional demands, the essence of which is contained in the fact that ever more openly and decisively they will be directed against the very bases of the bourgeois regime."

Is the policy of the Social Democrats who Trotsky attacks here fundamentally different than the practice of revisionism today?

Nowhere is this clearer than in the electoral and legal battles of the SWP.

The SWP's election campaigns, which at one time were the only arena where the SWP presented its own independent program, have been turned into a forum for reformist politics.

The sharpest example of this, which reveals how far the SWP has degenerated, was the 1972 election campaign of Ken Milner who ran for Congress in California.

The *Daily Californian* wrote that in a telephone interview Milner denied that the SWP was a revolutionary organization and stated: "To get hold of this country, we have to work within the system; we must convince the majority of America to vote our way."

The question of socialist policies in all these campaigns has been watered down to the level of "re-ordering priorities," a position little different from liberal Democrats.

In most cases, the SWP candidates restrict their demands to the local issues, better education, more minority representation, an end to federal cutbacks, with the need for socialism, in the abstract, perhaps added at the end.

The fraudulence of *The Militant's* call for a labor party and a Congress of Labor can be seen in the campaign of Ed Heisler, SWP candidate for US Senator from Illinois.

At a meeting for the Coalition for Jobs and Economic Justice in Chicago on November 29, when asked how he proposed to deal with the problem of layoffs, Heisler replied:

"We should spread the available work to

all of the workers and reduce the workweek without any reduction in pay, so that everyone is working who wants to. That can be done.

"It might cut into the bosses profits a little bit, but that's tough! We have to live too. That's all this system means, profits come first and we come last. And we have to fight that."

It is these statements that express the real position of the SWP, not the socialist "speechifying" in *The Militant*. Heisler refuses to say one word about a labor party as the only way workers can fight unemployment, but instead proposes to cut "the profits a little bit." There is no difference between this and Milner's open endorsement of a peaceful transition to socialism.

Struggle

The *Transitional Program*, the fight to link the basic demands of the working class to the political struggle for power, has been thrown out the window.

The SWP is divesting itself of its revolutionary image in order to move closer to the liberal Democrats. Every opportunity is grasped to establish closer and closer relations with them.

The Political Rights Defense Fund, set up by the SWP to prosecute a "suit" against Nixon, Haldeman, Erlichman, and other officials of the Nixon administration for "unconstitutional spying, harassment, and violence" against its members and supporters, is virtually modelled after the Senate Watergate Committee.

The SWP tells us that the important thing is not whether the suit succeeds or not, but that it serves as a "vehicle for carrying the socialist explanation of Watergate, throughout the country."

But this suit is now becoming closely linked up with the Democratic Party. The announcement in *The Militant* that the Kings County Democratic Coalition is endorsing the suit can only mean that the SWP is actively seeking these endorsements.

The December 7 issue of *The Militant* announces a list of supporters of the suit that includes Ramsey Clark, Democratic representatives Ronald Dellums and Charles Rangel, Eugene McCarthy, Benjamin Spock, Gloria Steinem, and Gilbert Padilla, secretary-treasurer of the United Farm Workers.

This campaign is becoming a "left" cover for the liberals who will support it as long as it is limited to a plea for reform. The SWP seeks more and more publicity to cultivate a respectable image.

The most dangerous thing is the illusion



SWP sought to pressure police to investigate recent bombing of their offices.

they create, just as the Social Democrats did in Germany, that liberal pressure can paralyze the attempts of the ruling class to destroy democratic rights.

The rightward turn of the SWP is most sharply seen in the way they attack the American Communist Party.

The SWP, which was born in bitter struggle against Stalin's betrayal of the Russian Revolution, now criticizes the CP, not for its Stalinist policies, but for its warning of the threat of dictatorship.

Cliff Conner in his article "The Left and Watergate" in the December *International Socialist Review* quotes the following statements from the CP's newspaper the *Daily World*:

"Our nation is threatened with the possibility of a reactionary effort to seize power by military or other means..."

"The padlocking of the offices of the special Watergate prosecutor, even temporarily, by the Federal Bureau of Investi-

gation is a warning that the president would not hesitate to padlock the Congress or the courts in the name of 'national defense.' There is little doubt that the Pentagon brass, indelibly stained by the blood of Vietnam, would lend itself readily to such an enterprise."

What must be exposed is not that the Communist Party is wrong to sound a warning of dictatorship, but that they propose petitioning Congress to impeach Nixon as the way to fight it.

The American CP is following in the footsteps of the German Communist Party which relied on a section of the capitalist class to stop Hitler's rise to power, the very section that turned around and handed Hitler the leadership of the country.

In Chile last September, the workers rose up to fight the military threat but were blocked from taking power by the Chilean Communist Party. The very same generals which the CP welcomes into the Allende government were the ones to carry out the coup d'etat.

When we see moves within the Nixon government towards absolute rule, the CP relies on the Democrats to preserve the constitution and democracy.

The Stalinist policy is to consciously prevent the working class from independently organizing in their own political party to take power. No matter how great the threat of military rule, the Stalinists preach a "peaceful" road to socialism.

The SWP does not attack the CP for this because they have already politically capitulated to the Stalinists.

This is exposed when, in answer to the above *Daily World* quote, Conner replies:

"The Stalinists cannot be unaware of the campaign being waged by the major sections of the bourgeois press to force Nixon to resign and of what this says about Nixon's ability to remain in office much less stage a coup."

Conner in reality agrees with the Stalinists that pressure from one section of the capitalist class can counterattack the dictatorial tendencies of the other.

The fact that Conner does make a brief critique of the Stalinists' petition campaign is only for the purpose of ridiculing their original statements on dictatorship.

The empirical and impressionist method of thinking which the SWP has refused to break with has now placed this organization in the camp of open betrayal.

Its ranks are permeated with the most extreme complacency at a time when the military has not only spied on Nixon himself, but is now part of the government.

This complacency is the result of the SWP's refusal to begin with the development of the economic crisis, its contra-



dictory character. Without an understanding of this crisis, as it changes at every point, the perspectives of the party became hollow propaganda with no relation to the party's day to day work.

These methods have led to the actual liquidation of the SWP as a revolutionary party.

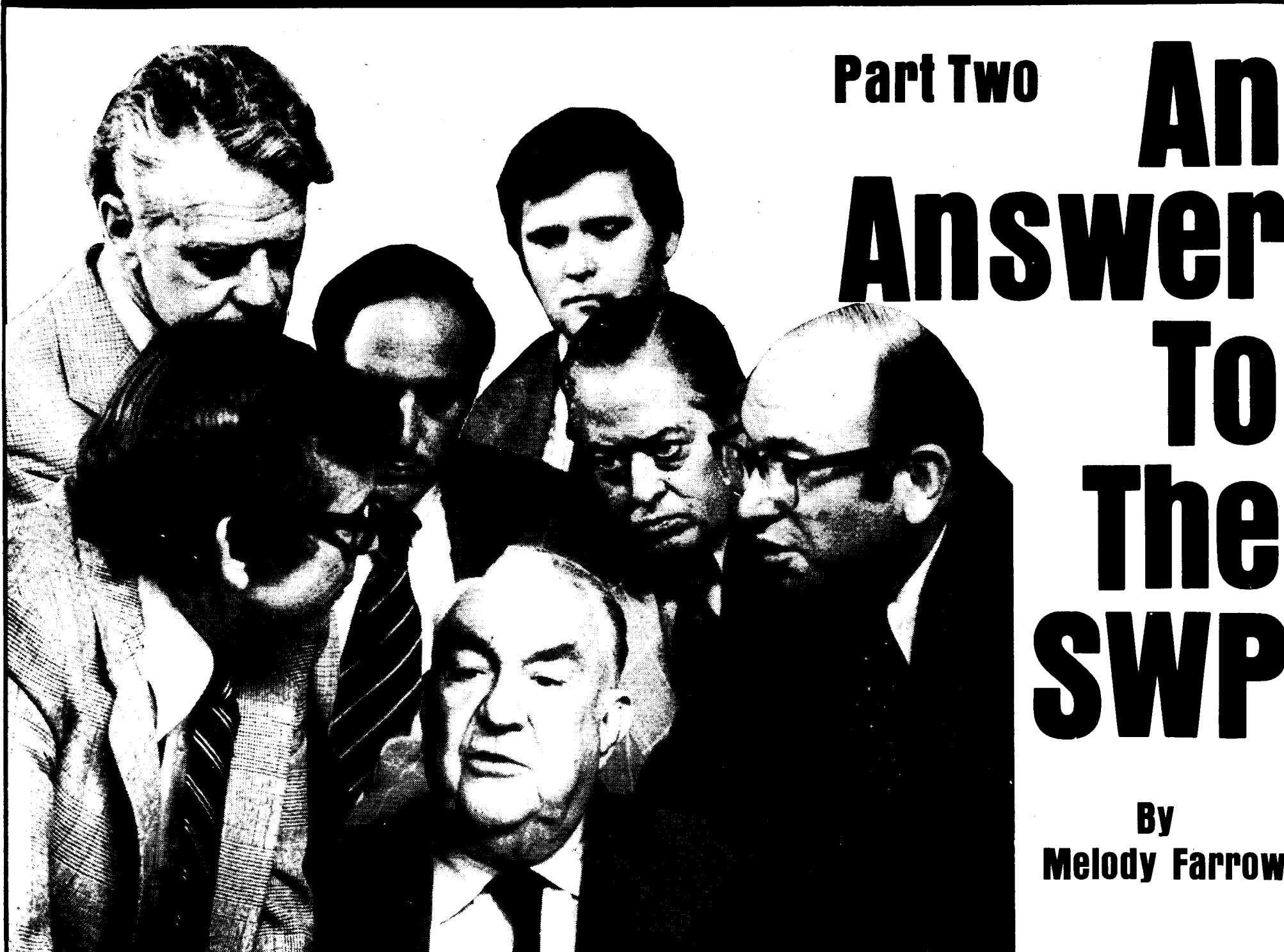
These methods leave the SWP open to every capitalist pressure through the middle class and lead them to actually accept capitalism.

They react to the struggles of the working class with fear and hostility and act in practice to hold back its development even when the conditions for a labor party and the construction of a revolutionary party exist.

We warn that this will lead the SWP to line up with the traitors of the working class at the first sign of big class battles in this country.

CONCLUDED

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At a meeting for the Coalition for Jobs and Economic Justice in Chicago on November 29, when asked how he proposed to deal with the problem of layoffs, Heisler replied: "We should spread the available work to

all of the workers and reduce the workweek without any reduction in pay, so that everyone is working who wants to. That can be done."

"It might cut into the bosses profits a little bit, but that's tough! We have to live too. That's all this system means, profits come first and we come last. And we have to fight that."

It is these statements that express the real position of the SWP, not the socialist "speechifying" in *The Militant*. Heisler refuses to say one word about a labor party as the only way workers can fight unemployment, but instead proposes to cut "the profits a little bit." There is no difference between this and Milner's open endorsement of a peaceful transition to socialism.

Struggle

The Transitional Program, the fight to link the basic demands of the working class to the political struggle for power, has been thrown out the window.

The SWP is divesting itself of its revolutionary image in order to move closer to the liberal Democrats. Every opportunity is grasped to establish closer and closer relations with them.

The Political Rights Defense Fund, set up by the SWP to prosecute a "suit" against Nixon, Haldeman, Ehrlichman, and other officials of the Nixon administration for "unconstitutional spying, harassment, and violence" against its members and supporters, is virtually modelled after the Senate Watergate Committee.

The SWP tells us that the important thing is not whether the suit succeeds or not, but that it serves as a "vehicle for carrying the socialist explanation of Watergate, throughout the country."

But this suit is now becoming closely linked up with the Democratic Party. The announcement in *The Militant* that the Kings County Democratic Coalition is endorsing the suit can only mean that the SWP is actively seeking these endorsements.

The December 7 issue of *The Militant* announces a list of supporters of the suit that includes Ramsey Clark, Democratic representatives Ronald Dellums and Charles Rangel, Eugene McCarthy, Benjamin Spock, Gloria Steinem, and Gilbert Padilla, secretary-treasurer of the United Farm Workers.

This campaign is becoming a "left" cover for the liberals who will support it as long as it is limited to a plea for reform. The SWP seeks more and more publicity to cultivate a respectable image.

The most dangerous thing is the illusion

gation is a warning that the president would not hesitate to padlock the Congress or the courts in the name of 'national defense.' There is little doubt that the Pentagon brass, indelibly stained by the blood of Vietnam, would lend itself readily to such an enterprise."

What must be exposed is not that the Communist Party is wrong to sound a warning of dictatorship, but that they propose petitioning Congress to impeach Nixon as the way to fight it.

The American CP is following in the footsteps of the German Communist Party which relied on a section of the capitalist class to stop Hitler's rise to power, the very section that turned around and handed Hitler the leadership of the country.

In Chile last September, the workers rose up to fight the military threat but were blocked from taking power by the Chilean Communist Party. The very same generals which the CP welcomes into the Allende government were the ones to carry out the coup d'etat.

When we see moves within the Nixon government towards absolute rule, the CP relies on the Democrats to preserve the constitution and democracy.

The Stalinist policy is to consciously prevent the working class from independently organizing in their own political party to take power. No matter how great the threat of military rule, the Stalinists preach a "peaceful" road to socialism.

The SWP does not attack the CP for this because they have already politically capitulated to the Stalinists.

This is exposed when, in answer to the above *Daily World* quote, Conner replies: "The Stalinists cannot be unaware of the campaign being waged by the major sections of the bourgeois press to force Nixon to resign and of what this says about Nixon's ability to remain in office much less stage a coup."

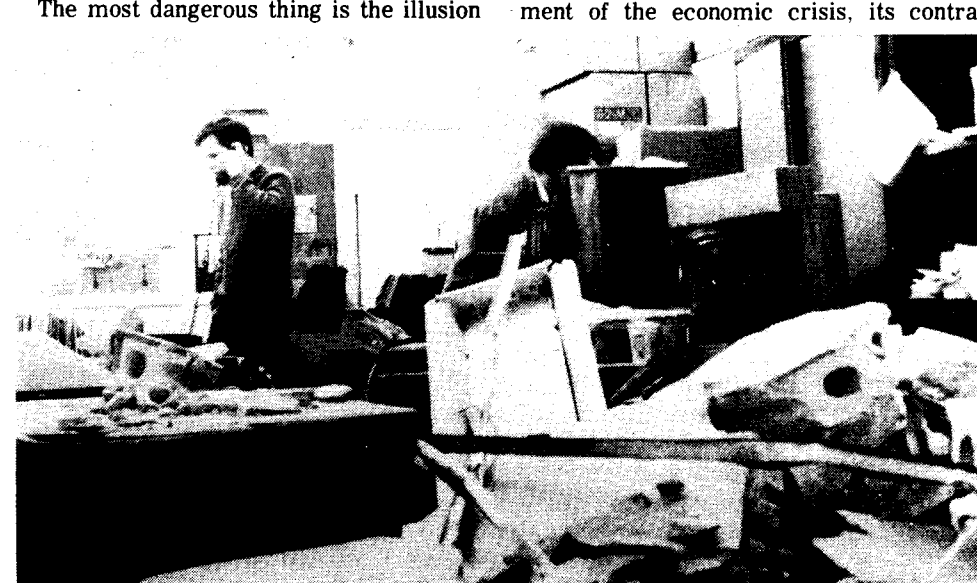
Conner in reality agrees with the Stalinists that pressure from one section of the capitalist class can counterattack the dictatorial tendencies of the other.

The fact that Conner does make a brief critique of the Stalinists' petition campaign is only for the purpose of ridiculing their original statements on dictatorship.

The empirical and impressionist method of thinking which the SWP has refused to break with has now placed this organization in the camp of open betrayal.

Its ranks are permeated with the most extreme complacency at a time when the military has not only spied on Nixon himself, but is now part of the government.

This complacency is the result of the SWP's refusal to begin with the development of the economic crisis, its contra-



SWP sought to pressure police to investigate recent bombing of their offices.

they create, just as the Social Democrats did in Germany, that liberal pressure can paralyze the attempts of the ruling class to destroy democratic rights.

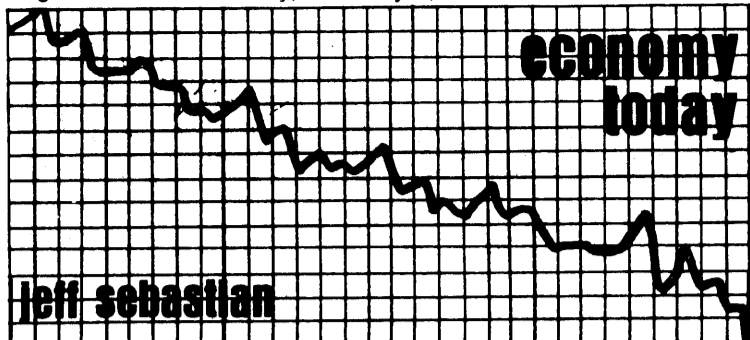
The rightward turn of the SWP is most sharply seen in the way they attack the American Communist Party.

The SWP, which was born in bitter struggle against Stalin's betrayal of the Russian Revolution, now criticizes the CP, not for its Stalinist policies, but for its warning of the threat of dictatorship.

Cliff Conner in his article "The Left and Watergate" in the December *International Socialist Review* quotes the following statements from the CP's newspaper the *Daily World*:

"Our nation is threatened with the possibility of a reactionary effort to seize power by military or other means..."

"The padlocking of the offices of the special Watergate prosecutor, even temporarily, by the Federal Bureau of Investi-



Jeff Sebastian

Wild Inflation Prepares Slump

In his State of the Union message to Congress, Richard Nixon answered the "perennial prophets of gloom" who are "telling us now that because of the need to fight inflation, because of the energy shortage, American may be headed for a recession."

Nixon proclaimed: "Let me speak to that issue head on. There will be no recession in the United States of America."

This was Nixon speaking on television before millions of American workers. In his written message to Congress he put the question more candidly.

"We have known for some time that a slowdown in economic growth is inevitable in 1974... We expect that during the early part of the year output will rise little if at all, unemployment will rise somewhat and inflation will be high."

But nowhere in his economic message could Nixon confront the staggering implications of the now uncontrollable inflation for employment and production.

1973 was a year in which the international monetary system virtually collapsed with every currency floating in value, completely severed from any relation to gold.

In 1973, the price of gold and many basic commodities doubled, oil prices quadrupled and in the US farm prices rose by over 50 percent which will soon be expressed in enormous food increases at the retail level. Fully three quarters of the increased value of imports to the US for the year were accounted for not by greater volume, but by higher prices. The massive depreciation of paper money over the last year is revealed in these figures.

In the United States the cost of living rose by almost nine percent. In Europe the figure is close to 15 percent and in Japan, well over 20 percent.

At the same time that living costs reach astronomical levels it is accompanied by slump and mass unemployment.

In Europe every automobile manufacturer is laying off and working on short time. A million unemployed are expected in Germany. In the United States in auto alone there have been 300,000 layoffs and the Labor Department has announced a leap in unemployment from 4.8 percent to 5.2 percent of the work force for December.

The entire postwar expansion of world capitalism was conducted through a policy of inflation, printing up huge quantities of paper dollars and expanding credit, all based on an ever dwindling proportion of gold backing for the paper money. Investment in factories and equipment throughout the capitalist world was made on a vast scale. It was this policy that enabled capitalism to expand and maintain relatively full employment.

Today, unlike this past period, with gold no longer backing any of this paper and all of this inflated capital seeking to realize profit, not even the present rates of inflation can sustain production and employment.

The New York Times reports that efficiency experts are now being brought into every major factory in Europe in an attempt to squeeze more profits out of the working class through brutal increases in exploitation.

In the United States, the Department of Labor is warning that productivity is falling as the first stage in a new drive for speedup and rationalization.

The United States is now openly seeking to export even more inflation to Europe and Japan. The decision to release all controls on loans and investment abroad means massive increases in inflation in these countries.

This in turn can only feed the inflation inside the United States as higher priced foreign goods raise the cost of imports and allow US firms to raise prices and still remain competitive.

The Europeans and Japanese cannot withstand the American power. Thus, they have been forced to accept the latest American decision to export still more depreciating dollars.

The US policy forces its rivals to turn brutally on their own working classes to slash wages, throw millions out of work and drive to destroy the unions. In this way the US is directly responsible for the civil war conditions now developing in England and growing rapidly in the rest of Europe.

American workers are paying for the export drive with shortages and price increases. The inflation and mass unemployment that Nixon seeks to foist on his imperialist rivals must rapidly hit at home as well.

The movement of the truckers against the National Guard is the first warning of the coming struggle for power of the American working class.



Sealy upholsterers remain out despite management provocations.

Detroit Plant Closes

BY A REPORTER
DETROIT—Federal Mogul's Bower Roler Berry division has phased out its Detroit plants and is moving the work to its Illinois plant and a new plant in low-wage Alabama.

Federal Mogul excused the closing by citing "high taxes, poor material flow, an old plant," and "lack of import efficiency."

Workers are furious because they are left with practically nothing. Most have no pension or equity and their Blue Cross-Blue Shield coverage ends in a month. There will be no severance pay.

The Federal Mogul supplementary unemployment (SUB) funds ran out January 6. The only alternatives open to 2000 Mogul workers are moving to the new plant, which pays \$2.90 an hour compared to \$5.02 in Michigan, while Blue Cross-Blue Shield benefits are half as much.

Those who remain must live on a small savings and unemployment compensation. Others have gotten jobs at Chrysler but now they are laid off because they are the lowest in seniority.

The men expressed tremendous bitterness not only toward

the company, but also against Nixon.

Ted Maich, with three years of service, said, "I am losing my job, and last year I paid three times as much tax as Nixon, and he has got a guaranteed pension."

Sealy Ranks Strike Against \$2 Pay Cut

BY JEAN BRUST
ST. PAUL, Minn.—Over 100 members of the Amalgamated Upholsterers Union Local 61 demonstrated here on January 31 in 30 degree below weather to support the strike of Sealy Mattress workers.

The strike, now in the third week, is against pay cuts up to \$2 an hour, instituted by the company. So far, Sealy has refused to budge, in order to break the local as they did in Albany after a bitter nine month

strike.

Management tried to intimidate the demonstrators by filming the rally and calling in cops to break the picket lines.

Sealy has attempted to continue production. Four of five supervisors have been taking mattresses out of the plant and loading them in station wagons in the middle of the night.

SUFFERING

A Sealy worker, Olga Flores, said: "We're really suffering. I've got four kids and it is hard."

Another worker speaking at the rally shouted, "You want to cut our wages, we'll cut your throat!"

"They would like to give us the minimum wage—\$1.80 an hour—like they do in Oklahoma, if they could. But this is the north and they can't get away with it."

"Nixon is behind them. He encourages the likes of Yoeman, but we'll show them."

Shortage Strands Chicago Workers

BY WILL ROEMER
CHICAGO, Ill.—Hundreds of thousands of workers here have been stranded as gasoline dealers ran out of the fuel allotted for January.

At least 40 percent of the 4500 stations still operating in the city never opened after last Sunday. Tollway oases have cut back their hours and closed completely during peak drive times after lines filled the exit ramps and backed up onto the tollway.

Robert Jacobs, head of the Illinois Gasoline Dealers' Association, said Monday:

"Our earlier pessimistic predictions regarding the gasoline situation were right on target. It's going to be worse tomorrow, impossible Wednesday, and chaos by Thursday. By Friday, everybody will be walking."

He said that 100 to 200 additional stations would close down each day.

ABANDON

Many Chicago workers have been forced to abandon their cars along the road, or to take a day off work just to get gas.

Huge traffic jams have developed all over the city as cars line up for blocks to get into open stations. Buses were delayed by 20 to 30 minutes on some routes during rush hours because inter-sections were blocked.

At places like Zayre's Discount Store, 100 cars at a time have been lined up. After waiting for hours, workers are turned away. If they are allowed to get gas at all, they may be limited to \$3 worth, or coerced into paying for car washes or other extras. Prices are now over 50 cents a gallon almost everywhere in the city.

RUNNING OUT

School children, already travelling in the dark, may soon not get to school at all, since gasoline allotments for school bus companies are rapidly running out. Because many schools in the suburbs and even in the rural areas are now on split shifts due to overcrowding, buses are making four trips a day instead of two.

The Valley Transit Corp., which carries students to 23 different suburban schools, expects to be "bone dry" by Thursday. The Kane Company says they will face the same problems again unless the government raises the allotments.

While public officials and the press blame workers for the crisis, saying that they are panic buying, the American Petroleum Institute has been forced to admit that Illinois is 364,000 barrels below the inventory level.

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Midwest YS Conference: 'We Are In A Revolutionary Period'

BY A REPORTING TEAM EAST CLEVELAND—
Over 125 people attended the first Midwest Young Socialist Regional Conference held here February 2 to prepare a campaign against unemployment.

Four new branches—Cleveland, Pittsburgh, Youngstown, and Buffalo, New York—were brought to this important conference through Bulletin trailblazing teams. Dayton and Detroit were also represented by large delegations.

Adele Sinclair, editor of the Young Socialist, opened the meeting:

"The truckers in this region and across the country are now on strike against the government to defend their right to a decent standard of living.

"These truckers represent a threat to the government. In their struggle, which has shut down the country, the question of the working class actually taking power is posed."

CONDITIONS

Following Adele Sinclair's presentation, the discussion centered on the revolutionary conditions developing in the country because of the truckers' strike which is now shutting down the country.

It was clear to all those attending the conference that it was no longer simply a question of revolutionary developments occurring in other countries, but that now the developments in England with the miners' voting for a full-scale strike which can actually stop the country come together with the developments in America. This movement of miners in England comes together now with the movement of truckers here.

LORDSTOWN

Chuck from Youngstown, who was fired from the Lordstown GM plant, expressed the new situation most sharply, as well as the tremendous hatred for Nixon and the determination of workers to fight. He said:

"A month ago I used to listen to Tim Wohlforth talk about how we were in a revolutionary period but, at the time, I really didn't see it. Now, the movement of the truckers shows that the revolution is here and we must prepare.

TRAILBLAZING

"I went out with the Youngstown trailblazing team to sell the Bulletin and I knocked on a door and said: 'We are fighting to force Nixon out.' He said: 'I am all for that, but why can't we just shoot him.'"

Gail, a student from Youngstown State University, said:

"I saw Nixon on TV and he said he brought the boys home. But he did it to start his own war over here. He brought them back to use against us. The future belongs in the hands of the youth. We have to organize now."

Jeanette, a student, said: "There are 10 people in my family. I wanted to finish my education so that I could better my family, but after three or four years of education, I can only get the same jobs I could have gotten out of high school.

"It's impossible. We all have

to come out of our corners and face the situation. We have to build the YS unemployment marches and get Nixon out."

Sobrina, a Youngstown high school student, said: "I think the situation is like a thermometer. Nixon came in and it was cold. Then he started raising prices and laying off people. Now it's hell.

"If it takes marches and knocking on doors, that's what we have to do, because it's hot, mighty hot."

Andrew from Pittsburgh said: "If we don't get ourselves together now, we're going to be on the soup lines and wishing we had organized. If Nixon won't leave office, we're going to make him crawl out."

A worker from Cleveland told of 400 layoffs this week at her helicopter plant. "We've got to organize these marches now. We can't just wait around looking for the layoff lists."

Jerome and several girls from East Cleveland who were friends of Robert Dennis spoke of his murder by police, showing the sharp situation youth face here. One girl said: "All he did was borrow his mother's car and they shot him in the head."

Tim Wohlforth brought greetings from the Workers League and the International Committee of the Fourth International, saying that we must respond to this new situation with confidence. The movement of the truckers is only the beginning. Now, he stated, the working class is beginning to feel its strength and to come together as a class.

MASSES

The truckers strike reveals the revolutionary situation we are in. In this region, when the truckers go out, steel and auto stop. Without steel and auto, Youngstown, Detroit, Cleveland, Pittsburgh are all ghost towns. When one section of the working class can shut down the country and are met with National Guard, we can see what will come as masses move into struggle.

In this situation, we do not go out and try to lead just the truckers to carry out a revolution.

But we begin to prepare a leadership for the massive struggles which lie ahead.

The working class will learn through these struggles, through its experiences, and through its mistakes. They are learning, Wohlforth said, that they can no longer fight in the old ways. Therefore, we can actually intervene in these struggles and build a revolutionary leadership.

In the discussion following, a tendency emerged, reflecting the fears of the middle class in the face of the movement of workers, to react with panic to the truckers' strike. Several youth felt that the truckers' could be broken by the National Guard and that it was really the government that had strength in the situation.

Two new comrades, who had been in the Marines, felt that the military had all the power and there was nothing workers could do to fight them.

Greg from Cuyahoga Community College in Cleveland, expressed this position most openly by advocating that, since Nixon and the military were so powerful, we should do nothing because there was no way we could win.

Tim Wohlforth replied to this defense of capitalism being brought into the conference as an excuse for a refusal to actually take up the fight to build a leadership in the working class. He said:

"What you are really preaching is that the slaves must not rebel against the slave master because he won't appreciate it.

FIGHT BACK

"You're saying that if the slaves fight back, there might be violence and someone might get hurt. You're saying that the slaves have no choice but to accept their own slavery. We do not accept this position.

"What we see in this situation

Answering him, Jim, a supporter of the Workers League who works at the Delco-Morain plant in Dayton, said:

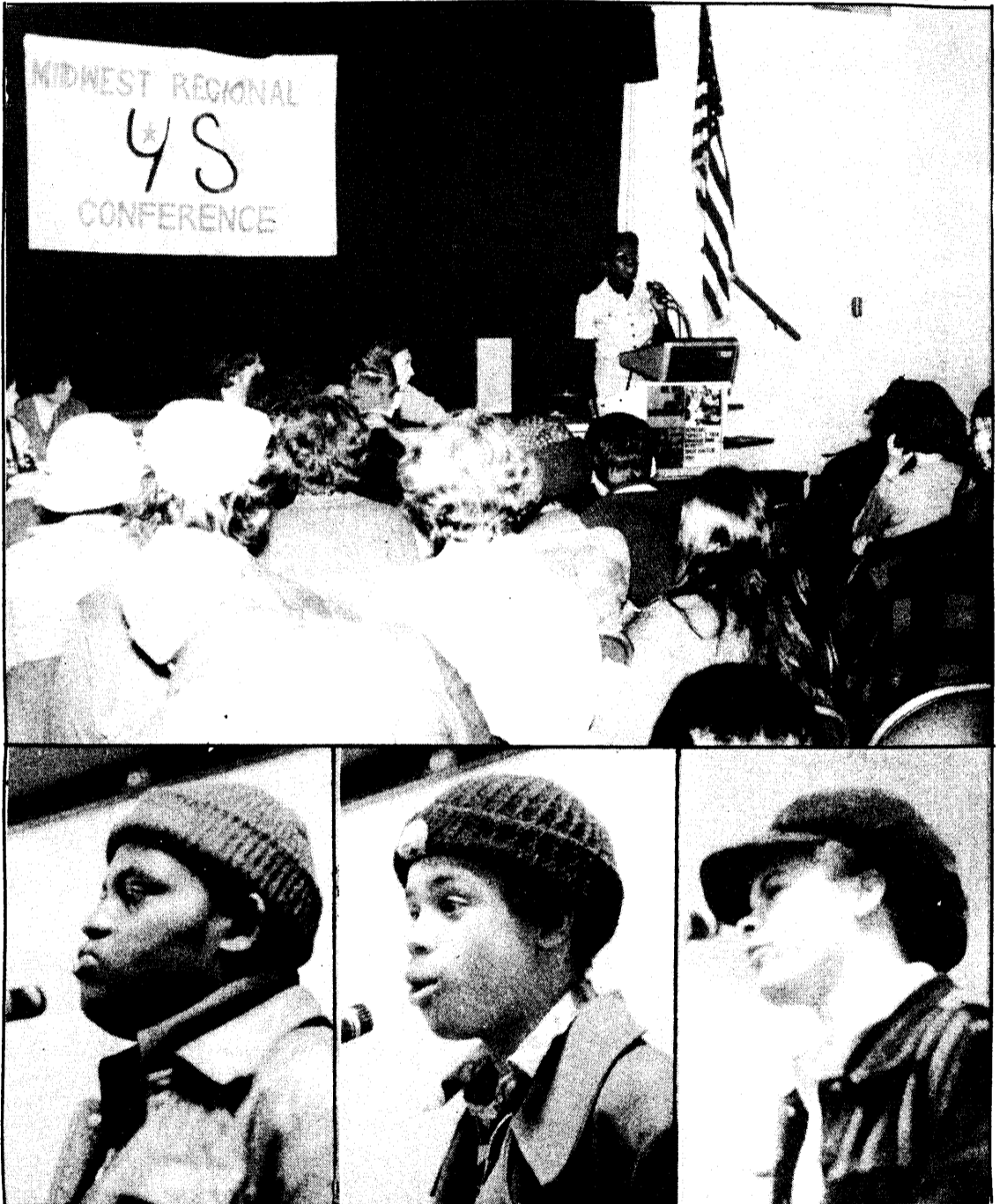
"What you don't understand is the power of the American working class. You want to substitute yourself for the strength of the working class. That is just adventurism.

"We're not talking about the people here in this room going out and overthrowing capitalism. What we are talking about is building a leadership among workers and youth prepared to actually provide the leadership in the real struggles of workers that are now breaking out in order to lead these struggles forward to take power."

cannot mine coal with bayonets, you cannot stop bayonets with a strike.

The question was that once workers shut down the factories, how would they get them going again under workers control with a workers government. This required a revolutionary leadership.

This is the purpose of the Young Socialists marches against unemployment. Each march will demand that the unions act to fight unemployment: by fighting for a 30 hour week for 40 hours pay; job training in school with pay and on the job training at union wages; and that they force Nixon out by calling a Congress of Labor to build a labor party.



Above, Jeanette from Youngstown State University addresses conference. Below, from left to right: Jim from Dayton's Delco-Morain plant; Bobby, a Teamster from Pittsburgh; and, Barrett from Buffalo, New York.

is that the truckers have Nixon by the throat, not the other way around. The problem is that, at this point, they don't know how to do the strangling.

STRENGTH

"That's where we come in. We see this conference and the unemployment marches as preparing a leadership among workers and youth who are conscious of the strength of the working class and understand how to take that power forward to do the actual strangling, that is, through the fight for the labor party and the building of a mass revolutionary party."

Another side of the tendency to turn from the strength of the working class and refuse to build a mass movement was shown by one youth from Detroit who stated that what we must do now is go underground and begin guerrilla warfare.

John, another supporter of the Workers League who also works at Delco, explained that it was not our task to worry about arming workers. He said:

"When the situation arises where workers are under attack, you can be sure they won't just lie down and take it. They themselves will organize their own defense and that will grow out of the immediate situation itself.

POLITICAL

"Our task is to build a political leadership to construct a mass revolutionary party to lead the fight for a socialist revolution."

Hal, from Pittsburgh, said that guerrilla warfare was unnecessary. He quoted John L. Lewis: "You can't mine coal with bayonets," to say that all workers had to do was strike to close things down.

Tim Wohlforth sharply disagreed, stating that while you

The youth and workers who participate in the marches will actually be part of building a revolutionary leadership. This will be a first step towards their developing as leaders to build a mass revolutionary party.

MOVEMENT

The marchers will bring this fight for socialism to broad masses along the route of the march and lay the basis for the construction of our movement in each area.

The understanding of the urgency to construct a revolutionary party now because of these new conditions was expressed in the tremendous fund raising collection for the Bulletin and in the fact that over 20 new people immediately joined the Workers League. The fund drive collection raised over \$500 with the new Youngstown Young Socialists pledging \$75 and the Lordstown workers, \$25.

editor's notebook

Let God Decide

"Too often we are a little too arrogant. We try to talk and tell Him what we want. What all of us need to do, is to pray in silence and listen to God to find out what He wants us to do," President Nixon told an audience of 2500 government officials, diplomats, clergymen and laymen from across the country at the 22nd annual National Prayer Breakfast.

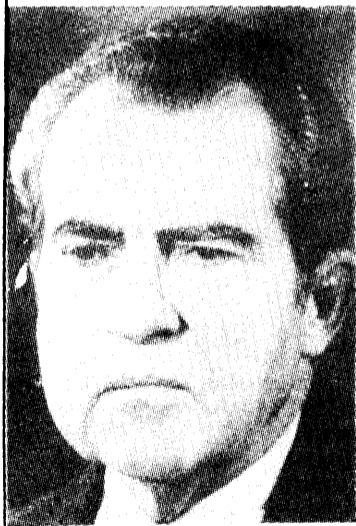
But Nixon's religious sentiments were nowhere as strong as those of Senator Harold E. Hughes, a Democrat of Iowa who is leaving the Senate at the end of his current term to become a religious lay worker.

In the keynote address, Hughes described in evangelistic fervor how religious faith had rescued him from alcoholism more than 20 years ago.

"I was beaten to my knees in despair," he declared. "I cried out to God, and from that moment my life changed."

Hughes received a standing ovation, and Nixon did not fare too poorly either. Evangelist Billy Graham's brother called Nixon's remarks "tremendous."

The National Prayer Breakfast, held the day after Nixon's State of the Union address, is apparently the way the President plans to prevent recession, urging all Americans to join in silent prayer to determine God's will for the country.



Scott To The Rescue

"The United States may face a serious shortage of toilet paper within a few months... I hope we don't have to ration toilet tissue... A toilet paper shortage is no laughing matter. It is a problem that will touch every American," Representative Harold V. Froehlich from Wisconsin declared.

Reporting a shortage of pulp paper, allegedly caused by companies that increased paper exports to avoid federal price controls, Froehlich also discovered that the Federal Government's National Buying Center had fallen 50 percent short in obtaining bids to provide a four month supply of toilet tissue.

The Scott Paper Company immediately began a campaign to prove that no such shortage exists. Company officials went

on television to urge calm, accusing Americans of "shortage psychology." They assured that there would be no shortage if people bought normally and filmed toilet paper streaming from machines at their plant in suburban Philadelphia to prove their case.

Ways Of Justice

In his February 2 column, Jack Anderson reports that the FBI's star witness in the Gainesville Eight case, FBI informer William Lemmer, charges that the federal prosecutor was a "bigot" who plied the Black jurors with steak dinners in hopes that they would vote guilty.

The Gainesville Eight, most of them Vietnam veterans, had been accused of trying to disrupt the 1972 GOP Convention in Miami. The jury unanimously acquitted them.

Lemmer stated: "This yoyo (Carrouth) comes out and says, deep Southern drawl, 'Well, I know that we have at least two votes for conviction. We've been feeding those two damn n...rs on the jury steaks for the past six weeks. By God, I know that we have at least two votes for conviction.'"

Lemmer's revelations have created an awkward situation for the chief prosecutor, Assistant US Attorney Jack Carrouth, who at first told Anderson, "I absolutely deny it," then immediately realized that he was calling his own top witness a liar.

"What can you do?" Carrouth declared.

The Trials Of Egil Krogh

Egil Krogh surrendered February 4 to a United States marshal in Washington to begin serving a six month term in the Federal Prison Camp at Allenwood, Pennsylvania after pleading guilty November 30 for his part in the break-in of psychiatrist Daniel Ellsberg's office.

In an interview with The New York Times, Krogh discussed his fears of jail and the hardships involved in explaining his absence to his eight-year-old son.

"It's been a terrible trial," Krogh said, "but I guess you could say it's one way to develop character."

"I said that I thought I was serving my country, but that in the last few months I came to see that I had really hurt it. I told him (his son) that I felt I had broken the law and that it was fair and necessary for me to go to jail in order to show what is right and wrong."

Krogh revealed that his biggest fears are debts, being apart from his family, and of "homosexual or other assaults" in prison, but that his decision to plead guilty had given him confidence to go forward.

We wish him all the luck in the world.

Woodworkers Seek Labor Energy Policy

BY DENNIS FULTON
PORTLAND, Ore.—
The executive board of the International Woodworkers of America voted at its last meeting to urge President George Meany of the AFL-CIO, and President Donald McDonald of the Canadian Labor Congress, to call a "conference of all affiliates" to establish a comprehensive con-

tinental energy policy to be presented to both the US and Canadian governments.

William Betkin, IWA secretary-treasurer, wrote Meany and McDonald that the international conference of labor should be called "because of the lack of interest on the part of our government."

The letter said, "Someone must take the lead in establishing a comprehensive policy and no one is better qualified by experience than organized labor."

Betkin also wrote to President Nixon and Prime Minister Trudeau expressing the concern of the IWA about the energy crisis. The letter stated that:

"Our members are concerned not only for themselves, but also for the entire public sector, as it affects the individual and industry in continuing production of the goods that we need."

"The IWA is opposed to any continental energy policy being established without full consultation with organized labor."

In an interview with the Bulletin, Betkin predicted that the IWA Executive Board would vote at its April 3 meeting to endorse a policy of nationalizing the oil companies and that such a policy would be supported by the IWA at a conference of labor.

He also said that the IWA is involved in supporting the New Democratic Party and that he, personally, wants to see a labor party formed in the US.

Every union must follow the lead of the Amalgamated Union of Meat Cutters and Butchers' and the Woodcutters Union in Oregon in demanding that the oil industry be nationalized. This can only be done by a labor party, built by the unions, which must place these companies under workers control.

Longshore Ranks Back UFW Pickets

BY TED BAKER
OAKLAND, Cal.—
Mass picketing by the United Farm Workers Union successfully prevented over 2000 gallons of Gallo wine concentrate from being removed from the Oakland docks last Tuesday.

Picketing was called off on Wednesday, however, as the UFW leadership sought to avoid a National Labor Relations Board ruling against the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union and Teamsters.

Members of both ILWU Local 34 and Teamsters Local 70 refused to load the wine concentrate onto Gallo trucks after the farm workers began picketing. A member of ILWU Local 10, working on the nearby Sealand Terminal, told the Bulletin:

STICK

"They shouldn't have called it off. The only way you can win anything is if you stick to it all the way through. They shouldn't have called it off just because they're afraid there might be an injunction."

"They should have stayed there and seen what would have happened. Even then, it's better to keep fighting, even if you have to fight the whole government."

Oakland farm workers' headquarters told the Bulletin: "We received hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of free publicity for the Gallo campaign. Thousands more know about the boycott than before."

"We can't stop the shipments for very long because the NLRB would probably fine the ILWU and the Teamsters. They're covered by the labor law, even though we're not."

SUPPORT

Despite the spontaneous support of both longshoremen and Teamsters for the farm workers, the UFW leadership is calling off the picket to prevent a fight against the government and keep the farm workers within the limits of the ineffectual boycott campaign.

UFW officials in Oakland admitted, however, that even one day picketing might be

banned by the NLRB. New shipments of wine concentrate will continue to arrive in Oakland from now until the beginning of the grape harvest in California.

Each shipment of concentrate is turned into nearly two million gallons of wine by Gallo worth millions of dollars.

The UFW plans to picket the next shipment, which will be arriving in Oakland in the middle of February.

Alioto Whips Up Racist Witch-Hunt

BY MARTY MORAN
SAN FRANCISCO—
A witch-hunt has been launched by the police, the mayor, and the newspapers to whip up racism in the wake of four separate murders January 28.

The ghetto areas of San Francisco have been flooded by police. A worker in the Fillmore District reported that during a 40 minute wait at a bus stop, he saw nine police cars go by.

Blacks driving late model big cars are being stopped indiscriminately by the police for questioning. Police spokesman Charles Barca said, "This is the type of crime not susceptible to ordinary methods of investigation."

The newspapers are publicizing a theory, leaked to them by the police, that the killings are the work of a secret cult of Black terrorists, where each member must kill a white person as an initiation rite.

A panic atmosphere is being created by warning people not to

go out at night except in pairs or groups.

The Monday night killings are being linked to a dozen other murders over the last three months in San Francisco, Oakland, and San Jose. Nearly every unsolved murder case involving white victims is being attributed to "terrorists."

NO EVIDENCE

The police have now admitted that there is no evidence of any such cult, but the newspapers continue the witch-hunt. An anonymous person who survived a "terrorist" attack claimed:

"Of all the groups on what might be called the left side of the political spectrum or you might call extremist, this is virtually the only one no one has been able to penetrate. This is the thing that has the police panicked. There is no way of knowing what is going to happen."

This comes on the heels of the scare campaign by Oakland police against the "Symbionese Liberation Army."

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west coast news

Ford Closing Hits 2200 LA Workers

BY SHEILA BREHM
LOS ANGELES—The Ford assembly plant in Pico Rivera, just outside of LA, has temporarily laid off 2200 workers in a one-week shutdown the first week in February.

Workers at the plant are worried about the layoffs. One worker with seven years seniority said, "It looks bad. It might mean a total shutdown here."

WOODCOCK

Another said, "Woodcock is pretty rotten for not informing anyone about what is going on. We have heard rumors that we may work only every other week for the rest of the year. But no one will tell us for sure."

This is the third shutdown in recent months. The first was for two weeks in December, followed by a one-week shutdown from January 7 to 14.

Other workers told the Bulletin that there were rumors in the plant of a 40 percent cutback in production from 51 cars per hour to 31, and indefinite layoff of 700 to 800 workers with up to five years seniority.

Ford claims the shutdown is unavoidable because of the slump in regular size car sales. The Pico Rivera plant turns out the Thunderbird and the Ford LTD, operating with only one shift.

BLAME

"Woodcock is to blame for all this, he sold everybody down the drain," said another Ford worker.

The present shutdown is part of the new round of massive layoffs totalling 85,000 in the auto industry, and bringing the total unemployed to over 200,000.

A spokesman for Ford denied any plans for regular shutdowns or permanent layoffs. Similar denials were made by GM at the Southgate plant, only weeks before 2000 workers were indefinitely laid off.

The Trade Union Alliance for a Labor Party calls on all auto workers to take up the fight for a nationwide strike against the layoffs, and for mass rallies of labor to force Nixon out of office and to replace him with a labor party.

The TUALP urges all auto workers to attend the March 30 TUALP conference to build an opposition to Woodcock and take forward this policy.



LA Truckers Join Shutdown

BY A REPORTER

LOS ANGELES—Truck drivers staged a protest here as part of the nationwide truckers shutdown.

Nearly 100 independent drivers rallied at the LA truck terminal, where several rigs blocked the fuel pumps.

One driver said, "We will stop driving until we get results. Fuel prices have gone from 30 cents to over 50 cents and we can't make any money. That's what makes me mad. There's more than enough evidence to throw Nixon out."

Mel Spurgeon, a driver-owner for 15 years, said: "I've lost \$6000 in five months. Nixon needs to be thrown out, but there's no one to take his place. Ford is just as crooked. I'll tell you one thing, a year ago I never would have thought I would be out here protesting."

The freeways have not been affected by the truckers protest, limited to blocking major fuel stations. Drivers estimate that if the strike continues, California food supplies will quickly run out.

GM Speedup At Fremont

BY A BULLETIN REPORTER

FREMONT, Cal.—As the second one week shutdown since Christmas begins, opposition to the leadership of Local 1364 of the United Auto Workers at the General Motors Assembly Division plant here is mounting.

Conditions in the plant have become intolerable, particularly on the night shift, where speedup and discipline have been intensified since the ratification of the contract.

Thirty day suspensions have been given to a number of men on night shift, for being two minutes late or "refusing" to do their work.

This situation has forced Earlie Mays, shop chairman and head of the Brotherhood Caucus, to issue leaflets on layoffs, speedup and discipline.

At the last union meeting, Mays proposed absolutely no fight against GM or Woodcock.

The radicals, around the Maoist Revolutionary Union, dominated the meeting but proposed no concrete fight for national strike action or any political fight against Nixon. The turnout was small, reflecting the disillusion of the majority of men with Mays' policies.

When a member of the Trade Union Alliance for a Labor Party rose to demand Woodcock reopen the contract, stop all layoffs, and call for a Congress of Labor to launch a national strike against Nixon, Mays tried to cut him short.

PASSED

The motion passed, with the Maoists voting against it. Mays then accepted a motion for a quorum count to nullify the TUALP motion and adjourn the meeting.

Mays seeks to cover for himself and pin the blame on the membership by saying the

problem is that the membership is not united. He says that nothing can be solved by a local strike, which is true, but then refuses to call for a national strike.

The night shift, in particular, is becoming a center of discontent because these men, with the least seniority, know their jobs are immediately threatened by GM's layoffs, and because they are being hit hardest by speedup and discipline.

For this reason, to seek to prevent an explosion, Mays has called a rally after the night shift at 2 am Saturday to "protest the layoffs and disciplines."

RALLIES

Mays's protest rallies are nothing but safety valves to prevent a real explosion and a confrontation with Woodcock. Mays is in basic agreement with Woodcock that there is nothing that can be done to stop the layoffs.

The Trade Union Alliance for a Labor Party is holding a special auto workers conference on March 30 to build a new lead-

Eleven On Trial For Fighting Nazis

BY ANN LORE

SAN FRANCISCO—A hearing was held February 1 in the case of 11 persons arrested after a fight with uniformed Nazis at the Board of Education meeting January 8.

One of the 11 is Yvonne Golden, a teacher charged with inciting a riot, because she took the microphone and called for the Nazis to be expelled from the meeting.

The other 10, supporters of the Workers Action Movement (WAM), were arrested on charges of disturbing the peace, disrupting a public assembly, resisting arrest, obstructing a police officer, and misdemeanor assault and battery of a police officer.

Terence Hallinan, attorney for

ership in the UAW to fight for national strike action against the layoffs, and to demand that Woodcock and all the union leaders call a Congress of Labor to force Nixon out and build the only alternative, a labor party.

Strike Goes On At Air France

BY A REPORTER

LOS ANGELES—Air cargo workers at Air France are continuing a four week strike. The union's contract expired 17 months ago.

The International Association of Machinists, which includes cargo, ramp, and communications workers, has struck the airline nationally.

Although they have the support of Teamsters, who are refusing to cross picket lines, many stations continue to operate, including Los Angeles and San Francisco.

Strikers report that Air France's cargo division in New York is shut down.

Yvonne Golden, succeeded in separating her case from that of the ten WAM supporters. He said that it was extremely important that his client's trial not be connected with the others.

This move by Yvonne Golden follows her statements denying any connection with the fight between WAM and the Nazis, and that her intention in demanding the school board oust the Nazis was to prevent a riot.

Golden has been uncritically supported by the Communist Party, which has also refused to defend the WAM group. Golden, founder of the Black Teachers Caucus, and the CP, maintain her arrest was primarily a case of racism. They seek to avoid the political issues posed in the case and in the development of the Nazis on the West Coast.

JUST OUT!

AN INTRODUCTION TO MARXIST PHILOSOPHY

by Peter Jeffries

Excellent introduction for systematic study of dialectical materialism, this pamphlet goes into historical materialism and idealism. 50

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lucha obrera

—lucía rivera—

Bolivia: Nueva Etapa Revolucionaria

El gobierno del General Hugo Banzer Suarez ha declarado un estado de sitio en Bolivia. Luego de diez días de luchas entre los campesinos y los militares, estos no han podido vencer las barricadas en la ciudad de Cochabamba, establecidas por los campesinos para su defensa.

Más de seis mil campesinos se hayan participando en las barricadas en protesta por el decreto del gobierno, de doblar los precios de los alimentos básicos. El pasado jueves, la radio clandestina de los campesinos señaló que "resistiremos hasta las últimas consecuencias". Ellos han pedido la renuncia del Presidente Banzer.

El General Raúl Álvarez Peñaranda, quien encabeza la operación militar en romper las barricadas, ha declarado, "No hemos venido a jugar. Vamos a castigar a los líderes". Nueve personas fueron asesinadas y treinta heridas cuanto carros blindados, aviones militares y las tropas trataron de romper las barricadas.

Hace una semana atrás, cien mil trabajadores de bancos, mineros, como de otros sectores industriales se fueron a huelga, en protesta por las medidas del gobierno, la galopante inflación a la que se enfrentan y por mejoras salariales.

Este movimiento de la clase obrera y los campesinos ocurre luego de tres años de que el gobierno del General Torres sufrió un golpe de estado en agosto del 1971 por los militares, liderado por Banzer, y con el apoyo de los derechistas en el país.

Fue a través del frente popular—Asamblea Popular—controlada por los stalinistas y los revencionistas del Partido Obrero Revolucionario (POR) quienes prepararon las bases objetivas para la derrota momentánea de la clase obrera y el campesinado boliviano.

Esta Asamblea Popular no solo consistía de los sectores más militantes de la clase obrera sino también de la sección de los militares encabezada por Torres. Los stalinistas y los del POR mantenían que Torres, representaba el sector progresista de la burguesía nacional.

De Filemón Escobar uno de los líderes del POR citamos: "Los movimientos nacionalistas burgueses o pequeño burgueses no sólo que pueden, sino que realmente adoptan posiciones antiimperialistas y progresistas con referencia a los gobiernos típicamente sometidos al control directo de los organismos dependientes al imperialismo".

Durante los sucesos de agosto, estos líderes esperaron que Torres armase a los obreros y campesinos en contra de los militares golpistas. Torres le temía más a los obreros armados que a las fuerzas derechistas que lo sacaron del poder. Fue a través de la traición de los líderes de la Asamblea Popular que los trabajadores y campesinos bolivianos fueron derrotados momentáneamente en el 1971.

Luego de esta derrota, el P.O.R. liderado por Lora, los stalinistas y los militares constituyeron el Frente Revolucionario Antiimperialista (FRA), justificando así los métodos de colaboración de clases del frente popular.

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"All through this country there's a conspiracy by the rich people to kick the little guy around. The working man is trying to get along and then they pull the rug out from under us."

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TRUCKERS...

(Continued From Page 1)

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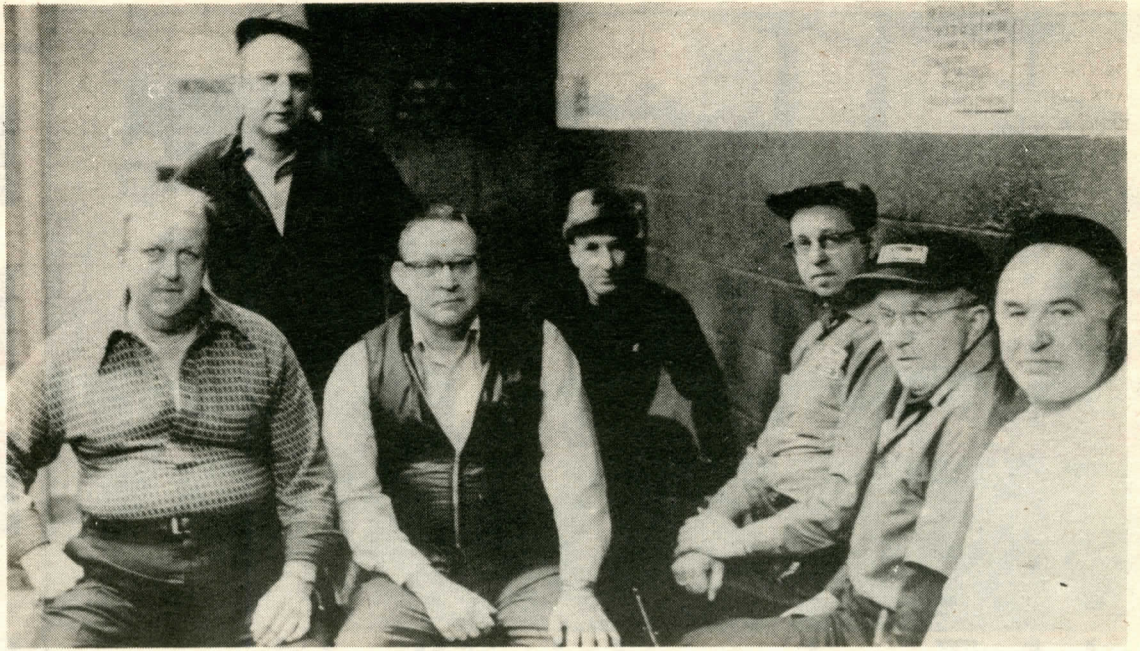
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