

Bulletin

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

NOW
TWICE A
WEEK!

VOLUME TEN NUMBER FORTY THREE 379

FRIDAY, MAY 31, 1974

FIFTEEN CENTS

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CALL NATIONAL AUTO STRIKE



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UAW Local 93 in Kansas City went out and workers at GM's Sandusky, Ohio plant went out on April 19 against arbitrary assignments to new departments.

Each one of these struggles demonstrates that auto workers

are ready to fight back against the layoffs and destruction of working conditions but it is the UAW bureaucracy of Woodcock which deliberately sabotages and isolates each strike.

Auto workers face the brunt of the kind of savage attacks that will soon hit every trade unionist, as the employers seek to resolve their profit crisis off the backs of the working class.

The auto companies are speeding up production, while maintaining a reduced work force in preparation for further layoffs. The companies have no intention of recalling most of the 200,000 auto workers who have been laid off.

At many plants like Fremont in California and Delco-Moraine in Dayton, Ohio, workers are disciplined if they cannot keep pace

with the speedup. Exhausting overtime work is required as the companies seek to meet production quotas ahead of schedule in order to shut down departments and lay off workers.

Auto workers have been tied to an annual 3 percent yearly wage increase which, under the present rate of inflation, represents a tremendous wage cut.

The first business of the UAW convention this weekend must be to throw out the entire 1973 agreement. It is this contract and the complicity of Woodcock that has allowed the companies to carve up and isolate the different locals, while refusing to negotiate on local issues.

Auto workers need a common national program to fight on. The Trade Union Alliance for a Labor Party, at its first auto

(Continued On Page 12)

Paper Mills Shut In Northwest

BY D. FULLER

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On May 20, the five striking AWPPW locals voted down the latest company contract offer for a 10 percent wage increase by an 80 percent margin.

A picket at the Vancouver, Washington Boise-Cascade mill told the Bulletin that the union is demanding an 11 percent pay hike and a full cost of living clause.

The strike spread on May 18 to the West Tacoma Newsprint Company, owned by Boise-Cascade. Over 215 AWPPW workers walked off the job after rejecting the proposed seven percent pay increase over two years.

The plant produces 130,000 tons

of newsprint a year, supplying many of the daily newspapers in the region.

The strike against Boise-Cascade is the most recent in a wave of bitter strikes in the Pacific Northwest, aimed at securing wage increases.

The close to two-month strike by almost 7000 metal workers in Portland and Seattle ended last week when the company offer of a 67 cent pay increase and a partial escalator clause was accepted. One-third of the metal workers voted to reject that offer.

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Edition

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•"Printing Trades Battle For Survival," Part Two by Cynthia Blake.

Bulletin 10th Anniversary Fund

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Economists in every capitalist country have declared recently that the current inflation is threatening collapse of the whole profit system. As workers have begun the fight for wage increases, the government is preparing wage restraints and mass unemployment.

Preparation now for a daily paper becomes urgent—a paper which will turn this wage offensive of millions politically to force Nixon out and build a labor party to defend our rights.

We know this fight will receive support in every part of the country—that we can make this drive on time.

Every branch must begin an all-out campaign to raise these funds immediately.

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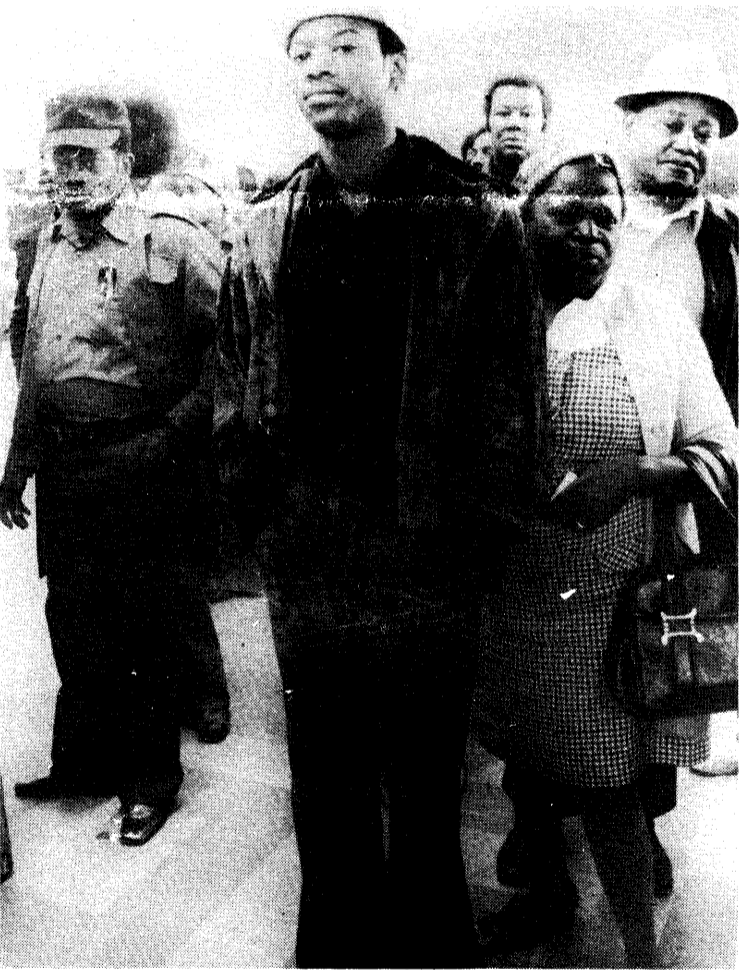
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Burns Warns: "Inflation Will Lead To Dictatorship"

"If long continued, inflation at anything like the present rate would threaten the very foundation of our society... I do not believe I exaggerate in saying that the ultimate consequence of inflation could well be a significant decline in economic and political freedom for the American people."

This statement of Arthur J. Burns, chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, is a stark and brutal warning that the ruling class is preparing for class war and dictatorship to defend its profit system.

What We Think

In declaring that "the future of the country is in jeopardy," Burns and all the leading financiers and industrialists recognize that there is no solution to the crisis of capitalism without a head-on confrontation with the working

class, leading to civil war and revolution in every country.

The crisis of capitalism has reached a new stage. The spiraling inflation, which capitalism has deliberately encouraged since World War Two now has reached the point where it threatens to wipe out profits and bring down the economies of all the major industrial countries.

Burns was speaking not just for American bankers, but on behalf of the capitalist class internationally. Three days earlier, the head of the British Confederation of Industry said that inflation was threatening to destroy the "social fabric." Echoing Burns almost word for word, he declared:

"...unless we all appreciate the dangers and unite to overcome them, we shall face a very ugly situation indeed.

"...we have no alternative but to damp down our demands for higher living standards or we shall defeat the very thing we are fighting for."

The talk of a threat to the "social fabric" expresses the awareness of the ruling class that such a war on living standards will require the destruction of bourgeois democracy and its replacement with dictatorial and fascist methods of rule.

Inflation is the product of the past 25 years of unlimited expansion of paper money and credit far beyond the real wealth produced by the capitalists.

This hoard of paper dollars rapidly outstripped the gold reserves of the major countries, forcing Nixon to end the convertibility of dollars into gold on August 15, 1971.

The capitalist class desperately seeks a way to stop the inflation because it now undermines the basis for investment in industry and creates a tremendous slump in profits.

They cannot do this with price controls, but only through a savage policy of deflating the economy. The banks will allow entire enterprises and the fictitious mountain of capital they are based on to crash by withdrawing funds, wiping out the livelihoods of millions.

To restore their rate of profit, the capitalists must seek to actually destroy production, create mass unemployment, drive down wages, and smash the trade unions and all the rights workers have won.

At the same time, every industrialized country has launched a bitter competitive struggle for domination over trade and markets that threatens to explode into a third world war.

Burns and the bankers know that the working class will fight every inch of the way against any attempt to take away the rights and living standards that they have won.

It was precisely a soaring rate of inflation while wages were frozen that has led to the revolutionary uprising of the Portuguese working class and its occupation of the plants. Every capitalist government now fears its own working class will soon follow.

Thus, the ruling class moves very consciously to prepare the army, the police, and the state as an apparatus for repression against the working class, to prepare dictatorship.

We see these preparations in the massacre of six members of the Symbionese Liberation Army in Los Angeles. The attack of 500 police was organized as a military operation with the intent to murder all the occupants of the house. It was conducted in the same way the US Army invaded Vietnam and destroyed whole villages.

Every struggle now directly raises the urgent need for workers to take political power and establish a workers government. Workers can only defend their jobs by taking over the plants and running them under workers control.

Burns' statement must be a sharp warning that there is no time to lose in constructing the revolutionary party as the leadership of the working class to prepare for the new stage of struggle.

The Young Socialists is marching in cities all over the country this weekend to open a campaign against the unemployment and to demand the trade unions force Nixon out and build an independent labor party to replace the Democrats and Republicans.



Portuguese Communist Party leader Alvaro Cunhal, right, being sworn in as Cabinet Minister. General Antonio de Spinoza is at center and Prime Minister Carlos Palma at left.

Portugal Strikers Defy Pay Freeze

BY MELODY FARROW

Portuguese Air Force General Carlos Galvao de Melo, speaking on behalf of the Armed Forces Movement which overthrew the Caetano regime April 25, issued an unmistakable warning to workers on Tuesday that the government would use force to halt the growing wave of strikes.

Melo spoke on nationwide TV one day after Lisbon bus and trolley car workers launched a strike for a monthly minimum wage of \$230 in open defiance of a wage freeze announced by the Spinoza government last Saturday and in open defiance of the Stalinist leader of the Portuguese Communist Party.

Rejecting last minute pleas by the Stalinists to await further negotiations, the 6000 transit men walked out and were followed the next day by bakers and postal workers.

Melo, backed up by the Stalinists, declared the army was "disgusted and frightened by the ingratitude" of workers and said the army was on the watch.

Last Saturday, the government proposed legislation to "regulate strikes and union activities" and set the minimum wage at \$132. Portuguese workers are

demanding a minimum of at least \$244.

While it is reported that the workers at the occupied Lisnave shipyards and 200,000 textile workers have ended their strike, thousands of Portuguese workers are out all over the country.

The military, which brought the Communist and Socialist Party leaders into the government to hold back the working class and give the new government time to consolidate a new dictatorship, now finds the Stalinists have lost control of the vast strike wave sweeping the country.

The Stalinists have joined hands with fascists like General Antonio de Spinoza and are denouncing "strikes for strikes' sake" as harmful to the economy and accuse strikers of playing into the hands of the "enemies of the working class."

In the Portuguese colonies of Mozambique, Guinea-Bissau, and Angola in Africa, the groundswell of rebellion to the long occupation by Portuguese troops is growing.

On Saturday May 25, 3000 marched in Lisbon to demand that no more troops be sent overseas; while over 2000 Black workers in Angola rallied at the Governor General's palace in Luanda to protest the visit of the new Minister for Overseas Territories, Antonio de Almeida Santos.

The Angola government has now claimed a ban on demonstrations after hundreds of workers left the rally to surge through the streets.

Mario Soares, Minister of For-

eign Affairs and leader of the Socialist Party has left London after failing to reach an agreement with the Liberation Movement of Guinea-Bissau and the Cape Verde Islands, who want total independence.

The Popular Front coalition of the military and the Stalinists is already on the brink of collapse. The danger is growing of brutal repression against the working class and of a new Chile-type coup.

The Washington Post reports that real power is held by the Armed Forces Coordinating Committee which actually planned and carried out the April 25 coup.

While this group of army officers has largely stayed behind the scenes, they were responsible for drawing up an extensive document detailing how the new regime would be run, including the present wage freeze proposals.

This document included the statement: "One thing we don't want is to upset the political balance on the Iberian Peninsula," a reference to the fascist dictatorship in Spain.

At the same time, there are reports that in the last week the CIA has become extremely active in Lisbon and the northern industrial city of Oporto. The CIA intensified its activities when the CP and SP leaders joined the government.

Stalinism can no longer hold back the working class. It is the task of the International Committee of the Fourth International to smash Stalinism and lead the working class to power.

India Becomes Sixth To Join Nuclear Club

BY A REPORTER

The explosion by the Indian government of a nuclear atomic bomb May 18 will lead to a rapid escalation of nuclear preparations by all countries.

Following the blast in the Rajasthan desert, Pakistani industrialists have offered the government of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto financial assistance to develop their own bomb. Bhutto had vowed that if India went ahead with nuclear testing, Pakistan would do the same, "even if we have to eat grass."

Canada immediately responded by suspending the aid program under which it built its natural uranium reactors, and the US government is conducting a review of its aid program.

India has now become the sixth country to explode the atom bomb. The bomb was half the size of the one exploded over Hiroshima.

The blast is seen as an immediate threat not only by Pakistan, but by China, who has had continuous border clashes with India.

STARVING

The Gandhi government has spent \$175 million on nuclear development over the past five years, while starving workers and peasants were unable to get food or jobs.

Other countries which are stepping up their nuclear programs are Israel, South Africa, Japan, Brazil, and Spain. Israel and South Africa are believed to be the countries closest to conducting nuclear tests.

In addition, the French government has recently acquired tactical nuclear weapons, the short range guided Pluton missile, and has deployed it at an artillery base at Mailly-Le-Camp, half way to the German border.

The Pluton carries a miniaturized nuclear warhead as powerful as the bomb exploded by India (10 to 15 kilotons).

France already has two squadrons of medium range ballistic missiles and over the next three

years, will supply artillery regiments with six more Pluton missiles.

The crisis in capitalism and the deepening trade war and economic rivalry is rapidly drawing all the major countries into preparations for a third world war.



Indira Gandhi

Rail Leaders End Walkout

The leadership of the Indian railroad workers has capitulated to the government and ended the 20 day nationwide strike without winning any wage increase.

Gandhi had jailed 40,000 union leaders and rail workers and refused to grant them their demand for a doubling of wages, on the grounds that the economy could not afford it.

George Fernandes, a leader of the Socialist Party and a rail union official, while he denounced the "onslaught" of the government "against the Indian working class," told workers that the government was too powerful to defeat.

But Fernandes and other reformist union leaders refused to call for a general strike of all Indian workers who would have immediately supported the rail men, as was seen in the one day general strike one week ago.

While negotiations will resume, and Gandhi is trying to use the union's retreat to bolster her flagging authority, the continuing inflation will soon lead to new wave of struggle.

Court Ruling Slams Firemen As Criminals

BY CYNTHIA BLAKE
NEW YORK, NY,
May 28—New York State Supreme Court Justice Burton B. Roberts ruled today that officials of the Uniformed Firefighters Association could be prosecuted under criminal statutes for the five hour strike they led last November.

Roberts refused to dismiss Grand Jury indictments against President Richard J. Vizzini, the union's secretary-treasurer, and sergeant at arms. They are charged with reckless endangerment of life and property; attempted coercion of public officials during bargaining; and conspiring on each of these crimes.

All are misdemeanors and the officials face up to one year in prison and \$1000 fine for each count.

The UFA has already been fined \$650,000 in civil court for defying a court order under the Taylor Law, which prohibits striking by public employees.

Judge Roberts's statement makes it clear that he hopes to establish a precedent to be used against every public employee and the trade union movement as a whole.

A ruling of this type has never been made in the city's history. This ruling comes just at the point where massive layoffs of New York city workers are underway, and huge sections of workers, like hospital workers Local 1199, are negotiating new contracts.

HARM

Roberts said that the Taylor Law was inadequate because citizens could face "irreparable harm to their lives and property" before the courts could actually force workers back on the job through injunctions.

"It is clear that a nurse assigned to an intensive care unit of a city hospital who abandons a patient being sustained by life-supporting equipment may properly be prosecuted for homicide if the patient expires as a result, and it matters not at all that the patient was left to die in favor of a picket line."

"Friend of the Court" briefs filed by AFSCME District 37, the Uniformed Sanitationmen's Association Local 831, and the Transport Workers Union of America Local 100 had objected to the multiple prosecutions.

They also argued that the charges of coercion would "destroy the entire collective bargaining process."

LEGAL

A spokesman for the UFA told the *Bulletin* that there are no plans other than to "go through the legal proceedings. There is nothing that can be appealed. We have been advised to make no comments."

The next step is a pretrial conference in June. The trial, which

will be heard before Judge Roberts himself, should start in early fall.

It is not the firemen, walking out in defense of their standard of living last fall, who "endangered life and property," but the budget-cutting of city and state officials, now proceeding to chop 2500 additional city workers off the payroll.

Workers who defend their standard of living are to be treated as criminals, while Nixon goes free.

There must be immediate plans made to mobilize the New York labor movement to defend the UFA. This requires an immediate break with the Democratic Beame administration and a fight throughout the union movement for the construction of a labor party.

Fascist Bombing In Italy

A high explosive time bomb killed 6 and injured 94 during an antifascist demonstration by 3000 workers in the Northern Italian town of Brescia.

The Black Order, a local underground fascist organization, is believed responsible for the bombing. The demonstration was being held to protest recent fascist activity in the area.

Italy's three largest labor federations have reacted by calling a nationwide four hour general strike for May 30 and urged support for antifascist rallies.

For more background to the crisis in Italy see page 5.

Kissinger Mission Fails

The disengagement agreement between Israel and Syria has already been blown apart only one day after it was signed.

Fighting continues on the Golan Heights as Henry Kissinger returns from his marathon negotiating mission, claiming a diplomatic triumph.

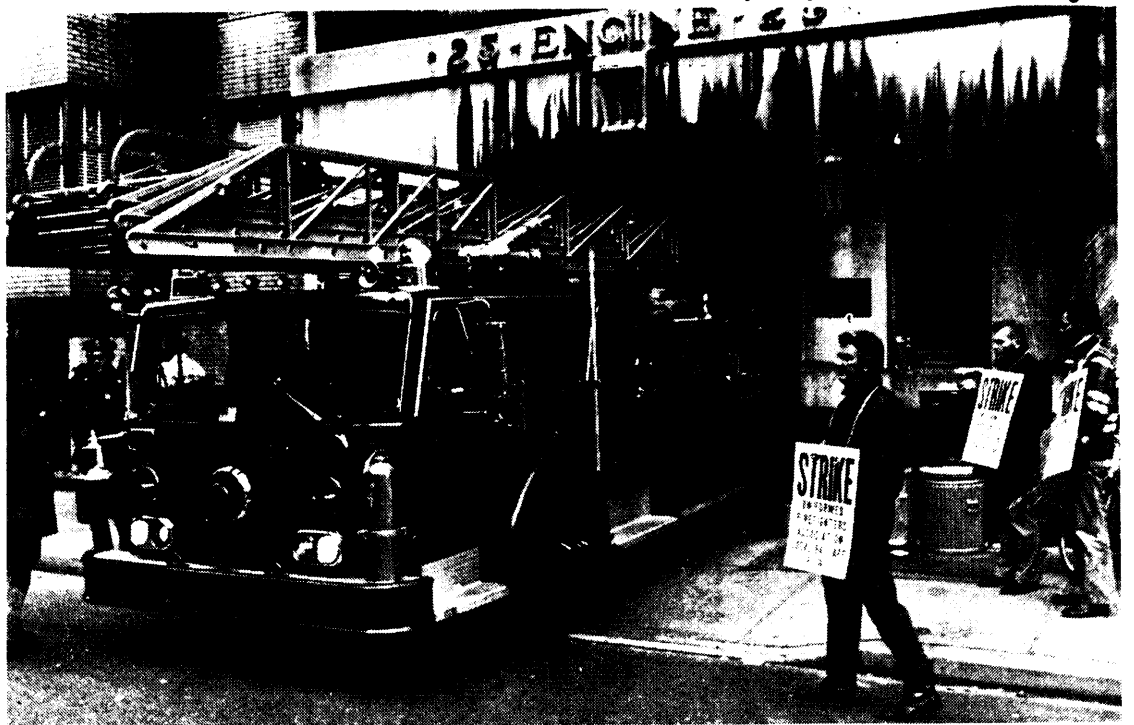
Kissinger has only been able to get an agreement by making concessions to the Syrians over the cease-fire lines, the number of UN troops, and the activity of Palestinian guerrillas.

Kissinger's failure to get any agreement is due to the determination of the Arab masses not to make any concessions in the fight to regain their land and protect the gains they made in the October war.

Kissinger has actually been on the defensive through the last days of negotiations, continually setting up deadlines and extending them.

Aides report that the last few trips to Syria were to carry compromise offers from the Israeli government.

The Israelis have been forced



Members of the Uniformed Firefighters Association on strike last November in New York City.

Japan Lifts Price Lid As Strike Wave Starts

BY FRANK MARTIN

Japanese dockers are preparing to close down all ports in support of their demands for better working conditions in what is expected to be the beginning of a massive wage offensive by the Japanese working class this summer.

The 80,000 dockers, represented by the Japan Council of Port and Harbor Transport Workers Union, are claiming that the shipping companies have refused to abide by the May 15 agreement guaranteeing dockers a minimum annual wage, job security, and pensions.

The powerful offensive of Japanese workers this spring has already won wage increases of over 32 percent.

The Japanese government of Premier Tanaka has responded

by lifting all price controls. Prices are already soaring at an annual rate of 26 percent. The lifting of price controls on household and industrial goods is expected to add a further 8 percent to 10 percent in the period from June to August alone.

Government and industry officials have already threatened to impose wage controls. The Economic Planning Agency has issued a statement saying that any wage demands over 16 to 20 percent are "unacceptable."

CREDIT

At the same time, Finance Ministry spokesmen have indicated that credit and interest restrictions may be partially eased, further feeding the inflation and slashing the wage increases won by workers last spring.

Japan's balance of payments deficit skyrocketed last year because of increased oil prices. Above all, the ruling class fears that the development of trade war will de-

vastate the economy because of Japan's heavy dependence on export trade.

In an interview with the *Journal of Commerce*, a leading Japanese Trade Ministry official commented on Italy's recent move to place surcharges on imports.

TRUCE

"We are anxious that this not lead to similar activities by other major trading areas. We are certain that some governments are thinking along the same lines and may soon follow suit. For this reason, we need a truce now before it is too late."

"By this, the Japanese mean an irreversible global economic collapse, possibly occurring sometime in the spring or summer of 1975 or perhaps a month or so later.

"Accompanying this development, as Tokyo sees it, would be a financial crash and the following disintegration of the world's present monetary system."

The Workers League-Young Socialists Invites You To:

Arrow Park Outing Saturday June 29

Swimming and boating at private lake, sports, picnic facilities, near Bear Mountain.

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— The Ugly Face Of Capitalism

Speaker: Tim Wohlforth, National Secretary, Workers League

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135 W. 14th St., New York, NY 10011



Union Leaders Plan No Action To Stop Layoffs

BY CYNTHIA BLAKE
NEW YORK, NY—
 With the city council not scheduled to act on the 1974-75 budget until mid-June, the Mayor's Bureau of the Budget is already moving to lay off 2500 provisional city employees.

Each department is scheduled to make arbitrary layoffs from the 25,000 provisionals now employed, with the total number due to be on the unemployment lines by July 1.

LISTS

According to a press aide in the Mayor's office, the budget department is sending lists to the administrator in each area, showing how many positions, and what wage levels, are to be cut. "It's up to him entirely to decide on who is to stay and who he will let go," the aide stated.

In the Welfare Department, provisionals have already been laid off, and workers have been told 85 workers in the Human Resources Administration (HRA) will receive layoff notices with their June 7 paychecks. Until then, no one knows who will be working and who will be cut.

DEMONSTRATION

Social Services Employees Union Local 371, which represents welfare workers, has called a mass demonstration at City Hall for June 4. The union leadership has called this the first step in "stopping the yearly rip-off of workers losing jobs for the sake of the budget."

At a delegate's meeting of District 37, American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees on May 28, union officials arrogantly refused to discuss a program to fight the layoffs.

WHITTLE

"Of course we have a program," one bureaucrat told a Bulletin reporter. "We've already won back nine jobs. We'll whittle it down."

DATA

Bob Cooper, president of Local 2627, Electronic Data Processing Employees, told the Bulletin he would be in favor of strike action against the job cuts, but "my ranks would never stand for it. They wanted to strike against bringing provisionals in in the first place."

However, the District Council representative to Local 2627, Salvatore Serreri, has already sent a memo to the ranks stating that the union would not support job actions of any type against the layoffs.

REFUSAL

The refusal of the union leadership to unite city workers in strike action to force the city to stop the layoffs and administer new civil service exams has already led to a huge explosion in SSEU Local 371, when over 300 young Model Cities workers stormed out of the last meeting.

The DC 37 bureaucracy is afraid of the determination of the ranks to defend their jobs. Three workers who had been given permission to sit in on the delegate's meeting were thrown out after rank and file delegates were heard discussing their proposal for strike action.



New York City tenants demonstrating last February against threatened rent increases.

NYC Project Tenants Hit For 8.5% Rent Increases

BY CYNTHIA BLAKE
NEW YORK, NY—
 Tenants in 220 low income housing projects here are facing rent hikes of 7.5 to 8.5 percent over the summer.

A spokesman for the City Housing Authority told the Bulletin that the federal government had forced the increase, by refusing to fully absorb the increased expenses resulting from price rises last year.

"They have said the tenants must bear at least a token portion of the increase in operating expenses; they will not subsidize it all," Coleman said.

In a letter sent to the 110,000 families that will be affected, CHA Chairman Joseph J. Chris-

tian said that there had been a "fantastic rise in costs," including the tripling of fuel oil prices since last summer and increases averaging 35 percent for other materials.

According to CHA figures, an average family pays about \$89 now, and will pay \$93 under the new rates. Actual rentals depend on the age of the project, size of apartment, and amount of family income. Families who have their rents raised because of increases in income will still have to pay the citywide increase.

AVERAGE

Rents average about 16.2 percent of family income now; the new increases will mean that just over 17 percent of income will go to rent by 1975.

This follows an increase of

approximately 7.5 percent in 1972.

Jane Benedict, head of the Metropolitan Housing Council, a citywide tenants group, told the Bulletin there are already "pockets of resistance" developing in the projects, especially among the working families.

HELD BACK

She said that the fight in the public housing projects is held back by a "company union structure,"—the Regional Advisory Council—set up several years ago to deflect the fight for tenant's unions.

"They don't really have a hard-hitting force because of this situation; they've been pushed off in a corner by themselves and are not as militant as if they were in an alliance with other tenants."

Alabama Miners Protest S. African Coal Imports

BY A REPORTER
BIRMINGHAM—Over 2500 miners staged a one-day protest strike here against the importing of South African coal, and picketed a Southern Company shareholders' meeting last week.

The Southern Co. is scheduled to receive 750,000 tons of low sulphur coal from the Transvaal Coal Owners' Association in South Africa, through the port at Mobile, Alabama.

Mining companies have signed contracts totaling \$45 million for South African coal over the next three years. South African coal sells for \$1.95 a ton, while American coal sells for \$7.65 a ton.

The miners claim that this move by the mining companies will lead to the closure of hundreds of mines, particularly in the South. United Mine Workers District 20 President Sam Littlefield told the Bulletin:

"We will do everything possible to block them from importing this coal."

District 20 officials are preparing to meet with dock union leaders from Mobile on June 5. They will ask the dockers to refuse to handle the coal.

The coal companies are clearly seeking to use the South African coal, which is produced by slave labor, as a means of destroying the UMW. This comes only several months after the bitter struggles in Harlan County, Kentucky, where the UMW faced courts, police, and fines in an attempt to destroy the union.

The Mine Workers leaders have appealed to Alabama Governor George Wallace to support their fight and are meeting with him on Thursday, May 30. Wallace has fought continuously to keep unions out of Alabama and has protected the interests of the Southern Co. and all southern corporations.

This turn to an open segregationist who has helped keep wages down in the South, rather than fighting to mobilize labor support, must be repudiated by every miner.

workers league
 kickoff dinner to launch Helen Halyard's
 congressional election campaign

BAR-B-QUE NIXON



latin and soul music

all the food you can eat—
 all the beer you can drink

Saturday June 8
 27 So. Oxford St.
 backyard

8pm
 Brooklyn
 \$2.50

Air Mechanics Reject Offer

Mechanics for Eastern Airlines have rejected a proposed contract reached between the airline and the International Association of Machinists (IAM).

A strike vote will be taken on June 3 and president of District 100 of the IAM, James Cates, said that the union would resume negotiations.

CONTRACT

The contract provided for an increase in hourly pay from the present \$6.60 to \$7.69 over a 28 month period, and a cost of living clause with a 20 cent an hour ceiling.

The mechanics also want an increase in the premium pay for those who are licensed by the Federal Aviation Administration. The present premium is only five cents an hour, with a maximum of ten cents.

Eastern mechanics must be on their guard, as the IAM leadership earlier this month forced the workers at United to accept a package of only 15.8 percent in wages over two years, virtually the same deal that they originally rejected.

Reprinted from **Workers Press**, daily organ of the Workers Revolutionary Party in Britain.

The massive 59.1 percent vote against the abrogation of the divorce law in Italy is a defeat for the ruling Christian Democrats and for the Church hierarchy. It opens a new round in the political crisis.

The church and its political arm had thrown all their forces into a campaign to abolish divorce, but lost ground even in their strongholds, in the south and rural areas. The neo-fascist MSI was in the forefront of the anti-divorce campaign.

While the combined vote for the Christian Democrats and the neo-fascists was 47.5 percent in the 1972 elections, only 40.9 percent of the voters followed their advice in the divorce referendum.

The results were greeted with spontaneous street demonstrations in the big towns and workers turned out in their thousands to salute the victory, singing "Bandiera Rossa" and the "International."

The defeat of the right wing comes at a time when the economic crisis is undermining the very foundations of Italian society and breaking up the compromise upon which the parliamentary regime rests.

Basic to the stability of Italian capitalism is the agreement of the Stalinists, who control the bulk of the working class and muster over 27 percent of the votes.

"HISTORICAL COMPROMISE"

There is a tacit understanding that the Communist Party will adhere faithfully to the "parliamentary road" and act as a "responsible and loyal" opposition. Using the argument that there is a threat to "democracy" from the extreme right, the Stalinist leaders call for an "historical compromise," meaning a willingness to enter a coalition government and cooperate with the ruling Christian Democrats.

They were very much opposed to the referendum which they feared would divide the working and middle classes on religious lines and cause a polarization of forces working against their object of entering the government in partnership with the Catholics.

However, the Christian Democrats and the neo-fascists pressed on with the demand for a referendum and the Stalinists were forced, in return, to mobilize their supporters and take the lead in defending the divorce law. It waged this campaign in as conciliatory manner as possible, insisting that a vote to retain the law was not a vote against the Catholic Church.

With the swing against Church control of social life exceeding all expectations, the Stalinists were then bound to hail the vote as a great victory—but a victory for what?

Party Secretary Enrico Berlinguer described it as "A great victory for liberty, for reason and for law, a victory for the Italy which is changing and which wants to go forward. It is not a victory for a single party because a contribution was made to it by a wide grouping of various political, social and cultural forces: workers' parties, traditional secular organizations and associations of the workers and the middle classes,



More than 50,000 Italian workers celebrate the defeat of the divorce laws. Inset: six workers were killed by bomb thrown by fascists at recent anti-fascist rally.

The Italian CP-Reluctant Divorcee

of women and young people, of journalists and intellectuals."

Berlinguer maintained that an important contribution had been made by those supporters and militants of the Christian Democrats and other Catholics who had voted against their leaders' wishes.

Instead of drawing the conclusion that the landslide vote opens up the prospect for a struggle for power, the Stalinists want at all costs to maintain their relationship with the Christian Democrats.

Berlinguer ended his statement with an appeal for unity addressed to all those "with sentiments and opinions different to ours...ready to work for understanding between all citizens who love liberty and for the collaboration of all the popular and democratic forces."

In fact, this above class appeal, not simply for a Popular Front but for national unity, has a very specific purpose. It is intended to hold back the working class from struggle for its own demands and in defense of its rights and prevent revolution.

At the very moment when the Stalinists move more openly to the right, the dangers confronting the Italian working class are growing daily.

The economic crisis is driving the employers into an open clash with the working class. The Italian economy is one of the weakest in Europe. The survival of capitalism requires that living standards should be driven down and the workers' basic rights taken away.

For a long time now a section of the ruling class has been preparing repressive measures,

including the calling in of the army and the para-military police forces, for just this purpose. For months the press has openly speculated about the possibility of a Chilean-type coup.

A NEW COALITION

Instead of warning the Italian working class about these dangers and preparing it for action, the Stalinists lull it into a false sense of security and say that its objects can be achieved through a parliamentary system which is increasingly corrupt and discredited.

The referendum vote, which in fact showed the strength of the working class and the shrinking base of reaction, is being used by the Stalinists to justify their maneuvers for entry into a new coalition.

What was indeed a victory for the working class could be another step on the road to defeat if the Communist Party line is permitted to prevail.

The ruling class will draw the conclusion that it may have to pass speedily to other forms of rule if the electorate is moving to the left.

The referendum vote was a smack in the face for the Christian Democrats who have ruled Italy in an endless series of coalition governments since the overthrow of fascism.

Donat Cattin, one of the leaders of the so-called left wing of the party, described the decision to hold the referendum an "historical mistake." A challenge is now likely to the party leader, Amintore Fanfani, who has declared his willingness to continue cooperating with "allied democratic forces."

The Christian Democrats have

no intention of relinquishing power for a little matter of a referendum defeat. But the writing is on the wall.

There is a general complicity in political circles, including the Stalinists themselves, to minimize the immediate political consequences of the referendum. None of the parties want to disturb the existing balance of forces.

Berlinguer and his friends will redouble their efforts to enter the government and provide the shaky coalition with some semblance of stability. Portugal creates a new precedent and he is more than anxious to assume the role of Alvaro Cunhal.

The Italian working class must be warned in the moment of its triumph that the Stalinists and reformists are preparing new betrayals.

The crisis of capitalism in Italy is so deep that it contends with Britain for the title of "sick man of Europe."

After a spurt in the 1960s based on a high rate of investment in new technological industries and the spread of modern production to new areas, the economy lapsed into a period of chronic crisis.

Industrialization increased the size and specific weight of the working class which was able to build up strong trade union organizations and win important gains.

In the "hot autumn" of 1969 it emerged on the scene with a new confidence and was only prevented from making a bid for power by the class collabora-

tionist policies of the Communist Party and reformist leaders.

Since then Italy has lurched from one crisis to another under the pressure of the international monetary chaos and inflationary price rises.

Industry has been kept going with big injections of financial aid from the state. The budget is in a chronic state of deficit, much of it going to pay for a huge and cumbersome bureaucracy and a military-police establishment turned towards internal repression.

The fourfold increase in oil prices and galloping inflation forced the government to impose drastic import restrictions in defiance of the Common Market rules.

The yawning balance-of-payments deficit has been covered by massive borrowing and credits from the International Monetary Fund and the US Federal Reserve Bank.

Confidence in the lira is at a low ebb despite these props. Rinaldo Ossola, deputy governor of the Bank of Italy, has called on the IMF to buy gold at the free market rate to boost the value of Italy's remaining gold holdings. He denied that Italy was already selling gold in the free market.

Speaking of the crisis on May 8, before the divorce referendum, Prime Minister Mariano Rumor described it as serious and said that he had no magic remedy.

He called for cuts in personal consumption and said that Italy was importing too much and exporting too little. There had to be a contraction of home demand and a drive for external markets.

This means intensified trade war, while Italian workers have to bear the brunt of the crisis in falling living standards, speedup in the factories, and heavy unemployment.

In this way the ruling class hopes to step up accumulation and investment, maintain profits and make Italian goods more competitive on the world market. Britain and other countries are having to do the same.

Italy is in a weak position because practically all the country's raw materials and supplies of energy have to be imported. Expansion in the past was based upon low prices and cheap labor: both of these came to an end after 1969.

The strength of the working class has stood out against wage cuts and Fiat workers were paid a big wage increase on government orders recently despite the financial problems which it means for the firm. The Rumor government hesitated to take on the working class at that stage.

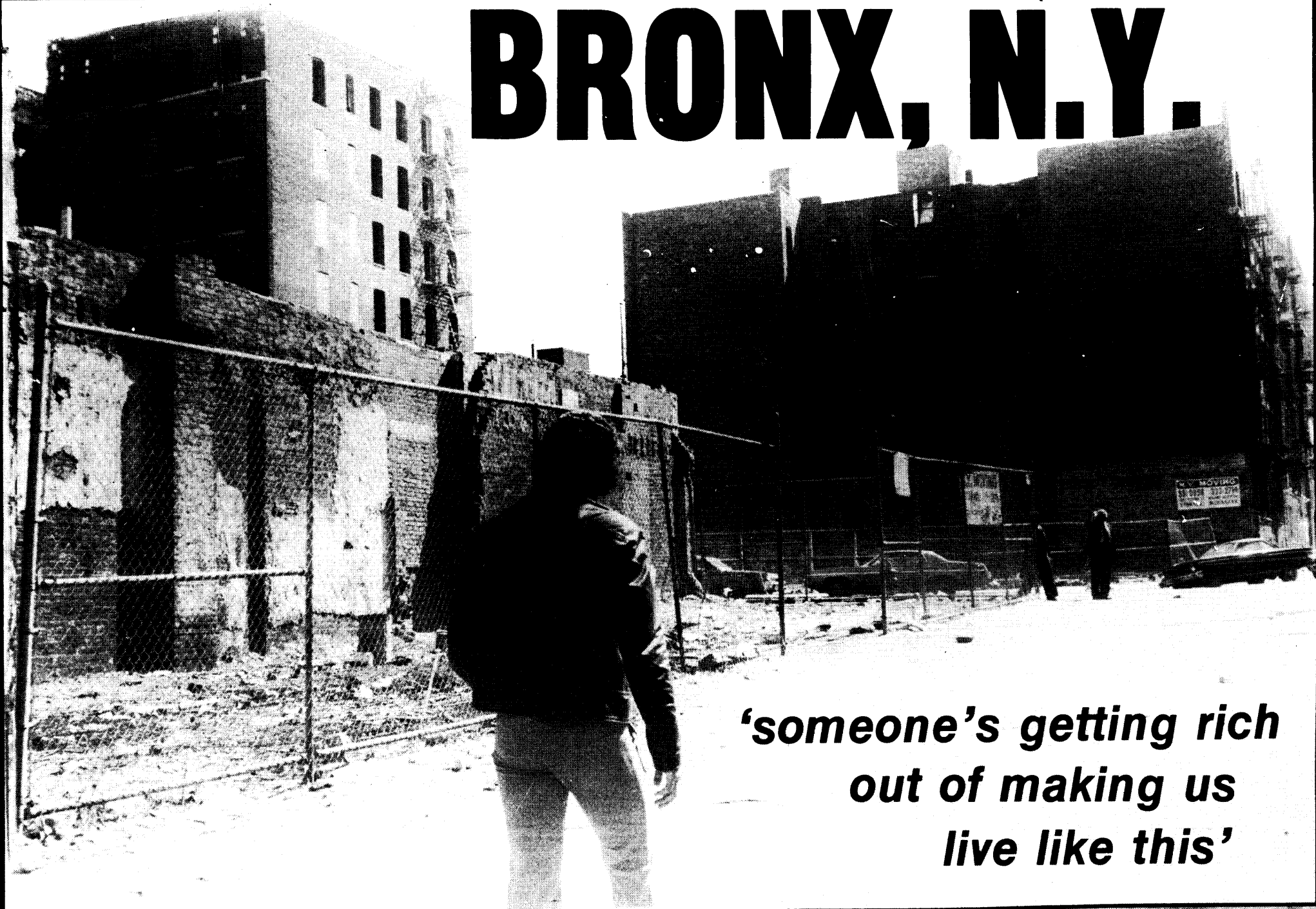
A weak government, still further exposed by the referendum defeat, it is hardly in a position to carry out the tough measures which Italian big business demands, particularly the attack on the unions and the control of wages.

The insoluble character of the crisis has created paralysis and indecision in the ranks of the government itself. Consequently big business has been looking to other alternatives—an authoritarian regime based on an armed forces coup after the Greek or Chilean model.

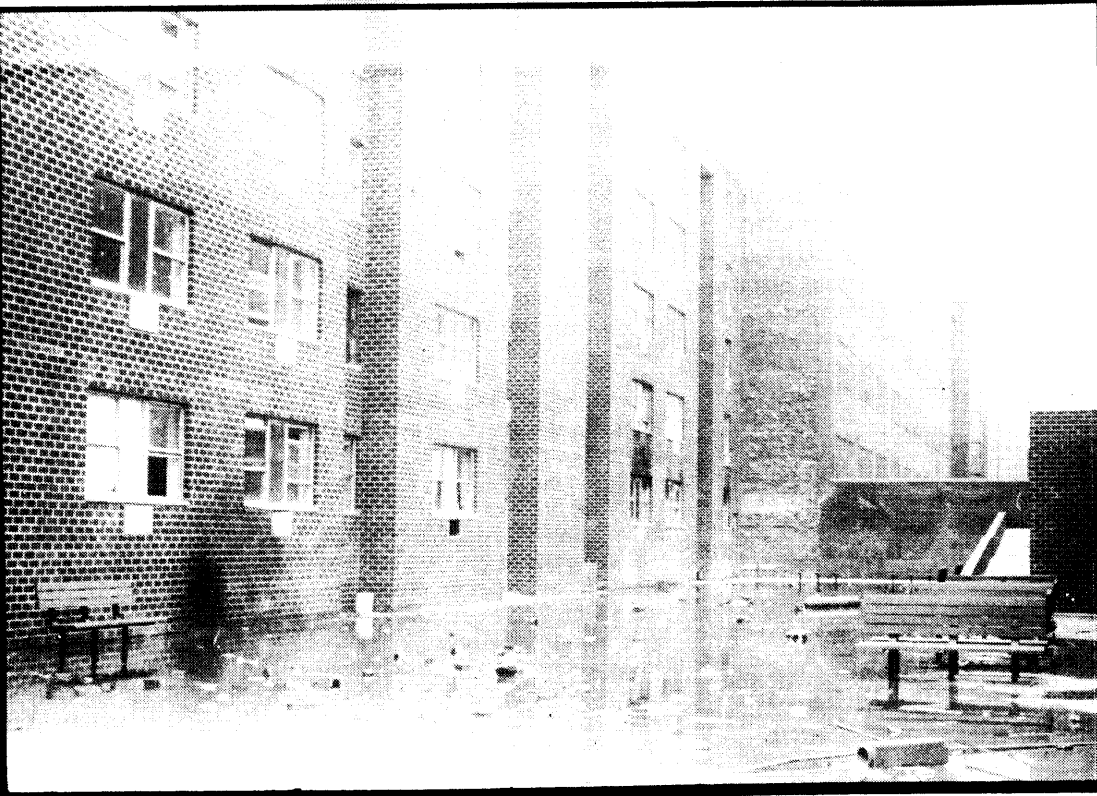
This danger has been intensified by the referendum result. The immediate prospect is for a worsening of the economic crisis, a further weakening of the lira and a massive increase in the balance of payments deficit.

No economy in Europe is more vulnerable to slump and financial collapse.

BRONX, N.Y.



**'someone's getting rich
out of making us
live like this'**



BY CYNTHIA BLAKE

For real estate speculators, run-down city blocks are a gold mine, ripe for restoration projects that allow rents to skyrocket, easy insurance claim money if they burn down, and a tax write-off when every other penny has been milked out. For the working class families who have no other housing, living conditions are almost impossible.

The Mott Haven area of the South Bronx is just such an area, perhaps the worst in New York City. Many families are forced to move here by the Welfare Department relocation office, and then harassed about the high rents. More and more families are settling here who are newly arrived from Puerto Rico and speak little English. Jobs are few and far between.

For the youth, unemployment approaches 100 percent. There is constant police harassment, but nothing is done to stop the squads of drug pushers who operate from the vacant buildings.

The area's narrow, hilly streets are lined

with buildings, and sometimes whole blocks, that have been burned out and allowed to just stand and rot. The City Fire Department puts out over 1200 building fines a year in this district. Vacant lots, doorsteps and courtyards are littered with the debris of wrecking crews.

In the occupied buildings, landlords make up for their rising costs by skimping on maintenance, or eliminating it. Mrs. Manuela Reyes, whose family moved in five years ago, says of her building across from St. Mary's Park, "It was a beautiful building then; we were so excited. But then they just quit spending money to keep it up."

Her neighbors began a rent strike two years ago, a more and more frequent occurrence in Mott Haven. It lasted seven months. They called off the strike when the building was sold and the new owner promised to make repairs.

"We turned all the rent over to him, about \$4000. We thought 'Well, he's Black, he understands our problems.' So we trusted him.

"For about a month there were workmen here. Then, nothing. You can see in my bed-

room where they plastered but never painted."

Many families moved out as the building continued to deteriorate and rents kept climbing. The vacant apartments are full of debris, creating a continual fire hazard.

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Carlos Calderon, president of the tenants union for the two buildings, lives around the corner on Crimmins. He told the **Bulletin** that their goal is to take over the buildings and run them themselves.

Although they are still fighting through the courts, he says "We believe it is a

revolutionary situation, conflicting directly with the law, to persist in taking over the building. Not to buy it, but take it over."

Joe Falcon, who lives across the hall from Carlos, says "Housing in the South Bronx is a fraud. The landlords neglect the buildings, forcing tenants to move because they don't have the basic necessities.

"They rehabilitate the older buildings, so they can increase the rent. They use a very cheap material, so every six or eight years they have to rehabilitate again, increasing the rent more and more."

One such rehabilitation fraud stands just a half-block away, on Beekman Avenue. Rent for a one-bedroom apartment was about \$110 before the renovation three years ago. A new increase on January 1 brought that rent up to \$171.50.

Gwendolyn Palmer is trying to organize a rent strike there. She hasn't paid rent since January and says "I won't until they fix my door. There's been a repair order out on that door since Welfare moved us here three years ago.

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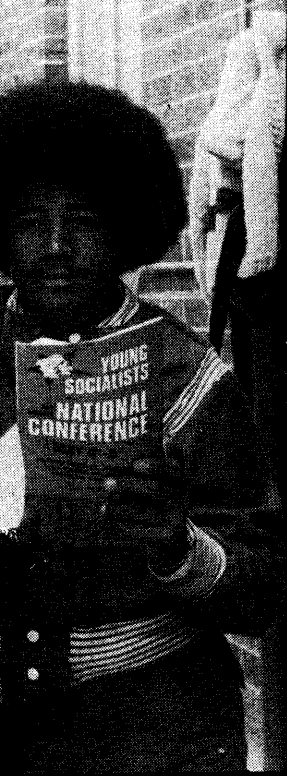
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Some landlords don't bother to renovate; they just keep the rent climbing up. On Beech Terrace, a three-room apartment costs \$175 and there's never been any rebuilding. There have been over 30 fires here in the last three years, and most of those apartments are still empty, some filled with soot and charred furniture.

One mother told the *Bulletin* that her bathroom wall was torn up in 1971 so they could fix a leak, and no one has ever come back to finish up.

She is one of the many Relocation families, and her neighbors nodded agreement when she complained bitterly about the Welfare office promises when they were moved in. "It was supposed to be just like moving into the projects, with nothing but

the rent to pay out.

"But I pay my electricity and I've been charged as much as \$53 a month. That comes from my food money; that's food my kids couldn't eat this winter. I was even charged for six weeks in the fall when they'd already cut the lights off!"

HUD

In an effort to alleviate some of these conditions, several community groups banded together about seven years ago and won a grant from the federal department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). With the money, over 750 units have been renovated and form a complex throughout the neighborhood called the Jose de Diego-Beekman Houses.

The federal money was terminated last summer, and project directors are now struggling to put together private funds to complete the 250 units now in work.

While many residents think of this project as community controlled, it is actually owned and run by Continental-Wingate, a huge real estate company.

Sam, who is a superintendent for two Diego-Beekman buildings, makes it clear that this is no community service project,

but a massive profiteering operation that leaves residents with no better housing than the rest of Mott Haven.

"They buy a burnt-out building from the old owner and move the contracting company in. The construction companies fall under Continental-Wingate, too. They're trying to take over the whole neighborhood. The government approves the loans.

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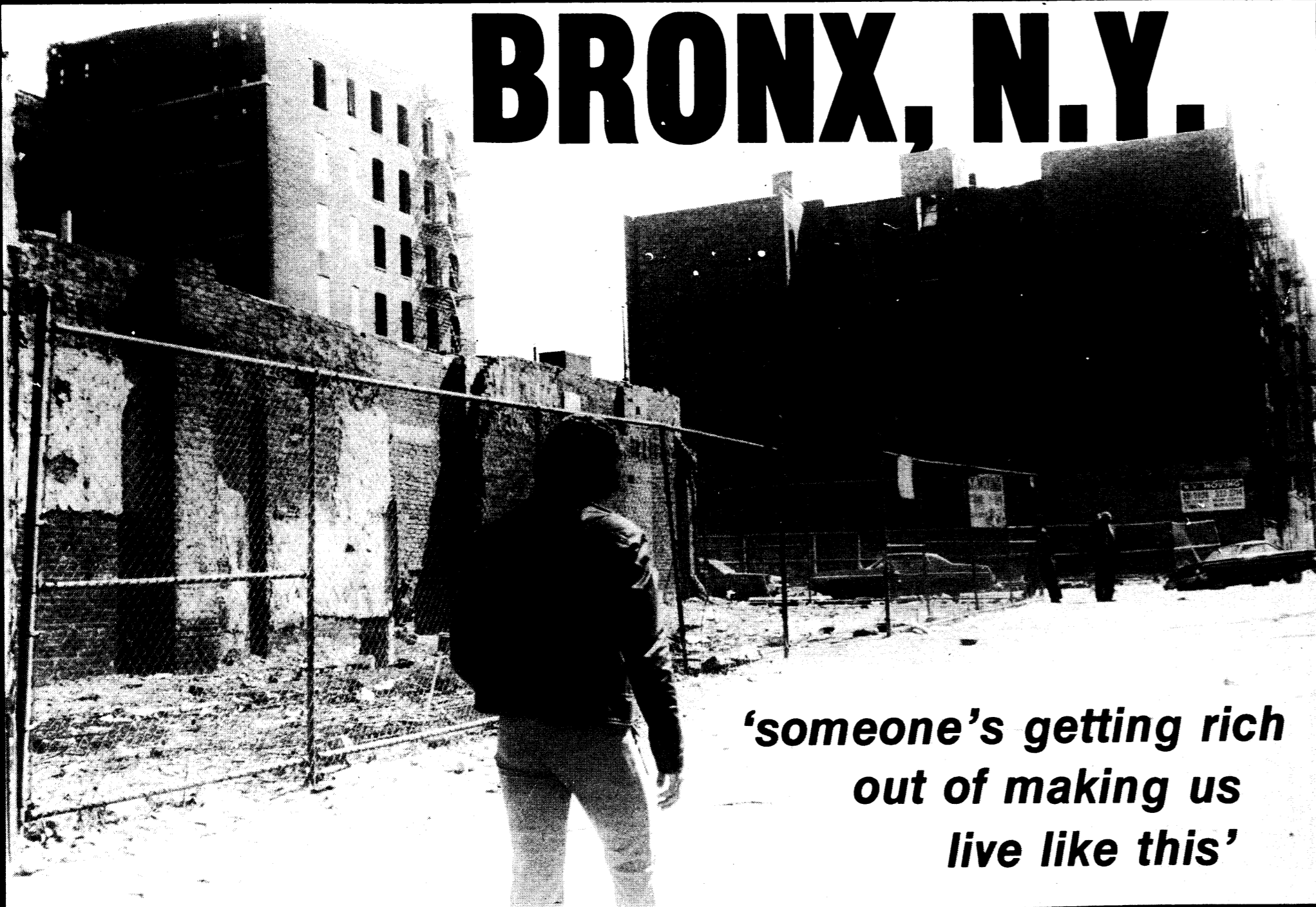
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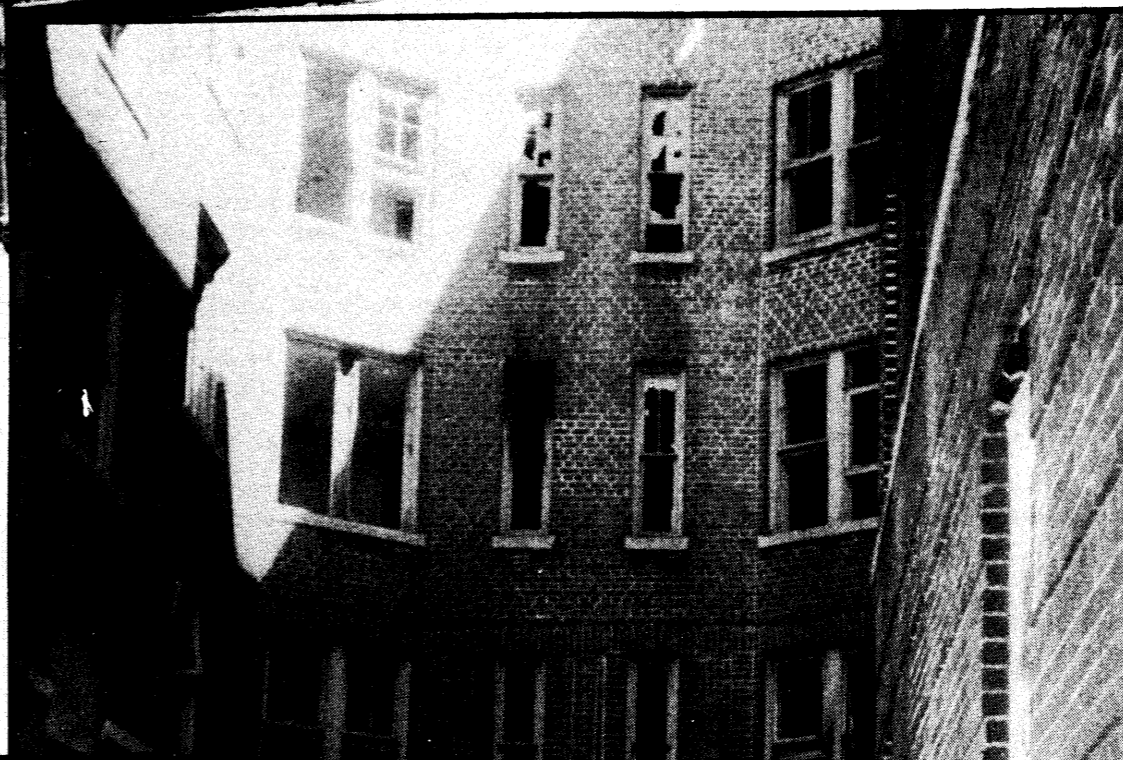
In Mott Haven and the neighborhoods like it in cities across the country, a massive rebuilding program is needed. This kind of program could only be carried out if land, banking and real estate holdings were nationalized. Since the Democrats and Republicans support, and are supported by, the big real estate interests, this kind of policy can only be won through the construction of a labor party based on the unions.

The recent trailblazing campaign held in the Bronx, where over 1100 subscriptions to the *Bulletin* were sold, laid the basis for building a mass Young Socialists movement in the Bronx. Because of the work of the trailblazers, a large delegation of young workers and youth attended the Second National Conference of the YS.

BRONX, N.Y.



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economy
today

Jeff Sebastian

The Bankers Speak

In his economic report to the nation on Saturday, Richard Nixon declared that the "storms are abating," that the material quality of life has been maintained at an "unparalleled level" and that he saw "encouraging signs today that the worst is behind us."

"I am confident," he said, "that we will experience further improvements in the economy during the remainder of the year. We expect output to rise at a more rapid rate. We expect the inflation rate to be significantly lower than the rate we have experienced in the past 18 months. And while there may still be some increase in unemployment, before the rate begins to recede, we expect a further expansion of jobs for American workers."

One can only say that Nixon's remarks are in the grand tradition of seeking to solve economic crisis through incantations. They are much in the spirit of requests during the Great Depression by New York Mayor Jimmy Walker that movie houses should only show cheerful films.

To dramatize the seriousness of the crisis and the paralysis of the Nixon administration, Federal Reserve Board Chairman Arthur Burns took the emergency step of speaking out the next day in a thinly disguised attack on Nixon's optimism.

Burns made clear that the Federal Reserve, which operates independently of the executive, intended to use its vast powers to institute a major deflation, even at the cost of business and financial collapses.

Burns is well aware of the gravity of the impending crisis. With prices now soaring at an annual rate of 15 percent, the amount of credit needed to supply the banks with the funds to continue the expansion of loans to business and industry would mean an explosion of inflation to astronomical levels.

American industry is in desperate straits. With prices soaring, huge loans are needed for investments and in many cases, just to cover their present bills.

Banks are already tremendously overextended. They are relying more and more on the sale of certificates of deposit—essentially short term loans—and borrowing from smaller banks also on a short term basis.

These funds have been lent out to keep their customers in business. In order to repay their short term paper these banks need more credit from the Federal Reserve.

The case of the Franklin National Bank which is now unable to sell its own paper and is totally dependent on the Federal Reserve to avoid collapse typifies the situation developing in the banking system.

Burns is deeply concerned with the effect of the inflation on profits. Although profits have continued to rise, the increase is based totally on inventory gains.

It is estimated that profits on current production for all industry other than oil actually declined by \$9 billion in the first quarter of 1974 over the last quarter of 1973. This was compensated only by the sale of old inventories at inflated prices.

Burns points out that with the cost of business continuing to rise because of the inflation, these inflated profits will be wiped out by the increased prices of replacement materials.

It is precisely this threat to capitalist profit that concerns Burns. The inflation has meant a huge expansion of capital. Vast hoards of capital are demanding profits far beyond the capacity of the capitalist to extract it from the working class.

The capitalist system knows only one answer to such a crisis: the drive to squeeze profit out of the working class by greater and greater exploitation through speedup and wage slashing. This must also be combined with the forcible destruction of huge sections of capital.

Thus when Burns announces that he intends to see to it that there is "continued resistance to swift growth in money and credit," he is saying that entire industries and financial institutions are going to be forced to the wall.

This would mean stock collapses, the wiping out of property values, a wave of bankruptcies in business and finance and the collapse of production and investment. This would mean a return to the conditions of the Depression with millions thrown out of work.

Burns is speaking for the most powerful banking and industrial interests when he calls for a savage deflation. When he warns of a decline in freedom he is stating bluntly that capitalism is preparing dictatorial regimes to seek to impose these measures on the working class.

Woodcock Intervenes In Fleetwood Strike

BY DAVID NORTH
DETROIT — More than 8000 workers returned to work on Wednesday, May 29 as the International leadership of the United Auto Workers intervened in local negotiations to end a 13-day-old strike at the GM Fisher Body Fleetwood plant.

Most of the striking Cadillac workers, members of UAW Local 15, did not know that a tentative settlement had been reached on Saturday, and were unable to vote on the pact because the balloting was held in the middle of the Memorial Day weekend.

Workers completing the first shift after the strike ended told the Bulletin that the main issue that sparked the walkout, speedup, had not been resolved by the settlement.

"I don't notice that anything is different today," declared one worker, "except maybe the line is faster."

The issues involved in the Cadillac strike are important for all auto workers because they reveal the auto corporations'

strategy to introduce the most vicious forms of speedup, while operating the plant with a reduced work force.

At the peak of operations last year, the line speed stood at 71 cars per hour. This speed was reduced to 48 after more than one-third of the workers were laid off during the energy crisis.

LINE SPEED

However, GM has gradually worked the line speed back up to 66 without rehiring the required number of men to cope with the work. There are still 500 men laid off.

The International claims that the settlement requires the company to adjust the line speed to the work force, but most workers doubt the union's explanation of the pact.

"We know what the conditions are like," declared a worker. "The foremen put workers on any shift, or on any job. The working conditions are terrible.

"In places where there are supposed to be two men, they've now got only one."

The union has still not released the exact terms of the settlement, and workers complain they are being deliberately kept in the dark.

Ray, an older worker, stated that the strike "cost me two weeks pay and the only thing we got—you won't believe this—is

the right to have transistor radios on the job. Big deal."

A local contract has finally been signed, but as in all the plant negotiations since the national pact was sealed last autumn, the local agreement simply ignored the demands for improved working conditions.

Local 15 officials claim to have resolved more than 1000 grievances in less than two weeks of negotiations. The real way in which the settlement was concluded was revealed by one bureaucrat who admitted to workers that he accepted the settlement under the instructions of the International.

ORDER

The back to work order was issued even though the union representative in one important department stated that the issues on the plant's floor were not resolved.

The settlement at Fleetwood Fisher Body is the 121st local agreement.

In every case, Woodcock has sought to isolate auto workers, to call them out on short strikes one by one in order to prevent the full mobilization of the UAW's strength in national strike action against the auto companies and their attacks on living standards and working conditions.

Strike Vote At Carter Carburetor

BY A
REPORTER

ST. LOUIS—Last week, the 3000 members of Local 819, United Auto Workers, voted by an 87.5 percent margin to go on strike if the current bargaining sessions failed to produce a decent contract with Carter Carburetor Division, ACF Industries.

With the contract expiring June 15, no discussion has taken place on the economics portion as yet. The discussion has just centered around contract language.

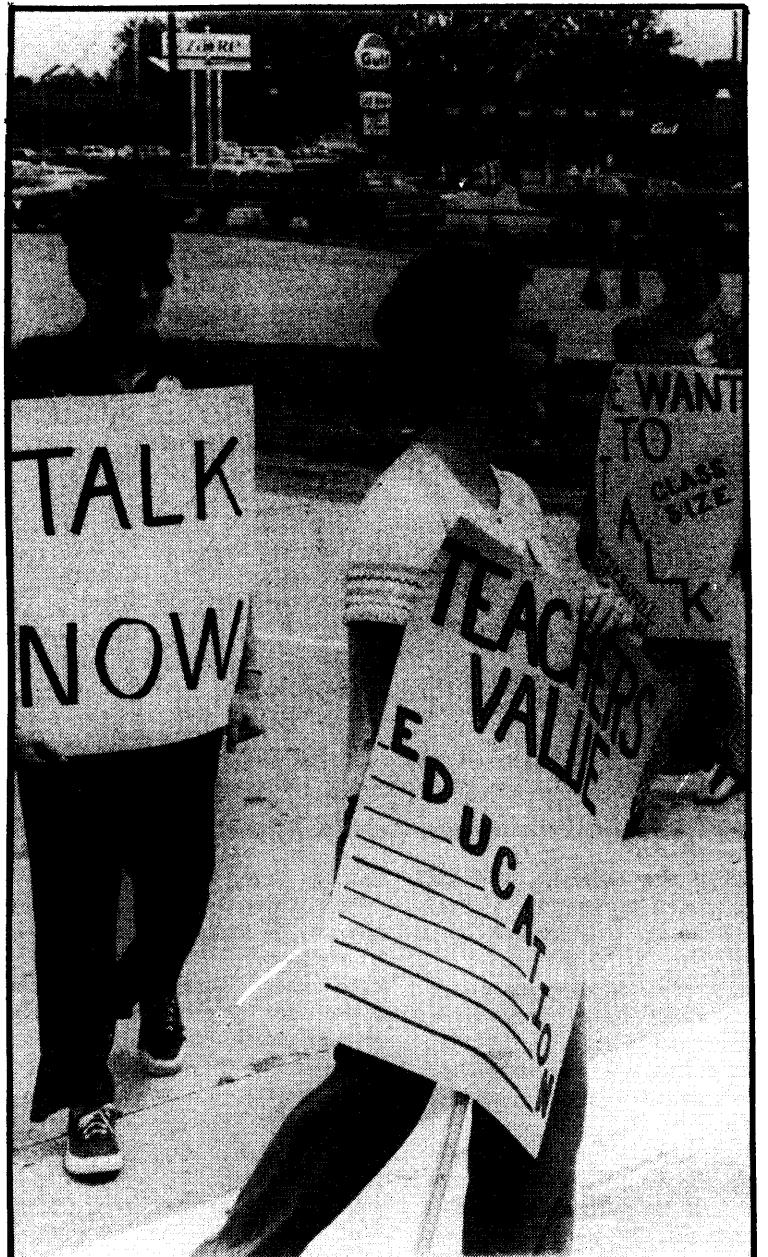
The company has already stated that it "cannot offer much because of the gas crisis" and is preparing for a strike by stockpiling as many products as it can.

A local member said: "If we don't strike, there is going to be a hell of a layoff."

The flow test department, where carburetors are tested with gas, has been working seven days a week on three shifts in order to stockpile carburetors.

Many departments are working overtime, and the management is trying to eliminate jobs and generally harass personnel at the plant. In many cases, one man must do the work of two in order to keep up with production.

The company has set up a vicious absentee control program. Sickness is not even considered an excuse. One woman was warned against missing a day when her child was sick.



Hazelwood Teachers Out

ST. LOUIS—The Hazelwood Community Teachers Association has shut down the 23 schools in the Hazelwood school district in a struggle with the school board for higher wages, cost of living pay increases, and fringe benefits.

The vote to strike was 570 to 386 in the district of 25,000 students. The present teachers base salary is \$8000. They are fighting for a \$700 increase.

The school board has refused to talk with the teachers for years. "We're going all the way this time," a teacher commented.

UNC: Woodcock's Tame Opposition

BY DAVID NORTH
DETROIT, Mich.—
As the Constitutional Convention of the United Auto Workers is about to open in Los Angeles, the United National Caucus is preparing to play the role of loyal opposition to the Woodcock bureaucracy.

The UNC is led by Pete Kelly, shop chairman of Local 160, and Jordan Sims, president of the Chrysler Eldon Gear and Axle plant local.

The UNC is planning to faithfully observe the ground rules of the convention by not raising questions related to the 1973 contract, but instead concentrating on resolutions aimed at reforming the UAW.

Sims told the Bulletin that the UNC could not properly demand the reopening of the contract on wages and taking action against layoffs because this is a constitutional rather than bargaining convention. "There's no need to raise things related to the contract," he said.

The UNC is pressing for a reorganization of the International to make it more democratic. It is also calling for a Production Workers' Council to discuss the problems of assembly workers.

FOOLED

Sims, who voted for the Chrysler contract last autumn at the meeting of local presidents, later stated that he had been "fooled" by Woodcock. But he told the Bulletin that the members of his local were satisfied by the settlement.

"They were running over me to end the strike and get back

into the plant. I don't think workers understand the inflation. There's a tremendous degree of complacency."

Now that Sims is in a position to play a leading role in the fight against the Woodcock bureaucracy, he justifies his own betrayal by arrogantly declaring that the workers are "complacent."

Sims continues to assert that he generally "supports" a labor party, but he stated that he does not foresee "a major fight" for it at the convention.

COVER

The real position of the UNC as a left cover for Woodcock became clear when he stated that the UAW must take "a firm stand on the impeachment of Nixon."

He added that he believes Democratic Representative John Conyers "is doing a good job of just agitating for impeachment and taking an extremist view."

The UNC refuses to demand that a labor party be made a central issue for millions of workers through a mass campaign by the UAW to force Nixon out through industrial action and at the same time build a political alternative to Nixon.

Instead, Sims lines up with Woodcock as an advocate of the impeachment proceedings through which Nixon is left in office while the labor bureaucracy maintains its alliance with the Democrats.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

Lenin: The Man, The Party, The Revolution.

Speaker: Tim Wohlforth, National Secretary, Workers League.

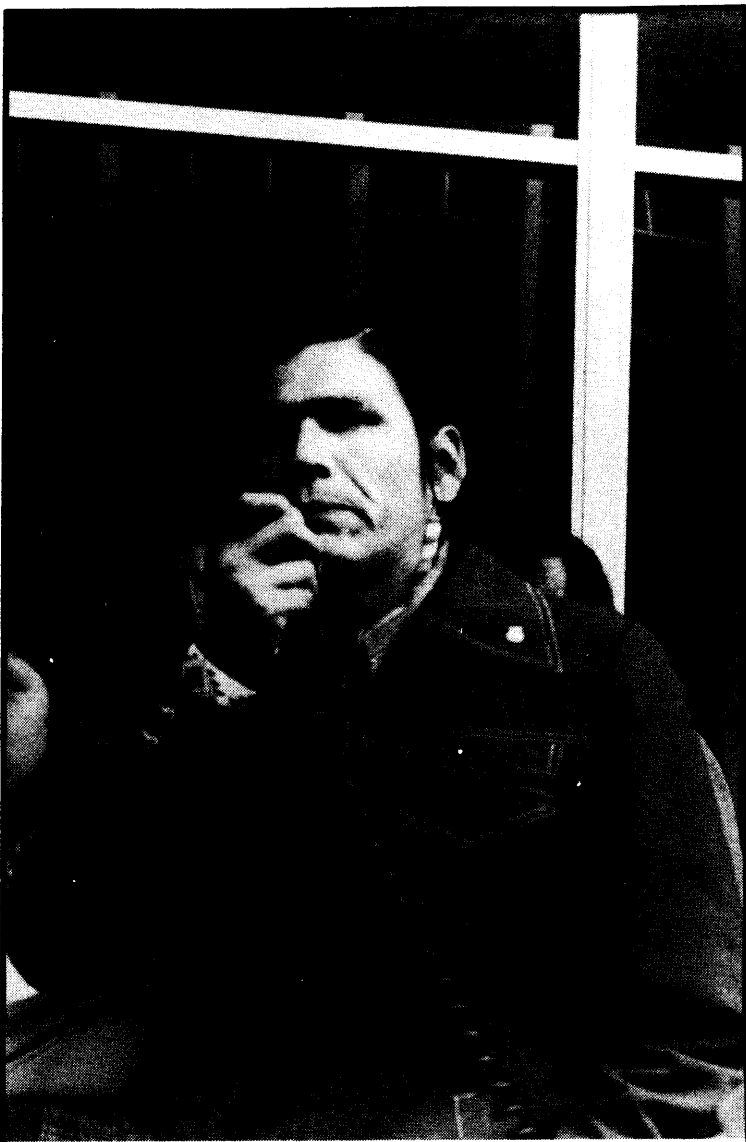


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7 p.m.

WASHINGTON DC
SAT. JUNE 8
Federal City College
925 "E" Street NW
Electric Playhouse
7 p.m.

BOSTON
WED. JUNE 12
Roxbury YMCA
Warren St.
7 p.m.

\$1 Admission



Dennis Banks, who together with Russell Means is on trial in Minneapolis for the occupation of the Wounded Knee Trading Post, addresses supporters at rally in front of the Federal Court House May 24. Lawyer William Kunstler and the Young Socialist Alliance are confining the defense strategy to seeking support from liberal Democrats.

Hotel Unions Demand 100% Wage Increase

BY MIKE ROTH

MINNEAPOLIS—More than 7000 hotel and restaurant workers in this city are demanding wage increases in their new contract.

Hotel and Restaurant Workers Joint Board, representing Locals 665, 458, and 152, have been locked in negotiations for two and one-half months. According to officials at Local 665 there is a "considerably terrific gap" between the union's demands and the hotel owner's position.

The hotel and restaurant industry is notorious for low wages. Housemen and maids at the large hotels get \$2.47 and \$2.27 an hour. According to the director at Local 458, management offered 10 percent increases.

While this was the highest in years, the Bulletin was told that

the union has demanded 100 percent raises in some cases for the kitchen and dining room workers it represents.

Also in dispute is a union demand for a cost of living provision. According to one negotiator at Local 665: "The hotels gave us an absolute no to this." He reported: "There were days when you had to pay for a waitress job. Just this year, the Smuggler's Inn tried to take the waitresses tips and give them a low wage."

Union leaders have reported that all the members have instructed the locals to push hard for big increases. "If they don't give us what we want, we hit the bricks," said one negotiator from Local 665.

"I hope we don't have to strike, but the hotel owners are being as cheap as ever. They are trying to hold us down."

Chicago Building Unions Prepare To Join Truckers

BY WILL ROEMER

CHICAGO—A major showdown between the building trades unions and the contractors appears likely here as Ready Mix truck drivers who have been on strike since May 16 may be joined by Sheetmetal Workers and Iron Workers.

Ready Mix truck drivers have been fighting for \$1.25 per year increase and have halted most construction work.

Both Sheetmetal Workers Local 73 and Iron Workers Local

1 contracts run out on May 31. Local 73 has taken the lead in the push for a guaranteed wage to help offset the widespread unemployment that has hit the construction trades.

The terms of the guarantee are an automatic wage of 360 hours for any worker who gets 1200 hours work a year. Union local President Edward Hussey has said that the union is prepared to fight for the terms of this guarantee and is backed by the striking Philadelphia local.

The threat of an all-out shutdown of construction in the state has led contractors to begin the most vicious campaign against Local 73. Contractors ran a half page ad in the May 28 Chicago Tribune blaming the unions for the increased cost of building materials.

BY HOWARD WEST
ST. LOUIS, Mo.—
Unions of city employees have called for wage increases of 8 percent to meet the rising cost of living and a number of the union leaders have threatened strike action.

The Civil Service Commission last week recommended a 4 percent wage increase, but this has been rejected by many aldermen because of the tight money situation facing the city.

Even this small wage increase would only be met by laying off workers and cutbacks on services. Democratic Alderman Richard Gephardt has called for the city to undergo a strike rather than grant any wage increase.

Alfred Giuffrida, another Democratic alderman, was quoted: "If city employees feel their salary is insufficient, then they should look for other work on the outside."

The Workers League-

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Of Capitalism**

Speaker: Tim Wohlforth,
National Secretary, Workers
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How GM Destroyed Los Angeles

The following is reprinted from Workers Press, daily Trotskyist paper of the British Workers Revolutionary Party.



Los Angeles was once a region of lush palm trees, fragrant orange groves and clean, ocean rich air.

Now it is a wasteland. The palm trees are dying from petrochemical smog, the orange groves have been paved over by 300 miles of freeways and the air is a septic tank into which 4 million cars pump 13,000 tons of pollutants each day.

The story of how General Motors came to dominate public transport in the United States provides the clearest example of how monopoly capitalism holds back and even destroys advances in technology and the productive forces. It is not a question of evil intention—the objective laws of the capitalist crisis force the giant companies to eliminate their transport rivals.

In the late 1920s the big three car producers saturated the private vehicle market and they began to cast greedy eyes at public transport.

Their motives were mixed. The production of vehicles for public transport could bring in more profit, yet the survival of public transport itself was a threat to future car sales.

The hostility to public transport by the car giants is easy to understand. One trolley coach or bus can eliminate 35 cars, one streetcar or subway can supplant 50 cars and a train can displace 1000 cars. In addition, profit on cars is estimated to be eight times greater than the return on trains or buses.

The big grab began in 1925. The first move was to get a base in bus production. In 1925 GM took over the largest manufacturer Yellow Coach. A year later the company assisted in the formation of the Greyhound Corporation and became involved in the company's campaign to convert rail passenger operations into inter-city bus services.

Greyhound agreed to purchase all its buses from GM.

By 1939 six major railroads had agreed to replace substantial proportions of their passenger rail service with Greyhound buses and by 1950 Greyhound carried roughly half as many as the entire US rail system.

In 1935 they began to use their formidable power as the largest rail freight shipper in the US to force railways either to convert to buses or phase out electric trains in favor of dirty, slow and inefficient GM diesels.

The campaign was quite blatant. In November 1935 the GM board ordered its traffic division to route freight over railroads that had agreed to scrap electric trains and steam equipment.

The combination of conversion to bus transport and the purchase of diesel engines was a major factor in the widespread bankruptcy of the rail companies.

A diesel engine lasted half as long, did one third the work and cost three times more than an electric locomotive. In addition diesel trains were sluggish,

noisy, and generally less attractive than the rapid, quiet, electric trains. The result was that more people chose the car.

Today six of the railways in the northeast corridor of America are bankrupt and the intercity electric train has been all but eliminated. Meanwhile GM has grown to manufacture 100 percent of passenger trains and 75 percent of freight trains.

After the success in intercity transport, the GM bosses turned their attentions to travel within the city.

The United Cities Motor Transit (UCMT) was formed as a GM subsidiary. Its sole function was to buy up street car and electric rail companies, turn the system over to buses and re-sell the investment to a capitalist who would undertake to purchase GM buses only.

The activities of UCMT were exposed by the American Transit Association, so GM dissolved the company but carried on clandestine takeovers through National City Lines, a company formed in conjunction with Greyhound.

City Lines wreaked its greatest devastation in Los Angeles. This Californian city developed as a group of townships strung along the Pacific coast and the verdant Santa Monica Hills. The Pacific Electric system branched out from Los Angeles for a radius of 75 miles. Its 3000 quiet, pollution free electric trains transported 80 million people a year to the region's 56 separately incorporated cities.

In 1938 GM teamed up with Standard Oil of California (part of the antielectric lobby) and organized Pacific City Lines (PCL). Within ten years, PCL with other GM subsidiaries had taken over the region's transport, scrapped the electric trains, torn up the tracks and introduced buses fueled by Standard Oil. The death of Los Angeles had begun.

By 1963 the city was seeking ways of rebuilding its rail system for \$500 million. A decade later no progress had been made and the cost had escalated to \$6.6 billion.

In 1949 GM was charged in court with conspiring with other rubber and oil monopolies to destroy the electric transport system.

The multi-billion dollar company was fined \$5000 and H.C. Grossman, GM treasurer, who played a key role in the rape of Los Angeles was fined the maganimous sum of \$1!

The greater the capital amassed by one company, the greater is the need for that capital to gain access to more surplus value.

When the car markets reached saturation point, the vastly overcapitalized American motor manufacturers searched overseas for investment and bought up the public transport system at home.

They did this at the expense of the foreign car manufacturers and the US companies who sold out or went bankrupt.

In other words, they swallowed a greater and greater value at the expense of their weaker rivals and, of course, of the working class.

Union Busting On The Queen Mary

BY SHEILA BREHM
LONG BEACH—The Marine Cooks and Stewards Union have been on strike against the Queen Mary restaurant owners for a year.

Federal Judge William P. Gray rejected a National Labor Relations Board move to stop the owners from continuing flagrant violations of federal laws.

In a seldom used procedure, the National Labor Relations Board here went to court for an order to force immediate compliance with the law, because the company's actions were so bad that it could not wait until its own judge completes his findings on the charges.

Gray, siding with the Queen Mary, denied that the restaurant owners refused to bargain in good faith. The owners have already been found guilty of many violations of the federal labor law.

Joe Goren head of the Marine Cooks and Stewards told the Bulletin that the restaurant owners had been found guilty of refusing to bargain in good faith with statements such as, "if the union wins the election, it will take five years to get a contract."

SERIOUS

Goren said it had taken three elections to win the right to have a union, and: "The way it looks now, it may take us five years to get a contract, as the owner Dave Tellechet refuses to engage in serious negotiations."

The company was also found guilty of firing a union organizer for union activity, as well as in-

City Workers Stage Protest

BY DENNIS BREHM
LOS ANGELES—Last Friday, all street maintenance workers in LA staged a one day strike to "show our unity and determination to get a fair wage and benefit package for city workers."

The strike was to last only four hours, but almost every worker stayed out the full day.

Over 28,000 city workers are negotiating a new contract between the city and the Service Employees Union Local 347. The city to date has offered only 5.5 percent in wage increases and the union is demanding a minimum of 8.25 percent to equal the increase county workers received a few weeks ago.

Over 500 city workers attended a City Council meeting on that Friday to press their wage demands. One member of Local 347 said: "My wife and I both work, but when we go to the grocery store people with food stamps get more food for their families than we can get with our income."

"I have been working for the city for 19 years, but now inflation is cutting my paycheck so badly that we need more than the 5.5 to keep up."

Walter Backstrom, head of Local 347, stated: "This time we showed the response of workers in just one bureau because we wanted only a demonstration. Next time, it will not be a limited strike."

timidating and spying on union supporters.

The restaurant is currently being run by scabs from Mexico who have no immigration papers. The union has found out that in some cases, they are working 12 to 16 hours a day, and being paid for only 8 hours.

The Queen Mary was purchased by the city of Long Beach and converted into a tourist attraction to bring in revenue for the city.

The restaurant workers, who represent the majority of the ship's staff, are the only unionized workers. Goren said the restaurant owners are adamant about not having a union. "This is the most vicious strike I have ever seen."

The only action the AFL-CIO in the area has taken has been to cancel all banquets and conventions that were scheduled on the Queen Mary.

Police Intensify Raids In Hearst Manhunt



BY A REPORTER
LOS ANGELES— "Armed and extremely dangerous," states the FBI's 175,000 wanted posters for Patricia Hearst and Emily and William Harris.

The Los Angeles District Attorney filed 19 charges against the trio. If she lives to be convicted, Patricia Hearst could get a life sentence.

Included in the charges are four counts of assault with a deadly weapon, five counts of assault with intent to commit murder, and several counts of kidnapping.

The charges were filed almost three months after Hearst was allegedly kidnapped from her Berkeley apartment by the SLA.

After the Friday, May 17 bloodbath where six members of the SLA were killed by over 500 police, there is little doubt that the three will live to get to court.

Despite a campaign by the FBI, Randolph Hearst, and the Harris's family to convince the trio to give themselves up, the shootout and the 19 charges carrying a possible life sentence are aimed at making surrender im-

possible.

The most massive manhunt in the West has been launched. The FBI claims there are over 1000 law enforcement officers involved in the hunt in the LA area alone.

The police are using the hunt for the SLA's remaining members as an excuse to terrorize thousands of workers. Police have raided at least six houses on false leads.

A freight train was stopped and searched on its way to San Francisco and 16 hoboes were arrested and jailed for a day. A marital dispute in a courthouse parking lot brought out 60 police.

The search in the city has been extended over a much larger area than Watts.

Extensive use is being made of police helicopters with powerful searchlights. The police claim they are receiving about 100 tips or leads a day from the public.

In the meantime, every single newspaper in the area is running extensive coverage on the SLA, including detailed backgrounds on all members of the SLA. In order to wage an anti-communist campaign, police are playing up posters of Marx and Lenin and revolutionary books on the class struggle found in the Harris's Oakland apartment.

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Army Develops Ethnic Weapons

BY SHEILA BREHM
LOS ANGELES—Dr. Richard Hammerschlag, a neuroscientist with the City of Hope National Medical Center is seeking to expose the frightening possibility that research currently underway in human genetics is possibly being perverted into weapons which could selectively incapacitate or obliterate large numbers of a specific ethnic group, such as Orientals or Blacks.

The article which spurred Dr. Hammerschlag to undertake research on the matter of genetic weapons appeared in *Military Review*, the professional journal of the US Army, in 1970.

Dr. Hammerschlag just discovered the article written by Dr. Carl A. Larson, head of the department of human genetics at the University of Lund in Sweden.

CAPTIONS

Captions beneath photographs and charts in the article read: "Enzyme inhibitors could turn these troops into a state of paralysis," and, "Innate differences in vulnerability to chemical agents between different populations have led to a possible development of ethnic weapons."

Larson's article cites examples of genetic weapons that could be used to attack whole populations. For example, introducing large amounts of lactose, sugar found in cow's milk, into a water supply would bring on intestinal bloating, cramps, and diarrhea among Asian and African adults, as lactose is difficult for them to digest.

DESTROY

Instead of science and medicine being developed to cure diseases which destroy life, it is actually being transformed into its opposite and used to destroy life itself.

Dr. Hammerschlag told the *Bulletin*: "The military doesn't

even have to do the basic research, we do it, and then the military looks at it differently and instead of trying to cure hereditary diseases, applies it to weaponry."

"There's the possibility that genetic research would be turned around this way and applied to purposes like ethnic weapons."

Dr. Hammerschlag told the *Bulletin* that the army has denied that such genetic weapons are being researched or in existence.

"But when the army denies something, they don't have a very good track record. They deny it when they do it."

He referred to the case in Utah in 1968 when nerve gas escaped killing 64,000 sheep. It wasn't until several months later that the army acknowledged its "error."

"I know that hearings are underway to obtain funds to transform the storehouses of nerve gas to CR gas (binary nerve gas) used in England which is specifically designed for riot control."

Dr. Hammerschlag said that ethnic warfare is not new, referring to when the US Cavalry sent blankets infested with smallpox to the Indians. What is new, though, is genetic warfare, he said.

Larson's article cites research being done on genetic weapons in Nazi Germany during the 1930s, when the complete brutality of capitalism was unleashed.

DRUGS

Then, the use of such weapons was restrained because the troops were not immune. Today, however, Larson documents how "the country's own personnel" could be protected by "tolerance-building," or building up resistance to the poisonous effect of particular drugs.

The sinister perversion of science to develop ethnic weapons comes at a time when capitalism on a worldwide scale is in its deepest crisis, where, in every country preparations are underway for dictatorship and civil war.

A US Army colonel, commenting on Larson's article, said: "The military implications of the research upon which Dr. Larson reported are doubtless greater than any of us realize at this point."

Bottlers Union Prepares Sellout

BY BARRY GREY
OAKLAND—The leadership of glass workers who have struck Owens-Illinois for nine weeks are seeking to force the membership back to work on the company's terms.

The strike against the company's nine West Coast plants has driven Owens-Illinois into a huge crisis. With all its stocks depleted, the company is being sued by both Gerber Baby Foods and MJB foods for failing to supply glass bottles as guaranteed in their contracts.

As a desperate measure, the company has offered to give the workers a \$150 bonus if they go

back to work. However, they have added only 3 cents to their original wage package, which was voted down by an 85 percent margin a month ago.

The leadership of Oakland Local 141 of the Glass Bottle Blowers Association (GBBA) is trying to bail the company out. They have scheduled a vote on this offer and are recommending it be approved, pushing the company's \$150 offer.

OPPOSITION

There is big opposition to this sellout attempt at the main plant in Oakland. The union went out demanding a one-year contract with a \$1 raise and a 100 percent cost of living escalator.

Now the leadership is urging the membership to accept a three year contract with increases of 33, 23, and 23 cents and no cost of living clause until



Three longshoremen were crushed to death when a 35 foot crane crashed into the crane cab on the Louisiana, at an army pier in Oakland.

Crane Crushes Three Dockers

BY ANN LORE
OAKLAND — Three longshoremen were crushed to death early Monday morning aboard a ship docked at the Oakland Army Base's Pier 7.

Two of the three died instantly in a crane cab when the crane's 35-foot boom snapped and crushed the cab "almost flat" at approximately 1:20 am on the deck of the Seatrain Louisiana.

The third man was working in the hold of the ship. A longshoreman who works for the army on those docks spoke to the *Bulletin*. He was not on the crew when the accident occurred, but he thought it was probable that a piece of metal flew in the air from the boom and came down crushing the third man's skull. "There are three parts to the boom. There must have been a strain on it and it broke in the middle. The middle piece just flew out, pulling the cab of the crane off the platform." The men had lowered a container into the ship's hold and were attempting to reposition it when their crane boom snapped. The press is speculating that the accident occurred because the boom was topped out too high, implying it was the fault of the men.

A worker on the docks said he did not think that was true.

"There's an automatic limit which stops that. With an accident like that, the only thing you

can do is run as fast as you can, but those guys were trapped."

It took Fire Department rescuers two hours to free the bodies of John Miller, 48, and Elmo Iassac, 56, of Oakland, from the crane cab. The body of Frank Gomez Nunes, 38, of Fremont was not even found until twelve hours later.

BUZZARD

A civilian spokesman for the army, Mr. Buzzard, said no one knew what happened to the third man or why he was not found immediately.

"I don't call anything to mind of this nature happening be-

fore." He also said that he thought the accident occurred "because the boom was raised too high."

All three men were members of International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union Local 10. Most men who work at the Oakland Army Base are members of the American Federation of Government Employees. Union spokesmen were unavailable for comment because they were out at Pier 7 with investigators for the union.

Three other investigations are being conducted together by Seatrain, the army, and the Military Sea Lift to determine the cause of the accident.

McGee Bares 'Bargain'

BY A REPORTER
SAN JOSE—Ruchell Magee testified today that his court appointed lawyer promised him a light sentence and eventual freedom in return for pleading guilty.

Magee presented evidence of a plot by the judge, the prosecution, and public defender Sheldon Portman to induce a guilty plea by pretending to bargain with him, and then to railroad him to jail for life without a trial.

He is now fighting to withdraw the guilty plea and defend himself.

He told the courtroom audience: "When I lay down and give up, I know they've broken me. I have not stopped struggling. I am not going to lay down."

Magee said that Portman promised that if he pleaded guilty, he would receive only a two to nine year sentence; that his prior frameup conviction in Los Angeles in 1963 would be thrown out; that he would be released after serving his sentence on condition that he not set foot in the country.

CONSPIRACY

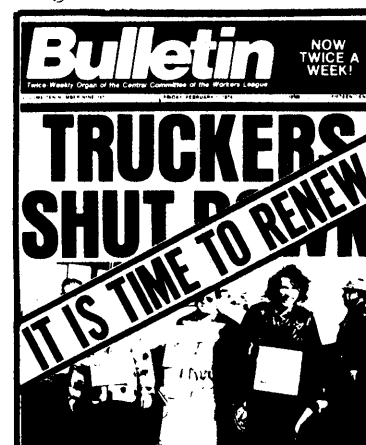
Portman's assistant Frank Katz was called to the stand by Magee and confirmed the conspiracy against Magee. Magee questioned him about a meeting Katz had attended. Katz stated that in the judge's chambers he found the deputy public defender, the judge, and Portman in a meeting with Magee not present.

Katz admitted that the prosecutor had also attended the meeting. This particular discussion had centered on how Portman could be removed from the case and replaced by another public defender. Magee had just punched Portman on two

separate occasions and demanded Portman be dismissed and he be allowed to defend himself. Tomorrow, Magee will call the prosecutor and the judge to the stand.

The judge, the prosecutor, and the "defense" lawyer embarked on this scheme because of their fear of the tremendous support which Magee can win today.

Every trade union local must immediately demand that Magee be freed.



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lucha obrera

lucía rivera

Portugal Y América

La lucha que se está realizando en Portugal tiene un gran significado, debido a que el carácter internacional de la crisis, que produjo la caída del régimen fascista de Caetano, continúa agudizándose y ha de producir explosiones revolucionarias similares en los Estados Unidos.

El régimen fascista cayó después de 50 años. Durante ese período toda organización obrera, socialista y militante, fue reprimida por la policía secreta, entrenada como la gestapo.

Sin embargo, este régimen fue incapaz de prevenir el golpe del 25 de Abril, debido a que la base material para la desintegración del gobierno es la crisis económica internacional que está actuando para romper todas las antiguas relaciones de clase, particularmente a partir de la supresión de la convertibilidad del dólar en oro del 15 de Agosto de 1971.

En Portugal la crisis mundial se dejó sentir con gran intensidad. Una inflación del 20 por ciento produjo una serie de grandes huelgas, verdaderas batallas para la clase obrera.

Pero esas batallas solo fueron el preludio del movimiento masivo de la clase obrera Portuguesa que se produce a partir del 25 de Abril. Más de 3 millones de trabajadores marcharon por las calles de Lisboa el Primero de Mayo (día del trabajo), en una singular demostración de fortaleza. Se han producido huelgas en todos los sectores industriales, donde los trabajadores han ocupado fábricas, siendo la más importante la de 10 mil trabajadores del astillero Lisnave y que ya han rechazado ofertas.

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"Moreover, the large profit figures now being published are greatly inflated by the effect of rapidly rising prices on the value of inventories which is not a source from which higher wages can be paid."

The report also warned that the government would continue its policy of restricting and even withdrawing credit to curb the monetary expansion.

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La labor de esta columna es la construcción de un nuevo liderazgo en la clase obrera. Es por ello que necesitamos el apoyo de todos los obreros hispanos en desarrollar esta columna. Favor de dirigir su correspondencia a: Lucía Rivera, c/o Labor Publications, 135 West 14th St., New York, N.Y. 10011.

lucha obrera

lucía rivera

Portugal Y América

La lucha que se está realizando en Portugal tiene un gran significado, debido a que el carácter internacional de la crisis, que produjo la caída del régimen fascista de Caetano, continúa agudizándose y ha de producir explosiones revolucionarias similares en los Estados Unidos.

El régimen fascista cayó después de 50 años. Durante ese período toda organización obrera, socialista y militante, fue reprimida por la policía secreta, entrenada como la gestapo.

Sin embargo, este régimen fue incapaz de prevenir el golpe del 25 de Abril, debido a que la base material para la desintegración del gobierno es la crisis económica internacional que está actuando para romper todas las antiguas relaciones de clase, particularmente a partir de la supresión de la convertibilidad del dólar en oro del 15 de Agosto de 1971.

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