

Bulletin

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

NOW
TWICE A
WEEK!

JUL 29 1974

INSTITUTION

VOLUME TEN NUMBER SEVENTY FOUR 410

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 1974

UNION LABEL 6 C748

TWENTY CENTS

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BY DAVID NORTH
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unprecedented dimensions, and neither man left any doubt that American imperialism would stop at nothing—not even world war—to survive this crisis.

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As Ford and Kissinger spoke, the US Commerce Department was compiling statistics that showed that this country suffered in August the worst monthly balance of trade deficit in its history: \$1.1 billion. This figure surpasses the previous record of \$800 million in August, 1971.

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But to blame the Arabs for the rise in oil prices is a reactionary imperialist fraud. The skyrocketing oil prices—like those of all raw materials—is the product of the world inflationary crisis, not its cause.

Oil prices must rise because the withdrawal of gold backing

to the dollar in August 1971 by Richard Nixon transformed paper currency into so much worthless paper. The controlled inflation of the postwar period (1945-1971) has given way to three years of uncontrolled inflation.

The rise in oil prices and the devastating trade deficits in the industrial countries express the outcome of economic laws which neither the oil sheiks nor anyone else can control.

This economic crisis threatens millions with starvation, fascism and war unless the working class puts an end to capitalism through the social revolution.

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“But that is no longer the case; we confront a fundamentally changed situation. It is no longer possible to imagine that conflicts, weapons and recession will not spread.”

He stated that the world is in one of the “brief moments when an old order is giving way to a pattern new and unforeseen; these are times of potential disorder and danger, but also of opportunity for fresh creation.”

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Directing his comments toward American policy in the Middle East, Kissinger warned that “tolerance in local conflict tempts world holocaust. We have no guarantee that some local crisis—perhaps the next—will not explode beyond control.”

Kissinger added: “The world is poised on the brink of a return to the unrestrained economic nationalism which accompanied the collapse of economic order in the 1930s and, should that occur, all would suffer—poor as well as rich, producer as well as consumer... “Many nations will not be able to withstand the pace and the poorer could be overwhelmed. The complex, fragile structure of global economic

(Continued On Page 12)

Steel Delegates Blast Abel

BY A REPORTER

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J.—The 17th Constitutional Convention of the United Steelworkers, which opened Monday, has been a grotesque display of the utter bankruptcy of the trade union bureaucracy in the face of the worst economic crisis in history.

Both I.W. Abel, president of the union, and George

Meany, president of the AFL-CIO, told the delegates in their separate addresses that the United States stands on the brink of a depression.

But neither man, who between them represent 20 million workers, had any policies to propose outside of further collaboration with the Ford government to help make capitalism work.

Although there were no provisions—even an agenda—to guarantee any real discussion of union policies, delegates who spoke from the floor denounced the Experimental Negotiating Agreement (ENA) and the

deterioration of working conditions in the mills.

A Canadian delegate from Local 1005 was applauded when he stated that “the right to strike was taken away from steelworkers by a few hundred delegates.”

Another delegate received an ovation when he attacked the collective bargaining procedures of ENA as “collective begging.”

There was no opportunity for delegates to vote directly on ENA. All resolutions directly in opposition to Abel had been previously removed from the resolution booklet.

But the stage-managed proceedings and the orchestrated hymns by goons and bureaucrats to Abel’s infallibility cannot cover up the enormous crisis of the leadership. Everything Abel said about the crisis revealed his own fright and paralysis. He stated:

“Brothers and sisters, this economy of ours is on a downhill slide. You know it as well as I do.

“No issue today is as critical as the economic mess that generated today’s inflation and tomorrow’s unemployment. If raging inflation and spreading unemployment are not halted, both the United States and Canada will be plunged into a depression, and no working person’s job or standard of living will be safe.”

And what did Abel propose to meet this situation?

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(Continued On Page 12)

Bulletin 10th Anniversary Fund

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We must step up the campaign for funds at once. Although we are still at the beginning of our fund drive, we cannot allow it to fall behind a single day. We must raise \$9,122.67 by next week to meet our goal of one-third by September 30.

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class from these attacks. These tasks pose the urgent necessity of a party of the working class to carry through the fight for a socialist program. We must build a revolutionary leadership before it is too late. We must have the funds to take this campaign into the labor movement and to expand the Bulletin to reach the masses of workers who are already fighting back.

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Rockefeller Stranglehold

BY JEFF SEBASTIAN
The Senate Rules Committee hearings on the nomination of Nelson Aldrich Rockefeller as Vice President represent a colossal white-wash of the vast power and influence of the Rockefeller family empire.

For Rockefeller, obviously well prepared and secure in the knowledge that his Senate interrogators would not ask too many embarrassing questions, the hearings were an opportunity to portray himself as a moderately wealthy man whose family interests had been greatly exaggerated.

As he smugly explained, "I hope that the myth or misconception about the extent of the family's control over the economy of this country will be totally brought out and exposed and dissipated."

For weeks the debate has been raging about the extent of his personal wealth. He now publicly admits to holdings of \$218 million, largely held in trusts for himself, his wife and children.

This includes an average income over the last ten years of \$4.6 million, automobiles, boats, airplanes, real estate, jewelry, coins and an art collection estimated at a \$33.5 million market value.

A worker clearing \$10,000 a year after a lot of overtime would have to put in 21,800 years on the assembly line to amass such a personal fortune.

But even if Rockefeller forgot to count a few gold coins lying about in his Fifth Avenue duplex or omitted a painting stored somewhere on his 3000 acre Pocantico Hills estate, the extent of his personal wealth has absolutely nothing to do with the power exercised by the Rockefeller dynasty.

The real extent of the family's power remains cloaked in secrecy which the Senate will do nothing to expose. It is exercised through control of vast blocks of capital which give the family the decisive word in an array of banks, insurance companies and multinational corporations affecting the lives of virtually every person on earth.

The family has dominating interests in banking, oil, insurance, retail sales, food, communications, electronics and aerospace, real estate, hotels, mutual funds and many more fields too wide to even measure.

The family fortune is pooled to provide an enormous clout through more than 75 trust funds, an array of tax exempt foundations and the Rockefeller Center, a business enterprise occupying 24 acres in Manhattan including 21 skyscrapers and estimated to be worth more than a billion dollars. Although many of the trusts and foundations such as the Rockefeller Foundation with assets of nearly \$1 billion and the Rockefeller Brothers Fund with assets of over a quarter billion bear the family name, dozens of others operate with dummy names and

no obvious connection to the family.

It is through these institutions that the Rockefellers dominate major corporations. Modern corporations are run by the major shareholders. Possession of a very small percentage of stock is sufficient to provide control. This gives the large shareholders leverage over billions in assets.

It is in this way that the Rockefellers control the Standard Oil empire. They have the largest block of Exxon stock as well as effective control over Mobil, Amoco and Standard of California.

Through control of the Chase Manhattan Bank with Chairman David Rockefeller and assets estimated at 8.8 billion last year, they dominate the globe.

A Senate study released in 1968 showed that the bank had direct power over corporations with \$35 billion in assets. Northwest Airlines, Eastern Airlines, CBS, NBC, Aetna Life, Safeway Stores, Sperry Rand, Reynolds Metals and Pacific Intermountain Express represent only a few of the giants directly controlled by the bank.

Through its power over credit, Chase representatives sit on the boards of hundreds of American corporations.

Through its oil interests the Rockefellers operate in Aramco which owns tens of thousands of miles of Arabian oil land. Chase Manhattan props up the apartheid regime of South Africa through its investments there. In Latin America Rockefeller holdings in oil, land, and mineral

extraction are enormous.

With its banking and oil interests alone the Rockefellers are in a position to exert a stranglehold on the world economy.

Rockefeller's promise to place his holdings in a blind trust is simply absurd. There is not an area in the world where the Rockefeller interests are not involved and threatened.

The movement of the Arab masses is a direct threat to the Rockefeller oil interests. The collapse of the Portuguese empire in Africa imperils their vast South African holdings. The Allende regime in Chile nationalized a number of Rockefeller enterprises. The worldwide credit and inflation crisis places the Rockefeller banking interests in the very center of the decisions to restrict credit and force a wave of bankruptcies and mass unemployment. It is precisely the world financial crisis which forces capitalism to prepare counter-revolution on a world scale.

CIVIL WAR

The decision to place Nelson Rockefeller in the position of Vice President represents a new and dangerous stage in the crisis. Big business is putting its own most powerful representative directly in power in order to prepare for counter-revolution and civil war.

Ford's nomination of Rockefeller is a warning to the working class of the urgency with which it must prepare its own struggle for power through the construction of a labor party.

British Ford Workers Walk Out

BY FRANK MARTIN
The refusal of 1800 Ford workers in Britain to return to work is in direct defiance of the Social Contract agreed to between the Labor government and the trade unions.

The press shop workers have been on strike at Ford's two giant complexes at Dagenham and Halewood for over two weeks. They are demanding a \$9.20 per week increase. Their strike has forced the layoff of 15,000 men.

When Ford promised to reopen wage talks with all its employees, the press shop workers refused to abandon their claim, which falls outside the Social Contract. At the same time, workers at a mass meeting in Dagenham demanded a National Shop Stewards Conference to take measures to prevent mass layoffs due to the slump in the car industry.

The refusal of the Ford workers to accept the Social Contract has created major problems for Harold Wilson's Labor Party bureaucrats who are in the middle of the campaign for the October 10 election.

Wilson has staked everything on his ability to police the wage demands of the unions and, in that way, save British capitalism. The Labor Party elec-



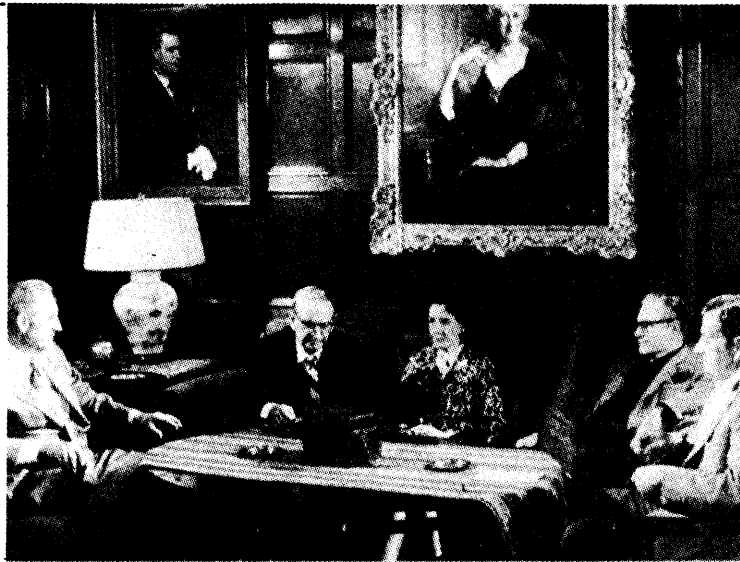
Ford Dagenham workers at a mass meeting.

tion manifesto states this explicitly:

"At the heart of...our program to save the nation lies the social contract between the Labor government and the trades unions, an idea derided by our enemies, but certain to become widely accepted by those who genuinely believe in government by consent..."

Although the labor leaders reject an open coalition with the two capitalist parties, the Tories and the Liberals, what they really propose is a coalition based on policies that correspond to the requirements of the capitalist class.

Labor's campaign is con-



The Rockefeller family, l. to r.: John D. III, Laurance, Abby, Nelson, and David, December 1973.

French Company Occupied

BY A REPORTER
2700 French workers are continuing their occupation of the three plants of Titan Coder which went bankrupt on September 16.

The collapse of Titan Coder, a major manufacturer of railroad equipment, is one of the largest companies to be hit in the increasing wave of bankruptcies in French industry.

On September 20, the union federations represented at Titan Coder held two demonstrations against the threatened closing, one outside Paris that brought 700 workers and a smaller one in Marseille.

At the same time, in Angoulême, 1200 demonstrated in support of the occupation of La Prairie, a manufacturer of tents, caravans and boats, which laid off 130 workers.

On September 18, a massive march that swelled to 5000 workers by the time it reached the city hall was held in Maugey in support of the Titan Coder struggle.

The trade union leaders are supporting the occupation but

are seeking to lead it into a blind alley. In their discussions with government ministers, they have demanded Renault, the auto manufacturer, take over and operate the three plants. Renault, however, has made it clear that if it does take control, it would not guarantee the jobs and would probably convert it to some other kind of production.

WILDFIRE

This occupation is just the beginning of a wave of factory occupations that will spread like wildfire throughout the country as the international trade war and recession drives French industry under.

The Stalinist leadership of the CGT (General Federation of Labor) refuses to take up a fight against the bankruptcy of the capitalist system that is at the heart of these closures and thus turns the occupation into a futile protest.

What these occupations pose is that workers must nationalize and control industry under a workers government. This is now the burning issue facing workers throughout Europe.

sciously designed to disarm the working class. They have refused to call for the nationalization of the basic industries and the banks, the only policy that can defend the working class from mass unemployment.

Labor is even denying that a crisis exists. At a Sept. 23 news conference, Chancellor of the Exchequer Denis Healey claimed the Tories were lying about the inflation rate being 35 percent a year. Instead, he claimed that inflation had dropped to 8.4 percent.

While Healey was denying the crisis, the Financial Times Index was dropping to its lowest point in 50 years. The Bank of

England, in its quarterly report, claimed that many firms were heading towards a state of insolvency. At the same time four big banks warned that they may not "be able to go on meeting requirements of industry within six to nine months."

The Labor Party campaign has only one purpose—to open the door to a coalition government in Britain as the preparation for military rule.

The Workers Revolutionary Party, the British Trotskyist movement, is fielding candidates in this election to expose the treacherous role of the reformists and build the alternative revolutionary leadership.

BY MELODY FARROW

The struggle in Brownsville against escalating repression that led to the murder of Claude Reese, Jr. on Powell Street is reaching a critical turning point.

All the efforts of community residents to force the Mayor's office to take action against the police officer who shot the youth, Frank Bosco, have come up against a stone wall. Members of the Ad Hoc Committee for Justice for Claude Reese have been informed that Mayor Beame has no more time for the matter.

In fact the government is creating conditions to increase the police terror in Brownsville and in every working class community by whitewashing and covering up the incident.

At last Wednesday's funeral march in Brownsville, police cars drove into crowds of youth, nearly running them over and then beating up as many as they could. A force of 300 police with helmets lined up in formation and then launched their attack, beating girls as brutally as the men.

Most of the police involved wore "mourning bands" over their badge numbers to prevent identification.

Members of the Ad Hoc Committee and youth on Powell Street have been threatened by police to keep quiet and stay out of the protests.

Daily Challenge, a local newspaper, has published information given to it by one of the medical examiners of Claude Reese's body, that two inches of skin were removed from the area around the bullet hole.

The examiner stated that there was a strong possibility this was done to remove traces of gun powder burns that would prove that Claude was shot at point blank range, as eye witnesses have said.

It is becoming clear to many workers and youth in Brownsville that more protests and meetings at City Hall will solve nothing.

The struggle against police terror can only go forward by turning to the tremendous power of the trade unions and through mobilizing the strength of the working class against these attacks.

An investigation into the killing of Claude Reese cannot be left in the hands of the very police who are responsible for his death.

The trade unionists must launch their own investigation of this murder. At the same time, this must be the beginning of a full inquiry into the extensive plans to train and equip police as a paramilitary force and the intervention of the Army and Pentagon in domestic affairs.

The youth are the first target of the police because they are in the forefront of the struggle and are the first to move towards the revolutionary movement.

But this repression is being increasingly used against trade unionists fighting for wages and decent conditions. This month, miners on strike at the Borax company in California were viciously beaten and then arrested when they resisted an attempt to bring a full scab force into the plant. A coal miner in Harlan County, Kentucky was killed last month after a long and bitter strike for the right to have a union. In New Jersey a union organizer at United Parcel Service was run over and killed by a scab.

What Justice For Claude Reese Means



The Young Socialists demand that the unions act to defend the youth, who have rallied by the hundreds to demand justice for Claude Reese.

The real architects of this violence are those who give the police their orders—the Ford and Rockefeller government, the Democrats as well as the Republicans who speak for big business.

This government fears the strength of the working class which is in a struggle against soaring inflation, the destruction of its right to a job and the attempts to take away its basic right to organize.

Every act of repression like the murder of Claude Reese is not an isolated act but exposes the police state measures the government is preparing against millions of workers, both black and white.

The fight against police terror requires the unity of the working class with the youth in a political struggle against this government to build a labor party that represents the interests of the working class, independent of the Democrats and Republicans.

All workers must demand their unions call a Congress of Labor to build this party now and fight for:

- 30 hours work at 40 hours pay to provide jobs

- Nationalize all basic industries and banks under workers control

- Full cost of living protection in every contract

- Restoration of all cutbacks and a crash program to provide funds for housing, education and other programs

The labor movement must not only launch a full inquiry into Claude Reese's murder but they must take the lead in organizing workers' defense guards in the neighborhoods.

The nationalist Congress of African Peoples headed by Imamu Baraka from Newark, New Jersey has come into Brownsville for only one purpose—to divert the struggle and prevent youth from turning in a revolutionary direction.

Baraka has a long history in Newark of deepening racial divisions and directly working for the capitalist politicians.

In Newark, Baraka gave support to Gibson, a black Democrat for Mayor. Three weeks ago, it was Gibson who ordered the police to bust up a

demonstration against police brutality and then occupy the black and Puerto Rican neighborhoods.

Last year, when fights broke out in the high schools between black and white youth, Baraka joined together with right wing racist Anthony Imperiale to "cool" things off.

Baraka has sought to bring the Ad Hoc Committee in Brownsville under his control, to stifle any political discussion and to drive out most of the housewives, workers and youth who originally participated in it.

His proposal for an all-black police precinct in Brownsville "under the control of the people" is completely reactionary. This will not stop repression any more than the election of a black mayor in Newark did.

The only force to whom Baraka could turn in the September 25 demonstration he organized for City Hall were some of the gangs, the most backward and anti-working class elements who attempted to provoke an incident with their "hate

whitey" rhetoric. This rally was directed against the working class, both black and white, and only a very small number of youth turned up for it.

The nationalists stand for the division of the working class and the acceptance and maintenance of the capitalist system which breeds poverty and racism. The Young Socialists and Workers League came to the City march in order to fight to unite black, white, and Spanish-speaking workers and youth in a revolutionary movement against this system.

An election rally for the Workers Party is scheduled to be held in Brownsville on September 28, to fight for the building of a labor party as the only alternative to the Democrats and Republicans and the police terror they are unleashing.

Our aim in this election campaign is to build the revolutionary leadership to unite the working class against every attack on its rights and conditions by the government and to lead the struggle against the capitalist system.



Anti-busing banner in South Boston window: Love is going to your Neighborhood School.

Boston Cops Aid Racists In School Fight

**BY A REPORTER
BOSTON, Mass.—**
The anti-busing campaign here is changing rapidly and deepening its impact, posing tremendous dangers to the entire working class.

Columbia Point, a black housing project located on a peninsula in Dorchester adjacent to South Boston, has been cordoned off by police, who watch all cars entering and exiting the project. Residents, telling how cars full of whites have driven through the project shouting racial insults and firing shots, have formed their own security guard.

Buses carrying children from the project were stoned. The gunfire has come from cars driven through the project and from nearby snipers. The police dispute these statements, and claim that the shots were fired from the projects at the police cars patrolling the area.

At the same time, October 24 was proclaimed "A Day of Prayer" in Charlestown and middle-class West Roxbury, both predominantly white areas not directly affected by Judge Arthur Garrity's busing order.

Students were kept out of classes in sympathy with the anti-busing demonstrations in South Boston, and attended religious services instead of school. On the day before, over 400 students boycotted school in Charlestown and about 100 students held a march up to the Bunker Hill monument.

At the top, they were met by squadrons of mounted police who drove them back down the hill. A teacher stated, "It's repression. There's no need of this."

In the face of this situation, the Boston Teachers Union has only petitioned for a "Biracial, Parents Council" to make integration work.

Busing has been used to split the working class apart and divert the fight against the budget cuts and deteriorating conditions in every school. The Ford and Rockefeller government is behind the racism of the KKK as they prepare massive inflation and unemployment to drive back and destroy the labor movement.

The trade unions must act to defend every youth against the racist attacks and the police.

The Boston Workers League

and Young Socialists will hold a meeting of workers and youth to fight for the following program:

- Cops out of the schools! Trade unions must set up defense guards to protect youth!
- Stop the budget cuts!
- Call a Congress of Labor to build a labor party to fight for full employment and the defense of living standards!

**BY CYNTHIA BLAKE
NEW YORK, NY—**The strike of Teamsters Local 804 against United Parcel Service enters its second month with no progress in the fight for wages and job security.

Local 804 members reporting for strike pay at UPS facilities in Manhattan told the Bulletin that UPS has refused to move toward an agreement, bolstered by the



United Parcel workers in New York wait for strike pay. The Teamster International has not supported their strike.

Picket lines were established at Secaucus during the first days of the strike, but withdrawn after Local 804 business agent Edward Dougherty was killed by a scab-driven trailer truck. Fitzsimmons has refused to reestablish the line, and shut down Secaucus, in spite of wide support from Local 177 members there.

SHIPPING

"There is shipping going on from here, too," Jim, an 804 member reported. "We tried to stop a van the other day and the driver supported us, but while we were talking, the scabs inside called the cops and they made us let him through."

"There are a lot of issues in this strike," he said. "Slave wages, for one thing. Overtime

Teamsters International leadership's refusal to support the local.

Because of a deal negotiated last fall, the UPS facilities in nearby Secaucus, New Jersey did not strike along with 804. Between this warehouse and facilities in Connecticut, UPS management has managed to maintain its service to the metropolitan area.

"But it's the part-timers that are the main issue. They want to hire 1500 for the Long Island warehouse and kick the 804 members out. They're promising to move them into other jobs, but I don't believe it.

"I figure it like this. A part-timer is not in the union, doesn't make even our wages, doesn't get benefits. So the company saves money.

"Then, when it gets slow, they really move in. They lay off the full time workers and end up with a nonunion shop, workers with no protection. I've seen them fire part-time workers on the spot—you're out."

"This strike is a question of job security," another picket agreed. "If they let reserve workers in, I might as well look for another job now."

"These capitalists, they don't give a damn about the working man; they're trying to break the unions and bring workers to their knees," Jim said. "We need to unionize every worker because now we're too divided and they use it against us."

Data Processing Workers Without Contract

**BY A LOCAL 2627
MEMBER
NEW YORK, Sept. 25—**The City of New York is refusing to bargain with data processing workers in Local 2627, District Council 37 of the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees, which has been without a contract since July 1.

At the first bargaining session held with Local 2627 on September 20, the City simply received the demands and set the next session for October 21.

Local 2627 is demanding a two year contract with a full cost of living escalator clause, a 40 percent wage hike, ironclad guarantees against layoffs, and tightened-up work rules. The local is also fighting to get the city to give and promptly grade Civil Service exams and promptly appoint workers from the top of the Civil Service lists.

Although these demands were

approved unanimously at a membership meeting in June, the 2627 officials have done nothing to force the City to bargain.

President Dennis Weisopf is trying to divert the members into useless demonstrations over only a part of the contract—to get Civil Service tests graded and workers appointed to Civil Service jobs.

A victory on any one of the issues facing different titles within the local is possible only through a fight to unify all data processing workers to win the whole contract, since the loss of City revenue and the layoff of provisional workers begun this summer is affecting every city worker.

The membership meeting planned for October 24 must mandate the Local's delegates to District Council 37 to fight for strike sanction from DC 37, set a strike date, and win pledges of support from other locals. The delegates must be mandated to fight for reopening of all DC 37 contracts to win full cost of living protection, job security, and a 20 percent per year pay increase.

On Monday, September 23, Ira Hertzoff, a member of the 2627 negotiating committee, was suspended for five days without pay, allegedly for not keeping an accurate time sheet.

The Beame administration has refused to pay the \$300 owed each computer operator for over a year. Many workers wait six or more months before receiving overtime pay.

IBM 370 computers at the Human Resources Administration's main installation at 2 Broadway are being run with only one-third the needed staff.

A new timekeeping system is being started at 2 Broadway, requiring computer personnel to account for every hour of their work day. This information will be fed into the computer itself and used to increase work loads.

WORKDAY

The Human Resources Administration is now attempting to impose an 8 am - 7 pm workday, plus Saturday work, on Local 371 caseworkers, Local 1549 case aides, and other workers in welfare centers. Local 371 is also under attack as the city tries to merge case loads in the Bureau of Child

Welfare and speed up probational workers to generate more cases to be handled by Child Welfare employees.

New York City is going bankrupt. The Beame Team has just pledged nearly \$30,000,000 in interest to a consortium of banks in order to borrow \$400,000,000 for one year. This interest is being paid instead of workers salaries.

Mayor Beame's "balanced" budget of June 30 is now turned into a vicious attack on every city worker by the deepening economic crisis. City income is being cut as inflation and the slowdown in business bite into tax income. Welfare rolls are rising along with unemployment.

A new leadership must be built in DC 37 which will lead city workers against the effects of inflation and the deepening recession. The fight for union endorsement of the Workers Party candidates in the Brooklyn Congressional elections is now a critical part of building a labor party to throw out the Republicans and Democrats and to nationalize basic industry—including the banks—under workers control.

BEHIND THE FALL OF THE JUNTA



Interview with a member of the Workers International League, Greek section of the International Committee of the Fourth International.

The Stalinists said that the events at the Athens Polytechnic were just an accumulation of things that had happened before, a gradual development. Therefore, they reasoned that if we start with petty demands, eventually we'll overthrow the junta and establish socialism.

The Stalinists physically deserted the movement of students and workers. They instructed their cadres not to intervene. They didn't even put out any leaflets or anything.

ATTACKED

They attacked the slogan for a general strike, saying that it was the work of agents. Their policy was "We support the occupation of the Polytechnic but we have nothing to do with it."

They sought to sow illusions in the working class with the slogan "fascism is dying today."

The most critical factor in the Polytechnic events was the lack of leadership. Our comrades were few and couldn't influence the masses. We supported the general strike slogan and called on the Communist Party to break with the bourgeoisie.

Amidst a lot of confusion, the centrists were able to dominate. The student upsurge raised the question of power which could not, however, be solved in the Polytechnic.

This powerful movement of the working class terrorized the junta and aggravated their splits. After one week, Gizikis overthrew Papadopoulos. The ruling class was at an impasse and didn't have any long term plans.

There was a section of the army ruling class backing Gizikis which didn't like to mix

politics and economics. They were against the Papadopoulos regime's relations with the United States.

The changed economic conditions changed the thinking of the military. A section of them saw themselves as a caste with certain privileges but inflation prevented them from keeping up with the way of life they were accustomed to. This aggravation and sharpening of the class struggle was also reflected in the ranks.

All the plans of the ruling class were smashed by the events at the Polytechnic. They tried to avoid further confrontations by seeking to implement popular measures, such as subsidizing food.

They were no longer interested in trying to plan out long-term policies and this turn to short-term maneuvers undermined the economy even more.

The Mayor of Athens who was appointed by the Junta said that he'd rather resign than to throw workers out of their jobs and sell land. The government was in real crisis.

REPRESSIVE

In order to try and head off the working class, a wide range of repressive measures were carried out against the leadership of the working class. Five of our comrades were arrested and members of the Central Committee of the Communist Party and all the Maoists.

The so-called democratization plan which was begun in August 1973 where political prisoners were granted amnesty then ended up in these arrests in November 1973.

The splits in the ruling class, internationally were aggravated by the oil crisis. Every country was out for itself.

The discovery of oil in the Aegean Sea led to further friction between Turkey and Greece, but there was a political impasse because of the splits in the army and the Greek ruling class.

The events in Cyprus exposed

the weaknesses of the Greek dictatorship. The plans of the ruling class were interrupted by the course of the class struggle.

Makarios represented the last of the independent third world figures. The United States wanted direct control in the Mideast as a stopgap to the Arab revolution. They tried to extend the Greek dictatorship to Cyprus.

INVASION

However, they didn't anticipate the Turkish invasion. With the American ruling class split over Watergate, the Greek ruling class was helpless.

There was a breakdown in the military. Officers were running guns to other countries and pocketing the money. The army was not disciplined and beat up officers to demand better food, shelter. Soldiers walked out of their barracks and deserted without retaliation.

Everyone blamed these conditions on the Junta and therefore would not go to war against Turkey for the Junta.

The cabinet just disappeared. There was an absolute collapse. "The hoodlums (General Gizikis) overthrew the Mafiosi (Papadopoulos)"—this became a very popular expression.

Caramanlis was forced to form a political government. The junta was blamed for everything and the call for "national unity" and cooperation was issued. The Stalinists were the first to oblige.

The Stalinists demanded to be included in the government. This sowed tremendous confusion in the reactionary Caramanlis government which seeks to do what Gizikis and Papadopoulos couldn't do.

The Stalinists see this as the first real step toward democracy and create many illusions in the government. In reality, civil war is on the agenda because nothing has been solved. We must begin with the international crisis and recognize this.

We must construct the Fourth

International in Greece. There are great opportunities and tremendous ferment in the working class.

We must have a youth movement in Greece to reach all the youth who've been disgusted by the Stalinists.

The main point is to train cadres in the unions, among the students, everywhere. The working class will come forward but there is a danger of liquidating into this movement and not fighting the backwardness and confusion in the working class.

It's not just a question of being more militant than the Stalinists. We must develop transitional demands to expose the Stalinists. We were the only ones who supported the policy of revolutionary defeatism: to turn the war into a civil war against the Greek military.

The training of cadres can't take place outside of developing our newspaper and building a youth movement.

The Stalinists have always been the traditional leadership of the Greek working class—there was no other.

CYPRUS

Cyprus was a set back for US imperialism. We must see from this that the ruling class does not have the initiative all the time.

Things do not go according to preconceived plans but are determined by the struggle of classes. The working class has the strength but has backward thinking.

The same international crisis which split the Greek ruling class also split the American ruling class, making it hard for the US to intervene in the Greek events. We must understand these events from an international viewpoint.

The moves to "democratization" were a maneuver to break the isolation of the Greek junta from sections of the ruling class.

Caramanlis was forced to walk out of NATO because the Greek ruling class feels betrayed by the

US government's role concerning Cyprus.

We can't be misled by the temporary measures of the ruling class toward democratization; we can't see things in a gradual way. We must prepare for civil war.

CONFUSES

If you have the Stalinists in the government, it means they are accepting responsibility for the economic situation and this position confuses and splits the working class. The Stalinists, for example, could be used to break strikes.

The Stalinists must come out openly against the working class, denouncing "wreckers" and "extremists" who fight for the independence of the working class from the capitalists.

There is a very real danger of a fascist movement developing. We could have another Chile if a popular unity government is built.

In Chile the crisis broke out under a popular unity government. In Greece, it was the opposite. The crisis broke out under dictatorship and that's why they had to move toward "democratization." They had to try and provide a channel for the people's hatred of the junta.

Everyone was united against the junta, but this is very dangerous as the developments in Chile showed clearly that the working class must fight, independently of all sections of the ruling class.

In Chile, the popular unity government accepted responsibility for the economic crisis which was not theirs. The Communist Party in Chile participated in this betrayal.

With Caramanlis in power, it is now the Greek ruling class itself which is in power, not just a CIA plant, and the Stalinists are ready to help.

Whatever happens in Greece will affect all of the Mediterranean and the workers of the Balkans. All the developments of the international crisis are expressed here.

PART 2

VICTIMIZING COWLEY



Alan Thornett

British Leyland and the Crisis Chronology of important dates

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This pamphlet is the story of the struggle of Alan Thornett, a member of the Workers Revolutionary Party, who together with other leading stewards, fought to defend auto workers in the largest industrial combine in England. Because of this fight, he faced the victimization of management. It is the story of how that victimization failed due to the principled struggle waged by Thornett and his supporters.

The great importance of these events lies in what it reveals about Marxism and the trade unions. Thornett fought at every point to defend the trade unions from attempts on the part of management and the government to undermine the unions. He understood that these attempts were being made because capitalism was entering a period of crisis which required the capitalists to seek to destroy the trade unions.

For these reasons, the defense of the trade unions could be led only by those who grasped this crisis and were prepared to fight all the way through for socialist policies.

This is why Thornett and the Workers Revolutionary Party have a history of struggle at Cowley which is principled. Thornett led the resistance to Measured Day Work which undermined the whole structure of trade unionism, while all other political tendencies caved in to the company on this question. Even when MDW was finally forced through, Thornett was in the leadership of the struggle to defend the trade unions under these more difficult conditions.

This struggle was carried out at every point to educate a leadership in the factory in Marxism, a leadership prepared for the tasks posed by a revolutionary period such as we are now entering.

American readers must understand this struggle within the framework of the somewhat different structure of unions in England. In England, there is usually more than a single union within a major factory. These unions coordinate their work through various committees. However, the shop stewards have considerably more influence than shop stewards in American unions.

As the pamphlet explains, piece work was introduced in British industry as a way of speeding up workers in an earlier period. But the price the capitalists were forced to pay for its introduction was granting to shop stewards the right to negotiate any changes in what is produced which might affect the piece rates.

Through this mechanism, the shop stewards were able to have a decisive influence over workers' wages and production conditions and achieved for a period relatively high wages and decent working conditions, particularly in the auto industry in the boom period.

Today, the capitalists are struggling to do away with this piece rate system and to weaken the shop stewards, speed up the line, and lower the standard of living of the workers. They do this by introducing American speedup techniques. This is what MDW is. This historical situation determines the form of the class struggle discussed in these articles.

In every other respect, it is a struggle now familiar to millions of American workers. In this country, workers were able to achieve certain gains and working conditions through the power of a single

industrial union covering a whole factory and, as in the case of the UAW, a whole industry with a master contract. These unions were formed more recently through the great sitdown strikes of the 1930s.

Today, these contracts have become, in the hands of labor bureaucrats, straight-jackets binding the workers, while working conditions worsen and living standards are slashed.

Under this specific form of trade union struggle, a Marxist leadership is just as essential as in England. Such a Marxist leadership can be trained by learning from the experience outlined in this series.

The international crisis poses to all workers, especially auto workers, the same essential problems. This lays a material basis for the construction of an international leadership of the working class. This task falls today to the International Committee of the Fourth International of which the Workers Revolutionary Party is a part, and which the Workers League supports.

FOREWORD

Since the victimization of Alan Thornett—the subject of this pamphlet—the economic crisis has transformed the situation within the British-Leyland combine. Leyland is in the grip of the recession. Few workers have any illusions. The future they face will be one of struggle against layoffs and speedup on the assembly line. As this foreword is written, management at the company's Cowley plant in Oxford, the scene of the victimization, are engaged in a work-study and speedup program which poses the threat of layoffs of at least 20 percent.

It is already clear to thousands of workers at Cowley that British-Leyland's refusal to recognize Thornett as a shop steward was an essential preparation for an attempt to solve the slump at the expense of the working class. This new knowledge has been the basis for some important developments.

The company offensive against the workers at Cowley eventually centered on an attempt to construct a corporatist trade union structure in the plant. Chapter five deals with this aspect of the struggle. But it is already clear that Leyland has failed utterly to undermine the independence and strength of the working class movement. The formation of a new Transport and General Workers' Union branch (the 5/293) was to become the vehicle for this attack. But things have not developed in the way Leyland would have liked. The vote for the new branch committee took place in the most extraordinary circumstances on July 8.

The Oxford district secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union, a right-winger called David Buckle, was quoted in the Oxford Mail urging workers to attend the branch meeting. His remarks made it clear that the purpose of a full turnout would be to remove the existing trade union leadership that had defended Thornett during the victimization. The company took the unprecedented step of allowing workers to attend and vote in company time without loss of pay (Leyland voluntarily forfeited an estimated \$230,000 worth of production). But despite these maneuvers, the majority of the new branch committee elected were militants who distinguished themselves as upholders of principles during the witch-hunt against Thornett.

The right-wing, on the other hand, was defeated. All the nominees of Reg Parsons, the leading personality in the anti-

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by stephen johns

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This outcome is also a condemnation of the revisionist International Marxist Group who are the subject of Chapter six. Their handful of members in the Cowley plant concluded before the elections for the new branch that trade unionism at Cowley was in "complete disarray." Their so-called factory bulletin—in fact a duplicated sheet called *The Organizer*—stated on July 1:

"We have no policies, no unity, and no leadership maneuvering for advantage instead of fighting the layoffs and speedup we all know are coming."

This object pessimism is a direct result of the IMG's method. Like all middle-class groups they exist on surface impressions (impressionism), are dominated by the apparent strength of the bourgeoisie and the trade union bureaucracy and always fail to grasp the transformation of the class struggle caused by the development of the crisis itself.

Leyland would have undoubtedly liked to give the right-wing a breathing space. But the crisis made this impossible. After Thornett's successful fight against victimization the company had to proceed immediately to launch the attack against the whole labor force. This has enabled many workers at Cowley to understand the real purpose behind the offensive on Thornett and the plant leadership. The crisis and its direct impact on Leyland's had created a new situation favorable for a development of consciousness.

But this development was not spontaneous. It could not have taken place without the determined stand taken by the leading stewards against workers caught up in the witch-hunt—a stand taken under the most difficult conditions, where the danger of further victimization was always present.

It was the conscious practice of this leadership that was decisive. The leadership stood on its policy, which was to warn the working class that the crisis—no matter what the company said—would mean layoffs. It explained that the victimization of Thornett raised the whole issue of the future of trade unionism at Cowley and it avoided futile gestures and adventures which would only have allowed the company to sack Thornett and a group of militant workers.

It was leadership that also carried out a successful fight against the trade union bureaucrats who virtually abandoned Thornett and his transport section to the witch-hunt. In other words the transformation at Cowley required an opposite to pose the real questions facing the working class.

Its principal weapon was its ability to analyze the contradictory development of the class struggle in the plant, not to be panicked by the witch-hunt, but to understand that workers in the right-wing camp could be transformed by events into defenders of the trades unions and, above all, to fight for and anticipate this transformation.

This method requires the sharpest changes and a continuous struggle to avoid an abstract conception of the class war. One of the most important steps in the Cowley fight, for example, was the deliberate decision to campaign for a return to work among the transport section who were striking for the reinstatement of Thornett as their shop steward. To many observers this seemed a shocking course of action, yet it was this move that was decisive in preventing the company from

achieving its objective.

Another rapid turn was the decision to fight for leadership in the new branch—a branch that had all the appearances of being a creature of the right wing. But it is now emerging as a powerful instrument for the working class—not at all what the company expected or the bureaucracy intended.

These stages of the struggle are covered in detail in the pamphlet. Without a completely flexible and principled approach to the fight at Cowley based on a socialist understanding of the class struggle and its contradictory development, an ability to anticipate transformations and, above all, an understanding that the working class must take up the issues posed by the crisis, the struggle could not possibly have been won.

This is the Marxist leadership the Workers Revolutionary Party sets itself the task to build throughout the entire labor and trade union movement.

The economic crisis of capitalism poses the construction of a socialist society in which land and industry and the banks must be nationalized without compensation and under workers' control. But to achieve this, the building of the Workers Revolutionary Party is required. Only the WRP poses this historic task before the working class and fights to train a leadership to carry it through.

July 19, 1974

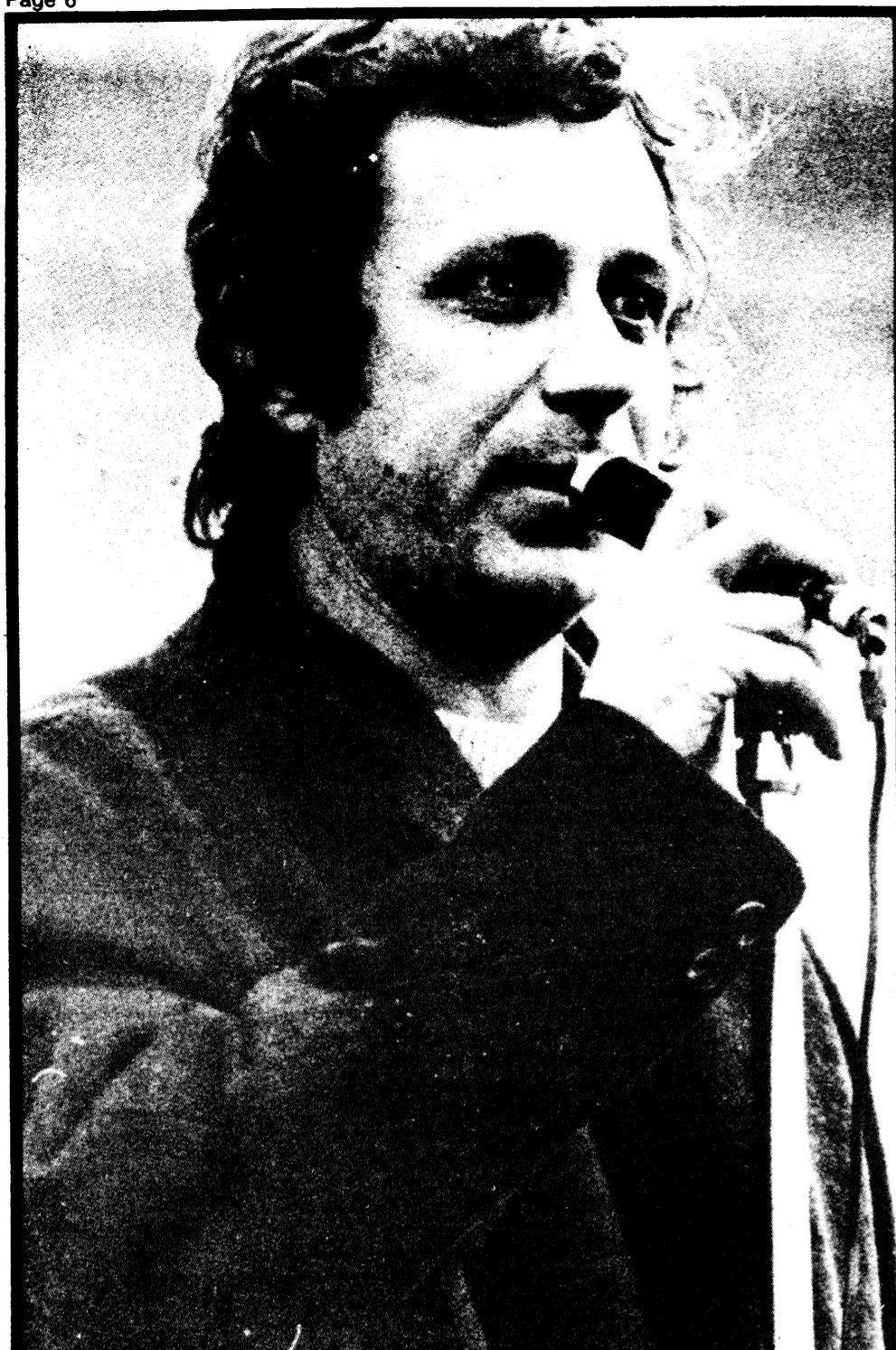
TO BE CONTINUED



Lord Stokes (right) of British Leyland.



British Leyland workers coming from union meeting.



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Bulletin

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This method requires the sharpest changes and a continuous struggle to avoid an abstract conception of the class war. One of the most important steps in the Cowley fight, for example, was the deliberate decision to campaign for a return to work among the transport section who were striking for the reinstatement of Thornett as their shop steward. To many observers this seemed a shocking course of action, yet it was this move that was decisive in preventing the company from

achieving its objective.

Another rapid turn was the decision to fight for leadership in the new branch—a branch that had all the appearances of being a creature of the right wing. But it is now emerging as a powerful instrument for the working class—not at all what the company expected or the bureaucracy intended.

These stages of the struggle are covered in detail in the pamphlet. Without a completely flexible and principled approach to the fight at Cowley based on the class struggle and its contradictory development, an ability to anticipate transformations and, above all, an understanding that the working class must take up the issues posed by the crisis, the struggle could not possibly have been won.

This is the Marxist leadership the Workers Revolutionary Party sets itself the task to build throughout the entire labor and trade union movement.

The economic crisis of capitalism poses the construction of a socialist society in which land and industry and the banks must be nationalized without compensation and under workers' control. But to achieve this, the building of the Workers Revolutionary Party is required. Only the WRP poses this historic task before the working class and fights to train a leadership to carry it through.

July 19, 1974

TO BE CONTINUED



Lord Stokes (right) of British Leyland.



British Leyland workers coming from union meeting.

BY JEFF SEBASTIAN
 On September 18, 30,000 New Yorkers jammed into Madison Square Garden to attend the Reverend Sun Myung Moon's "re-birthday" party.

A little like the mad hatter who celebrated 364 "unbirthdays" each year, the Reverend Moon is planning at least 40 rebirthdays for 1974 in every major city in the country.

A million dollars assured a continuous stream of radio spot messages, hundreds of thousands of leaflets and tens of thousands of Moon faces plastered on buildings throughout the city.

It also brought in a small army of international Moon worshippers who stood on street corners, sold peanuts, flowers, candy and candles and campaigned to "bring God back to America."

Outside the Garden, thousands picketed. They were all there, from priests and nuns, to the Korean Ministers Association, Christians United for Jesus as Lord, The Word of Truth Ministry, the United Atheists and even a Mitzvah wagon driven by Hassidic Jews sent by the Lubavitcher Rebbe. Perhaps best of all was a young man in a black cape with a gold earring and painted green eyes who frightened away Christians by announcing himself the "son of satan."

Inside the Garden one was approached by neatly dressed clean cut young men and well scrubbed faced adolescent girls with questionnaires asking where you had heard of the Reverend Moon—as though anyone could have missed it.

Almost as quickly as the Garden filled up it began to empty. While the Reverend Moon spoke for three hours in Korean punctuated by short Karate-chop gestures, his faithful disciple Colonel Bo Hi Pak, a former Korean military attache who calls himself "God's colonel," translated an unintelligible theological message.

Starting from the top tiers of the Garden, the audience poured out in a never-ending stream until by the end of the evening scarcely one quarter was left.

MOON'S CRUSADE FOR CAPITALISM



Why has Reverend Moon come to America? For two reasons, money and anticommunism. He declares in his essay "Christianity in Crisis," "...Even your money, the bills and coins, are impressed with such a beautiful inscription, 'In God We Trust.' No other nation does such a thing. ...It is God's money. Every bill or coin says so. You are the stewards and God has deposited his wealth in your hands."

As for America's role in the world, Moon preaches that communism is the work of satan and

democracy that of God:

"...God has to wage a last war to restore the world of heavenly sovereignty by dividing this fallen world ... and by having the heavenly world of the Abel-type smite the Satanic world of the Cain-type thus restoring worldwide by indemnity the act of Cain's having killed Abel."

The Reverend Moon makes it clear that he has been sent by God to rearm America to carry out a holy war against communism. One of his followers told this reporter that she believed he was the Messiah come to raise an army of the youth to

cleanse the world of filth, rape and communism.

As for money, the good Reverend does not lack. His unification Church owns the former Seagrams Estate, a mansion once held by the Maiden Form Bra owners, a \$1.5 million Barrytown New York retreat, and 71 townhouses across the country.

He also has business investments estimated at a total value of \$15 million in titanium, tea, pharmaceuticals, air rifles and other commodities. He employs his followers at slave wages in these enterprises.

His church is also tied to right-wing industrial circles in Japan, Korea, and Taiwan. Every year the fanatical anticommunist Park government of Korea sends provincial officials, militia leaders, teachers and village chiefs to his training center outside Seoul for instruction.

Colonel Pak heads the Korean Cultural Freedom Association which broadcasts Radio Free Asia to Laos and Korea. He has raised over \$1 million for "Korean American" goodwill. When the State Department attempted to force two of his employees to register as Korean agents, a former CIA director intervened as attorney for the group and stopped any action. Colonel Pak is believed to have numerous contacts in the CIA.

Moon also heads the International Federation for Victory over Communism. The Freedom Leadership Foundation in the US is its American affiliate. It puts out a right wing publication and sponsors the World Freedom Institute to train young people in the "ideological war against communism."

It was Moon's American church which provided the forces for pray-ins at the White House to save President Nixon and as a token of his gratitude Nixon provided Reverend Moon with a permanent visa for residence in the US.

For all the simple minded absurdity of his message, Moon cannot be taken lightly. Here is a man who preaches fanatical anticommunism, combined with a worship of America's role as imperialist master of the world. His appeal is consciously directed to the middle classes promising a new messiah and a world cleansed of all contradiction with perfect people raising perfect children.

That such a man mixes with the highest government circles in Korea, has friends among wealthy industrialists and found easy access to the White House is no accident. The bourgeois press has gone out of its way to publicize his movement and to avoid exposing his real connections.

With capitalism entering its greatest crisis, it is precisely the forces of nationalism and mysticism, represented by Moon, that the bourgeoisie will attempt to use to construct the right wing and fascist movements of the future.

Green Berets vs Indians

BY CYNTHIA BLAKE

The open military invasion of Wounded Knee is just one aspect of an anti-Indian military program that poses great dangers to the entire American working class.

Since American troops began to be forced out of Vietnam, the military—in particular the Special Forces or Green Berets—have been regularly attempting to use reservation lands and surrounding areas for training maneuvers.

In this way, the Pentagon's guerrilla units receive training that has been used against the revolutionary struggles of people all over the world, and at the same time prepare for attacks on the Indians and all American workers.

The operations are based on the same "pacification" techniques used in Vietnam to "win the minds and the hearts of the

people." Major General Henry E. Emerson, who commands the JFK Center for Military Assistance, the Green Beret Training Camp, says that their activity among the Indians "allows us to practice organizing support among indigenous people, which...is needed in almost every way."

At the Penobscot reservation in Maine, intelligence gathering took the form of door to door "medical surveys." Officers from the Fort Bragg Special Forces Center visited Indian organizations in New Mexico to ask how they could help "develop their communities."

Another team from the John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center in North Carolina was sent to Albuquerque to survey communities and said they were "generally finding ways Green Beret men could relate to the Indians."

They said they were authorized to offer military road equipment, education, and medical resources and funds.

The northern Cheyenne mountain ranges were also used as tribes report that the teams

compiled dossiers on the tribal government, dissidents, cultural strengths and weaknesses, and personal relationships in the community.

In 1972, they had actually drawn up plans to train counter-insurgency agents by parachuting into New Mexico towns to practice medical procedures. The advance man explained that "the community can see the people who are protecting them, these Special Forces. You can sleep better at night, as the saying goes." They even offered to deliver babies for the townswomen.

Indian youth are actively recruited into the Special Forces to work on special "dark-complexioned" teams. 24-year-old David Begay defected and told UPI reporter John Leahigh that his team had been sent by the CIA to kill three leaders of Al Fatah, the Palestinian resistance organization, and make it look like the work of Israelis.

Former members of these teams figure largely among the special units of US Marshals that were sent into Wounded Knee to break up the occupation.

Anti-Indian training is also used in preparing National Guardsmen. Near Fort Lewis, Washington, where Indians have been fighting to defend their fishing rights, a special training battle was set up to resemble conditions at Wounded Knee.

This military program must be seen in the context of the tremendous class confrontations shaping up as the capitalist class attempts to drive the working class back to conditions worse than the 1930s.

The use of special intelligence teams within the unions and paramilitary terrorists by the state have already been documented in Britain.

President Ford has openly endorsed the CIA's program of subversion against the Allende regime in Chile.

This means that the Special Forces are not just being trained for use against other nations, or against one section of American workers, but to operate in the neighborhoods and trade unions against the entire working class as the capitalists move toward dictatorship.

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Teachers In Chicago Face Mass Layoffs

BY WILL ROEMER

CHICAGO, Sept. 24—A tentative agreement has been reached between the Chicago Teachers Union and the Board of Education. The proposed agreement, not yet ratified by the union membership, is supposed to provide salary increases of between 4 percent and 10.3 percent depending on the job experience and training of the teacher. Teachers with 15 years experience and a bachelor's degree are to get a 10.2 percent increase.

Other items in the contract agreement call for placing additional teachers in schools in which students have a low reading level, a dropping by the School Board of its plan to lay off 27 playground teachers and to close 12 playgrounds, and the formation of a new board-union committee to deal with student discipline.

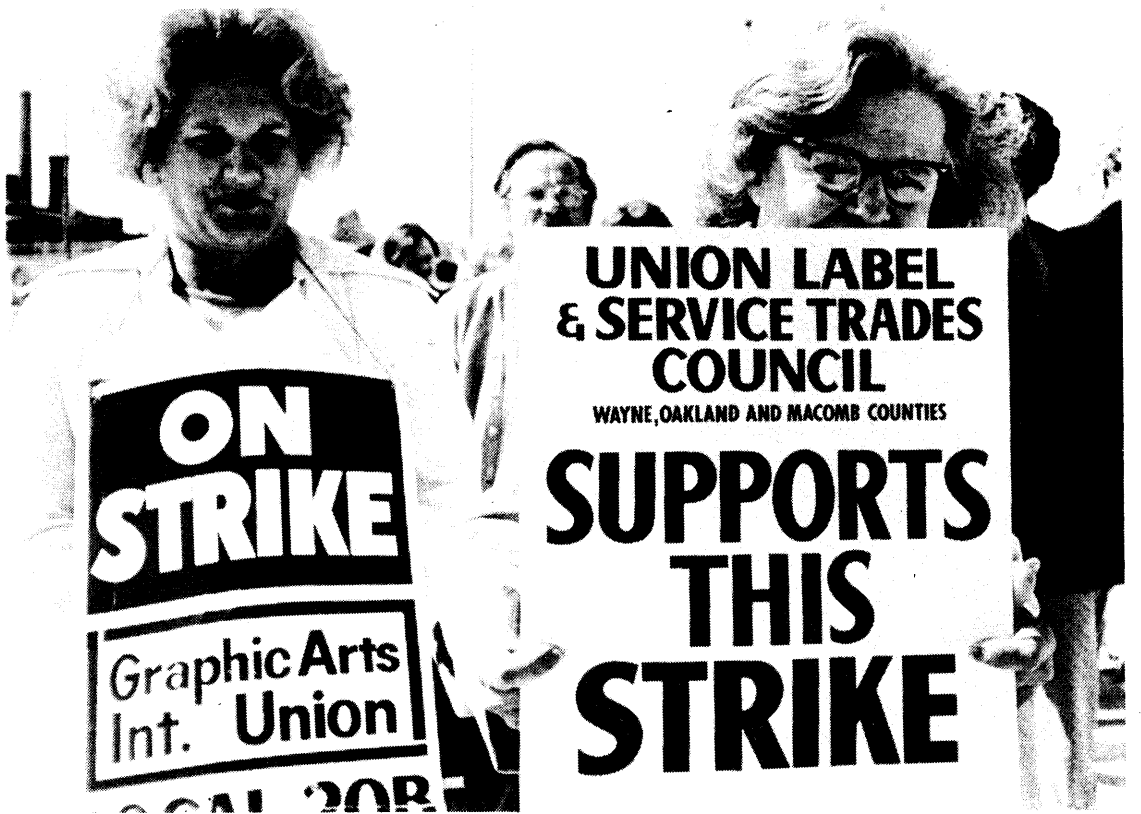
Salary and job security are undoubtedly the two central questions facing the teachers. Last week 18 teachers were laid off at Marshall High School and only 4 of these have been called back. Similar layoffs have occurred at Austin and Cooley High Schools. The layoff and cancelling of vocational programs at Cooley resulted in parents boycotting the school and marching down to the school board demanding the rescinding of the cutbacks.

It was these two issues that dominated the teachers rally held Saturday. More than 600 teachers attended the rally which was pumped up as a strike rally. Union president Robert Healey told the teachers:

"Why should we prostitute ourselves for 4.5 percent? The public owes it to those children to have supplies; who do we have to negotiate for more supplies? We are out to strike for dignity and respect and in this society that's money."

Twice in the rally the CTU leadership tried to squelch discussion of job security and class size. First, Healey made a snide joke saying that teachers did not have to worry about job security since a teacher's job was concerned with wiping out ignorance and Chicago had plenty of ignorance. Later at the end of the rally when one teacher asked what settlement was being made on class size, Healey turned to the band and motioned them to start playing.

Teachers are due to vote on the proposal Wednesday. Rumors are already circulating that the school board plans to lay off 1000 more teachers, though Robert Healey claims that 200 more jobs are created by the contract. With many teachers facing only a 4 percent wage increase and terms of job security very uncertain, it is likely that the vote will be to reject the contract.



Members of the Graphics Arts union in Detroit received summons for picketing.

Putnam Tool Workers Demand Cost Of Living

BY A REPORTER

DETROIT—A cost of living clause, which the company refuses to pay, tops the list of 16 issues in dispute at Putnam Tool Company, organized by the UAW. Putnam is a small shop which makes tools and drills mostly for use in auto production.

After the contract expired on August 23, and nothing was offered, a strike vote of 225 to 7 for not returning to work without a cost of living increase was taken. The company employs about 350.

"They said they'd close the place down before they'd give us a cost of living," one worker stated angrily. "They're ridiculous in there. Every man in the place is at least \$2.00 an hour underpaid. I'm an inspector. Been here 22 years. They don't give you any rate for skills, but they sure expect you to know your skill."

The average hourly pay is \$4.42 an hour, with starting pay only \$3.31. Unlike the big three, there is no classification for skilled workers.

"Anywhere else we'd be classified skilled trades, but not at Putnam. Most of the people in here work two jobs in order to put food on the table," Richard McWhirter explained. "I worked nine hours here, and then 4 or 5 hours more doing landscaping all summer. If we don't get the cost

of living, we can just look forward to cornbread and water, 'cause that's all we can afford to buy. We're going to stay out here as long as it takes. If the company won't budget, neither will we.

FROZE

"Last contract they froze us out. That was in '71, during the wage freeze. The company said we couldn't strike, and the union said the same thing. I don't think the UAW knows where Putnam Tool is. If you ask Leonard Woodcock, he couldn't tell you," another worker with 23 years seniority explained.

Thousands of UAW members in Detroit work at small shops like Putnam. Many have lost their jobs when these companies went out of business or moved away.

Wildcat Hits Steel Door Contract

BY NANCY RUSSELL

YOUNGSTOWN, Ohio—Steelworkers at Youngstown Steel Door Company continue to disrupt production in protest of their recently-signed, Abel-style contract.

The local union leadership secretly signed the agreement one month before the contract expiration date. Three wildcats have followed, as workers refuse to accept these terms at Steel Door, a manufacturer of railroad cars.

The new contract gives

workers a flat 28 cent raise the first year, followed by 16 cents and 13 cents, even less than the Big Steel pattern of three percent. The deal was signed over the Labor Day weekend, and within two days, the plant had walked out.

UPGRADED

"It started with three painters walking out, and then the whole electrical department. The company hadn't upgraded the hookers and coiners at all, because the company said we weren't important enough.

"But when we went out, the whole plant had to shut. Everybody's grade here is making at least 10 cents an hour less than the mills," said Dominick Leone. "We have been under a

no-strike agreement for the last 10-11 years, that's why it's all a wildcat."

"It's all the big men with the payoffs, there's all kinds of money passing hands," said another Steel Door worker. "Every time that wildcats have happened here, the local leadership is immediately sending people back to work.

"The contract is a real blow against all Steel Door workers wages. Incentive pay has become the main issue because of tremendous inequality in rates," Dominic said.

USES

"They upgraded people in the assembly plant, some did well; some did well and some didn't. The company uses this to play one man against another."

Rick also agreed, "The way the incentives were arranged, it was like bribing some men to the company's position. You've got to watch for the company men now.

"With inflation, no one makes what they should, and we don't have any program or anyone to stand up for the working man."

Dale told the Bulletin: "The union leadership does the talking while we do the walking. The union tells us to get back to work and they'll settle it later.

"Meanwhile, the company is continuing to try to get more for less. Who voted for a no-strike agreement? It's like asking who voted for our president and vice-president?"

Graphic Arts Strikers Charged For Picketing

BY KEN WESTON

DETROIT, Sept. 23—Sixteen members of Graphic Arts Local 20-B have been issued summonses charging them with participating in and "inciting others to participate in an unlawful mass picket."

Having failed to break up picketing and terrorize workers back to work, Helm Inc. is seeking an injunction to halt all picketing by members of Local 20-B who are in the 7th week of their strike for a wage increase and to eliminate any cap on cost of living raises. The significance of this strike is growing as one of the most organized union busting campaigns in Detroit in recent history.

Lorraine McClure, a strike leader and one of those named in the summons, told the Bulletin: "Helm has ten week strike insurance and he only has four weeks left. That's why we feel he is seeking an injunction at this point. He has to go it alone. We know they're hurting. This warehouse Helm is renting in Sterling Heights is full of stock. They haven't moved any of it."

Saturday morning over 50

members of the GAIU Local 289, a lithographers local in Detroit, came out to walk in the picket line. Henry Dillon from the Graphic Arts International also came out to Local 189's line. He told the Bulletin: "We have determined since the merger of the Lithographers and the Bookbinders Union into the GAIU that there's going to be improvement in the conditions of our members. The binderies have made up their minds we're not going to make this progress. They have decided to not have a contract at all and to get the union out."

McClure told us: "Our strike started out badly. Our Business agent was called out of town and we found out our shop steward was on salary with the company and was involved in a profit sharing plan. I allege he was pushed out there for steward's position by the company. He worked for the company all the time. They knew everything about our meetings.

"Naturally if Helm should succeed, everyone of the other binderies and printers would do the same thing. He's one of the larger ones. They figure he should try first."

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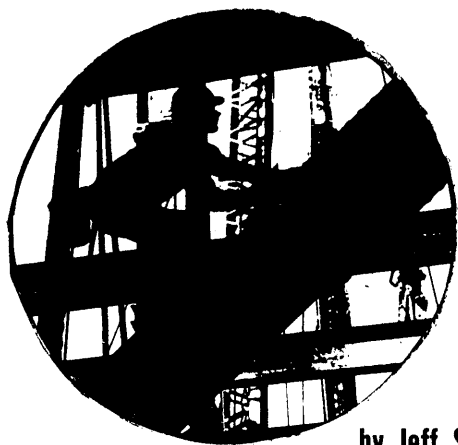
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by Jeff Sebastian

Construction Industry In Crisis

The construction industry has been the hardest hit by government policies of inflation, tight money, and mass unemployment. The recent pre-summit meeting on construction exposed the devastating slump now hitting the industry, which began in the area of housing and is now rapidly spreading to every aspect of construction as well.

The current 15 to 17 percent construction financing rates, combined with the growing recession are leading to massive cutbacks in planned outlays for government construction, utilities projects and plant expansion.

In addition, long term mortgage financing rates of 10 percent are making it impossible for the vast majority of workers to consider financing a home.

According to AFL-CIO estimates, about \$100 billion in construction contracts were lost in 1973. The projected figure for 1974 is \$97 billion. With an estimated 10 percent increase in costs over the year this means a slash of 13 percent in the real volume of construction.

Electric utilities, for example, now plan construction cuts of nearly \$3 billion for 1974. The consumers Power Company eliminated \$1.4 billion from its construction budget, Boston Edison \$700 million, Southern California Edison \$500 million, and these are only a few.

New York State recently announced that all community college expansion projects are at an end and that no new schools are planned.

With a present vacancy rate of 13 percent in office buildings, skyscraper construction in New York City has virtually ceased. A survey by the American Institute of Architects estimates that work performed by its members is down 55 percent over 1969.

But the most devastating slump is in the area of housing. The National Association of Homebuilders estimates that construction starts for houses and apartments is now running at an annual rate of 1.3 million units. This is down from 2.2 million in mid-1973.

New permits are down 43 percent over last year. The enormity of this decline can be grasped if one realizes that 700,000 units of housing a year are lost to fire, floods, demolition, etc.

It is virtually impossible to find a house for less than \$30,000. It is now estimated that less than 50 percent of American families can even consider purchasing their own home. In the early 60s the figure was 70 percent.

The chances of obtaining financing are disappearing. The savings banks which have provided the lion's share of housing loans are being gutted by massive withdrawals of funds in search of higher interest rates. In July and August over a billion dollars was withdrawn from these banks.

It is the inflation in land values and the skyrocketing interest rates that is largely responsible for the housing slump. All the claims that the price of labor is the main determinant are refuted by the statistics.

The relative decline in labor costs compared to the escalating prices of land, materials, and financing make it clear that the employers are subjected to an extreme squeeze on their rate of profit. To resolve this, the employers hope to use unemployment to break the power of the construction unions and increase the rate of exploitation through speedup and automated methods.

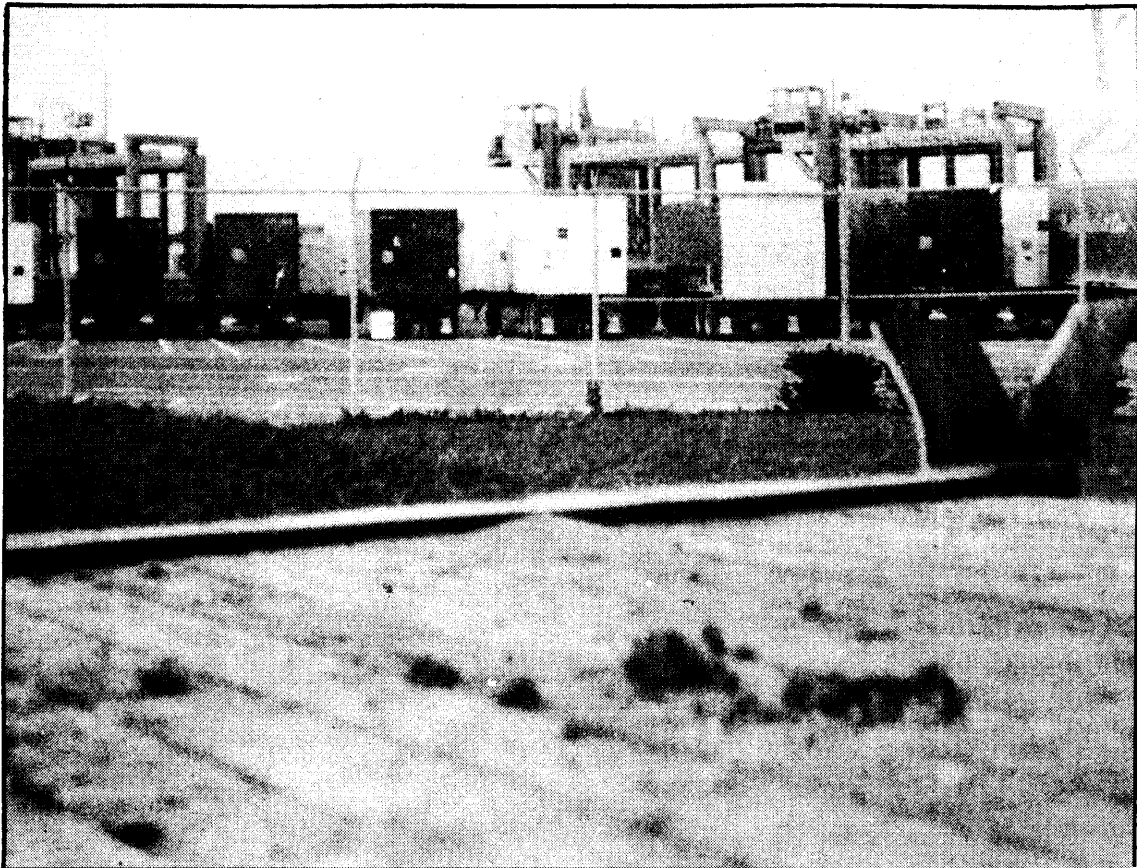
Nearly one half million construction workers are now unemployed. This is 11.1 percent of the workforce, compared to a national unemployment rate of 5.4 percent. In some areas, as much as 35 percent of construction workers are unemployed.

But these unemployment figures are only the beginning. The Home Builders Association claims that numerous firms are very close to a collapse.

It must be emphasized that construction is one of the first to be hit because of its extreme vulnerability to inflation and interest rates. But the situation emerging in construction is in the future of every industry as the recession begins to bite.

While millions of American workers are forced to live in substandard housing and are unable to purchase new homes, an army of construction workers with the skills to build these homes are denied employment. This is a picture of the anarchy of the capitalist system.

Only the nationalization of the construction, materials, and credit industries under workers' control through the building of a labor party can resolve this crisis.



Pier 96 in San Francisco (above), a LASH terminal, which is in deep financial crisis.

Bridges Joins Carveup Of San Francisco Port

BY MARTY MORAN
SAN FRANCISCO—
The real purpose of Mayor John Alioto's takeover of the San Francisco port and its biggest shipping line PFEL (Pacific Far East Lines) is to get in ahead for the land grab which is now beginning.

Most of the port's 70 piers have fallen into disuse. Three have burned to the ground in the last two years. Located close to Fisherman's Wharf, Telegraph Hill, and downtown, the land on which the piers are built is a real estate developer's dream.

Bidding has already opened for Pier 45, closest to Fisherman's Wharf. Five consortiums of developers have placed bids, one of them including Mayor Alioto's brother, Frank, and a cousin. Most developers plan to build a huge hotel-restaurant complex.

The chief member of the committee advising the port on which bid to select was Cyril Magnin, formerly appointed by Alioto as a port commissioner, but forced out of that post because of conflict of interest.

Magnin is an executive for the Hawaii-based conglomerate Amfac, which is participating in two of the five bids Magnin is sitting in judgement on.

As this absolutely blatant corruption has come to light, Alioto has arrogantly defended it, saying that as long as everything is done out in the open he has the right to do anything he wants:

"When I am going to do this (make an appointment) I first look to see if I have any qualified friends. If I can't find any, I look for qualified neutrals. If there aren't any of these, I look for qualified enemies. It just so happens that the circle of my friends is so wide, and they are so loaded with talent, that I never get beyond the first category."

The third member of the Port Commission, besides two Alioto connected businessmen, is Harry Bridges, (president of the International Longshoremen and

Warehousemen's Union: ILWU). Just as he refused to fight mechanization, allowing the number of longshoremen in Bay Area Local 10 to drop from 6000 to 2000 in ten years, Bridges has sat back and watched the carve-up of the port.

In fact, many longshoremen suspect he has gone further and is actually taking part in it. One of the speculators bidding for Pier 45 is Alexander Maisin, a former Local 10 longshoreman and associate of Bridges. Maisin has made a standing offer to buy the site of the Local 10 hiring hall and top whatever bid is made for it by any other group.

The Local 10 hall and offices occupy a full city block in the heart of Fisherman's Wharf, adjacent to Pier 45. Because of the decline in membership, the local is unable to pay property taxes on the hall. Staggering increases in dues have failed to offset rising taxes due to runaway property values in the area.

The hall was built by Local 10, but is owned by the Bay Area Longshoremen's Memorial Association (BALMA), a private corporation whose owners are the members of Local 10. BALMA was set up as a device to protect the hall from seizure by the courts for fines that might be levied against the local under the antiunion Landrum-Griffin Act.

Bridges has pressed for the sale of the hall and the dissolving of BALMA. Early this year, rank and file longshoremen showed their suspicion of Bridges by voting out the incumbent local president and voting in Frank Stout, the head of BALMA, and the leading opponent of selling the hall.

Recently Local 10 voted in referendum overwhelmingly to move the hall, but to lease the site rather than sell it outright. Bridges' policy was repudiated by four to one.

Bridges response to this defiance was immediate and brutal. A campaign was launched in the local by his supporters charging the officers with financial irregularities. At a local meeting, a vote was pushed through accepting mentorship by the International.

Rather than just keeping tabs on the cash flow, the monitors

have tried to impose virtual trusteeship on the local and give direct orders of the officers.

When the local officers refused to obey, international vice president William Chester published an International Bulletin to the Local 10 membership demanding that all the elected officers and business agents resign.

This kind of bureaucratic intervention in the affairs of a local, while common in many other unions, has been relatively rare in the ILWU. For Local 10, which has traditionally been the leading local in the union, it is unprecedented.

This is not just a matter of Bridges or friends of Bridges having their fingers in the pie, as many longshoremen suspect. It shows the complete crisis of the labor bureaucracy, and its tremendous fear of losing control of the rank and file as mass unemployment begins to bite deeper and deeper. Most longshoremen work only three or four days a week. Only the guarantee of 36 hours pay for five days reporting to the hall has prevented an explosion.

But the bankruptcy of any big shipping company will threaten the guarantee. Last fall, Seatrains Lines was forced to abandon its West Coast runs to Hawaii and Guam, and sold out to Matson.

PFEL is nearly broke. American President Lines hopes to economize by virtue of sharing facilities and expenses with Matson and Sea Land. Earlier this summer, the Pacific Maritime Association discussed the possibility of requiring longshoremen to report to the hall seven days a week in order to get the guarantee, although no action was taken then.

The shippers will be forced by the crisis to try to take back the guarantee, and provoke the greatest struggle in the ILWU's history.

The Local 10 leadership offers no alternative to Bridges, who clearly defends the shippers. The methods of trade union militancy, the hallmark of Local 10 for forty years, are completely inadequate to fight the new crisis facing longshoremen. The only answer to the shippers' bankruptcy is the construction of a labor party pledged to nationalize the docks and shipping.

SHERIFFS ASSAULT BORAX MINERS

BY SHEILA BREHM
BORON, Calif.—US Borax has stepped up the battle to break ILWU Local 30. So far this week 20 striking miners have been arrested.

Fighting between strikers and Kern County sheriff's deputies and scabs broke out when US Borax officials began hiring men to replace 800 striking miners who have been on strike since June 15 against the largest borax mining and processing facility in the world.

When strikers lined the two roads leading to the plant at the times the shifts were to begin and end, Kern County sheriff's deputies declared an unlawful assembly.

According to Gene Pope, ILWU member, "Within less than a minute of this order the arrests and beatings began. There were about 50 deputies in riot gear."

Of the workers arrested, several were beaten including Paul Williams who had a previous back injury. Kay Barlow, six months pregnant, was beaten in the stomach with a billy club. Another ILWU member who is a parapalegic was also beaten, while police

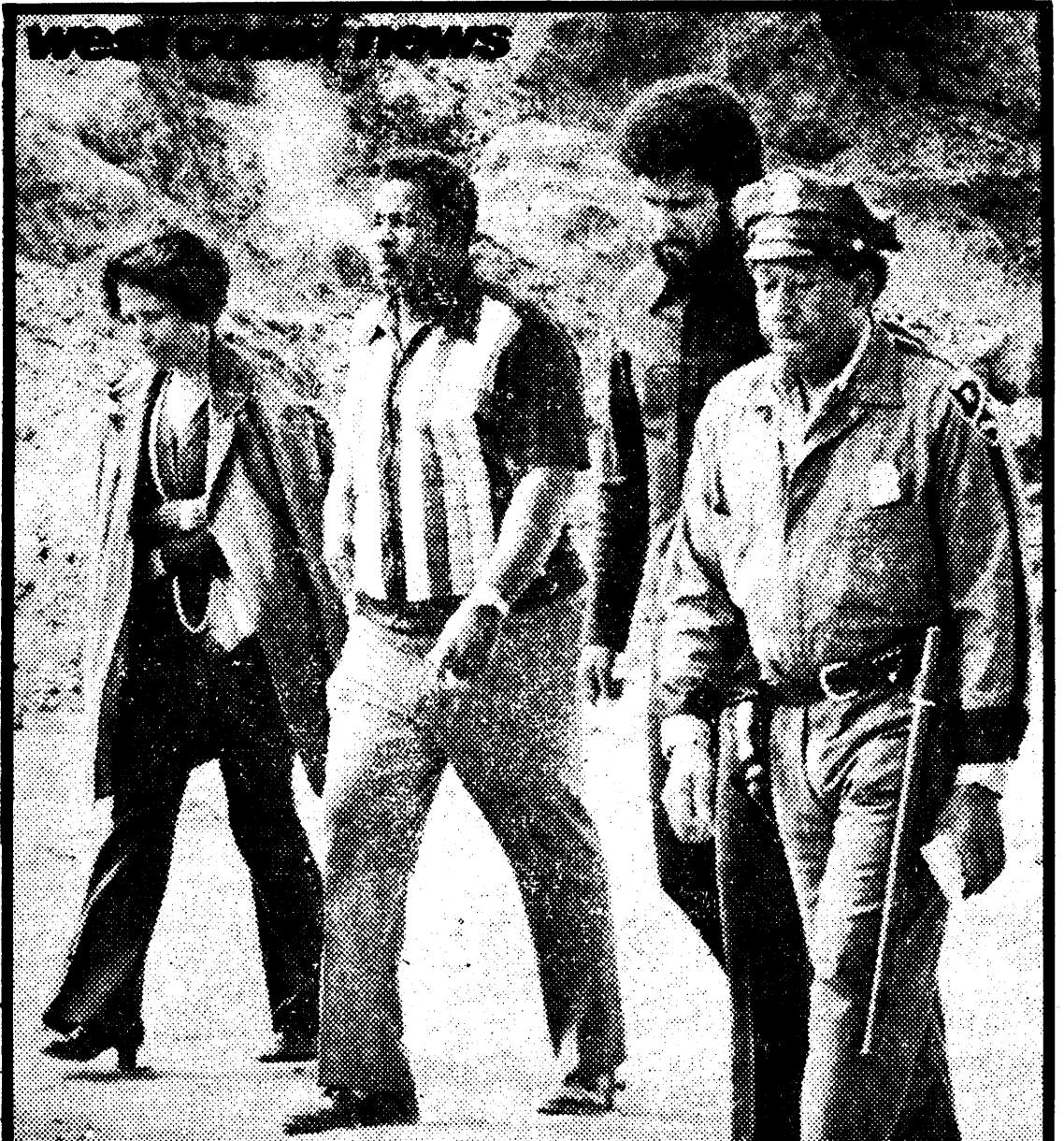
tried to force him to climb into the paddy wagon.

The county roads leading to the Borax mine and plant have been closed, and all cars are currently being stopped, questioned, and in many cases searched.

Gene Pope said, "This is like a controlled Vietnam. As I saw the Vietnam situation, it was the government sponsoring violence for the subjugation of the workers and peasants. Now they're trying to do the same thing to union people. There is no doubt in our mind that they want to break this union."

Less than 20 of the union's membership is crossing the line. But the AFL-CIO in the area is condoning the scabbing by 150 Building and Trades Workers. Harry Bridges, international president of the ILWU, has also refused to lift a finger to defend the local. According to a striker, although \$26,000 was contributed by the ILWU international, "Bridges just agreed to sit back and watch us fight."

An immediate campaign must now be launched to demand that the AFL-CIO stop the scabbing and that the ILWU black all US Borax goods, as well as Rio Tinto Zinc cargo. (RTZ owns Borax.)



Relatives of Reuben Youngblood and security guard leaving spot where two youth were killed.

Hunters Point Boys Killed By Construction Landslide

BY A REPORTER

SAN FRANCISCO—Two Hunters Point boys were killed last Thursday in a cave-in at a construction site near their homes. Reuben Youngblood, 10, and Wordell Coleman, Jr., 11, were buried in a landslide



Wordell Coleman, Sr.

while playing on a hillside where the Redevelopment Agency is planning to build a school and a playground.

At the site where the two boys were killed there was no protective fence, despite state safety laws which require it. The Redevelopment Agency claimed it was reviewing all contracts to see how present safety clauses can be en-

forced. A spokesman said that up to now they had been "taken for granted."

Hundreds of workers and youth attended Wordell Coleman's funeral today. There is tremendous hatred for the Redevelopment Agency already because for nearly a year the Agency has been trying to force residents of 192 units of older public housing in Hunters Point out on the street so a higher-income development can be built.

In the meantime funds to complete the new low cost housing have been cut back. Homes in the neighborhood Reuben Youngblood and Wordell Coleman lived in stand on bare earth, since landscaping has been postponed. Sidewalks sometimes rise several feet above the ground which is washing away.

The Redevelopment Agency said the construction company at the site has been temporarily removed, and said whether operations would resume depends on the "political atmosphere."



Borax workers at the beginning of their strike.

E. Oakland Residents Jam Meeting On Housing Loans Crisis

BY A REPORTER

OAKLAND — Over 200 housewives, workers and youth attended a meeting called by the East Oakland Housing Committee on September 19. The meeting was called to discuss the crisis in housing finance which has led to over 1200 homes being taken-in foreclosure from workers who could not keep up the payments.

Most people wanted to know why they had been turned down for loans for repairs, refinancing, or purchase of homes owned by the Federal Housing Authority.

The Committee invited institutions ranging from the Bank of America to savings and loans companies and the Department of Housing and Urban Development, on the theory that these capitalists and the working class homeowners would sit down and work out a solution.

This bankrupt reformism was exposed first of all by those companies which refused invitations to speak. Owin Pines Savings and Loans wrote, "We have no funds. There is nothing to discuss." Another wrote: "We have no funds. With the market being what it is we would not make a statement on future finances."

The bankers and brokers who did attend were unable to answer questions like, "You've got the houses, how do we get them? We

want them." Instead they dropped any pretense of being liberal helpers of the community and one by one launched vicious denunciations of the working class residents of East Oakland for "vandalism."

One banker said, "We can rehabilitate the houses, but we can't rehabilitate the neighborhood. We can't change the character of the neighborhood. That's up to you people."

Another banker admitted that the collapse of housing finance was part of a "world economic slump."

Piece Work Slashes Joiners Wages

SAN JOSE—Joiners in the Bay Area are being forced to work a five day week for four days pay or take similar wage cuts because of the piecework system being used by Drywall and Sheetrock subcontractors.

Piecework or "incentive pay" as the companies call it, was legalized for noncommercial building in October of 1972 as an appendix to the contract of the carpenters union. The steep decline in sales for the building indus-

try caused by inflation has led almost all of the Bay Area contractors to use piecework to increase productivity and slash workers wages.

The contract states that piece work rates can only be paid if it exceeds the total hourly rate. There is a guaranteed hourly rate of \$10.95 per hour for joiners.

Frank, a member of Carpenters & Joiners Union Local 316 for 11 years, was interviewed by the Bulletin:

"All the guys I work with are very upset about this piecework. Two weeks ago I worked a job where I worked 28 hours. That's almost a full week, but I only got a check for \$45.00.

That's violating our contract.

"Everybody is happy with the \$10.95 per hour wage but we don't get paid by the hour on most jobs. It's all piecework.

"All the drywall workers should call a special meeting and strike until we can get our choice of hourly or piecework pay.

"They use guys out of work as a wedge against those with jobs. The sub-contractor can call from plenty of guys. If you want to work you have to go along with the contractors or else there's no bread on the table.

"They'll tell you over the phone they pay \$34.00 per 1000 square feet of sheetrock put up, but when you get there they say they have guys who will work for

\$29.00 per 1000 square feet.

"I got a job working on a big elevator shaft downtown in San Jose and I told my boss I didn't want to work by piecework but by the hour. Two days later they laid off my two sons and myself. I got paid for 16 hours but I worked 20. I don't know what we'll do when we run out of money, except loose everything we own. It's been getting worse as the inflation rises.

"We went to the union and the business agents questioned us like criminals. They said we could not be trusted to report our hours and that we should have come to more union meetings.

"I think the union gets money from the companies. They cut the cake two ways.

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lucha obrera

lucía rivera



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"This Ford and Rockefeller government knows that the conditions of millions unemployed and soaring inflation will provoke an explosion in the working class. The brutal murder of Claude Reese in Brownsville last week was an act of violence directed against the working class as a whole.

"We demand that the trade unions act now to defend the working class, act politically against this government and this system. We are preparing a leadership among the youth and trade unionists, against all of those who pit race against race, whether it is the right-wing using the busing issue in South Boston

or the nationalists who say that 'Whitey' is the enemy.

"The construction of a revolutionary leadership in the course of a fight for a labor party, uniting all of the working class, is the only way we can defend our right to a job, to decent living conditions, our very right to live. We will be campaigning every day to pose these questions before thousands of workers and youth."

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These measures are to be combined with savage attacks on the American working class in the form of plant shutdowns and merciless budget cuts.

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They are assisted in this betrayal by the Stalinists of the American Communist Party, who have not denounced the collaboration of the AFL-CIO in the economic summit but instead have asked for a White House invitation.

The policies of the American CP are determined by the desire of the Soviet bureaucracy to maintain their policy of "peaceful coexistence" and "detente" with Ford even as American imperialism prepares dictatorship within the United States and arms itself for world war.

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