



Please help  
my mother help me.

## HOW THE SANDERSON'S STRIKERS WERE DEFEATED

see pages 8 & 9

# Socialist Worker

Paper of the International Socialist  
Organization 25¢ monthly



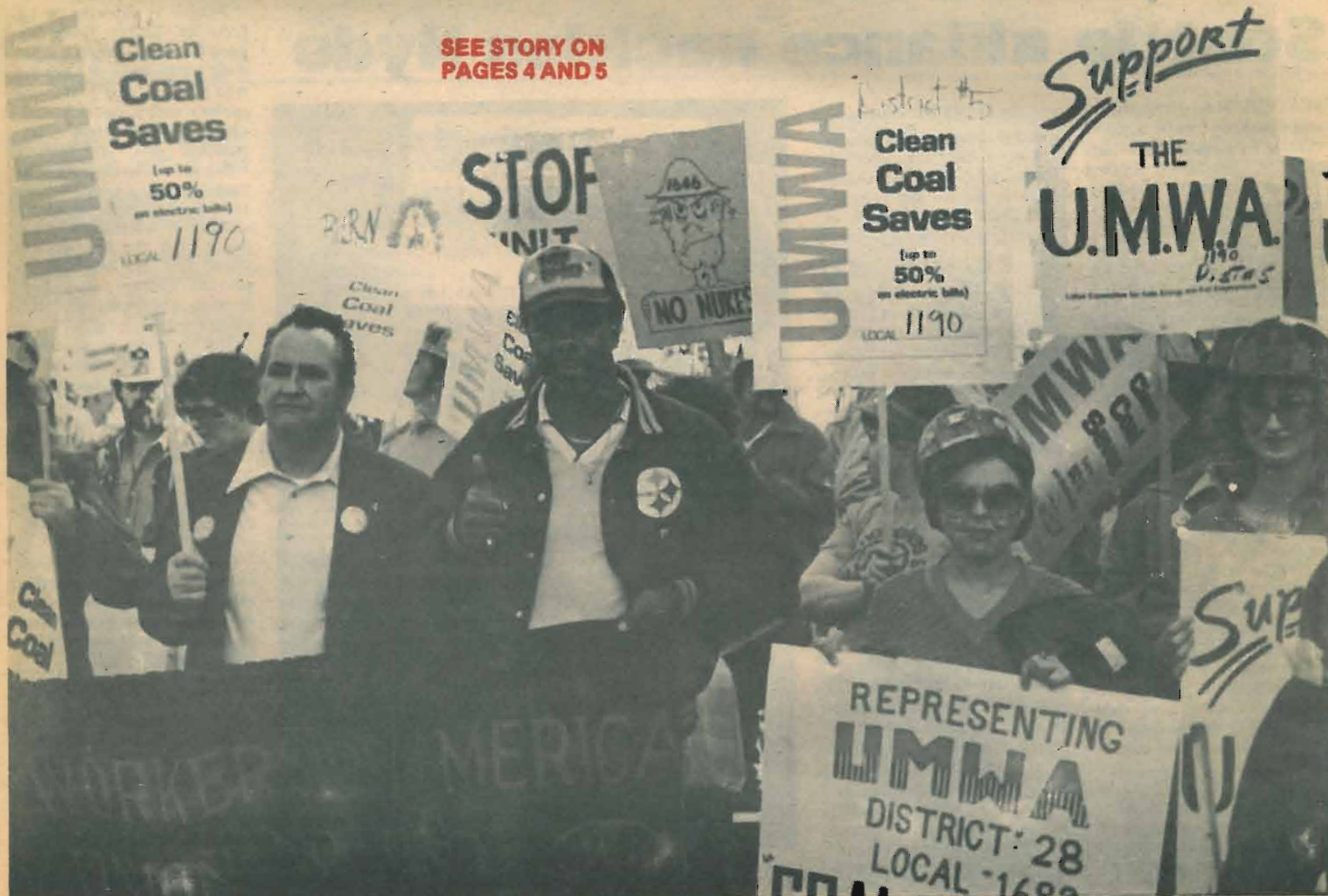
SELF-DEFENSE IN ATLANTA see page 3

NUMBER 48



APRIL 1981

# SOLIDARITY WITH THE MINERS!



SEE STORY ON  
PAGES 4 AND 5

March for safe energy, Harrisburg, March 28



# REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS NETWORK MEETS



Anna Maria Garcia speaking on sterilization abuse

## Why we have to fight for abortion rights

**NEW YORK, NY**—The Reproductive Rights National Network (R2N2) met here the weekend of March 27, 28 and 29.

300 people attended representing some forty organizations—reproductive rights groups, health care clinics, lesbian organizations, socialists.

### COAST

The delegates came from almost every part of the country. Twenty five came from the West Coast. A group of Chicanas came from New Mexico. There were representatives of Puerto Rican women, Chicanas and Black women.

The turnout was important.

## 300 people attend New York conference to plan fight for reproductive rights.

R2N2 has quadrupled its size since it was founded two years ago.

The conference voted for several national priorities:

- 1) to organize to defeat the Human Life Amendment in Congress.
- 2) to continue to campaign to restore medicaid funding for abortions.
- 3) to participate in the Washington, D.C., demonstration on April 23 against the Human Life Amendment.
- 4) to have demonstrations on May 16, the international day of action for abortion

rights.

The meeting came at a time when abortion rights are under attack.

On March 23rd, the Supreme Court upheld a Utah law requiring doctors to notify a teenage woman's parents before performing an abortion.

According to Chief Justice Burger, "the statute plainly serves the important considerations of family integrity and protecting adolescents."

Right now over 30% of all abortions are performed on teenagers. This decision is a serious violation on a teenage woman's right to choose, right

to privacy and right to her own sexuality.

### FUNDING

There have been other attacks as well. On February 15th, the Connecticut Supreme Court ended state funding for abortion in the case of rape and incest. Within a week Georgia did the same.

In Virginia, Governor Dalton vetoed a bill which would have permitted medicaid funding for cases involving rape, incest or gross fetal abnormalities.

In April, hearings begin on the various Human Life

Amendments and statutes which have been introduced in Congress. These bills will legally define a fetus as a person and confer all rights of citizenship upon it. Passage of such a bill or amendment would have far reaching implications for in effect it would give a fertilized egg more rights than a living woman.

The anti-abortionists are wary that Reagan will fall short of totally outlawing abortion, contraception and sex education.

So far these fears appear to be misguided.

He has already appointed Richard Schweiker as head of Health and Human services. Schweiker has announced his opposition to abortion, birth control and sex education.

Reagan is expected to appoint Dr. Everett Koop Surgeon General. Koop is a right-wing fundamentalist Christian who just last year toured the country with a one man crusade against "anti-family trends."

Marjorie Meckenberg, the president of American Citizens for Life, will be put in charge of adolescent pregnancy, and she has already stated that the only way to prevent teenage pregnancy through abstinence not birth control or sex education.

The meeting discussed at length and voted to make the issue of abortion rights, and in particular, defeat of any Human Life amendment our major goal.

R2N2 intends to fight against the Human Life amendment and at the same time raise the broader issues of reproductive freedom.

Other important issues such as population control, sterilization abuse, feminist health care, lesbian perspectives on abortion and workplace organizing were discussed.

### JOIN

Women especially should join a local reproductive rights group in your area, and join with R2N2. We need a strong and large network, for we are up against a formidable enemy. It will take a powerful movement to win back our freedom.

by B.W.

## Seattle alliance heckles Hyde

**SEATTLE, WA**—Henry Hyde said it was the "worst demonstration" he had seen in six years.

To more than 300 abortion rights activists assembled by the Seattle Reproductive Rights Alliance in suburban Bellevue to protest Hyde's appearance at the Washington Human Life Convention Friday, March 27 the evening was a noisy, militant success.

The picket began at 7:00 pm as anti-abortionists arrived at the Holiday Inn to register for the weekend event.

At 8:20 the doors of the halls were opened to the public and 50 demonstrators accepted the invitations.

### RESPONSIBLE

Henry Hyde, the Illinois congressman responsible for the cut-off of federal abortion funds for women, entered the hall at 8:30.

Demonstrators in the hall joined the chants started outside of "Women have died because of Hyde" and rose to their feet clapping and stomping.

A quick huddle of Hyde, the Human Life president Kenneth Vanderhoef, and a police captain ended with the captain at the microphone making an unheard and unheeded de-

by MARY DEATON

mand that protestors leave.

Two of the "christians" in the back row of the seated audience turned and punched women in the front row of standing protestors.

### SHAKEN

Within minutes night stick wielding police began throwing demonstrators through a small side door onto the sidewalk. Picket monitors organized by Women Acting Together helped the shaken protestors off the ground and back into the line.

An hour after he was scheduled to begin, Henry Hyde delivered his anti-woman harangue.

The inside protest was a spontaneous angry response to Hyde's presence. The resulting violence was police violence. Their brutality was unprovoked and unnecessary. They were let loose by the so-called "pro-lifers."

It is this kind of confrontation of the anti-abortionists which will build a movement to stop the attacks on women's reproductive rights.

We cannot depend on legislators, lobbyists and "reasonable dialogue" to keep abortion legal. The lives of women are at stake. □



Picketing Hyde



# ATLANTA KILLINGS CONTINUE

## Why we support self-defense

As we go to press the body of yet another Black child has been found murdered in Atlanta. There are now 23 Black children killed or missing in the past 21 months.

It is an appalling tragedy and yet we are carefully and regularly reassured by the media and the city authorities in Atlanta that there is no proof that the killings are "racial" nor that they are in any way necessarily "connected."

Amazingly, the police continue to say that there are "no clues" as yet. And the media does all it can to play down the whole terrible story.

### ANGER

But the anger of Black people is growing—as it should. In Harlem, 10,000 people poured into the streets to protest the killings. The rally ended with a sea of raised fists and the prolonged chant: "Organize and Fight! Organize and fight!"

There have been many other demonstrations including 1,500 at the Atlanta "Moratorium on Murder."

At the same time Blacks in

Atlanta, frustrated, enraged by police inaction, have begun to take steps toward armed self-defense.

"The Klan is arming themselves and conducting paramilitary training camps," says Chimurenga Jenga. "Why can't we exercise our constitutional rights to make sure our children are safe and in a healthy environment?"

At Techwood Homes, At-

lanta's largest housing project, Black community members organized self-defense patrols with baseball bats, shotguns and hand guns.

Several were immediately arrested by police, and there was a chorus of condemnation from the city's Black establishment.

But according to Marian Green, a Techwood resident, "We're looking out for our



Chimurenga Jenga at Atlanta housing project

safety because Maynard (Jackson, the Mayor) does not live here."

### AFFORD

She said that city officials "Have got security guards around their families that we cannot afford around ours . . . So what we're trying to do is to stop what's fixing to happen from happening here. Now wherever the killer or killers

are, they've got word that Techwood people are armed with guns, and they'll think twice before they come into this Black community."

Despite the arrests and harassment from the city, these Black activists say they will continue to defend themselves.

We must defend their right to do so. Children in Atlanta—and Blacks in cities from Miami and Buffalo—are being randomly murdered in a wave of racist violence.

Black people have the right and the responsibility to defend themselves by any means necessary.

### SPIRIT

"We cannot and will not stand by and watch this attempt to intimidate and destroy the fighting spirit of another generation of Black youth," said Israel Green, the president of the Techwood Tenants Association.

"Poor Black working class youth are being terrified everywhere, because Black youth are being terrorized in Atlanta. We are organizing ourselves and arming ourselves to protect, preserve and defend ourselves."

We agree. There is no alternative. □

## THE SYSTEM IS THE SOURCE OF THE VIOLENCE

What can be said about the attempted assassination of President Reagan?

Very little, really. Except that it is another indication that American society is decaying, and that after all is said and done, we know there is a connection between the now commonplace assassination attempts on presidents and everything else that is wrong with this society—the racism and militarism, the exploitation of the majority for the benefit of a small minority.

### WEALTH

A small minority that flaunts fabulous wealth in the face of poverty and suffering. A small minority that includes Ronald and Nancy Reagan and

the slumlords and generals in their administration.

There is now another round of soul searching about violence in America. And of course we too are against the violence, especially since poor and working people are the overwhelming majority of the victims.

But why is it that there is only a focus on violence when the rich and powerful are the victims?

The source of the violence is not to be found in the hearts or heads of the individual killers, even fanatics like John Warnock Hinckley, Jr.

Although it is ironic that at a time when the Klan and the Nazis are on the rise, encouraged by having an openly right-wing racist in the White House, it was a former Nazi

who fired the shots. A white man, the son of a religious, right-wing millionaire from the oil industry.

The real source of the violence is in the system, the system that brought us Vietnam, and now, thanks to Ronald Reagan, is sending Green Berets into El Salvador.

### SOURCE

The real source is in the racism of the country—a nation that can produce the tragedy of Atlanta and be for the most part unmoved.

And the system which has killed 100,000 miners in this century, which is now in the midst of yet another economic crisis, and which holds nothing good for any of us in the future. □



## FIGHTING WORDS

It is criminal to teach a man not to defend himself when he is the constant victim of brutal attacks.

—Malcolm X

## Socialist Worker

April, 1981

Socialist Worker is published monthly by the International Socialist Organization, Box 18037, Cleveland, Ohio 44118



# THE FIRST BLACK EVER CONVICTED OF A CRIME AGAINST A ROBED KLANSMAN



Curtis Robinson and family

DECATUR, AL—This winter a group of newsmen were led blindfolded into a secret well-guarded military camp deep in the Kudzu vine-covered hills of north Alabama.

High powered rifles echoed above the hollows that hid the Ku Klux Klan's training camp from public view.

They train with AR-14 semi-automatic weapons, civilian version of the Army's M-16. Klansmen, putting aside the usual white robes for camouflaged military fatigues, run obstacle courses, climb walls of cut logs, crawl beneath canopies of barbed wire and swing on ropes across creeks. Even children are being trained to kill.

## MY LAI

Klansmen have named their secret training camp My Lai, in honor of the Viet Nam village where American soldiers massacred women and children.

According to Terry Tucker, the Commander-in-Chief of the Klan Special Forces, his elite group is undergoing training for a "race war."

Klansman Tucker appeared on the streets of Decatur, Alabama last May with a band of his para-military Klan guard and attacked a group of Blacks who were peacefully protesting the conviction of a mentally retarded Black youth who had been wrongfully charged with the rape of a white woman.

Robed in white sheets, the battle-hardened group of Klan toughs attacked men, women and children with bloodthirsty zeal.

Two Blacks were shot in the head and others were brutally beaten with ax handles and clubs.

Curtis Robinson, a fifty-year-old Black employee of the Decatur City Hall, is now paying a high price from this Klan attack.

## SHOT

Mr. Robinson was in his automobile on that Decatur street along with his wife and five young children when the Klan attacked. They shot out his tire and beat his car with clubs.

Mr. Robinson shot one of the robed Klansmen as they rushed at him with raised clubs. He used a pistol he kept in his car for protection and for which he had a legal permit.

## SUCCUMB

After 300 robed Klansmen marched on the Decatur City Hall, the white prosecutor succumbed and charged Mr. Robinson with assault with intent to murder the Klansman he wounded.

No Klansman was arrested for the shooting or beating of Blacks.

In October, the Southern Poverty Law Center attorneys defended Mr. Robinson before an all-white Decatur jury. The trial was a flashback of the famous Scottsboro Boys case of the 1930s, ironically held in the same city.

The jury saw color videotapes of Klansmen attacking Mr. Robinson's car. They heard a police officer who witnessed the shooting say that he would have shot the attacking Klansman in self-defense had he been Mr. Robinson.

The all-white jury convicted Mr. Robinson with intent to murder.

This is the first time a Black man has ever been convicted of a crime against a robed Klansman.

Curtis Robinson is a decent man. During the early fifties, he left his hometown Decatur, Alabama and joined the "Coasters," and produced the hit record "Charlie Brown."

Mr. Robinson sang the bass line so well remembered: "Why is everybody always picking on me?" After the group disbanded, he came back to Decatur to raise his family.

## APPEAL

The Center is now appealing the his case, even to the United States Supreme Court if necessary, to clear his good name and to get a retrial in another city far from the bias and fear of the Klan. □

(Report from Southern Poverty Law Center, 1001 South Hall, Montgomery, Alabama 36101.)

CHARLESTON, W. VA—The rank and file coal miners have done it again.

They have soundly rejected a proposed new national contract that would have threatened their jobs, undercut their pensions, and weakened their union.

They voted 2 to 1 to send UMW president Sam Church back to the bargaining table with the BCOA (Bituminous Coal Operators' Association), the nation's major coal producers.

## WARNINGS

They did this despite dire warnings that the only alternative to accepting Church's agreement was a long strike—longer than the 111 day strike of 1977-78.

The rejection of the contract once again caught the bosses off guard. They thought high unemployment would intimidate the miners.

They boasted of huge stockpiles, and their ability to rely on the vast coal resources of the West. They said that they too were determined to get what they wanted, most importantly more productivity, even if it took a long strike.

When Church announced his last minute settlement, *Business Week*, for example, was elated. The magazine praised the "skillfull maneuvering" of Church and Consolidation Coal's Bobby Brown, and predicted a "short strike" followed by "labor peace."

They were wrong. And they shouldn't have been caught off guard.

The mood of the rank and file miners was shown early.

When the negotiators failed to reach an agreement that would have avoided a strike altogether, tens of thousands of miners spontaneously stopped work.

Roving pickets shut down mines from West Virginia to Illinois. Strikers from Pennsylvania spread strikes up and down the Ohio valley.

When Church announced his agreement, he had the support of only a small majority of the union's bargaining council, which supported him only by 21 to 14.

## OPPOSITION

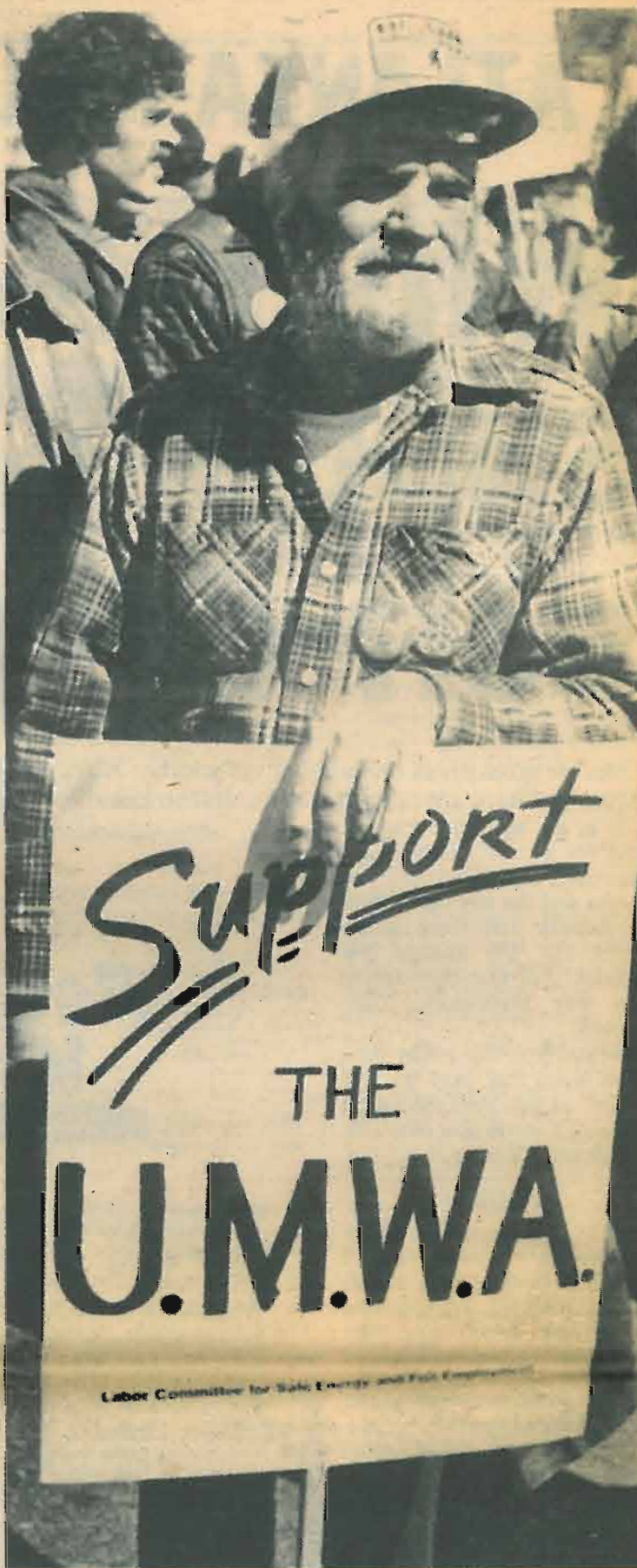
The opposition built up quickly in the coal fields. There were contract burning parties and more wildcat strikes.

Church went on an eight state tour to argue for his settlement, but he was met by hostile miners. In Wheeling, W. VA, 100 miners picketed his appearance at a local radio station. He was hit by flying eggs as he left.

He cancelled his visit to Dilles Bottom, Ohio.

In District 17, the union's largest with 26,000 members, only 50 showed up to hear him speak. Many left before he finished.

Now the rank and file and the district leaders have the



Pennsylvania veteran of 48 years in the mines

job of seeing that the strike is solid. In Ohio, a relief fund has already been organized to see that no miners suffer unnecessary hardship.

The strike may well be long but it does not have to be.

The utilities do have their stockpiles, the coal is being produced in the West, the

# WHY THE MINERS

● The proposed settlement calls for a 35% increase in wages and benefits, which *Business Week* says is "expensive." But the magazine goes on to say that it is less than the recent settlements in auto and steel, because there was no COLA in the miners' contract.

● The agreement abolishes the Arbitration Review Board (ARB), but it leaves stand 200 ARB decisions and precedents. It also includes a memorandum of understanding to study the reimplementation of the ARB.

● The agreement keeps the multi-employer pension plan but agrees in concept to the "fundamental soundness" of single employer pensions.

● The agreement does not include provisions for Sunday work, but the companies get a foot in the door by winning the right to work holidays, except Christmas.

● The agreement includes a 45 day probation period for new miners, ending the long standing tradition of equal protection for all coal miners.

● The agreement give miners widows covered by the 1950 pension plan \$100 a month and increases the 1950 plan pensions from \$275 a month to \$315. This is an



# MINERS STRIKE TO SAVE THEIR UNION

operators have plenty of money.

On the other hand, there is money to be made—and lost—in an expanding coal market. And the BCOA companies do not want to lose too much to the West—no matter how determined they are to beat the UMW.

## POWER

The miners also have the power to force the companies to give in—without a strike that goes on forever.

But the miners will not win alone. They need support. Starting now, every union member, every socialist, every working class activist should start finding ways to support the miners.

The miners, for their part, should not be afraid to spread their strike.

They can stop the movement of coal to the power plants. They can stop the movement of coal on the



Sam Church,  
UMW president

highways, in the rail yards and at the ports and harbors.

## PICKETS

They can take their pickets to the steel mills and auto plants that use coal. They can win.

This strike will be very important. At a time when the entire working class is on the defensive, steadily, sometimes viciously, being beaten back, the miners can show the alternative.

They can show the power of workers, the strength of organization, the purpose of the strike.

They can do what the miners in Poland have done, and what British miners did this winter when they forced the British government to abandon plans to lay off thousands of miners.

The miners can win, and they can show the way forward for all of us. □

## WIDOWS AND PENSIONERS ORGANIZE FOR "COAL POWER"

In an industry where so many workers are killed and disabled, and where virtually all workers are afflicted to some degree by black lung disease, few things are more important than pensions and health benefits.

Recently I talked to three members of Coal Power, an organization of widows and pensioners in Bellaire, Ohio, founded in November, 1980.

Coal Power's goals are to equalize the 1950 and 1974 pension plans of the United Mine Workers, to fight for pensions for the 44,000 widows who have none and to see that no widow loses her health card.

The three women I talked to are Irene Thornton, whose husband died of black lung in 1972, Elizabeth Turvey, Coal Power secretary, whose husband worked 28 years, but she receives no pension, and Charlotte Walters, President of Coal Power, the wife of a retired coal miner.



Irene Thornton

I asked the women why they were so angry about Ronald Reagan's proposed cuts in the black lung benefit program.

## BENEFITS

They said it was already a fight just to get benefits. Charlotte Walters said miners had to "go through test after test, even when x-rays say that they have black lung.

"You can tell by the way a man breathes that he has it, but still they send you around and around. It just seems they'd like to kill you so they won't have to pay you."

Elizabeth Turvey agreed added that "the only sure way prove black is to die, to have an autopsy. Then the widow gets the benefits.

"The man gets the disease but the widow gets the benefits. □

"When a man works twenty or thirty years in the mine, especially the miners who worked back in the fifties, he ought to get the benefits. I don't see how they can say he doesn't have it."

Charlotte Walters said that widows often lose their health cards. "There are 5 or 6 different ways they can lose their medical cards. If they earn more than \$200 a month they take it away even if that's all they have to live on.

"I had a call today from a woman whose husband died a month before he was 55 so she lost her card just like that."

Widows are also discriminated against, and the union is part of the problem, according to Turvey. "A woman under the 1950 plan gets nothing, and a widow under the 1974 plan gets half of what the man gets."

And it makes them angry.

## ZERO

"My husband worked 28 years, a lifetime, and now there's nothing," says Turvey.

"It's just down the drain, nothing to show for it. You're nothing but a big zero.

"I resent having nothing accomplished in my life and nothing to show—like I was just wiped out and never existed. I'm only good for the time being and that's it. I'm no use to anybody.



Elizabeth Turvey

"I resent being put in a position where I have to ask for something that should have come to me without all this yelling and fuss. I don't like that.

"And I don't want to beg, I'd rather fight."

Coal Power is strongly independent and not affiliated to the UMW, though its members are all retired UMW members or UMW widows.

"We don't want anyone to take away our freedom of speech and that would happen in any other organization—like the UMW," says Walters.



Charlotte Walters

"We're not in the UMW because we don't like a lot of things the union does—you can tell by the way we talk.

"So we're independent so we can speak about the union, the same thing goes for the government. It gives us power to speak out against anyone and anything."

## STRIKE

Coal Power plans to support the miners' strike.

"The only thing the coal miner needs is some good moral support," says Walters.

"During the last strike it got to the point where the news media was putting pressure on the coal miner, saying that there was not going to be any electricity, what were the people in the cities going to do. And the coal miner was to blame for all of it.

"They've already started it this time, putting pressure on the coal miner not to go out and stay out until we get what we want.

"I don't think the coal miners would have gone back last time if it hadn't been for the pressure.

"So if we can do something to make people see that the miners are right in what they're doing and that they should stay out, we'll do it.

"One of our purposes as Coal Power is to educate the public."

And there is another thing the widows can do, according to Irene Thornton.

"We're survivors. They can look at us and see that they can be survivors too. They don't have to knuckle under to these turkeys—the coal companies." □

by CAL WINSLOW



Consolidation Coal's Bobby Brown

## VOTED "NO!"

improvement, but it does not equalize pension benefits. Charlotte Walters, the wife of a pensioner and a leader of Coal Power in Ohio says widows and pensioners are being used in this agreement, arguing that if non-union coal drives out UMW mined coal, there will be no pension money for widows anyway.

● Most importantly, the agreement gives the companies the right to buy, sell and process non-union coal without paying the \$1.90 royalty per ton into the union's pension plan—ending a 35 year old tradition. This would mean bonanza for non-union coal. It would pay the companies not to use union coal.

● The agreement also limits union rights and jurisdiction when new mines are opened and when companies lease mines and lands to non-union companies. It gives the companies the right to subcontract work and lease operations to non-union companies.

● In sum, the agreement does not give the companies everything they wanted, but it opens the door to the companies on all the key points. Most importantly it would stimulate the use of non-union coal at a time when the union's share of the coal market is already sharply declining. □



# Graffiti

by PATRICIA GOLDSMITH

## Not racial . . .

Two Portland police officers, who admitted dumping dead possums in front of a Black owned soul food restaurant, have been fired.

But despite demonstrations and public outcries that this is part of a continuing pattern of police harassment against Blacks the department denies the incident was racial.

Two other officers involved have not been dismissed . . .

## "Re-elected . . ."

Russia's geriatric leadership re-elected themselves for another five years last month at the Communist Party congress in Moscow.

For the first time ever there were no changes in the politburo, whose average age is 69 and oldest member 82.

A number of Brezhnev's personal proteges were added to the Central Committee.

Among the non-voting members elected this time were his son Yuri Brezhnev, and son-in-law, Yuri Churbanov, two personal aides and his three watchdogs in the KGB. □

## Our negotiating kit . . .

Now Reagan has cut off \$5 million worth of food aid to Mozambique, which is one of the 28 African countries described by the UN Food and Agricultural Organization as suffering from grave food shortages.

As former Republican secretary of agriculture, Earl Butz, once put it: "Food is a weapon. It is now one of the principal tools in our negotiating kit." □

## Normal . . .

UAW president Doug Fraser "acts just like a normal board member. He doesn't give the sense of just being a labor advocate."—Robert S. Semple, a member of Chrysler's board of directors, commenting on Fraser's role as a member of that body. □

## The proud, the brave and the few . . .

Ft. Benning, GA—Internal military documents show that private Jeffrey Savoy was "subjected to demeaning and abusive treatment" on the day of his death.

He was released from an army hospital where he lost 40 lbs but his superiors ordered him to full duty and denied him water when Savoy began vomiting.

Accused of faking illness was dragged until his pants were wrapped around his knees. On a 98 degree day he died from heartstroke on an army drill field . . .

# DETROIT FORD STEELWORKERS VOTE TO ACCEPT 20% WAGE CUT

DETROIT, MI—Ford Motor Co. steelworkers voted overwhelmingly on March 13 to accept a 20% cut in incentive pay in exchange for the promise to keep about 3,200 jobs, a union official said.

## MARGIN

The workers at Ford's River Rouge complex voted by a 3-1 margin to take a 20% cut in incentive pay, said Ernest Lof-

ton, vice president of United Auto Workers Local 600.

"We expected it to go about that way," Lofton said.

Unofficial figures indicate about 2,200 workers voted in favor of the cuts and 717 were opposed. Lofton said half of 5,200 eligible workers took part.

Negotiators for Ford and Local 600 reached tentative agreement on the 20% figure

last weekend. Ford initially had sought a 50% cut in incentive pay.

The workers receive the extra pay for increased production.

## FIGURES

No dollar figures for the amount of the reductions were available because it would vary from worker to worker,

UAW officials said. Lofton said he believed the cut would take effect the first of next month.

## DOOR

The company and the UAW have denied that the cuts for steelworkers would open the door for wage concession from other workers at Ford.

But no there is no doubt they will. □

## TALKING ABOUT SOCIALISM

"Why the working class is the revolutionary class"

Marx began the *Communist Manifesto* with the statement: "The history of all previously existing societies has been the history of class struggle."

The question of how the ruling class was to force the oppressed class to keep producing wealth for it was crucial.

Because of this, in every previous society, there had been enormous struggles between the classes which often culminated in civil war—the slave uprisings in Ancient Rome, the peasant uprisings in medieval Europe, the great civil wars and revolutions of the 17th and 18th centuries.

## FORCES

In all of these great struggles, the mass of the insurgent forces were from the most oppressed section of society. But, as Marx hastened to add, at the end of the day all their efforts served only to replace

one privileged ruling minority with another.

So, for example, in ancient China there were several successful peasant revolts—but they merely replaced one emperor with another.

Similarly, those who made the greatest effort in the French revolution were the 'Bras Nus'—the poorer classes of Paris, but at the end of the day society was ruled not by them but by the bankers and industrialists instead of the king and courtiers.

There are two main reasons for this failure of the lower classes to keep control of the revolutions in which they fought.

Firstly, the general level of wealth in society was fairly

low. It was only because the vast mass of people were kept in abysmal poverty that a small minority had time and leisure to develop the arts and sciences to maintain civilization. In other words, class division was necessary if society was to progress.

Secondly, the life of the oppressed classes did not prepare them to run society. By and large they were illiterate, they had little idea of what things were like outside their own immediate locality, and, above all, their everyday life divided them against the other.

Each peasant was concerned with cultivating his own plot of land. Each craftsman in the town ran his own small business and was to some extent in competition with other craftsmen, not united with them.

Peasant revolts would start with vast numbers of people rising up to divide the land of the local feudal lords, but once the lord was defeated, they would fall to squabbling among themselves about how they would divide the land.

## LINK

As Marx put it, peasants were like "potatoes in a sack"; they could be forced together by some outside power but were not capable of linking permanently to represent their own interests.

The workers who create the wealth under modern capitalism differ from all previous lower classes. Firstly, the division of classes is no longer necessary for human progress.

So much wealth is created that capitalist society itself periodically destroys huge quantities through wars or economic crisis. It could be divided up equally and society could still have a flowering of science, arts and so forth.

Secondly, life under capitalism prepares workers in many ways to take control of society. For example, capitalism needs workers who are skilled and

educated. Also capitalism forces thousands of people into huge workplaces in huge conurbations where they are in close contact with one another, and where they can be a powerful force for changing society.

Capitalism makes workers cooperate in production within the factory, and these cooperative skills can easily be turned against the system, as when workers organize themselves into unions. Because they are massed together in huge concentrations it is much easier for workers to democratically control such bodies than it was for previous oppressed classes.

Furthermore, capitalism tends increasingly to turn groups of people who thought of themselves as a "cut above" ordinary workers (such as clerks or technicians) into wage laborers who are forced to organize unions and so on as other workers do.

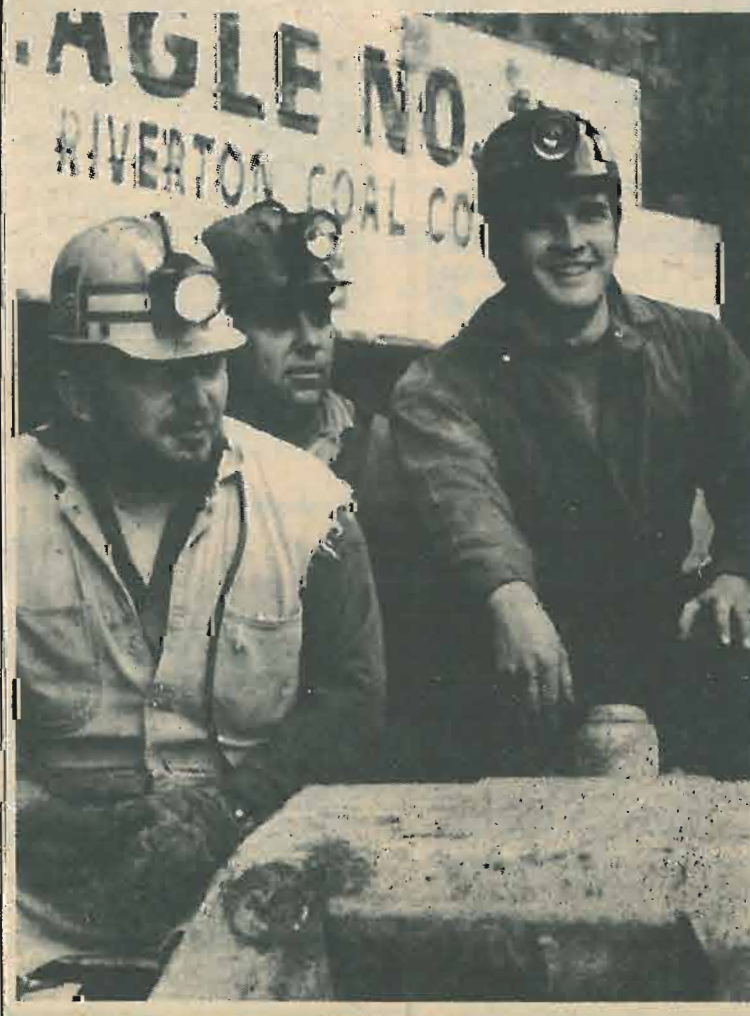
Lastly, the development of communications—railways, roads, air transport, postal systems, telephones, radio and television—allows workers to communicate outside their own locality or industry.

They can organize as a class on a national and international scale—something beyond the wildest dreams of previous oppressed classes.

## CHANGE

All these facts mean that the working class can not only be a force which rebels against existing society but can organize itself, electing and controlling its own representatives, so as to change society in its own interest, and not just to set up yet another emperor or group of bankers. As Karl Marx put it:

"All previous historical movements were movements of minorities in the interests of minorities. The proletarian movement is the self-conscious independent movement of the immense majority in the interests of the immense majority." □





# State department lies on El Salvador

The U.S. is raising the stakes—and its involvement in El Salvador's raging civil war.

## MYTH

Last month, the state department published a White Paper on El Salvador. The document, special report no. 80, "Communist Interference in El Salvador", is aimed at reviving the myth of an

impending "Red Menace"—and to justify escalating U.S. intervention in El Salvador.

The report claims the El Salvadorean insurgency is "A textbook case of the indirect armed aggression by Communist powers through Cuba."

Uncle Sam and the CIA don their white hats and play the role of patron protector of the

innocent who are threatened by the deadly swipe of the Russian bear's claws.

But the state department has released such bogus documents before. In 1965, for example, it published a document entitled "Aggression from the North: The Record of North Vietnam's Campaign to Conquer South Vietnam." It served to justify the bombing of North Vietnam and introduce large numbers of American troops on the side of the unpopular, puppet regime in the South.

Today, Congress is approving more military and "economic" aid to shore up El Salvador's dictatorship. More "advisors" are being sent—among them Green Berets. And the fear of another Vietnam is daily growing into a reality.

The Reagan administration has chosen El Salvador to be its "testing gauge" to show that any challenge to U.S. power in the hemisphere will be suppressed at any cost.

The administration has shelved the "human rights" facade and become friendlier to the dictatorships in Chile, Argentina, and Guatemala—regime's famous for their torture and mass murder.

A single reading of the White Paper is sufficient to demonstrate that it contains numerous inconsistencies and distortions.

The report claims for example that the guerillas are responsible for most of the carnage in the civil war. The Legal Aid Office of the Archdiocese of San Salvador, however, has released detailed documentation of over 8,000 murders committed by the junta's repressive forces last year alone. It has condemned the Salvadorean military with being much worse than Somoza's feared national guard in Nicaragua.

The White Paper also claims that the Democratic Revolutionary Front (FDR) does not have broad support.

In reality, the FDR represents a broad political alliance, and includes almost every major trade union (90% of the labor force), peasant association and student group. There are also religious, professional and small business organizations associated with the FDR.

But the major point made by the White Paper is that the Salvadorean insurgency has received massive shipments of arms from nations friendly to the USSR and that there is a well coordinated network through which arms are provided to the guerillas via Cuba and Nicaragua. Documents the state department claims were captured from the rebel forces are the "evidence."

## "PROOF"

Commenting on the evidence, Philip Agee, himself a former CIA agent in Latin America, said: "... I myself wrote up false documents personally for years for the CIA in Latin America in order to achieve the same political purpose these so-called 'proof' documents are serving right now."

The documents themselves are often contradictory, especially in terms of the amount of arms being shipped to rebels.

But regardless of where and how the guerillas obtain their arms there is no doubt at all which arms supplier is responsible for arming terrorists in El Salvador—the U.S. government.

From 1955 to 1979 the U.S. has provided the Salvadorean oligarchy with 16.7 million in military aid, and has trained 2,000 Salvadorean officials. Since October 1979, the U.S. has authorized \$41.2 million in military aid for the El Salvadorean junta—with more on the agenda.

## MOVEMENT

But Reagan's propaganda offensive has not been entirely successful. Over the last few weeks large demonstrations against U.S. involvement in El Salvador took place in many cities. We must continue to build that movement and say clearly: "No U.S. intervention in El Salvador!"

by NEIL SEALY



Government soldiers with U.S. arms

# NOW 'SOLIDARITY' TURNS UP IN CHINA

The Solidarity trade union movement in Poland has sparked a similar trend in an unexpected location—the People's Republic of China.

Militant workers in some major industrial cities have demonstrated for unions independent of Communist Party control.

Wuhan, site of an important steel making and finishing plant, and Shanghai, appear to be the centers of the movement.

In Shanghai, some factory workers threatened to form an independent union and staged a work slowdown for several hours to dramatize their grievances.

## PRESS

The official Chinese press has been reporting on Polish union activity for months. Ironically the same papers have released few details about their own workers' struggles except to warn against strikes and slowdowns by "those who want to undermine the Party" and "throw the nation into chaos."

An interview with the editors of *Workers Daily* confirmed the reports. But, the editors claimed, such groups of workers were small and isolated and the threat of independent unions was being used as a strategy against certain factory managers.

The discontent appears to be much more widespread and militant than the Chinese ruling class would like to admit. Chinese diplomats have revealed that last December

by WAYNE STANDLEY

thousands of unemployed in Shanghai marched on government and party offices demanding jobs.

Last month the Party's theoretical journal, *Red Flag*, called for the suppression of "counterrevolutionary dissidents" who have set up illegal organizations and published illegal magazines protesting against "the new bureaucratic class" in China.

The problems, at bottom, are economic. The late Mao Zedong's policy of building a siege economy through self-reliance made China fall further behind the rest of the world in its level of technology.

Deng Xiaoping, as de facto head of the Communist Party and the state, has scrapped Mao's ideas.

The new economic strategy is one of slow, steady growth aimed at developing capital-intensive industry and improving China's export potential. This involves massive inputs of Western capital and technology.

Central to this new strategy is the need for stability. It must reassure both foreign investors and the Chinese bureaucracy that the new leaders and policies are here to stay. The working class must be disciplined and held in check. Thus Deng Xiaoping has been scrambling about attempting to consolidate his control over the party and the country.

But, as an economically backward China entered the world market, the Chinese economy became increasingly subject to the crisis-ridden world economy as a whole, and less under the control of the Chinese ruling class.

And China's economy is already coming apart at the seams. It has to borrow \$550 million from the International Monetary Fund and is scheduled to borrow an additional undisclosed amount from the fund's trust pool.

Several large industrial and mining projects financed mainly by Western corporations have been cancelled.

Last month Yao Yilin, top economic planner of the State Planning Commission, announced drastic cuts in state spending to try to reduce the money supply and lower the 20% inflation rate. Most important under this plan, subsidies for non-profitable businesses and investment in capital construction will be reduced by almost 50%. This will eventually add to China's already 20 million unemployed.

It is this economic crisis that is at the bottom of the recent political intrigues and—most important—the beginnings of a working class rebellion.

The state capitalist regime in China is finding itself on increasingly shaky ground.

The seeds are being sown for a new Chinese revolution—a working class socialist revolution.



WORLD IN STRUGGLE

GOOD NEWS FOR DICTATORS

The new Republican administration in Washington is good news for Latin America's dictators. General Roberto Viola, soon to head Argentina's ruling junta, is due to pay a call on Reagan.

He follows General Fernando Matthei, commander of the Chilean air force, and a Brazilian military delegation.

## REFUSAL

Reagan has lifted sanctions against Chile, despite the continued refusal of Pinochet to extradite to the United States three officers of his secret service (DINA) accused of masterminding the assassination, in Washington, five years ago of Orlando Letelier, Chilean foreign minister under Salvador Allende.

General Vernon Walters recently visited Chile as part of Washington's efforts to drum up support for their policy of intervention in El Salvador. He was deputy director of the CIA when Letelier was murdered, at a time when DINA enjoyed close links with the U.S. intelligence community.

## NO COMMENT

"El Salvador is under attack by 'terrorists', Mr. Haig, and the president say. Cuba and the Soviet Union are trying to infiltrate terrorism into the Americas.

"But anyone who cares to know is aware that most of the killing in El Salvador has been done by the security forces... And everyone knows that the revolutionary movement did not originate abroad but began as an indigenous response to a century of rightist exploitation enforced by state terrorism.

## LANGUAGE

"To portray US policy as protecting central America from external intervention is laughable. The United States has been intervening there for a century.

"The message of the Haig policy is that a superpower will not tolerate political upsets in its own back yard. If that is true for the United States in El Salvador, why should it be any different for the Soviet Union in Poland or Afghanistan?

"What the United States is doing in El Salvador will in fact make it easier for Moscow to justify intervention in Poland if it ever takes that fateful step." Anthony Lewis in the *New York Times*.



Thirty seven workers, mostly Black women, lined up early in the morning on February 23, to return to work at Sanderson Farms, a chicken processing company in Laurel, Mississippi.

They were returning to work after two years on strike. They were defeated. The union had them sign pledges that they were returning "unconditionally." They had no contract.

Joe Frank Sanderson Jr., the president of Sanderson Farms, only took the workers back because he was ordered to by National Labor Relations judge James Fitzpatrick.

#### ORDER

The judge also ordered Sanderson to resume bargaining with the International Chemical Workers Union (ICWU) Local 882.

Sanderson said he would not. He would appeal the decision instead.

Frank Martino, the international president of the ICWU, who put Local 882 in receivership in January, called the end of the strike "a partial victory," and told the press in Laurel that he "expected Mr. Sanderson to treat people fairly."

Just why Martino expected this is not clear.

In the course of the strike, the women repeatedly charged that they were the victims of racist supervisors—one an open member of the Ku Klux Klan.

"They don't treat us like human beings," said one woman, "They treat us worse than they treat the chickens."

In any event, Martino will no doubt never know. He doesn't work in the plant. Nor is he likely to return to Laurel in the near future.

It is another story for the workers. "We asked for better treatment," said a returning striker, "and we didn't get it."

"It was slavery in there before," said Gloria Jordan, the vice-president of Local 882, "now it's torture. They are making living examples of us—examples of what they do to people who try to have a union."

#### FREE

The strikers, two hundred strong, walked out of Sanderson's on February 27, 1979. Just walking out seemed like a victory—"We felt free," said the strikers.

Their demands were simple enough.

They wanted a change in the absentee policy. Sanderson's policy included the provision that six minutes late counted as absent. Three absences within sixty days was grounds for firing.

They wanted overtime pay. Anyone who refused overtime was counted as absent. A worker recalled being ordered

**AN  
ANALYSIS  
OF THE  
TWO YEAR  
STRIKE AT  
SANDERSON  
FARMS  
IN LAUREL,  
MISSISSIPPI  
BY  
CAL WINSLOW**

to work ten hours straight with no overtime. "They just said 'do it or find another job.'"

They asked for toilet breaks as needed. Sanderson's allowed three bathroom breaks a week—and then the workers had to explain to a foreman why they wanted to go.

They also wanted an insurance policy, better vacations, an improved seniority system, safer working conditions, and the right to negotiate on the line speed.

And they wanted dignity.

"It's the hardest work I've ever done," said Linnie Myrick. "I was on the saw line, sawing chickens, and they expected five chickens per minute, which I felt was too many chickens."

"Every day they were hollering at us to cut more chickens. I've seen people beg to go home after eight hours and they wouldn't let them."

Sanderson Farms is a small, prison-like, plant just South of Laurel alongside Interstate 59. It is surrounded by a barbed wire fence.

#### BUSINESS

It's a big business, however. The Laurel plant is one of three—together they produce 180,000 chickens a day, one of the biggest poultry firms in the South.

The work in the plant is dirty and demeaning. The workers who unload the chicken work covered in feathers, the ones who cut the chicken with gore.

They wear aprons but the aprons cannot be kept clean, and the gore from the chickens produces a painful rash on the arms and necks.

The line moves too fast. Workers say the knives are often rusty and this means they cannot keep up with the line and often cut themselves. If they cut themselves they must still stay on the line.

When the strikers began to tell their story, most people thought they were hearing about a fight to organize a union—to gain representation.

But Sanderson workers had a union—they had been working under a union contract since 1972 when they walked out!

Their wages began at \$2.95 an hour, five cents more than the minimum wage—thanks to the ICWU.



May 17, 1980, the March for Dignity

The ICWU is an undistinguished union. Its headquarters is in Akron, Ohio. Its membership is declining, standing now at less than 60,000, down from 85,000 a few years back.

It did send an organizer to Laurel in 1979, however, when workers began demanding something "better than slavery." More than 200 workers were signed up, and at first the strike was relatively solid, though the plant was never shut down.

News of the appalling conditions at Sanderson's began to attract attention to the strike.

A reporter for *In These Times*, for example, was impressed with the ICWU. Under the headline, "How to Organize the South," he wrote, "Under Frank Martino the union has shown signs of increased vigor and openness to left politics."

The ICWU was also one of the Internationals to call the recent Harrisburg "March for Safe Energy."

In fact, the union did seem to be showing some interest in the Laurel strikers, though at a point when the strike was already a year old!

#### JUSTICE

In the spring of 1980, the ICWU organized the "Committee for Justice in Mississippi," and began to publicize the strike nationally.

A long list of supporters was put together, ranging from Douglas Fraser of the U.A.W. to Ben Chavis of the Wilmington 10.

The union organizers decided to make the strike "a

cause" and they began to succeed—as well they should have.

Sanderson's sits in the heart of Mississippi's Ku Klux Klan territory. The plant supervisor in Laurel is Charles Noble, an open Klansman. He was accused but acquitted by an all-white jury of murdering NAACP leader Vernon Dahmers. "They shot him up and burned his house," says organizer Kim Pittman.

Laurel is also the home of Klansman Sam Bowers, who killed the three civil rights workers, Andrew Goodman, Michael Schwerner, and James Chaney in 1964.

The Sanderson's workers are almost all Black, nearly all women. The workers face vicious racism, plus daily sexual harassment.

#### NON-UNION

The plant is also in the non-union South, where union-busting is rampant. In Mississippi only 11.6% of the industrial workforce is unionized, down from 13.2% in 1970.

Sanderson's is like a plantation, says Jordan, who became the chief spokesperson for the strikers, travelling from coast to coast appealing for support.

"Little Joe (Sanderson) always used the term, 'These are my people,' that's a plantation phrase."

Black women workers in the non-union South—certainly a cause worth fighting for. The ICWU pledged it would stand by the strikers until victory—"no matter how long it took."

"The Labor Movement is about morality," Frank Martino told the *New York Times*.

The strike and the Committee for Justice began to attract support. On May 17, 2,500 people marched miles through Laurel to port the strikers. It was a beginning.

It was also the beginning of the end. The tension in the International was at its building.

The strike was costing money, and Frank Martino tried and true business unionist.

Outsiders were getting involved. Racism and the strike were becoming central issues.

The Committee for Justice was soon disbanded, and the union returned to its struggle of taking the company to court. It did announce a boycott of Sanderson's chickens, a poor substitute for a mass fight, but it never pushed the issue.

When a group of supporters in Cleveland passed out letters at Church's Fried Chicken supporting the strikers, they were ordered to stop by the union.

The union did win in court. Sanderson's was convicted of bargaining in bad faith, and violating OSHA regulations. Sanderson was convicted of violating child labor laws—a thirty-year-old strikebreaker was found in the plant!

#### STRATEGY

But Sanderson's care. J.P. Stevens lost three times in court, and dragged employees through years of legal battles, before it was forced to concede a partial victory. Sanderson's had the same strategy.



# SANDERSON FARMS: THE STORY OF A DEFEAT

*"I've sacrificed my time and my life to make it better for my kids and for myself too because if I demand dignity then somebody else is going to demand it too. And giving up is only going to make it harder for the next person that comes along."*

Gloria Jordan is the vice-president of Local 882 of the International Chemical Workers Union (ICWU) in Laurel, Mississippi.

She became a spokesperson for the union during the long strike at Sanderson's Farms, going to many cities telling the strikers' story and appealing for help.

She's back in the plant now. The strike has been defeated. But she's still fighting for a union at Sanderson's. She talked to *Socialist Worker* about the strike.

The strike began as, she says, "a victory. It was a victory because the people struck back."

"They said, 'hey, I surprised myself, I struck back at Massa Joe. Massa Joe said I'd never walk out of that plant, but I did.'"

Even now it's better that way. "Joe Sanderson didn't give us a contract, but when we went back to that door, we said we're not afraid of you."

## WORKING

But working in the plant is worse. "Joe Sanderson is making an example of us, a living example, making it clear we have to do everything he says, either do it or hit the door. He's doing this to the union members."

"We said we were slaves in the plant before but now it's worse, now it's torture."

The long strike also hurt workers because there was no way to hurt the company.

"And because people were waiting for people in higher authority, in the International,

for the ideas, the strategy, for the way to go out and get what they demanded, they didn't do it themselves.

"And when the people in higher authority never came up with nothing, there was no way at striking out at them, they were so far away, up in Akron, they were mostly white.

"So the strikers started fighting among themselves. They just struck out at the closest thing and that was one another.

"The strike destroyed the lives of people. We were out so long. It dragged on so long, and then we got no benefits. People were destroyed."

The support for the strike helped keep the workers going.

She says she remembers one thing that was so important. "A person told me, 'we're all working people and what's happening at Sanderson's is happening to all workers

"We all have to work to survive and that makes us all alike."

Gloria Jordan is still fighting for a union.

"I've sacrificed my time and my life to make it better for my kids and for myself too because if I demand dignity then somebody else is going to demand it too. And giving up is only going to make it harder for the next person that comes along.

"I still believe this will help in the struggle—a person must insist on being treated like a human being." □



Gloria Jordan, vice president of ICWU Local 882

possibility of a victory on May 17, when strikers and supporters marched chanting through Laurel.

There was support for the strikers, and there could have been more—everywhere the strikers went, they won the admiration of the people they met—women, trade unionists, Blacks, socialists. Sanderson's could have been made a cause—a great cause.

The union chose the opposite—it decided to cut its losses and abandon the strikers. Frank Martino decided on business first, and there was no rank and file movement in the union to force him to do otherwise—despite real support in the union for the strike.

Now he is just waiting for Local 882 to die.

The story of the Sanderson's strike should really be called "How not to Organize the South," and it is a classic example of why labor is losing today, especially in the South. The ICWU, despite its pretenses, is conservative, it is anti-communist, it won't fight for women, and it won't fight for Blacks.

It could have been different and it should have been dif-

ferent—despite the weakness of the rank and file, of the left and of the Black movement. The ICWU should not have been allowed to abandon the Sanderson's strikers—abandon them to "Massa Joe" and Charles Noble.

The least we can do now is see that the strike—and the strikers—are not forgotten. For the cost has been terrible—on the strikers themselves, on all of us.

The Klan demonstrates now every Saturday in downtown Laurel, no doubt they understand the importance of the defeat at Sanderson's, no doubt they have been encouraged.

Incredibly, some of the strikers are still fighting. Gloria Jordan says she intends to sign up the scabs.

She says Joe Sanderson is planning a decertification election, but she is convinced that conditions in the plant are so appalling that the workers will vote for the union!

## SUPPORT

We must continue to support these strikers, even now, and despite defeat. But there is only one way.

We must rededicate ourselves to building a rank and file movement in the unions, to strengthening the Black movement and the women's movement, and to building a genuine revolutionary socialist organization.

These are the components of a movement which can turn this country around—and ensure that there are no more Sanderson's. □

Still, the strikers held on—though their numbers were declining—until they had been out nearly two years. They lived as best they could on the \$15 a week the union paid them, and from the support they received from outside the union.

They wanted a union—and a union contract.

## IMPOSSIBLE

Finally Frank Martino decided that even that was costing him too much. "Morality" could wait. He told *Labor Notes*, who quoted him approvingly that victory was impossible, until "labor law was changed."

He put the local in receivership, and sent in a racist business agent from Jackson, Mississippi to manage the local.

Then, when the NLRB judge ruled that Sanderson's had to rehire the strikers, the International used the occasion to pressure the workers to surrender.

Winning the strike in Laurel would not have been easy—no strike is won easily these days, and certainly not a strike in Mississippi.

But it might have been won. There was a glimpse of the

Poverty in Laurel





# The cuts are really meant for the rich

Is David Stockman really "cruel, inhumane, and unfair" as Ohio Senator Metzenbaum charges?

The point is moot now that Stockman has been caught giving complimentary copies of right wing economist Milton Friedman's *Free to Choose* to dismissed CETA workers protesting at the Capitol.

Anyway, Metzenbaum's charge implies that the Great Society program and the build-up of welfare spending in the '70s were executed by men who were gentle, humane and fair.

These were the men who brought us Vietnam, Watergate, stagnant wages, high unemployment, and support for the Shah.

## LIBERAL

The liberal coalition that is fighting a rear-guard action against the cuts on Capitol Hill wants everyone to believe that it was considerations of humanity that motivated the welfare state. This is rot and that is why their rear-guard action lacks substance.

There was an enormous increase in welfare spending at all levels of government during the past 15 years.

Why? People had their appetites whetted by a long period of prosperity.

The problem was that the prosperity had not been evenly distributed and there were signs that the prosperity would not last. Blacks, women, veterans, and workers raised a fuss over inequality.

They also wanted guarantees that gains they would make would not be wiped out when prosperity turned into stagnation. It was this rebellion and not the humanity of the nation's rulers that accelerated welfare spending.

The Johnsons, Nixons, Fords, and Carters thought that small dose of welfare would solve the problem. And it might have had the prosperity continued.

## SLUGGISH

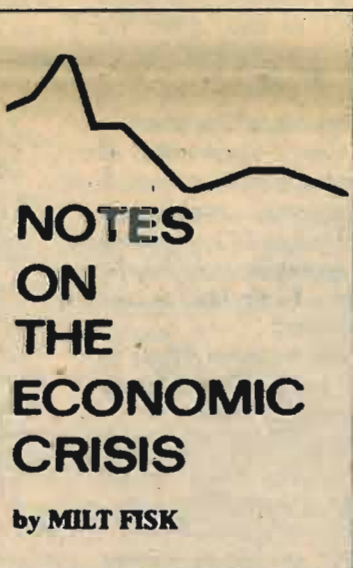
But the sluggish seventies created more and more need for the welfare state. More and more mothers needed aid for dependent children; in New York State today one million get family aid.

More and more people needed food stamps for an adequate diet. In New York State today 1.8 million residents use food stamps. What was needed to placate the rebellion of the '60s looks insignificant now.

The budget for fiscal year 1981 is \$662 billion for the federal



Today workers are on the defensive



government. When inflation is accounted for, this more than twice the budget for 1965. Military spending has been squeezed from 44% of the 1965 budget to 24% of the 1981 budget. (Reagan hopes to have military spending back up to 32% in 1984.)

Economic crisis has increased the welfare section of the budget dramatically since 1965.

Why does Reagan want to reverse the trend? The trend has kept the civil peace. Oppositional movements have remained small and isolated after the '60s. There are several strong currents that

have created the Reagan phenomenon.

First, one voter expressed the ideology of the Reagan groundswell when he wrote his senator, "I'm sick of inflation; support the president."

The opponents of big government have managed to convince a lot of people that what they suffer from inflation is caused by the welfare state. The spineless Democratic opposition won't attack this ideology head on.

## DEBT

It needs saying that the corporations overcapitalized during prosperity, and when this fact turned up in stagnation, each one of them borrowed heavily in order to win the competitive struggle against the others. The huge debts were paid for with higher prices and interest rates rose.

It is a cyclical weakness in capitalism and not interference by the state that is at the root of inflation. Cutting back on welfare by one-twelfth of the entire budget is not going to stop inflation, especially with inflationary military spending increasing.

Second, the lobbyists for capitalism from the Business Roundtable, the Chamber of Commerce, and the National Association of Manufacturers are pushing hard for tax breaks for investors.

The low rate of return of the '70s can, they argue, be ended if investment in plant and equipment is stimulated by tax breaks.

If it takes welfare cuts to get these breaks, business is willing to support the cuts. The hope is that the destabilizing effects of the cuts will not take place faster than economic recovery.

With a new boom, they hope, the demand for welfare will be reduced and stability achieved.

Third, the potential opposition seems dead. The "working poor" and the "truly poor" have accepted stagnant living standards for years.

Union busting has gone on without serious opposition. Women see their gains eaten away.

The Reaganites wonder, "Who's to stop us?"

And so the biggest change since the New Deal shows signs of going through not because it is a brilliant idea but because it is possible.

## RICH

The cuts are really for the rich. They see in the cuts one more attempt to get themselves out of stagnation.

The poor and working class need not let this attempt go through. The cuts can be stopped. The miners showed the way when they marched in Washington, D.C. last month.

Let the rich live with the contradictions of a stagnant economy in the welfare state. They will then be more vulnerable to moves that must be made toward genuine equality and liberty.

Jacques Roux said during the French Revolution, "Liberty is no more than a vain shadow of its real self when one class of men with impunity starve another. Equality is no more than a vain shadow of itself when the rich, by dint of the monopoly position they enjoy, can exercise the right of life and death over their fellow men."

If the cuts go through, our liberty and equality are only slogans.

by BEN BILAKÉ



## CAMPUS NEWS

### Providence...

Brown University has raised the cost of tuition, but not financial aid...

The university is also raising the amount financial aid students have to contribute through self-help, that is summer jobs, etc. . .

Senator Pell, the Rhode Island liberal recently spoke at the university, and when asked whether universities should make a priority of quality or diversity, he answered "quality" . . .

At that, 100 third world students walked out . . .

### South Bend...

500 students turned out in March to hear Roy Bourgeois, a Maryknoll priest speak at the memorial for the murdered Bishop Romero of El Salvador . . .

### Bloomington...

In March there were three El Salvador solidarity events at Indiana University . . .

The student government sponsored a debate between student Neil Sealy and professor Richard Farmer of the international business department. 200 attended . . .

There was an El Salvador evening with a dinner and talks by representatives of ten organizations, plus a showing of the film, "Revolution or Death" . . .

And there was a demonstration of 100 students calling for an end to U.S. aid to El Salvador and for the victory of the FDR . . .

IU students are also in touch with groups opposed to U.S. aid to El Salvador at Purdue, Ball State and in Indianapolis . . .

### Boston...

On March 25, 200 students demonstrated against U.S. involvement in El Salvador. Speakers at the rally included Howard Zinn and a representative of the Boston University clerical union . . .

BU students are now planning a campaign to get ROTC off campus . . .

### Baltimore...

The Progressive Student Union at Johns Hopkins is organizing a forum on "Economic Crisis and Political Repression." There will be speakers on El Salvador, Namibia, Atlanta, and the economic crisis . . .

## STEWART WARNER STRIKE ENDS

CHICAGO, IL—After eight weeks, strikers at Stewart-Warner Corporation voted 786 to 694 to return to work.

For the first time in the 70 year history of the auto parts manufacturer, management was forced to budge off its traditional "final offer" in negotiations.

Stewart-Warner's offer of an 8% wage increase in the first year of the three year contract was raised to 9% or 53¢ an hour with a wage and benefit reopener after the first and second years that includes the right to strike.

A company demand for contract language allowing the downgrading of some jobs was defeated and the union-management committee was set up to study the lowest three job classifications.

The union aims to use this committee to upgrade these jobs.

Benefits which Stewart-Warner wanted unchanged were improved. Retirees will receive medicare "wrap around" to cover all deductibles up to \$10,000.

An additional holiday was added and the length for qualify-

ing for three and four week vacations was shortened.

The close vote reflects the determination of many of the Stewart-Warner workers to continue their fight for a better life.

A union spokeswoman summarized their experience in these words, "While we didn't get everything we wanted, we're going back in the plant having learned a lot. We've proved to Stewart-Warner that we're not afraid to strike when the time comes."

by BEN BILAKÉ



A PAGE FROM WORKING CLASS HISTORY

# "no power greater"

by BARBARA WINSLOW



## Scottsboro: How a movement was built

In Scottsboro, Alabama, fifty years ago, nine young Black men were arrested and charged with raping two white women.

They were tried. They were convicted. And they were sentenced to die.

The case was like many in the South. Normally it would have gone unnoticed. And it would have been forgotten.

### ORGANIZATION

The Scottsboro case was different. And the difference was a mass organization—the Communist Party.

Today Scottsboro is synonymous with Southern racism and injustice. It is also synonymous with the massive struggle that was waged to save the innocent men from electrocution.

The story began March 25, 1931. A group of young whites, riding a freight train headed for Memphis, picked a fight with the Black riders. But the Blacks won.

Infuriated, the whites asked the station master to press charges against the Blacks.

The sheriff was called in, and by the time he had rounded up all the "hoboes" on the train, there was a surprise. There were two whites, nine Blacks—and two white women.

The Blacks were taken to Scottsboro, where the two white women, Ruby Bates and Victoria Price, accused the nine Black men of rape. The story spread quickly, and by nightfall there was a lynch mob at the jail.

The Scottsboro defendants were saved from the mob, but found guilty in court. All but the youngest, aged 13, were sentenced to die.

It was probably the number—eight sentenced to die—that brought attention to the case.

The International Labor Defense (ILD) offered to come to the defense of the victims.

The ILD was an organization founded by and dominated by the Communist Party. It was organized in 1925 in an attempt to counteract the Ku Klux Klan. It also came to the aid of the two anarchists, Sacco and Vanzetti.

The ILD denounced the Scottsboro verdict and called for protest demonstrations.

In less than a week after the verdicts, there were demonstrations in a dozen cities. 20,000 rallied in Harlem. 2,000 in Cleveland. The ILD and the CP put themselves on the line as organizations that would and could defend Blacks from racist persecution.

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) also took an interest in the case, though at first it remained aloof, fearing identification with a case involving Blacks charged with raping white women.

Soon, however, the NAACP reversed itself and there followed a bitter fight between the two organizations, each demanding the right to defend the Scottsboro victims.

In the end, however, the NAACP yielded, and the ILD went on to free the defendants—and to show in practice that it was right and the NAACP was wrong.

It took 19 years to free the Scottsboro defendants, during which time the ILD was vindicated both in the courts and in its challenge to the racist South.

### RELATIONS

More important, the mass movement which was built, and which more than anything else saved the defendants, not only changed public opinion on the case itself—but began to change race relations in the whole country.

For the first time since the days of the abolitionists, thousands of whites rallied in solidarity with Blacks. Songs, poems, plays, sports events, parades, and even a march on Washington were devoted to the cause of the nine framed men.

This crusade was not lost on Blacks, and thousands joined the whites in demonstrations to end racism.

Viola Montgomery, the mother of one of the defendants, expressed the mood of the movement when she said, "This so-called government has put many a good woman in the garbage can and put the lid on it."

"I want to tell the world to fight like hell and stay out."

The case dragged on. But in time, Ruby Bates confessed that she had lied. No rapes had taken place.



Defendants with Lawyer Leibowitz

One of the doctors involved admitted that there had never been any medical evidence of rape.

Samuel Leibowitz, the second of the ILD's lawyers, proved that Blacks were systematically excluded from juries—and that there could be no justice in such a legal system.

The verdicts continued the same however—guilty as charged, punishment, death.

### VICTORY

In the fourth trial, the sentence was reduced to life imprisonment, a small but significant victory.

In the fifth trial, four of the defendants were found innocent. It was not until 1950 that finally all charges were dismissed.

The pressure to free the Scottsboro defendants never ceased all that time, and the

movement in their behalf was genuinely international.

There cannot be the slightest doubt that without this movement—organized primarily by the Communist Party—the men inevitably would have been forgotten, left to die or rot in Southern prisons.

Much has been written about the role of the Communist Party in the Scottsboro case.

It is argued that the Communist Party used the case to further its own cause, that it stole money from the campaign, that its support fluctuated with the famous "party line."

It turns out that there is truth in most of the charges. The Communist Party was degenerating in the 1930's—from a revolutionary organization that stood for workers' power and socialism to an

organization which put Russia's interests and Stalin's dictates above all else.

That is another story, however. The point here is that it is possible to defend Blacks from racism and repression—even in the heart of the South.

But the truth is that without the Communist Party—and other socialists and radicals—the Scottsboro defendants would have been legally lynched—their story never told, the system never challenged.

The Scottsboro case also proved that it is possible to mobilize Black and white workers together in the struggle for justice, against racism.

And this is one more reason today, when racism is again on the rise, for making a priority of building a revolutionary organization. □



# WHERE WE STAND



## • Workers' Control

Workers create all the wealth under capitalism. A socialist society can only be built when workers collectively seize control of that wealth and democratically plan its production and distribution according to human needs instead of profit.

The working class is the key to the fight for socialism. Freedom and liberation will only be achieved through the struggles of workers themselves, organizing and fighting for real workers' power.

## • Revolution Not Reform

The capitalist system cannot be patched up or reformed as some union leaders and liberal politicians say. Capitalism is based on the exploitation of workers. No reforms can do away with this exploitation. The only way workers can come to control society and create a system based on freedom and a decent life for all is by overthrowing capitalism and replacing it with revolutionary, democratic socialism.

## • A Workers' Government

The present state apparatus (federal and state governments, the courts, army and police) was developed to maintain the capitalist system. This apparatus cannot be taken over as it stands and converted to serve workers. The working class needs an entirely different kind of state based upon mass democratic councils of workers' delegates.

Supporting the present state apparatus is a vast network of propaganda — newspapers, radio, television, movies, the education system. Workers are bombarded daily from all directions with capitalism's point of view. The working class needs its own sources of information. To help meet this need, we are dedicated to building a newspaper that the working class can trust and use in the fight against the present system.

## • Fight Oppression

Capitalism divides the working class — pitting men against women, whites against blacks. Capitalism fosters and uses these divisions to block the unity necessary for its destruction. As capitalism moves into crisis, oppressed groups — blacks, women, latins, Native Americans, gays, youth — suffer most. We support the struggles of these oppressed groups.

We oppose racism in all its forms. We fight segregation in the schools and housing, and against racist firings and harassment. We demand freedom for all political prisoners.

We fight for women's liberation, supporting equal pay for all women workers. We fight for free abortion and an end to forced sterilization. There should be free quality child care for all who need it. We fight for equal hiring opportunities for women and an end to sexual harassment and hirings. Discrimination and harassment of sexual minorities must be fought.

We support the independent organization and struggles of oppressed people to strengthen the working class struggle for socialism.

## • Rank and File Organization

The unions today are largely business machines that long ago stopped truly fighting for the interests of the working class. Business union leaders act either as brakes on workers' struggles, or as cops, delivering workers into the hands of the bosses. We fight in the unions to put an end to this.

To make the unions fight for workers' interests, workers must organize their power on the shop floor. This can only happen if the rank and file organize themselves independently of the union bureaucrats. We work to build rank and file organizations in unions and companies wherever we are employed.

## • Internationalism

The working class has no nation. Capitalism is international, so the struggle for socialism must be world-wide. A socialist revolution cannot survive in isolation.

We champion workers' struggles in all countries, from Portugal and Spain to Chile and Puerto Rico — from Palestine and Eastern Europe to China and India. We support all genuine national liberation struggles. We call for victory of the black freedom fighters in Zimbabwe and South Africa. We oppose all forms of imperialism and oppose sending U.S. troops anywhere in the world to impose U.S. interests.

Russia, China, Cuba and Eastern Europe are not socialist countries. They are state capitalist and part of one world capitalist system. We support the struggles of workers in these countries against the bureaucratic ruling class.

## • Revolutionary Party

The activity of the ISO is directed at taking the initial steps toward building a revolutionary party in a working class fragmented and cut off from socialist ideas. Revolutionaries must be involved in the daily struggles of workers and oppressed groups at the workplace, in the unions and in the communities. We build every struggle that strengthens the self-confidence, organization and socialist consciousness of workers and the oppressed.

As the working class movement gathers strength, the need for revolutionary leadership becomes crucial. We are part of the long process of building a democratic revolutionary party rooted in the working class. Those who agree with our stand and are prepared to help us build toward revolutionary socialism are urged to join us now.

# Join the International Socialist Organization

For more information about the International Socialist Organization (ISO), please write to Box 18037, Cleveland, Ohio 44118.

## ISO NEWS

# What's ON

### BALTIMORE

Conference on "Feminism and the Critique of Capitalism." Speakers include Joan Smith, Barbara Ehrenreich and Barbara Winslow. April 24 & 25. Sponsored by the Graduate Students of Johns Hopkins University.

### BLOOMINGTON

Joan Smith on Women and the State. April 15, 7:30 p.m., University of Illinois, 109 Ballentine. Call 332-8272 for details.

### CHICAGO

Joan Smith on Women and the Family. April 14, 7:30 p.m. For more information call 248-1572.

### CLEVELAND

Ohio miners tell why they are on strike. April 4, 8:00 p.m., 2728 Lancashire. Call 321-6143 or 371-7648 for details.

### CINCINNATI

Deborah Roberts on From Fields to Furnace: Blacks Under Capitalism. April 11, 8:00 p.m. 134 Kinsey.

Joan Smith on Women Under Thatcher. April 18, 8:00 p.m. Call 871-1371 for details.

### DETROIT

Forum with Steve Jefferys of British SWP, April 8, 7:30 p.m. Call 868-2932 for details.

### KENT

Joan Smith on Women and the Family. April 7, 12 p.m. Student Center.

### PROVIDENCE

Joan Smith on Women, the Family and the State. April 13, 7:30 p.m. Wilson 101. Call 521-9247 for details.

## ISO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FACING UP TO THE RIGHT



### Topics include:

- "Women and the Family"
- "The Power of the Working Class"
- "Combating the Right Wing Offensive"
- "Neither Washington nor Moscow but International Socialism"

### Workshops on:

Housing and Gentrification, Iran, Ireland, Origins of the ISO

Saturday, April 11, 1 p.m. on. 595 Mass Ave., Cambridge, Mass.

\$3 admission including dinner. Party to follow

### SEATTLE

Neil Smith on Urban Renewal: Whose Renaissance? April 10, 12:30 p.m. U of W Hub. Call 324-2051 or 324-2302 for details.

Neil Smith on Reagan and Thatcher: The Not so New Economics. April 11, 7:30 p.m. 915 E. Pine, room 426.

Neil Smith on Industrial Crisis in the U.S. April 12,

7:30 p.m. Call 522-4133 for details.

Panel on Poland: The Workers' Rebellion. April 26, Seattle University. Call 522-4133 for details.

Joan Smith on The Politics of Women and the Family. April 21, 12:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. U of W Hub.

"The philosophers have merely interpreted the world. The point is to change it."

— Karl Marx

If you want to help us change the world and build socialism, join us. There are ISO members and branches in the following cities:

- Baltimore, MD
- Bloomington, IN
- Boston, MA
- Charleston, WV
- Chicago, IL
- Cincinnati, OH
- Cleveland, OH
- Dayton, OH
- Detroit, MI
- Durham, NC
- Fort Wayne, IN
- Indianapolis, IN
- Kent, OH
- Los Angeles, CA
- New York, NY
- New Haven, CT
- Northampton, MA
- Portland, OR
- Providence, RI
- Rochester, NY
- Seattle, WA
- Toledo, OH
- Trenton, NJ
- Washington, DC

ISO National Office, P.O. Box 18037, Cleveland, OH 44118



# reviews



On strike in Lodz

## THE ROAD TO GDANSK

In June of last year, Daniel Singer, a Polish born journalist, was putting the finishing touches on a book on Poland and the USSR.

He was to conclude that the Polish Communist Party leader, "Mr. Gierek, might look comfortably seated at the top, but he is sitting on a powder keg. The smallest incident could lead to a conflagration..."

### EVENTS

Only two months later, the Gdansk shipyard workers were to sign their agreement with the communist leader allowing for Solidarity, the independent trade union, to represent them in all negotiations with the government.

Suddenly Singer's book becomes an indicator of events brewing under the surface of the Polish rank and file.

Shortly after this agreement was signed, Singer went back to Poland and spent five weeks interviewing spokespeople for Solidarity, the government, and dissident intellectuals.

His book now becomes divided into two parts, the first being a discussion of Polish-Soviet relations and the possibilities for new revolutions in the Eastern bloc countries, and the second part, being a description of "the Third Act in Poland."

Singer opens his book by stating that he wrote the book to help break any connection between Stalinism and Marxism.

### KENT WORCESTER REVIEWS DANIEL SINGER'S NEW BOOK, THE ROAD TO GDANSK, MONTHLY REVIEW PRESS, NEW YORK, 1981. \$15.00

He writes, "To bury Stalinism really means to revive the idea of socialism and to begin its construction all over again. A prospect as deadly for the aged leaders of 'really existing socialism' as it is for the old capitalist masters."

### SURPLUS

In talking about the Soviet Union he notes that, "the hierarchical division of labor is unchanged and exploitation exists as surplus value is extracted in an unequal society."

He starts with this and elaborates the tensions within Soviet society: How, although "within the Soviet bloc Marxism is symbolized by Soviet tanks", Marx's "mole has kept digging eastward too, that contradictions far from vanishing have gathered momentum, and that a socialist opposition could seize the resulting opportunities."

What are these tensions? One is how, "each year young people are entering the labor force, having at least the equivalent of high school education and are offered broken up tasks below their qualifications and their ambitions."

Another is sexual discrimination—how "Soviet women must play two roles at once."

He concludes the section on Russia by arguing that "the widening gap between the great expectations and the sobering reality is potentially explosive."

The section on Russia is excellent. He puts together a statistical argument for there being a Soviet ruling class ("Red Rulers"), discusses the relationship between dissidents in the society, and describes concretely the contradictions of Soviet society.

Having said all this, I'm going to say that the portion of the book devoted to Poland is better. For at this point the actions of workers enter the stage.

### PRICES

In 1970—the First Act—Polish communist leaders raised food prices by approximately 20%.

At the same time, prices of luxury goods went down—prices on items like car radios, tape recorders, etc. This only made clearer the difference between the haves, who benefit by having luxury goods cheaper, and the have nots, who spend an estimate 50% of their wages on food.

The strikes that these price rises produced—centered in the shipyards of Gdansk—left hundreds dead.

For many workers it was a shock that a workers' state would kill workers.

As one said at the time: "What is really painful is that we have brought with our hard earned money these bullets against ourselves."

"How can it be that the working class should turn against the working class?"

The price rises were rescinded, and Polish workers won the power of vetoing unpopular economic policy.

This veto was used again in September 1976—the Second Act—when the once popular Mr. Gierek challenged workers living standards with further price increases. "Similar economic difficulties are likely to drive other Eastern European countries in the same direction."

The same self-organization which gained the Polish workers the right to strike, and veto power over economic policy, won the right to set up independent trade unions—the Third Act.

### REFORM

In winning this reform, "workers assumed that their unexpected victory was only the beginning: having advanced so far, they were ready to pause for a while in order to consolidate, then to venture further on the uncharted road.

"The rulers, on the contrary, signed hoping that what had to be conceded in haste in the hour of danger would be recovered... at leisure."

And so we are brought up to date, as Solidarity threatens a general strike.

### PLACE

"Whatever the Fourth Act may hold, the Third is already unforgettable", Singer writes.

The sixty days culminating in the Gdansk agreement not only shook up Poland beyond recognition. By showing that the apparently impossible can be achieved, they have opened new ways for the labor movement throughout Eastern Europe and, as such, have found their place in our common history."

So ends the book. Clearly we have here a useful, and interesting book—a book written by a comrade.

Two criticisms need to be made.

The first is the absence of any reference to the necessity for socialist organizations to develop within the workers movement, if the lessons are to be made and the development of a way forward formulated.

The second criticism is directed at the publishers.

If this book is to reach a wide audience, then a paperback edition needs to be brought out quickly.

\$15.00 is out of the reach of the popular audience that this book deserves. □





## Support committee for Ashtabula nurses' strike formed



Debbie Bernardo, Ashtabula RN speaking at Cleveland support meeting

A committee to support the Ashtabula nurses' strike has been formed in nearby Cleveland.

The Ashtabula Strike Support Committee of Cleveland is made up of nurses, medical and nursing students and health workers from various hospitals in the area.

### BENEFITS

We have sent letters to newspapers in Cleveland and Ashtabula, and are circulating letters of support to send to the Ashtabula ONA.

In March, the committee held a fundraising party to benefit the strikers.

We are now selling raffle tickets and strike support buttons for \$1 each. The buttons picture a bed-pan and say "Sit on it-support the Ashta-

bula nurses strike." The raffle, to be drawn on May 3, includes prizes of \$75, \$50, and \$25. Winners need not be present to win, so call now for buttons and raffle tickets (216) 371-7648 or 321-2662.

Bulk orders accepted!

Support the Ashtabula nurses strike! □



Buttons \$1

## ASHTABULA HOSPITAL: NO COMPROMISE

by TOM WAGNER

Negotiating Committee,  
Ashtabula ONA

ASHTABULA, OH—The ONA (Ohio Nurses Association) strike against the Ashtabula General Hospital continues into its 37th week with little progress obtained in the latest negotiating session of March 25th.

The nurses walked off the job at 5:00 am July 21st of last year. The strike has become the longest nurses strike in U.S. history.

### MANDATORY

A new proposal was offered by the nurses in an attempt to resolve one of the major issues—union security. Wanting their union to be strong, the nurses have insisted on a mandatory membership clause in their contract. The hospital response has been that "no nurse should have to pay tribute in any way to the

Ohio Nurses Association in order to work at Ashtabula General Hospital."

During the March 25 negotiations the nurses formally proposed a modified shop, which would enable a nurse to either join the union or contribute an amount of money equal to union dues, to a charity.

This attempted compromise was flatly refused by the hospital—along with the hospital's "no change from our previous position" on the twenty seven other issues that are unresolved in the strike.

Among these issues are the sympathy strike clause, maternity leave, assignment of vacation time, job security and issues and the entire economic package.

The hospital's strategy so far has been determined refusal to compromise on any issues since the strike began.

The nurses have made major concessions on economics, the nurses code of ethics, union security and other areas. Incredibly, the only change in the hospital's position on any issue since the first day of this 8½ month strike was a 10¢ an hour proposed wage increase on January 31.

### INTENT

The hospital's intent is clear, to starve the nurses out. If the nurses agree to the hospital's "offer" it would mean signing a contract giving them, in several areas, less than they had before the strike, in essence guaranteeing their eventual decertification as a union.

In attempt to draw national attention to the plight of the Ashtabula nurses, Barbara Nicholes, president of the American Nurses Association visited Ashtabula on Saturday, March 28.

This was the ANA president's first time on a picket line.

In her speech to area nurses and the public she pledged the continued support of the ANA at the local, state and national level. "Now is the time for nurses to fight for their collective bargaining rights on an economic, social and political level" said Mrs. Nicholes, and to fight the hospital's "psychology of oppression" and their attempts to make nurses "skilled menials."

Support the Ashtabula nurses! Contributions and messages of support should be sent to Kathy Keller, chairperson, 2190 South Ridge East, Ashtabula, OH 44004. □

## TALKIN' UNION BY JOHN ANDERSON

# AFL-CIO U.A.W.: A MERGER OF TWO BUREAUCRACIES

The merger of the UAW and the AFL-CIO would be a merger of two labor bureaucracies.

It would not bring the rank and file members closer together. It would help pay the high salaries and inflated expense accounts of bureaucrats like president Lane Kirkland and others on the Executive Council.

It would not create solidarity on the picket lines where workers are struggling against the cutting of wages and the elimination of fringe benefits.

### DOLDRUMS

During the 25 years since the CIO merged with the AFL in 1955 the American labor movement has been in the doldrums. The percentage of the American work force organized into unions has declined. The unions failed to keep their promise of organizing the southern workers, the white collar workers or anyone else. The AFL-CIO has done little to improve the conditions of their millions of members.

Because of their bureaucratic control of the workers and the widespread corruption in several AFL-CIO unions

the public image of labor leaders has sunk to an all-time low.

Not only have they been unable to have the "right to work laws" repealed in any of the 19 states where they are in force, they have been unable to have any laws passed that would be beneficial to the workers.

Having failed the workers at home by its class collaborationist policies, this policy has been a disaster to the workers of Latin America. The AFL-CIO, through an organization called Aid for Latin America (a CIA and corporation dominated and financed agency), gave support to the overthrow of democratically elected governments in Brazil and Guatemala.

These pro-labor governments were overthrown in favor of military dictatorships. They have imprisoned and tortured the labor leaders and made strikes illegal. Workers controlled unions have been destroyed.

One of the reasons given by the AFL leadership for the merger with the CIO in 1955 was Walter Reuther's anti-communism. The CIO convention in



John Anderson is a lifelong militant and socialist. He was formerly president of UAW local 15 in Detroit.

1949 expelled nine of their unions with upwards a million members charging the leadership of these unions with being "communist" controlled.

They had refused to support Harry Truman and his cold war policies. Instead they supported Henry Wallace who wanted peace with Russia.

### PROPERTY

The policy of the AFL-CIO is one of class collaboration. It denounces class struggle. It puts property rights before human rights. It has failed to defend the rights of women and minorities.

A merger of the UAW with the AFL-CIO would strengthen the bureaucracies of both. It would make it more difficult for the rank and file to remove the present leadership. A merger might alleviate the crisis in the leadership of the merged organizations. Bankrupt of ideas the AFL-CIO bureaucrats want to fatten their bank accounts. □





# RAVENNA: OUT FOR 'THE BIGGIES'

**RAVENNA, OH**—Negotiations in the teachers' strike here have reached agreement on some 26 items, but as of March 31, the two sides are still far apart on the big issues, says Rosie Daniels, a member of the Ravenna Education Association (REA).



Rosie Daniels

The Ravenna teachers strike is now the longest teachers' strike in U.S. history—77 days as of the end of March.

There has been talk of an imminent settlement, but Daniels says the union is still determined to win a reduction of force clause which would mean that the administration could only lay off teachers according to seniority by department.

### CUT

"As it is now they can just cut you haphazardly."

The teachers want a just cause for dismissal clause and a no reprisals clause.

They are also fighting for a wage increase of 7.5% a year, but the school board is standing fast with its offer of 3% a year.

The Ravenna teachers have received support from teachers across Ohio and from teachers in other parts of the country, and they say they will not go back without "the biggies."

Daniels says she is "optimistic" but that "it's not over yet. We're just going day by day."

"We're fighting for a master contract and in that for our dignity as teachers."

Send messages of support to REA, 241 South Freedom, Ravenna, Ohio 44266. □

# Mariemont teachers: "keep moving, keep marching"

**MARIEMONT, OH**—The community leaders of this small suburb of Cincinnati boast of an outstanding education system, "progressive, innovative, internationally known."

The 50 striking teachers there tell a different story.

"Quality has gone down over the years," said Cyra Sanborn, one of the fifty. "The board wants to make things look good, keep up the image, but they don't really care if things are good."

"They pass school levies here, and everyone thinks that will keep the standards up. But they spend the money on more administrators from the outside."

### COST

The facts bear her out. The cost for administration in the Mariemont schools increased 21.5% in 1979. In 1975-76 the teacher-administrator ratio was 16.4 to 1. Today it is 10 to 1. The Board has allocated a smaller percentage increase for teachers' salaries than any other category in the budget—6.7%.

The main issue in the strike is the lack of a "master contract." Mariemont teachers want clearcut guidelines about educational policy, hiring and firing.

### REPORT

### BY

CELIA PETTY

The Board wants complete control to do what it wants, when it wants. They have even threatened some teachers who are eligible for retirement by telling them if they don't retire, the Board will be forced to fire some of their younger friends.

"The Board absolutely refuses to listen to the teachers or to the community," says Sanborn. "They are responsible for gross negligence and violation of the philosophy of education. The 'reduction in force' program is getting rid of good teachers and forcing up the student-teacher ratio up."

### CHANGES

"There's a lot of things that need changing, and the teachers should have a say in the changes. The Board wouldn't listen, so we decided this was necessary."

The fifty teachers have been suspended and are being forced to go through indivi-

dual hearings purposely scheduled so their lawyer can't possibly attend.

The Mariemont strikers have travelled to Ravenna, Ohio to support the teachers on strike there and to get some ideas and support for their own struggle.

Ravenna teachers came down for a support rally in Mariemont where 400 people flooded the green and dozens of area teachers expressed support. In addition to other teachers, speakers included representatives from the Letter Carriers Union, the American Association of University Professors, the Cincinnati Fire Fighters Association and the AFL-CIO Regional Council.

### FIRE

Rev. Fred L. Shuttleworth of the Greater New Light Baptist Church told the crowd, "We learned in the South that if you don't help put out the fire in the house across town, there won't be any help when your house catches fire."

"In these strikes it just boils down to whether or not everyone will stand together. We're here to say that other teachers and working people will support you. We'll keep moving, keep marching and keep talking." □

# SEATTLE HOSPITALS FACE STRIKE

**SEATTLE, WA**—On March 23, medical residents practicing in seven Seattle hospitals gave the University of Washington, their employer, a three week deadline to accept them as a collective bargaining agent—or face a strike.

### STRIKE

The residents voted to empower the steering committee of the House Staff Association to bargain for them and to call strike if the university does not accept their demands by mid-April. The vote was 222 to 10.

There are 492 residents at the seven hospitals. A Staff Association member, Dr. Marci Knox, said she doubted University of Washington Regents, who last week voted to deny residents bargaining status, would change their minds easily.

Settlement without a strike she said is unlikely, adding "I don't mean to be optimistic, and in fact I'm not."

Medical school officials declined comment saying they have not been contacted by the Association since the meeting. The administrators have however, worked out a

contingency plan in the event of a strike.

Economics will be the major weapon in the dispute over the major issues of hours and working conditions according to Dr. Knox. "We're hoping to see the hospital lose money and hope to make our impact that way," she said.

### AFFECT

A strike by residents would affect all hospitals in the Seattle area, but especially Harborview Medical Center with 90 residents and University Hospital with 54, because they rely more heavily upon their services than do the other five hospitals in the university's residency program.

Dr. Knox emphasized that residents do not intend for the quality of patient care to suffer if a strike is called. She said a strike by residents would force hospitals to cancel elective surgery and other secondary tasks to concentrate on patients who need care the most.

Issues in the dispute include affirmative action, working conditions, pay and patient care. □

by SCOTT WINSLOW



# Join Us

- I want to join
- I want more information about the International Socialist Organization

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

ISO PO Box 18037, Cleveland, OH 44118



# Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALIST ORGANIZATION

## POLAND: BACK FROM THE BRINK



Workers on steps of Capitol

### 'The largest labor rally since the thirties'

SEATTLE, WA—It was the largest labor rally in Washington State since the 1930's. Eight thousand union men and women came on buses and in cars, waving signs: "No Profit from Pain", "No Way on 3-Way."

They came to the steps of the capitol building in Olympia to protest "The Workers Recovery Act of 1981," a sham worker's compensation reform bill which would hand over the state worker's comp fund to private insurance companies.

#### EXPECTATIONS

The rally was organized by the United Labor Lobby, a coalition of Washington union officials, but exceeded all their expectations. They didn't expect the crowd to boo Republican Governor John Spellman.

As organizers tried to calm the chant of "Veto, Veto," it got louder. Spellman, invited by union officials, refused to say that he was against the bill and refused to promise his veto if it passes the state senate.

The plan was for rally goes to quietly fan out to their sena-

by MARY DEATON

tor's offices when the speeches were over. Instead, a great surge of hard-hats and union jackets descended on the capitol rotunda and swarmed through the marble halls, accosting senators as they went, demanding the bill be killed.

One Satsop worker, laid-off for a week because two construction workers fell to their deaths on a scaffold improperly secured to the side of a cooling tower on the nuclear plant under construction, invited a senator to "step outside" and see who was right about worker's compensation.

Washington has had a state controlled worker's compensation insurance fund since 1911, one of the first in the nation. It provided temporary disability payments, lump sum settlements for permanent disabilities and life-time pensions to the totally disabled.

The so-called reform will eliminate the state monopoly by letting private insurance companies provide worker's compensation coverage, while forcing an independent state

fund to compete for business with giants like Aetna and Prudential.

#### BEGINNING

The rally was a good beginning to defeating this anti-union, anti-worker bill. But it won't be enough. Republicans control the state senate and, like they did in the house, will railroad the bill through.

Washington workers need to organize independently to stop the union busters. If we depend on our "leaders," we might get more rallies, but we won't get an end to attacks on our rights. □

Last summer when the Polish working class began their magnificent struggle for independent trade unions, they found some unlikely friends.

Politicians, Democrats and Republicans alike, as well as editors who would not normally be found dead within half a mile of a picket line, hailed their fight for "freedom."

#### STONE

Now the tone has changed markedly.

"The key to peaceful resolution of Poland's problems remains, as it has done from the beginning, in the creation of trust and a regular working relationship between Solidarity and the authorities.

"Poland's workers will have to exercise severe political self control, and severe economic self constraint for years to come." Thus pronounced *The Guardian*, a leading liberal newspaper in Europe, on March 30.

Solidarity's decision to call off the threatened general strike has been greeted by the media with relief—if not glee.

Yet if press reports are to be trusted Solidarity has climbed down on a number of points.

First, it has accepted that there was some justification for police brutality in Bydgoszcz, called off occupations and agreed to negotiate in order to "create mechanisms for settling disputes without rousing the entire nation."

#### PROMISES

In return the government has offered little more than promises.

Clearly the calling off of the strike is a victory for "moderate" elements in Solidarity,

notably Lech Walesa. He recently told a French reporter: "What we have managed to acquire so far is already good. Today we have to satisfy everyone."

"Democracy has to be learnt, for to tell you the truth I have had enough of the sort of democracy we have in the union at the moment. Everyone wants to put forward the arguments. Everyone has their right, but there are 36 million Poles and we haven't time to listen to everyone."

Walesa seems to be learning in six months the sort of language it took our trade union "leaders" years to acquire.

However, it is not our job to advise Polish workers on tactics—certainly not our job to recommend provocative confrontation with Russia.

But we can emphasize and draw two lessons.

First, when a movement stops going forward, it starts to go back—to lose ground.

#### POWER

Second, a workers' movement which is not prepared to take state power (which in Poland includes Russian state power) is doomed.

Western indignation at the threat of Russian invasion is mainly for public consumption. In reality the U.S. has no enthusiasm for mass struggle in Poland. Before he was shot Reagan agreed to let the Polish government off the hook by allowing it to defer payment of over \$80 million owed to the U.S.

Brezhnev, Reagan and the rulers of Europe are all on the same side when it comes to general strikes—and workers power. □

## Socialist Worker

Have Socialist Worker delivered to your door every month. Just fill in the form below and enclose \$5 for a one year (12 issues) subscription: \$10 for a supporting subscription: and \$10 for an institutional subscription.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Send to: Socialist Worker, Box 18037, Cleveland, Ohio 44118

## Subscribe!