



**BERNADETTE DEVLIN  
MCALISKEY TELLS WHY  
THE BRITISH TROOPS  
MUST GO**

pages 8 & 9

# Socialist Worker

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MAY DAY



Workers'  
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REAGAN'S  
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## U.S. OUT OF EL SALVADOR!



Black youth unemployment is fifty per cent now. The cuts in Reagan's budget will make it higher.

# JOBS NOT WAR!

President Ronald Reagan received a thunderous ovation from Republicans and Democrats alike when he went before Congress to speak for his economic program.

He said there were "no more alternatives left," by which he meant that the Congress must approve his cuts in social services and his big new arms budget.

There is an alternative, of course, but it will not be found in the halls of Congress.

More than fifty per cent of Black and minority youth in this country are unemployed. This figure is likely to increase dramatically when the full effects of Reagan's cuts are felt.

The result will be disastrous. Just one example should suffice. Nearly all the children killed and missing in Atlanta are also the victims of poverty—nearly all were on the streets because they were poor.

### CONNECTION

The growing movement against Reagan must be the alternative to the crisis in America. But to become this it must make the connection between U.S. intervention in El Salvador and the economic crisis.

For the truth is there are two wars—one against the people of El Salvador, and another here at home—a war against the poor and Black people of America. □

## BLACK WOMAN CHARGED WITH MURDER OF KU KLUX KLANSMAN

CINCINNATI, OH—Ten years ago a Black woman named Annie Small managed to save enough money from her job as a domestic worker to buy a house.

She bought one in a mostly white neighborhood here in Cincinnati.

Although Small and her family were the only Blacks in the immediate area, they were, with one exception, accepted by their neighbors.

The exception was Clyde Henson.

### MEMBER

Clyde Henson was a member of the Ku Klux Klan. He had held Klan meetings at his house for years.

Over the years, he and various Klan friends continually harassed the Smalls, hoping to drive them out of the neighborhood.

Henson and his bunch made threats of physical harm, hammered nails into the tires of the Small's car, poured gasoline around the house, littered the yard with garbage, and threw stones at the house, all to no avail.

The Small's stayed, and they tried to fight back.

Several times in the last few years, Small swore out complaints against Henson and took him to court. He was ordered by the court to stop his harassment, but he persisted.

On one occasion, Small tried to enlist the help of the Cincinnati Fire Division and a local TV station. When she smelled gasoline on her porch, she called both.

A reporter and a fire fighter both smelled the gasoline. Small again took Henson to court.

During the subsequent hearing, the testimony of the reporter and fire fighter was disallowed.

Henson remained free.

On the night of January 24, 1981, the Small family again smelled gasoline on their porch.

They called the cops. The cops arrived, smelled the gasoline, and found a freshly emptied gas can on Henson's porch.

But they refused to arrest him.

The next night, January 25, Henson and his buddies retaliated. Five or six men, including Henson, all of them white, began playing catch in the Small's lawn, and throwing baseballs against up against the house.

### THREATS

Small went to her porch and asked the men to leave.

Henson began to threaten Small. She went inside and locked the door. Henson broke in, and continued to threaten Small, moving closer.

Small grabbed a revolver and told him to leave.

He didn't. He continued his threats, and began making karate style feints at her.

When he was only a few feet from her, Small fired the gun, striking Henson in the neck. Henson stumbled backwards,

## JOHN MASON

### REPORTS ON THE FIGHT TO KEEP ANNIE SMALL FREE

and fell through the glass storm door, onto the porch.

Small ran to a nearby friend's house, and waited there until the cops arrived.

Henson's friends saw he was badly wounded, and rushed him to a hospital. He died ten days later.

Small was charged with aggravated murder—the most serious charge under Ohio law—and released on \$10,000 bond.

At a pre-trial hearing on April 9, the charge was reduced to involuntary manslaughter.

### DEFENSE

Annie Small is a poor woman. Her defense will cost thousands of dollars.

To help her raise this money, the Annie Small Defense Fund has been formed by a coalition of Black church, community and political groups.

The Defense Fund has sponsored a variety of events designed not only to raise money but to build community support for Small.

Without local community support at her trial Small will remain a victim.

She needs your help. Send contributions and letters of support to: Annie Small Defense Fund, Box 29334, Cincinnati, OH 45229

## The issues in Ashtabula!

ASHTABULA, OH—To make sure that our union is strong, to ensure the return of each nurse to her previous position, to prevent an atmosphere of harassment against union members—these are the issues keeping the Ashtabula General Nurses striking.

The nurses, seeking their first contract, have been on strike for over 9 months.

Little trust exists among the nurses for the hospital. The nurses endured a situation where they had no input into their work conditions, no voice in the rules the hospital invented or chose to ignore, and no consistency in the application of these rules. They won't go back to that.

### RESOLVE

Their resolve is tempered by a history of unfulfilled promises and treatment as "skilled menials."

The Ashtabula County Medical Society demonstrated what the atmosphere is for the nurses when, on Friday April

## "THE MAIN PILLAR OF THE JUNTA IS THE UNITED STATES"

On April 15th, Ramon Cardona, a Salvadorean exile and one of five official representatives of the Democratic Revolutionary Front (FDR) presently touring the United States, spoke to a group of 75 at a forum sponsored by the Committee for Democracy in Latin America in Bloomington, Indiana.

Cardona, who is 27 years old, is a member of ANDES, a teachers' union affiliated with the Popular Revolutionary Bloc, the largest of the organizations within the FDR. After the forum *Socialist Worker* had the opportunity to talk to Companero Cardona.

*The news media and the State Department have both claimed that the guerillas are losing their hold in the countryside. Is this true?*

Cardona: "No, it is not true. Last winter's general offensive (not final offensive) was very successful.

*"The government could not eliminate the Farabundo Marti Front for National Liberation (FMLN) because of its popular support. At any given time, we control 25% of the countryside and some cities."*

### BASES

*"The junta has not been able to rout the freedom fighters from several areas along the northern border with Honduras. In these permanent bases, we have been able to carry out literacy and health campaigns as well as some commerce in sugar and other crops."*

*"The government has been unable to suppress the popular militias."*

## RAMON CARDONA ON THE STRUGGLE IN EL SALVADOR

by JIM HURD & NEIL SEALY

*In the movie, El Salvador: Revolution or Death, women seem to be very active in the resistance movement.*

Cardona: "Yes. Women make up about 40% of the popular forces. They participate at all levels of organization and in all facets of our struggle against the junta."

*"The second in command of one of the armed groups within the FMLN is a woman named Commandante Anna Maria. She is about 55 years old."*

*What exactly are U.S. advisers doing in El Salvador?*

Cardona: "They are training the junta's forces in counter-insurgency techniques."



*"Many of the methods used in Viet Nam by U.S. and South Vietnamese troops are being used by the government of El Salvador. For example, whole population centers have been moved and houses and crops have been burned by the junta."*

### NAPALM

*"Napalm is also being used. U.S. advisers have trained the government's troops in communications and logistics as well as methods of interrogation."*

*"In addition, there are hundreds of American and Israeli mercenaries fighting for the junta in El Salvador."*

*Could you comment on the importance of the solidarity movement in this country?*

Cardona: "It is very, very important. It has already saved the lives of some political prisoners."

*"The main pillar of the junta is the United States government and its allies. Besides military economic aid from the U.S., the junta receives tanks from Brazil and machine guns and jets from Israel."*

*"Reagan wants to set aside a special fund for aid to Latin America. If the bill passes congress on April 27th, El Salvador will receive 20% of this fund, though it only counts for 2% of Latin America's population."*

### "AID"

*"Aid to the junta only perpetuates the war and increases the chances for a Vietnam-like intervention by U.S. troops in El Salvador. The solidarity movement in the U.S. has correctly focused on these points."*

*"In other Latin American countries, it is clear that the majority of the people support the Salvadorean revolution."*

*"In Venezuela, many workers have been giving part of their wages to the FDR. Demonstrations in that country have caused the government to question their support of the junta."*



## A G H

Tom Wagner

mic hardship, having only ten days to either buy or lose their picket line trailer, the strike headquarters. Medical insurance payments, help with hardships and rent is being provided by donations and fundraisers.

The nurses still need your help and support. Please send a donation c/o Kathy Keller, 2190 S. Ridge Rd. Ashtabula, OH 44004.

by TOM WAGNER, Negotiating Committee Ashtabula, ONA

24, they released a statement to the press. The statement stated: "No individual or group of individuals should for any reason whatever be allowed to strike or close a health facility, such as a hospital."

### SURPRISE

Surprise, surprise, the Medical Society's address and phone number is the same as the hospital's!

The nurses found out on Thursday, April 30, that the hospital will make its "final offer" on Wednesday, May 6. The offer will be voted on by all the bargaining unit nurses.

There is little possibility of it being accepted without union security, and a guarantee that all striking nurses return to previous positions.

105 of the original 160 nurses are still out in the start of this strike's tenth month. They have fought too long and hard to settle for less.

The nurses collect no strike benefits and still face econo-

# WASHINGTON D.C., MAY 3;

# SOUTH BEND, IN. MAY 17

# U.S. OUT OF EL SALVADOR!



Collecting bodies in El Salvador

In El Salvador in early April, Salvadorean and Honduran armies went on a rampage.

## TERROR

1,500 peasants, possibly more, were slaughtered in a brutal massacre—one of the worst in the long history of government repression and terror in El Salvador.

## Socialist Worker

WHAT WE THINK

The peasants were fleeing the Salvadorean army, and its "scorched earth policy." The army was using helicopters, heavy artillery and white phosphorous bombs, allegedly to dislodge rebel forces of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front.

## BESTIAL

The dead included hundreds of children, women and elderly people. It was a "bestial massacre," according to Reynaldo Erazo, the president of the Honduran Coordinating Committee of Solidarity with the Salvadorean People.

The slaughter was funded with U.S. aid—the soldiers were supplied with American arms, and trained by American "advisors." They were carrying out a campaign designed by American military strategists in Vietnam.

At the same time, it is now all but official that the four American nuns and layworkers who were raped and murdered in El Salvador last winter were in fact killed by official Salvadorean security forces.

None of this, of course, will deter the new Reagan administration. On the contrary, it is their policy. Reagan, Haig and Kirkpatrick still consider that the Vietnam war was "a noble adventure."

They now want "a noble adventure" of their own—they want their own My Lai's. And they are getting them.

There is only one way to stop them—just as there was only one way to stop Kennedy, Johnson and Nixon in Vietnam.

## START

An anti-war movement must be built, and this spring we are off to a good start.

On April 18 demonstrations were organized across the country in conjunction with the anniversary of the founding of the Democratic Revolutionary Front (FDR) in El Salvador.

Some 10,000 people turned

out in New York City. In Los Angeles, 4,000 people demonstrated. There were many smaller rallies, as well as conferences, teach-ins, and meetings.

The Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador (CISPES) organized a national speaking tour of FDR representatives.

Earlier in April there were demonstrations of 3,000 in Seattle, and 4,000 in Eugene, Oregon.

On May 3, at the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. tens of thousands are expected to turn out to demand an end to U.S. aid to El Salvador. Hopefully this demonstration will spark even more organizing—in every city and town in the United States.

On May 17, Ronald Reagan will be giving the commencement address at Notre Dame University in South Bend, Indiana—the university from which Duarte the right-wing commander who rules El Salvador graduated in 1955.

El Salvador solidarity committees in Indiana and Chicago are planning a major demonstration to greet Reagan.

## MOVEMENT

One demonstration, of course, will not turn Reagan around. But a movement can.

May 3 in Washington D.C. Be there.

May 17 in South Bend. Be there.

U.S. out of El Salvador! No more Vietnams! □

## AND BRITAIN OUT OF IRELAND

It is Tory terror which now sweeps the North of Ireland—the terror of the British Conservative Party.

It was the iron resolve of the Tories' top terrorist, Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister of Britain, that drove Bobby Sands to death's door and has brought Catholic workers in their tens of thousands storming onto the streets.

The problem which Bobby Sands and his comrades pose for the Tories is simple. They won't conform.

## CONFORM

If Sands and his comrades had conformed there would never have been a prison problem in the first place.

If Catholic workers had accepted the role of second class citizens the North would be a quite stagnant backwater of the United Kingdom.

But the time came when the Catholic masses said "No More!"

And when they did, the British government lined up with the Orange Ascendancy (Protestant) to meet them with rigid and bloody reprisal.

And young men like Bobby Sands took up arms. That's what Thatcher claims is criminal.

by EAMONN MCCANN

Commentators agonize about why the Catholic workers have seen it differently.

Why did 30,000 pour out to the polls three weeks ago to elect Bobby Sands their Member of Parliament? Why have they taken to and taken over the crumbling streets of the Catholic ghettos to hurl revolution at the gates of the empire?

Royal Constabulary Chief Constable Jack Herman alleged that the 25,000 that marched along the Falls Road on April 26 had been intimidated.

Just as Labor Party buffoon Don Comcammon (official party spokesman on Northern Ireland) reckoned the voters of county Fermanagh and South Tyrone had been bullied into backing Sands.

While Jerry Fitz and the other fake left liars whine that the Provos have managed to con masses of people with brilliant propaganda.

As if an entire section of the working class can be bought or bullied or bamboozled just like that.

Catholic workers see it as simple as it is.

That Bobby Sands is an ordinary working class fellow from our own community who tried to end the corruption and the oppression he saw all around him by the only means which seemed appropriate or available at the time. And that's not a criminal thing to do.

The day we accept this as criminal the Tories will have won.

But there's no sign in the North now that the Thatcher line will ever be accepted.

The demonstrations over the past weeks have shown that the spirit of resistance still surges strong despite the fiercest repression for a decade.

More than 50 H-Block activists were arrested over the last weekend in April in a preemptive strike designed to deter and disrupt the resistance.

## FEELING

Three teenagers have been killed in Derry City, but still the marches are the biggest seen here since the internment ten years ago, which shows the feeling is behind Bobby Sands and the demand for the British troops out of the occupation of our country. □

## FIGHTING WORDS

*O Lord our Father, our young patriots, idol of our hearts, go forth to battle—be thou near them! With them—in spirit—we also go forth from the sweet peace of our beloved firesides to smite the foe. O Lord, Our God, help us tear their soldiers to bloody shreds with our shells; help us to cover their smiling fields with the pale forms of their patriot dead; help us to drown the thunder of their guns with the shrieks of their wounded, writhing in pain; help us to lay waste their humble homes with a hurricane of fire; help us to wring the hearts of their unoffending widows with unavailing grief; help us to turn them out roofless with their little children to wander unfriended the wastes of the desolated land in rags and hunger and thirst...*

—Mark Twain's "War Prayer," 1905

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## WOMEN DISRUPT SENATE HEARINGS

WASHINGTON D.C.—Chanting "A Woman's Life is a Human Life," and "Not the Church, not the State, Women must decide their fate," six women disrupted the Senate anti-abortion hearings which started on April, 23rd.

### PROTEST

Five of the women were members of the Committee for Abortion Rights and Against Sterilization Abuse (CARASA) an affiliate of the Reproductive Rights National Network (R2N2).

The other woman was with *Off Our Backs*, a Washington D.C. feminist newspaper.

Outside, members of Washington D.C. Reproductive Rights demonstrated in support of the women and against the hearings. The six women were arrested on a federal charge of disrupting Congress, and jailed briefly.

Stephanie Roth, a member of CARASA explains: "We wanted to protest the fact that the hearings were going on. Congress and the government have no right discussing fetal personhood. In our opinion these hearings were illegitimate."

"Furthermore we were protesting the exclusion of women and pro-choice people from the hearings."

"We wanted to take more militant action than just a protest. We have no other choice given the attacks on women."

The hearings are now scheduled to continue until May 20th.

The issue being decided is whether or not a fetus is a human being at the moment of conception.

These hearings are being organized in preparation for Congress to pass the Human Life Amendment, which will not only criminalize abortion.

By stating that a fertilized egg is a human being, a cell is given greater rights than a living woman.

Passage of the Human Life Amendment will not just result in the hideous death or injury to thousands of women, it will provide the basis for the state to invade all aspects of the personal lives of women.

The six women militants showed what is needed to dramatize our opposition to the Human Life Amendment and any other anti-abortion laws.

More demonstrations, rallies and disruptions will be needed.

### TRIAL

The six women also face a trial and legal expenses.

People involved in the struggle for reproductive rights should raise the issue of an organized defense campaign at your local group meeting. Money for the defense is needed.

Please send checks to the April 23rd Defense Committee, c/o Smith, 687 Sackett Street, Brooklyn, New York, 11217. □

# Reagan's 'new beginning': a brutal attack on workers

"We do not have an option of living with inflation and its attendant tragedy of millions of productive people willing and able to work but unable to find buyers on the job market.

"We have an alternative to that, a program for economic recovery, a program that will balance the budget, put us well on the road toward our ultimate objective of eliminating inflation entirely, increasing productivity and creating millions of jobs."

So said Ronald Reagan and here at last was a plan that offered a way out of the double digit inflation and high inflation economy of the "bungling" Carter administration.

Reagan's "New Beginning for America" was outlined in his State of the Union message in February.

It projects a lean, no frills budget for an embattled America.

Defense spending is to rise from one fourth to one third of a balanced 1984 budget.

### LOGIC

Its logic of cutting taxes and balancing the budget to get the economy rolling again seems irrefutable.

As personal income taxes are cut, workers will put more money into savings accounts, making more funds available for loans to business to invest in new plant and equipment and therefore create more jobs.

Simultaneously, tax cuts for business will make even more funds available for investment job creation.

Balancing the budget will stop the government from simply printing money to cover its debts, thus eliminating the main source of inflation.

The only problem with this airtight theory is that it won't work.

It won't work because U.S. capitalism is in the business of making profits, not following neat economic theories of the right-wing economic professors that Reagan has hired to put together his economic plan.

Take the tax break-savings-investments-jobs argument.

Corporate managers do not invest simply because they get a hand-out from the government or because there are more funds available from banks.

They invest when they figure they can make an above average profit or at least a profit higher than the interest rates that banks will charge on money the corporations borrow or deposit.

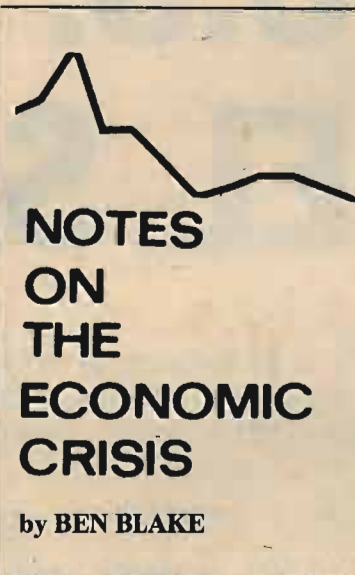
This increased investment as a result of an optimistic outlook for profits usually occurs during periods of economic recovery such as 1972-73 or 1978-79.

But in these periods of growth, savings didn't put a lid on investments, in fact the level of investments outpaced the level of savings.

### HANDOUTS

Even when corporations receive large government handouts and actually invest this money in new plant and equipment, the end result under current conditions of slow economic growth is not necessarily the creation of more jobs.

Chrysler is a good example. It has used over half a billion dollars it has received from the government bailout plan to modernize its K car plants with robots.



These robots have actually replaced hundreds of Chrysler assembly line workers. The end result is unemployed workers who have little hope of finding similar jobs given the near depression conditions of industrial cities like Detroit.

Under Reagan's budget, these workers may have trouble receiving unemployment benefits as the funds allocated for this purpose are slashed by \$2.9 billion in 1982.

The reduced government spending-lower inflation argument is equally shaky.

The last year in which the government had a budget surplus was 1969, at the tail-end of a decade long boom.

This did not result in a reduced rate of inflation which was 5.4%—the highest it had been since the end of World War II.

One of the key causes of this surge in inflation was the billions of dollars spent to finance the Vietnam War.

By 1969, the defense budget had reached a post World War II record of \$76.3 billion and was eating up 40% of the federal budget and more than 8% of the entire economy's gross national product.

### UNDERMINE

Reagan's plan to spend one and a half trillion dollars for defense spending over the next six years will have a similar impact in undermining his strategy for reducing inflation and creating a booming economy.

Unlike the purchase of consumer goods by workers or investment in plant and equipment by corporations, defense spending does not provide the basis for sustained economic growth.



It is simply waste, a drain on the economy as a whole.

Therefore as defense spending is increased, the supply of money is expanded, while at the same time resources are diverted to produce weapons that accumulate on military bases—not producing goods that enter into the economy.

The end result is more money in the economy relative to the amount of goods—inflation.

In addition, given the current economic conditions, defense spending will be a factor in creating higher unemployment, because the production of weapons is highly automated, requiring far fewer workers for the amount of money invested compared to other industries.

### PATTERN

In a recent study, the Center for Defense Information found that based on U.S. government statistics, \$1 billion of defense spending creates less than half the number of jobs if the same amount was spent on public service employment.

In terms of industrial jobs, \$1 billion in defense spending

creates less than one fourth the number of jobs if the same amount were invested in civilian production.

Reagan's new beginnings in fact will result in the same old pattern we've had over the entire seventies, permanent high rates of inflation and unemployment.

In addition, Reagan's objective of balancing the budget while skyrocketing defense allocations will require massive cuts in government social programs.

### CRISIS

The AFL-CIO estimates that 1.2 million jobs will be eliminated in 1982 alone. Seven million people will no longer be able to qualify for food stamps.

15.4 million children will no longer receive subsidized meals at school and day care centers. \$953 million will be cut from welfare funding.

The total cutbacks in social programs will be \$23.4 billion while defense spending will increase by \$7.2 billion.

In short, Reagan's plan is a brutal attack on workers in America and holds no solution to the economic crisis. □

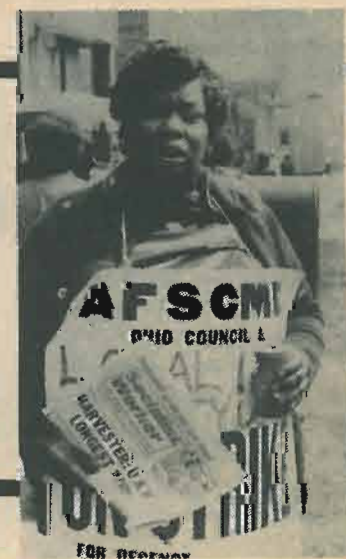
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# Consol: "They'd kill you for a nickel"

## THE OIL GIANT BEHIND THE COAL MINERS' STRIKE

by BEN BLAKE

Since the mid-sixties, big oil has been buying major coal producers.

Figuring that if oil runs out coal will provide the energy of the future.

After the "energy crisis" of 1973-74 and the quadrupling of gas prices that followed, big oil used their multi-million dollar cash surpluses to buy more coal companies and move into uranium mining.

Oil companies now own 2/3 of all known U.S. reserves of uranium ore and over 100 billion tons of coal reserves.

### CONGLOMERATES

Atlantic Richfield, Conoco, Exxon, Gulf Oil, Mobil, Phillips, Shell, Standard Oil of California, Sohio, Sun and Texaco—all have major coal and uranium holdings.

Three of the top five coal companies are owned by oil companies. Today the major oil companies are actually multinational energy conglomerates.

Continental Oil is a leader in this drive to corner the energy market.

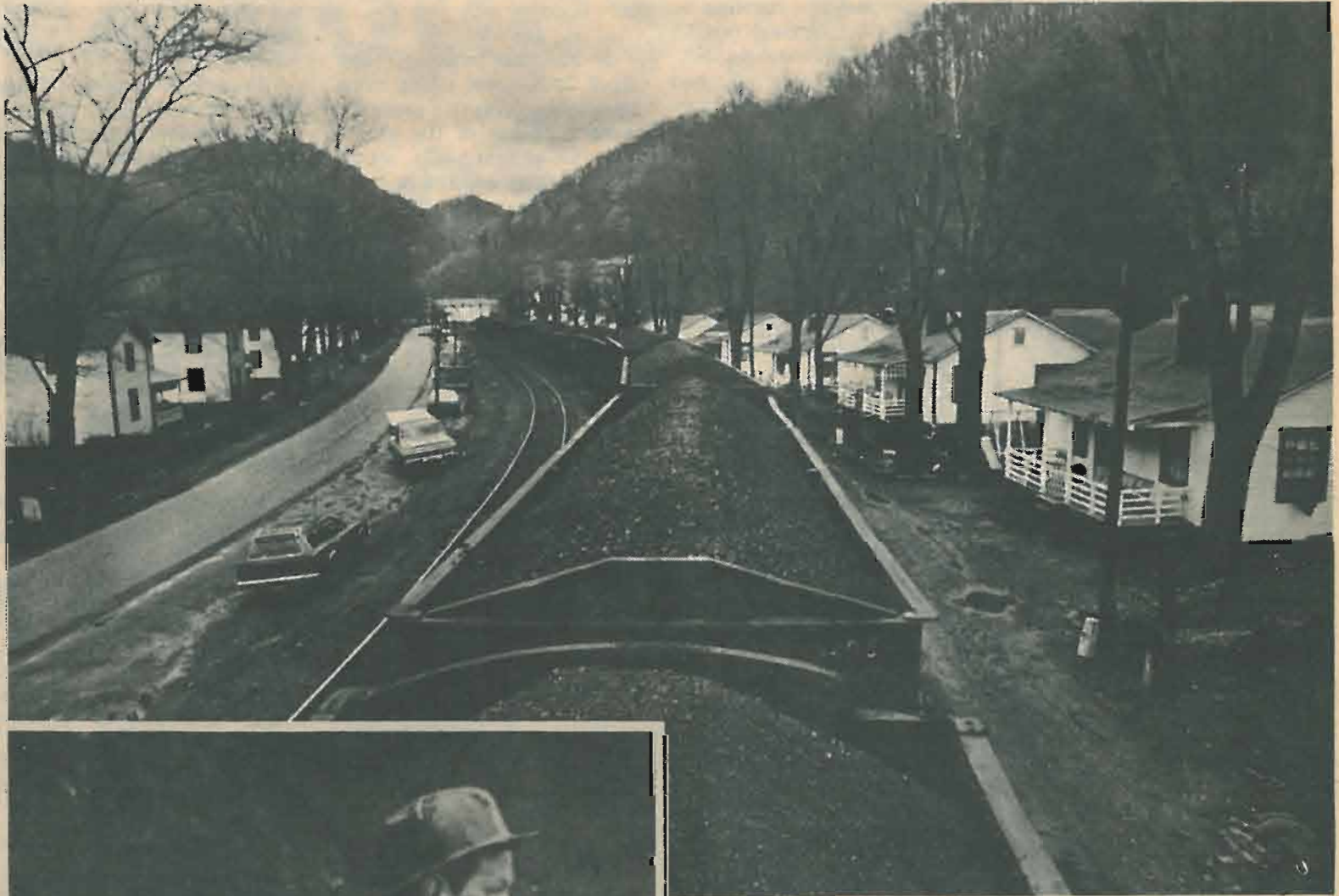
In 1966, Continental merged with the second largest U.S. coal producer, Consolidation Coal.

In 1979, Continental changed its name to Conoco reflecting its expansion into the chemical, synfuels and uranium mining industries.

Today, Conoco is the fourteenth largest industrial corporation in the U.S. with 1980 sales of \$18.3 billion and a record profit of \$1 billion.

Its oil operators span the globe with producing wells from Alaska to Louisiana in the U.S., the British North Sea, the Middle East and Indonesia overseas.

Major exploration is being conducted in China and Brazil. It sells gas under seven labels in 41 states and 7 European countries.



Coal miners: Conoco's target in drive to increase productivity

Consolidation Coal's reserves are located throughout the U.S. and are the largest of any U.S. corporation.

Conoco Minerals is about to open one of the largest uranium mines in the country on the Navaho reservation in New Mexico.

Conoco is the most diversified of the energy giants.

Currently, the main opposition to Conoco's plans for continued monopolization and record profits is the coal miners.

Organized in the United Mine Workers union (UMW), they directly oppose the employers' Bituminous Coal Operators Association (BCOA) headed by Conoco's own Bobby Brown.

Although less than half of the nation's coal production is union, many large producers such as Consolidation—known as "Consol"—are almost totally organized.

These union coal producers are meeting strong competition from non-union mines.

Consol's profits mean death in the mines. A West Virginia miner told *Socialist Worker*, "They'd kill you for a nickel." Ten Consol miners died in 1980.

According to *Business Week*, the BCOA "blames a continuing decline of the UMW's share of total coal production on falling productivity and rising employment costs associated with safety measures and health and pension benefits."

The coal operators' solution is to launch a continuous drive to increase labor productivity in their union mines and to open new non-union mines.

### DICTATORIAL

Consol also threatened to leave the BCOA—and temporarily did—unless the other coal operators agreed to take a hard line against the UMW, in line with Consol's demands for increased productivity.

Consol only came back into the BCOA after the other companies agreed to give Consol—and their chief negotiator Bobby Brown—virtual dictatorial power in the negotiations.

And that, in part, tells the story of the current deadlock in negotiations. Several small companies already want to open separate talks with the UMW—themselves charging that Consol is taking too hard a stand.

Conoco's recent annual reports show that Consol's productivity drive is already paying off.

In 1979, Consol reported a 9.3% increase in productivity and boasted that "underground productivity has improved since the end of the UMW strike in 1978 due to continuing labor stability and to investments in improved mining methods and addition-

al capacity. This improvement reversed a long term decline that began with the enactment of the Federal Coal Mine Health and Safety Act in 1969."

In 1980, Conoco reported an additional 8.5% productivity increase.

The toll on Consol's miners has been heavy—six died in 1978, 7 in 1979, and 10 in 1980.

But Consol's miners have fought back. A two month wildcat strike by 35 miners in the spring of 1980 shut down all of Consol's northern West Virginia mines in a protest against dangerous temporary work assignments by management.

A similar wildcat erupted in Consol's southern Illinois mines this past fall.

### RESPONSE

Consol's response has been to fire wildcat picketers and press hard in the BCOA/UMW negotiations for the introduction of the seven-day work week in longwall underground mines, further cut backs in health and pension benefits and provisions that would allow it to open non-union strip mines in the West.

In fact, in December, Consol began operations of a 40,000 acre strip mine in the Navaho reservation in New Mexico.

The rest of the BCOA is following Conoco's lead.

The miners are striking to stop this trend and defend their union. This battle is the first major working class fight back against corporate America in the eighties. The miners deserve your support. □

# Graffiti

by PATRICIA GOLDSMITH

## Yellow ribbons . . .

The *Cincinnati Enquirer*, in its "garden section" reported in April that the U.S. Agricultural Extension Service has advised people to remove any yellow ribbons from their trees.

The ribbons, it turns out, are likely to strangle the trees. The government also advised that the plastic yellow ribbons are particularly deadly. □

## "Culture of violence" . . .

Ernesto Rivas Gallont, El Salvador's ambassador-designate to the United States, has offered a novel explanation for the bloodshed in Central America.

He says its the result of a "culture of violence."

And he predicted it would continue. He should know. □

## Tough talk . . .

The *Wall Street Journal*, April 28, reports that Lane Kirkland, the president of the AFL-CIO, may press for more confrontations against Reagan's budget cuts.

But an insider in the AFL-CIO worried, "even his tough remarks don't sound tough." □

## Values . . .

The winner of the most pithy reaction to the Reagan shooting came from a woman who lives down the street from the Hinckley's of Evergreen, Colorado: "I hope this won't make the property values drop." □

## Deleting the poor . . .

The Reagan administration is eliminating the VISTA program of voluntary service to the poor.

A draft memo to employees stated that "the evolution of new ways of mobilizing citizens in voluntary service to their fellow Americans and especially to the poor" makes this desirable.

In the final version, the phrase "and especially to the poor" was deleted. □

## In case you missed it, it's true . . .

Yes, Phyllis Schlafly, the right-wing, pro-family, anti-feminist really said, "When a woman walks across the room, she speaks with a universal body language that most men intuitively understand."

"Men hardly ever ask sexual favors of women from whom the certain answer is 'No'. Virtuous women are seldom accosted by unwelcome sexual propositions or familiarities, obscene talk or profane language."

She said this to the Senate Labor Committee hearing on sexual harassment in the workplace. □

# BOSTON STUDENTS SHOCK GOVERNOR

BOSTON, MA—When 300 students from the public colleges of Massachusetts—Roxbury Community College, Boston State College, etc.—disrupted governor King's Board of Regents meeting on April 10th, convened to hike tuition by 27%, it was a shock.

Not a shock for us. We had even hoped for larger numbers. But a shock to the Regents who frankly hadn't figured that anyone cared.

## STUDENTS FROM EIGHT COLLEGES FIGHT GOVERNOR KING'S TUITION HIKE PLAN REPORT BY KENT WORCESTER

So the next meeting, held April 24th, went much more smoothly—many students were kept out of the Meeting—threatened with arrest for chanting, and the hearing

stuffed with cops.

As pre-written press release of the Regents' said, the hike was voted in and the Regents made a dramatically quick exit out. □

Students from 8 different colleges met Sunday, April 26, and made plans to counter the governor's attack. More background information can be found in *U. Mass Boston Students Speak Out*, an eight-page newspaper available from U. Mass Boston ISO. Send a self-addressed stamped envelope c/o Student Activities Committee, U. Mass., Harbor Campus, Boston, MA. □

## TALKING ABOUT SOCIALISM

Why the right-wing is committed to an attack on science.

# 'Creationism' and the new attack on science

BY DEBORAH ROBERTS

Many people reacted with surprise and amusement—to put it mildly—when Ronald Reagan said during the 1980 election campaign that "most air pollution is caused by plants and trees."

At one level, the anti-scientific attitudes of the political right wing are laughable, virtually the only thing about the Moral Minority that lends itself to humor.

Nevertheless, science teachers are finding less and less to laugh about.

Over opposition from 90% of the high school science teachers in Tampa, Florida, for example, the Tampa School Board imposed a requirement last month, that science classes must include the theory of "creationism."

## LAWS

In Anchorage, Ak., 9th grade teachers have been ordered to skip the section in natural history textbooks dealing with evolution. And over the past fifteen months, right-wing fundamentalists have persuaded legislators in 14 states to introduce laws requiring creationist views in science classes.

More than a century after the publication of Charles Darwin's *Origin of the Species* in 1859, and more than fifty years after the Scopes "monkey trial" in 1925 in Dayton, Tennessee, the argument between evolution and divine creation has been revived by the far right.

Scientists engaged in research are unlikely to abandon the theory of evolution. As celebrated geneticist Theodosius Dobzhansky put it, "nothing in biology makes any sense, except in the light of evolution."

But science education—the early training of future scientists—is sure to be set back.

For decades after the Scopes trial, teachers shied away from mentioning the theory of evolution because they were intimidated by the controversy that had raged around Scopes.

Rather than teach both Dar-

win and Genesis, they taught neither. Textbook publishers as well as teachers know the wind is blowing that way again.

The biology textbook editor of a major firm in New York said recently, "the truth is that the most magnificent pattern in biology is evolution but we don't spell it out any more. We talk about 'change' a lot but we try not to say the word 'evolution' very much."

"We have a chapter on birds, and one on amphibians. But we don't say that they are connected."

Ronald Reagan learnt everything he knows about science from the Reverend Jerry Falwell. According to the chief of state, "Evolution is a scientific theory only (!) and it is not believed in the scientific community to be infallible."

"I think the bible creation story should also be taught in the schools."

The creationists have been around for a long time, but they have only recently claimed to be scientific.

Nevertheless, the basic

tenets of "scientific creationism" are plain and simple religious dogma—no matter what Reagan, Falwell and others want to call them.

## CATAclysm

For example, the creationists maintain that the earth is only ten thousand years old, despite the estimates of geologists which place its age at 4.6 billion years.

Accordingly, this "science" supposedly indicates that the planet, stars and all living things actually were created in six cataclysmic days just as the bible says.

These "scientists" have done no research whatsoever, but have instead picked over selected data accumulated by real scientists in order to prove the bible story.

What does all of this have to do with right-wing politics? And what does socialism have to do with the sciences of biology and geology? Just this.

In the first place, socialists believe that knowledge of the universe is both possible and necessary if the problems of human life are to be solved.

Knowledge won't change

the world by itself, but it certainly helps move the process along.

The right-wing, on the other hand, wants to return to a more traditional, authoritarian past in order to create an atmosphere in which capitalism may be stabilized.

They want education for the majority of people to be founded on the hickory stick, the bible and the American flag.

Most important, creationism is based on a profound conviction that knowledge causes moral decay and social crisis.

As Judge Braswell Deen of Georgia puts it, "This monkey mythology of Darwin is the cause of permissiveness, promiscuity, pills, prophylactics, perversions, pregnancies, abortions, pornography, group therapy, pollution, poisoning and proliferation of crimes of all types."

Without an authority figure—the Grand Designer—running the show, people won't do what they're told.

Furthermore, creationism puts forward a closed model of the universe, one in which everything possible has already been accounted for.

## FIXED

Based on this model, nature, history and especially "human nature" were forever fixed at the moment of creation. For creationists, the job of human beings is to accept the way things are, not to try to understand them, not to struggle for change, and not to work for a better world.

As science, the creationists' argument sounds so preposterous that it's easy to overlook its implications which are the polar opposites of everything socialists believe about human possibilities.

Above all, socialism is the commitment to human creativity and collective struggle to change the world.

As Wilhelm Reich said, "Love, work and knowledge are the well springs of our life. They should also govern it." □



California "creationists" go to court



## WORLD IN STRUGGLE

# Black Britain explodes: Three days of rebellion

## CHALLENGE OF SOUTH AFRICAN BLACK WORKERS

On the eve of South Africa's all-white elections, Black workers are challenging the racist set-up which condemns them to starvation wages.

Last week 4,000 Black workers at the Sigma Corporation's Pretoria auto plant downed tools and demanded recognition of their union, the National Union of Motor Assembly Workers (NUMARWOSA) and a rise in their hourly wages from \$1.50 to \$3.80.

Sigma's white bosses fired the strikers. One, 24 year old Paulus Mahlangu, was shot dead by a white housewife as workers left the plant.

In Penge, Transvaal, two Black workers were shot dead by whites when 700 striking asbestos miners stormed into a white residential suburb.

### RECORDS

The battle lines are being more and more sharply drawn inside South Africa. Last year set new records for Black strikes. Auto workers in the eastern Cape, textile workers in Durban—and a virtual general strike in Cape Town on the fourth anniversary of the Soweto uprising have already taken place.

Now the strike wave is sweeping through the country's largest industrial area—factories in Pretoria, Witwatersrand and Vereeniging.

The Sigma strike exposed the hypocrisy of Harry Oppenheimer, head of the vast Anglo-American Corporation which owns the auto maker.

Despite Oppenheimer's protestations of sympathy for Black people, when the chips are down, he and Botha belong to the same camp.

### SYSTEM

But Black workers in South Africa are no longer prepared to accept the wage slavery to which the system condemns them.

The rise of a self-confident, aggressive, increasingly organized Black trade union movement is sounding the death knell of Botha, Oppenheimer and their ilk. □

by ALEX CALLINICOS

## A SPECIAL REPORT FROM LONDON, ENGLAND

Black Britain exploded on April 10. Brixton, the heart of Britain's West Indian population, witnessed three days of unprecedented riots.

Thatcher's government stands for more unemployment and heavier policing of those its policies throw out of work. And Brixton has had enough of both.

Nearly 2,000 Brixton teenagers have never had a job. Among Black youth unemployment is around 50 per cent. The area as a whole has twice the national average unemployment.

### "SWAMP"

To deal with the rising crime rate the London police launched 'Operation Swamp 81'.

The choice of the code name 'swamp' is a giveaway. In 1979 Margaret Thatcher warned of immigrants "swamping" the traditional British (white) way of life. The police operation was a racist attack from start to finish.

And it started well as far as the police were concerned. Brixton's police chief boasted: "The operation was a resounding success."

Between April 1 and April 10, one hundred extra police were drafted into Brixton, put into plain clothes and told to stop and search all suspects in the streets.

Mark Steel, 20. One of the few whites arrested:

"Four Black kids were thrown in the van too. They were beaten on the head with truncheons throughout the journey. But I was not touched.

"The kids were forced to shout out, 'I'm a stupid Black bastard' or get hit even more.

"I saw one Black kid, handcuffed behind his back being forced to kiss the wall and another with blood pouring from his face."



Black youth arrested by police

In just ten days 1,000 people were stopped and searched. The vast bulk of those harassed were Black, but white youths were also targeted. And from this indiscriminate swoop: just 150 arrests, only twice the usual level.

The anger grew red hot.

### NAZIS

The same police who had refused to investigate the activities of local Nazi racist groups after the January fire-bombing murder of 13 Black teenagers in nearby Deptford were now harassing an entire community.

The same government which was preaching law and order was now changing the law so that Blacks and Asians who previously had the right to enter Britain freely as citizens would now be denied British nationality.

So when, as dusk fell on Friday, April 10, Michael Bailey ran from a fight bleeding with a stab wound, the 20 watching youths erupted when they saw a policeman trip him up.

The police bundled Michael into a car to question him. When they still refused to call an ambulance or give him first aid, the youths acted. They freed Michael and put him in a taxi to be taken to hospital.

But the police didn't give up. They tried to flag down the cab. It was then that the first stones were thrown.

The anti-police riot that began then resumed on Saturday, Sunday and Monday.

Three-quarters of the rioters were Black; one quarter were young whites.

Despite all the media coverage talking about "race riots" this was nothing of the sort. It was a Black rebellion against the British state, and it found natural allies among Brixton's young whites.

*Socialist Worker*, the weekly paper of the British Socialist Workers Party, described the scene as "A festival of the oppressed. That was Brixton by the end of Saturday night."

The new generation of Black British—it is only in the last few years that a majority of Blacks in Britain were actually born there—is not going to tolerate racism and oppression in the way their parents did. □

Carlton, one of the first Blacks arrested on Saturday:

"I was trying to attract the attention of a friend in the taxi office. I was on my way to the dry cleaners and I wanted to know if I should pick his clothes up as well.

"A plain clothes policeman came over and stood on my foot and refused to move. He poked me in the face.

"I could hear screaming all night long from other cells. The police had turned the lights off and the heating full on. It was sweltering. They refused to give us a drink or food saying there was none for 'coons'."

Tyrone, a young unemployed Black participant in Saturday's battle of Brixton:

"Fighting began when the police tried to arrest a young Black guy for no obvious reason.

"Black and white people went over to try and help but in the end six policemen threw him into a van.

"By now everyone was angry. Before the van took off it had three windows smashed...

"When the police tried to move us, the real battle started. Three police vans got burnt in Railton Road. The police said we put up barricades. Actually, they left their vans at strategic points and they burnt where they were.

"In the battle of Railton Road we held our ground well. We were throwing stones and bricks—there were plenty of half demolished houses in the street. The police should have given up.

"The idea to burn the cars and the pubs came about in defiance. We used them to hold the police back.

"There was no way the youth could get out of the area without being beaten by the police so we had to fight for our protection. We had to frighten the police enough to keep them away from us." □

# BRITISH OUT

*What is the meaning of the new hunger strikes, and why is Bobby Sands prepared to die?*

First of all, I think it is important, not to isolate Bobby Sands from the other prisoners.

Bobby Sands went on hunger strike for the five demands made by all the protesting prisoners, and although Bobby Sands was elected Member of Parliament, he refused to see the European Commissioners on the basis that they were only treating him as a Member of Parliament whereas he was a representative of the political prisoners.

## CONFLICT

So it is important to see Bobby as representative of the whole prisoners movement.

It symbolizes in a very direct way the conflict in this country—between the attempt to humiliate and oppress the people of this country, and the extent of the resistance to it.

Bobby Sands has no wish to die—but he is prepared to die for his five demands.

Since 1976 the prisoners' demands have been concretized to the five demands relating to prison conditions—the tangible expression of political status.

Now every stage has been cleared. We have reached the position where the British government—rather than accept that there is a political struggle—not even that it has any validity or support—but accept its existence, that they would rather plunge this whole country into the prospect of even future violence.

The criminalization policy of 1976—the attempt to render the prisoners as common criminals—is an attempt by Britain to say that the only problem in Ireland is one of "law and order."

The resistance of the prisoners is not something to improve their conditions but it is to assert that the problem is not one of "law and order," but that the problem in this country is one of political struggle, and that the British are combatants in this struggle and not impartial enforcers of the law.

*What are the five demands?*

The five demands of the prisoners are the right to wear their own clothes, supplied by their own families; their right not to do compulsory menial prison work, but to use the time for self-education, etc.; the right to free association with their fellow prisoners within the prison; the right to reasonable communications with their families and friends outside the prison by means of one letter and one visit per week, and the right to have restored the standard remission of sentence for good behaviour—lost to them because they have been on protest.

Those are what Bobby Sands is being made to die for.



Bernadette McAliskey

*Why are the British so stubborn in their refusal to yield anything to the prisoners?*

I think it's because of the political implications of the very simple demands.

They introduced the criminalization policy in 1976, when the 'peace' movement was at its height.

And they thought that the resistance to British rule had been broken, and they determined to humiliate what they saw as the troublemakers, the prisoners, by rendering them, reducing them in fact, to common criminals.

What the British are saying is that there is no problem in this country, only law and order, only people who are acting against the law.

And having said that, to give in to the prisoners is simply to accept that there is a political struggle in this country and that Britain is part of it.

## MOVE

*Will there be civil war in Northern Ireland?*

We have been threatened with civil war since this country was founded.

At every attempt we make to move forward, we are threatened with civil war.

Now I don't think there will be a civil war.

But I do think the significance of the present situation is that the mood of the Catholic people in the North is this, if there's going to be a civil war, let's get on with it.

The threat of civil war no

*"You may frighten us, you may arrest us, you may kill some of us, but you won't stop us. The only way to stop us is to kill us all and you can't kill us all."*

*—Bernadette Devlin McAliskey speaking at Belfast rally April*

longer has validity. The position of the people here is "We don't want a civil war, but if you're going to start one, we'll fight it."

But we will not let go of the five demands.

*There are now reports of the wholesale round-up of Catholic and republican leaders? are these true?*

In Derry and Belfast and in a number of other towns there have already been arrests. Basically it's internment. There have been arrests under Section 12 of the emergency law with seven day detention.

And we expect that within the next days, if it is the British government's intention to let Bobby die, that they will attempt to intern by this method most of the local organizers.

People are taking the necessary precautions of not being at home, not sleeping at home over the next days.

And people are organizing for a historic turn—we don't believe there will be a civil war—but there will be a historic turn in the conflict here if Bobby Sands dies.

I think that the British are expecting disorganized, emotional riot situations which can be put down in a matter of days.

I think what they will be confronted with will be an organized and disciplined withdrawal of the consent of the people to be governed.

## FORFEIT

And that will take many different forms, but it will

mean that the British in the eyes of the people have forfeited any right to be here.

And I think that you will see the greatest unifier there has been in the struggle here for a withdrawal of the British.

Because the demands will change not simply to the five demands for political status, but the five demands and the British withdrawal.

And the people will want that now, not next year or the year after.



Bobby Sands

*What about the Loyalists?*

The militarists on the Loyalist side are threatening us that if we don't behave, they will kill us.

It's a threat that simply doesn't work anymore. We know that they will kill us if they get the chance, but it will not deter us.

And as we see it, it's none of their business. Our fight

isn't with them, it's with the British government on the demands.

And if they don't support the five demands they should do nothing, they should not get in our way. *What are you doing now?* Our main problem at the minute is basically to organize and keep people aware of the need for organization and discipline.

If we have to pay for the demands with Bobby Sands' life, then we move onto a different plane, but there's no way that we become divided into just letting go and letting the whole thing develop into a riot situation.

We have got to provide political leadership. That's the main task of the minute, around the various committees making sure people know exactly what they have to do. To tell them to establish political control and leadership in their area.

## SOUTH

I think that it will make a major difference in the future of Ireland.

I think a major difference will make—if Bobby Sands dies—is this: it may well destroy politically the Irish Minister of the South of Ireland—Charles Haughey.

Because he is involved in diplomatic talks for a long term solution with the London government, and he also has security arrangements with them, whereby the British troops guard the southern part of the border.



# TROOPS OF IRELAND!



**"Our demands are reasonable and just"**

"You may frighten us, you may arrest us, you may kill some of us, but you won't stop us. The only way to stop us is to kill us all and you can't kill us all."

These are the words of Bernadette McAliskey spoken to the 30,000 people who marched to West Belfast in support of Bobby Sands on April 26.

Still on crutches from a Loyalist assassination attempt, Bernadette warned Margaret Thatcher:

**LITTLE**

"We have asked for very little. But if we pay for our demands with the life of this one man, we will win those demands just as we won 'one man, one vote.'"

Joining Bernadette at the head of the march, the biggest in the North of Ireland since 1972, was Bobby Sand's sister Marcella, and the families of the other three hunger strikers.

Despite the massive show of support for Bobby Sands everyone knew Margaret Thatcher had decided Bobby Sands must die.

Pat Logue of Derry H-Block Trade Union Committee summed up peoples' feelings when he said: "The democratic process has been held in contempt by the British government. People are saying what's the point in marching, in elections."

A taste of what the response to Sands' death would be came in Derry when the British army was kicked out of the bogside (the Catholic area) for nine days by rioters.

In the last few days troops dragged away many H-Block activists, including the chairmen of the Derry and Belfast H-Block Committees.

The rioting in Derry was triggered by the murder of two teenagers killed by an army Land Rover.

At the funeral of his son, Mr. Michael English addressed these words to Thatcher: "Would she not accept the death of my son in return for the demands of Bobby Sands and the other hunger strikers."

Days later another Derry youth, 15 year old Paul Whidders died after being shot by a plastic bullet.

Bonfires are being prepared in Loyalist areas to celebrate Sands' death.

The coming together of Loyalist military groups—the UDA, the UVF, the Red Commandos, and the Ulster Army Council, have been followed by unmistakable signs of preparations for attacks on the Catholic community.

In each Catholic area defenses are being made.

In Turfs Lodge last Friday 250 gathered to organize medical aid, food, and power supplies. Meanwhile in Derry and workplaces like the Royal Victoria Hospital and the Deep Sea Docks in Belfast, preparations are being made by trade unionists for walkouts when the news of Sands' death comes through.

But the Catholic community can't fight alone.

Addressing trade union leaders in the South of Ireland, Bernadette McAliskey has called for industrial action pointing out, "Your personal support is no longer enough. Our demands can be won by the organized might of labor. We do not have that might but you do."

In Dublin at the end of April seven construction sites walked out in support of Sands to be joined by delegations from Toyota, Datsun and Fiat car plants.

In the last few days Sands has been kept from his electoral agent, Owen Carron and other advisors, and subject to efforts from European Commissioners to make him end his hunger strike.

**JUST**

Sands replied from his death-bed with these words: "The Commissioners intervention has been diversionary and has served to aid the British attempt to confuse the issue. The issue is basic and fundamental.

"Four Republican prisoners are on hunger strike. Our demands are reasonable and just. We on hunger strike are prepared to die for them." □

The people here have consistently demanded that he publicly support the prisoners and assert that if the demands are not met before Sands dies that he breaks off diplomatic relations with England and withdraw his troops from the border.

And I imagine that if he doesn't move before Sands dies, that a lot of the anger will be vented against him as a key person who could have done something and didn't.

So the situation could dramatically change the politics of the South of Ireland. *And what about the other hunger strikers?*

There are four hunger strikers. Bobby Sands started first, and then, I think it was the fourth night after that, Frankie Hughes started and then two more. There are four that started in stages.

So that the push will be on, if we lose Bobby Sands, we will determine to win the demands whatever price we pay for it, before Frankie Hughes is next, the next hunger-striker to die. So it will be a very tense and concentrated situation.

*What can we do to support your struggle?*

I think there has got to be a unified mobilization in support of the prisoners.

People have got to be prepared to work with anyone else who will work on the agreed program—to actively support the five demands.

I think pressure should be put on the trade union movement. We have been given an

assurance in this country that in the event that Bobby Sands dies, some American unions will boycott British goods.

We would like to see people force them to carry this out.

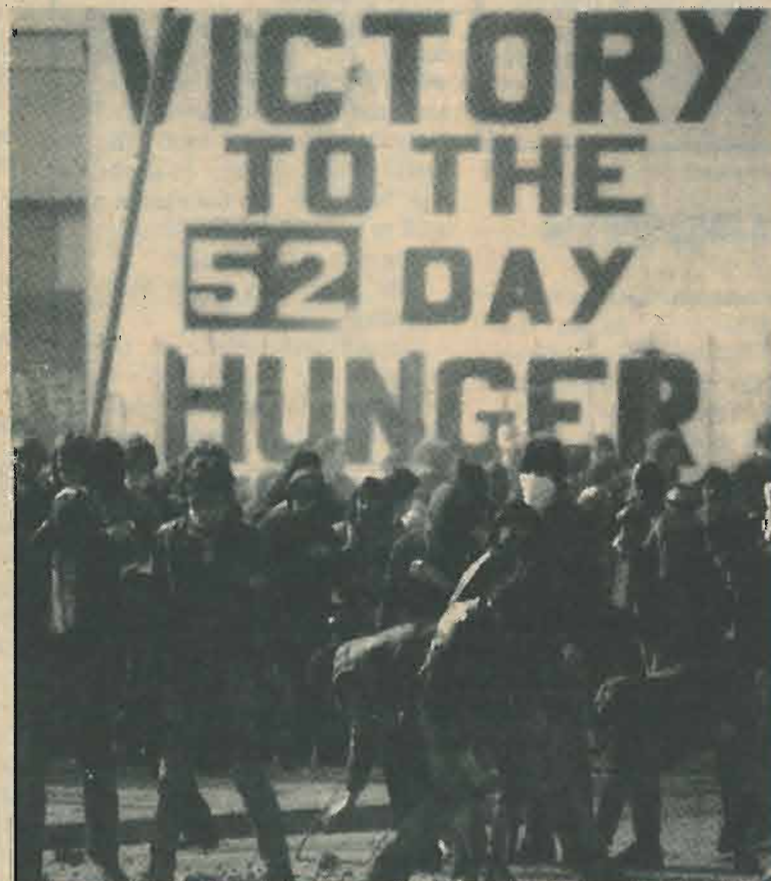
These are fine words—but we would like to see them do it before he dies. We would like pressure put on them to do it. We want Britain isolated—if it happens—and that requires maximum unity of all those from the human rights field to the left who would be prepared to support the prisoners.

I think that one of our sup-

porters summed it up when he said: "If internationally, we could empty the prisons of political prisoners and fill them with governments, there would be less problems in the world and more crooks in jail."

We recognize that we are not alone in the problem of our prisoners.

At the end of the day we look for international solidarity from those who understand our suffering because they've suffered themselves. □



## THE MINERS SHOULD PICKET THE POWER PLANTS

Dear Socialist Worker,

The coal miners in Britain used flying pickets to close power plants and steel mills, and this helped them win their strike.

The coal miners in Poland did the same. They forced the

government to pay attention to them.

It is clear that in this country the government hopes to ignore the miners' strike, and starve them back into submission. The press is paying no attention to the strike at all.

The miners will have to force the companies and the government to take notice.

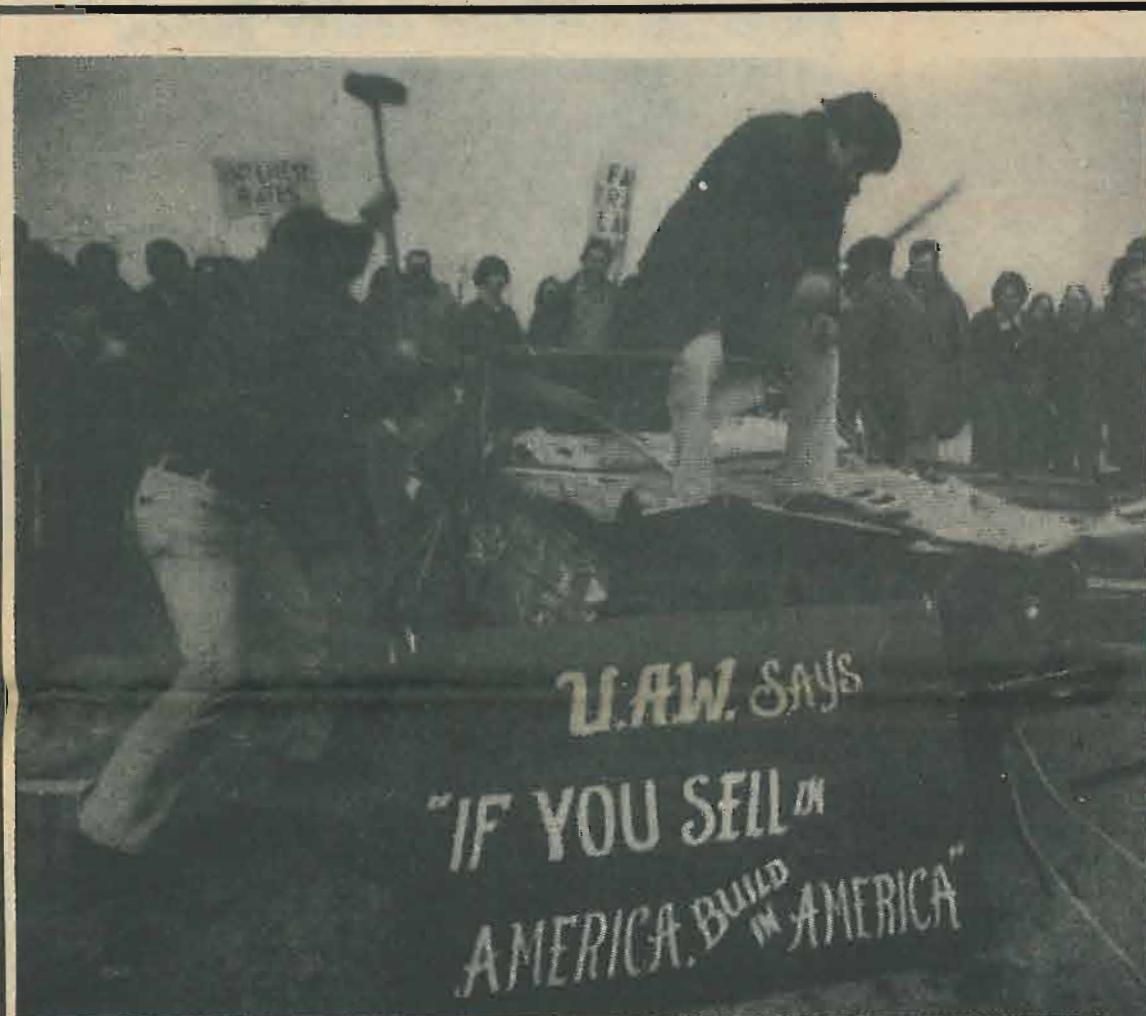
They would almost certainly get a sympathetic reception from power workers, and that would in turn have a real impact on the economy.

The police would no doubt respond with arrests—but that would win the miners even more support.

Jim Burrows,  
Columbus, OH

# Letters

Write to Letters, Socialist Worker  
P.O. Box 18037 Cleveland OH 44118



Dear Socialist Worker,

I always enjoy John Anderson's column, in particular his coverage of the United Auto Workers Union (UAW).

Here is a recent example of what's wrong with the U.A.W. from Chicago. The union blames Japanese workers—

and American workers who buy Japanese cars—for the problems of the U.S. automobile monopolies.

It won't do any good. And neither will smashing up Toyotas and Datsuns.

The real enemies of U.S. workers—including auto

workers—live right here in the U.S.—the bosses of GM, Ford and Chrysler who exploit workers everywhere, regardless of nation, race or religion.

Don Lewis,  
Rockford, IL

## Racism rampant in Indianapolis

Dear Socialist Worker,

The mayor of Indianapolis recently called for an investigation of possible Nazi involvement in the police department.

### WHAT ABOUT THE CHURCH?

Dear Socialist Worker,

Why don't you ever cover the role of the Catholic church in your coverage of Poland.

You seem completely unconcerned about the danger of the workers' movement taking a reactionary turn, led by the church.

Isn't this what has happened in Iran?

Barbara Simpson,  
Philadelphia, PA

The following weekend he found a swastika painted on his mailbox. The investigation concluded that "one police officer was found to have a historical interest in the political party that ruled Germany from 1933 until 1944."

The chief of police would "just like to end the thing . . . because it really has been blown out of proportion."

He makes this claim despite the fact that there were 89 police shootings in Indianapolis between 1976 and 1979, 72 of those by white cops resulting in the deaths of 44 Blacks.

Another incident has aroused the Black community and resulted in a state senator calling for the resignation of the county prosecutor.

A Black man was killed by

a white man on the interstate. The white man claims the Black man was trying to force him off the road so he pulled a gun from the glove compartment and shot him.

When the white man called police to confess, no arrest was made.

Nearly a week later the county prosecutor responded to community pressure and called a grand jury. Their investigation resulted in a charge of reckless homicide (maximum sentence of eight years) and he was let go with no bail.

The Black community maintains that the arrest and charge would have been handled very differently if the colors had been reversed.

Kathy Whalen,  
Indianapolis, IN

## SW MUST COVER LEFT

Dear Socialist Worker,

Your paper is informative and non-sectarian, but possibly you take the latter too far.

You should devote some space to what is happening on the left, for it is very important to your readers.

The left is in disarray, but there is also the real possibility of new unity, possibly even regroupment.

This is very important at a time when the right is on the offensive—and everyday the threat of a new war in El Salvador grows.

Keep up the labor coverage. It's very good.

Mike Mitchell,  
Orange, NJ

## Self-defense won't help

Dear Socialist Worker,

I don't understand why you advocate armed self-defense in Atlanta.

Hasn't there been enough violence? The existence of armed vigilante groups patrolling the streets will only add to the problem.

The greatest progress was made for Black liberation when Dr. Martin Luther King and the southern civil rights movement used the tactic of non-violence to shake the South to its foundations and to win the moral support of the rest of the country.

The South has never been the same.

Armed self-defense in the sixties only succeeded in bringing in the armed repression of the state against those who advocated it.

The Black Panthers were attacked and often killed by the police in confrontations—as happened to Fred Hampton and Mark Clark in Chicago.

The police are only too happy to shoot it out with Blacks—who inevitably have less fire power and are outnumbered and out-organized.

The Black people of Atlanta would do better to revive the spirit of Dr. King and argue against violence—in all its forms.

Andrew Martin,  
Houston, TX



## CAMPUS NEWS

Baltimore . . .

More than three hundred people attended a two-day conference, "Feminism and the Critique of Capitalism," at Johns Hopkins University, organized by the Graduate Representative Organization. . .

Among the speakers were Barbara Ehrenreich of the New American Movement, Barbara Winslow of the ISO, Joan Smith of the British Socialist Workers Party, Nancy Hartsock of the Baltimore's Women's Union and Zillah Eisenstein. . .

The organizers considered the conference a big success and are planning to publish the talks in a new book on feminist theory. . .

Seattle . . .

150 University of Washington students attended a talk by Joan Smith of the British SWP on "Women, the Family and the State. . .

At Seattle University, 25 students heard an ISO member speak on Poland, as part of a conference on the media. . .

San Francisco . . .

More than 500 pro-abortion demonstrators marched outside of the University of San Francisco gym on April 3, protesting the appearance of Henry Hyde, author of the Hyde Amendment that stopped Medicaid from funding abortions. . .

Inside the gym, Hyde was heckled by more pro-abortion demonstrators. Wendy Walton, the organizer of the campus pro-abortion movement, called the meeting a "complete failure" . . .

She also said, "Why, why, why did they even have this thing. He only took questions from the pro-lifers. And to think my money went to pay for this idiot. . ."

Cleveland . . .

On April 29, the main building at Cleveland State University was named after Ohio Governor James Rhodes. . .

Rhodes was the governor of Ohio in 1970, and personally ordered the national guard onto the nearby Kent State campus, an action which led to the killing of four students. . .

A student demonstration was held protesting the new name, and a number of former Kent State students joined in the protest. . .

A PAGE FROM WORKING CLASS HISTORY

# "no power greater"

by BARBARA WINSLOW



## Black and white together: The struggle of the lumber workers in the South's piney woods

One of the most inspiring chapters in the history of the American working class is the story of the lumber workers in the piney woods in Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, East Texas and South Georgia.

It took place seventy years ago. Thousands of workers—Black and white, Native Americans, Mexican Americans and immigrants—struck.

And in one of those rare moments of labor solidarity, for the first time ever in the South, workers were able to wage a militant non-racist struggle against one of the brutal groups of exploiters in America—the lumber barons.

### FORCE

The lumber industry in the Southeast was one of the most oppressive of all industries.

Half of the labor force was Black, forced into the lowest paying, most dangerous and demeaning jobs.

Then there were the Southern chain gangs, poor whites and Blacks forced to work for nothing.

Most lumber workers lived in company towns where they had no rights whatsoever.

Anger and resentment produced a series of strikes and organizing attempts among lumber workers as early as the 1800's.

But it was not until 1911, that a group of revolutionaries, members of the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW), organized the Brotherhood of Timber Workers.

The Brotherhood embraced the policies of the Industrial Workers of the World, and promised to "organize all timberworkers, Black and white, skilled and unskilled, into one big union."

In order to do so, they had to fight the intense race prejudice that existed in the South, including laws which forbade racially integrated meetings.

When Bill Haywood, the IWW leader, came to Alexandria, LA., to address the Brotherhood's convention, he discovered that the Black unionists were meeting separately from whites.

Haywood argued with the whites, "You work in the same mills together. Sometimes a Black man and a white

*"It is a glorious sight to see, the miracle that happened here in Dixie. 'This coming together of the impossible—the union of workers regardless of color, creed, or nationality.'"*

man chop down the same tree together.

"You are meeting in a convention now to discuss the conditions under which you labor.

"If any law should be broken it is this one." The whites voted overwhelmingly to have integrated meetings.

### WOMEN

The Brotherhood also voted to allow women to be members, and vote on issues of strike action.

"A man can go fish and hunt during a strike, but she has to stay at home listening to the babies cry and wondering where the next meal is coming from.

"Besides if it weren't for the work of the women, many of the men wouldn't hold down jobs."

The lumber organizing drives, begun in 1911, spread throughout the Southeast.

In 1911 the Southern Lumber Operators Association



East Texas woodcutters

called a lock out. The next year there was a long and bitterly fought strike, led by the Brotherhood.

The employers' association retaliated by blacklisting all known union men, vowing not to rehire until the union was destroyed.

The operators used every racist trick in the book to break up the solidarity of the Black and white workers.

But Brotherhood leaders were constantly handing out leaflets and explaining that they couldn't allow racism to break their union. "There are white men, there are negro men, and there are Mexican men, but no niggers, greasers or white trash," explained one leaflet.

Violence, provoked by the operators, broke out in Grabow, Louisiana, when the lumber workers heard that an army of scabs was headed for the Galloway Lumber Company.

Arthur Emerson, a revolu-

tionary and a leader of the Brotherhood addressed a crowd of picketers. Immediately shots rang out, and a gun battle raged. When the firing was over, three men were dead, forty wounded, almost all the casualties were union men.

Emerson and 64 others were immediately arrested and tried for murder.

But the Brotherhood was able to defeat the lumber interests by mounting a militant defense campaign.

Rallies and demonstrations of unionists and small farmers were held all over the state. The men were acquitted, and for them this was a tremendous victory. The Brotherhood thought their acquittal meant there would be some peace in the woods.

### TERROR

This was not to be the case. Nine days after the acquittal in Grabow, the American Lumber Company in Merry-

ville, LA., fired and black-listed 15 unionists.

The company prepared for a strike, by locking up the Black workers so that they could not picket. Other Black and Mexicans were imported as strike breakers.

The Brotherhood made special appeals to the strike breakers. Most of the Blacks refused to scab. Foreign born and Mexican workers also joined in with the picketers.

But even this solidarity was not enough to win the strike.

The Lumber Association could not break the strike with racism, so it resorted to terrorism, by first arresting, then beating and ultimately murdering a number of leading strikers.

They finally organized a mob which rampaged into the union headquarters wrecking everything in sight.

The next day all unionists and their wives were deported from Merryville, under penalty of death if they returned.

Even though the strike at Merryville was broken, and the Brotherhood eventually declined, the history of this union and its struggles represents a tremendous victory for Southern workers.

### VICTORY

Very rarely in American working class history has a strike been characterized by a commitment to racial solidarity, brotherhood and sisterhood. A leaflet widely distributed by the Brotherhood told the story:

*"It is a glorious sight to see, the miracle that has happened here in Dixie.*

*"This coming true of the impossible—the union of workers regardless of color, creed or nationality.*

*"To hear the Americans saying, 'You can starve us but you cannot whip us.'*

*"The Negroes saying, 'You can fence us in but you cannot make us scab,' the Italians singing the Internationale, and the Mexicans shouting vivas for the Brotherhood.*

*"Never did the Santa Fe Railroad, the Southern Lumber Operators Association and the American Lumber Company expect to see such complete and defiant solidarity."* □

# 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

### BLOOMINGTON

May Day Picnic. May 10, For more information call 334-2418.

### BOSTON

Cal Winslow on **Perspectives for the 80s**. Potluck dinner, May 16, 7:00 p.m. For more information call 427-1309.

### CHICAGO

Marx's Socialism May 10, 4:00 p.m. For more information call 248-1572.

### The Politics of Black Liberation.

May 24, 4:00 p.m. For more information call 248-1572.

### CINCINNATI

Ahmed Shawki on **Black Liberation: Perspectives for the 80s**. May 9, 8:00 p.m. 134 Kinsey.

### May Day Picnic.

speakers, games, booze, singing. May 10, 12:00 noon, French Park. For more information call 721-2134.

### DETROIT

Retha Hill, Frank Runninghorse and Joyce Williams on **Defending the Black Community**. April 30, 7:30 p.m., 46 Elmhurst, Highland Park. For more information call 868-2932.

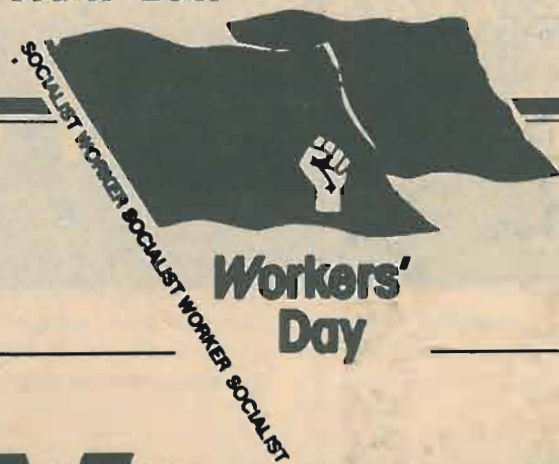
### ROCHESTER

Barbara Winslow on **The Fight for Reproductive Rights**. May 9, 8:00 p.m., Gensee Co-op, 713 Monroe Ave.

### SEATTLE

Bob Ginsburg on **Cancer and Capitalism** May 27, 12:30 p.m. U. of W Hub. For more information call 324-2302.

## MAY DAY



Workers' Day

# Womens VOICE

Women's Voice, sister organization of the S.W.P. (G.B.), sends greetings to all readers of **Socialist Worker**. For revolutionary feminism and international socialism. **Women Unite!**

# Socialist Worker

For Workers Power and International Socialism

The **Socialist Workers Party (Britain)** sends our warmest greetings to our friends and comrades of the I.S.O.

"Where the chains of imperialism are forged, there they must be broken."

Rosa Luxemburg

# Sozialistische Arbeiterzeitung

ZEITUNG DER SOZIALISTISCHEN ARBEITERGRUPPE - SAG

Greetings from the **Socialist Workers' Group Frankfurt, West Germany**.

May Day Greetings to all readers of **Socialist Worker** from the **Socialist Workers Tendency in Ireland**.

# the battler

Fraternal Greetings to **Socialist Worker** from the **International Socialists of Australia**.

# Workers' Action

MONTHLY PAPER OF THE INDEPENDENT SOCIALISTS

**Workers' Action** and the **International Socialists of Canada** send May Day greetings to the readers of **Socialist Worker**. For workers' power and international socialism!

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

— Karl Marx

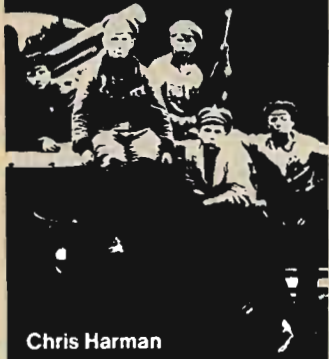
If you want to help us change the world and build socialism, join us. There are ISO members and branches in the following cities:

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- 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
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# reviews



## Joe Louis: 1914-1981: "The greatest"

### MARIE THOMAS ON THE LIFE OF JOE LOUIS

When Joe Louis fought, thousands of Black people came to watch.

They came from Harlem, from Brooklyn, from Detroit where he lived, from Chicago where he fought his way to fame in less than a year. From Boston, Philadelphia, Washington, and all the smaller cities along the way.

#### GREATEST

The Black masses came to watch Louis, to cheer him on, for he was more than the greatest boxer in history.

He was in the words of Mohammed Ali, "an inspiration to all Black people."

"Joe Louis was my inspiration. I idolized him. He wrote the book on boxing—the way he stood, the way he blocked shots was beautiful . . . I just gave lip service to being the greatest. He was the greatest."

Joseph Louis Barrow was the unparalleled hero to Black Americans.

He was born to an Alabama sharecropping family in 1914. He quit school as a teenager in Detroit to help his family, and after winning the AAU title in 1934 went on to win 34 fights,

taking the boxing championship from James Braddock less than three years.

His career in many ways mirrored the Black struggle in America.

Louis came to prominence after the decline of the Black nationalist movement of the twenties.

Racism was extremely strong in sports. From 1915 to 1937 Black fighters were not allowed to compete for heavy-weight and other championship titles.

When he came to New York in his twenties, astounding the boxing world, he was met with vicious racism.

At his first press conference reporters asked if they could photograph him eating watermelon.

Louis said no, "If I cut the fool, I'd have let my people down."

In the thirties and forties, he dominated boxing.

It is always said that Louis'

most famous fight, the 2 minute TKO of Nazi, Max Schmeling, was the symbol of color blind American democracy over racist Nazism.

But during Louis' career, Blacks were systematically excluded not just from sports, but forced to live in a legally segregated society.

His victory over Schmeling and all the others was a victory for Black Americans who saw each fight as a symbol of victory for Black hopes and aspirations.

Louis was never a political activist. He often wished he had the courage to speak out against racism as did later sports figures like Jackie Robinson.

But Jackie Robinson, the first Black to integrate baseball owed his success to Joe Louis.

"Joe paved the way. He made things easier. Sometimes I think I never would have survived that first tough year in the majors if Louis

hadn't come along when he did."

Louis' life after retirement mirrored the viciousness of racist America.

Most of his earnings went into the pockets of greedy managers and promoters.

Like other sports figures Louis was forced out of retirement in 1950, only to lose to Rocky Marciano.

In 1956, the government started persecuting him demanding \$1 million in back taxes. The IRS only gave up after it had taken the little he had left.

After that he suffered a breakdown, and then spent the last years of his life being a "greeter" at Caesar's Palace in Las Vegas.

#### LINE

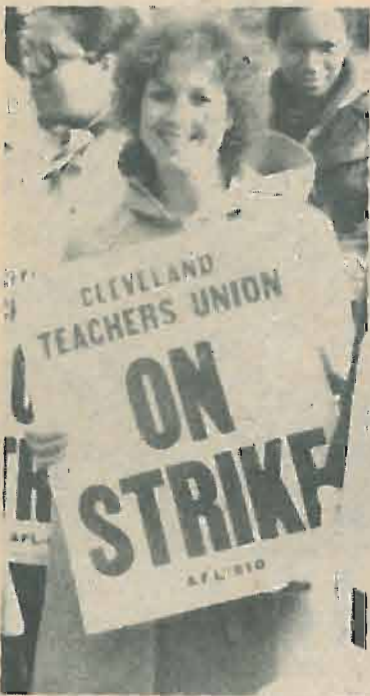
When Louis died, April 12th, American papers wrote that all America loved Joe Louis, that his appeal crossed the color line. They are lying.

The white sporting establishment was forced to accept Louis, as they were forced to accept Jackie Robinson, and Mohammed Ali.

To Black people Louis will always be their champ. □



# The crisis and Ohio teachers



**RAVENNA, OH**—Two of Ohio's three long teachers' strikes have ended, but the third, in the Cincinnati suburb of Mariemont, is now threatening to become the longest teachers' strike ever.

### RECORD

The Ravenna teachers, now back at work, currently hold the record. They stayed out for 85 days, settling in April.

The Ravenna teachers won a two year contract, and all the teachers fired during the bitter strike will be rehired. But they lost on almost everything else.

They won no salary increase, so starting pay will remain at \$11,300.

Teachers in Youngstown, Ohio, also settled in April,

having been on strike 36 days. Unlike the Ravenna teachers, the Youngstown Education Association was able to close the school system and stop the use of scabs to keep it going—as happened in Ravenna and Mariemont.

The Youngstown teachers, nearly 1,000 strong, won a wage increase of 12.5% over two years, not enough to keep up with inflation, but better than most teachers are getting.

### PROBLEMS

In Mariemont, the school board is operating the schools with scabs, and there seems little hope that the teachers will be able to win. Most of the strikers are fired.

The problems for Ohio's

schools are from over however. The Cleveland school board has just announced that it will lay off more than 500 school teachers.

This will add to the problems teachers face all over the state, because one of the strongest weapons now in the hands of administrators is the fact that there are thousands of unemployed teachers—all too many who are quite willing to cross other teachers' picket lines.

The Education Association in Ohio have been quite willing to strike in the past few years, but they cannot afford many more defeats such as those in Ravenna and—most likely—Mariemont.

Two problems are most glaring. There has been little

coordination between striking teachers—and not even the threat of spreading the strikes. Second there has been very little labor solidarity.

The Cleveland Teachers Union, affiliated with the American Federation of Teachers, would do nothing for the nearby Ravenna teachers, associated with the Ohio Education Association.

### CRISIS

The economic crisis in Ohio, the decline of industry and the traditional tax bases of the school systems, means that the crisis for teachers will certainly become more severe.

More militant action—and labor solidarity—will be needed if teachers are to go forward. □

## TALKIN' UNION BY JOHN ANDERSON

# Government spies: The real purpose of surveillance

On April 10, 1981, I received my file from the Michigan State Police as evidence they had been spying on me for my union and political activities for upwards of 24 years. They told me Michigan law gave them authority to do this.

I should receive my file from the Detroit red squad and the FBI some time in the near future. I once saw my file at Fleetwood Fisher Body where I worked for over thirty years. They kept me under surveillance while I was in the plant. Never having been convicted of a crime one might ask, what was the purpose of all this surveillance? How much democracy do we as socialists have?

Those who were the pioneers in building the American labor movement learned of spies employed by the corporations to disrupt and destroy the unions in their infancy. General Motors in 1936 spent upwards of a million dollars for labor spies.

### ORGANIZE

They were used against the federal locals organized by the AFL. In the organizing drive that lead to the 1937 sitdown strikes Wyndham Mortimer, Bob Travis and Roy Reuther exposed the GM spy system.

After the unions won bargaining rights the labor spy racket went out of business. The local red squads, the state police and the FBI not only continued their activities but became more active. The ruling class knew, once the left wing parties were purged from the unions, the unions could be

used as a disciplinary force in the plants.

The most effective step to bring about the purge was the passage of the Taft-Hartley Act in June 1947. Before its passage it was referred to by both the AFL and CIO leadership as "The Taft-Hartley Slave Labor Law."

Once these leaders saw the possibility of destroying the left with its anti-communist affidavits they embraced the law. Anyone who on principle refused to sign the affidavit was branded a communist. They were denied the right to run for office.

In 1947 President Truman issued an order requiring 2 million federal employees sign a loyalty oath. The climate of fear created by Truman enabled Senator McCarthy to launch his witch hunting campaign against all dissenters. Not to be outdone by McCarthy, Walter Reuther launched his own campaign against the left in the UAW and CIO. In 1949 upwards of a million members in 9 CIO unions were expelled from the CIO.

### CRITICS

In 1950 Reuther signed five year contracts with the Big Three auto companies. Critics of these five year contracts in Ford Local 600 and Chevy Local 659 came under attack from the International Executive Board. In 1952 Local 600 was put under an administrator. Several of Reuther's critics were expelled from the local.

In 1954 Chevy Local 659 was put under an administrator. The top leadership of the local was put on trial.



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

Censors were put over *Ford Facts* in 1952 and *The Searchlight* in 1954. The House Un-American Activities Committee aided the UAW leadership in the purge of these two progressive locals.

In 1948 the Attorney General of the US had the leadership of the Communist Party indicted under the Smith Act. Most of the leadership was convicted and sent to prison. They were later freed when the Supreme Court found the Smith Act unconstitutional. Julius and Ethel Rosenberg were sent to the electric chair on false evidence, and bogus evidence.

### COOPERATION

There is close collaboration between the employers and the various governmental agencies spying on the workers and their political parties. With the election of Ronald Reagan we may expect a renewal of spying and other attacks against the left and against the labor movement.

The trial of David Boyd, Clyde Loo and Rodney Johnson, pipefitters at the shipyard of the National Steel and Shipbuilders Company in San Diego, California and members of the Iron Workers Local 627, is proof that labor spying is not a dead issue. These brothers deserve the support of the labor movement. □

## L.A. COUNTY CLERICALS MARCH

LOS ANGELES, CA—1,000 Los Angeles county clerical workers demonstrated their disgust at a three per cent pay offer from the County Board of Supervisors at a lunch-time rally held outside County Hall of Administrations on April 22.

19,000 clerical workers represented by Local 660 of the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) are claiming a salary increase to keep up with inflation when the current contract expires on June 30th.

90% of the Los Angeles clerical workforce are women and on April 22—National Secretary's Day—they presented the board of supervisors with roses and thorns to symbolize the problems faced by low paid clerical workers in the country.

### LIVING

Protester Janice Netterville of the clerical bargaining unit is an intermediate typist clerk working for the Department of Social Services and a single parent with three children. She explained the impossibility of living on take home pay of \$810 per month when rent alone takes \$500 per month.

Diane Bernard of the supervisors clerical binding committee pointed out that after 23 years for the county her take home pay was still \$1,120 per month.

After the rally the women made it clear that the country had better take notice and improve their pay offer or there would be a strike. □

by John Neal



# Postmaster threatens to postpone postal contract negotiations

Postal workers were greeted April 16 with a letter from Postmaster General William Bolger.

The letter states Bolger's intention of filing a petition with the National Labor Relations Board "to start procedures leading to a determination of an appropriate bargaining unit or units within the Postal Service."

## RESULT

Bolger claims that as a result of this filing the Postal Service will be unable to engage in negotiations until a decision has been made.

He is then asking for the unions to agree to an extension of the contract past the July 20 expiration date with the following conditions:

"(1) That it not interfere in any way with the full consideration of the NLRB to determine the appropriate bargaining unit or units;

(2) That matters processed under the grievance and arbitration provisions of the current contract be limited to employee discipline and other matters appropriate to the circumstances;

(3) That the extension include the payment of the appropriate cost-of-living adjustment to all covered employees in the fall;

(4) That the extension include continuation of existing 'no-layoff clauses'."

At first look it seems strange that Bolger is so concerned about having separate bargaining.

A separate agreement with the Rural Letter Carriers Association, for example, included a capped COLA and saved the Postal Service \$2,000 per rural carrier over the life of the contract.

Ideally, it would seem that if all four unions were united to fight for one agreement, with each union sticking up for the other, this would not be what Bolger would want.

The key to this paradox is to look at the different levels of militancy of the four unions and the raiding that is taking place and Bolger's attempt to decisively win this contract by eliminating uncapped COLA and the "no-layoff clause."

## UNIONS

There are four unions covering postal workers. They are the American Postal Workers Union (APWU), the largest, the National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC), the Rural Letter Carriers and the International Labor Union-Mailhandlers Division (AFL-CIO).

Two of the unions, APWU and NALC, have somewhat militant leaderships and are coordinating bargaining for the contract. They have agreed to strike over the COLA issue.

The other two unions have already agreed not to strike

**RANK AND FILE MUST STOP BOLGER'S PLAN**

and are coordinating bargaining with a promise to "bargain responsibly."

As a result of this non-militancy of the latter two unions, the APWU and the NALC have decided to raid the Mailhandlers and Rural Carrier unions respectively.

It is this that Bolger does not want. If the raiding is successful, the APWU and NALC would be in a stronger bargaining position.

The members coming from the other unions will be expecting militancy from it and will be exerting pressure to get it.

The rank and file already in the two unions will see the new members as giving the unions more strength and will be demanding tougher talks against the Postal Service.

## STOP

Bolger wants to stop the NLRB to decide the bargaining unit or units in order to stop this process.

If the APWU and NALC cannot bargain separately, they will lose their appeal to the Mailhandlers and Rural Carriers.

Also, if all four unions are negotiating together the weaker ones will pull down the stronger ones.

It is obvious what the APWU and the NALC should do. They should say "we signed a contract that ends on July 20 and after that date if there is no new contract, then there will be no work."

Anything else would be a disaster for the unions and the rank and file.

The other half of the trick is to extend the current contract.

The NLRB case could take well into 1982, perhaps longer.

Bolger can just sit and wait saying that he is waiting for the NLRB to decide who he is to bargain with. In the meantime the ranks of the unions become demoralized.

Bolger acts like this would be fair, but what is an "appropriate" COLA increase and

what would be an "appropriate" grievance? Postal management would just be sailing along waiting for the final kill.

## STAND

The APWU and NALC presidents (Billier and Sombrotto respectively) have made statements about Bolger's proposal, calling it "assinine" and "the worst kind of deceit."

They say Bolger is not "bargaining faithfully."

They are upset that Bolger made the move "just when labor-management relationships were working together to increase productivity."

What do they mean, "assinine"? From Bolger's standpoint, it was very smart. Especially if the unions go along with it.

Unions should not be organizations that make relations with management to increase production.

They should fight for workers' rights and improved work conditions.

The rank and file should demand a strong stand against Bolger's proposals and organize themselves to fight for a good contract.

by JOHN TRIPLETT

# U.A.W. VOTES TO JOIN AFL-CIO



Douglas Fraser

**DETROIT, MI**—The United Auto Workers Union (U.A.W.) has moved closer to reaffiliating with the AFL-CIO.

## APPROVED

The 1.2 million member U.A.W. said that the plan to merge the two labor organizations was approved by 3,000 delegates who were elected at last summer's convention.

The delegates voted for the merger by two to one.

Douglas Fraser, the president of the U.A.W. attributes the vote to reaffiliate to the difficulties facing "the whole labor movement."

In a statement issued to the press, he said that "having a unified labor center in this country can only strengthen the trade union movement at a

time when it is under severe attack from the corporations and their political allies."

This sounds fine in theory, but it is unlikely to help rank and file members of any of the unions involved.

In reality, the reaffiliation is the merger of two bureaucracies—each of which could easily compete for the prize for lack of responsibility to its members.

The same is true of the U.A.W.'s plans to merge with the International Association of Machinists and the United Rubber Workers.

## COMFORT

The union leaderships may receive some comfort—but not the rank and file.



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# Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALIST ORGANIZATION

## VICTORY TO THE COAL MINERS!

**WHEELING, W.VA.**—The stakes are high in the national coal miners strike.

Already coal miners have been shot in Kentucky and West Virginia—in confrontations with company guards and gun thugs hired to move scab coal.

Convoys of coal trucks regularly move out of the strip mines of Eastern Kentucky, but with increasing difficulty—and thanks only to the protection of the state police and court injunctions aimed at crippling the miners' strike.

In Ohio, court injunctions have limited pickets to four at any one place, have ordered that miners be "peaceful" and have even named district officers Ed Bell and Tony Bumbico, but this has not ensured the safety of the truck drivers, so most of the movement of scab coal has stopped.

### VALUE

"Most truck drivers value their lives," said one miner. "The risk is too big."

The strike began at the end of March when the rank and file miners turned down an agreement between the UMWA's top leadership and the Bituminous Coal Operators Association (BCOA).

The vote on the proposed settlement was more than two to one against—and it reflected the strong feeling of rank and file coal miners that the agreement undercut the very basis of their union.

The agreement would have given the companies the right to buy, sell, and process non-union coal, without paying a \$1.90 royalty per ton into the union's pension fund.

It gives them an *incentive* to use non-union coal, at a time when the union share of coal production is already rapidly shrinking.

The agreement also gave the companies the right to



lease land and operations to non-union companies and the right to subcontract construction work to non-union companies.

So the rank and file voted "no"—well-knowing that it might be a long and bitter strike.

Now even Sam Church, the president of the UMWA and the man who negotiated the settlement, is saying he has seen the light.

"I said I thought the tenta-

tive contract we worked out was a good one," he told reporters.

"That was my honest opinion. But the only opinion that really matters is that of the membership.

"The people in my union have spoken. And I intend to do everything in my power to carry their voice to the bargaining table with me."

This change of heart might save Sam a few votes in his campaign next year for re-

election, but it is unlikely to move the companies, and it is even less likely to win the miners a good contract.

Bobby Brown, the chief negotiator for the companies, says he "is not optimistic."

And in the meantime, Church is busy trying to disorganize his opposition so he can have another shot at getting the membership to ratify basically the same agreement.

Three active opponents of that tentative contract settlement, Bob Long of Missouri, J.B. Trout of Kentucky and Tony Bumbico of Ohio, all members of the union's International Executive Committee, were sent to Arkansas in April—on a wild goose chase ordered by the president to get them out of their districts.

The BCOA seems content to wait. The *Wall Street Journal* quotes a company executive as saying, "We gave them a settlement too quickly" and concludes that the "negotiators aren't likely to give in easily to the union's demands."

Small coal companies are already hurting, and this has led to some division among the employers, though the giants like Consol are probably just as happy to watch their competition go under.

"We haven't any input," says Robert Long, an officer of the Hanks West Mining Co. in Montgomery, W. Va., complaining about Consol's hard-line in the bargaining.

"It's like taxation without representation."

The miners, however, are unlikely to sign separate agreements, even with large companies such as North American Co.

UMW members do hope that all this will put pressure on Bobby Brown and the big operators. But in the event of a settlement, rank and file miners would picket in any case, preventing any coal production.

### DEMONSTRATION

As we go to press, thousands of Consol miners from Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Ohio are planning an April 30 demonstration at Consol's headquarters in Pittsburgh—also to draw attention to the company's role.

The national press continue to blackout news of the strike—no doubt well aware of the great wave of sympathy that arose for the miners in the 111 day strike of 1977-78.

Still it is easy enough to see why the strike is so important to the miners—and why they deserve support.

On April 15 there was a terrible example of the importance of the issues.

Fifteen coal miners were killed in a methane gas explosion at the Dutch Creek no. 1 mine near Redstone, Colorado.

The mine was non-union and the explosion served both as a reminder that more than 100,000 coal miners have been killed on the job this century—and that the only protection the coal miners have is their union.

### VICTORY

The miners must be supported. A victory for them will be a victory for all workers!

by CAL WINSLOW

Contributions and messages support should be sent to Miners Relief Fund, UMWA District 6, Box 688, St. Clairsville, OH 43950.

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