

# WORKERS' Power

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# BANKS OUT TO BUST NEW YORK UNIONS

by Gay Semel and Dave Miller

Last June New York City became the first city to go broke since the Great Depression. To commemorate the occasion, the banks and big business took over—outright. They set up a super

agency, "Big MAC," to oversee the city's finances.

Big MAC celebrated by laying off 13,000 city workers and freezing all city wages for one year. The city politicians, led by "labor's friend" Democratic Party Mayor Abe Beame, celebrated by

biting their nails and saying, "Oh, my gosh!"

The city union leaders bowed, scraped, said "What can we do?," threw up their hands and accepted an agreement that amounted to a wage cut of 10-12% in exchange for a promise of no more layoffs.

Last week the banks and the city broke their promise.

Beame announced that the city had to save an additional \$200 million in salaries. That means at least another 15,000 layoffs, say those around City Hall.

Beame also announced that the

wage freeze would be extended for an additional two years, amounting to a total loss of real wages of at least 25%—probably closer to 50%.

### TEACHERS' CONTRACT

But most shocking of all was the revoking of the newly negotiated teachers contract.

The Emergency Financial Control Board (another newly set up superagency run by the banks and big business) announced that the "money available violates the city's plan for fiscal recovery."

In other words, although the new contract was seen as a disaster by rank and file teachers, the bankers did not find it disastrous enough.

The banks stepped in over the heads of the elected city government and cancelled a contract negotiated in good faith by the union.

As rotten as the contract was, teachers struck five days to get it. Individual teachers lost up to \$800 in pay (twice as many days' pay as they struck for are deducted from their paychecks). The union is still threatened with heavy fines and possible jail sentences.

All the banks had to do was give the nod and all that no longer exists.

### UNION-BUSTING

The banks are union-busting! And they are after a lot more than breaking the UFT. New York City unions are the strongest unions of government employees in the country. The banks want to smash them.

And as each step they take is met with little resistance, the banks get bolder. They are now drunk with power.

Immediately after these latest outrages were announced the city union leaders announced they were considering plans for a joint city-wide strike.

Their new-found militancy lasted all of 24 hours. The next day they retreated. But it is this continual shuffling and retreating of the city unions that has allowed the banks to wage all-out war on city workers.

The banks must be stopped. New York City is a testing ground. What happens there will set a pattern for city and other workers across the country.

Rank and file New York City workers must demand that their unions fight back.

- Recall all laid off workers
- Freeze bank payments—not wages
- A general strike of all city workers

For further coverage of the New York City crisis, see page 5.

# 800 March To 'Honor The Students'

LOUISVILLE—On the way home from the South End, the scene of Louisville's worst racist riots, a school bus driver stopped and put a young girl off the bus. Then he left her there, by the side of Interstate 64, alone and afraid.

Luckily, a passing truck driver stopped and saved her. He drove her home.

A black father told this true story. In a voice choked with emotion, he told what busing meant to his family.

Despite the incident he was still for busing. "You won't turn us back now."

He was speaking at the largest pro-busing demonstration in Louisville yet. More than 800 people, both black and white, filled the Central Presbyterian Church beyond its capacity.

### HONOR THE STUDENTS

They came to "Honor the Students," to demand an end to forced segregation, and to build a movement strong enough to stop the Ku Klux Klan.

The rally was organized by a coalition of religious, community, labor and political organizations, including the Louisville branch of the International Socialists.

The speakers praised the Louisville students, both black and white, for their courage in the face of the boycotts, the riots, the bombings, the fires, the stonings and beatings, the whole racist rampage.

A young white mother also spoke. She was from the South End. She denounced the idea that quality education could exist today.

"I don't know what quality education is under this system. I'm

for busing because I'm for equal education."

There were many speakers. Some denounced the city officials. Others attacked the police. One reported that already 17 Louisville policemen had joined the Klan.

After the rally, the audience marched downtown to the courthouse, and there were more speeches.

The demonstration was not as large and not as well organized as the demonstrations of the racists. Still it was very important. It showed that the children were not alone. And it showed that there is an alternative to racism and the Klan.

### NOT AFRAID

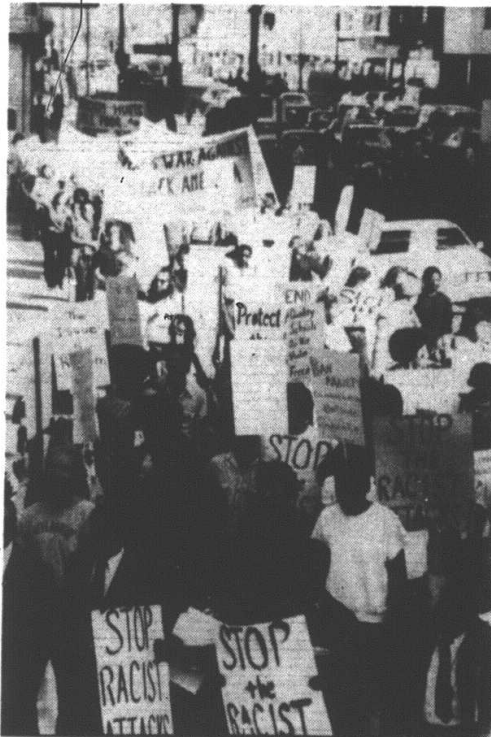
It showed that there are people who will not be intimidated, who will stand up to the hatred, the violence, the poison of the racists and the Klan.

And, finally, it began the fight to build a movement, "more than the handful that now exists" said another speaker. Most importantly, it also began to put forward a strategy that can win.

Harold Kincaid, a CWA steward, told the audience at the church that the Klan is now actively organizing in the plants and the unions. It will have to be opposed and stopped there. Kincaid is a leader of United Action, the rank and file telephone workers' organization.

"We can't be united at work," he said, "if we are divided in the community. Racism must be destroyed in the unions or our unions will be destroyed by racism."

"Black and white workers must fight racism for the sake of our own survival."



NO WEEKLY!

# Stop Forced Transfers!

# WORKERS ORGANIZE AT PITTSBURGH P.O.

On Oct. 25, 1975, 120 mailhandler employees of the Pittsburgh Post Office, will be transferred from the main Post Office Building downtown, to Warrendale Bulk Mail Center, in Warrendale, Pa. approximately 20 miles away. This means that these employees will have to make their own arrangements for transportation or even move closer to this installation in order to get work.

Here's a brief run down on Bulk Mail Center. It's a new automated installation, run strictly by a minimum number of workers and one hell of a lot of machines. The prime reason of this is total speed up of production.

The Union Local 322, has been reluctant to protect their workers from this transfer, so an opposition was formed by these employees, Mailhandlers Against Forced Transfers (MAFT). These workers got petitions signed, with over 300 names and two representatives from MAFT, delivered them to President Ermin Presley of Local 322 Mailhandlers Union, with three demands attached.

• Stop all forced transfers to Warrendale.

• Fill all existing vacancies with mailhandlers, that are now being filled with clerk employees.

• That President Ermin Presley step down from office, because they no longer want him to represent them.

Presley's response to the petition demands was "I don't have to explain to you what I plan to do about the transfers, and take that petition and shove it up your ass."

## WASHINGTON POST

# No Scabs Will Work Here

It's hard to find a daily newspaper in this country that hasn't jumped on the opportunity to denounce the Washington Post printers. Before beginning their strike in the early morning hours of October 1, the printers made sure the Post's presses would not soon be used by scab printers. The Post claimed a million dollars in damages was done.

Editorial columnists tell us that the "principle of a free press [is] in serious trouble." The management of the New York Times advised that "the vicious practice of destroying newspaper machinery has long been the mark of totalitarians intent on stifling freedom." The Times added that "the issues which led to a breakdown in contract negotiations are entirely irrelevant."

What the owners of the Times and Post mean is that the printing presses, their private property, are more important than the jobs and livelihoods of their printers. That their right to make a profit is more important than whether the printer's families are hungry.

That's precisely the issue that led to the strike. The Post, along with most major dailies, wants to automate by introducing such technologies as computerized typesetting and photographic printing. And when everything's measured

and get the hell out of my office."

It's no surprise to the rank and file that their demands were totally rejected by the so-called union leadership. This just follows the same trend that was clear when the postal workers were sold out by their leadership during the recent contract negotiations.

This new show of unity and strength in the ranks of the Postal Workers, signals a break from the period of inactivity since the 1970 postal strike.

Elmer Miller  
Pittsburgh, APWU

## ST. LOUIS

# Postal Worker Left To Die

On Friday, September 19, Ben Grisdell, a clerk at the main St. Louis Post Office, died on the job.

Before Grisdell died, he lay unattended on the floor for twenty-five minutes, while fellow workers attempted to get medical aid.

Friends of Grisdell, who was in his forties, had never known him to be ill. He seemed in good health when he arrived that day for work.

When he was stricken, co-workers immediately called the medical officer. At the same time, they began administering mouth to mouth resuscitation. The medical officer arrived too late.

### NOT FIRST TIME

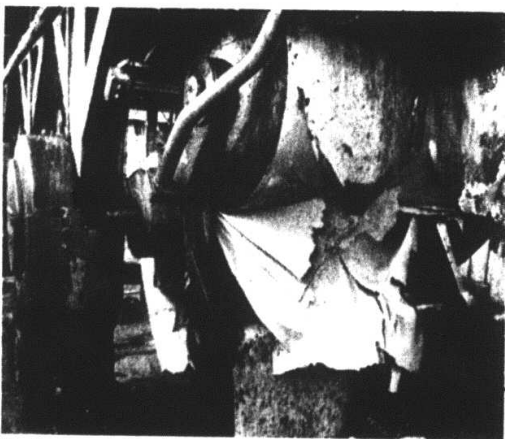
This was not the first time a worker has died in the St. Louis Post Office. Health and safety conditions are appalling.

Three people have died in the

last two years. There have also been several crippling injuries.

The following Monday, thirty postal employees, members of the newly formed Concerned Postal Employees, demonstrated at the Post Office.

They protested the lack of care in Grisdell's death. And they demanded two M.D.s on duty at all times, as well as general improvements in safety conditions.



The Post was looking for a fight. It got one.

by the profit margin, automation means one thing: fewer jobs.

Both the printers and the Post knew a confrontation was coming. The Post was making preparations to crush a strike. Before the printers walked out, the Post had given special training to non-union employees on how to operate the presses, and was simply stalling during the negotiations. "The Post hasn't shown any interest in serious bargaining," reported Local 6 pressmen's union President

John Dugan.

The Post was looking for a fight, and it got one. The battle's being fought both on the picket line and through propaganda aimed at other Post workers and the public. All the Post's noise about freedom of the press is just an attempt to muddy the waters.

There's just one issue at stake here, and that's a workers' right to a job.

Jim Woodward

## labor notes

by Jim Woodward

**Quote of the Week:** "A lot of people think that human rights are more important than property rights, but that's not what the Constitution says."—Donald Curlee of the South Central (California) Farmers' Committee, arguing that organizers for the United Farm Workers union should not be allowed on grower's property to talk to the workers.



Bethlehem Steel Corp. has announced it will close four structural steel fabricating plants, throwing 2640 employees out of work. Bethlehem acted after the workers refused to take a 10% wage cut. This despite the steel industry's no-strike deal, which United Steel Workers' President I.W. Abel promised would bring job security.

Despite such "successes," the USW is still boasting about the no-strike deal [ENA]. They recently sent one Bruce Thrasher, an International Rep., to Britain to teach British steel workers how modern-day labor relations are conducted.

Thrasher met with the top brass of several British unions and some steel executives. He reported: "They are desperate for guidance and counseling in developing [a no-strike deal] and other programs... Their union structure, sad to say, is weighted heavily at the top contrary to membership participation in the democratic USWA. They look longingly to the day when they, too, perhaps will have an ENA to govern negotiations."

A final word on I.W. Abel. His unofficial campaign to get the USW's Constitution changed so he can run for re-election has met some opposition. Delegates to the USW District 9 conference voted unanimously to oppose any change in the Constitution for this purpose. District 9 covers New Jersey and Eastern Pennsylvania.

Another company is trying to get its workers to accept a no-strike deal. National Airlines, currently grounded because of a strike of flight attendants, has asked its unions to enter into a five-year no-strike plan. National is the most anti-union of all the major airlines. It provoked a 108-day strike by the Machinists last year, and has been holding off the attendants for a month and a half already this year. Their no-strike proposal is sort of like the cat inviting the mouse over for dinner. But, according to the Air Line Pilots Association and the Association of Flight Attendants, some of the mice are seriously considering the invitation.

UPS drivers in the San Francisco Bay Area are fighting an incentive plan. It goes this way: do nine hours work in eight hours, and you get paid for nine hours straight time. UPS not only saves the overtime pay, but forces the drivers to "prove" they can work faster. The next step is to add more deliveries to the number previously expected. Teamsters Local 278 in San Francisco has effectively stopped the system, but some other centers around the Bay Area are working under it. All the top UPS management in San Francisco is from out of town—it looks like an attempt to tame the union or bust it.

What's happening where you work? Send items for this column to Workers' Power, 14131 Woodward Ave., Highland Park, MI 48203. Or phone 313-869-5965.



Five hundred and fifty members of United Electrical Workers Local 259, Holyoke, Mass., are in the fifth week of a strike against Worthington Compressor. The main issues in the strike, which began September 6, are wages and cost of living increases.

The previous contract expired September 1, 1975 after two months and a series of fruitless meetings between local UE representatives and Worthington-Studebaker officials.

Worthington is a multinational company employing more than 500,000 workers in thirty states and twelve countries. The company dragged its feet all through negotiations and only made an offer three days after the old contract expired.

Meanwhile UE reached a compromise with its ranks to work to rule for one week without a contract. For several days, production slowed to a crawl. On September 5, after a unanimous vote, the men walked out.

Scab truckers employed by a local firm, Martin's, tried to cross the picket lines. But the rock hard

solidarity of the strike meant they were able to get through only with police escorts, armed guards and dogs in the cars.

Teamsters Local 404 is honoring the line. At an early point one striker was beaten by scab truckers and police.

Efforts to break the picket lines have proved expensive. Martin's has reportedly spent more than \$7,000 on truck tires, windshields, and other equipment.

Support for the strike is solid throughout Holyoke and surrounding areas. Western Mass. International Socialists has pledged support along with other groups and local unions.

A strike fund exists and the local doctors agreed to treat Worthington employees after the company ended medical insurance payments.

A soup kitchen, barber shop and welfare committee have also been established.

There are mass pickets scheduled where strikers are joined by supporters from the community.

Brad Brousseau

# Louisville Violence Continues; Union Tops Build Racist Group

by Tom Jackson

LOUISVILLE—The racist violence over court-ordered busing for desegregation continues. Occasional rioting occurs in the mostly white South End. The violence has taken many different forms.

Buses have been shot at. One was recently forced off the interstate, risking the lives of the students.

At night buses have been fire-bombed and vandalized. Schools have been broken into and ripped off, and trash fires set outside.

**But the most dangerous and far-reaching development is the stepped-up organization of the anti-busing forces.**

There are anti-busing demonstrations planned five out of seven nights this week. All white politicians are now making their anti-busing positions clear.

The movement is steadily becoming more openly identified with racism. At a recent demonstration of mothers and children in the South End one sign read, "Bus the Niggers Back To Africa."

## COMMITMENT

Recent developments show a new degree of commitment, organization, sophistication and financial backing in the racist movement. The current organizing more seriously challenges the rights of blacks to equal education than any of the earlier violence.

Several right wing groups are being organized out of the anti-busing forces.

One is the Okalona Merchants and Businessmen's Association. It's made up of small businessmen who intend to organize others and who have promised money to anti-busing forces.

**But more dangerous than racism among businessmen is the racist organizing now being carried on in the unions.**

One right-wing organizer, George Tolhurst, is a member of a new coalition trying to put out an anti-busing newspaper—first locally, then national.

I spoke with him at International Harvester. He and others were quite successfully collecting buckets of money from UAW members. I was told the coalition had union support—they could not be on the parking lot without union and company approval.

## RIGHT-WING

Right wingers are trying to organize anti-busing workers into a racist movement.

United Labor Against Busing (ULAB) is leading this movement. Its principal leader is Ken Cassidy, president of IUE Local 761, a local of 18,000 members.

Cassidy organized a strike against busing when school opened. The group is organizing a bus caravan of Louisville trade unionists to rally against busing in Washington, D.C. October 25. A leaflet publicizing this was printed by Cassidy's local.

Distribution of these leaflets through local presidents of other

unions has been through. ULAB boasts it will be able to take 5000 union members to Washington.

**But Cassidy is not unchallenged. At a meeting of his own local, 80 black members were instrumental in defeating a racist motion.**

The Executive Board was asking the local to endorse an openly anti-labor candidate for governor. The Board supported him because he is more anti-busing than his opponent. But the motion was defeated by one vote.

## FLAW

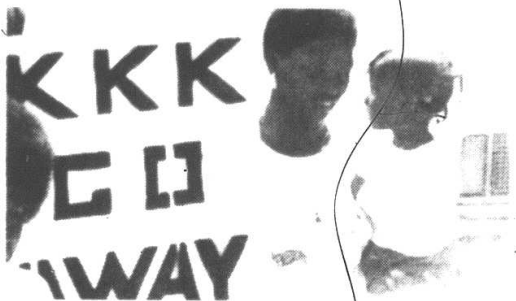
This incident shows the fatal flaw in white workers supporting racism. The 80 black workers at that

meeting could not be hoodwinked into supporting an anti-labor candidate, because he was racist.

**A racist movement will always become anti-labor. White workers should not be fooled into thinking that racism will get them anything. When racism divides workers, the bosses step in and use the situation to destroy hard won union gains.**

This is exactly what will happen if this racist movement is allowed to grow unchecked. It is already happening in Louisville.

There is a group in Louisville opposing the racists. It is Progress In Education, a recently formed coalition that held a successful anti-racist rally (see story, p. 1). Every worker and union member should join with and support this group. □



# Klan in Twenties Terror Group Reborn

Racist right-wing groups like the Ku Klux Klan don't spring up from nowhere. Today they are part of the anti-busing drive—a movement broader than the Klan. After Reconstruction the Klan was one of many tools used to shove the newly-freed slaves back down on their knees.

World War I and the Great Migration of black people North meant deep changes in the black

community—and the level of oppression that blacks were willing to quietly endure. The Ku Klux Klan was reborn. Again it became one weapon used against blacks and the tremendous social change that began to take place in the twenties and thirties.

community—and the level of oppression that blacks were willing to quietly endure. The Ku Klux Klan was reborn. Again it became one weapon used against blacks and the tremendous social change that began to take place in the twenties and thirties.

## Second of a Series

by Kay Stacy and Terry Cushman

On October 15, 1915 34 men declared themselves the Invisible Empire of the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan. They were led by William Simmons, a Methodist minister from Alabama so corrupt the church denied him a pulpit.

This was a "new" Klan, the Second Klan. But its message was the same as the post-Civil War Klan. Just as today, behind the "respectability" lay racism, terrorism, and thuggery. The KKK's hate list included not only blacks, but all those of non-Anglo-Saxon descent, especially Jews and Catholics.

Why, after decades of segregation, when black people were almost totally excluded from Southern society, was a "new" Klan necessary?

## WORLD WAR I

When black veterans returned from World War I, they expected some changes. They had put their lives on the line for American-style democracy. They had seen in Europe that black people were not always treated like animals.

Only in America, particularly the South, were there separate schools, neighborhoods, drinking fountains, toilets and public transportation; total exclusion from jobs, voting and elected office.

Following World War I new immigration policies—the quota

system—limited emigration into the United States. For the first time unskilled labor to fuel the growing Northern industries came from inside America. Thousands fled their impoverished rural lives for jobs and prosperity in the North. The first blacks were hired into meat-packing, steel and auto industries. Soon tens of thousands of black people were beginning the Great Migration north.

## JIM CROW

And racist as the North was, Jim Crow did not rule the land—as it certainly did in the South. The contrast between racist oppression in the South and relatively better conditions elsewhere deepened. Segregation was becoming too bitter a pill for blacks to silently swallow. A new movement was being born—A. Philip Randolph, WEB DuBois, Marcus Garvey, these would be its leaders.

And blacks were not the only people in America who were fed up with the status quo. In 1917 there had been a working class revolution in Russia. Revolutionary movements swept Europe. American workers responded.

Throughout 1919 there was a massive strike wave. General strikes in both steel and packing-house industries were waged by white and black workers.

American workers were weak. There were no organizations, no strong trade unions, in which to

### BLACK STUDENTS OFTEN ATTACKED

Some white students carried racist organizing into the schools, with no resistance from the authorities. One incident at formerly all-white Ballard High shows this. Scores of whites left the building at lunch to protest busing across the street. Other whites joined them.

Black students were "advised" by the white assistant principal to challenge the protesters. They were told, essentially, to leave the safety of the building and confront the whites on a hill near the school.

When the blacks approached the hill they were attacked with bricks and bottles. The fighting spread and continued after school. And as one young black woman explained, "My bus didn't show. I'm in an all white neighborhood. What am I supposed to do?"

The next day a group of fifty, led by angry black students from Ballard and their parents, confronted a representative

from the Superintendent's office at the Board of Education Building. He asked for evidence and time to investigate.

They demanded the assistant principal's firing, but he refused to even suspend him. The next day the Superintendent's response was to say the students had lied. The next day blacks at Ballard wanted to demonstrate about the incident. They were told that it was all right to demonstrate yesterday when it was whites) but that there would be no demonstrations that day.

In other schools the incidents and double-standards prevail. In one inner-city school, whites from the South End left to demonstrate with an attempt made to stop them. The whites from the inner city and blacks were kept in special school halls and treated as if they were a crowd to be kept under control. The whites were welcomed back with opened arms and school continues as normal. □



will be at every polling place with his book. Don't Get In That Book!"

## \$75 MILLION

In Ohio, 12 mayors were Klansmen. Supreme Court Justice Hugo Black was a member of the Klan. In 1925 the KKK collected \$75 million in contributions and dues.

In 1924, the Klan prevented Al Smith, a Catholic, from getting the Presidential nomination by raising the slogan "Keep the Pope Out of the White House."

During the 30's the Klan fought with the bosses against the union organizing drives. It was instrumental in keeping the CIO steel and textile organizing committees out of the South.

With World War II the shake up in social relations began over two decades before ended. Thousands of blacks had been brutally terrorized and physically eliminated. Racism and the Klan was one of the tools successfully used to stabilize capitalist society.

The KKK again fell into disfavor. Its bloody zeal was no longer needed, and its pro-German leanings made it an embarrassment. The last major activity of the Klan in this period was a joint Klan-Nazi cross-burning at Camp Nordlund in New Jersey in 1940. □

## Workers' Power 131

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## Portugal is drifting toward civil war.

Two weeks ago, the latest government, led by Premier Pinheiro de Azevedo, took the first steps toward a right wing coup. He ordered crack troops to occupy the radio stations run by left-wing workers. The troops, however, went over to the side of the workers. Within twenty-four hours of the mobilization, soldiers who were once considered the government's most loyal were part of joint picket lines with the stations' workers.

This right wing offensive not only failed to retake the radio stations. It also sparked a fantastic rank and file movement within the army. This movement, led by the Soldiers United for Victory (SUV), has now spread to each of the four military districts in Portugal.

The government originally hoped that in the event of civil war it could leave Lisbon and defend itself from the military regions in the North, center, and South.

Now the rank and file movement has spread even to Evora, in the South, and the government cannot depend on the great majority of the soldiers.

Rank and file soldiers have also seized the barracks, protesting orders to purge and reorganize dissident units. They have held the Oporto barracks despite government efforts and right wing demonstrations led by the Socialist Party (SP).

One week ago Monday, 100,000 workers demonstrated in Oporto in support of these soldiers.

At the same time, workers responded to Azevedo's move by organizing popular assemblies. In Setubal, Portugal's second largest industrial city, this began when unity between soldiers and workers broke the hold of the right-wing military commander over his troops.

This was followed by the creation of committees of struggle made up of workers' committees, tenants' committees, and a soldiers' committee elected in the 11th Infantry Regiment.

These committees, now called the Popular Assemblies, are intended to involve all the enterprises and factories in the industrial zone. They are to spread information about the military situation and the political situation. They are also to prepare for the defense of the conquests already won by the workers.

These Assemblies, which have now spread to Lisbon, Oporto, and many other cities, show the way forward in Portugal. The success of the revolution ultimately depends on the formation of joint worker and soldier committees—soviets, the basis for socialism in Portugal.

Wednesday, October 15th, there was a national strike of metal workers. It was called by the metal workers union which is led by the Communist Party (CP).

The strike was to be a half-day demonstration demanding increased wages. But it quickly turned into a political demonstration, even in the small towns of the conservative North.

In the past two weeks, the CP has actually held back the mobilization of workers. In the first three days following the attack on the radio stations, for example, the CP said nothing at all.

When it finally did take a stand, it concentrated on warning CP members to guard against the "ultra-left." In response to this, in the midst of the right offensive, many party members tore up their cards in disgust.

Now the Communist Party has begun to mobilize its members and supporters, but under the slogan "No to Civil War." The fact is, however, that everyone else is busily preparing for precisely that.

The CP now hopes for a more powerful role in a new government, in alliance with the Socialist Party. It does this despite the fact that the SP continues to move to the right. Two months ago the SP presented itself as the brave heroes, fighting military dictatorship and defending freedom of the press.

At its most recent Lisbon demonstration the SP's main slogans were for the restoration of discipline in the army and the confiscation of arms from the workers.

In the past several days there has been street fighting in Oporto. This began with right wing demonstrations demanding that left-wing soldiers abandon their barracks. The soldiers have held firm, however. The tragedy now is that the only person killed in this fighting was a Maoist member of the MRPP killed by a Maoist member of the UDP.

These groups continue to concentrate their fire on each other, despite the desperate need for revolutionary unity.

The drift toward civil war continues, but neither side is strong enough to attack the other. The Azevedo government will undoubtedly fall soon. In the meantime, the left is somewhat stronger than the right, because of the strength of the rank and file soldiers and the support of the workers.

The Revolutionary Party of the Proletariat (PRP) is the most important revolutionary group. The PRP is now concentrating on building the SUV. Its strategy is to prevent a civil war between different sections of the army, while using the days ahead to prepare the workers and the oppressed masses of Portugal for an armed insurrection.

In the words of a soldier from Coimbra, a city in the center, "The only way to avoid civil war is by being prepared to fight to the end against capitalism—to replace the bourgeois army by an armed wing of working class power, a popular revolutionary army."

## SUPPORT THE WORKERS REVOLUTION IN PORTUGAL DEMONSTRATE OCTOBER 18

New York: Noon. State Department Offices, 250 W. 57th St.

Detroit: 1 pm. Federal Building, 231 Lafayette, downtown.

Chicago: 1 pm. Federal Building, 219 So. Dearborn.

St. Louis: 2 pm. Federal Building, 1114 Market, St. Louis.

Seattle: Noon. New Federal Building, 2nd and Madison, Seattle.

Bay Area: 1 pm. Federal Building, San Francisco.

Los Angeles: 1 pm. Federal Building, Downtown, 100 N. Los Angeles St., Los Angeles

## Portugal Demonstration in Boston

Boston: Sponsored by Cambridge Tenants Organizing Committee, Somerville Tenants Union, and Portuguese Committee for Democratic Action. 1:00 pm. Assemble Ahern Field, next to Kennedy School. Intersection of Spring and Sixth, East Cambridge.

# Soldiers Unite For Victory

The Portuguese government is rapidly losing the ability to get anyone to follow its orders. If it cannot begin to restore its discipline to the army, the government will collapse.

But the revolution is spreading within the army. More and more, soldiers are refusing to suppress workers. And they are not only supporting, but also leading, revolutionary action.

The revolutionary offensive in the Portuguese Army is led by a new rank and file soldiers' movement, called Soldiers United for Victory (SUV).

SUV first appeared in early September in the north, when President Costa Gomes removed the left wing general Carvalho against the wishes of the troops. This signalled an attempt to purge the left from the army.

The revolutionary soldiers began a struggle not only against the

changes at the top, but against the whole purge. And they linked their own struggle with the power of workers' and tenants' commissions in the city of Oporto.

On September 10, SUV held its first demonstration. 2000 uniformed soldiers led tens of thousands of workers.

### SPREAD

Since then, SUV has spread to all four military regions.

It has grown because soldiers are joining with workers to fight the right wing offensive which will bring fascism if not defeated.

SUV says that Portugal must not become the Chile of Europe. In Chile in 1973, right wing officers maintained control of the army, and a growing revolution was defeated by a right-wing officers' coup.

SUV's program is revolutionary.

It wants to destroy the bourgeois army and create a revolutionary workers' army. SUV demands that right wing officers be ousted from the army.

SUV stands for democracy within the army, and democratically elected soldiers' councils. These councils are the organ of working class power within the army, the power that can prevent another Chile.

In Lisbon there is now a revolutionary council of military units, which elected delegates from 16 of the 20 units in the Lisbon area. Most delegates are privates.

At the critical Belrolas arms depot, the government voted that arms should be turned over to reliable right wing units. The soldiers responded by voting that no more arms will be allowed to leave.

SUV is the rank and file soldiers' response to the rightward turn of

the Armed Forces Movement (MFA). Rank and file soldiers no longer trust the MFA to govern Portugal.

The Armed Forces Movement was composed mainly of middle class officers who promised revolution when fascism fell in 1974. But when real workers' revolution began, they vacillated and finally sided with the right wing against workers' power.

The MFA and the so-called "Supreme Revolutionary Council" are now instruments of the right wing officers—but they have little authority.

When the government tried to seize worker occupied radio stations, General Otelo de Carvalho begged workers not to oppose the government. Carvalho was the MFA officer who had been most identified with the revolutionary left. After this, his prestige and popularity declined steeply.

The Air Force was the stronghold of the right wing in the armed forces. Even there, privates in the

officer-dominated Air Force walked out of the meeting last Friday. They made it clear they are building their own movement.

The strategy of Soldiers United for Victory is in no way separate from the struggle of the working class. Its aim is to prevent the capitalist government from organizing a civil war to crush the working class.

As long as the soldiers have their own powerful organization the government cannot terrorize them into obeying orders against workers. Soldiers United for Victory is the workers' and soldiers' immediate defense against the right wing, while workers continue to organize for socialist revolution. □

# NYC TEACHERS BANKS REVOKE CONTRACT

When New York City teachers won a new contract four weeks ago they ended their strike and went back to work. Most teachers considered the new contract a defeat but felt helpless in the face of NYC's financial crisis.

Three weeks later Governor Carey's Emergency Financial Control Board announced that the contract exceeded the "money available, and violates the city's plan for fiscal recovery." The contract was declared null and void.

New York City is deep in debt to its big banks. The Board is supposed to figure out how to pay them.

Here's what they considered "excessive" in the teachers' contract:

- 2400 of 15,000 laid off teachers were to be rehired. This would reduce class size somewhat. Average classes are now near 40. Class size was the main issue of the strike.

- Teachers were to get a meagre pay hike. (Very meagre. They wouldn't have seen most of it because the city has a wage freeze for public employees.)

This is what the Board wants to take away from students and teachers and give to the banks.

## "NEGOTIATIONS"

Albert Shanker, President of the United Federation of Teachers responded by requesting the resumption of "negotiations," hoping that somehow the politicians will save his neck. He refuses to recognize that the banks and big business are making the decisions — out in the open now. And they are determined to crush and humiliate the unions.

Shanker had something else to say. Before the Board's recent decision to void the contract, he had declared the strike a victory. Now, in an unprecedented move Shanker is saying he opposed it from the start. He was unable to "control" or "persuade" his exec board or the teachers.

The revocation of the contract is a heavy defeat for teachers and all city workers. But it could be converted into a gain.

To do so, the UFT would have to

## Students Angry Too

The rocketing class-size in New York City schools is resulting in student revolts throughout the city. Many classes of up to 75 students have been reported, and learning is impossible under such conditions. Last week, 20,000 high school students boycotted classes, in protest.

"We're not going back till class size comes down," they said. □

## IS NEW YORK REALLY BROKE?

New York City is broke. Bankers, President Ford, top business executives and the national news media say that New York's empty coffers are the result of too much high living.

The truth is New York has been bled dry by the banks.

It all began some 70 odd years ago, when the Rockefeller clan sold part of the then privately-owned subway system to the city.

The city could not afford to pay for the subway. So they borrowed money from the banks—Rockefeller-owned banks. And of course, when the Rockefeller-owned banks loaned New York City the money to buy the Rockefeller-owned subway

they charged interest.

Over the years other loans have been added on, and the debt plus the interest has been growing ever since. Today the city owes the banks around \$13 billion. The interest alone is \$1.6 billion.

## IF

If the city just stopped paying interest—just the interest—all laid off workers could be brought back. All city workers could receive their cost of living raises. All the additional cuts in services could be restored.

And there would still be millions left over. □

## INDIANA STEELWORKERS STRIKE

MISHAWAKA, IND.—On Monday October 6, Steelworkers of Local 1191 walked off their jobs and set up picket lines in a wildcat strike action at Dodge Division of Reliance Electric Corporation.

The walkout reflected rank and file anger over union grievance procedures and a massive speedup by the company.

The walkout began when Dodge management handed trucker John Strahan a three-day suspension for refusing to pick up scrap. Strahan refused the order after the company decided to eliminate the job of scrap hauler and re-assign his duties to the utility trucker.

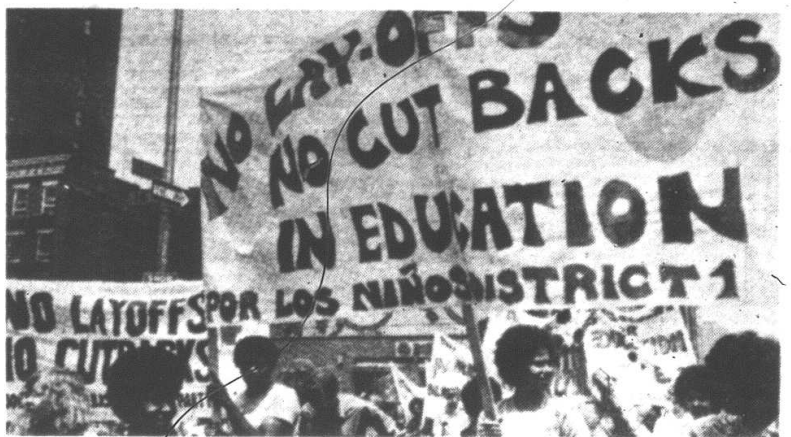
Dodge management has eliminated 150 such jobs over the last year, forcing workers to double up. There is also an ongoing speedup campaign within the plant. All jobs

paid on an incentive basis have been re-timed, and higher daily quotas set.

One picket stated: "Every time we get going really busting up to 125%, the supervisor comes around and tells how the job has been retimed and that you're only putting out 95%."

A court injunction was issued October 11 ordering the workers back, but they ignored the order and remained out on the picket lines. The company has refused to negotiate until the strikers return to work.

But as one picket put it: "Our union has not been able to do a damn thing. The company is violating the contract everywhere it can. This is the only weapon we have to fight back with—and we'll stay out till we win." □



forge a coalition with other public employee unions. All have been double crossed by the politicians. With Big MAC and Carey's Board making decisions about the whole city, the UFT and other unions can't afford to go it alone anymore.

Opposition teachers in the UFT have begun organizing around these demands:

- Forge a coalition with other city unions (IBT, TWU, AFSCME, Police and Firemen).

- The coalition's policies must be: No individual union deals; establish rank and file local units of the coalition; proclaim readiness to organize united citywide actions up to and including a joint strike;

demand more jobs and recall all laid off workers.

- Don't freeze wages. Freeze payments to the banks.

- Human rights and job rights above bank rights.

Teachers can no longer afford Shanker's strategy of making private deals with the politicians at the expense of other unions. □



## Which Side Are You On?

by Kim Moody

## Cleaning Up The IBT

Recently, in several important cities, rank and file Teamsters have come up with the idea of demanding a federal investigation of the Teamsters Union. "Action for Hoffa" is a group based in Local 208 in Los Angeles. It has demanded that President Ford, yes Gerald Ford, order the Justice Department to investigate the union.

Another group of Teamsters has petitioned Senator Robert Griffin, the Republican from Michigan, to call for a Congressional investigation of the Teamsters Union and its leadership. At the same time, PRO, the "professional drivers" organization, has also called for a federal investigation.

There is no doubt that the Teamsters Union is festering with corruption—including a vast network of gangsters and goons. At the same time, most rank and file teamsters believe that Frank Fitzsimmons himself was involved in the disappearance of Jimmy Hoffa.

As it turns out, however, there are different motives behind these calls for government intervention into the Teamsters. Some local officials, particularly in Los Angeles would like to take advantage of the present situation to regain control of the union for the old guard Hoffa supporters. These men would like to see Jimmy Hoffa Jr. run against Fitzsimmons. And, if not Jimmy Jr., then one of the old time hacks such as Harold Gibbons of St. Louis or Roy Williams of Kansas City.

Dissatisfied rank and filers, on the other hand, believe a federal investigation might actually clean up the mess and put Fitz behind bars. They also hope that a clean union with better leadership might lead the fight for a decent contract in 1976.

The Hoffa hacks try to take advantage of this sentiment. They appeal to the "good old days" when Jimmy pushed the companies around.

The truth, however, is that the "good old days" were the 1950's when the economy was in fairly good shape and the trucking industry was growing. Today, the economy, not just in the US but from Europe to Japan, is in crisis. The trucking industry is also in crisis. Lay offs, mergers, and changes of operation are the order of the day.

No union leadership can win job security, protect working conditions, and get real wage increases by using the old methods of business unionism, whether in the colorful style of Jimmy Hoffa or the bland mode of Frank Fitzsimmons. Today, it will take determined direct action against the companies. Hoffa used to threaten an industry wide strike, but he never used it any more than his protégé Frank Fitzsimmons is likely to use it.

The Teamsters also face something more than stubborn employers. They face planned government

resistance. John Dunlop of the Labor Department and W.J. Usery of the Federal Mediation Service have already publicly stated that they will not stand still for a big settlement in the Teamster Master Freight Agreement that expired at the end of next March. Fitzsimmons, of course, will not buck the government. But the fact is that the big shots from the old Hoffa camp don't have much more to say about it than Fitz. In fact, it is these people and their local supporters who propose to invite the government to investigate the union on the eve of a contract fight.

Now it should be common sense that if the government announces that it is out to stop any big settlement, that the government is doing the work of the employers. Even those who don't believe that the government is permanently in the service of the bosses, should be able to figure out what the government plans to do when the government announces it publicly. So when the heads of two government agencies tell you they are going to fight a big settlement, you just might want to think twice about inviting them in to rummage through the union. Obviously, it makes no difference whether the government gets in through the front door—official intervention in negotiations—or through the back door—an alleged "investigation"—by invitation.

The fight to be made in the Teamsters union at this time is the fight for a good contract. It is this fight that can rally thousands of rank and file teamsters, put the test to the Hoffa dynasty, and put Fitzsimmons on the run. Government interference at this point would be a stumbling block to this fight. With Fitz fully prepared to give in to the bosses, you can bet that the government would cover him long enough to shove a rotten contract down the throats of 450,000 freight workers and the thousands more teamsters whose contract terms are set by what is won in Master Freight.

You can also be sure that the government will do a job on those rank and file militants who lead the fight for a decent contract. For rank and filers to invite their enemy into the house is just suicide.

Look at the million dollar fines being enforced on militant locals in Pittsburgh and St. Louis. Then try to say that the government will be impartial about what goes on in the next few months. No, the government is out to break the power of the Teamsters Union; not because they're afraid of Fitzsimmons, but because they're afraid of a membership that is fed up and ready to fight. The leaders of "Action for Hoffa," PRO and similar groups would do well to cancel their invitation and put their energy into a real fight over the contract. □

# WORKERS' POWER GOES WEEKLY

## Revolução

Comrades,

The greatest solidarity that revolutionaries can give one another is to make revolution in their own country. We want to thank you for the help and cooperation you have given us in the past. But an even more important aid is the welcome news that **Workers' Power** is to become weekly.

The paramount importance of spreading revolutionary ideas in the United States is a vital contribution to the future workers' revolution in the United States. Certainly it will have an impact on the world as a whole, and to all who fight against imperialism.

That you will be carrying regular news of our revolution to the American workers, of our struggle for the rule of the Portuguese workers through autonomous organs

of popular power, revolutionary councils of workers, soldiers and sailors, is of enormous encouragement and joy to us. It deepens the international significance of our efforts when we know they have a meaning for workers elsewhere. It makes a reality of proletarian internationalism, the solidarity of working people in all countries for each others' liberation.

Comrades, we hope that this will strengthen the fraternal relations between us. That your IS will fight the CIA intervention in our revolution, and the economic sabotage of international capitalism. And most of all, that our revolution will become yours.

**Political Committee  
Proletarian Revolutionary Party-  
Revolutionary Brigades**

## Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

Comrades,

The Editorial Board of **Socialist Worker** sends the warmest fraternal greetings to **Workers' Power** on the occasion of your becoming a weekly paper.

Over the last two years we have watched with admiration and enthusiasm as you have transformed your paper into one of the finest working-class agitational papers in the world.

The growth in influence of **Workers' Power** is a sign of the awakening of the American working class from the sleep of years.

The transformation of your paper will enable you to play more fully the role of leading the fight for socialist ideas, for black liberation and for solidarity with the Portuguese revolution. A weekly paper will be an

**the worker**  
FOR A WORKERS' REPUBLIC AND INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISM

Dear Comrades,

We greet with acclamation your decision to produce **Workers' Power** as a weekly paper. We know that this reflects the increasing strength and confidence of the **International Socialists**.

The growing fight of the working class in the heartland of capitalism gives encouragement to workers throughout the world. The need is ever more apparent for international solidarity among the working class, from the struggle in Ireland, to embattled Portugal.

We wish you revolutionary success in the venture you are undertaking.

Yours fraternally,  
Standing Committee,  
**Socialist Workers' Movement  
Ireland**

invaluable weapon in building a revolutionary workers' party in the United States; a party which is capable of defeating US capitalism.

We in Britain recognise that the liberation of mankind from capitalism and imperialism cannot be carried out in one country alone. We realise that our hopes for the future are bound up with your struggles.

We therefore salute the new **Workers' Power** not simply out of good will but also in recognition that its success will lighten the burden of workers in Britain and throughout the world.

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

Fraternally,  
C.J. Harman, Editor

**THE Battler**

Dear Comrades,

The members of the **Socialist Workers' Action Group** would like to express their warmest congratulations on the creation of a weekly **Workers' Power**. We have long relied on **Workers' Power** for the best coverage of the American labour movement, the struggles of rank and file workers, and the movements of the oppressed against racism and sexism. A weekly paper will undoubtedly provide even better coverage.

More important, the weekly paper will be a big help in building these struggles, and in building the **International Socialists**.

Ron Flaherty  
Ruth Stein  
for the Political Committee  
**SWAG, Australia**

## Workers Need Their Own Pa

by Gay Semel  
Editor

Jordan Sims is the president of UAW Local 961. He is also the co-chairman of the United National Caucus—a rank and file opposition group within the UAW.

In 1970 Sims was chairman of his plant shop committee. He and other local executive board members led a walkout over working conditions, health and safety, and a breakdown of the grievance procedure.

Chrysler fired Sims. They also fired the executive board members involved and several workers.

The UAW then made a deal with Chrysler. Everyone except Sims was brought back. Sims' case was sent through the grievance procedure which the UAW lost.

Sims was out of a job, and if the UAW officials had their way, out of the UAW.

But Sims remained active in his local. He ran for President several times. After the international-backed candidate was caught with his hand in the till, a fair election had to be held. Sims won.

### TRUSTEESHIP

Last week the UAW put Local 961 under trusteeship.

According to UAW Vice President Doug Fraser, as quoted in the Detroit Free Press, the trusteeship was invoked because of Sims' decision to "arbitrarily remove" financial secretary John Kronenberg was the "last straw."

According to **Workers' Power** (this issue, page 12), Sims' decision to remove Kronenberg was not at all arbitrary.

Kronenberg had changed the combination of the safe, refused to give the new combination to Sims,

refused to make out the payroll and refused to let Sims make out the payroll. Kronenberg also denied Sims access to various records and books of the local.

Having no recourse, Sims suspended Kronenberg. The suspension was brought by Sims to a membership meeting of the local where it was upheld. (See page 12 for further details.)

The story in the Detroit Free Press never mentioned the membership meeting. It implied that it was Sims who was fooling around with the books. In fact, the Free Press story implied that Sims is behind or at least connected with corruption in the local going back five years.

**Why are the stories in the Detroit Free Press and Workers' Power so different. The answer is simple—class.**

The Free Press represents the bosses and their interests. **Workers' Power** represents the workers.

### NOT OBJECTIVE

Contrary to what we are taught in school, the press is not objective. Every newspaper, radio station and magazine has a point of view—mostly the bosses'.

That is because it takes millions, even billions, to run a city paper or TV network.

**Those who have the money—like the Hearsts—want to keep it. They know how the system works, what strengthens it and what weakens it. And that is the way they report the news.**

The Knight-Ritter newspaper chain, which owns the Free Press, knows that Chrysler does not want militants like Jordan Sims around. They make trouble. They lead walkouts over things like improved working conditions. Walkouts cost

Chrysler money. So does improving working conditions.

In a union dispute between the International officials and the rank and file, the Detroit Free Press also knows which side it is on.

The top union leaders believe in the system. They don't want anything that would shake things up. So they too worry more about what Chrysler wants than what their rank and file want.

They've come to this position after many years of fat salaries and living in the bosses' neighborhoods.

So the Free Press reports Doug Fraser's version of the story—**Workers' Power** prints Jordan Sims'.

### DOES MORE

**But Workers' Power does much more than print the workers' side. It not only reports the rank and file struggle; it helps build it.**

Another example.

The Teamsters union is about to begin negotiations on the National Master Freight Agreement. Teamsters, like everyone else, have been hit by massive layoffs and inflation. Time and again the Teamster bureaucracy has sold out individual struggles. And if Fitzsimmons has his way the MFA will be no exception.

But Fitzsimmons may not have his way. Teamsters in Cleveland, Pittsburgh, Chicago, Indianapolis, Memphis, and Little Rock have organized a new organization—Teamsters for a Decent Contract (TDC). TDC is spreading across the country. **Workers' Power** is helping.

**Workers' Power** has carried news of TDC from the beginning. **Workers' Power** has discussed the issues and why TDC formed. We

## WORKERS' ACTION

Dear Workers' Power,

Congratulations on an historic achievement! **Workers' Power** is far and away the best socialist paper in the United States. By going weekly you will be able to build a real presence for revolutionary ideas in the American working class and you will have a tool for making the **International Socialists** the revolutionary organization in the US that

### KLASSENKAMPF

The **Socialists Workers Group of West Germany** is glad to hear that the **International Socialists** have decided to produce a weekly working class paper. With world capitalism plunging into its deepest crisis since World War II, the working class everywhere is facing cuts in its living standards. The Portuguese revolution clearly marks a new phase in the struggle for international working class power. It shows to Marxist

can offer a real lead to workers' struggles.

In a time when the working class around the world is moving forward with a new militancy, **Workers' Power** will be in a unique position to build international solidarity with the workers' movements of different countries. All power to you!

**Workers' Action**  
Monthly Paper of the  
**Independent Socialists of Canada**

revolutionaries throughout the world the task which will soon be facing them.

It is in this context that we wish the best success to you great and difficult initiative to build a Marxist organization in the USA around a working class paper.

With revolutionary greetings,  
**SAG**  
**(Sozialistischer Arbeiter Gruppe—  
Socialist Workers Group)**



# ES WEEKLY!

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**Workers' Power** has carried  
news of TDC from the beginning.  
**Workers' Power** has discussed the  
issues and why TDC formed. We

have explained how TDC is fighting  
and how to get in touch with them.  
Teamsters in cities without a TDC  
chapter have gotten turned-on by  
what they've read in **Workers'  
Power** and then gotten in touch  
with TDC.

**Workers' Power** also reports  
failures, and how rank and file  
workers can learn from them. In  
recent contract negotiations with  
the Postal Service, postal workers  
suffered a serious defeat.

Postal workers were angry. They  
wanted improved conditions—most  
of all they wanted an end to the  
Kokomo plan.

### SECRETS

For months the unions negoti-  
ated in secret. The only way rank  
and file postal workers got any  
news concerning postal workers  
around the country was through  
WP. Postal workers were angry  
everywhere. But in the end the  
unions settled for a rotten deal—  
without a fight.

Why? Although discontent was  
massive, rank and file workers had  
no organization. And singly, each  
worker felt there was nothing that  
could be done.

Following the sell-out WP ana-  
lyzed what went wrong—and how to  
begin building now to stop another  
sell-out net time around.

But **WP** is more than a collection  
of stories on industrial struggles.  
The cement that holds **Workers'  
Power** together is the ideas of  
revolutionary socialism.

Ideas that say workers can  
re-organize society and end forever  
the misery and inequality of  
capitalism. This wretched system  
that allows a tiny minority to live at  
incredible opulence while the rest of  
us are slowly broken by jobs and  
machines that rob our health and  
deadend our souls.

Under workers' power wealth  
will be shared. Working people will  
decide what will be produced—  
according to what is needed not  
what is profitable. No more will  
factories close down in one place  
while people go hungry elsewhere.

### DECIDE HOW

And we will decide how to  
produce things. Machines will be  
designed to free workers, not  
squeeze more production out of  
each life.

**Workers' control** is not a dream.  
In Portugal today workers have  
seized factories and are running  
them in their own interests.

And as the revolution develops.  
Portuguese workers are organizing  
to take more than the individual  
factories. They are organizing to  
take over and run all of Portuguese  
society.

**Workers' Power** has been report-  
ing news from revolutionary Portu-  
gal and showing how the struggle  
there connects with the struggle  
here.

It is one struggle—the struggle  
for a decent life for all.

With this issue, **Workers' Power**  
goes weekly. As the pace of the  
struggle quickens, weekly publica-  
tion is long overdue.

**Workers' Power** is your paper.  
To make it a success we need your  
help. Write us about what is  
happening where you work. □

# MASSIVE ANTI-FASCIST PROTESTS; FRANCO'S POWER CRUMBLES



Anti-fascist demonstration in Rome. Workers all over the world are publicly opposing Franco's butchery.

Two weeks ago, five of our  
brothers in Spain were executed by  
firing squads. Soon, another 30  
prisoners will be on trial facing  
death sentences for what General  
Franco's fascist regime calls "ter-  
rorist activities."

But in these last two weeks,  
Franco's police have paid a price.  
Ten police and civil guards have  
died as the resistance movement  
stepped up its activities.

A general strike in Euzkadi (the  
Basque country) crippled the econ-  
omic life of the region. It was the  
fourth general strike by Basque  
workers in the last nine months.

Prisoners in Spain can now be  
held legally for ten days, instead of  
just three. That means that they  
may be subjected to ten straight  
days of systematic torture.

A twelve-year old child in  
Saragossa was arrested and charg-  
ed with terrorism after he tele-  
phoned a bomb threat to a

newspaper.

In a factory in Pamplona, an  
employer who is supposed to be  
"progressive" announced that any  
worker who spoke in an assembly  
would be denounced to the police.

### DECAYING REGIME

The fascist regime called for  
demonstrations to prove its sup-  
port. It brought out the upper  
classes, businessmen, and the old  
fascist organizations. Scenes of  
wild grief were staged by filming  
the families of dead police.

The United States government is  
stepping in to keep this regime  
alive. Ford already visited Spain  
once this year. Since the executions  
two weeks ago, the US renewed its  
treaty and its lease on air bases in  
Spain.

But the fascist machine is  
crumbling. Hundreds of thousands  
of workers are openly challenging

its power.

Although political workers' or-  
ganizations are still small and  
divided, rank and file workers  
assemblies are being organized to  
lead the struggle.

At a factory in Vizcaya, worker  
meeting in a plant assembly  
discovered the plant was surround-  
ed by special police. They took the  
benches in the locker rooms  
grabbed gasoline cans and roared  
out of the factory yelling "charge!"  
The police ran away.

Demonstrations of thousands of  
people were held in other cities in  
Vizcaya province. In Lequito, the  
barracks of the Civil Guards were  
surrounded by the demonstration  
while the Guards hid inside.

The revolution raging in Portuga  
has begun to spread to Spain  
When Franco topples from power  
Spanish workers will "charge!"  
every factory in the country—an  
there will be no stopping them. □



We have 78 red and yellow: Solidarity With The Portuguese Revolution, \$2; 11 black and white: Solidarity With The Portuguese Working Class, with picture of a Portuguese demonstration, \$2.50; 23 black and white: Solidarity With The Portuguese Working Class, \$2.50; 9 black, white, yellow & red of the United Revolutionary Front, \$7.50; 5 blue and white PRP-BR posters calling for a demonstration in the sports palace, \$7.50.

The last two are direct from revolutionary Portugal.  
Sold first come, first served. Proceeds to the **Workers' Power**  
Portugal Solidarity Fund.

## Portugal at the Crossroads

By Tony Cliff.  
Special issue of **International  
Socialism**. This issue is de-  
voted to the revolution in  
Portugal.  
Also available in Portuguese  
and Spanish. Order in bun-  
dles now to spread the word  
about the revolution in Portu-  
gal. \$1.00

Order from SDI, 14131 Woodward, rm 225, Highland Park, MI 48203

# China and World Revolution

by NIGEL HARRIS

Last of a Series

This series has examined the history and the results of 25 years of Communist Party rule in China. During that time, many things in China have been completely transformed. But the Chinese working class and peasants have not been freed from exploitation. We have seen that these masses of Chinese people have no control over the basic policies of the ruling class, from the economy to foreign policy.

However, Chinese workers are not isolated from the worldwide struggle for socialism. The victory of international workers' revolution—which Mao and the Communist Party oppose—would open the door to prosperity and freedom for the masses of China.



The new regime in China made fantastic progress when it first came to power in 1949. For the mass of Chinese, grabbing a tiny patch of soil or working as coolies in the great cities of the coast, life was dramatically improved. Food and clothing were still very scarce, but at least there was a regular supply. They had to work hard, but at least there was some work. And the Japanese and warlord gangsters no longer left a trail of pillage across the land.

Yet the difficulties were always there. First, foreign powers threatened China. In the following decades the United States waged two major land wars on China's borders—in Korea and Vietnam. It maintained a

stranglehold of military bases all around China's Pacific coast. In the 1960's, the Soviet Union concentrated troops massively on the northern and western borders. In 1969 they actually started shooting. To maintain a defense program capable of defending the country against such powerful enemies took a major share of national resources.

Second, China is extremely poor, and will continue to be so for a very long time to come. (By 1980, the average income per head may have reached \$150 to \$200 a year.) There is no possibility of rapid industrialization, of providing an expanding stream of jobs, when people are so poor. Stomachs, not factories, come first. But that means relative economic stagnation.

#### PRIVILEGE

In such conditions, the new ruling class is continually tending to settle down comfortably to enjoy and expand its privileges. Their privileges are still small comforts by the standards of the world ruling class. A larger house, new clothes more often (with a quilted suit in winter), the first pick of the best food (and no lining up for it, use of the Party car, a steam bath, plenty of alcohol and cigarettes. For the upper officials, there is first class travel on trains and planes, access to the black market, providing for visiting dignitaries. They can protect their children against exile to manual labor in some distant rural area, and get them one of the scarce jobs when they graduate.

Yet all these privileges can be explosive when the country is so poor. They create a mass of resentments, especially when matched against the propaganda of the regime. Mao has been obsessed with how these temptations breed corruption, embezzlement, and speculation. (To beat back the cancer of corruption was one of the aims of the Cultural Revolution.) But Mao's fight is against expressing the privileges of power—against the symptoms of a class system. It is not against the class system itself.

It was similar in Stalin's Russia where, up to the mid 1930's, there was some fight against luxury living. But it is a losing battle, for unequal distribution of class power inevitably produces different levels of living. With the economy unable to employ everyone at adequate wages, privileges grow like a jungle.

#### RESOURCES

However, all the resources exist in the world to build China's economy without exploiting the Chinese. But for that, the ghetto imposed on the Chinese by the world system has to be broken. There has to be a workers' revolution in one of the rich heartlands of the world, in Japan, the United States or Europe. That would unleash the dynamo to push forward the whole of China.

The Chinese revolution of the 1920's to the '40's could have been a call to the workers of the world to overthrow the system, and the Russian revolution was. But the new ruling class that came to power accepted the basic principle of the system. For them, national independence took priority over world liberation. They settled down to cultivate their own private garden without any of the

tools to do the job. The tools had long ago been stolen by the imperialists.

They have now reached the stage where the need for those tools is desperate. They tried massively buying them abroad in 1973 and 1974. Yet they did so at just the moment when China's earnings from exports were dwindling because of the world crisis. So Peking was driven to borrow from the Japanese and the British, in conditions where the bankers were getting tighter and tighter.

Late last year, China had a balance of payments crisis, and there is little immediate prospect of overcoming it. (One day there may be oil in large quantities, but that is still over the horizon at the moment.)

However, what creates a crisis for the Chinese and other ruling classes, makes a fantastic opportunity for workers. We are entering the second great crisis in the "epoch of decaying capitalism." One of the first signs of this is the great upsurge in workers' struggle around the world.

It is happening in Asia (Thailand, Burma, Malaysia, India, Pakistan), in Africa (South Africa, Ethiopia, Nigeria), in Europe (Portugal, Italy, Britain, Greece) and Latin America. The world working class is slowly beginning to stir after decades of only sporadic action. As a result, the weak links of the capitalist chain are beginning to groan and snap.

The crisis is pushing the "Third World" ruling classes into the arms of imperialism. India is pushed into the arms of the Soviet Union, Zambia, and Tanzania into the arms of South Africa. Corruption spreads through the vitals of the system. Blossoming privileges stand in stark contrast to increasing unemployment. China's "Third World"—that fragile alliance of the ruling classes of the backward countries—crumbles. The only forces left are an international bourgeoisie (with black and brown junior managers) and an international working class.

The outcome of that contest is decisive for China, for it could unlock the resources of the rich countries to develop China. Chinese workers have a proud tradition of struggle against the system. In 1927, they came very close to repeating the Bolshevik revolution of 1917. They are reacting in the same way as workers elsewhere as their ruling class tries to offload their problems on to workers by increasing exploitation.

The balance of payments noose drives the Chinese regime to try to cheapen exports, and to do so by cutting wages. In the current campaign they are ending overtime payments. Through 1974, there have been a rash of serious disputes in steel, the railways and mines. And this summer, the regime was forced to move 10,000 troops into the city of Hangchow to break worker opposition.

It is a difficult task, but ultimately Chinese workers will break out of the prison build around them by world imperialism and the Communist Party of China. It must, for only the international workers' movement, including its powerful Chinese section, can solve this crisis and the system of crisis built into capitalism. But only on condition that the workers of the world unite. □



## The Chinese Revolution

A collection of socialist writings on China, 1935—1957. Introduction by Jack Trautman.

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Highland Park, Mi. 48203

### WOMEN IN THE CHINESE REVOLUTION

by Laurie Landy. 75c postpaid.

## CLUW Picket Supports Fired Teamster

CLEVELAND—Brown Transport Corp's Cleveland center apparently decided to become a men-only operation. Sue Ellison, a rate clerk with five years experience, had worked for Brown for one year when she was laid off "to save the company money." But it's doubtful how much money the company is saving since they went right out and hired a man to take her place, and especially since they gave the

new hire a snazzier title: overboard foreman.

Sue Ellison was not about to take this lying down. Seeing herself as a victim a clear cut sex discrimination, she immediately decided to press charges and get as much support for her case as she could.

On September 23, with backing from the Coalition of Labor Union Women, she staged an informa-

tional picket about her case in front of Brown Transport. On September 28 she came to a montly membership meeting of CLUW and presented her case.

Ellison said she had been offered Teamster membership after working at Brown for a few months, but had told the organizer, "I just couldn't do that to Mr. Rivotta [her boss]." She now says, "That was the worst decision I ever made." □

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# Support Portuguese Workers

Dear Comrades,

We enthusiastically applaud the IS money-raising work on behalf of the PRP-BR and the struggle of the revolutionary workers and soldiers in Portugal. It is a revolutionary moment of

historical pivot

International support and solidarity is, we know, vital and in the interest of the global revolutionary socialist cause.

May our individual contribution be speedily passed into the

courageous hands of independent Portuguese working class revolutionary activity.

Down with the Fascists  
Out with the Fakers,  
J. & L. W.  
Richmond, CA

# 'We Dig Coal'- And Freedom Too

Dear Workers' Power,

Congratulations on your coverage of the miners' 'wildcat' strike.

I come from a miner's family and was with the miners in eastern Kentucky during the third week of the strike.

The miners I talked with were fully aware of the significance of their struggle and its obvious political implications. That the judges and the politicians are tools of the bosses has long been an established fact of life for miners. 'Injunctions' are so readily available to the companies that there is little doubt among them that the real government of the coal fields are the coal operators and the big shots who finance them.

The unlimited right to strike is the miner's most precious tool.

Without it the bosses can and will impose the most ruthless despotism over their lives.

An old miner put the issue succinctly when he said to me, "If we lose this one, our union won't be worth a quarter; the company will be able to do anything they want to." It will be tragic, indeed if forty years of struggle is reduced to nothing in the course of a few weeks.

Workers' Power reporter Pilner pinpointed the key weakness of the miners' union when he referred to a lack of organization and communication on a national scale. It was apparent from talking with the strikers that the ranks were not being kept abreast of developments during the strike.

There was a lot of speculation concerning the role of District 17

(Logan County, W. Va.) in touching off the strike. District 17 is well known among the miners as a hotbed of insurrection. Many miners in eastern Kentucky and southern West Virginia see District 17 as the true heart of the UMW.

I believe that in analyzing this strike and its aftermath to note that the miners feel very potent at this point due to the strong demand for coal. Half the automobiles in mining towns sport a decal proudly displaying the words, "We Dig Coal."

The miners' valiant efforts to throw off the yoke of oppression put on them by their present contract shows that coal is not the only thing they dig. They dig freedom too.

F.B.  
Detroit



In August and September miners in Appalachia wildcatted for the right to strike.

## 'DOWN WITH FRANCO,' SAY PICKETS IN LOS ANGELES; NEW YORK

LOS ANGELES—On Sunday October 12, to help celebrate Columbus Day, the Spanish Consul in Los Angeles, presented LA Mayor Thomas Bradley with a flag of the fascist Spanish regime.

300 people attended this ceremony. Meanwhile, a spirited, militant picket line of 400 people was parading outside against the Franco government. The picket was joined by militant Iranian and Arab students, and by a broad range of Latin and Spanish student groups. They wore masks to hide their identity from the police and the Spanish government.

The demonstration was called by veterans of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade, who fought in the Spanish Civil War 40 years ago. But they took a cautious, conservative role in the protest.

The picket was extremely spiri-

ted and successful. In fact, the spirit of the protest was so high that the conservative organizers of the picket called it off half way through.

NEW YORK—Two hundred people, representing five different organizations, gathered here to demonstrate against the executions of five Spanish and Basque revolutionaries.

The protest began with a silent march from the Spanish tourist office to the nearby offices of Iberia Airlines. There a constantly growing picket line was maintained for two hours.

The demands of the demonstration were: an end to the special military trials; democratic liberties for the Spanish people; self determination for the oppressed nations in Spain; the removal of all

US bases in Spain and an end to all US military aid; and immediate general amnesty for all Spanish and Basque political prisoners. □

Florence Dennis

## LATINO WORKERS WALK OUT

LOS ANGELES—46 of 56 workers walked off the job at Advanced Engine Products here October 6 when one was fired for union activity. The workers are conducting an organizing drive, seeking representation by United Steel Workers Local 1981.

The strikers are demanding: throw out the scabs and rehire all strikers. They also want better pay, classified positions, equal pay for equal work for women and an end to discrimination against Latinos. All the employees are Latinos. □

## Letters

to

# Workers' Power

## Will Postal Leaders Fight Kokomo?

Dear Workers' Power,

In the past few issues, Workers' Power has been carrying a series of reports on the "Kokomo Plan," a speed up system that the Post Office management is about to implement. Now, the union here in New York has made its first response to Kokomo.

Vincent Sombrotto, President of New York Branch 36 of the National Association of Letter Carriers has proposed a series of alliances between Branches. If Kokomo is implemented in any one of them, all should strike. This is in direct opposition to NALC President Rademacher's proposal for binding arbitration—a complete sell out.

President Sombrotto's proposal is an excellent one. But will he carry it out? "Vinnie" is well known in his own Branch as a man of a lot of talk and little action.

Since the Branch membership meeting a month ago, alliances have been cemented with only two other Branches: 43, Brooklyn, and 6000, Coram, a catch-all Branch for most of Long Island.

This is despite the fact that presidents of over twenty major

Branches opposed the contract, which opened the way to Kokomo.

Sombrotto has done nothing to contact these officers, who head up large Branches with real muscle. These include Philadelphia, Chicago, Los Angeles, Cleveland and Atlanta.

It will take the threat or reality of a nation-wide postal strike to defeat Kokomo. New York must break out of the isolation which has paralyzed it since the 1971 contract fight.

If it does, it can lead a national movement strong enough to defeat Kokomo, and that sell-out, Jim Rademacher, at the same time.

Dave Berger  
New York

## Workers' Power Wants To Hear From You

What you like about the paper—and what you don't. What you think of the political ideas we present, and your comments on problems facing working people.

But please be brief.

Write to: Workers' Power, 14131 Woodward Ave., Highland Park, Michigan 48203.

## HOFFA

Dear Workers' Power,

Thanks very much for the excellent article on Hoffa—it's very, very good and will be extremely useful. I'm looking forward to sending it out to people I've met.

Steve Carter  
Cleveland

## Congrats!

Dear Comrades,

Congratulations on your decision to make 'Workers' Power' a weekly paper. We wish you every success.

Please send us 10 copies every week.

Yours Fraternally,  
T.U. Books  
Manchester, England

## Chicago Demo Stops Nazis



CHICAGO—Two hundred demonstrators here stopped the Nazi Party and the Ku Klux Klan. These racists, marching under "White Power" banners, attempted to march through a black neighborhood on Chicago's south side.

The marchers, however, never reached their destination. The two hundred anti-racists, a coalition of community and leftist groups, blocked 71st street and prepared to meet the Nazis and the Klan.

The police, fearful of this confrontation, then stopped the racist march, and arrested a Nazi, its leader, four blocks from where the black neighborhood begins.

After the picketed turned back the marchers, frustrated Nazi youth ran through the streets, throwing rocks at unsuspecting blacks who happened to pass by. They also stoned the home of a black family, in a nearby predominantly white neighborhood. □

# Why Bosses Don't Like 'Workers' Power'

CHICAGO—A steward at the Melrose Park International Harvester plant was recently reprimanded at work for handing a copy of Workers' Power to a friend. Harry Putnam is steward for Department 31.

The plant General foreman, Charlie Clay, happened to be standing nearby at the time. He called the two over and asked them a few questions.

What was the paper about? Was Putnam selling it? Did he have permission from plant protection to have the paper in the plant?

They showed Clay the paper and told him the answer to his other questions was "No." Then the two workers went about their business, thinking no more about the incident.

However, Clay had other plans. He called in the Industrial Relations department, (IR), and told them about the incident. Once IR found out what the paper was, and that Putnam is a known militant, they called the General Office downtown.

Between them, they decided to give Putnam a written reprimand for "soliciting on company property," distributing literature during working hours, and being away from his work station."

The incident happened late in the day, making it impossible for the steward's committeeman to be brought into the case. Putnam put out a leaflet on the following day. The leaflet focussed attention on the company's harassment of militants

confusing and embarrassing affair for the plant manager and he was forced to drop the whole matter.

No company should be allowed to use discipline to control what people read. But its no wonder the bosses are afraid of Workers' Power. They know that workers can

**"If it had been the Sun Times [a big Chicago daily] nothing would have been said. But it wasn't...it was a paper written from the workers' point of view instead of the companies'."**

"If it had been the Sun Times [a big Chicago daily] nothing would have been said. But it wasn't the Sun Times. It was a socialist newspaper called Workers' Power. It is a paper written from the workers' point of view instead of the companies'." the leaflet said.

The workers in Putnam's department were angry at their foreman and General foreman for harassing their steward over this. And they let them know it.

As a result, the issue became a

find ideas in Workers' Power about how to get the company off their backs.

Workers' Power carries news about the labor movement that regular papers won't print. It helps worker militants across the country fight discipline, speed-up, layoffs.

It spreads socialist ideas and activities aimed at taking the power away from these companies. Read it every week and see why the bosses are afraid of Workers' Power.

## FUND DRIVE NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT

The I.S. fall Fund Drive is in its first week. Our goal is to raise \$30,000. We are asking Workers' Power readers to contribute to the fund. The money is urgently needed to continue and expand organizing the movement for workers' power.

The I.S. is planning rank and

file conferences, publications, speaking tours—all the resources that help bring militants together for action.

It's hard to find the money in these times of inflation—but your money will go to fight the system of inflation, not to support a big company's fat profits.

### FUND DRIVE QUIZ

**Why are gas companies threatening to turn off the gas in some areas this winter?**

- A. The world gas supply is vanishing this winter. From now on we'll have to heat our homes with the hot air from Congress.
- B. President Ford needs the gas to heat his swimming pool.
- C. American oil interests want higher prices and profits and are willing to freeze them out of you.

ANSWER:

**OUR ANSWER: Stop these capitalist rip-offs. Give to the IS Fund Drive and put the heat on the ruling class!**

Enclosed is my donation to the IS Fund Drive in the amount of \$

I will send \$ a week for the ten weeks of the drive. First installment enclosed.

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## New Books

### 1976 BIG RED DIARY

An appointment book which traces the history of women's struggle. Illustrated. From Pluto Press. \$2.80 postpaid.

### THE AMERICAN WORKING CLASS OF THE '60's

No. 6 in the Socialist Experience reprint series. Includes the American Working Class in Transition, Women Workers, The Forgotten Third of the Working Class, and USA, the Labor Revolt. \$1.30 postpaid.

### TEAMSTER POLITICS

by Farrell Dobbs. Third in his history of the Minneapolis Teamsters Union, following Teamster Rebellion and Teamster Power. \$3.25 postpaid.

Order from Sun Distribution International, 14131 Woodward Ave., Rm. 225, Highland Park, MI 48203.



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## What We Stand For

The International Socialists are open to all who accept our basic principles and are willing to work as a member of our organization to achieve them. We stand for:

### WORKING CLASS REVOLUTION

Working class revolution will destroy capitalism. Reform schemes cannot patch it up. The wealth produced by workers will be collectively controlled by workers to provide a decent life and freedom for all. Today that wealth is stolen from working people by the capitalist class. Socialism can be won only through workers' revolution. The capitalist state must be destroyed. So must its institutions: the legislature, army, police, and courts. A socialist society will be ruled democratically by mass organizations of all working people.

### MASS ORGANIZATIONS OF THE WORKING CLASS

Today the trade unions are the only mass working class organizations. We work for rank and file control of the unions to make them fighting instruments of workers against the employers. We fight for workers' action against the economic and social crisis of capitalism: Defend working conditions. No controls on wages, 30 hours work for 40 hours pay to fight unemployment. The right to a job at union wages for everyone. Organize the unorganized. Nationalization of industry without compensation and under workers' control.

### BLACK LIBERATION

We stand for black liberation. Full equality for black people and all national minorities. Defend the black community and other oppressed peoples against all forms of racism, police terror and discrimination. We call for independent organization by black and other specially oppressed people to struggle for their liberation and to build the unity among all workers that will lead to socialism. Independence for Puerto Rico.

### WOMEN'S LIBERATION

For complete social, economic and political equality for women. Free quality childcare, birth control and abortion on demand. Abolish oppression of gay people, and all sexual oppression.

### YOUTH

Equality for young people. The right to good jobs for all youth. Stop police intimidation of young people. For schools controlled by students, teachers and community. For a revolutionary socialist youth movement.

### AGAINST IMPERIALISM

We oppose US imperialism, its nuclear weapons and its alliances such as NATO. Unconditional support to movements for national liberation. We oppose Russian imperialism and its war bloc, the Warsaw Pact, which controls Eastern Europe. For an independent movement of the working class and oppressed peoples everywhere against imperialism, East and West.

### FOR WORLD SOCIALISM

The first successful socialist revolution was made by the Russian working class in 1917. But the revolution was isolated, and destroyed by a counterrevolution led by Stalin. Workers' councils, political parties and trade unions were all crushed. Today Russia, China and the rest of the "Communist" countries are not socialist, but societies in which workers are exploited by a bureaucratic ruling class. We support workers' struggles in Russia, China and Eastern Europe for democracy and freedom. For workers' revolution to overthrow Stalinism and replace it with socialism.

### REVOLUTIONARY PARTY

To win the fight for socialism the most militant sections of the working class must be organized into a revolutionary party. The revolutionary party is a political force linking workers in separate factories, unions and industries, helping to organize and lead them to take state power and control society as a class. All the activity of the IS is directed toward building such a revolutionary party out of the struggles working people are waging today.

### I.S. BRANCHES

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# Old Age In America

## HOW CAPITALISM KILLS THE ELDERLY

Why Survive? Being Old In America, Robert N. Butler, M.D.

Ageism like sexism and racism is a bias against people. It is a bias against people of both sexes and is especially harsh against the elderly of minority groups. It is most pervasive against women.

Some 10 million of the poor in America are over 65 years of age. Seven million have incomes below the poverty level. The majority are widows living on Social Security, welfare and other government funds.

This book by Doctor Butler doesn't deal exclusively with the problems of the elderly. It is an indictment of the medical profession in their attitude toward older people. It is also an indictment of the society in which we live.

Dr. Butler points out that women and members of minority groups earn little more than half of what a white male earns during his life time. This leaves them with smaller Social Security checks. And few of them are able to save any money so necessary in times of crisis.

Blacks, who make up only 7% of the older population, represent 15% of the elderly poor.

There are those who would blame the elderly poor themselves for their poverty. But the great majority are poor because of the lack of opportunity in the society in which they lived.

### DEPRESSION

The depression of the thirties had a long term effect on the

present generation. Millions were unemployed during what should have been their most productive years.

Millions lost their homes, their cars and other valuables that could be turned into cash needed to buy food for their families. They had to begin from scratch when World War II gave them jobs.

Many of us who were under 38 years of age were drafted into the armed forces. We had to begin our lives again after serving three of four years in the armed forces at sub-standard wages. Even after the War many of us suffered periods of unemployment.

Many of the elderly poor were workers who lost their jobs because of mergers, companies going bankrupt, obsolescence of plants and products, or the moving of plants to low wage area where there were no unions. Forty per cent of the elderly poor have total assets of less than \$1,000.

### MEDICARE

It is generally assumed that Medicare covers all or almost all of the medical expenses of those over 65. But as this book reveals, Medicare covers less than half of these expenses—43 per cent.

It doesn't pay for prescription drugs outside a hospital nor hearing aids, glasses, dental care or podiatry. It doesn't cover the catastrophic illness so much feared by the elderly. With skyrocketing

inflation in the health services any of the above items can seriously deplete the savings of the elderly.

Medicaid is available to those who are prepared to subject themselves to the humiliating means test. Both the Medicare and Medicaid patient is shunned by the medical profession.

The income of the medical profession was sharply increased by these government funds but the service rendered their patients continues to be substandard.

### TRANSPORTATION

Transportation is another major financial drain on the income of retired workers. With little mass transportation in the cities and less in the suburbs a car is a necessity for older people able to drive. The price of a new car is out of the reach of 75% of the elderly.

Given the ever increasing cost of car insurance, gasoline and car repairs an increasing number of the elderly find a car a luxury they can't afford.

Local, state, and Federal taxes are a big drain on many of the elderly, especially those who own their homes. In some states tax rebates are paid to home owners over 65. But to many retirees under 65, property taxes force them to sell their homes.

Added to the taxes are the repair bills necessary to keep up old homes. The cost of a paint job, aluminum siding or repair of



plumbing can run to hundreds and even thousands of dollars.

There have been substantial increases in Social Security payments over the last ten years but they have not kept pace with the ever increasing cost of living.

Inflation in the cost of health services, food, housing and transportation hit the elderly especially hard.

The capitalist system has little use for the elderly. No longer exploitable, they are practically abandoned under this system.

Dr. Butler's book gives a lot of information on the elderly and their lives. His book is a must for anyone interested in the problems of the aging in America.

John W. Anderson

# RANK AND FILE SUGAR WORKERS SWEEP ELECTIONS

by Anne Larson

FRESNO, Ca.—Members of the Sugar Workers United Rank and File (SWURF) won a big victory in a major California sugar local September 25.

A slate endorsed by the statewide rank and file group swept the elections for all local union posts in Fresno. They deposed the officials responsible for last year's contract defeat.

The new union officers are rank and file militants who were endorsed at one of SWURF's statewide meetings this summer.

The Fresno election is important to California sugar workers because the president and vice-president from this local sit on the Sugar Workers' Council. The Council negotiates with the industry.

### TOPS SLATE

Art Apodaca, running for president, topped the slate. He polled 126 votes over 18 for the incumbent, Jerry White. Apodaca is one of SWURF's founders and its current statewide president. His campaign criticized White for not communicating with the union membership.

"When the leaders serve the members, that is leadership... When the leadership becomes self-serving, it's time for a change."

The balloting was preceded by a demonstration at the Fresno mill. Over a hundred workers gathered to hear speeches by the SWURF candidates.

SWURF's victory marks the first time that the Fresno local has had

Chicano president. A majority of the workers are Chicano.

SWURF organizes for job training and promotions on the basis of seniority. It fights discrimination and harassment against any union member.

SWURF members were elected to union office in Salinas last May. Their activities show what the change in leadership can mean in Fresno.

### UNION POWER

SWURF members immediately began building the union's power. They organized a militant demonstration to protest unfair discharges, suspensions, excessive mandatory overtime and speed-up conditions at the Spreckels Company.

A hundred workers turned out. Management immediately caved in and reinstated a fired worker. They gave back pay to all but one of the suspended workers.

"Workers can win adjustment of grievances, and other improvements by direct action to defend their rights," said Ken Dursa, SWURF member, and vice president of the Salinas local. "Learning this has been the main benefit of the demonstration."

The recent election victories do not mean that rank and file organization is no longer needed.

At its statewide meeting after the Salinas victory, delegates discussed the local SWURF organization. They unanimously agreed that although the election had been a great step forward, the need for a rank and file organization was greater than ever.

# RIGHT WING SMEAR AGAINST INDIAN MILITANTS

by Byron Gray

On Monday, October 13, a series of explosions damaged four Bureau of Indian Affairs buildings at Pine Ridge, South Dakota. The BIA is the repressive arm of the federal government which controls most reservations. It was immediately charged that the American Indian Movement (AIM) was involved. Answering these charges, AIM leader Clyde Bellecourt denied

any involvement in the bombings. He said, "It is our opinion that the John Birch Society did this to frame us."

The John Birch Society, a far-right-wing group, is presently conducting a smear campaign against AIM in South Dakota. One-time AIM member Douglas Durham is an exposed FBI informer. He is presently on a tour for the Birchers. He is speaking to

right-wing groups in towns that border the reservations.

### FRAME-UP

An AIM spokesman told Workers' Power that the tour was set up to provoke confrontations between whites and Native Americans. "There appears to be a major disruption attack on AIM by the federal government. The John Birch Society is being used as a front for FBI and BIA operations."

AIM feels these bombings will be used to justify physically eliminating AIM's leaders and to terrorize Native Americans back under government control.

Frame-ups are nothing new to the American Indian Movement. The FBI continues its brutal armed occupation of Pine Ridge Reservation. They claim AIM was involved in the June 26 shooting of two FBI agents. They have found no suspects. However, the FBI remains on the reservation to harass and intimidate any known AIM member or supporter.

## STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP

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# United Action Successful In Louisville CWA Election

# Workers' Power



**UNITED ACTION**  
Louisville, 40208

**Make Fight**



It is v... of our loc... has starte... jobs and... local lea... unless the... UP FOR US... THEIR OFF...  
Motions will be... with these laaues...  
Save D.A. J...  
The Public Ser... by the company... charge for D.A... A motion will... OUR LOCAL... DEMONSTRATION... CWA MEMBERS... KENTUCKY AGAINST THE CHARGE FOR...  
... meeting... the company... taken our... that our... TO STAND... AND MAKE  
... dealing

**Save D.A. J**

Joe Pardieu, newly-elected treasurer of CWA Local 10310.

LOUISVILLE—"We've got our foot in the door now" said a celebrating Joe Pardieu. Pardieu has just been elected treasurer of Communications Workers of America Local 10310. The election marked a significant victory for United Action, a rank and file opposition group.

The election results were a clear indication of dissatisfaction with the current leadership's do-nothing policies, and the respect UA had won over the past year.

Four times UA has led successful drives to defeat a dues increase. The group recently organized a demonstration against Ma Bell's attempt to charge customers for Directory Assistance calls. Such a charge would result in layoffs, besides ripping off customers. UA also forced the local to support an anti-klan rally. And UA has maintained a fight for effective handling of grievances.

Besides Pardieu, two other UA

candidates are still in the running.

### RUNOFFS

Harold Kincaid, UA candidate for first vice president polled the most votes, but not a majority. He faces a run-off against the incumbent, Tom Burns.

Rick Wallace, UA candidate for second vice president will also be in a run-off election. The present second vice president Larry Kiser

didn't even make it into the run-off election.

There will also be a runoff for president between current president Dennis Dearing, and Frank Mathews, a relatively unknown independent. UA's candidate had to drop out of the race for personal

reasons.

However, Paul Schmitt, UA's write-in candidate, got enough votes to force the runoff. Neither remaining presidential candidate has a program for fighting the company.

The victory of Pardieu alone is a

big step forward for United Action both in Louisville and nationally. It will mean those who want a fighting union will have a voice on the executive board.

Pardieu also will automatically be a delegate to the National Convention. For the first time in years, a small organized opposition to the sell-out policies of Glenn Watts will exist on the convention floor.

Louisville UA also intends to use its growing strength to build UA around the country.

### CONCENTRATING

UA is concentrating its efforts this week on winning the vice presidential spots in the runoff. Pardieu by himself will not be able to do what is needed to change the union. Winning the run off, as well as many of the at-large executive board seats in next month's election will strengthen UA's impact.

Building a much larger UA caucus in the local is also extremely important. UA ran on a program of fighting the company on grievances and harassment. To carry it out will take organization and support.

Any other individuals or groups interested in affiliating or finding out more about United Action should contact: Joe Pardieu, CWA Local 10310, 3012 Dixie Highway, Louisville, Kentucky.

## ATTACK ON JORDON SIMS

# UAW Clamps Trusteeship On Local 961

DETROIT—The International officers of the United Auto Workers have taken control of UAW Local 961 here. The move is aimed at Jordan Sims, president of the local and co-chairman of the oppositionist United National Caucus (UNC).

Sims has long been troublesome to the UAW International. In 1970 as chairman of the shop committee he led a strike over working conditions which was not authorized by the International. He was fired and never got his job back, but in 1973 was elected president of the local. He was re-elected earlier this year.

The trusteeship is the culmination of a factional struggle in the local. The International officers

have conspired with a small minority of white skilled tradesmen to undermine the authority of Sims and the black production workers who support him.

Recently the vice president and the financial secretary of Local 961 have fought with Sims for control of the local.

### AUDIT

Several weeks ago, the financial secretary, John Kronenberg, took the local's financial records to Solidarity House for an audit. They were attempting to find irregularities they could use as an excuse to go after Sims. They found nothing. So they decided on a provoca-

tion. Kronenberg, changed the combination lock on the local's safe, refused to tell Sims the new combination, refused to make out the payroll, and refused to let Sims make out the payroll.

Under these circumstances, Sims had no alternative but to suspend Kronenberg from office. Sims reported this to a Local 961 membership meeting, where the membership voted to sustain his action.

At the same time, the vice president of the local, who was assigned to handle grievances, was not doing his job. There were 30 grievances at the third step, and he had not held a grievance board meeting since May. The reason for this was that he had been spending all his time campaigning against Sims.

Since the job was not being done, Sims took the job of grievance handling away from the vice president—as is his right under the by-laws—and reassigned it to a woman well respected in the plant for her integrity.

### INTERNATIONAL

At this point, the International stepped in, naming UAW Vice President Doug Fraser and Region 1 Director George Merrelli as administrators of the local. The reasons for this action were, they said, that Sims had acted "arbitrarily" in relation to financial secretary and the vice president.

In addition, Fraser blamed Sims for the lack of action on the grievances. The International said it would not tolerate Sims' re-assignment of grievances away from the vice president, even though they admitted he had the right to do it.

The International's attack on Sims has significance beyond just Local 961. It indicates, once more,



Jordan Sims, president of UAW Local 961.

that the UAW leadership acts in a unified way to crush any oppositionist.

Unlike most of the United National Caucus leadership, Sims has not been firm on the necessity of total opposition to the International bureaucracy. This has been particularly true in his relation to Doug Fraser, who some view as a more liberal wing of the Solidarity House bureaucracy.

Even so, Solidarity House is going after Sims. It shows they are not willing to tolerate a local president who, more than most others, gave Chrysler management a hard time.

It's time now for Sims to make a

clean break with Fraser. It's also time for him to build a rank and file base in the local, the lack of which has made him vulnerable to this attack.

Sims now has the opportunity to build a rank and file base. He's getting a lot of support from workers who are outraged at the International's meddling in the internal affairs of the local.

If Sims doesn't take the opportunity now to build a rank and file movement in his local, it's questionable how much longer he can stand up to the attacks of the International. And if he's defeated, it will be a setback for the entire rank and file in the UAW.

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