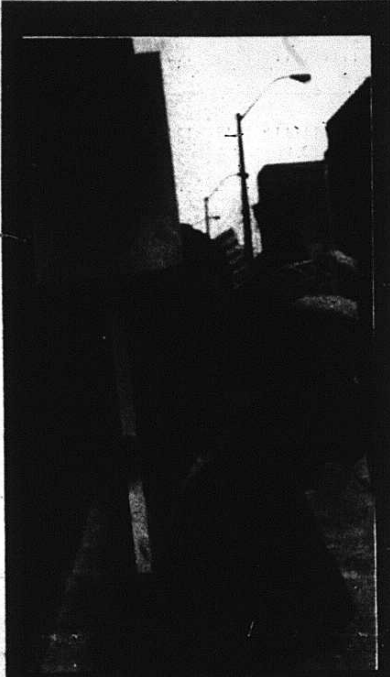


# WORKERS' Power

WEEKLY NEWSPAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS January 26, 1976 #144 15c

In This Issue:	
Chrysler Spies	2
Portugal News	4
Fitz Running Scared	5
People's Firehouse #1	7
A Hen Story	11



## DETROIT WOMEN MARCH FOR BUSING

DETROIT—Over fifty members and friends of the newly-formed organization, Women Against Racism, demonstrated at the Federal Building January 22 to defend school desegregation. They were also showing their opposition to an action at the Federal Building called by a racist group named "Mothers Alert Detroit" (MAD).

MAD members—together with Donald Lobsinger's semi-fascist Breakthrough group—showed up to protest integration of the public school system.

Many white people in MAD-type groups claim to oppose integration because of the inconvenience it may involve.

But a Detroit school teacher on the Women Against Racism picket line put her finger on the real cause of their hysterical reaction to busing: "It's simple. They hate black people, that's all. And they can't stand to have black kids and white kids learning together."

Women Against Racism will meet to plan further activities to defend school desegregation. It will meet Saturday, January 24, 1:00 P.M. at the John Considine Center, 8409 Woodward.

We urge all Workers' Power readers in the Detroit area to attend.

# GERALD FRAUD'S STATE OF THE UNION

"The Government must stop spending so much and borrowing so much of our money; more money must remain in private hands where it will do the most good..."

"I must therefore recommend a three-tenths of one percent increase in both employer and employee Social Security taxes effective Jan. 1, 1977..."

"We cannot realistically afford federally dictated national health insurance providing full coverage for all 215 million Americans..."

"Some judges are reluctant to send convicted criminals to prison because of inadequate prison facilities. To alleviate this problem at the Federal level, my new budget proposes the construction of four new Federal facilities."

"The defense budget I will submit to Congress for fiscal 1977 will show an essential increase over last year. It provides for a real growth in purchasing power over last year's defense budget."

Gerald Ford



## ...But Is This The Answer?



"Now, the sour and sullen mood of the American people, born of Vietnam and Watergate, can disappear with positive leadership and if the Executive won't give it, then the Congress must..."

"Obviously, a prolonged strike in one of the big automobile companies under present circumstances would be a severe depressant on the economy..."

"This is a responsible union. We are aware of our obligations... [The auto companies] must remember it takes two to make peace but only one to make war."

Leonard Woodcock

On Monday, Gerald Ford delivered his State of the Union address. Ford's "New Realism" turned out to be more of the same old bull.

On Wednesday, Leonard Woodcock, president of the United Auto Workers, responded to Ford in a speech to the UAW Production Workers Conference at Cobo Hall in Detroit. Together the speeches revealed how little we can expect from trade union leaders and politicians.

Ford's speech was devoted to the wonders of "free enterprise" and profit in America. He called it the "one peak [which] stands highest in the ranges of human history... in man's long upward march from savagery and slavery..."

In case you didn't choke on that, he went on to propose that the answer to our problems is less government interference in the business of making healthy profits. To accomplish this, he proposed: higher social security taxes for workers, no national health insurance, increased spending on repression, and more money for the war budget and the CIA.

He also proposed wiping out what little remains of restrictions on natural gas prices, along with the regulations which slow down the rate of destruction

of the country by the oil corporations. (He called this "reducing domestic natural gas shortages" and "allowing production from national petroleum reserves".)

### RHETORIC

Ford's rhetoric was so thick, and the policies he proposed so bankrupt, that even most of the big capitalist press in this country panned it.

Two days later Woodcock sounded the tone for the UAW's official response to Gerald Ford. Even more important, he spoke the sentiments of the national leadership of the major unions.

Woodcock took sharp issue with Ford's opposition to federal health insurance. He also pointed out that every one percent of unemployment costs the federal government \$16 billion. But he made no proposal for fighting unemployment.

He called for "positive leadership" from Congress. But his only demands on Congress were to "amend" emission controls and slap controls on auto imports.

He made no demand on the huge Democratic majority in Congress. It has

accepted almost all of Ford's attacks on working people and thrown in some more of its own. Woodcock is part of the Democratic Party machine, which let Ford strangle New York City.

Woodcock's only hope is that housing and capital equipment industries will follow the thin recovery of the auto giants in 1976. He promised the UAW is "aware of its obligations" not to upset their profits, which are rising again.

### SAME THING

So, in the end, Ford's message and Woodcock's come down to the exact same thing: in-profits we trust. Both of them, whatever disagreements they have, believe that workers must accept cuts in order to put business back in good shape.

Ford speaks for big business. Woodcock speaks for the trade union officialdom and the Democratic Party. On every issue that matters, they speak with one voice.

That's why the 1976 contract round, from Teamsters to auto, is so important. It's the only chance rank and file workers have this year to smash the cuts which Gerald Ford, General Motors, the Democratic Party and Leonard Woodcock all want to make us accept.

# Election Fraud Brings New Vote

by Lindsey Gordon  
steward, CWA Local 9102  
member, United Action

SEATTLE—Members of Communications Workers of America Local 9102 here have voted to throw out the election of local officers and executive board members which took place recently.

At the January 13th local meeting, Jim Larkin, defeated candidate for president, took the challenge to the membership. After hearing the charges and evidence, the membership voted overwhelmingly to hold new elections.

## PADDED MEMBERSHIP

The evidence presented by Larkin implicates himself as well as the re-elected president, Mike Welch. It shows Welch had padded membership rolls of the local, apparently to make himself look good to the International and to appear as an aggressive organizer to the local membership.

The padding was possible because CWA only requires that eligible telephone workers pay dues to the union, not that they join. Welch added to the membership rolls over 300 non-union members. He then bragged in his campaign literature that he had increased the membership from 60% of the workforce to 80%. None of these "new members" knew they were in the union until they got election ballots by mail.

The other three local officers, including Jim Larkin, then vice-president, knew about the membership padding and kept their mouths shut. After his defeat, Larkin apparently had a change of

heart, exposed the padding and challenged the election.

Larkin's campaign is not the important issue here. Larkin himself is a right-winger. He vowed to get rid of stewards who are part of United Action, the rank and file opposition caucus in CWA.

The importance of Larkin's challenge is that it provides evidence for the argument that United Action has been raising for months.

UA ran a slate of candidates in the election and won two positions on the executive board representing traffic. It was obvious to UA members and supporters from the beginning that there were many irregularities in the election procedures—for example, many union members did not get ballots.

But union officials had made it impossible for UA members to get information about the election, the procedures used in sending out ballots, or the challenge.

## EASIER

Most important, the evidence brought forward points up the failure of the union officials to aggressively organize telephone employees. The present union officials resort to padding the membership rolls because it's easier than lifting a finger to convince people to join the union.

The corruption of the officialdom of CWA 9102, as evidenced in this election, is a small glimpse of the total picture of corruption and sellout policies in the International. United Action is continuing to build an opposition in Seattle and throughout the country to this kind of unionism. Telephone workers can and will control our union. □

## St. Louis

# TELEPHONE WORKERS IN SUCCESSFUL WALKOUT

ST. LOUIS—Over 200 members of CWA Local 6310 walked off the job here Friday, January 16 when a worker was sent home for refusing to work alone in a manhole.

The walkout was a success. Within hours, a supervisor was sent to accompany the worker in the manhole. No reprisals were taken against the worker, or those involved in the walkout.

Four garages were involved, all in northern St. Louis County. In the past this area has been the scene of other manhole safety disputes.

Other telephone workers in Local

6320 did not participate in the walkout, though many were sympathetic. In the past, members of 6320 have even been ordered to cross 6310's informational picket lines. Cross-local co-ordination would strengthen the members in both locals.

Southwestern Bell recently lobbied against a manhole safety bill which would have greatly improved the safety requirements for this work. They were successful. The money for this lobbying came directly from the collection of telephone bills. □

# CWA Officials Scab On Office Workers

Officials of Communications Workers of America (CWA) showed their idea of trade unionism recently. They forced 250 of the office workers they employ nationally to strike on January 15.

The clerical workers, who are members of OPEIU, had already agreed not to ask for a wage increase. However, CWA officials demanded that the workers give up their quarterly cost of living increase.

Through this attack on the standard of living of the office workers, CWA officials forced the strike.

When the clerical workers walk-

ed out, CWA officials acted like any other set of bosses and crossed the picket lines. Some officials said openly that in this case, they were management and intended to act like management.

In some cases they attempted to shame and intimidate the striking workers. It is revealing that CWA officials think workers should be ashamed of striking—but not of scabbing.

Rumor has it that the CWA forced the strike in order to build a case in favor of a dues increase at this year's CWA convention. That's only one reason that telephone workers should support the striking clerical workers. □

# CHRYSLER CORPORATION

# Super Spy

CIA. FBI. Internal Revenue Service. Army Intelligence. To these super-spy outfits, we can now add another 'well-known' name: Chrysler Corporation.

But what does spying have to do with making cars, you ask. A fair question. The answer is nothing.

Spying does, however, have a lot to do with making money. It's not Chrysler who makes the cars, you see, it's Chrysler workers who make the cars. Chrysler makes only the profits. Spying on workers who may not be satisfied with this arrangement is what the company calls a "necessary business expense."

## REVEALED

The story of Chrysler's spying was revealed in the February issue of Network, the newspaper published by UAW militants. Network spoke with George Corsetti, Attorney for Michigan Legal Services, and found that Chrysler has a close working arrangement with the Detroit Police Department. Surprised?

"Chrysler receives information from the Detroit Police Department and the FBI," Corsetti said. "Mr. J.S. Ware, Chrysler staff investigator, is the former head of Detroit Police Intelligence Section, and can get what information he wants: membership lists of different organizations, information about political associations of their employees, reports on meetings Chrysler employees go to, strategies of organizations, and so forth. Often the information is wrong. They use [the information] to harass and intimidate people and try to get them fired."

Corsetti has first-hand knowledge of these practices. "I've seen Chrysler files and Detroit Police Department files under subpoena," he said, "and I've taken testimony from Chrysler officials in connection with a case about Detroit Police Department counter-intelligence activities."

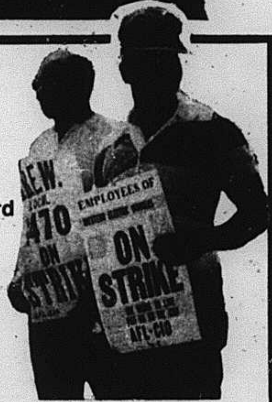
While Chrysler does make use of its information, the company is not always successful in acting on it. "I've seen references in police files that the police get frustrated with industry because management finds it very hard to get away with firing people who are too involved and entrenched in union affairs," the attorney added. He suggested that Chrysler employees demand to see all the files the company keeps on them, "both personnel files and particularly security files." □

## Workers' Power 144

Copyright © 1976 by I.S. Publishing Co. Editor: Gay Senecl, Production Manager: Kay Stacy, Circulation Manager: Tom Dougherty. Published weekly, except the first week in July and the last week in December. Second class postage paid at Detroit, Michigan. Send notice of undelivered copies or change of address to Workers' Power, 14131 Woodward Avenue, Highland Park, MI 48203. Signed articles do not necessarily represent the views of Workers' Power, which are expressed in editorials. Workers' Power is a member of the Alternate Press Service and is indexed in the Alternative Press Index and microfilmed by University Microfilms. International Standard Serials Number (ISSN): 0019-0535.

# labor notes

by Jim Woodward



The government says the recession is over, right? If so, why was there a near-riot in Los Angeles January 12 when 300 people showed up to apply for one job opening? Make that one unadvertised job opening. Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley estimates the real unemployment level in his city is 31%. That's a good indication of what capitalism's all about—the "recovery" is measured in terms of business profits (which are going up) rather than unemployment or some other measure that affects people's lives.

Here's another way to measure the effects of the recession. For the first time in 15 years, the number of adults being admitted to hospitals has declined. Why? According to Alexander McMahon, president of the American Hospital Association, it's because laid-off workers who have lost their health insurance have had to at least temporarily do without certain health care. Mr. McMahon is no doubt a respectable gentleman, certainly no revolutionary socialist. But his statement says what he might not: "Capitalism kills!"

They've been fighting for almost ten years, but 43 black railroad workers have finally won \$120,000 in back pay because of racial discrimination by the Birmingham Southern Railroad. It's a pitifully small settlement, though, for workers with 20-30 years seniority.

Joint Council 16 of the Teamsters has done "Buy American" one better. They have a bumper sticker that says, "Support New York City: Buy Products Made Here." The Brewery Workers (IBT Local 3) have a leaflet saying, "Buy Beer Brewed in New York." Some labor leaders apparently aren't satisfied with the disastrous results of racial, sexual, and national divisions in the working class—they want to split workers along city lines as well.

The conclusions of a Senate Subcommittee report on multinational corporations is that the operation of multinationals reduces wages throughout society while enriching stockholders. In other words, "that U.S. labor loses... and U.S. investors gain." The report goes on to say that the tax breaks these multinationals get just take more money out of the average worker's pocket and put it in the corporate stockholder's pocket.

Scullin Steel Co. in St. Louis is being charged by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration with allowing safety hazards to exist at its castings plant. Dangerous levels of quartz dust and flouride fumes were cited. But the maximum fine possible is only \$3688.

A new, expanded version of "Long Distance," the national voice of the CWA United Action caucus, is now being produced by the UA caucus in Louisville. Telephone workers who want a copy or a bundle for their work center can write to: P.O. Box 70-285, Louisville, KY 40270. "Long Distance" is also soliciting reports on local situations from activists around the country.

If you think it's a free country, read this: five telephone workers were recently suspended by the phone company for "staring" at scabs who had been hired to replace them during a 106-day strike. An arbitrator upheld the suspensions.

After you recover from that last item, sit down and drop us a note on what's the latest news where you work. Write to: Labor Notes, Workers' Power, 14131 Woodward Ave., Highland Park, MI 48203. Or phone 313-869-5965.



# WILL DETROIT EXPLODE ON JANUARY 26?



Mothers Alert Detroit feeds racism by opposing busing.

by Marilyn Danton

On Monday, busing begins in Detroit. No one knows yet what will actually happen, but ominous signs are rapidly developing.

The school board, although it has known about the plan for some months is not prepared at all. There are too few buses; all the pick-up points have not yet been determined.

The school board is also unwilling to take on and answer the real questions that parents have about the plan.

At the numerous regional and community meetings no school official has really answered questions about the safety of the children at the pick-up points, on the buses, at the school.

## NOT SURPRISING

And no school board rep will even acknowledge problems of racism, much less answer the questions black parents raise about how to deal with racist teachers.

This really isn't too surprising though. No political leader in this city from Mayor Young on down has given any political leadership on this question. So how can they be prepared to answer the real



Women Against Racism sponsored this demonstration in support of Detroit busing for school integration.

questions or fears of parents?

They dodge the question of supporting busing and the plan. So they're bound to dodge all the related specific questions. "Obey the law" is the beginning and end of their leadership.

All this chaos, lack of information, uncertainty and incredible irresponsibility on the part of the city and school board officials only increases the chances of racist

violence and opposition on Monday.

Because, unlike their city fathers, the racist, anti-busing groups are organized. They fight for their political point of view, and have a plan for Monday.

Mothers Alert Detroit (MAD), the leading anti-busing group, is calling for an indefinite boycott of the schools by all those opposed to busing.

## WITHDREW CHILDREN

To dramatize this boycott, members of MAD permanently withdrew 49 children from two schools on Detroit's northeast side the last day of the school term.

One of those schools—Fleming—is currently 94% white. It is scheduled to become 52.3% white after the transfers. The school is paired with is currently 87% black and will be 54% black when the busing plan is implemented.

The two schools are only three miles apart. Yet, several parents have removed their children from Fleming and enrolled them in a parochial school in Warren, an all white suburb bordering Detroit, which is also three miles away from their residence.

This school also costs \$300.00 a year. These facts obviously contradict a statement made by John Williford, president of a local parent-teacher organization and a boycott leader.

He said, "I want to stress that neither parents nor students object to attending school with blacks or other ethnicities, but we have three good schools in this area and we want to attend the schools where we live."

No, this proposed boycott has only one purpose—to keep white kids from going to school with black kids. Put straight—the reasons are racist.

On Thursday, MAD organized a picket of the Federal Building (see p. 1) and has plans for a caravan on Sunday and demonstrations on Monday.

## ON THE EVE

On the eve of busing in Detroit, it doesn't look good. In the face of the growing racist opposition there is still no leadership from the city—only pleas to keep the peace and obey the law.

If Detroit turns into another Boston or Louisville, the blood and violence will be as much their fault as that of the racists.

Those of us that understand that the question of busing is basically one of racism must fight back.

Defend busing. Join and work with Women Against Racism. Organize to defend our children against the racists. Stop racism in Detroit.

## Western Puppets Battle In Angola

# NO PLACE TO RUN

by Dan Posen

Three thousand refugees fled from heavy fighting in the southern Angolan port of Mocamedes last weekend.

They got into fishing boats and left their homes behind, travelling south to Walvis Bay in Namibia, the southwest African territory occupied by South Africa.

But when they got there, South Africa refused half of them permission to land. Only "bona fide Portuguese"—whites only—were allowed ashore. The other half, black Angolans, were left stranded in their boats in the bay.

South Africa's apartheid laws extend even to war refugees.

But the fighting there were fleeing had nothing to do with the "real" war in Angola. They weren't escaping battles between the liberation movement MPLA

("Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola") and the pro-western armies in Angola.

## TWO PUPPETS

In fact, there aren't any MPLA troops anywhere near Mocamedes, which was captured by an invading column from South Africa last October.

The fighting at Mocamedes was between the two western puppet movements, FNLA and UNITA.

FNLA and UNITA ("National Front for the Liberation of Angola" and "National Union for the Total Independence of Angola") are the groups financed by the United States, South Africa and China to fight MPLA.

They're still fighting—but mainly against each other. It seems their leaders can't decide how to divide

up the parts of southern Angola that South Africa took over for them.

Both FNLA and UNITA are largely tribal organizations. FNLA is based on the BaKongo tribe and UNITA is supported by the Ovimbundu. That is partly why they so easily became agents of the powers who are trying to crush Angola's national freedom.

MPLA, the movement fighting for national liberation, is based on the workers and other urban forces who want national unity, not tribal division.

## SETTLE OLD SCORES

FNLA and UNITA don't trust each other. Even in the late 1960's they spent a lot of time ambushing and killing each other. So while South Africa and CIA-recruited

mercenaries do most of the fighting against MPLA, their puppets are settling old tribal and factional scores.

## VICTIMS

So thousands of black Angolan victims of fighting between South Africa's own puppet groups were denied refuge by South Africa when they tried to run away! That is the kind of "civilized policy" the fascist Republic of South Africa is bringing to Angola with its "anti-Communist crusade."

And with "alles" like FNLA and UNITA, it is no wonder that Vorster of South Africa, and Gerald Ford of the United States are looking for tens of millions of extra dollars for planes, tanks and mercenaries to continue their war in Angola. □

# Williams Free!

by Byron Gray

Black revolutionary Robert Williams is free.

Last Friday, January 17, in Monroe, N.C., kidnapping charges against him were dropped.

Carroll Lowder, District Attorney of Union County, N.C., maintained that charges were being dropped because the main prosecution witness was too ill to testify.

However, it is clear that publicity and national reaction to the frame-up is the real reason for the dismissal of charges. Williams had also promised to bring into the trial information concerning attempts by the FBI to discredit and murder him.

In 1961, during a confrontation between blacks and whites in Monroe, a white couple accidentally drove into the black community. To protect them, Williams took them into his home. They were

released unharmed several hours later after tensions had died down.

For this Williams was charged with kidnapping and forced to leave the country.

## CIVIL RIGHTS LEADER

During the Civil Rights movement of the sixties, Williams was an active supporter and organizer for arming the black community against attack from racist whites. Many black communities around the country followed his lead and began arming themselves for protection. This is why Williams was framed.

The force of public support was too much to reason a continuation of the case. But, for fourteen years the courts of this racist society were successful in forcing Williams' out of politics and the fight for black liberation. □

February 4 is the fifteenth anniversary of the beginning of the armed liberation struggle in Angola. On that date in 1961, MPLA made the first armed attacks to free prisoners of the Portuguese regime in Angola. To commemorate this anniversary and build the movement for the victory of the MPLA, the weekend of February 6-7 will be marked by a series of important rallies and demonstrations across the country.

**NEW YORK:** Friday night, February 6, a Night of Cultural Solidarity With MPLA. Time: 8—11 pm. Place: Columbia Law School Auditoriums A and B, 116th St. and Amsterdam Ave. Saturday, February 7, a march and rally beginning at Herald Square, 34th St. and 6th Ave., proceeding to Gulf Oil headquarters, the South African Cultural Organization and Times Square. Sponsors: MPLA 4 Coalition and February 4 Coalition and February 4 Solidarity Committee. For exact times and further information call (212) 724-7075. MPLA Solidarity Committee is located at 825 Riverside Ave., NYC 10025.

**CHICAGO:** February 6, an educational evening on Angola. Place: St. Mary's Center for Learning. February 7, a rally

beginning at the Civic Center and march to the Loop. Time: 12 noon. For further information contact US Out of Angola Committee, c/o Dean's Office, 2044 W. Grenshaw, Chicago 60612 or call (312) 348-3370.

**PHILADELPHIA:** February 7, demonstration, time and place to be announced. Write or call Philadelphia Coalition for Justice in Angola, 117 North 40th St., Philadelphia 19104, (215) 386-3331.

**BOSTON:** February 7, rally and demonstration. Time: 1 p Place: Boston Common. Sponsors: African Students for Angolan Liberation and Angola Solidarity Coalition, both located 5 Prospect Hill Ave., Somerville MA 02143. Telephone (617) 647-2771.

# CHOU EN-LAI'S POLITICS

Chou En-Lai, Prime Minister of China, died early this month. He had been a leader of the Chinese Communist Party since the 1920's.

When he died the TV news showed stories of his life and quoted many US politicians who praised his intellect and leadership qualities. They especially admired his flexibility, shown by the fact that he stayed a top leader for over fifty years in a country where most under Chairman Mao were lost to purges.

In China his death was met with the most massive display of mourning organized in that country's history.

The true story of Chou En-Lai is closely tied to the history of the rise of the Chinese Communist Party. That road is marked from almost the beginning by the betrayals of the working class. □

Chou En-Lai grew up in a China run by foreign powers. The US, Britain and other countries controlled petty kingdoms of warlords and drew China's wealth to themselves, impoverishing the Chinese people. Industry came slowly to China, but by the 1920's a small working class toiled for slave wages in new factories in the cities.

They were the base of the newly formed Communist Party that Chou En-Lai joined in the early 20's.

All Chinese wanted to get rid of

the imperialist rulers. The Kuomintang was an organization formed to do this. It was led by businessmen, who wanted to keep profits in China.

The young Communist Party had a different view of free China.

## NEW POLICY

They knew that the working class, although small, had enough power to lead China's peasants in social revolution that would create a society ruled by working people



when they threw the imperialists out.

But by the mid 1920's, Chou was a leading figure in carrying out a new policy for the CP, set by Stalin. It was to ally with the nationalist Kuomintang.

In 1925 workers and peasants began a massive revolt. The Communist Party became its leadership.

In 1926 Chou was transferred to the big industrial city of Shanghai. He helped lead a huge general strike and insurrection that liberated the city from pro-Western warlords.

But the Kuomintang was terrified. They knew that once workers' power was unleashed it would be used against them too.

On Stalin's orders the workers were told to welcome Chiang Kalshek's Kuomintang forces into the city. Chiang's army marched and arrested them.

Chou eventually escaped, but thousands of workers were killed. The Communist Party was shattered, its worker membership destroyed.

But those like Chou, who never questioned Stalin's orders, were rewarded with still higher positions in the party. He was elected to the Politburo.

## MAO'S ARMY

The only part of the party to survive was the section led by Mao

Tse-Tung. He built up an army led by Communist members and manned by peasants.

After 1935 Chou became the Chinese Communist Party's leading spokesman, and always supported Mao.

In 1936 Chou saved Chiang Kalshek's life. In return for a new alliance between the Communist Party and the Kuomintang.

Japan invaded China that year. The Kuomintang armies proved too corrupt to effectively fight the Japanese. They disintegrated.

By 1949 Mao's forces controlled mainland China. The imperialist rulers were gone. But they were replaced by Communist Party leaders who had risen to power by crushing the working class.

As Prime Minister of the new People's Republic, Chou continued as Mao's mouthpiece.

He echoed Mao when he attacked struggles for equality of wages in China as "a petty bourgeois outlook which encourages backwardness and hinders progress."

In the 1950's and 60's, Chou gained the reputation of a mildly conservative figure.

He avoided becoming involved in the bitter faction fights over China's future, but was always around to make sure the bureaucratic state machine kept functioning.

Last year's spread of industrial strikers shows that China's workers still have their own battle to fight against Chou's successors. □

# SPAIN: STRIKES SPREAD

Seventy thousand railroad workers drafted into the Army to stop a spreading railroad strike. Fifty five thousand postal workers already under military rule, and 4000 subway workers threatened with the same action for continuing their strike.

A hundred twenty members of a coordinating committee seized by police for planning a general strike. Fifty five lawyers and their friends arrested for a "subversive meeting" in a private home. Massive tear-gassing of a women's march against high prices. Record numbers of police charging with water cannon and rubber bullets to break up a demonstration of left wing parties outside the Premier's office.

That is only a small sample of the scale of repression in Spain last week. But the mass strike wave continues to spread.

Besides over 50,000 industrial workers in Madrid, it has included farmworkers in the south demanding \$13 a day, bank workers in Madrid and Valladolid, church occupations and sympathy demonstrations all over the country.

The Spanish government, now calling for workers' living standards to be cut even further, is trying to prove its strength. But its massive police brutality, military strike-breaking and political arrests are becoming, instead, a show of weakness. □

# Behind Lebanon's Massacre

The civil war in Lebanon has become a massacre. Thousands have been killed and the survivors shipped off as prisoners. Some people were machine-gunned as they tried to protect their families with their own bodies. Corpses of civilians lay strewn in the streets.

The mass murder was done by militants of the right wing Phalangist Party who captured Palestinian refugee camps and occupied Moslem districts of cities including Beirut.

The crisis in the Middle East has touched Lebanon and brought its own problems to crisis proportions.

Refugees have organized support for Palestinian guerrillas. This has brought Israel to the verge of marching into southern Lebanon, alarming Lebanon's ruling Christian minority.

## POPULAR SUPPORT

But the Palestinians have the support of the overwhelming majority of the working class and the poor, the Shi'ite Moslems of the urban slums and southern villages.

Finally, Syria, whose foreign minister has already claimed his country has the right to take over Lebanon, may do just that.

The Christian politicians in the government are calling for Western intervention.

But the Phalangists faction has beaten them to it. They are armed and financed secretly by the United States, Israel, and Iran, all of whom oppose the Palestinians.

The Phalangists and their allies want to do to the Palestinians in Lebanon what was done to the Palestinians in Jordan in 1970. There they were slaughtered and their movement crushed.

The real blame for the slaughter in Lebanon falls on the western imperialist powers. They set up Lebanon in 1943 as a Christian dominated outpost to serve their commercial and oil investments. Now they are wringing their hands while they watch it burn—and fanning the flames at the same time. □

## His Record

- 1954: Along with the Russians, Chou forced Ho Chi Minh to accept the division of Vietnam at the Geneva Conference of 1954—after the Vietnamese had defeated French colonialism. The result was 21 more years of war in Vietnam.

- 1957: Chou flew to Hungary to congratulate the bureaucrats who used Russian tanks to crush the 1956 workers' revolution in Budapest. Ten years later, he called the same Russian and Hungarian rulers "social imperialist."

- 1971: Chou sent greetings to Ayub Khan of Pakistan as he directed the slaughter of Bengali fighting for national independence—and to Mrs. Bandaranaike of Sri Lanka (along with

- \$150 million interest-free loan) as she crushed a peasant-student revolt.

- 1972-73: Chou negotiated with Henry Kissinger and invited Nixon to China, while US bombers continued the murderous terror bombing of North Vietnam.

- 1974-76: Chou embraced the Shah of Iran, Emperor Haile Selassie of Ethiopia, and sent a message of heartfelt grief to the Spanish government when Franco died. He also sent aid to Holden Roberto, the CIA's stooge in Angola, to train FNLA's army.

- How many of these policies were ever decided, or even discussed, by the workers of China? □

# PORTUGAL, Thursday, January 22



Police yesterday fired into a small crowd supporting a shopworkers' strike in downtown Lisbon. One man was killed, and half a dozen injured.

The shooting is a dangerous sign. It reflects police confidence that they can get away with open, armed violence against workers in the capital city. Until this week, there had been almost no such incidents since the summer strike wave of 1974.

The right-wing crackdown in Portugal is speeding up. However, the working class is resisting, more each week.

A national campaign against the wage freeze and price increases began last weekend with a two-hour general construction strike and a mass rally of 75,000. Both were successful.

The rally was run and controlled by national unions, which are dominated by the Communist Party. The union leaders did not want to give the protest a militant tone.

Even so, the national union federation, Intersyndical, stated the government has 15

days to come up with a definite response to the problems of frozen wages and rocketing prices. Otherwise, they warned, there will be new forms of struggle by workers.

## WORKERS' CONTROL

The government has taken the first steps threatening workers' control. Under the Fourth and Fifth Provisional Governments, hundreds of factories were abandoned by their owners, or simply taken over by workers. They have since been run by democratically elected workers' commissions. The government recognized them as worker-run enterprises.

Now it is trying to reverse the process. The Labor Ministry is demanding that workers' commissions re-apply for government recognition. Some bosses are already putting in to have their factories handed back to them! But the working class is too powerful and militant for repression on that scale to be easily carried out.

# Right Wing Strategy For Repression

Military repression is sharpening in Portugal.

Otelo de Carvalho, one of the chief organizers of the anti-fascist April 25, 1974 coup, has been arrested. Carvalho is the former head of COPCON, a left-wing military unit.

Through much of post-fascist Portugal's history he had tremendous respect and authority among workers and soldiers, and the power that went with it. He was taken the day after

publication of a report by a recent government Commission of Inquiry into the events of this past November 25.

## "PLOTTING"

This report accuses Carvalho of "plotting" a left-wing coup on November 25. It also claims that the "political line" of various political parties was responsible.

It specifically names the

Communist Party, the United Revolutionary Front (which included several revolutionary organizations), and the Maoist Popular Democratic Union (UDP).

However, the report offers no proof for its charges. Its so-called "investigation" of November 25 is only a tool for a right-wing purge. Carvalho's arrest will be followed by others.

The report levels no specific



# TDC Rolls Ahead

## Build Rank And File Unity

**DETROIT**—About 40 Teamsters, including a large number of UPS workers, attended a meeting of the Detroit chapter of Teamsters For a Decent Contract (TDC) January 18. Considering the conflict with the Super Bowl game, it was a good turnout.

Pete Camaratta reported on the national TDC delegation which went to Washington, January 10. Others reported on the demonstration Detroit TDC held in front of the Local 299 hall in support of the Washington delegation.

Another subject discussed was "politics and the TDC." Management, the union leadership, and others have attempted to discredit TDC by labeling it communist or socialist.

Several speakers pointed out that this was simply a tactic to split the movement. They said that although some TDC members are socialists, Teamsters for a Decent Contract is simply what it claims to be—a rank and file organization that exists because the union leadership is not doing its job.

Dan LaBotz from Chicago added that if red-bating didn't work management and the union leadership would try to split the movement along lines of race, sex, or nationality.

LaBotz also pointed to the role of socialists in building the Teamsters Union and the CIO in the 30's, and said, "It's time the word 'socialist' stops being an insult in the labor movement."

The meeting also discussed company harassment for TDC activities and future plans for the group. These include continuing the petition drive, continuing to press for local union resolutions in support of TDC, and publication of a local TDC newsletter. □

## Contract Vote "Out of Order"?

**PORTLAND**—Teamsters for a Decent Contract held their fourth meeting here Saturday, November 10. Forty Teamsters and wives were present.

Plans were made for putting out a Portland area Teamster rank and file newspaper. The meeting also decided to press for Local 81 endorsement of the TDC contract and for separate votes by the affected members on supplements to the national contract.

At Local 81's meeting Sunday, this motion came to the floor. But it was quickly ruled out of order by the secretary-treasurer.

He said that since union members could not have separate votes on contract supplements last convention, the demand was out of order for this contract too.

By leading the Local meeting through a maze of parliamentary procedure, he was able to sustain this ruling.

Local TDC members, undaunted by the setback, but having learned some lessons in organizing for local meetings, resolved to try again with other contract demands. □

## LOUISVILLE: 30 NEW TDC SUPPORTERS

**LOUISVILLE**—Teamsters for a Decent Contract here held their first public meeting Saturday, January 17. About 50 Teamsters showed up for the meeting in spite of veiled threats and rebaiting tactics by local officers.

Four or five Teamster goons came with apparent intentions of breaking up the meeting. But they left as the crowd grew larger.

The majority of the crowd was from United Parcel Service. They heard Anne Mackie, UPSurge editor from Cleveland, explain the importance of unity between UPSurge, TDC, and all Teamsters.

### ORGANIZATION

Vince Meredith, chief steward at UPS in Louisville spoke on the

by Jim Woodward

A major shakeup in the top leadership of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters has just taken place.

The move indicates that rank and file oppositionists in the union,

united around Teamsters for a Decent Contract (TDC), have already had a profound effect on this year's contract bargaining.

In reaction to the intense pressure from the membership, Teamster President Frank Fitzsimmons is taking steps to insulate himself

from the rank and file, while attempting to solidify his position at the top.

He has forced the "retirement" of the 60-year-old International Secretary-Treasurer, in order to install a 70-year-old man in that job.

The new Secretary-Treasurer is Ray Schoessling of Chicago, who replaces Murray ("Dusty") Miller.

Louis Peick, head of Chicago Local 705, will take Schoessling's place as an International Vice President.

And Roy Williams of Kansas City will take Schoessling's other position as head of the Central States Conference, the largest of the Teamster Union's subdivisions.

### WEAK POSITION

Behind all this shuffling is one fact. Fitzsimmons is in a very weak position. The important Master Freight Agreement, covering over 400,000 Teamsters, expires March 31.

The union's convention is scheduled for June, and Fitz will be up for re-election. The possibility exists that by then things could be blown out of his control.

In the contract bargaining, Fitz is on the spot. Unrest in the union has forced him to demand relatively high wage increases and full cost of living pay.

More than wages is at issue, though. In the words of an article January 18 in the New York Times, "rank and file dissidents, uniting under the banner of Teamsters for a Decent Contract, are contending that the union is paying no attention to the loss of jobs in the industry or to the number of hours that those who have jobs are forced to work."

### PRESSURE

All of this, in the words of the Times, "is creating tremendous pressure on Mr. Fitzsimmons to bring home a contract that he can sell to the members and then survive with at the convention."



**"I pledge allegiance to the American Trucking Association and to the system for which it stands."**

# Monsanto Strikers Under the Gun

by Jo Kimbrough

**NITRO, W. Va.**—"We're orphans," said a man on strike here at the Monsanto chemical plant. "We don't have a company and now we don't have a union."

Steelworkers Local 12610 members have been on strike since October 1 and have stayed solidly together, but now the USW International representative is pulling a series of fast tricks to try to get them back to work.

On Friday, January 16, copies of the proposed contract and ballots were mailed to the strikers. They are to vote secretly by mail, despite the fact that time after time the membership has voted for a standing roll-call vote.

The ballots were not sent by registered mail. Some men have not received them at all while one man, at least, has received three!

But this isn't the worst of it. Monday, after many ballots had already been returned, it was announced that the wage reopener clause included in the mailed contract was not part of this offer.

At first, Paul Rusen, subdistrict director in District 23, said this was a mistake. Later he changed his story and said it was included only for comparison purposes to previous offers. It was not identified as such in the packet that the strikers received.

Many men voted "yes" who would have voted "no" if the wage reopener clause had not been included. But Rusen says that despite this "mistake," the results of the vote will be legal.

### RIPPED OFF

Members of the Local circulated a petition to call a special meeting Monday to discuss this ripoff.

It was done strictly according to the union constitution, but they were denied permission to hold the meeting.

This action has taken the strikers by surprise, and they are shocked and hurt. They have taken great pride in having a democratic Local but now the International has taken over and denied them their democratic rights.

"Rusen told us many times at the start of the strike that we could hold votes however we chose," a striker explained.

"He said we could stick our feet in the air and wiggle our toes if that's how we wanted to do it." Now Rusen is dictating the voting procedure and shooting an unacceptable contract down the strikers' throats.

Fitz is preparing for the contract, but not by preparing to fight the employers. The Teamsters Union has for a long time been a set of baronies—with International officers in various parts of the country controlling their own areas.

This situation has become even more marked since Fitzsimmons took over the union.

In 1970, Louis Peick and Ed Fenner (of the Chicago independent truckers union) refused to go along with Fitzsimmons' wage settlement in that year's MFA negotiations.

A long Chicago strike won 65c more than the national settlement. Fitz, much to his embarrassment, was then forced to reopen the MFA negotiations to get the additional 65c.

With the intense rank and file pressure in mind, Fitzsimmons is afraid that Chicago or some other area will stage a repeat performance of 1970.

### CONTROL

The elevation of Schoessling to Secretary-Treasurer and Peick to Vice President is meant to keep Chicago in line. Moving Williams up in the Central Conference is an attempt to eliminate another potential trouble spot. Fitzsimmons hopes that by making these men part of his "team" now, they will remain part of the team come the contract in April and the convention in June.

This is how Frank Fitzsimmons responds to the demands of rank and filers—by organizing his defenses and solidifying his position in the bureaucracy. He is willing to fight—but only his own membership.

That's how Fitz is preparing for April 1. Fortunately, rank and filers in Teamsters for a Decent Contract are preparing, too, by organizing across the country. Their slogan is "ready to strike," and that may mean more than any slick maneuvering Frank Fitzsimmons can pull off. □

**BULLETIN**—As we go to press, Workers' Power learned that the strikers heard on the news that the vote was to go back. Strikers then went to strike headquarters. It was closed and padlocked. Workers reporting for picket duty found the picket shacks torn down. But as one striker said, "This isn't the end of it." □

Not surprisingly, the strikers have found it almost impossible to reach Rusen by phone. His assistant, Bill Anderson, never seems to know the answers to strikers' questions.

Pressure to go back to work is coming from other sources as well. Strikers who have been receiving food stamps are suddenly being cancelled at the food stamp office, having their stamps delayed while the office checks tax receipts, and other hassles.

Local newspapers tell only the company's side, saying a strike hurts everyone.

Many of the strikers have been hauled into court, some of them several times, but warrants sworn out by union members against company personnel are somehow never served.

The contract being voted on now is, without the wage reopener, basically the same as the first offer Monsanto made the strikers. It doesn't even keep up with inflation, let alone give the workers any real increase in earnings.

"I'll never trust the International again," one man said. "I don't see how anyone in his right mind could." □

# Arsenic in the Water, Profits in the Till

In Tacoma, Washington, an expert in the field of lung cancer has predicted that continued emissions of arsenic from the city's smelter will result in "an epidemic of cancer."

Dr. Samuel Milham, Jr., a specialist for the Washington State Health Department, told the Puget Sound Air Pollution Control Agency, "I know that this plant is making cancer in its people."

The Agency has been meeting to determine if the Tacoma smelter should be forced to abide by federal and local regulations governing arsenic emissions.

Workers' Power reporter Calvin Williams investigated the situation in Tacoma.

**THE WORKERS AT THE Tacoma smelter** have always known that the arsenic was dangerous. They are regularly subject to painful lesions, open sores that do not heal. They are also prone to lung disease.

The long yellow stains that drift across Tacoma's sky are a clear reminder to the rest of the community that arsenic threatens everyone.

Children living in the neighborhood of the smelter are endangered. The Ruston elementary school, for example, is located just 300 yards from the west border of the plant.

Children there were found to have four times more arsenic in their urine than children who go to school eight miles away.

The children were also found to have large quantities of arsenic in their hair.

And in additional tests, vacuum cleaner dust collected from homes showed that large amounts of arsenic fell in the areas closest to the plant.

There are times when Asarco's pollution is so bad that the company sends trucks loaded with fertilizer through the neighborhoods, in an effort to keep the lawns and gardens green.

## DANGER

And if arsenic burns the earth and kills the trees, it does not take

a wild imagination to conclude that arsenic is also dangerous to the workers who produce it.

The owners of the smelter, however, disagree. And they say they will close the plant before they will take the steps necessary to stop the arsenic emissions.

They have their own doctors, who contest all the charges that arsenic is dangerous. In fact, the doctor who is responsible for present pollution standards is an Asarco employee.

Dr. Sherman Pinto, the author of several studies which claim to show that arsenic poses no danger, was once the Medical Director for Asarco, and is still a semi-retired consultant.

More important, however, is the company's threat to close down. The plant manager, Armand Labbe, claims that meeting pollution standards would cost the plant \$14 million, which it will not spend.

## PROFITS

Simon Strauss, the Executive President of Asarco, says the cost would be \$20 million.

And, according to Strauss, "Unless we can clearly see a profitable return on further investment in the Tacoma plant, we might decide not to invest—it's a matter for careful consideration."

"At present, it would be difficult to justify investment."

It might also be said, however, that it is difficult to justify "an epidemic of lung cancer," the

deaths and suffering that Asarco inflicts on the workers of Tacoma.

In 1974 Asarco's sales were \$1.25 billion. Earnings that year were the highest in the company's history, more than \$200 million. And this says nothing of the fortunes that have been made over the years.

Nevertheless, it appears that Asarco will have its way. A campaign is now underway to "save the smelter" and nearly everyone believes that the Pollution Control Agency will grant Asarco the variance it demands.

Everett Foster, the Chairman of the Agency, says that he "always felt that the agency has supported Asarco. I would go as far as to say that it has always supported industry."

Worse, now even some smelter workers are rallying to the defense of Asarco.

The problem is that few workers doubt that Asarco would close down the plant, and there are few other good jobs to be had.

"When it comes to a choice between clean air and a good pay check," a worker told me, "the men here will have to choose the pay check."

As true as this might be, however, it is a tragedy, for the smelter workers are paying with their health and their lives for their pay checks.

## NOT ALONE

And they are not alone. Asarco is one of the worst corporations when it comes to pollution, but there are many others.

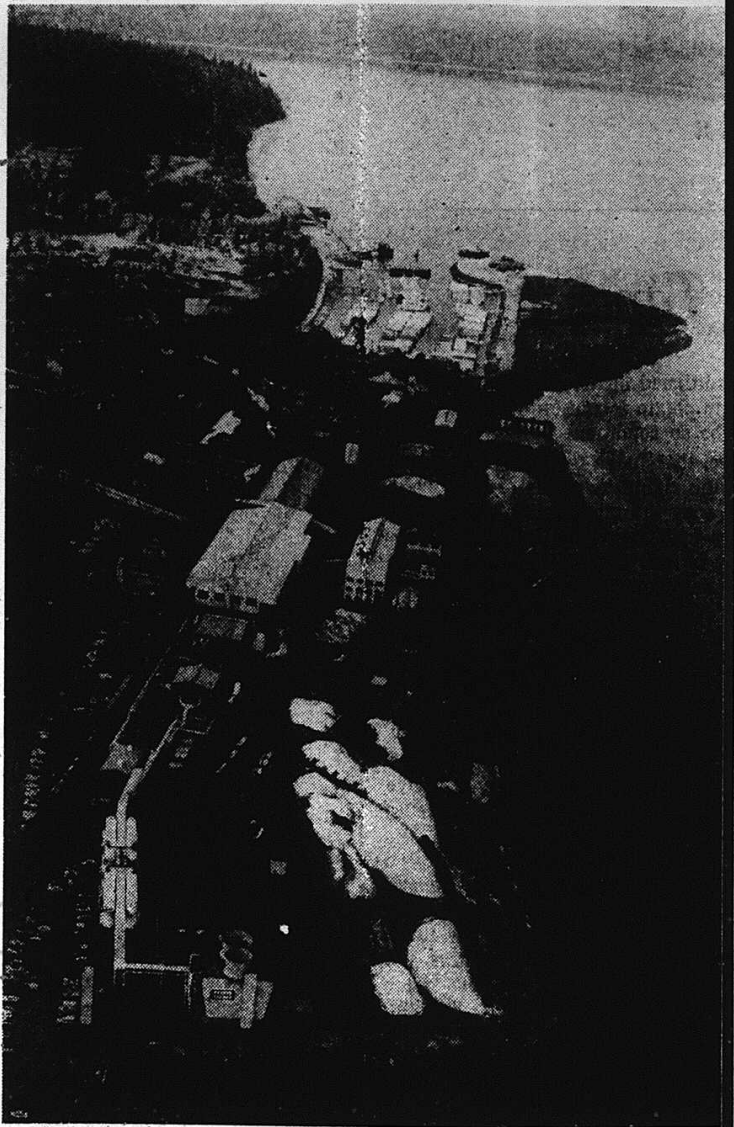
Every year, at least 1.5 million American workers are exposed to dangerous amounts of arsenic. The United Steel Workers Union alone estimates that 40,000 of its members are endangered.

This is only part of the story, however. Arsenic is just one industrial killer. In the United States, 100,000 men and women are killed each year by their jobs. Millions more are suffering, are poisoned and maimed.

Yet despite this, the companies, led by the biggest and richest—Asarco, Union Carbide, Anaconda, Chrysler, US Steel—spend millions to fight regulations, to stall government proceedings, to buy doctors and lawyers. And they usually win.

They do this for one reason. Profit. In this system, profit comes above all else. Human bodies, just like the land, come second. They can be ravaged freely, if there is money to be made.

Asarco has made millions while cancer deaths crept upwards. They must be stopped and so must the system which breeds sickness in people to make healthy profits. □



Tacoma's smelter pumps arsenic into the environment each and every day. Cancer there is rising.

## Cancer Rising, But Plant To Get Extension

The Tacoma smelter is owned by the giant American Smelting and Refining Company (Asarco). It specializes in the smelting and refining of copper ore rich in arsenic and other impurities. It is the sole source of commercial arsenic in the western world.

Recently, the Washington State Medical Association has formally condemned Asarco for continuing to release arsenic. And the Occupational Health and Safety Administration (OSHA) stated that "any exposure to inorganic arsenic in excess of background should be considered an unacceptable risk."

In a study recently submitted to the Puget Sound Air Pollution Control Agency, Dr. Milham reports that in the years 1950 to 1971, 40 Tacoma smelter workers died of lung cancer. That is twice the number that would be considered normal.

And, what worries Dr. Milham even more, in the years 1972 to 1974, there were 14 deaths due to lung cancer when 2.5 would have been normal.

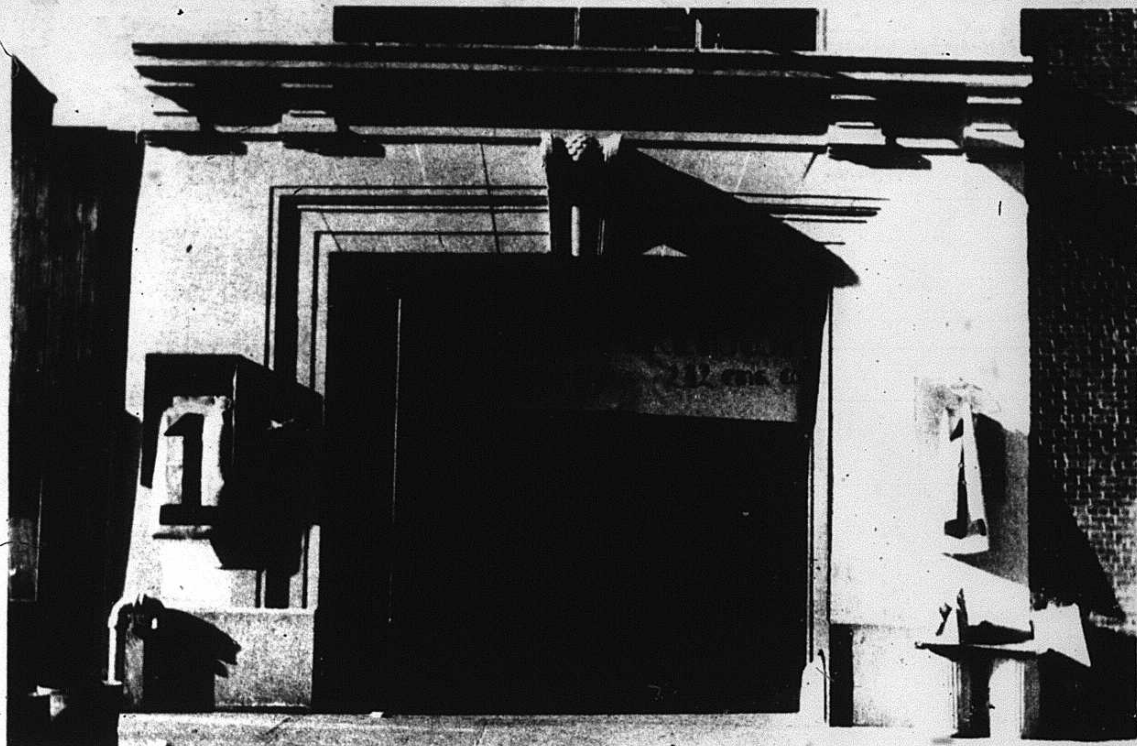
According to Dr. Milham, these increases may in part be due to intensified research and the fact that more cancer is discovered today.

In the past, for example, many deaths attributed to pneumonia and other illnesses were in fact the result of lung cancer. Still, there is the possibility that cancer might actually be increasing as a danger today.

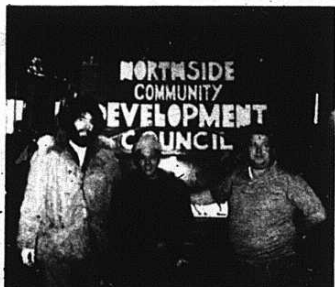
Despite this evidence, and despite Dr. Milham's warnings, it now appears certain that the Air Pollution Control Agency will grant Asarco another five years freedom. When it meets this month, the Agency is expected to grant Asarco another variance, that is exemption from standards until December 31, 1980.



ter,  
in  
ill



# THE STORY OF PEOPLE'S FIREHOUSE No. 1



Members of the Community Council that led the occupation.



Northside has rows of frame houses. The city put residents in peril by closing the fire house.



Makeshift living quarters in the occupied fire house. Five to 20 people are there at all times.

BROOKLYN, New York—New York has become the city of cutbacks. And residents of the northside section of the Williamsburg area here found out in November that the city was going to close their fire station.

They didn't like that. "We're surrounded by oil depots and this station is sitting on top of a pipeline. And most of the houses are wooden frame rows," said Fred Ringler of the Northside Community Redevelopment Council. "The city is cutting down on services here trying to force residents out and let business expand," he added.

The Northside residents weren't ready to give in to this. So, in November, 250 of them occupied the station, holding both the firemen and the truck hostage overnight.

The next day a task force of city, police, and fire officials met with the occupiers. They left after getting promises from Fire Commissioner John O'Hagan that the truck would remain for at least five days and that he would notify community officials before any further steps were taken.

#### SIREN SOUNDS

Notification came five days later

when the station siren sounded. No one knows who set it off, but the neighborhood took it as a warning that the truck would be removed that night.

They re-occupied and they've been there ever since. Between five and 20 people are in the station 24 hours a day.

On January 15 Engine Company #212 was rededicated People's Company #1. Five hundred people attended the community ceremony.

The local Catholic school closed to let students attend.

This week someone left a truck full of coal so the occupiers could keep warm.

But despite the high spirits, the neighborhood's concern is fire.

The city claims that with the station closed, response time to a fire will increase by only 30 seconds. Normal response time is 3 minutes.

But on the night of November 29 the nearest available company took 22 minutes to respond to an alarm box around the corner from the closed station.

#### LEARNING

So the occupiers have been using their time to learn to fight fires.

Retired auxiliary firemen taught 35 older residents, mostly women, and 15 teenagers skills such as stretching lines, testing hydrants and protecting people from smoke.

The company is now prepared to respond to fires with fire extinguishers, and a number of residents know how to operate the truck.

However, Adam Veneski of the Community Council told Workers' Power that they won't use the truck because "our men will be arrested and the department will seize it."

In fact, to get reliable protection from fire, the occupiers will have to force the city to reopen the station. That is also the only way to win back the jobs that are lost through closings.

The Northside Council has brought the city to court to get the station officially reopened. The decision is due January 28 in State Supreme Court.

Seven other neighborhood groups have already gone to court and lost in trying to reopen the closed stations.

By allying themselves with the unions involved in the closings, and taking joint action, both the residents and the firefighters have the best chances of winning back their fire station and their jobs. □

# Unions And NY Layoffs: The 'Inside' Job

by David Miller

New York City public employees suffered another double-defeat last week. One came from the city politicians. The other was self-imposed.

The school board announced two setbacks for teachers. 3,000 more teachers will be laid off on February 1. This means a total of 16,000 teachers and 6,000 teacher aides will have lost their jobs in just one year.

It is a 28% drop in teaching positions (from 73,000 to 51,000). At the same time pupil enrollment has increased by 20,000.

The Board also announced the recalling of several-hundred teachers in the middle of their sabbatical leaves. This will cause still more teacher layoffs.

The act is a blatant violation of the union contract. But all the union is doing is going to court. It doesn't expect to win, but has to make a show of doing something.

## SERVE ON BOARD

Doing nothing is bad enough. But the city unions are doing even worse than nothing. They have agreed to send one of their leaders, Jack Bigel of the Sanitation Union, to represent the city unions on the Emergency Fiscal Control Board (EFCB).

This Board now makes all financial decisions for the city government. It is dominated by bankers and corporation heads. The president of the telephone company, the vice-president of J.C. Penney Corporation, and vice-president of Lehmann Brothers Investment-Bank all serve on the Board.

The union leaders think it "smart" to get on the Board. "We can do more from the inside than the outside," is their attitude. How wrong they are is proved by the corporation heads and bankers welcoming the unions' entry onto the Board.

Now when they issue more job cuts and wage cuts, it will be harder for the unions to offer any

resistance. After all, union leaders will have been in on the discussion and decision.

## OLD TRICK

This trick has been tried many times before and the unions always end up with the short end of the stick.

For example, when President Nixon wanted to impose wage controls back in 1971, he made sure the unions were on the Board. The union brass were only too happy to be members.

Once they were in, the Board quickly dropped all pretense of controlling prices, and became openly a wage-control board, period.

A year before that, President Nixon had pulled the same stunt. He appointed Peter Brennan, head of the New York City Construction Trades Council, to be the new Secretary of Labor. Nixon knew what he was doing.

Within six months, Brennan was working openly against minimum wage law for young workers.

That's what really happens when labor leaders try to work "from the inside."

# Woodcock Sounds UAW Retreat

DETROIT—This year's UAW Production Workers Conference was more of a show than anything else. Although reporters were admitted, non-delegate UAW members were not.

And the rules were such that very few actual production workers were delegates—local officials predominated.

The most significant development was what UAW President Leonard Woodcock said—or rather, didn't say—about this year's contract negotiations.

Part of Woodcock's keynote address was a reply to General Motors Chairman Thomas Murphy.

On November 12 Murphy sharply attacked the demand for a shorter work week without loss in pay. That demand is highly popular among UAW members, who have been hit by major unemployment in the last three years.

"The solution to joblessness lies not in shortsighted make-work or

share-the-work programs," Murphy told the New York Economic Club. His attack on the reduced work week plan was the central point of his talk.

## REPLY

In replying to Murphy, Woodcock defended at length the productivity of American auto workers. But he did not say a word about the short work week.

These gentlemen study each other's speeches carefully. Woodcock's omission of this demand was not accidental. He is simply reassuring Murphy that the union leadership's talk of a shorter work week is not to be taken seriously.

There are, however, forces within the UAW that take the demand for a shorter work week quite seriously. On January 23, a number of delegates to the Production Workers Conference, along with other UAW members, formally announced the formation of the

The Production Workers Conference was mostly for show. One delegate from Local 735 (below) looks like he knew it.



Coalition for a Good Contract [UAW].

The Coalition aims to organize a mass rank and file movement to change the union leadership's mind about what it will fight for. The first demand on the list is a "30 or 32 hour work week at full pay."

# PITTS TEACHERS DEFY JAIL THREATS

PITTSBURGH—Moves by the courts and the school board to smash the eight-week teachers' strike here have failed to shake the teachers' solidarity.

The daily fine of \$10,000 per day on the union and \$100 on each striking teacher haven't intimidated anybody.

On January 15, 408 teachers out of 4000 were reported to have

returned to work. By January 20, the figure was down to 356.

A "blue ribbon" fact-finding panel was carefully hand-picked by Judge Donald Ziegler. But it issued a majority report which demolished the school board's bargaining position.

The report called for a salary increase three times larger than the school board's final offer.

The Judge at first suppressed the report, then was forced to give it to the school board. They, in turn, had no choice but to accept it. Other issues remain unresolved.

And finally, the Steelers' Super Bowl victory over the weekend turned the following Monday into one big holiday for the students.

## LAST CARD

The judge is now down to his last card, that of jailing the union president and the executive board. A hearing will be held Thursday, January 22.

If teacher strikes in recent years in Philadelphia, Schenectady and New Haven are a guide, the judge will jail the leaders.

Spirit on the picket lines remains

high. At one school the teachers gave the scabs such a hard time that the school board's security chief threatened to arrest the picketers.

At another school angry parents joined with striking teachers and demanded the resignation of one of the school system's most authoritarian and racist principals.

A mass demonstration of parents, students and trade unionists is scheduled for Friday, January 23 at the Allegheny County Court House.

A delegation will attempt to get through to the judge.

A new chapter in Pittsburgh labor history is being written by the teachers.

Joe White, Parent-Student Strike Support Committee

# THE GARBAGE WE'RE UP AGAINST



BERWYN, Illinois—This Chicago suburb has fired 32 garbage workers belonging to Teamsters Local 705, in order to circumvent the union's jurisdiction.

City officials hired a private garbage removal company, violating an unexpired contract. Members of Teamster Local 731 are refusing to cross the picket line set up by 705 members. And community residents, working men and women, are supporting the garbage workers.

Mary Walsh, an Irish immigrant, joined workers on the picket line along with wives and other concerned Berwyn citizens. "It's Belfast in Ireland, Kissing in Angola, and America in Berwyn," she commented.

Jerry Torris, an ex-union steward and fired worker, has aided and supported his fellow workers on the picket line. He also went with others to city council meetings. There, the aldermen swear openly at the people who elected them "to serve the interests of the community."

Women residents joined workers' wives on the picket line at City Hall, calling it a "cesspool of greed and corruption." But the system is being challenged by hardworking union members, concerned wives and worried citizens who are beginning to understand the garbage they're up against.

# Newsletter Editor Fired

Michael Gillman, editor of "The Semaphore," the publication of the rank and file action committee of Brotherhood of Railway Clerks (BRAC) Lodge 863 has been fired, charged with insubordination.

He was handing out a leaflet informing employees of the Chicago and Northwestern Transportation Co., Ravens Wood Accounting Office, of the new unemployee committee the lodge had set up.

Gillman, who is chairman of the unemployed committee, was scheduled to be laid off the next day. The personnel manager saw him handing out the leaflet in the building entrance and ordered him to stop.

Five minutes before quitting time, Gillman was called into his supervising officer's office. He was given a letter charging him with insubordination for handing out "The Semaphore."

## NOT FIRST

Gillman is not the first to be victimized by the "employee" owned Northwestern. Recently a

black clerk, James Johnson, was fired after he defended himself against attack by a racist company official. "The Semaphore" has continually defended workers who have been harassed by the company's repressive policies.

It has taken a strong line against racism, harassment, and the conservative company unionism of the local protective committee chairman. It has led the fight for democracy within the local.

This trumped-up charge by the company is an effort to strip the militant leader of the opposition within the union of his rights. It is an attempt which is really aimed at all dissidents within the local.

Due to the complicated appeal procedure set up under the Railway Labor Act, it may take two years for Gillman to get his job back. But he will take the fight as far as it will go.

When interviewed by Workers' Power, Gillman said, "If Northwestern thinks that they can beat us this way, they're wrong. The clerks here are angry and they can't be stopped."



# "My Father Is Wrong"

Dear Workers' Power,

Last week my father worked 32 hours and brought home \$214. Last week I worked 62 hours and brought home \$178.

My father drives a truck and has a laundry route. I now spot weld. It is a heavy dirty job.

I have a good reference though. I am a grade II tool maker, read four different types of blueprints, have a good practicing knowledge of shop math and most precision tools. I can also buck in a transit and level. I have many other skills

that I haven't even named.

I held this job for seven and a half years, four as a tool maker. I was laid off. I cannot find another job in this field. No one will hire me for this "man's job."

My father can not do any of the above. I can drive a truck and I

know I could carry laundry. But this too is a man's job.

My father says the E.R.A. is nonsense and we don't need it. I think my father is wrong.

Victim of the System  
St. Louis

Letters

to

# Workers' Power

# THEY NEED HELP

## LAWYERS AGAINST LABOR

Dear Workers' Power:

I am a lawyer practicing in New York State.

In your December 19, 1975 issue an article by Rana Raya on anti-union activities stated that a "fancy New York lawyer" was flown to San Francisco to assist management in opposing an attempt to organize insurance clerks, and was paid \$100.00 a day. This is obviously inaccurate.

In 1970, the time this took place, experienced and respected members of the better New York firms normally billed their clients at the rate of \$100.00 per hour or more. During active labor disputes it would not be unusual to bill well in excess of ten hours a day.

You may be sure that the \$100.00 per day figure is an underestimate.

A.D. Vocate  
New York

## TV Does Its Job

Dear Workers' Power,

Capitalism stinks. What it doesn't destroy, it corrupts.

Those of us who watch television have to put up with a lot of commercial advertising. It's irritating, insulting and stupid.

Educational TV is different; they don't have commercials. Or so they tell us, when they make their pitches for subscriptions. They do accept grants, however, and they announce them tastefully and discreetly before and after the funded programs.

These announcements aren't commercials, mind you, but the other day my five-year-old daughter was talking about Zoom, one of her favorite National Educational Television shows. She said, "You know, MacDon-ald's makes Zoom."

She got the message.

Disgusted,  
St. Louis

## SOUTH AFRICA ON ANGOLA



The people of Angola know that South Africa's stand on Angola is the same as South Africa's stand on South Africa.

Dear Workers' Power,

On January 10, 200 people marched in support of Capitol Packaging workers in Chicago on strike for six months. The OCAW local received city-wide and national attention when Dave Watson, the vice-president of the local was run

## Covering The Truth About America

Dear Workers' Power,

I watched the Rose Bowl Parade on TV this New Year's Day, for as long as I could stand it. It was enough to make even the most red blooded American a bit uneasy.

Through promotion hypes and fancy advertising the corporations are trying to cover the truth about 'America.'

They ain't foolin' nobody!

One of the parade announcers drew a good picture of today's America when, as the MacDon-ald's 'All-American' band passed by, he said, "I can't think of anything more American."

I'll tell you, I can!

Bette  
Detroit, MI

Dear Workers' Power,

I'm sending you this quote from the Times London (Jan. 2, 1976) without comment.

Mr. Vorster, South African Prime Minister's New Year message:

"On South Africa's own involvement in Angola, Mr. Vorster said the anti-communist leaders and the people of Angola knew where South Africa stood, and South Africa was prepared to be judged by them."

Phil McCowan  
Florida

## Another Cheer For WP

Dear Editor,

I have been reading the workers' press for more than 40 years. Recent issues of Workers' Power have been the best in radical journalism in my judgement. Workers' Power is a paper workers can read.

It is the kind of paper one feels like giving his maximum financial support and his maximum effort in seeing to it that Workers' Power gets the widest possible circulation.

This paper covers international as well as domestic events of interest to workers. Union activities are well covered. The racist character of our society is exposed.

The editors of Workers' Power are to be congratulated for their excellent work.

J. W. Anderson  
Dearborn, MI

over and killed by a scab truck driver shortly after the strike began. The struggle continues. Money for support is still desperately needed. Send to: Rose Kirk, Chief Steward, 1634 N. 34th Street, Melrose Park, Illinois 60161.

A Friend  
Chicago

## 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.

# National Committee Report I.S. PREPARES FOR CHALLENGES OF 1976

The I.S. National Committee met in Detroit on January 17 and 18. Twenty delegates and 90 observers attended.

It was the first meeting of the National Committee since the completion of the I.S. membership campaign in December. It came also in the midst of an explosion of rank and file activity in the Teamsters union. These two events dominated the meeting.

• **Membership.** National Secretary Glenn Wolfe reported that the organization has nearly doubled in size in the past year. A high percentage of these new members are workers, in particular black workers.

The increase in membership will strengthen the organization in carrying out the major tasks of the next few months. These are focusing the work of the organization and concentrating on the key campaigns of the period, which were discussed at the meeting.

In another session, the National Committee adopted a proposal to set up five new branches in the Midwest and South.

• **Black Caucus.** During the weekend, the black comrades held several meetings. They discussed how to make the IS a strong multiracial organization.

## CAUCUS FORMS

As a result of these meetings the first national black caucus was formed.

• **Fred Hobby, from Louisville,** told the National Committee that "this is an historic step for the I.S.—it is second in importance to nothing else."

• **Teamsters.** Industrial Secretary Kim Moody spoke about the rank and file movements growing in the Teamsters Union. The Committee discussed the task of concentrating major resources of the organization on supporting the growing struggle of the Teamster rank and file, in particular Teamsters for a Decent Contract and UPSurge.

Leading Teamster militants discussed the most effective ways of pushing the TDC forward, including making preparations for a national strike in April, if necessary.

• **Redbaiting.** The National Committee also discussed how to respond to the campaign of redbaiting now being aimed at key militants in the TDC and UPSurge.

Nearly everyone agreed that the response has to be sharp and up front. Socialists have to show other



Joel Geier, I.S. National Chairman.

Teamsters that the reason they are often the best leaders is because of their socialist politics. With no commitment to the trucking bosses or the system they thrive in; socialist militants have a strategy which can win.

• **Elections.** Gay Semel, editor of Workers' Power, led off a discussion of the 1976 elections. National Committee members agreed that the bankruptcy of the two capitalist political parties is especially apparent this year.

## CANDIDATES

The failure of the Democratic and Republican Parties to find strong candidates reflects the capitalist class's lack of a solution to its economic problems. There will be no alternative candidate for the working class to support this year.

The task of revolutionaries and of militants in the working class is building the campaigns to make substantial contract gains. That effort will prepare the rank and file for future political action based on the strength of the working class.

• **Portugal.** National Chairman Joel Geier told the delegates that the workers' revolution in Portugal was seriously set back on November 25. However the working class struggle is rapidly reviving.

Since April 1974, the Revolutionary Party of the Proletariat (PRP) has worked to create a strong revolutionary party from scratch, during a revolutionary crisis. The PRP has made huge steps toward this goal.

## GROWN

Since November 25, while other left-wing groups have collapsed or split the PRP has solidified and grown.

Because of the strength of the working class, the continuing weakness of the capitalist state and above all the growth of the PRP, the chance for a successful workers' revolution in Portugal remains good.

The NC made clear our total political and organizational commitment to the Portuguese workers' revolution and the PRP.

• **Angola.** Dave Finkel, international editor of Workers' Power, spoke on why revolutionaries must give the MPLA unconditional support in Angola.

The National Committee took the position that only the victory of the MPLA will create Angolan independence.

This National Committee meeting ended with a sense that the organization is prepared to meet the challenges of this key year: the contract campaigns, the national elections, and the continued unfolding of the world revolution, now centered in Angola, Portugal and Spain.

## Books and Pamphlets from Pluto Press



### Bureaucracy and Revolution in Eastern Europe

Chris Harman  
\$3.75

### Workers Against the Monolith: The Communist Parties Since 1943

Ian H. Birchall  
\$3.75

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

Please add 25c postage for first title and 5c for each additional title.



## 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 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. Put 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

National Office: 14131 Woodward, Highland Park, MI 48203  
Amherst: PO Box 250, Amherst, MA 01002  
Bay Area: PO Box 24313, Oakland, CA 94623  
Bloomington: PO Box 29, Bloomington, IN 47401  
Boston: PO Box 8488, JFK Station, Boston, MA 02114  
Charleston, W. VA: PO Box 155, Tyler Heights Sta., Charleston, W. VA 25312  
Chicago: PO Box 9268, Fort Dearborn Sta., Chicago, IL 60611  
Cleveland: PO Box 92239, Cleveland, OH 44102  
Detroit: 14131 Woodward, Highland Park, MI 48203, 863 8600  
Indianapolis: PO Box 1003, Indianapolis, IN 46206  
Los Angeles: PO Box 1671, Lynwood, CA 90220  
New York: PO Box 111, New York, NY 10011  
Portland, ME: PO Box 1242, Portland, ME 04103  
Washington, DC: PO Box 10063, Washington, DC 20001

## International Socialists



If you agree with the views expressed in this paper and  would like more information, or,  would like to join the International Socialists, then send this form to:

INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS  
14131 Woodward Ave.  
Highland Park, MI 48203

Name

Address

Trade Union



## The Modern Little Red Hen.



At last it came time to bake the bread. "Who will help me bake the bread?" asked the little red hen.

"That would be overtime for me," said the cow. "I'd lose my welfare benefits," said the duck. "I'm a dropout and never learned how," said the pig.

"If I'm to be the only helper, that's discrimination," said the goose.

"Then I will," said the little red hen. She baked five loaves and held them up for her neighbors to see.

They all wanted some and, in fact, demanded a share. But the little red hen said, "No, I can eat the five loaves myself."

"Excess profits!" cried the cow. "Capitalist leech!" screamed the duck. "I demand equal rights!" yelled the goose. And the pig just grunted. And they painted "unfair" picket signs and marched round and round the little red hen, shouting obscenities.

When the government agent came, he said to the little red hen, "You must not be greedy."

"But I earned the bread," said the little red hen. "Exactly," said the agent. "That is the wonderful free enterprise system. Anyone in the barnyard can earn as much as he wants. But under our modern government regulations, the productive workers must divide their product with the idle."

And they lived happily ever after, including the little red hen, who smiled and clucked, "I am grateful. I am grateful."

But her neighbors wondered why she never again baked any more bread.

In the tradition of the original fable of the 1923 Pennwalt Annual Meeting, Chairman and President William P. Shultz, commenting on the state of the labor market, in response to the question of a modern version of the well-known fable of The Little Red Hen.

Once upon a time, there was a little red hen who scratched about the barnyard until she uncovered some grains of wheat. She called her neighbors and said, "If we plant this wheat, we shall have bread to eat. Who will help me plant it?"

"Not I," said the cow.

"Not I," said the duck.

"Not I," said the pig.

"Not I," said the goose.

"Then I will," said the little red hen. And she did. The wheat grew tall and ripened into golden grain. "Who will help me reap my wheat?" asked the little red hen.

"Not I," said the duck.

"Out of my classification," said the pig.

"I'd lose my seniority," said the cow.

"I'd lose my unemployment compensation," said the goose.

"Then I will," said the little red hen, and she did.

For 125 years we've been making things people need—including profits.



PENNWALT CORPORATION

One Penn Plaza, Philadelphia, PA 19103

© Pennwalt Corp. 1976. All Rights Reserved.

# 'The Modern Little Red Hen'

## ← THEIR VERSION... ↓ OURS



Once upon a time there was a little red hen who happened to pass by a fellow chicken just as she was scratching about the barnyard uncovering a few grains of wheat. She hit the chicken on the head and gathered the wheat herself.

She called her neighbors together and said, "I found this wheat here, if we plant it we can grow some more with which to bake some bread. Who wants to do that?"

"I will," said the cow.  
"I will," said the duck.  
"I will," said the pig.  
"I will," said the goose.  
"I'll let you do that," said the hen, "but work fast now, and don't dawdle." And they did, while the hen supervised.

The wheat grew tall and ripened into golden grain. "Who wants to reap this wheat?" asked the hen.

"I will," said the duck.  
"I will," said the cow.  
"I will," said the pig.  
"I will," said the goose.

"Let's get to it then," said the little red hen. And they did, while the hen sat in the shade complaining about the help you get these days.

"At last it is time to bake the bread," said the hen. "Who wants to do that?"

"I'd be more than glad to," said the duck.

"I've been trying to get off welfare for nine months," said the cow.

"I've gone to school to be a baker and haven't been able to get a job. I'll help," said the pig.

"You're the only one willing to hire me because the others don't like geese. Thank you," said the goose.

"Get to it, then," said the hen. And they did.

When they were done, the little red hen came over to them and took four of the five loaves they had baked.

"Where are you going?" demanded the other animals.

"This is my profit," said the hen. "I owned the grain, the wheat, the bread, and this barnyard. You're lucky you had jobs while you did. That loaf should be enough for you."

The animals got together and decided to form a union. "We want two more loaves of bread," they told the hen. "We did all the work."

When the hen would not yield they got picket signs and walked around her barnyard, trying to keep any of the other animals from working for the hen.

Because the animals were effective, the hen called the government to do something about the picketing. The government stepped in

and said that only one animal could picket at a time.

"After all, you're preventing the hen from hiring anyone else, which is her right under impartial law," said the government.

"But we baked the bread, the hen did nothing," said the animals.

"This is the wonderful free enterprise system," said the government. "Anyone who has enough money to own a factory can gain wealth without doing any of the dirty work. Under modern government regulations, productive workers must share their product with the idle, meaning the hen."

The animals, who were now without jobs, got together one evening over beers. "My wife needs dental work and I can't afford it," said the pig.

"I have to send my daughter to school in rags," said the goose.

"The only job I can find doesn't pay enough to live on," said the duck.

"I want to welfare and they said I hadn't lived here long enough. I don't know what to do," said the cow.

The animals talked awhile and then decided on a plan. The next day they took over the hen's factory and produced bread for all the animals in the barnyard.

Everyone had plenty, including the hen, who worked on the ovens. No more did want and misery prevail in the barnyard. The animals together made sure of that.

# FIGHTING TO WIN!

"Fighting to Win! Class Struggle Unionism" is a new pamphlet put out by the I.S. It was written as part of a recent I.S. membership campaign. Here, the pamphlet is reviewed by Michael Gorecy, a railway worker and recent member of the International Socialists.

Knowing how to fight is half of winning. "Fighting to Win! Class Struggle Unionism" gives rank and file unionists an excellent weapon in the war against the bureaucratic, sweetheart system of unionism which is strangling them.

Using vivid examples, "Fighting to Win" rips apart the facade of responsible unions and shows them as the sellouts they are. UAW President Leonard Woodcock and Vice-President Doug Fraser leading 1,000 goons to smash a strike at Chrysler's Mack Avenue Plant.

Steelworkers' President I.W. Abel signs an agreement (ENA) which forbids strikes until 1980. (That move astounded even The Wall Street Journal, which called the ENA "a fantastic way to buy off a strike.")

Teamster President Frank Fitzsimmons urging the government to crack down on strikers. All this when thousands of workers are choked on unemployment.

### FIGHTING BACK

But "Fighting to Win!" doesn't just gripe; it tells how others have fought back. One thousand telephone workers in Cleveland, wild-cating to save one man's pension.

Fifty-eight hundred steelworkers striking to save 18 jobs. Miners, telling their union officials to shove it, and spreading a strike about the right to strike, nationwide.

These are just a few examples of what we can do to save our jobs, our lives, when the company and

unions join together to shaft us.

But before we can fight, we must be clear on the principles of the fight.

"Fighting to Win!" throws out the suckers' game of cooperation and tells the truth: the company and the worker have nothing in common. We lose if they win, we win if they lose.

Only when the unions are based on the power of the rank and file member, only when every union member is an active fighter: informed, aggressive, and confident, will we be able to win back control of our unions from the Woodcocks, Abels, Watts, and Fitzsimmons.

A democratic, strong union is what the labor movement started out as and we must return it to that.

### LABOR PARTY

But when we organize, the bosses will use their tools, the Democratic and Republican parties to try to pull us apart. So we must form a Labor Party to defend ourselves.

This too is what the labor movement started to do before the business unionists grabbed it out of our hands.

Fighting is basic, winning is basic. "Fighting to Win: Class Struggle Unionism" is about getting back to basics. It is a pamphlet every worker should read now. In it is what we must know.

Get it from your Workers' Power seller and get down to win! □

## Fighting To Win!

CLASS STRUGGLE UNIONISM



AVAILABLE NOW

From Sun Distribution International

14131 Woodward, rm. 225, Highland Park, MI 48203.

Each pamphlet 25c.

Please add 10c postage for first pamphlet and 5c for each additional pamphlet.

## WORKERS' POWER

A revolutionary socialist weekly, published by the International Socialists.

Subscriptions: \$10 per year. Six months: \$5. Supporting: \$15. Institutional: \$15. Foreign: \$15. Introductory subscription: \$1 for 5 issues.

I enclose \$..... Please send me a..... subscription to Workers' Power.

Name .....

Address .....

City .....

14131 Woodward Ave.  
Highland Park, MI 48203

# Workers' Power

## STEEL LOCAL PRESIDENT FIRED

# "We Need The Right To Strike"

**Bernie Frye, fired president of Steelworkers Local 3489, talks to Workers' Power about his case and building a fight in the steelworkers union.**

by Tom Fahey

TERRE HAUTE, Ind.—Bernie Frye was president of Steelworkers Local 3489 here for two and a half years. He represents workers of Scran Steel, a subsidiary of the giant National Steel.

In November, he notified two temporary foremen that according to the USWA contract, they would lose their union membership if they remained as foremen for more than 90 days.

Three days later, on November 17, Frye was fired for "intimidating and coercing employees in the plant" and "attempting to direct the work force."

Why was Frye fired for carrying out his responsibilities? He has a record of fighting the company and standing up for the rank and file. And when he's had to fight the International union to do this, he's fought them too.

### GRIEVANCE AWARDS

During his time as President, Frye had won over \$150,000 in grievance awards. The company didn't like that. They preferred the ways of Frye's staffman, William Noller, who, Frye reports, had often opposed his efforts to win those grievances. In fact, Noller had warned Frye to "quit being so democratic."

The International machine of the USWA prefers people like Noller too. That's why they're aiding the company in getting rid of Frye instead of helping him.

The firing incident wasn't the first time there was trouble between Frye and the International.

In 1970 he filed suit against the International for undemocratic election procedures which effectively denied 96% of the membership the right to run for union office.

His local also passed resolutions against a dues increase and higher salaries for International officers. He's also a member of R.A.F.T. (Rank and File Team), a national caucus of steelworkers who fight for rank and file control of the union.

### COMPANY MEN

Frye spoke to Workers' Power about the International union. He said, "The further up you go in the International, the more they seem to be company men."

"Hell, to say that under the ENA [Abel's no-strike agreement] you have the right to strike over local issues is a bunch of bunk."

"After the last contract negotiations my staffman Noller told me that he wouldn't recommend a strike even if the membership voted for it... He was satisfied with what we got."

"Yeah, everything we got. We got toilet doors on toilets that haven't been put in yet. We got an insurance plan that we don't even have the booklets for yet. And we lost our major medical coverage in that one too."

"We need the right to strike and the right of the local union membership, not the International, to decide."

### DENIED ACCESS

Since being fired, Frye has been denied access to the plant where all the meetings between the union and management are held. He wanted to change the location of the meetings, but Noller refused.

Today the union is working with the company to delay the date Frye's case goes to arbitration so he won't be able to run for reelection April 1.

They're also bringing in staffmen from Abel's office to handle the case. They want to make sure Frye never gets back.

Frye has taken his case to the National Labor Relations Board and civil court. But he also has support in the rank and file. Once before, workers at Scran wildcatted to protect him. They know that his policies protect them, both from the company and the sell-out Internationals.

Frye is also attempting to win national support for his case through the R.A.F.T. network.

Steelworkers and other unionists who want to help the rank and file side win this case should contact R.A.F.T. at P.O. Box 99004, Cleveland, Ohio 44199.



Bernie Frye and family.

## NYC Transit Workers Face Tough Contract Fight

The contract for 30,000 New York City Transit Authority workers expires March 31. The new contract will be negotiated under crisis conditions.

Mayor Beame and the banks want to destroy transit workers' wages and working conditions, just as they have successfully done to other city workers.

In the past year, thousands of city workers were laid off, and wages were cut. Employees' pension contribution will be increased, which amounts to another wage cut.

All of this could have been avoided. A city-wide strike could have paralyzed the city and stopped Beame's plans cold.

But the municipal unions refused to use their power. Instead of fighting, their leaders cooperated with Beame and the banks in

convincing their membership that nothing could be done.

The stage is set for a confrontation between Mayor Beame and the Transport Workers Union.

Beame demands transit workers settle for no wage increase. He will also look for more productivity, and possibly an end to the no-layoff clause. He has said that from now on negotiations will discuss what gets cut from contracts, not what goes in.

Beame's whole "Save the City" plan depends on defeating the unions.

### TWO MORE YEARS?

For Beame the question is: Can he impose the same conditions on the TWU that he imposed on the other city unions?

For the transit worker the question is: Can I live for two years

without a raise when prices are soaring? Can I take two more years of "attrition," which means less people doing more work and deteriorating safety conditions?

The TWU is the strongest municipal union. It traditionally sets the pattern for other city contracts.

The Sanitation contract will come up later this year. If the TWU breaks through, the others will follow.

Workers' Power is 100% behind the transit workers. 1975 was a year of disaster for rank and file city workers. 1976 is the time and the place to stop the massive attacks on public employees. It's time to start making the banks and the bosses pay for the crisis.

Watch future issues for continuing coverage. We invite all transit workers to send us their ideas so we can help spread them around.

## WHAT TRANSIT WORKERS WANT

New York City's transportation workers are concerned. Negotiations for a new contract between Transport Workers Union Local 100 and the City's Transit Authority are drawing near.

There isn't one aspect of transit workers' jobs that hasn't been threatened—or already seriously worsened—by government response to the financial crisis.

Like all city workers, they are squeezed between inflation on the one hand and the demand that workers must sacrifice on the other. "Can you live for two years without a raise?" asks a subway conductor on the Brooklyn-Queens Crosstown line. "I can hardly live on what I'm making now."

Their present contract con-

tains a hard-won cost-of-living clause—the first for New York City workers and an important gain. But it's been inadequate as things stand in keeping up with inflation, and it's in jeopardy this time around.

### CUTBACKS

Layoffs and service cutbacks are tightening the money squeeze—and not just for those thrown out of work. "I've taken a \$40 a week pay cut," says a new IND conductor. "Because there's no overtime, I don't even think about O.T. any more and it costs me twice as much to drive to work."

Last week, the T.A. imposed a new set of night hour cutbacks and promised more in coming

months.

Besides threatening job security and hours, the layoffs and cutbacks also mean tougher jobs for those remaining, unsafe working conditions and poorer service for customers.

"When a worker calls in sick, there's no one to replace him or her. When a train or bus needs repair, it's ignored. Most new subway trains have at least two dark car and dozens of doors that don't operate. And antiquated conditions affecting workers' health don't improve a bit."

"The thing that gets me is the damn noise," explains a Coney Island line worker. "You ask any conductor in the system and they'll tell you they've had at least a 10% hearing loss. I go home every day with a headache."

What about promotions? "They gave a promotion exam last year," the IND conductor says. "But no one's gone anywhere."

Pensions? The city may try to stop its contributions to the pension fund.

"And now hiring? They're not hiring any more," says the conductor. "Yesterday they had to scrap four trains in rush hour because they didn't have enough guys."

Local 100 President Ellis Van Riper calls this contract fight "one of the toughest struggles we have had in many years." But Local 100 leaders have not yet announced a bargaining position. Nor have they initiated discussion of the specific issues among union members.