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STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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WORKERS' POWER

WEEKLY NEWSPAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS JANUARY 10, 1977 #190 15c

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BLACKS OUTRAGED

Carter's Choice for Attorney General

RACIST

LIBRARY
JAN 1977
STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
OF WISCONSIN



by Dan Posen

IT IS ONLY two months since Jimmy Carter was elected. Yet today, even before he takes office, his relations with the black community and the black leaders who campaigned him into the Presidency are going steadily downhill.

Jimmy Carter has named, as the next Attorney-General, a man who is such a vile, open racist that no

black leader can risk endorsing him.

"If I've got one solid base of support in this election, it's been among the black people of this nation... and I cherish it as much as anything I've had in my life—that confidence—and I would never do anything to betray that confidence. I would rather die first," said Jimmy Carter during his campaign for President.

This week, as new facts pour out about the history of Carter's nominee Griffin Bell, black Congressional leaders are calling his confirmation hearings to be postponed to allow further investigation.

The black Democrats are telling Carter they don't want to break with him—but they can't afford to get caught dead voting for Bell. They are hoping Carter can find some way of withdrawing Bell's name.

Why are the black Congressmen in a state of near-revolt over Bell when they continued to back Jimmy Carter even after Carter's defense of "ethnically pure" neighborhoods?

CLUBS

It isn't because Bell belongs to racist social clubs which ban blacks, Jews and women. Black

Democrats know very well that exclusive clubs are part of the institutions where the white ruling class and its politicians conduct business.

And it isn't just because Bell says he generally opposes school busing. His stated position on the subject is identical to Carter's.

What makes Bell unacceptable isn't just ordinary, garden-variety racism. It's been learned that Bell was one of the principled architects of the Georgia strategy of "massive resistance" to school integration in Georgia in the 1960s.

This meant that the integration of every county, every school, every classroom was to become a bitter legal, political and physical struggle. While lawyers and judges like Griffin Bell mapped courtroom strategies, the nod was given to night riders and bombers to terrorize black children and their families.

Carter may have to dump Bell. But that's not the important point. There are plenty more where Bell came from.

The real point is that whenever black people are conned into voting for a born-again, "moderate" racist like Jimmy Carter, they'll soon find themselves looking at an unconstructed, virtual Klan-type segregationist like Griffin Bell. It happens every time. □

Supreme Court rules against women

ATTACKING WOMEN is not considered a respectable occupation, but that's exactly what the U.S. Supreme Court did in a series of decisions in December. The two most serious ones threaten to put thousands of women out of their jobs, one at a time. Both were erosions of Title 7 of the 1964 Civil Rights Act.

• On December 7 the Court ruled that employers do not have to include pregnancy pay in their disability plans, and denied that this was sex discrimination.

• On December 21, the court decided that the 180-day limit on the deadline for filing

job-bias complaints with the Equal Employment Opportunities Commission (EEOC) begins on the day of the act of discrimination and is not postponed by union grievance proceedings.

The EEOC is reluctant to act on cases which are still in the grievance procedure. The decision will mean that if an employee files a grievance, she or he may lose the chance to appeal to EEOC. This decision threatens blacks and minorities as well as women.

Several union and women's groups such as NOW have formed a Coalition to End Discrimination Against Pregnant Women, to seek Congressional

legislation that would negate the December 7 ruling. However, the court has shown that it could play "law reversal" forever. Employers were delighted with the ruling. The U.S. Chamber of Commerce said the decision confirms "the right of employers to decide what they will insure their employees against."

However, women union members can organize to get contract language that will guarantee maternity benefits. This will be a major task for women workers this year.

OTHER DECISIONS

There were other anti-women decisions in December.

• On the 14th, the Court upheld the government policy of denying Social Security benefits to a divorced woman caring for a dependent child, while paying benefits to a married woman in the same situation.

A woman has to be over 62 years old to receive benefits if she is divorced—after 20 years of marriage.

• On the same date, the court upheld a lower court ruling that Kentucky could refuse to issue a driver's license to a married woman in her maiden name.

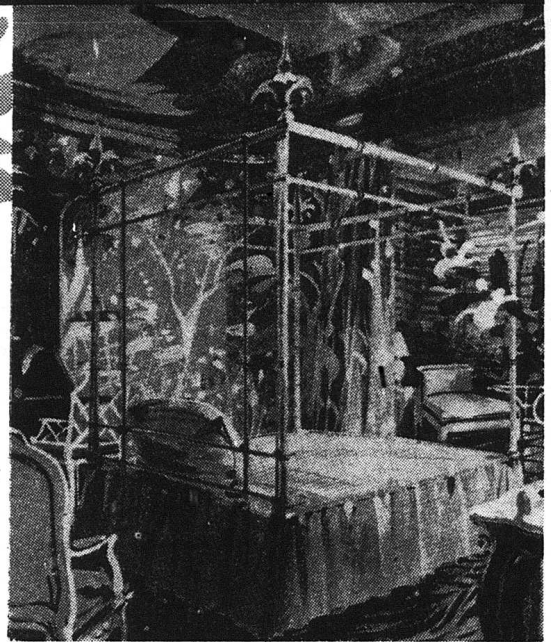
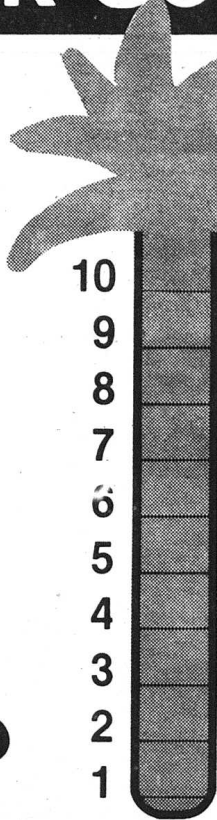
The Supreme Court's attitude

reflects the fact that employers are launching an attack on workers, in their traditional method of trying to divide the workforce by going after one section at a time. Their theory is that unemployment won't seem so high if it's "only women."

These acts are also part of the general attack on gains won by women in the late 60's and early 70's.

It's time now to build a movement that can defend those gains and launch an offensive for equality in the workplace and in society. Women must not let the employers tell us we can't both have children and be equal members of society.

DID YOUR SHOPPING LIST INCLUDE THESE GOODIES?



Tickle Her Pink

Ellen L. McCluskey Associates, Inc., one of the world's greatest interior designers presents the custom boudoir. From silver leaf wall covering, brushed stainless

steel tiles, custom spotlights and wall murals to a wood carved four poster with hand made bedspread and an antique lacquered secretary, this bedroom is unique. Costs subject to confirmation. 0205 220 000.

by Elissa Clarke

THE SEARCH to find the most decadent Christmas gift has ended.

The Workers' Power Sick Society contest has been won by Ron Citkowski of Pleasant Ridge, Michigan. Citkowski sent in a clipping describing a bedroom design that you can purchase for \$220,000.

The bedroom, illustrated in an ad under the headline "Tickle her Pink" features "silver leaf wall covering, brushed stainless steel tiles, custom spotlights, wall murals," and more. The color scheme is pink. In case you are figuring this gift into a tight budget, the ad warns that prices are "subject to confirmation."

Citkowski called the bedroom "prime ruling class decadence." And we agree. A whole family could live for 20 years on the money some people would spend to redecorate.

Citkowski's prize for his winning entry is one free copy of each poster produced by Sun Press this year.

A runner-up award will go to a reader from New York who sent in a list which included a personal amusement park you can buy for \$2,000,000/acre. The price includes a former Disney designer. It's not clear whether you get to keep the designer. This reader will receive Sun's "Smash Apartheid" poster.

The list from New York also included a solid gold omelet pan for \$30,000. Gourmet cooks have probably noted that biggest kitchen gadget rage this year was electric crepe pans. But solid gold is a variation on the theme that most gourmets never even fantasized.

SPOON

Other readers gave the bedroom a run for the money.

A San Francisco reader sent this entry: "Solid gold cocaine spoons, sparkling with diamonds, from \$300 to \$1000." It's probably not your average street corner junkie buying up this item.

Another New York reader sent an item from the "Wall Street Journal" which noted that Mercedes-Benz was enjoying "gift-sales" which they expected to reach 40 cars (at up to \$28,000 each). Last year they had only 4 or 5 "gift sales"—so who says there's no economic recovery!

The article quoted Thomas Holterhoff, assistant general manager of Mercedes-Benz, saying,

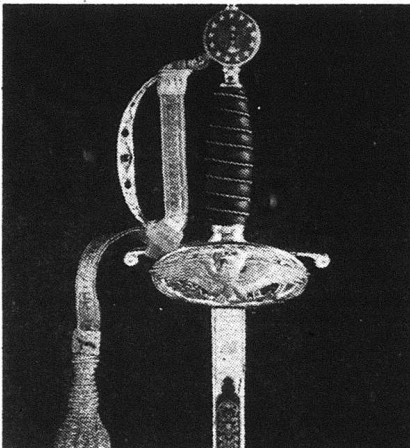
"I can't believe so many have so much." Pretty gross, huh Tom.

The "Wall Street Journal" also mentioned that people were going for imported wine in the \$60-a-bottle class.

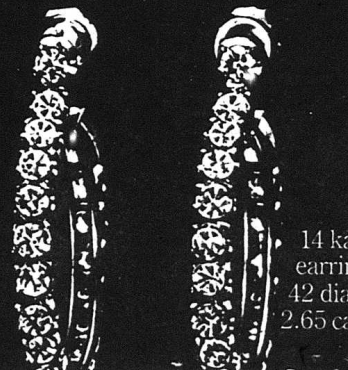
Another reader sent us an ad for diamond earrings—a bargain at "only \$450 an ear."

Jim Woods of Alpena, Michigan sent an item you won't want to live without—a tiny hourglass "Ticking with tiny diamonds instead of sand." That will set you back \$15,000.

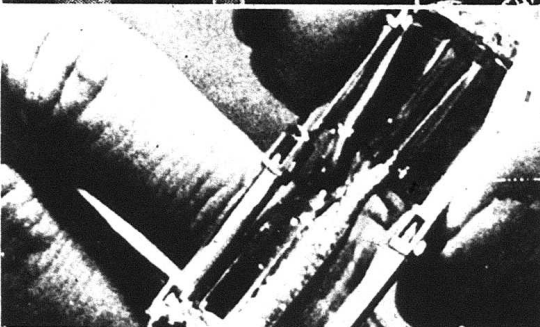
Woods also noted that for \$40,000 you can buy 100 gold coins with any portrait etched into them.



Only \$450 an ear.



14 karat earring 42 diamonds 2.65 carats



This is how the other half lives. It's amusing—but it's also disgusting. Why can some people buy an hourglass with money that could support another family for a year... handsomely?

Why do some people spend \$60 on a bottle of wine—and complain loudly about "welfare fraud"?

Yep, it's a sick society and a sick system. When you read about the disgusting luxury that the ruling class wallows in, you can see that there will be no reconciliation between the working class and the ruling class. So join with us to smash the system and fight for socialism. □

TREE

From Denver, Colorado, a reader informed us of a Christmas tree priced at \$2,000. It is "decorated with hundreds of silk flowers in beautifully coordinated shades." At the same store you can buy an Italian music box for \$2,300 which plays several selections of Beethoven. Or an assortment of doll furniture featuring a 2 x 4 inch Persian rug.

BICENTENNIAL TOYS

Or if you really got into the bicentennial, you might rather have a "American Independence Sword" for \$2500. It is "individually handcrafted of sword steel, leather, sterling silver, gold, sapphires and diamonds." The makers assure you that it will appreciate in value.

CARTER AND ARTIS FRAMED AGAIN

UPS South Votes On Pact

Leaders of the Southern Conference of Teamsters are recommending acceptance of a proposed contract covering 11,000 United Parcel Service (UPS) workers in nine southern states.

Contracts covering these workers were set to expire December 31, but the tentative agreement was reached just before Christmas. Mail ballots are now being sent out, and the results will be announced in mid-January.

Complete details of the proposed contract were not immediately available. However, it was learned that the contract does include a clause allowing for a helper on delivery trucks. The helper will start at a rate of pay several dollars lower than the driver's rate, and will be used by the company to achieve higher productivity at less cost.

Some southern UPS workers are also upset that the contract is being voted on by mail. Previously, the membership has always voted in the union hall. This time a contract summary is being mailed out with the ballot. It has also been reported that stewards will not be allowed to observe the vote counting.

Details of the contract will be reported in *Workers' Power* as soon as they become available. □

Indiana Students Stop Scab Coke Trucks

HOW DOES Teamster-delivered Coca Cola syrup cross Teamster picket lines? Answer: the great syrup switch. The Teamster driver is ordered to drop his tank trailer away from the picket line and then a scab tractor hauls it through.

Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana has made the campus stadium parking lot available for the switch throughout the eight-month IBT Coke strike here.

But a student strike support committee won a victory recently when their publicity forced university President Ryan to deny the use of campus property for this purpose.

Next target of the student committee: the profitable campus sales and soft drink concession contract which has sustained the Coca Cola bottler's business through the strike. □

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Copyright © 1977 by I.S. Publishing Co.
Editor: Gay Semel. Production Editor:
Karen Kaye. Circulation Manager: Tom
Dougherty.

Subscriptions: \$10 for one year; \$5 for six
months. Introductory rate: \$1 for eight
issues.

Published weekly, except the first two
weeks in July and the last two weeks in
December. Second class postage paid at
Detroit, Michigan. Send notice of
undelivered copies or change of address to:
Workers' Power, 14131 Woodward
Ave., Highland Park, MI 48203. Signed
articles do not necessarily represent the
views of *Workers' Power*, which are
expressed in editorials.

Workers' Power is a subscriber to
Liberation News Service and a member of the
Alternate Press Service. It is indexed in
the Alternate Press Index and
microfilmed by University Microfilms.
International Standard Serials Number
(ISSN): 0019-0535.

by Steve Burns

BLACK and working class people across the country were shocked and angered when Rubin "Hurricane" Carter and John Artis were convicted at their retrial two weeks ago.

The second guilty verdict for the two men framed in the 1966 murder of three white men in a Paterson, New Jersey bar reaffirmed the racist nature of U.S. justice.

From the beginning, the Passaic County Prosecutor's office was after Carter and Artis. They viewed the case as a threat to a prosecutor's rights—the right to imprison blacks who organize for freedom, the right to define justice as laws to protect the rich and powerful.

SHOCK

But still the conviction was a shock because most who had been supporters of Carter and Artis expected acquittal to follow the victory of obtaining a retrial from the system. We had not been called upon to lend active support since the retrial was set.

But as we read the newspaper accounts of its progress, the feeling that our support had secured a victory began to turn into a sense of helplessness, as it all started to go wrong.

What did go wrong? Hurricane Carter had said, "I'll believe I'm free only when I never have to enter this or any other court again." Why did his supporters end up believing otherwise?

The answer reveals that the most important lesson of this case is not that the system is racist and corrupt, but rather how to build a defense that can fight the system effectively.

The defense lawyers played a cautious defensive strategy in the second trial, emphasizing legal tactics instead of continuing to build a strong movement to protect Carter and Artis.

DISBAND

For example, the lawyers disbanded Carter's movement group, Freedom For AH Forever, when Hurricane was hit with a ridiculous civil suit by a former backer. That case was eventually thrown out of court.

The lawyers, in noting the judge's hostility to demonstrations, had foolishly decided they could soothe him by cutting down on the militancy.

Actually, what lay behind the judge's anger wasn't fury, but fear—fear of the spotlight of public attention focused on the case. With that attention out of the way, the prosecution could be as vicious as it wanted to be, and it was.

The prosecution called witness after witness: two who changed their testimony, one who ended up supporting the defense by accident, and a main witness who admitted he was a constant liar on and off the stand.

POLICE

Each witness with strong testimony against Carter and Artis was related, directly or through relatives, to members of the local or state police departments!

One was marrying a public

housing policeman. Another took the Fifth Amendment when asked to say what she did for a living.

The police and prosecution worked hard together to line up a fabricated case against Carter and Artis. When they couldn't make the case solid enough, they found people beholden to them to do the dirty work.

The jury, not having much else to

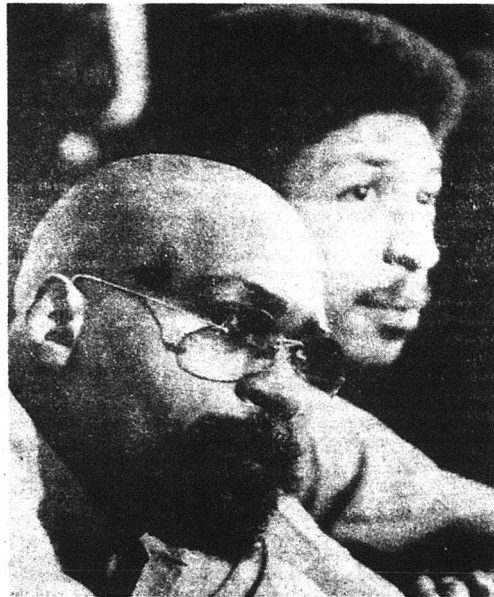
go on, bought their case.

The final major error was in the defense case itself. The lawyers again naively assumed that a retrial meant Carter and Artis' freedom.

By assuming that American justice was fair and unbiased, they put up a weak defense. They did not even call the main eye-witness who contradicted the prosecution's star liar.

Once Carter and Artis lost the movement they had helped build, they lost their only safe defense—a united militant offense that demanded real justice. This is what must be rebuilt to free them now.

For beneath the complexity and legal maneuvers lies one simple reality: lies can be corrected by facts, but power knows only one truth—greater power. □



Hurricane Carter and John Artis

BIGOTED SCIENTIST MADE UP RESEARCH

The British psychologist whose theories are used to justify racism and inequality made up his research findings. The fraud was recently discovered by a Princeton psychologist, Leon Kamin.

Cyril Burt believed that intelligence was inherited, not conditioned by a person's environment. So he wrote "scientific studies" to "prove" his theory.

Lower IQ's among slum children were explained solely by their parents' intelligence—not by inadequate schooling, food, housing, or other rotten living conditions. Burt was considered a major developer of educational psychology. He was even knighted.

His theories fit upper class notions of workers' inability to rule very well. They were never checked enough to show that Burt was simply lying.

TWIN STUDIES

In 1955 Burt reported on 21 pairs of identical twins, all supposedly raised in separate homes. He reported on the same group, but expanded, in 1958, then again in 1966.

In all three studies the mathematical correlation of the twins' IQ's was a very high .771. This was supposed to prove that environment has no effect on intelligence. The likelihood of a correlation

being exactly the same in three such studies is very low. But it fit society's bigotry so well it was never questioned.

Kamin found other likely cases of "creative research" in Burt's work going back to 1912.

No evidence can be found that the two research assistants he frequently used to corroborate his findings ever existed. He frequently quoted unpublished reports, making cross-checking impossible. And, finally, Burt just made things up.

Burt never pretended to be unbiased. One study described a poor child as "a typical slum monkey with the muzzle of a paleface chimpanzee." He "proved" men to be smarter than women, Jews and Irish dumber than the English.

In this country William Shockley, Arthur Jensen, and Richard Herrnstein have relied on his writings to back up their racist garbage. They try to "prove" that black people are innately less intelligent than white.

For over 20 years, Burt's work was basically unchallenged. It was too useful to the ruling class in arguing that poor people really deserved their lot in life, and upper class people deserved theirs.

Too good to be true. And, in fact, it wasn't. □

Kate Stacy

COPS HARASS TYLER FAMILY

The Destrehan, Louisiana police force refuses to give up its harassment of Gary Tyler's family. Gary is black. He was framed in 1975 for the murder of a young white anti-busing rioter, and sentenced to die. A nation-wide movement has been organized to demand his freedom. The movement's backbone is Gary's family.

For their work to free their son and brother, Tyler family members have lost jobs, been arrested on several phoney charges, and continually threatened by both the law and terrorist groups like the Ku Klux Klan.

Last Wednesday it happened again.

Two men, police officers who did not identify themselves as such, knocked at the Tyler door. When nineteen-year-old Steve answered, they burst in waving a gun around, handcuffed Steve and led him away. The charge was armed robbery.

PROTECTION

Juanita Tyler, mother of Gary and Steve, called the local television station and their New Orleans lawyer, Jack Peebles, for protection. Their home was surrounded by police cars and no one was allowed in or out.

When Steve was placed in a line-up, the robbery victim said he did not commit the crime. He was released.

Mrs. Tyler is not even sure that a robbery was actually committed. This could easily be one more case of the continual harassment the family has been subjected to while trying to free Gary.

On January 24, a Louisiana State Supreme Court judge must rule on Gary's fate. He can be re-sentenced to die or to life imprisonment, or the judge may order another trial. □



Thousands of individuals and groups have marched for Gary Tyler's freedom.

CHINA

After The Purge, What Next?

In South Africa, Prime Minister John Vorster delivered a grim New Year's message. He said that South Africa would have to defend its white-supremacy system alone. According to Vorster, white South Africa will get no help from the west or the United States.

If only it were true. . .



Here's one small example of how the United States government backs South Africa to the hilt.

Last month the United Nations General Assembly voted a resolution supporting the armed struggle for national liberation in Namibia (South West Africa, the colony occupied by South Africa).

The resolution supporting Namibian independence and armed struggle passed by a vote of 107-6. Voting against were: Belgium, Britain, France, West Germany, Luxembourg and the United States.

These are the countries which supply South Africa's tanks, planes and nuclear reactor technology.

They are also South Africa's allies. The United States claims to support a "negotiated peaceful solution instead of bloodshed" for Namibia. In reality, U.S. public relations experts and government agencies are building up a puppet chief named Kapuu.

They plan to set up a coalition between Kapuu and white settlers in Namibia, as an excuse to crush the liberation movement SWAPO fighting to free Namibia.



The UN vote on Namibia is not the first time the United States has cast its vote against liberation in southern Africa. And it won't be the last.

Next time, though, there will be one difference. Two weeks from now, when the Carter administration takes over, Andrew Young will become Washington's ambassador to the UN. Young is Jimmy Carter's first black cabinet-level appointee.

Young's job at the UN will be to support southern African liberation with meaningless generalities—and then stab it in the back when it makes a difference.

In today's world, the American white ruling class is delighted to have a black spokesperson for its racist policies.



The South African government is giving massive publicity to the fighting among blacks in Cape Town at Christmas. Many dozens of Africans were killed and hundreds wounded.

Just as they did when one group of migrant workers attacked strikers and students in Soweto last summer, South African officials claim the Cape Town fighting proves there is no mass support for the militant students.

Supposedly, migrant Baka workers attacked students who were trying to enforce a boycott of Christmas shopping called by student organizations in Soweto and other major townships.

These reports come from the South African police, who made similar claims about the fighting last summer. Investigations there soon showed that the police themselves had given arms and directions to migrant workers to murder students and striking workers.

The white rulers are only digging their own graves with their murderous tactics. The migrants are the most oppressed of all South African workers. They will soon learn their real enemies and join the students and urban workers in the struggle.

AMAZING REPORTS are coming out of China about continued factional struggle in the Communist Party and bloody fighting in several provinces.

The key railroad junction of Chengchow, in Honan province, is under military control. Troops have been sent to Fukien and Hupeh provinces, as well as the city of Paoting near Peking.

Official Chinese government reports claim that all the disorders

are caused by so-called "counter-revolutionary gangsters," organized by supporters of Mao's widow Chiang Ching.

THOUSANDS KILLED?

Chiang Ching is accused of having organized militias for a full-scale insurrection in Shanghai and other cities. She is under arrest.

Hundreds or thousands of people

have been reported killed in some of the armed battles of the last few months.

However, it appears that the fighting is not completely limited to a power struggle between Communist Party leaders. In at least one city, Chengchow, some of the fighting has resulted from workers going on strike for better wages.

The new struggle in China began a year ago after the death of Chou

En-lai. It escalated when Mao died last summer. Chinese Communist Party bureaucrats have been battling each other for the power to determine economic and political policies. The Party bureaucracy is the ruling class of China.

None of them want to see workers organize against the whole bureaucratic system to gain better wages or political power.

The central leadership is now represented by Hua Kuo-feng. He leads a faction which the western press calls "the moderates."

CONTROL

They control the decisive sections of the country, the army, ministries and economic decision-making positions. After the death of Mao they began a purge of the so-called "radicals," Chiang Ching's faction.

The purge was more than the removal of a few people at the top. It soon spread to the managers of collective farms, and the foreign service. Soon, the removal of Chiang Ching's supporters will extend to the army as well—if it does not already.

Widespread fighting is the result of the purges. Although the political support for Chiang Ching's faction has narrowed, the radicals apparently controlled a number of well-armed local militias. They launched a bitter fight to save their positions in the state machine.

ECONOMY

It is almost certain that the fighting has caused considerable disruption of the economy. It comes on top of the devastating earthquake which may have killed over half a million people.

The Communist Party leaders, especially the central leadership in Peking, would surely have preferred to avoid any disruptions of production during the factional struggle.

But they are determined to continue the purge until they have restored central authority throughout China. Then they will move to consolidate power with a new set of economic policies.

The economic program of the so-called moderates is based on the hope of making China a powerful industrial state within 15-20 years. The program will probably depend on building closer economic relations with Europe, Japan and the United States. Access to new technology is crucial.

This is why the western press refers to the current leadership as being the moderate, or reasonable, group of Chinese leaders.

The policies of the Peking leadership will probably also mean creating greater gaps in living standards between factory managers and workers, between skilled and unskilled, between richer and poorer sections of the country.

Already there are huge differences between the lives of workers and peasants on one hand, and the top bureaucrats on the other.

Under the new policies, within a few years the bureaucrats will say that even greater inequalities are justified by what they call "rewarding more efficient production."



Victims of the tea plantation massacre.

WHO ARE THE KILLERS?

Two weeks ago, in one of the worst mass killings in the Zimbabwe (Rhodesian) war, 27 black tea plantation workers were rounded up at dusk, forced to run half a mile, then lined up on the ground and machine-gunned to death.

Their wives and children were forced to look on. As the men lay dying their bodies were bayoneted by the murderers.

The men who committed these murders were black. They told the villagers they were guerrillas from Mozambique. They said the workers were being killed for refusing to quit their jobs.

The Rhodesian government immediately released the story in all its bloody details. For the white regime, the killings prove to the world that the Zimbabwean revolutionaries are nothing but power-hungry cutthroats who spread terror among innocent people to achieve their aims.

SETTLERS' FRIENDS

White Rhodesia's friends in the American press were quick to pick up the story—and draw the lessons.

The Wall Street Journal speaks directly for big business in this country. The Journal is the paper where hundreds of thousands of businessmen and opinion-makers get their facts about the day's news. In an editorial brimming with moral righteousness, the Wall Street Journal wrote:

"We have commented from time to time on the moral selectivity of thinkers and commentators who deplore crimes of the right, while at the same time ignoring crimes of the left. . .

"But human dignity and human rights will never be furthered by leaders who line up innocent men and machine-gun them to death. Their true goal is power and spreading terror is a time-tested means of winning power. . .

"It is easy to imagine that the poor workers were wondering in their dying agonies what they had done to deserve such a fate. . . Apparently their crime, so far as the guerrillas were concerned, rested not in what they were doing but in the fact that they were working in Rhodesia and thus were 'lackeys' of the white settlers."

A brave statement, isn't it? There's only one small detail missing.

The Wall Street Journal did not mention that the white Rhodesian government has a special unit for counter-insurgency, known as the Selous Scouts."

The Selous Scouts are mainly black mercenaries. They specialize in posing as black guerrillas and committing atrocities against innocent villagers, in order to turn the people of Zimbabwe against the freedom fighters.

The Rhodesian Army uses similar tricks when it invades Mozambique, dressing up black troops as Mozambican soldiers and then burning down villages inside Mozambique.

The tea plantation massacre has all the earmarks of a Selous Scouts operation. It was immediately denounced as such by the radio of Mozambique, and by several Zimbabwean national political figures.

The Wall Street Journal ignored these facts. It did so deliberately—because the Journal and other papers like it are not objective reporters. They are part of the conspiracy to keep the white settlers of Rhodesia and South Africa in power.

There's another piece of evidence that suggests what really happened at the tea plantation. The Rhodesia correspondent for the New York Times, John F. Burns, in a dispatch written January 1, included the following paragraph:

"The most grisly incident in the four-year-old war occurred two weeks ago, when 27 black workers on a tea estate were machine-gunned by blacks identifying themselves as guerrillas."

Notice that Burns did not write "machine-gunned by black guerrillas." He said, "blacks identifying themselves as guerrillas."

This wording strongly suggests that Burns already knows the murderers were not guerrillas at all—but Rhodesian Army troops in disguise. Apparently this can't be covered up much longer. Since all news reports from Rhodesia are now being censored, the truth can only be hinted instead of reported directly.

The tea plantation is a case of flexible morals, all right. What it exposes aren't the morals of the guerrillas fighting to free Zimbabwe—but the morals of the American press which will repeat any lie to protect the white oppressors.



Carter's 100 Days

CARTER'S NEW LINE— BILLIONS FOR MORE BOMBS

by Michael Urquhart

Jimmy Carter's promises for defense budget cuts during his administration have been blown out of the water with the appointment of Dr. Harold Brown as Secretary of Defense.

The Ford administration was able to convince the Democratic-controlled Congress to accept an annual increase in defense spending of 2% a year, over and above inflation. Dr. Brown has made it clear that he would accept no cut in these spending levels.

Thus it is also no accident that the press is reporting on secret CIA studies showing that the Soviet Union is trying to overtake the U.S. militarily. The government and media are creating the climate to make an increase in defense spending acceptable once again.

MILITARY BURDEN

The burden of maintaining the military colossus is clear. For many peoples around the world it will take decades to overcome the effects of bombing, napalming and defoliation of their forests and crops.

At home the effects are not as drastic, but the cost is still high.

Defense produces fewer jobs than other government spending. The Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates that for \$1 billion, 51,000 jobs can be created if it is spent on defense, 60,000 for public housing, 88,000 for Veterans Administration health care, and 136,000 if it is spent for manpower training!

Besides jobs, the \$100 billion-plus defense budget represents the lack of production of a tremendous amount of goods and services which people desperately need.

For example, one Huey helicopter is the equivalent of 66 low-cost houses. The cost of the B-1 bomber to date, without even one plane being built, is over \$2 billion—the same amount as the Federal Child Care Program for child nutrition, health, and day care which was vetoed by Nixon.

LIBERAL HOPES

Liberals had hoped that Carter's victory would mean at least some cuts in the defense budget. Carter may try to appease both liberals and conservatives, by reducing the annual increase in defense spending.

This would continue a trend that has developed since the Vietnam war. Defense spending, while growing absolutely, has declined as a proportion of total federal expen-

ditures. In 1970, defense spending was 40% of the budget, declining to 28% in 1975.

Carter's most likely place to begin economizing is in the Defense Department's pay and personnel policies. More than half the Pentagon's current budget is spent on personnel.

The Brookings Institution, home of many Carter advisers, suggests a straight reduction in military troop strength and supporting civilian workers, saving as much as \$3 billion a year.

To cut the other half would threaten the viability of several corporations who depend on the military for their profits. Already the military-industrial complex has been gearing up for the B-1 bomber, whose production is favored by Dr. Brown.

Whatever savings occur will not go toward social spending. The purpose of any cuts will be to improve efficiency (more mega-deaths per dollar) and to reduce the federal deficit. The liberal hope for transferring funds from military to public use will remain as utopian as ever.

NOTHING IN COMMON

The liberal attitude toward defense spending has nothing in common with a socialist one. The liberals want to reduce spending while maintaining the U.S.'s military power.

They support American imperialism and the armies necessary to maintain it, while opposing its more brutal aspects for cosmetic reasons. The net result has been liberal support for all the wars of aggression and all the behind the scenes military support the U.S. has given—in Vietnam, the Dominican Republic, Chile, and Cambodia, to name a few.

Socialists are for the overthrow of this imperialist system. We therefore give no support whatever to the military used to maintain it in power. We are for dismantling the American war machine, with the money put to the real benefit of the people.

We oppose having an American imperialist army with bases in over 60 countries. We are for the working class being armed to defend our own interests.

For the imperialists, whether liberal or conservative, any serious cuts in defense spending are out of the question. The arms economy will continue as long as the Democrats and Republicans are in office. Only the armed working class will end it.



Puerto Ricans rally for independence.

PUERTO RICO — THE ONLY CHOICE IS FREEDOM!

Puerto Rico is a colony of the United States. It's been dressed up with the fancy title of a "commonwealth." But once you look behind the glitter of big tourist hotels in San Juan, the full horror of colonial rule becomes apparent.

In 1972, 900,000 people were packed into the slums of San Juan, out of a total population in Puerto Rico of under three million.

At that time 532,000 depended on food handouts from the government—one-fifth of the population.

Today, the situation in Puerto Rico is even worse in every respect. Over half the population, it is estimated, now lives on food stamps.

PROUD

U.S. rulers are very proud of their colony. They point to the 10% annual growth rate during the 1960's, the \$2 billion invested there over twenty years.

But, things are now so bad that investments by U.S. companies are slowing down. After decades of saturating Puerto Rico with tax-free investments, paying less than the minimum wage and preventing the people of Puerto Rico from building their own national economy even to feed themselves—many U.S. corporations now see no point in investing new money because of slipping super-profits.

So another scheme is being floated to rip off Puerto Rico in a new, even worse way. It's called "statehood."

It is quite possible that Congress will turn down Gerald Ford's proposal to make Puerto Rico a state.

Many interests oppose the plan. Corporations already heavily invested in Puerto Rico are afraid they might lose their colonial tax benefits. Under the "Operation Bootstrap" investment program, U.S. companies opened plants free from mainland taxes.

In one year, 100 chemical plants reported 48.3% profits in Puerto Rico compared to 13% in the U.S!

SUPPORT

However, the Puerto Rican statehood proposal also has support.

In the next few years, mining and offshore oil drilling are likely to become huge industries in Puerto Rico.

If this develops, Puerto Rico has the potential to become a rich nation instead of a poor one. This would fuel a tremendous, massive new struggle for a free and independent Puerto Rico.

Gerald Ford's proposal for Puerto Rican statehood would slow this. Puerto Rico would be totally integrated into the U.S. political

system. This would make the organizing of a struggle for national independence much, much more difficult.

MAYBE WORSE

Within American capitalism, Puerto Rican workers would get screwed as badly as they are now—or worse.

If U.S. corporations were required to pay minimum wage, many of them would act on their threats to pack up their factories, move to Taiwan or Korea and leave Puerto Rico to starve.

The choice between colonial "commonwealth" and statehood for Puerto Rico is no choice.

It is a decision based on unnecessary unemployment, massive poverty and the rip-off of the country's resources and people. In every election and every capitalist newspaper, Puerto Rican workers are told they must accept the power of U.S. economic domination, or they will all starve to death.

But there is another choice for the Puerto Rican people: complete national independence, and socialism.

Puerto Rico will be free when the Puerto Rican workers seize every colonial corporation—and use those assets to build a new society for their own people.

MERRILL LYNCH IS BULLISH ON APARTHEID

Merrill Lynch was confronted on Saturday, December 18 with a picket of 50 people. The picket was called by the Cleveland Coalition Against Racism and Oppression to begin a move to ban the Krugerrand in the Cleveland area. The Krugerrand is a gold coin produced in racist South Africa. Merrill Lynch, a brokerage firm, is the main outlet for dispensing the filthy coin.

The picket line later walked a few blocks through the downtown area to reach Christmas shoppers and explain what the Krugerrand is really about. Television advertisements call the Krugerrand "an ounce of pure love."

Paul Sims of the Cleveland Coalition told the three major television stations present that the coin is more a gift of blood. "They are using the money made off these coins to kill South Africans," he

said.

Three similar demonstrations were held in Detroit. On Saturday, December 18, the Southern Africa Liberation Committee demonstrated at the National Bank of Detroit, which is selling the coins. On December 22, the group leafleted at Merrill Lynch and at another branch of the National Bank of Detroit.

The white South African regime, through these brokerages, banks, and coin dealers, hoped to sell \$130 million worth of gold in the U.S. before Christmas.

The Cleveland Coalition explained that the Krugerrand represents the digging of 5000 pounds of rock to extract the gold needed for one coin.

The coin also comes at the cost of three deaths per shift in the 50 gold mines dotting South Africa. The miners working under these obscene conditions get paid an

average of 40-60c per hour.

The Cleveland Coalition Against Racism and Oppression hopes to educate Clevelanders about the connection between racism in South Africa and racism here in this country. It calls for an end to the system of white minority rule and apartheid, all U.S. corporations out of South Africa, basic trade union rights for all black workers, and the right of self-determination for the black majority in South Africa. Further steps are in motion to get the Krugerrand removed from the Cleveland area.

"THE LIBERATION OF SOUTHERN AFRICA"

DETROIT—Speakers: Eddison Zvobgo, Deputy Secretary General of ZANU, and Larry Smith, International Socialists. Saturday, Jan. 23, 7:30 pm. W.C. 8551 Greenfield Road. Call 869-8656.

'How We're Fighting U.S. Steel'

"Steelworkers Stand Up" (SSU) is a newspaper which a group of rank and file steelworkers began putting out last fall at United States Steel's Clairton (Pa.) Coke Works. The group has been fighting for better conditions at Clairton, and has also been working for Ed Sadlowski and the Steelworkers Fight Back Slate in next month's union elections.

Workers' Power spoke with Pat Turnell, one of the initiators of SSU, who describes here how SSU began and how the paper is helping to build the rank and file movement. She talks about how SSU is trying to build the confidence of steelworkers at Clairton to begin taking on the company in earnest, and how the Sadlowski campaign fits into their plans.

Basically, "Steelworkers Stand Up" got started because a couple of people had gripes that weren't being taken care of, and the grievance procedures weren't working. So we thought, with a little bit of publicity perhaps we could exert some pressure.

The whole thing got started over our locker rooms. For instance: busted toilets, lack of supplies, no exhaust fans, no water fountains, hot water kept running out. It was bad enough that these things happened, so we complained to our foremen and they said, well, we'll take care of it, and they never did.

Then we had no soap to wash with and when we went to the foreman who was in charge of this stuff he said, "Maybe if you talk nice to me I might give you some..." You get enough of this bullshit and then you figure, fuck it, time to do something about it.

So it all started out as a women's thing, a women's meeting. And it shook the hell out of them. From there, as it progressed, we found that there were a hell of a lot of other things wrong which the men have problems with too. Like their locker rooms are in bad condition, or like when the union has sold them out. The union member is the one who gets screwed when they trade off grievances and stuff.

We started out with a petition to try and get the men involved as well which was successful to a certain extent. From there, we decided there should be more. The union newspaper would come out with fascinating things like softball scores or announcements of golf tournaments, instead of talking about things that really concern us.

We went to the union meeting. We attempted getting some action with the petition at the union meeting, we attempted calling OSHA in, we tried to work with the health and safety man, and really, it was like batting your head up against a brick wall.

It was all, "Well, nobody can do anything."

Now I have heard of individual cases where guys that had their shit together and pushed through a grievance, and when they weren't satisfied with the results they'd take it further. Then they'd get satisfaction. But they were all individual-type things. Really, they shouldn't have to fight alone; the union should back the people.

Then there's the cases where the one guy will win a grievance and then someone else has the exact same grievance and they lose.

Whether it's a past-practice, whether it's a contract dispute, whether it's the working of a contract, it's always to the company's advantage and if you have grievancemen who will say, "Well, it's in the contract," then you're stuck between a rock and a hard place.

Now there's some grievancemen who will take the wording and attempt to use it to the union member's advantage, but unfortunately

nately there are not enough of them.

We've only had two issues of "Steelworkers Stand Up" so far and a lot of people are taking a sit-back attitude. But more and more are coming up to me and asking why we don't do an article on this or that or they offer to introduce me to friends of theirs who know a lot about some particular subject we should write on.

There is going to be a certain percentage you're never going to convince, then there is another percentage which doesn't really give a damn as long as things are going all right for them where they're at, but I think that our paper has been favorably received.

By writing in the newspaper about our successes, you give the guy on the shop floor the idea that he don't have to take this bullshit, he can do something about it. This is the main thing that has to get started, you have to show people that they can control their destinies. It's not all tied up in somebody's hands somewhere else.

Well it's not always easy, some fights are harder than others. But the more fights you wage, the more you're going to win; the more you win, the stronger you're going to be.

"Steelworkers Stand Up" supports Ed Sadlowski for president of the USW. Sadlowski is running against the Abel machine and that was what got us where we are today. We're one of the biggest unions in the country, but one of



Pat Turnell of Steelworkers Stand Up.

the weakest.

One way our paper helps is by getting out the truth about the candidates. There's been a lot of bullshit put out about Sadlowski.

And also, by working to get Sadlowski elected, it will emphasize to Sadlowski that the only reason he got elected was because of the little people out there and therefore he has to be responsive to our needs.

Now, Sadlowski is only human too. He might have a tendency to

sluff off some time. He's a human being and is going to take the easiest route possible unless there's 50 people, say, from a certain area saying that the company is doing this or that and we don't like it.

And another thing. If Sadlowski gets in, he's going to be working with a lot of international officers who were hand-picked by Abel and they are going to be bucking him all the way. Now the only way he can

combat that is to get the union members behind him and he can only do that if he is fighting for what we want. Then Abel's men will not only be fighting Sadlowski, they have to fight all these other union members. He can't do it alone.

Getting Sadlowski elected will benefit us for the simple reason that you have to get organized to get him elected because Abel has the machine, he has the people in his back pocket. If we can pull people in to work on this, and show them that you can accomplish something, that they can make a major change, then they might be more encouraged to participate.

Right now too many people feel that union meetings are a waste of time, that even if they go there's nothing they can say that will make a difference. Getting Sadlowski in will be a major change.

Just say Ed gets elected and comes out and says that he's changed his mind about some policy and has decided not to put it through. Then the people that got him in, if they stay organized, they can come to him and say "Wait a minute, we helped elect you because you wanted this policy. Now this is what people want and you're going to have to follow through with it."

A COMPANY THAT DESERVES TO BE RUNNING SCARED

by David Leitz

The giant steel companies are very worried about the outcome of the Steelworkers presidential election between Lloyd McBride and Ed Sadlowski.

The Wall Street Journal reports that "steel executives are clearly worried that the election of Mr. Sadlowski would disrupt the stability of labor-management relations."

The Journal admits that "basic steel workers [those who produce raw steel] tend to be more receptive to Mr. Sadlowski's campaign." But they still hope Sadlowski will be defeated because the giant steel companies "had just been getting used to the period of relative labor peace" established under Mr. Abel.

J. Bruce Johnston, U.S. Steel Vice President and chief negotiator for the steel industry, held a press conference last month in Pittsburgh specifically on the election campaign. He chose his words carefully, explaining that U.S. Steel "being for either candidate would

be the political kiss of death."

But Johnston did strongly support the Experimental Negotiating Agreement (ENA)—the union's no-strike agreement. He even criticized McBride, the administration candidate, for not defending the ENA strongly enough.

The press conference was the steel companies' way of putting out the word that they are committed to defeating Sadlowski, who has made opposition to the ENA a central plank in his election platform.

WHO RUNS U.S. STEEL?

Who are these steel barons who have so much riding on the outcome of the USW elections and on the continuation of the ENA? Let's look at United States Steel, the biggest.

The men on the Board of Directors (no women or minorities here) sound like a Who's Who of American capitalism. They include the Chairmen of the Boards of Directors of AT&T, Aetna Life &

Casualty, Bell Canada, and Kraftco Corp., plus former Chairmen of the Morgan Guaranty Trust Co. and the Federal Reserve Board.

Through interlocking directorships these and others have ties to: Allis-Chalmers, American Airlines, Sears & Roebuck, General Motors, Caterpillar Tractor, IBM, NBC, American Express, First National City Bank, Chase Manhattan Bank, Manufacturers Hanover Trust, Eastman Kodak, plus close to 50 other major corporations.

Edgar B. Speer, Chairman of U.S. Steel's Board of Directors, through his salary, dividends, and stock deals made close to \$450,000 in 1975. R. Heath Larry, Vice Chairman of the Board, pulled in close to \$310,000, and David M. Roderick, President, made around \$300,000.

NOT A STEEL COMPANY

In 1975, the stockholders of U.S. Steel pulled \$642,500,000 profit after taxes out of its employees. Not bad, since 1975 was a bad year for steel, with many thousands of

steelworkers laid off.

No wonder these men don't see U.S. Steel as a steel company. For them, making steel is only an accidental by-product of their main goal: making money. Making steel is only their means of making profits.

Whenever workers fight to defend their job security, working conditions, health and safety, or their income, they are cutting into the companies' profits. This is what the profit-hungry corporate executives refer to when they say "disrupting the stability of labor-management relations."

That is why the companies have such an interest in seeing Sadlowski defeated and the no-strike deal continued.

On February 8, the choice will be clear. A vote for Lloyd McBride will be a vote for Edgar Speer, R. Heath Larry, David Roderick and the shareholders of United States Steel. A vote for Ed Sadlowski will be a vote for the 1.4 million members of the United Steel Workers union.



WORKERS POWER
UP
 DONATORS REQUESTED
 jobs up
 in smol
 AR 1557
 in smol

Dividing Up Daley's Kingdom

by Ken Brown

CHICAGO—The body of Mayor Richard J. Daley was still warm on Monday, December 20 when the politicians who headed his machine began scrambling over who should succeed him.

They were playing for high stakes. Daley left behind not one job, but two. Besides being Mayor, he was Chairman of the Cook County Democratic Party with its massive patronage machine.

Upon Daley's death Wilson Frost figured he would be mayor. After all, he had been acting mayor when Daley was incapacitated during a stroke the year before.

Except for the fact that he is black, Frost would indeed have been named acting mayor immediately.

But the white politicians in the machine had other thoughts. They knew, as Frost did, that if he were made acting mayor he'd be the front runner in the special election to be held in six months.

The white aldermen did not intend to let that happen. When Frost as City Council President pro tem declared himself acting mayor and called a press conference, he found the mayor's office sealed shut.

SHUT OUT

Chicago is one-third black. There are also 500,000 Latin Americans in Chicago, including the largest Mexican population outside of Los Angeles and the largest Puerto Rican population outside New York.

Latin make up over 15% of the population, but of the 50 aldermen not a single one is Latin. The machine has the wards drawn up to deny them representation.

Like blacks, Latins are victims of racial discrimination. Together black and Latin people make up half the population of Chicago.

Jesse Jackson, the most prominent black leader in Chicago, as well as black businessmen and liberal Democrats, quickly rallied around Frost. But they were quickly and easily frozen out.

To make sure they got to divide Daley's kingdom their own way, the white aldermen threw together a series of so-called ethnic caucuses, which are in reality mini-power blocs.

The two largest were called the "Polish caucus" and the "Irish caucus." Various whites who couldn't quite fit ethnically man-



Mayor Daley's victory celebration in 1974 turned out to be his last.

aged to become honorary members of one or the other.

They sewed it all up. The white caucuses agreed the interim mayor would be Michael Bilandic, from Daley's own neighborhood. The Cook County Democratic chairmanship went to County Board President Dunne, after a little wrangling inside the Irish caucus.

They even created a brand new, shiny position of vice mayor and handed it to Tenth Ward Alderman Edward Vrdolyak.

Finally, after showing they could do anything they wanted to Frost and the black community, they let him become chairman of the Finance Committee. This allowed Frost to drop out of the mayoralty contest, save face and declare a victory.

It was Frost himself, an experienced machine man, who summed the whole thing up when some independents tried to nominate him: "It's interesting that one of my colleagues wanted to submit my name but not his own. Why

should I be the one to take the suicide jump?"

Chicago needs a black mayor who could express the just demands of the economically and racially oppressed majority of the city.

But although Daley maintained a school system where 86% of the black students go to all-black schools, where 79% of the people killed by police are black and only 15% are white, and where the fire department was segregated for years and let black homes burn down, the fact remains that black people voted for Daley by 80% and 90% margins.

A sizable number of black ministers are tied to the Democratic machine through Model Cities money for child care centers, the need for favorable action from building inspectors, and other similarly unspiritual ties.

The right to live in public housing, a Christmas chicken, and a hundred other things people need to survive daily, literally depend on voting the machine's way.

This is the system that politically aware Chicago blacks call "Plantation Politics." But this system is slowly being undermined by the growth of a large, stable black working class that has become more confident and no longer dependent on machine favors for survival.

Black people have more politicians elected to office throughout the country than ever before, yet the conditions of the mass of the people are worse off than they have been in years.

The Chicago black community and its potential allies need a black candidate in the special mayoral election a few months away. But if this campaign is to mean anything, it will have to be an independent campaign against big business, the machine, and the Democratic Party.

No New Trial For Black Woman

BOSTON—On Tuesday, December 21, 39 people crammed into Suffolk Superior Court to hear Judge Roger Donahue deny Ella Ellison's motion for a new trial.

She had been convicted in 1974 of driving the getaway car in a 1973 robbery that ended in the death of a Boston police officer. Ellison, a black woman and mother of four, was sentenced to five consecutive life terms with no possibility of parole.

The only evidence against her was the testimony of Nathaniel Williams and Anthony Irving, who were convicted of killing the policeman.

In exchange for testimony against Ellison, they were allowed to plead guilty to lesser charges than hers and were given five concurrent life sentences each.

Since then Williams and Irving have recanted their testimony and denied there was a getaway driver. They said they had agreed to plea bargain out of fear of the death penalty.

But Judge Donahue said that he did not believe their recantation. Even with their original testimony, many Boston women could have been arrested and convicted for the charges.

Williams and Irving said only that the driver of the getaway car was a black woman with four children. Their initial physical description did not even match Ella's.

The racist system of justice prefers to punish the innocent rather than admit a mistake.

The next legal step is an appeal to the State Supreme Court, which will take several months.

For information on support activities, contact: Ella Ellison Support Committee, 1151 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge, Mass.

I.S. Branches

- National Office:** 14131 Woodward, Highland Park, MI 48203
Atlanta: PO Box 11016, Atlanta, GA 30310
Austin: PO Box 8492, Austin, TX 78712
Bay Area: PO Box 132, Oakland, CA 94604
Bloomington: PO Box 29, Bloomington, IN 47401
Boston: PO Box 8488, JFK Station, Boston, MA 02114
Chicago: PO Box 11268, Fort Dearborn Station, Chicago, IL 60611
Cincinnati: PO Box 8909, Cincinnati, OH 45208
Cleveland: PO Box 02239, Cleveland, OH 44102
Detroit: 14131 Woodward, Highland Park, MI 48203
Gary: PO Box 2713, Gary, IN 46403
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Louisville: PO Box 70449, Louisville, KY 40270
Madison: PO Box 725, Madison, WI 53701
New Jersey: PO Box 897, Chestnut Station, Union, NJ 07083
New York: 30 E. 20 St., Rm. 207, New York, NY 10003
Philadelphia: PO Box 8262, Philadelphia, PA 19101
Pittsburgh: PO Box 466, Homestead, PA 15123
Portland: PO Box 4662, Portland, OR 97208
Seattle: PO Box 9056, Seattle, WA 98109
Springfield: PO Box 795, Springfield, MA 01102
St. Louis: PO Box 24135, St. Louis, MO 63130

"THE CITY THAT WORKS"

In his two decades of power, Mayor Daley did the impossible: he kept black and white support in the most segregated city in the North.

"Chicago is a city that works," is a popular slogan about the Daley machine. But Chicago works only at the expense of the misery of hundreds of thousands of people.

A few years ago the papers revealed there were 300,000 hungry or undernourished people in the city.

Children in some neighborhoods were so hungry they ate lead paint chipping off the walls. Pregnant mothers kept off hunger pains with laundry starch.

In 1967 Daley had said there were no slums in Chicago. This

time, his Commissioner of the Board of Health said, "As I go through Chicago, I don't see anyone who has to go without food. I don't think a state of hunger as such exists."

The few liberal aldermen put forward an ordinance to spend \$35 million to feed the hungry. To save Daley from this political embarrassment one of his loyal black machine aldermen, Wilson Frost, introduced a motion calling on the state and federal governments to spend the money instead, and reduced Chicago's share to a paltry half million.

For this and other loyal services to the machine, Wilson Frost was made President pro tem of the City Council.

"A G.M. Foreman Is a Total Company Man."

Dear Workers' Power,

I read in the newspaper that General Motors had signed an agreement with the United Auto Workers to remain neutral when the UAW tries to unionize GM plants. Actually, GM claims that it was always neutral on the issue, but they couldn't control the behavior of their foremen in their new Southern plants. "These people have been raised to be against unions," said the spokesman, "and they have pretty strong feelings about it."

I work for General Motors, and not as a foreman. For General Motors to claim that they can't control what their foremen do is the most ridiculous thing I ever heard. A GM foreman is a total company man. Everything they do is exactly what the company tells them, no more, no less. They will do whatever higher supervision feels is necessary to keep the workers under them from getting together and to get production out.

Presumably most people are raised not to lie and not to screw people over. But GM doesn't seem to have any trouble getting its foremen to go against that aspect of their upbringing.

L.M.
Detroit

"We Are (Hopefully) in the Process of Organizing a Union."

Dear Workers' Power,

I am a new I.S. member in Chicago and have started selling Workers' Power where I work. Most of the people I work with are women, so articles such as the one entitled "Klan Attacks Women" and any other articles or letters about sexism are very much appreciated.

Also, we are (hopefully) in the process of organizing a union in our office so articles on union struggles and strikes are read very quickly.

I was pleased to see a bit more humor in recent issues. My friends liked the cartoons and really got the message. Anything you can do on white-collar unions would be much appreciated.

B.H.
Chicago, IL

"Bingo! Super Profits."

Dear Workers' Power,

Step right up ladies and gents. The game's about to begin!

What game, you say? It's called Pump the Pump Jockey! Yes, folks, that nice young man or woman that used to stand outside in the rain and snow to wipe your windows and check your oil is now obsolete!

How do you play? It's easy: become a multi-billion dollar oil

corporation, get about 25,000 gas stations across the U.S. and hire young people to do shit work for shit pay!

Now that you've acquired a place on the board, it's simple. Put up a sign that says Self Serve Islands and—Bingo! Super Profits. Of course, who knows what happens to the Pump Jockeys. Oh well.

Where can you find this game? It's distributed nationally by Standard Oil Company and participating Shell Stations. Look for it in your local stores soon!

James Mitchell
Cleveland, OH

"Workers' Power Review... Terrific."

Dear Fellow Workers,

Just finished reading your December 13 issue and the new magazine section, Workers' Power Review. Terrific! Wow! Gee Whiz! Congratulations! Thanks!

It gives new strength and purpose to my personal dedication to the working class to know that there are young, bright, dedicated militants like you to provide direction and education and example to all of our fellow workers who instinctively realize that there is something basically immoral in an economic system that allows millions of men, women and children to go to bed hungry and cold each night and yet has millionaire blood-sucking leeches who pay no income tax.

I don't have to tell you to keep up the good work. You are irrepresible—short of a firing squad.

Fraternally,
W.J. Woods, President
International Woodworkers of America
Alpena, MI

"No Longer Content With a Few Crumbs... They Want the Whole Cake and the Bakery, Too!"

Dear Workers' Power,

The People's National Party won a landslide victory in the Jamaican General Election on December 15.

The people were given a clear choice between the liberation "democratic socialist" PNP and the extreme right-wing Jamaica Labour Party (JLP).

Jamaicans have shown that they totally reject the violence organized by the JLP to get rid of the PNP and its leader, Michael Manley. They are not fooled by the JLP's massive CIA-financed anti-communist campaign. And that they overwhelmingly support the reforms Manley has carried out. For example, minimum wage, equal pay for women, workers' cooperatives, worker participation, public works program for the unemployed, nationalization of land, part-nationali-



Dear Mayor...

Dear Mayor Daley,

This is a letter of appreciation to you and others who so proudly reign over the "neediest families" programs of most major cities.

I do so look forward to the day after Thanksgiving, when I know that I have a whole month of good reading—that is, daily stories about the poor in our great city.

But, Mayor, I have a few questions about this great American tradition, and I hope you or some of your friends can answer them.

1] Maybe I'm a little slow, but please bear with me. Why is it that it is only during the month of December that these people make the newspapers? What about the rest of the year?

Is there something in the air that brings these "underprivileged" creatures to the front of your minds and hearts? Like I say, maybe I'm slow, but it seems to me that the poor and

unemployed are just as poor and unemployed the rest of the year.

2] Also, your honor, these programs allow each chosen person the grand sum of \$10 and each family no more than \$50. And again, sir, like I said I'm a mite slow, but exactly how does a welfare mother with five kids who have been out of school three months because they could not afford shoes and coats decide how to spend this generous gift of \$50?

Does she draw lots, if she decides to buy at least two sets of shoes and coats? Does she spend the money on household luxuries (like toilet paper or soap) that foodstamps won't buy.

Oh, I got it, you probably mean for her to prepare a real fine Christmas dinner, turkey and all the trimmings! Is that it, Mr. Mayor? You're s-o-o-o generous! To think you want those little poor kids to have at least one good meal a year! Right? Now

what family wouldn't appreciate that?

I sure hope you can answer these questions, because I'm afraid that I've begun to think some really weird stuff. Like I've been wondering if maybe, just maybe, there is something a little warped about this little ole capitalist system.

And the other day I even thought that my Christmas wish should be that workers of the world should soon unite and change this fuckin' system so that the season to be jolly would be year round!

Can you imagine my thinking something like that? I must be confused. Well, sir, I'll close by saying I hope you and your kind, as well as the world's dear capitalists have the same kind of Christmas that you're hoping all those neediest families will have.

Bobby
Chicago, IL

"Prison Officials Take Another Step Towards Controlling the Thoughts of Prisoners."

Dear Workers' Power,

The oppression of gay prisoners by federal prison officials continues. Norman Carlson, Director of the U.S. Bureau of Prisons, has taken another step toward controlling the thoughts of prisoners by banning all gay newspapers, magazines, etc.

Earlier this year, Carlson attempted to ban all communist, black and other progressive literature—only to be stopped by the court in Atlanta, GA in Blue vs. Carlson No. 75-2257 (a). The court upheld the rights of the prisoners to receive communist as well as other progressive litera-

ture and order the Bureau of Prisons to issue a new policy to this effect.

The prison officials then attacked everyone's "whipping boy," the gay prisoners. To ban gay papers is a direct violation of the gay's first amendment rights. The poor excuse that the officials gave for denying the gays their constitutional rights: "The reader would be identified as a homosexual and may be assaulted or raped."

The National Prisoners Association (NPA) on December 27, 1976 filed a suit in the District Court of East St. Louis, IL on behalf of Russell D. Smith, chairperson of the NPA and all gay prisoners seeking to overturn Carlson's decision.

We are without funds to pay fees for an attorney or other expenses. We welcome all contributions, large or small. Please send contributions to: National Prisoners Association, 4103075 Mercantile National Bank, 70 Broad Street N.W., Atlanta, GA 30303.

George E. Blue, Chairman
National Prisoners Assoc.
Marion, IL

zation of foreign companies, bauxite levy, literacy campaign, etc.

But the other side of the coin is this: the political consciousness of the people—workers, small farmers, and unemployed—has blossomed under the PNP's reforms. With this election victory, achieved under the banner of socialism, Jamaicans will no longer be content with a few crumbs. They are going to want the whole cake, and the bakery, too!

Manley is going to find it more and more difficult to keep control of the Jamaican working class. He has been instructed by the vote of the Jamaican people to construct the socialist order. If he refuses to do this, he will be swept aside as the people take things into their own hands. Manley would be well advised to take notice of the words of singer Bob Marley:

"Now you get what you want, Do you want more? You think it's the end? It's just the beginning."

Howard Spencer
Kingston, Jamaica

Where We Stand

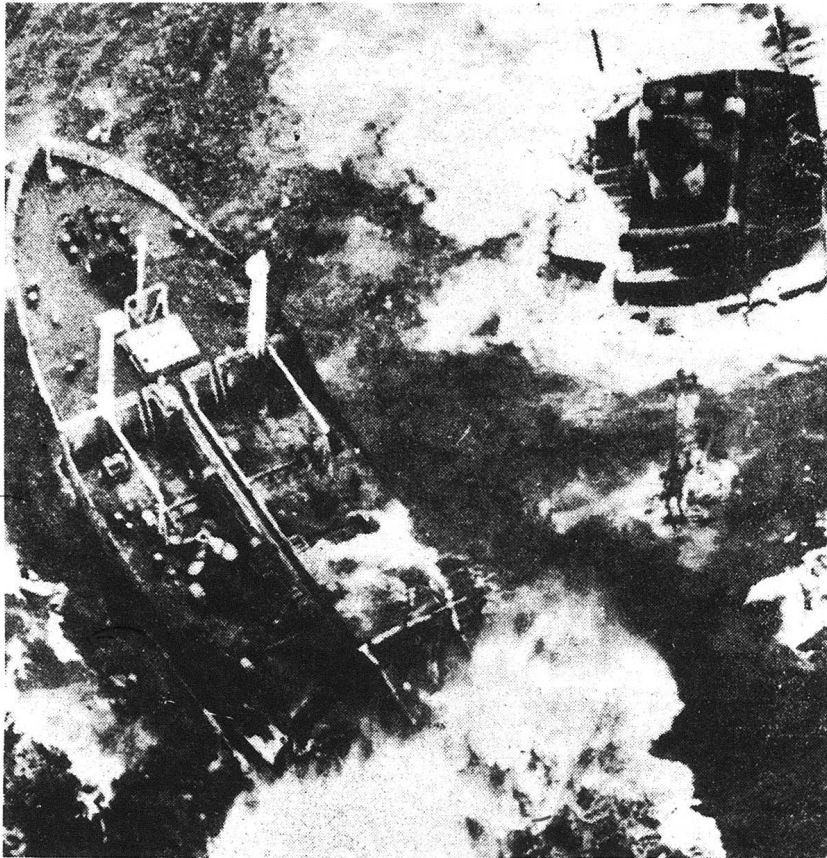
WE OPPOSE

- CAPITALIST EXPLOITATION**
 We live under the capitalist system. The wealth produced by working people is stolen from us by private employers. They prosper from our labor.
- CAPITALIST CONTROL**
 Capitalists use their profits only to make more profits. When they need fewer workers, they create unemployment. When they need more money, they speed up work, downgrade safety conditions, and raise prices. The capitalist system spends little on health care, a clean environment, or social services, because these things make no profit.
- OPPRESSION**
 Capitalism needs inequality. Because it needs profits, it can't provide enough for all. So it gives some groups of people worse jobs and lower pay, and labels them inferior. In particular, capitalism locks black people into the bottom of society, and spreads racist ideas to keep them there and justify it. Capitalism keeps women responsible for taking care of the workforce when it is not at work, including children, who are too young to work. Women who work for wages have two jobs.
- CAPITALIST GOVERNMENT**
 The government serves the capitalist class. Its only purpose is to protect the private profit system. It protects its interests abroad through economic control of other countries, spying and wars.
- BUREAUCRATIC COMMUNISM**
 Russia, China and other countries with economies like theirs are also oppressive class societies, run by a privileged ruling class of bureaucrats. They are not socialist and must be overthrown by the working class of those countries.

WE SUPPORT

- THE RANK AND FILE MOVEMENT**
 The unions protect workers from their employers. But today's unions are run by privileged officials who sell out because they support the capitalist system. They want labor peace, not labor power. We support the struggle for rank and file control of the unions.
- LIBERATION FROM OPPRESSION**
 We support the struggles of every oppressed group to end its oppression: the struggle for equality and justice by blacks, gays, native Americans, and all oppressed people. Support from the entire working class movement will make both these struggles, and that movement, stronger.
- SOCIALISM**
 Society should be run by the working class. The wealth produced by those who work should go to fill people's needs, not to private gain.
- WORKERS' REVOLUTION**
 But the capitalist class will not give up their rule and profits voluntarily. Socialism can be created only when the working class seizes control of the factories and makes their own government. The working class will rule democratically because it can own society's wealth only together.
- INTERNATIONALISM**
 The struggle for socialism is world wide. Nations fighting to throw out foreign rulers must have the support of the international working class. So must every struggle of working people to end their oppression, as in Portugal today, and in Russia and Eastern Europe.
- REVOLUTIONARY PARTY**
 The most class-conscious members of the working class have the responsibility to lead the struggle toward socialist revolution. To do this they must build an organization to put their consciousness into action and make their leadership effective.
- INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS**
 The I.S. is an organization of revolutionary socialist workers. We are open to all who accept our basic principles and are willing to work as a member to achieve them. Join with us to build the I.S. into a revolutionary party, to build the movement to end exploitation and oppression and to create a socialist world.

Oil's Not The Only Thing That's Slick...



The "Argo Merchant" cracks up for the last time.

by Dan Posen

LET'S SUPPOSE that you, for some reason or other, had to carry a batch of poisonous, explosive and deadly chemicals across town.

Suppose you took seven gallons or so of the stuff, putting it in ordinary glass jars without any precautions to prevent leaking or spilling.

Let's say you shoved it on the back of your old, beat-up pick-up truck and started out, without bothering to check your brakes, steering or mechanical conditions of the vehicle (costs too much money).

Just to make it more interesting, let's imagine it's the dead of winter, in a big blizzard or ice storm, and you head off with no road map and your headlights not working.

Finally, let's suppose you skid

off the road at a bridge, smashing your cargo to pieces on the highway, spilling it all into the river where it can't be recovered and endangering the local water, and possibly destroying all the fishing.

Do you think you might just possibly be arrested, sent to jail and held responsible for double or triple damages?

You better believe it. Unless you're a genuine wheeler-dealer international capitalist. Then you can get away with something, quite literally, a million times worse.

AS EVERYONE knows by now, last month a floating garbage can known as the "Argo Merchant" was taking a short cut across the Nantucket Shoals in the middle of a North Atlantic winter storm.

This tub was carrying not seven

gallons, but seven million gallons, of heavy industrial oil, one of the most poisonous substances there is if released in the water in large quantities.

Once on an earlier voyage, when it had a different name, this same ship broke down so many times it took eight months to get from Singapore to San Francisco.

On last month's Nantucket cruise, this heap was missing all of its modern electronic navigation equipment, up-to-date maps of water currents, and information on the location of crucial safety buoys.

In addition, it had no double-strength safety hulls to prevent massive oil spillage in case of a wreck.

Other than that, "Argo Merchant" was in pretty good shape.

The rest, as we know, is history. An inexperienced helmsman, flying blind, ran aground and 1½ million gallons of oil poured out.

WATCH HELPLESSLY

A week later, with the Coast Guard watching helplessly the tanker broke apart for the last time and all seven million gallons spewed out, heading straight for the richest and most economically vital fishing grounds in the whole world.

Make no mistake about it. This strictly man-made catastrophe could have wiped out a good 10% of the world's fish catch for decades, or centuries, to come.

Only a purely accidental shift of wind direction has apparently carried the oil slick, now stretching hundreds of square miles, past the Georges Bank fisheries and toward the open sea.

Now that it's out there, no one knows what will happen. It may reach the Gulf Stream and wash up on the beaches of Britain or Iceland. Or, it might curl back south or west and hit Bermuda or the American southeast.

Or, it may swirl around for a while, drop to the bottom and gum up irreplaceable, fragile ocean life that supports the food chain of the whole Atlantic Ocean.

Don't hold your breath, because the spill will be out there doing its thing and popping up in new places for years and years to come.

□ □ □

Now who, and what, is responsible for this?

The press and television are having a field day describing the Argo Merchant, and half a dozen other oil-carrying junk piles that have blown up or run aground in American waters recently, as "sub-standard Liberian oil-tankers."

Of course, they aren't Liberian at all. Argo Merchant probably never got closer to Liberia than Wichita.

The truth is, the lawyers are still trying to figure out just who does own the Argo Merchant. It's hidden behind so many interlocked dummy corporations that it's practically impossible to find who's responsible.

They now strongly suspect, however, that the real controlling interests of the Argo Merchant were Americans, hiding behind phony registrations to escape shipping regulations.

The agency that operated the ship is called Amerssship Agency Inc.

Yes, the Nantucket Shoals disaster was as American as killer smog, PBB and Kepone in the food you eat.

PROFITABLE

What makes it all possible is the fantastic profits, and total anarchy, of the private capitalist international oil industry.

It is so profitable to ship oil, that it's well worth the risk of shoving it aboard anything that floats, even if millions upon millions of gallons are certain to be lost every year.

It poisons the rivers and beaches, pollutes the ocean and kills millions of fish, birds, and other wildlife.

Capitalism, by its nature, puts no price on environmental catastrophes. If you can make 100% or more profits shipping oil, it doesn't matter if 10% spills out.

Last year, worldwide, there were 129 oil tanker wrecks. It barely made a dent in the profits.

The shippers are still ahead—way ahead. The oil slick is just the symbol of the most profitable industry in the world today.

And as long as the drilling and shipping of oil and other energy sources remains a private profit enterprise, there really isn't a damn thing you can do about it.

Because under capitalism, friends, oil isn't the only thing that's slick.

JOIN US!

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

.....

Union

Workers' Power
313-869-5964

WOMEN WORKERS - STILL FIGHTING

Women in Today's Economic Crisis. Women's Work Project. URPE. 2200 19th St., NW #807, Washington DC, 20009. 50c.

Separate and Unequal; Discrimination Against Women After World War II. Women's Work Project. URPE. \$1.

Woman and the Workplace. Edited by Blackall Regan. University of Chicago Press. \$3.95.

America's Working Women. Compiled and edited by Roaslyn Batandall, Linda Gordon and Susan Reverby. New York. Vintage. \$6.95.

Women in the American Economy: A Documentary History 1675-1929. Mary Brownlee, Elliot Brownlee. Yale University Press. 1976. \$4.95.

1975 Handbook on Women Workers. U.S. Department of Labor Employment Standard Administration, Women's Bureau. \$4.70.

by Barbara Winslow

The bi-centennial year has ended with a great deal of attention to America's working women.

The US Labor Department recently published an article documenting that the earnings gap between men and women has not narrowed in 30 years—but has increased.

In 1974, the \$11,835 earned by men was 75% more than the \$6,772 earned by women. And, if you take into account the value of the purchasing power of the dollar over the years, the earnings gap is even wider—more than 79%.

Despite the reforms won by the women's liberation movement in the '60's and '70's, the 36 million women in the workforce are actually worse off in 1976 than they were 30 years ago.

Over the past 25 years, the percentage of women entering the work force has gone up from 33.9% to 46.3%. However, women continue to be locked in the same low paying, unorganized sections of the work force. In spite of all the affirmative action rulings and preferential hiring policies, few women have been able to break into traditionally "male," higher paying jobs.

TRIPLE OPPRESSION

Black, Latin and other oppressed minority women suffer triple oppression. In 1974, white men's median wage was \$12,343, white women \$7,025, black and other minority women only \$6,611.

The so-called "economic recovery" we are supposed to be enjoying has done little for working women. There are over 2.4 million unemployed women—47% of all unemployed. Women face 6.7% unemployment, men, 4.8%. For young people, joblessness is an even greater problem. It is roughly 37.5% for young minority men and 43% for young minority women.

These statistics reveal the shallowness of the recovery. It is a recovery for business—not for working people.

Over 3.7 million families are headed by women. In the past ten years more women have become heads of households. This adds a new dimension to the problems of working women, since it is estimated that 1 out of 3 households headed by women (as opposed to 1 out of 18 headed by men) are living at or below the poverty line.

Poverty, unemployment, job insecurity, lack of unionization, racism, child care, maternity benefits, better job training and education are problems working women have faced for hundreds of years. And, as we can see from recent books out on working women, they continue to face the same problems.

"The 1975 Handbook on Women Workers" gives all the facts and information about the pattern of discrimination against women. However, it doesn't deal with the causes of discrimination or how to organize women to fight back.

The Women's Work Project of the Union of Radical Political Economists (URPE) has put out two useful pamphlets. The first, "Women in Today's Economic Crisis," is about women in the economic crisis, as the title implies, and not only talks about wages and working conditions, but also the problems of inflation as well.

The second, "Separate But Unequal" is about the history of women in the United Auto Workers in the years 1944-1954. It tells about how women were laid off and why, as well as why the UAW did nothing to fight against this form of discriminatory layoffs, and for women's rights in general. The pamphlet is good because many women in auto plants today, or electrical, or garment are facing the same problems as their sisters did in the forties and fifties.

Two new books deal with the history of working women. "America's Working Women" is a particularly exciting collection of essays. The editors included selections from working women's writings, women who were organizers, rank and file leaders. They also included selections from what the sexist employers thought of their female employees; how socialist women helped build women's trade union organizations; and finally, there are articles dealing with gay women in the work force, the politics of housework, welfare and other issues.

What comes through in both historical books is that the problems our mothers and grandmothers faced, we face today as well.

All the books mentioned speak to the tremendous problems facing working class women. Indirectly they point out time and again, that capitalism as a system is responsible for keeping women down—in the lowest paying jobs, with the worst working conditions.

But the spirit and ability of women to organize and fight back is strong. As Georgiana Sellers, a black woman working at Colgate-Palmolive said:

"American working women have learned the lessons that black people have learned. There is no such thing as separate but equal. We do not want separate but a little unequal; unfair laws and separate but a little unequal low paid jobs. We want full equality... There is no one more aware of the power of women than women—especially working women."



Life Among The Stars

by Elissa Clarke

FOR MONTHS BEFORE the release of "A Star Is Born," Barbra Streisand managed to create enough of a fuss to keep the movie in the news.

Her disagreements with director Frank Pierson made good copy for reviewers. When he sent roses on opening night and she dumped them in the garbage, it made a story.

The word was that she and her hairdresser boyfriend, Jon Peters—in addition to starring in and producing the movie—had also taken over directing the film and editing it. Barbra's "closet" even got the credit line for her costumes.

One feared a very egotistical and amateurish piece of work.

"A Star Is Born."
Produced by Jon Peters. Starring Barbra Streisand and Kris Kristofferson.

To everyone's surprise, "A Star Is Born" is a big hit and a fine movie.

The Peters-Streisand version of "A Star Is Born" is the fourth re-make of a sentimental story of a star on the way down and a star on the way up. Kris Kristofferson plays John Norman Henry, a rock superstar who is already washed up when the film begins.

He "discovers" and falls in love with Esther Hoffman, also a singer. Henry turns his energy towards building her career rather than trying to salvage his own.

SONGS

The best parts of "A Star Is Born" are Streisand's songs (many of which she had a hand in writing). When Streisand sings, she takes center stage.

Fortunately, there is very little of Kristofferson's music. Mostly, he builds credibility in his character by keeping his shirt unbuttoned.

While John Norman Henry is

the central character in the movie, and the most complex one, he is never developed as he should be. His motivation for doing what he does is unclear.

It's not hard to understand why he was a superstar, or what he enjoyed or did not enjoy about that life. As Esther tells him, "You're living in a million dollar slum."

It is also not hard to understand his suicide. What is difficult to understand is the middle of the movie—why he originally found such satisfaction in building her career, and why that satisfaction went sour.

Esther Hoffman starts out as a pretty tough cookie. She is reluctant to get involved with John Henry, superstar. When he asks her to travel with him, she replies, "First we gotta meet through mutual friends. Then you gotta wait a week and call me up. Then I gotta think about it."

LOVE

But then she falls in love—and turns into a marshmallow. While she remains together enough to advance her career, she is heavily dependent on John Norman (not a strong character himself). At one point she goes to an appointment, and says to him, "What will I do without you for six whole hours?" He replies, "I'll write."

Love is supposed to be the explanation for an avalanche of unexplained feelings. It is the thing that shakes a strong woman, the thing that makes a weak man pause in his plummet to suicide. This is a story-book conception.

Part of the reason this is not enough of an explanation is because Streisand upstages him. There are lots of songs and lots of rock concert scenes which are very well done. That didn't leave too much room for developing the main character in the movie.

But for its weaknesses, "A Star Is Born" is still a fine film. It should certainly answer the great question to everyone's satisfaction: "What does a hairdresser know about producing a movie?" The answer is more than many producers.

AMERICA'S WORKING WOMEN
A DOCUMENTARY HISTORY OF THE PRESENT
COMPILED BY ROASLYN BATANDALL, LINDA GORDON AND SUSAN REVERBY
VINTAGE \$6.95

Black Women in White America
A Documentary History
Edited by Gerda Lerner
YALE UNIVERSITY PRESS \$4.95

WOMEN AND WORK IN AMERICA
ROBERT W. SMUTS WITH A NEW INTRODUCTION BY ELI GINZBERG
VINTAGE \$6.95

Hidden From History
REDISCOVERING WOMEN IN HISTORY FROM THE 16TH CENTURY TO THE PRESENT
VINTAGE \$6.95

Books on women available from Sun.
America's Working Women—\$6.95; Black Women in White America—\$3.95; Women and Work in America—\$2.75; Hidden From History—\$3.95.
Order from Sun Distribution, 14131 Woodward, Highland Park, MI 48203. Add 25c postage.

WORKERS' POWER

HOW TO GET ELECTED UAW HEAD - WITH NO VOTE!

by Jenny Singer

DETROIT—The UAW's ruling machine has chosen Doug Fraser as the next President of the United Auto Workers union. Current President Leonard Woodcock announced January 3 that the other potential candidates would support Fraser at the UAW's Constitutional

Convention this May.

The officers are technically elected at conventions held every three years. In fact the top officers are chosen by the steering committee of the "Administration caucus" (which is the same as the International Executive Board) before delegates are even elected.

Any disagreements within the leadership are cleared up before the Convention, and they usually run against only a tiny rank and file opposition.

In 1970, for example, both Fraser and Woodcock wanted to succeed Walter Reuther as President. When it became clear that Woodcock had a majority on the Executive Board, Fraser withdrew and nominated Woodcock. They would not take their rivalry to the membership.

Fraser was praised for his gentlemanly keep-it-in-the-club conduct, and now is being rewarded.

UNITED FRONT

The UAW machine can work this way because the differences among the top leaders are far less important than their similarities.

• They are united on their attitude toward the companies—they think that secure company profits must come before any improvements for auto workers.

• They think as one man on the running of the union—a monolithic machine with the International in complete control, all the way down to the steward on the shop floor.

• They unanimously prefer to plead with Congress and the President for reforms than to use the power of the union to force gains from the auto companies.

With this basic agreement, it is far more important to present a united front to the membership than to let their differences be aired in public. The leadership is afraid of legitimizing the idea of disagreement within the union at all.

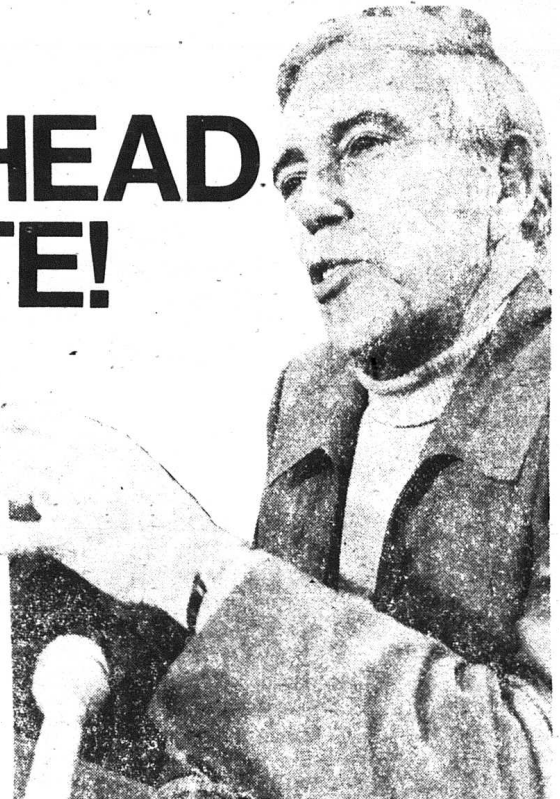
Officials were worried this year by the strong organization built by the Independent Skilled Trades Council during contract bargaining. They didn't want to encourage rank and file UAW members to think sections of the leadership might be sympathetic to them.

They do not want the impenetrable unity of the International machine to crack open even a hair's breadth. They want any dissent to be branded as factionalism and a service to the bosses.

Once the Executive Board chooses a candidate, no one else on the Board will break discipline and run. But Fraser, unlike the other vice-presidents, has enough support among some local leaders that, if another candidate were chosen, there might have been protests from the floor of the convention. The Board therefore chose the candidate who would ensure no commotion.

The commotion that a heated election can generate is hanging right before the UAW officials' eyes... in the United Steel Workers union. The election there has already stirred up considerable dissent and membership participation in the union.

And because the membership votes directly, rather than through a convention, the USW leadership stands a good chance of getting kicked out altogether. That's the



Doug Fraser

kind of situation the UAW officials want to avoid.

FRASER'S IMAGE

Fraser represents the more liberal wing of the UAW Executive Board. His presidency will mean a shift in the UAW's orientation within the Democratic Party, toward more liberal politicians. He is also reputed to be less enthusiastic than Woodcock about the UAW's rejoining the AFL-CIO.

But in spite of the media hype about Fraser "talking the language of the guys in the shop," he is equally responsible with the rest of the leadership for the International's actions.

He cooperated in the UAW and the companies' joint destruction of the League of Revolutionary Black Workers, that tried to bring Black Power into the plants in 1969. He organized the 1000-person goon squad that broke the Mack Stamping sit-down strike in 1973.

He was fully involved in the sellout contracts of 1973 and 1976. He has not spoken out once against the actions or policies of the rest of the leadership.

Fraser does not offer any hope of a more progressive union for rank and file members. Workers' Power will be covering developments in the local fights to elect delegates to the Convention who do represent the interests of the rank and file. □

UAW WINS SOUTHERN VOTE

WORKERS AT General Motors' Guide headlight plant in Monroe, Louisiana voted to join the UAW by a 54% majority on December 22.

The election was the first since GM pledged neutrality in UAW organizing efforts as part of the national contract signed in December.

The UAW had lost representation elections at GM plants in Clinton, Mississippi and Fitzgerald, Georgia, earlier in 1976. During negotiations they placed a high priority on winning the neutrality agreement.

GM has opened or begun eight new plants in the South since 1973. The UAW claims that the new plants and GM's strong anti-union propaganda there are a "Southern strategy" designed to run away from the UAW. The non-union Guide plant paid \$2 an hour less than organized Big 3 plants.

The neutrality pledge was the only "frosting on the cake" won by UAW negotiators over the Ford pattern. It remains to be seen what concessions the UAW made in return for GM's agreement to return their partnership to the South. □

WORKERS' POWER

A revolutionary socialist weekly, published by the International Socialists.

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N.Y. Tel Backs Down On Vacations

NEW YORK—So you've got 27 years seniority, five weeks vacation and you can take them whenever you want. Not if New York Telephone has its way. You'll take that vacation when they want you to, like not during the summer.

This year, however, N.Y. Tel isn't going to get its way. The first concerted job action by Communication Workers of America Local 1101 in years backed the company down fast.

N.Y. Tel thinks it has too many employees. It wanted to cut down on the number of people working at any one time by forcing the workers to take their vacations throughout the year.

So a year ago, the company proposed a special agreement that severely restricted the number of employees who could take vacations during the summer. The union refused.

The company then threatened to put people on part time schedules throughout the year, and the union gave in to the restricted vacations.

GRIEVANCE WAR

This December the company just announced its intention to part-time, in order to get restricted vacations again.

But this year the union took

action. Local president Ed Dempsey called a city-wide stewards' meeting and initiated a grievance war and overtime boycott.

Within a week 5,000 grievances were filed. District supervisors began calling in chief stewards to negotiate vacation schedules. The schedules settled on were about the same or slightly better than last year's.

A spokesperson for the United Action caucus in Local 1101 told Workers' Power. "The steps that backed the company down so successfully this year were the same ones we suggested when N.Y. Tel made its move last year. Ed Dempsey found those actions 'inappropriate' then." □