

ACQUISITIONS SECTION  
STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
816 STATE ST.  
MADISON WI 53706

# WORKERS' Power

WEEKLY NEWSPAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS JANUARY 17, 1977 #191 15c

## In This Issue

- Pregnancy Ruling . . . . 2  
AT&T's Empire . . . . . 5  
PBB Nightmare . . . . . 6-7  
Sadlowski's Penthouse  
Interview . . . . . 10

# HIGH COURT BLOCKS OPEN HOUSING

by Kate Stacy

The United States Supreme Court has officially legalized segregated housing in this country.

On Wednesday, the Court ruled it is legal for an all-white suburb to exclude integrated low- and moderate-income housing.

This decision may be the most far-reaching, and openly segregationist, court ruling in decades.

A suburb will be able to keep low-income housing out, even if it is proven that it is largely motivated by racism in doing so. All it has to do is claim there are "other reasons" besides racism—such as protecting property values—for restrictive zoning laws.

## BACKBONE OF RACISM

The Supreme Court, like every other branch of the U.S. government, knows very well that segregated housing is the backbone of racism in this country.

The government itself has already admitted this. The United States Commission on Civil Rights, in a report issued last August, said that every state should be required to provide "adequate moderate- and low-income housing throughout the metropolitan area and various services to assist minority families to secure housing outside central cities."

The Commission recognized that desegregating neighborhoods was the only way to achieve satisfactory integration of public schools.

Others have said the same. For example, Griffin Bell, Jimmy Carter's arch-racist appointee for Attorney General, explained his opposition to busing by saying that housing, instead, should be the focus. Every racist, and many liberals, hide behind the phony "neighborhood schools" issue to explain why they don't want busing for school integration.

## CRIPPLED

Now, before a fight for open housing even got off the ground, the Supreme Court

has crippled it.

There are many reasons why black people have fought for years in the courts, in Congress and in the streets for open housing.

Segregated housing enables school district lines, and tax laws, to be set up so that white schools get all the funds and black schools fall apart.

Segregated housing allows for red-lining and other practices which enable middle and upper-income whites to afford comfortable housing while black people are forced into crowded, high-rent, decaying slums.

Segregated housing reinforces every single aspect of racist politics that deny black people the right to equality.

The Supreme Court decision gives all this a green light. It deliberately encourages the process which a special government commission in 1968 called "the drift toward two separate, unequal societies."

The ruling has at least one other effect which reaches directly into areas that go far beyond housing.

For many years the Court tended to rule that practices in employment and education, as well as housing, were illegal if they had a racist effect. You didn't have to prove they were intentionally racist.

**But the new ruling will be interpreted to make acts legal even if they are intentionally racist—so long as some additional excuse is given for them.**

It's an old story. The Supreme Court rulings in favor of integration occurred during the years when a massive black liberation movement was ready to take to the streets to enforce its demands for basic justice.

Today, the courts have returned to their usual position as institutions of segregation and racism. The tide now is toward even more open, official bigotry.

It's only when a new anti-racist movement goes back into the streets to threaten this system, that the racist tide can be turned back and new gains won. □



## New York State Completes Attica Cover-up

New York Governor Hugh Carey has announced that the sentence of the one Attica prisoner still imprisoned for his role in the 1971 revolt will be commuted.

**Dacajewah John Hill, a 22-year-old Native American, is presently serving a 20-year to life sentence. He was convicted of killing a guard. The commuted sentence will make him eligible for parole, which is expected to be granted almost immediately.**

Carey also pardoned seven other former prisoners convicted on Attica charges who had already served their sentences.

But at the same time Carey announced that he was "closing the books" on the Attica rebellion, ending the possibility of prosecution against the state troopers and guards who murdered 39 people on September 13, 1971.

The whitewash of the state's

criminal brutality in crushing the Attica Prison Rebellion is finally complete.

Carey admitted that there were guards "who were misdirected or abused their authority in retaking the facility and rehousing the inmates." They are now immune from prosecution.

## MASSACRED

In the rebellion, ten prison guards were seized by inmates and held for four days while a prisoner committee negotiated with the state authorities for more humane conditions at Attica.

But suddenly, then-Governor Nelson Rockefeller ordered the state troopers to retake the prison. The hostages were brutally beaten in a barrage of state police gunfire. Rockefeller later praised police behavior in retaking the prison facility.

The troopers' behavior had been

wantonly vicious and murderous. However, state authorities tried to cover it up, and indicted 61 of the thousand inmates who took part on over a thousand different charges.

The corruption of the state investigation and the prosecution during the Attica investigations and trials was finally documented and received wide publicity, due to continuing Attica Brothers Defense Committee efforts.

This is what finally led to Carey's action. He said he was now "closing the book" because "the conduct of the [state's] investigation and the prosecution has been such that we now confront the real possibility that the law itself may well fall in disrespect."

The freedom of Dacajewah is a welcome victory. But Carey's action was really just the highest act of corruption in the whole bloody mess. He dropped the only frame-up convictions the state was able to get—in order to protect the real criminals. □

# WORKING WOMEN TELL: WHY WE NEED MATERNITY PAY

by Karen Kaye

THE SUPREME COURT'S December 7 decision that employers do not have to include pregnancy in disability benefits will make it more expensive for working women to have children. For many it will mean leaving their jobs.

**Workers' Power** talked with two working women who gave birth recently, one who was partially covered by a company disability plan and one who was not. Their stories show not only the difference disability coverage makes, but also how much room for improvement there is in existing plans.

Both women were financially punished for having children. At Chrysler, Sara received a leave and six weeks pay—but she found that few women could miss a total of only six weeks work when having a baby. Pam had to quit her job and go on welfare. With the Supreme Court's ruling, more women will find themselves in Pam's situation.

Companies are only too happy to keep women insecure about their jobs, part of a reserve work force, going in and out of jobs and not building up seniority and rights. Women with disability plans like Sara's will find it more difficult to improve or extend them, if they are not forced to defend the plan's very existence.



PAMELIA IVORY worked at a non-union grocery store until last September when Glenn Antoine was born.



SARA BUCKLEY works at Chrysler's Mack Avenue Stamping plant in Detroit and is a UAW member. In December she became the mother of Sean Thomas.

with prostate trouble. A man who is off work and in the hospital or at home gets that percentage of his weekly rate to live on.

Or there are other illnesses they cover that you might say could be avoided, like alcoholism. You can get sickness and accident benefits if you are an alcoholic and have to stay off work to go to a treatment program.

A lot of women in the plant go back to work after six weeks because they need the money, either because they're the only support of their family or because their husband's income isn't enough to support the whole family.

But your body has to get back into shape and it's a slow process. Sometimes it makes them sick. If they had the disability benefits they wouldn't be in that bind.

## THE UNION

With the Supreme Court decision, I don't think the UAW will have to backtrack and lose the six weeks pay because we've had it quite a few years. But what it will affect is our ability to extend the six weeks to the total length of the disability.

Already the UAW always says, "we're going to get this in the next contract," and then it always trades it off and it's never considered a priority.

I think that both women and men at work will have to push the union to put pressure on the company. We can't let them take advantage of this decision because we need the coverage extended to the full disability period.

## Workers' Power 191

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.

I quit work July 1 because I was getting too big and they still had me lifting boxes and stuff.

I started getting real tired. I would just sit down and rest for awhile. We've got a little rail that you come through to get to the other cash register. And I started getting too big to get through that. That's why I quit too.

I filled out the application for welfare in June, but the checks didn't start coming till September. They paid the back checks, but from July to September I didn't have any income.

The money they give you for rent ain't enough for nothing. I got \$79 every two weeks to cover my rent.

my food; utilities and personal expenses, and getting ready for the baby.

## CLINIC

I had to go to the clinic because I didn't have no money for no doctor and I didn't have no type of insurance.

It's a free clinic. The doctors there don't even know who you were.

The doctor kept telling me I was expecting any day, cause she had somebody else's chart, and it wasn't me.

And I kept telling her, no, I'm not due till September. She kept saying, "You don't feel him

moving? He's a lazy baby?" She said, she don't know what was the matter, because it hadn't turned or nothing. And I kept saying, "the reason why it ain't turned is because I ain't ready to have it."

You don't pick your own hospital.

I went to Detroit Memorial. They were all right, except they wait till too late to rush you down to the room for your baby.

They got me down there in time, but there was some more girls in there that I was talking to, that they didn't get them down there fast enough to get no spinal.

I started back to work in October when the checks I was getting from the welfare had stopped coming. □

# STEEL WOMEN TO FORM COMMITTEES

GARY, Indiana—Women steelworkers in United Steel Workers District 31 are organizing a Women's Caucus to help build women's committees at the local, district and international levels of the union. The newly formed District 31 Women's Caucus is sponsoring a luncheon and discussion for women steelworkers on Saturday, January 15.

District 31 is home of Ed Sadowski, Steelworkers Fight Back candidate for president of the International Union. Jim Balanoff, Fight Back candidate for district director, will be guest speaker at the luncheon. The Fight Back slate is committed to establishing a women's department at the international level of the union.

Women face special problems in the steel industry, and they need an organized and powerful voice in the union to be able to deal with these problems. The women's committees will focus on maternity benefits, discriminatory hiring and firing, child care and union education and activism.

Women have assumed a considerably more important role in the union as the companies have had to meet affirmative action hiring goals. There were as many as 1000 women at U.S. Steel's Gary Works by late last summer, for instance, although layoffs have reduced the number considerably since then.

In a number of mills, new women employees have organized against discriminatory treatment, and have won improvements on such things as washhouse facilities for women.

Although most of the women

who are organizing the District 31 Women's Caucus work in the large basic steel mills, they hope to involve the much greater number of women who work in the smaller so-called "bucket shops" as well. □

# USW ELECTION RULE THROWN OUT

The U.S. Supreme Court has thrown out a rule that prevented 96.5% of the membership of the United Steel Workers union from running for local office. The rule stated that to run for local office, a steel worker must have attended at least half the meetings of his or her local union in the previous three years.

The ruling came on a challenge brought in 1970, concerning a USW election in a Terre Haute, Indiana union. The court agreed that the meeting-attendance rule was not a "reasonable qualification" within the meaning of federal labor laws.

The court did not spell out any alternative to the USW's rule, so the union will most likely not have any sort of meeting-attendance rule until the next USW convention. At that time, the union might adopt a

less strict requirement.

The fact that more than 96% of the union membership could not qualify as candidates for local office under the USW's rules is one indication of how the present leadership has tried to insulate itself from challenges from the membership.

It is also an indication of how irrelevant to their lives and their work most steel workers think the union is. Working in a steel mill is a dangerous, dirty, dull job. The union leadership has carefully nurtured the idea that nothing can be done to change this situation.

If the union was doing its jobs and fighting for the rank and file, there would certainly be more than 3.5% of the membership who attended half their union meetings. □

# GRIFFIN BELL - KLAN'S MAN AT JUSTICE



Griffin Bell [above] is being accepted by many black leaders even though his racism is well-documented. The reason? Wade McCree, Jr. [right] will become the government's top lawyer, the Justice Department's third spot.

by Kate Stacy

**Jimmy Carter's nomination of Griffin Bell for Attorney General is turning in to the first scandal of his Administration—and Carter isn't even inaugurated yet. Bell's record is so racist that every black in Congress is expected to oppose him. The lone exception is likely to be Andrew Young, who is another Carter appointee.**

The most vile period in Griffin Bell's legal career was during the civil rights movement. In 1959, Bell was Chief of Staff and legal advisor to Georgia's Governor Vandiver.

He led a research team to Virginia to study that state's "massive resistance" to school integration.

"Massive resistance" meant that integration was opposed wherever and however it could be. Civil rights advocates were forced to fight a separate campaign for every single gain.

Every local and state school board bitterly fought black and white children attending the same schools. In state legislatures and in Washington, desegregation was opposed—and ways of getting around it were written into law.

In Georgia, Griffin Bell wrote those laws.

## CLOSED SCHOOLS

Specifically, Bell recommended acts that gave the Governor the right to close schools and universities rather than permit desegregation; to allow tax credits for contributions to private schools created to avoid integration; and to place age limits on professional schools in order to keep blacks from transferring from black to white institutions.

In other words, Griffin Bell was the white-collared gentleman who set a legal course that established a climate of racial bitterness, hate and violence.

It allowed the Ku Klux Klan to torch a freedom riders' bus near Americus, Georgia, beating the riders bloody. It rallied a whole community in Albany, Georgia to viciously oppose school integration.

These are just two examples that refute Bell's claim that Georgia "had no violence."

Bell was later temporarily successful in blocking Julian Bond

union-buster. In his twelve years as a Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals judge, two legal opinions stand out.

In 1966 Bell successfully halted the enforcement of a National Labor Relations Board decision that certified a union election among workers at a Georgia electric company.

In 1965 Bell dissented from a decision that stopped a major layoff at a Texas company. The layoff was purposely designed to wreck the Seafarers Union there.

Poorer working conditions and wages in the South, right-to-work laws, and anti-union sentiment are all Griffin Bell's cup of tea. And this is what Jimmy Carter knows he is nominating to run the Justice Department.

## BELL'S FRIENDS

Griffin Bell does have friends in Congress however. One of them is reactionary Democratic Senator James Eastland of Mississippi.

Eastland's Senate Judiciary Committee is holding the confirmation hearings for Attorney-General.

Eastland's committee has five vacancies due to death or electoral defeat. But currently the Committee is dominated by a reactionary bloc of five: Eastland, John McClellan (D-Ark); Robert Byrd (D-W.Va.), a former Ku Klux Klan kliegale just elected Senate Major-

black vote (95%) could never have been delivered.

What black leaders aren't admitting though, is that they have the power to stop Bell's nomination dead. But they won't exercise it. Too many of them are busy sucking up to the new Administration.

All that is needed is a firm, unwavering, "No! This is the bottom line. You cannot cross it. We want this nomination withdrawn or you'll never get another vote from us again."

But neither the Urban League or the political arm of the United Auto Workers Union will oppose the nomination, for two examples.

The National Black Caucus is officially committed to a fight. But this quote tells the real story:

"Every member of the caucus worked zealously on behalf of Carter. We believed in him. We still do. But in our system of democracy, no group can take the position that anything proposed by the executive branch cannot be opposed."

Translated into English, this means: "We will fight this strictly according to the rules. Some of us will be very critical. Some of us will lay back and see if Carter offers a deal.

"Maybe he'll put more blacks in key positions if we promise to shut up. In any event, probably none of us will vote for him. Anyone who



A "freedom riders" bus burns outside Americus, Georgia—part of the legacy of Griffin Bell's distinguished career.

from a seat in the Georgia legislature because Bond opposed the Vietnam war and the military draft.

And he staunchly supported Klan-member G. Harrold Carswell when Nixon unsuccessfully nominated Carswell to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Bell still justifies his support of Carswell today. The reasons given by the man whom Carter has selected to run the U.S. Justice Department are particularly revealing.

Bell said he favored Carswell for U.S. Supreme Court because of "regional pride" and "personal friendship." Lots of integrity there.

## UNION BUSTER

Bell is also an accomplished

ity Leader; Strom Turmond (R-SC) and William Scott (R-Va).

On Jan. 6, Eastland placed a notice of the hearing in the Congressional Record. The witness list was officially closed the very next day.

## WON'T USE POWER

The NAACP Executive Board voted to oppose Bell's nomination. The spokesman announcing the vote said: "It is my opinion that if it had been known before the election that Mr. Bell was going to be nominated as Attorney-General, Mr. Ford would be President of the United States again."

The NAACP spokesman is undoubtedly correct. If it had not been for the solid Carter support among black leaders, the massive

does might not get re-elected."

And, in fact, the deal was announced the next day. On the first round of confirmation hearings, Bell declared his intention to nominate black judge Wade McCree Jr., of the Sixth Court of Appeals, as the Solicitor General.

He will become the second black to hold that post, the third highest in the Justice Department. The Solicitor General represents the federal government in court.

And rumors are rampant that black District Court Judge Damon Keith will be appointed to replace McCree on the U.S. Appeals Court.

Appointing a black lawyer to protect the power and prestige of the United States government is judged to be an adequate trade-off for a stone reactionary bigot as Attorney General!

# Carter's "Business Machine" Team

If Bell is so bad, why then did Jimmy Carter nominate him? Three reasons—political agreement, racism and patronage.

Carter and Bell are political bedfellows. Bell defends his record during the civil rights movement by saying he never actually broke the law.

Well, he's probably not actually lying. Bell wrote new laws (for the legislature Carter was a member of) to protect the old Jim Crow system that was being challenged.

In the South, this is called being a "racial moderate." Both Bell and Carter describe themselves that way.

Then there is racism. Carter, the politician, is elected. He can allow his contempt for black people to become public knowledge. It's too late to change a single vote.

All his fine phrases about "cherishing his support among black people" and "never betraying that confidence" can be filed away—right along side his promise "never to tell a lie."

Finally, there is patronage—or cronyism of the sort that Mayor Daley was famous for. It reeks through the whole Cabinet.

## KING SPAULDING

Griffin Bell belongs to the most prestigious and conservative Southern law firm, King and Spaulding. It's so prestigious in fact, that it's called "King Spaulding."

Charles Kirbo, Carter's closest advisor belongs to King Spaulding. So does Carter's transition team leader.

Among King Spaulding's clients are IBM, which has a major anti-trust suit pending against it. The Justice Department, which is supposed to prosecute IBM, will be run by a member of IBM's law firm.

Cyrus Vance, nominee for Secretary of State, is on IBM's Board of Directors. So is Harold Brown, nominee for Secretary of Defense. And Patricia Harris, Carter's choice for Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

All in all, IBM has three Directors and an ex-lawyer lined up for Cabinet positions in the new Carter Administration. So much for Carter's promise to bring new faces to Washington.

Working people, women and minorities all took a beating during the last Administration. It's already clear this one is going to be the worst re-run of the next four seasons.

# ZIMBABWE WILL WIN!

by Dan Posen

In a dramatic announcement Sunday, the Presidents of five African states known in Black Africa as the "frontline states"—Zambia, Tanzania, Angola, Mozambique and Botswana—announced they are giving full support to the Zimbabwean nationalist alliance called the Patriotic Front.

A brief description of the Patriotic Front, and the positions of several other Zimbabwean leaders, is in the box on this page.

The African Presidents' communique reads: "The leaders decided to give full political, material and diplomatic support to the Patriotic Front to enable them to realize the objectives of their just struggle."

## REALITY

What does the African Presidents' decision mean for the future of the Zimbabwe liberation struggle? It may be some time before its full significance is clear.

In one very basic respect, at least, the African Presidents' decision simply recognizes reality.

That reality is that the forces making up the "Patriotic Front" are the only organizations which have guerilla armies actually fighting against the white racist Rhodesian regime.

The overwhelming majority of the guerilla fighters are the liberation army of ZANU (Zimbabwe African National Union), which has bases in Mozambique. The ZANU army has many thousands of fully trained soldiers, and tens of thousands more in training.

In recent months the Rhodesian government has created a climate of terror in the rural areas of Zimbabwe.

These atrocities have failed to crush the ZANU guerillas. The freedom fighters have continued the war for liberation, and broken from all so-called leaders who try to compromise their struggle.

## THE ONLY FIGHTERS

A second, much smaller, guerilla army belongs to ZAPU. According to recent reports the ZAPU guerillas, who number two or three thousand, have begun infiltrating small numbers of fighters into Zimbabwe from bases in Zambia.

The African Presidents' decision means a big political defeat for two other Zimbabwean political figures, Rev. Ndabaningi Sithole and Bishop Abel Muzorewa. (For further information, see box.)

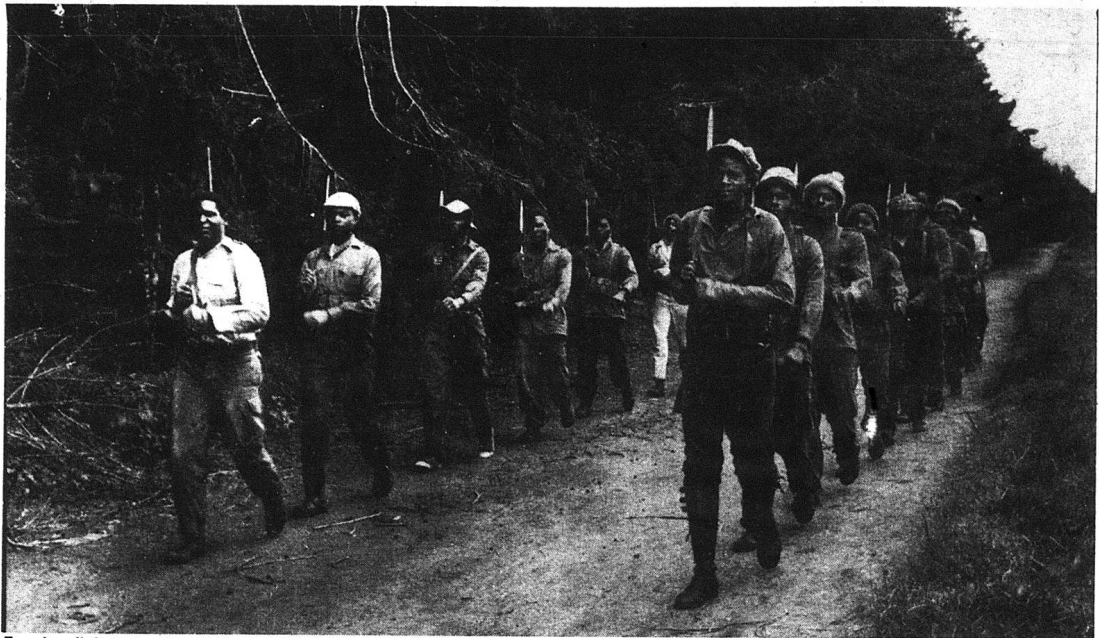
Both Sithole and Muzorewa claim to be leaders of the national liberation struggle. Neither of them, however, has any support from the freedom fighters.

For over a decade, the whites considered Joshua Nkomo to be the safest, most reliable black leader to deal with. But now that Nkomo has formed a joint bargaining alliance with Robert Mugabe, who represents the ZANU guerillas, racist Prime Minister Ian Smith has begun praising Muzorewa.

## SIGNIFICANCE

If the African Presidents' decision means full support to the liberation fighters, they could help to create a more unified, decisive military struggle against the white settler state.

This could work to the advantage of the freedom fighters, and above all ZANU. ZANU not only has by far the strongest liberation army, it is



Freedom fighters getting ready to crush white racist rule in Zimbabwe.

Liberation News Service

totally committed to the liberation of Zimbabwe by armed mass struggle.

The African Presidents clearly also hope to avoid being caught supporting different sides in a murderous civil war, as they were in Angola.

In that struggle the governments of Tanzania and Mozambique supported the liberation movement MPLA, while Zambia gave underground backing to American and South African-backed puppet armies.

The people of Zimbabwe are certain to welcome the African Presidents' announcement. A unified Zimbabwean liberation struggle, with full military support from the African states, would mean a quicker victory, less bloodshed and tremendous advantages for the people of Zimbabwe.

## DANGERS

However, whether things will actually work out that way is still an unanswered question.

The Patriotic Front itself is a military bloc and temporary bargaining arrangement. It is not, and cannot be, a permanent political alliance.

For over 15 years Joshua Nkomo has looked for support from western governments, for peaceful negotiations with the white rulers and for a compromise that would leave the whites with enormous economic and political power.

It is impossible to believe that Nkomo has given up this dream, or that he is now in political agreement with the ZANU freedom fighters, who realize that only armed force will free Zimbabwe.

In fact, the Patriotic Front itself seems to have been formed under the auspices of the African states. The Presidents of Tanzania and Zambia, under intense pressure from the U.S. government were determined to make sure that the political leaders who are recognized by the ZANU fighters attended the Geneva conference.

They are now equally anxious to make sure that these political leaders return to Geneva, when and if the talks resume.

These talks have accomplished nothing except to keep the white settlers in power a little longer. They have given the Rhodesian Army time to increase its strength and organize more savage raids into Mozambique and massacres of villages.

If the African Presidents' decision means more guns for the freedom fighters and more effective struggle against the racist, western-backed Rhodesian state, it will speed up the liberation of Africa.

But the African Presidents are

still under tremendous American political and financial pressure, to route the liberation struggle through the useless Geneva talks. This will only mean more black lives needlessly lost and even more bitter battles to fight in the months ahead.

## WHO'S WHO IN ZIMBABWE

Here is a brief list of the main organizations and political figures in the liberation struggle in Zimbabwe.

• **Robert Mugabe**—Secretary-General of Zimbabwe African National Union (ZANU). ZANU is the political party which stands for uncompromising armed struggle and is supported by the great majority of the guerilla fighters, who are based in Mozambique.

• **Joshua Nkomo**—A long-time figure in Zimbabwean nationalist politics, and leader of ZAPU (Zimbabwe African People's Union). ZAPU has a guerilla army, based in Zambia, but much smaller than ZANU's.

• **Ndabaningi Sithole**—A former leader of ZANU. He is now waging a campaign against the ZANU guerilla leaders, calling them "tribalists" and "racists." However, these charges

have found no support among the guerillas, who have denounced Sithole as a traitor.

• **Abel Muzorewa**—A bishop who gained some popularity among Zimbabweans as the leader of the African National Council of Zimbabwe (ANC). The ANC was a short-lived merger of ZANU and ZAPU which has now fallen apart.

There are now indications that white Rhodesian politicians believe Muzorewa—who had a militant image only a few months ago—is now the black politician willing to deal with them. The whites want to find a black puppet who would accept the creation of a puppet black government, dominated by western money and subservient to the white settlers.

• **Patriotic Front**—A bloc formed by Robert Mugabe and Joshua Nkomo, in order to have

a joint bargaining position at Geneva. Whether the ZANU guerillas accept the authority of the Patriotic Front is not clear.

Western powers are putting intense pressure on the Patriotic Front to accept a formula which would give white settlers control of a transition government. This week, the Patriotic Front reaffirmed its position that this is totally unacceptable.

The position of ZANU on the Geneva talks was summarized by Robert Mugabe as follows: "They (the front-line African Presidents) believe a compromise can be worked out to give us black majority rule. We tried to disabuse them of this notion. So we're here (in Geneva) to demonstrate the correctness of our position. Then we will go home and continue the war of liberation until final victory."



## Southern Africa News

The United States government last year threatened to bomb the capital of Guyana, a small South American country, for permitting Cuban planes to refuel on their way to Angola.

During the Angolan liberation war, thousands of Cuban soldiers fought on the side of the liberation movement, MPLA, against American-backed puppets and mercenaries.

An article by Mexican writer Garcia Marquez in the Mexican weekly, Proceso, reveals that Guyana was forced to withdraw permission for Cuban planes to refuel, because:

"The United States ambassador to Guyana personally warned that the airport at Georgetown, the capital, would be bombed unless officials there stopped

permitting the Cubans to refuel."

Henry Kissinger called the Cuban government's support to the MPLA an "act of aggression" and "intolerable interference."

But of course, threatening to bomb a small nation for not following Washington's orders isn't aggression, interference, colonialism or imperialism at all. According to Henry Kissinger it isn't, anyway.

□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□  
How would you like to see a bunch of hate-crazed white racists, who think black people are less than human beings, coming to this country?

What's that you say? You think there are enough of those types running this country already?

You're right. But if certain Alabama real estate agents have

their way, there soon may be lots more die-hard racists here.

Bolling & Wallace Realtors of Montgomery, Alabama are running ads in newspapers for white Rhodesian settlers. The ads promise that if they lose their power in Rhodesia, they can buy land in Alabama and Mississippi "in an area where the white people think as you do and are of the same Anglo-Saxon background."

The ads also promise "good private schools, many cultural events, close to seashore and mountains."

No doubt the white settlers will also be encouraged to bring with them their guns, their belief in white supremacy, and their ideas that they are entitled to live off cheap black labor just as they always have.

Calling All  
Phone Workers:  
Know Your Enemy!

# Ma Bell Pulls All Wires



THERE IS AN OLD saying among AT&T top management that "God takes care of the Bell system." This motto tells us more about how Bell management sees itself than it does about any vested interest they might have with the "heavenly host."

Bell management sees themselves as gods because they lord over the biggest, richest company on the face of the earth.

Here are a few facts:  
• AT&T is bigger than IBM, GE and the Big 3 automakers put together.

• It is the only single company that dominates 90% of its market.  
• Bell owns enough wire and cable to reach from the earth to the sun and back again three times.

• Between 1945 and 1965, Bell raised enough money in the capital markets to buy up the total gold reserves of the United States, Great Britain and several other European governments.

## STRUCTURE

The entire Bell system is a single monopoly company. We should never be confused on this point. AT&T is the parent company of the other Bell companies. What are these companies?

**Western Electric** is the manufacturing arm of the Bell system. One-fifth of all Bell employees work for WE. If WE were a separate company, it would be the twelfth largest in the country. For this reason, it is often described as the "captive giant of the Bell system."

**Bell Labs** is in charge of research and development. Bell sometimes makes a big deal about the fact that Bell Labs is only 50% owned by AT&T. But it turns out that the other 50% is owned by Western Electric, which in turn is 100% owned by AT&T.

Twenty-seven percent of Bell Labs' work is military contracts. One-third of AT&T's profits come from military contracts.

**AT&T Long Lines** has 35,000 employees. It is the only operating company which is a special department of AT&T itself.

**The Sandia Corporation** is another wholly owned AT&T subsidiary. Bell management is sometimes embarrassed by the Sandia company because it manufactures nuclear weapons. Sandia has been described as a corporate entity with nuclear hardware unmatched in the West.

**Bell International** is a new member of the AT&T family. This will be the overseas arm of the

giant Bell system.

Finally, the Bell system is subdivided into 22 operating companies, such as New York Telephone, Michigan Bell, and Mountain. All but four of these are 100% owned and operated by AT&T.

## ILLUSION

This division creates the illusion that there are many different telephone companies. Really it is all the same company. Bell creates the myth of many different companies because it helps it escape regulation.

AT&T admits to being a monopoly. But Bell management is always quick to tell us that the phone monopoly is OK because it is regulated by the government.

**A closer examination shows that if there is any regulation going on, it is the Bell system that regulates the government.**

Each of the separate Bell companies is regulated by the local Public Utility Commission. The Public Utility Commission is usually a group of political hacks appointed by the state governor. Ninety-nine percent of the time they are just a rubber stamp for the companies' rate requests.

**In 1975 it was disclosed that Southwestern Bell maintained an 11,000 acre hunting preserve in Texas. There, public officials could shoot deer from padded swivel chairs in carpeted shooting blinds.**

By granting favors like expense-paid trips to Las Vegas, and through lobbying and political contributions, Bell is able to make the P.U.C.s little more than pro-company agencies.

## FALSE EXPENSES

Another trick that Bell uses is to falsify its expenses.

Western Electric manufactures all of Bell's equipment. WE has no control over its prices; they are set by AT&T. To justify rate hikes, the operating companies point to the increasing cost of telephone equipment. Thus, by raising its own expenses, AT&T is able to bring more money into the coffers.

In October, 1974, a \$90,000 a year vice-president for Southwestern Bell named T.O. Gravits committed suicide. Soon after Gravits' death, a phone company official was caught stealing a document from the dead executive's home.

**That document turned out to be a suicide note. The note explained how Bell had created a \$100,000**

**slush fund for political contributions. It also told how Bell would tap the phones of government officials who were involved in rate regulation.**

The note ended by saying, "Watergate is a gnat compared to the Bell system."

The other government body charged with regulating Bell is the Federal Communications Commission. The entire annual budget of the FCC equals only 1/2 day of AT&T revenue.

As Ralph Nader pointed out about the FCC, "The handful of economists and accountants investigating the gigantic corporation is comparable to an ant surveying a movie mastodon."

**The FCC has ruled that 50% of all international calls must use cables instead of satellites, even though cables are six to nine times more expensive.**

AT&T was delighted with this decision because FCC rules allow Bell to set its own rates on cables!

Government regulation of AT&T is a fraud. The regulatory agencies, whether local or federal, are just stooges for the companies.

The rate hikes that Bell is always asking for are no good for customers. All they do is increase the cost of living. These days there are telephone operators who cannot afford telephone service!

Rate hikes don't help telephone workers either. The charge for Directory Assistance is a good example of this. When the charge goes in, the calls drop by about 60%. Layoffs almost always follow the charge.

[Next week's column will discuss how AT&T works with the FBI.]

NO ONE IS FORCING  
YOU TO DO BUSINESS  
WITH  
US.



## PORTUGAL:

# Two Years Of Struggle In The Factories

by Wendy Weinberg

For the last two years I have gone to Portugal on my vacation at Christmas time.

**Many of my fellow workers in the auto plant where I work have wanted to know why I thought workers in Portugal had it better than here. I tell them!**

It's true, workers there aren't paid as much, and they don't live as well as here. It's not a rich country. But factories in Portugal have been run by workers now for over two years!

You never find workers who are sent home on discipline for being late or "not working hard enough."

## OCCUPATIONS

I visited some of the same factories I saw last year. In one factory, the boss had left during the summer. But that factory, and other factories where the boss tried to shut the plant and lay workers off, is still working.

**Why? Because the workers refused to leave or let the boss take away the machinery. They occupied the factories. Now the government, instead of the old boss, has to pay them.**

At one factory I visited this year, the government was soon going to decide whether to nationalize the factory and save these workers' jobs.

The workers were holding many meetings in the plant. They decided that if the government did not nationalize and tried to shut the factory down, that they would refuse to leave the factory and would attempt to run it for themselves.

Other workers have saved their jobs by using this tactic.

## U.S. POWER

There are definitely big problems in Portugal. This is because workers still do not run the government.

**When I was there it was so clear to me who was running their government. It is the United States government!**

You could tell how much government officials there were controlled. When they spoke they just repeated the United States foreign policy.

I saw a film on TV about good old America. I was shocked because I realized they would not even be able to show this film here. American workers wouldn't believe such lies about themselves.

This propaganda flick told Portuguese workers how happy American workers were. There is no racism or problems in the U.S. We were just like one big happy family in this country.

**Portuguese workers don't fall for this, either. In fact, the U.S. government doesn't like Portuguese workers one little bit.**

Portugal has the one working class in any Western industrial country where the workers don't let the bosses set work rules and

discipline.

The U.S. government is prepared to do anything necessary to make sure that the strict rules of capitalism return to Portugal—even if it means very strict rules like they have under fascism.

The workers know if they do not take the Portuguese government out of the hands of the U.S. government, they will lose everything they have won.

They must be prepared to form their own government and overthrow the one that exists with a revolution.

## SAME FIGHT

**Portugal had one revolution against fascism in April '74. The workers did not want to fight the war for their fascist government in Angola.**

This war was the struggle of freedom fighters against the colonial Portuguese government. Portuguese workers know the struggle going on in southern Africa right now is key to the liberation of people everywhere.

Racism is a chain wrapped around workers to keep them from fighting the boss. White minority rule has got to end in Africa. It is the majority that has come forward to demand their right to rule themselves.

Portuguese workers know that the main thing holding them back is the power, the influence, and the money of the U.S. government. The same is true for black people in southern Africa.

**The struggle of these people for freedom is everybody's struggle. The enemy is U.S. Imperialism and the good old CIA.**

We American workers know the tactics and dirty tricks the money interests can use in other countries, because of what these people do right here in the factories and work places where we work.

They treat you like a dog. These same people run our government, our lives, and the lives of workers in Portugal and southern Africa too.

**They are fighting back. We should support their struggles and start carrying on the ones we need to fight right here.**

Wendy Weinberg came back from vacation to find out her own bosses had been thinking about her over the holidays.

She was given a 30-day suspension from her job as Committeeperson at General Motors' Chevrolet Gear and Axle Plant.

Weinberg told Workers' Power: "I am an elected union committeeperson who has been in office since June 1975. In this time I've been given time off three times—once for two weeks and twice for a month."

"It's clear they intend to fire me so I won't be able to present myself for re-election in June. Maybe they aren't aware that the membership won't be fooled so easily."

"The Plant 6 people will not let the company try to dictate who can represent us."

# PBB

# A NIGHTMARE BUT THEY WON'T WAKE UP

by Elissa Clarke

**In 1973 a toxic fire retardant was mixed with Michigan's cattle feed. It killed tens of thousands of cattle. It poisoned Michigan's meat and dairy products. It has ruined the health of thousands of Michigan farmers.**

**For the farmers, the PBB contamination is a nightmare from which they won't wake up.**

**But it is not only the farmers who have suffered. Everyone living in Michigan since mid-1973 has PBB poisoning.**

**And PBB is still found in the food on grocery shelves.**

Some time between May and July of 1973, 700 pounds of polybrominated biphenyl was mixed with Michigan's cattle feed. Polybrominated biphenyl, or PBB, is a fire retardant.

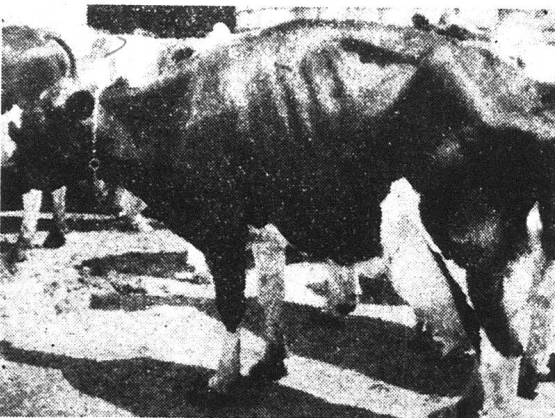
Cattle became sick. They lost weight. Milk production decreased. They gave birth to still-born calves. They died.

It was a year before PBB was discovered to be the cause. How much contaminated beef, pork, poultry eggs, butter, milk and cheese ended up on your table in that year is anybody's guess.

The PBB poisoning was called the "worst agricultural contamination disaster in U.S. history." The state quarantined and destroyed 28,854 cattle. Five million eggs, 5,923 pigs, 1,550,000 chickens, 17,944 pounds of cheese, and 2,634 pounds of butter were also destroyed.

PBB is still found in food, below the .3 parts per million (ppm) level that the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) allows. Farmers estimate that 90,000 cattle are sick from PBB poisoning, but below this "safe" level.

The state has refused to quarantine and destroy cattle below the FDA guidelines, even though they are sick, dying and dangerous. At every step, they have tried to minimize the scandal and cover-up the dangers of PBB poisoning.



**PBB poisoning causes cows to lose weight, decrease milk production, and lose calves. Many Michigan farmers could not go on feeding and caring for their poisoned cattle, and shot them.**

destroyed their herds and their livelihoods.

The farmers have had a very difficult time convincing Michigan officials that PBB is dangerous.

## COVER-UP

In 1974, the Michigan Department of Public Health released a report that said PBB had no effect on health. "Situational stress and related symptoms" resulting from losing their livelihoods is what caused the farmers' poor health, the report said, not the actual exposure to PBB.

Last May, a PBB Scientific Advisory Panel appointed by Michigan Governor Milliken recommended a reduction in the .3 ppm PBB guidelines.

But the next month, the state Agricultural Commission voted against removing all contaminated food from grocery shelves.

When a bill was introduced into the Michigan legislature to lower PBB guidelines, Milliken threatened to veto it. His reasoning was that such a measure should be an administrative, not a legislative, act.

The guidelines still stand.

In October, 1976 medical tests were begun on 1029 farmers by the prestigious Selikoff team of the Environmental Sciences Laboratory of Mount Sinai Hospital in New York.

Last week the Selikoff team released its findings. The report states, "Initial analysis of the findings support the conclusion that adverse health effects may occur in some people as a result of PBB exposure."

Many farmers do not feel the Selikoff report actually reveals everything the research team found. Hilda Green of the PBB Action Committee, told Workers' Power, "No way were they going to come out and panic the people. I know they found out more than they're saying. I know so many of the people."

## FIT TO EAT

Farmers whose herds checked out to have very low levels of PBB watched their cattle die slowly, until they could no longer afford to feed the poisoned animals and shot them. These animals were legally considered fit for consumption.

The farmers know that .3 ppm PBB can cripple and kill. They don't think any fire retardant should be in the food we eat. "I don't see why we should have our poison measured," Hilda Green said.

## GET AWAY

John Argersinger, a dairy farmer in Reed City, Michigan, lost 352 head of cattle, even though they never tested over .09 ppm PBB. "A slow killing process wiped out all but 98 head in less than three years," said Argersinger. "I shot the last 98 and the family dog



**Almost 30,000 cattle were slaughtered after they were poisoned by PBB, a fire retardant. It is estimated that another 80-90,000 are sick from PBB contamination. But since they fall below the FDA guidelines, Michigan residents are still drinking their milk and eating their meat.**

because they were all dying."

Another family examined by the Selikoff team, Chris and Donald Rehkopf, moved from Michigan to Washington state to "get as far away from Michigan as possible."

The Rehkopf family owned a 100-head dairy herd. Most of the cattle died. Rehkopf shot the last 26 animals because he considered their milk and meat unfit for human consumption.

The Rehkopfs lost an infant daughter in 1973 due to PBB poisoning. "She was sick and jaundiced the whole time," Chris Rehkopf said. "But the doctors couldn't figure out what caused her death. Thorin, who was born the next year, had a constant round of infections and occasional jaundice while we lived here. He's not been sick half as much since we moved."

Donald Rehkopf has been unable to work since 1973. He suffers from arthritis-like problems in his joints, clumsiness and continual headaches. He will probably never recover.

The two companies responsible for the accident are Michigan Chemical of St. Louis, Michigan and the Michigan Farm Bureau, a private association of farmers. Their insurance companies have paid \$31 million in individual claims.

Although the Michigan legislature will probably lower the amount of PBB allowed in the state's food due to the Selikoff findings, the Food and Drug Administration has so far refused to re-evaluate its guidelines for PBB or PCB.

Michigan farmers and their families who were poisoned by PBB will suffer for the rest of their lives. And generations to come may pay for this little accident—with cancer.



**In 1968 PCB leaked from a pipe into a river. A thousand more suffered ailments, nervous disorders, and skin rash "yusho." Victims of PBB suffer severe acne-like skin eruptions.**

# DREAMT MARE, T THEY T WAKE UP

**"Our state dairy inspector told my husband not to drink the milk or eat the meat. He said, 'Now this is just as a friend.' But, oh yes, they continued to take our milk until the day before we killed the cattle."**

Hilda and Alvin Green own a farm in Reed City, Michigan. In November, 1975 they shot 112 of their cattle, about half the herd. The cows were dying from PBB poisoning.

Hilda Green told Workers' Power that they first realized something was wrong when Alvin began to suffer from ill health.

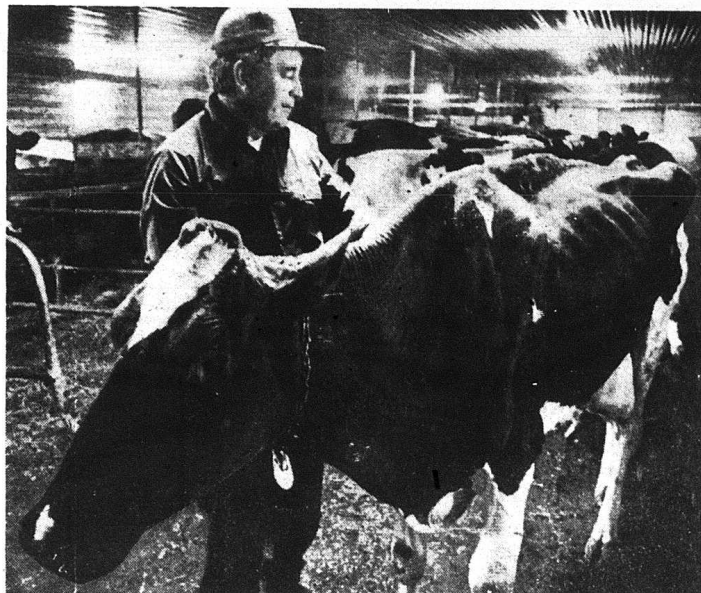
**"My husband was having a problem with high blood pressure. He had sores on his legs. Sometimes he felt like his head was floating off in space. He couldn't walk from the kitchen to the living room; I would have to watch him so close; he was going so crooked. When he answered the telephone**

sometimes he could not remember who it was or what they wanted.

**"You have to realize that he was feeding the cattle and working in the feed. You can hear my husband's joints cracking when he walks across the floor."**

## POISONED

The Green's grandson, Jim, also began to suffer. Mrs. Green said, "My grandson played football on the Reed City High School team the fall before. Then he started losing weight. He came down from 226 pounds to 173. He was sleeping constantly; it was nothing for him to sleep 18 hours a day. He would



Rex Wilson with a PBB-contaminated cow. In 1973 this cow produced 17,500 pounds of milk. It was a prize winner. This photo was taken in 1974, just before the cow was shot. It had as much as 200 ppm PBB in the butter fat. FDA guidelines allow .3 ppm. Wilson's family drank contaminated milk from this cow for six months. The family's two cats died from it.

say, 'Dad, I'm so tired.' "He stopped eating, and when he did eat, he'd just double over with cramps.

**"We knew about PBB, but we didn't feel we had that feed because we hadn't bought Farm Bureau feed. But in May 1974, we lost one cow. And then we started having problems with cows when they calved. They wouldn't clean them, the afterbirth and all. The veterinarian had to come out about every third day after the cow had a calf and clean them. The vet said, 'It looks to me like you got some of**

the PBB feed.'

**"Our cows were losing calves, and right around Christmas we lost another cow. And this cow, well I would say it could have made us famous. My husband taught it to lift its hoof and shake hands with you. We have pictures.**

**"When we lost this cow we said, 'My God, something is wrong.'"**

## SCANDAL

In an article last week, the Detroit News warned that "there is no way to stop unscrupulous farmers from selling PBB-tainted animals so long as the animals were not sick enough to fail visual inspection." The Greens had an opposite experience. They found it virtually impossible to convince state inspectors that their herd was contaminated and should be shot. They finally shot their own cattle.

Mrs. Green suggests that the state may have used this tactic to minimize the scandal—to keep too many farmers from having a case against the Michigan Farm Bureau.

Mrs. Green said, "When we started testing for PBB, everything came back clean. They were so flooded with tests that it would be six to eight weeks before you'd hear. And everything was "non-detected."

**"We didn't know what was wrong. The cows would get down, and they'd lay there for three, four, maybe six weeks. You'd feed them and water them, and they'd just lay there and bellow. And then they'd die.**

**"We'd have state veterinarians down. They'd say, 'You have a problem, but we don't know what it is."**

## FRIEND

**"Even our state inspector came out and said, 'I hear you're having a problem.' And he told my husband not to drink the milk or eat the meat. He said, 'Now this is just as a friend.'"**

**"Can you imagine a dairy inspector telling you that? But, oh yes, they continued to take our milk until the day before we killed the cattle. Our cattle weren't quarantined. They considered them low level. They were all cheating on**

the tests, for the simple reason, to protect the Michigan Farm Bureau.

**"And I really think they thought low levels wouldn't hurt. But it just took longer for it to kill the cattle.**

**"We decided to go ahead and kill our cattle. When I don't eat meat myself, I'm not going to sell it."**

**"Now my husband is unable to work. I go in and get \$92 for food stamps a month. You can't live on that."**

## A Tale of Two Chemicals

Who is responsible for the PBB disaster?

Michigan Chemical Co. in St. Louis, Michigan manufactures two chemicals. One is called "Nutrimaster." It is a chemical nutrition booster for cattle feed.

The other is called "Firemaster." It is a fire retardant, called PBB.

In 1973, Michigan Chemical got sloppy about the way it handled the toxic PBB. They discontinued their practice of putting Firemaster in specially colored bags.

They began some experiments using "Firemaster," grinding it up into a white powder. Then they shepherded the experiment.

"Firemaster" was confused with "Nutrimaster," which was similar in appearance and packaged the same way. It was shipped to Michigan Farm Services, an arm of the Michigan Farm Bureau. Farm Services mixed 700 pounds of "Firemaster" into the cattle feed it sells. The feed was then sold to an unknown number of Michigan farmers.

## PROSECUTE

The federal government has declined to prosecute either Michigan Chemical or Farm Services. Of course, they say, if PBB were found in the feed again, they would prosecute.

The federal government could charge Michigan Chemical with "mis-branding, mis-labeling, and failure to segregate chemicals."

**If they were charged, and if they were convicted, they could receive a maximum penalty of \$1000 fine and one year in jail.**

After they were poisoned by PBB, a further 80-90,000 are sick from PBB. Now the FDA guidelines, Michigan and eating their meat.



## Don't Rest So Easy

You're probably relieved if you don't live in Michigan. But don't rest so easy.

In 1968, PCB leaked from a pipe into a rice field in Japan. PCB is the sister chemical of PBB. It is used as a coolant for machinery.

It killed five people and poisoned 1000 others, causing skin eruptions, liver damage, and nerve damage.

In 1970, Campbell Soup found high PCB levels in New York State chickens destined for its soup. More than 146,000 chickens had to be destroyed.

The PCB was finally traced to stale bakery goods that were fed to the chickens. The baked products were packaged in plastic bags coated with PCB.

In 1970 a North Carolina poultry farmer wondered why his chickens were not producing very many eggs. He did his own tests and found 40 parts per million (ppm) PCB in his chickens.

The PCB was traced to the poultry feed. PCB was leaking from a pipe into the heating system, where it got into the feed. It was two months before the leak was discovered.

Between 1971 and 1972 PCB contaminated poultry four times. Michigan fish contain such high levels of PCB that fishermen are cautioned not to eat more than

one meal of fish a week. While the levels in small fish, like smelt, are very low, PCB and PBB build up in the body, so you end up with a much higher level than you originally ate. If you eat fish that have always fed on contaminated fish, the build-up can be astronomical.

## IT'S EVERYWHERE

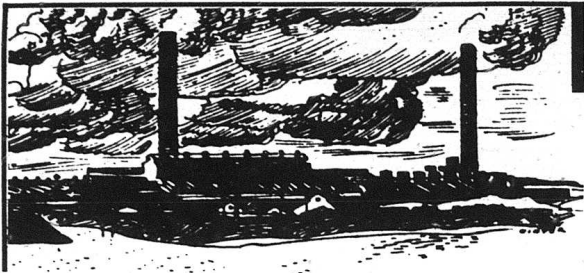
PCB is also used in washable wall coverings and ironing board covers, as a softener for plastics, in epoxy paints, in printing inks, adhesives, cement coatings, fluorescent fixtures, sealants, and some toilet soaps. Wherever you go you can find PCB.

PBB is a major pollutant, in a class with DDT, mercury, lead and phosphates. And like DDT, it is a "persistent" chemical; that is, it retains its toxicity for years.

One Michigan researcher who studies birth defects, Dr. Thomas Corbette, cheerfully consoles Michigan residents: "Probably 90% of the state's residents ate products at one time or another containing some quantities of PBB, including hamburgers served up by fast-food chains.

"We're all part of a huge experiment."

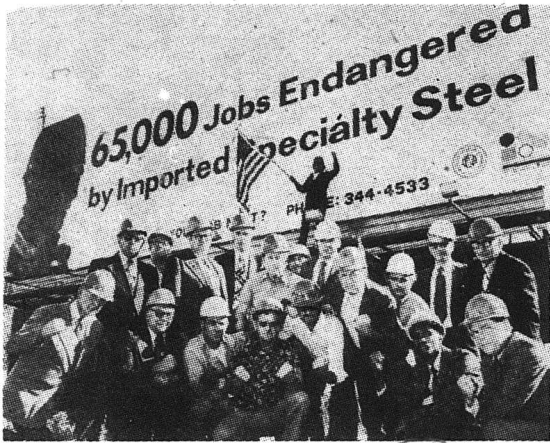
This experiment has meant disease and death for thousands of people.



# steelyard blues

DECISION TIME FOR THE UNITED STEEL WORKERS

## Do Import Quotas Save Jobs ?



Those favoring import controls end up in the same camp as the employers.

Watching one out of every four jobs in basic steel disappear over the last 15 years has made steel workers rightly sensitive to the need for job protection.

No one can deny that automation

and the rising productivity it brings have been the prime destroyers of jobs. But both the companies and the USW leadership are for rising productivity (in fact, they've set up joint productivity committees) because it increases profits.

### Don't Be Fooled!

American big business works hard to build a partnership, or "patriotic alliance," with the union movement to support the strength and profits of American capitalism.

Along with import quotas sought by sections of American industry, the employers call on workers to support "holding down wages to make American industry more competitive," and for imperialist intervention in countries like Vietnam, Chile and South Africa to protect their investments and their power.

Import quotas are just one part of this package.

We have already seen that import quotas have not, and cannot, save jobs in the steel industry. But they do have other effects—all bad.

American workers seeking to take the jobs of foreign workers through import quotas only force retaliatory quotas by other nations that will destroy American jobs based in export.

#### BOTH SIDES LOSE

If American workers support the idea of stopping Japanese steel, or textiles from Taiwan, then what's wrong with Japanese or German workers demanding restrictive quotas on American-made products?

At certain times, import quotas and other policies such as competitive devaluations, tariff barriers and so forth, can have even more drastic consequences.

In the 1930s, the whole world capitalist system went into a crisis

called the Great Depression. Production and markets fell sharply.

Every competing capitalist country, to save its own industries and home markets, threw up nationalist economic programs, created tariff wars, and so forth.

These measures helped to accelerate the collapse of world trade. In three years U.S. exports plummeted from \$5.24 billion to \$1.61 billion.

Millions upon millions of workers were thrown into bitter poverty, unemployment and starvation around the world. Fascism grew in a number of countries as the capitalists were more and more forced to turn to the gun in order to keep control.

Within ten years the workers of America, Japan and Europe, who had been mobilized to fight each other instead of overthrowing the system, were marched into a savage world war.

We live in an economic system distinguished not only by competition between private corporations within a country, but also by competition between different national economies in the capitalist world market.

The problems created by this irrational, exploitative system will not be solved by workers joining with their employers to ruin each other.

They will be solved only when the workers of the world replace capitalism with a new system of international cooperation based on meeting our own needs—a system of workers' control and international socialism.

So instead of tackling the main cause of job loss, the USW leadership joins with steel executives to call for import controls, restricting the amount of steel that foreign corporations, particularly Japanese, can sell in the U.S.

Most steel workers support import quotas because they think they will increase job security. In fact, like USW support for productivity drives, import controls are just another way of supporting company profits at the expense of steel workers.

The Officers Report to the 1976 USW Convention says: "In 1975 steel imports were approximately 12 million tons, 6.3 million tons less than in 1971. This produced an additional 37,000 jobs for American steel workers. In the same time span we had an increase of steel exports of nearly 3.5 million tons.

"In other words 50,000 members of our union and employees of the steel industry are working today because we have managed to reduce imports while U.S. companies have been able to sell more American steel on the world market."

This is a very neat sleight of hand indeed. On page 14 of the same report, the figures show that employment did not increase by 50,000 from 1971 to 1975, but dropped by 31,700!

This decrease in the number of workers was in spite of the fact that production in 1975 was only 3 million tons less than 1971's 120 million tons.

Jobs did not increase when imports dropped. Instead, employment peaked in June of 1971 at 535,600. Imports that same June were at the second highest level in the history of the industry.

In the next six months imports declined by more than one-third, from 2.1 million tons per month to 1.3 million per month. In the same period American steel employment did not rise but fell by more than 100,000!

#### SUPPLY AND DEMAND

Technology is the main long-run factor determining the number of jobs in steel. In the short run, the most important factor is supply and demand.

The steel industry cannot add production capacity for new demand easily. It takes years to complete a new rail mill or galvanizing line. At present, domestic steel is cheaper than foreign steel (\$247 vs. \$294 a ton in 1974). For these reasons, most imports serve the purpose of making up domestic shortages.

The steel industry wants import quotas so it will have no competition. Then it would be free to raise prices through the roof, increasing profits. Demand would wither in the face of complete monopoly pricing.

FREE LOCAL 3057

## Labor Notes

by Jim Woodward



Much of the publicity surrounding the December 21 wreck of the *Argo Merchant*, and the oil spill resulting from the wreck, implied that the crew of the ship was to blame. This is easy to get away with, particularly when the crewmen have foreign-sounding names. But the truth is that on a ship like the *Argo Merchant*, the crew suffers more than anyone else. The *Amership Agency, Inc.* which operated the *Argo Merchant*, also operates seven other ships, which have been involved in numerous accidents in recent years.

Amership apparently thinks labor costs are one corner that can be cut. As a result, life on the agency's ships can be miserable. In one case, crew members were reportedly locked up for several days without food or blankets. Last October, three of the ships—the *Argo Master*, the *Argo Castor*, and the *Argo Pollux*—were the target of labor disputes. The crews complained about conditions on board, and refused to let two of the ships leave port until back wages owed them were paid.

The California Agricultural Labor Relations Board (ALRB) has begun holding collective bargaining elections again, and the United Farm Workers (UFW) union has won the first one. The vote was 139 for the UFW to 12 for no union at Arakelian Farms. The Teamsters had been unable to get on the ballot there.

Up to 100,000 present and former employees of General Dynamics' Electric Boat Division in Rhode Island may be in danger of contracting lung disease from asbestos the company formerly used for insulation. The case points up the need for strong health and safety protection for workers, but federal courts have been eating away at the already-weak Occupational Safety and Health Administration. A big bite was recently taken by a three-judge federal court in Idaho, which ruled that OSHA could not make in-plant inspections even with a search warrant. The court said Congress had not specifically given OSHA the power to obtain warrants. The ruling is being appealed.

In the Canadian province of Ontario, workers have just won some significant health and safety protection. A new law permits employees to refuse to do work they think is unsafe. The law provides for a \$10,000 fine and/or two years in jail for a boss who disciplines a worker for exercising his or her rights under this law.

Miners charge that the *Eastover Mining Co.* in Harlan County, Kentucky is trying to break the *United Mine Workers* local at the company's Brookside mine. The UMW won a 13-month strike for union recognition at Brookside two years ago after a five-day nationwide miners' strike and the murder of a picket by a foreman. Now the company is responding to safety complaints by laying off large numbers of miners. They're also allowing the equipment to run down, and then sending the miners home when a breakdown occurs. Former local UMW president James Keel recently reported that one shift was sent home because "they didn't have a screwdriver" to fix some machinery.

Keel told the *Mountain Eagle*, a weekly Kentucky newspaper, that the UMW was in danger of being decertified in favor of the pro-company Southern Labor Union because the local had received little help from the UMW International or District 19 officials. "The district isn't worth five cents," Keel said. "I begged them to bring charges against the company, but they wouldn't give us help on anything."

What's happening where you work? Send items for this column to: Workers' Power, Labor Notes, 14131 Woodward Avenue, Highland Park, MI 48203. Or phone 313-869-5964.

Thus import controls would have the long term effect of further reducing jobs.

Another effect of import quotas is to trigger other countries to impose retaliatory quotas on U.S. exports. In 1971 69,000 steel workers in blast furnaces and steel mills (12% of the labor force) produced for the export market, either directly or through steel exported in cars, tractors, machinery, etc. (Monthly Labor Review, Aug. 1973).

This is about the same number of jobs Abel claims are lost because of imports.

Import controls cannot save American jobs, even in the short run. They cannot protect against improved technology—the fruits of automation will go either to the companies through decreasing the work force or to benefit steel workers by shortening the work week.

They cannot protect against the roller coaster of supply and demand—only expanded SUB benefits can do that.

Calls for import quotas can only pin our hopes on the steel companies' profits—and lead to the loss of more jobs.



## "You Can Bet the Price of Peanuts Will Go Up."

Dear Workers' Power,

Tell Gay Semel I am keeping up with her articles on Carter. I really enjoy the way she puts him down.

You see I moved to Atlanta, Ga. in 1964 and was there until 1972, two years of which Carter was Governor. I know what a lying thief and back-stabbing, double-talking son-of-a-bitch he is.

You can be sure of one thing, you can bet the price of peanuts and peanut butter will go up.

I have filed a suit in federal court for more than 1/4 million dollars against the prison administration here for mistreatment and violation of my U.S. Constitutional rights.

As a result I am kept locked up for punishment but I don't care. From now on they are going to treat me and the rest of the convicts like human beings or I will keep them in court.

So it is lonesome having no one to write to, and if I can win my freedom and I believe I will, I want to join the International Socialists movement and try to put an end to this capitalist, racist bullshit.

Robert Twyman  
McAlester, Oklahoma

## "They Treat the Union Machinery Like Their Own Property."

Dear Workers' Power,

99% of the auto workers who read about Doug Fraser getting elected president of the UAW by the 13-person Executive Board probably figure that's the way it's supposed to be done. Like it was in the UAW Constitution.

In reality, that process was no more "official" than any 13 workers in any plant getting together and naming one of their buddies candidate for president. The UAW Executive Board is

also the executive committee of a political party called the Administration Caucus. In theory, it should have no more rights than any slate or caucus in the union.

But since they're in power, they treat the union machinery like their own property.

The Administration Caucus also has a Steering Committee of a couple hundred people. Who does it steer? Not the leaders, since to be on the Steering Committee you have to have a personal invitation from the Executive Board. Anyone not invited is physically chucked out.

The job of the Steering Committee—mostly Local presidents—is to steer convention delegates from their locals into the arms of the Executive Board.

I am writing to remind autoworkers that they don't have to feel like a bunch of criminal conspirators when they form a caucus. They are just doing the same as the UAW leadership, with the same right.

Dave McCullough,  
UAW Local 869  
Detroit, MI

## "The Doctors Said They Expected Injuries from a Big Construction Project, But This was Breaking Records."

Dear Workers' Power,

I was amazed to read in your last issue that American Bridge construction company is owned by U.S. Steel.

Years ago I worked at a hospital close to Three Rivers Stadium in Pittsburgh. At that time the stadium was being built, and American Bridge was doing it. My job at the hospital was in Out-Patient Billing, mainly meaning Emergency Room visits.

American Bridge workers from the stadium project were constantly coming to Emergency for cut and broken hands, fingers, feet, ankles, heads—you name it.

The doctors said they always expected injuries from a big construction project, but that this project was breaking records. I



Dear Workers' Power,

We all know that the police are used by the bosses and politicians "to keep us in our place" and protect the rich and their property. But many cops realize this and some are against it.

Here, in St. Louis County, a rank-and-file cop (and former

police union president) objected to the County Police Department's use of a quota system. For this he was fired.

Some weeks later, the County Council passed a referendum of \$340,000 to be given to the cops as a merit increase based on

figured this must be a smaller scab company, using broken-down or old machinery and forcing its employees into unsafe practices. I came to this conclusion because my Workman's Compensation/American Bridge file kept getting fatter and fatter.

So that's why I was amazed at first when Workers' Power reported American Bridge is owned by U.S. Steel. We're supposed to believe that a job with a bigger company means better pay, conditions and security. But that's really not what happens.

The multi-nationals are big enough to do pretty much what

they want. And if they want to make more money by running an unsafe operation, they'll do it.

Why should they worry? There wasn't a single member of the Executive Board of either corporation who had a Workman's Compensation claim in at my hospital.

In solidarity,  
K.I.  
Detroit, MI

### "Workers' Power Review was

# Cops Get Extra Pay To Hassle You!

numbers of arrests, tickets, etc.

Now County pigs are allowed to harass citizens on a competitive basis. The more you hassle—the more you're paid. Sound like totalitarianism? The people didn't decide.

Tim  
St. Louis, MO

## Fantastic!"

Dear Workers' Power,

Last month's Workers' Power Review No. 1 in the December 13 issue was fantastic! Keep up the good work. I especially like your coverage on South Africa and Portugal.

Too much attention on the front page to one union makes it hard for me to sell Workers' Power to my friends not in those industries. All the Steelworker coverage is great, but not on the front page all the time.

T.S.  
St. Louis, MO

## INDY FMC STRIKERS REJECT CONTRACT PROPOSAL

INDIANAPOLIS—Striking steel workers from Local 1150 at the FMC plant here recently rejected a company proposal by a 2550-50 vote. The company had increased their latest offer by 5c in the second year, making a total offer of 61c over three years.

In order to get the proposal accepted, the company offered the strikers a \$100 Christmas loan to be paid back in the middle of January.

The company also wants the workers to pay one-half of their insurance and to cut their COLA by 7c. The workers want \$1.20 over three years and a 30-and-out clause. Skilled trades want parity with other skilled trades in the area.

The strike has been hard on the workers. Several workers feel the company had been preparing for a strike for three years. Scabs have been brought in from out of state. Superior Trucking and ABS trucks have been used in the scabbing process.

Production has been cut mostly because the scabs do not know how to use the machines; several have injured themselves.

The strikers have no illusions about which side the police are taking. Despite police harassment in enforcing the limited picketing injunction and the beating up of one picketer by people from inside the plant, the workers are determined to carry the struggle to the end. □

## U.S. STEEL ARRESTS THREE SADLOWSKI SUPPORTERS

GARY, Ind.—U.S. Steel called out a contingent of its plant security and five squad cars of local Gary police to arrest three Sadlowski supporters last week.

The three, William "Buddy" Todd, former vice-president of Local 1014, Al Sampter, grievance committeeman, and H. Lee Riley, a rank and filer, were part of a group of ten Sadlowski supporters distributing leaflets for Ed Sadlowski for president and Jim Balanoff for director of District 31.

The group was leafletting the plant's Broadway gate following a recent legal decision by the Third Federal Court of Appeals in Philadelphia.

The court told U.S. Steel that it had to abide by an earlier NLRB ruling allowing plant workers to distribute union-related literature in non-work areas of the plant on non-company time. The company knew there were no legal grounds for the arrest, and was simply trying to scare off the Sadlowski supporters.

The three arrested were held at the Gary jail for several hours and then released. The company did not even bother to try and press charges. The company is clearly afraid of a Sadlowski victory on February 8.

Sadlowski is for ending the cozy business unionism of I.W. Abel

and the no-strike ENA agreement.

The next day the Sadlowski supporters were back at the Broadway gate with a leaflet attacking the company for illegal harassment and calling for a protest meeting that night.

This time the company backed off, only lamely threatening that the leafleters were "in violation of the company rules."

At the protest meeting that night, the Sadlowski forces vowed to continue the fight against any further such company attacks and to build for a large Sadlowski victory at Local 1014 on February 8. □

# 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, women, gays, latinos, 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.

**Workers' Power**  
313-869-5964

# Sadlowski's Penthouse Interview: Automation For Whom?

THE SHOWDOWN in the United Steel Workers union is getting hotter. Lloyd McBride, the "official family" candidate, has come out shooting from the hip. Ed Sadlowski, the challenger, provided a good target with statements in an interview in Penthouse magazine.

McBride latched onto several of Sadlowski's comments on the promise technological change holds for working people. Taking these statements out of context, McBride painted Sadlowski as a "political extremist" who advocates the "virtual liquidation of the basic steel section of our union."

In the press, television, and a flood of plant gate leaflets, McBride's continuing smear campaign charged that his opponent favors massive elimination of steel workers' jobs.

### MCBRIDE: HYPOCRITICAL

McBride's use of the quote is purely opportunist and what's more, hypocritical. The Abel machine, of which McBride is a loyal member, supports joint productivity committees which aim to use fewer workers to produce the same amount.

Said Sadlowski of Abel, "His attitude is one of more sweat for more productivity... That alone puts me at loggerheads with him."

McBride quoted Sadlowski out of the context of both the interview and of his record throughout this campaign. Sadlowski's platform includes strong positions on job security, ending joint productivity committees, and shorter working hours.

Sadlowski's remark on reducing steel employment is clearly part of a vision of the ultimate way to run society.

"We should start looking at what we're producing," he said. "... Schools, textbooks—things like that—are really needed, and they aren't to be had. What is needed is a whole revamping of the social needs and wants. That isn't to be had yet, but we're on the threshold."

### DRUDGERY

His vision includes the conviction that it is unnecessary for work to be drudgery. "I never met anyone

who works in a steel mill who loves what he's doing... With technology, the ultimate goal of organized labor is for no man to have to go down into the bowels of the earth and dig coal. No man will have to be subjected to the blast furnace."

Even as USW President, Sadlowski would be in no position to put an immediate end to dehumanizing jobs. He would, however, be in a position to act on some of the other things he mentioned, like restoring the right to strike or the right to ratify contracts.

But there is a flaw in Sadlowski's vision of how to achieve the goal of a society where working people would have their share of what they produce. It is a flaw that McBride is incapable of addressing because he doesn't even share the goal.

Sadlowski fails to recognize that

the changes he wants are impossible in a capitalist society. His idea seems to be that if "somehow" distribution of wealth was changed, this economic system would work.

But the owners of industry would sooner bomb their own factories than give away their profits. Without private profit, the current owners of industry could not exist. The profit race is their only motive to maintain production.

The working class has a different motive for production: to fulfill human needs. To get their fair share of wealth, working people will have to take over industry and run it collectively.

Because Sadlowski does not see this, he makes confused statements on how this vision will be achieved. On the one hand he indicates it could be done under today's

system.

"We have already benefited from what our brains have produced technologically. We reduced labor forces from 520,000 to 400,000 today. Let's reduce them to 100,000. The coal miners went from 400,000 to 68,000." He then states that the unemployed are reabsorbed into other employment.

This is untrue. Using technology to reduce unpleasant jobs when society is controlled by the employers always results in unemployment and union busting.

### MISERY IN THE COAL FIELDS

John L. Lewis, former president of the United Mine Workers, led the fight for mechanized mining. He charted the course with the coal operators and even lent them union money to insure them a competitive place in the industry.

Then the massive loss of mining jobs created devastating social and economic misery in the Appalachian coal fields for two decades.

On the other hand, Sadlowski says that the laid off steel workers in his plan should be trained to use their best talents in rewarding work. How? "Let's have the steel industry, by virtue of what it is capable of producing, subsidize education. Do that!"

### IMPOSSIBLE WITH CAPITALISM

But this too is something that would require dipping into profits. Steel owners will not do it. But it is not impossible to use the wealth industry produces to benefit working people. It's possible with the reorganization of society under workers' control with socialism.

Yes, the potential exists today for a society where all people can work, where work is not drudgery, where there are enough textbooks, food and decent housing. The potential is wasted under the capitalist system in profits, in military hardware.

To realize that potential requires fighting the battle for workers' control where it can be fought today. That is the fight for the right to strike, for unions controlled by the rank and file—many of the things Sadlowski stands for and McBride opposes.

And the knowledge that today's fights are leading to a socialist society is the best motive to become involved in the struggle today.



Seven hundred march for ERA in Indianapolis.

## RATIFY THE ERA!

INDIANAPOLIS — Seven hundred people rallied at the Indiana Statehouse on Sunday, January 9 to show their support for the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA). The rally was sponsored by the National Organization for Women (NOW). The General Assembly of Indiana is considering the ERA now. Only four more states are needed for ratification.

I.S. members from Indianapolis, Gary and Bloomington participated in the march, chanting "Equal Work, Equal Pay, Ratify the ERA!"

After the rally an I.S.-sponsored meeting was attended by 25 people. The theme was "Pass ERA Today; Struggle for Enforcement Every Day." Barbara Winslow,

speaking for the I.S., pointed out that the opposition to women's struggles for equality is rooted in capitalism's need to make profits.

The income differential between women and men has been growing over the past 200 years. Women are paid 57c to every dollar paid to men. This is a major reason that the profit system is unwilling to grant equality to women.

Winslow noted that in the past feminists had had their movement destroyed by relying on capitalist politicians. The fight for equality will not be over with passage of the ERA.

She emphasized the need to join women's struggles to the struggle for socialism in order to achieve true equality for women.

## BUILD ZIMBABWE SOLIDARITY

and with black nationalist officials. It would co-ordinate with business and professional leaders."

This is another sign that the U.S. government is stepping up its efforts to stop the liberation of Zimbabwe. The U.S. government is trying to create a bloody new Angola-type civil war there.

This makes it all the more important for American workers, black and white, to find out the truth about the struggle for

liberation in Zimbabwe—how our government is trying to destroy it, and how we can help support it.

### ZANU SPEAKER

In several Midwest cities, one of the best opportunities you will have to find about the struggle in Zimbabwe will come next week. Eddison Zvobgo, Deputy Secretary-General of ZANU (Zimbabwe African National Union) will be speaking in Cleveland, Pittsburgh and Detroit.

Zvobgo will discuss how the struggle for Zimbabwe liberation was born and how it is being carried on today. He has attended the Geneva conference and will explain what the real role of the American government is in the so-called peace negotiations.

Find out about the national liberation struggle in Zimbabwe and express your solidarity with it. A collection will be taken at the meeting with proceeds going directly to ZANU.

See the ad on page 12 for times and places.

## 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  
 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 10003  
 Philadelphia: PO Box 8262, Philadelphia, PA 19101  
 Pittsburgh: PO Box 466, Homestead, PA 15120  
 Portland: PO Box 4662, Portland, OR 97208  
 Seattle: PO Box 9056, Seattle, WA 98109  
 Springfield: PO Box 795, Springfield, MA, 01101  
 St. Louis: PO Box 24135, St. Louis, MO 63130

## 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 .....

# VIEW FROM THE AUDIENCE

BOOKS MUSIC TELEVISION ADS MOVIES TRENDS BOOKS MUSIC TELEVISION ADS MOVIES TRENDS BOOKS MUS

**Gil Scott-Heron and Brian Jackson**

## 1976 Was A Blues Year For Justice

"This is a blues year for Justice.  
It's a blues year for the San Quentin Six  
Looking for justice.  
It's a blues year for Gary Tyler  
Looking for justice...  
It's a blues year for babies on buses.  
It's a blues year for Boston...  
It's a blues year all over this country."

by Anne Foster

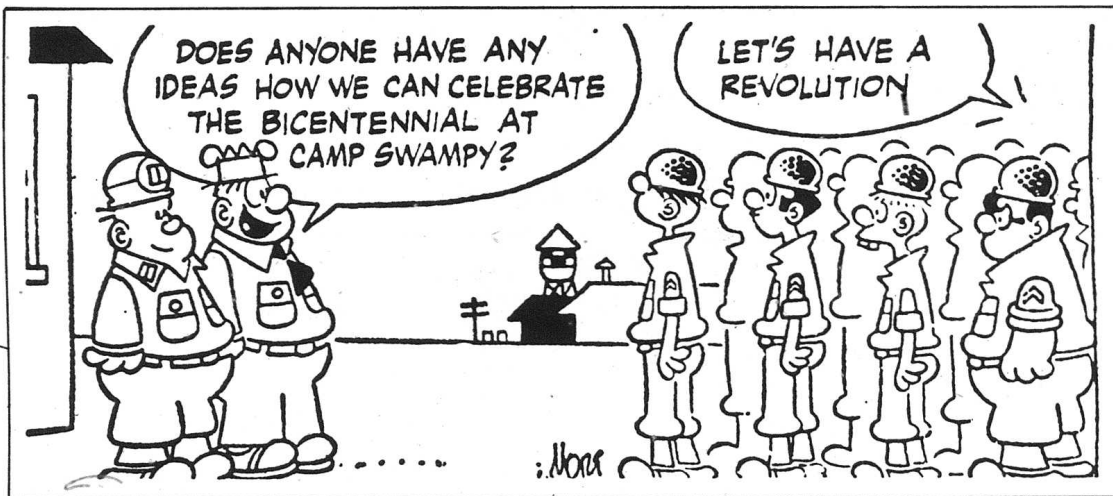
LISTENING to "Bicentennial Blues," a poem by Gil Scott-Heron is a nice touch to end the "bicentennial" year with, and bring in the new year on a realistic note. It's on his latest album with Brian Jackson and the Midnight Band, "It's Your World."

We've just passed through a whole year of official bicentennial celebrations, glorifying American corporate and civic leaders as the real fighters for liberty, justice and equality. For Gil Scott-Heron the official bicentennial is a celebration of 200 years of planter and corporate control.

**"It's Your World."**

**Gil Scott-Heron,  
Brian Jackson and the  
Midnight Band.**

"Bicentennial Blues" tells the truth about these leaders. While poor, working people, women, blacks and minorities face injustice in their lives, the so-called leaders are ripping off the public.



Gil Scott-Heron calls this "half-way justice." "Gerald Ford has declared himself at odds with people on welfare, people who get food stamps, day care children, the elderly, the poor and women... Jimmy Carter, the blues got by him and his friend, the Colonel—the creators of Southern-Fried Triple Talk."

### MEMORY

Bicentennial Blues, like all blues, is part of the collective memory of American working people. "The blues has grown, and the country has not; the blues remembers everything the country forgot."

The blues has no reason to pretty things up, and serves as a long

memory. "The blues was born on the slave man's auction block... and carried on the howling... the blues grew up as property."

And just like every real attempt to tell the truth about our history, the blues "got by" the leaders. It's been getting by for 200 years.

"And the blues is as American as apple pie. And you can trace the evolution of the blues with the evolution of this country, From Plymouth Rock to acid-rock, from 13 states to Watergate."

This poem is about capitalism, and Scott-Heron knows his enemy. Capitalism has painted rosy and phony images of America as the best the world has to offer. "The creators of this liberty, who slipped into bed with the Captains of slave ships..."

In fact, says Scott-Heron, "this

country has been ripped-off... like the Indians... Manhandled by media overkill, goosed by aspiring vice-presidents. Violated by commercial corporations, a bicentennial year transformed into the B-U-Y-centennial."

But "Bicentennial Blues" is more than an accurate social commentary on conditions that exist under the system. It is a poem that urges people not to despair but to take a stand, and continue to fight back.

Scott-Heron's strength as a poet and songwriter is his ability to provoke a mood of suffering and rebellion.

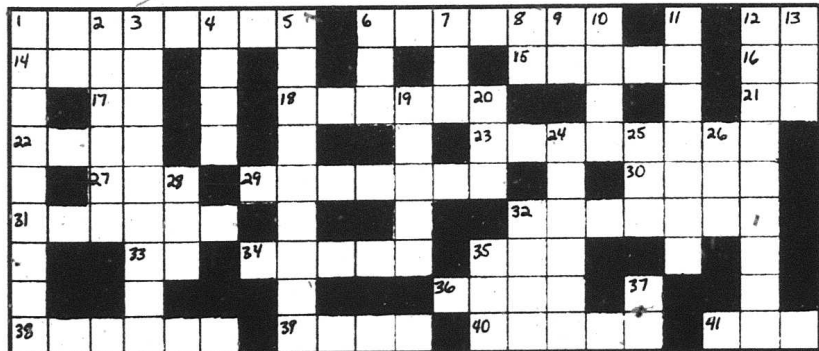
"The Bottle" and "Home is Where the Hatred Is" are both songs done with the Midnight Band.

(Midnite is the beginning of a new day.) They capsule the desperation of winos and junkies. His earlier "Johannesburg" and "The Revolution Will Not Be Televised" establish him as a partisan of the oppressed against imperialism and capitalism.

For those who know that there can be no final victories until capitalism is defeated, we can begin fighting back against any more "blues year" in '77—hoping that our united struggle will crush the blues for Gary Tyler, for Hurricane Carter, for Ella Ellison, for the San Quentin Six, for babies on buses, for Boston, for Louisville, and for our South African brothers and sisters, to crush the blues year all over the world.

Let's determine that in 1977, we won't let the blues get by us.

## Workers' Power Crossword Corner



### ACROSS

- Racist laws on travel in South Africa (2 words)
- ..... class
- ..... & T. (multinational corporation)

### DOWN

- Steelworkers union (initials)
- Unpopular form of neckware, found at the end of a rope.
- Dad

- First name of #3 down
- Framed second time; Hurricane
- Agriculture (ab.)
- Dug by #34 across

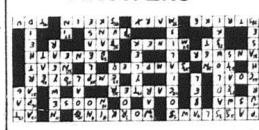
- Boss
- Unit measure of #22 across
- Judged the quality of; tried
- Tidy
- Response
- Under
- Street (ab.)
- U.M.W. member
- Sheep's sound
- Plays on words
- Workers' weapon
- Engels' buddy
- Measure of yarn
- Rank & file Teamsters' group (initials)

### DOWN

- Buys
- Gets wet from hard work
- USWA challenger
- Architect of no strike deal in steel
- System to replace capitalism
- Anti-racist women's group in Detroit
- Fish eggs
- ..... and out
- Yes and ...

- Get, aim
- ..... any .....
- ..... system in South Africa
- Children's games
- Free Gary .....
- ..... baiting; tactic of bosses to divide us
- Satisfy
- Dine
- Single
- Dine
- What's left of your gross after deductions, also known as "not enough"
- House of capital; also, piggy
- Public transport
- Not out

### ANSWERS



# UAW MANEUVERS TO AVOID CONVENTION FIGHT

## Czech Police Crack Down

by Jenny Singer

**DETROIT**—The United Auto Workers union announced January 10 that it will postpone a decision on whether to rejoin the AFL-CIO.

The International Executive Board will recommend to the May 15-21 Constitutional Convention that a one-day special convention be held on the subject in September. The period between conventions would be used to debate the question within the union.

Wearing its other hat as the leadership of the "Administration Caucus," the Board also unanimously endorsed Doug Fraser as its candidate for UAW President.

### PAST DISSENSION

In the past there has been dissension within the union leadership over the question of the AFL-CIO. President Leonard Woodcock and more conservative Executive Board members such as Ken Bannon favor reaffiliation. Secretary-Treasurer Emil Mazey and soon-to-be President Douglas Fraser—the liberal wing—have been opposed.

The more conservative officials feel that the UAW belongs in the AFL-CIO. Their philosophy is not that different from George Meany's, which dominates the AFL-CIO.

Meany is a craft unionist and above all a business unionist. He brags that he's never walked a picket line. He was an avid hawk on the Vietnam war.

In 1972 he refused to give George McGovern the AFL-CIO's endorsement for President. He was willing to greatly diminish the labor federation's role in the Democratic Party because it was temporarily too liberal for him.

The UAW Executive Board conservatives want to move the UAW into this more conservative "mainstream" of the American labor movement.

If the UAW were to rejoin the AFL-CIO, it would be the labor federation's largest, most powerful member. Strongly influencing the direction of the AFL-CIO would multiply the UAW's political clout in the Democratic Party.

Fraser, on the other hand, fancies himself a liberal. He was for Morris Udall in the Democratic primaries, while Woodcock was the first labor leader to come out for Carter.

He has been opposed to taking the UAW into the AFL-CIO because it is dominated by George Meany's politics. In the past, at least, Fraser and Mazey have wanted to preserve the UAW's image as the "left wing" of the American labor movement.

### CAP AND COPE

Fraser is head of the Michigan Community Action Program (CAP), the UAW's political operation in

# Workers' Power

Michigan. This is a very powerful position in state politics, because the UAW controls the Michigan Democratic Party.

Fraser has been referred to as the "ex-officio Democratic governor." In Michigan, CAP has much more influence than the AFL-CIO's political arm, COPE.

Fraser has been opposed to reaffiliation at least in part because it would mean the dissolution of CAP into COPE. If reaffiliation had been negotiated under Woodcock, Fraser's rival for power within the

Executive Board, the terms of merger could well have meant less power for Fraser in Michigan politics.

Fraser may change his mind about reaffiliation, now that he is to be President and can negotiate CAP's merger with COPE on his own terms. He may now decide that merger is his chance to push the AFL-CIO in a more liberal direction.

It would be good politics for him to allow the merger to go through, as a symbolic show of good faith

towards the Executive Board right wing.

Whatever Fraser's position, many local UAW leaders will be opposed to reaffiliation. They do not want to lose their own power bases in the Democratic Party in their regions.

If CAP is dissolved into COPE, a local UAW leader will no longer be an independent force which local politicians have to deal with.

Because of the strong feelings of many of these secondary leaders, the Executive Board does not want the question debated at the Constitutional Convention. They want to avoid a floor fight at all costs.

They want the Convention to be a picture of harmony, united behind the new President.

There is a great deal of membership dissatisfaction over the new contract. Local leaders had a harder time than usual selling it to their members.

The International leadership doesn't want disagreement over the AFL-CIO to spill over and create an opening for a brawl on the question of the contract.

They are afraid that any crack in the facade of unity will give encouragement to oppositionists, particularly the militant skilled tradesmen of the Independent Skilled Trades Council.

The Executive Board would like the Constitutional Convention to be a rubber stamp for all Administration policies presented. Because this was impossible with the issue of the AFL-CIO, it was quarantined to a day of its own four months later.

This will give the leadership time to convince the local leaders of their line—assuming they can unite on one—before the special convention.

[Next week Workers' Power will take up the history of the UAW's involvement with the AFL-CIO, and the reasons for its new strategy for political rather than industrial action.]



Leonard Woodcock and George Meany: not so far apart.

## CHINA: NEW STRAINS?

The new leaders of the Communist Party of China mobilized huge popular demonstrations last week-end to honor the memory of the late Premier Chou En-lai.

On the whole they were apparently successful. It is clear that Chou was tremendously popular among masses of the Chinese people, who believe he was associated with policies that aimed to improve their own lives.

That popularity is being mobilized to secure the power of the current leadership. The opposing faction headed by Chiang Ching, which fought Chou's policies and allegedly suppressed demonstrations in his honor last year, is being thoroughly crushed.

The Chinese leadership believes that crushing Chiang Ching's "Gang of Four," and wrapping themselves in Chou En-lai's mantle, will ensure a period of

political stability.

### TRIAL?

Whether they will succeed is still not clear. The leadership must decide whether the Gang of Four will be put on trial and possibly executed. They must also deal with new demands for the rehabilitation of Teng Hsiao-ping.

Teng, like the current top leaders, was also close to Chou En-lai, but he was purged last year in the months after Chou's death. His return would threaten the power of some of the new top leaders, like Hua Kuo-feng.

Underlying all this is the expectation of the Chinese masses that their conditions and standards of living will begin improving. If the Communist Party leadership and its state bureaucracy cannot meet those demands, new explosions are certain.

The Communist Party government of Czechoslovakia has begun a sharp new crackdown against its political critics.

Pavel Kohout, a playwright, has been seized twice this week already. Every couple of days the police break into his house or car, abuse him for several hours of questioning, then release him.

At this time, the main targets of the Czech political police are a dozen or so writers, and other intellectuals, who signed a public petition calling on the government to respect human rights.

Repression has also increased recently in East Germany, Russia and several other Communist countries where economic difficulties and political unrest are deepening.

On paper, the laws of Czechoslovakia as well as other East European countries guarantee human, legal and civil rights for all people—just like the American Bill of Rights does.

But just like the American Bill of Rights, these guarantees are little more than scraps of paper which are constantly violated by the police, the courts, the government and its hired thugs.

In Czechoslovakia and other bureaucratic Communist states, the violations are often more open and obvious than in the United States.

### PULLED FROM CAR

In the latest arrest Tuesday, Pavel Kohout was pulled from his car by police and smashed across the face with a crowbar. He was trying to take his wife, Jelena, to the hospital at the time.

She had been injured the day before, when police forced her into a car in front of her home.

Other people suffering the same kind of daily abuse include Jiri Hajek, a former government minister; Jan Patacka, a professor, and Vaclav Havel, who like Pavel Kohout, is a playwright.

Supposedly, the police are investigating these Czech dissidents for espionage activity. This is a frame-up. The real reason is nothing more, or less, than their speaking out for basic democratic rights in Czechoslovakia.

The Communist Party regime is afraid that any open protests among intellectuals, no matter how small or peaceful, may spread into the working class and touch off a mass movement that threatens the whole bureaucratic system.

## WORKERS' POWER

A revolutionary socialist weekly, published by the International Socialists.

Subscriptions: \$10 per year. Six months: \$5. Institutional: \$15. Foreign Surface: \$15. Foreign Air Mail: \$20 for six months. Introductory subscription: \$1 for 8 issues.

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

Name .....

Address .....

Trade Union .....

14131 Woodward, Highland Park, MI 48203.

## "The Liberation of Southern Africa"

EDDISON ZVOBGO, Deputy Secretary General of ZANU (Zimbabwe African National Union); LARRY SMITH, International Socialists.

PITTSBURGH, Friday, Jan. 21, 7:30 pm. Recreation Center, 525 Mt. Pleasant, Northview Heights.

CLEVELAND, Saturday, Jan. 22. Contact the Cleveland

International Socialists for further information.

DETROIT, Sunday, Jan. 23, 7:30 pm. Wayne County Community College, Greenfield Campus, 8551 Greenfield Road.

ATLANTA, Friday, Jan. 21, 7:30 pm. Film: "Last Grave At Dimbaza" and speaker: Skosi Mgi, South African National Congress. West Hunter Baptist Church, 1040 Gordon St. S.W.