

WORKERS' Power

ACQUISITIONS SECTION
STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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WEEKLY NEWSPAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS FEBRUARY 7, 1977 #194 15c

RIGHT TO STRIKE AT STAKE IN STEEL VOTE

Elect Ed Sadlowski February 8!

THERE'S an awful lot at stake in the elections scheduled for February 8 in the United Steel Workers union. Ed Sadlowski, the opposition candidate from Chicago, is challenging Lloyd McBride, the darling of virtually every bureaucrat and staff representative in the union.

making elections there less democratic.

RANK & FILE CONTROL

Beyond these considerations, a Sadlowski victory would have a profound effect on the rest of the labor movement. It would prove that the rank and file is reasserting its control over the USW, and would stimulate similar developments in other unions. Further, it would seriously undermine the doddering, conservative bureaucracy which runs the American labor movement today.

There are a lot of people who have plenty to lose if Sadlowski is elected. Among them are steel corporation executives. They're reluctant to come right out in

support of McBride for fear that will help Sadlowski. But there's no question where they stand.

In Sadlowski's home District 31, the steel companies have announced at least 9000 layoffs—about 7% of the district's membership—for election week in the big mills that ring southern Lake Michigan. They claim its due to the fuel crisis, and its difficult to prove otherwise, but lots of people have their suspicions: The layoffs could cut the turnout for Sadlowski in his strongest area.

Union staff representatives are also scared stiff of a Sadlowski victory, and are pushing hard to win the vote in the small non-steel shops which make up two-thirds of the union membership. It is in these thousands of small, isolated operations where the power of the

union machine can make itself felt and, if necessary, steal the election.

SMALL SHOPS

There's little doubt that Ed Sadlowski will win a solid majority in the big steel mills. But he needs a huge margin in these mills to overcome the effects of the union machine in the smaller shops.

Win or lose, Sadlowski's campaign has generated new enthusiasm and activity that will make the United Steel Workers a different place after the election.

But all steelworkers who want to see change in the union owe it to themselves to turn out the largest possible vote for Ed Sadlowski on February 8.

The issues are these:
• **Should steelworkers have the right to strike?** Ed Sadlowski says yes. He says giving up the right to strike is like cutting off your right arm. McBride says no. He favors continuation of the no-strike deal (ENA) signed four years ago between the union and steel industry.

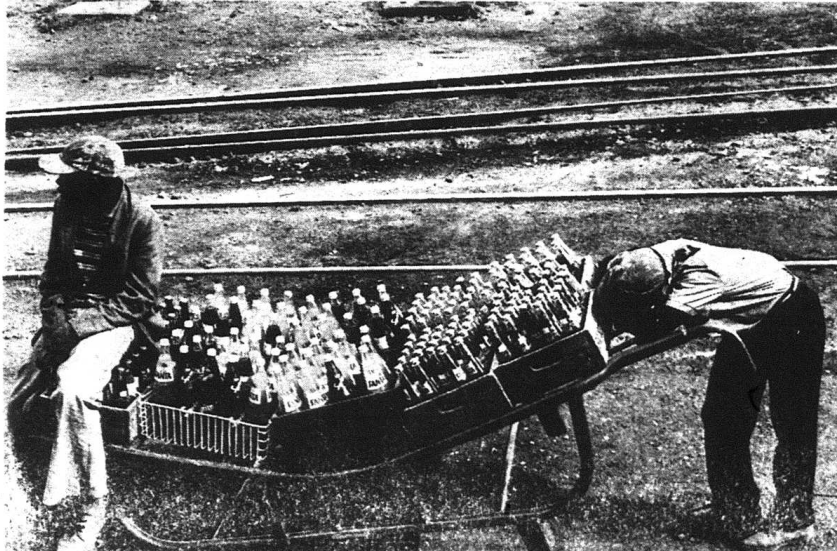
This issue goes far deeper than just the right to strike on national contracts, because the ENA mentality has permeated the union bureaucracy from top to bottom. Foremen can be arrogant on day-to-day matters because the union leadership has lost its will to fight.

• **Should steelworkers have the right to ratify their contracts?** Ed Sadlowski says yes. There's little that affects a union member's life so much as the contract he or she must work under, and voting to accept or reject that contract is a basic right.

Lloyd McBride says no. McBride claims giving members the right to reject a contract would weaken and split the union. What if the contract is accepted at one company and rejected at another, he asks? In fact the Teamsters Union, certainly no model of democracy, bargains with thousands of employers for a Master Freight Agreement and still manages to allow those workers affected to vote on the contract.

• A whole range of other issues—such as racial and sexual discrimination, health and safety, layoffs—depends on whether steelworkers choose Sadlowski's get-tough-with-management approach or McBride's philosophy of "sweet-hearts forever."

• More than just these immediate issues, steelworkers may find that if they vote for McBride, it's the last time they'll get to vote for anybody. Both I.W. Abel, retiring USW president, and McBride have suggested the union should move, to election of its officers at a convention, rather than by direct membership referendum. Conventions are dominated by union officials and staff representatives,



S.A./LNS

South Africa: Will They Die Next?

Young black workers on their job in Cape Town, South Africa. Young black people are the victims of the most vicious brutality in the South African racist police state.

Of the first 1200 people who were arrested, killed or hospitalized by police in the black rebellions last June, 44% were younger than 16. Another 50% were between 17 and 23.

A new bill is about to become law in South Africa. It gives police the full right to take any action against black demonstrators, including shooting them, without risking any kind of punishment.

For more news about the liberation struggles in southern Africa today, see page 4.

What People Are Saying About ROOTS



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Arms Race: Who Are They Gunning For?

by Mike Urquhart

THE UNITED STATES is in danger of being overrun by the Russians. At least that's what the war hawks who hang around the Pentagon would have us believe.

In the Pentagon's annual report they argue that in spite of detente, in spite of the Strategic Arms Limitations Talks (SALT), and in spite of wheat deals, the situation "holds more dangers and surprises for the American people than it did in the 1960s. The military threat has not declined; it has expanded."

The report, prepared by Ford's Secretary of Defense, goes on to claim that "to a degree unprecedented in its history, the U.S. has become directly vulnerable to devastating attack" by the Soviet Union.

The implication is clear: unless we do something fast, the Russians will be landing on our beaches.

DANGER COMMITTEE

The situation is supposedly so grave that the cold warriors have formed an organization called the Committee on the Present Danger. The purposes of the committee are to fight against any softness in policy towards the Soviet Union, and for an increase in the defense budget.

All this could be dismissed as just the raving of lunatics reading a script by Mel Brooks if it didn't follow such a familiar pattern.

Whenever the defense industries want an increase in defense spending they manufacture stories about a new threat to U.S. security.

Not so long ago the threat was China. One of the new missile systems was even justified on the grounds that it was aimed at China, not Russia. Now that China is a friend, it's back to the old scare stories of Russia.

The report does make clear what a sham the SALT talks have been. Most people assumed that the purpose of the agreements made so far was the reduction of military spending by both sides.

In fact, the "limits" that were arrived at in SALT talks allowed for an increase in military hardware. It is the familiar double-talk of the imperialists of both sides—while they talk peace, they prepare for war.

MAIN THREAT

In spite of all the propaganda to the contrary, the main threat posed by the military might of both countries is not to each other, but to those countries which fall within their respective "spheres of influence."

The people who suffer most from Russian imperialism are not Americans, but East Europeans, and to a lesser extent Chinese. Hungary and Czechoslovakia were invaded by Russia, not California.

In fact, the reason for much of the current Russian military build-up is that the Russian ruling class is afraid that several Eastern European states would refuse to fight on their side in a war.

Similarly, it is the people in the third world—Latin America, Africa, Asia—who suffer from U.S. imperialism and military intervention. The U.S. has invaded countries like Vietnam, Lebanon, Guatemala, and the Dominican Republic, not Russia.

And when the new Carter Administration talks of strengthening NATO, it is not because of a threat posed by the Warsaw pact countries. They fear the threat to capitalism posed by the workers' movements in Portugal, Spain and Italy.

Much of the American war budget goes to prepare for new military interventions in places like Southern Africa, against people fighting to free themselves from U.S.-backed oppressors.

The talk of the Russian threat is thrown up to hide this truth from the American people. The real



"present danger" is not to our security, but to the profits of the military-industrial complex.

DEFENSE CONTRACTS

The Committee on the Present Danger has significant representation from the companies that benefit most directly from defense spending. Included on the committee are directors of IBM, General Motors, Westinghouse, Honeywell—all of which have large defense contracts.

Also included are 48 academics from 22 schools which jointly received last year \$170 million in defense contracts.

The proposed U.S. military budget calls for a 12% increase over last year. Included in this

budget is a commitment to a five-year, \$48 billion program to build up the Navy, and a 10-year, \$60 billion program to modernize the strategic forces designed to deter a nuclear attack.

The Wall Street Journal acknowledged this business concern when it pointed out that the real purpose of the Pentagon report was "to support the Ford Administration's request to Congress for a generous increase in military spending."

American workers have been led to believe that we have no choice but to take the word of the war planners about the "Russian threat." After all, they are the only ones who have the facts, aren't they? And any facts they don't have, they can just make up.

There is a different choice we can make, though. American workers should demand the scrapping of the whole war budget with its bloated bureaucracies, its corporate giveaways, its plans for World War III, and its blueprints for destroying the world 500 or 1000 times over.

The hundred billion dollars wasted on military scrap should be used to produce useful goods, provide services, create millions of jobs and a society worth living in.

That is the only way we can stop the escalating buildup of the United States war machine. It is also the best way to convince the people of other countries, including Russia, that it is in their interests to fight for the same goals.

New York City

Hospitals Under Fire

by David Miller

NEW YORK CITY—Public hospitals here are running a deficit of over \$190,000,000 this year. This is because the courageous head of the hospital system, Dr. John Holloman, has refused to gut the hospitals by putting into effect further cuts in staff and services ordered by Mayor Beame.

If the cuts were made, it would mean a loss of 10,000 more jobs as well as the closing of two or three hospitals. But after a six-month fight, Dr. Holloman was fired last week.

New York City has a huge private hospital system to serve the well-off. The not-so-rich, the old, and the poor have to use the second-rate public hospitals. Reducing these services even more is therefore a double blow at those who can least afford it.

But there is a second, equally ugly side to the picture. The politicians are for closing some city hospitals because the private hospitals stand to make a profit from the closures.

Until recently, before the days of Medicare and Medicaid, there was no profit in treating elderly and working class patients. So under great pressure from labor, public hospitals were established.

But now that it is possible to make profit on some of these eligible for government aid, the

private hospitals don't mind taking their pick, and so would like to see some public hospitals closed.

APPROVED

Dr. Holloman's dismissal was also tacitly approved by the city's union leaders, even though it meant thousands of jobs lost, and even though it meant higher medical costs for all workers.

Holloman's refusal to cut jobs represented a great opportunity for the unions to act. The community organizations in New York were outraged by his dismissal. By supporting Holloman in his stand, the unions could have been on the "popular" side of an issue in New York for the first time in years.

Instead, AFSCME President Gotbaum and teacher union President Shanker, kept silent. Off-the-record, they too think the cuts are necessary.

This attitude is not new. Just two years ago, several school districts in New York City refused to gut the schools by dismissing teachers as directed by the Mayor. Instead of backing them, Shanker publicly joined the city politicians in passing a law that ordered local school districts to lay off teachers and stick to the budget.

Shanker did this because, to him, the only choice seemed to be, to accept lay offs, or accept salary

cuts. In fact, there is no real need to accept either.

NOT NECESSARY

If the city has no money, is it practical for the unions and Dr. Holloman to simply refuse to make the cuts? Is it legal? And, would the courts allow it?

In the first place, the city really does have the money. This year, New York City will be paying the banks \$1.1 billion in interest alone.

If the politicians represented the interests of the people who elected them, they could pass a law raising the tax on banks (and other corporations) by just this amount for at least a year. What's to stop them?

"But that's not fair; the city would be breaking its contract—the agreement to pay the interest!" say the newspapers, banks, and politicians. Yet these same people insisted that it was okay for the city to refuse to honor the city unions' contracts calling for C.O.L. raises and job protection. It is, they said, in the public interest.

The real public interest lies in saving the \$1.1 billion in interest payments. It would not only restore the 50,000 city jobs lost in New York City, but it would also permit the creation of at least 50,000 more jobs. (There are 600,000 unemployed in NYC.)

So the money is there. How about the courts? No doubt the courts would tell the city it was behaving illegally in withholding the interest payments.

So what? The courts repeatedly rule that city unions can't strike. But they strike, and win too. That's because court orders and injunctions can not beat the labor movement, if the unions really stick together.

Injunctions and court orders would only work in a union town like New York if the union leaders are looking for an excuse not to stop the cuts.

There is very little the city or the courts could do if the unions and the community organizations supporting Dr. Holloman jointly refused to accept or implement the cuts. Particularly if the million-member city AFL-CIO backed its sister unions.

Unfortunately, Shanker and Gotbaum, like most union leaders, refuse to use that power. No matter what they say in public, in private they think what's good for the city's banks and corporations is good for New York City and its working people.

So long as working people believe this lie, they will pay for the crisis in American cities with massive layoffs among city workers, and reductions in services to all workers.

Detroit public housing tenants get cheated on heat

COLD WINTER, COLD LANDLORD

● ● ●
This winter is the coldest in the last 100 years. Michigan is a state fortunate not to be struck by phony fuel shortages. But if you're poor in Michigan, you're likely to be cold anyway.

Many people have spent winter nights trying to keep warm by their kitchen stoves. Landlords too cheap to keep heating systems in working order have given their tenants a mighty cold winter, indoors and out.

Sandra Adams lives in public housing in Detroit. There are 1200 units in Parkside Projects. This winter, they went without heat for three weeks. Sandra told Workers' Power why.

“We were without heat for about two weeks before we called Channel 7 TV. And then it was still another five days before they started fixing things! Ice on the windows was six inches thick. There was only one furnace working for the whole place.

I had to start using the stove for heat, but soon enough the wires got burnt out.

I over-heard a rumor that they tried to save money by putting water in the boilers instead of a compound fluid. It caused the pipes to freeze up because there was water in there. Whenever you would call up and say there wasn't any heat, they would say, 'Well, there's water in the pipes and we're working on it.'

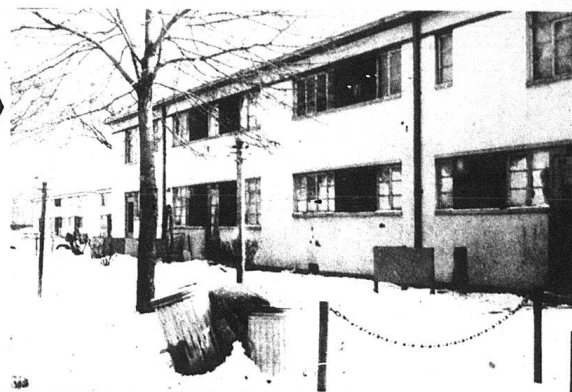
Every night they would turn the heat on every three hours for 15 minutes. And then they'd have to

turn it off. It wasn't enough to keep the house warm. These stoves are very old; it didn't take too much to burn it out. Then I was without a stove for two weeks, so I had to go out and buy a little hotplate.

HIGH RENT

The rent is really ridiculous. In the last year, the rent has increased by \$120. In December of 1975 I was paying \$37 a month, and now it's up to \$157. Public housing is for anyone with low income, but we pay a high amount of rent. The tenants are not complaining about the price of the rent so much as they're complaining because it went up and the conditions haven't improved at all.

We thought that if they could raise the rent to a ridiculous rate like that, they should improve the



Parkside Projects, public housing in Detroit.

living conditions.

There's a rent strike in the projects now, and I am a member of the Tenant's Union. The strike while back involved 2500 people. We are staying on strike because of the poor living conditions in public housing.

The Tenant's Union has not only been interested in the rent strike, but also in programs like fighting PBB, and struggles against cut-backs in foodstamps and medicaid. We also work with groups like the Gary Tyler Committee.

DEMONSTRATION

When the heat went out, we went down and picketed the mayor's mansion. But the mayor was out of town—allegedly anyway. There were 65 people picketing, some from Parkside and

some from other projects. The following Monday there was a demonstration at the City-County Building.

But Theodore Jordan, who is head of the Detroit Housing Commission over all the projects, he was very critical. He ridiculed most of the tenants in the housing projects, and said they were a bunch of lazy ADC mothers who didn't want to work. Jordan denied that we were without heat for such a long time. He said it was only a week.

All this isn't happening because of the fuel crisis. The boilers out here are over 40 years old. They say it would cost a fortune to replace them. We thought that if they could raise the rent to a ridiculous rate like that, they should be able to repair these things.

IN STEEL'S DISTRICT 31...

GARY, Ind.—It is a virtual certainty that Jim Balanoff, the Steelworkers Fight Back candidate for director of United Steel Workers District 31, will be elected here February 8. District 31, covering the Chicago-Gary area, is the home district of Ed Sadlowski, who is the Fight Back candidate for International president of the USW in the same elections.

Balanoff will carry almost all the big locals in the district. He will pile up a large margin at his home Local 1010, Inland Steel, the largest single local in the union. With 18,000 members, this local alone almost guarantees him the election.

Balanoff has been a consistent oppositionist to the machine of incumbent union president I.W. Abel. He has opposed the no-strike agreement, both as a surrender of the union's strength and because the membership was not allowed to vote on it.

His local is one of the more democratic locals in the district, with union meetings for different shifts, elections at shop gates, elected assistant grievors, and the right to ratify local contracts.

Balanoff is running against four other candidates, all of them McBride supporters. Since the Abel-McBride forces knew they had no candidate strong enough to defeat Balanoff, their strategy was to field a number of candidates appealing to different sections of the district, hoping to bring them into the McBride camp.

McBRIDE CANDIDATES

Two McBride candidates, Emmett Palmer and Paul "Mark" Markonni, are staff reps who will probably pick up votes in the small shops they service in the Chicago area.

A third, Harry Piasecki, is a recent past president of Local 1014

at U.S. Steel's Gary Works. Piasecki is running as a "favorite son" candidate of the thoroughly corrupt union machine he built there.

The strongest McBride candidate is James Baker, a black staffer who is sub-district director for the Gary area. Baker has the support of many local black leaders, including

Gary Mayor Richard Hatcher. He will probably win a considerable portion of the black vote, claiming to be a leader of blacks in steel.

However, a newsletter put out by STRUTS (Stop The Rampage of Unfair Treatment at South Works), a black steelworkers group at Local 65 in Chicago, says:

"Blacks have been denied

advancement in the steel union since its existence, but the solution to this problem isn't just the election of 'a Black' just because he's 'a Black' and without looking at his past record."

The STRUTS newsletter points out that Baker "was not even a part of the struggles that made his candidacy today possible." He was

responsible for a union-busting attack on Gary-area welfare workers while he was president of the local welfare board. It concludes:

"The Abel machine and the Steel Industry owners have found a "new" trick to fool and deceive those who honestly want an end to discrimination in steel. That trick is Baker. He's 'a Black.' But so is Step-n-Fetchit. Neither would make a good District 31 director."

CENTER OF OPPOSITION

Balanoff's victory will mean that District 31 will remain the center of opposition to the Abel machine. But the role that opposition can play will depend on whether the union is opened up by Sadlowski, or closed down by McBride.

If Sadlowski wins on February 8, Balanoff's District 31 will give him strength in dealing with an overwhelmingly hostile International Executive Board and the remaining parts of the Abel machine.

It could also act as a pressure on Sadlowski not to accommodate to that machine, but to carry out fully the fight to build a democratic union willing to stand up to the steel companies.

If McBride wins, Balanoff and the Fight Back forces will be faced with a much more defensive battle. McBride and the "official family" he inherits would not want to let another challenge arise out of district 31.

McBride announced at the beginning of the campaign that if members of District 31 "made a mistake choosing the District director" as international president, he would "not wait to come into the District" in support of staffers against Balanoff.

There is no mistaking the choice for members of District 31 on February 8: Vote Sadlowski-Balanoff!



Jim Balanoff left talks to steelworkers

What will a Balanoff victory mean?

What's Behind Jimmy Carter's 'Human Rights' Appeal

by Dan Posen

Cyrus Vance, the new Secretary of State under Jimmy Carter, says the American government will speak out forthrightly on human rights and civil liberties, when it sees them being violated around the world.

So it seems human rights are "in" at the U.S. State Department this year.

For socialists, who are struggling for a society run from below by the working class, democracy and political freedom are among the most precious things there are.

But when American government heads start praising the virtues of these rights, you have to look

twice.

CHANGING FASHION

The truth is, when it comes to human rights the American government's tastes are as changeable as the latest fashions. And as selective.

For example, the American government is now giving major publicity to a human-rights appeal written by a number of intellectuals in Czechoslovakia.

The appeal, called "Charter 77," exposes a wide variety of political, religious and legal persecution by the Czechoslovak Communist Party regime against anyone who speaks out or is suspected of opposing its

policies.

For publically denouncing this oppression, a number of courageous Czech intellectuals including Jan Patočka, Vaclav Havel and Jiri Hajek, are being called into prosecutor's offices, threatened, and are facing either deportation from their country or arrest and imprisonment.

The Carter Administration is making heavy use of this document to publicize its great concern for human rights in the Communist states of Eastern Europe and Russia.

The main reason for this publicity is that Washington is trying to create enough embarrassment to force some concessions out

of Russia in upcoming arms negotiations.

Just exactly how allowing the U.S. government to build more nuclear weapons and first-strike missile systems is going to create more democracy in Czechoslovakia, is not very clear.

In fact, it has nothing to do with democracy or human rights at all.

Under the last couple years of the Nixon-Ford Administration, human rights in Eastern Europe were more or less "out." The U.S. government then was more concerned about keeping up the appearance of peaceful detente with Russia.

Under Carter, human rights in Eastern Europe are more or less "in."

The new Administration wants to make clear it is righteously anti-Communist. It is also using this issue to help justify the drastic step-up in military spending.

BOGUS

Washington's current campaign will come to a head at a conference later this year in Belgrade, Yugoslavia, where the governments of the U.S., Russia, Western and Eastern Europe will get together to squabble over who has violated the "Helsinki Agreement" they signed in 1975.

After this bogus squabble over a meaningless piece of paper, the issue of human rights in Eastern Europe will probably fade away again.

The real test of the American government's position on human rights, though, is what it says about its allies—not its enemies.

The U.S. government made only a few meaningless public relations gestures, two years too late, to protest the tortures and murders committed by the fascist military dictators of Chile, who the CIA helped put in power in 1973.

STRUGGLE

Maybe the best example of how much the American government really cares about human rights is shown by its policies in southern Africa.

Last year, when three American mercenaries were shot by the Angolan government for hiring themselves out to kill African people, the howls of outrage from the U.S. government about "violations of human rights" and "cold-blooded revenge killings" shook the capitals of the world.

But two weeks ago, when the Rhodesian government secretly handed eight Zimbabwean nationalist prisoners, there wasn't so much as a whisper of protest from Jimmy Carter, Andrew Young, or anyone else in Washington.

The plain truth is that the American government's tanks, nuclear weapons and spy machine are no more allies of the workers of Czechoslovakia than they are allies of the people of Chile or Zimbabwe. The intellectuals who have organized a struggle for democracy in Czechoslovakia would do better to appeal to Czech workers, to transform their own society—not to the American ruling class which is nothing but a bunch of imperialist murderers.

SPAIN

Workers Battle Ford's Police



In Spain today, every strike by workers is likely to be met with lockouts, right-wing terrorism, and brutal repression by the police.

the platform, to create confusion. We workers drove them back, and we won.

"But then Ford called armed riot police into the factory to drive us out. We occupied the factory, forming barricades, and we stayed there all afternoon.

"When we left at 5:30 pm, the riot police were waiting outside to give us a beating. Many workers were injured.

"During the weekend Ford sent lock-out notices. We came back to the plant on Monday morning to find it surrounded by riot police. So we tried to hold a meeting to decide what to do—and we were again brutally dispersed by the police.

"Since we couldn't meet in the factory, we tried to meet in a mass meeting in a town called Silla. But the riot police were already there, occupying the town.

"They attacked the workers. The first time, one of us was injured. But the second time we took up sticks and stones against the police.

"We have had to struggle to build a form of organization where all workers can take part in directing our struggle. We try to hold mass meetings, coordinated by elected delegates of the workers, so that we can guarantee direct democracy of the workers."

Spanish workers are fighting for political freedom, for the right to speak freely, strike and organize.

They are fighting against a government that is run by ex-fascists.

But they are also striking against many of the same employers that American workers run up against every day.

A good example is the strike at a giant new Ford Motor Co. plant in the city of Valencia, which builds engines for the new Ford Fiesta.

Ford, one of the world's largest multi-national employers, uses many tactics around the world today that were pioneered by Harry Bennett's private police and goons in Detroit in the 1930's.

Ford workers on strike in Valencia wrote this account of their struggle in an appeal for solidarity from workers at other Ford plants in Europe:

"FORD SAID THEY accepted our demands, and agreed to give a \$30 a week increase pending agreement from Ford-Britain. We accepted this and went back to work.

"But three days later they withdrew this, saying Ford-Britain and Germany had vetoed it.

"We workers decided immediately to strike. We set up pickets. Our negotiating delegates returned to hold a mass meeting.

"At this point, supervision and Ford-hired Security Service (SS) men tried to drag speakers from

SOUTH AFRICAN POLICE now have the official, legal right to beat, shoot and kill black demonstrators.

A bill now in Parliament, which is certain to pass, gives police exemption from any acts they commit in putting down demonstrations.

No matter how brutal they are, they cannot be prosecuted—as long as they are "acting in good faith." Anyone who wants to bring charges against the police must prove in court, somehow, that the police acted "in bad faith."

This will not prevent the American government from claiming that its investments will bring "peaceful change" to the South African police state.

ANDREW YOUNG is on his first international diplomatic tour to Africa as Jimmy Carter's new Ambassador to the United Nations.

At a stop-over in Britain, he outlined his goals for American policy in southern Africa.

Young's most important proposal is that the United States and Britain should make a new effort to revive the now defunct so-called "peace conference on Rhodesia."

These are the talks which the United States government was using to give the white settler regime more time to organize its war against the people of Zimbabwe.

They are the same talks which convinced the white racist leader Ian Smith that the U.S. government will ultimately step in to save him.

Now that the talks are dead, Andrew Young wants them revived again. And he says these talks can still bring about a peaceful transition to black rule!

This is a lie. And Andrew Young knows it. The real purpose of trying to revive the talks is to undermine the political and military power of the Patriotic Front, which is fighting to overthrow Smith.

The U.S. government is still using every trick it knows to stop the masses of Zimbabwe from seizing their own country. And now that Andrew Young is Jimmy Carter's personal ambassador, he has no choice but to be part of the trick bag.

Yes, You Can Beat The Brown Machine!

by Dugan Wheeler

MARY DEATON is a package car driver for United Parcel Service in Los Angeles. She was fired last March, allegedly for an accident, but in reality because she was an organizer of UPSurge. That's the UPS workers' rank and file movement. Sixty drivers and part-timers attended UPSurge's first public meeting in Los Angeles the day before Mary was fired. She was the chairperson at that meeting.

Mary fought back, both through the union's grievance procedure and in hearings concerning her claim for unemployment compensation. After 13 weeks, over UPS' opposition, she won her appeal at unemployment, proving that she was not fired for "good cause." After eight months, she won her job back, and close to \$13,000 back pay.

We asked Mary to explain how her co-workers felt when she was fired.

The initial reaction of most of the people at the center—especially the ones I had been trying to get involved in UPSurge—was that was what I got for causing trouble. Nobody said they thought the accident was my

fault; no one thought the company should have fired me—it was just a reflection of the basic cynical attitude of most UPSers in Southern California—that anyone who rocks the boat, anyone who stands up against the company, is going to end up getting fired.

"In Southern California the union is headed by a guy named Frank Matula. He's an International Trustee as well as Secretary-Treasurer of Teamsters Local 396. He and his flunkies have been selling out the people in Southern California so long... In exchange for relatively good wages, they've been selling out our working conditions, our job security, and our grievance procedure.

"The general opinion of most people is that the union and the company are the same thing—that there's not much point in getting involved in union affairs because it's not going to do any good. Now, my firing of course just proved that point to most people."

But in Mary Deaton's case, the union did fight and win. Frank Matula himself got personally involved. "He would fly in from Palm Springs to hold meetings with me to discuss strategy for the

arbitration hearings," reported Mary.

UNION FIGHTS

Why? "I was a little confused at first about why Matula seemed so willing to fight," she said, "because the whole problem of proving whether an accident is chargeable or not usually makes these cases very difficult to win."

"But it didn't take too long to figure out that this wasn't the case of a single person rocking the boat. This time it was the case of both the union and the company being faced with a national upheaval among the ranks of UPS workers.

"In Los Angeles it wasn't yet an upheaval. We'd had one public meeting with only 60 people. But when you look at it from the point of view that it's just getting started in L.A., but it's snowballing in the central states, then you gotta think it's really possible the same thing can happen here.

"Frank himself really said where he was coming from when he called me in the middle of October to inform me that I had won the grievance and that I was to be reinstated.

"He said, 'now see what we can do for you if you just let us. We didn't have to march up and down on the sidewalk; we didn't have to yell and scream at them.' Obviously, the point he was trying to make by fighting so hard to get my job back was, 'Just let the union take care of things and leave us alone and we'll get it done.'

"But I didn't win this case basically by relying on the union. I won it because the union was afraid of what would happen if I didn't win, and because there was pressure to get me back."

When Mary was reinstated, she couldn't return to work immediately because she was pregnant and had to wait several months until the baby was born. But she found that the word of her victory spread rapidly.

"One night this driver called me up," she said. "He had been out on disability for six months. He was having a hassle with the company about getting back and wanted my advice on what to do. He had found out that I had won my case through the meter maid who was working in his neighborhood that day. She has breakfast in Beverly Hills with the drivers in my center, who had found out from the union steward. So word travels pretty fast. In fact I was told that most of the meter maids in Beverly Hills, which was my old route, knew about my case and were talking about it.

"But the reaction of people when I came back to work was really terrific. People were really glad to see me and were shaking my hand and thanking me for fighting the grievance. One guy said, 'You know, Mary, this is good for everybody that you won your job back.'

FIGHTING PAYS

"I think this victory has begun to make people think that maybe it's worth it to fight the company now. Maybe the next time somebody gets fired or the next time somebody's being hassled it won't be quite so hard to convince people to get together and push the union to do its job. Because now they've seen that it can be done."

Finally we asked Mary whether it was just a coincidence that her son Jackson was born nine months to the day after she was fired.

"I don't think it's a coincidence at all," she grinned. "Once you stop working at UPS you finally get the energy to do something at night other than soak in a hot tub."



Mary Deaton

Thanks for dinner, Mr. Callaghan. . . .
Quite all right, Mr. Mondale, we just take it out of the school lunch budget. . . .

Vice-President Walter Mondale visited Britain on his diplomatic tour last week. While he was there he had dinner with the top leaders of the British Labor Party government including Prime Minister James Callaghan, Foreign Secretary Anthony Crosland, and Treasury Secretary Denis Healey.

Here's an exact description of what they had for dinner:

"The menu consisted of filet of sole Elizabeth, breast of duck with apricots and, for dessert, profiteroles with chocolate sauce.

"The wines included chablis gran cru 1971, Chateau Mouton Rothschild 1953, a 1948 port from Sir Winston Churchill's private stock and a 1912 Hennessy

champagne.

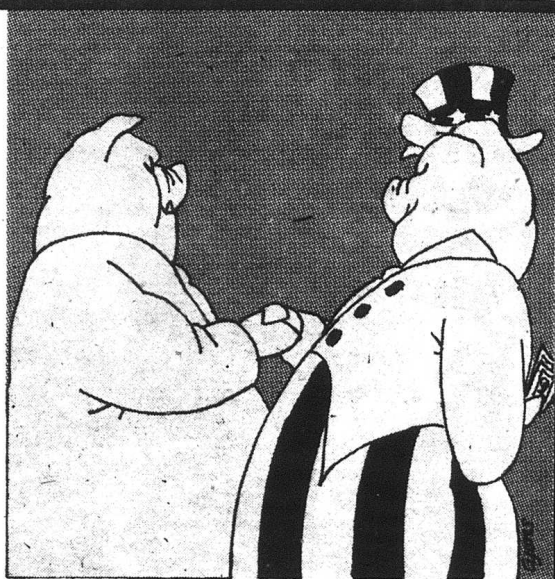
"Mr. Eisele (Mondale's press secretary), who was among the guests, said that at one point he told a waiter who was refilling glasses with the Mouton Rothschild that the wine was cold.

"It ought to be, sir," the waiter replied. "It's very expensive."

The American liberal Democratic and the British Labor Party bigwigs had a terrific time teaching each other drinking songs and joking about how left-wing they all used to be.

GOOD TIMES FLOW

Don't get us wrong. We're sure that the Vice-President and his



hosts were entitled to a good time and a big feed, after all the hard work they've been doing.

The day before, Mondale met in Paris with the head of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, to discuss plans for keeping wages

and living standards down in such countries as Britain, France, Italy, Spain and Portugal.

And he had to break the bad news to foreign leaders that the American economy might be slowed down by factory closures caused by the phoney fuel crisis.

Not only that. In Britain, the Labor Party leaders who feasted on duck with Mondale have just pushed through cuts which include ending free lunches for school children. For many of the children, it was the only hot meal they get all day.

A new pin ball machine called "Death Race" is gaining popularity at amusement arcades, fun parks and bars. The object of the game is to run down human figures with a car.

For a quarter, the player gets a minute to run down all the symbolic pedestrians he can overtake. If he hits one, he is rewarded with an electronic shriek. Points are racked up on a game marker.

Last year, 9000 pedestrians were killed. That's in real life, with real blood.

to Detroit to discuss strategy and at that time we were led to believe that when Saginaw Steering Gear was settled, which it now is, that the three of us would come up with some kind of strategy.

"But that's not happening. We don't have a strike deadline at all. The plan has been altered, and I'm not very happy with it. We are not receiving the amount of cooperation that we had expected from Mr. Bluestone."

A spokesperson for the company seems to have figured out what's

going on. He said, "They have the International Union to deal with. [The International] will not strike against this division because we supply not only the automotive industry—GM, Ford, Chrysler—but the rest of industry as well—the steel industry, for example.

"Even in 1970 [when the UAW struck GM nationwide for 67 days], this Division wasn't struck. They won't strike us, but if they did, it would just be one plant at a time."

UAW Ties Locals' Hands

Forty-eight General Motors plants continue to work without new local agreements. Three locals asked the United-Auto Workers International for a joint strike deadline. The three plants are GM's New Departure Hyatt Bearing plants in Clark, New Jersey; Bristol, Connecticut; and Sandusky, Ohio. If these three plants strike together it would seriously cripple GM.

Jimmy Zarello, shop chairman at Local 736 in New Jersey, told Workers' Power, "They called us

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

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

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

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

Everyone's Talk

Betty Harper, autoworker

MY KIDS have gotten into it, and they've had a chance to talk about slavery and the difference between the slave owners and just white people. My kids want to know if all white people were slave owners.

We got into a real good discussion about slavery and the whole thing that went down in the south in the Civil War and what happened after the Civil War, what did freedom mean to the blacks, and that kind of stuff.

At work, it's been tremendous, the response that people have given. There's been a two-week debate about the reviews that Roots has got.

FURIOUS

The blacks in the plant are furious, cause the Time magazine came out with this real rotten review. The Sun Times newspaper did too and the Tribune did too.

These papers said it's poorly done, it's not worth the twelve hours given to it on television, it's just not an interesting thing. They say that Haley's writing is not good, the film's not worth shit.

And the people in the plant are furious about how this is so obviously racist.

The first time that black people have had something on nationwide TV that they could relate to in the country, it's just put down by the major press in Chicago.

At work we have a TV in the cafeteria, and people have been taking extra break time, and trying to get their break time to line up with the 8:00 showing here in Chicago so they can see it.

There's been a debate between the blacks and the whites about what slavery was like. When the discussion first started, there was a

number of whites that were opposed to it being shown on TV, and there's been a discussion about the whole thing.

Some of the hillbillies, the people from Appalachia that work in the plant were saying "that kind of shit, that don't go on now, blacks don't have it so hard now, blacks are finally free," and that kind of shit.

And some of the blacks were saying, "well, look at the Marquette Park situation here in Chicago recently. A lot of freedom, so much freedom that we can stay in the ghetto as long as we don't cross the tracks."

I can't think of any black I know that didn't want to find out about their heritage, all the way back. I know I've always wanted to do it.

And very few blacks can trace their heritage back because of the whole slavery era. It stops after a couple of generations, you don't know anything more about your heritage.

So that whole aspect was good, it gave people a good feeling to know that somebody did it.

BOOK

I've read some of Haley's stuff before, and I'm looking forward to reading this book now, as soon as I can get it.

It's not available here in Chicago. All the libraries have waiting lists, 300, 400 people, and it hasn't come out in paperback.

I thought the picture itself was pretty good. I thought they had excellent actors which was unusual for a black play. Traditionally you get the poorest actors. I thought that the portrayals of the white slave owners was pretty good. I think the movie left something to be desired, but overall they did a real good job.



Jeanne Gross, Women Against Racism

ROOTS TO ME was a moving experience. It was a history lesson to blacks and whites.

Within myself, I felt a yearning of identifying with Alex Haley and wanting to know where my family came from.

My grandmother came from a family of thirteen, and her father had been a slave. He settled in Sedalia, Missouri. I remember

Eighty million people watched Roots the country—in bars, homes, fact about Roots.

Roots is a view of slavery we have, relatively truthful look at slavery. I With The Wind, a movie about the perpetuate lies and myths about slavery.

Most people agree that dramatic sentimental and heavily stereotype. But Roots did not stand or fall. phenomenal reception because it tell of view of blacks.

Although the TV series stopped ending of Roots was clear about on racism in America. Racism is a part of capitalism—both in slave society and in modern society.

Last week, Workers' Power reviewed Roots. asked some of our readers for their reactions. Here is what they had to say:

going there as a child when her oldest sister died. I saw the log cabin they lived in. Her father had told her his experiences as a slave.

And even to this day, they have reservations about association with white people because of experiences they went through at an early age, and some of the things they had to do to survive.

Watching Roots, I felt anger, I

felt cheated. I cried when Kunte Kinte was so savagely beaten and they cut off his foot because he desired freedom so desperately.

I've faced it. I've lived it. I've always known where racism came from. It's more subtle today. I do know what forms it can take—from housing, to education, to job opportunities, even to spending

Dorothy Larson, steelworker

THE GREAT THING about Roots was that people were talking about it. It was a common educational thing; it was something that people were discussing like the elections, or some other big national event.

In the steel mill where I work, the real right-wingers were saying that it was put on TV by the communists to incite race troubles in the United States.

They said slavery was a thing of the past, and they were exploiting people's prejudice about it in hopes of causing trouble.

Other people I talked to said the problems of slavery are all gone and now blacks have it better than whites because they have laws to protect them against prejudice, but there's no laws to protect whites against prejudice.

Most of the black people in the shop said that it was beautiful and a great thing that an epic of a black family was being shown on TV.



Frank Runninghorse, Red Tide

AT THE LAST Red Tide meeting we had an involved discussion about Roots. Some members felt it was a cop-out. But I thought it was an excellent thing. I wished it would continue on and cover the black migration to the northern industrial cities and show the struggle did—and still—continues.

One of the things that really impressed me was how the Nat Turner rebellion completely terr-

fied the oppressor master class.

The movie seemed to say, and I don't know if it's true or not, that most of the slaves were indifferent to the rebellion or saw it as something that was just going to get them in trouble. I don't know, but I bet that Nat Turner inspired many slaves.

Some of my black comrades were afraid that the series would inspire a nationalist backlash against

whites. I don't really think this is true.

I think Roots showed the truth, that the slave system was a real horrible thing, that messed over both blacks and whites.

The whites were also ripped off because the slave system made them into complete racist, inhuman assholes. George, the poor white, had to be taught that he was supposed to be racist to get along in the system.

The flick also showed how

Larry Ivory, hospital worker

I DON'T BELIEVE that the television program Roots can or should be judged on the basis of being good or bad.

The show was designed to stimulate black people into finding out more about themselves for themselves. It gave black people a base from which to start in their search of their own heritage.

To a lesser degree, it tried to provide people with an idea of what slavery was like from beginning to

end.

And the actors who played the roles in Roots were nothing short of brilliant. It has to be one of the most influential programs that has ever been put on television.

Michael Long

ROOTS is one of the very rare shows that tells history from the point of view of black people. Its ruthless criticism of slavery and of racism is a desperately needed counterattack on the racist garbage that TV usually treats us to.



e's Talking About "Roots"

Eighty million people watched Roots on television last week. All over the country—in bars, homes, factories, offices—people are talking about Roots.

Roots is a view of slavery we have not seen on television before. It is a relatively truthful look at slavery. It got a bigger audience than Gone With The Wind, a movie about the same period, but one that tries to perpetuate lies and myths about slavery.

Most people agree that dramatically Roots fell short. It was overly sentimental and heavily stereotyped.

But Roots did not stand or fall on its artistic merit. It got a phenomenal reception because it tells the story of slavery from the point of view of blacks.

Although the TV series stopped shortly after the Civil War, the ending of Roots was clear about one thing—the Civil War did not end racism in America. Racism is a part of the foundation of American capitalism—both in slave society and today.

Last week, Workers' Power reviewed Haley's book. This week we asked some of our readers for their reactions to the television series. Here is what they had to say:

ing there as a child when her
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they cut off his foot because he
desired freedom so desperately.

I've faced it. I've lived it. I've
always known where racism came
from. It's more subtle today. I do
know what forms it can take—from
housing, to education, to job
opportunities, even to spending

power and our supermarkets, the
difference in prices of the goods in
the white neighborhoods.

We have come a long way, but I
think there's much to be desired. I
hope the program will cause
reflection among black and white
 alike, and not in a negative
reaction, but a deep thought of
what we can do to make things
better.

same thing.
All of this made the show hard
to watch every night. It was draining
because slavery and racism de-
stroyed a family's lives right before
your eyes. But yet you had to come
back for more. At least it was
the truth for a change!

What was wrong with Roots?
Well, for one thing, bad as life is
shown, it was worse. One example
is that slaves never work in Roots.
People are tending gardens,
working in the "big house," or
picking mushrooms, but they aren't
often out in the fields from
before dawn till after dusk busting
their butts so that they don't get
beaten to shreds by the overseer's
whip, or sold off.

Without seeing the work, you
can't fully understand the fight that
slaves made to escape.

DOESN'T END

We all know that the story
doesn't end with the TV show. For
over 100 years after the Civil War,
black people have had to fight for
anything and everything, and they
have had the big corporations and
the government, local and federal,
as their enemies.

Whatever rights blacks have
today have been won by breaking
the rich white laws, and more than
a few have been killed or put in
prison for that freedom struggle.

The most important thing though
is that an attempt was made to
portray something other than cops,
or the rich and famous. For a rare
TV moment, Roots portrayed the
oppressed, not their oppressors. □

Marilyn Danton

THE UGLY, VICIOUS reality of
slavery and racism was finally
brought home to millions of
Americans when Roots was shown
on TV last week.

Even though even this reality
was cleaned up so as not to violate
the sensitivities of most white
Americans, its impact will not be
lost on anyone who saw it.

But this isn't what hit me so
profoundly. I'd already learned
that slavery wasn't the kind
protective system I'd been taught it
was in the public school system of
Louisiana.

What got to me was that up to
the civil rights movement of the
1960s, very little had changed from
the early, post-Civil-War days,
when Chicken George's family and
Tom in particular had to escape
from their home in order to save
their lives.

You see, I was raised in
Louisiana in the 1950s. Because I
lived in an all-white, middle class
area, I never thought too much
about racism until 1957. That was
the year that Little Rock Arkansas
High School was integrated and
President Eisenhower had to send
federal troops in to insure that nine
black students would be admitted
to the all-white school.

Roots brought it all back—the
South I grew up in. It was little
different from the south pictured in
Roots just after the Civil War.

The vicious racism that tried,
legally through "separate, but
equal" and the share-cropping
system, and illegally with the
KKK, to reenslave blacks existed
right there in my home town.

CROSSES BURNED

In 1960, several professors
teaching at the small parochial
college that I attended got crosses
burned on their lawns for supporting
Kennedy for president since he
was Catholic and said he supported
civil rights for blacks.

Of course, the nice middle class
white folks I grew up with didn't
call blacks "niggers," they called
them "colored people."

Opposition to the civil rights
movement and legal equality was
explained as "fighting a federal
government that wants to take
away states' rights"! Just like the
Confederacy said it was fighting for
states' rights in the civil war!

And the question today, after the
civil rights movement, is real
equality, just as it was back then.
Today in my home town there are
no "colored" and "white" signs on
restroom doors, and the restauran-
ts are integrated. But the effects
of 400 years of racism are still
there.

Why is it that wages are lower in
the south than in any part of the
country? Why is it that the UAW is
only now organizing the auto
plants in Louisiana and Georgia?
Why is it that much of the south is
not unionized?

Same answer every time. The
racism brought by slavery still
creates deep divisions in the south
and in the rest of the country. □



Larry Smith,
I.S. National Black
Organizer

THE VALUE of a program such
as Roots is that it's open discussion
about the past. From this should
stem interest in the present.

Over 100 years after the official
end to chattel slavery in the United
States, the descendants of the
slaves remain racially oppressed
and super-exploited.

To understand this paradox, we
must dig for our roots. We must
unearth the truth which was buried
beneath years of lies.

CLASS RULE

Slavery was a system of class
rule, in which the slave owners
lived off the labor of the slaves.

The enslavement of one race of
people by a white plantation-
owning class led to the develop-
ment of an ideology, racism, to
maintain that slave society.

The slave society of the south
was part of a bigger world. The
nineteenth century saw the tri-
umph of another system of class
rule, capitalism. The enslavement
by the bourgeoisie of the working
class to wage labor began its
spread across the face of the earth.

The development of capitalism
was important to the southern
economy. Cotton picked by blacks
in the fields of the South was sent
to the mills of Europe and the
North.



There, the labor of the working
class was turned into profits for the
owners of the factories.

The emerging capitalist class in
the North needed control of the
government in America to ensure
their status and growth. In pursuit
of this aim the ruling class in the
North came in conflict with the
ruling class in the South.

CIVIL WAR

The result of this confrontation
was the Civil War, a war of the
system of wage labor versus slave
labor.

There are many causes given by
official American historians such as
land, evil people, or slavery, but
the root cause is the conflict
between two forms of class rule.

Ruling classes in all societies
must control their society from top
to bottom to stay in power.

In the Civil War, which
destroyed the slave society of the
South, 200,000 black people took
up arms and millions more stopped
work with the approach of the
Union army.

The new capitalist society
created at the end of the Civil War
had many problems with the role of
the ex-slaves.

The ruling class in the North,
assured of its control, put the final
nail in the coffin with its
withdrawal of support for Recon-
struction.

Black people survived all this
and more. From the rural south
black people moved north to
factories and recently to southern
cities to new factories.

RACISM & REBELLION

The role of black people in the
new society was similar to their role
under the slave society—to be at
the bottom.

Black people became workers,
and racism was the ideology used
to explain the oppression and
super-exploitation of an entire
people.

The whole history from slavery to
today has been marked by
resistance and rebellion by black
people. The last 20 years is just the
high point of a 400-year struggle,
a war of liberation. Just as the slave
south was doomed, capitalism is
also doomed. □

Butterfly, Red Tide

ALTHOUGH I ONLY watched one
episode of Roots, the last
episode, my reaction was: it didn't
happen that way. It was indeed a
very touching film, but when you
looked between the lines, the lines
disappeared.

I think Alex Haley didn't really
tell it like it was. For one, the slave
quarters had a couple of beds in it,
which was highly impossible for a
family that rebelled like the Kintes
did.

Everyone in the family seemed to
have very little resistance except
for a few members like Tom. They
constantly got into shit and got out
too easy. □

Title

d the oppressor master class.
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to the rebellion or saw it as
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ignorance was the main weapon in
keeping the slaves down. Many
slaves didn't know which way north
was.

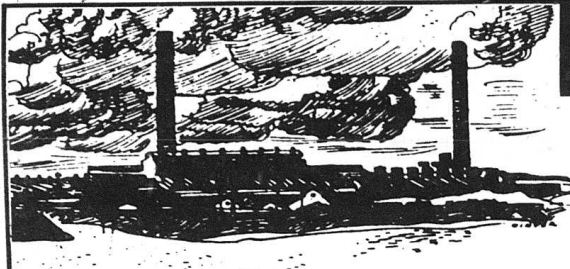
It was a crime to teach a slave
how to read. Only Chicken George
who had traveled and been a free
man had enough knowledge to
organize a successful struggle to
free the family.

I also felt good about the end,
because it showed that the way
forward was black and white
working class unity and struggle. □

Roots is not the dramatic
masterpiece that it could have
been. One newspaper review
correctly points out that a British
TV show about a ruling class family
is much better put together in some
ways.

I don't know about you, but I'd
rather see an honest show about
something important, than a
well-acted piece of useless trivia.

TV's Roots showed that the
racism of the system was unrelent-
ing; it never ended. No sooner was
Kunta Kinte's foot cut off for
running away did another young
slave get beaten and sold off for the



steelyard blues

DECISION TIME FOR THE UNITED STEEL WORKERS

Why Are Steelworkers Supporting

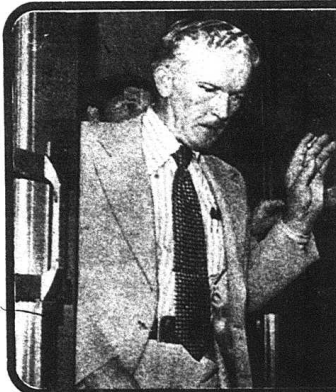
On some occasions, such as last November's Presidential election, this newspaper has argued that working people should not support any of the candidates in an election. This week another critical presidential election is being held—in the United Steel Workers union.

This time, steelworkers who are members of the International Socialists are vigorously campaigning for the election of Ed Sadlowski. We feel that his election would be an enormous step forward for rank and file workers in the USW.

Yet Workers' Power stands for socialist revolution, and Sadlowski is surely no revolutionary. He is a union reformer, who says that the problems steelworkers face can be solved without totally destroying the capitalist system of private profits.

Sadlowski's campaign has not generally encouraged the rank and file to take matters into their own hands, saying in essence, "Elect a tough leader who can do it all for you."

Workers' Power has many other differences with Sadlowski's philosophy and criticisms of the way he has run his campaign. Nevertheless, we are wholeheartedly supporting his victory. The purpose of this article is to explain why.



Arnold Miller (left) was elected president of the United Mine Workers because of a powerful rank and file upsurge. When he betrayed the trust of the membership, he got cut down in a cross-fire between militant miners and the coal operators. A similar fate awaits Sadlowski if he turns against the members who elect him.



tivity, calls for a more aggressive union stance in fighting management on the shop floor, and advocates democratic reform of the union, giving more power back to the rank and file.

Practically the entire union staff and most local officers outside District 31 strongly oppose Sadlowski. They understand very well that his candidacy represents more than just a bid for the top office. It is a direct assault on the machine that runs the union, and it is fueled by intense rank and file dissatisfaction with the machine's policies.

That is what makes this election



Ed Sadlowski

very different from 1965, when I.W. Abel challenged and beat David McDonald for the same office.

In that election, staff and local officials were divided right down the middle. Abel, then the number two man in the union, joined with other powerful machine politicians to challenge the incumbent because they thought McDonald was too corrupt, too crude, and too incompetent to effectively run the machine. It was not their goal to overhaul the practices or the policies of the union machine in any basic way.

Once the election was over, it was easy for both sides to lick their wounds and reunite under the new president.

This will not be the case if

Sadlowski wins this time. Ever since he first ran for District 31 Director, the entire machine has treated him as an outsider and an enemy. The driving force behind his candidacy has not been conflicts within the machine, but rather dissatisfaction of large sections of the union membership.

By putting himself forward as the standard bearer for these rank and file sentiments, Sadlowski has been transformed in only five years from a small-time, maverick union official into a serious contender for the leadership of a large and powerful union.

If Sadlowski is elected, he will meet great resistance from union staff and local officers and from the majority of the International Executive Board.

In office, Sadlowski would probably seek peace with as much of the old machine as possible. He may start to tone down his militancy. And he will probably try modeling himself after Walter Reuther, which would mean replacing the present USW machine with a new one more on the United Auto Workers model.

If it were possible at the present time in history for Sadlowski to build his own "reform" machine, his victory would represent little, if any, advance for steelworkers.

CROSS-FIRE

In 1977, however, a new international union president taking office as the direct result of strong rank and file opposition to the old leadership will be under great pressure to move in a very different direction. If he doesn't he will get cut down in a cross-fire between the old machine and management on one side, and the rank and file on the other.

If Sadlowski takes office, it will be at a time when American capitalism has entered a period of stagnation and decline.

This is a period in which employers have to go on the offensive. They feel increasing economic pressure to attack workers' real wages, working conditions and job security, in order to raise their profits back to the level they

feel they need to survive.

Steelworkers feel this attack in various forms, ranging from layoffs to the increasingly arrogant and aggressive behavior of the foremen.

Over time, resentment builds up toward a union machine that fails to provide protection against these attacks. It is this resentment that has made Sadlowski's reform

campaign possible.

Steelworkers will take a Sadlowski victory as a signal that the time has come for the union to fight back against management's attack. Militancy and self-confidence will start rising on the shop floor. More militant and aggressive grievors and local officials will be elected and the rank and file will demand more results from those they have elected.

This will mean increasing labor-management conflict. That will make it hard for Sadlowski to make peace with elements of the old machine, who will blame him for whatever worker insurgency develops.

Under these circumstances, if Sadlowski ends up trying to build a UAW-style machine and collaborating with management, he will be cut to pieces, just as Arnold Miller was in the United Mine Workers when he tried the same thing. Miller is now so thoroughly discredited that he is of no use to either side, but the rank and file upsurge his campaign nurtured is continuing.

POST-WAR PROSPERITY

The USW leadership machine

VIEW FROM THE AUDIENCE

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

Another Rip-Off From I.W. Abel



by David Katz

This book must be one of the biggest rip-offs in publishing history. For six dollars and ninety-five cents you can have all 62 pages of the thoughts of I.W. Abel. That's more than 10c a page, though you should be forewarned that only 50 of those pages have any text on them. Abel, who is president of the United Steel Workers of America, is most widely known as the author of another rip-off. That's the Experimental Negotiating Agreement, or no-strike deal, which he foisted on steel workers in 1973 without so much as an autograph party.

The chief virtue of this book is that you can read it in less time than you lose if you get stuck listening to one of his speeches. That happened to me last week when I was taking pictures at a

McBride campaign rally.

It was painful. Abel must have said, "Now I know I've taken too much of your time. . . ." at least half an hour before he actually finished.

Collective Bargaining. Labor Relations in Steel: Then and Now. by I.W. Abel. Columbia University Press, \$6.95. 62pp.

You've probably heard the ideas in this book before, including Abel's defense of the no-strike deal as the civilized way to conduct labor relations in this enlightened age. Workers in basic steel—those covered by the no-strike agreement—will give their opinion of this masterpiece of labor relations on February 8. Regardless of how the vote in the entire union goes, there's little doubt that basic steel will turn thumbs down on no-strike Abel and his hand-picked successor, by a convincing margin.

But I.W. Abel won't need to feel completely rejected. There are always the employers. It is fitting that the talks his book is based on were delivered as part of the Benjamin F. Fairless Memorial Lectures at Carnegie-Mellon University.

Mr. Fairless was for 15 years the president of United States Steel Corporation. □

Socialist Sadlowski?

was developed during the 25 years of American capitalist prosperity following World War II. This was the longest and richest period of prosperity the world has ever known.

During this time, big employers were willing—and able—to pay a high price for peaceful union/management relations. Workers covered by major union contracts experienced the highest rise in real wages and benefits they had ever known.

In return for these gains, union leaders agreed to contain militancy and radicalism in the workforce, and to help increase productivity.

The policies of the present union machine were developed and perfected by union leaders carrying out their part of the bargain with management. One of the most important reasons they were able to do this was the effect of the post-war prosperity on rank and file workers. It destroyed the militancy they had shown in the great union organizing drives.

As long as prosperity continued to bring improvements in wages and benefits, membership dissatisfaction with working conditions could be kept under control. But in the 1970's, American prosperity has turned to economic stagnation. Management has had to put the squeeze on and everything is ripe for change.

EMPLOYERS' OFFENSIVE

The more peaceful labor remains as the employers' offensive grows, the more vicious that attack will become.

In the late 1920's, for example, American management went on the offensive. The unions were unprepared to fight back, and by 1929, all but the most highly skilled craft unions were either destroyed or gutted.

American unions today are much stronger than those of the 20's. But in the years ahead, they will either have to re-adopt more of the class struggle methods of their earlier years, or they will be torn to shreds.

The American working class will not rediscover these methods in a day. It will take many struggles—including victories and defeats.

But as the economic crisis develops, masses of workers will again learn that they and their employers have no interests in common, that in return for their labor they will get back only what they are strong enough to win.

Sadlowski's "Steelworkers Fight Back" campaign is only an early and faint preview of what is to come. It reflects the beginnings of a new consciousness and a new movement among American workers.

The members of the International Socialists believe that our revolutionary socialist politics are the future direction this working class movement will have to take as it develops.

Unless the leaders of this movement confront the question of the



Many unions were destroyed in the late 1920's when they were unprepared to fight an employers' offensive. A similar period is just beginning today.

capitalist system, they can be manipulated by employers time and again. If you defend capitalism, you must then defend the right of the employers to make a "fair profit."

But during hard times, a "fair profit" comes only through layoffs, speedup, and wage cuts. Pro-capitalist unionists find themselves justifying these employer attacks on the working class and ending up as front men for the boss.

EVERY STRUGGLE

Members of the International Socialists participate in every struggle of the working class that we can. Our goal is to build a revolutionary party by working in the movements of the present, and winning to revolutionary politics those workers who understand the limits of the present system.

We support Sadlowski and the "Fight Back" campaign even though we're sure that its program and method are too limited and too bureaucratic to actually accomplish the goals the campaign sets for itself.

We support the Sadlowski campaign because we believe his victory will strengthen the rank and file and advance the class struggle.

But our loyalty is not to Ed Sadlowski. Our loyalty is to rank and file steelworkers.

As long as Sadlowski represents their interests, we will support him fully, no matter what our specific criticisms may be. But at whatever point Sadlowski comes into conflict with the real interests of steelworkers, we will fight against him just as vigorously. □



Teamsters Say: We Won't Be Divided Here!

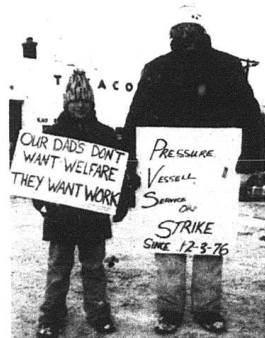
DETROIT—IT WAS GETTING close to Christmas a year ago. And in that joyous season of cheer and Christian charity, one Mr. Floyd Nicholson decided he had had enough of a certain black employee named Mack Williams.

Nicholson is the owner of Pressure Vessel Service (PVS), a small Detroit company. He had been cutting down on the work assigned to Williams, and so Williams filed a grievance through his union, Teamsters Local 283.

It was only one of some 286 grievances that chief steward Michael Kerik, Sr. has filed in the last five years for a work force numbering only 25. About 50 of those grievances have been filed by Mack Williams, and management didn't much like it.

In response to Williams' grievance, Nicholson handed an indefinite layoff notice to the entire workforce. But management made it clear that no one would miss work if Williams withdrew the grievance.

The workers at PVS didn't knuckle under. They complained to the National Labor Relations Board, which can recognize blatant racism and union busting when it's held two inches from its nose. And the NLRB ordered everyone rein-



Chief steward Michael Kerik, Sr. and his son.



Al Ferdnance, (left) and Pete Camarata (right) from TDU, joined Mack Williams on the picket line.

stated with back pay for the two days they'd lost.

That Christmas was saved, but the incident is typical of the way it's been at Pressure Vessel. One employee told Workers' Power, "Mack files grievances and gets harassed, then people who stand up for Mack get harassed."

With conflicts between blacks and whites making headlines throughout the country, it's encouraging to see an overwhelmingly white workforce standing up for a black worker who's the victim of discrimination.

Right now, PVS workers are on the picket lines. There are two main issues. First is the question of seniority. The workers want work assigned on a seniority basis, while Nicholson wants to assign it as he pleases.

The second issue is—surprise—Mack Williams. Management has agreed to a wage settlement, except they want to pay Williams 5c an hour less than everyone else. "They set it up because they wanted to set the guys against me," Williams said.

"Management wants Mack Williams and the Teamsters out, and that's it," said another worker.

But they're standing together, although a number of relatively new hires have been scabbing. In the last two years, PVS management has required new employees to take lie detector tests to screen

out those with union sympathies.

SOLIDARITY

Recently the strikers have gotten some help from the Detroit chapter of Teamsters for a Democratic Union (TDU). TDU has sent its members to join the picket line and has tried to publicize the strike.

TDU says, "The real tragedy in this strike is that scabs as well as Teamsters are doing PVS work. This could be stopped if Local 283 officials contacted other locals here to stop PVS work, and used our International union's power to stop PVS loads from being hauled out of state."

PVS employees have also gotten help from members of the United Steel Workers Union at Detroit Chemical Works, another Nicholson enterprise. These steelworkers are in complete solidarity with the PVS employees, and have agreed to stop handling PVS work.

On a recent Saturday afternoon, spirit was high as the strikers picketed, along with their wives, kids, and some TDU members. Allan McAlpine, who's worked for Nicholson for close to six years, told a reporter that management had offered him \$5600 to quit.

With a boss like Nicholson, lots of folks would have given up for a lot less. But he's still out there fighting. □

Jim Woodward

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

How Pennsylvania Tried to Break Union

Workers' Power interviewed an elementary teacher from McKeesport, Pennsylvania who is on strike for the second time in six months. Last September's contract with the School Board is still not negotiated.

Workers' Power Interview

Apparently there has been a decision to break the teachers' union. Last spring the Pennsylvania School Board Association Journal outlined steps for the school board on how to do it. McKeesport is supposedly the test place.

We went on strike in September. The School Board recommended

fact finding, which is like arbitration, but not binding. We went back and taught into November when the fact finder's report came in.

The teachers voted for it, even though it didn't include a lot of things we wanted, like the dental plan we needed. But the Board

rejected it, even though it had been their recommendation.

Anyhow we still worked while they were negotiating. In the meantime the Board stripped back everything—stripped it clear back to where we had been before last April.

They were trying to take away stuff we'd already had—things like a half hour free lunch, access to the ditto machine, the required teachers' lounge—everything.

Still we stayed in the classroom till Christmas with no contract. On December 29 they offered a package that was really bad—just nothing. So we went out as of January 3.

SHOULD HAVE STAYED OUT

We shouldn't have gone back in September without a contract, because the pressure was on right then. Of course now we know. We have voted we will not go back without a contract. We will defy an injunction. That was unanimous.

The School Board is actually out to break the union. They made a motion that any teacher who would cross the picket line and put it in writing would be paid for the full semester, 180 days.

The Board began trying to get an injunction against us last week. At the hearing, Babyak, one of the Board members, the worst bastard of them all, was put on the stand. He denied under oath that he had made any statements to anyone last year about the upcoming teacher negotiations.

Then they brought in two custodians, one the president of the custodians' local. They had been at Babyak's house on a grievance last year, and he had outlined his plan to them.

The Board would settle with the custodians, but they would offer the teachers a "ridiculous" contract offer—that's a quote. The

teachers would be forced to reject it. After 30 days the Board would get an injunction.

Then they would fire all the teachers. After they were fired they would hire them back selectively. Anyway, everything Babyak told those two custodians, that's what happened.

PROFESSIONAL PROBLEM

The strike hasn't been militant so far, really. You know, teachers have the problem that we go around calling ourselves professional, an association. Although less and less. I heard the term union used quite a bit this time around.

There's been a lot of solidarity in the strike. The only people who crossed were one or two teachers and a couple of coaches.

I don't want to sound like I'm against the Pennsylvania State Education Association. But we need to think about a real union. If we're going to be a union, hell, let's be a union. Let's not play at it.

The McKeesport School Board finally agreed to binding arbitration. The teachers felt they would get a better deal from an arbitrator than from the Board. On January 30, they agreed to go back to work, although the schools are shut now because of the cold. They will return when the schools re-open.

Which comes first, the chicken or the egg? With their dog, Bobby, Robert and Helen Prusha moved into their car two months ago when Prusha lost his job and his apartment.

When temperatures dropped below zero, they kept the car running for heat. Prusha began working spot labor at a tool and die stamping plant to pay for gas and bread and jelly.

The welfare department helped out with occasional food vouchers, but would not give regular help until the Prushas had a permanent address.

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Act I: 20c postpaid. Women in South Africa: 35c postpaid. Order from Sun Distribution, 14131 Woodward Ave., Highland Park, MI 48203.

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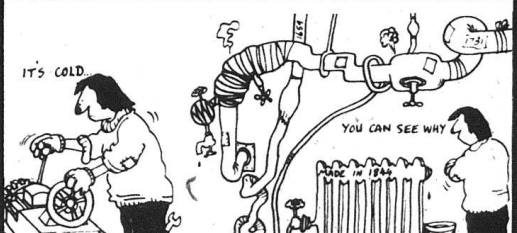
If you agree with the views expressed in this paper and would like more information, or would like to join the International Socialists, then send this form to: **INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS 14131 Woodward Ave., Highland Park, MI 48203.**

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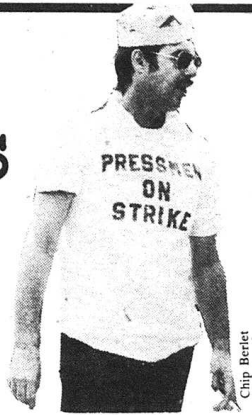
OUR NORMAN



WILL BIG 3 PROFITS MEAN NEW JOBS?

Labor Notes

by Jim Woodward



News stories about the cold weather in Florida focussed first on the poor oranges that froze to death, and second on the growers who, it was alleged, would suffer financially because much of their crop was ruined. Hardly anywhere was it mentioned that nearly 100,000 migrant workers would be thrown out of work and lose even their meager incomes as a result. The growers noticed, though. They announced their opposition to declaring several Florida counties a disaster area because that would make the farm workers eligible for emergency unemployment assistance. The growers say that if the migrant workers can get unemployment compensation, there will be no incentive for them to look for work.

The Teamsters Union has announced that the federal government will spend over \$55,000 to study "the effects of diesel fumes on truck drivers." The study was authorized by the Department of Transportation (DOT), and results are expected by late this year. Are there any truck drivers who could tell them quicker and cheaper about the effects of poisonous fumes?

Introducing the "Sounds like they've been discussing it" department: Recently this column reported executive J. Bruce Johnston's comments on the sacrifices steel companies made in agreeing to the no-strike deal: "The Coordinating Committee Steel Companies were required to give up their right to take a long strike," he said. At a recent appearance in Detroit, Steelworkers President I.W. Abel discussed the same question: "These fellows [Sadloski and his supporters] say the union gave up the right to strike and the industry gave up nothing. . . The industry, you see, gave up the right to take a strike, they agreed to give up the right to lock us out." Birds of a feather. . .

The Wayne State University School of Business Administration is holding a seminar in March for business executives on "Employee Discipline and Grievance Handling." Among the topics to be discussed is how to "select the 'right' arbitrator." Don't they usually tell us all these arbitrators are "neutral"?

Remember the Christmas-time strike of Miami hotel workers? In the week following the January 14 strike settlement, the hotel managements fired some 600 workers, replacing them with scabs hired during the strike. One worker complained that the "union officials lied to the workers and the contract which was signed. . . was not shown to the workers." A union official, however, says there was supposed to be an agreement to rehire all the strikers. "The agreement was supposed to be written up in the contract, but I can't find it," he said. Sorry about that, fellas.

If you think enormous corporate profits are disgusting, you just don't understand, according to Richard B. Madden, president of Potlatch Corporation. Says Madden, "Rising industry profits too often generate a negative public opinion. . . Today, few people understand that profits are nothing but corporate savings which provide the basis of investment in manufacturing capacity and the accompanying jobs. . . O.K.? Learned your lesson? Now remember, the next time the boss hands you a pink slip because his profits are too low, you're just performing a great public service by contributing to the corporate savings account.

The United Auto Workers set a new record for "mini-strikers," at two Chevrolet metal casting plants in Saginaw, Michigan, January 27. The workers walked out on strike at 11:00 am, and the settlement was reached at 11:20. Second shift workers did not get to participate in this great battle at all.

All the members of the Workers' Power staff want to let the striking workers at Michigan Consolidated Gas Co. know we're with them 100%. They're on strike because the company would not agree to an "uncapped" cost of living allowance. Gas service has continued to most customers, except where gas leaks have developed such as in front of our building. Brrrrr. . . We sincerely wish the gas workers a quick victory!

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

by Michael Connelly

"Chrysler Closes Hamtramck Assembly for Two Weeks."

Headlines like this have been pretty frequent lately. Over 30,000 workers have been laid off so that the car companies can get rid of unsold inventories. Many people are wondering if the big economic recovery we've been hearing so much about is over. Is another big round of long-term layoffs, like the ones that happened in 1974-75, on the way in the auto industry?

Once we look past the headlines, it doesn't seem likely. The recent shutdowns (aside from closings due to the "fuel shortage") have been

They also want to decentralize—get out of Detroit—even more, to places where the auto work force is less concentrated and less militant.

But it is unlikely that the current recovery—or the Big 3's confidence in it—will be strong enough to lead to much expansion.

Still, according to industry forecasts, 1977 production will be up another 10% over 1976. This does not mean that there will be much new hiring. Line speeds will go up instead. Every foreman will be alerted to chip away at work standards that are already unbearable.

This kind of speedup permitted

employees that U.S. labor is now cheaper than labor in some European countries. That is why foreign auto companies are beginning to set up shop in the U.S.

Volkswagen will start production of Rabbits at its plant in Westmoreland, Pennsylvania in 1978 with 2000 workers. VW will also probably buy a stamping plant in South Charleston, West Virginia, and is setting up headquarters in Warren, Michigan.

Volvo will start assembling cars next spring at its Chesapeake, Virginia plant. Honda, Toyota, and Nissan are all studying the



On the line at GM's Lordstown, Ohio assembly line.

only for plants which build small cars. Intermediate and full-size cars are still selling in spite of higher prices.

GM is predicting that car and truck sales will hit 11.25 million this year for the industry, the second highest ever.

The auto companies are expecting record profits when the totals come in for 1976. In the first nine months of 1976, the Big 3 recorded after-tax profits of \$3.22 billion—almost \$12 million a day, seven days a week!

And a Wall Street firm predicts 1977 profits will be 20% higher.

JOBS?

What will the auto companies do with all these profits? Soaring profits are often the signal for expanding production capacity. And that could mean more jobs. That's why the union bigwigs are so concerned with the health of the industry, or so they tell us.

But this year's profits will not mean more jobs. Most of the investment goes to finding ways to produce more cars with fewer workers.

The main way the auto companies use technology to increase productivity is by building new, ultra-efficient plants, such as GM's Vega plant in Lordstown, Ohio. Workers there produce 100 cars every hour.

Over the long run, if the economic recovery lasts long enough, the auto makers would like to build more of the modern plants.

GM to sell 42% more cars with only 11% more workers in the first half of 1976 (compared to the first half of 1975).

A NICE PLACE TO INVEST

The one substantial source of new auto jobs will be the foreign auto companies which invest here. The Big 3 have been so successful in their offensive against their

possibility of building or buying plants in the U.S. The United States is a great place for auto companies of all nationalities.

For auto workers, the economic picture means attempts at speedup that will erode the number of jobs, if the companies have their way. Fighting to defend production standards is the way to protect jobs against this employers' offensive. □

WORKERS' POWER

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U.S. FUEL GIANTS SEE HOT PROFITS

by Dan Posen and Kate Stacy

Can you guess who said this?
"This crisis could be the greatest thing that ever happened, especially if they have to shut off gas to some homes, forcing them to drain water out of the plumbing and evacuate."

Select one of the following:

- (a) A welfare recipient in a freezing apartment.
- (b) A greedy Arab oil minister looking for a chance to raise oil prices again.
- (c) One of the two million manufacturing and service workers laid off this week.
- (d) An Ohio corporation president who asks not to be identified, quoted in the Wall Street Journal.

ANSWER

The correct answer is (d). You might have guessed.

We expect this gentleman lives in a very warm house, with a secure income to cover his extravagant heating bills.

Unlike the workers at the General Motors Assembly plant in Linden, New Jersey who were laid off "until further notice" January 27.

Unlike 270 workers at another GM plant, Hyatt Bearing in Clark,



This Midwest blizzard is a natural disaster. . . .

New Jersey, about 12% of the workforce there. The company laid them off out of seniority, claiming this was justified by the fuel emergency. Then the union shop committee learned that the plant had not cut back on its use of fuel at all!

The unnamed Ohio executive is also in a different position from the miners' families in Fayette County, Pennsylvania, who are huddling around stoves in temperatures of 30 degrees and less.

Their homes sit on top of one of the largest coal reserves in the east. But the natural gas to heat their own homes was cut off.

Meanwhile, in Washington, some of the facts surrounding the so-called natural gas shortage of 1977 began leaking out.

RIPOFF

It is a story of one of the greatest and deadliest rip-offs this country has every seen.

The most important facts still remain buried in secret corporate accounts. But enough has already been revealed to show that the shortage is an artificial, deliberately manipulated one.

Despite its apparent complexity, the natural gas industry structure closely parallels the oil industry.

Of the top 20 gas producers, 18 of them—including Exxon, the largest—are oil companies. Most of them are also closely integrated with the pipeline companies, although these are formally independent.

In 1975, the average price of gas at the wellhead was 44.5 cents. For this same gas, residential users paid an average of \$1.67, utilities \$1.29 and industrial consumers 99 cents.

But these mark-ups are not enough to satisfy the producers. For several years they have been lowering production, clamping a squeeze on the country, claiming the prices were too low to justify the "risks" they take investing in new fields.

Instead of supplying the plentiful, cheap energy that natural gas supposedly promised, they diverted it at higher prices to such activities as generating electricity, glass manufacturing—or they just outright wasted it.

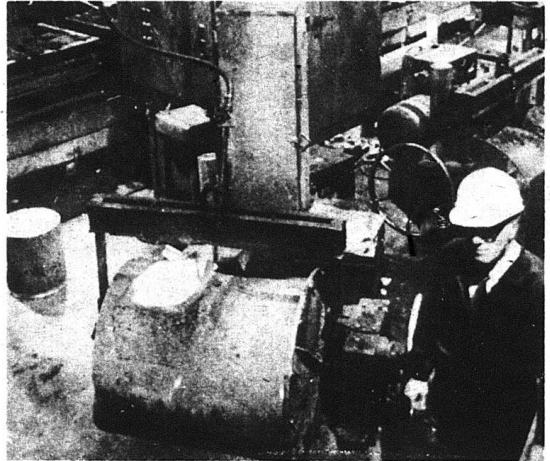
As one Linden worker said: "Just drive past Union Carbide—they burn that stuff off 24 hours a day. It's extortion, man, plain and simple extortion."

In three years natural gas production fell by 12%, and the estimated shortage grew from 14% to 22% of demand.

Then came the winter of 1977. For the Exxons, the Texacos, Mobils, Gulfs, and Shells of this country, it is no catastrophe. It is their dream come true.

The Carter Administration's response to the energy crisis has tried to show that the government is on top of the situation. Jimmy Carter has pretended to step in with a strong hand to make sure critical gas needs are met.

Instead, the last three weeks have proven the exact opposite. Government regulation of the



but this shut-down factory is part of a giant, man-made capitalist rip-off.

natural gas industry, as that industry exists today, has been exposed as a complete joke.

The government is absolutely, completely powerless to force the fuel monopolies to produce natural gas, or to sell it to anyone.

All the emergency bill passed by Congress does is allow the companies to sell gas anywhere, at the highest prices they have been receiving in the unregulated section of the market.

All it can do is allow the gas producers to sell gas at the unregulated, intra-state prices—which they set themselves.

GREEDY

For, as the head of the Sanchez-O'Brien petroleum group in Laredo, Texas, said:

"Why should I sell my gas out of

state for \$1.42 when I have customers lining up here to buy it for two dollars. . . . For that price I wouldn't even go out and drill the holes. We wouldn't even consider it."

That is how the country's economy, its industry, thousands of schools, millions of jobs, and even the lives of its people are being held up for ransom this winter.

There is only one answer. There's no point in asking the fuel monopolies like Exxon, Gulf and the rest to please be reasonable, and not to exploit the crisis they've been praying, plotting and planning for all these years.

There's no point in begging the government to enact more effective regulations.

The government can't even find out how much gas is in the ground—let alone dictate how high a price desperate factories and homes might bid for it.

The only thing that makes sense is the immediate, wholesale nationalization of the entire energy industry.

CONFISCATE

The profits already ripped off by the natural gas and oil monopolies in this crisis should be immediately confiscated and used to create work for the millions thrown off their jobs.

Oil and natural gas resources should be used to provide the cheap, plentiful energy that is readily available.

A massive nationalization of the energy giants would be a severe blow to the private profit system in this country. It would open up the question of why industries, utilities, the telephone company and so on should be run for private profit at all.

That's why neither Jimmy Carter or the Congress, who run this country in big business' interests, will breathe a word about nationalizing the energy monopolies.

But make no mistake. The gas producers are right about one thing: this winter isn't the end of the crisis. What is now called a "special emergency" could become a way of life—and death.

In years to come these monopolies will make the crisis much, much worse for all of us—unless we stop them now.

Texas Gas Robbery

IF YOU STILL think that natural gas prices are skyrocketing because supplies are low, all you have to do is look at Texas.

Texas is the largest gas-producing state in the country. Gas for sale is in plentiful supply there.

It is also the state where the price is highest. So high, in fact, that thousands upon thousands of people have been ruined.

In 1974, cotton farmers' irrigation pumps in west Texas were fueled by natural gas costing 35 cents per thousand cubic feet. At the end of 1975, when their contracts expired, the companies announced the new price: \$1.85 per thousand cubic feet. A 430% increase!

Over 600 families in that area alone lost their incomes. Cotton planting in west Texas plummeted from over 51,000 acres to under 7000. Small farmers have been completely driven out.

Chicanos in San Antonio have lost their homes because they couldn't pay the utility bills—in Texas' moderate climate.

As prices went through the roof, gas supplies actually increased! New oil and gas field discoveries jumped from 560 in 1972 to 888 last year in Texas.

MODEL

It's no wonder the profit-bloated energy investors see Texas as the model for the nation's future.

What they did to west Texas cotton farmers, they are now doing to the heavy industry and manufacturing of the whole Northeast.

And with the panic-stricken government caving in to their demands for total de-regulation, it won't be long before they have the whole country to operate on.

Workers Close Gold Auto Plant

DETROIT—The extreme cold got to be too much for the second shift workers at Chrysler's Lynch Road Assembly. After weeks of complaining about the lack of heat in the old, drafty plant, 14 workers walked out January 26. Temperatures had dropped to 45 degrees in many areas of the plant.

Management brought workers from other areas of the plant to keep the line running. As the temperature continued to drop, others began leaving in ones and twos.

After lunch it was clear there were not enough people to run the line and everyone was sent home. Rumors were flying that the first 14 would be fired.

The second shift stewards made their intentions very clear to Lynch Road management: if anyone was fired or disciplined there would be no cars produced.

In 20 years management had never heard anything like this.

In the past management had tried to play one steward off against the other. This time all the stewards stood firm and united.

Management went to the Shop Committee, fully expecting it to back down. But the Committee backed the stewards' threats. Management hollered blackmail.

The following day the whole plant was willing to walk out if management took any action. Heaters were installed in the coldest areas. Temperatures were much warmer, although there was still a long way to go.

Everyone felt good that the union had acted like a union and stood up to management for the first time. Everyone learned a lesson: management only listens when it is forced to. When we hurt management in the purse then they will act.

Enid Eckstein
UAW Local 51