

# Workers' Power

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# NO MORE VIETNAM!

## The Carter Administration is taking steps toward a major military intervention in the civil war in the African state of Zaire.

Step One: under cover of "preparing to evacuate American citizens"—about 73 people—from southern Zaire, Carter put the entire 82nd Airborne Division and Military Airlift Command on alert.

This same excuse, civilian evacuation, was used when President

Lyndon Johnson sent marines to invade the Dominican Republic in 1965.

Step Two: Jimmy Carter began criticizing laws, passed during the last few years of the Vietnam war, which restrict Presidential authority to ship weapons abroad.

These laws, according to Carter, restrict his ability to send military aid to "friendly" governments.

The "friendly" government Carter is so eager to aid is the rotting

dictatorship of Mobutu Sese Seko in Zaire.

This ruler is almost one of a kind. He is as corrupt as Idi Amin, has a life-style like the Shah of Iran, and has a record of brutality equal to any Latin American military government. Attempts to overthrow him occur on average every six or seven months.

He is also the man who guarantees U.S. corporate investments and control of the world's richest copper deposits.

This qualifies Mobutu as a great political leader of the "Free World." It also qualified him to be

on the CIA payroll for over a decade.

He was the CIA's biggest ally during its attempts to destroy the Angolan independence movement in 1975.

When Mobutu was almost overthrown last year, the U.S. government gave open approval as France airlifted Moroccan troops to save him.

This year, the Carter Administration is moving more directly.

The farther the Vietnam war fades into memory, the closer the United States government comes toward starting a new one. □

## WANTED



## FOR CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY

The Pittsburgh International Socialists invite all Workers' Power readers to demonstrate against Anita Bryant and her followers in their campaign against human rights.

Civic Arena, Monday, May 22. Demonstration, 6:30 pm, rally to follow. Sponsored by the Pittsburgh Committee for Human Rights. For more information, call (412) 621-6440.

## Pittsburgh: let's give the nation's number-one bigot the welcome she deserves

by Tim McDaniel

The Pittsburgh Committee for Human Rights is planning a demonstration and rally on May 22nd at the Civic Arena in Pittsburgh, Pa., to protest the appearance of Anita Bryant.

Bryant, a leader of the current attack on gay rights, has been invited to speak at the Greater Pittsburgh Chrismatic Conference on the "evils of homosexuality."

The demonstration against Bryant is scheduled for 6:30-7:30 pm, before her planned appearance. A rally will follow with speakers that include: Kay Whit-

lock, a lesbian activist from Philadelphia, and Kathy Kuzachenko, from Dykes and Tykes in New York and a member of the International Socialists.

The Pittsburgh Committee for Human Rights (PCHR) was formed to build a united front against mounting attacks on gay rights.

"This is only part of an overall attack by the right against the rights of minorities and women, as well as labor," says April Collier, coordinator for the Committee.

PCHR is made up of groups and individuals who support "number

one: the right to privacy; two: the right of affectional preference; three: the right of minorities to equal opportunity in education, housing, health and employment; four: the right of gay parents to retain custody of their children."

Response from the gay and feminist communities has been one of solidarity and support.

The committee has the endorsement of many socialists, feminists, Black and labor organizations, including the Pennsylvania Services Union, and the International Socialists. □

## CLEVELAND: RACISTS READY FOR EXPLOSION OVER BUSING . . .page 5

# WHAT COMES BETWEEN INFLATION & RECESSION?

## Just about two years...

by Marilyn Danton

"We feel that the pressure should be put on the prices rather than the wages," said Fred Kroll, President of the Brotherhood of Railway and Airline Clerks whose contract is being negotiated now.

"I hear the President, sure, but I also hear my members," said Fred Kroll, President of the Brotherhood of Railway and Airline Clerks whose contract is being negotiated now.

"If we're good guys our people will loose more and more buying power," brother Kroll pointed out. "We weren't invited. Maybe they don't think we're part of the problem, or maybe we're not part of the solution," Allen Biggs, Teamster spokesman commented on not being included in the meeting.

It was only the last in a series of meetings Carter has been having with business and labor over the last three weeks to implement his voluntary wage-price restraint anti-inflation program. And, he didn't get very far.

Carter has threatened to hold federal employees to a 5.5% pay increase in October as part of his anti-inflation program.

Two weeks ago, Carter had a series of meetings with business and industrial leaders.

"Everyone—government, business and labor—must cooperate and exercise self-restraint if we have any hope of putting on the brakes," a spokesman for the Business Roundtable, a group of 150 corporations commented.

"In those divisions where we have satisfactory margins, we'll

think twice before raising prices unless raw materials go up," one executive volunteered.

This is business's way of saying 'no deal.' Prices have continued to rise steadily following the announcement of his program on April 15.

- New car price increases in the first ten days of May were just short of the record increases for May 1973.

- The price of foreign steel is expected to increase by an average of 14% by July first. This will allow domestic producers to raise their prices and remain competitive.

- Alcoa, America's largest aluminum corporation, announced a 3.4% increase in the price of aluminum used in pop and beer cans.

- Wholesale prices rose 1.3% for the month of April, the largest increase in three years. Consumers will feel the results of this increase in the summer.

- On May 16, the New York Times reported that the 'futures' prices of metals such as copper and food—soy beans, corn, wheat, beef and pork are rising. These price increases will be reflected in the wholesale price index in the next few months, and on to us consumers several months later.

Inflation, approaching double-digit figures—in other words folks—is here to stay. And all those economists, businessmen and politicians who are telling Carter that his voluntary program won't solve the problem are right—but not for the reasons they say.

Many of Carter's government and business critics blame government spending and a too rapid



growth in the money supply—the amount of dollars available in the economy—for the high rate of inflation.

But, while these factors contribute to inflation, they are actually symptoms rather than basic causes.

The pressure for money supply to increase is brought on by the low

level of investment and the need for ready cash.

Government loans meanwhile are more and more financing private industry. Aerospace and defense spending—20% of the budget—are a large part of it.

In the fifties and sixties corporations internally financed modernization of plant and equipment through profits and the sale of stock. But no longer. Today such giants as General Motors are forced to go to the financial market. Those with a bad credit rating must go to the government. For an atypical, but instructive, example—see the accompanying article on Chrysler Corporation.

And it is this problem of the low investment rate which is ultimately spelling the end of the recovery.

### END OF RECOVERY

In order for the recovery to continue—the economy must continue to grow—to produce more. As an average the economy has been growing at a rate of 5% over the past three years. But little of that growth has been in new plant and equipment.

Today industrial production has reached 83.2% of capacity—what is available in plant and machinery for the production of goods and services.

Eighty-five to ninety percent is considered to be full capacity since there are always some plants idle for repair and maintenance. In the auto industry, for example, plants must regularly be retrofitted for the new model year. This summer Chrysler's large Lynch Road Assembly plant will lie idle for six to ten weeks while the equipment is retrofitted to produce a new model.

The economy is reaching its limits. To grow further capacity must increase, which requires massive investment. Without massive investment, shortages will develop in basic industries such as steel.

The shortages will mean rapidly rising prices as the old supply and

demand mechanism works itself out. And that's what's beginning to happen now. Capacity utilization in the steel industry is reaching 90%.

In addition, corporations will raise their prices in a vain attempt to increase their sagging profit margins and pass on the increase in the prices of materials and wages.

What's beginning to happen in a repeat of 1973-74 when the economy was running at full capacity and the resultant inflation rate was 10-13%.

In October of 1974, the month before the economy collapsed into the 1974-75 recession, capacity use was 83.4%. April's figures are the highest since that date.

### TWO CHOICES?

The government and the capitalists have two choices—neither of them any good.

They can institute a recession now by increasing the interest rates for loans, refusing to guarantee loans, dropping the tax cut and instituting wage controls.

Or, they can continue on their merry path and get a recession in one to two years following high inflation rates and a frenzied economy.

Carter is opting for the latter—for political reasons. Bringing on a recession now only means increasing unemployment, more cutbacks in social programs—and more attacks on Blacks and labor.

With his popularity at 31%—almost as low as Nixon's at the height of Watergate—Carter can't afford to lose any more support. He's made his choice.

This doesn't mean that there will be no more attacks on labor. The administration, including inflation boss Strauss, were very 'displeased' at Meany's response to the plea that labor hold down wage increases.

Yet, without wage increases working people organized and unorganized will pay for the entire crisis, one not of our making. If private industry can't run the economy efficiently and without either runaway inflation or depression level unemployment or both, then they shouldn't be running it at all.

What is happening today is simply more example of what Marx meant by the anarchy of capitalist production.

With socialism and workers' control and a democratically planned economy—these catastrophes would disappear. It's the only sane alternative. □

## Chrysler's Blackmail

Chrysler corporation is the twelfth largest corporation in the world and the third largest producer of automobiles. Yet it is again running in the red.

In order to stay afloat, Chrysler has had to pay a banking outfit several million dollars annually in fees to get \$560 million in credit.

That with other credit gives Chrysler access to close to \$1 billion to modernize its deteriorating plants.

But these loans are 'short term' much like the kind of credit one gets with the use of a VISA or Master Charge card. What Chrysler really needs is long term loans like a second mortgage on one's

home.

Yet, these long term loans are not available from private financial sources, so Chrysler has turned to the federal government for loan guarantees to finance a \$300 million remodeling job at its Trenton Engine Plant in Trenton, Michigan.

### CHRYSLER DEMANDS

It is also demanding—and getting—tax breaks from the city of Detroit as part of an agreement not to move some of its production out of the city.

And now John Riccardo, Chrysler's head man, is requesting more federally guaranteed loans from Washington to back up other short term loans.

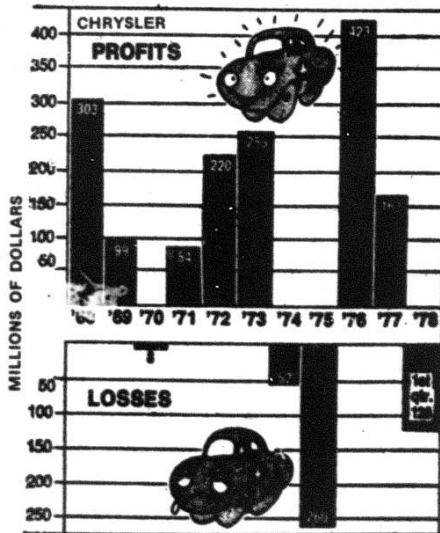
The real problem is that Chrysler's profit margins are much smaller than those of Ford or General Motors, its competitors. Chrysler's revenues were \$16.7 billion last year as compared to Ford's \$37.8 billion and G.M.'s \$55 billion.

And Chrysler's debts are greater. The number three auto maker has a 40% debt to net worth ratio while the same ratio is 15% for Ford and only 6% for General Motors.

In effect, taxpayers are helping to keep an inefficient corporation afloat. The alternative—to let Chrysler go under—would create such shockwaves through the economy as to be unthinkable today.

It is, very simply, blackmail and more welfare for the rich. □

M.D.



# Rank & File Steel Workers Gear Up For Convention

by Candy Martin

The District-wide Conference of United Steel Workers District 26, which includes the hard-hit Youngstown area, last week approved several pre-convention resolutions aimed at revitalizing the union and protecting jobs.

The District 26 Conference resolutions were part of an effort by USW members to prepare for the union's International Convention in September. Hopefully, similar action will be taken in USW locals across the country.

About 500 delegates voted in Youngstown on May 12 and 13 for the right to ratify contracts, the right to strike, voluntary overtime, and a shorter work week (32 for 40).

The main issue was jobs in this area, whose future has been dim since the recent shut-down of the Youngstown Sheet and Tube Works.

A "Save the Valley" resolution, which passed overwhelmingly, pledged full support to a community coalition "in its effort to save the steel industry in the Mahoning Valley" and to re-open the mill.

## McBRIDE NO HELP

International President Lloyd McBride had little to say on the burning issue of jobs, except that the town "would be better off diversified" (!)

Delegate John Barbero, a long-standing member of the Rank and File Team (RAFT) and vice-president of Local 1462, explained that many other votes were passed overwhelmingly in spite of McBride and District Director Frank Lese-ganich:

"Fabricators, who are trying to get together and could never get called together by the International, also got their special resolutions.

"They wanted joint bargaining, or joint meetings ahead of time. They got all of that passed—because the Conference just sensed that the votes were with the rank and file."

"I made the major speech on ratification and ENA," Barbero continued, "and I pointed out that we passed these a couple of years ago. Then we went to the Convention and we got no support from the District officers.

"I asked them why they hold this Conference if they're not going to be bound by anything the delegates here approve... and the audience was with me. We won that vote so overwhelmingly..."

## FIGHT FOR RIGHTS

There are signs of other pre-convention motion beginning to occur:

• Several locals have either passed or made plans to pass resolutions on the right to ratify, retaining membership election of international officers, and on the right to strike.

• The Local 1397 Rank and File Caucus at U.S. Steel's Homestead, Pa. mill (District 15) has begun contacting a district-wide network of oppositionist and Fight Back activists.

• In District 31 (Chicago-Gary), a committee to organize District-wide for the Convention has been formed at Local 1010 (Inland, District Director Jim Balanoff's



ENA: The Monkey On Your Back



When the United Steel Workers convention meets in September, delegates will be concerned about the right to ratify contracts, the no-strike deal (ENA), and retaining membership election of international officers.

home local).  
 • The District 31 Women's Caucus has also begun organizing for the Convention, in particular to assure the participation of women union activists who favor a more democratic and effective union.  
 Out of these and other efforts,

the simple right to vote contracts up or down seems to stand out as the issue which rank and file forces will cohere around in the months ahead.

## HARD ORGANIZING

But it will take serious preparation. Co-ordinating the rank and file's influence, in a Convention stacked by up to a third with International staff appointees, means months of organizing work.

There is more at stake than any one single issue. After local elections take place next year, the union will face another International Convention, a contract expiration, local issue bargaining, and International officer elections—all in the same year, 1980.

The next contract is likely to be negotiated at a time when the steel industry, feeling the bite of recession, refuses to give up even crumbs.

The strength or weakness of rank and file forces in the union will make all the difference.

They will determine whether the union, when the members need it most, is simply brushed away like a weak and empty shell by the steel companies as they set out to trample working conditions, wages and jobs.

There is a national network that must be re-constructed, re-built, broadened and deepened. Its core lies in the large number of Fight Back supporters who emerged during the Sadlowski campaign.

That network has grown to include militants, among others, who stepped up their activity during solidarity campaigns for the coal miners.

The months leading up to the Convention this September are a first stage in organizing a rank and file oppositionist core in the Steelworkers Union that will become increasingly important. □

# GIRLS ARE TERRIFIC - BOSSES STINK

by Elissa Clarke

"Girls are super. Girls are terrific. Boys stink."

Now there's a sentiment many of us can relate to. Put it on a greeting card, sell a million.

The verse, written by Carrie

Klinger, an eight-year-old from Hazlet, New York, is one in a line of greeting cards produced by Hello Studio, Inc. of New York City.

All of the cards are written and illustrated by children.

Among the best sellers: "Boola, boola, no more

schoola." (Happy Graduation)

"You deserve a cake today." (Happy Birthday)

"They say I've got my mother's nose. And mother nose best." (Mothers' Day)

"You're ugly, and your mother dresses you funny." (All occasions)

The cards are sold in 1500 stores in the United States, the Virgin Islands, and Canada. One sales clerk commented, "They fly away as soon as we put them on the racks."

## EXPLOITATION?

So is Carrie Klinger collecting a lot of royalty checks? No!

Shelli Lipton, the president of Hello, Inc., does not pay the children for their work.

Instead, the company donates 5% of the sales to children's charities (all tax deductible).

In a peculiar line of reasoning, Lipton explained to Workers' Power: "I was exploited as an art director in a big advertising company before I started my own business. So, I don't want to exploit others."

Stuart Fonfa, co-owner, explained: "We don't want to create a lot of stage mothers by paying children for this."

Makes you wonder how Ms. Lipton would feel if she were paid with copies of her designs on plastic plaques—which is how Hello, Inc. pays the children who design the fast-selling line of cards. □



A sample of children's artwork done free for Hello, Inc.

The Steel Industry and the United Steelworkers of America

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by Ken Morgan



# WAR OF GENOCIDE

## Ethiopia, Cuba Invade Eritrea



A MASSIVE INVASION of the African nation of Eritrea was launched Tuesday by the Ethiopian military government.

Eritrea has been fighting for national independence from Ethiopia for a quarter century.

An alliance of two Eritrean liberation movements controls almost the whole territory, including all the rural areas where the vast majority of people live.

Before 1952, Eritrea was a colony of European colonial powers, first

Italy and later Britain. The British handed Eritrea over to Ethiopian Emperor Haile Selassie in 1952.

The Emperor claimed Eritrea was the "northern province" of Ethiopia. The Ethiopian military government which came to power after Selassie was deposed in 1974, makes the same claim.

**In reality, Eritrea is no more a "province" of Ethiopia than Puerto Rico is a province of the United States. It is a colony—economically exploited, culturally suppressed,**

**deprived of all democratic rights in the crudest way.**

The Eritrean people, under Ethiopian control, were not even allowed to speak their own language.

### CUBAN INVASION

Originally, the Ethiopian takeover of Eritrea was heavily backed by western imperialism. Today, because of shifting super-power alignments, Ethiopia's main ally is

the Soviet Union.

The Ethiopian government itself has been totally defeated, politically and militarily, in Eritrea.

The real invading force is a massive Cuban army based in Ethiopia. It is armed with Russian T-54 tanks and backed by both U.S.- and Russian-made jets and napalm.

**The attack has been expected for months. The current issue of "Eritrea in Struggle," published by the Association of Eritrean**

**Students in North America, predicted:**

"A co-ordinated Soviet, Cuban and Ethiopian offensive is about to begin—a three-pronged attack from the Tigray border in the south, from the sea (Massawa) and from Asmara [the capital city of Eritrea, which is occupied by the Ethiopian army and 3500 Cuban troops]."

It is also reported: "The MIG and F-5 fighters bestowed on (the Ethiopian junta) by the Soviet Union and the U.S. are bombarding the liberated areas of Eritrea around the clock. So far hundreds of civilians have been killed in the villages around Asmara by the criminal air raid."

And this was only a prelude to the much more murderous invasion which has now begun.

### POPULAR STRUGGLE

Against the invasion forces—including 17,000 Cuban troops based in Eritrea, 25 Russian warships, and weapons formerly supplied to Ethiopia by the United States and Israel—stand the people of Eritrea.

The Eritrean people are supported by no major powers. Against heavy tanks and jets, left-wing Eritrean Popular Liberation Front (EPLF) is fighting primarily with weapons captured from the Ethiopian army.

The EPLF, with 20,000 freedom fighters, is the main national liberation movement.

A second, more right-wing Eritrean national movement, the Eritrean Liberation Front (ELF), receives some support from a few Arab governments. The EPLF and ELF recently established close military co-operation and political co-ordination.

It is the left-wing EPLF which has won and politically organized most of the territory liberated from Ethiopian control—up to 95% of the entire country.

The only major ELF stronghold is the western provinces of Eritrea, near the border with Sudan.

Eritrean workers, peasants and farmworkers have created a network of co-operative workshops, agricultural production, popular militias, schools, medical care and even a chemical research laboratory.

The EPLF has also successfully unified Eritrean Christians, Moslems and the many language and nationality groups of Eritrea in the struggle for independence and freedom.

For all practical purposes, by 1977 Eritrea was liberated except for isolated army garrisons in a few towns.

The national consciousness of the Eritrean people cannot be destroyed. The only way the Russian, Cuban and Ethiopian military forces can defeat them is by total physical destruction.

The invasion of Eritrea is, quite literally, a war of genocide. □



MASS DEMONSTRATION IN SUPPORT OF EPLF

## Why Cuba Backs Ethiopian Junta

When Jimmy Carter and the U.S. State Department make another statement denouncing "Cuban intervention" in Africa, it's often easy to dismiss as just a lie.

After all, almost everything the U.S. government says about Africa, from Angola to Zimbabwe to South Africa, is a lie.

**But the fact that Cuba supports the Ethiopian military junta's genocidal war against Eritrea isn't based on State Department propaganda.**

It comes straight from Granma, the official newspaper of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba.

### CUBAN AWARD

On April 24 the head of the Ethiopian junta, Mengistu Haile Mariam, was honored in Havana with Cuba's "Playa Giron" award.

In his acceptance speech, to the applause of Cuban head of state Fidel Castro and other Cuban leaders, Mengistu vowed to crush "the plotting of the secessionist

groups in the north (Eritrea)."

**In presenting the award, Fidel Castro himself gave Mengistu and his policies a statement of total support:**

"Even before the process which carried you into the top leadership of the Ethiopian Revolution and state in February of last year, we knew you... upheld the most advanced and firm thinking amidst the political and social turmoil resulting from the unusual and extraordinary development of the Ethiopian Revolution" (Granma, April 30).

The Cuban Council of State resolution, giving this military ruler and colonialist Cuba's highest award, stated:

"Mengistu Haile Mariam has made an extraordinary contribution to the struggle of the African peoples against imperialism, neo-colonialism, racism and all forms of oppression...."

**But the fact is that the Ethiopian junta's claim to Eritrea is based precisely on imperialism and colonial oppression!**

A number of forces usually friendly to the Cuban government, are voicing alarm. The magazine Afrique-Asie, a paper published in Paris and widely respected for supporting third world liberation struggles, published an editorial headlined "No to the war of reconquest in Eritrea!"

French left-wing author Gerard Chaliand, who has witnessed the Eritrean and other national liberation struggles first hand, told the magazine MERIP Reports:

**"Cuba is economically dependent on the Soviet Union... Now everything suggests that in Africa—and especially in Ethiopia—the Cubans are acting as agents of Soviet State interests.**

"It is as if the Cuban state... was integrating itself into the Soviet system in the fashion of the People's Democracies (Russian satellite states) of Eastern Europe."

This hits the nail on the head.

Throughout Africa, Cuban troops have lined up with a wide variety of forces—with the national liberation movement MPLA in Angola; with the right wing of the Zimbabwe Patriotic Front, ZAPU; and now with the counter-revolutionary colonialist Ethiopian military junta.

Why did Cuba support national independence for Angola—and national slavery for Eritrea?

The common denominator of these alliances is an attempt to advance Russia's imperialist interests in Africa, without the slightest concern for the wishes of the peoples involved.

**But neither the Ethiopian, nor the Cuban, people were ever consulted about being used as cannon fodder against the Eritrean liberation struggle.**

Cuban troops and pilots, told they are invading and bombing Eritrea to defend the cause of socialism, will learn the same lessons as American soldiers who were told they were in Vietnam to defend democracy. □

# BUSING BATTLE, 1978

## - WILL CLEVELAND EXPLODE?

by Larry Smith

CLEVELAND, OHIO is one of the cities that made the United States the number one industrial power of the world.

Cleveland is a working class city, where those who produce this industrial might work in the plants—or stand in the unemployment or welfare lines.

The working people of Cleveland, Black and white, are constantly involved in the struggle for survival. They are also divided, not just in the sense of racial division, but physically.

The predominantly Black East side is separated from the white West side by the downtown region, and by an industrial valley where some of the major steel mills are located.

Cleveland is also the city that is going to explode this fall over the issue of school busing.

The threat of violence surrounding busing in Cleveland, scheduled for this fall under a court order, is similar if not worse than it was in Boston.

The extreme racial segregation of the city contributes to this. Also, like Boston, the schools of Cleveland were kept segregated for over 30 years by a deliberate school board conspiracy.

Unlike Boston, however, where the Black population is small, in Cleveland it is 45%.

### CITY IN CRISIS

Since 1950 Cleveland has lost 300,000 people, and like most older American cities, is in crisis.

Those who can't afford to leave the city, the Black and white working class, have been left behind by the rich to fight over shrinking housing, jobs, and schools.

The city administration of Mayor Dennis Kucinich is very weak and faces a recall campaign.

As the East side of Cleveland became Blacker, the feeling began to grow that the West side was the last bastion of white Cleveland.

There is some talk in the white West side of seceding.

That is the situation—a deteriorating city, lack of jobs, poor schools, racism—that is the fuel for an explosion over busing.

On both sides, forces are beginning to organize for the battle over busing.

As of now, the anti-busing, racist forces—who are ready and willing to use violence—have a head start. But a movement in support of busing, and against racism, is also beginning to form.



One hundred Clevelanders protested anti-busing rally on May 14.

## Stop Segregation - Pop CORK

An anti-busing group, Citizens Opposed to Rearranging Kids (CORK) held a public meeting in downtown Cleveland on Mother's Day. Four hundred people attended.

A counter-demonstration of 100 people protested the racist gathering.

The demonstrators exposed the racist nature of CORK in chants and signs.

The chairman of CORK is Norbert Dennerl, a Democratic politician fighting an uphill battle to become a Congressman from Cleveland's 20th district against an

entrenched incumbent. Dennerl is using the busing issue to strengthen his campaign.

### JOINED BY NAZIS

The extreme right is also active in CORK.

Thomas W. Lippitt, a member of the John Birch Society, is the organizational brains behind the group.

He is assisted by various other right fringe groups such as the Nazis. At CORK's rally there was at least one individual wearing a t-shirt with a swastika and anti-busing slogan on it.

CORK's demonstration was much smaller than expected. Dennerl had expected 10,000 people to attend. Only 400 hard core racists showed up.

In a previous meeting on the white West side CORK was able to mobilize 2000 people.

The anti-CORK demonstration shows the power of organized resistance to racism.

### MOVEMENT STARTS

While part of the reason for the CORK rally's failure was inept planning and organization by the racists, the counter-demonstration, which was publicized in the media, was also a reason for the low turnout.

One of the groups taking a leadership role in ensuring the success of the anti-CORK, anti-racist demonstration was the Red Tide, youth group of the International Socialists.

This is a real, but very modest start toward a pro-busing, anti-racist movement in Cleveland. It must be organized and built in the few months ahead.

Anne Armstrong, former U.S. Ambassador to Great Britain, was recently elected to the Board of Directors of General Motors. Board Chairman Thomas Murphy said that she brings outstanding experience and background to the job "as a wife and mother, the full range of politics from the local to international level and service on a number of boards of directors."

When Murphy was elected, did they say his first qualification was "as a husband and father"?

## A Thousand March For Palestine Day



DEARBORN, MICHIGAN—One thousand people from the Arab and American communities marched to the Dearborn City Hall May 14 for the annual Palestine Day rally.

Despite minimal press coverage, Palestine Day is the largest political demonstration each year in the Detroit area.

It is held to mark the struggle of the Palestinian Arab people for self-determination—the right to national independence in their own homeland.

The main slogans of this year's march were: "Free, Free Palestine, Democratic Palestine"; "Jewish People Yes, Zionism No"; "Arab Palestine"; and "Sadat is a U.S. Puppet—Down with Sadat".

Solidarity messages were read from Iranian and Eritrean student organizations, the Committee to Defend the Human Rights of Sami Esmail, and others.

The Detroit Arab community, which is the largest in North America, includes many workers at local Ford and Chrysler plants.

In November 1973, shortly after the October war, two shifts at Dodge Main were shut down when Arab workers demonstrated at Cobo Hall against an Israel Bonds testimonial dinner for UAW President Leonard Woodcock.

Arab workers have begun to play an active role in several important UAW locals here. Hopefully, this will be reflected in rank and file union support for Palestine Day in the future.

### Free Sami Esmail!

A public educational forum on the Sami Esmail trial and Palestinian prisoners in Israel.

Saturday, June 3—7:00 pm  
Holy Trinity Family Center  
1229 Labrosse, Detroit, Mi.  
(Near Michigan and 6th)

Sponsor: Detroit branch, Committee to Defend the Human Rights of Sami Esmail.

For further information call (313) 843-8879 or 285-7935





# IS TENNIS A POLITICAL

Dennis Brutus, Professor of African Literature at Northwestern University, is an internationally recognized poet and writer.

Born in Zimbabwe and a political activist in South Africa, he was banned, served several jail terms, and was shot attempting to escape before he went into exile in 1968.

He is Chairperson of the International Campaign Against Racism in Sport (ICARIS) and President of the South African Non-Racial Olympic Committee (SAN-ROC).

Through these organizations, he has been in the forefront of organizing successful international efforts around boycotting and isolating South African sports.

Here, Brutus is interviewed by Brad Black for Workers' Power.

**Workers' Power:** Many people, including liberals who deplore the apartheid regime in South Africa, maintain that politics has no place in sports. How do you feel about this?

**Dennis Brutus:** I think you have to analyze a couple of things here in an attempt to come up with an answer to a kind of 'So what?'

Okay, South Africa's expelled from tennis. Okay, what does that mean, both in terms of form and content?

In actuality, white South Africa is virtually isolated. It's not just isolated in terms of culture, the Boers you know, but it has reached the point where it's virtually isolated even in their own sports. There's nowhere they can play, no one they can play with. So when they could retain the link with the U.S., it was an extremely important one.

The way it works in South Africa is that the fact that a country will receive a South African sports team, is used as evidence to show that South Africa's politics are acceptable, that the apartheid

system is acceptable.

I can see how a lot of people in this country don't buy that. There's no damn relation between sports and politics.

But in South Africa, everything projects that "our apartheid sportsmen are accepted all over the world." What you are saying to both white and Black South Africans is that the apartheid system has not been rejected.

That is a different thing to whites and Blacks. To the whites it says that "We have powerful friends in the world. If we ever get into trouble, they are going to rescue us."

To Black South Africa, I'm afraid it says pretty much the same message. It says, "Look, there's no point in challenging us because we have mighty powerful allies behind us."

The evidence you see from the ghetto is that the apartheid system is held in power by allies outside and that these allies have nothing to stop them. Treaties of the U.N. don't mean anything.

As long as you can play tennis,

you can play football, whatever it is, if you can establish that exchange is viable, then you have legitimized the politics.

So, again as I said earlier, when the United States says they aren't playing South Africa in sports anymore, it extends beyond that, believe me, it extends beyond that.

**WP:** The International Tennis Federation has just kicked South Africa out of the Davis Cup and Federation Cup competition, at least for a year, following the mass protest demonstration at the Davis Cup match in Nashville recently. What are the implications of this decision?

**DB:** Three things have happened.

One, the ITF meeting in Monte Carlo as an Executive took a decision. In fact, the ITF only meets in July in Stockholm as a General Assembly, the annual general meeting, but presumably the actions taken by the Executive at Monte Carlo would be ratified in July by the General Assembly.

This way of resolving the problem saves the United States from an embarrassing situation.

If it came to a vote in the Stockholm General Assembly meeting, the United States would have to, for the first time, withdraw its support from South Africa. Or they would have to buck the rest of the world as they have in the past.

I think if it came to a showdown in July, once we establish internationally that the United States has voted against South Africa, the implications go way beyond sports.

It's a signal to repudiation of apartheid in South Africa in other areas. And I think that the United States will do everything it can to avoid giving that signal.

They don't mind the rhetoric of denunciation to apartheid. But they will not vote at the U.N. for action against South Africa. And they would not vote at the ITF for it.

The second point is that this way the door is left open for the South Africans to reenter at anytime. They have not been expelled, it is only a suspension, and it is a suspension for only one year.

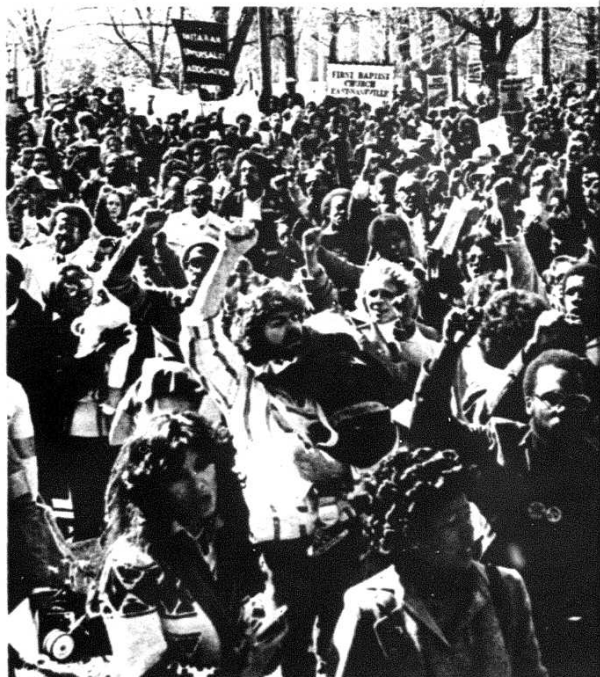
The South African apartheid assumption is always "If we can just survive the storm, the winds will change." So, for the South Africans it has become very convenient not to have been expelled.

Now the third and perhaps most important point, while the South Africans are suspended, they retain membership. And the body that retains membership is the white racist body in South Africa, or S.A.T.U., the South African Tennis Union.

South Africa has three administering bodies. It has an all-white body, or S.A.T.U.; it has attached to it a second all-Black body, or non-white tennis union; and, it has a third one called the Southern African Tennis Union which is non-racial, open to everybody.

And the non-racial body is the body which has demanded that the racial body be expelled.

But [this is] what the ITF has done: one, the South Africans are suspended for a year, and during that year they must resolve their racial problems. They must cease their white and Black and non-



Thousands marched against U.S.-South Africa Davis Cup match at Vanderbilt University recently.

racial bodies and have a single body by February of '79.

Two, in the meantime, the white racial body which was a member retains its membership. It doesn't participate, but it doesn't lose membership.

Three, if in a year's time the racial problem is not resolved, the white racial body will resume [membership].

Now, this is very interesting, because I think it is a perfect model for what's happening in the political arena. I think what's happening in Namibia and what's happening in Zimbabwe follow the same pattern.

You tell the Blacks who are struggling for equality and majority rule that they've got to make a deal with the white minority and if they don't make that deal you'll beat them over the head.

The South Africans tell Muzorewa, "We'll make a deal if you forget about Nkomo or Mugabe. You gotta take it, you may not like it, but it's either that or forget it, cause you go back to square one and we have white control.

**WP:** What have been the difficulties in organizing opposition to South Africa's participation in world tennis?

**DB:** Of roughly thirteen major sports in the world, the one which has taken the longest to win is tennis.

We won all the others, track and field, boxing, cycling, fencing, swimming, you name it. In each of those sports, South Africa has been stopped.

The one which took the longest is tennis and we haven't even won it yet. All we've got is a suspension and we can't rest with that. We have to go farther.

Tennis, for many years, and to a large extent now, is still an elitist sport. It is not a working class sport. It's expensive to go and attend an annual meeting in Monte Carlo, you know.

It's not the kind of thing that lots of people can do, to go as a delegate. So, it is probably why tennis has resisted our pressures longer than anyone else.

**WP:** What is the next step in the protest movement against South Africa's international sports participation? Where do we go from here, in other words?

**DB:** Our strategy is to mount pressure for July. We're going to call for an expulsion on the floor of the General Assembly [of the ITF] which would override the decision of the Executive. We think we can win an open fight in the General Assembly.

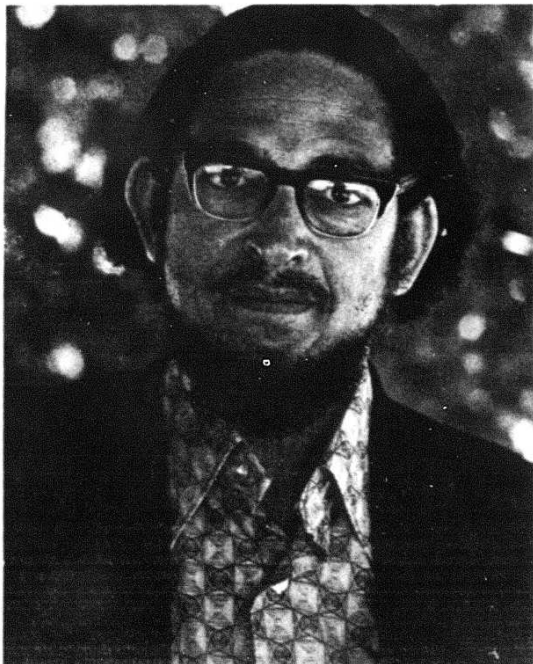
I think the important thing is that we scared the USTA [United States Tennis Association] away from defending South Africa. And since they were the decisive factor, by prying them loose and getting them to withdraw their commitment to South Africa, we have shifted the balance of power.

Now that's the principal reason why we will win. Because if we go to the floor now, the U.S. is not going to get up and defend South Africa. And I think they're not going to defend them principally because it's such a damn nuisance to defend the South Africans.

It's not a moral issue. They're not opposing apartheid.

But they're saying, "These guys are embarrassing. Everywhere they go, there's mess-ups."

Protests, demonstrations, international expulsions, coverage by the media, it's just become a damn nuisance to defend the racists. □



Dennis Brutus, anti-apartheid activist: "The fact that a country will receive a South African sports team is used as evidence to show that South Africa's politics are acceptable."

# ISSUE?

## UAW ELECTIONS:

# There'll Be Some Changes Made

by Paul Broz

THE WINDS OF CHANGE are beginning to blow as union elections continue this week in most United Auto Workers' locals.

Preliminary results tell something of the sentiment of the rank and file. The trend is to vote incumbents out of office. Sometimes they are replaced with younger, more militant leadership, running with organized slates. Just as often, they're electing officers no better or more militant than their predecessors.

In many places, traditional slates are breaking up and people are running as independents.

In Trenton, Michigan, the scene of a large wildcat strike last summer, the incumbent president, Bob Smith, was ousted overwhelmingly in an election that saw a near-record turnout.

He was replaced by Bob Stair, an independent who received support from a traditional slate.

The Trenton Defense Committee, formed after the wildcat to work for the reinstatement of seven fired workers, ran a slate of six candidates under the banner of the

Trenton Democratic Caucus.

Although they put together their slate only a few weeks before the elections with political unknowns, many with little seniority, they ran well. One candidate, Jim Barczyk, running for Financial-Secretary, made the run-off, scheduled next week.

### ELSEWHERE

A similar situation existed a few years ago at Local 51 in Detroit, which includes two of Chrysler's largest assembly and engine plants.

The United Coalition, a militant rank and file caucus ran a slate, did reasonably well, but did not win.

Over the last few years they have led demonstrations for Trade Readjustment Act money, successfully campaigned against the ratification of poor local contracts, pushed for more union democracy, have won stewards and committeeman elections, have published a monthly newsletter, and were active during and after a wildcat strike last summer.

This year they ran a full slate of candidates. Eight out of ten made the run-offs, most doing very well.

They have a chance to win a majority of the Executive Board, including the top local offices.

Their main opposition, the Green Slate, which has controlled the local for years, has much of its support among the skilled trades and retirees.

On a drizzly election day morning they bused carloads of retirees in to vote, in a bid to retain their power.

The United Coalition was banking on a large second shift vote, mainly younger workers. They got it.

Three years from now, the Trenton Democratic Caucus may do as well. The landslide defeat of incumbent president Bob Smith indicates the depth of the membership's desire for change.

But real change will not come about by electing a few independents who are not committed to a program of reform.

It will come when the membership decides that the key to guaranteeing the future of their union is the election of strong, militant leadership united around a common program. □



Auto workers at Local 51, Chrysler's Lynch Road Assembly plant ready to vote.

## Shorter Work Week An Issue In Cabinet Strike

OAKLAND, California — Cabinetmakers in six Bay Area counties have walked off the job in a contract dispute. Members of Millmen and Cabinet-makers Locals 550, 262, and 42 struck the cabinetmakers employers association on May 1.

The main issues in the strike are wages, health and welfare benefits, pension and a shorter work week. The union is calling for a 4-day/5-day week. Under this job-saving

proposal, the workers would have every other Friday off.

According to a member of the rank and file group, Carpenters' Rank and File Forum, the local union leaders have been reluctant to push for the shorter work week. They claim it would drive union contractors out of business.

They also claim that the federal government will impose a 32-hour work week on American industry in the near future, so the local's

members should wait for that.

A spokesperson for "Carpenters' Rank and File Forum" newsletter told Workers' Power: "The goals of the Forum are to activate, educate, and organize members to the issues. We have been active in picketing scab contractors, especially ABC [Associated Builders and Contractors]."

To contact Carpenters' Rank and File Forum, write: P.O. Box 32705, San Jose, CA 95125. □



# Speaking Out

## What We Think

# FRANCE, 1968: BEGINNING OF A NEW MOVEMENT AND A NEW WORLD

FRANCE, MAY-JUNE 1968. Two months that changed the world.

This week in May, ten years ago, ten million workers were on strike across France. Factories were being occupied. The mail was shut down. The whole economy was at a standstill.

At its high point, what made the strike movement so amazing and so powerful, was that it wasn't run from the top, by the French union bureaucrats, for carefully defined wage increases. Yet to bring the strike to an end, the government and union leaders eventually had to agree to the biggest wage increases French workers had won in 40 years.

### THE SENSE OF POWER

But these concessions were not the real gains of May-June 1968. The real victory was the actual sense of power, of freedom, which rank and file workers felt in their hands for a few wonderful weeks.

In Nanterre, in Nantes, in rural towns like La Chapelle sur Erdre, strike committees, housewives and farmers took over supplies and distribution of food, gasoline, medical supplies.

A leaflet at the Renault auto plant read: "As workers we should ourselves seek to control the operation of our enterprises. Our objectives are similar to those of the students. The management of industry and the management of the university should be democratically ensured by those who work there..."

Those two ideas—solidarity with the students, and workers' control—were basic themes of the May-June uprising. It was students who began the struggle, with a takeover at Nanterre and demonstrations at Sorbonne University in Paris.

When police attacked, they tore up paving stones, set up barricades and fought back. To everyone's amazement, the heroism of the students and the sickening brutality of the police created a wave of solidarity among workers.

### A SPREADING STRIKE WAVE

Young workers in Paris had joined students in the street battles. The workers' reaction against the police was so

## Fighting Words

"It is forbidden to forbid."  
"Don't set me free; I'm in charge."  
"Don't take the escalator, take the power."  
"Be realistic, demand the impossible."  
—Slogans from the May-June revolt.  
France, 1968

great that the unions were forced to call an official protest strike on May 13.

The spread of the strike in the following week electrified Europe, alarmed Washington—and scared the pants off the French ruling class and the Communist Party, which controlled the major industrial unions.

The CP put its union structures at the head of the strike movement, not to lead but to control and diffuse it. Union officials spread lies that students wanted to raid factories and destroy the machinery.

The unions opened negotiations for new contracts with each separate industry. It took nearly a month of bitter struggle for the union bureaucrats to bring the strike movement under control—and destroy it.

A worker from the occupied Renault factory wrote: "In the student demonstrations, we were free to throw paving stones at the police. On the official trade union demonstrations (Communist Party-led), the main slogan was 'Beware of provocateurs!'"

On June 10, police killed a radical student during a demonstration at a Renault plant.

Without an alternative leadership in the factories and neighborhoods, the mass strike movement was defeated.

The wealthy and powerful heaved a sigh of relief.

But May-June 1968 showed the possibility of revolutionary mass action. It showed workers can take control of their lives. It lit up the potential for a movement controlled from below.

May-June 1968 marked the beginning of a significant European revolutionary left. Thousands of young people, workers or students, were won to revolutionary organizations.

Here in America, the French explosion helped convince many radicals that the working class could finish the job which the student-based anti-war movement had begun.

Many of us who are members of the International Socialists today, were inspired by the French events to an understanding that a working class movement for socialism was a real possibility—not just a good theory. For us, and for our brothers and sisters of the revolutionary left throughout the world, the May-June uprising didn't end with the defeat of the strike.

It was a beginning. A beginning of a new movement—and a new world.



French workers occupying the gigantic Renault auto plant outside Paris during the May-June 1968 revolt.

## Letters

# Action, not lip service, needed for short week

Dear Workers' Power,

I was sorry to see the front page of Workers' Power monopolized by the so-called All-Unions Committee To Shorten The Workweek.

Better were it called the All-Bureaucrats Lip Service Session. The political error about wast-

ing space on this conference would have been clear if some investigation had been done beforehand. I received a brochure and an invitation to attend the conference, as did everyone else

who ever had a sub to the Communist Party's magazine, Labor Today. (My sub expired in

1972, but you know how those things work.)

However, voting delegates were restricted "...to Local Union Presidents and others selected by the Local Union." So the rank-and-file were permitted to attend to swell the numbers of (and publicity for) the conference,

but only designated bureaucrats could vote.

Frank Rannels, chairman of the committee, is probably the most blatant UAW opportunist. And like all UAW opportunists, his game is lip-service, not action.

With enough honest efforts being expended trying to teach

working people to trust their own power, advertising such a publicity stunt just makes it a lot harder.

Next thing you know Workers' Power will be covering the National United Workers Organization as if it had workers in it!

Danny Kablack  
Holbrook, Pa.

## PRISONER'S APPEAL

Dear Workers' Power:

Will you please print the following note in your paper for me and my co-defendant (John J. Keen, Jr.) about an incident that is taking in our prison system that should not be happening now.

We have been in solitary confinement. We are being accused of murdering another inmate, that happened on December 27, 1977.

We are being denied lawyers to represent us on this charge.

We are being told that we have no rights. We are being mistreated in housing, clothes, being

fed—together. We are being denied to have true justice done.

We are trying to raise money so we can be able to afford our own lawyers and have justice be done in our case.

You can help us find justice by donating what you can for our fight for justice. Send to: David A. Chacko P2305 and John J. Keen, Jr. P0994, PO Box 9901, Pittsburgh, Pa. 15233.

We will deeply appreciate your help and funds.

Thank you,  
David A. Chacko  
John J. Keen, Jr.

## Where We Stand

Workers' Power is the weekly newspaper of the International Socialists. The U.S. and its members work to build a movement for a socialist society: a society controlled democratically by mass organizations of all working people.

Because workers create all the wealth, a new society can be built only when they collectively take control of that wealth and plan how it is produced and distributed.

The present system cannot become socialist through reform.

The existing structures of government—the military, police, courts and legislatures—protect the interests of employers against workers.

The working class needs its own kind of state, based on councils of delegates elected at the rank and file level.

The rank and file of the unions must be organized to defend unions from employer attacks, to organize the unorganized, to make the union effective. Today's union leaders

rarely even begin to do this. The rank and file must organize to return the unions to the members.

The struggle for socialism is worldwide. We oppose everything which turns workers from one country against workers of other countries, including racism and protectionism.

We are against the American government's imperialist foreign policies, including its support of racist minority regimes in southern Africa.

We demand complete independence for Puerto Rico. We support all genuine national liberation movements.

The so-called "socialist" or "communist" states have nothing to do with socialism. They are controlled by a privileged ruling class of bureaucrats and must be overthrown by the workers of those countries.

Black and Latin people are oppressed national minorities in the U.S. They have the right to self-determination—to decide their

own future. We support the struggle for Black Liberation and the self-organization of Black people. We also fight for the unity of Black and white workers in a common struggle against this system.

We support women's liberation and full economic, political, and social equality for women. We demand outlawing all forms of discrimination against gay people.

Socialism and liberation can be achieved only by the action of a mass workers' movement. The most militant sections of workers today must be organized to lay the foundations for a revolutionary socialist workers' party.

This is why the International Socialists exists—to create that party. We are open to all those who accept our main principles, and who accept the responsibility of working as a member to achieve them.

Join with us to build a movement to end exploitation and oppression and to create a socialist world.



The Socialist View

# DEMOCRACY - FOR SALE

by Ken Brown

America is a democratic country. We've all heard that a thousand times. Every person over 18 can vote and help choose the rulers of this country. We get to vote every four years for the President, who's the most powerful leader in the world. And anyone is eligible to run for whatever office they choose.

But American democracy is for sale, and has been permanently purchased by the capitalists.

There is no denying that we're much better off than under a dictatorship like exists today in Chile or Argentina. But the democracy in this country is limited by the nature of the capitalist society we live in.

There is free speech, but you have to own a TV or radio station if you want to reach millions of people. There is a free press, but only multi-millionaires own daily newspapers. The system we live under, we socialists call "capitalist democracy."

Woodrow Wilson, the Democratic President of the United States, put it well a half century ago:

"Suppose you go to Washington and try to get at your Government. You will always find that while you are politely listened to, the men really consulted are the men who have the big stake—the big bankers, the big manufacturers, and the big masters of commerce. The masters of the Government of the United States are the combined capitalists and manufacturers of the United States."

Woodrow Wilson acted accordingly. His Secretary of the Treasury was Andrew Mellon, the head of Alcoa Aluminum, and patriarch of the famous Mellon family, one of the richest in the country, that today owns Gulf Oil and important banks.

It's always important to Presidents, whether Democrat or Republican, to appoint a leading businessman Secretary of the Treasury, to insure "business con-

fidence." That's why Jimmy Carter appointed Michael Blumenthal, head of the giant Bendix Corporation, to the post.

### POWER AND WEALTH

To understand who has real political power in this country, we have to see who owns the wealth. A 1975 study by James Smith and Stephen Franklin shows that the top 1% of all adults owns 56% of all stock and 60% of all bonds. This gives them control of the factories, airlines, farming corporations and the leading sectors of the economy.

This one percent owns 26% of the wealth of the country, even when the homes owned by workers are taken into account. The top 6% of adults owns 52% of all wealth.

The over 70 million members of the working class create the economic surplus that makes the tiny capitalist class rich and gives it political power in our country.

Consider our Congressmen. Russell Long, one of the most powerful Democratic Senators, once frankly described the system he knows so well:

"Most campaign money comes from businessmen. Labor contributions have been greatly exaggerated. It would be my guess that about 95% of campaign funds at the Congressional level are derived from businessmen. At least 80% of this comes from men who could sign a net worth statement exceeding a quarter of a million dollars."

Over the decades the Congress has had less and less influence as the federal bureaucracy has grown to regulate a complex society. Probably most people haven't heard of the General Services Administration, but thousands of companies have. They sell it billions of dollars of supplies each year.

The Army Corps of Engineers carries out vast earth moving and dam building projects for agribusiness corporations, power com-



panies and land developers. The Department of the Interior serves the oil, mining, and timber companies.

The Federal Communications Commission aids and protects the telephone company and the media network. And so on throughout the government bureaucracy.

Even the Labor Department, which was supposedly set up to aid workers, conducts area wage surveys to enable non-union companies to know what the going wage is. It says it observes a strict neutrality.

The recent miners' strike, where Secretary of Labor Ray Marshall took a leading role in negotiating the sellout contracts the miners rejected, showed how this "neutrality" really works. It turns out to be "neutrality" on the side of the dominant economic power—which happens to be the employers.

### REPRESSIVE APPARATUS

Agencies and bureaus of government at the federal, state and local levels employ millions of workers and aid big business in thousands of ways. But the core of the government is the repressive apparatus.

This is the army, national guard, police, jails, courts and laws that protect the existing property relations, that is, business domination, and make sure that any rebellion by workers and racially oppressed minorities is put down with force.

When all else fails it is this repressive apparatus which keeps the capitalist class in power.

In this country all federal judges are appointed for life. No democracy here, for they are too important to the system. They are the ones who hand down injunctions to break strikes, as in the case of the miners.

If the miners don't like what the federal judge is doing in West Virginia, they can't recall him or elect a new one. Under the Constitution it's necessary to wait until he

dies and to choose a President and Senate who'll respond to workers and not big business, a much more difficult task.

U.S. Senators are elected for six year terms, one third of the body every two years. In important matters it takes two-thirds of the Senate to pass things. This undemocratic device allows one-third of the body to veto a measure.

Quite naturally at least one-third of the Senate are reactionaries, who come from underpopulated states like Nevada or Wyoming. (Each state gets two Senators, regardless of size. Washington, D.C., with over three-quarters of a million people, a majority of them Black, gets no voting representatives in the Congress.)

### GIANT CORPORATIONS

The United States government is what is called a representative democracy. Politicians are elected to serve us, while the people do not take part in decision making about things that concern them. The fact is that the Congress and the President do not rule in vast areas of American life. That is because the top few hundred giant corporations are as big as the economies of some other entire countries and are major powers in their own right.

General Motors and Ford decide what type of cars they are going to produce, how many workers they are going to lay off and how they are going to speed them up. The government doesn't interfere in these matters at all.

At the work place there is no talk of democracy. The boss is the boss. Workers do what they are told.

The union may restrict the boss in some ways, but all fundamental decisions are "management's prerogatives."

At work there is an economic dictatorship of the capitalists.

Political democracy in government together with dictatorship in the economy means that the gov-

ernment is always in the hands of the dominant economic class, the capitalists, because our society revolves around the economy.

### MASS MEDIA

Except when an actual rebellion breaks out, the capitalists maintain their control over the state and their property by their control over ideas and the political process of this country. The newspapers in every city are owned by big corporations that are employers themselves and often own other businesses as well. No wonder they back up big business on every crucial matter.

Access to the mass media is at a price, and five minutes of prime TV time or full page ads in a daily newspaper can run into hundreds of thousands of dollars. But the owners of these media set the content of ideas day in and day out.

Big business organizations carefully go over the textbooks used in schools, and are the top leaders of the nation's churches—why not, they donate the most money. Wealth is the key to power in this society, and those who have money can buy what's available.

We socialists are for democracy because we believe the government and organizations should be run by their members and not by a handful of self-serving rulers.

We are for defending and extending what democracy exists in our society today. But real democracy is not possible as long as a tiny handful owns the wealth and economy of the country.

The fight for democracy today prepares the way for workers to take control of their work places and society tomorrow—and to establish a workers' democracy, the only genuine rule by the majority of the people.

Next week, we will see why capitalism in crisis does away with democracy and what workers' democracy looks like. □

## JOIN US!

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

Name .....

Address .....

Union .....

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- Pittsburgh: P.O. Box 468, Homestead, PA 15120
- Portland: P.O. Box 4662, Portland, OR 97208

# Labor Notes

by Jim Woodward

The **Teamsters Central States Pension Fund** has appointed John E. Dwyer, a St. Louis accountant, to replace Daniel Shannon as administrator of the fund. Shannon was recently ousted, in what many observers felt was a power play by Teamsters Vice President **Roy Williams**, who is maneuvering to become the next president of the union. Dwyer's appointment confirms the speculation about the meaning of Shannon's resignation, since Dwyer is a close associate of Williams.

The **United Farm Workers** union has regained contracts with seven **table grape growers** in Delano, California. The contracts will raise base wages from \$3.15 and \$3.25 an hour to \$3.50. Delano is where the UFW began its first grape strike, in 1965. The growers there signed contracts with the union in 1970, but refused to renew them in 1973. Instead they signed sweetheart contracts with the Teamsters Union. One farm worker was shot to death and 3500 persons were arrested while picketing to protest these sweetheart agreements.

**Postal workers in St. Louis** have won a small, but important victory. A court ruled that the Postal Service cannot require letter carriers to take short-cuts across private lawns. The court said this was an infringement on the right of private property. A year ago, a postal worker in St. Louis was arrested for following orders to cross lawns.

The government apparently had warnings that the scaffold that collapsed in West Virginia last month killing 51 workers may have been unsafe. The public interest **Health Research Group** has uncovered an inspector's memo in **Occupational Safety and Health Administration** files warning of unsafe repair practices and "lack of evidence" that the scaffold could support its required load. That was 14 months ago. No action was taken on this report. Government investigators have not yet determined whether a defective scaffold, wet concrete, or other problems caused the disaster. But some construction workers in the area have complained that OSHA waited too long after the disaster to analyze samples of the concrete, giving it time to harden.

**Eddie Sturgill**, a member of the **United Mine Workers International Executive Board** from District 19 (Kentucky-Tennessee), has been ordered to Denver for what the union describes as a "temporary" organizing assignment. The assignment is apparently in retaliation for Sturgill's refusal to support ratification of the last coal contract. Several weeks ago, subsidies from the International union to Districts 19 and 14 were cut off. Leaders of District 14, which covers Kansas, Missouri and Iowa, also refused to campaign for ratification of the contract.

The Michigan state legislature has passed a resolution urging the state Attorney-General to conduct a grand jury investigation of the death of Teamster Local 299 leader **Otto Wendel**. After hearing 10 days of testimony, an inquest jury said that Wendel had been murdered by "a person or persons unknown"—overturning the local sheriff's ruling of suicide.

Even though they just finished a 110-day strike, some West Virginia coal miners are again being forced out on wildcats because of conflicts with the operators. Last week, **UMW Local 8058** in Kermit, W. Va. struck over a job classification, and **Local 1751** in Earling walked out over a job-bidding dispute.

In Diles Bottom, Ohio, 15 members of **Retail Clerks Local 1059** walked off their jobs at **United Mine Workers District 6** headquarters. They said their UMW bosses had "learned a lot from their coal company counterparts." Within a couple days, the strike was settled, with the clerical workers winning an immediate 25-35c raise and an additional holiday. But during the strike, at least some District 6 officials crossed their picket line.

**Edgar B. Speer**, chairman of U.S. Steel, has issued an angry blast at government health and safety inspectors. Speer says, "U.S. Steel has been a recognized pacesetter in on-the-job safety through most of this century. . . Our most troublesome safety problem is created by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, whose inexperienced safety inspectors seem interested only in harassing and interfering with plant operations, rather than promoting effective safety practices." Speer is upset about the 5000 safety inspections of U.S. Steel coal mines every year. "Are these inspections necessary?" he asks.

As a public service, Workers' Power will be glad to print letters from any U.S. Steel employee—whether a steelworker or coal miner—who has seen government safety inspectors harassing the company. But, uh, don't hold your breath waiting, Mr. Speer.

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.

It's a damn shame that we have to ask for the ERA.



# Would You Buy Your Yogurt From This Man?



by Jim Woodward

Are you one of those yogurt freaks? Wouldn't think of starting the day without some fresh Dannon yogurt?

"Mmmmm. What shall we have today—strawberry yogurt, peach yogurt, dutch apple yogurt, blueberry yogurt, boysenberry yogurt, pork yogurt, apricot yo. . . ."

Pork yogurt? "Sure, pork. Mmmmm good. Saves cooking up some bacon."

Frankly, this Workers' Power reporter had never even heard of pork yogurt before that fateful Sunday, May 14. It was also Mothers' Day, but that's just a coincidence.

While taking photographs at a demonstration in Dearborn, Michigan, what should drive up but a Dannon yogurt truck (misspelled "Danon," but you really can't get a good sign painter these days).

And out of this truck tumbled, not the Dannon yogurt man, but **Dearborn's Finest, all dressed in blue.**

"Did you give the Dearborn police permission to use a Dannon yogurt truck as a police car?" we asked a spokesman at Dannon's Romulus, Michigan office.

"Absolutely not," said the Dannon people, who were quite astonished. "It would be highly unethical that we would do something like this."

Just to be sure, a company representative took photos of the police truck along on a trip to New York to be sure top executives at Dannon's home office hadn't authorized use of the Dannon name. He hadn't reported back by press time.

In Dearborn, Lt. Hostetler in the chief of police's office seemed confused and upset that anyone was asking about the situation. He first said flatly that the police department had no relationship at all with Dannon, and that they had not asked permission to use the Dannon name.

When asked if this was an ethical practice, he backtracked, saying, "Yes, we got [permission] from

them." He didn't know, however, what individual had granted permission. "Just between you and me," he wondered, "why is this so important?"

The lieutenant explained that the truck was an "equipment vehicle"—presumably meaning that it carries weapons and riot control equipment, and that the Dannon sign was placed on it "for the safety of the officers, public, etc."

"To be honest with you, I'm going to have to look into—needless to say—where those [Dannon] signs came from," he finally admitted.

In the meantime, if you bite something hard in some Dannon yogurt, it may not be a cherry pit at all. Who knows? It could be a used shotgun pellet the cops left behind. Or maybe a miniature listening device snuck into the yogurt by some imaginative officer.

Personally, I think I'll stick to my room-mate's home-made yogurt. It doesn't taste too good, but at least it's safe.

# A BRIGHT IDEA FOR SOCIALISM

On May 26, one of Detroit's greatest freebies will grind to a halt.

For more than 90 years, Detroit Edison has been exchanging old burned out light bulbs for nice new ones. Fifteen million bulbs a year are exchanged, at a cost to consumers of \$1.26/year on their electric bills.

"The program started when electricity was just coming in," Fred Sullivan, a spokesman for

Detroit Edison, told Workers' Power. "Burned out bulbs didn't use any electricity."

But one drugstore owner has ended it all. The businessman took Edison to court, charging that the freebie deprived him of the income from the sale of bulbs in his store.

## PROFITS

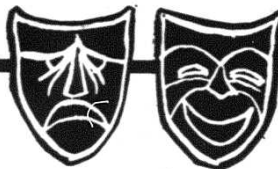
U.S. District Judge John Feikens ruled in the businessman's favor. No matter that 4.4 million

Detroiters benefitted from the program. Edison distributed the bulbs at cost, about 15c each. As you know, your corner drugstore charges at least three times that much.

The court's ruling proves that profits really are sacred under capitalism. Need we say that the free lightbulb program will be revived after the revolution? □

E. Clarke





# The Women Who Built The UAW



by Elissa Clarke

It was thirty years before the women's liberation movement. The women of Flint, Michigan were in the streets, fighting the police, company thugs, and the National Guard.

The year was 1937. The battle was between the United Auto Workers and General Motors. The issue was union recognition.

They were ordinary women. The wives, mothers, grandmothers and sweethearts of auto workers. They are the heroes who built the UAW and won one of the most important and exciting strikes in American history.

**With Babies and Banners: Story of the Women's Emergency Brigade.** Produced by Lyn Goldfarb and Lorraine Gray.

"With Babies and Banners: The Story of the Women's Emergency Brigade" is a new film that tells the extraordinary story of these women. This film treats the audience to the reminiscences of five of the leaders of the Women's Emergency Brigade as they get together forty years after the strike. In their own words, the story of this thrilling event unfolds.

**SIT DOWN!**

"One evening, my husband didn't come home," one of the women remembers. "And he did not come home for two days." That was the beginning of the Flint sit down strike.

Although the wives realized that their husbands were working in conditions "beyond human endurance," many were afraid to fight.

One of the members of the Brigade says: "Many of the women felt it was a terrible thing to strike against the hand that feeds you. Where would you be without General Motors?"

But increasing numbers of wives came out to support the strike. They set up kitchens and sent in hot meals three times a day to the strikers.

One of the women remembered that she was told to go and work in the kitchen, but she didn't want to. "Instead, I organized the children's picket line in front of the Fisher One plant. My 2-year-old was out in front. He was a cute little thing!"

The strike lasted for 44 days. But most of the action took place outside. The women walked the picket lines and fought the police.

"The men had it made," said one. "I don't care what anybody says, they had a ball in their shops."

Genora Johnson recounted one battle when the police were firing on the strikers: fire bombs, tear gas—and bullets. It looked as if the strike would be lost. Johnson took the loud speaker and spoke to the crowds that had gathered behind the police lines: "There are women down here getting shot. The blood is flowing."

"And now I'm making a special plea to women on both sides of the barricades to come down here and stand beside you husbands and brothers and fathers."

Years later, Johnson remembered: "At that point we saw the most wonderful miracle in the world happening. We saw women coming down and fighting with the police."

The defeat was turned around.

**NEW WOMAN**

The women, led by socialists like Genora Johnson, organized themselves into the Women's Emergen-

cy Brigade. They wore red berets and red armbands on which they stitched the initials "EB". "The red beret woman became the symbol of a new type of woman," one commented.

But today, these courageous sisters have been forgotten. One of the makers of the film, Bill Brice, recalled that the first time he and co-producer Lyn Goldfarb went to Flint to approach one of the women about the film. "She was literally sitting around waiting to die," he said.

Some of the women interviewed in the film lived only blocks apart, but didn't know each other.

Through their work on the film, the women have been "rejuvenated," Brice said. They are studying

the history of the UAW, and they organized a picnic in Flint last year.

"With Babies and Banners" is a fine documentary. The film skillfully combines historical film clips and current interviews, as well as weaving together the strike of 1937 and the women's issues of 1977. The quality of the photography is excellent, and the story is told completely through the words of the women.

But "With Babies and Banners" is more than a good documentary. It has a special message for women today.

As we continue the fight for better lives, the story of the Women's Emergency Brigade is as relevant and inspiring as the day the strike was settled.

## WHO'S KILLING PRO SPORTS?

**PLAYER GREED is killing professional sports, right?**

Sure, you know that—if you're gullible enough to believe it.

I've assembled from various sources a very brief list of some of the most outstanding cases of greed in American big-league sports today.

**Judge for yourself who's greedy.**

- The professional basketball owners cut the player rosters from 12 to 11 last season. To save costs. Didn't need the number twelve man, they said.

- Naturally, late-season injuries crippled a number of teams, notably the Portland Trail Blazers, who wound up without enough bodies to put on the floor, and no substitutes.

- A "gentlemen's agreement" by the owners of the National League has cut the playing rosters from 25 to 24. This means cutting either a badly needed relief pitcher or pinch-hitter. It is also a violation of the major league baseball players' contract with the owners.

**KIDS PRICED OUT**

- Still on baseball, the Seattle Mariners, an expansion team who drew well last season, have taken their first step toward extinction. The Mariners' owners did this by raising \$1.50 left-field seats to \$3.50.

- Thousands of fans, including kids who are the key to future fan support, naturally responded by staying away.

- Baseball's owners made it known last week that when the current players' contract expires in 1980, they will lock the players out unless the union agrees to give up the free-agent rights they won in the current contract. (Then they'll say players' demands are killing the game.)

- National Hockey League owners want the players' agreement to lengthen—that's right, lengthen—the playoff "preliminary" (pre-quarterfinal) round from best-of-three to best-of-five games.

- The owners say this is to give fans a better deal. If anyone can produce a single hockey fan who supports this idea, the Workers' Power sports editor will eat this newspaper.

- In Pontiac, Michigan, the entire general operating fund is in debt to pay off bonds on the Pontiac Silverdome, a hideous domed structure built to house the profit-bloated Detroit Lions.

- Pontiac voters were promised the Silverdome would turn a handsome profit, but just as a technicality, to ensure investor confidence, would they please pledge the city's assets to guarantee...

- Well, they did. Now there's a city hiring freeze and services are being wiped out. At last report, the debt was \$5 million and rising.

- Fortunately, the city isn't obligated to pick up the Silverdome debt forever—only till the year 2004!

- Which, by the way, is longer than any contract the world's richest free-agent athlete ever signed.

D. Posen

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# FIREMEN OUT OF JAIL- WIN FIRST CONTRACT

Last week marked the end of six weeks of imprisonment for the crime of walking a picket line—for the fire fighters of Normal, Illinois. Most had spent only half their time in county jail cells. For the remainder of their sentences, they were held under lock and key in the local firehouse. They were released—under armed guard—to fight fires. Family visits occurred from behind glass partitions. Last Monday, four days after their release, the members of Fire Fighters Local 2442 won their first contract.

The men and their families agree that their victory was worth going to jail for.

"We feel good about it," Ronald Lawson, president of the local, told Workers' Power. "We definitely got what we wanted. Almost everything we wanted, we got."

**His wife, Pam, says she is thrilled. "I can't believe it's over, but it sure feels good. Now we got a union in Normal—it's not a non-union town anymore."**

The final settlement was reached on Sunday night, hours before the City's latest deadline to "return to

work or be fired." Although some City Council members were unhappy with the contract and voted against it, the union vote to approve, on Monday night, was unanimous.

## MAIN DEMAND

Besides winning a contract and recognition for their local—the only union in the town of Normal—the fire fighters also won their main demand.

The three captains, explains Captain John Hanover, will now be

union members covered by the bargaining unit. That was the issue around which the city, and the union-busting law firm it hired, had chosen to stonewall since last October.

When the local union finally resorted to picketing in March, Judge William Caisley issued contempt citations and convictions, despite the fact that the fire fighters were continuing to respond to fire calls voluntarily.

The men were sentenced to alternate shifts in prison and in the fire station.

With the expiration of their terms last week, the union let it be known that it was prepared to return to the picket lines—and jail, if necessary.

Unlike the City, which had served several ultimatums and several "final" offers, the union was not bluffing.

Now, perhaps, Pam Lawson's vision, which she voiced while her husband was still in jail, may be realized: "If our union goes through, so the others go through, and maybe it won't be so hard on them as it was on us."

# 1700 IN FORD ROMEIO WILDCAT

# Workers' Power



Ford tractor workers walked out to protest harassment by supervision.

by Paul Broz

ROMEIO, MICHIGAN—"All we want is a little respect." Workers at the Ford tractor plant in this small town north of Detroit speak with pride about working at the only single line farm tractor assembly plant in the world.

**But when they describe the conditions in which they work their tone of voice changes.**

Since Thursday, May 11, 1700 workers, members of United Auto Workers Local 400, have been on a wildcat strike. In this age of electronics, it's well-organized, co-ordinated with CB radios. Pickets are sleeping in shifts on the line in campers and motor homes.

The strike was touched off in the welding department, according to workers, when a supervisor, Francis "Pops" Cantrell tried to push a welder, Le Roy Wright, to work faster.

Pickets say that Ford has been attempting to turn out more tractors without hiring more employees. The result is frustration.

Said one welder, "The quality of pieces reaching the welding department is so

bad that we have to hammer some of them to get them to fit.

"We have to work harder just to keep up the normal rate. On top of this, they try to get us to work faster."

## THE FIRST DAY

When Le Roy Wright was harassed, other welders protested by occupying the cafeteria, demanding a conference with union and management representatives. This was at 11:00 am.

**When the company refused to meet, the welders went from department to department explaining the situation. By 2:30, the entire plant had walked out and a picket line had been set up.**

Nearly 1000 people were on the line the following morning, Friday, and police closed off a stretch of highway in front of the plant. The picket was kept going over the weekend and was strong again Monday.

Workers are motivated by deep-seated frustrations and long-standing grievances, not just by the harassment of one worker. They see the strike as their

best, and perhaps only, chance to change the conditions of their work.

Friday afternoon it was raining. Several workers huddled inside a camper, talking and sipping beer. "This strike should have happened three years ago, when the last contract expired," said one man. "When you get right down to it, this is about health and safety."

Added another, "Everybody got tired of it. This [harassment] is just the straw that broke the camel's back."

"If you were to go through the plant, there's welding smoke so thick you can hardly see. You can blow your nose six times and it'll still come out black. "My grandpa, who spent years in the coal fields, said it wasn't that bad in the mines."

They describe pools of hydraulic fluid from leaking machinery. "One guy built himself a little concrete ditch to keep hydraulic fluid out of his work area."

## COMPANY AND THE UNION

Ford is waiting to see if the strike will burn itself out. They refuse to negotiate

formally until people go back to work, although informal discussions have taken place. Wednesday, May 17, they sent telegrams to the homes of 17 welders notifying them that they were fired.

According to company sources, other disciplinary actions are planned, and an injunction is being considered.

Local union leaders, in person, and on the radio, are telling their members to go back to work. They have scheduled an emergency meeting for Thursday morning.

**Ford built a plant in Romeio, a rural setting, seven years ago, to replace aging urban plants. They expected that workers there would be more docile—that they could be pushed harder.**

Now, Ford's found differently. "We're adults, human beings," said one striker. "We don't want to be treated like children. We just want to be treated with respect."

It's tough to keep a wildcat going, but workers here are adamant when they state that they won't go back until all issues are resolved and everyone is guaranteed amnesty. □