



Voice of the Marxist-Leninist Organizing Committee
at Peterbilt, Newark

July 10, 1978 (Vol.1#4)

donation 5¢

LOST THE STRIKE BUT WE'LL WIN THE WAR!

The contract was ratified because a bare majority felt there was no hope to get any better. Things were pretty bad after four months without a paycheck. Many of us (46% of those who voted) wanted to hold out. But as long as the SELL-OUT trade union bureaucrats (TUBs) were in control of the strike, we weren't going to win --- after all, PACCAR wasn't going to bring us the Five Demands on a silver platter.

The minor improvements over the company's original offer (COLA, disability insurance, & a dime more in wages) were gained thru our solid strike. We virtually shut down Pete, Newark, for four months. But these small

'gains' fall far short of what we were struggling for: **PARITY WITH THE UAW MACK CONTRACT, THE FIVE DEMANDS, AND AMNESTY FOR ALL STRIKERS.** Our so-called "record wage increase" leaves us just as far behind the rest of the industry as ever.

The main issue was wages. The 'Official' proposal we voted for at the April mass meeting was for increases of 40%, 30%, and 30%. Over one hundred workers submitted a petition in support of the Five Demands which called for increases of \$2.00, \$1.50 & \$1.50. We got 80¢, 40¢ and 25¢ --- less than 50¢ per year! Clearly we lost our main demand.

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THE RED CAB

The Red Cab aims to focus and organize the strength of workers at Peterbilt, to defend ourselves against Pac-car and to unite our fight with the rest of the working class to put an end to the capitalist system.

The Red Cab represents the interests of the workers at Peterbilt, not the foremen, bribed union bureaucrats or labor aristocrats.

Help build the paper as a strong fighter for the rank and file by contributing articles, letters, drawings & interviews. Distribute The Red Cab on your shift. Donations of money are also needed.

The Red Cab must be built on the principles of secrecy. To contact the paper, talk to a Red Cab distributor or write:

P.O.B. 24587, Oak. CA 94623

No names will be used in any published articles, letters, or interviews. United we can win, because THE FUTURE BELONGS TO THE WORKING CLASS!!!



NOTE: Due to lack of space the second interview with the labor lawyer could not be included. Look for it next time!



WE NEED COMMUNIST LEADERSHIP

With the TUBs controlling the strike, the main tactic was "wait and see" and we ended up without winning the Five Demands. These class traitors negotiated an 'amnesty' agreement that left the three workers who need amnesty the most in the lurch.

We showed a lot of solidarity by staying out for 4 months and refusing to vote for the company's first really bad offers, but one thing we have to learn is that you don't win strikes with passive tactics, just standing on the picket line waiting for a vote. You have to back up you're demands with action like shutting down production --- here & at PACCAR's other plants.

The Marxist-Leninist Organizing Committee tried to give leadership to the strike and influence the course of events. It helped workers draw up the Five Demands, established initial contact with other PACCAR workers in Seattle, and brought out The Red Cab, which has been leading the fight against the TUBs and for one union. The MLOC also helped to educate strikers about the working class and national liberation struggles in this country and around the world thru the pages of its newspaper, Unite! And likewise, several articles about the Peterbilt strike in Unite! helped workers around the country learn about our fight.

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The MLOC had some weaknesses too---such as not contacting sympathetic workers in Seattle as soon as possible and Unite! distribution teams being on the picket line more.

The MLOC consistently warned against passive tactics and called for

- * democratically run union meetings
- * a strong picket line
- * spread the strike to other PACCAR workers
- * get support from other workers

If a strike committee of communists and militant workers had been elected to take up these tasks, the strike could have been won.

But we Pete workers went into the strike with many handicaps. We were straddled with four union bureaucracies. We were divided by nationality and by sex. And there had not been a history of strikes and militant struggle at our plant. The result: the TUBs kept control of the strike, the important tasks were not accomplished, and we lost. It was only because workers were so mad and determined not to be totally sold-out that we did as well as we did.

CONTINUE TO ORGANIZE FOR ONE
UNION & THE WORKING CLASS
REVOLUTION

We didn't get what we wanted, what we needed, out of our strike. But this is no time to give up the fight!

We have gained valuable experience and the beginnings of an organized network that will kick out the union bureaucrats and fight to build 1 revolutionary union. This network is being built around the Red Cab.

Many workers say they agree with what the Red Cab says about the strike but they're not sure about this socialism stuff. The Red Cab sees that workers should fight for all we can get in a strike. At the same time, it is important to see that just one strike is not going to solve the main problem of the workers at the plant --- our labor enriches the PACCAR owners, not the working class.

As long as the capitalists own the factories and force us to sell ourselves for eight hours a day, they will control the system and our lives. Sometimes we can win demands, but they'll always find ways to suck our blood; inflation, Prop. 13, neutron bombs.

The Red Cab stands for socialist revolution, because that will make a real change for the better --- workers in control, not the capitalist leeches. The revolution is not made in one strike, but in a strike like the one we just had we workers begin to feel our power and learn who our friends and enemies are. Brothers and Sisters, if we all learn the lessons of this strike, we'll be a step closer to the day when the working class owns the factories and our child-

ren won't have to live under the same oppressive conditions we were born into.

FIGHT FOR AMNESTY

Our immediate fight must now be focussed on amnesty. Three workers have been fired for strike activity. We can't let this issue "go thru the normal grievance procedure" because if all we do is "wait and see", these brothers could be out of work and up for arbitration a year from now. We must fight for their jobs back now, demand the grievance be handled quickly, and be prepared to walk out if they don't get satisfaction. Its the scabs who tried to run us over on the picket line who should be put up before workers justice, not our union brothers.

We also have to be ready to defend other fighters who are sure to be harassed and set up for firing by the foremen and their stooges. Only by standing united against company reprisals, will we be in a good position to continue our struggle against Peterbilt, the TUBs, and the capitalist system.

AMNESTY FOR ALL WORKERS !

BUILD THE RED CAB NETWORK !

MAKE OUR UNIONS INTO FIGHTING WORKING CLASS ORGANIZATIONS!

FIGHT FOR COMMUNIST LEADERSHIP OF THE UNIONS !

