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Detroit
August 16
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The Political Paper of the **COMMUNIST LABOR PARTY** of the U.S.N.A.

PEOPLE'S TRIBUNE

"The Communist's ideal should not be a trade-union secretary, but a tribune of the people, able to react to every manifestation of tyranny and oppression." Lenin



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DEFEND BESSIE LOU CORNETT

As was reported in the special supplement to the last issue of the *People's Tribune*, Bessie Lou Cornett of the Harlan Labor News staff was arrested on July 14 and charged with the kidnapping of Mrs. Paul Ball, her children and a neighbor. Following the arrest and as a result of the outrage of the workers of Harlan County and supporters of the *Harlan Labor News* against this obvious frame-up, as well as protest from politicians from Kentucky to California, Bessie Lou was released on her own recognizance.

The following weekend, the KKK held open rallies throughout Kentucky, including a rally in Harlan County at which David Duke, Grand Dragon of the KKK, spoke and where a 30 foot cross was burned. The connections between the attacks on the *Harlan Labor News* (which militantly opposed the KKK), the frame-up and arrest of Bessie Lou and the subsequent Klan rallies was clear for all to see.

What follows is an interview with Bessie Lou Cornett, obtained by the *People's Tribune* following her release from jail.

How old are you, Bessie?
Twenty-seven.

How long have you been in Harlan County?
All my life.

How did you get involved in the struggle of the Brookside miners and with the Harlan Labor News?

I come from a very strong union family and was taught that unions were a way to get better wages and a better way of life and that the only way that working people could get their rights was by fighting for them.

I became involved in the Brookside strike and *Harlan Labor News* (HLN) primarily because I could see the unevenness of the distribution of wealth in Harlan County. I could see that we were surrounded by coal operators whose homes were warm and ours were cold. I saw the necessity of striking to improve our wages and working conditions. I could see the HLN as a rallying point for the workers, the coal miners of Harlan County, to express our opinions and views of what's going on in the County and to become united around certain issues.

What other struggles has the HLN been involved in in Harlan County?

We have been involved in the struggle to assist the Save Georgetown Committee. Georgetown is a predominantly Black community in Harlan. The City Council has attempted to throw these people out of their homes and they haven't provided adequate housing for them. We have covered their struggle, had several articles on the attempts of the City Council to move this Black community out of Harlan. We've also had coverage of, and articles written by the women of Harlan

County which speak to the issue of no jobs or what jobs are available just being waitress work and that women are not allowed to take part in actual production.

Why do you think the frame-up occurred at this time? Do you feel your life is in danger?

The reason that I think the frame-up occurred at this time is that we have a situation in the country where thousands of workers have been laid-off their jobs, where coal miners face company threats of union-busting and workers are looking for something, the workers are angry. The HLN speaks to the needs of the workers.

What happened was the Brookside strike raised the struggle in Harlan County to a higher level in that the women became involved in the politics of the county. The strike helped to polarize the county. It helped to clarify the issues. It was plain to see that there was more involved than just coal operator against coal miner that there were people, there were opportunists within our own ranks who would attempt to divert the struggle of the coal miners. The HLN helped expose this, and has, since the strike, consistently exposed these opportunists and other enemies of the working class in Harlan County.

The attack comes at this time because coal miners and their families are beginning to use the paper and like the paper. They are supportive of the paper. I feel that the coal operators through the Klan, have attempted to attack and destroy the HLN because of the support it has gotten. The reason that I have been arrested, as opposed to someone else, is that I've lived in the County all my life. I've helped to distribute the paper all over the County. I'm one of the main people working on the paper and am widely known for this work.

As far as being in danger, in the first place, with the Klan on the rise, every worker—our whole class—is in danger; the danger is fascism. As for me personally, yes, I am in danger. First the coal operators attempted to destroy the paper by attacking it. They have called the HLN a communist paper. Then they arrested me and charged me with kidnapping. Now, if this doesn't work, and they can't get me out of the county or destroy me this way, they'll try another way. We're sure of that.

What were the effects of recent Klan activities on the people of Harlan?

Certain workers had received threatening letters from the Klan. Some were afraid and even left the county. Other workers said, "This is 1975. The Klan can't wear hoods and robes and burn crosses like they did in the 20's and 30's." So the workers were surprised and angry that the Klan is able to do this and that the courts won't do anything about it.

A lot of workers see the Klan simply as an anti-black group. They haven't connected the Klan with the

coal operators. At least the response I've gotten is that "the coal operators aren't involved with the Klan;" that the Klan is something outside the labor movement. But more and more people in Harlan are beginning to see the connection between my arrest, the Klan, the rally and the newspaper [HLN, ed.] being against the coal operators. Many workers in Harlan are conscious enough to be able to connect all that and see why it's happening at this time.

Could you talk a little about the Klan rally?

All I know is what I've been reading in the papers and hearing on TV and I've read that something like 150 people attended the rally, that some workers were saying that these were scabs at the rally, gun thugs, and there are known gun thugs in Harlan. I think Duke [David Duke, Grand Dragon of the KKK, ed.] coming to Harlan had angered many workers. He probably had to build some kind of hard-core base of support among certain local law enforcement offi-

cials, state police and gun thugs before he could even come to Harlan County.

But it was the first time in Harlan County that a national Klan rally took place and the first time ever they burned a 30-foot cross. The reception there to Duke's coming was that a lot of the community wanted to get them out but the rally itself took people by surprise and people didn't have time to organize against the Klan.

What was the response of local, state and county officials?

For the most part they have supported the Klan. The local newspaper took a very pro-Klan position. They published ads for the Klan and refused to come out openly against the Klan. Some local officials such as the Evarts Chief of Police took part in the beating of a worker who received a letter from the Klan. But the police offer no protection to the people of Harlan. Workers that went in to ask for gun permits stating they

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LABOR DAY RALLIES

With great fanfare the Ford Administration has declared that the economic crisis is over. All sorts of statistics are pulled out to support this contention, yet, the most important statistic, the unemployment rate is fearfully avoided. As far as the millions of unemployed are concerned the crisis is still here.

Today, we face the most serious capitalist crisis since the 1930's Depression. It's an overproduction crisis taking place under conditions of a developing war economy in which the USNA state apparatus is annually pumping billions of dollars into the bank accounts of the giant monopolies. In spite of these huge subsidies the economic situation continues to deteriorate.

The poverty and misery in the wake of this crisis are enormous. Official statistics show unemployment at around 10%, however, even the U.S. Department of Labor is fast to concede that their figures miss the mark by millions of workers. Unemployment touches at least 10 million workers. In the June issue of *Fortune* magazine statistics were published showing a 10% or more jobless rate in every major section of USNA industry: furniture - 19%, rubber and plastics - 18%, textile - 16%, electrical equipment - 16%, transportation equipment - 16%, fabricated metal products - 14%, primary metals - 13%, and clothing - 12%. The very same article showed that unemployment will remain at, at least 8% into the 1980's.

Even for those workers still at their jobs, the impact of the crisis is an everyday fact. U.S. Departments of Labor and Commerce figures again show the real situation. Today, an average working class family must try to live on the equivalent of \$87.46 weekly. This is

real take home pay after discounting inflation, and this income figure is a \$7 weekly decline from 1973. But it is not just in the paycheck where the crisis tells, it is in the conditions inside the factories, too. Murderous speed-up has become normal, and this speed-up is made worse by fewer workers being employed in the factories.

This crisis has rapidly increased the large permanently unemployed section of the working class. June 1975 government figures show more than 1.2 million unemployed workers have become so frustrated that they are no longer looking for work. The unemployment rate among youth ages 16-19 stands near 30%, and in many cities 50% unemployment among Negro and other national minority youth is common. The unemployment rate for women workers is nearly 15%.

The growing mass of permanently unemployed is reflected in changed governmental policies creating the conditions for maintaining this section of the working class at a bare subsistence level for years to come. The Supreme Court recently ruled that unemployed parents could choose between unemployment benefits or welfare. This ruling was obviously directed at millions of unemployed women workers laid-off from low-paying jobs in electronics, plastics and the textile and garment industries. In another change, the Agriculture Department has extended food stamps to thousands of working class families who have been thrown into desperation by a year or more of unemployment.

Where can the workers turn - to the union leaders like Abel, Woodcock or Meany? While the UAW and the AFL-CIO have made loud noises about unemployment, at every

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THE WATTS REBELLION

Watts in the summer of 1965 was the scene of longstanding and persistent oppression, police terror, and the outright robbery of its residents - where liquor, grocery and clothing stores charged exorbitant rates for the cashing of payroll and welfare checks against the purchase of goods at exorbitant prices. The few banks testified to the poverty of the community, residents having no use for them and shopkeepers banking in the communities where they lived. The nearest hospital was a two hour bus-ride, public transportation, expensive and inefficient. Unemployment among adults was 34%; the average income of the Negro national minority male worker was \$3,740 as against that of \$5,465 for the Anglo-American male worker.

On August 11, 1965, the residents of Watts rose up in armed rebellion and were hurled face-to-face against the naked power of the state. This spontaneous rebellion marks a historic turning point in the struggle of the Negro people away from the petty-bourgeois, non-violent leadership that characterized the Civil Rights movement. The rebellion took place at the height of the Negro people's movement for equality, a struggle that was rejuvenated in Birmingham and Montgomery Alabama. In order to understand the significance of the Watts rebellion, it is necessary to assess the Civil Rights movement.

The key to such an understanding is imperialism itself. In order to prepare the Negro Nation for industrialization, a civil rights movement was necessary. Segregation is a roadblock to the high degree of socialized labor necessary for imperialism. Prior to the Civil Rights movement, Negroes in south Mississippi could not get jobs in factories, although they could work as domestic helpers, garbage men, farmers, or even own their own businesses. But imperialism needed them to work on the line alongside Anglo-American workers. Segregation, with its separate bathrooms, eating areas and drinking fountains is a cumbersome and unnecessary expense for the imperialist whose sole aim is maximum profit. Segregation was a barrier between the imperialists and a potential army of Negro proletarians; thus, to facilitate the industrialization of the South and the proletarianization of the Negro population, the Civil Rights movement served the interests of the bourgeoisie who were able to use the spontaneous struggle of the Negro people to their own ends.

On the other hand, the Civil Rights movement was a continuation of the struggle of the Negro people for national liberation, and thus represented a threat to the imperialists. While needing a limited degree of equal rights for the Negro it was also necessary that the imperialists retain control of the movement, to prevent it from going too far, to curb its revolutionary character. This danger was met in many ways, primarily by imbuing the Civil Rights movement with a non-violent character, but also by subverting the movement from within with bribery, chicanery and co-optation, and finally by political assassination.

By the summer of 1965 it was becoming clear that although the movement offered legal reforms, practically these reforms were not bringing full equality to the Negro people. The gulf in the standard of living between Negroes and Anglo-Americans remained. Amidst this struggle, under the continued pressures of terror and oppression, following an incident of police harassment, Watts exploded in rebellion, a rebellion which demonstrated that the limits of the petty-bourgeois, non-violent leadership had been

reached and that spontaneously the residents of Watts rose up in militant defense of their rights, demonstrating themselves ready to fight for equality. Thus, both Martin Luther King and Dick Gregory, seeking to calm the angry people, were driven from Watts. The response of the bourgeoisie was to unleash the full power of the state. Nearly 5,000 people were jailed, over 40 Negro residents lost their lives, murdered by the rifles and machine guns of the police and National Guard. The newspapers indulged in an orgy of chauvinism, while Police Chief Parker referred to the Watts residents as "monkeys in a zoo".

In response to the rebellion, the Watts community became the recipient of a new infusion of poverty funds and programs; a much needed hospital and medical clinic were built. But because the spontaneous outburst of the people lacked conscious leadership, it was only a matter of time before the movement was again co-opted by the bourgeoisie. Few of the reforms, intended to divert the movement, remain; those that remain were purchased at a tremendous price.

Still, Watts, stands out heroically, a testament to the strength and determination of the Negro national minority for equality and for the national liberation of the Negro Nation. It clearly demonstrated the strengths and weaknesses of the spontaneous movement and made

clear, for all to see, that the root of the oppression of the Negro Nation is imperialism. In rising up, the residents of Watts were met with the full force of the imperialist state - the police and National Guard, courts and jails. But history has proven that the only force capable of defeating the imperialist state, of destroying imperialism and the oppression of nations, is a united, conscious working class.

The Watts uprising objectively linked the struggle of the Anglo-American workers to the national liberation movement of the Negro Nation. The new level of struggle that matured in Watts was carried even further by the Detroit uprising of 1967. There the participation of Anglo-American workers from the Negro Nation in the uprising, alongside Negro national minority workers raised the spontaneous struggle to a higher level. The only means to further advance the struggle against imperialism is through the conscious and united struggle of the working class as a whole against the fascist danger and for peace, jobs and equality. Having fought their way to the heart of the Anglo-American proletariat, now part of its vanguard, the Negro national minority must be imbued with the spirit and knowledge of socialism.

Thus, in commemorating the Watts uprising we must dedicate ourselves to the battle against imperialism, first and foremost by forging the unity of our class. Concretely, this means that all workers must support the struggle to free the Negro Nation and equality for the Negro

national minority. We must support busing, for the struggle for equality of the Negro national minority is our concrete link with the struggle of the Negro Nation for independence; at the same time we must fight to smash the fascist stormtroopers of Ford and Rockefeller - the KKK and Nazi Party. In Watts, as throughout the Southwest, we must forge a fighting unity between the Negro and Mexican national minorities. The struggle of the Negro in Watts is equally the struggle of the Mexican; none can be free until all are free! In the fight against imperialism, against fascism and war, all sections of our class must be forged into a mighty proletarian army.

History will look at the great civil rights battles of the 1950's and 60's, and most of all, the Watts uprising, as the beginning of the great process of Socialist revolution in the Americas. We must dedicate ourselves to continuing that struggle until victory.

**Long Live the Spirit of Watts!
Smash the KKK!
Fight for Busing
Free the Negro Nation!**

CORRECTION

This is the correct address for the Texas Strike Fund established for the United Farm Workers. The address that appeared in Vol. 2 No. 13 was in error.

*Texas Strike Fund
P.O. Box 1493
San Juan, Texas*

were passed to the assassins through a US citizen who was an agent of the Santo Domingo station and owner of a supermarket. He had to be evacuated though, after the assassination, because the investigation brought him under suspicion. . ."

" . . .Varea, in his inaugural speech after Davila proclaimed him Vice-President [of Ecuador - ed.], seemed a little too humble: 'You will see that I lack the capacity to be Vice-President of the Republic. I am full of defects but this is my life, which I have filled with modesty and sacrifice. You and I with the help of God can solve little by little the great problems that affect the Ecuadorean people.' Noland [chief of CIA station - ed] said he's going to raise Varea from seven hundred to one thousand dollars a month, and if he gets to be President we'll pay him even more."

" . . .At the top of the Litempo operation is the Mexican President, Gustavo Diaz Ordaz, who has worked extremely closely with the [CIA] station since he became Minister of Government in the previous administration of Adolfo Lopez Mateos (1958-64). Scott [chief of CIA station - ed] had also developed a very close relationship with Lopez Mateos, and, since Diaz Ordaz became President two years ago, Scott has been working closely with the current Minister of Government, Luis Echeverria. Thus the Litempo project focuses at the top on the President and the current Minister of Government who will be the second consecutive choice of the PRI [Revolutionary Institutional Party - government party in Mexico, ed.] leaders to move from internal security to the Presidency.

These excerpts give some idea of the content of this book and also some idea of why the USNA government will not allow it to be published here. We must struggle to see that the crimes of the CIA are not covered up but brought out into the open and that those responsible are held accountable. We must fight to abolish the CIA and to destroy USNA imperialism for which the CIA is a tool.

CIA EXPOSED

The CIA is the international arm of counter-revolution, an instrument of force of the USNA state. It has left a bloody track around the world. The so-called investigations of the CIA by the Rockefeller Commission and the Congressional Intelligence Committee are really just attempts to cover up the activities of the agency. These "investigations" start from the premise that only the domestic activities of the CIA are "illegal". They are being conducted by old friends and collaborators of the agency, as if Goering had been appointed to investigate the SS. The revisionist CPUSA goes along with this line that domestic terror and murder is illegal, and says little about the operations of the CIA internationally. The general plan on the part of the government is to save the vast majority of the CIA's operations by exposing a few.

There is a book, *CIA Diary*, by Phillip Agee, which is banned in the USNA. It had to be published in England, and is confiscated by customs agents at the USNA borders. Copies were even seized by government agents off the shelves of bookstores in New York. This book, which the USNA government does not want its citizens to read, is the record of Mr. Agee's day to day activities as a CIA field agent in Ecuador, Uruguay and Mexico, from his training in 1957 until he quit the agency in 1969. It is an account that includes names, dates and places. We are reprinting here some excerpts from this book dealing with a variety of CIA operations in order to help expose the real nature of USNA imperialism.

" . . .Operations designed to promote the adoption by a foreign government of a particular policy vis-a-vis communism are termed political-action operations. . . Although political-action operations after World War II began with electoral funding of anti-communist political parties in France and Italy in the late 1940's, they are now prevalent in the underdeveloped countries where economic and social conditions create a favourable climate for communist ad-

vance. The obvious human elements in political-action operations are political parties, politicians and military leaders, although agents in other P-A operations including labour, student and youth, and media are often brought to bear on specific political-action targets. . . Although the Agency usually plays the anti-communist card in order to foster a coup, gold bars and sacks of currency are often equally effective. In some cases a timely bombing by a station agent, followed by mass demonstrations and finally by intervention by military leaders in the name of the restoration of order and national unity, is a useful course. . ."

" . . .A new victory for the station at Georgetown, British Guiana, in its efforts to throw out the leftist-nationalist Prime Minister and professed Marxist, Cheddi Jagan. In elections a few days ago Jagan's Indian-based party lost parliamentary control to a coalition of the black-based party and a splinter group. The new Prime Minister, Forbes Burnham, is considered to be a moderate and his ascension to power finally removes the fear that Jagan would turn British Guiana into another Cuba. The victory is largely due to CIA operations over the past five years to strengthen the anti-Jagan trade unions, principally through the Public Service International which provided the cover for financing public employees strikes. Jagan is protesting fraud - earlier this year he expelled Gene Meakin, one of our main labour agents in the operation, but it was no use. . ."

" . . .I still can't believe the reasons for the Dominican invasion that we're trying to promote through AVBUZZ-I. Holman says it all goes back to the Agency's assassination of Trujillo. He was Chief of the Caribbean branch in headquarters at the time and was deeply involved in planning the assassination, which was done by Cuban exiles from Miami using weapons we sent through the diplomatic pouch. The weapons

BUDGET CRISIS SPURS ANGER

New York City's present "budget crisis" is as phoney as last year's "energy crisis". Week after week, newspapers in New York and throughout the country announce cuts in city employees and services, the closing of vital health and educational facilities, and the necessity of higher taxes and more productivity to keep our city governments from bankruptcy. But so-called "unproductive" city workers are no more to blame for this crisis than the Arab people were to blame for the energy crisis. The real culprits are the USNA imperialists who are trying again to put their crisis on the backs of the working class.

These government attacks hit the whole working class, but are especially ruthless to the Negro, Puerto Rican and other national minorities who form for the most part the ranks of the unskilled and semi-skilled workers. Just for starters, Mayor Beame intends to close 43 public schools, 10 libraries, and 4 hospitals, curtail subway transportation, reduce police and fire protection and sanitation services. These cuts are across the board and will affect every worker who uses public facilities, but they are a blow to the very survival of the national minorities since these services are already minimal in their neighborhoods.

Mayor Beame also proposes to lay-off some 16,000 city workers. This at a time when New York City has lost 100,000 jobs in the past year, has 340,000 on unemployment and about another 300,000 on welfare. Again the national minorities are hit hardest since many were recently hired. In the face of all these lay-offs, the city is using some of its meager 19,000 CETA jobs to fill state jobs, patronage positions and such "vital services" as graffiti cleaners.

Finally, at a time of great economic depression, Beame is talking about more taxes - taxes that will inevitably hit the working class and leave the bourgeoisie untouched. Already he has raised the toll on bridges and tunnels. (Helicopter service into the city for the bourgeoisie remains the same.)

While the city's working class gets blow after blow, the bourgeoisie dances, rejoicing at windfall profits. The city raises money by selling tax free bonds, usually to banks and usually at 8% interest. In the past 10 months the banks have formed a consortium - a group of banks organized together to eliminate competition - and raised the interest rates to 8.58% then to 9.24% and now to 9.4%. The banks then sold the bonds for 8%, reaping a profit of about 100 million dollars and intensifying a budget crisis in the city that could cost 16,000 jobs. Right now 1/6 of New York City's whole budget goes for debt service to banks - that is a 75% rise in the past 3 years and about \$1.8 billion for 1975 alone. Plus, a big chunk of the deficit in the city budget is from Con Ed increasing the city's electric bill.

Can anyone doubt that the banking consortium and Con Ed are running New York City? Not when you read in the *New York Times* (May 8, 1975) that when Mayor Beame and Governor Carey go to Washington to ask for "emergency money" they are accompanied by David Rockefeller, Chairman of Chase Manhattan Bank, William Spencer, President of First National City Bank and Ellmore O. Patterson, Chairman of Morgan Guaranty Trust. Not when you see a "suggestion" that city employees take a cut in pay, offered by the Economic Development Council of N.Y.C., composed of Charles Luce, Chairman of Con Ed, Reginal Jones, Chairman of General Electric, Frank T. Cary, Chairman of I.B.M., and William H. Moore, Chairman of Bankers Trust. The various workers of N.Y.C.,

including policemen, firemen, sanitation workers and unemployed workers have reacted to the crisis every way they know how. When Mayor Beame announced the cutbacks in education, 10,000 people demonstrated in front of City Hall. The sanitation workers held a 3-day strike when their lay-offs were announced. "New York's finest" demonstrated and blocked off the Brooklyn Bridge immobilizing the traffic to and from Manhattan. These were some of the larger demonstrations, but everyday the workers of N.Y.C. have been going to public hearings, setting up picket lines and telling City Hall and the Federal Government and the bourgeoisie that they aren't going to take this laying down.

We must rally our forces in the unions, form militant caucuses, and express the honest demands of all workers, public and private, employ-

JOBS

Continued from Page 1

turn, they have sabotaged the demand for action by the rank-and-file. Can we turn to the politicians? Not a chance. With 10 million people out of work, Congress couldn't find its way to allocate more than \$10 billion total on all jobs programs, including special training programs, and jobs for youth. \$10 billion for jobs, and over \$105 billion for the military budget.

Faced with this growing economic crisis, the working class must find ways and means to organize itself against this onslaught by the bourgeoisie. Throughout the country spontaneous struggles of the unemployed are daily gaining momentum. The role of the communists and advanced workers is to organize this militant movement of the unemployed, of all workers, to fight for jobs! We must begin the job of building Unemployment Councils based on the already existing mass organizations of our class. These unemployment councils must be fighting organizations that respond to not only the unemployment question, but to all aspects of the class struggle.

The Communist Labor Party always bases itself on the real struggle facing the working class, and not on fanciful schemes. Accordingly, we call for the workers to direct their struggle at the only place where the effects of the crisis can be dealt with - the imperialist state apparatus, the government of the United States. We raise the demand of Jobs with Peace! A Productive Job for Every Able Bodied Worker at the Expense of the Military Budget! Specifically we call for decent unemployment benefits which must be based on the support of a family rather than maintaining a single worker in poverty. Immediate Federal Government Action for Jobs! The present allocations for CETA jobs and other programs are insufficient. Reopen the factories! The federal government must pass laws which keep factories open and workers employed. With the present economic crisis we see the rise of the fascist gangs. We urge all workers to support busing and smash the KKK, the Nazi Party and all other fascist gangs. We demand that the Federal Government nationalize education equalize the money spent on the schools on a per student basis. We also demand an end to all deportations; the undocumented worker is not the cause of unemployment!

And when we cry we want jobs, we don't want them with war. No more military intervention in Southeast Asia or the Middle East! And last-

ed and unemployed. In our unions, PTA'S, community groups, and City Councils, we must call for the nationalization of energy, health and education; we must demand more jobs and services at the expense of the military budget; and we must protest the use of CETA funds for jobs that beef-up the state bureaucracy, but do nothing to serve the working class.

Lean el TRIBUNO POPULAR

P.O. Box 72306 Watts Sta.
Los Angeles, California

ly, we demand of our government that they nationalize the energy industries and stop the horrendous profiteering of the oil monopolies.

Based on this program, a program that is inclusive of the struggle of the working class, we will build the United Front of the working class against fascism and war. One of the main organizational expressions of this United Front must be the Unemployment Councils. However, just as the bourgeoisie fights with every weapon that it has, so must the working class. Above all, what is needed is to develop our Party. The working class sorely needs an independent political party which can lead and organize their spontaneous struggles into one united whole. With our Party thoroughly integrated into these Councils and providing necessary leadership, the working class must demand to know from every bourgeois politician where they stand on the burning questions raised by this crisis. Will they back the demand for jobs with peace or will they back poverty, imperialist war and fascism! The Congress, the President, the Mayors and Governors must be forced to listen to the angry cries of millions of unemployed and employed workers and their families.

We call on all workers and progressives to take the opportunity of this coming Labor Day to launch the efforts to build Unemployment Councils. We must force every organization that we belong to to support the development of these councils. A council based upon only a few will be unable to gather the forces necessary to do battle with the imperialists. In every city across this country, where working class families gather, the Unemployment Councils should hold Labor Day Jobs with Peace rallies and picnics and call the workers to struggle for what is rightfully theirs - a decent, peaceful life for themselves and workers around the world.

JOBS WITH PEACE!
SMASH THE KKK!

For more information about the Communist Labor Party USNA or about the People's Tribune write:

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Brooklyn, N.Y. 11217

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San Francisco, California

P.O. Box 3774
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P.O. Box 72306
Watts Station
Los Angeles, California

Detroit, August 16

ANTI KLAN RALLY

May 29, 1975, Detroit, Michigan. A major newspaper, the *Detroit Free Press* had the audacity to print an article about the KKK in a favourable light, stating "We're just good white Christian people, hard working people, working for a white America." But just like the populist Wallace, who seemingly attacks the bourgeoisie and appeals to "Middle America" in reality, they are against all working people and against any semblance of justice and equality.

Understanding the true nature of the Klan, the outrage of the masses to this article was great. Immediately the Detroit Unemployed Council, the Three for Three Food Co-op, the Save General Baker Committee approached the CLP and demanded that we form a coalition dedicated to our slogan "Smash the Klan". Immediately a petition drive began to gather signatures from the workers in the community to support equal time in the news media and full exposure of the bloody history of the Klan.

Next the coalition approached the Coordinating Council of Human Relations, a council composed of about 80 liberal (progressive) groups that are dedicated to the struggle for human rights. This seemed to have been the turning point in the struggle, for they represent a wide base of support. Angered at the article, the newly formed coalition began to plan an immediate meeting with the editors of the *Free Press*, a city-wide meeting with the clergy of all denominations to demand that they organize their congregations around this issue, and lastly, a city-wide rally to publically protest any continuance of such attacks on the working class.

More recently, on July 15, The Nazis had the gall to hand out leaflets in the heart of downtown Detroit! Several workers saw them and stopped them! These few workers soon had the support of scores of working class brothers and sisters walking by. The Nazis were stopped and the police, seeing the outrage of the workers, took the thugs into protective custody.

During the incident, an unemployed Jefferson worker was hurt. One of the Nazis threw a can, broke the workers' glasses, and caused internal bleeding of the eyes which hospitalized the worker for a week. Since the worker was sick, he was unable to pick up his unemployment compensation check and since his hospitalization meant he wasn't available for work, he can't get it at all. And this with a wife and two children!

We must continue our battle against the Klan and the Nazis. We urge all workers to support the rally on August 16 in downtown Detroit to force the Klan and Nazis out of Detroit and make them illegal.

SMASH THE KKK

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STEEL WORKERS ORGANIZE

Chicago

"Workers in the nation's steel mills are riding out the current economic dilemma relatively unscathed by the recession which has wiped out countless jobs and family incomes." *Chicago Tribune*, Sunday, March 18, 1975.

This statement is nothing but a lie printed to deceive the working class into thinking that all is well not only in the nation's steel industry but with the country's economy as a whole.

District 31 is a prime example of their lies. District 31 is the largest and single most influential and powerful district of all the districts in the United Steelworkers of America Union (USWA). It has a membership of 135,000. All major steel companies are represented in this district, US Steel Gary Works has over 25,000 workers, Inland Steel-22,000 workers, Youngstown Sheet & Tube-8,000, Republic Steel-5,000 and US Steel Southworks in Chicago has over 11,000 workers. There are many more large and smaller steel mills as well as aluminum, tin, and can companies in District 31.

The alarming figure of 15% lay-offs hit the Negro, Puerto Rican and Mexican national minorities the hardest because they were the last hired. Because of the length of time on the jobs they are ineligible for Supplementary Unemployment Benefits. True to their history, the union leadership has done little to beat the increasing lay-offs.

In 1942 Joseph Germano became District Director of District 31. He was District Director for 23 years until Sam Evett, his personal assistant, was appointed to succeed him. For 9 years Evett followed Germano's same policy of denying workers their rights, specially Negro, Mexican and Puerto Rican national minorities.

Then in 1973 through cheating and ballot stuffing the election results favored Evett. Under pressure from many rank-and-file steelworkers the USWA agreed to hold the election over. In protest the workers voted against Evett and elected Ed Sadlowski as Director of District 31 in 1974. Since then Evett and his crew along with the International have frantically tried to stifle Sadlowski. Evett stole funds so Sadlowski could not get settled in his office. Even now Evett's new job as Abel's personal assistant--a position which had been vacant for 20 years--allows him to still run things in the district to some degree.

To insure that the union does not remain in the hands of the treacherous leadership, Ed's consistent statement to "bring the union back to the rank and file" must be carried out. Workers must stick together and defend the interests of all the workers for an injury to one is an injury to all. Just recently in Youngstown Steel the company refused to repair a broken safety rail in a dangerous area where hot slabs rolled by. Several workers were almost injured by the slabs and the broken rail almost fell on a worker so the rest of the workers refused to work under such dangerous conditions. When the company asked other workers to work they could not because they had been legitimately called home for personal emergencies. The company took vengeance on people refusing to work. Seven people were given time off and one union representative was initially fired last week. Why did the company react so severely? We cannot separate these reprimands from the recent massive lay-offs at Youngstown and throughout the nation's industry. Youngstown has begun to force one person to do the work of two in all the mills to squeeze maximum productivity from one worker and save the company from

paying two workers their wages.

The bourgeoisie is not content with slowly working us to death. Their concern is for profits not lives. One other recent example of their callousness and disregard for worker's lives is the death of Raymond Olmos in US Steel South Works. Ray was crushed to a bloody pulp by a heat shield that was lowered into the furnace where he was working. Blood transfusions did not save his life. Frank Mirocha, the local president's response was to "give more blood to the local blood bank."

Fellow workers there is no need for further blood to be spilled or for workers to receive lay-off notices. The factories must remain open--not for the creation of weapons that will kill other workers like ourselves, but for productive meaningful jobs. To accomplish that the workers must demand that the Community Service Committees be revitalized and be composed of both employed and unemployed workers to fight in defense of the workers in this growing crisis.

Workers in US Steel Southworks must attend a meeting on August 13 to hear the results of a full investigation on Ray Olmos' death and to demand that the Union take action to keep Southworks open. Fellow workers, throughout our unions we must demand that a program serving our interest be carried out.

1. Bring back the Community Service Committees and develop Unemployment Councils to aid our brothers and sisters being laid off.
 2. Bring back the right to strike and strike down the ENA and the Taft-Hartley Act.
 3. No consent decree that takes away our civil rights.
 4. Place national minorities and women in positions of leadership and responsibility.
 5. Fight against government proposed cutbacks on unemployment insurance and welfare.
 6. Jobs for every able-bodied worker at the expense of the military budget.
 7. Abolish the Ku Klux Klan, Nazi Party and all other fascist thugs.
- District 31 will be brought back to the rank-and-file if we the workers fight for it.

INTERVIEW

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had received threatening letters from the Klan were refused gun permits. They were refused any type of protection.

The State Police arrested me. They protect the Klan. It's obvious. I know in the past, from reading what little labor history we do have in books, that there were petitions and committees set up to try to get legislation passed to outlaw the Klan, all unsuccessfully. But there was a bill passed, the Taft-Hartley, which prohibits the rights of coal miners to strike! Which means, if the coal operators want to they can bring in the bayonets and rifles of the military to force miners to work.

What are your plans to defend yourself and the Harlan Labor News?

The plans to defend myself and the HLN include getting some legal help, a lawyer, but mainly our only defense is to take this issue to the workers of Harlan County and expose the Klan for what they are, expose this attempt by the coal operators and the KKK; to rally the workers against the Klan. The only real defense we have is the support of the coal miners and their families in Harlan County. In the past the courts have not been on the side of the working class, so we can't depend on the courts. What we must depend on is the workers of Harlan County.

Los Angeles

"It can't happen here" had been the feeling of most workers at Bethlehem Steel in Los Angeles. But the warehouses filled up and in April, May and June the lay-offs hit hard and fast.

First, 150 workers were laid off over a two month period, then 300 workers in one week, and finally 1300 more workers laid-off in one week. Many wonder if Bethlehem isn't going to shut the whole plant down.

This story of heavy lay-offs and unemployment is being repeated all over the city, the state and the country. Across the Midwest, for instance lay-offs in the steel industry are still growing. In Detroit, full production in steel continued when lay-offs in the auto industry were still high. Enough stockpiling was done to enable companies like Great Lakes and McCloth to lay-off substantial numbers of workers, around 1000 so far at Great Lakes alone. These lay-offs were expected to last anywhere from 4 to 10 months. Many workers presently laid-off do not meet the two-year requirement for SUB benefits. In Chicago the pattern has been the same as U.S. Steel and Youngstown recently began laying off.

The response of the workers particularly at Bethlehem has been militant action. In March, an Unemployed Committee was formed in USWA Local 1845. This was done at the urging and with the support of a small group of rank-and-filers and progressive union officers. This group of workers, of all nationalities, men and women, employed and unemployed and communists and non communists, is an example of what it means to unite all sections of the working class into one front of defense on the level of the union local itself.

The Unemployment Committee became active when the massive lay-offs came. The committee leafleted the plant and drew over a hundred unemployed steel workers to the committee's meeting. These workers passed, and the union as a whole endorsed, a program that would meet their immediate needs and also give them a direction for the long-range struggle.

Local 1845's program around unemployment was 1) no overtime during lay-offs, 2) no more productivity schemes, 3) no job combinations, speed-up and harassment, 4) end the 30-day adjustment period (for correcting lay-offs not done according to seniority), 5) special unemployment benefits (SUB) pay for all

What do you think is the future of the struggle in Harlan County?

I think it depends on the workers' consciousness as to what the Klan really represents, and that they see the Klan as a serious threat. I think that after the Klan rally in Harlan County a lot of workers began to take a second look at an organization they said could not happen, and couldn't spread in 1975.

At this point, the future of the struggle depends on whether or not the workers in Harlan support us in spite of the red-baiting attacks on the HLN. If the KKK and the coal operators succeed in dividing the workers in Harlan then the struggle in Harlan County will take a serious setback. The KKK has in the past made their promise to bust unions and at this point they're still in the United Mine Workers! But if the workers support the HLN despite this all out attack, then the struggle in Harlan County will move to a higher level.

**Defend the Harlan Labor News!
Defend Bessie Lou Cornett!**

workers, 6) reinstatement of all workers to make Bethlehem a safe place to work, and 7) jobs for all workers at the expense of the military budget.

The fight was on! The first point on the agenda was the immediate welfare of the workers. Right away the unemployed steel workers, trying to keep their families fed, ran smack-dab into the oppressive apparatus of the capitalist state in the form of the social service bureaucracy. Of 25 cases who were pre-screened for eligibility and completed applications for food stamps, without exception all encountered lies, refusal to accept the applications, hours of questions irrelevant to eligibility, tearing up of valid applications, refusal of emergency stamps, denial of eligibility in violation of state and federal regulations and/or other callous and chauvinist actions by social workers.

However, progress was made on individual cases because the workers were united in the Unemployed Committee and had the union's support. The workers know, however, that this is just a temporary and partial solution. The Committee and members of USWA 1845 have entered resolutely into the long and protracted struggle against not only their immediate employer, but the whole capitalist class.

Their first step was a demonstration to confront the L.A. Department of Public Social Services. It was spirited, militant and completely in the hands of the workers, their wives and families who demanded the right to public assistance benefits and raised the demand of jobs for all. The call was also raised for an end to the use of the DPSS as an arm of the Immigration Service to hunt for undocumented workers; the workers demanded an end to deportations. Workers with Spanish surnames and dark complexions or "foreign looks" had been denied food stamps and were forced to go through tedious and humiliating proof of their "right" to food stamps. These workers learned from first hand experience that the cry for deportations is in fact an attack to divide, weaken and terrorize the whole working class.

This demonstration was followed by another on July 22 at the County Board of Supervisors in L.A. where not only the Bethlehem Unemployed Committee, but many other organizations came down to express their anger over the complete lack of concern of our public officials to the growing economic crisis. This rally spoke not only about unemployment but tied together the rising police murders and the frame-up of Bessie Lou Cornett with the economic crisis.

The Program of the Bethlehem Unemployed Committee is a progressive one and can win broad support from other Unemployment Committees, community groups, organizations of national minorities and other progressive people. With broad support, their actions could play an important part in the formation of a city-wide Unemployment Council in Los Angeles.

The cause of jobs and peace and the unity of the working class based on the defense of the most oppressed and exploited is the cause of all workers and progressive peoples. The CLP greets the steps forward made by the steelworkers from Bethlehem. They are an example for all workers. We will use our press and all means at our disposal to publicize and win support for their cause. We will fight to build a united front of struggle against all the misery and oppression of capitalism. The workers united and organized are the only hope against fascism and war, the only hope for a better future.