

# THE WORKER

For the Milwaukee Area and Wisconsin

December, 1975

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## MEATCUTTERS STAND STRONG BOYCOTT SCAB MEAT

As the meatcutters strike enters its 11th month, two to three hundred strikers are still walking the picket lines every day, holding mass rallies to harass the scabs, and hitting back at the Meatpackers Association every chance they get. On a foggy morning or when the cops' attention is temporarily diverted, the sound of a shattering scab windshield can be heard at Wisconsin Packing or in the valley. Scabs and bosses alike have gotten the message that THE STRIKE IS STILL STRONG.

The longer the strike goes on the more it unites and inspires the workers of Milwaukee. The strike is becoming a real "thorn in the side" to the ruling class. More and more its a rallying point in the workers' fight against attacks like wage cuts, speed up, and union busting.

In response to the meatcutters strength and the growing workers' unity, Governor Lucey, Mayor Maier, and County Executive Doyne sent out a "letter to both sides" calling for negotiations. This was the first move these three ruling class front men have made in the ten month strike. The unbreakable unity of the strike has caused the ruling class to sing a different tune than the one of two months ago. Then the official media word was "For all practical purposes the strike is over."

On the picket lines and at the union hall there is a mood of optimism and determination. The workers know that something has got to give and it ain't gonna be them. They also know they are dealing with crooks and that its no time to let up. Every day as the bosses cross the lines they see the same faces that have been manning the lines for a solid

ten months. And inside the plants the bosses are running into problem after problem trying to get production from a crew of scabs.

At the invitation of striking machinists who have been picketing Hein Werner for three months, a couple meatcutters went out to speak at the union meeting in Waukesha. The point of the speech was that the meatcutters should have

stopped the scabs the first day instead of waiting on the courts and obeying the injunctions---"and that advice goes for you guys if and when scabs cross your lines." When the meatcutter ended his speech with a vow to see the strike through to victory, dollar bills started coming to the front of the room. Nobody had even asked for a collection,

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SPIRITS ARE HIGH ON THE PICKET LINE AFTER 10 MONTHS ON STRIKE.

## AMC WORKERS HIT BACK AT SPEEDUP

MILWAUKEE

"That assembly line is killing us. We got to slow it down." That's what you hear every day at the AMC body plant as speed-up gets more brutal. IE men (efficiency experts) walk up and down the assembly lines making sure every 100th of a second is being used to produce more cars. Job eliminations occur almost every day with one worker put on a job two used to do. And more, like the 70 just before Thanksgiving, go out the door on lay-off.

American Motors is terrified the workers' anger at the speed up will boil over into a sit down or wildcat. Last month on the fifth floor, when the company issued new work methods for the lead torchers, two torchers were eliminated, leaving seven to do the work nine guys used to do.

But the seven refused to be treated like animals and continued working at their regular pace. AMC sent two of the most hated company officials, Sadona and Olewinski, into the area to harass the men. These modern day slave drivers had everything but whips. They stared down the torchers' backs all day using the threat of write-ups and firings in an effort to make them do more work.

After a few days of this harassment, one of the torchers, who had a nervous condition, passed out on the line. AMC's only concern was to keep the line running. Sadona and Olewinski walked past him like he was a piece of broken machinery. The line never stopped as the worker was taken to first aid and the hospital. The other 6 torchers were issued verbal warnings for poor workmanship. That afternoon, the verbals turned into writens.

The workers were furious. Many wanted to stop work at the 9:00 am. break and

not go back until the company backed off. As one old timer said, "This has been going on too long. It's not gonna stop till we sit down and stop it."

The union president showed his face on the 5th floor to make sure the workers didn't take matters into their own hands. "Just let the union handle it," he told everyone. But the people see this "do-nothing" program every day. It's not stopping the firings and lay offs. Many of the workers looked at it this way, "We're the union, and we'll handle it. Just get out of the way."

In response to the growing anger and an emergency grievance, the company agreed to change the method back to the old way. Two torchers were added back. For now the people had won two jobs back -- a small victory in the fight against speed-up. The company finally removed the disciplines from the torchers' records. A joint union/company time study is reviewing the job.

United Auto Workers Local 75 grew to be a strong union by fighting speed up. For years, AM workers had some of the best contracts and working conditions in the city. When the steward couldn't resolve a grievance on the spot, the workers often sat down, slowed down, or wildcatted to get it resolved. The guys on the assembly line were in the union. They knew what they wanted and how to get it. In those days, nobody got thrown out the door for "poor workmanship" or not keeping up with the line.

AMC is attacking every right won over the years. You used to have 3 days to learn a job. Now the company has written up people the first day for not keeping up on a new job. When workers started raising hell about a hoist on the merry-go-round (where the cars

first go on the line) losing nuts and bolts, the company offered hard hats instead of fixing it. A little while later, it fell, crushing a Gremlin body. In Trim on the 4th floor, workers riding the line to finish their operations are threatened with firing.

But we aren't slaves and won't be treated like this. We are the ones who produce every car and who make American Motors rich. Without us, they have nothing, but air guns, welding rods, useless scraps of metal, and presses that can't run by themselves. We have the power.

The union is a powerful weapon in the hands of the rank and file and that's who's gotta take it back. That line's gonna slow down and AMC's gonna learn that we aren't going back to slavery times. ■

**KENOSHA - AMC**

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**DEMAND JOBS OR  
INCOME!**

**MARCH DEC. 13**

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# WHAT'S BREWING IN BEER CITY



## Parking Lot Trouble?

"Just visiting for 8 hours" or "Get me the bolt cutters"

Last month, Mr. Sheely, President of Briggs and Stratton, announced with pride and joy his company had produced their one hundred millionth motor. However, a couple of weeks prior to this momentous occasion Sheely was anything but pleased with the workers who produced all those motors. Apparently when our esteemed President returned to the plant one night on second shift to make sure his motors were all right, he found a worker parked in his reserved space. This was so offensive to him that he ordered the guards to step up the ticketing of cars parked in reserved and visitors parking.

When a 2nd shift worker pulled into a visitors parking space, the guard ran out to tell him to move his car. Faced with the choice of a ticket or being late for work, the guy just walked into the plant and told the guard he was "visiting" for eight hours.

The company is using these tickets to give out disciplinary warnings and layoffs. In department 217, there was a near walkout after a rash of tickets were handed out by the company. And in Die Cast, dept. 178, when the foreman came around with a handful of warnings, one worker took a quick glance at his and threw it into a pot to burn. Workers are now circulating a petition demanding decent parking and an end to the ticketing. They are also trying to figure out other ways to force the company to meet their demands. The workers produced those 100 million motors, and President Sheely never tightened one screw. ■

"Why should we walk three blocks in the cold after a hard day's work to the parking lot when the foremen park right across the street in the new lot?" Inland workers were mad. Some went ahead and parked in the lot anyway. Company guards pulled them off their jobs and told them to move the cars.

One worker came off the job to find his car locked in. He walked into the plant, grabbed a pair of bolt cutters and opened up the lot for himself.

Another worker parked his car there and refused to budge, when both the guard and the nurse told him to move his car. His foreman made the mistake of confronting him in front of the other workers. "What the hell" they said, "you're parking in that lot and you're no better than him or the rest of us. Get off his back!"

A petition, started by the Angry Boilermakers Caucus said, "We make this company run and yet we are made to walk...when we could use the lot right across the street." Over a hundred workers signed.

They took it to the union representative and told him to get an answer for the next union meeting.

He did, and the personnel directors B.S. answer boiled down to this: "We can't have the salesmen inconvenienced."

Several workers went in and parked anyway. One morning, two guards blocked the lot entrance and checked everyone coming in because of a rumor spread about a possible mass park-in.

At this point, the union heads have promised to continue negotiating for the use of the parking lot. The workers say it's just one more company ripoff. ■

## VA Says: "Let's Make a Deal" Vets Say: "Hell No!"

Paul Allen and another member of the Vietnam Veterans Against the War (VVAW) had just finished petitioning at the VA Hospital for an end to all disability cutbacks. They were calling on vets and workers to come to a picket line and to Paul's hearing. When Paul arrived home Dick Williams, one of the VA bureaucrats, called him under the pretense of notifying him of the time of his hearing.

But the VA wasn't calling with Paul's interest at heart. The VA was fearful of the mass support being built for Paul's hearing to receive a "statutory award for loss of use of limb." The VA has denied him this award, part of the many disability cutbacks.

Dick Williams' next line was, "There

is a possibility that we made an error in your case. Would you please come 45 minutes early to your appointment?"

Paul played along. Dick then asked how many people were coming and if he had a lawyer. Paul busted the VA's bubble when he told him that a good size picket line would be there and VVAW was his representative.

Dick tried a last desperate plea to con Paul into coming down early and making a deal. But Paul, along with thousands of vets don't trust the VA further than they can throw the U.S.S. Enterprise!

Fellow vets and workers will be down there for Paul's case to continue the "War on the VA." End All Disability Cutbacks Now! ■

## Hein Werner Strikers Keeping It Shut Down

The Hein Werner strikers are standing strong in their 3rd month on the lines. They are demanding an end to the piecework system, with day rates based on present average piecework earnings. There has been no progress so far at the negotiating table. Hein Werner is taking a hard stand but the workers' stand is even harder.

There is little production being done by the foremen and office personnel. Workers on the picket line get a big laugh when Paul Fischer from the front office comes out to drive the half empty semis in and out. After 30 or 45 minutes of fighting the wheel, he gets the truck backed in. One day he wasn't so lucky. As he tried to back in between two other trucks, he was bouncing back and forth into the other semis.

Although the trucks aren't carrying much, they are a source of anger for the strikers. The Teamsters Union policy of driving up to the picket lines is a joke. It doesn't matter much whether a supervisor drives it across the picket line. The problem is having the truck there in the first place. No driver should be forced to drive up to the line.

In November, the company's insurance company, NY Life, cancelled health insurance for the strikers. Another company offered to sell insurance but they needed 70% of the guys to sign up. The workers saw that NY Life was siding with the company. Almost everyone came to a special union meeting and signed up with the new insurance company.

The last week in November, a lot of Hein Werner workers were deer hunting. When times are tough, a little venison goes a long way. ■



## License Plates Going Up

License plates are going up. The bosses would like us to believe that whenever prices go up it's because worker's got a wage increase. That's a bad joke to the prisoners at Waupun who punch out the license plates for 40¢ - 55¢ a day. ■

CARTOON FROM UNITY BULLETIN, PUT OUT BY PRESSED STEEL WORKERS.



"They've been watching the locker room till the quit whistle, but I don't see them around here."

# THE WORKER

This paper exists to build the struggle of the working class against the capitalist system of exploitation and oppression. It puts forward the political stand of the Revolutionary Communist Party, USA on the major questions and struggles facing the workers.

The Worker for the Milwaukee Area and Wisconsin is one of many such papers across the country. The staffs of these papers are made up of members and supporters of the RCP, USA.

We want to be in touch with all the struggles of our class. We need and welcome your letters, articles, and any kind of contribution or criticism.

To contact us or for more information, write:

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or

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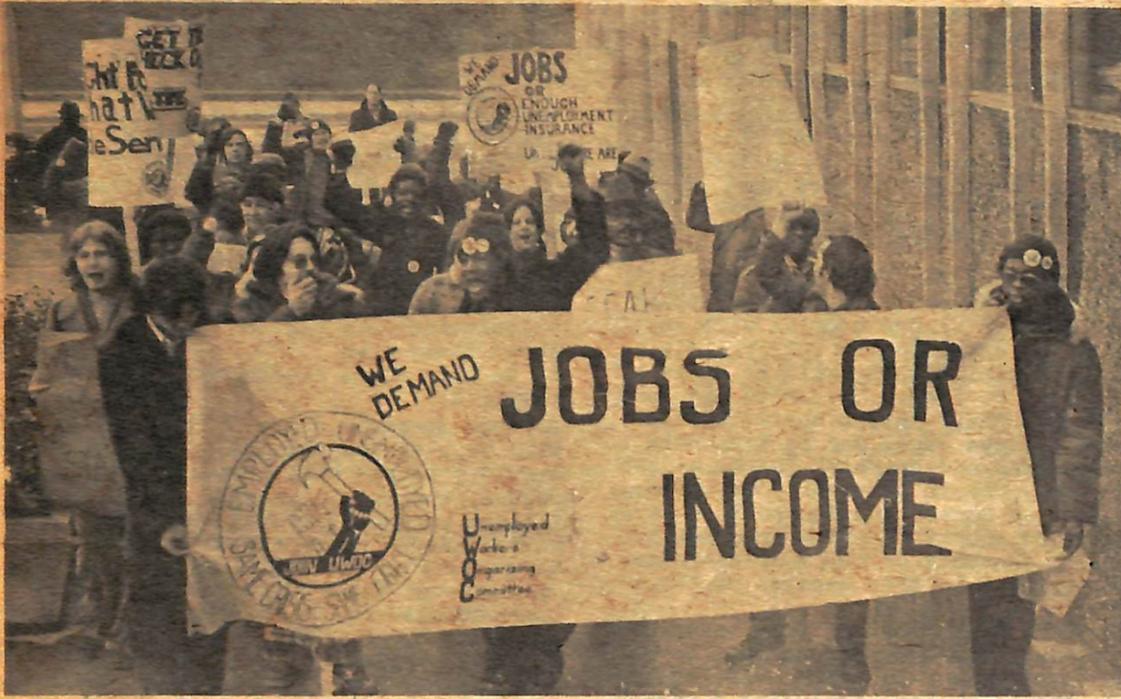
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# "WE DEMAND JOBS OR INCOME NOW!"



UNEMPLOYED & EMPLOYED WORKERS MARCHED ON THE UNEMPLOYMENT OFFICE IN MILWAUKEE TO VOICE THEIR DEMANDS, LIKE OTHERS ARE DOING IN CITIES ACROSS THE COUNTRY.

"I could get another job, but I want to get what I figure this company owes me. They've been pushing on me and trying to black ball my reputation." On September 19th, an experienced honer with 5 years seniority was fired by Scot Industries for "an incident involving photographing employees." In fact it was just one of eight firings by Scot Industrial in a 3 month campaign to break a union organizing drive.

"It's a well known fact that the number one issue in union organizing is job security. Look at it. 8 of us were fired and 4 harassed into quitting."

"I've been down to the unemployment office time and time again. It's all been "no" so far-- denied on account of bad conduct. And they've put the hearing till January--that's a pretty good gap with no income."

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At Crucible Steel, 3rd shift is gone, and the whole plant is down to 4 days work a week. With hundreds laid off, and some guys still going home early for lack of work, the company started bringing in guys from Labor Pool at around \$2 an hour. "Here we are, working 4 days, taking home less than we would on unemployment, and this place has the gall to bring in guys to do our jobs for \$2 an hour. That's got to stop!" It stopped. Workers in the South Bay went to the union, and forced the company to stop bringing people in from Labor Pool, and 2 men were called back from layoff.

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UNEMPLOYMENT LINES PROVE FORD'S "ECONOMIC RECOVERY" A LIE.

About 130 workers at the old Northern and United packinghouses have been terminated since the companies went out of business during the 10 month Meatcutters strike. Another 45 have been fired for "misconduct on the picket lines." "How the Hell can I get fired by the company for something that happens out on the street?"

Some of those same meatcutters lost jobs when Plankinton Packing closed down in 1962. Others were fired in the strike of 1971 and only won their jobs back after a long fight.

In fact, the current strike is in part a battle for job security for the whole membership of local 248. The Meatpackers Association wants to be able to keep the scabs on and rehire the workers on a 30 day probationary period-- in other words, an open shop.

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"As a mechanic I was taking home \$225 a week, and the unemployment office wanted me to take a job for \$80 a week. That's a \$20 a week pay cut from my unemployment benefits! I'm supposed to take a pay cut to help a system that works for big business? No way. I'll fight it any way I can. The best thing to do is get people together. The people have got to do it. There's no other way."

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That's how it is. They need profits like a junkie needs the needle. We need to work to feed our families, we need jobs, or enough income to cover the cost of living until we can get work. If you can't help the boss beat out the next capitalist in the dog-eat-dog drive for profits, it's out the door. It doesn't matter that there's work to be done; housing, parks--WE NEED EVERYTHING.

But with so many out of work, we can't afford to buy the goods. So the warehouses are overloaded---with products we made. And more of us get laid off.

Their profits can only come out of our hides. It's a collision course with no middle ground. And things are getting sharper all the time.

## WHAT'S AHEAD: THEIR PLANS....

Ford recently unveiled his plans for getting the economy going again. No surprise, it's at our expense. Part of it is to cut the food stamp program, which they say is "wasteful." Families making more than \$5000 wouldn't be able to qualify. Strikers wouldn't be able to get food stamps anymore.

Arthur Burns, head of the Federal Reserve board, floated out his plan at a speech at the University of Georgia. He wants to cut all unemployment benefits to 13 weeks, no extensions. He says it will force the unemployed to seek work at whatever wages they can find, and quit loafing.

The mayor of Kansas City has proposed a "national scab program" to "protect cities in the event of public union strikes." This means providing a centrally organized travelling scab force, which would go from city to city breaking strikes. And also training National Guard with federal funds to take over city workers' jobs.

## AND OURS....

But it won't get over, no way. These are fighting times for the working class. The security that older workers thought they had worked for for years is evaporating under our feet.

For younger workers, it's one lay-off after another, and high school students are wondering if they will find anything at all when they get out of school.

Everywhere the struggle and organization is growing for "Jobs or Income." Listen to a young member of the Unemployed Workers Organizing Committee in Buffalo, N.Y. "We've got to join together and fight. CETA workers (federally funded job program) have to unite with the union workers to fight the rotten conditions and get Union Jobs at Union Wages. Some of us are going to the UWOC rally at City Hall. We can not go on like this."

Or a guy fired from a Waukesha machine shop for talking union. "A year ago I thought things were rotten, but I figured I was strong enough to take care of things by myself. Now I see things different. I gotta get active in getting everybody together."

Across the country, 30 chapters of UWOC have grown up, fighting against firings, repossessions, supporting strikes of other workers like the Meatcutters. In Cincinnati, UWOC is helping to fight a runaway shop. In Rochester, N.Y., and other places, UWOC has fought to get the unemployment checks out on time-- not when you're 8 weeks in the hole. In San Francisco UWOC joined with postal workers to fight lay-offs of part-timers, and won 50 jobs back!



UNEMPLOYED WORKERS ARE EAGER TO SIGN UWOC'S PETITION FOR JOBS OR INCOME.

Small fights-- At the end of November half a dozen Milwaukee UWOC members went to a hearing of a guy who had his benefits cut. The office said it was a mistake, and they would be sending his checks right away. These "mistakes" happen to an awful lot of people.

Big fights-- like the Meatcutters strike. UWOC has rallied the unemployed around the strike. Held a picket line that forced the Job Service to stop sending us to scab. We did the same at Labor Pool.

## ANOTHER STEP FORWARD

With the holiday season coming, who is going to fill the stockings without a job? We're ready for another step. In the 2nd week of December, UWOC is calling joint actions for Jobs or Income across the country. Hitting together for the first time. Employed, unemployed, youth and veteran workers.

The actions will raise the key demands of the unemployed at this time in every city. "Jobs Now!" "Extend Benefits-- No Cuts!" and "No Cuts in Food Stamps!" And in Milwaukee we'll be marching for "Victory to the Meatcutters Strike-- We Won't Scab, We Won't Starve!" And these joint actions will be an indication of what our potential is for the future.

It's not a question of whether to fight. We've got to. The December actions are an important step. For more information and to join us call 447-1736, or write PO Box 08305, Mil. Wis. 53208

## MARCH & RALLY FOR JOBS OR INCOME

**JOBS NOW! NO CUTS IN FOOD STAMPS! EXTEND BENEFITS - NO CUTS!**  
**VICTORY TO THE MEATCUTTERS - WE WON'T SCAB, WE WON'T STARVE!**

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13

**MARCH 1pm - 13th & MITCHELL**  
**INDOOR RALLY 2pm 809 W GREENFIELD**

# LETTER FROM A STRIKING MEATCUTTER

The following letter was sent to the Milwaukee Journal to counteract all the pro-company publicity it has printed. The Journal refused.

An open letter to the meat-buying public:

A couple of weeks ago, Mr. Pat Brigden who is the Executive Director of the Independent Meat Packers Association, was a guest on the Ira Fistel late night talk show.

The entire gist of Mr. Brigden's argument was that the Local 248 Union rank and file, through illegal and violent acts, outrageous wage demands, and unreasonable contract stipulations, was forcing the Packers Association to hire non-union workers in order to keep operating and competing with other independent packers.

The truth is that Mr. Brigden and Co. had advertised in out-of-state newspapers for people to work in our plants, not informing them that they would be working on strike-breaking jobs. This---long before the strike even began---indicating that he had no intention of good faith bargaining. Mr. Brigden has a long history of being associated with companies that have been involved in strikes and union-breaking tactics. In 1971, after

he became a part of the Packers Association hierarchy, we (rank and file of Local 248) became involved in the first strike to occur in the more than 30 year relationship that has proved beneficial to the union members but more so to the Association!

For example, the Wisconsin Packing Co. moved their production and shipping departments to a huge complex with vast acreage for expansion in Butler, Wis., while maintaining their killing operation at 215 W. Oregon St. which had formerly housed their entire operation. In addition, Floyd Segel who is Wisconsin Packing, owns and operates The Milwaukee Tallow Co., Carrie Shortening Co., Wisc. Hide Service Corp., and Justro Food corp. (a dog food supplier) which practically insures a monopoly on the meat-by-product operations in this section of the state!

The Peck Meat Packing Corp. has grown from a small family-owned company to a large corporation with vast holdings in the Menomonie Valley, including a parcel of 27 acres purchased in 1974 for a price of \$1.4 million dollars. Incidentally, this was an under-cover deal with no mention of the Peck name until the sale was completed. In the meantime, workers who have labored 15, 20, and in one instance, 28 years helping to build

this corporation, are on the street, jobless, while non-union workers (scabs and strike-breakers) are holding down their jobs. They recently took over the Northern and United Packing Companies from the Kroger Co. Bernie Peck and Co. has grown fat at our expense!

In another example, Nacker Packing Co. has grown from a small veal house, operating out of a decrepit garage building on Forest Home Ave., to a new and efficient building on So. 10th Street.

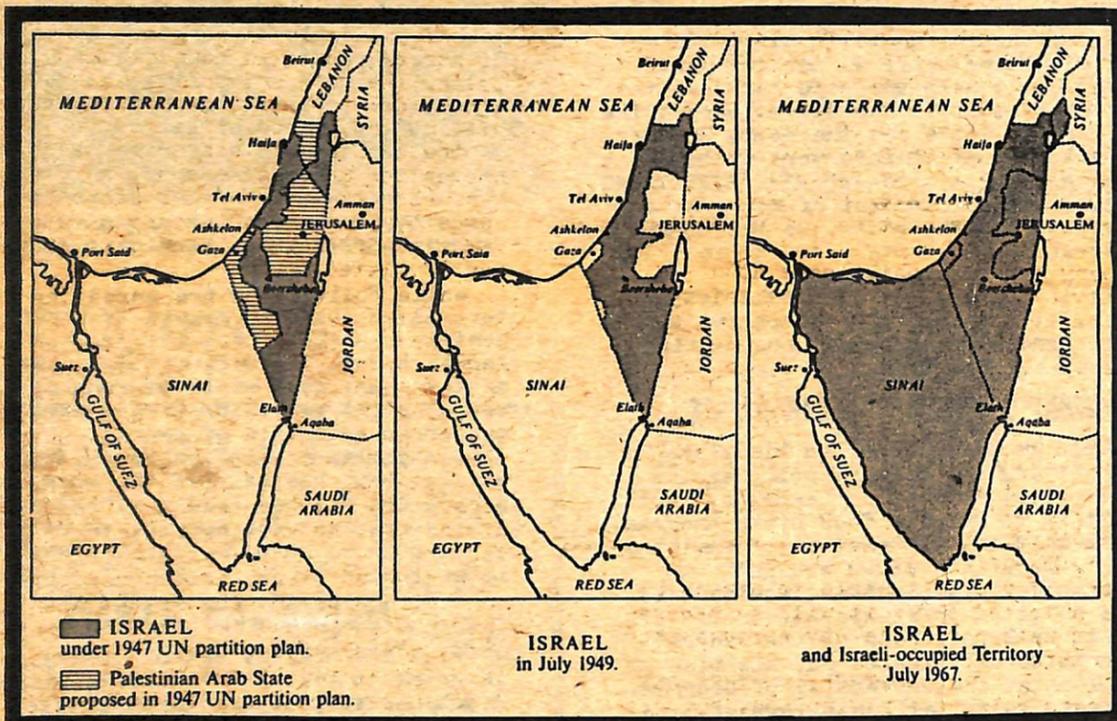
In 1971, after a strike lasting almost 4 months was settled, we (the workers) were issued a new book of rules that had to be followed under penalty of censure or discharge. Now they refuse to even bargain unless certain stipulations are agreed to before-hand. Among these are:

1. An open shop. (Union membership not required.)
2. When operations are fully resumed it will be with the present non-union workers. Our people will be called back as needed, and then only on a 30 day probationary period. (Can you imagine people with 10 to 30 years experience having to work on probation? This is a ploy to weed out those the Company considers undesirable, i.e. Picket Captains, rally organizers, and Union Officers.)
3. In any grievance arbitration the Company has the right to pick the arbitrators, with the Union paying all expenses---win or lose. These are only a few of the demands of the Association (Mr. Brigden-Mr. Segel-Mr. Peck) before they will discuss a contract.

When this strike, now almost 10 mos. long, is settled I imagine the new rules will be something like the excerpt I have taken from the Nov. issue of Butcher Workman magazine:----

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

## BEHIND THE "ZIONISM" UPROAR



IN 1947 ZIONISTS WERE "GIVEN" 56% OF PALESTINE; IN 1949 ZIONISTS CONQUERED 80% OF PALESTINE; IN 1967 THEY CONQUERED 100% PLUS PARTS OF EGYPT AND SYRIA. THE FOUNDERS OF ZIONISM INTENDED TO EXPAND ALL OVER THE MIDDLE EAST.

The November 10th UN General Assembly vote declaring Zionism "a form of racism and racial discrimination" has raised a storm of protest in the US ruling class. "The UN has given the appearance of international sanction to anti-semitism" shouted US Ambassador Moynihan. "It's neo-nazism," charged the newspapers. "An attack on one of the few democratic governments in the UN by the majority of dictatorial governments."

What a bunch of garbage. Since when has the US ruling class become the great fighter against discrimination and for democracy? They support dictatorships all around the world and attack minorities, including Jews, whenever it serves their purpose. The UN vote has the US ruling class uptight because they depend on the existence of Israel to maintain their control in the oil rich Middle East.

All the talk about the UN vote being anti-semitic is just an attempt to confuse the situation. They are trying to make it seem like an attack on Zionism is an attack on the Jewish people. This is both a lie and a cover-up. Zionism today is an imperialist backed movement to uphold the existence of the state of Israel on the territory of Palestine and other Arab lands. The UN anti-Zionism vote, together with two other UN resolutions passed the same day declaring support for the

rights of the Palestinian people to their homeland, is an attack against this occupation, not on Jews.

Zionism and the Jewish people are not the same thing. Historically Zionism was not a movement that developed from the masses of Jewish people or even had mass support. It was started by a small group of Eastern European Jews in the late 1800's. They preached that the masses of Jewish people could never join with people of other religious or ethnic backgrounds to fight their common oppression. Only by fleeing to a Jewish state could they be free.

The main support for Zionism came from the Jewish capitalists and first British and then American imperialism. To Jewish workers, complained a Zionist leader in the 1920's "Zionism was a hobby of the Bourgeoisie. Their concerns were with the abolition of the sweatshop and other forms of capitalist exploitation."

But the British imperialists, who were competing with other powers for division of the world after World War I saw the establishment of a Jewish settlement in Palestine as an aid to promote their claims to the Middle East. Under British protection and sponsorship, numbers of Jews were settled in Palestine between the two world wars.

Zionism got its real push forward from the rise of German Fascism. It

was only by using the horror and desperation of the Jews in the face of Nazi genocide that the Zionists were able to build any mass support for their plans. They stated openly that their first concern was not to save Jews from Hitler's gas ovens, but to use the Nazis to get more Jews into Palestine. In 1943, the head of the Jewish Agency Rescue Committee declared: "If I am asked, could you give from United Jewish Appeals money to rescue Jews? I say 'No and I say No again.' In my opinion we have to resist that wave which puts Zionist activities in second line."

Many Zionists collaborated directly with the Nazis to promote the "Zionist activities" They urged Jews to wear the yellow star six years before the Nazis ordered it. And in the face of the heroic and militant resistance of the Jewish people in the Warsaw ghetto, the Zionists preached there was no hope in resistance and helped police the ghettos and camps.

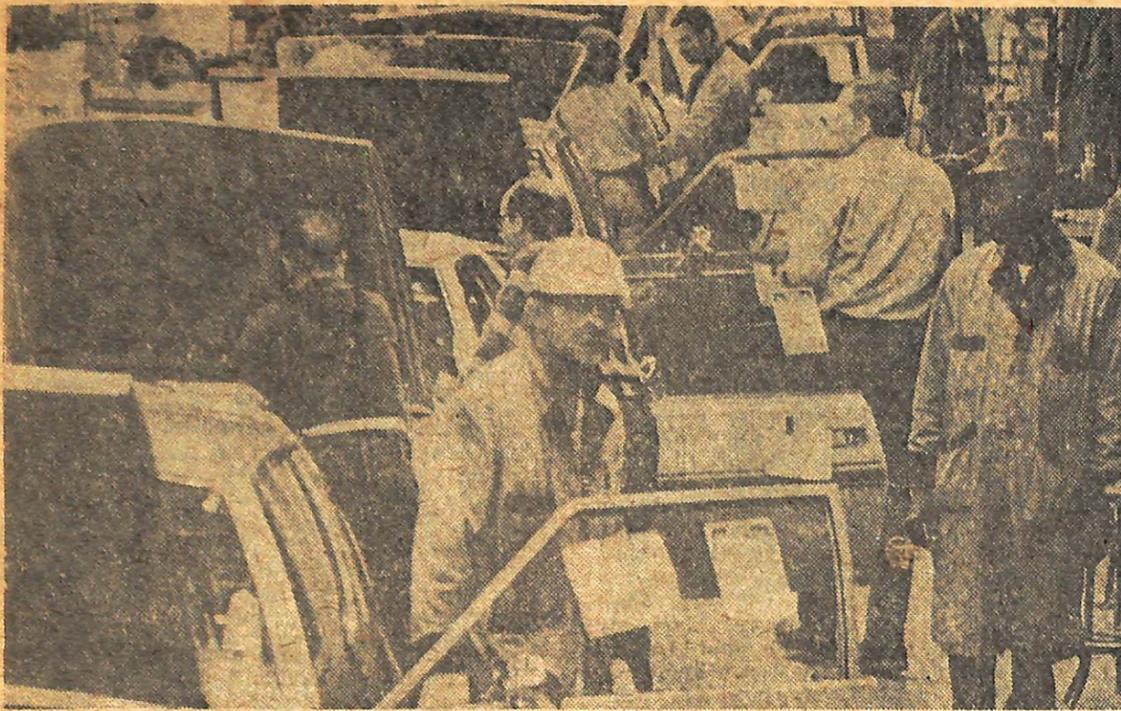
In Palestine itself, Zionism was a movement of terrorist gangs and imperialist backed militias that carried on a violent campaign to drive the Arab population from their land. By 1949, over one million Palestinians had been driven from their homes into wretched refugee camps in surrounding Arab countries. "What Arabs?", said the first president of Israel. "They are hardly of any consequence." God had willed the reestablishment of a Jewish state in these Biblical lands. If that meant stealing the homes and land of the Palestinian people, who were they to dispute God's will?

Fortunately, God's will also conformed nicely to the interests of Israeli capitalists and US imperialists, who took over from the British as main power in the Middle East after World War II.

The US has armed Israel to the teeth and has supported Israeli attacks on surrounding Arab countries that have more than doubled the amount of territory occupied by the Zionist state since its founding in 1948. At the same time, the US rulers and their media try to turn reality on its head by painting Israel as the small, encircled victim of Arab terrorists.

The Zionists are willing to sacrifice the lives of Jewish and Arab people right to the end rather than allow the creation of a secular (freedom of religion, no state religion), democratic state in Palestine where Jews and Arabs can work together to build a new society. Zionism means a religious state, run by the Israeli capitalists.

The UN vote reflects the growing strength of the struggle of the Palestinian people to regain their homelands. It has ripped the false mask of "protector of Jews" off of Zionism and showed it to be nothing but the protector of Israeli capitalists and US imperialists. ■



AMC MAKES ALOT OF NOISE ABOUT SAFETY. BUT THE COMPANY REALLY DOESN'T CARE ABOUT SAFETY. THE BIGGEST SAFETY HAZARD IS THE SPEED THE LINES RUN AT.

# EDITORIAL: GUN CONTROL NO SOLUTION TO CRIME

There's been a lot of publicity about gun control the past few years. The Patty Hearst incidents, the recent shooting attempts at Ford, and especially the growth of crime are used to push gun control. But gun control is no solution to crime. And working people do not want to give up their right to have guns.

The bosses through the news media say the real cause of crime is the way an average person can get a handgun, particularly the "Saturday night specials." They say outlawing these guns and requiring guns to be registered will decrease crime.

The crime rate has soared. The streets outside our homes are not safe at night. And a cruising patrol car usually means harassment, not real protection from crime.

We all want to see crime stopped. But who is fooling who? It's obvious that criminals won't crowd police stations to register their firearms. Gun control laws won't stop crime, because guns don't start crime. But rather than deal with the cause, the bosses try to sidetrack us with a phony issue like gun control.

As unemployment rises, crime is bound to go up, and it does. No politician or boss is providing decent jobs for unemployed workers. And a lot of hungry people is bound to mean more crime. The cops and politicians don't give a damn about workers being ripped off, mugged, raped or killed.

The capitalists use crime as an excuse for more repression. In Massachusetts, a one year sentence is mandatory for anyone having an unregistered handgun, even if no crime was committed.

While politicians are screaming for laws to restrict ownership of guns by ordinary people, they are allotting more money for cops and special weapons. In Los Angeles, cops were given special training in case food riots break out. The rich want us to depend on their police for protection. But workers know what kind of "protection" the cops give--they protect the property of the wealthy and the rackets of the mob.

What kind of protection did the meatcutters or the workers at Masterlock get from the cops? They saw cops escort scabs across picket lines to take their jobs. What kind of protection did Jerry Brookshire or Richard Flynn get? A bullet in the back and a whitewashed inquest.

We're caught in the middle between criminals on one side and trigger-happy cops on the other. What we need is an end to all the attacks that make our lives a constant struggle. And we need the right to bear arms to protect ourselves, our families, and our homes.

And the only way we can do this is by organizing a strong working class movement to rid ourselves of all attacks caused by the bosses and their system--brutality, crime, or unemployment. We've got to fight their attempts to disarm the working class so they can keep running this country in their own interest.

Gun control? NO WAY! We cannot depend on the government or any of its police for protection. We will not give up our right to keep and bear arms. ■

## AMC KENOSHA SIT-DOWN

Workers on the Big car line (Dept. 828) at American Motors in Kenosha took matters into their own hands when an unsafe machine injured a worker.

On November 5th, a faulty spring compressor shot out a spring, hitting a worker directly in the face and breaking his jaw. All three men remaining on the spring job sat down and refused to work, causing the line to shut down for almost an hour.

The supervisors ran around frantically trying to get some people to run the job. Several guys who knew the job refused to do it when they were asked. The company was even stupid enough to ask one man who had been injured in the same way a couple of months before. He also refused to work and the line stayed down.

The company fired the three workers who sat down and their steward, who stuck up for them. Firing these workers didn't scare anybody, and it sure enough didn't get the line running.

The company then proceeded to put white shirts on the jobs and start the line up. The union leaders told everyone that it was alright to run the line with the supervisors working.

But this is not the workers way at all. Whenever a foreman starts working, the workers harass him into getting off the line. What the union leaders were

really saying was "production is more important than everyone sticking together to win this struggle." To them, the company is a "friend" and they don't want to upset their "friendship."

If the men had left things up to the union leadership, they would not have shut down in the first place. Other workers would be facing the same faulty spring compressor, and another worker could be in the hospital.

Within two hours the men got their jobs back, and the company promised to have regular safety inspections on the spring compressors. All over the plant there is old and faulty machinery that should be replaced completely. AMC makes a lot of noise about safety. On the side of the building at 30th Ave. and 52nd St. there are signs that say, "An accident is your natural enemy." But the company doesn't really care about safety. In fact, the biggest safety hazard is the speed the lines run at.

By taking matters into our own hands, like the workers did in 828, we can get things done right away. If we had relied on the union leadership we would only have filed a grievance or talked to the foreman. But we took direct action that really hit a blow at the company. Our strength is in our unity and our struggle. ■

### meatcutter's letter CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

COMPANY RULES IN A NON-UNION SHOP SICKNESS...No excuse...We will no longer accept your doctor's statement as proof as we believe that if you are able to go to the doctor, you are able to come to work.

DEATH...Your own...This will be accepted as an excuse, but we will need a two-week notice. It is your duty to train your replacement.

DEATH...Other than your own...This is no excuse. There is nothing you can do for them and we are sure that someone else can attend to the arrangements.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE...For an operation... We no longer allow this practice. We believe you will need all of whatever you have and you should not consider having anything removed. We hired you as you are, and to remove anything would certainly make you less than we bargained for!

RESTROOMS...In the future we will go to the restroom in alphabetical order. For instance: Those whose names begin with "A" will go from 9:00 to 9:05 A.M., and "B" will go from 9:05 to 9:10 A.M., and

so on. If you are unable to attend at your allotted time, it will be necessary to wait until the day arrives when your turn comes again!

YOURS TRULY, THE BOSS

These rules are ridiculous, but not improbable, and these and all the other deprivations that unionists all over this nation have fought against and even died for, must not be allowed.

I ask, I plead, I beg YOU THE PUBLIC, do not allow this to happen! Write to your councilman, Supervisor, Congressman, Senator or whoever you think you can get to help us to keep these monopolies from becoming a reality in our City and State.

Many stores right here in our City are selling scab meat. BOYCOTT THEM! Join us on our picket lines and rallies. Show the Association we are a solid labor town. We of Local 248 are the first test! IF WE LOSE\*\*WHICH UNION WILL BE NEXT? YOURS?

Fraternally,  
striking member of the Amalgamated Meatcutters and Butcher Workmen of North America ■



# Report from the Fields

## FARMWORKERS VOTE, FACE NEW BATTLES



THE DETERMINED STRUGGLE OF FARMWORKERS, COMBINED WITH THE WIDESPREAD SUPPORT OF MILLIONS, HAS WON MANY VICTORIES.

Years of struggle by California farmworkers entered a new phase this summer and fall, as they focused on winning elections for representation by their union, the United Farmworkers Union (UFW). The intense battles and widespread, militant support generated around the country, forced the California state government to pass a law conceding workers in the fields the right to vote for union representation.

The struggle, and the forcing of the law, was a major blow to the growers' schemes to ban unions altogether or to sign sweetheart contracts with the Teamster Union leadership behind the backs of workers.

But the growers haven't thrown in the towel, of course, and they are trying to use the new law to blunt the sharp edge of the farmworkers' struggle. One of their tactics has been to tangle the farmworkers in a maze of courts and the newly-formed Calif. Agricultural Labor Relations Board (the Commission), getting the struggle out of the fields where the workers are strong, and into the courts, where, with capitalists laws and capitalist judges, the growers are strong.

As of November 1, the UFW had won 141 elections as opposed to 91 for the Teamsters, with 12 for "no union." While these results were a victory, and broke the grower-Teamster official sweetheart stranglehold, it was clear that the law by itself had not given the kind of tot-

al victory that some, including the UFW leadership, had promised. This has given rise to a lot of discussion among farmworkers. The following article takes up some important questions around the current phase of the struggle. It first appeared in The Worker for the Salinas and Pajaro Valleys, an important agricultural region in California.

When the growers barred UFW organizers from the fields, we filed depositions with the Agricultural Labor Commission and waited for them to take action. When the Teamsters carried guns into the fields and threatened workers, we filed depositions with the Commission and waited for them to take action. When the growers fired entire crews sympathetic to the UFW, we filed depositions with the Commission and waited for them to take action.

And what "action" can the Commission take? They can charge the growers and Teamsters with "unfair labor practices," which amounts to nothing more than what one grower laughingly called "a slap on the wrist."

As we twist and turn trying to find a legal way out of the web, the growers openly violate the law, safely hidden in their dark little holes, practically immune from punishment.

How did we get in this fix? Where did this law come from? What is its purpose? How can we free ourselves from these bonds so that we can move forward in our struggle against the

growers?

The law came from our own struggle. It represents a defeat in the growers' strategy to destroy the UFW by bringing in the Teamsters as a company union. In 1974 we had more strikes in the fields of California than any other time since 1930's. The growers were hurting. They decided to agree to this law that would grant farmworkers the right to vote for the UFW to represent them in negotiations. In exchange they hoped to move the struggle of farmworkers from the fields (where the growers could be badly hurt) to the courts (where the growers are pretty safe).

The growers are not the first members of the boss class to tie up workers' struggles in the courts. The bosses have been doing that for years. In the courts their money talks.

They always can win delays and postponements that make it very difficult to conduct winning strikes. That's why the miners just waged a furious struggle to keep the right to strike over local grievances in their own hands, rather than turn those disputes over to some judge on an arbitration board. That's why the steelworkers are fighting a determined battle against the No-Strike deal. And that's why in the past farmworkers have torn up injunctions aimed at stopping our strikes.

Our strategy in the face of this new law should have been clear. Use it to win all we can, but never tie ourselves to it completely. As long as we depend solely on the law, the growers have us where they want us--caught in a web of depositions, injunctions, court orders, and legal maneuvers.

The leadership of the UFW walked right into the trap. When the law was passed they told us, "the race is won." Rely on the law, they lectured us, rely on our friends in the government. When things go wrong they tell us not to despair, the problem is only that the wrong people are administering the law. But the law itself, and the official UFW strategy of relying on that law, are never faulted. They tell us we are going to ride this law all the way to good contracts. It is the law that gives us power.

That is a lie. Our power against the bosses is our ability to withhold our labor and to stop others from working in our places. The strike is the main strength of our union, whether our strikes are called legal or illegal by some corrupt judge. Supposedly the great benefit of this new law is that once we win an election the bosses must negotiate with us or they are breaking the law. But when we wage successful strikes the boss must negotiate with us or lose their ass. And the bosses are more afraid of that than they are afraid of breaking the law.

Let's go ahead and win all the elections we can. But we must not let our struggle get tied up in a legal web. These elections are not shortcuts. We still have the struggle ahead of us for good contracts. No law can win that struggle for us. No liberal governor nor friendly priest. We must win it ourselves.

Farmworkers will soon be involved in strikes to battle the growers for higher wages and better conditions. As in the past, the support of millions of workers and others around the country will help them win victory. ■

## FBI: Secret Police Against The People

Now it's the FBI's turn to be investigated, and this new "FBI Story" is another government scandal. The Senate Investigating Committee that was forced to reveal some of the CIA's activities is now saying that the FBI also has "gotten out of hand" in its "work."

According to Clarence Kelly, the present Director of the FBI, the organization was set up to "keep extremists from destroying this form of government that assures our freedom." But if we live in a democracy with a guarantee of freedom, why is there a secret police force like the FBI? What's so democratic about that?

The fact is the FBI hasn't "gotten out of hand" at all. It's a secret goon squad that has gotten away with murder since it was set up to protect this rich man's system in order to keep it going.

The FBI has TV shows and publicity campaigns talking about how they go after gangsters and "public enemies." The FBI's real crime fighting record tells a completely different story.

On the excuse that anyone or any group is a "threat" to the country, the FBI has broken into homes and offi-

ces to steal information and tap phones. In the '60's, FBI agents, paid informers, or local police trained by the FBI did this to members of anti-war groups and Black liberation groups.

Fred Hampton, a Black activist killed in a police ambush in 1969, was set up by a paid FBI informer. Martin Luther King was harassed, bugged and the subject of a rumor campaign in the late '50's and early '60's.

The FBI used another government agency, the Internal Revenue Service, to threaten activists and political groups with tax audits. The FBI planted agents in organizations to disrupt activities or out and out plan them. The Camden draft card center fire was organized and lead by an FBI agent.

In the '30's, '40's and '50's, the FBI paid informers to be labor spies. Many fighters for the people, some of them Communists, went to jail for their union organizing activities because of the testimony of labor spies.

Recently in Milwaukee, Doug Durham, a confessed FBI informer, spoke to a meeting of the John Birch Society. He talked about his "exciting" life as a paid snitch. Durham had participated in some actions of the American Indian

Movement, becoming an "adviser" and friend to Dennis Banks. When Indians and others protested his appearance, they were attacked by cops.



AT THE WAR MEMORIAL, PEOPLE PROTESTING AN FBI INFORMER WERE ATTACKED BY POLICE

Some politicians are crying for reform. "The FBI has become too powerful," some are saying. No amount of reform is going to change the FBI or the job it does. It was set up to protect the ruling class from what it is most afraid of--the growing power of the working class, the gains we force out of the ruling class, and the unity and fight that will bring liberation for the working class. ■

# A Century of Bitter Struggle in the Packinghouses: 'UNITY IS THE ONLY WAY!'

For over a century, meatcutters have fought to break the chains of oppression in the packing houses. From the general strike of 1886 to the 10 month long meatcutters struggle of today, it has been a bitter battle.

Workers and their families went hungry during strikes. Many were fired for union activity. Others were harassed into the hardest, most dangerous jobs. Some died in the fight to build the union. But anything to organize and beat back the relentless drive for profits by the capitalists was worth it--to men and women who had been held down for too long.

May 3, 1886 was the high point of a nationwide upsurge for the 8 hour day. Workers poured out of the packing houses in Chicago to join the city-wide protests. The general strike won the 8 hr. day for packing house workers and those of several other industries.

But true to form, the capitalists took back the eight hour day a few months later and meat packing workers had to strike 9,000 strong again in October. To this day meatcutters are still fighting for the right to turn down mandatory 50 and 60 hour weeks.

The next high point in packing house history came eight years later when butchers, laborers, and kill floor workers walked out by the thousands in support of a nationwide railway strike. The rail workers had traffic tied up all across the midwest, but government troops were running the trains and brutalizing the strikers.

The economic "Panic of 1893" had brought big wage cuts to the packing houses which were stinking, unsafe, unsanitary, and hard as hell to work in. With a strong working class solidarity, the packing house workers went up against the troops in Chicago and South Omaha.

All along packing house workers had to fight the AFL's policy of craft unionism. In these mass production houses, this meant as many as 56 different crafts each with their own local.

But after the turn of the century, beef boners, sausage makers, hog butchers, coopers, beef carriers, and other locals joined together in amalgamated councils in most of the major packing centers. For the first time in history they had enough unity to force the meat bosses to sign contracts. Earlier than any mass production industry, they were starting to make some progress.

For example in Chicago, the bosses were forced to lighten the load for beef carriers by adding 16 luggers to a 37 man crew. Locals fought for and won seniority in promotions and also wage increases. Workers won the closed shop by refusing to work alongside anyone who



MASS ACTION AND UNITY, LIKE THIS MEATCUTTERS HUNGER MARCH DURING THE DEPRESSION, IS WHAT BUILT AND STRENGTHENED THE MEATCUTTERS UNION.

didn't have a union card.

But when the capitalist economy went into a depression in 1904, the "Big Seven" packing monopolies cut wages to save their profits. They refused the workers demand for an hourly wage of 18¢. The workers responded by walking out from New York to Kansas City.

The packers hired scabs from the large number of unemployed at that time. They said they would keep the scabs and re-hire only those strikers they wanted back. The workers wouldn't go for this and the craft locals of maintenance and mechanical tradesmen threatened to walk out. The "Big Seven" came around, saying they would take all the strikers back.

When word of the settlement got out, scabs started leaving the shops. They knew how dangerous it would be to work alongside a union man.

But the companies immediately broke the agreement by refusing to re-hire many of the active strikers. Before an angry crowd of workers in front of the Chicago stockyards, a cattle butcher got

up on a barrel and declared that the strike was on again.

The workers rushed back to their picket lines and the top union leaders were forced to call out the skilled trades union still working. Stockyard teamsters bucked their union leadership and walked out to strengthen the renewed strike.

The companies stepped up their use of violence, injunctions, and recruitment of scabs. Having opposed the strike in the first place, the top AFL leaders gave it no support. Two AFL unions stayed on the job. They helped keep the ice making machines running so the companies could operate.

After nine weeks with no such thing as strike benefits, the first nationwide packing house strike was lost and the union was almost destroyed.

Thirteen years later in 1918, the economy was booming with World War One going and the demand for meat high. Large numbers of unskilled immigrant workers began re-building the unions.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13

## MEATCUTTERS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

yet \$88 dollars was raised. This donation and the long round of applause showed how much respect the meatcutters have won.

The growing support behind the strike was clear at a recent meeting of the Meatcutters Solidarity Committee. The committee is a city-wide workers organization initiated by the Revolutionary Communist Party to build support for the strike. Workers from over a dozen shops came to discuss building the "buck-a-month" clubs and plans to step up the boycott of scab meat. In their first month, the "buck-a-month clubs" in several shops collected a total of \$197. Every member kicks in a dollar a month and helps build up support for the strike in the shop. At Inland Ryerson, the buck-a-month club pushed a resolution at the union meeting for a canned goods donation and are helping set up the collection.

On November 22, the Solidarity Comm. set up picket lines at Sentry stores at 43rd and Capitol and 13th and Oklahoma. They were calling on workers to boycott scab meat on Sentry's shelves like the ground beef, some of which is scab made, and Klements sausage. Union members from places like Heil, Nordberg, and Harnischfeger on the south side and AO Smith and Masterlock on the north side expressed their solidarity--letting scab meat pile up on the shelves and many not even entering the stores.

A successful boycott of scab meat can be a real blow to the Milwaukee Independent Meatpackers Association. In a system

where the only thing that counts is profits, when the sales are cut, we can hurt the packing house bosses.

The strike has been marked by rank and file initiative--trying to set up talk shows, building the boycott, organizing mass picket lines or taking some action against scabs.

When the scabbing role of the Teamster leaders got to be too much to handle and no good answers were coming out why the Teamster drivers had to cross the lines, some workers went to the big Teamsters headquarters on Bluemound Road. They were told that due to a "grudge" between the Teamsters and Meatcutters leaderships over twenty years old, the Teamsters would not sanction the strike. Strikers know that most Teamster drivers would be glad to honor the lines and say this "feud" between union bureaucrats is a lot of BS. Teamster leaders are placing themselves on the side of the companies, cops and courts and against the meatcutters and their own members.

With the tight unity of the meatcutters themselves--their initiative and willingness to act and the growing solidarity of workers around the city and country, the bosses are going to have to give in. Lucey, Maier, and Doyne know this. These guys are no dummies. They know that the momentum behind the striking members of local 248 is growing----and that the meatcutters strike can't be broken. They saw the hundreds that came out for the Solidarity Rally on October 24th---and like the politicians they are, they want to get every political gain they can for themselves. After the June 4th rally of one thousand people, aldermen put them-

selves and their "anti-scab" legislation as the saviors of the meatcutters. Now the big three chief executives are acting like they are really good guys, and after ten months they finally realized there was a strike going on--so they could come galloping to the rescue.

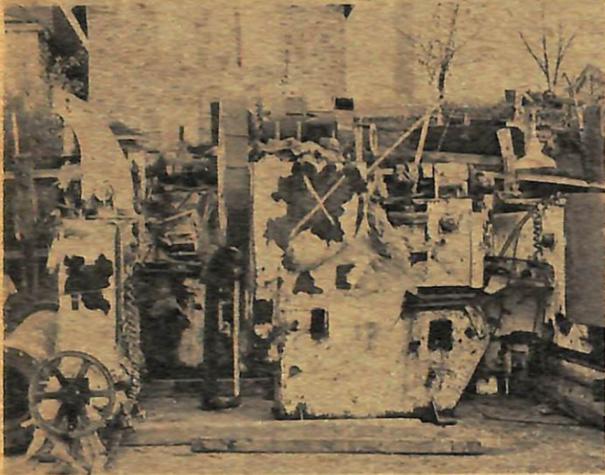
But the men and women who walked the lines ten months, the over one hundred people who got arrested, the thousands who gave money through their unions or the clubs, and the many other working people who made up this mass movement----all these know that it is the unity and power of a mobilized working class that can win these tough battles. ■



JOIN THE PICKET LINES AT SENTRY! BUILD THE BOYCOTT OF SCAB MEAT! FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL 442-5542.

# STEEL WORKERS HEAT UP

## PRESSED STEEL WORKERS FIGHT HARASSMENT



BELIEVE IT OR NOT, THIS "NEW" SHEAR IS PART OF PST'S \$ 2.2 MILLION AUTOMATION INVESTMENT. PST COMPLAINS ABOUT "LOW PRODUCTIVITY." THAT'S ALL THEY'LL GET FROM A MACHINE LIKE THIS.

As the presses and furnaces started up at Pressed Steel Tank late this summer after a 2½ month strike, the workers were hit by the company with one tactic after another to increase production. On the bulletin board were new work rules trying to chain the men to their machines until "five minutes to." Foremen, with shiny white hard hats, guarded the aisles and locker rooms, threatening to use write-ups, lay-offs, and firings as a club to enforce the speed-up.

Since the strike, the men have been working for a boss who is more intensely concerned about competition. A consent decree by the Justice department forced the selling of the West Allis plant to a new owner, breaking up a nation-wide monopoly of the industrial tank business.

Workers were threatened with lay offs for quitting a few minutes early. The guys' anger came to a head when the company threatened a worker with 35 years seniority.

The first union meeting after the strike was a hot one. The men demanded that the union take a stand. A motion was made to throw out the contract vote because a new productivity clause, section 19.1, had been slipped in under the table by the company and the bargaining committee without the membership's knowledge. This clause states that the workers must stay by their machine for the whole 8 hours. A clause no one knew about in a contract no one has seen four months after the strike.

But new clause or not, the steelworkers have not given in to the speed-up. Grievance after grievance has been filed against the harassment. Workers have punched out early many times in response to a junior foreman who is a frontrunner in the company's harassment program. In many areas of the shop the men have held production at the same level as before the strike. They know,

especially from the experience of older workers that an increase in production will only lead to busting the rates.

This individual resistance is becoming organized as people realize that their strength lies in unity. During the strike a group of rank and file workers held some meetings and printed a weekly Unity Bulletin to help build the fight. Back in the shop the newsletter has continued to report on the various struggles in different departments. It calls on workers to stand together to resist the productivity drive and to support the battles of other workers.

When a foreman threatened to dock a trucker ½ hour pay because he supposedly couldn't find the trucker, a couple dozen workers in the department signed a petition backing the brother up. The petition meant more than writing your name on a piece of paper. Some guys waved it right in the foreman's face, letting him know that it wasn't one angry worker but a whole long list of names standing together as one. The company was forced to back down and pay the man.

PST has used their bulletin boards to wage a constant propaganda campaign. Right after the strike an editorial by anti-labor newspaperman Victor Reisal went up on all the boards--"Armed with clubs and brass knuckles communists and Maoists are out to take over factories and unions." This was directed at those workers who have been active in putting out the Unity Bulletin and standing up with others against the company. Most people got a kick out of this weak red-scare tactic used by the company. They weren't going to let it divide their ranks.

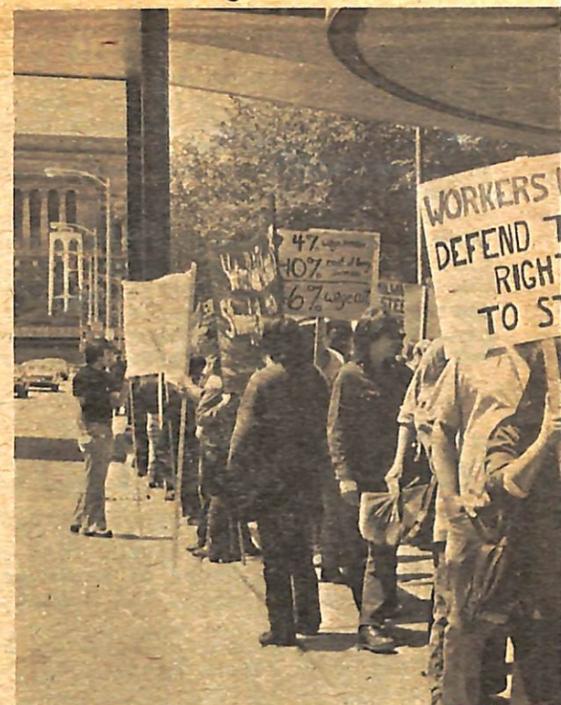
The more the company tries to sweat increased production from the workers, the more they go up against the workers growing anger. An article in the last Unity Bulletin written by a high seniority worker who has spent half his life making profits for Pressed Steel said, "I say to you, Watson (President of PST), get to the real problems, stop the harassment, fix the machinery and don't bug the workers." Workers passed the leaflet around every department. Management fumed and cried they'd fire whoever wrote it. But the Unity Bulletin isn't just the words of one man, it represents the anger of many more. What the company fears is that the PST workers are forming a unity between young and old, different shifts, and different departments that can be organized to resist the speed-up and harassment. The rank and file is beginning to take matters into their own hands, printing their newsletter and looking to make their union fight once again for them. Like one of the last Unity Bulletins read, "We will not be ground into the dirt to fill their pockets with profits and ours with change. We can unite!" ■



SEATTLE STEELWORKERS MEETING DEMANDING SI

## STEELWORKERS LAYOFFS,

From the steel mills on the East and West coasts to the steelworker shops here in Milwaukee, workers are up against increasing company attacks. The heart of the fight is the struggle and unity of the workers themselves on the floors of the shops and mills. In our fight against layoffs, speed up and wage cuts, we are learning more and more that our strength lies in our act-



STEELWORKERS & OTHERS PROTESTED ABEL'S

ion and we're stepping up the fight.

Layoffs have begun to hit hard. For example, many fabricating shops here in Milwaukee are now laying off for the first time in recent years. They escaped the wave of layoffs last year that rocked the auto industry. But now with the economy continuing to sputter and gasp for breath, construction companies aren't buying new cement mixers, factories aren't buying new machines and the whole steel industry is slowing down.

Last winter when hundreds of AO Smith workers were out on the streets, Rexnord was busy and some departments were working overtime. But now about 10% of the guys are laid off, back to 3 years seniority.

Even Harnischfeger and BE, the two companies kept alive by the big increase in coal mining, are about at the end of the rope. Unless you have experience and qualifications that fit to the T, it's the same old story, don't call us, we'll call you.

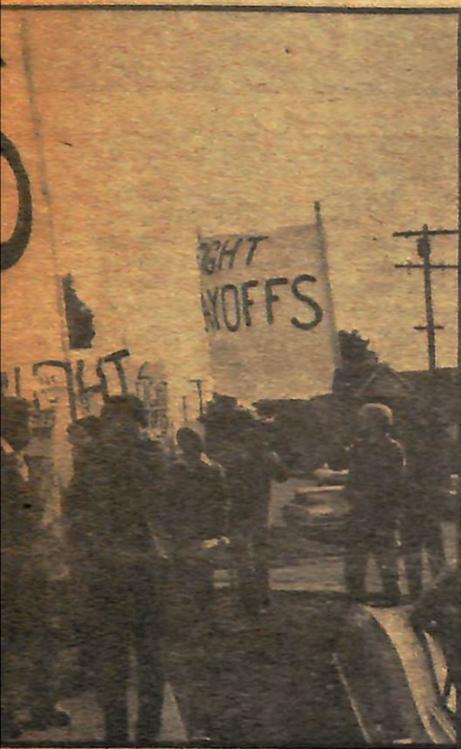
The steel mills are no better off. In May, tens of thousands of steelworkers across the country were out of work. In September, they were called



STEELWORKERS COAST TO COAST ARE FIGHTING THE BOSSES, LIKE THESE PST WORKERS WHO STRUCK FOR 2½ MONTHS LAST SUMMER.

# STRUGGLE NATIONWIDE

## INTRODUCING THE STEEL WORKER

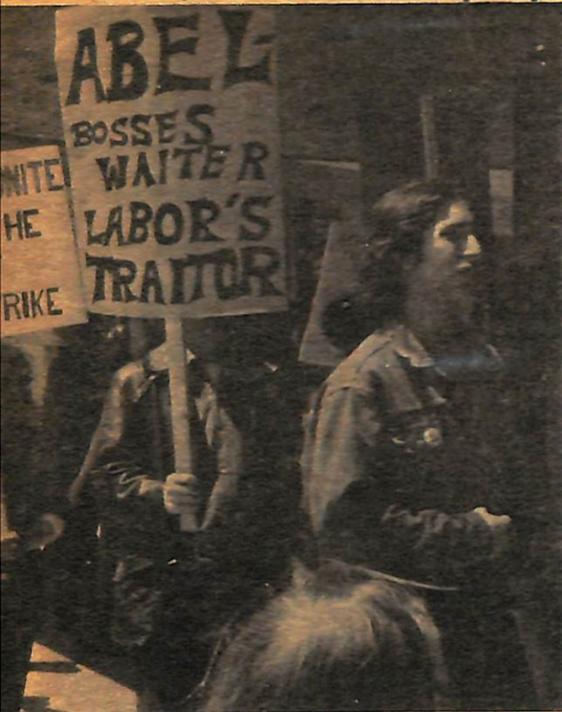


MARCHED TO A GRIEVANCE  
K MEN BE KEPT ON A JOB.

### WORKERS HIT SPEEDUP

back with mills rolling at almost capacity. But it didn't last long. In Chicago, at the US Steel Southworks, the company put up a sign congratulating the workers for a record month in September and then announcing layoffs in October!

In some places, steelworkers are striking back hard. At Youngstown Sheet and Tube, the whole place walked out when 18 jobs were lost. They stayed



STRIKE DEAL WHEN HE SPOKE IN MILWAUKEE.

out until the company rehired those workers.

Just recently at the Sparrows Point plant of Bethlehem Steel, the company scheduled 2 twelve hour shifts a day instead of calling back people. The workers organized to refuse the overtime. The company was forced to add another shift.

At another Bethlehem plant in Seattle, there was a walkout over a job elimination. The company wanted to change a crew in one department from 6 to 5 men. But "6 not 5" became a slogan across the plant in the fight against layoffs, job elimination and combinations, speedups and "productivity".

The first shift in that department went to a special union meeting instead of going to work. The other shifts also voted not to work. Other workers refused to do the strikers' jobs as word of the walkout spread like wildfire throughout the plant.

Support grew and a plant wide meeting was called with sentiment high for a walkout. However, the top union officials were successful, tem-

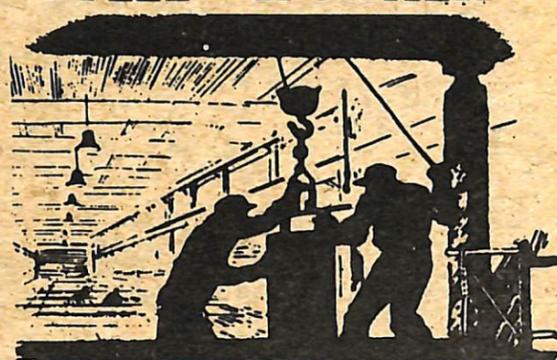
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In December the first issue of a new national newsletter, Steel Worker, will be sold at factories in Milwaukee and around the country. Its pages are filled with articles written by rank and file steel workers talking about saying no to wage cuts at Bethlehem Steel, picket lines against layoffs at a foundry in Rhode Island, a walk-out over unbearable working conditions in Philadelphia, to the fight all over to get rid of sell-out union leaders.

In the Milwaukee area the Steelworkers union has 30,000 members, the largest in the city. Everyone of us can look around and see that steelworkers have a lot of power. In Milwaukee thousands of us are concentrated in foundries and big shops, producing heavy machinery and equipment vital to the rich man's profits.

Steel Worker will help to link up our fights, to strengthen it to let us know what's happening all over. Like at Milwaukee Forge this summer, when our steel worker brothers walked out to support another small craft union that had struck the plant. They knew that unity was our strength. But right away the big shots from the International District office on Michigan Avenue started crying it was illegal to strike and chased the men back to work.

That's a big part of our fight as steelworkers--to get rid of and roll



over those top union hacks that sleep with the bosses. A couple of years ago steelworkers at Crucible, Bucyrus Erie and Pressed Steel voted to oppose the dues increase. But each local by itself couldn't fight the thing through.

But together we can and will beat back the bosses attacks, take back our unions to make them fight, and stand up for a better life for the working class. That's why we've got Steel Worker. We need a nationally organized rank and file movement of steelworkers that flexes its muscles from the mills in Gary, to the foundries out east, to Bethlehem's fabrication plants.

If you don't see Steel Worker at your shop or want to write an article, get in touch with us at 442-8507. ■

## BETHLEHEM STEEL WORKERS REFUSE PAY CUT

POTTSTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

A resounding "Hell No!" is shaking the palaces of the Bethlehem Steel owners. Workers at all four fabricating plants across the country, in Bethlehem, Pottstown and Leetsdale, Pennsylvania and Torrance, California, called the company's bluff and refused the company's ultimatum of either a 10% wage cut or a shutdown. The company said it was necessary to "stay competitive". They planned to cut wages \$1.00 an hour and cut benefits. The 2,000 workers, like workers facing similar attacks across the country, turned thumbs down on the wage cut, and are building a fight to prevent the shutdown.

As soon as the workers in Pottstown refused to accept this deal, the company began a propaganda campaign saying "the workers in the other places accepted the cuts." But nothing was further from the truth. Workers in all four Steelworker locals were willing to fight and voted overwhelmingly against the offer.

A pay cut of even a penny would break the shops away from the Basic Steel National Contract and the company would have struck a heavy blow against the union. The workers remember long hard battles to get what we have now and nobody's going to give it up because Bethlehem Steel threatens to close down.

The Bethlehem workers, like other steelworkers, have been under attack a number of ways. Recently, the big steel companies have launched a speed-up drive. And the workers at Bethlehem Steel have been covered by the sellout no-strike deal, the ENA.

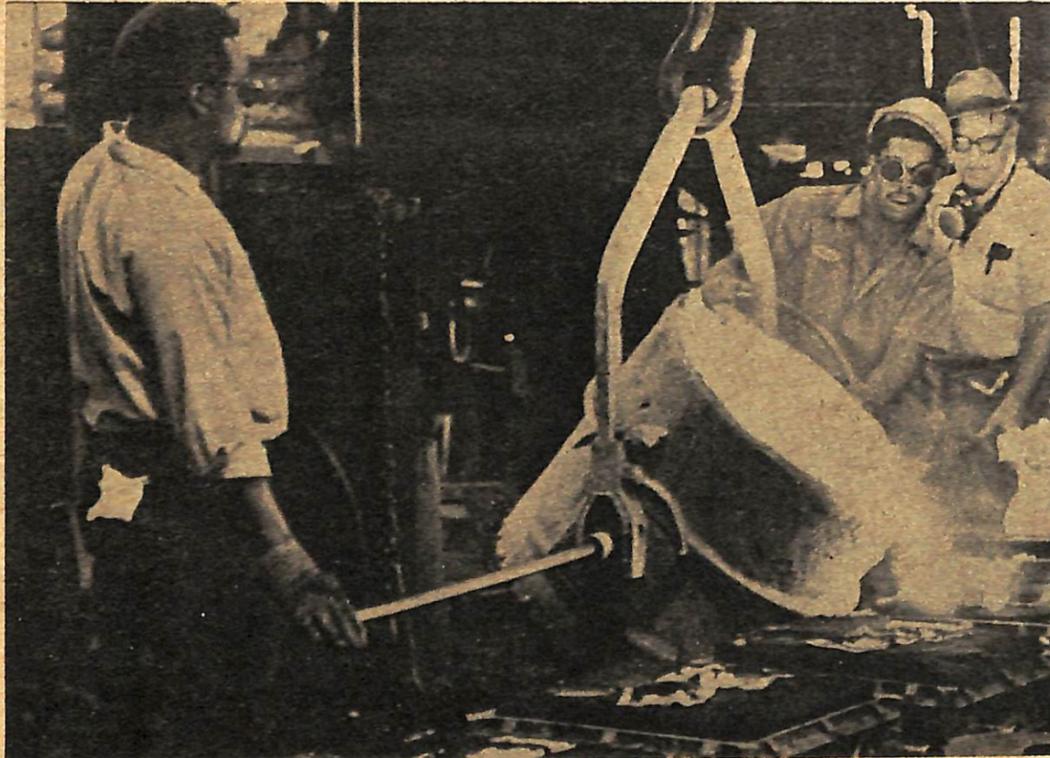
Bethlehems ultimatum to the fabrication workers also would have extended the sellout no-strike deal another three years to 1984, and frozen wages.

Steel is a sore spot right now for the capitalist class. More modern plants in Germany, Japan, Sweden, and the Soviet Union are out-competing the US steel monopolies, giants like Inland, Bethlehem, and US Steel are forced to come down on the workers by trying to jack up production on raggedy machinery.

When that isn't enough they try to bogart a deep cut in pay to keep workers from shutting down unprofitable operations. Workers at Inland Ryerson, a steel fabrication shop here in Milwaukee are familiar with the same threats to close down--if the workers don't jump when the foreman says jump.

The same thing is going on in every industry, as the crisis of capitalism gets worse. Earlier this year in Eau Claire Wisconsin, Uniroyal workers faced a ten percent pay cut or the loss of 1400 jobs. With no information

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13



# Superpowers Behind Angolan Civil War

On November 11, the Portuguese lowered its flag for the last time in Angola. This signalled the end of Portugal's 500 year old colonial empire in Africa and a great victory in the long struggle of the Angolan people for freedom. But on the very day of this victory, Angola was in the middle of a deadly civil war between organizations that had fought to free the country from colonial control. Egging on the opposing forces in this civil war are the rulers of the United States and the Soviet Union, interfering in Angola to try and grab up what the Portuguese capitalists had to let go.

Angola is the most recent of the more than two dozen African countries to win independence from colonial control in the last 20 years. It is also one of the richest, both in agriculture and mineral resources with large gold and diamond mines, and extensive oil fields in the Cabinda district, separated from the rest of the country by Zaire.

Even though Angola was a colony of Portugal, it was American capitalists who benefitted most-Gulf Oil for instance, controlled the Cabinda oil fields. The US government gave constant military and economic aid to Portugal to maintain colonial rule there. Although Portugal is gone now, the American ruling class does not intend to give up this prize. After Portugal's defeat, the US switched tactics and is now working to see a government friendly to US investment and influence take over. But the US has competition. Throughout Africa, the new capitalist class that rules the USSR is trying to add to its growing economic empire, posing as a "Big Brother" to the African people. For the two superpowers Angola is a prize for more than its wealth. Its location gives it key importance in influencing events in the southern tip of Africa, where the masses are fighting to overthrow white minority settler governments in Zimbabwe (Southern Rhodesia) Namibia, and Azania (South Africa).

## THE DEFEAT OF PORTUGAL

The Portuguese landed in Angola at the end of the 1400's, but only won full control in the middle of the last century. From that time on there were constant revolts against the grinding exploitation and terror of colonial

rule.

The Portuguese banned education for the Angolan people, fearing it would strengthen the resistance. They promoted fighting among different tribes and built up tribal chiefs as the only leaders of the Angolans.

The struggle was not stopped by these vicious schemes. The Angolan people launched a long guerilla war to throw the Portuguese out. Three liberation organizations arose, the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA), the National Liberation Front of Angola (FNLA) and the Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA), each in a different section of the country and each drawing its main support from a different one of Angola's three main tribes.

Together with liberation movements in the other Portuguese colonies, Guinea-Bissau and Mozambique, the Angolan people forced the Portuguese government to agree to unconditional independence.

With the common enemy defeated, the MPLA, the FNLA, and UNITA met in January at a conference of the Organization of African Unity, made up of the heads

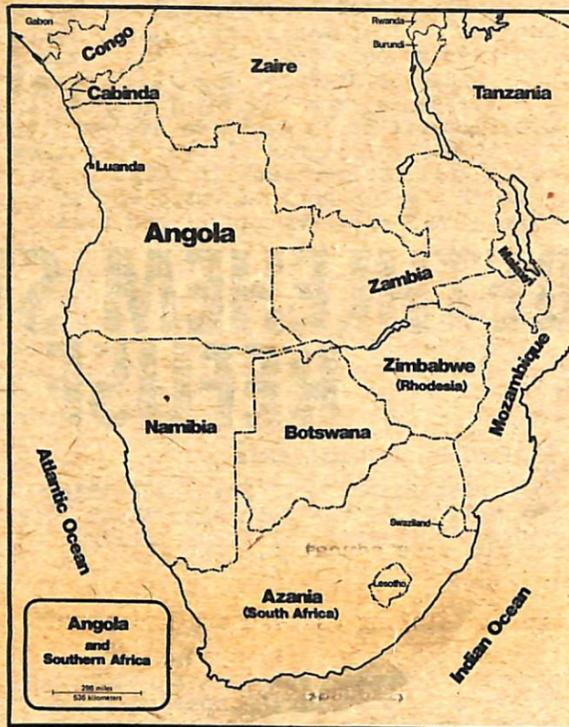
of independent African governments, and together set up a four part transitional government with the Portuguese to prepare for independence November 11.

With Portugal on the way out, the US and USSR each stepped up their efforts to get a big piece of the action in Angola. Starting in the 1960's, seeing Portugal on its way to defeat, the USSR gave small amounts of aid to try to influence the MPLA. The US armed Portugal but hedged its bets by giving a little aid to the FNLA and UNITA. But once the fight against Portugal was won, they suddenly flooded Angola with military "aid". The US funneled millions of dollars to the FNLA. At the same time the USSR began, as one African diplomat put it, "supplying weapons like armored cars and SAM missiles to one of the liberation movements," heavy weapons "which it had never supplied during the fifteen long years of the Angolan people's struggle against Portuguese colonialism".

Fighting broke out in April between the groups and continued through the summer. At first MPLA controlled most of the country's large cities, but by the late fall a united front of FNLA and UNITA was rolling up MPLA from north and south and driving them into a small area around the capital city, Luanda. All efforts by the Organization of African Unity to work out a truce have failed.

On November 11, the Portuguese left and each side declared itself the Angolan government. The Soviet Union and several other countries recognized the MPLA as the "People's Republic of Angola" and sent "advisors" to fight with them. Then Kissinger set up a \$50,000,000 aid program to pump money to the FNLA-UNITA forces, who declared themselves the "Peoples' Democratic Republic of Angola".

The two superpowers have replaced Portugal as the main cause of the Angolan peoples' problems. The centuries old struggle of the Angolan people against colonial enslavement has been manipulated, at the point of victory, into a war to see whether the US or the USSR will replace Portugal as the main bandit robbing Angola. The superpowers must leave Angola alone. On their own the Angolan people can resolve their present differences and struggle together to build a new life. ■



# Nobel Prize Shows Soviet Union As Capitalist As U.S.

The fact that this year's Nobel Prize for economics was jointly awarded to a Soviet economist named Leonid Kantorovich and a U.S. professor from Yale shows something about the Soviet Union--that it is not "socialist" or "communist" but has the same economic system, capitalism, as the United States.

Each year the Nobel Prize, a \$143,000 payoff, is given to the economist who makes the greatest contribution to international capitalism by devising plans that help the bosses squeeze more profit out of the labor of the workers and by hiding the real nature of capitalism, exploitation, behind a haze of figures, charts and doubletalk.

The two economists were awarded for their "contribution to the theory of the optimum allocation of resources." Actually all this theory amounts to is the use of sophisticated mathematical techniques to assist the bosses in making the highest (or "optimum") rate of profit possible. In this scheme, as in all

capitalist economics, the workers are reduced to a "resource" and a "cost item" to be kept to the absolute minimum through speed-ups, wage-cuts and layoffs. Only in capitalist societies are these types of theories sought after and rewarded. In commenting on the awards the New York Times praised Kantorovich for "focusing the attention of managers on the criterion of profit" and wrote that this theory was "equally applicable" in both the U.S. and the USSR. This shows that the bosses in this country recognize that the search for highest profits underlies the economy of the Soviet Union, as it does of the entire capitalist world.

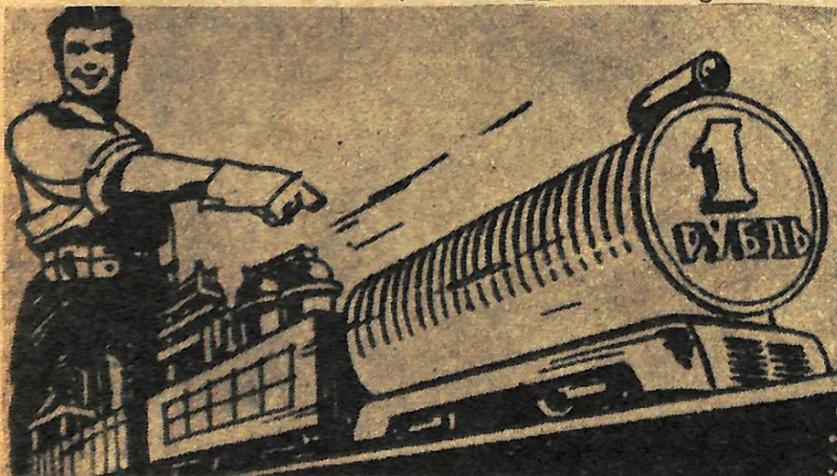
The working class of the Soviet Union and the U.S. are very familiar with the practical results of these schemes. The bosses spend millions figuring out how to squeeze every possible ounce of labor out of us, for it is only out of our labor that they make their profits. Throughout the U.S. and in every industry

we have had to fight against their ever-tightening squeeze, from battles to be allowed to take breaks to use the bathrooms to large scale struggles against more sophisticated speed-up attempts backed by hidden cameras and time studies like the hated "Kokomo Plan" that the bosses are trying to shove down the throats of postal workers.

The Soviet workers face the same fight. For example the Soviet exploiters have created a "Shchekino system" a model now being used in hundreds of plants in the Soviet Union. It was named after the Shchekino Chemical Combine where the Soviet bosses first experimented with a plan that led to laying off over 1,300 workers, doubling the workload of those not laid-off while granting them a lousy wage increase.

Clearly life for the working class is pretty much the same in both the Soviet Union and the U.S. Yet the leaders of the Soviet Union try to pass off their system as socialism to try to deceive the Soviet workers and others throughout the world, just as the exploiters in this country try to pass off the U.S. as a democracy with "equal justice for all." The U.S. capitalists are also happy to call the USSR socialist or communist because it allows them to say, when more and more people are fed up with the system in this country, "look there is no alternative to capitalism, see what a mess communism is in the Soviet Union." And of course capitalism in the Soviet Union is just as rotten as capitalism in this country. But real socialism is something all together different.

In 1917 the Russian working class, led by their Bolshevik Party, rose up and dumped the capitalists off their backs. For the first time in the his-



THIS PICTURE FROM A SOVIET JOURNAL SHOWS HOW THE RUSSIAN CAPITALISTS TRY TO SAY THAT MONEY, NOT THE WORKING PEOPLE, IS WHAT MAKES THINGS GO. THE FRONT OF THE ENGINE READS, "ONE RUBLE". THE PICTURE IS ENTITLED "THE POWERFUL LOCOMOTIVE."

# MATC Indian Students Voice Demands

Native American students at MATC voiced their demands and their determination to win them when they took over an unused office. The members of the National Indian Youth Council did not back down when they were threatened with being forcibly removed from the office.

On November 12th, seventy-five angry Native American students and their supporters jammed into a room to hear Ramsey, head school administrator, quickly read a rejection to each of the 16 demands. "Hey Ramsey, where do you think you're going? We want some answers from you!" But he didn't have any answers as he ran out a back door to escape the crowd. To the Native American students and to all students, this was a slap in the face.

Ramsey and the whole school administration is scared. They well remember the strength and support for the Native American struggles like at Wounded Knee and Gresham. They also remember how MATC students united and fought against a tuition hike last winter.

For two years, the administration has broken its promises to act on 13 demands presented them by the Native American students. The dropout rate of Indian students is 40%--there isn't enough room for the Native American students to meet and carry on their programs. The administration has refused to keep their promise to meet these and other demands including starting a Native American studies program.

More than "refusing" to meet these demands, the administration can't meet them. This system is in crisis and that means these school administrators can't meet the needs of people without digging into the capitalists' profits. It's only when people organize and demand that their needs be met, that they get what they want.

The Indian students took the struggle out to all MATC students, and built for a rally on November 14th. Other students expressed a great deal of support for the demands. Students of all nationalities spoke out at the rally of 150. They brought out the justice of the Indian students demands and the increasing difficulty of all students to go to school. The Indian students united their demands with the demands of all students for a decent education.

The Revolutionary Student Brigade along with other students at MATC have begun to organize support for the Indian students demands, linking these with demands against another proposed tuition hike, enough financial aid, more parking and other cuts in education.

The struggle of the Indian students is continuing. The takeover is going strong. The Native American students have set an example for other students at MATC. As one Indian student said, "We are determined to get what we need--we will stay here till we win."



STUDENTS FROM ALL NATIONALITIES STOOD IN SOLIDARITY WITH THE NATIVE AMERICAN STUDENTS.

## STUDENT MOVEMENT ON THE RISE

500 students gathered in Chicago in November for the Second National Convention of the Revolutionary Student Brigade. The Convention marked an important step in building a powerful student movement that will fight shoulder to shoulder along with the working class.

Delegates from all over the country discussed the struggles students are involved in and the sentiment on the campuses. College education, never available to many working class young people, is becoming more out of reach. Schools are cutting back enrollment, raising tuition, and eliminating programs that students and others fought for to make education available to the masses of young people.

Also the quality of education is rapidly sinking as teachers and campus workers are laid off, class sizes increased, and facilities cut back. The Convention discussed the growing threat of war, and how more students on campuses are saying they won't stand for the country to be dragged into another war to prop up the profits of the corporations.

Students, like all young people, are full of energy and are looking for a better future, refusing to accept things just because, "that's the way they are." Many students came to the Convention from the thick of struggles at their schools. Students involved in these struggles want to know why these attacks are coming down and who's to blame.

One student told how he got involved with the Revolutionary Student Brigade in a fight against a cut back at his school. In the struggle he came

to understand that the ruling class of capitalists was at fault, and not just for the cutbacks, but other things on his mind - the decay of his city, what the hell he was going to do for a job, and so on. He ended by saying he wanted to go back to the campus and organize.

The struggles students are waging today take place as the country is being rocked by the growing battle of the working class against the capitalists. Students are able to see that the workers are a powerful force, in a stronger position than students to deal blows to the bosses, and students are eager to link up their struggles.

The delegates wanted to be able to clearly point out the nature of the enemy to the millions of students, and to help make their struggle a powerful ally of all the struggles of the working class, including the growing battle to end capitalism. So the Revolutionary Student Brigade voted to become the communist student organization of the Revolutionary Communist Party, the newly formed Party of the working class in the U.S.

The student movement has made important contributions to the overall struggle of the working class, not only by hitting hard at our common enemy, but also by helping to expose the outrages of the capitalist system to millions of people - as during the Vietnam war. With the revolutionary students fighting more closely with the working class and linking with its Party, the student movement will make much greater contributions in the years to come.

## Union Chiefs Threaten Raiding War

Early in November, the Teamster union leadership cancelled its mutual aid and no raiding pact with the AFL-CIO.

The end of this truce threatens to intensify the Teamster and AFL-CIO leadership's efforts to raid each other's membership. Not that they haven't been doing this all along, but now they have the gall to make it official. Many workers are familiar with the top leadership ordering their members to scab on strikes and cross picket lines. Teamster drivers are often told by their International to drive through picket lines of striking AFL-CIO workers. The Teamsters, who have been out of the AFL-CIO since the 1950's, have marked out construction and retail trade as the first places where they would likely go to war with the AFL-CIO unions.

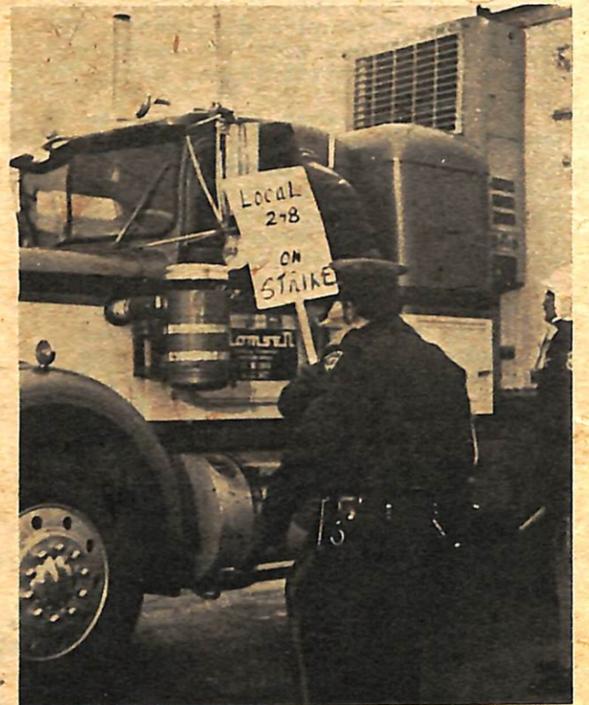
This is the response of these top officials to the crisis of the capitalist system. The capitalists are out to cripple or bust our unions and to attack wages and working conditions. Everywhere workers are getting better organized to fight back. But the response of these guys isn't to help build this fight and direct it at the real enemy. Neither is it to organize

new membership among the 80% of the working class not unionized.

No, their response is to cut each other up, to do all they can to grab each others membership and dues. With all the layoffs, that pot of gold has been threatened. So they plan to make up their losses by raiding each other for new members and raising our dues sky high.

This helps no one, except the ruling class. The capitalists would like nothing better than to break unions and pit one worker against another. Now these hacks are helping them out. Of course, this is no surprise coming from a handful of so-called spokesmen who live, think and act like the capitalists--the very enemy the leaders of the unions should be fighting.

The actions of these traitors are in sharp contrast to those of the working class. Throughout the country workers are building their struggle against the capitalists, and in the course of this organizing new unions, defending and strengthening the existing ones, and uniting with other workers more closely. The heat generated by these struggles is bound to burn not only the ruling class, but these union hacks, who've wed themselves to the bosses.



TEAMSTERS & INDEPENDENT TRUCKERS CROSS MEATCUTTERS PICKET LINES EVERY DAY.

# WASHINGTON POST PRESSMEN STRIKE TO PROTECT JOBS



WASHINGTON POST PRESSMEN BATTLE COPS AND SCABS IN THEIR TWO MONTH STRIKE AGAINST THE POST'S UNION BUSTING ATTACK.

220 pressmen at the Washington Post walked out October 1st. The pressmen refused to negotiate a new contract or even talk about extending the old one. As one pressman said, "They're trying to break our union like the big papers have done in other cities."

Pressmen knew the stakes were high. They had seen strikes broken in the last year at the Omaha World Herald, Dallas Morning News and Kansas City Star. They also knew that Newspaper Production and Research Center in Oklahoma City was a training center for scabs, who were sent around the country to cross picket lines.

The Post pressmen took strong action. They marched out of the pressroom and set up a mass picket line outside. When the Post tried to bring in scabs, pressmen fought the scabs and cops. The cops arrested 16 in the battle. Inside pressmen had left glass shattered and presses wrecked.

Three other unions joined the strike

when the press operators went out—the photoengravers, mailers and typesetters. Members of 9 unions, nearly 2000 workers in all are on strike or staying out in solidarity with the pressmen. Workers of all the different craft unions are facing the same attacks. They see the need to join together to take a stand. As a member of the Mailers Union said, "200 guys with families to support, who've worked here 10 to 20 years don't mess up these presses and go on strike for nothing. And when you're fighting for your job you sure don't let scabs walk by with nothing done."

The Post is trying to throw men out of work. Instead of full time printers, they want a large pool of substitutes who they can call in any hour of the day and work as long as they want. If a substitute is not home to receive a call, the boss just keeps going down the list. This way they don't have to pay any bene-

fits or unemployment. The Post also wants to cut back or eliminate grievance clauses, cost of living, pension funds and union security.

Pressmen have stood strong and forced the Post to use helicopters to fly in scabs to repair the presses. Then they fly out the copy to be printed at non-union plants. They are printing a scab paper, but the Post is losing about \$6 million a month in advertising revenue.

When the US attorneys office began investigating the damage to the presses they called workers in for questioning. The pressmen refused to answer any questions.

Support for the Post workers has been spreading throughout the city. The printers started a drive to urge people to cancel their subscriptions to the Post. Support for the campaign is strong.

The Post tries to build itself an image as the great defender of the "common people". The Post says they "brought Nixon down, defend Black people, criticize police..."

But where does the Post really stand? The Post is one of the 500 largest corporations in the U.S. They own Newsweek magazine, several t.v. stations and other publishing interests, as well as having financial ties with CBS and several large banks.

And like all big corporations the Post is trying to cut its costs--by cutting down its workforce--throwing printers and others out on the streets. Machines are taking the jobs of many typesetters, and union busting attacks are coming down throughout the newspaper industry.

As one pressman said, "This ain't just the Post. Every working man I've talked to says the same stuff is coming down where they work. The miners, bus drivers, the Kansas City Star, Miami Herald, New York City--we've gotta stick together." ■

## CHICAGO STRIKE GAINS SUPPORT



MEATCUTTERS STAND WITH CAPITOL STRIKERS

Strikers at Capitol Packaging down in Chicago are putting up a hell of a fight for wage and benefit increases, cost of living, and back pay for the six months they worked without a contract. The company, a division of Alberto Culver, has tried to keep one of the two production lines going by hiring scabs.

In the first week of the strike a scab truck ran down a striker. The union brother, Dave Watson, died in the hospital ten days later. Capitol's murder of Dave was an early sign of what they were up to---and it strengthened the strikers' determination to fight this battle to the end.

When a militant mass picket was joined by other workers from around Chicago at least a half dozen scabs were turned away--afraid to cross the lines. Three steelworkers and an unemployed worker were arrested that day as the cops tried to discourage other workers from joining the lines.

The bosses had to go to the courts to get an injunction, but they're still hasseling it out in court. They've also gone to the immigration officials to have a striker picked up for being illegal. The striker's reaction is, "We're all out on strike. We all must be illegal. Don't touch that man."

The strike is going strong and support is growing. At a recent banquet given to build the strike, 250 workers came out to say, VICTORY TO THE CAPITOL STRIKERS! ■

## CANADIAN P.O. WALKOUT STRIKERS STOP MAIL, SHAKE WAGE CONTROLS

All foreign mail to Canada is being turned back at the border. No mail has been moving inside Canada at all since October 21. A powerful strike of 22,000 Canadian post office workers has been hitting hard at the capitalists of Canada and indirectly of the U.S.

These postal workers had been working without a contract since last



CANADIAN POSTAL WORKERS STOPPED THE MAIL WITH A POWERFUL STRIKE AGAINST WAGE CONTROLS

January. They went out demanding a 50% wage increase over three years, plus cost of living to cover the high inflation in Canada. In response to the big automation campaign of the Canadian postal management they demanded job security, a shorter work week at full pay, and an end to managements push for more "casual" or temporary labor.

This strike is a direct blow to a wage freeze passed in October by the Canadian government, even though the postal contract is not covered under it since it expired in January. Recently a big strike wave has swept Canada, with 1974 setting a new record for time lost due to strikes. In response to even more strikes in 1975, the capitalists in Canada opened a

campaign of strike breaking, culminating in these wage controls, averaging 6%. This was fully supported by the capitalists in the U.S., with the N.Y. Times saying, "If this tough but flexible Canadian approach works, it would serve as a model for a program in this country."

Now these wage controls could be blown away as workers throughout Canada, inspired by the postal strike, prepare to fight for big wage increases. Even before this strike many workers supported the struggle of the postal workers against job losses through automation by boycotting zip codes, which are just now being introduced in Canada, and proudly wearing patches in English and French showing they are part of the boycott.

The strike has hit directly at many businesses, the mail order business in particular. Some companies have already gone bankrupt. Magazine companies like Readers Digest of Canada have most of their November issues rotting in their warehouses. And Bell Telephone of Canada has a backlog of 5 million unpaid telephone bills.

As we went to press, a tentative strike settlement was announced. Details of the settlement are not known as yet. ■

**BOYCOTT SCAB MEAT**  
 KLE MENTS  
 Se ntry  
**VICTORY TO THE MEATCUTTERS**

# Steelworkers

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porarily, in sabotaging the fight. Steelworker President Abel sent the strikers telegrams telling them they had to go back to work. After 3 days, the walkout was over. But the men returned with their heads held high, knowing they had put some muscle in their fight for jobs.

The fight continued this fall. Under a big FIGHT LAYOFFS banner, Bethlehem workers marched from the union hall to the company office building. Inside, arbitration was in process on the "6 not 5" grievance. After a big struggle, workers had forced the union officials to endorse the march. But on the day of the march, these cowards had run off, leaving the union hall locked.

The International has consistently sabotaged and opposed our struggle.

They signed a no-strike deal in the mills until 1980. They have sided with the companies in the fight against discrimination. While workers pay from \$10 to \$20 a month for union dues, when they go out on strike, they get \$21 a week in benefits, only if they are "in need". When Pressed Steel Tank workers were on strike this summer, they forced the International to give benefits to everyone.

But the rank and file struggle continues to grow. The 200 resolutions from last year's International convention against the International's sell-out policies were a product of that struggle. The International Executive Board recently met and voted down all these resolutions. The union fat cats have a choice - join the struggle against the companies or be rolled over by the struggle.

In all these fights, the lines are clear. The companies are trying to take

back everything we've fought for over the years. And we aren't going to accept this. We aren't going to sacrifice the well-being of our families to guarantee a profitable return for the bosses. We aren't going to face intolerable speedup as millions of workers are out of work. We aren't going to be treated like slaves so the rich can get richer.

We see that when we unite, we make gains. Without our work, the bosses' machinery and their profits grind to a halt.

Our struggles tell us we are not alone. We are not fighting only in this department or in that shop. Steelworkers across the country, along with the entire working class, are beginning to stand up to this offensive by the bosses. And when we mobilize our strength and power as a class, the bosses aren't any match. ■

# Packinghouse

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And they began pressing the meat packers for higher wages and benefits. The bosses were making money hand over fist and didn't want any strike to interrupt their profit taking. The workers saw their chance and took strike votes. War or no war they wanted big improvements in the miserable conditions.

The ruling class was horrified at the possibility of a war time strike. They got a federal judge to give the workers satisfaction on most of their demands--including 10 to 25% wage increases, an eight hour day with ten hours pay, extra pay for overtime, equal pay for women, a guaranteed five day week, and a paid lunch. A major victory for the workers!

But soon after that the workers who had pushed for the strike were forced out of leadership by a bunch of established AFL leaders. They used thugs and gangster tactics to take control of the union. The AFL idea of unionism was to collect a lot of dues and trade the workers best interests for favors from the companies.

After the war, this kind of leadership was a willing accomplice to the attacks the companies had planned. The "Big Six" had a nationwide stranglehold on the meat industry. They had gotten rich off the

war contracts and the years of labor peace. They got the AFL hacks to give them two contract extensions. The packers used this time to build up strength for a big push against the workers war-time gains.

At this time the companies really began to promote tensions between Black workers and white workers. Thousands of Blacks had come into the industry during the war, but the union bureaucrats didn't try to bring them into the unions. Some AFL unions specifically excluded Blacks.

With another depression coming on, the press and police helped the packers play up these tensions by saying that one group would take the other's jobs or scab on the other when the next strike came.

In 1921 the big companies announced wage cuts of seven cents from 45¢ down to 38¢ an hour. The sell out leaders had no choice but to pull the men and women of the packing industry out on nationwide strike. In December, the strike began strongly in Kansas City, Omaha, Sioux City, South St. Paul, and Denver. A few days later a rally of 10,000 packing house workers filled the streets of Chicago.

All but the teamsters, firemen, and engineers honored those lines. The strikers fought scabs and they stood up to police, deputy sheriffs and in St Paul--

the National Guard. Over twenty union leaders were put in jail for refusing to obey injunctions to call off the strike in Denver.

Again the national leaders of the AFL dragged their heels, not even announcing support till the third week of the strike. Still the workers fought back, voting to stay out on strike despite hunger, mass recruitment of scabs, and scabbing by some of the crafts. But after nine weeks the strike was defeated and the packing houses were once again non-union.

The two big defeats in the packing industry were bitter memories in the minds of the packing house workers. The exploitation and oppression got worse on the kill floors and at the cutting tables. The workers had no choice but to keep organizing and fighting back.

They had learned that unity ---between all crafts, all nationalities, throughout the industry, and throughout the country--- strong working class unity is the key to the battle.

In next month's issue of The Worker we will continue the history of the packing house workers--how they came roaring back in the heart of the worst depression ever---organizing and struggling---building a mighty nationwide industrial union. And how the fighting spirit of the meatcutters continues down till this day. ■

# Bethlehem

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coming from the local United Rubber Workers leadership and only the hysterical coverage of the Eau Claire press to rely on, the Uniroyal workers went into the vote unprepared. No fighting program was coming from the rank and file, and the membership voted to go along with the ultimatum thrown out by the Rubber monopoly. Since then, 10% have been laid off and the rest have been hit by a 10% rate cut. The story is the same everywhere. The bosses are driven to attack and we have no choice but to harden up and fight the battle.

The Bethlehem Steel workers are taking up that fight. Their program of fighting the wage cut and shutdown calls for 1) Slowdown--don't work yourself out of a job. 2) Refuse overtime--If they want more work, let them hire more workers 3) Building support among Steel workers locals, in other unions, and in the communities.

The workers look at it this way--"If we give Bethlehem Steel even one inch, they will stop at nothing to grind us into the dirt." ■



MEATCUTTERS OF ALL NATIONALITIES STAND STRONG AND OPPOSE BOSSES' ATTEMPTS TO SPLIT THEM ALONG RACIAL LINES.

# Nobel Prize

CONT. FROM PAGE 10

tory of the world a country existed where workers were the masters of society. No longer did the workers labor all their lives to enrich a handful of bosses--exploitation became a thing of the past. Socialism meant that all the wealth created by the workers became the common property of the working class, as it should be. Under capitalism workers have no control over what is produced and how. All that is decided by how much profit some capitalist will gain. But socialism enables the working class, through its control of the government, to decide how to organize itself and the resources of society to meet the needs of the people. Low cost housing and public transportation, for example, which are unprofitable under capitalism can be priorities under socialism. Real economic planning becomes possible, something entirely different from the plans of speed-up experts like Kantorovich.

Socialism enabled the working class in the Soviet Union to make great advances in a short period of time, turning a relatively backward country into

an advanced industrial state in just a few decades, and greatly improving life for the masses of people. Under socialism workers were not at the mercy of periodic crises of capitalism. For example, during the 1930's, when the entire capitalist world was rocked by the Great Depression, the Soviet working class continued to build up the country rapidly. The product of the workers' labor went solely to meeting the needs of the people. This ended the absurdity of workers being laid off and factories lying idle because people could not afford to purchase their goods.

All this was only possible because the working class held power in the Soviet Union and exercised their rule over the old overthrown exploiters and others who constantly tried to overthrow the rule of the working class and resurrect the profit system.

In fact Kantorovich himself had tried to sell this "optimum allocation of resources" junk to Soviet railway workers in the 1930's. The workers told him to leave economic matters to the working class and he was given a job in a mathematical institute where he could amuse himself with his formulas and do no damage.

But in 1956 the working class rule

was overthrown by Khrushchev and a small group of some of the top leaders of the Communist Party and government who sought to restore capitalism and set themselves up as the new rulers. The social wealth of the Soviet Union--the factories, mines, etc. were taken out of the hands of the workers and became capital, tools in the hands of new bosses who used them to squeeze wealth for their own benefit off the backs of the Soviet workers. After Khrushchev's coup, Kantorovich and others like him, crawled out of the woodwork to assist in wrecking socialism and rebuilding capitalism. For his services he was given a big institute in Moscow.

Kantorovich claims his theory will bring rapid and rational growth to the Soviet economy, but nothing could be further from the truth. In our own country the bosses have a small army of economists and experts on the payroll, but all their fancy schemes just add up to more exploitation for us. And nothing they do is keeping the economy from further collapse. As long as profit for the few is the basis of the economic system, that system--capitalism--will continue to go from crisis to deeper crisis with more misery for the masses of people. ■

# NUEVA YORK EN CRISIS

La ciudad de Nueva York está al borde de la bancarrota. Otras ciudades se encuentran en casi la misma situación. Esto es lo que se llama la crisis de las ciudades. Pero es algo mucho más fundamental. Es la crisis de todo el sistema capitalista. Ahora por todo el país los politiqueros están usando la amenaza de bancarrota para rebejar los sueldos y aumentar los despidos de obreros municipales, y montones de otros ataques incluso reducciones de servicios públicos. Así es la respuesta de ellos a la crisis actual.

Los varios capitalistas han hablado mucho de faltar. Quiere decir que la ciudad de Nueva York va a faltar en pagar sus deberes. Según la clase alta, el futuro entero de la ciudad depende de si faltará o no. Pues, a los capitalistas los únicos deberes que les importan son los pagos debidos a ellos, sobre todo a los bancos, y temen que la bancarrota pondría esos en peligro.

Pero a la gente de Nueva York faltar o no faltar es casi lo mismo. Para evitar la bancarrota los capitalistas han lanzado un ataque amplio a la gente, lo mismo que sucedería en caso de la bancarrota. Ya se han quebrado contratos de uniones. Se han despedido a millares de empleados públicos. Los servicios públicos se han reducido muchísimo. La ciudad ha sido puesta bajo el control de una junta de banqueros y otros hombres de negocio. Han hecho todo para que los banqueros puedan proteger sus inversiones.

Había mucha discusión entre el presidente Ford y los oficiales de Nueva York acerca de la ayuda federal. Pero al fondo es sólo un debate referido a como y cuando pagar los bancos, y como hacer lo mínimo de los efectos de la crisis de Nueva York a sus inversiones en otras partes. Todas las capitalistas se ven de acuerdo de que son necesarios los ataques despiados a los trabajos y servicios de la gente de Nueva York.

Por esto lanzan la campaña de publicidad diciendo que el problema resulta del alto nivel de la vida de la gente de esa ciudad.

Pero es pura mentira. La gente no ha causado la crisis. Se van de mal a peor las condiciones de vida de millones de neoyorquinos, como de la gran mayoría de gente a través del país. El desempleo va remontando. La vieja vivienda está al punto de caer. Las escuelas están apiñadas. Las calles tienen fallas enormes. La basura se queda pudriendo en la aceras. Los impuestos son los más altos del país. Esto es lo que según los capitalistas es un alto nivel de vida!

La crisis de Nueva York se debe totalmente al capitalismo. Son los capitalistas, no la gente, que han chupado toda la riqueza de la ciudad

## CARNICEROS

CONTINUA DE LA PAGINA 1

recibido demuestra el respeto logrado por los carniceros.

En una reunión reciente del Comité de Solidaridad de los Carniceros, una organización de obreros abarcando toda la ciudad iniciada por el Partido Comunista Revolucionario, el creciente apoyo de la huelga fue evidente. Obreros de mas de doce talleres se presentaron para discutir la formación de clubs de "un dólar por mes", y planean el incremento del boicot de la carne de esquirolas. En su primer mes estos clubs de "un dólar por mes" colectaron un total de \$197 en varios talleres. Cada miembro contribuye un dolar al mes y ayuda fomentar el apoyo de la huelga en el taller. En Inland Rye-son, el club propuso una resolución en la reunión de la unión que pedía la contribución y colecta de comida enlatada.

El 22 de noviembre, el Comité de Solidaridad organizó líneas de piquetes ante las tiendas Sentry en la 44 y Capitol y la 13 y Oklahoma. Pedían a los obreros que boicotearan la carne de esquirolas en las estanterías de Sentry, tal como carne molida, parte de la cual es producida por esquirolas, y salchichas Klements. Miembros uniones de lugares como Heil, Nordberg y Harnischfeger en lado sur, y AO Smith y Masterlock en el norte manifestaron su solidaridad--dejando que la carne de esquirolas se amontonara en las estanterías y muchos ni siquiera cruzaron las líneas de piquetes.

Un boicot exitoso de la carne de esquirolas puede ser un golpe muy serio para la Asociación Independiente

# SE HUNDE CAPITALISTA

por años. Ellos y sus bancos han ganado billones por comprar bonos de la ciudad y luego recaudar interés montado sobre interés. Por ejemplo, el tren de la Tercera Avenida se construyó y luego se derribó ya hace muchos años, y todavía los bancos están recaudando el interés de los bonos, aunque la cosa ya ha dejado de existir!

Esos chupasangres tienen la culpa de lo que esta pasando a la ciudad también debido a toda la crisis económica que ahora les enfrenta. Su método de resolverlo es lo usual--aumentar sus ganancias por sacar más y más de menos y menos obreros. Para hacer esto les precisa más apresuramiento, y necesitan cantidades de pesos enormes para comprar maquinaria más moderna.

Para lograr tal capital tienen que rebajar todo que no les prometa ganancias. La gente tiene que pagar aún más impuestos, mientras los ricos rebajan sus propios impuestos. Para cortar los gastos, eliminan todo que no les es necesario," que quiere decir, lo de que no pueden sacar ganancias, aunque sea trabajos, hospitales, escuelas, o recolección de basura.

Los capitalistas no tienen ningún salida de la crisis. Con la bancarrota de Nueva York habría un obstáculo más al supuesto "recobro económico." Pero si Nueva York no quebra la presión seguramente va a subir a los otros puntos débiles de su sistema. Mientras plantean como avanzar su "recobro" frente a esa situación, ya queda claro que no hay ningún recobro básico. El capitalismo sale de crisis a crisis aún más profunda, y de hecho no tienen en ningún remedio para esta enfermedad del capitalismo. A lo largo habrá una sola solución a esas crisis--la derrota de los capitalistas por la clase obrera. La clase obrera construirá una nueva sociedad donde cosas como "la crisis de las ciudades" no existirán.

En respuesta a los despidos y el apresuramiento millares de obreros han lanzado huelgas, trabajo lento y protestas. Un ejemplo bien militante era la huelga rebelde de cuatro días de los hombres que colectan la basura. La huelga se acabó sólo cuando el jefe de la unión entregó más que \$1.6 millon de cuotas de unión a la ciudad para que los obreros pudieran ser empleados unas semanas más y entonces despidos otra vez. Pero ellos están siguiendo en lucha hoy día. Muchos de los hombres están aflojando el paso del trabajo de sus compañeros despidos.

Además de los obreros municipales muchos otros se ven luchando contra las reducciones. Casi toda semana hay varias protestas contra las rebajas de servicios sociales. En algunos barrios los vecions han llevado a cabo manifestaciones enfrente de las casas de

de Carniceros. En un sistema en el cual lo único que cuenta son las ganancias, al reducir las ventas podemos perjudicar a los dueños de las emparadoras.

La huelga ha sido motivada a base de la iniciativa de los obreros de rango y fila--tanto en la organización de discursos, como en la participación de boicots, establecimiento de líneas de piquetes o actos contra los esquirolas. Un grupo de carniceros de rango y fila se reúne todos los lunes para discutir la dirección futura de la huelga. Escriben volantes apoyando la huelga y organizan la solidaridad con todos los demás trabajadores. Cuando la posición esquirolera asumida por los líderes del transporte se convirtió en un problema demasiado serio y no se ofrecía explicación ninguna para justificar el que los conductores siguieran cruzando las líneas de piquetes, el grupo mandó una delegación a la sede de los Transportistas en Bluemound Road. Fueron informados que debido a una "rencilla" entre los líderes del Transporte y de los Carniceros hace más de 20 años, los Transportistas no apoyaban la huelga. Los huelgistas sabían que la mayoría de los Transportistas estarían más que contentos en el apoyo de la huelga, y dicen que esta "rencilla" entre los burócratas sindicales no es más que una mierda.

Con la unión tan estricta entre los mismos carniceros--su iniciativa y predisposición a actuar--y la creciente solidaridad de los obreros a través de la ciudad y el país, los propietarios se van a tener que rendir. Un indicio de esto es la reciente carta firmada por Gobernador

bomberos las cuales se amenazan cerrar. En otras áreas los padres se han juntado con guardias de escuela para protestar la falta de protección para los niños que tengan que cruzar las calles. Había manifestaciones muy grandes hospitales destinados a cerrar, y mucha protesta acerca de la falta de facilidades de salud

Hasta ahora esas luchas se han quedado por lo más seperadas. En el otoño casi estallo una huelga general de todos obreros municipales. La idea venía de una sugerencia de los burócratas de unión que era amago nomás, pero muy pronto ganó el apoyo de mucho de la clase obrera. Cuando esos traidores vieron el respaldo creciente por hacer esa huelga se voltearon y condenaron la idea. El asunto muestra como esta creciendo entre la clase obrera la conciencia de que habrá que unirse más estrechamente las filas y ampliar aún más la lucha para unir con todas capas de la gente en contra del enemigo común.

La clase obrera no tiene ningún interés en mantener el sistema capitalista o en las varlas maniobras de los politiqueros y banqueros. En su lucha creciente la clase obrera les da la respuesta clara a esos ataques: ABAJO CON LOS BANCOS Y SUS GANACIAS! QUE PAGEN LOS CAPITALISTAS--DEMANDAMOS NUESTROS TRABAJOS Y SERVICIOS!

## MARCHA PARA TRABAJOS O INGRESO

Sabado Dic. 13th

Marcha--

1 P.M. 13th Y MITCHELL

Reunion--

2 P.M. 809 W. GREENFIELD

## CONTROL DE ARMAS

CONTINUA DE LA PAGINA 2

La unica manera de lograr esto es organizando un movimiento fuerte, como la piedra, de la clase obrera para poder así eliminar todos los ataques por parte de los patronos y su sistema--brutalidad, crimen y desempleo. Tenemos que luchar contra cualquier intento de desarmar a la clase trabajadora o obrera para que así no puedan regir este paiz para sus propios intereses.

Control de armas? De Ninguna Manera No podemos depender en el gobierno o la policia para cualquier tipo de proteccion. Nunca dejaremos de ejercer el derecho de tener y portar armas. ■

Lucey, Alcalde Maier y el Ejecutivo del Condado Doyme "urgiendo" que la Asociación y la Unión se reunan y comiencen a negociar un acuerdo. Estas personas no son tontas. Saben que el impulso de los miembros de la Local 248 esta cobrando fuerza--y que la huelga de los carniceros se mantiene inquebrantable. Vieron a los centenares que se presentaron para la manifestación de solidaridad del 24 de octubre--y como políticos que son, quieren aprovecharse de toda oportunidad que se presente. Después de la manifestación del 4 de junio fueron los concejales los que ante mil participantes se quisieron declarar mediante legislación contra esquirolas como los protectores de los carniceros. Ahora los tres grandes ejecutivos están actuando como si ellos tuvieran todo el poder, como grandes benefactores, y como si después de diez meses se dieran cuenta de que existe una huelga--para permitirles venir al galope para rescatar a los carniceros.

Pero los hombres y mujeres que han estado caminando en las líneas de piquetes por diez meses, los más de cien que fueron detenidos, los miles que contribuyeron dinero a través de sus uniones o clubs, y los muchos otros obreros que formaron parte de este movimiento en masa--todos estos saben que la victoria en estas batallas difíciles sólo se pueden lograr a través de la unión y el poder de una clase obrera organizada. Y tanto si la huelga tiene éxito como si no, tendrán la satisfacción de haber logrado una victoria en su lucha contra la Asociación por casi un año y la victoria de haber fomentado un espíritu de unidad mas amplio entre la clase obrera. ■

# REPORTAJE DE LOS CAMPOS CAMPEVINOS VOTAN, SE ENFRENTAN NUEVAS BATALLAS



CAMPEVINOS (UFW) HAN GANADO MUCHAS VICTORIAS CON EL APOYO DE LOS TRABAJADORES DE TODA LA NACION, COMO ESTA MARCHA EN BOSTON.

La lucha prolongada de los obreros campesinos de California empezó una nueva etapa por el verano y otoño pasado, cuando los esfuerzos se enfocaban en ganar elecciones por representación de su unión--la United Farmworkers Union (UFW). La fuerza de las batallas en los campos y el respaldo militante y amplio de todas partes del país forzaron al gobierno de California aprobar una ley la cual concede a los obreros en los campos el derecho de votar para representación de unión.

La lucha y la concesión de la nueva ley fue un golpe mayor a los patronos, quienes han tratado de prohibir esa representación y firmar contratos vendidos con los caciques de la Teamsters a espaldas de los campesinos.

Pero por supuesto los rancheros no se han dado por vencidos. Ahora están tratando de usar la nueva ley para despuntar la lucha campesina. Uno de sus tácticos ha sido de enredar a los campesinos en una tela de arena de las cortes y la nueva Junta de Trabajo Agrícola estatal para arrastrar la lucha de los campos donde los obreros tienen fuerza a las cortes donde la ley y los jueces capitalistas les da poder a los rancheros.

Al 1° de noviembre, la UFW había ganado 141 de las elecciones y la Teamsters 91, con 12 por no tener ninguna unión. Salieron por lo más exitosas, y fue quebrado el agarro de los pactos entre los rancheros y los gorilas de los Teamsters. Pero sin embargo de ley en sí

no ha traído la victoria total prometida por algunos oficiales de la UFW. El siguiente artículo se dirige a unas de las cuestiones importantes surgidas de la etapa actual de la lucha. Apareció primero en El Obrero por las valles de Salinas y Pajaro, una región agrícola importante en California.

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Cuando los patronos prohibieron a los organizadores de la UFW en los, hicimos declaraciones con la de Trabajo y esperábamos que tomaran acción. Cuando los Teamsters llevaron armas y amenazaron a los trabajadores, hicimos declaraciones y esperábamos que tomaran acción. Cuando corrieron a cuadrillas enteras simpatizantes de la UFW, hicimos declaraciones y esperábamos su acción.

Que acción puede tomar la Junta? Pueden llevar los cargos civiles contra los Teamsters y los rancheros de "prácticas no justas", lo cual es como dijo un ranchero "un manazo no más."

Mientras nos torcíamos tratando de salirnos de la tela abiertamente los rancheros violan la ley, seguros de evitar castigo.

Como llegamos a este punto? De donde salió esta ley? Cual es su propósito? Como podemos es su propósito? Como podemos liberarnos de esto para avanzar en nuestra lucha?

## LA LEY RESULTO DE NUESTRA LUCHA

Representa una derrota del plan de los rancheros meter a los Teamsters como

## CONTROL DE ARMAS: NO RESUELDE CRIMEN

Ha habido mucha publicidad sobre el control de armas de fuego por los últimos años. El incidente de Patty Hearst, los últimos atentados contra la vida de Ford, y especialmente el aumento de crímenes han sido usado como argumentos para promover la prohibición de armas o control de armas ("Gun Control"). Pero el control de armas no es una solución al crimen y la clase obrera no quiere perder su derecho de ser propietarios de armas. Los patronos y jefes usando todos los medios de comunicación (TV, radio, cine ect.) nos quieren hacer pensar que la causa del crimen es que hay muchas pistolas o que se nos hace fácil conseguirlas. Por lo tanto ellos dicen que prohibiendo las pistolas y requiriendo el registro de todas las armas, el crimen va a disminuir.

El porcentaje del crimen ha aumentado alarmante. Las calles ya no son seguras por los noches. Y la patrulla de policía en carro solo resulta ser otro estorbo a las comunidades ya que en muchos casos (la mayoría) las patrullas no protegen sino molestan y disturban más.

Todos queremos que se elimine el crimen. Pero a quién quieren engañar?

Es obvio que ningún criminal va a llevar su arma para registrarlo en la jefatura de la policía! El control de armas nunca va a poder eliminar el crimen ya que nunca fueron las armas las que iniciaron el crimen! Pero en vez de tratar de ir a la raíz de la causa del crimen, los jefes y burgueses quieren cojer a todos de bobos tratando de hacernos creer que la solución se encuentra en la prohibición de armas.

Mientras aumenta el desempleo, el crimen de seguro habrá de aumentar. Ningún político ni patrón está proveyendo trabajos desentes para los trabajadores desempleados. A los policías y políticos en realidad no les importa si se les roban a los obreros, o si son asaltados, ultrajados o matados.

Los patronos y políticos usan como escusa el crimen para aplicar más represión a la clase obrera. En Massachusetts, se sentencian por un año a cualquiera que porte un arma aunque no haga cometido crimen alguno

Mientras los políticos se quejan gritos de que deben restringer las

la unión de la compañía. En 1974 había más campos huelgas en los de California que habían desde los 1930's. Estaban danados los rancheros. Se pusieron de acuerdo con la ley para dejar a los campesinos para su unión, la UFW. En cambio esperaban mover la UFW de los campos (donde les podíamos hacer daño) a las cortes (donde estaban más poderosos).

Los rancheros no son los primeros de la clase patronal que han tratado enredar a las luchas obreras en las cortes. Los patronos han hecho lo mismo por años. Su dinero había en corte. Pueden ganar aplazamientos que hacen difíciles huelgas victoriosas. Por esa misma razón los mineros de carbón acaban de dar una batalla furiosa para mantener el derecho de salir en huelga sobre las quejas locales en vez de entregarlas a cualquier juez de una comisión de arbitro. Y por la misma razón los trabajadores de acero están luchando contra los tratos de "no huelga." Y por eso también los campesinos hemos deshecho los mandos de corte dirigidos para parar nuestras huelgas.

Nuestra estrategia con la nueva ley debe haber sido clara. Usarla para ganar lo más posible pero nunca amarrarnos completamente a ella. Mientras dependemos solamente de la ley tienen los rancheros en la posiciones que quieren atados en la tela de declaraciones, mandos de corte y maniobras legales.

El liderato de la UFW se dejó entrar en la red. Cuando paso la ley nos dijeron "hemos ganado la carrera" Nos dieron discursos de "dependanse de la ley," "dependanse de nuestros amigos en el gobierno." Cuando salen mal las cosas nos dicen que no nos desesperemos, es solo que los que están administrando la ley no son los que deben de estar. Nunca culpa a la ley en sí, ni culpan a la estrategia de la UFW de depender de este ley. Y que es la ley que nos da poder.

Eso es mentira. Nuestra fuerza en contra de los patronos es la habilidad de quitar el labor y parar a los demás de trabajar en nuestros puestos. La huelga es la arma principal de nuestra unión, sean huelgas legales o ilegales según los jueces corrompidos. Se supone que la ventaja de esta ley es que al ganar una elección, los patronos tienen que negociar o están violando la ley. Al contrario cuando hacemos huelgas exitosas el patrón tiene que negociar o perder todo lo que tiene.

Tienen más miedo a esa fuerza que a violar la ley.

Seguiremos ganando todas las elecciones posibles. Al mismo tiempo no dejaremos a nuestra lucha enredarnos en la tela legal. Las elecciones no pueden achicar el cambio. Nos espera todavía la lucha para buenos contratos. Ninguna ley nos puede ganar esa batalla. Ningun gobernador liberal ni padre amistosa. Tenemos que ganarla nosotros mismos.

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Obreros campesinos muy pronto saldrán en huelga otra vez para ganar mejores sueldos y condiciones de los rancheros. Como en el pasado, el respaldo de millones de obreros y otra gente será muy importante.

pistolas en manos de la gente común, ellos se pasan dándole dinero a los policías para que se armen con armas especiales. En Los Angeles a los policías se les dio un entrenamiento especial para que acutaran en contra de personas que formaran un motín pidiendo comida! Lo que en realidad ocurre es que los ricos quieren depender de los policías para su propia protección. Pero los obreros saben que clase de "protección" da la policía--ellos protegen la prosperidad de los ricos y los lacayos de la mafia. Cualquier beneficio a la mayoría del pueblo es casi imposible de percibir.

Que clase protección recibieron de la policía los cortadores de carne (Meatcutters) o los obreros de la fábrica Masterlock? Ellos vieron los policías "proteger" a los rompe huelgas cuando fueron escortados a ocupar sus trabajos. Que clase de protección recibió el joven Jerry Brookshire o

Richard Flynn?--una bala en la espalda y una investigación que fue la burla más grande a la justicia!

Estamos atrapados en medio de criminales y policías ansiosos de hacer disparos. Lo que necesitamos es ponerle fin al terrorismo por parte de la policía y los criminales y terminar con todos los ataques que hacen que nuestras vidas sean una lucha continua. Por lo tanto necesitamos el derecho de portar armas para proteger a nuestras familias nuestro hogar y en fin nuestras propias vidas.

CONTINUA EN LA PAGINA 3

# EL OBRERO

Para el Area de Milwaukee y Wisconsin

diciembre, 1975

Vol. 1

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25¢

## CARNICEROS SE MANTIENEN FIRMES Boicotean Carne De Lacayos Rompe Huelgas

A medida que la huelga de carniceros llega a su onceavo mes, dos o trescientos huelguistas se mantienen en sus líneas de piquetes día tras día, organizando manifestaciones en masa para hostigar a los esquirols, y atacando a la asociación en cada oportunidad que se presente. En una mañana de neblina, o cuando la policía se encuentra despistada por un momento, se puede oír el estrellar de parabrisas en Wisconsin Packing y en el valle. Esquirols y propietarios han llegado a la conclusión de que la huelga se mantiene firme.

Los huelguistas saben que algo tiene que ceder y no va a ser ellos. En las líneas de piquetes y en el salón de la unión existe un sentimiento de determinación y optimismo. "Pensaron que podrían quebrantarnos, pero no se dieron cuenta de los fuertes que somos." Y a diario los propietarios cruzan las líneas y ven las mismas caras de determinación que se han mantenido ahí por diez meses sólidos. Entrán en sus plantas y se encuentran con problema tras problema, en el intento de conseguir producción de una banda de esquirols.

Los dueños de las empacadoras y todos los jefes temen la unión inquebrantable y el espíritu de lucha de los carniceros. Saben que representan una inspiración y un ejemplo para toda la clase obrera en su lucha contra reducción de sueldos, aceleración de producción y ataques contra el sindicalismo.

A petición de los maquinistas en huelga que han estado piqueteando a Hein Werner por 4 meses, un par de carniceros fueron a hablar en la reunión de la unión en Waukesha. El

tema de discurso fue que los carniceros debieran haber parado a los esquirols desde el primer día, en vez de esperar el resultado de las cortes acatar sus prohibiciones... "Y ese consejo está dirigido hacia ustedes si a caso esquirols intentan cruzar sus líneas de piquetes". Cuando el carni-

cero terminó su discurso con un juramento de apoyar la huelga hasta lograr la victoria, contribuciones de dinero comenzaron amontonarse en el frente de la sala. Nadie había pedido contribuciones, y sin embargo se recandaron 88 dolares. Esta donación y el aplauso

CONTINUA EN LA PAGINA 3



ANIMOS MUY ALTOS EN LA LINEA DE PIQUETE DESPUES DE 10 MESES EN HUELGA.

## TRABAJADORES LUCHAN

"Esa línea de ensamblaje nos esta matando. Tenemos que frenarla." Eso es lo que se oye todos los días en la planta de carrocerías de la AMC, donde la aceleración de producción se está poniendo más brutal todos los días. Expertos de eficiencia se pasean de arriba para abajo por las líneas de ensamblaje para asegurarse de que hasta la más mínima fracción de cada segundo sea utilizada para producir más carros. Se están eliminando puestos casi a diario, asignando a un solo obrero el trabajo que anteriormente se asignaba a dos. Y más obreros siguen saliendo por la puerta en cesantía de trabajo.

La American Motors teme que los obreros reaccionen en contra la aceleración mediante una huelga de sentados o un paro local. El mes pasado, en el quinto piso, cuando la compañía emitió sus nuevos reglamentos de trabajo para los soldados de primera, dos soldados fueron eliminados, dejando a siete personas para hacer el trabajo de nueve.

Pero los siete se negaron a dejarse tratar como animales y siguieron trabajando a su paso normal. La AMC envió a dos de sus más odiados oficiales, Sandona y Olewinski, a ese área para hostigar a los empleados. Estos modernos capataces de esclavos usaron todo menos un látigo. Se pasaron el día plantados detrás de los soldados, amenazando los con informes escritos y despidos en un esfuerzo de obligarles a que hicieran el trabajo.

Después de varios días de hostigaciones, un obrero que padecía de nerviosismo, se desmayó en la línea de producción. La única preocupación de la AMC fue mantener en marcha la línea de producción. Sandona y Olewinski lo pasaron de largo como si no fuera más que un pedazo de maquinaria danado. La línea no se paró mientras condujeron al empleado a la sala de primeros auxi-

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lios y luego al hospital. Los otros seis soldados fueron criticados verbalmente por la baja calidad de su trabajo. Esa misma tarde, las críticas verbales se convirtieron en quejas por escrito.

Los empleados se pusieron furiosos. Muchos querían declararse en huelga durante el descanso de las 9:00 A.M. y no regresar a la compañía hasta se remedie la situación como dijo un viejo empleado, "Esto ha estado pasando desde hace demasiado tiempo, y no cesará hasta que nos sentenios y decidamos acabar con ello."

El presidente de la unión enseñó su cara en el quinto piso para asegurarse de que los obreros no actuaran por su propia cuenta. "Dejen que la unión se encarque de ello," le dijo a todo el mundo. Pero el obrero ya está harto de este programa en que no se hace nada. No está evitando los despidos y cesantías diarios. Muchos obreros analizaron la situación de esta forma, "Nosotros somos la unión y lo resolveremos. Abrannos paso."

En respuesta a la ira montante y una queja de emergencia, la compañía acordó regresar a su forma de proceder anterior. Anadieron dos soldados más. Por el momento los obreros habían recuperado dos puestos--una pequeña victoria contra el intento de acelerar la producción. Pero la compañía no sacó los informes disciplinarios de los archivos de los demás soldados. Un comité adjunto de la unión y la compañía está investigando el caso.

La Local 75 de los Trabajadores del Automóvil Unidos se desarrolló en una unión potente en su lucha contra la aceleración. Por muchos años los trabajadores de AM tenía uno de los mejores contratos y superiores condiciones de trabajo en todo la ciudad.

Cuando el representante de la unión no podía resolver una queja de inmediato, los trabajadores se sentaban, frenaban la producción, o se declaraban en huelga, para resolverla. Los obreros de la línea de ensamblaje eran la unión. Sabían lo que querían y cómo conseguirlo. En esos días no despedían a nadie por la baja calidad de su trabajo ni por no mantenerse al paso de la línea de ensamblaje.

AMC está atacando todos los derechos adquiridos a través de los años. Se ofrecían tres días para aprender un trabajo. Hoy día la compañía se ha quejado por escrito en casos donde el obrero no se pudo mantener al paso de la línea desde el primer día. Cuando los obreros empezaron a quejarse de que se estaban desprendiendo tuercas y tornillos de un montacargas en el tiotivo, la compañía recomendó el uso de cascos en vez de repararlo. Un poco más tarde se desprendió, aplastando la carrocería de un Gremlin. En la sección de ajustes del cuarto piso, a los obreros que se cargan sobre la línea para terminar su trabajo se les amenaza con ser despedidos.

Pero no somos esclavos y no vamos a permitir que se nos trate así. Somos los que producimos los carros y los que permitimos que American Motors se enriquezca. Sin nosotros no tendrían nada más que compresores, equipo de soldar, restos inútiles de metal, y prensas que no pueden funcionar por si mismas. Nosotros tenemos el poder.

La unión es un arma poderosa en manos de los obreros de rango y fila, y ellos son los que se van a volver a apoderar de la unión. Esa línea de producción va a reducir su velocidad y AMG va a aprender que no estamos dispuestos a regresar a la época de la esclavitud.