

THE WORKER

For the Milwaukee Area and Wisconsin

MARCH 1977 VOL. 2 NO. 6

Seccion en Espanol 25¢

Unemployed March in Wash., D.C. March 5th

UNEMPLOYED FIGHT CUTS IN BENEFITS NATIONWIDE!

"Fight the Cuts in Benefits!" "Jobs or Income Now!" These battle cries have been taken up by unemployed workers across the country. Faced with the threat of the elimination of 6 months of unemployment benefits, unemployed workers are rallying and organizing to fight the cuts in 30 cities around the country.

The federal program which extends benefits from 39 to 65 weeks is due to expire on March 27th. This means that after 39 weeks, thousands will be forced to choose between starvation or welfare and what few low-paying jobs are to be found. This has already been the experience in several states where the extensions have been cut--under the excuse that unemployment in those states had fallen below emergency levels.

Last year nearly 2 1/2 million workers collected the extended benefits, and uncounted more couldn't get them because their states were already cut off. Why? For an extended vacation to Florida, as the press would like you to believe? Those collecting these benefits had an average of 17 years of hard work behind them, building up the wealth of the bosses, and stayed on unemployment because there was no work at decent pay.

The unemployed have demonstrated at congressmen's offices across the country, hitting hard at these representatives of the rich who raise their own salaries by \$13,000 while threatening to cut us off entirely. At Federal Buildings and Unemployment offices in several cities, jobless workers were met by police who tried to snatch up leaflets and posters and made arrests. But this has only given rise to greater anger and outrage among the unemployed.

On Jan. 20, the Unemployed Workers Organizing Committee led 350 workers in a torchlight parade past one of Carter's Inaugural Balls. Unemployed and employed joined together from around the East Coast and parts of the Midwest to carry the struggle into the midst of their partying and celebrating.

The press worked hand in hand with the politicians to bury the attack and the struggle against it in silence. The threat of millions of unemployed facing welfare, part-time or low paying jobs, or having no means to live at all was not considered newsworthy. But from the beginning of January, when an East



MARCHERS PICKET AND CHANT IN FRONT OF PHILLY'S CITY HALL, AS 350 WORKERS, UNEMPLOYED AND EMPLOYED CARAVAN DOWN THE EAST COAST FOR A TORCHLIGHT MARCH AND RALLY THE NIGHT OF CARTER'S INAUGURATION.

Coast delegation of UWOC members stood up in the halls of the Senate to denounce the cuts, this began to change. Spreading the word through leaflets, petitions, and UWOC NEWS, sharp struggle against the politicians, businessmen, and sometimes against the lords of the press, had created a situation where the fight of the unemployed for jobs or income had to be heard.

While claiming the older unemployed don't need the extensions Carter's administration has been full of promises of jobs for the unemployed youth, supposedly the "real" problem. But in cities across the country, the youth too have joined with the unemployed in fighting the cuts, exposing the jobs programs which cannot begin to meet their needs and are refusing to be traded off against the livelihood of their parents.

Employed workers have united with the unemployed in the course of building this fight. Money has been collected at plant gates resolutions passed at union meetings and petitions signed. In the New York City garment area, garment workers with fresh memories of lay offs rallied against the cuts.

The bosses representatives in congress and in the press don't like the heat unemployed workers are generating. They'd just as soon see the cuts go unnoticed. If the unemployed had raised only a polite whisper, the cuts would

have slid by, over and done with. Workers will not quietly starve or be used to lower the wages and conditions of employed brothers and sisters. The March 5th demonstration showed that the unemployed will not allow the

cuts to slip by. Unemployed from dozens of cities marched to demand no cuts in benefits. Unemployed workers demand jobs--decent jobs--or enough income to cover the cost of living for ALL periods of unemployment.

Why is this man running?



SEE CENTERFOLD

Rivera Case Fights Police Brutality - Page 4

DEAR GABBY

The Worker has been criticized for failure to report both sides. Its said we are biased against all figures in the establishment. In light of these criticisms, we have decided to start an advice column intended especially for those in authority. We hope this refreshing new feature will provide the kind of balance needed to make The Worker more exciting and interesting to all.

DEAR GABBY, I'm the manager of an auto assembly plant. Ever since the last change in the job standards, the workers have complained of too much work. Instead of assembling the cars, they are just throwing the parts on the line. What should I do?

GABBY SAYS That's a very difficult problem. Have you ever considered changing your business to build-it-yourself car kits?

DEAR GABBY, I'm the commander of an army post. I thought the T.V. show "Roots" was very objectionable. Ever since it was shown, the men, both Black and white have demanded to stop being treated like slaves. Can't something be done about this?

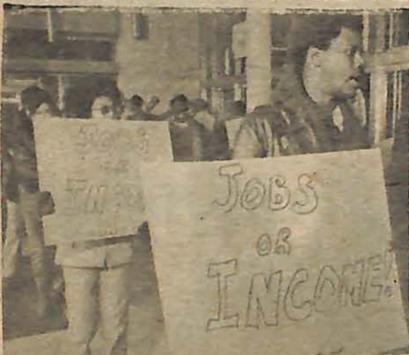
GABBY SAYS Have Washington send you some re-runs of Amos 'n Andy to show the men.

REHIRE MANUEL AMARO!

Manuel Amaro was fired because he is a union man. He worked at Peck Packing for nine years and before that at Armour until it closed its doors in 1964. When the strike came along, Manuel was one of the most solid strikers. He walked the lines every single week for 15 months.

When Manuel was rehired at Peck, the company wouldn't give him his old job back. They put him on flanks, a heavier job than the trimming table job he had before the walk off. Then in November Manuel broke his

MILW. UNEMPLOYED FIGHT CUTS



On March 5 unemployed workers and youth from the Midwest, East and South marched and rallied in Washington, DC, and picketed the White House-telling Carter and the Congress

DEAR GABBY, I'm the president of a large local of the United Steelworkers of America. I endorsed McBride for president in the union election, but this only turned the workers more against me. Even though Sadowski lost, they still want change. What should I do?

GABBY SAYS If they still want change, negotiate a contract with a nickel, a dime, and a quarter.

DEAR GABBY, I'm an executive of the Gas Company. When I come to work in the morning, I am accosted by people demanding fuel for their homes even though they can't pay their bills. They actually want cheap gas! What should I do?

GABBY SAYS Tell them to eat beans.

DEAR GABBY, I'm a worker at a heavy machinery plant. The conditions are so bad, I almost got killed twice last week. What should I do?

GABBY SAYS You must be exaggerating. Nobody can be killed twice

finger in an accident at home. Peck told him that if he didn't come back in three weeks, he'd be fired. Manuel told him that he wouldn't be released by the doctor for 6 weeks. But Peck didn't really care about Manuel's health. He wanted an excuse to fire him. Peck wanted to make an example of a union man. He wanted to stall off any possibility of a new vote for the union. Peck singled out Manuel because he was an influence of unity among the men. He was also a bridge between the Spanish-speaking workers and the rest of the meatcutters.

Because Manuel was fired for being a strong union man he has filed charges against the company with the

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No Cuts in the Federal Extensions! Jobs or Income!

In Milwaukee a rise in unemployment has brought back the first extension. But instead of the full 13 weeks, workers who signed up for the extensions like many of those laid off at AMC last August got a maximum of 4 weeks! The Job Service was counting on the extensions getting cut off at the end of March.

The fight to defend these extensions will continue. We need jobs. But until we can find jobs that we can live on, we need benefits to cover the cost-of-living!

Milwaukee VA Takeover Builds Support For Leach ON TO CLEVELAND!

On March 2nd, 6 members of Vietnam Veterans Against the War from the Vietnam and WWII era had a limited incursion into the Veterans Administration at 342 N. Water.

Throwing our military training right back at the system who treats vets like an old Dixie cup.

Banners were hung out the 4th floor window of the Ass't Regional Director's office. They proclaimed FREE ASHBY LEACH and MAKE CHESSIE HONOR ITS PROMISES TO VETS. Another banner that said, EXTEND AND EXPEND THE GI BILL TO ALL VETS, was hung on the office wall. The takeover and picket line represented the determination of vets to FREE ASHBY LEACH and NOT SEE OUR GI BILL BENEFITS CUT!

Mr. Henay, the Director of the VA tried to sweet talk us, but we're wise to his game.

When he told us that he was only a "public servant" car-

rying out the law of Congress and said "You should lobby them.", we responded that Congress is only interested in us when we are needed to die in their wars for profit and we have no interest in them. One vet said, "In fact we may have to pay their offices a visit."

He also tried to calm our anger by telling us that Matt Cleveland, a Vietnam vet, was being sworn in as National Director of the VA today. One of the vets added that he was glad we vets in Milwaukee could give him "a warm welcome" and that his promotion is no guarantee our lot will change much.

VVAW is calling on all vets and supporters to join us in the demonstration in Cleveland to Free Ashby Leach. The Milwaukee chapter of Vietnam Veterans Against the War says, ON TO CLEVELAND!

For more information call VVAW--445-5816 or 342-5864



The trial for Ashby Leach has been set to begin on March 14. Leach, a Vietnam veteran, took over the Cleveland offices of the Chessie System, the country's third largest privately owned railroad after a five year battle to get his GI Bill benefits. He also demanded that Chessie extend GI benefits to all employees who were veterans and that those people who the railroad had cheated out of their benefits get reimbursed.

The takeover and the campaign to free Ashby Leach has mobilized the deep felt anger of millions of ex-servicemen at the system which uses them

once, and treats them as useless scrap and steals their benefits, if it doesn't kill them.

The Vietnam Veterans Against the War (VVAW) has called for demonstrations in Cleveland on March 12-14. The following is a schedule of events:

1. People's Tribunal--Put Chessie on trial, Saturday night March 12
2. Demonstration and rally--Free Ashby Leach, Sunday March 13
3. Vets encampment--Sunday night, March 13
4. March to the courthouse, trial begins, March 14

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 line 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, CALL 445-5816 OR WRITE:

RCP, USA
Box 3486
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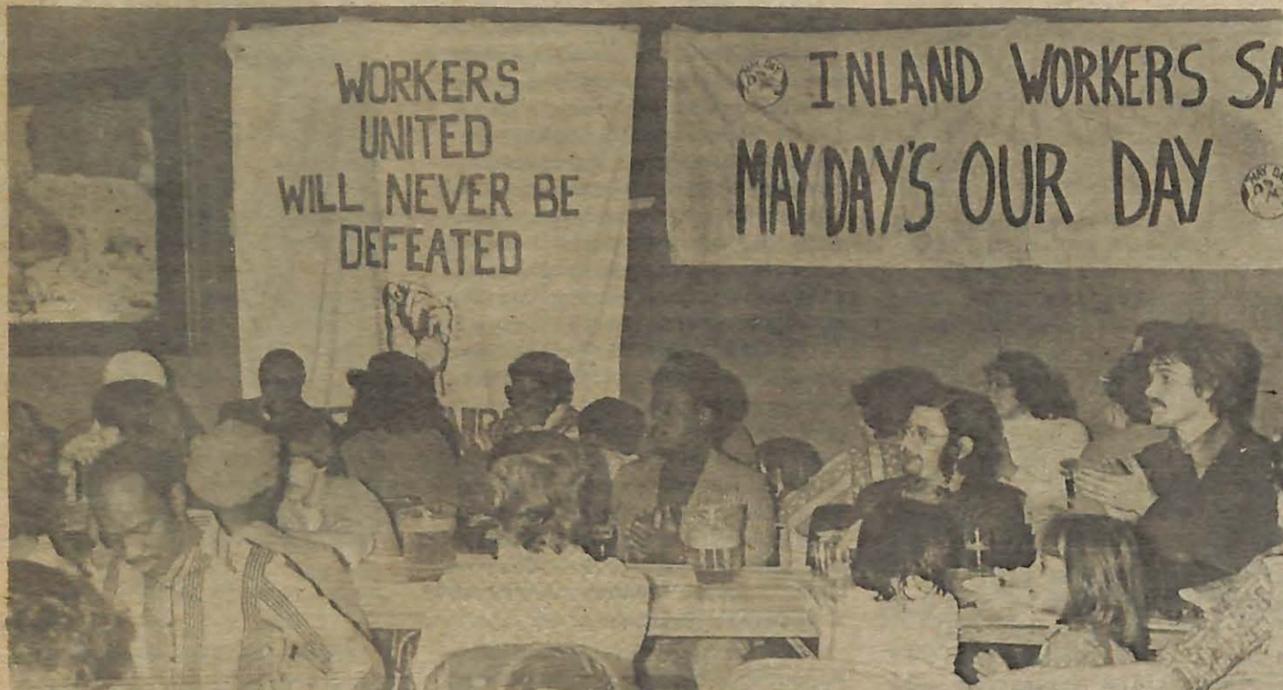
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DINNER KICKS OFF CAMPAIGN ALL OUT FOR MAYDAY!



WORKERS FROM MANY DIFFERENT INDUSTRIES ATTENDED THE KICK OFF DINNER FOR THIS YEAR'S MAYDAY'.

A kick off dinner for May Day 1977 was held on Saturday February 26th. 150 people came from all over the city to speak out against the attacks coming down every day, to speak out and declare our determination to stand up against this system and set ourselves free, to speak out and begin planning May Day '77.

Workers were there from AMC, fresh from a fight against a one year wage freeze and big takeaways; from Allis Chalmers who were about to walk out on strike; from the meat-packing plants who struck for over a year to try and keep their union from being busted; from the steel plants who have begun to build a rank and file movement in the union. Unemployed and youth spoke about

their demands for Jobs or Income and the battle they are taking to unemployment centers, shops and neighborhoods against the planned cuts in unemployment benefits. Workers came to bring together all these struggles and raise the cry - ALL OUT FOR MAY DAY - FIGHT, DON'T STARVE.

After a homecooked pot-luck dinner an autoworker talked about how May Day has become a great holiday for the working class. In 1886 workers throughout the U.S. took to the streets on May 1st to demand an 8 hour work day. Walk-outs spread from factory to factory, city to city. Police and national guard were called out to stop the growing movement. Several workers were shot and killed, including 4

in the Milwaukee area. In honor of this important battle, which showed the strength of a united and conscious working class, workers throughout the world declared May Day the international holiday of the working class.

The speaker said May Day wasn't a day of Maypoles or Law and Order, or tanks and missiles in Moscow's Red Square but that it is a day when workers throughout the world stand together, direct our anger and demands at the bosses who control this system, and look to a day when our own class controls our future.

In the audience were a group of veterans who have seen first hand how the rich use workers to fight their wars and then want to forget about them.

There were youth who may be drafted to fight another rich man's war, and parents whose children face the same prospect as the U.S. and USSR fight to carve up the world. In southern Africa and around the world the U.S. is being told to get out and stay out. Here on May Day we are declaring our determination to FIGHT THE RICH, NOT THEIR WARS!

Suzanne Martinez spoke to the crowd at the dinner about how her daughter, Maria Rivera, was beaten up by a cop. When Maria filed charges against the cop she was arrested for assaulting him. This is just one example of the police brutality that is part and parcel of the discrimination and oppression of minority peoples and that is used against all workers. Mrs. Martinez tied her family's fight to the fight of all the workers and others who were there. Whether it's the fight for quality and equal education and against the busing plan, or against cuts in social services, or the fight against discrimination, we will stand up on May Day to declare WORKERS UNITE TO LEAD THE FIGHT AGAINST ALL OPPRESSION.

A speaker from the United Workers Organization and the Revolutionary Communist Party recalled our major battles last year and pointed to our struggles coming up. One of the key tasks of the working class this year is to build on the advances we have made in the last year by founding a nation wide workers organization that can help unify and co-ordinate our class around the key fights we face. The speaker compared the conditions workers today face with the conditions of slaves during the early development of our country. Slaves were held down with chains they could see, today we are wrapped in chains

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What's TRA?

The 1974 Trade Readjustment Act, like all trade laws, is written to benefit the bosses. It meant more imports of foreign goods and gave workers who are laid off due to the imports 52 weeks of extra unemployment benefits. When they put this clause in the trade law, the government estimated that only 100,000 workers would be laid off due to new imports and thus eligible for TRA checks. But as thousands of workers were thrown out on the street, the outcry of the unemployed forced union leaders to apply for massive amounts of TRA benefits. Over 70,000 auto workers alone have qualified for the payments. Many thousands more are drawing it in steel, textile, shoes and other industries.

The trade bill took taxes off imports of certain products. It gave the capitalists the advantage of foreign imports that are less expensive than American-made products. For example, many auto companies are now able to get foreign made parts like transmissions, clutches, steering and bumper parts, and engines. The imports that qualify AMC workers for TRA benefits are the finished Hornets and Gremlins from the AMC Brampton, Ontario plant.

The lowering of import taxes

was also intended as a way to get other countries to open their doors to more goods from the U.S. In addition the bill provides for payments to companies whose business is hurt by imports. The payments for workers were only a small concession in the lengthy trade bill.

Now the major auto companies are trying to take the payments intended for the workers to replenish sub funds which are going broke. They see it as another bail-out from the government. By demanding that

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AUTO WORKERS' ANGER FORCED TRA CONCESSION.

AMC Workers Fight the TRA Rip Off

AMC's plans to get their hands on the workers' TRA checks has met with mass resistance in both Local 72 and Local 75. In Kenosha, TRA is the talk of the town. Ads and letters to the editor in the Kenosha News have shown peoples' determination not to let AMC rip them off. In every tavern and restaurant where AMC workers gather, TRA is the number one topic of discussion. The local newspaper recently ran an article telling people that the money must be paid back and there is nothing to be done about it.

But AMC workers have only been working every other week and many are struggling to keep their families' heads above water. In hard times like these, giving up the TRA would only drive the AMC workers into a worse situation. The fight to stop the TRA ripoff is a fight to stop AMC from crushing the workers down.

As part of the fight to stop the TRA ripoff, the United Workers Organization is preparing a class action suit against AMC's attempts to take the money back out of peoples' checks. In the first two weeks that the suit was taken out, over 100 in Kenosha and Milwaukee signed up to join. Thousands more have joined the fight

by ignoring the company's letter telling them to come down and turn in their checks. A mood of defiance to the company's plans is all over the shop as people are starting to draw the line and fight on the issue. In Milwaukee, a billboard has been rented on Keefe Ave. near the AMC Body Plant with big letters that say, HANDS OFF TRA.

On February 7, rank and file Ford workers packed the courtroom in Trenton, New Jersey. The company was seeking to lift a restraining order that the workers had on Ford, stopping them from garnishing their checks. The judge was unable to rule in Ford's favor because of the courtroom full of angry autoworkers and their wives and the statement by the workers' lawyer that a class action suit was being planned in Milwaukee and Kenosha. He took the case under advisement and postponed a decision indefinitely. To no one's real surprise, the lawyer for the UAW sat with the Ford lawyer and it seemed he raised more objections to the workers' suit than the company lawyer did.

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Victim of Police Beating Drop the Charges on Maria Rivera!

August 27, 1976 was a typical Friday night in the Spanish speaking community on the near South side of Milwaukee. Workers from the tanneries, knitting mills, and foundries and other factories were cashing their checks. People were taking care of business and socializing with friends in homes and taverns. And on that Friday night like many other Friday nights, somebody got beat up by the police.

Maria Rivera, a 4'10" Puerto Rican woman was visiting a friend next door when police came looking for her. They asked where her boyfriend was. They said he was wanted for questioning about a stabbing incident. As Maria told them her boyfriend wasn't around, nine squads pulled up in front of her house at 118 W. National. Detective Dennis Peters told her she was under arrest. She said she didn't believe him. She went into her house and at the bottom of the stairs to her 2nd story apartment, a struggle broke out and three

officers began to beat her.

The people who lived downstairs opened their door to see what was going on. Peters drew his gun and told them to close their door. Other cops ransacked the upstairs apartment and shot tear gas into the attic. Maria was taken to jail, spitting up blood and with welts on her stomach, neck and arms. She was booked for obstructing an officer.

The DA dropped charges the next morning, but when Maria and her mother filed charges with the Police and Fire commission against the brutality of Detective Peters, the police and DA counterattacked by bringing new charges against Maria. This time she was charged with battery to a police officer, a felony that can carry up to two years in the slammer. The message is supposed to be "Don't try to fight police repression. If you do, we'll stomp on you."

The odds were against Maria Rivera. Not only was she risking repression and reprisal, but to

go up against the cops means days spent in court, lost wages, and lawyer bills. For a tannery worker who takes home \$80 a week to support three kids, that's a big hardship. It could have been just another unnoticed beating in the Spanish-speaking community. The downstairs tenants who witnessed the beating were Mexicans without papers. They could not testify for fear of deportation. In fact they've since left town. It's all part of the pattern of discrimination and oppression faced by Latino people.

But Maria Rivera and her mother had the determination to stand up and fight the brutality against all the odds. And for this stand a mother of three faces a felony charge and a possible jail term.

The police are allowed and encouraged to harass, beat and even kill people. Whether it's brutal cops on a strike picket line, police beatings on a minority nationality, or run-of-the-mill rough stuff, it has got to be stopped. Only by uniting



MARIA RIVERA

workers, students, veterans and youth of all nationalities can we push them back. Fighting to win Maria's case can be a way to hit at police brutality and repression. ■
DROP THE CHARGES ON MARIA!
END POLICE REPRESSION!

Celebrate International Women's Day The Stronger The Role Of Women, The Stronger Will Be Our Movement

March 8 is International Women's Day. This is a working class holiday which was born in the struggles and strikes working women were waging in this country over sixty years ago and now celebrated by millions of people around the world.

Those who run this country have never recognized this holiday, for good reason. International Women's Day celebrates the struggles women have waged against this ruling class that heaps abuse on all of us. It seeks to unite the ranks of our working class, men and women, to fight better against these rulers.

For several years now, International Women's Day has been celebrated once again in this country as part of the workers movement that is now arising. As part of building and strengthening this movement, events will be held in cities all across the U.S. during the week of March 8. "The stronger the role of women, the stronger will be our movement"—this is what International Women's Day is all about.

The high and mighty who own everything and run this country talk a lot about how they stand for equal rights and women's liberation, but what do they mean by it? Sure Carter put 2 women in his new cabinet. One is a rich banker and the other a big boss at Eastman Kodak and J.C. Penney. Meanwhile, life is getting harder for ordinary working women and their families every day.

BEAT BACK THE ATTACKS ON WORKING WOMEN

What's really happening to working women today? Now almost half of all women of working age find that they have to work and more and more families find

that it takes two paychecks just to get by. Yet while 20 years ago women got paid 64% of what men made, today the gap between men's and women's wages has grown even bigger, and women only average a little more than half of men's wages. Where women and men too have fought for and won equal pay for equal work, the

of ratification, is another maneuver in this same old game, because this law would be a blank check to eliminate protective legislation that benefits women (like health and safety regulations against giving women mandatory overtime).

What "equality" means to the employers and their class is even clearer in the recent

the money spent for public day care centers which along with these other attacks makes it even harder for people to keep their families together. Equal pay for equal work, paid maternity leave, cheap and decent day care—these are things that women have fought hard for and won some of their demands. Yet today all these things are under attack worse than ever. When they say "You've come a long way, baby" do they mean a long way down?

EQUALITY AND UNITY, NOT OPPRESSION AND DIVISION

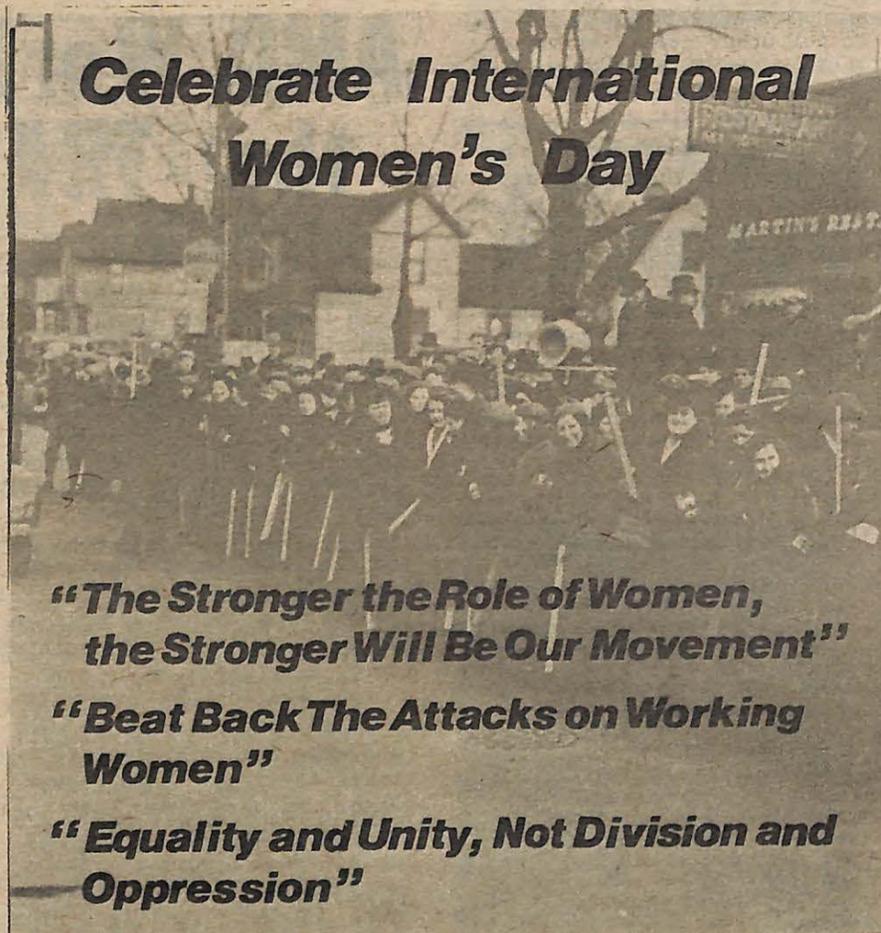
Whole industries—garment, textile, electronics, clerical and many service operations—couldn't last a day without the labour of women. The capitalists grow rich off the low wages and working conditions of the whole working class.

They like to say that the reason for this situation is that women are "willing" to work for less, when what it really shows is how desperate families are for another paycheck, and how they get away with murder based on the whole oppression of women in society. The myths that the capitalists promote about how women are inferior, and how women's place is in the home while the man brings home the bacon are a source of endless profit to these parasites. In this way they try to justify paying women lower wages and keep women divided off from the rest of their class, including keeping them out of unions. Where men and women work side by side at the same jobs, they try to use these myths to fuel divisions among the workers.

Even where they don't have women working for them, they try to use the isolation that staying at home means for some women as a way to breed con-

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Celebrate International Women's Day



**"The Stronger the Role of Women,
the Stronger Will Be Our Movement"**

**"Beat Back The Attacks on Working
Women"**

**"Equality and Unity, Not Division and
Oppression"**

bosses try to turn this demand for equality around and use it against women. In many plants the company bumps women into jobs they can't do as a way to lay them off—with the excuse that this is "equality."

Even their so-called "Equal Rights Amendment", now only three states short

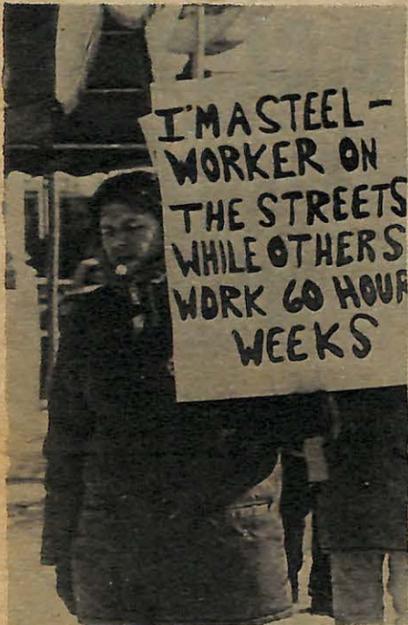
Supreme Court decision that GE and every other company no longer had to pay out any disability pay to pregnant workers. The employers save a big bundle while women workers and their families get left in the lurch. These big capitalists are even so hypocritical that they use the excuse of "preserving the family" to cut back sharply on

Sadlowski Defeated Workers Advance Despite Election Loss

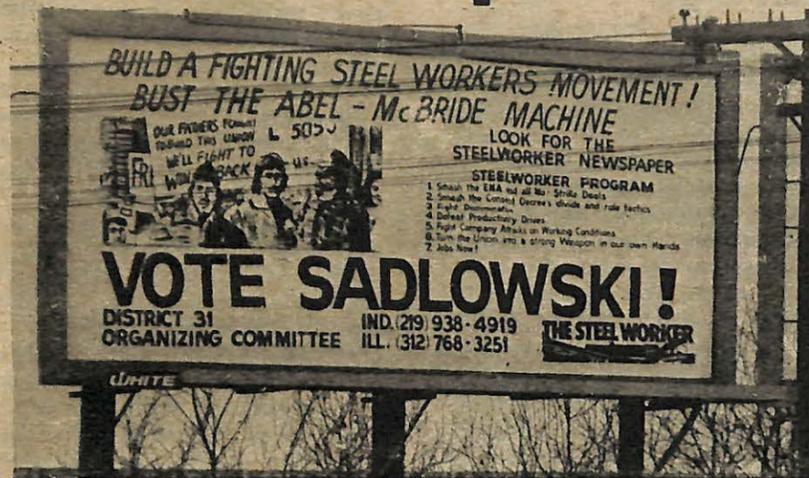
While it's still too soon to analyze all the returns from the February 8 election for the presidency of the United Steel Workers, it's been announced that the pro-company machine of I.W. Abel and his hand-picked successor, Lloyd McBride, beat challenger Ed Sadlowski. But while the rank and file failed to defeat the Abel machine, in the fight it became more organized, more aware of what it's up against and better able to put up a fight.

In basic steel (the mills), Abel pushed through the no right to strike over national contracts, no right to vote on them, and a policy of no resistance to a thousand and one other attacks. Abel's man McBride was voted down.

Abel used the power his machine has built up in the more isolated steel fabrication shops and other branches of the union. There the issues aren't seen so sharply. In non-basic he got the votes to win the election overall.



The campaign was a battle. In every division of the USWA local officials were forced off the fence on the crucial issues facing the rank and file. Many plant managers and foremen harassed workers posting Sadlowski stickers at the various plants. Where McBride looked strong, they made plans



BILLBOARD PUT UP BY THE RANK & FILE DIST. 31 ORGANIZING COMMITTEE NEAR U.S. STEEL'S GIANT GARY WORKS.

for union elections on company property.

In the mills the campaign sparked much discussion and struggle. "What good are strikes in rough times any way? Can we workers ever control our own union? Do we have to cooperate with the companies and sacrifice for their benefit in order to save our jobs and everything we've worked and struggled for?"

Rank and file steelworkers entered the campaign with big questions and aspirations for change. But the campaign often limited their role to vote getters, contributors, and poll watchers. The Sadlowski campaign formed Steelworker Fight Back committees in many areas. For the first time in years, numbers of workers in basic steel, can, aluminum, and fabrication sat together in the same room, making plans for kicking the companies out of their unions.

Some of these committees were quite active in getting out literature and spreading word of the campaign. But overall they were not rank and file committees. The Sadlowski staff wanted to build its own machine, relying on local officials including well-known

opportunists to lead these committees because that's how they would "get the vote." In one can local the Sadlowski staff

discouraged workers from putting out a newsletter tying the campaign to local conditions in their plant, because it would "be divisive."

Many active rank and file steelworkers, including those who look to and use The Steelworker national newsletter as an organizing tool, took an active part in the Sadlowski campaign in order to break up the Abel machine, while at the same time trying to keep the initiative in the hands of the rank and file. From the beginning, there was a struggle against the way in which the top leadership of the Sadlowski campaign wanted to limit things to ordinary campaign politicking.

Mobilize Rank & File

People around The Steelworker and other rank and file forces were starting from a different point of view--that the rank and file had to be mobilized to take up this campaign as part of fighting for the workers' own interests in general. Otherwise, the campaign would be weaker and the rank and file would stand to gain little. To reach out to the broadest number of workers possible, the most active workers had to organize themselves to take action.

This approach, where it won out over the opposite approach of the Sadlowski staff, was

successful in winning votes for Sadlowski and even more importantly in laying the basis for the rank and file to move forward no matter what happened in the election. In Milwaukee, rank and file workers controlled the local Fight Back Committee, putting out their own literature as well as the official Sadlowski leaflets. Even though Sadlowski's strength was in basic steel and McBride carried non-basic overall, in Milwaukee where there is no basic steel at all Sadlowski won at Harnischfeger, Nordberg, Bucyrus-Erie, Evinrude, American Can, and Continental Can. In Chicago some workers from the mills picketed outside a McBride dinner, exposing his pro-company brand of unionism.

The strongest advances for the rank and file came where the campaign to elect Sadlowski and bust up the Abel machine was directly tied to linking up the relatively isolated struggles of various steel mills and shops. This helped to develop among the workers a sense of an overall movement building up against the companies and their henchmen. Early in the campaign a picket of 100 steel workers was held at USWA headquarters in Pittsburg sponsored by members of Local 3059 and The Steelworker. The picket demanded that Abel and the International free this militant local from receivership. This successful picket, combined with taking up the Sadlowski campaign, helped make possible the formation of the District 27-28 Organizing Committee in the Cleveland-North east Ohio area. In Chicago similar developments led to the forming of the District 31 Organizing Committee. New organizations consolidated on the basis of advances made in the campaign can play an important part in future battles.

Despite what so far seems to be a defeat for Sadlowski, the rank and file won a lot in building a movement of steel workers to fight the companies' attacks, company unionism and to advance the interests of all of the working class. ■

D.C. Steel Demo Kicks Off Contract Fight

As contract talks opened up between the United Steel Workers of America (USWA) and ten major steel companies in Washington, D.C. with a "sound-off" on February 14 where the union and management put out their basic positions, there were about 75 steel workers picketing outside chanting, "No Right to Strike, Can't Even Vote, Get Your Damn Hands Off Our Throats!" and "sounding off" with the basic position of the rank and file.

Workers in basic steel (the steel mills) don't have the right to vote on their contract, which is being negotiated under the so-called Experimental Negotiating Agreement. Under this the union leadership signed away the right to strike. Whatever the union and companies can't agree on goes to arbitration anyway. This means that workers don't have a thing to say about this contract.

There hasn't been a national

strike in 17 years and everyone expects this contract to be a sellout like the last one. Many steel workers look at the whole thing with a certain amount of cynicism, saying, "I wonder how we're going to get shafted this time." On the other hand, as the steel companies have tried to restore the falling profitability of the industry by stepped-up job combinations and eliminations, harassment, forced overtime and worsening safety conditions, there's been an upsurge of struggle.

The Washington demonstration called by The Steel Worker, national rank and file newsletter, made one thing clear: The dirty deal that management and its friends are trying is far from in the bag. After the Washington demonstration there was a meeting called by The Steel Worker to discuss the question of turning the contract into a battle against the companies. After some lively debate, it



THIS DEMO. IN WASH. D.C. WAS A FIRST STEP IN BUILDING A CENTER OF RESISTANCE AMONG STEEL WORKERS TO ANY CONTRACT SELLOUT.

was generally agreed that the sellout being cooked up had to be met head-on.

The demonstration was a first step in helping to build a center of resistance among steel workers to any contract sellout. The plan is to build this battle in two phases. The first is to build the battles already going on in the mills and in the course of that to

unite steel workers around concrete demands. Whenever company men or the top union hacks who might as well be on the company payroll come around to try to get the workers to swallow a sellout, they'll be met with picket lines and other actions as the rank and file organizes and builds up its fighting strength.

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BRIGGS EXPANDS - GOOD TIMES FOR WHO?

Briggs and Stratton. 500 new hires over the past few months, a \$21 million addition, the acquisition of the big Levitz furniture store, the purchase of Square D's Good Hope Road plant, the announcement of a new product line, the twin head cylinder engine, \$15 million profits in the last quarter of '76, and the rush to install thousands of dollars worth of new machinery.

What's all this? A bright spot in a gloomy economy?

A source of jobs for Milwaukee workers?

Not really! Briggs has announced no further hiring and will probably lay off in March or April. They use their monopoly position in the small engine competition to automate and stockpile. In the die casting department robots have replaced operators on a couple of machines. Despite the recent hiring, the number of workers is still not as high as it was before the major

layoffs in March of 1974.

The new warehouses and floor space only help Briggs to run its operation more efficiently with more room to stockpile. With the contract coming up in August, already cylinders are being boxed on final assembly and being sent out for storage rather than to customers.

All this recent expansion and seeming prosperity does not mean good and easy times for the employees at Briggs. The money financing all of this, like the millions paid in cash for the Levitz building, have come right off the backs of the workers. Rate cutting has become an everyday affair with the company time study men crawling around and using every method they can to attack the rates. On a new line in the cylinder dept. some rates were cut as much as \$10-15 per 1000 pieces. Harassment is also on the increase. Vern Sock, one of the vice presidents, has been walking around the plant recently threatening to punch

people's time card out before quitting time because they are stopping work too early. Four women with up to 23 years seniority each were docked a half hours pay one day and threatened with disciplinary action for quitting early even though they had turned in their 8 hours piecework. This was their "reward" for busting their back and making bundles for Briggs for all those years.

And despite the recent hiring many are still feeling the effects of the continuing layoffs. Most workers hired over 3 years ago have only a few months seniority to show for it because they lose seniority and benefit rights during the layoffs. Many have been rehired up to 3 separate times.

But just as the large size of Briggs is a strength for the boss, it also brings together more workers under one roof than any other plant in the city. The 7,500 men and women struck 3

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BRIGGS' EXPANSION MEANS A FIERCER DRIVE FOR PROFITS, AT WORKERS' EXPENSE. THEY JUST BOUGHT SQUARE D'S GLENDALE PLANT

Health Care for Profit

BLACK-OWNED HOSPITAL FORCED TO CLOSE

Good low cost health care is a big problem in the central city. The recent closing of Misericordia hospital only makes matters worse. Misericordia was shut down and other inner city medical facilities face the threat of closing because the rising cost of health care makes smaller community based hospitals unprofitable. In their place the big shot health planners are pushing for huge, highly specialized medical centers like the Froedert Memorial Lutheran Hospital soon to be built on county institution grounds in Wauwatosa.

In fact the health planners and financial big shots more or less decided to drive Misericordia out of business. The government health agency did

this by refusing to approve Misericordia for Medicare/Medicaid funds, a very big part of inner city medicine.

The original owners of the hospital, the Misericordia nuns, moved out of the inner city in the early sixties, to greener pastures in Brookfield, when they established Elmbrook Memorial Hospital. Ever since then care at the 23rd and McKinley hospital has been on the skids.

The new owners were never able to get clearance to treat medicare and medicaid patients. As a result, occupancy had only been around 36%. When the place finally closed down, hospital workers had to go as a group to demand their last three weeks pay. Even if Misericordia would have survived it wouldn't have offered the quality, community

based preventative and outpatient care that poor working inner city people need most.

The workings of Misericordia have a lot to do with the plans of the ruling class in trying to put out the fires of the Black liberation struggle. In the late sixties, the federal government arranged a 6 million dollar loan for the two Black doctors and one Black dentist who owned the hospital. They didn't care if the hospital could really stand on its own feet. All they were concerned with was building up Black capitalism-as a way to derail the Black struggle. They wanted to make Blacks think they had a stake in the system. But the economy was too tight for the rich to keep subsidizing unprofitable

Black enterprises like Misericordia and the 6th and Walnut shopping center which also went under after 4 short years. The whole history of Misericordia shows that the rich man's financial and political interests come first. Health care is just something they can sell.

Two other central city hospitals may soon go the way of Misericordia. Deaconess and Lutheran hospitals are merging with the new Froedert Memorial. As soon as Froedert is built in Wauwatosa, Lutheran and Deaconess will cut down their number of beds. Who knows when they'll decide to move lock stock and barrel to Froedert?

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LEONARD PELTIER: INDIAN POLITICAL PRISONER

In June of 1975, federal agents were all over the South Dakota Sioux reservations trying to break the resistance that grew up around the Wounded Knee takeover. Violence was the government's method. Over 50 Indians were killed and many more wounded in shooting incidents involving federally deputized U.S. marshals. A virtual state of war existed on the Pine Ridge and Rose Bud reservations. At the height of all this repression, two FBI agents were killed as they tried to assault an Indian cabin near the town of Oglalla.

Leonard Peltier, a Turtle Mountain Chippewa, is charged with aiding and abetting in the deaths of the agents. Peltier has become a symbol of the Indian cause. His trial is one of the few unfinished cases that stem from the events of the heroic Wounded Knee takeover. Several hundred Indian militants have been arrested in the wave of struggle that began with Wounded Knee. Mass struggle has forced state and federal prosecutors to drop the majority of these charges.

In fact, two American Indian Movement (AIM) members, Dino Butler and Robert Robideau were recently acquitted of the very same charges Peltier now faces.

Their defense was that they had acted in self-defense. The case brought out how the FBI set out on a campaign of surveillance, violence, provocation and harassment.

Peltier, who lived in Milwaukee in 1971 and '72 and worked with AIM here, was recently extradited from Canada after a long political and legal struggle. Now that his trial is approaching, support is growing across the country. The Leonard Peltier case, like the Wounded Knee struggle it grew out of, stands for the whole Indian struggle against the rip-off of Indian land, wealth, culture and rights. Capitalist business interests stole millions in gold, silver, lead, tourist and resort money. They left the Indians of South Dakota with poverty, unemployment and discrimination. On the very spot where the U.S. cavalry had massacred Indian men, women and children in the 1880's, Native American people stood up heroically. Their fight became a rallying point for Indians of many tribes and all struggling people.

For all these reasons, the government has gone to great lengths to put down the inspiration of Wounded Knee and the struggle in South Dakota. For example, they have impris-

oned Leonard Crow Dog, a medicine man who for many Indians is the symbol of the struggle to regain land and culture. He is presently locked up in the Federal Penitentiary in Terre Haute, Indiana. Hundreds of other Indian activists are also behind bars. A Wisconsin Indian leader, Herb Powless, is doing time in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. He, along with two others from Milwaukee, Phil Bautista and Mark Powless were convicted of weapons charges in 1974. In early January, Herb was sent to the hole at Sioux

Falls on phony charges that he instigated a riot.

Leonard Peltier has said, "The only thing I'm guilty of is trying to help my people." This is the spirit that characterizes the Indian struggle. Resistance and determination like this, and support by the majority of American people of all nationalities have won victories in the Indian struggle and will help free Leonard Peltier. It represents a powerful threat to the rule of the rich, a force the government cannot stop with a few arrests. ■



PELTIER (ABOVE) AN ACTIVIST IN THE STRUGGLE AGAINST THE RIP-OFF OF INDIAN LAND, WEALTH, CULTURE AND RIGHTS

Strikers Defy Injunction Racine Teachers Take Militant Stand

Striking teachers and building service workers in Racine have taken a firm stand--injunction or not they will not go back to work until they have a signed contract. When ordered back to work by Judge Du Rocher, 243 out of 245 building service workers picketed the school board central office instead of reporting for work. The teachers followed the next day with picketing at the schools, and 69 teachers were arrested for blocking entrances.

The teachers walked out January 25th after months of working by the school board's rules, with negotiations going nowhere. Building service workers joined them on strike February 1st. The Racine school board, like the school board in Milwaukee are trying to reduce the teacher's union to a name only. Last August the Racine school board came up with a new set of rules to replace the agreements teachers had been working under the last three years. These included takeaways like combining the cost of living allowance into the raise, in effect eliminating it, and making teachers pay for increases in their medical insurance. The teachers are fighting these attacks and for seniority rights for transfers, layoffs and callbacks. Another key demand aimed at strengthening the union is for all teachers to pay dues whether or not they join.

The teachers' determination to defy the injunction and risk more arrests and fines comes from many years of bitter experience with the school board

and the capitalist class it represents. Teachers were forced out on strike for 12 days in 1972 and for 15 days in 1974. During the '74 strike, teachers took over the school board central office building to demand some action on their demand for a decent contract. All they got were false promises. They went back to work without a signed contract because the school board said they would finish negotiating after school resumed. They never did, so for the last three years Racine teachers have been without a contract. Even now with the strike over a month old, the school board is using stall tactics, changing negotiators, cancelling sessions, and changing issues. The actions by the school board this year are aimed at weakening the union so they can run the schools as they please while driving down teachers' wages and benefits.

Teachers, formerly a somewhat better off group, are being thrown into sharper conflict with the system, as the government is trying to cutback on spending for education and other social services. They are forced to take up the weapons the working class has used to win unions and fight the capitalists--the slowdown and strike. And the Racine teachers have won support from workers throughout the area who see the attack for what it is--a union busting attempt. Firefighters and workers from St. Lukes hospital have joined their picket lines and many unions have sent donations. Organized support will grow as the strike continues.



POLICE ARREST TWO OF THE STRIKING RACINE TEACHERS, AS PART OF AN ALL OUT ATTACK BY THE SYSTEM ON THEIR UNION.

But the press has come out sharply against the teachers. The Journal Times has written article after article trying to turn the community against the teachers. Teachers have responded by organizing a "drop your subscription" campaign. Over 500 teachers and supporters have cancelled their subscriptions. The Journal Times tried to win back these subs by offering teachers 50¢ off the regular price. It didn't work.

Some parents have questions about the strike. They know their kids aren't getting a real education in the schools. Kids graduate who can barely read or

write, and every year 700 kids are suspended in Racine alone. Teachers who aren't concerned about the students' education contribute to this problem. But the heart of the problem goes back to a system that cuts out funds for remedial reading programs like they did in Racine this year, that increases class sizes, and that shuffles kids out of crummy schools into crummy jobs.

Parents are also worried because state aid totaling more than \$20 million for the next year is threatened by the strike. The school board and press have tried to turn this

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A Fight of the Menominee & All Oppressed Quil Chevalier's Trial Date Set

Quil Chevalier, a Menominee Warrior and a prisoner of the State of Wisconsin, went through three court appearances in the last week of February. His first hearing was in Shawano. The judge set an April 6 date for a decision about where the trial for the takeover charges would be held. That decision will be made in Price County in northwestern Wisconsin, far from Quil's base of support on the reservation and in the cities. Quil's federal case has been set for June 6th in Milwaukee.

In Shawano the judge and District Attorney went to great lengths to suppress any struggle. The hearings were held behind closed doors. In the rear of the courthouse, cops in eight squad cars waited ready to take action against Quil's supporters. The prosecutors remembered well the strength and militancy of the Indian struggle. They were dealing with people who had risked their lives fighting for the Menominee and Indian cause. They were dealing with people who have no reason to respect a so called system of justice that has violated countless treaties which were forced on the Indians through violence.

Quil Chevalier represents the spirit of the takeover and of resistance to oppression. He refused to appear for trial

10 months ago because his court appointed lawyer called him the day before his trial was scheduled to start and told him to plead guilty. Also the repression has meant greatly stepped up police harassment, brutality and arrests on the reservation. Quil wanted the takeover charges to be a chance to put the system on trial for the countless treaty violations



THE RICH MAN'S SYSTEM IS TRYING TO RAILROAD QUIL TO JAIL, AS PART OF A NATIONWIDE ATTACK ON NATIVE AMERICANS WHO DARE TO STRUGGLE AGAINST IT.

and many abuses against his people. Not showing up was the only way he could protest against the legalized repression of the Menominee struggle. This repression has meant prison terms for Quil's co-defendants John Perote and Mike Sturdevant. Another abbey takeover defendant, John Wau-

banascum never even got his day in court. He was murdered by Menominee County Sheriff Paddo Fish.

Over the past two years militant Indians like Quil Chevalier have fought to expose and isolate the forces that are trying to hold the Menominee people down. Because of the wave of struggle, which began around the time of the takeover, Ada Deer has fallen from power. Her role as head of the Menominee Restoration Committee was to chain the Menominee to the heads of bank, timber, and real estate interests and to the federal government. Now she is so hated by the majority of Menominee people that she recently had to step down from leadership and leave the Menominee political scene. Paddo Fish is another case. His job was to brutally suppress the Warrior Society and the cause they fought for. But he became so hated on the reservation for this that he lost the election for sheriff.

There's more to the Quil Chevalier case than just Menominee getting a raw deal in court. The abbey takeover was a bold stand, a time when 200 young Indians grabbed a hold of their own destiny. For this the state is desperately trying to make an example of Quil and railroad him to a long jail term.

In fact Quil is not even

guilty of the abbey charges he faces. He was not even in the abbey caretakers cottage at the time the "armed robbery and kidnapping" incident took place. But because the whole Chevalier family, Quil's parents and his brothers have been at the center of the Menominee struggle, Quil is being singled out.

All across the country, the Indian movement is fighting a wave of vicious repression in the courts. The system is coming down on Indian militants because they have united the people and won some important victories in the past few years. The judge who wants to railroad Quil to jail in some far north courtroom, the prosecutors who are preparing a frame up case and the whole government is part of the same class that must oppress the Menominees and all struggling people.

Quil's case is a key fight in the Menominee struggle and an important battle against the system that holds everybody down. It can unite Indians from many tribes. And it is a fight that has won wide support among students and workers. By building support among all nationalities and taking up the fight with the same spirit as the abbey takeover, big gains can be won for Quil, and in the unity and determination of all struggling people. ■

Statue of Liberty Takeover

Students Denounce Iran Repression

All across the country the Iranian Students Association (ISA) is rallying, holding numerous press interviews, and carrying out demonstrations and hunger vigils to bring to the attention of the American people the continuing struggle of the Iranian people against the reactionary regime of Iran and the brutal repression of the Shah (the King) of Iran. On February 15, members of the ISA and the Revolutionary Student Brigade (RSB) took over the Statue of Liberty, chaining themselves to the crown, and hung two huge banners written in blood red letters: "Free the 18" and "Down with the Shah," in protest of the most recent arrests in Iran of 18 freedom fighters who are being held without trial and being tortured. A few days later on February 17, 100 students, including the ISA, RSB and others, held the president of Queens College in New York City in his office for four hours demanding that a contract between Queens College and the National University of Iran be cut.

The ISA and RSB took the statue on the same day as an international delegation entered Iran to inspect the conditions of political prisoners. The delegation was denied the right to see the prisoners. The denial is hardly surprising as the Shah is a vicious reactionary who came to power through a CIA coup in 1953. For years, the Shah has used his Gestapo-like secret police, the SAVAK, to try to crush the resistance of the people of Iran and to attack and harass Iranian students in other countries.

The U.S. ruling class has long propped up the regime of the Shah. According to a report released August 12 of last year by the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee, there are 27,000 American military ad-

visors and defense and intelligence personnel in Iran and the number "will increase to 50- 60,000 or higher by the end of the decade."

Iran has been a source of high profits for the U.S. ruling class by exploiting the cheap labor of Iranian workers and peasants. They use the Shah as a valuable tool in maintaining and extending U.S. military power in the Middle East. And now a contract is being set up at Queens College in NYC which will give the Shah an outpost in the U.S. and allow him and his SAVAK goons freedom to roam the U.S. keeping track of progressive Iranian students.

The contract between Queens and the National University of Iran was set up to supposedly "help" Iranian students get jobs when they returned to Iran. But this computer network was exposed as an arm of SAVAK. In what was the biggest political demonstration there in years, 1,000 people, including ISA and RSB members, leafleted the campus. Students voiced a lot of opposition to the contract as soon as they found out what it was really all about. They went up to the President's office and held him at bay for four hours demanding that the University sever all ties with the National University of Iran.

Out of this confrontation, the President promised a signed letter declaring Section C (which pertains to keeping lists of dissident Iranian students) null and void. In talking about this action with students on campus, ISA and RSB members made it clear that it was important to get rid of the whole contract and not just this one section, as the whole contract serves to support the Shah. The RSB members also aimed fire at President Carter's farce of "speaking out for human rights" in areas under Soviet social imper-



MEMBERS OF THE IRANIAN STUDENT ASSOCIATION AND THE REVOLUTIONARY STUDENT BRIGADE TOOK OVER THE STATUE OF LIBERTY TO PROTEST THE RECENT ARRESTS IN IRAN OF 18 FREEDOM FIGHTERS BEING TORTURED AND HELD WITHOUT TRIAL IN IRANIAN PRISONS.

ialism while the U.S.'s empire is propped up by fascists as the Shah.

As it was said in the press release from the ISA and RSB at the time of the Statue of Liberty action, "The Iranian students desire a land free of foreign domination and free of the Shah's dictatorial rule. These students are standing up as a part of the broad people's

struggle in Iran. The American students are joining in this fight. The American people have no interest in dominating other countries as the American rulers do, instead their very interest is in joining with other people to fight against our own rulers who perpetuate the same misery in this country as well as abroad."

Kidnappings? Massacres?

What's Happening in Rhodesia?

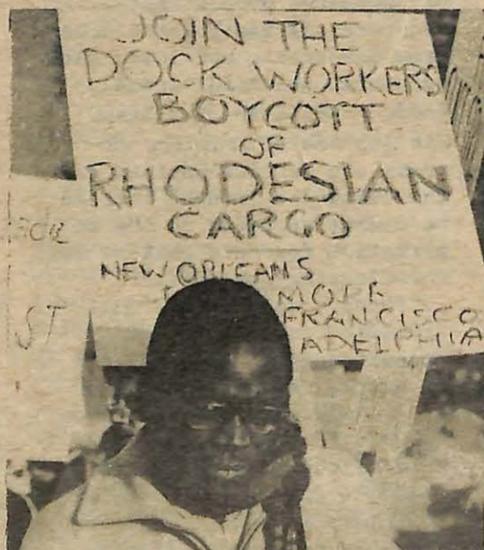
Last month two "horror stories" were being spread in the media about crimes supposedly committed by the African guerrillas in Zimbabwe (Rhodesia). In the first incident Ian Smith's government reported that guerrillas attacked a Roman Catholic mission station, gunning down three Jesuit priests and four Dominican nuns. This followed a massive guerrilla "kidnapping" a week earlier of nearly 400 young people from a Protestant mission.

Through these stories a political point is being peddled to the American people: that Ian Smith's white government in Rhodesia might not represent the majority of the Zimbabwean people, but that by comparison the African guerrillas are bloodthirsty savages, not fit to govern the country.

But like many other stories circulated by Ian Smith and the U.S. government, which has propped him up for years, these two horror stories are full of lies and distortions.

Here is the real story behind the "kidnapping" of the Protestant students, as told by the young people themselves. Four hundred of them split to neighboring Botswana and declared their intentions to go to

join up with guerilla forces in Mozambique and Zambia. In fact, one week after the incident the government of Botswana admitted several busloads of parents into the country to talk to their children. Many of the parents had heard from Ian Smith's government that the children were kidnapped and tried to convince them to come back home. But even though everyone was free to leave, only 51 decided to return to Zimbabwe. and most of



AMERICAN WORKERS HAVE SUPPORTED THE ZIMBABWEANS FIGHT TO OVERTHROW IAN SMITH'S RACIST REGIME.

them were between the ages of 13 and 16. Those who stayed were willing to leave their homes and their parents behind because like so many other young Zimbabweans, they wanted to join the liberation forces in overthrowing Ian Smith's racist regime.

There is no reason to believe the story about the guerrillas killing the seven priests and nuns either. In the first place, spokesmen for the Zimbabwean liberation forces have said the guerrillas are not responsible. Additionally, the Rhodesian government is known to lie like pigs, and certainly would not be above killing these missionaries themselves if they felt it would help prolong their rule. The U.S. government, too, has a big interest in trying to discredit the guerilla forces.

Horror stories like these are used to blur over the basic reality of what is going on in Zimbabwe. What we are witnessing is not Africans gone wild, out to slit the throat of every white person, but a just struggle by an oppressed people for their liberation.

For years Zimbabwe has been ruled by a minority white government even though 15/16 of

the country is Black. Black people are denied even the most rudimentary rights—they can not travel freely, assemble, criticize the government, etc. At the same time the ruling class has grown fat exploiting African labor, paid barely enough to feed itself. And as for atrocities, the Ian Smith regime specializes in them, like a recent raid into neighboring Mozambique in which 600 civilian men, women, and children were killed.

All this has been propped up for years by U.S. and British imperialism, both of which have billions of dollars invested and have extracted huge profits over the years. Of course, now that the Ian Smith regime is being battered from all sides and crumbling fast they are running around saying how they are for some sort of Black majority rule. Even Ian Smith is resorting to double-talk and phony peace maneuvering. But all this means is they are searching for a few "moderate" Blacks who are loyal to them and will go along with some sort of "settlement" that keeps Zimbabwe open to foreign plunder. True liberation for Zimbabwe stands as a direct threat to their continued plunder for profit not only in Zimbabwe but the entire southern tip of Africa.

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AMC Forced to Back Off Wage Freeze

Months before the expiration date last September, American Motors announced its plans to launch a full scale attack at contract time. As the Ford sellout was shoved through at the Big 3, the little 4th tried to take the pattern a step further--a complete 1 year freeze on wages and benefits.

Even though most of the 10 thousand autoworkers at AMC are only working every other week, a very strong and determined sentiment developed that the line had to be drawn at the possibility of a wage freeze and contract takeaways. In particular the United Work-

down the assembly lines. Even in the dead of winter and with work being so slow many people were ready to walk out if they had to.

In the face of this situation American Motors was forced to back off from the wage freeze and any contract takeaways. AMC had been deadly serious about their planned attack, and the fact that they were stopped was definitely a victory.

Nevertheless, the final contract fell far short of even the Ford sellout. \$326 was lost in retroactive pay, the pension remained at \$625 a month instead of increasing by

pay. Or while the company calls on the workers to tighten their belts they increase the top directors' salaries to a tune of \$2,500,000, and purchase the exclusive rights to the VW 4 cylinder engine at a cost of \$60,000,000.

Even though the terms of the contract were definitely a rip off most people felt they had no choice but to accept it for now, and get better organized and prepare to hit back at AMC this September when the new contract expires again. A very

important lesson has been learned by many over the past months of struggle. At contract times very sharp lines of battle are drawn between the bosses and the workers. They are not dicker sessions like the union and the company try to make it out to be. For workers, the men and women who slave on the lines, contract time is when we get just as much from the companies as our organization and determination to fight will wrench from them.

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**HANDS OFF T.R.A!
STOP AMCs WAGE
FREEZE! NO TAKEAWAYS
445 5816 FIGHTING TIMES**

DANGER

UWO BILLBOARD NEAR AMC PLANT.

ers Organization (UWO) and other rank and file activists constantly agitated and organized over a 10 month period to turn down any sellout.

For months the UAW International, from President Leonard Woodcock to Ray Majerus, had promised there wouldn't be a strike against AMC. But as bargaining reached the final hours and AMC refused to budge from the wage freeze, the union hacks didn't dare bring that proposal to the membership.

Scared the company wouldn't make an offer they could sell to the rank and file, and just as afraid of facing the rank and file, the UAW leadership reluctantly issued strike notice. Once the 9:30 radio news carried the report of the possible strike and by 11 PM Feb. 15 word spread up and

\$25, and AMC still only pays a maximum of 14¢ per hour into the SUB fund while the new Big 3 contract increased to 22¢.

Of course Ray Majerus UAW International Director of Region 10 filled the evening TV screen with his ugly face to announce. "It is a contract I think I can Live with." And the President of Local 72 in Kenosha Ralph Daum paraded before the membership claiming "we did the best we could at Hudson and Studebaker. The UAW kept pushing till the companies went under. We bargained like a responsible union that sacrificed for AMC when we had to."

When it comes to sacrificing Daum learned his tricks well from AMC. While 10,000 were laid off at Christmas he managed to work at triple time

Parkman Parents Fight for Better Schools Worst School in Town?

Built in 1967, Parkman Junior High School is one of the newest schools in the city. Yet the conditions there are some of the worst. Tests in 1972 show no kids in the eighth grade reading above average, 15% were average and 85% were below average. In math for the eighth grade, none were above average, 19% were average and 81% were below average. As with the entire school system, the situation has gotten worse.

Many students are being forced out of school. Using 72's (disciplinary writeups) and suspensions, there have been roughly over 1,000 suspensions since the school year began. There are 1400 students at Parkman.

Frustrated at the situation, the students rebel. They know they face fewer and fewer opportunities and that the schools aren't preparing them for anything but to punch some boss' time clock or crowd the unemployment lines.

The administration's answer to this is to assign 14 hall-aides--guards--to patrol the halls and only 5 or 6 to help with teaching assignments. Parkman has more guards than any other school in the city.

The school itself is not even kept up, with litter and cans lying in the halls.

Several years ago, a parents group was formed to try to clean up the situation at Park-

man. Parents patrolled the halls, stopped the fighting and volunteered to tutor the children. The principal, Mr. Douglas, even gave them a room to 'counsel' the kids. But the thrust of the program was to say it was the kids themselves who were responsible for the situation and the source of the problem. The school system went untouched. When the parents stopped going around, Parkman went downhill again.



Another parents group formed, angered by reports of aides having sexual relations with their junior high school daughters, and physical and verbal abuse of students by some of the teachers. By using one or two aides as scapegoats, the principal was able to keep the struggle confined to just a few bad individuals.

Douglas is one of the few Black principals in the entire school system and an almost

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Kearney & Trecker Workers Vote to Strike

Kearney and Trecker workers were fed up with working over 8 months past their contract expiration and with the way their pay was falling behind other shops in the area. Monday, Feb. 28, they voted overwhelmingly to go on strike. The rank and file voted down a sellout contract, even though the Bargaining Committee of Local 76 said it was the best they could do.

After hearing the company proposal, workers were outraged. Only one member spoke up in favor of the contract. For hours, members raised objection after objection to the terms of the proposal. A group of former Giddings and Lewis workers were among the most determined to reject the offer. Even though their strike had been broken after 15 months, these men had learned that the only way to fight the company's attacks was to stand together and fight like hell. Finally, recognizing the militancy of the rank and file, the International rep was forced to change his tune and urge the rejection of the contract. The Bargaining Committee tried to cover its endorsement of the contract by saying they

had promised to plug the offer in exchange for the raise.

Some workers were ready to walk out immediately. Others said, "Let's give 'em a week to come up with a better offer" But the proposal that the Bargaining Committee finally put up for a vote didn't set a date for the strike. This leaves open the possibility of the bargaining committee sitting on its hands for another six months.

What was the gem that the union thought would dazzle the workers? A major demand on the shop floor has been retroactive pay, making up for what the workers have lost by working without a contract. The company tried to smokescreen their refusal to meet this demand by offering an 11¢ an hour bonus for the 41 months of the proposed new contract. Instead of paying the workers now for the raises they have withheld these last seven months, the company wants to spread the payments out over the next three and a half years. This lets the company use the money now, earn interest on it, and then hand it over to the workers after

inflation makes it worth less.

The proposed contract would keep Kearney and Trecker workers near the bottom of similar machine shops in the city. Wage increases start at 32¢ the first year, and decrease each year afterwards. This, taken with a 15¢ per year cap on the cost of living increases, means Kearney workers would fall further behind.

Dissatisfaction has been growing at K&T over the past year. While the International Association of Machinists has shuffled its feet in contract negotiations, telling the workers nothing about the company proposals, they raised union dues. The big winner was the company--with wages frozen at last year's rate, profits are up 66% over last year.

Some workers, feeling that the IAM would never push for a good contract, petitioned for a decertification election. On Feb. 11, recognizing the strength of being linked up with thousands of workers in the IAM across the country, workers voted 3 to 1 to stay affiliated.

Workers, realizing that they could not win much by

leaving the contract negotiations in the hands of the IAM leadership, began to organize on their own to fight for a new contract. The workers demanded a mass meeting to discuss the contract, and shook up the company and the union leaders by refusing almost unanimously to work overtime on Saturday Feb. 26.

The company quickly came across with a new offer, which the bargaining Committee tried to sell to the workers at the mass meeting. The company was so confident, they urged workers to punch out early on Monday so they could vote to approve the contract.

After the meeting, the spirit of the workers was high. Many workers called in sick on the night shift. They had made it clear that they are united in their determination to win a good contract.

Without any organized center of rank and file leadership, the workers took the initiative in that contract meeting. The fight now is to keep the momentum against attempts by the company and their friends running the union to ram through a bad contract. ■

FIGHT FOR

Another Job Loss at Allen Bradley

Allen Bradley has announced plans to run more jobs away to their plant in Juarez, Mexico. Ten set-ups from a resistor department are scheduled to be moved which could mean the loss of 100 or more jobs.

The company is doing a lot of fast talking. They say this move will not mean layoffs, the people affected will be absorbed into other parts of the plant. But AB workers can't help but think back to 1974 when the Juarez plant was opened. AB claimed business was good and no one in Milwaukee would lose jobs when the ferrite department moved to Mexico. The recession hit and about 1200 AB workers were laid off, some for over a year. Close to 100 have never been called back. Many who were called back were forced onto lower paying jobs. And in the AB employment office job hunters who were told to come back at the beginning of 1977 are now told to check back at the end of the year.

AB executives explained the reason for this move of the resistor set-ups very simply, "It's the competition." AB, faced with competition from U.S., Japanese and other foreign firms is looking for cheaper labor and tax breaks. Juarez provides both. Also Juarez is in a duty free zone just over the Mexican border where the company doesn't have to pay import duty for goods coming back to the U.S. While AB is chasing after the highest rate of profit, unemployment lines in Milwaukee remain long and the workers in Juarez are sweating for pennies in a non-union shop.

The same year that the Juarez plant was opened a tax break was passed for Wisconsin industry. The Machinery and Equipment Tax exemption reduced taxes for the corporations and this was supposed to keep industry from running away. AB's tax for 1976 went down about \$3 million. But they and other companies are still moving out more jobs. So far this year AB has announced this runaway. Who knows how many more departments will follow.

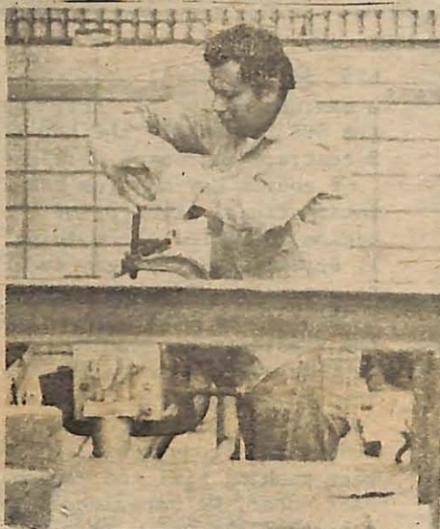
At the same time as they set up production lines in Juarez Mexico, the Allen-Bradley owners back every ultra-patriotic cause that comes along, saying "all out for America." They say workers and capitalists should unite, buy U.S. made products, and help out the U.S. industries. This they say is the only workers' hope. They would like AB workers to think they have more in common with the company than the workers in other countries who are being ripped off by the same bosses.

We can't plead with them to keep the jobs here, they will do whatever they need to, to increase their profits. If that means turning the area around 1st and Greenfield into a ghost town they will do that too.

The fight against runaways and for jobs is a question facing workers across the city. The runaways announced now and the permanent long term threat of job loss at Allen Bradley, one of the biggest shops in the City, is a fight for all workers. We can build our strength to fight this, whether it's hitting job combination in the shop, fight-

ing subcontracting, or mobilizing city wide against runaways. It is the workers at places like Allen-Bradley, Cutler Hammer, Square D, whose jobs are being moved out piece by piece uniting workers around the country, union and non-union, employed and unemployed, of all nationalities that can build a broad movement that will unionize shops in the runaway areas and fight for every job.

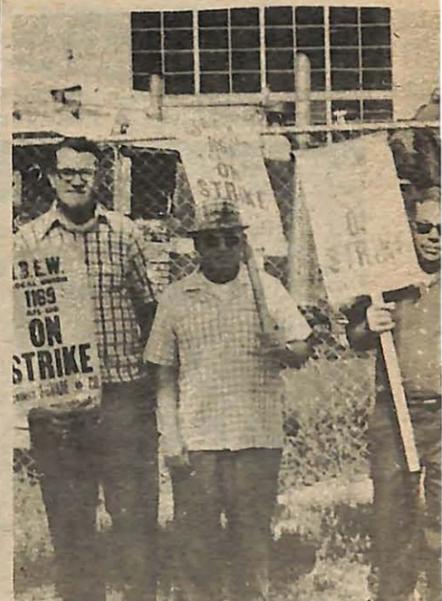
In the past efforts to fight runaways relied too much on hollow promises made by politicians. In the early '70's a city wide coalition of unions relied on the Burke-Hartke legislation to fight runaways. But these turned out to be empty promises of just another politician. Carter made more campaign promises—a job for every American. Instead, more runaways, layoffs, and to top it off a cutback in 16 weeks of federal extensions in unemployment benefits. The road forward in the fight against runaways is to organize the rank and file to take matters into their own hands.



IN MEXICO'S RUNAWAY ZONE JUST BELOW THE BORDER, WAGES ARE LESS THAN \$1 PER HOUR

With every job that runs away resentment grows among the workers at AB, the unemployed, and youth who are told to apply again next year, the parents who are looking to make a future for their children. The story is not over when the jobs leave town, because nobody is going to forgive or forget the hardships AB's drive for profit caused. The company has to reckon with the workers who remain in the shop and the whole system has to reckon with the thousands who suffer the effects of unemployment. ■

WHY HOW



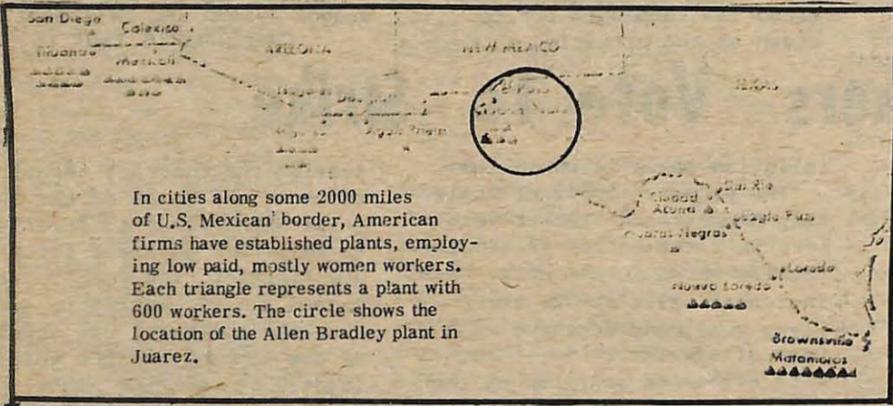
IN 1973 WORKERS AT SQUARE D PENSIONS GUARANTEED. NOT BACKGROUND--LOADED FOR A

Thousands of workers laid off ...10 million unemployed nationwide...high school kids with no hope of a decent job for years ...product lines and whole factories leaving town. Go south on I-94 and see the Heil Co. a one-time major employer, now with less than 400 workers in Milwaukee. In the older neighborhoods, houses are falling apart and no new ones are replacing them.

WHY ALL THE UNEMPLOYMENT ? Runaway Shops

The list of runaway shops in Milwaukee goes on and on: Heil Co. to Athens, Tennessee and other points south; Square D to Raleigh and Asheville, North Carolina; Allis-Chalmers has set up a foundry in South Korea; Cutler Hammer has moved operations to Bowling Green, Kentucky; International Harvester has a new plant in Louisville. There are many more examples.

They go to other parts of the country and overseas to get lower tax rates, cheaper labor, and non-union set-ups. It's



In cities along some 2000 miles of U.S. Mexican border, American firms have established plants, employing low paid, mostly women workers. Each triangle represents a plant with 600 workers. The circle shows the location of the Allen Bradley plant in Juarez.

Jobs a key issue

Contract Struggle at Allis Chalmers

As we go to press, workers at Allis Chalmers are moving towards a March 3rd deadline and they're ready to fight. The workers have forced the international leadership to deliver strike notice after stalling and hedging since January 1st. Allis Chalmers is trying to put across the same kind of attack that American Motors successfully pushed for 6 months--freezes on wages, cost of living, pensions and benefits. Also the company is threatening more and more jobs by subcontracting and moving out whole departments. In addition management is refusing to accept the industry-wide

pattern. They say since half the plant makes electrical equipment there should be two different settlements-- one for tractor and one for the rest. In other words they want to split the unity of local 248.

Allis Chalmers has refused outright to accept the terms of the pattern-setting John Deere agreement. Westinghouse tried to chisel on the electrical contract bargained at GE; Morrel Packing tried to break the meat packing master agreement. And American Motors went against the Ford pattern. All of these national "pattern" contracts were sell outs. But the compan-

ies are all trying to out do each other in the scramble of capitalist competition.

Company negotiators are refusing to give out over \$300 worth of retroactive pay, to grant the 3-4% wage increase Deere workers got, and to give up pension, vacation time, insurance increases.

To all these attacks Allis Chalmers workers have said "No way!" They've been hit over the life of the last contract--with rate cuts, averaging of piece work, percentages, job combinations, a disciplinary point system on attendance, and increased harassment. With all

this, strike sentiment has been steadily growing for the past few months. Workers have plastered walls of the plant, machines, tool boxes, and foreman's desks with stickers saying "Put A-C On Notice" and "March 3rd No Contract No Work." The men and women who turn out the tractors and heavy electrical equipment for Allis Chalmers know they're being ripped off. When they hear reports of 465% profit increase over the past five years, they know it's their sweat and blood that's going into it.

A very big issue of this contract struggle is the fight for jobs. Over the past 15 years em-

EVERY JOB!

THE JOB LOSS HOW TO FIGHT IT



WALKED OUT FIGHTING TO GET MACHINERY ON THAT BED IN PLANT IN THE SOUTH.

all motivated by the drive for profits. Workers are left to search for jobs and see their children grow up with even less opportunity than their folks had.

Automation

The companies are always trying to bring in more modern machinery to turn out each part or product for less. This summer, Masterlock brought in a lockbody assembly machine that replaces about twenty five jobs. Singer Control has a Kingsbury machining center that takes up half the space of a basketball court and does drilling, tapping and reaming, formerly done by 17 operators. The replacement of workers by machinery is also motivated by the dog-eat-dog competition for profits.

Speed Up And Job Combination

In the past several years, workers from one end of the country to the other have been hit with wave after wave of job combination, job elimination, and line speed changes. In the most recent attack at American Motors around 100 jobs were lost at the Richards St. Body Plant when lines were

ployment at the West Allis works has dropped from around 12,000 to 3,500 today. The company has shipped whole divisions to plants in the south or overseas. They have subcontracted out parts and assemblies to small non-union job shops. Also they are exploiting non-union Manpower workers on maintenance jobs in the plant, while union workers who used to do these jobs are bumped off. Job combinations and work overloads are another way they have reduced the work force.

The men and women in the shop are up in arms about the job loss. They are demanding some real protection in the contract. The officials of local 248 have been forced into making this a central demand in the contract talks. With more and more jobs going out the door the men and

CONTINUED PAGE 17

speeded up to 220 cars a day-- 20 more than before with no increase in the number of workers.

Depressed Economy

Runaways, automation, and speedup are all on the increase now as the economy flounders in its longest and deepest downturn since the Great Depression. The periodic crises of the economy come from overproduction. Because each capitalist is motivated by a drive for maximum profit, they all produce like crazy to get a piece of the market. For instance, the major automakers run the production lines full out to get their new models to the showrooms every year. They over-produce to make sure they will not be understocked anywhere. Pretty soon the lots fill up with unsold cars and layoffs start coming. This only intensifies the problem because workers on layoff can't afford new cars. The process of competition, overproduction, and layoffs goes on in every industry and the economy lunges from crisis to crisis. Between each downturn there is a partial recovery. Workers are called back when the overstocked warehouses finally empty out.

HOW CAN WE FIGHT FOR JOBS? Take A Pay Cut?

So the company won't move out or go bankrupt? No! Workers at



AMC couldn't let up on their demands because the company was crying poverty. If you give them an inch, they'll take a mile-- like at Oster. In the '60's John Oster ran away from Milwaukee and then came back when the union agreed to to a pay cut. The workers at Oster used to be high paid; now John Oster is among the lowest paid sweat shops in the city.

Accept Speedup?

No way! As the class that produces everything of value in society, what interest do workers have in breaking their backs to satisfy the capitalists' addiction for profit? When AMC made record profits in '73 and '74, they used them to automate jobs and build a non-union plant in Richmond, Indiana. In Kenosha and Milwaukee the company's profits meant only work harder and hope you don't get laid off.

Buy American?

The working class and the capitalists are international classes. The rich don't give a damn what nationality a worker is as long as they can exploit him. They import machinery, steel, whatever they need and then turn around and tell us, "Don't buy foreign goods!" They ship jobs overseas and then say, "Foreign workers are stealing your jobs!"

"Buy American didn't stop Allis Chalmers from merging with Fiat of Europe to form Fiat-Allis. It doesn't stop Ford from paying workers in Brazil \$2.07 an hour to make Pinto engines. And in South Charleston, West Virginia, where AMC sold its stamping plant to Volkswagen, workers will be taking home checks signed "Volkswagen."

"Buy American" is no more than a false argument designed to increase companies' sales and profits and turn workers of different nationalities against each other.

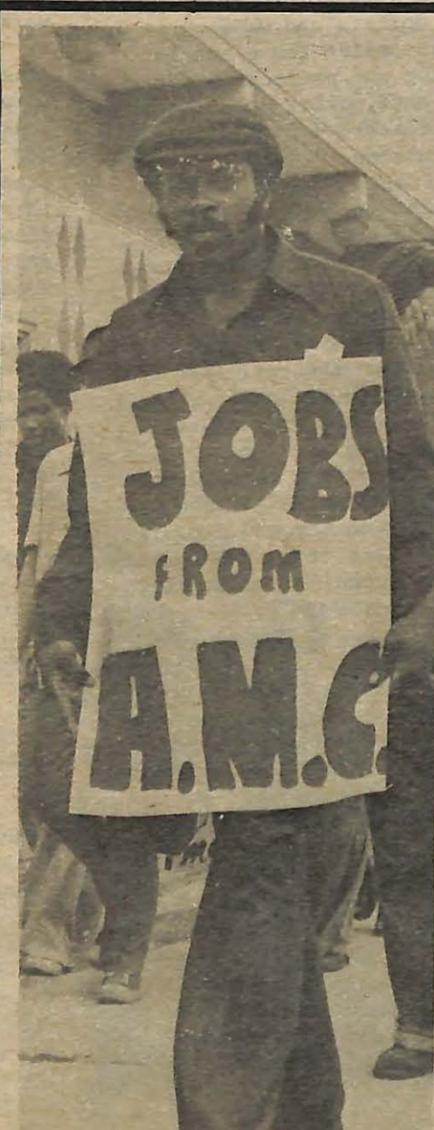
Tax Breaks for Companies?

We have to rely on our own strength as workers and not fall for various schemes. Politicians come up with the Machinery and Equipment Exemptions which for Allen-Bradley has meant savings of \$30 million. When the city gave Cutler Hammer a tax break on a new factory site at 30th and Roosevelt Rd. in order to keep the company in Milwaukee, the company still reduced the number of workers and there isn't much left to their plants in the valley. In the end these tax breaks are paid for by workers in higher property taxes on their homes.

Rely On Gov't Benefits?

First of all workers don't want to be living on compensation. They want a job at union wages. Second of all, the government and the companies are constantly attacking and cutting back on unemployment benefits. One example is the cut off of the two 13 week federal extensions planned by Congress. Or take the TRA hoax (see page 3). The companies are trying to steal these benefits

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Steelworkers Seize Plant Fight Philly Runaway

The walls and machines in the plant were hung with banners saying "Star Sprinkler Workers Sound the Alarm, Fight for Every Job." "Fight the Runaway, Fight for Every Job."

Like a lot of workers in a lot of plants, steel workers in the Philadelphia area have seen one plant after another run away. One Friday afternoon workers from the Star Sprinkler plant which was about to close down and run away to North Carolina were joined by other steel workers in a bold move to do something about it. They took over the plant, chained the doors shut and occupied it for an hour and a half while the company and the cops went crazy.

After the place was barricaded tight, the workers held a meeting in the middle of the plant to struggle over how and why they all had to stick together and better organize the takeover. Meanwhile, management was trying to get a hold of the situation. They had seen leaflets circulating through the plant

agitating for a takeover, but they'd never thought it would really happen. They kept ringing the back to work buzzer, expecting that the workers would be like trained seals and run back to their machines by reflex, but the workers only laughed and jeered at their frantic efforts. The workers had done it! Standing tall, one worker after another, in small groups and in the main meeting, talked about how they should all stand together and see the takeover through.

FIGHTING TO SAVE THEIR JOBS

The workers at Star, mostly older Polish men and women, had been battling to save their jobs ever since it was announced in November that the plant was going to close down in March. The president of their union local, who'd been running it like it was his private property for years, refused to organize any struggles, as did the District Director of the Unit-

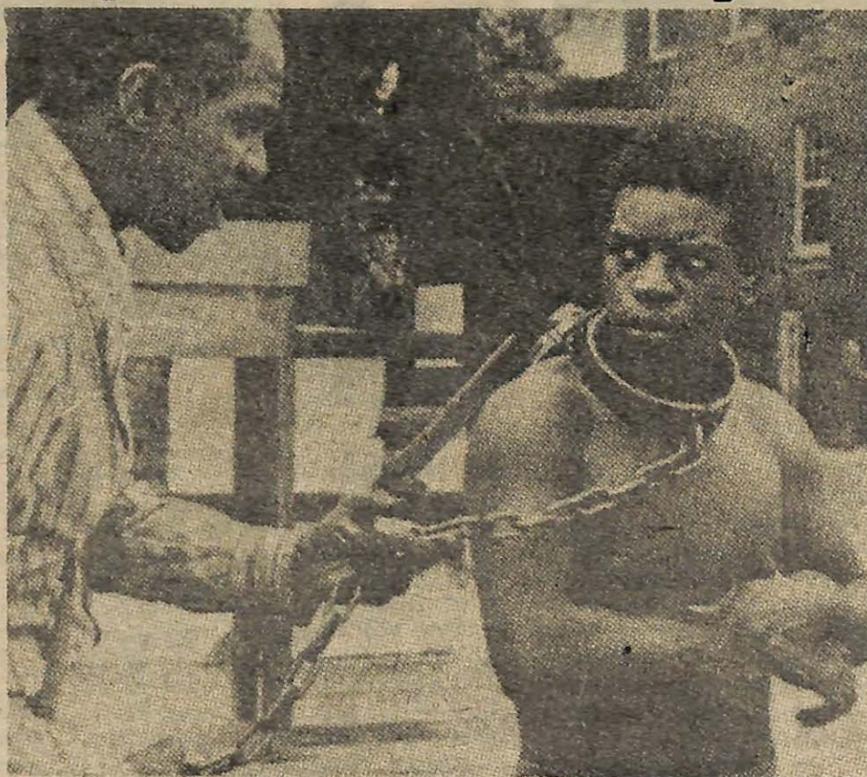
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Roots Raises Questions Slavery Then, Slavery Now

It's been almost two months now since the showing of ROOTS and people are still discussing it. This is not surprising, since ROOTS showed a whole side of American history that has been virtually hidden from us. For most working people, Black and white, the immediate reaction to ROOTS was a burning hatred for the crime of slavery. But the television series, whatever the intentions of its promoters, did more than just bring out outrage over the injustices of the past. In discussions in living rooms and bars, on the subways and on the shop floors people debated what implications ROOTS had for today.

Naturally quite a bit of the discussion focused on the position of Black people in this country today. It is pretty obvious that the discrimination and oppression suffered by Blacks has its beginnings in the vicious slave system. In a future article we will go into what ways and why Black people are still held in an oppressed condition.

In this article we want to focus in on one of the questions that kept coming up all across the country: what are the similarities and the differences between the position of the slaves of the Old South and the workers



IN THE DAYS OF ROOTS SLAVES HAD CHAINS THEY COULD SEE. TODAY'S WORKING CLASS HAS CHAINS IT CAN FEEL.

of all nationalities in the US today.

In a Cincinnati auto plant, for example, one worker welded together a set of chains and wore them into the plant. In an electrical plant in Chicago, the boss tried to intimidate workers from signing a petition over a grievance. They brought in several guards to throw two stew-

ards out of the plant. One woman compared the scene to the whippings of Kunte Kinte.

Few workers watched the overseer in the second and third episodes of ROOTS without at least thinking of a particularly hated foreman who abused the workers and drove them like a tyrant. After all, such people are not commonly called "slave

drivers" for nothing. You couldn't help but feel that there was at least something in common with the present situation and the slaves pictured in ROOTS.

But it is also obvious that there is quite a difference between being a slave in the old South and a worker. After all, nobody is allowed to own today's workers as property. The companies aren't allowed to whip you, although their cops beat people up on picket lines and elsewhere. And it's only permissible to chop off your foot if it's an "industrial accident".

FREEDOM?

The show itself ends by the family declaring that they were "free at last" after arriving in Tennessee. And this was one of the most hotly debated points in some plants. What about today? Are Black people and workers of all nationalities free?

Despite its overwhelming positive nature, one of the weaknesses of ROOTS was that it didn't show clearly that slavery was a system based on exploiting, ripping off, the labor of the slaves. There were plenty of slaves like most of those pictured in the series who

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Philadelphia Takeover To Save Jobs CONT'D FROM PAGE 11

ed Steelworkers of America (USWA). Both said there was nothing that could be done. The Action reporter from a local TV station refused to come out. An attempt to involve local politicians failed too.

The runaway at Star took place in the context of massive layoffs and closedowns in steel plants around Philly. Thousands of steel workers have joined the many other workers on the unemployment lines. Some steel workers got together and decided, "We've got to make a stand. We've got to pull steel workers together from all of these plants and stop our jobs from running away."

People who work with THE STEELWORKER national rank and file newsletter went to the Star Sprinkler plant to build support for the fight to stop the Abel machine during USWA presidential elections (see article on page 5). They tried to link up the fight against that plant running away with other struggles of steel workers fighting for their jobs which have been going on in other plants throughout the District. While giving out leaflets in front of Star, these workers wore signs saying, "I'm a laid-off steelworker" giving the company that canned them and the date of the layoff. Members of the Unemployed Workers Organizing Committee (UWOC) also began going out to the plant.

On the basis of discussing things with active Star workers and knowing the sentiments of the people in the plant, STEELWORKER people decided to go right into the plant one Friday. As workers

gathered by the time clock, they did some soap-box speaking pointing to the successful takeover of the Rhinegold Beer Company by brewery workers a few years ago which kept that plant open because the owners couldn't move anything out. But nobody was really prepared to organized to carry out such an action at that point and at 3:30 most workers began punching out. A few workers stayed to discuss what to do and make some plans.

The following Wednesday people from THE STEELWORKER again went into the plant and agitated for a takeover, calling for a meeting in a nearby bar. While some of the Star workers had strong doubts about whether everyone would really stick together when the time came, they agreed that the runaway had to be stopped. Everything else had failed--a takeover was their best chance. Leaflets went out to other steel plants in the area calling for a

rally at Star the next Friday, February 11, while the Star workers went back into the plant and joined with other active workers in preparing for the takeover.

The Takeover

On Friday, as Star workers were joined by other steel workers and UWOC members inside the plant in chaining and padlocking the doors shut, other workers led by UWOC started up a picket line outside.

After the workers held the plant for an hour and a half, the managers got cops in through one of the office doors. One attempt to stop them failed as two steel workers were arrested trying to chain the cops into the manager's office.

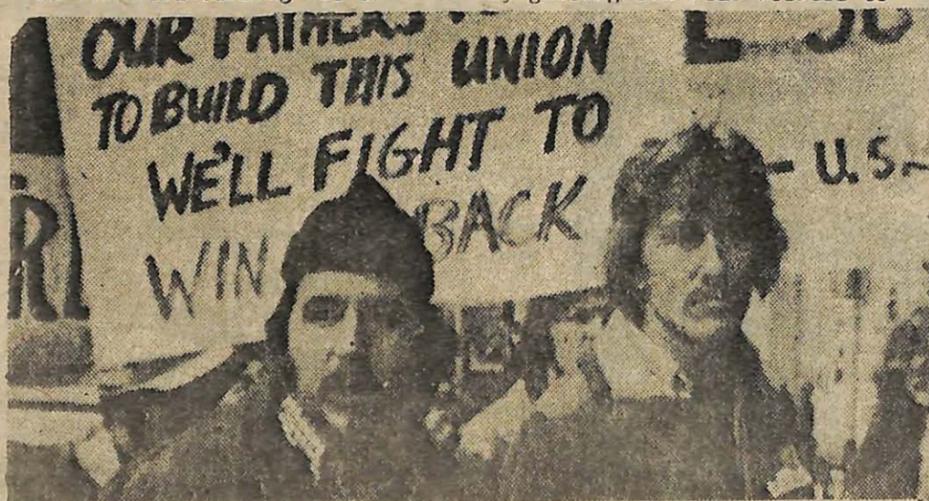
Once the cops came into the plant the rank and file tried to mobilize themselves to take them on. The cops tried to identify and isolate steel workers from other plants by getting the Star workers to

go back to work. But because of the unity that was built up everyone refused. Active workers made sure that the one or two who started back to their machines were brought back and won to staying with the group. Even the union official was afraid to finger the "outsiders" and the foremen couldn't say for sure who worked there and who didn't.

After trying to talk the police down and with more and more of them arriving, active Star workers snuck their fellow workers from the other plants and the UWOC members out through windows. Only two additional workers were caught and arrested. When these two women workers were grabbed, five Star workers told police that if these two were being arrested then they should arrest them too. One woman from Star said, "I'm calling my husband and telling him that I'm going to be in jail for the weekend." But the cops refused to arrest any of the Star workers.

The plant never went back into production that day. Bail money was collected outside the gate and many workers came out to a couple of bars after they were escorted out of the plant early by police, receiving pay for the whole day.

The struggle is continuing as the company is still trying to close the plant completely by March 31. Leaflets have gone out telling the other workers in the Philly area about the takeover and the rank and file forces are mobilizing for the next action to fight the Star Sprinkler runaway. ■



THE STRUGGLE OF RANK AND FILE STEELWORKERS TO GET THEIR UNION BACK WAS ONE FORCE BEHIND THE TAKEOVER OF THE STAR SPRINKLER PLANT

WHAT'S CARTER UP TO?

'Human Rights' Hullabaloo

Concern for "human rights" has become a major preoccupation of the Carter administration, particularly human rights in Russia. In a recent move that the press described as "bold and unprecedented" Carter offered U.S. support to certain outspoken opponents of the Soviet regime. In a letter to much publicized dissident Andrei Sakharov, Carter promised to "use our good offices to seek the release of prisoners of conscience." The letter was picked up by Sakharov at the U.S. embassy, which is a definite no-no in the world of diplomacy.

The release of the Carter letter preceded by less than a week the appearance of another Soviet intellectual, Vladimir Bukovsky, before a congressional committee on human rights. Bukovsky, who had been released from confinement and exiled by the Soviet rulers in exchange for the head of the Chilean Communist Party, described the tortures and degradation inflicted on people held in Soviet prisons and mental hospitals and praised Carter's letter to Sakharov.

Sakharov, a physicist who was awarded a Nobel prize as much to embarrass the Soviet Union as for his scientific contributions, called a press conference at his home to display Carter's letter and to make public his answer. He said that he considered Carter's letter a "support for the united movement for the rights of man in the USSR and the countries of East Europe."

But Carter's burst of humanitarianism was a political charade. It was inspired not by concern for the "rights of man" but rather was a bold political move calculated to stir up trouble for the U.S.'s superpower rival, particularly in Eastern Europe. The effectiveness of the move was evident in the Soviet's reaction. They had a fit. Their ambassador to Washington announced that "the Soviet Union resolutely rejects attempts to interfere in its internal affairs."

In hammering at the Soviet Union for its violation of human rights, Carter piously noted that he didn't want to single out the Soviet Union, since other countries, specifically South Korea, Cuba, and

several in Latin America are violating basic human rights. In an effort to make his pitch sound genuine, Carter even admitted that the U.S. did not have a completely clean record on this score, since it had on occasion refused to admit people who don't agree with its system of government.

Nice words, Jimmy. What he failed to point out is that the reactionary dictatorships of South Korea, Chile, Brazil and a dozen other countries, as well as the racist regimes of South Africa and Rhodesia would not stand up for long if they weren't propped up by the U.S. imperialists. On Feb. 24, the Carter administration made a surprise announcement that it was reducing aid to Argentina and Ethiopia for "violations of human right." But this was a thinly veiled warning to those countries to stop their flirtations with the Soviet Union.

Of course Carter didn't touch on the bloody record of U.S. capitalism's repression of people who have stood up to their brutal drive for profit. The history of the U.S. is filled with examples of

people jailed and murdered for no other reason than that they fought to organize the masses of working people against the attacks of the capitalists or because they were fighting against the oppression of Blacks and other oppressed nationalities.

The uproar around the violation of human rights in the Soviet Union is part of the maneuvering and sharpening contention between the U.S. and the USSR for global domination, behind the smoke-screen of detente. In their

CONT. ON P. 15



CARTER ONLY WANTS "HUMAN RIGHTS" FOR REACTIONARIES LIKE SOLZHENITSYN.

WORKERS' STRUGGLE IN USSR

President Carter and the media have recently given wide publicity to a movement of dissident intellectuals in the Soviet Union and the struggle for "human rights." Their portrayal of the Soviet Union is of a "communist country" which holds its people under a totalitarian dictatorship.

One thing is certain. The Soviet Union is a totalitarian dictatorship where the masses of people suffer under a deteriorating living standard, vicious oppression of various nationalities, war preparations, unemployment, crime, and the rise of prostitution and alcoholism. But this is certainly not due to socialism or communism in that country. Socialism once existed in the USSR. After the Bolshevik revolution in 1917 overthrew the old exploiters, the working class ran the country for decades and the product of their labor did not go to enrich a small handful, but for the betterment of society. With Khrushchev, a new class of

oppressors came to power. While still claiming to be "communists" this new ruling class restored a capitalist system where, as in this country, a small handful of exploiters dominate society and seize the wealth created by the working class.

The dissident intellectuals represent only a part of the picture of rebellion in the Soviet Union against the rule of Brezhnev and Co. Here are a few examples of the heroic struggle the masses of people have waged in 1976:

-Workers at a giant Leningrad telecommunications plant angrily went on strike in defiance of suppression by troops and police;

-A number of Soviet youths in Leningrad distributed leaflets on downtown Nevsky Street calling for a "new revolution";

-In April and May, successive strikes (which are illegal under Soviet law) broke out in Riga on the Baltic Sea and Irkutsk in Siberia. A group of people in Rostov-

on-the-Don in the Southern part of the Soviet Union and in Kiev, capital of the Ukraine, angrily smashed up empty state-owned food shops and markets.

-On August 4, the slogans of "Down with the party bourgeoisie!" and "The Soviet Union-the people's prison" appeared on Leningrad's biggest street and on the walls

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Capitalists' War Preparations NO TO B-1 BOMBER!

For the past few years there has been a lot of talk about detente and how it presently defines U.S. foreign policy. Detente is played up as the two superpowers working out everything peacefully. Now, in the midst of all the detente business, a big debate about arms spending and new weapons systems, like the B-1 bomber and the cruise missile is raging. In the press, on the airwaves and in the halls of Congress the ruling class is lining up. There are a lot of bucks at stake, the B-1 alone threatens to cost \$70 billion in the first ten years, and different companies are reaching out to grab lucrative contracts, all claiming to deliver a "bigger bang for the buck."

The B-1 long-range bomber, for example, is built up as a "defensive" weapon which makes it downright okay. It would only be built to make America more "secure." But what's the B-1 going to do? It can't shoot down Soviet missiles, it can't shoot down Soviet planes. What the B-1 bomber is designed to do, and can probably do well, is to roar into the Soviet Union at treetop level and blast away millions of Soviet citizens with nuclear bombs.

The Soviet Czars run the same line to people over there. They've got the Backfire bomber and the people there are told that Backfire is a "defensive" weapon. But Backfire can't shoot down U.S. planes. What it is designed to do is to roar into the U.S. and waste millions of Americans with nuclear bombs.

Of course, when you get right down to it, imperialists' "defensive" weapons are not really defensive at all. Even the purpose of anti-ballistic missile systems and such is to protect offensive weapons and the offensive power of the country in general and are part and parcel of being able to lay waste to the people of another country. But the whole argument about the "defensive" character of their weapons systems is an even more obvious absurdity when it comes to things like the B-1 Bomber.

This, the U.S. and Soviet imperialists tell us, is "balance of power." Supposedly, this "balance" means that there will be peace in the world. (They used to call this a "balance of terror" but have cleaned up their language lately.) If the capitalists of the U.S.

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POLISH WORKERS LOOTED STORES AFTER FOOD PRICE INCREASES. SIMILAR RIOTS OCCURED IN RUSSIA.

SLAVERY THEN, SLAVERY NOW

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

were forced into the humiliating and degrading position of being personal servants of the slavemasters. But the great majority of the slaves worked from "can't see in the morning til can't see at night" in the cotton fields to enrich a small handful of parasites. The slave owners took for their own all that was produced by the back breaking labor of the slaves. This robbery was the heart of the slave system. Without it there would have been no mansions, no plantation system.

Of course one thing that has been hammered into our heads since childhood is that we are free. And in a certain sense we are. We are only the "property" of the employers during the hours we are working, though they shape the whole society by their power. And we are also told that if we don't want to work, we don't have to, a choice that was never offered to the slaves on the plantations. Who hasn't heard a boss say, "If you don't like it here, why don't you leave?" Nobody offered Kunta Kinte this choice. But for the great majority of workers "escape" is just as impossible as it was for him.

It's pretty clear why Kunta Kinte couldn't escape--he had no place to go. Except for the few slaves that were able to escape the slave catchers and make it to the north, what could they do? Show up at the plantation down the road and offer to work for wages? Obviously not, for the whole set-up was based on slave labor. A Black man would be re-enslaved pronto.

In the same way it is impossible for most workers to escape their positions slaving for the capitalists. True, you can tell your boss to go to hell and quit. But what then? You have to eat. The first thing you have to do is hit the streets and try to sell your ability to work to some other boss. Just as the slavemasters of the Old South had a monopoly on the land, so today the



TODAY THERE IS A NEW TYPE OF SLAVERY WHERE THE PERSONNEL OFFICE REPLACES THE AUCTION BLOCK AND THE TIME CLOCK AND THE BILLS REPLACE THE CHAINS

capitalist class owns the means of production--the factories, mills, mines, and almost everything else. The worker on the other hand, has only one thing besides a few personal possessions--his ability to work. Instead of being sold for life, the worker is forced to sell himself, day by day and week by week.

ARE WE SLAVES?

At this point some people will probably object, pointing out that the worker is paid for his labor, and for damn sure Kunta Kinte never got a paycheck. But even the most exploited and driven down slave received something from his master. Not out of the goodness of the slaveowners' heart, but for the very real reason that they had to keep him alive to work another day.

He received a lousy shelter, coarse clothing and enough food to keep him working and usually even a day off once a

week so that he wouldn't collapse before the master had wrung all the work he could out of him.

Sure workers receive a paycheck. But what does this check amount to? Just enough to keep the worker and his family alive at some sort of basic standard of living, and now-a-days it usually takes two paychecks to keep a family going. Few workers don't experience living "from paycheck to paycheck" with usually just enough money to keep their heads barely above water and make it back to work Monday morning. And when people are out of work for any length of time it usually means near-disaster. After a lifetime of labor, few workers have anything to show for it other than a modest home, if they are lucky, and a pitiful social security check.

Certainly the system that we live under today, capitalism, is very different than the slave sys-

tem. But what they have in common is that both outright slavery and capitalism are systems based on robbing the laborer of the fruits of his labor. It is exactly because capitalism is a hidden and disguised form of this robbery that communists refer to it as wage slavery.

The point is who feeds whom? Under the slave system the slave labored his life away and the riches that resulted from his labor went to the masters. Under capitalism the same thing is true. Just as in the slave system the workers receive but a fraction of the value of the goods they produce, while a small handful of capitalists takes the rest, and run society. Just as under the undisguised form of slavery the product of the workers belongs not to the laborer but to the person that owns his ability to labor, whether for life or by the week. By masquerading this slavery as a system of work for wages they hope to hide the fact that the same robbery goes on.

Under capitalism this exploitation of the labor of the workers is hidden by the wage system. On the surface it appears, unlike slavery, that the worker receives the full value of his labor, that you get paid for the work you do. But what the capitalist pays for in wages is not the wealth that a worker creates in his eight, ten or more hours of work, but simply the amount that is necessary to keep him alive and functioning, and to rear a new generation of workers to take their place at the capitalists' machines.

To the capitalists, the worker's ability to work is just another commodity like so much cotton or a new machine. They even refer to workers as "the labor market". They think of us as just another part of their "cost of production". But unlike a machine or raw materials, human labor is the only thing that can create

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INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

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servatism and keep women from joining the struggle. How many times have the capitalists tried to break a strike by trying to get the wives to start a "back to work" movement?

These divisions fostered by the capitalists are concrete obstacles that hold back the movement of the working class. They are problems that we have to take on in a real way, by organizing the unorganized, uniting around and fighting for demands for full equality for women, in pay, employment and in all aspects of society. The working class faces some big battles, not just on the job but also in the way that society as a whole is going to hell for working people. We can't fight to win with only half our strength. The battles women have fought, from the early textile and garment strikes to the three-month strike of Chicago nurses this winter--all of these show just how much strength and determination women bring to the struggle.

THE FUTURE BELONGS TO THE WORKING CLASS

The capitalists' oppression of women is one of many cancers tearing society apart. It reaches broadly into every aspect of things and reaches down even into the personal relations within our families, where the capitalists do everything they can to get husbands and wives to blame and take it out on each other instead of blaming it on the capitalist class.

To the capitalist parasites who grow fat off the labor of others the oppression of women means the sweet music of the cash register ringing in their ears. To protect their interests, they try to convince us that this is just the nature of things, how it always was and always will be. But for the working class, it is an outrage that women are chained to drudgery by the lack of decent childcare and that shopping, cooking and cleaning is a full day's work in itself. It is an outrage that women

are drawn into industry only when business is running hot for the capitalists and are spit back out again when the capitalists can't make a buck. These things stand in the way of the full development of society.

Things don't have to be this way - for capitalists the profit system means that real equality between the sexes is "impossible" (that is, unprofitable). For the working class liberating women from these chains is part of the revolutionary struggle to rid ourselves of this system and build the kind of world we want to live in. In the socialist countries, where the workers rule, like in China, the working class has already broken the chains, and someday the American working class will do the same.

Our working class faces many hard and long battles as we fight against the capitalists on the jobs and against all of the misery that their system breeds throughout society. The more working women are

drawn into this struggle, in their millions, and the more the workers understand and unite against each and every one of the capitalist's abuses including the conditions that they force on women, the better we'll be able to fight them and the sooner will come our victory! ■

CELEBRATE

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY



SLAVERY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

value, whether by digging the raw materials out of the ground or refining them in the mills or running them through machines in the factories. The capitalists appropriate this value as they take it as their own and they take it as their profit.

In one ROOTS episode, after the Civil War, one defeated slave owner pointed out to the others that "the land is worthless without the niggers to work it." The same is true under capitalism. Their machines, their factories--you name it--none of it can operate without the labor of the workers. Because they own these means of production, they make it seem like they are giving us something when they hire us. It is basically the same line run by the "good" slavemaster in the early part of ROOTS. "We're all one big happy family, only there are some rules that we must all obey." And what is the basic rule? That the slaves do all the work and the slavemaster takes all the product of their labor.

But where do they get factories and machines

(not to mention the yachts, huge bank accounts and present day mansions) in the first place if not from the unpaid labor of the workers?

THE STRUGGLE AGAINST OPPRESSION

Obviously workers in this country today are materially better off than the slaves of the Old South. But the reason workers today live at a higher standard of living is because capitalism has concentrated more and more workers into the factories and other work places and this has put workers in a stronger position to wage collective struggle and force higher wages from these bloodsuckers. By reducing the majority of people in society to the position of wage-slaves they weld us into a class, the working class. This class is composed of workers of all nationalities who share this common exploitation and a common struggle against it. This class is the strongest and the most powerful in human history. It's potential strength and power comes out every time workers enter into battle with the capital-

ists: For as one old song puts it "without our brain and muscle not a single wheel can turn." But these battles are just skirmishes compared with the battle the working class must wage to abolish slavery altogether.

In ROOTS Kizzy asked the slavemaster's daughter why she can't be free. Basically she is told that is just the way it always has been. Some people are born to be slaves, others to own them. Today, this is an obvious absurdity.

But if you ask a capitalist why one person is forced to sell their labor to the capitalists for a living they will answer the same way as in ROOTS. It's human nature, it's always been this way. We provide the factory, they say, and you provide the work--isn't that fair? But the capitalist system "dictated" by human nature is no more eternal than the system of the old "slavemasters dictated" by human nature.

There is no reason why the workers have to be enslaved to the capitalists--to spend a lifetime enriching others. No reason, that is, except for the

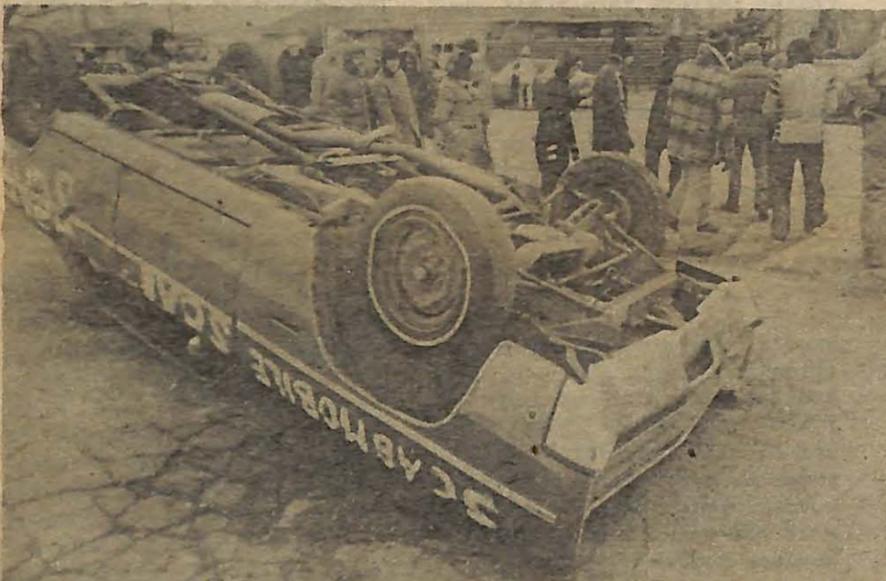
capitalist system itself, and the fact that the capitalists run this society lock stock and barrel. They run the schools, control the media and have the police and they use them all to make sure that things stay the way they are and people don't consider seriously that they could be any other way.

But the working people in different parts of the world have already broken out of this condition of wage slavery by waging revolution and building new societies, as in China and Albania, where their labor goes to the improvement of life for society as a whole and not to enrich a few.

The slaves of the Old South struggled valiantly to be free. It was the role of the slaves that turned the tide in the Civil War that defeated the slaveocracy. People have always struggled against oppression. But the working class has the potential to accomplish what the slaves could only dream of--abolishing the whole system of exploitation of man by man. Only with the revolution of the working class will it be possible to truly say that we are all "free at last."

RACINE TEACHERS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7



THIS CAR WITH A MESSAGE WAS LEFT IN THE DRIVEWAY OF A RACINE SCHOOL. THROUGH THEIR MILITANT STAND TEACHERS HAVE WON SUPPORT FROM WORKERS WHO HAVE GONE THROUGH SIMILAR STRUGGLES.

issue against the teachers.

But if the school board quit trying to attack the Racine Education Association and signed a contract, the strike would be settled and the state aid would not be lost.

The battle lines have sharpened with the injunction and arrests. The school board has used the press, courts, the issue of state aid, and the negotiating table to try and defeat the strike and weaken the union. The teachers and

building service workers have answered with a show of unity and solidarity. Very few have gone back to work. They have recognized their power and strength and defied the injunction. Through their militant stand they have won support from workers who have gone through similar struggles. It's time for workers in the area to unite behind the Racine teachers in their contract battle. ■

AMARO

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

N.L.R.B. This is only one front in the fight. The N.L.R.B. consistently ruled against the meatcutting men and women during the strike and for the company's meatpackers' association. They ruled that workers from Northern and United Packing did not have to be rehired when Peck bought their two plants. The Board allowed strike breakers to vote in the union decertification election. And they threw out all unfair labor practice charges against the association. The fight for rehiring Manuel must be based with fellow workers, not with

the pro-company N.L.R.B.

Manuel is a 20 year veteran of packing house struggle. He belongs back in the plant. We say "Unite behind Manuel's case. Rebuild the unity of the meatcutters!" ■

RHODESIA

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

Is it wrong for the masses of people in Zimbabwe to rise up against these conditions and liberate their country from the yoke of imperialist rule? Should it be condemned that the people of Zimbabwe are forced into a violent civil war as the only way to rid themselves of their slave-masters? We think not.

'HUMAN RIGHTS'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

propagandeering both sides take aim for spots where the enemy stands most exposed and where they hope to stir up increased problems.

So, for example, the Soviets attempt to make hay of the hatred of U.S. imperialism, particularly in the former colonial and semi-colonial countries of the Third world. They constantly hit at the U.S. imperialists long standing and open support for reactionary and repressive dictatorship in places like Chile and South Korea. All in hopes of gaining a stronger foothold by pushing people to rely on them in their opposition to U.S. domination.

The U.S. use of the human rights issue is designed to stimulate discontent and rebellion inside the Soviet Union and its Eastern European satellites. The fascist character of the Soviet dictatorship and their political and economic domination of Poland, Czechoslovakia and other Warsaw Pact countries (which are, like the USSR itself, not socialist but capitalist) is marked by widespread repression of dissidents and national minorities, and by ever increasing exploitation and oppression of the masses of people. This has led to numerous popular uprisings in recent years, including riots in Poland over increases in food prices, and the emergence of a whole network of intellectuals in these countries demanding greater freedom. (See accompanying article.)

The U.S. remembers well the challenge to Soviet hegemony in Eastern Europe which arose in Czechoslovakia in 1968. In the name of liberalization, the Czech Communist Party, which had long since abandoned communism, tried to diffuse popular resentment and discontent by giving the regime a more democratic front, while keeping the workers exploited by the

system of state capitalism. Led by party boss Alexander Dubcek, they sought to achieve some independence from Soviet military and political domination by coying up to the U.S. and the Western European imperialists. Their efforts were crushed by Soviet tanks, justified by Brezhnev's doctrine of "limited sovereignty," which said that Eastern Europe is the internal affair of the USSR and they have a right to do whatever they wanted with those countries.

But Dubcek and many like him are still around. Carter's move is aimed especially at such people of some position or influence in Eastern European countries, encouraging activities to break out of the Soviet orbit.

There is nothing the U.S. capitalists would like better than to free the people of Eastern Europe from the Soviet yoke, in order to drag them under the control of U.S. imperialism. Just like the Soviets would like to break the U.S. stranglehold on the countries of Western Europe in order to replace it with their own iron grip. Both sides use deals and trade to penetrate the other's "allies" and also utilize forces within each other's camp, dissidents in Eastern Europe of pro-Soviet "communist" parties in Western Europe.

Meanwhile both superpowers have millions of troops faced off in Europe and like their constant armaments buildup, these efforts to weaken and disrupt each other's "allies" are part of their worldwide contention that is leading toward war.

Carter's pious concern for "human rights" is more than just hypocrisy. The workers of this country have nothing to gain by supporting Carter's efforts to undermine and attack the U.S. ruling class' rival bandits. We have our own bandits here at home sitting on our necks on whom we must direct our fire. ■

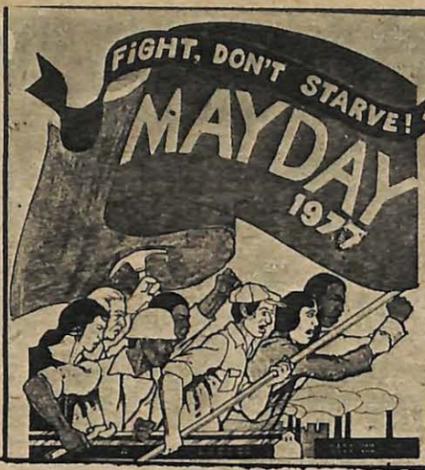
MAY DAY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

we can feel. These are the chains of working for a paycheck that is just enough to keep us going, for a class of bosses who make millions off our minds and muscles. She captured the spirit of May Day when she said, "Just as the slaves in Roots broke their chains, we must break ours," DOWN WITH THE SYSTEM OF WAGE SLAVERY.

At a meeting the next day of the United Workers Organiza-

tion discussion began on how to build May Day as a campaign reaching out to workers, unemployed, youth, veterans and others across the city. May Day '77 must be a reflection of the development of our movement - a time to rally our forces in a powerful demonstration of our determination and struggle, a time to rededicate ourselves to the fight of our class to be free. ALL OUT FOR MAY DAY!



B-1 BOMBER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

and the Soviet Union are so peaceloving as they claim and that they only want weapons for defense, why don't they disarm totally and let the balance of power stand at zero? Of course, this idea is absurd and to suggest it would no doubt be considered "subversive." For all the fine words about peace and harmony between the two superpowers what is going on between the U.S. and the U.S.S.R. is a competition to dominate the world.

Both the U.S. and the Soviet Union have empires, though not in the old sense where an empire would be made up of colonies, owned outright by the mother country. The U.S. practically runs outright places like Taiwan, South Korea, Chile; and South Africa, and exploits and dominates in other ways far wider parts of the globe. The Soviet Union has its grips on countries like Cuba, Hungary, Bulgaria and Poland, and is also spreading its influence more broadly. These empires are vitally necessary for their systems to function, along with exploiting workers in the "home" countries.

But no imperialist power can be content with the way the world is divided for very long. For each, the others always have "too much" because it is necessary for the imperialists to either expand or die. Today each superpower is trying to "liberate" parts of the other's empire, to gobble up more and more. Because neither imperialist will go along quietly seeing its empire ripped off, it spells clashes today and the eventual threat of war.

Both the ruling class of the U.S. and their counterparts in the Soviet Union are urging their people to support preparations for war in the disguise of "balance of power," "Peace through strength" and under the general cover of detente. The capitalists want to stir up "patriotism" and make everything a question of "defending the Fatherland." All the while they are moving towards war to defend their empires of profit and to grab up more countries to exploit.

The B-1 and weapons like it are not in the interests of the working class. Far from making the peace more secure they will only make the war that much more destructive.

We have no quarrel with the Soviet people. Like us, they are being told to make "sacrifices" for still greater weapons of destruction and told that their "security" depends on the Soviet ruling class' ability to lay waste to the people of the United States. Our job is to fight our own rulers, the U.S. monopoly capitalist class, every step of the way, every move toward the war. We support the efforts of the Soviet people to do the same. ■

PARKMAN

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

all Black school. The school board knew the parents wanted more Black teachers and administrators. Douglas was placed there by the school administration to pacify the parents and keep the lid on Parkman.

It was this situation that led 15 parents and members of the Committee to Fight the Attacks on Our Schools (CFAS) to confront Douglas, Feb. 10th and demand to know what was going to be done to improve the situation at Parkman.

Douglas' first response was to try to divide the whites and Blacks by asking the group if they were sure they weren't being used by the Nazis to discredit the busing plans. When it was obvious he could get nowhere with this, he hastily began to attack the students and the parents. Backed up by several teachers, Douglas said the parents could change the situation if they would teach their kids some manners, volunteer to tutor the kids, help to patrol the halls and back the principal and his staff.

One teacher said he wasn't hired to have to hit kids to make them behave in his class.

"You're not going to get away with passing the buck this time, Douglas. If we don't see things getting better, we're going to get you out." "We're not asking that you hit our kids to keep them in line. You raise your own damn kids, and teach ours!"

When Douglas said that things would be better next year once the school was integrated, all hell broke loose. "I consider that an insult," one parent said. "Our kids deserve a quality and equal education now and that's all there is to it."

School administrators like Douglas always push gimmicks to avoid doing anything. It's just another way to get Blacks and whites fighting each other over crumbs. In fact there will be few changes in the busing plans and the quality of education next year.

Since that meeting there has been a little improvement, mostly keeping the kids from roaming the halls and stopping

more of the fighting. But this is not enough. CFAS has begun a petition campaign to build support in the community and organize parents to force Douglas and the School Board to make improvements so Parkman have equal and quality education.

But the situation at Parkman isn't an isolated one. More kids are being bused out than ever before and many schools are still overcrowded. As they go into Phase II of the busing plans, they plan to close down three elementary schools. Of the three, only one is planned to be rebuilt. The kids from these schools will be scattered into already crowded elementary schools in the city.

It is to fight these attacks that parents are organizing around the city. Like the parents at Parkman, it is by taking matters into their own hands, building unity among peoples of different nationalities and fighting discrimination that real equality and quality education can be won, and the bosses divide and conquer busing schemes can be broken. ■

WHY THE JOB LOSS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

for SUB payments they should be making.

WHAT IS THE ROAD FORWARD? On The Job

For every job that leaves town, there are more and more angry people who are going to want to take a stand. At the Heil Co. last year a worker was disciplined for refusing overtime, saying he wouldn't work it with so many guys laid off. Workers throughout the plant walked out to get him back.

We have to bring this resentment and unity into every one of the fights for jobs that comes up. At Square D in 1973, workers struck to get a guaranteed pension in their contract. Right now the fight at Allis Chalmers is for a clause against subcontracting and runaway shops. Every fight against job combination and speed up is part of the overall fight for jobs.

Employed - Unemployed Unity

Jobs is a demand for the employed and unemployed. By welding together the unity of workers on the job and off, our

class is stronger. The rich try to take advantage of the desperation of those with no income. They force jobless workers to work for lower wages and to scab. Workers have to unite behind the demand for income during all periods of unemployment --including the fight against the federal extension cutoffs that are now being threatened. Make them pay if they're going to throw us out on the street!

Organize The Unorganized

We have to support the unionization of workers in the South, Southwest, and overseas, where most of the runaway shops are going. The two year Farah strike in El Paso, Texas, and the J.P. Stevens organizing drives across the south are important to the fight of all workers. The Farah strike was taken up by workers across the country, with buck-a-month clubs, rallies, and boycott activity.

International Solidarity

The monopoly corporations make money off workers all over the world. They constantly shift operations to those places where they can make the most

profit. The greatest exploitation goes on in the U.S. controlled dictatorships like South Korea, Taiwan, the Philippines, and Brazil. They ship lots of products just over the Mexican border where it is assembled for half the wages U.S. workers get. Workers should support every just struggle around the world against imperialist control.

The fight against job loss has no overnight, easy solution. Workers must fight immediate battles against runaways, speed-up and job combination. We must fight for severance pay, for income during periods of unemployment and support unionization of unorganized workers. We have no choice but to resist the attacks of the rich on our jobs and livelihoods. But final victory can only come when we put an end to the rich man's system of profit.

BRIGGS & STRATTON

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

years ago and won one of the best settlements in the city, forcing Briggs to abolish forced overtime and come across with a decent wage increase. With the contract due in August already talk in the plant is focusing on what the demands should be. At the union meeting this month to discuss the contract demands workers will be making it clear they are planning on fighting for a good contract that will give better protection to those laid off. As the workers come up against harassment, a tight absence po-

licy, and rate cutting they'll be struggling day to day, and to make their mark in the contract fight.

The workers and owners at Briggs have nothing in common. Good times for the company means a fiercer drive for profit. And that means they push the workers even harder. As the company gets bigger, the conflict grows between a handful of owners whose only concern is for profits and the thousands of workers who are fighting for a decent life.

WHAT'S TRA

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

workers re-pay the sub money out of their TRA grants, the companies are trying to get the heat off themselves for the small payments they make to SUB.

What better example can there be of the way capitalists set policy for their own benefit. They swing the import-export situation to their own pleasing regardless of how many hundred

thousand jobs are lost. They make a small concession to workers, saying that they are trying to protect them from the "job thievery" of foreign workers. AND THEN THEY SNEAK IN THE BACK DOOR AND TRY TO TAKE THESE PAYMENTS TOO!

The men and women at American Motors are getting united to fight this trick-- that's the only way forward. ■

CLASS STRUGGLE IN USSR

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

of the Tavrisheski Palace. A one meter high and 40 meter long slogan, "You are smothering freedom but people's souls know no chains", was painted on the fortress of Peter and Paul in the city;

-Since the mid 1960's news and publications have filtered out of the Soviet Union from newly formed secret communist organizations, aiming at organizing the Soviet people to overthrow their new exploiters;

-In late 1975 the crew of the Soviet guided missile destroyer Storozhevoy mutinied and was only suppressed when attacked by ten Soviet jets, another Soviet destroyer and patrol boat.

President Carter and the U.S. media say nothing about this mass struggle in the Soviet Union. After all, the U.S. rulers themselves do not recognize the "right" of American sailors to mutiny. Nor do they like to advertise the fact that the masses of people in another country are fighting against basically the same thing as the people in the U.S.: increasing exploitation in the plants, oppression of nationalities, war preparations, etc., perpetrated by a small handful of slavemasters.

The dissident intellectuals in the Soviet Union represent a broad diversity of views. Some are trying to unite their struggle with the struggle of the Soviet masses and the working class. But others are a reactionary elite who have complete contempt for the Soviet people. These, not surprisingly, are the people spotlighted in the U.S. press.

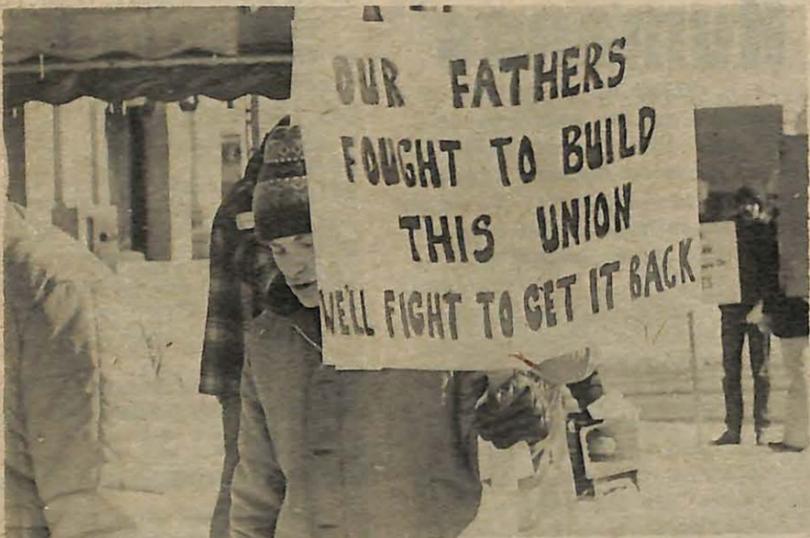
For example, take Andrei Sakharov, the "dissident" who President Carter sent a letter to recently. In an autobiographical essay dated December 31, 1973 and publish-

ed in the NEW YORK REVIEW OF BOOKS he says: "What we need is the systematic defense of human rights and ideals and not a political struggle, which would inevitably incite people to violence, sectarianism, and frenzy." In other words his view is that while certain reforms are needed in the Soviet Union he stands foursquare against any political struggle by the masses of Soviet people. Sakharov's position in Soviet society was further shown by the fact that when he went to pick up President Carter's letter at the embassy in Moscow he was chauffeured to the door in a limousine.

Alexander Solzhenitsyn, the "dissident" they have paraded around the most, is an even more outspoken reactionary. In his book, THE GULAG ARCHIPELAGO, his "heroes" include a Soviet officer who defected to the Nazis during World War 2 and two army officers "unjustly" imprisoned for the "petty" crime of rape. He openly calls for the Soviet Union to return to the days of the hated Czar.

These are the type of people pointed to by President Carter as standing at the center of the Soviet people's struggle for "human rights". But the Soviet people yearn for far more than simply the right to speak out against their oppression and have nothing but contempt for those like Solzhenitsyn who openly oppose the revolution the Russian workers made against their exploiters. What the Soviet people are rebelling at is not socialism and communism, but the fact that they have been robbed of the fruits of their revolution by a new class of exploiters. This is why more and more are calling for "a new revolution". ■

STEEL CONTRACT



STEELWORKERS DEMONSTRATE AT OPENING NEGOTIATIONS FOR THEIR CONTRACT, DEMANDING NO SELLOUT.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

Then, in phase two, after the companies and the union leadership finally settle on what everyone knows will be a rotten contract, steel workers will be able to use the concrete demands developed in phase 1 to judge the contract by. The plan is to demand that any sellout be scrapped. To do this, workers will be mobilized for union meetings to demand that it be repealed, there will be petitions repudiating it, and, where possible, rank and

file workers may print up their own ballots and have their own contract vote whether the union leadership likes it or not.

As the Washington demonstration and the meeting proved, the steel companies and the Abel/McBride machine are in for a real fight. It won't be easy; the steel workers who took part in making these plans agreed, but thousands of steel workers, chained by the no-strike deal and company unionism in the face of company attacks, are looking for a way to fight. ■

TRA RIP OFF

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

A first round victory has been won by the New Jersey Ford workers. The more workers at AMC that join the suit and actively take up the fight, the more chance they have of winning and stopping this TRA rip-off for good.

In taking this fight out to their fellow workers, the UWO members have run into an unfriendly press in Kenosha. Both the Kenosha News and the so-called Kenosha Labor have sided 100% with the company and the Labor paper has even refused to print letters to the editor from UWO members. But by battling back toe to toe the AMC workers are standing up and fighting in their own interests. One thing is sure, if they don't fight to keep their money, it will be gone with the wind. ■

ALLIS CHALMERS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

women at the West Allis plant are fighting to stop the job loss and guarantee their future. 3500 are ready to fight for a big change.

800 jobs lost in transformer when a department was moved to West Germany; 60 jobs on number 1 tractor line were shipped to Batavia, Illinois; much of motor generator was moved to Norwood, Ohio, and the company's "decentralization" plan which cut down jobs in the WAMO division.

The company has also tried to divide the tractor workers from the rest of the plant, which is mainly electrical related. They have said the pattern set at John Deere can be given to the tractor works, but that the electrical should have a separate contract. Attempts to break the unity of local 248 are nothing new. They go back to the year-long strike of 1946-1947 when the company set up an "independent" company union against the autoworkers.

The idea of dividing electrical from tractor has been raised by the company before. They point to the different pay and benefit levels between agricultural implement workers and electrical workers. Electrical workers are traditionally lower paid because they are fragmented into so many unions. In 1971 General Motors worked this divide and conquer scheme at its Dayton-Frigidaire complex. There they threatened to close down its refrigerator lines unless the refrigerator workers would split off and take a worse contract than the air conditioning division. Since then conditions have gone down hill for both divisions. The Allis Chalmers workers have fought too hard to give up their unity. They know any split up would only weaken the fight and allow further attacks and runaways.

The Allis Chalmers workers are taking a stand against a contract attack, against job loss, and for working people. We stand with them!

MISERICORDIA

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

The move toward the big medical center for Milwaukee county was started by a Milwaukee Industrialist, the owner of Froedert Malt. When he died he willed several million for a new hospital. Froedert's board of directors includes the heads of Allen Bradley, A.O. Smith, Rexnord, Koehring, Falk and Grede foundry. These

corporate execs have pushed the multi-million dollar medical complex through even though Milwaukee already has more than enough number of hospital beds. They see it as an "asset to the business community". But they are not at all concerned with decent health care for the masses of Milwaukee people.

The County Board has generally welcomed the building of Froedert on county institution grounds. They see it as a good place for cutbacks in public health. Some even envision Froedert taking over for County someday. Right now County General's the only hospital that serves people without health insurance, Medicare or Medicaid. People with low incomes and no insurance--unemployed workers for instance--have long gone to County for care, not because the care was great but it was all they could afford. Froedert signed a lease with the county. It allows them to "discriminate on the basis of ability to pay". Froedert is being set up as a money maker and they aren't out to help those who need it most.

In the fight for better health care, as in the fight for better conditions on the job, we will continually come up against the bosses and their need for profit. Our interests for good quality, low-cost health care are not the same as the interests of the industrialists. The closing of Misericordia and the opening of Froedert Memorial are two examples of profits above all else. How many people will suffer and go without decent care because of this profit drive? ■

AMC

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

The company was definitely after the hard won gains it took thousands of workers years of struggle and sacrifice to win. The American Motors contract is the only one in the auto industry that includes a full year of medical insurance during a layoff, a steward ratio of one for every 35 workers, completely voluntary overtime, and the right to strike over grievances.

These gains were protected this time around and the wage freeze was stopped because AMC workers were ready to take a stand. But the company was able to get over with a lousy contract because of the stalling and sabotage on the part of the International and much of the local leadership. By dragging negotiations into the dead of winter during the slow season for the '77 model, the workers were in a weakened position.

At the same time active fighters in the United Workers Organization/Fighting Times have gained more experience in building the movement of the rank and file. Throughout the contract the UWO was looked to by many as a growing center of leadership against AMC.

But from Milwaukee to Kenosha to Brampton, Ontario thousands are summing up the experience and getting ready for the contract battle lines to be drawn again this Sept. Many are already beginning to talk about saving money and storing canned goods in order to get ready for a real fight this fall. Another thing is for sure, the International has been shown up for the company agents they are and the going for them isn't gonna be too easy come next contract.

Lucha de Clases en la URSS

El Presidente Carter y los comentaristas recientemente han prestado mucha atención a los intelectuales disidentes en la Unión Soviética y la lucha por "los derechos humanos." Dibujan la Unión Soviética como "un estado comunista" donde la gente vive bajo una dictadura totalitaria.

Cierto que la Unión Soviética es una dictadura totalitaria donde el pueblo sufre un nivel de vida empeorándose, opresión descarada de varias nacionalidades, preparaciones bélicas, el desempleo y el crimen, la subida de prostitución y el alcoholismo. Pero cierto que estas condiciones no tienen nada que ver con el socialismo ni el comunismo en ese país. En un tiempo la URSS era un país socialista. Después de que la revolución bolchevique de 1917 derrotó a los viejos explotadores, la clase obrera era dueño del país y el producto de su labor no servía de enriquecer a un puñado de gente sino para mejorar la sociedad. Pero con Jruschov una nueva clase de explotadores subo al Poder y se apoderaron de la riqueza producida por la clase obrera.



BRESHNEV, PRINCIPAL CAPITALISTA DE LA URSS, RECOSTANDOSE CONTRA UNO DE SUS MUCHOS FLAMANTES CARROS NUEVOS.

Los intelectuales disidentes representan sólo una parte pequeña de la rebelión que está estallando contra el dominio de Brezhnev y Cia. He aquí unos ejemplos de la lucha heroica

del pueblo soviético en 1976:

--Mas de 20,000 trabajadores de una planta de telecomunicación en Leningrad salieron en huelga desafiando con coraje a la supresión de las tropas y la policía.

--Un número de jóvenes soviéticos en Leningrad fijaron carteles llamando para "una nueva revolución."

--En abril y mayo muchas huelgas (las cuales son ilegales según la ley de ese país) estallaron en la ciudad de Riga acerca del Mar Báltico y Irkutsk en Siberia. En la ciudad de Rostov en el sur de la Unión Soviética y en Kiev, la capital de Ucrania, la gente fue enrabada por los mercados y tiendas del estado totalmente vacíos y rompieron los vidrios.

--El 4 de agosto las consignas "Abajo con la Burguesía del Partido" y "Unión Soviética-Prisión de los Pueblos" fueron pintadas en las paredes de la calle principal de Leningrad y el Palacio Tavrisheski. En la Fortaleza de Pedro y Pablo en la misma ciudad alguien pintó en letras gigantescas: "Están ahogando la libertad del pueblo pero el alma del pueblo no puede ser encadenada."

--A fines de 1975 el equipo de barco destructor El Storzovoy se rebelaron. El motín fue suprimido sólo después de un ataque de 10 aviones de reacción, otro destructor soviético y un barco de patrulla.

--Desde los mediados de los 1960 se han filtrado de la URSS varias publicaciones indicando la subida de nuevas organizaciones comunistas soviéticas que llaman al pueblo soviético a que derroque a los nuevos explotadores.

El presidente Carter y la prensa no dicen nada acerca de esta lucha de masas en la Unión Soviética. Al fin y al cabo los gobernantes de EEUU no reconocen "el derecho" de motín de los marinos americanos. Ni quieren publicar el hecho de que el pueblo de otro país se están rebelando contra lo que es ba-

sicamente lo que enfrenta el pueblo americano: la explotación creciente en las plantas, la opresión de las nacionalidades minoritarias, las preparaciones para la guerra, etc., todos crímenes perpetuados por un puñado de esclavistas.

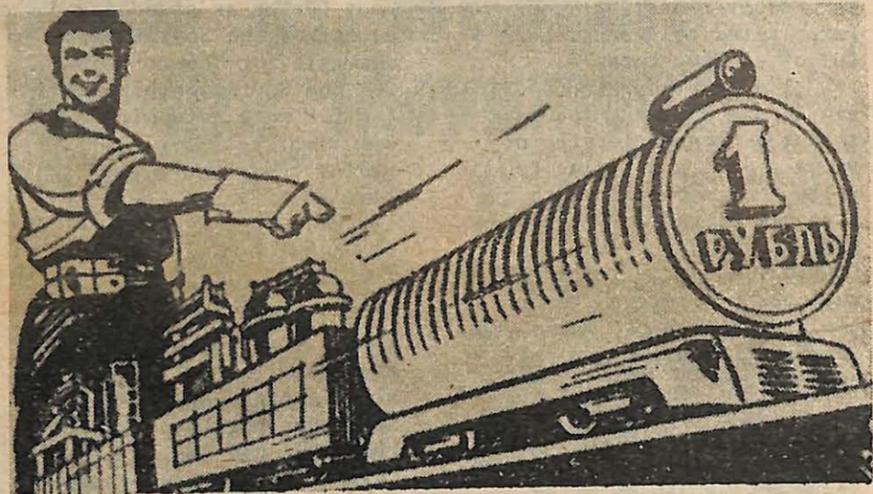
Los intelectuales disidentes en la Unión Soviética tienen varios puntos de vista. Algunos están tratando de unir su lucha con la de las masas soviéticas y la clase obrera. Pero otros son un elite reaccionario que desdenan al pueblo soviético. No es sorprendente que tales personas gozan de la atención de Carter y la prensa de EEUU.

Por ejemplo, hay el caso de Andrei Sakharov, el "disidente" a quien el Presidente Carter envió una carta recientemente. En un ensayo autobiográfico publicado en la *New York Review of Books*, escribió: "Lo que necesitamos es una defensa sistemática de los derechos y ideales humanos y no una lucha política la cual inevitablemente conducirá a la gente a la violencia, el sectarismo y el frenesí." Es decir, según su punto de vista lo que falta es ciertas reformas en la Unión Soviética mientras que hay que oponerse a la lucha política

de las masas soviéticas. Se vio la posición de Sakharov en la sociedad soviética en el hecho de que fue a la embajada americana para la carta de Carter en un limosine con chófer.

Alejandro Solzhenitsyn, el "disidente" mas destacado por la prensa de EEUU, es un reaccionario aun más descarado. En su libro *El Archipiélago de Gulag*, sus "héroes" incluyen un oficial soviético que desertó a los nazis durante la Segunda Guerra Mundial y dos oficiales del ejército encarcelados por el crimen "insignificante" de violar a una mujer. Este Sakharov abiertamente quiere que la URSS se vuelva al tiempo de los Zares odiados.

Así es la clase de personas que según Carter forman el foco de la lucha del pueblo soviético por los "derechos humanos." Pero el pueblo soviético está ansioso para tener mucho más que el mero derecho a hablar de su opresión. Tienen desprecio nomás a los que abiertamente se oponen a la revolución que los trabajadores soviéticos hicieron contra los viejos explotadores. El pueblo soviético no se está rebelando contra el socialismo ni el comunismo, sino contra la nueva clase de explotadores que los han robado de las frutas de su labor. Por eso más y más gente allí está llamando para "una nueva revolución." ■



ESTA CARICATURA RUSA MUESTRA LO QUE LES INTERESA A LOS LIDERES RUSOS-- DINERO.

BATALLA PARA EL REEMPLIO DE AMARO

El señor Manuel Amaro fue despedido a causa de su envolvimiento como obrero sindicalista. Trabajo en la compañía Amour por el período de 9 años hasta que la cerraron en 1964; poco despues empezó a trabajar en la empacadora Peck Packing. En 1975 al comienzo de la huelga. Manuel fue uno de los obreros más solidos en su posición. Semana tras semana por 15 meses se manturo en líneas de piquete.

En noviembre del mismo año, Manuel sufrió un accidente en su casa rompiéndose un dedo. El dueño de la compañía el gerente Peck le dijo que si no regresaba a trabajar en 3 semanas, él sería despedido. Manuel les dijo, que no sería dado de alta por el doctor hasta 6 semanas después. Necesitaba un pretexto para despedirlo. Peck quizó hacer un ejemplo de Amaro, intimidando así a los obreros y descartado así la posibilidad de otro voto favorable al sindicato.

Lo descartaron a Manuel ya que él era influencia de unidad entre los obreros. También era el puente de enlace entre los obreros de habla español, así como el resto de los obreros cortadores de carne.

En febrero, Manuel sometió una demanda a la Junta Nacional de Relaciones de Trabajo (National Labor Relations Board). Puede demostrar que fue despedido por la razón de ser miembro constante del sindicato. Reuniones de solidaridad y publicidad amplea pueden desarrollar apoyo entre los obreros de la ciudad.

Solamente los cortadores de carne sus compañeros y compañeras de toda la ciudad conseguirán el reemplio de Manuel. Durante la huelga, La Junta de Relaciones de Trabajo, reprimieron consistentemente a los hombres y mujeres cortadores de carne al igual que la Asociación de empacadores de carne. Ordenaron que los obreros de las compañías empacadoras Northern y United no fueron reempliados cuando Peck compro esas dos plantas. El consejo, permitió que rompe huelgas dieran su voto en la elección certificada del sindicato. Ignorando así, todas las demandas contra las malas prácticas injustas de trabajo de la Asociación.

Solamente el coraje de la gente podrá forzar a la compañía a que reemplien a Manuel. ■

"Derechos Humanos"

VIENE DE LA PAGINA 19

El uso que el gobierno de EEUU hace de la cuestión de derechos humanos también tienen otro motivo, es decir, fomentar discontento y rebelión dentro de la URSS y sus satélites europeos. Debido a la forma fascista de la dictadura soviética y su dominación política y económica de Polonia, Checoslovaquia y otros países del Lacto de Varsovia que al igual que la URSS son capitalistas y no socialistas, hay mucha represión contra los disidentes y nacionalidades minoritarias y siempre más explotación y opresión de las masas. De ahí muchos levantamientos populares han surgido en años recientes, incluso motines en Polonia contra la subida del costo de comestibles, y la aparición de círculos de intelectuales demandando libertad en esos países.

A la vez, ambas superpotencias tienen millones de tropas preparadas para una confrontación en Europa. Al igual que sus carreras de armamentos, estos esfuerzos de cada una para debilitar y desbaratar los "aliados" de la otra forman parte de su contención a esca-

la mundial que está conduciendo hacia la guerra.

La "preocupación" piadosa de Carter por "los derechos humanos" es más que pura hipocrasía. Los trabajadores de este país no tienen ningun interes en los de Carter esfuerzos para atacar a los ladrones que son los rivales de la clase dominante de EEUU. Tenemos nuestros propios banditos robándonos acá y tenemos que apuntar nuestro fuego contra ellos. ■

EL OBRERO

Este periodico existe para organizar la lucha de la clase obrera en contra del sistema capitalista de explotación y opresión. Pone en alto la posición política del Partido Comunista Revolucionario de Estados Unidos de America en los asuntos y luchas mayores que enfrentan los obreros.

El Obrero de Milwaukee es uno de los muchos periodicos como este a través del país. El personal de estos periodicos esta compuesto de miembros y simpatizantes del Partido Comunista revolucionario (PCR).

Nosotros queremos estar en contacto con todas las luchas de nuestra clase. Necesitamos y damos la bienvenida a sus cartas, artículos y cualquier tipo de contribución o crítica.

Para ponerse en contacto con nosotros o para información, escriba a:

RCP, USA El Obrero
Box 3486 4409 W. North Ave.
Chicago, IL 60654 Milw WI 53208

Lucha Avanza Despues de Elecciones

Piqueteo Empieza Batalla en Acero

Las negociaciones entre la unión de trabajadores de acero (USWA) y 10 compañías grandes de acero comenzaron el 14 de febrero en Washington, D.C. con una sesión en que la unión y la gerencia dieron a saber sus posiciones básicas. Aunque no fueron invitados, acerca de 75 trabajadores de acero de base vinieron también para piquetear frente al hotel y dar a saber las demandas básicas de los de base.

Todavía falta bastante tiempo para sacar un balance cabal de los resultados de la elección para la presidencia de la camarilla pro-compañía de I.W. Abel, ha vencido la candidatura insurgente de Ed Sadlowski. Pero aunque no han podido derrotar la camarilla de Abel, por el curso de la batalla alrededor de las elecciones los trabajadores de base han avanzado. Aunque se perdió la elección, la campaña electoral fue un éxito pues que mediante esta los trabajadores de fila llegaron a ser más bien organizados, más conscientes de la naturaleza de su enemigo y más capaz de luchar.

Ahora Abel está negociando el contrato de los 338,000 trabajadores de acero básico (las plantas de acero). Con el llamado Acuerdo de Negociaciones Experimental (ENA), el liderato de la unión ha entregado el derecho a hacer huelga. Lo que es más, los trabajadores no tienen ni el derecho a votar sobre el contrato.

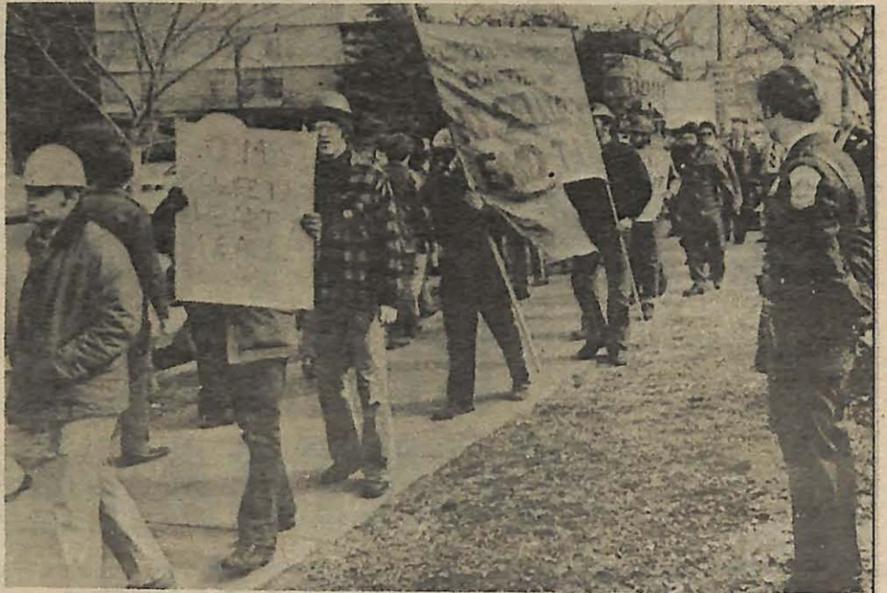
Debido a estas y otras políticas entreguistas de la camarilla Abel, su candidato McBride perdió la votación entre los trabajadores de acero básico. Sin embargo, Abel logró usar el poder que su camarilla ha levantado en los talleres de fabricación más iso-

lados donde no se ven los issues tan claro, así ganando muchos votos. Pero por los golpes dados contra la camarilla de Abel en acero básico y los esfuerzos para sobrepasar las divisiones y unificar todos trabajadores de acero, el movimiento de base es más poderoso ahora que antes de la elección.

McBride no pudo basar su candidatura en los issues porque estaba en el otro lado acerca de cada uno, desde trabajos, condiciones de trabajo, el aumento de cuotas de unión, la dictadura sobre la membresía que ejerce Abel, el ENA y el llamado Decreto contra la Discriminación que no hace nada para acabar con la discriminación, hasta la cuestión del sindicalismo amarillo en general. El retador en esta elección, Ed Sadlowski, presentó su candidatura tomando una posición (aunque vacilante) sobre las cuestiones claves y hasta cierto grado tratando de cobrar fuerza del entorpecimiento creciente de base.

Muchos trabajadores activos tomaron parte en la campaña de Sadlowski, incluso apoyantes del noticiario nacional The Steelworker, para quebrar la dictadura de Abel, mientras lucharon para la elección de Sadlowski mientras a la vez luchando contra el modo en que ciertas fuerzas quisieran dirigir la campaña desde alto, basarla en alianzas con oficiales y tratar con los trabajadores de fila como buenos solo para votar, contribuir dinero y velar por una estafa a las urnas--es decir, quisieran restringir la actividad de los trabajadores al politiquero ordinario.

La gente agrupada alrededor de The Steelworker participó en la campaña con el punto de



OBREROS METALURGICOS MANIFIESTAN EN WASHINGTON D.C. DURANTE NEGOCIACIONES PARA EVITAR SER VENDIDOS.

vista de que debieran de movilizarse los trabajadores de base como parte de la lucha en general por sus propios intereses. De otro modo, la campaña no tendría la máxima fuerza posible y los trabajadores de base no tendrían mucha posibilidad de avanzar.

The Steelworker y sus apoyantes fueron una fuerza en la campaña relativamente pequeña pero activa y creciente. Llevando a cabo la batalla para la elección de Sadlowski y la derrota de la camarilla de Abel estos trabajadores se pusieron en contacto con muchísimos otros trabajadores de acero, ligando lo que habían sido luchas comparativamente aisladas en varias plantas y talleres y ayudando a desarrollar entre los trabajadores un sentido de un movimiento en general subiendo contra los patronos de acero y sus lacayos.

Tomando parte en muchas batallas ya sucediendo a nivel local, y otras luchas

en la industria, utilizando la campaña de Sadlowski para ayudar a ligarlas y hacer destacar las demandas unificadas de todos trabajadores de acero, los trabajadores de fila también lograron avances significativos en su nivel de organización. Gente de The Steelworker ingresó en los comités Fight Back de Sadlowski y también inició otras formas de organización tales como el Comité Organizador de Distrito 31 (el área de Chicago y Gary) y el Comité Organizador de Distritos 27-28 (el área de Cleveland y el nordeste de Ohio).

Por todo esto, aunque perdieron la elección, los trabajadores de base ganaron mucho en la campaña. Ahora, al acercarse un nuevo contrato, mediante la lucha que se ha desplegado las condiciones han llegado a ser más favorables para que los trabajadores de fila puedan hacer este contrato un verdadero campo de batalla. ■

¿Que Intenta Carter?

Alboroto Sobre "Derechos Humanos"

"Los derechos humanos" han llegado a ser una preocupación mayor de la administración de Carter--sobre todo los derechos humanos en Rusia. En una declaración mayor de la administración de Carter--sobre todo los derechos humanos en Rusia. En una declaración discreta como "sin precedente" por la prensa, Carter ofreció el apoyo de EEUU a ciertos adversarios del gobierno soviético. En una carta al disidente Andrei Sakharov, Carter prometió que el gobierno de EEUU trataría de lograr la libertad de "los presos de conciencia."

Hace menos que una semana antes de la carta de Carter el intelectual soviético Vladymir Bukovsky testificó ante un comité congresional de EEUU acerca de los derechos humanos. Bukovsky, quien fue soldado de la cárcel y desterrado por las autoridades soviéticas en cambio del jefe del Partido Comunista de Chile, describió la tortura y la degradación que sufre la gente en las cárceles y manicomios soviéticos. Alabó la carta de Carter a Sakharov.

Pero manifestación humanitaria por parte de Carter fue una pura carada política. No tuvo nada que ver con ninguna

preocupación por "los derechos del hombre en la URSS y los países de Europa Occidental." Al contrario, fue una medida política atrevida para fomentar líos, sobre todo en Europa Occidental, y causar problemas para el rival principal de EEUU. Los soviéticos se volvieron enfurecidos. Su embajador en Washington declaró que "la Unión Soviética rechaza los esfuerzos para entremeterse en sus asuntos internos bajo el pretexto de la defensa de los derechos humanos."

Cuando denunció a la Unión Soviética por sus violaciones de los derechos humanos, Carter muy piadosamente señaló que no quisiera mencionar solamente Rusia porque hay violaciones de los derechos humanos también en Corea de sur, Cuba, "varios países latinoamericanos" y otros. Para tratar de presentarse como muy franca, hasta admitió que EEUU también ha sido culpable a veces de no admitir al país a los que no están de acuerdo con su sistema de gobierno.

Palabras muy bonitas. Pero no señaló que las dictaduras reaccionarias de Corea de sur, Chile, Brazil y una decena de otros países incluso los regi-

menes racistas de Sudafrica y Rhodesia no podrían durar sin el apoyo de los imperialistas de EEUU. El 24 de febrero administración de Carter anunció que reducirá su apoyo a los gobiernos de Argentina y Etiopia debido a sus "violaciones de derechos humanos." Pero muy lejos de ser una defensa de los derechos humanos, fue una amenaza poca velada que estos gobiernos debieran de dejar de coquetear con la URSS.

El alboroto acerca de las violaciones de derechos humanos en la Unión Soviética no tiene nada que ver con ninguna preocupación por las masas allí que son forzadas a luchar contra la misma explotación que enfrentan los trabajadores y las nacionalidades minoritarias en EEUU. Al contrario, es parte de las maniobras y la siempre más aguda contención entre EEUU la URSS para la dominación mundial, detrás de una cortina de humo sobre la "distensión." Con su propaganda, ambas superpotencias se dirigen a los crimenes de sus rivales los chales han sido más ponidos al desnudo, para así fomentar problemas para el otro.

Por ejemplo, los soviéticos tratan de aprovecharse del odio contra el imperialismo de EEUU



CARTER SOLO QUIERE DERECHOS PARA REACCIONARIOS COMO SOLZHENITSYN

sobre todo en los países anteriormente colonias o semicolonias del tercer mundo. Siempre denuncian el apoyo que los imperialistas de EEUU desde hace mucho han dado abiertamente a las dictaduras reaccionarias en países tales como Chile y Corea. Así los soviéticos esperan meter sus garras diciendo que los pueblos deben apoyarse en la URSS para resistir a EEUU.

PASE A LA PAGINA 18

EL OBRERO

Para el Area de Milwaukee y Wisconsin

MARZO 1977

VOL. 2 NO. 6

25¢

VICTIMA DE MALTRATO POLICIACO RENUNCIEN CARGOS CONTRA MARIA RIVERA

La noche del 27 de agosto de 1976 aparentaba ser una típica en la comunidad latina al sur de la ciudad de Milwaukee. Obreros de los tenerías, textileras y fundaciones estaban cobrando sus cheques. La gente estaba ocupándose de sus negocios y entreteniéndose con amistades en hogares y cantinas ese viernes en la noche, y como muchos otros viernes en la noche, alguien iba a ser golpeado por la policía.

María Rivera, una mujer puertorriqueña que apenas mide 4 pies y 10 pulgadas estaba visitando en casa de un vecino cuando vino buscándola la policía. Le preguntaron que dónde estaban su novio. Dijeron que lo querían interrogar referente a un incidente en que una persona había resultado apuñalada. Mientras les explicaba que no sabía dónde estaba su novio, nueve radio-patrullas se pararon en frente de su casa en la 118 W. National. El detective Dennis Peters le dijo que quedaba detenida. Dijo que no lo creía. Se dirigió hacia su casa, y al fondo de las escaleras que dan a su apartamento en un segundo piso, tres oficiales empezaron a golpearla.

La gente que vive abajo abrió la puerta para ver qué pasaba, y Peters sacó la pistola y les ordenó que cerraran la puerta. Otros chotas desbarataron el apartamento de arriba y dispararon gases lacrimógenos en

la azotea. Durante el saqueo desaparecieron seiscientos dólares. María fue conducida a la cárcel escupiendo sangre y con moratones en el estómago, el cuello y los brazos. Fue acusada de obstruir la ley.

El fiscal anuló los cargos al día siguiente, pero cuando María y su madre acudieron a la Comisión de Policías y Bomberos para quejarse de la brutalidad del Detective Peters, la policía y el fiscal decidieron contra-atacar formulando nuevos cargos contra María. Esta vez la acusaron de asaltar a un policía, un delito que puede acarrear hasta dos años de cárcel. El supuesto mensaje de esto es el siguiente: "No resistas los abusos de la policía. Si lo haces, te pisotearémos."

María encaraba toda clase de desventajas. No sólo se arriesgaba a represión y venganza, sino que el luchar contra la policía significa pasar días en la corte, pérdida de sueldo, y gastos de licenciado. Para una empleada de tenería que sólo cobra \$80 por semana y tiene que mantener a tres hijos, eso representa un gran sacrificio. Pudiera haber pasado por un ataque más en la comunidad latina. Los vecinos del primer piso eran mejicanos ilegales. No querían servir de testigos por miedo a ser deportados. Inclusive ya se fueron de la ciudad. Todo ello forma parte del esquema de discriminación y opresión que sufre el pueblo



MARIA RIVERA

latino.

Pero María y su madre estaban determinadas a luchar contra estos abusos a pesar de las desventajas. Y por asumir esta posición, esta madre de dos criaturas está encarando cargos criminales y una posible sentencia de cárcel. Cuando Ola Mae Davis, testigo del asesinato de Jerry Brookshire por parte de la policía hace dos años, se paró y dijo las cosas como son, fue acusada de perjuría. Fue declarada culpable y está sirviendo la sentencia en Taycheedah.

A la policía se le permite

y hasta se le empuja para que hostiguen, maltraten y hasta maten personas. Tanto en las líneas de piquetes durante una huelga, como en su trato de personas de grupos minoritarios, o en sus actos rutinarios, los atropellos por parte de la policía deben cesar. Sólo uniéndose los obreros, estudiantes, veteranos y la juventud de todas las nacionalidades podremos poner fin a estos abysos. La lucha a favor de María puede ser una forma de combatir contra la brutalidad y la represión de la policía. SUSPENDAN LOS CARGOS CONTRA MARIA. ACABEN CON LA REPRESION POLICIACA.

En Lucha contra Cierre de Fabrica Trabajadores Toman Planta de Acero en Filadelfia

Las banderas colgaron de las máquinas y las paredes a través de la planta: "Trabajadores de Star Sprinkler Tocamos la Alarma--Luchamos por Todo Trabajo," "Lucha contra la Fuga de Planta, Lucha por Todo Trabajo."

Como muchos trabajadores por todas partes, los trabajadores de acero en una acción decisiva para salvar sus trabajos. No tuvieron otra salida. Tomaron la planta, encadenaron las puertas y mantuvieron su ocupación por una hora y media mientras la compañía y la policía se volvieron locas.

Los trabajadores de Star Sprinkler, por lo más hombres y mujeres polacos de mediana edad, habían empezado esta lucha en noviembre cuando fue anunciado que la planta iba a cerrar en marzo. El presidente de su local de unión rehusó organizar cualquier resistencia contra esta ataque, al igual

que el Director de Distrito de su unión. Los dos dijeron que nada podría cambiar la situación. La prensa local rehusó hacer una investigación. Los esfuerzos para buscar ayuda de politiqueros del area también fracasaron.

Pero aunque el número de trabajadores fue reducido por la mitad--de 250 a 125-- y los despidos seguían, sin embargo los trabajadores de Star no se rindieron y empezaron a defenderse por sí solos. En los empaques que estaban enviando a North Carolina, los trabajadores metieron los talones de sus cheques y mensajes avisando a los trabajadores de North Carolina a sindicarse. Como se pudo ver por los cheques, la compañía paga a los trabajadores de North Carolina la mitad del sueldo que ganaron los trabajadores de Filadelfia.

Esta situación de cierres de plantas y despidos masivos es algo que enfrentan muchísimos trabajadores de acero en el area de Filadelfia que ahora se encuentran codo a codo con tantos otros trabajadores en las líneas de desempleo. Por esto, trabajadores de acero de otras plantas incluso apoyantes del noticiero nacional The Steelworker y miembros del Comité Organizador de Obreros Desempleados (UWOC) decidieron a tomar parte en la lucha en Star Sprinkler y ligarla con las otras luchas del area contra despidos.

Los trabajadores de Star y sus compañeros de otras plantas tomaron la planta el 11 de enero. Después de levantar barricadas, tuvieron un mitín al centro de la planta para discutir las cuestiones que enfrentaban incluso como mejor organizarse

Después de una hora y media, la policía logró entrar. Conjunto con la dirigencia, trataron de hacer a los trabajadores e volverse a sus máquinas. Arrestaron a cuatro trabajadores. Pero los trabajadores rehusaron a volverse a trabajar. Al fin, los policías los acompañaron fuera de la planta. Aunque no había ninguna producción ese día, los patrones fueron obligados a pagarle a los trabajadores por el día completo.

Esta lucha está siguiendo. La compañía todavía tiene planificado cerrar la planta el 31 de marzo. Volantes han sido distribuidos para informar a otros trabajadores del area acerca de la toma. Los trabajadores de base se van a movilizar para la próxima acción contra el cierre de Star Sprinkler.