

ALL OUT FOR MAY DAY! ... see centerfold

THE WORKER

For the Milwaukee Area and Wisconsin

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JOB SECURITY A KEY ISSUE

Strikers Say- Make Allis Chalmers Pay



A-C WORKERS KICKED OFF THEIR STRIKE WITH A PLANT-WIDE RALLY.

The battle lines are drawn in West Allis. On one side are the 3400 machinists, assembly line workers and foundrymen walking the picket lines around the huge Allis-Chalmers complex which stretches from 70th to Hawley Rd and from Greenfield to the railroad tracks.

On the other side is A-C, a corporation which doubled its profits last year to \$58.7 million and which ranks among the biggest 150 corporations in the country.

For A-C workers the terms of the struggle are clear: no attacks on wages and benefits; fight for a raise with full retroactive pay, 30-and-out with a cost of living on pensions; improved grievances and seniority procedures; and job security.

For A-C the need to compete with larger rivals like John Deere and International Harvester compels them to attack the workers whose sweat produces the tractors, the turbines, the electrical machinery, and the profits. Like American Motors which succeeded in going below the pattern set in contracts with the Big 3, A-C is try-

ing to go below the sell-out pattern set in the John Deere and I.H. contracts. Despite the sacrifice and struggle of Ford workers, Chrysler workers and the John Deere strikers, the company is trying to break the level they had to settle for. A-C is carrying the attack on its workers one step further, trying to split the agricultural implements and electrical workers by giving different settlements to each division.

The company would like to drive down the wages of its electrical workers to the lower levels prevailing in the electrical industry where the workers are fragmented into many unions. GM-Frigidaire in Dayton used a similar divide and conquer scheme in '71 by forcing its refrigerator workers to accept a separate contract from workers in the air conditioning division. Now they make \$1-an-hour less than in air conditioning.

The strike is the workers' answer to A-C's attacks on their standard of living and to its attempts to split the unity and strength of Local 248. It's their answer to the constant loss of jobs to subcontracting, job combination and runaways.

Many of the workers have been through this before. One veteran of over 35 years at A-C told about how he'd been in nine strikes. Older workers have seen whole departments and lines run away. In the past 15 years employment at the West Allis plant has gone from almost 10,000 to 3,400.

A-C has been following the same pattern as competitors like International Harvester and Westinghouse. Harvester ran away from Milwaukee and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

Unemployed Rip Extension Cuts

The month of March saw an upswing in the struggle of the unemployed, as workers hit back hard at efforts to cut back unemployment benefits and force the unemployed to take jobs at half their former rate of pay.

The latest round of struggle kicked off when the Unemployed Workers Organizing Committee got wind of Carter's plan to cut back unemployment benefits from 65 to 39 weeks. This attack was carefully hidden from the people by a concerted press blackout, but UWOC and others took it out to workers employed and unemployed alike. As workers started hitting back against this attempt to throw thousands onto welfare, part-time jobs, or the streets altogether, the ruling class came up with a new proposal which also shafted the unemployed.

On March 5, the day Carter was playing dial-a-president, one thousand angry workers showed up in Washington DC to demand No Cuts in Unemployment Benefits, Kill Carter's Bill, Jobs or Income Now! Many of the workers came expecting that if Carter really knew what was going on, he would do something about it. But what came down in DC made it clearer where the new president actually stands. He arrogantly refused to meet with the workers and continued playing tennis in his backyard.

In response to the workers' outrage a new law was drafted. The new law cuts back unemployment benefits 13 weeks (from 65 to 52) while requiring all workers on federal extensions to take any job above minimum wage,

in any trade, provided it is more than their benefit check.

In Milwaukee on March 25, the Unemployed Workers Organizing Committee followed up the DC march with a local action. They didn't see any reason to settle for any cuts. They wanted both federal extensions and no slave labor provisions in the unemployment law.

Wisconsin's powerful rulers filed into the Pfister Hotel. Minks on the ladies' shoulders and \$250 suits on the men. The occasion was a \$100 a plate celebration to raise money for Governor Lucey's re-election campaign. The featured speaker for the event-Vice-President Mondale.

Outside in the streets, 80 workers were thinking about something other than steak and champagne... What was on their minds could be heard in the chants from the picket line. "Federal Extensions Got to Stay-We Want Jobs at Union Pay! Employed and unemployed marched together, some from Chicago and Gary.

During the demonstration, two unemployed workers got their hands on tickets and went inside. They found a collection of ruling class henchmen under one fancy ballroom roof. The pack included president Leroy Wooly of UAW Local 553, fresh from pushing a lousy contract through at Racine Steel Castings; DA E. Michael McCann who engineered the cover-up of the police murder of Jerry Brookshire and others; Ada Deer, who com-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14



DEMONSTRATION OF 1000 WORKERS IN WASHINGTON AGAINST BENEFIT CUTS.

Who is Idi Amin?

See Page 5

Another Firing at Peck

See Page 3

Whose Day is May 1?



McARTHUR SQUARE (CIVIC CENTER), MILWAUKEE
MAY DAY RALLY, 1934



LAW DAY CEREMONY, 1974

May Day has always been a symbol of the aspirations of working people. The bosses have always fiercely opposed it. They shot down workers on the first May Day. Whenever struggle rose up to challenge the system, they broke up May Day marches with clubs and arrests. In times when the movement was set back, they tried to bury the workers' day of struggle. First they set up a substitute holiday and called it Labor Day. Later on they officially proclaimed May 1 Loyalty Day.

In the 1950's, once again May Day posed a threat to the bosses. In 1959 Tricky Dick Nixon moved to put down the real revolutionary sentiment by proclaiming May 1, Law Day. Law Day has never gotten over among working and oppressed people because it represents the bosses' law and the bosses' order. They used this law and order to put down marches following Martin Luther King's assassination. It killed 4 students at Kent State. And it clamped a freeze on workers' wages.

The times are changing. The workers struggle is on the rise as the rich makes one attack after another on the people who make this country run. Since the revival of May Day in the late sixties, the country has seen increasingly large and militant marches and rallies. Last year May Day posters covered abandoned buildings and sign

posts all over Milwaukee. Momentum built as members of the United May Day Committee took the fighting slogans of the day into their workplaces and neighborhoods. They held slide shows about the history and meaning of May Day in taverns, workers' homes and in schools. The Milwaukee Sentinel ran a scare article the day of the march, hinting that police would be at the doors of the Holmes School to stop the workers rally from being held in a public building. But May Day was not to be stopped.

Auto workers, steel workers, meat-cutters, electrical workers, veterans, unemployed, students and youth lined up in contingents on Holton St. Gathering support as they marched down Holton St. crying out the fighting message of the working class, and demanding an end to the attacks and to the system that makes them, the May Day marchers walked right into the hall and held their program. No Law and Order Day, no Chief Brier, no big business man's system, no Loyalty Day and no intimidation were going to stop them.

The march last year was a big advance for the workers' struggle locally. And May Day '77 can be a real show of strength and an expression of the aspirations of our class. We have to get organized to build May Day among our fellow workers and all struggling people in every way we can. ■

WORKERS' BOOKS



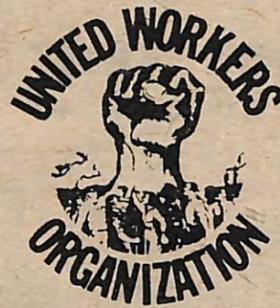
WATCH FOR THE GRAND OPENING

4405 W. NORTH AVENUE



WHO IS THIS MAN BEHIND THE BUSH DURING THE ALLIS CHALMERS RALLY TO KICK OFF THEIR STRIKE?

- a. A man looking for his watch
- b. A fiend lurking in the shadows
- c. A member of the MPD Red Squad



JOIN THE UNITED WORKERS ORGANIZATION

4409 W. North Avenue
Milwaukee, Wisc. 53208
445-5816 552-7467

Worker & Prisoners Score vs. Waupun

On March 21, The Worker and 4 Wisconsin State Prison inmates made a gain in the fight against censorship in the prison system. In response to the inmates' demands a federal judge ruled that the prison officials would have to provide the inmates with back issues of the paper and draft new regulations acceptable to The Worker and the inmates. Most likely state officials will try to draft regulations that allow them to withhold inmates' mail at sometime in the future. Their past behavior has been to keep out papers like The Worker because they point to the system as the problem

and the enemy. The prisoners fought in a thousand ways for the right to read The Worker and papers like it, from filing writs to making it a demand in their Waupun takeover last July.

Locked up and held back from really improving themselves, inmates aren't going to like any restrictions whatsoever on their rights.

For now, The Worker is getting into the State Prison. It's a link between the workers' struggle and the men who can someday rejoin their brothers and sisters in our overall fight for what's right. ■

Can Co. Rip Off

Can company workers recently found out about one more rip off the Steel Workers International helped the can industry pull. They took the recent cost of living raises off the pay for figuring vacation and holiday pay. It means anywhere from \$30 to \$150 dollars per worker and a saving of millions for the can company owners.

This ripoff happened back in August of '76 at the International convention when I.W. Abel and company extended the can contract for 8 months without

the knowledge or consent of the workers. This extension made a lot of people mad but the International assured everyone things would be fine. They said specifically that nothing in the contract, including the cost of living for vacations and holidays, would be changed.

Only after the election for Steelworker president in which Abel's man Lloyd McBride won, did they tell the truth. This ripoff is just one more outrage the can workers are thinking of as the can contract runs out. ■

March on Washington - May 28

Build African Liberation Day

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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:
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Workers to Link Fights Coast to Coast National Workers Organization to be Formed

On February 19, workers from all over the country traveled to Cleveland, Ohio to lay the foundation for what can become a most important weapon in the workers struggle--a national workers' organization. At this time a call has been issued to the four corners of this country to inform the working people of every industry and trade about the urgency of pulling together in a common effort to form this national workers' organization at a convention scheduled for Labor Day weekend in Chicago.

Forming this organization will be a tremendous advance for the entire working class. It will be a large caliber weapon enabling workers to strengthen

and more sharply focus their struggles.

The formation of this organization is something that is both needed and possible at the present time. Throughout the country millions of workers are starting to come to the realization that something must be done about the way things are going in this country. Speed-up and other attacks in the plants, a sinking standard of living, the threat of unemployment--all have worsened with the economic crisis.

Throughout society, workers, together with other sections of the people, face the threat of war, discrimination, housing falling apart, schools rotting, cutbacks in social services, crime

running rampant and on and on.

These attacks are breeding resistance on a mass scale. Hundreds of struggles are breaking out across the country every day. Sometimes it may be just one individual getting fed up with some abuse and writing a grievance. Or it may be a whole plant walking out over company attacks. At other times a community may rise up in protest over an outrageous killing by police. Or a rent strike or anti-eviction struggle may shake the powers that be.

Out of these struggles not only are workers as a whole beginning to throw the foot of the employer off their necks, raise their heads and bring the face of the enemy more clearly into focus. But also an active core of workers is starting to come forward across the

country--a group of militants who, despite the ebbs and flows of each particular struggle, see the need to be active in every battle because they have developed a basic understanding of the nature of the enemy and the class struggle against this enemy.

It is the presence of this group of active workers in every industry across the country that makes the forming of a national workers organization an immediate possibility. They will be the backbone of it.

Forming such an organization would be a tremendous step forward. Many of the struggles that are fought are short-lived, isolated from each other and even though some victories, even important ones, are won in the short run, often these struggles aren't built on and spread throughout the working class and made the basis for further advances. They come up against the reality that the unions themselves have been taken over at the top by traitors to the working class who actively cooperate with the bosses to shackle our struggles.

But the struggles that are constantly breaking out lay the basis for building a much more powerful workers movement today. The key to moving this struggle to a higher level now is a national workers organization that can rally and solidify the active workers from our class and enable them to play a key role in focusing and concentrating the power of the working class.

The relatively small number of advanced workers today can act as a lever to mobilize the working class in its millions. A national workers organization will enable these workers to pick key sparks of struggle--battles which exemplify a thousand similar abuses--and by focusing in on these key battles, draw a clear line between the working class and the ruling class, and mobilize the working class in its millions.

Think what this would mean. When the government tries to cut unemployment benefits, as they are now doing, employed workers from Hawaii to New Jersey could be rallied thousands strong, drawn into the struggle together with unemployed workers a-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13



WORKERS FROM ALL OVER THE COUNTRY TRAVELED TO CLEVELAND FEB. 19 TO LAY THE FOUNDATION FOR WHAT CAN BECOME AN IMPORTANT WEAPON IN THE WORKERS STRUGGLE--A NATIONAL WORKERS ORGANIZATION.

Another Firing at Peck Rehire Bill Anderson

On March 11, Peck Packing fired Billy Anderson saying that his back made him unable to do packinghouse work. The firing was just the latest abuse of the workers at Peck. It was designed to intimidate the meatcutters from fighting for their rights whether its collecting sick pay, demanding a transfer, or trying to reorganize the union. Anderson is fighting the firing, trying to make the company pay for its reckless actions and build up the unity of the workers.

In a leaflet to his fellow meatcutters, Anderson states, "I am willing and able to work. But the breaking table is too hard on my back. They said that if you don't break, you don't work. For three years I worked on the packing line and sorting table. Those jobs are still there. THE REAL REASON I WAS FIRED WAS BECAUSE I STOOD UP FOR MY RIGHTS AND DID NOT LET THEM PUSH ME AROUND. During the strike I was an active union member and worked hard to help organize the workers at Peck and in the packing house. I was fired because Bernie Peck thinks he can work all of us like dogs. And you can't have any complaints or out the door."

The United Workers Organization has begun a petition campaign in the packind district. The petitions, which are picking up a lot of names, will be presented at Billy's unemployment and labor board hearings to show how much support he has. Just about everyone sees the firings as a threat and the fight against the firings as a way to push Peck back.

Peck Packing, one of the most vicious anti-union companies in the Milwaukee area, has been using firings in a big way to hold down the packinghouse workers struggle. After the 17 week strike of 1971, Peck and other members of the Meatpackers Association fired men who had been active in the strike. During the 15 month long union busting strike of '75 and '76 the Association terminated 45 rank and file fighters. When the strikers voted to end the walkout, Peck only took back about 60 employees. At least 100 others never got their jobs back. Many of these were strikers against the Northern and United plants which went out of business and were bought out by Peck during the strike. The kill floor workmen from the Wisconsin Packing plant at 2nd and Oregon Streets have only just begun to be called back, over 6 months after the strike ended.

Recently Peck fired Manuel Amaro, who like Anderson was a solid striker and influence of unity among the workers. Amaro, a Spanish speaking meatcutter with 20 years in the packinghouse, was terminated supposedly because he had broken his finger in an accident at home. Manuel took his case to the Latin Community. He filed an unfair labor practice charge with the National Labor Relations Board. Because of the broad support he had, Peck had to rehire him before the NLRB even took up the case. He's still fighting for his back pay.

Amaro's firing came in January at a time when many workers through-

out the the Milwaukee packing industry were expecting a new union campaign to get started. But the firing along with harassment, intimidation, divisions between the workers, and the lack of any initiative on the part of the Amalgamated Meatcutters all worked to keep any new union drive from starting up.

Now Billy Anderson's firing, coming in the same week as the company was forced to take Manuel back, is Peck's way of keeping up the atmosphere of intimidation in the plant. Billy had been a member of the Meatcutter's Solidarity Committee, the packinghouse section of the United Workers Organization. The group grew up during the strike and continued to agitate for re-organization of packinghouses after

the meatcutters went back to work.

The breaking table is one of the roughest jobs in the packinghouse. It involves lifting 80 to 100 pound fronts and hinds off their hooks and sawing them in half, to keep the boners supplied. After 3 months of breaking, a slight curvature in Billy's back began to give him pain. The company's bought and paid for doctor, Dr. Montamedi, said he'd have to be put on lighter duty. The company tried to say there was none and showed Billy the door.

When he fired Billy, Jim Torgeson, the company personnel manager, said "I hope I never see you again." But as the fight to rehire Billy Anderson picks up steam, Torgeson is definitely going to have to eat his words. ■



BILL ANDERSON (HOLDING THE SIGN) WORKED HARD TO ORGANIZE WORKERS AT PECK AND OTHER PACKING HOUSES DURING THE STRIKE.

"We've made 'em rich, Now we're out the door."

AMC Body Plant to Close?



IT WASN'T BOARD CHAIRMAN ROY CHAPIN'S PRAYERS THAT MADE AMC THE COUNTRY'S 90th LARGEST CORPORATION...



IT WAS THE HARD WORK OF MEN LIKE THESE, WHO NOW FACE AN UNCERTAIN FUTURE, THAT BUILT AMC.

AMC has done it again. The announcement of 700 more layoffs by American Motors, Wisconsin's largest employer, was the latest in a series of cutbacks. The word in the lunchrooms and in the taverns near the Richards St. Body plant is that the plant will eventually close. Men with up to 19 years seniority are getting thrown out into the streets with no job and no easy time of getting one.

For the layed off workers everything they had worked for was going out the window. When they picked up their last checks, they had to turn in their plant I.D. cards and they got a slip from the credit union that told them to make arrangements if they had any unpaid employee loans. The thought of how to make it in their future is heavy on their

minds. House payments, the car note, and college education of the kids are hard to keep up on unemployment benefits. After a year the benefits run out and its no secret that companies aren't looking for new employees—especially if you're over 40.

These were 700 more examples of how the system will roll right over the working man in its drive for profit, throwing him out like a dixie cup when he is no longer needed. These were 700 workers who were getting driven into the ground.

The heavy layoffs in Milwaukee and Kenosha come at a time when AMC is moving hard to expand and diversify. The company, the ninetieth largest in the U.S., is now four times bigger than it was in 1970. The men and women on

the Southeastern Wisconsin assembly lines bought and paid for all this expansion with their sweat and blood. For example, in 1970 workers at AMC were forced to drop out of the Big Three pattern, and accept grueling speedup; layoffs came down big, and AMC corporate officers used terms like "cost-cutting" and "consolidation of operations" to justify taking peoples' jobs.

With all this they bought Jeep; exclusive U.S. rights to the 4 cylinder Audi engine; the Richmond, Indiana engine plant; a Charleston, West Virginia stamping plant; Wheel Horse Products (a manufacturer of lawn and garden tractors); AM General; and several other subsidiaries. In addition, the top officers gave themselves raises last year—that averaged 16%. Roy Chapin took a \$20,840 raise and William Lunenburg took a \$25,000 raise, and the head of AM General received a \$78,000 bonus. Thirty seven officers and directors divided \$2,530,064 in salaries and "fees."

And now AMC is giving workers their "rebate" for years of hard work—a

layoff notice.

AMC can't and won't give up all its acquisitions and concentrate on their Wisconsin operations, because they have to follow the law of capitalism that says get the most profit possible: out of your investment. That drive for profit is the reason AMC is now buying or building non-union plants, speeding up lines and expanding into more profitable fields like Jeep, buses, and military vehicles.

For seventy-five years, 3 generations of workers have worked in the auto plants that built up AMC's empire. From the first one-cylinder Rambler built in Kenosha in 1902, to the last Matador that comes off the line in Milwaukee, it's been workers who've made all that wealth. Guys like Roy Chapin, his father, and the rest of the owners never gave a damn about any of these working men and women. All they've wanted to do is take the wealth and use it to advance themselves in competition with other capitalists.

Now we're seeing the results of the big capitalists' drive for profit. Plants shut down off and on throughout the development of the auto industry. The Nash plant in Racine shut its doors in 1933; Kelvinator in Detroit closed when it merged with Nash Studebaker; and Hudson, Willys Overland, all went out of business as AMC grew to the 90th largest company.

Now with the threat of closing hanging over the Milwaukee body plant, the workers have some rough times ahead of them. The UAW leaders have shown that they have no fighting attitude toward the problem, or any other, for that matter. When workers recieved thousands of dollars in TRA money, the union leaders endorsed the company's position that the workers should give up the TRA money they need and deserve. Men and women who poured their whole lives into AMC's cash box don't see it this way. There is a bitterness growing that no smooth talking politician or union official is going to be able to calm. Someday someone is going to have to pay for the hardships this rich man's system causes. ■

Demand No Cutbacks LATIN STUDENTS WALKOUT

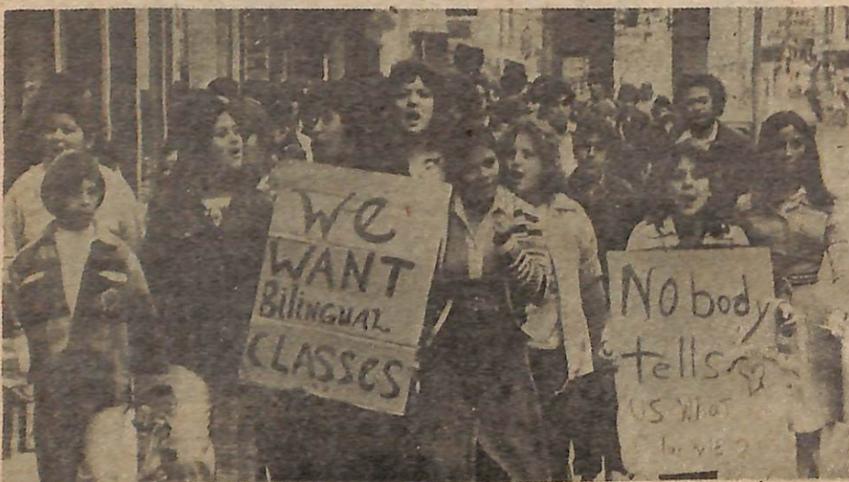
When students got word of plans to cut back the Bilingual program in Milwaukee's schools, anger boiled over into the streets. Hundreds of students, mainly Latin along with some Blacks and whites, walked out of school and marched from South Division High downtown to the place where the decision was being made, the federal courthouse. Students from Kozy Jr. High and Lincoln joined in despite threats of suspension.

Spanish speaking students need a program that gives many different courses in Spanish, that teaches about Latin culture and history, including the history of people standing up for their rights. The program they have now was won through struggle, but it was never really developed that well. For example 5 out of every 100 students are Latin, but only 6 out of every 1000 teachers are bilingual. This all goes along with the conditions facing Latins throughout society--discrimination and some of the worst living and working conditions.

The cover for the bilingual cutbacks has been the busing plan of Gronowski and the ruling class. They talk a lot a-

bout "equal education" but they wipe out programs like the Bilingual one which serves minority students. The busing plan defines most Latins as white. This would allow the Board to shuffle them all around the city, breaking up schools where there is a concentration of Latinos and cutting back the bilingual programs. The authorities say that if the Latins want their programs funded it will have to come from money that's already earmarked for Blacks and whites. The idea is to get Latins, Blacks, and whites fighting each other for crumbs from the school board—funding, location, and programs in the schools. They always try to keep us at each other's throats instead of theirs. With their crisis they have to give tax breaks to the big companies not money to education.

The Latin students shook the court and school authorities. They took matters into their own hands and demanded what's theirs. More and more of this—with increasing unity of all nationalities—will make the fight to keep Bilingual programs even stronger. ■



STUDENTS FROM SOUTH DIVISION MARCH ON THE FEDERAL BUILDING

STOP UNIVEL!

Masterlock Workers Fight Computer Speedup

Workers at Masterlock are organizing to fight against the company's attempts to use a computer system called Univel to do time study and job efficiency. Underneath a lot of slick talk about how Univel will help insure job security for the workers, the story is clear. Masterlock is going to use the computers to help them speed-up the jobs, raise production quotas, harass anyone who doesn't put out, all so they can keep the Masterlock workers turning out greater profit for the company.

Time study men have been breathing down people's backs with their stop watches and clipboards, timing every move an operator makes. Reach for a part—2 seconds, insert in machine—3 seconds, push button—2 seconds, raise hand to cough—that doesn't count. This information will be put on a little card and fed into the computer, which spits out a quota the workers are supposed to make every day. They have even videotaped people working so the computer can figure out people's short cuts and come up with the fastest method to make the locks.

Sentiment against Univel is high. Around the shop people are putting the company uptight by wearing "STOP UNIVEL" buttons. In the tool and die room the guys have greeted the time study men by taking a break until they

leave. This resistance has helped keep them from coming back.

At the March union meeting workers confronted the union officials because they had done nothing to build a fight against Univel, and forced them to call a special union meeting. A group of Masterlock workers working with the citywide United Workers Organization handed around leaflets building for the special union meeting. In every department people were talking about Univel, raising questions about how to fight it. Resistance to the time study men grew. In one department they ridiculed them by making up a song about their clipboards and cameras.

Masterlock was threatened and responded by suspending one worker active in the United Workers Organization. The official reason for her 3 day suspension was that she was out of her department on break time. The real reason was that she was helping to build the fight against Univel. When people heard about the suspension people saw it as an attack on the campaign against Univel, and a petition is being passed around in her defense.

100 people came to the special union meeting ready to make some plans on how to fight Univel. A motion was pro-

IDI AMIN USED TO BLAST AFRICA STRUGGLE

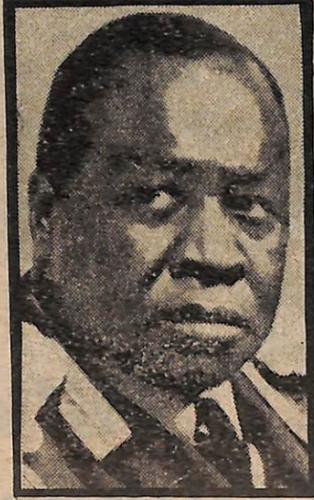
In Azania, (South Africa) the vast majority of the people live in modern day slavery, working for \$30 a month (often for US-owned companies) with almost no rights at all. In Zimbabwe (Rhodesia) things are no better. Yet who do Walter Cronkite and all the other crusading knights of news get hot about? Uganda's Idi Amin.

Who is Amin and why are we hearing so much about him?

When the British owned Uganda, Amin worked for them in the British occupancy army. He must have pleased his colonial masters, because they made him a commissioned officer after he took part in Britain's attempts to put down the independence struggle in Kenya. In 1970, when Uganda's president made some moves to make the country more independent of Britain and the US, Amin by then a general overthrew him. The US was the first to recognize Amin's government, and as long as the rulers of the US thought Amin would run things in their interest, they backed him to the hilt. The fact that Amin based his rule on tribalism and carried out his bloody repression didn't bother them at all-

it never brought a peep of protest on TV-because Amin was just the sort of man they wanted in there.

But the time is long gone when the imperialists could do whatever they wanted in Africa. As the move-



ment for independence and revolution in Africa began to grow and grow more powerful, one African state after another stood up to the US and other big powers that once lorded it up

over Africa. In this context, Idi Amin also began to issue declarations against the US and Britain, and act as though he owed his job to nobody. When the USSR, always on the lookout for a foot in the door, began to give Amin aid, this really drove the US rulers wild.

Now suddenly for weeks on end Amin is the big story and about the only story we hear about Africa. Many newspapers and commentators openly called for his overthrow. Using the excuse of Amin's temporary ban against Americans leaving Uganda, the US sent an aircraft carrier cruising into the area to warn Amin not to go too far or else.

But all this pious carrying on about how Amin is a barbarian is really hypocrisy. The Western powers, including the US, nurtured and trained Amin, and it's only since their ugly offspring had turned against them that they're complaining. Even Israel's sudden discovery that Amin hates Jews is hypocrisy. Because when Israel

thought Amin would help them get over in Africa they gave him arms and training and other aid including backing his seizure of power. In fact, the reason why Israel knew Entebbe airport well enough to carry out its raid there was because the Israel government had built the airport.

People in this country are disgusted by Idi Amin's crimes against the people of Uganda. But this doesn't change the nature of what the US ruling class is trying to do by twisting the question of Amin to its own advantage nor does it mean that people should support what the US is trying to do in Africa. In fact, it is the advances of the struggle within Zimbabwe, Azania and elsewhere in Africa and the widespread hatred of the American people towards the policies of Rhodesia and South Africa that have forced the US ruling class to come up with the desperate and sordid maneuver of using imperialism's own offspring to throw discredit on the African liberation movement. ■

ZAIRE SHOWS SUPERPOWER RIVALRY IN AFRICA

The recent invasion of pro-US Zaire by mercenaries carrying Soviet arms has again focused public attention on events in Africa.

The African people, kept in chains by the imperialist and colonial powers for hundreds of years, are rising up in revolution from one end of the continent to the other, from South Africa to Ethiopia and many places in between. At the same time Africa has also become a battlefield for the two biggest imperialist powers of today, the United States and the Soviet Union. Each of these two is trying to grab up Africa's wealth and power for itself and kick out its rival, and each is posing as the real "friend" of African liberation.

In Zimbabwe, which its minority leaders call Rhodesia, the white government so long propped up by the

US is facing the end of its days. That's why President Carter last month finally called the US to join the UN-sponsored international boycott of Rhodesian chrome, a boycott which the US has violated for years now in order to keep the Rhodesian government going. Using an old imperialist trick, Carter sent Black UN Ambassador Andrew Young to fly around to African capitals to try to work out some plan so that whatever replaces the present regime will still protect US investments and interests. But the advances won by the Zimbabwe people in the battlefield and in the political arena have so far thwarted these efforts.

The Soviet Union, acting in the same style, has sent Fidel Castro, its own "Third World" figurehead, to maneuver around in Africa. Castro carried

out his own version of Kissinger-style capital hopping in March, flying to meet with the governments of African nations bordering Rhodesia, trying to arrange for the USSR to somehow stick its nose in by promising phony support for the Zimbabwe struggle. Hard on Castro's heels came Soviet President Nikolai Podgorny to meet with these front line countries. The kind of "aid" the USSR has in mind is the kind it supplied in Angola--the kind that leads straight into the clutches of one superpower after the other has been kicked out.

SCRAMBLE FOR ZAIRE

Meanwhile, what is going on now in Zaire is a good example of what these superpowers are really up to and what lies behind their sweet words.

Zaire is one of the biggest and richest countries in black Africa. That's why both superpowers want it so bad, and why both are up to their necks in a military conflict there.

Until only 17 years ago, Zaire was

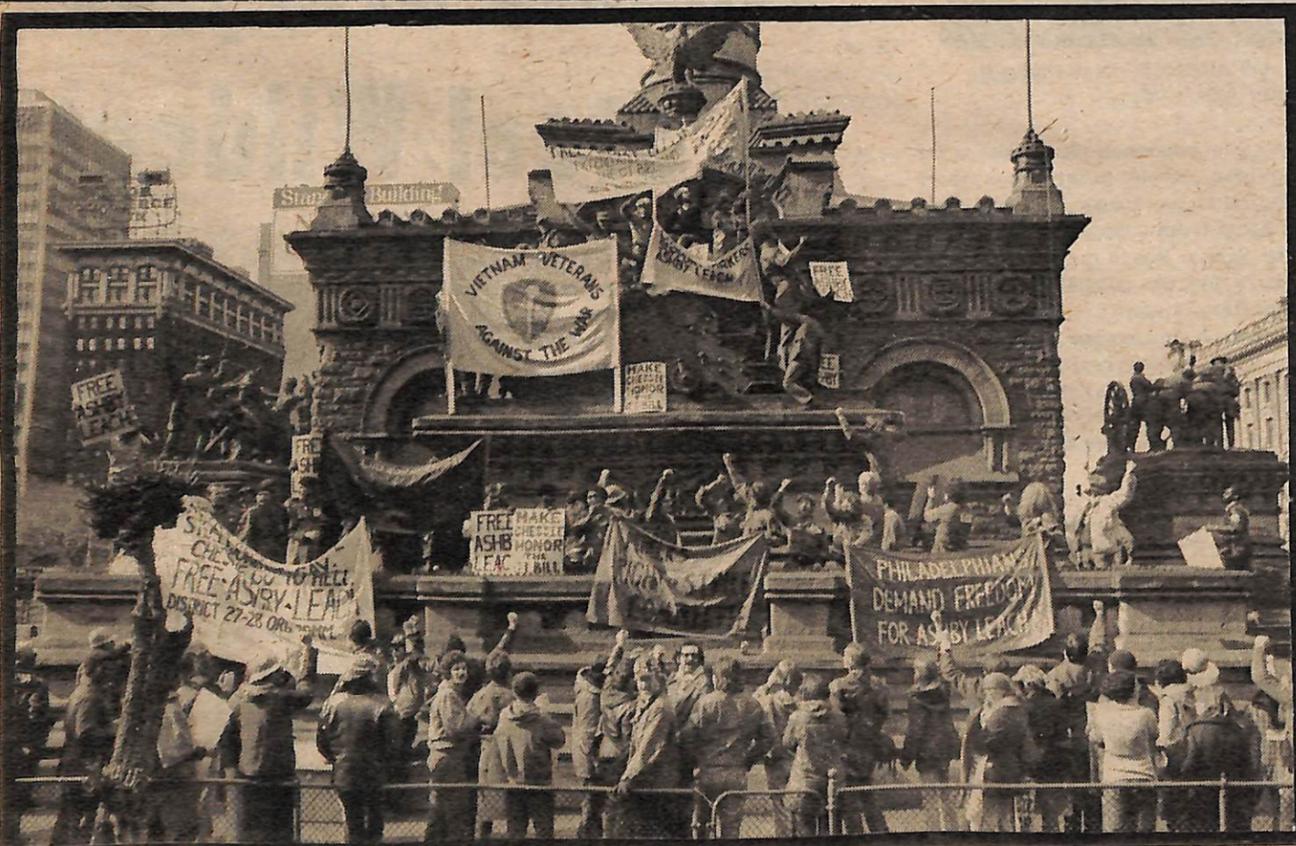
owned outright by Belgium, which looted its copper, diamonds and cobalt using the slave labor of Africans. This oppression led to one of the strongest revolutionary upsurges in Africa at that time. The Belgians were forced



to grant formal independence to the country they'd called the "Belgian

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

LEACH CAMPAIGN PUTS SYSTEM ON TRIAL



VETS AT SOLDIER'S AND SAILORS MEMORIAL ACROSS FROM CHESSIE SYSTEM HEADQUARTERS

On the weekend of March 5, a series of demonstrations in Cleveland in connection with the trial of Ashby Leach shook the powers that be. Over 350 veterans and others took to the streets demanding "Free Ashby Leach" and "Make Chessie Honor Its Promises to Vets."

Leach is a Vietnam veteran who last August took over the offices of the Chessie System in Cleveland's Terminal Tower. He demanded that Chessie, a mammoth railroad conglomerate, extend GI Bill benefits to all Vietnam vets it employed. Because his action exposed the abuse and denial of decent benefits to vets and because he stood up in a bold way to the hated corporations, Leach immediately won wide support from the people in Cleveland. Even while viciously attacking Ashby, the local news media has been forced to concede that he is a 'folk hero' among Clevelanders.

Exactly because Ashby is a popular symbol of resistance to oppression, the capitalist class, especially through its courts and news media, has gone all-out to isolate and slander Ashby. They want to lock him up forever as an example to the masses that resistance is

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

RACINE TEACHERS WIN VICTORY

Racine teachers and custodial workers are back on their jobs, after a 50 day strike. They stopped the Racine School Board's union-busting attack cold, and their militancy and unity won them support from workers throughout the area.

The teachers won a contract--their main demand--and some better benefits. They won a modified Fair Share a dues check-off aimed at strengthening the union. But the School Board is still pressing contempt charges against the teachers, trying to make an example of them for fighting back.

The union-busting attack came down in many ways--injunctions against picketing; threats of disciplinary actions against the strikers; mass picket line arrests; and attacks from the press. The Racine School Board hired the Melli law firm, well-known for union busting--the same firm hired by the Hortonville School Board to bust a 1974 teacher's strike there.

By March 10, after 41 days, the School Board decided to reopen the schools. The teachers knew it was time for decisive action. They decided to block driveways to school parking lots, knowing it would result in mass arrests. The first day classes reopened, 139 teachers and supporters went to jail.

trying to drive a wedge between the teachers and the rest of the community. They want to run the schools however they please, and force down teachers' wages and benefits.

The Racine strike is similar to many militant struggles waged by teachers in the last few years. Ten years ago strikes by teachers were almost unheard of. Teachers enjoyed a relatively privileged position compared to industrial workers and many saw themselves as professionals who had no need for unions or strikes. But education is being increasingly sacrificed to the needs of industry to prop up sagging profits, putting more and more teachers under sharp attack and cutting back on funds. As a result, a wave of militancy has swept teachers. Unions have been formed where none existed and strengthened where they already exist. There have been many strikes and other actions.

As teachers are more and more drawn into battle, their fight is being increasingly linked with the struggle of the working class. Attempts to divide teachers off from workers by appealing to their professional status, or by telling workers that own homes that teachers are responsible for higher taxes, will fail--as the unity developed in the Racine teachers strike proved.



RACINE POLICE MAKING ONE OF OVER 450 ARRESTS IN A FUTILE ATTEMPT TO BUST THE RACINE TEACHERS STRIKE

People throughout the city were inspired by the teachers stand and rallied even more behind the strike the second day. The arrests continued with the largest number getting busted on the third day, totaling over 450. This massive show of their determination forced the School Board to begin negotiating seriously. March 16, the strike ended. The teachers won a contract.

Past struggles with the Racine School Board fueled the teachers' determination to stay out until they got a contract. Teachers struck for 12 days in 1972 and for 15 days in 1974. During their '74 strike, they took over the School Board's central office building demanding some action on a decent contract. The School Board promised to start negotiating when school ended, and the teachers went back to work. But the School Board never resumed negotiations. So, for the last two and a half years, the Racine teachers have worked without a contract.

The Board used its same old tricks--stall tactics, changing negotiators, changing issues, refusing to negotiate,

People sent contributions, walked on the picketlines, wrote letters of support to the local newspaper, and kept their kids home from school.

The School Board tried to blame the teachers for the possible loss of over \$20 million in state aid, but the teachers turned it around. They said if the School Board really cared about the aid, and children's education, they'd sign a contract to settle the strike and the aid wouldn't be lost. The teachers pointed out that in 1974 the state voted to exempt machinery from the property taxes big business pays to the school system, further increasing the taxes of home owners, and how it was pure hypocrisy to blame the rising taxes on the shrinking wages of teachers.

The militant stand of the teachers, coupled with widespread support, won some impressive victories. Charges have been dropped on the great majority of those arrested. Most of their demands were granted, and they went back to the classrooms with their heads held high. ■



TEACHERS PICKET SCHOOL BOARD HEAD'S HOME AGAINST THREATENED ATTACKS

Milwaukee Teachers' Contract Fight Heats Up

The struggle between the Milwaukee teachers and the Milwaukee School Board is sharpening up. The 5,890 Milwaukee teachers have been working without a contract since December 31. The Board has used every trick to hinder negotiations. On March 14, the teachers voted 3 to 1 to strike.

The Milwaukee Board followed the Racine strike closely, hoping for a defeat for the teachers. When the Racine Board made its last moves to beat the Racine teachers strike, the Milwaukee School Board also stepped up its efforts to stall contract negotiations. They have consistently made their position clear -- they don't give a damn for the hard won gains of the Milwaukee teachers.

Several Board members have refused to attend negotiations. In the middle of the stalled talks, Lorraine Radke, head of the Milwaukee School Board's bargaining team, took off with other members of the board for a school board convention and vacation in Houston. Two years ago the Board used the same tactics--stalling, and not coming to meetings. And two years ago the teachers met the Board head on. They went on strike.

One of their most important demands

is seniority rights. The teachers won seniority in past contracts and they're not about to give it up. With school enrollment dropping layoffs are coming so seniority is their only protection against favoritism. Seniority is also key in transfer rights. The School Board is using Judge Reynolds' desegregation order and "staff integration" as a way to transfer teachers however they want and to break seniority and the strength of the union.

The teachers are also demanding a retroactive pay increase. They've worked without a contract since the beginning of the year. Mrs. Radke and Co. want to follow the Racine Board's example of axing back pay.

Who are they protecting? The working man who pays taxes on a small home and who wants a good education for his kids? Or the large corporations that stopped paying any property taxes on their machinery and equipment in '74? The answer is obvious. In Racine where the board, backed by the big companies, courts and cops ganged up on the teachers, the common people stood against attempts to bust the teachers' union. If the rulers in this city make the same kind of attack, the people of Milwaukee will stand behind the teachers. ■

Inside Story of a Steel Wildcat

Recently, workers at Babcock and Wilcox, a steel plant in Alliance, Ohio, waged a successful one week wildcat. The workers are members of Local 3059 of the United Steelworkers of America (USWA), a militant local with good leadership which was until recently held in receivership by the international machine headed by the notorious company man--I.W. Abel. A few months back steel workers from around the Midwest and East held a militant demonstration in USWA headquarters in Pittsburgh, forcing the top officials to free Local 3059.

Out of the battle to free Local 3059 and out of the recent USWA election campaign when workers went all out to defeat the I.W. Abel machine and elect Ed Sadowski president, steel workers from all around the Cleveland, Ohio area (including workers from U.S. Steel, Republic, Jones and Loughlin, and Babcock and Wilcox) have joined together in the District 27-23 Steelworkers

Organizing Committee. The following is a firsthand report from a member of the Committee on one hell of an important rank and file victory. The names have been changed to protect people from company harassment.

Tuesday, March 15. It was about two in the morning when the phone rang. I was half asleep but recognized the voice. It was one of the guys from Local 3059 at B&W.

"Sorry to wake you up, Tommy, but we need some help down here tomorrow morning. We've got to shut this damn place down!"

"Run it by me slowly," I said. "I'm half asleep here."

"B&W's trying to reinstate slavery. We're working in unsafe conditions, our jobs are being combined and eliminated, they're harassing the hell out of us, they refuse to meet with our union president and Edgecomb (the plant manager)

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

Trial Begins April 25 Support Builds For Quil



QUIL'S BROTHER BUDDY CHEVALIER READ A LETTER FROM QUIL TO SUPPORTERS AT A BENEFIT IN MADISON.

"To win my freedom, it will takecommon struggle of the common people." These words were written in the Outagamie County jail by Quil Chevalier. They were read by Quil's brother, Buddy, to a crowd of supporters at a benefit March 5, in Madison. Over 50 Menominees had driven down from the reservation to join with the students in a dance and rally to raise money for Quil's defense. Speeches and traditional Indian music filled the evening as people got together in solidarity with Quil's fight against felony charges stemming from the Menominee Warrior takeover of the Alexian Brothers Abbey over two years ago.

The March 5th benefit was a strong expression of unity between the student and Indian movements as the fight for Quil's freedom picks up steam. Ever since the Abbey takeover, the Menominee struggle has been an inspiration to thousands who are up against the same system.

Quil is a symbol of the Menominee struggle. He along with people young and old on the reservation celebrated when Menominee county was restored as a reservation and the Menominee people were restored as a tribe back in 1975. Everybody could see that by struggling, the Menominee were winning some gains. But unemployment, poor health care and education, and

discrimination didn't change. The new tribal restoration government made one concession after another to big business and their government.

Quil was just one of many who saw the need for the tribe to break with the way things were going. The Abbey takeover was their answer and their stand. This action marked a turning point in tribal affairs. Ever since those days two years ago, the lines have been clearly drawn. On the one side were the leaders like Ada Deer who stood squarely with the system. She hired thugs onto the police force to beat down and intimidate the resistance which grew within the tribe. She plunged the tribe deep into debt to financial and political interests.

On the other side were the Menominee people. In the forefront of the struggle were the John Waubanesums and Arlin Pamanenets whose resistance could only be silenced by a fatal blast from Menominee County Sheriff's shotgun and all those Warriors who have been beaten, jailed, and harassed for their stand. And also there were the many who campaigned to defeat Fish in the sheriff's election; those who fought for a Menominee high school when the leaders said this would drain off too much money; Those who went on strike at the tribal sawmill to bring the

wages above \$4 an hour; those who spoke out against clearcutting of the Menominee forests; those who exposed the misuse of funds by the police department and favoritism in local government. There was the Chevalier family and others who defended Quil to the point of facing trial themselves on trumped up assault charges. And there were all the people who harbored and supported Quil as he lived in the woods for nine months eluding capture.

For the Menominee and all Indian people, the fight for freedom from control by capitalist banks, government, real estate, and timber interests is a hard struggle. The rich man and his government never give up a chance to turn a profit on some new rip off. They've had their eye on the valuable Menominee rivers, lakes, and timbers

for a long time. And they can't allow any people to stand up and be free. Things like "the fight for freedom" and "the struggle of a people" are a threat to their whole rip off system.

The fight to free Quil will bring the inspiration of the Menominee struggle to more and more people, and growing support, like the March 5th benefit, will encourage and strengthen the Menominee fight. The student, youth and workers movements can forge stronger ties with the Indian struggle.

The trial is scheduled to be held in April. As we go to press, the judge has not decided where the trial will be held. But, he is holding hearings in Phillips, Wisconsin, at least three hours north of the reservation. Unless the support behind Quil can get the trial moved to a place like Milwaukee or Madison, his fight will be much harder.

Menominee Court House Take Over - Protests Beatings

When Margaret Peters was beaten in broad daylight and left unconscious in Keshena on the Menominee reservation, it was bad enough. She had been attacked by two women whose husbands are part of Sheriff Paddo Fish's "goon squad". But when the sheriff's department said the assailants would not be charged, that was the last straw.

A group of Menominee Warriors occupied the tribal courthouse in protest of the double standard of justice. They held the building for forty hours, leaving only when the Bureau of Indian Affairs agreed to conduct an investigation into the beating.

Police violence, harassment, and arrests of Menominee who don't agree with the policies of the Menominee Restoration government have been going on for over two years. In every way they could people have fought it. Some listen to police scanners in their homes. Suits have been filed. People have armed in self defense. Paddo Fish was thrown out of office in the last election. In one incident, some

young militants even staged a jail break when one of their buddies was unjustly arrested and viciously beaten. But still the "goon squad" cruises the reservation. Although he has been defeated in the election for county sheriff, Fish is still the tribal sheriff.

The takeover was the kind of bold action necessary to bring attention to the abuse of the Menominee and to mobilize broad numbers of people around the fight against police repression. With the present leadership on the reservation expected to lose some of their power in the April 4 elections, the Warriors are pushing to make a clean break with the past. They don't want a new set of leaders and many of the same policies. Up to sixty Indians held that courthouse at times. They were relying on themselves not on the procedures that have been a dead end in the past. Their unity and action, their decisive move at the right time, are examples of how to fight for and win some justice.

A. F. L. - C. I. O. Miami Convention

Hacks Bask & Workers Get Burned

Late in February, the Executive Council of the AFL-CIO held its annual meeting in Miami. Like usual this was a time to chase girls on the beach, drink cocktails by the poolside and dine on \$80 steak dinners. But during the time that these labor chieftains met (from 9:30 AM to noon each day) they mapped out the AFL-CIO's program for the upcoming year. Like always when Meany and company lay around in the sun, they got the tans and it was the workers who got burned.

Last year these head honchos worked overtime to get workers to vote, saying the basic solution to the problems faced by workers lay in the election of Jimmy Carter and a "pro-labor" Congress. Now with Carter in and the Democrats controlling Congress they are claiming the future hinges on their ability to lobby and push for the passage of certain legislation. In particular they are saying legislation around opening the South for unionization and the common sites picketing bill are important.

Well, this whole "strategy" for the working class is just a bunch of jive. It is an attempt to chain the workers to the petrified system of the bosses and channel their struggle down dead alleys,

Despite their bragging about the effectiveness of their Congressional lobby, these turkeys haven't been able to even get their pet project passed on March 23, the common sites picketing bill for the construction industry. It was killed by the House of Representatives. This bill wasn't in the interests of construction workers. It would have set up a labor-management committee with authority over local contract negotiations, a move aimed at reducing the number of local construction strikes. But apparently the provision in the bill that would have allowed workers of one subcontractor to picket an entire site was too much for the Congress and the employers, leading to the bill's rejection.

The AFL-CIO "strategy" for organizing the South is heading for the same fate.

Unionizing the South is an extremely important task for the working class. It would raise the level of organization and struggle in the South as well as bring much greater unity between workers of the South and the rest of the country.

But how does the AFL-CIO Executive Board propose to unionize the South? By passing two items of legislation 1) changing the way the Na-

tional Labor Relations Board (NLRB) acts and 2) repealing the "right to work" law which allows many Southern states to outlaw the union shop.

Passage of this legislation would

provide certain opportunities for the working class in unionizing the South. But this is not hitting the problem head on.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14



AFL-CIO PRESIDENT GEORGE MEANY SOAKING UP FLORIDA SUNSHINE.

MAY DAY '77 - FIG

"...the workers resolved to proclaim, precisely on this day, the first of May, when nature is awakening from her winter sleep, when the woods and hills are donning their green mantles and the fields and meadows are adorning themselves with flowers, when the sun shines more warmly, the joy of revival fills the air and nature gives herself up to dancing and rejoicing—they resolved to proclaim loudly and openly to the whole world, precisely on this day, that the workers are bringing spring to mankind and deliverance from the shackles of capitalism, that it is the mission of the workers to renovate the world on the basis of freedom and socialism." (J.V. Stalin,1912)

Born in Struggle A Fighting Holiday

On May 1, 1886, the streets of Chicago were burning with excitement. Workers were gathered from all over the city, from every trade. Poles, Russians, Finns, Germans, workers who had been drawn to Chicago from many countries by the rapid U.S. industrial development, were joined by thousands of native born workers. As they poured into the streets many were unable to speak to each other because of their many different lan-

It was the culmination of a movement that had been building for decades. The history books don't tell us much about this tremendous struggle. Just like they don't tell us how the wonders and riches of U.S. capitalism were built by men, women and children laboring for 12-16 hours a day, six and seven days a week in the factories, mines and fields.

The long grueling hours that workers were chained to their machines pro-

claim, "We have been beasts of burden—we shall be men."

The powerful movement for the eight hour day was, in the words of Karl Marx, "a movement which ran with express speed from the Atlantic to the Pacific, from New England to California." It showed the power of the working class organized around a common struggle for its own emancipation. The workers had prepared for the strike on this great day of May 1,

Attention Workingmen!

MASS MEETING TO-NIGHT, at 7.30 o'clock,

HAYMARKET, Randolph St., Bet. Desplaines and Halsted.

Good Speakers will be present to denounce the latest atrocious act of the police, the shooting of our fellow workmen yesterday afternoon.

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Achtung Arbeiter!

Massen-Versammlung Heute Abend, halb 8 Uhr, auf dem Heumarkt, Randolph-Strasse, zwischen Desplaines- u. Halsted-Str.

Gute Redner werden den neuesten Schurkenstreich der Polizei, indem sie gestern Nachmittag unsere Bruder erschoss, geißeln.



MAYDAY-UNITY & STRENGTH, Top: Leaflet calls for rally against police murder of workers fighting for 8 hour day-1886, Chicago. Top Right: 50,000 marched in New York on Mayday 1934 demanding "Free the Scottsboro boys." Bottom: Thousands march in Chicago in the 1930's.

guages. But they joined arms and marched together in the common cause of all—they were demanding the eight hour day.

Forty thousand workers downed their tools and walked out of the plants and probably twice that many demonstrated in the parade. And throughout the country, 300,000 workers struck for a shorter working day. Twenty-five thousand marched through the streets of New York to Union Square. In Detroit, 11,000 workers joined the march.

ducing great wealth for the owners were graphic witness to the exploitation of the working class by the capitalists. For these seemingly endless hours of work workers received a wage barely enough to put food on the table, a few clothes on the body and a roof over their heads.

It is not surprising that workers saw more in the struggle for the eight hour day than just shortening the work day. It became a major way to strike back at the capitalists. It gave the working class a chance to boldly

for a year and a half, and it was carried off with all the vigor and enthusiasm of a young class rising to its first huge battle, stretching its muscles and beginning to see the possibility of removing the foot of the oppressor and the weight of his system off their backs.

In Milwaukee, a mass meeting of 3,000 united around the demands of the first May Day. Workers in 200 shops demanded the eight hour day and on April 29th, workers at Plankington Packinghouse walked off the job.

All Out For



Fight Don't

Fight The Not Their

Workers Unite Fight Against A

Down With Of Wage

SUNDAY, MARCH: 1 3800 N.R. RALLY: 2: 801 E. CLAR

By May 1st, 3,000 brewers, 1500 carpenters and other construction workers, bakers, cigar makers, brickyard and slaughterhouse workers walked off the job.

On Monday, May 3rd, workers marched to the Falk Brewery, Milwaukee and St. Paul Railroads and other plants in the valley calling for people to join them. 14,000 Milwaukee workers struck for better conditions on the first May Day and won many demands. Masons and bricklayers won a 20% wage increase, workers at Best (Pabst) Brewery won a wage and hour demand and refused to go back to work until scabs were fired.

All in all the nationwide strike was extremely successful—185,000 workers won the eight hour day with no loss in pay. And the capitalists were forced to cut working hours for at least 200,000 more.

FIGHT DON'T STARVE

May Day !



**Starve !
Rich,
Wars!**

**To Lead The
Oppression!**

**The System
Slavery!**

**MAY 1st
from
CHARD'S
5pm
KE MILW.**

BUILD THE FIGHT OF THE WORKING CLASS Celebrate May Day

On the weekend of May First, thousands of workers will gather across the U.S. to celebrate May Day, as working people worldwide have done for almost a century. The people who run this country won't like it at all, for May Day is a slap in their face.

In more than 20 cities, workers will shatter the picture the bosses like to paint of the "partnership between labor and capital." Workers, who they like to think of as divided by nationality, sex and age will raise a united fist in defiance, look these rich rulers straight in the eye and with the anger that comes from years of being ripped off and oppressed, and tell them to go to hell.

It's no wonder the capitalists hate May Day and all it stands for. And they've gone to great lengths in the past to stamp it out—even going so far as to call it Law and Order Day and promoting Labor Day in opposition to May Day. This year Carter announced May Day was "loyalty day." But despite efforts to bury it and the fact that it was actually abandoned in this country for almost two decades, May Day, like the struggle of workers itself, could never disappear. The revival of the celebration of May Day in recent years reflects the resurgence of that struggle and the growing strength and organization of the workers' movement.

For May Day is the day when workers come together from the factories, mines and fields where they labor daily to produce riches for the owners. They come from the unemployment lines and

In the days of World War I, May Day banners were inscribed with slogans proclaiming workers' opposition to becoming cannon fodder in a war between imperialist powers, killing fellow workers so that their rulers could carve out greater empires and spheres of influence. In the Depression years of the '30's, the workers' May Day banners called for the fight for unemployment compensation, jobs and no evictions, for an end to Jim Crow lynch laws and racial discrimination and other key demands.

This year the May Day Banner is inscribed with the following demands:

U.S. Out of Southern Africa, Super-powers Hands Off.

Jobs or Income Now.

Fight Wage Cuts and Speedup.

Down with Discrimination and the Oppression of Minorities.

No Cutbacks in Public Services.

But May Day is much more than just the time when workers issue a list of demands and key battles to fight. It is the day when the workers express their determination to end oppression and exploitation once and for all.

Decades after the fight for the shorter working day first erupted, workers must still labor long hours in many industries. This is vivid proof that whatever victories are won the capitalists will always try to take them back—and then some. It is not surprising that many of the demands raised in May Days three and four decades ago are still important struggles.

As long as the profit system—capitalism—reigns supreme, there will be

been forced to live in lie the capitalist efforts to force the greatest amount of labor for the lowest possible pay out of them, and to keep Blacks and whites divided to prevent them from uniting to fight for their common interests. And they have been—and will again—be driven to war to expand and protect their interests against other imperialist countries, in addition to dozens of invasions and wars like Vietnam fought against people trying to take their destiny into their own hands.

People don't want to go on fighting the same battles over and over again, constantly having to do battle just to keep from being pushed into the dirt. That's why May Day is important to rally people not only around immediate demands but around slogans that spell out the overall character and the ultimate goals of this struggle. This year May Day celebrations and demonstrations around the country will unite around four such slogans.

The first slogan--FIGHT, DON'T STARVE--declares our determination not to bow down and have our livelihood stolen and our militant spirit crushed, but to rise in resistance in the face of the capitalists' growing economic and political crisis and intensified attacks on the masses of people. The second slogan--FIGHT THE RICH, DON'T FIGHT THEIR WARS--boldly states the stand of the working class in the face of the increasing danger of war between the U.S. rulers and their capitalist rivals in the Soviet Union. The third slogan describes the task that confronts the working class



THE WORKING CLASS IS RECLAIMING MAY DAY AS OUR HOLIDAY. 200 MARCHED IN MILWAUKEE IN '76.

welfare offices where they are forced to go after they have been cast off by a system that can no longer employ them profitably. They come out of a thousand and more daily battles they have to wage in order to live with some dignity and decency. And they unite as members of the same class, the working class, to put forward their common demands.

Workers have traditionally used May Day to sum up and proclaim demands that reflect their most immediate concerns and that mark the sharpest battlefields and questions of the day. May Day itself grew out of the massive struggle for the eight hour day, and for many years this demand was the rallying cry of the working class,

unemployment and war, people will be driven to exhaustion through speedup and forced overtime, there will be racial discrimination and national oppression. Because at the essence of capitalism is the necessity to constantly maximize profits by forcing more and more unpaid labor out of workers—to force them to produce more each day relative to the wages they are paid.

That's why they keep a large pool of unemployed to force down wages. This drive to push down the living standards of workers for the sake of increased profits also makes it impossible for them to employ all the available workers even if they wanted to. Behind the miserable conditions Blacks and other minority nationalities have

in carrying forward its banner in the fight against the capitalist exploiters--WORKERS UNITE TO LEAD THE FIGHT AGAINST ALL OPPRESSION. The fourth slogan points to the source of our oppression and exploitation and is put forward to unite people in the spirit of dealing with the root causes of our problems--DOWN WITH THE SYSTEM OF WAGE SLAVERY.

People always resist the attempts of the capitalists to rob them of the fruits of their labor and deprive them of the means they need to live. But these battles are often scattered and isolated from one another. That is why May Day is such an important part

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

Build the Defense

Maria Rivera Goes To Trial

On August 27, 1976, Maria Rivera, a 4'10" Puerto Rican tannery worker was beaten by Detective Dennis Peters and two other Milwaukee cops. She refused to be harassed in the questioning of the whereabouts of her boyfriend.

She was arrested and spent a night in jail, and like in many other needless arrests the obstruction charges were dropped. Several weeks later her family filed charges against the Milwaukee Police Department at the Police and Fire Commission for the beating she received that resulted in internal bleeding.

After filing Police and Fire Commission charges she was re-arrested, this time for a felony, battery on a police officer. The new charge was the system's way of saying—"don't protest police brutality or you'll be sorry."

The District Attorney's office gives the police a license to beat, harass, and oppress the people—all part of the rich man's "justice." In the case of Maria Rivera, District Attorney Michael McCann's office joined in making the attack even deeper than a beating.

The case of Maria Rivera is another example of the DA's office rubberstamping whatever the police say. When Jerry Brookshire was murdered by

killer cop Marlowe, Ola Mae Davis took the stand and told what she saw, that Jerry was shot in the back as he climbed a fence. Because her story didn't go along with the DA's whitewash of the murder to protect Marlowe and the Milwaukee police, McCann's office sent Mrs. Davis to Taycheedah on perjury charges.

When the case goes before the court on May 18, before Judge Manian, the stakes against Maria are high. Then she will face the police, who have shown they are capable of anything, a DA who is part of the system that needs police repression to exist, and a judge who has worked his way up the rich man's system from police serge-

ant to DA to judge. He has gotten far by going along with the system, because in the administration of the rich man's law they want obedient servants who do their bidding.

Maria Rivera is guilty of no crime and by fighting for her we can strike a blow against the police repression that is a fact of life in minority communities and against the arrogant cops, workers and their families face daily. The Worker has found that the police attack on Maria Rivera is not widely known. But when people find out about it they are outraged.

Workers are fed up with the way the police treat us, and the harassment and terror that goes on in the Black and Latin communities. The police use their license from the "justice" system as well as discrimination to go into the minority communities with no fear of punishment for their actions, no matter how low.

To throw the attack on Maria Rivera back in the police, DA, and courts' faces, the facts of the case must be gotten out to as many people as possible. And when she appears for trial on May 18 people must be in that court room to demand that the charges against her be dropped. ■



DETECTIVE PETERS (LEFT), DA ATTORNEY (CENTER) AND ASSISTANTS WORK OUT FRAME UP OF MARIA RIVERA (INSET)

STOP POLICE REPRESSION!

GANDHI GOVERNMENT TOPPLED

Indira Gandhi's recent defeat in the elections in India is a reflection of the anger of the Indian people at the grinding poverty, exploitation and foreign plunder that they are subjected to.

Five years ago, in 1972, Indira Gandhi was at the height of her power. She had won an impressive election victory under the slogan of "Abolish Poverty," a cruel joke on the Indian people. Not only did Gandhi look like she would be holding the reins of power for quite a while, she made preparations for her son Sonjay to continue the Nehru dynasty (Gandhi herself is the daughter of Jawaharlal Nehru, India's first ruler after independence.)



GANDHI CHOKES ON ELECTION RESULTS

But now her regime has been toppled. The ruling Congress Party has been thrown out of power for the first time since India's formal independence in 1947. TV commentators in the U.S. are saying that the election results are the proof of liberty in "the world's largest democracy." But try as they might, no

one can cover up the ugly facts about India.

India's 600 million people live in conditions as bad as those to be found anywhere in the world. Disease and famine are everyday features of life. The streets of the main cities are strewn each day with dead bodies. 95 million Indians are held in the vicious position of "untouchables" forced by India's caste system to spend their whole lives doing only the most demeaning jobs and discriminated against in a thousand ways.

Indira Gandhi, like her father and predecessor Jawaharlal Nehru, has always mouthed fine sounding statements about building "socialism" in that country and pursuing a policy of independence and nonalignment. But the phony socialism of her Congress Party has only meant more riches for the exploiters and even worse poverty for the masses. Its policy of "nonalignment" has been a policy of begging on its knees to sell India to the highest bidder.

Especially since 1971 and the signing of a 25 year military pact with the USSR, Indira Gandhi's government has been closely tied to the New Czars of the Kremlin. India owes billions of rubles to the USSR, and Soviet-financed projects control the bulk of India's heavy industry. In 1971, the USSR supported India's invasion of Pakistan, which Gandhi's government carved up to try to create a new Indian satellite, Bangladesh.

But the Soviets are not the only imperialist power feasting on the labor of the Indian people. The U.S. and other Western powers have always found India among the most lucrative places for investment in the world. Under Gandhi these sources of plunder have been protected.

In the last few years political turmoil in India has grown as the masses of people have fought back against the unspeakable conditions in which they are held, and as the struggle between the two superpowers, the U.S. and the USSR, has intensified over who is going to have the upper hand in robbing India.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13

demand no shutoffs PEOPLE PUT HEAT ON GAS COMPANY

Twenty-three thousand families in the Milwaukee area have received disconnection notices from the gas company. April 2 was the scheduled D day for the thousands who couldn't keep up with their heating bills this winter—the elderly living on social security, families on welfare, workers whose hard earned checks fell short. People need a permanent moratorium on the debts.

On April 1 a 120 day moratorium on gas bills ended. And the gas company isn't wasting a day in going after the \$8 million in unpaid bills with a vengeance. Gas company executives are thinking of only one thing—how to add millions more to the \$40 million they made in profits in the last 2 years. They are worried about getting more money so they can expand and invest, but only if it will keep the arrow on their profit charts climbing higher. And now they have even more to worry about because cutting the gas off on thousands of families isn't going to be easy.

We have seen the gas company, with the blessing of the Public Service Commission, raise gas rates over 70% in the last five years. During this time our pay checks have been eaten up by inflation, thousands have been thrown out of work onto unemployment or welfare, and welfare recipients no longer get money for special needs. This winter hit especially hard. For many living in poorly insulated houses, the heat went right through the walls, while gas bills climbed into the hundreds of dollars. Unable to keep up with the gas bills and still pay rent and buy groceries thousands made their choice—to hell with the gas company, we've got to eat. In total 47 thousand families are behind on their gas bills.

In '74 an elderly man in Peshtigo froze to death when his gas was cut off. Throughout the state and around the country people were furious. Pro-

tests were launched against the gas company. The state government was forced to declare a moratorium on gas shut-offs during the coldest winter months.

The gas company tried to divide the working class saying those who don't pay their bills cause rates to go up for everyone else. But by their own figures this accounts for only 1% of their 70% of rate hikes. Working people saw through this double talk and from around the state many donated money this year to social agencies to help others pay their bills.

The welfare department has been under attack because many threatened with disconnection are on welfare. So the welfare department announced they would make payments to the gas company, and take the money back out of future welfare checks. So the gas company gets their almighty dollar while the welfare department will squeeze out payments from the already measly checks people receive this spring and summer.

The gas company makes millions in profits while we live from check to check with barely enough to buy groceries. Gas is a necessity we cannot do without. All debts to the gas company should be cancelled, the rates lowered, and no gas shutoffs.

Now again anger is mounting as shut off deadlines get closer. Meetings are being held in several parts of the city and 75 people marched on the gas company March 26 demanding no cutoffs. And the question is being asked by older people who have poured their best years into making some boss rich, by unemployed workers who can't find a job, by people sweating in the factories, by those forced on welfare—what is right about a system run by the fat cats that threatens to turn off the heat and cooking gas on thousands of families that can't afford to pay their bill? ■

Goldwater: "Godfather" of the Conservatives Another Politician Linked to the Mafia

"Mr. Conservative," Barry Goldwater has recently been revealed as the crony of a number of Mafia figures out West. This has shaken ruling circles from coast to coast. Since getting trounced in the 1964 presidential campaign, Goldwater has been elevated to "elder statesman" status and trotted out regularly as a leading voice for everything reactionary. (What other politician ever attacked social security in St. Petersburg, Florida, retirement capital of the nation?) He has always been promoted as a Mr. Clean and a man who is as honest as the day is long.

The dirt on Mr. Clean was dug up by a team of 36 journalists from 23 newspapers and TV stations around the country who had gotten together to investigate the murder of a reporter last June who was looking into organized crime in Arizona.

Here are the facts about Goldwater. Goldwater, his brother, Robert, who manages the family's million dollar businesses, and Harry Rosenzweig, former Arizona Republican Party chairman, are all neck deep in gangland dealings. According to the series these three "achieved national prominence after growing in a web of relationships in Arizona, Nevada and California with important lieutenants of underworld financier Meyer Lansky."

Deals between Goldwater and the Mob were mutually beneficial. The Mob contributed money to some of his campaigns in the '50s. In turn, a bank where Goldwater's brother is director helped finance a casino in Las Vegas for the Mob.

Goldwater was publicly associated with Mob figures. A man named Willie Bioff became his close, close friend in the early '50s and the Senator introduced him at social events around Arizona. Bioff was a mobster but used a different name. Supposedly no one knew his real occupation. Bioff was murdered by a bomb in 1955. Goldwater's brother, when asked when he first learned about Bioff's gangland



"GODFATHER" GOLDWATER

connections, replied, "Probably when his truck blew up." According to the reporters' account now, this story is a complete fabrication and while the Goldwaters didn't know who Bioff was at first, they did know before he was killed and yet continued to be friendly with him.

Senator Goldwater also attended the funeral of a friend and known mobster, Gus Greenbaum in 1958.

Rosenzweig, Goldwater's close political partner, is also accused of many dirty dealings with the Mafia by the investigative team but he denies everything. For example, he claims his only connection to organized crime, ever, was "maybe twice" recommending hookers to friends as favors. (How did he know they were worth recommending?)

Since these facts have come to light, Goldwater has tried to cover his tracks, saying about the team's reports, "It's not only ridiculous, it's completely untrue." The Senator is assembling his lawyers for what he threatens will be the "biggest suit ever brought in the history of the United States."

in fighting against the Angolan liberation movement. Then, with the Portuguese beaten and both the U.S. and the Soviet Union fighting it out, each trying to replace Portugal as Angola's new master, while the people fought to be free of all masters, pro-Soviet forces in Angola hired these Katanga mercenaries to fight for them.

Now an army of 5000 mercenaries is marching through Zaire. Although the exact extent of foreign involvement is not known, it is known that they are carrying Soviet arms and that the pro-Soviet Angolan government must have at least allowed them to launch their attack from within Angola. The U.S., for its part, is busy ferrying supplies to hold up the Mobutu government and threatening greater intervention.

The rulers of the U.S. and USSR, are interested only in profits and preserving the profit system. But the African people have gone against many powerful enemies for years now, winning many victories and shaking not only Africa but the whole world. Their struggle and its victories give inspiration and hope to people everywhere fighting oppression and exploitation. ■

He has had some help from Arizona's two largest daily papers who are not printing the investigative team's series for fear "it might be libelous." The papers are longtime supporters of Mr. Conservative. Other big city newspapers, like The Chicago Tribune and the New York Times, are also blacking out the series because the whole affair is too revealing. But some other papers, linked with the Democrats, are gleefully printing the series, happy to show that their champion, JFK was not the only big politico who had Mafia connections.

Despite these coverup attempts the fact is that one of the most influential politicians in this country, someone who once ran for President, is closely connected to organized crime.

All this goes to prove that this country's political system is deeply intertwined with gangsters, right up to the top. Goldwater isn't the first top level politician to be connected with the Mob. Not only has testimony revealed that JFK shared a close personal female "acquaintance" with a Mob

chieftain, and hired the Mob for assassination attempts, but hundreds of lower officials, judges, police and others are tied in with the Mafia.

Naturally, this says something about the Mob today. It has made it into the big-time and its business operations have gained "respectability."

But, it also says something about the system of capitalism. It points to the fact that in this society the dollar chases the highest profit. Just like it is considered legal to make a profit maiming hundreds of thousands of workers a year on unsafe machinery, stealing industrial secrets, and selling the cheapest, shoddiest products the market will bear--so too has it become legitimate to make a buck in Mob related businesses.

The very big-time politicians who demand stiffer jail sentences for petty crooks, and publicly fret about the decline of "traditional American values," are themselves deeply enmeshed with known gangsters--the wholesalers of drugs, extortion and murder. ■

Free Ashby . . .

CONTINUED FROM
PAGE 5



VETS FROM AROUND THE COUNTRY
SUPPORT ASHBY AS HE GOES TO TRIAL.

futile. And for exactly that reason vets, workers and other people have taken up the campaign to defend Ashby Leach and to push ahead on the demand for decent benefits for vets.

On March 5, a week before his trial started, The Worker for the Cleveland and Northeast Ohio Area and the Organizing Committee for a National Workers Organization sponsored a support dinner intended to help bring the Cleveland working class into the forefront of the battle to free Ashby. Over 80 people, workers and their families, came out, including a strong showing from steel, auto and electrical plants. Through this kind of event and discussions many workers have been won to the stand that it's right to rebel against oppression.

Off of this, the campaign has stepped up sharply in the plants. Support resolutions were fought for, though defeated, at two steel locals. At the U.S. Steel mill a Chessie train that passed through came out so covered with "Free Ashby Leach" stickers that it was dubbed the "Free Ashby Express." Over 50 workers wore stickers on their hard hats.

At the Brookpark Ford plant one worker wrote under a sticker that Ashby was nothing but a crazy hillbilly who should be ignored. The next day two more messages, both supporting Ashby, went up, one signed by "a Yugoslavian hillbilly," and the other by "a Black hillbilly."

In response to the ALDC's call for national support, over 200 veterans, workers, students, and youth began pouring into Cleveland. Saturday, March 12, 300 people in all turned out for a People's Tribunal, designed to expose the real criminal--the wealthy ruling class that thought nothing of slaughtering millions in Vietnam for profit, then denying decent benefits to those vets who made it home.

Loud applause swept the room as support statements were read from workers' organizations in New York and San Francisco; from youth in Norfolk, Virginia; miners in West Virginia; from the Iranian Student Association and others. A letter from Ashby's parents was also read pointing out that "history has shown that sometimes it is right to break the law. The civil rights movement showed that you have to go against the powers that be to get what you need."

The next day 350 people in high spirits led by about 100 vets, marched through downtown's Public Square, site of both the Terminal Tower and the Soldiers and Sailors Monument. A longtime steel worker, president of Local 3059 and a spokesman for the Organizing Committee for the National Workers Organization, stated "Ashby Leach is one of our own, a true son of the working class. If the ruling class puts him in jail they will be declaring war on the entire working class."

Monday morning, as the trial began, 80 people, half of them vets, marched through downtown streets to the Justice Center. The disciplined march drew attention and support from the crowds as many cheered or raised clenched fists in support.

Since they have been losing the battle for public opinion, the ruling class has tried to further restrict peoples' minimal democratic rights by banning demonstrations, keeping court spectators from talking to the press, and so forth. But this only further exposes what they are up to. As long as the ruling class continues its attacks on veterans and the masses of people as a whole, resistance is bound to grow and the battle to free Ashby Leach is an important part of this fight. ■

Zaire . . .

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

Congo." A new government born in this struggle, led by Patrice Lumumba, moved to take back the country for its people and nationalize its mines so that the labor of the people could go to build up their country and not to make European exploiters rich.

This situation was more than the imperialists could stand. The Belgian capitalists hired mercenaries to break off the province of Katanga, where most of the mines were located, from the rest of the country and keep it for Belgium. The U.S. ruling class, which wanted to replace Belgium, backed a so-called "United Nations" force to put a stop to the attempt to break off Katanga and bring all the country under US control. As a result, Lumumba was "mysteriously" murdered--the CIA made at least one previous attempt to poison him, according to recent CIA revelations in the press, and the revolutionary movement was put down.

Since then, Zaire has become the most pro-U.S. of all the black African governments. U.S. investments in mining top \$1 billion, while the Zairean government of Mobutu Seso Seko has been the biggest recipient of U.S. military aid in black Africa, along with the aid he gets from Belgium, which has now been reduced to a junior partner of the US in the robbery of the Zairean people.

The black troops hired by the Belgians were iced out of the picture after the U.S. finally got hold of the situation. These former Katanga police who the Belgians had formed into a mercenary army fled to neighboring Angola, where they worked for the Portuguese government (and its bigger partner, the U.S.)

May Day

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

of the struggle of the working class. It is part of the necessary goal of uniting all these varied battles in a way that will enable the full fury and power of the working class and its allies to be directed at the real enemy, the capitalist class.

This year workers will be celebrating another development that is really a big step forward: the plan to form a nationwide workers organization. This timely and necessary advance is put forward in the slogan, "Seize the Time in '77, Build a National Workers Organization, On to Chicago Labor Day

Weekend." (See article on p. 3)

May Day is truly a workers' holiday. It is a festival of the oppressed. The forces of the working class are building in the deadly war against the capitalists, as will be seen in the May Day celebrations. But many fierce and difficult struggles lie ahead. A great deal needs to be accomplished. May Day is an important time for workers to marshal their forces, chart the direction forward and celebrate the gains their struggle has won, as well as their ultimate victory.

ALL OUT FOR MAY DAY! ■

Allis Chalmers '47 Strike Turning Point In Workers History

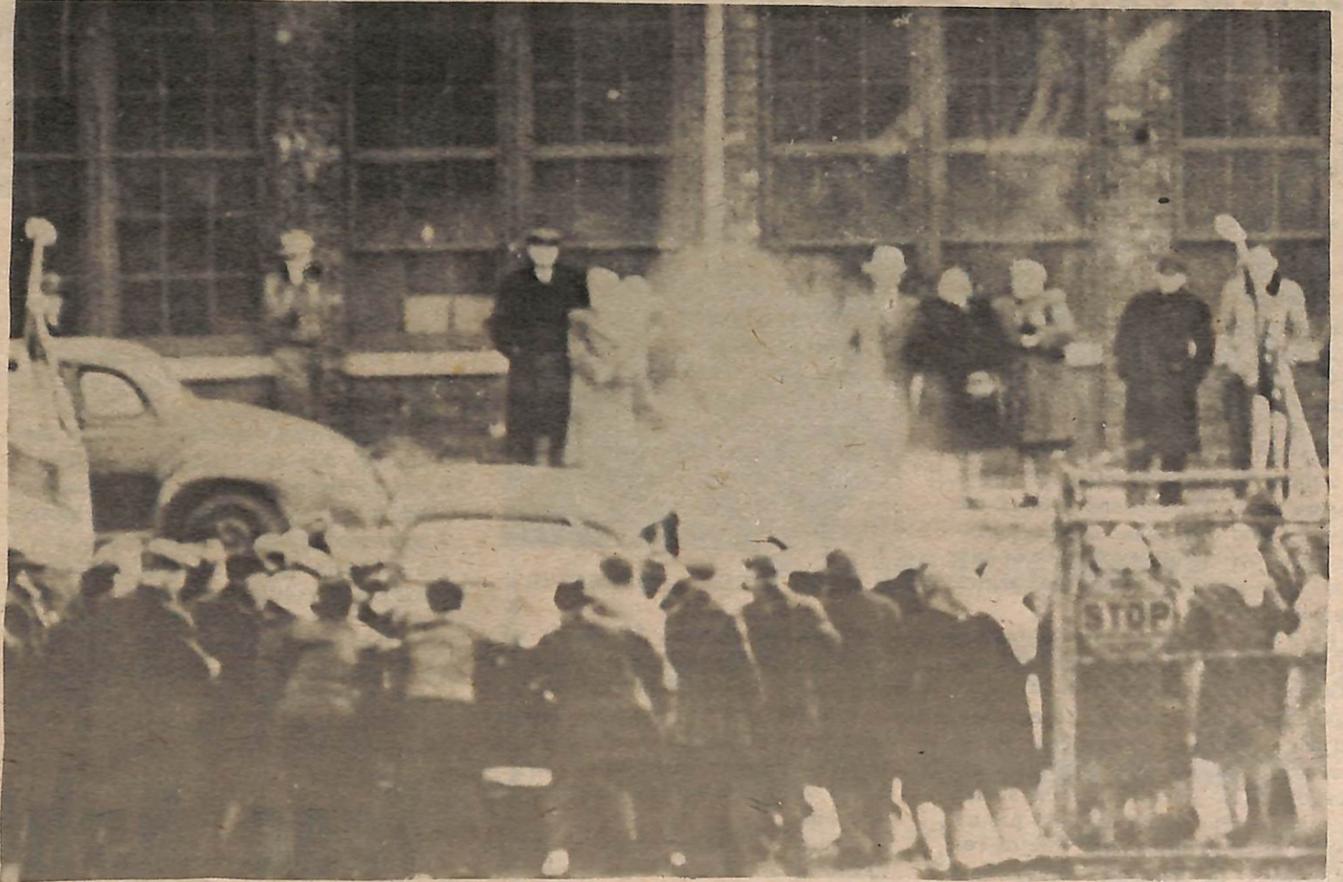
Just as the Allis-Chalmers strike began, Local 243 officials put out a special issue of the "243 Reporter" commemorating the 40th anniversary of the A.C. Local. The paper had some good pictures of the 1946-47 strike but carried no information on why the strike went on so long or what the union was up against in those days. It all goes hand in hand with the present leadership's idea that workers and bosses can work together in harmony. Union President Timlin recently proclaimed, "The days of mass picketing are over." So with this logic—what's the use of learning the lessons of some of the hardest days of the A.C. local.

Some of the old timers on the picket lines can remember this strike that has been described as a turning point in the local's history. The strike came in response to an all out union busting drive by Allis Chalmers. A.C. had grown fat on war contracts. Wages had been frozen while workers were off fighting. Anti-union laws like the Taft-Hartley were in the making and the bosses unleashed a nationwide offensive against the gains workers had made before the war, and the fighting unions they built.

In this atmosphere Allis Chalmers attacked. The workers stood strong for 11 months. Unity and militancy on the picket lines was high. The strikers made the scabs and the company pay.

Throughout the country workers saw the attack for what it was. They united as a class to defend the strikers. 3100 workers from Seaman Body, now Milwaukee AMC, took a "holiday" at noon one day to go to the A.C. plant picket lines. Workers from Kelvinator Nash, now Kenosha AMC, took busses to Milwaukee to join strikers on the picket lines.

Allis Chalmers took advantage of every



DURING THE STRIKE OF '47 UNITY AND MILITANCY WERE HIGH, STRIKERS MADE SCABS & COMPANY PAY.

possible split in the workers' ranks. They tried to pit unemployed against the strikers by hiring scabs. They set up a company union for the strikebreakers and pushed it to compete with Local 243. They tried to make communism the issue of the strike, using the press to imply that workers who were members of the Communist Party, and not the company, were the reason for the length of the strike.

They attacked the leadership of Local 243 for their ties with the old Commu-

nist Party. They slandered communists, saying they were concerned only with aiding the Soviet Union, and that they were not fighters for the cause of the workers.

The Allis Chalmers workers were forced to go back without a contract and without winning any of their demands. They had to go back in order to protect themselves from the company union A.C. was trying to organize. They kept their union although it was weakened by the firing of dozens

of militant union leaders and members. A congressional sub-committee joined the attack by stepping in to have the local president thrown in jail for a year and a half on a perjury charge.

The commemorative issue of the "243 Reporter" lists all the past presidents of the local but omits those presidents before 1943. They ignore the hardest times for Allis Chalmers workers, when 70th St. and Greenfield Ave. were the front lines of a struggle against the post war attack on the gains and unity of all U.S. workers. ■

Allis Chalmers... CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

built a new plant in Louisville, KY, and Westinghouse has new operations in places like Tampa, Florida, and the Carolinas. Since 1969 A-C has built new plants in Little Rock, Ark., Jackson and Clarksdale, Miss., Sanford, N.C. and Wichita, Texas. The non-unionized parts of the vast A-C empire are growing while the union operations are on the decline.

But the plans of the executives and directors in the company's corporate offices are in contradiction with the needs of the workers down on the picket lines. These workers have no choice but to stand and fight for what they need.

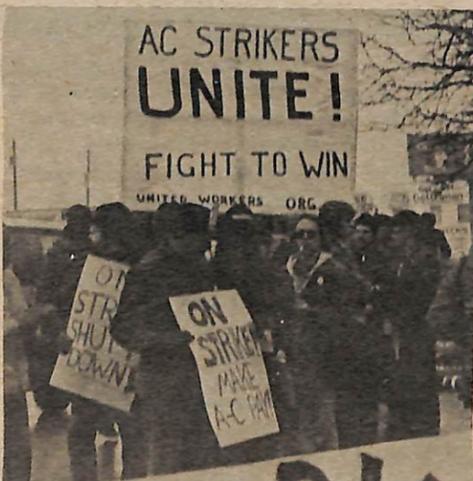
So far the strike has been weakened by the failure of the union leaders to inform and mobilize the rank and file. Contractors, trucks and foremen have been driving in and out of the gates. Picketing goes on 24 hours but no mass picketing has been called by union leaders. Many strikers say this is the most disorganized strike they've ever seen. "Before the strike," said one picketer, "we kept waiting for our picket assignments, but it seemed like they didn't have it organized yet. Now that we're out nobody knows what's going on."

A-C is not in the strongest position to hold out through a long strike. Tractors, along with other agricultural implements earn over 40% of the company's profits. Already months behind its orders for new tractors, A-C planned to come out with two or three new models before the strike. The lot on 84th Street where A-C had several hundred tractors stockpiled is now empty.

In the mid-'60s White Motors tried to force a merger with A-C. To get the capital to fight off this move A-C merged its construction machinery division with Fiat of Italy in 1974, and A-C gave up controlling interest in

the new corporation, Fiat-Allis. Now A-C is fighting back against Fiat. A-C grew by gobbling up smaller corporations but now it faces the danger of larger companies like John Deere GE, Fiat, and Harvester.

Throughout the weeks before the strike members of the United Workers Organization (UWO), a Milwaukee area organization of workers from different industries, played a leading role. They spread the lessons of the 1976 auto contract struggle and John Deere strike, united with and built rank and file strike sentiment and ban on overtime and helped to kick off the strike with



a plant gate rally. Only organized rank and file activity can build the strike. It is the workers themselves who win or lose any struggle.

By mobilizing their strength and numbers A-C workers can make the strike real and win a victory in the contract struggle. By demanding contract protection against job loss, for decent pensions to make thirty-and-out a reality and a raise with full retroactive pay, A-C workers can fight the company's attacks on their livelihoods and strike a blow for us all. ■

Babcock Wilcox... CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

thinks he's Adolph Hitler. What else do you want to know?"

"What can we do for you?" I asked.

"During our last wildcat the company sent 27 guys letters saying that if we were ever involved in another wildcat, we'd be fired. So we want you guys to come down from Cleveland and the Organizing Committee and set up a picket line."

"Are the guys in the shop behind you?" I asked.

"Everybody's ready. We'll see you at 5 AM at Bill's Gas Station on Rt. 619."

"I'll get on the horn and see what I can do," I said. My thoughts were racing.

After about half an hour of calling and waking people up, we had six guys—two from U.S. Steel, three from J&L, and one from Republic. These guys were some of the hardest fighters in the steelworkers Organizing Committee. We pulled out of Cleveland at about 3:30 AM and got out on Highway 77 headed south.

"I hope like hell we aren't the only guys out there," said Lenny from Republic. "I want to help but we can't fight somebody else's fight for them."

"From what they told me everybody in the shop is fed up with things. The company has a brand new boiler house which they refuse to put into operation, and the old one is dangerous as hell. The goddamn company refuses to even let the President of the local into three- and four-step grievance meetings with the committeemen. The bosses are really messing with people."

"Well, I hope everyone down there backs us up and sticks together," said Bruce from U.S. Steel. "I don't want to be the Lone Ranger on that picket line. What do you say, Mac?"

Mac is a laborer down in the slab mill at J&L. He rubbed his sleepy eyes

and sat up.

"Just think about it, you guys. If we can pull this off, it'll be just like the miners. When there's a problem in one local, they call up men in another local to pull them out on strike. And if this thing works you can bet a lot of people will join the Organizing Committee—'cause people will see that we're about fighting, not just talking."

It was 5 AM when we turned into Bill's Gas Station. Two carloads of B&W guys were waiting for us. We knew a couple of them and met the rest.

We stood shivering in the darkness at our gate. We were carrying makeshift signs saying "No Work Today!" and "Better to Stand and Fight than to Crawl and get Shit on!" Our third sign was taped on a pole and read "Brothers Unite! Shut it Down! Cleveland Steel Workers Support You!"

As we waited by the gate one of the union committeemen at B&W walked up to us. He introduced himself as Pete. "You know you guys should call this thing off," he said. "The company knows it's happening and they're gonna fire some of our people."

Just then a man came walking up to the entrance. "No work today—Strike's on!" we shouted. Pete told the guy about how the company was going to fire people. But we chimed in saying, "People have got to stick together. That's the only way to put an end to the crap the company is pulling. There's no guarantee that they won't try to can someone, but you have to take a stand. And if they do try to pick some of us off, there's ways we can fight that too."

The worker left and then Pete left. We guessed that Pete was just a fence sitter.

Pretty soon the cars were pulling up. The guys saw us and shouted approval.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13

Babcock Wilcox...

CONTINUED FROM
PAGE 12

"It's about time you got here," said an older guy in a pickup truck. "Right on!" he shouted. "We needed to do this a year ago!"

Every car turned away from both gates that morning. Not one car went in, except for the foreman who Ron pointed out to us. We turned away a Bell Telephone truck, a coal truck, and three Teamsters.

Everything went real smooth—except people didn't step forward to take over the picket line. After the whole shift turned away we were asking guys to stay and picket. But when 7:30 rolled around there were only three or four workers from the plant at each entrance. People were scared.

The guys at our gate were saying, "If these sons of bitches don't back us up we can kiss our jobs goodbye. Everybody bitches in the shop but when it gets down to the nitty gritty, look, there's only four of us. There's more guys from Cleveland than B&W."

Lenny came up to me. "Damn Tommy, I wonder if we did the right thing coming down here. These guys are way out on a limb."

Everybody had a sinking feeling in their stomachs. The personnel manager kept on snapping pictures with his telephoto lens.

"Everyone's up at the union hall hanging around," said Ron.

About 20 guys were hanging out around the hall. We made it short and sweet. "Hey, you guys. We're from the District 27-28 Steelworkers Organizing Committee. We're willing to help all that we can, but you guys have got to stick together."

"That does it," said one of the guys. "B&W can shove the letter I got last wildcat. We got to fight for ourselves."

Workers Organization...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

gainst this attack.

The national workers organization would be based in the plants and other work places, taking an active part in building the present struggles of the working class, centered around wages and benefits, working conditions, against speedup, layoffs and discrimination on the job. As the call for the national workers organization puts it: "This is not a call for a new union, or an organization to replace the unions. An important part of our fight is to break the chains the union officials put on our struggles, kick the traitors out, and fight to make the unions into weapons in the hands of the rank and file."

But at the same time, the struggle can't be confined to the plants or to the unions. The fight is much broader. Workers, together with other sections of the people, are being attacked by the capitalists not only in the plants, but throughout society.

On their own, people are getting involved in struggles around the threat of war, the oppression of minority nationalities, decaying housing, cutbacks in social services, etc. In the past millions of people have been drawn into battles around the war in Vietnam and the Black liberation struggle and we can expect battles like this to rage in the future. But what is missing in these struggles is the organized force of the working class, fighting under its own banner and rallying others around it.

It is only the workers who can change the way things are going in this country. The working class produces virtually all, yet this wealth has been stolen by a small clique of bankers and corporation bigshots who produce nothing and seize the wealth created by the workers and turn it into chains on them. It is only the working class that has the strength, discipline and outlook to move all struggles forward.

For this reason there is a crying need and a tremendous potential for the working class to take up and lead the fight against all oppression. By infusing its strength, discipline and out-

I don't care if they do fire me, I'm going down to that picketline."

That broke it wide open. Guys started to head down to the lines. The men coming in for 3-11 parked their cars and joined the lines. The picket lines swelled to dozens at each gate. People were smiling and clapping each other on the back.

"Let's hit the road for Cleveland," said Lenny. "I'm sure these guys can handle it. And if they stay together, they'll win sure as hell!"

The strike went on for nearly a week. Early in the strike the company threatened to fire 12 men. There was a mass meeting of 200 guys and a leaflet went out listing 19 grievances on health and safety, harassment and job elimination. And everyone voted unanimously that they would support the "dirty dozen" and that no one would go back to work until all went back.

On Wednesday a judge in Canton, Ohio subpoenaed the 12 men. Nearly 100 workers jammed the courtroom to hear the judge issue an injunction against picketing. Thursday came. Still no one went back to work even without the picket line.

On Monday everyone went back to work. The company had agreed to correct the most important safety issues and negotiate on the rest. As Ron summed it up, they had won a lot of things—"Most important, we've got the best unity we've ever had."

Later that week the company counter-attacked, firing nine men including the president of the local. As we are going to press the workers at B&W are planning to pull the whole plant out on strike again. ■

look into every major battle and developing key battles into campaigns, the working class will be able to fight back in its own class interests and in turn rally the masses of people of this country around it.

The call to form this national workers organization has raised the question in the minds of a number of workers of whether this will be a communist organization and what the role of communists will be in it.

This question was raised and discussed at the meeting in Cleveland. As a speaker from the Revolutionary Communist Party said, members of the RCP helped initiate and are helping to build the national workers organization. He asked, what kind of communists would they be if they claimed to represent the interests of the working class and then didn't help build this most important organization of the working class? But all agreed that the national workers organization will not be a communist organization.

Momentum for forming this organization is starting to pick up. In every part of the country area organizing committees are being set up to get down on how to build the organization. A national coordinating committee was elected to coordinate activities nationally. Also the organizing committee has joined in the fight against unemployment benefit cuts, is participating in May Day rallies planned for May 1, and has entered into a number of local battles.

All this will culminate at a founding convention to be held in Chicago on Labor Day weekend, and the organizing committee and others are going all out to insure a large turnout and a powerful opening volley from what will be an important weapon for the working class.

Any worker interested in joining efforts to build the national workers' organization should contact the Organizing Committee for a National Workers Organization, 4409 W. North Ave., Milwaukee, Wis. 53203 or phone 445-5816, in Kenosha 552-7467.

Seize the time in '77! Build a national workers organization! ■

May Day...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

town Chicago. As the crowd began to disperse after the rally a large contingent of police appeared. A bomb exploded in the midst of the cops, killing at least one and wounding dozens.

Wisconsin's Governor Rusk called up the National Guard and sent them to the North Chicago Rolling Mills which stood off the foot of Jones Island in Bay View. Workers were rallying at the gates demanding that the steel mill be shut down until the 8 hour day was granted. On May 5th the workers marched by the thousands from St. Stanislaus church to the mill. There the guard fired on them killing four workers and a school boy. These heroes along with the Haymarket martyrs will not be forgotten.

After the explosion most of the leaders of the eight hour movement in Chicago were quickly arrested and charged with murder. The newspapers demanded their hanging, saying, "hang them first and try them later!"

A massive campaign developed among the workers and progressive people to try to save their lives. Workers from other countries demonstrated in support. But the capitalists demanded blood, and in 1887 four of the leaders were hanged. Six thousand workers marched in their funeral procession while hundreds of thousands lined the streets to watch.

But in the '30s the capitalists' system was plunged into yet another depression, the worst crisis yet of capitalism. The consciousness and militancy of the workers, confronted by new miseries and even greater suffering, developed to new heights. Literally hundreds of thousands of workers demonstrated in cities across the country on May Day in these years and throughout the world. On the May Day banners were inscribed the major fights the workers were engaged in—for example, for unemployment insurance, and to demand the freedom of the Scottsboro boys (nine young Blacks in the South unjustly accused of raping two white women and sentenced to death.) And the workers never forgot that May Day was INTERNATIONAL Workers Day, proclaiming their solidarity with the workers and peasants of Spain, then engaged in a war with Generalissimo Franco's fascists and demanding, for example, that the imperialist powers keep their bloody hands off China.

Following World War II, whole new sections of the globe were liberated

from the yoke of capitalist control. In China one quarter of the world's population celebrated May Day as a day of triumph and solidarity with those still enslaved.

But in the 1950s the high tide of struggle of the U.S. working class ebbed as the U.S. role as top dog in the imperialist world was solidified and as the U.S. ruling class, aided by the traitors at the top of the unions, launched a full scale attack on the working class on every front. In the Soviet Union, the beacon light of working class rule was snuffed out by the seizure of power by a new handful of exploiters led by Khrushchev. May Day in Red Square was no longer a celebration of workers' victory, but a military show of missiles and tanks put on by a growing imperialist power. In the U.S. the Communist Party was also betrayed by people who threw in their lot with the capitalists, under the guise of "reforming" capitalism. They had no use for May Day, for it symbolized and was a key part of the deadly struggle between the oppressed and the oppressors. Once the CP degenerated and stopped building May Day demonstrations, and with the whole working class under attack, the tradition of May Day almost totally disappeared in the U.S. A whole generation of workers were kept in the dark about the militant and revolutionary history of the working class.

But the struggle of the working class did not disappear. Neither did the oppression and the resistance of Blacks and other nationally oppressed peoples. In the '60s a wave of militancy against the U.S. imperialists and their war in Vietnam rocked the country. And out of all these struggles new organization and revolutionary leadership for the class struggle developed.

The tradition of May Day as a celebration and as a fighting day of the working class was revived in 1971. Every year it has been celebrated in a greater number of cities in the U.S., attended by increasing numbers of workers, who come from the daily battles in the plants and communities to stand shoulder to shoulder with their brothers and sisters. Once more workers in the U.S. of all nationalities and ages are coming together as one army, unfurling their banner upon which has been emblazoned their demands and slogans to demonstrate their deep hope for a better future, a life free of exploitation, and their determination to fight for it. ■

Gandhi...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

In 1975 an Indian judge ordered Gandhi out of office for Watergate-type election abuses in her 1971 campaign. Her response was to declare a state of emergency and impose a fascist rule. All the newspapers were put under a rigid censorship. Thousands of politicians from opposition parties were thrown into jail. Troops were called out against striking railroad workers. Indira Gandhi's spoiled brat Sonjay was put personally in charge of a forced sterilization campaign where men were forcibly rounded up and given vasectomies. In some cities police opened fire on people resisting this brutal practice.

With opposition to Gandhi's state of emergency mounting from India as from all walks of life, she was forced to continue her dictatorial rule. The ruling class opposition parties in India united against her, seeing their big opportunity to use the hatred of the masses for Gandhi and the emergency for their own ends. Leading figures in the Gandhi government jumped ship and went over to the opposition. The only support Gandhi had outside her own Congress Party was the pro-Soviet and arch reactionary Communist Party of India, which got trounced in the elections.

Now that the emergency has been lifted and Indira Gandhi has been toppled the ruling class of the U.S. is rejoicing.

"Democracy" has been restored, they say. But while several thousand ruling class politicians are out of jail, they never write about the tens of thousands of revolutionaries still in jail in India's West Bengal where in the late '60s and early '70s armed revolution was going on in the countryside. The real reason that the U.S. is talking favorably about Gandhi's defeat is that it is a blow to Soviet interests in India and they hope the new rulers will lean toward the U.S.

The Indian government and the foreign imperialists have always blamed India's large population for the wretched conditions there. But the fact is that the greatest resource of India, like all countries, is her people. The experience of the neighboring People's Republic of China, which also has a huge population and which before liberation was as bad off as India shows that when the working class holds power the people can be mobilized to not only feed themselves but also build a whole new type of society without exploitation and misery.

India is a tinder box. No people will tolerate the misery and hardship the Indian people face. No people will stand for being fed promises of "socialism" and "independence" while being preyed upon by vultures, both domestic and foreign. The Indian people are sure to rise up and sweep the exploiters and their foreign partners into the sea. ■

Primero De Mayo...

VIENE DE LA PAGINA 16

metas finales. Este año las celebraciones y manifestaciones del Primero de Mayo tendrán cuatro de tales consignas.

La primera—LUCHEN, NO PASEN HAMBRE—declara nuestra determinación a no ser aplastados ni robados de nuestra subsistencia y nuestro espíritu, sino a levantarnos en resistencia frente a la creciente crisis de los capitalistas y sus ataques al pueblo. La segunda consigna—LUCHEN CONTRA LOS RICOS, NO LUCHEN SUS GUERRAS—declara bien claro la posición de la clase obrera frente a la creciente amenaza de una guerra entre la clase dominante de EEUU y sus rivales los capitalistas gobernantes de la Unión Soviética. La tercera describe la tarea que le toca a la clase obrera para llevar adelante su bandera en la lucha contra los capitalistas explotadores: OBREROS UNANSE PARA LLEVAR LA LUCHA CONTRA TODA OPRESION. La cuarta apunta la fuente de nuestra opresión y explotación para unir a la gente para bregar con esta causa fundamental de nuestros problemas: ABAJO CON EL SISTEMA DE ESCLAVITUD ASALARIADA.

Porque con el liderato de comunistas el Primero de Mayo ha sido la ocasión en que la clase obrera proclama sus

demandas en general y las metas de largo alcance de su lucha, ha sido llamado una fiesta comunista. Pero la mayoría de la gente vienen para celebrar el Primero de Mayo porque están resueltos a luchar contra los capitalistas y sus ataques en muchos frentes y porque el Primero de Mayo ha llegado a ser una celebración de la lucha obrera.

Claro está que la gente siempre resiste los esfuerzos de los capitalistas de robarles las frutas de su labor y quitarles de lo necesario para vivir. Pero estas luchas muchas veces están esparcidas y aisladas la una de las otras. Por eso el Primero de Mayo tiene mucha importancia para toda la clase obrera. Es parte de la meta necesaria de unir a todas estas varias batallas de modo que podamos dirigir toda la fuerza y la furia de la clase obrera y sus aliados contra el enemigo común, la clase capitalista. El Primero de Mayo junta a estas varias batallas, les dirige contra su enemigo común y celebra la certeza de la victoria última sobre este enemigo.

Este año trabajadores celebrarán también otro desarrollo que es de veras un gran paso adelante: el proyecto para formar una organización nacional de trabajadores. Este avance oportuno y

necesario es lo a que se refiere la consigna CONSTRUYAMOS UNA ORGANIZACION NACIONAL DE TRABAJADORES EN 1977—ADELANTE AL DIA DE LABOR EN CHICAGO (Vea al artículo sobre esta organización en este número de El Obrero). La formación de esta organización pondrá una arma nueva mayor en las manos de la clase obrera.

El Primero de Mayo es una verdadera fiesta de los trabajadores. Es una fiesta de los oprimidos. Como será evidente

el Primero de Mayo, las fuerzas de la clase obrera están creciendo en su guerra mortal contra los capitalistas. Muchas luchas fieras y difíciles están para venir. Tenemos mucho que hacer. El Primero de Mayo es un tiempo importante a los trabajadores para juntar a sus fuerzas, planear la dirección adelante y celebrar los avances ganados por la lucha también como su victoria cierta. ■

!ADELANTE AL PRIMERO DE MAYO!



Adelante al 1° de Mayo

AFL-CIO...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

To make the legal processes the key to unionizing the South simply won't work. The government isn't some "neutral" agency looking out for the interests of both "labor and management". It is the instrument of the capitalists for maintaining its rule and suppressing the working class. Exactly because the legislation could be a weapon in the hands of the working class the owners and their government aren't going to let it be passed unless they are forced to by the mass struggle--something the leaders of the AFL-CIO fear as much as the owners themselves.

The union drive at J.P. Stevens, a big non-union Southern textile company shows exactly where relying on the legal channels of the system leads nowhere. In organizing J.P. Stevens the AFL-CIO leaders relied on the "good offices" of the NLRB. They restricted their activity to standing outside the gates getting enough union cards signed

to call an NLRB election. But J.P. Stevens simply refused to go along with the NLRB, and because they hadn't mobilized the rank and file to take action against the company, when push came to shove, the leaders of the Amalgamated Textile and Clothing Workers Union was unable to do anything more than complain in a whiney voice that the law was being violated.

Their latest get-together shows once again that the AFL-CIO leaders look at the world not through the eyes of the working class but with the unblinking reptile gaze of the exploiters. The ideas, the policies, the outlook pushed by the AFL-CIO leaders must be seen and rejected for what they are, just as they were hailed and admired for what they are by the capitalist mouthpieces like the Wall Street Journal which greeted the Executive Council meeting with the announcement, "It's time to say another good word for the AFL-CIO". ■

Masterlock...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

posed saying that Local 461 put in writing they were opposed to Univel. The executive board who had said there was nothing they could do to oppose Univel and who had had-rapped the "STOP UNIVEL" buttons were forced to back down. The motion was passed unanimously.

The Masterlock workers are taking a stand against Univel because they've already seen over 40 jobs lost to automation last summer. On second shift Department 55 was closed down because of a machine they brought in to replace assemblers on lockerlock. The company has said they will keep automating but there will be no lay-offs. Instead they will do no hiring and reduce the work force by attrition. Attrition includes harassing people until they quit. Along with the automation foreman came down heavier on absenteeism, people were transferred all around, and some were forced onto lower paying jobs. With the number of workers going down Masterlock has gone on a wholesale campaign to increase production—getting more locks out of every worker.

Masterlock had to automate to keep up with stiff competition. Now they have to pay off the millions they spent on the new

machines. Last year they made a record \$19 million in profits. In a notice to the employees they explained sales for January were up. But their margin of profit compared to January '76 was down 14%. Their answer is to drive the workers harder and harder. The more profits they sweat out of the workers, the more money they have to spend on new machines which will eliminate even more jobs. They even had the nerve to end their notice to employees asking, "Can we count on your increased efforts to achieve better productivity in 1977?"

Other companies are coming down with similar attacks. In 1973 the FMC-Bolens Company tried to bring in Univel in order to increase production 15%. Workers wildcatted for 2 days to force the company to take out the videotapes. Later they struck at contract time and forced Univel out altogether.

In the fight to get Univel out of the shop Masterlock workers are building their unity and strength. By the rank and file taking actions into their own hands, forcing the union officials to act and refusing to cooperate with the time study men they can carry the struggle another step forward. ■

Unemployed...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

promised away the rights of the Menominee Indians to control their land and the lives; and of course, Special Master Gronouski, who has the job of stirring up divisions among the people with the federal school busing program.

The Mondale appearance was a pay-back to Lucey for the support he gave Carter and Mondale during the election, and a pay-back to the Democratic Party faithful who got the privilege of an invitation to dinner with the Vice-president. The unemployed workers who got in were picked out quickly in the hall and told they had to go to another room since they didn't have reservations

The Mondale dinner demonstration came after 2 months of struggle in the Milwaukee area against Carter's bill. The Unemployed Workers Organizing Committee which spearheaded the fight across the country had to first blow the cover off the benefit cut attack. Carter and Congress tried to slip it by, and the press worked with them hand-in-hand.

The Milwaukee Journal refused to even print a letter about the cuts and the fight against it—claiming it was already covered. They changed their tune, however, after 25 UWOC members and others set up a picket line inside the Journal offices downtown.

The editors called the cops who ordered UWOC to move the picket line outside, or be arrested.

The result of the action was that the Journal was forced to print a larger article by UWOC a full week and a half later. WISN radio ran an editorial attacking UWOC's position and UWOC is demanding equal time.

A number of union officials went to the Mondale dinner to pay their respects to the politicians they were pushing so hard as saviors just a few months ago. These officials are having a tough time getting over with this now, since Carter has openly slapped the working class in the face

since the day he took office. The AFL-CIO's proposal for a \$3 an hour was nullified by Carter's \$2.50 proposal.

On the benefits cuts the local hacks danced every which way. The leaders of Rexnord USWA Local 1527 were forced by the rank and file to support a resolution against the cuts. At the AMC body plant and AO Smith the union reps cried that the proposal was "out of order." When 20 angry workers went to the County Labor Council headquarters the public relations officer told them with a straight face, "I'm sure we would be against any cuts, but I have no information on whether we are for or against this bill." In fact, the National AFL-CIO took a position for Carter's bill.

The cutoff of the federal extension comes at the same time as the rich man's system goes deeper into crisis. Plant closings, runaways, and gas shut-offs are part of the capitalists drive for more profit, and those profits are coming at the expense of working people.

What the extension cutoff means for us in the working class is moving in with families, repossessed cars, and tighter belts. The cutoffs at the same time as no jobs out there is one more example of what it is to live in a society where the capitalists ride on the backs of the working men and women.

Government money that was won by workers for unemployment compensation is now being used to bail out and give machinery and equipment exemptions to the same corporations that profit off the workers they no longer need. The federal government last year spent \$2.2 billion on unemployment extensions. The ruling class is now after some of that.

Even though the law has been passed by the House, and Senate passage is imminent, the struggle continues. Now the battle cry is "Repeal the Third Provision," "Restore the 65 Weeks of Benefits," and "Jobs or Income Now!" ■

Construyamos Una Organización Nacional de Trabajadores en 77

Hermanos obreros,

A nosotros la gente trabajadora, nos están fregando en mil maneras. Millones recorren las calles en busca de empleo, mientras que en el sitio de trabajo nos empujan más y más recio. La amenaza de guerra se suspende encima de nosotros como una nube tormentosa. Nuestras ciudades, escuelas y vecindarios quedan más destartados con cada día. La desigualdad y la discriminación aparecen donde quiera en el trabajo y por toda la sociedad. Quedamos atrapados en el tomo entre el crimen callejero desenfrenado y el terror policiaco. Hasta nuestra propia labor se nos roban y se la tuercen para que sea un medio de apretar más las cadenas de opresión. Todo se sacrifica al sagrado rey de las ganancias. Y resulta en caos continua y en sufrimiento profundo para la gran mayoría de la gente.

La clase de ricos que anda siempre en busca de las ganancias nos dice que estos son problemas aislados que enfrentan esta o aquel grupo de personas. Tratan de dividirnos según nuestras industrias y uniones, por nuestras nacionalidades distintas, y en otros maneras. Pero todos estos problemas brotan de la misma fuente de aquella clase rica y su sistema. Nosotros somos una clase-hombres y mujeres de todas nacionalidades con un interés común en combatir todas estas maldades.

Hemos luchado contra estos ataques en numerosos modos, desde entregar quejas en el trabajo hasta batallas amplias atravesando industrias enteras envolviendo a uniones enteras, hasta montar huelgas que han extendido al ancho del país en las industrias del carbón, de auto, y de hule. Hemos batallado sus esfuerzos de cortar nuestros beneficios de desempleo, hemos confrontado al terrorismo de sus policías y hemos alzado las voces en protesta de su agresión militar y amenazas de guerra en el Sureste de Asia, en Africa del Sur, en el Medio Oriente y en otros partes del globo. El verano de 1976 marchamos con la fuerza de 3000 por las calles de Filadelfia el 4 de julio, el día en que los gobernantes de este país celebraron su reino sobre nosotros. Nos unimos bajo la lema "Hemos Cargado a los Ricos por 200 Años! Ya no Aguantamos Mas!" Y hemos construido organizaciones para poder montar mejor a estas batallas.

En el curso de hacer estas avances, hemos visto que los ataques y batallas que enfrentamos son más amplias que nuestra nivel de organización hasta ahora. Nos hace falta una organización obrera al ancho de la nación, que podrá atraer y solidificar a los luchadores más activos de nuestra clase para en turno poder movilizar los millones de obreros de las fábricas de este país, haciéndonos una fuerza feroz y poderosa en montar cada batalla clave. Necesitamos una organización que podrá soltar a la fuerza y poder potencial que hay en las plantas, en las minas y fundiciones donde nos concentramos en nuestra millones, cambiando a cada fábrica en ser una fortaleza de combate.

El tiempo ha llegado para tomar un gran paso adelante con audacidad. Ha llegado el momento para unir a nuestros rangos luchadores a través del país. Ha llegado el tiempo para construirnos una organización nacional una organización de la clase trabajadora que sirva como un centro unificado para dirigirnos en todas las batallas que enfrentamos, que movilizará la fuerza y el poder de las multitudes de nuestra clase obrera.



ADELANTE AL CONVENCIÓN EL DÍA DE LABOR EN CHICAGO PARA INICIAR ESTE ORGANIZACIÓN!

Solamente la clase obrera tiene el poder solamente nosotros tenemos la fuerza, solamente nosotros podemos forjar la unidad necesaria para parar y voltear el rumbo que siguen las cosas presentemente.

El 19 de febrero, trabajadores de todas partes de la nación se concentraron en Cleveland, Ohio para iniciar la formación de esta organización. Vinimos de las batallas en las minas de carbón de West Virginia; de las fundiciones de Gary, Indiana; de los campos agrícolas de California; de las numerosas batallas que está montando nuestra clase. Vinimos dispuestos y comprometidos a tomar este paso vital y necesario. El 19 de febrero, quedamos resueltos en que tomara lugar una convención el Día del Labor de 1977 en Chicago, Illinois para iniciar esta organización y demarcamos los planes principiantes para aquel evento.

Esta organización debe de ser basada en las luchas de las plantas e industrias, contra la aceleración de trabajo, cortes de sueldo, y otros ataques que se están descendiendo sobre nosotros. Esto no es una llamada por una nueva unión, ni tampoco por una organización que reemplazaría a los sindicatos. Una parte muy importante de nuestra lucha es quebrar las cadenas que los oficiales vendidos de las uniones nos pongan para restringir nuestra lucha, botándonos a estos traidores, y luchando para cambiar a las uniones en armas en las manos de los trabajadores de base. Pero esto no es todo-tenemos que tener una organización con sus raíces en las plantas e industrias, una organización orientada a la movilización de nuestros rangos alrededor de campañas cruciales de la clase. Piensa no más que impacto hubiera tenido una organización de este tipo durante Movimiento de Derechos Civiles, durante la guerra en Vietnam o en las recientes huelgas de auto, mineros, y de hule, una que hubiera podido movilizar la fuerza de la clase obrera a nivel nacional en montar estas luchas.

La cuestión ha sido levantada de ¿Cómo podemos lograr una cosa de tal amplitud; tal vez nos conviene más ocuparnos primero con nuestros propios terrenos de batalla--no los ajenos?

Si, cierto que hay que ocuparnos con nuestros "propios terrenos" dondequiera que estemos. ¿Pero como es posible tener éxito con "limpiar

nuestro propio terreno" cuando esto se encuentra en medio de un basurero? Con millones de gente descansada en layoff, con la amenaza de guerra encima de nosotros, y con el futuro de nosotros y de nuestros hijos prometiendo todavía más y peores problemas similares-con esta situación, tenemos que bregar con el basurero entero. Si nosotros no, entonces ¿quién lo harán?

Hay algunos que preguntan de veras necesitamos una organización como esta ahora tal vez deberíamos concentrarnos en reformar a nuestras uniones? Es cierto que se nos han robado nuestra uniones los líderes vendidos y tenemos que hacer la lucha para retomarlas en nuestra manos. Pero no podemos esperar y no vamos a esperar hasta que hemos botado a todos los ratones de estos sitios para ponernos de pie luchando por nosotros mismos. El enemigo que encaramos es más grande que la puntalada de traidores que han tomado control de nuestras uniones-y la batalla que encaramos es más amplia que la de contolar a nuestros sindicatos. A todos tiempos necesitamos un vehículo para unir los rangos de la clase obrera dentro y por fuera de las uniones para tratar con las asuntos agudos que nos enfrentan-la amenaza de guerra, el desempleo, la discriminación, e innumerables otros ataques en el sitio de trabajo y permeando la sociedad. En cualquier tiempo tenemos que usar este vehículo para concentrar a las fuerzas de nuestra clase en contra de las formas principales de estos ataques. Tenemos que confrontar a estas batallas dependiendo de la fuerza que ganamos con unirnos como una clase con un interés común.

Hay algunos que dicen que construir una organización obrera nacional es un buen idea pero preguntan si es hecho es posible.

La situación es que es imposible seguir avanzándonos con hacer batallas en grupos pegueños-batallas locales aisladas la una de la otra. Si nosotros podemos luchar tan fuerte como lo hacemos en cientos de batallas más pegueñas envolviendo a miles y hasta millones de gente, entonces ¿por qué no tomar este paso que nos hará posible movilizar a aquellos miles y millones en forma más unificada y más coordinada?

Si, esto es un paso audaz. Pero los tiempos y las condiciones exigen que lo sea. Si, se puede tomarlo y

nos cae en nosotros hacerlo. Se están formando comités organizadoras locales en todas partes del país para hacer la llamada a nuestros hermanos trabajadores, uniéndolos a seguir en esta dirección.

Debemos ponernos toda atención a la tarea de organizar a nuestra clase, tomando todos los pasos necesarios en preparaci de la convención dada en Chicago el Día del Labor este otoño. Debemos movilizar a los números más amplios posible de nuestros hermanos y hermanas de clase alrededor de esta causa. ■

Rivera ...

VIENE DE LA PAGINA 16

a juez. Llegó hasta donde está copándose al sistema, porque en la administración de la ley de los ricos necesitan sirvientes obedientes que los proteja.

María Rivera no es culpable de ningún crimen, y luchando por ella podremos a la vez atacar a la represión de la policía, que es un hecho en la vida cotidiana de los barrios minoritarios, y también a los policías arrogantes que los obreros y sus familias deben encarar todos los días. "El Obrero" descubrió que el ataque de María por parte de la policía no es muy conocido. Pero los que se enteran se enfurecen.

Los obreros no quieren tener que trabajar todas sus vidas, produciendo para el rico, y luego verse a ellos mismos y a sus familias oprimidos por la mano de la ley del rico.

Los obreros están cansados de la forma como nos trata la policía, y las hostigaciones y el terror que se lleva a cabo en las comunidades negras y latinas. Los policías usan sus licencias del sistema "judicial", así como discriminación para entrar en las comunidades de grupos minoritarios sin temor a ser castigados por sus actos, por bajos que sean.

Para lanzar el ataque contra María de vuelta en las caras de la policía, el fiscal, y las cortes, se debe comunicar los hechos a tantos como se pueda. Y cuando se presente en la corte el 18 de mayo, el pueblo se debe presentar en la corte para demandar que se cancelen los cargos contra ella.

Anulando esas acusaciones y logrando que se haga justicia en el caso de María puede ser que resulte convertirse en un golpe contra la represión de la policía. ■

EL OBRERO

Para el Area de Milwaukee y Wisconsin

ABRIL 1977 VOL. 2 NO. 7

25¢

¡Adelante al Primero de Mayo!

El primer fin de semana del mayo miles de trabajadores a través del país reunirán para celebrar el Primero de Mayo, como lo han celebrado la gente trabajadora desde hace casi un siglo. A los gobernantes de este país esto no les gustará de ninguna forma, porque el Primero de Mayo es una bofetada en su cara.

En más de 20 ciudades trabajadores romperán la imagen de "cooperación entre la labor y el capital" pintada por el patronato. Trabajadores quienes los patronos quisieran mantener divididos por nacionalidad, sexo y edad alzarán un solo puño unido de desafío, mirarán a esos ricos gobernantes derecho en los ojos, y con el coraje que viene de una vida de ser robados y oprimidos les dirán que vayan al diablo.

Por eso los capitalistas odian al Primero de Mayo y todo lo que significa. Por eso han gastado tantos esfuerzos para aplastarlo—hasta llamando este día el Día de Ley y Orden y promoviendo el Día de Labor en oposición al Primero de Mayo. Este año Presidente Carter ha anunciado que el Primero de Mayo es "el Día de Lealdad." Pero a pesar de los esfuerzos para enterrarlo y el hecho de que el Primero de Mayo fue abandonado en este país por casi 20 años, al igual que la lucha obrera si misma el Primero de Mayo nunca podría desaparecer jamás. El resurgimiento del Primero de Mayo en años recientes refleja el resurgimiento de esa lucha y la creciente fuerza y organización del movimiento obrero.

El Primero de Mayo es el día en que se juntan los trabajadores de las fabricas, las minas y los campos donde trabajan a diario para producir riqueza para los dueños. Vienen de las líneas de desempleo y las oficinas de welfare donde han sido forzados a recurrir despues de ser botados por un sistema que ahora no puede emplearlos gananciosamente. Vienen de las mil batallas diarias que tienen que montar para poder vivir decentemente y con dignidad.



EL PRIMERO DE MAYO NEUVA YORK 1974

Y se unen como miembros de la misma clase, la clase obrera, para dar a saber sus demandas comunes.

Tradicionalmente trabajadores han utilizado el Primero de Mayo para resumir y proclamar demandas reflejando sus preocupaciones más inmediatas y las cuestiones más agudas actuales. El mismo Primero de Mayo surgió de la lucha masiva por el día de trabajo de ocho horas y por muchos

años esta demanda fue un grito de guerra de toda la clase obrera. En los tiempos de la Primera Guerra Mundial, las banderas del Primero de Mayo se inscribieron con consignas proclamando la oposición de los trabajadores a ser carne de cañón en una guerra entre potencias imperialistas, matando a sus hermanos trabajadores para que sus gobernantes pudieran conquistar más grandes empirios y esferas de

influencia. En los años de la Depresión de los 1930 las banderas del Primero de Mayo llamaron para la lucha por compensación de desempleo, trabajos contra desalojamiento, el fin del linchamiento y la discriminación racial, y otras demandas claves.

Este año la bandera del Primero de Mayo está escrita con las siguientes demandas:

EEUU Fuera de Africa del Sur—
Superpotencias Manos Fuera
Trabajos e Ingresos Ahora
Luchen contra Rebajas de Sueldo y Apresuramiento

Abajo con la Discriminación y la Oposición de las Minorías

No Cortes en Servicios Públicos
Pero el Primero de Mayo es mucho más que sólo el tiempo en que los trabajadores proclaman una lista de demandas y batallas claves. Es el día en que los trabajadores vocean su determinación a acabar con la opresión y explotación una vez por todas.

Muchos años despues del comienzo de la lucha por el día de ocho horas trabajadores en muchas industrias todavía tienen que trabajar horas muy largas. Esto muestra muy claro que cualesquiera victorias ganemos los capitalistas siempre tratarán de retirarlos, y empujarnos para abajo. Por eso no es sorprendente que muchas de las demandas del Primero de Mayo este año fueron planteadas hace 30 y 40 años y siguen siendo luchas importantes para trabajadores.

Siempre que exista el sistema de ganancias, o sea el capitalismo, habrá desempleo y guerra, la ganta será agotada por el apresuramiento y el tiempo extra forzado, habrá discriminación racial y opresión nacional. Habrá todo esto porque la esencia del capitalismo es la necesidad de constantemente maximizar las ganancias exprimiendo más y más labor no pagada de los trabajadores—forzándolos a producir más cada día relativo al sueldo que se les paga.

Por eso los capitalistas mantienen una gran cantidad de trabajadores desempleados para forzar para abajo a los sueldos. Este empuje para bajar el nivel de vida de los trabajadores para aumentar ganancias también les hace imposible a los capitalistas emplear a todos los trabajadores disponibles aún si lo quisieran. Detrás de las condiciones miserables que enfrentan los negros y otras nacionalidades minoritarias están los esfuerzos de los capitalistas de exprimir lo más trabajo de ellos por el sueldo más bajo posible y de mantener divididos a los negros y blancos para impedir que se unan para defender sus intereses comunes. Y también estos capitalistas han sido empujados y se les empujará otra vez a la guerra para expandir y proteger sus intereses contra otros países imperialistas, además de sus invasiones y guerras como Vietnam contra pueblos que traten de tomar su destino en sus propias manos.

La gente no quieren tener que luchar las mismas batallas una y otra vez sólo para que no nos tiren al suelo. Por eso el Primero de Mayo tiene el propósito de reunir a la gente no sólo por sus demandas inmediatas sino también por consignas que den a saber el carácter en general de la lucha obrera y sus

RENUNCIEN CARGOS CONTRA MARIA RIVERA

El 27 de agosto de 1976 María Rivera una puertorriqueña de 4'10" que trabaja en una tenería, fue golpeada por el detective Dennis Peters y otros dos policías de Milwaukee. Se había negado a delatar a su novio.

Fue detenida y pasó la noche en la cárcel y como en muchas otras detenciones inútiles, los cargos de obstrucción fujon anulados.

Varias semanas despues su familia formoló cargos en la Comisión de Policías y Bomberos contra el Departamento de la Policía de Milwaukee debido a la paliza que había recibido, la cual le había causado hemorragias internas.

Despues de las acusaciones hechas ante la Comisión de Policías y Bomberos, la volvieron a detener, esta vez acusada de haber cometido un crimen—asaltar a un oficial de la policía. Los nuevos cargos constituyen la respuesta del sistema, que dice, "No protestes o te arrepentirás."

La oficina del Fiscal le da a la policía licencia para golpear, hostigar

y oprimir al pueblo—todo ello forma parte de la "justicia" del rico. En el caso de María Rivera, la oficina del Fiscal Michael McCann se unió para convertir el delito en algo peor que un asalto.

El caso de María Rivera es otro ejemplo en que la oficina del fiscal encubre lo que dice la policía. Cuando Jerry Brookshire fue asesinado por el policía asesino Marlow, Ola Mae Davis se presentó para relatar lo que vio—que Jerry fue balaceado por la espalda cuando intentó saltar una valla. Debido a que su historia no correspondía a la versión de la policía inventada para proteger a Marlow y la policía de Milwaukee, la oficina de McCann mandó a la Sra. Davis al presidio de Tayceedah, acusada de juramentar en falso.

Cuando el caso llegue a la corte el 18 de mayo, la evidencia contra María será imponente. Se encarará a la policía, que han mostrado ser capaces de cualquier cosa, un fiscal que es parte de un sistema que depende



MARIA RIVERA

de la represión para subsistir, y un juez que ha ascendido en el sistema de los ricos, empezando con el puesto de sargento de policía hasta llegar

PASE A LA PAGINA 15

PASE A LA PAGINA 14