

# Plan For New Workers Group Picks Up Steam

The Coordinating Committee of the Organizing Committee for a National Workers Organization held an important meeting at the end of March in which it mapped out its plans and methods for building towards the founding convention of the national workers organization on Labor Day weekend. Although organizing will be going on continuously up until the founding convention on Labor Day (and afterwards) the committee broke the national campaign into three major "waves": 1) until May Day; 2) from May Day until July 4th picnics; and 3) from mid-July until Labor Day weekend.

May Day, of course, is a powerful working class holiday in its own right, when the working class marshals its forces, reaffirms its declaration of war on the bourgeoisie and resolves to fight for a brighter tomorrow. This year, an important part of these celebrations was getting out the word about the national workers organization and bringing together many workers all around the country who will be the core in building it.

Shifting gears following May Day, the Organizing Committee in this second phase has focused on the one hand on taking out the call for the national workers organization broadly and, on the other hand, initiating and helping to build a few key struggles, like around these union busting conferences.

In other words the Coordinating Committee has mobilized for two tasks in the present period: building the national workers organization in its own right, and rooting the Organizing Committee in some particularly sharp battles and in the course of that bringing out the value of and need for a national workers organization.

Some initial experience shows that where the question of building a national workers organization has been taken out boldly and linked to the questions many advanced workers have about how to move things forward, it has been received with a lot of enthusiasm.

In Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania for example, the Organizing Committee took the question of a national workers organization out to a local rubber workers union where the workers had recently won a sitdown strike. The committee was invited to speak at a local union meeting, which they were laying out how the Organizing

Committee supported the recent struggle at the plant and going on to explain why joining the national workers organization would help consolidate the advances and link the rubber workers up with workers across the country. The speech really hit home to some of the burning questions on the minds of the workers, the audience giving a standing ovation at the end.

Building the national workers organization in its own right will really start to pick up momentum with a planned national speaking tour to major cities across the country. Accompanying this tour will be the soon-to-be-completed movie about the July 4th, 1976 "Battle of the Bicentennial," showing in practice the power and decisiveness of the working class mounting the stage in political struggle, fighting under its own class banner.

Also during this "wave" of activity, the question of affiliating with a national workers organization, as well as continuing to build struggle in the industry, will be getting discussed among the workers in existing plant and industrial groups. Mass leafletting of plants and setting up of meetings at taverns to discuss building this national organization will be organized in each local area. Many larger areas plan to fan out, sending teams to smaller cities to leaflet plants and set up local meetings. The Cleveland Organizing Committee, for example, has made plans to send a team to Akron, Ohio for several days of organizing. July 4th picnics are also being planned across the country. And all this is being supplemented by a poster, a recently produced national workers organization button, T-shirts, and the first two issues of a newsletter, *The Organizer*.

## Building Key Struggles

The Coordinating Committee also made the decision



Work towards a national workers organization took a big stride in the course of building May Day. In the weeks following, the campaign has accelerated to raise the need for such an organization among the broadest number of workers possible. Tens of thousands of "Seize the Time in '77—Build a National Workers Organization" posters are being put up in working class areas throughout the country.

# Workers Move To "Bust The Union Busters"

In the last month workers have torn the cover off what was supposed to be strictly a private affair—a series of seminars openly dedicated to busting unions and "preserving nonunion status." Attending these affairs are representatives of many of the biggest corporations in the country, shelling out hundreds of dollars each in registration fees. But workers, in actions spearheaded nationwide by the Organizing Committee for a National Workers Organization, are giving these magnates of industry a lesson for free. It's a foretaste of the kind of organized struggle they can expect from the organization when it is formed this coming Labor Day weekend in Chicago.

As part of their drive to squeeze ever more out of the labor of the workers, the capitalists have payrolled an outfit called Advanced Management Research (and another called Executive Enterprise) to sponsor a traveling roadshow featuring as ringmaster Dr. Charles Hughes, infamous former head of Texas Instruments, whose claim to fame is having kept it nonunion and the workers at near starvation wages. The company representatives attending these seminars hope to keep

much to their discomfort the Organizing Committee for a National Workers Organization has pulled a switch and made them do the sweating for a change.

For example, just outside Seattle two days after May Day, 25 workers, who had only heard of the meeting at the last minute, picketed and a delegation barged into one of these conferences confronting the executives and reading a statement denouncing their union busting tactics.

One of the fatcats tried to act brave and yelled at the spokesman for the Organizing Committee, "Where do you work?" "I work for Bethlehem Steel, where do you work?" responded the worker, at which point not one businessman had the courage to answer. The working class is proud of its struggles, but these representatives of the owning class cowered in a corner rather than openly associate the names of their companies with their union busting plans. They were forced to call the cops to extricate themselves from their sorry situation.

On May 12 a two-pronged attack was launched simultaneously in New York City and Detroit. In Detroit when the seminar rolled into town a group of 15 workers picketed outside, then grabbed the bull by the horns and marched inside. They had planned to take the meeting over but finding the executives filling their fat jowls with lunch they confronted them and raised hell. A Ford Motor Company representative was found hiding in the corner to keep his presence unknown—and this in Motor City, the heartland of the UAW!

At the same time this action was taking place, 25 other workers stormed into the New York headquarters of Advanced Management Research and staked a "Warning" to the wall. As the plaster fell to the plush carpet the leeches who run this scab herding outfit read the ultimatum from the workers declaring war on their activities. In part it read: "You are the lowest of the low life, no better than the lousy Pinkertons of the '30s that made the workers' blood flow in the streets in our great unionizing drives. Goons in fancy suits are goons just the same. Wherever you go around the country

to link the Organizing Committee up with some particularly sharp struggles, in order to give workers a real sense in practice of what the national workers organization will be once it is formed.

Their decision to build a struggle against the union busting seminars has started to gain momentum as an important struggle in its own right (see accompanying article) which, because of the broad unity among workers around this question, has begun to involve even some local union officials and so far blunted any significant attacks by the labor traitors.

This has not deterred Victor Reisel, a top reactionary commentator for the bourgeoisie, from attacking the moves toward a national workers organization. Unlike some of the radical movements of the last few years which petered out, he says, the movement to form a national workers organization is dangerous (to the ruling class) and is "something to be watched."

Looking to the future, starting in roughly mid-July, the Organizing Committee will shift gears again, this time into overdrive, going all-out to build for the founding convention on Labor Day weekend. This will be a period characterized by consolidation of contacts made during the first and second "waves," while continuing to reach out broadly. Leading up to the Chicago national convention there will be meetings in local areas where the key questions facing the working class are struggled over and the program and structure begin to get hammered out.

All this will climax in the weekend convention in Chicago, September 3 and 4, where the final program and plans for action will be set. Then, of course, it will become a question of transferring the momentum accumulated in the buildup period into the key battles facing workers. ■

put out by the Organizing Committee for a National Workers Organization. You may intend to use these conferences to help drive us down into the dirt but we will never permit this. Wherever you go working people will be there."

## Taken into Unions

In many areas mobilization around these union busting seminars has been brought into the unions. Just outside Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, in the UAW local at Latrobe Die Casting (owned by Mr. Rogers who peddles that trash to our kids on his morning TV show while he tries to enforce speedup and job combinations in his plant) where the workers are waging a hard fought strike, the Organizing Committee united with the local union in holding a meeting attended by 45 workers around how to build the strike, the union busting conferences and the national workers organization. Later, when these local union officials attended the UAW convention in Los Angeles, AWUF and the Organizing Committee again linked up with them, putting out a joint leaflet to the convention and some of the auto plants in the area about the strike.

In Milwaukee at the Allied Industrial Workers Local 232 (Briggs and Stratton), the biggest local in the city, the "Bust the Union Busters" offensive was taken up by the rank and file, jamming the local officials into giving the Organizing Committee for a National Workers Organization space for an article in the local newsletter, with the Executive Board promising to introduce a resolution against the seminars at the next union meeting. The Steelworkers Local 1208 in Seattle and Local 3669 at Wyman-Gordon in Chicago have gone on record condemning the union busting conferences.

It is clear that the union busters are starting to feel the heat as the Organizing Committee swings new sections of workers into action around this particular outrage. These beginning actions also make clearer the ability a national workers organization will have, once it is formed, in focusing the strength of workers mobilized nationwide in major campaigns around abuses like this