

# The ORGANIZER

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## ALLIS CHALMERS VOTES STRIKE

On Oct. 27, Allis Chalmers workers voted nearly 100% strong to authorize a strike for this year's upcoming contract. The contract has been extended while the workers wait for the results of the International Harvester and Caterpillar strikes. These workers set the pattern for UAW agricultural equipment. Both strikes are fighting management take-aways, especially around the right of workers to turn down overtime.

With grievances constantly being delayed and going unanswered, the right to strike as the final step of the grievance procedure has been picked as a key demand by the local. Other demands include bidding rights, vacations and preferential hiring in Allis Chalmer plants

across the country for employees who lose jobs through plant closings. Like International Harvester,

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## Rank & File Teamster Groups Merge

The two biggest rank and file Teamster organizations merged on Nov. 4 in Ypsilanti, Mich. to form Teamsters for a Democratic Union (TDU), with a combined membership of 10,000 Teamster union members. The merger

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**Dynamatic strike victory P. 10**  
**Sewerage strike settled P. 7**

# For Help On The Job --- Call

The government agencies listed below were set up as a concession to the fight for justice that millions in this country have carried on in the recent years. These organizations can be pushed to help out with problems.

The private organizations were set up by activists to fight for better conditions.

**EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION (EEOC)** 291-1111  
a federal agency to see to file charges of sex and race discrimination on the job or in the unions

**ESPERANZA UNIDA** 671-0251  
a citizens' organization that helps workers fight for Workers Compensation for on-the-job injuries and is working for better Workers Compensation laws

**NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS BOARD (NLRB)** 291-3861  
a federal agency to see if you were harassed or fired or discriminated against for standing up to your company

**OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH ACT (OSHA)** 224-3315 in Milwaukee elsewhere 1-800-242-9680  
a federal agency to call for help in changing unsafe, unhealthy working conditions

**WISCONSIN COMMITTEE ON SAFETY AND HEALTH (WISCOSH)** 643-0928  
a private organization that advises workers of their health and safety rights and is working for better occupational health and safety laws

**WISCONSIN EQUAL RIGHTS COMMISSION (WERC)** 224-4384  
a State of Wisconsin agency for filing sex and race discrimination charges against companies

**WORKERS COMPENSATION DIVISION** 224-4382  
Wisconsin commission that administers compensation payments for on-the-job injuries and job-related illnesses

**need a button for your  
struggle?**

Buttons can be useful in organizing on the job. Quantities of buttons can be made at low cost by the United Workers. Orders can be placed by calling 445-5816.

# Rank & File Election Challenge In Briggs Local!

AIW local 232, at Briggs & Stratton, the largest industrial union in the state, just held plant wide primary elections for the bargaining committee and one executive board positions.

For months local union meetings have been a battleground. Faced with leadership who would rather apologize for the company than fight them, more and more workers have been coming to union meetings to demand union backing on the job. Still the bargaining comm. refused to fight member's cases through to arbitration. It took a plant wide campaign to win a grievance rep for the 1000 third shift workers. The board fought this demand all along the line, going so far as to label the fight "a communist plot."

Amid this growing discontent the voting took place. The Election Committee for a Stronger Union brought together many workers active in the union reform movement and ran 5 candidates for various offices. The Committee's candidates ran on a program calling for more and better union backing on the job and for going hard against Briggs during the upcoming contract. The plant was flooded with cards and leaflets and for

the first time the incumbents were challenged to speak to the real issues.

The returns were uneven but definitely not a victory for the rank and file forces. The main gain was

for assistant 3rd shift grievance rep, where Committee candidate Denise Tyson ran unopposed. Two others made it through the primaries, but face a real uphill battle.

Only 1000 of Local 232's 10,000 members voted. Although a local meeting had voted to hold the elections in the plant, the executive board continued their traditional undemocratic policy of holding them at the union hall, over 20 blocks from the nearest Briggs plant and half way across town from the "68th Street" plant.

The turn out showed that, despite the challenge, most members still did not see the elections as a chance to change things in their local. Although the challenge mounted against the old guard shows the growing strength of the the United Workers and other rank and filers, it will take more time and a lot more work before things really start getting turned,

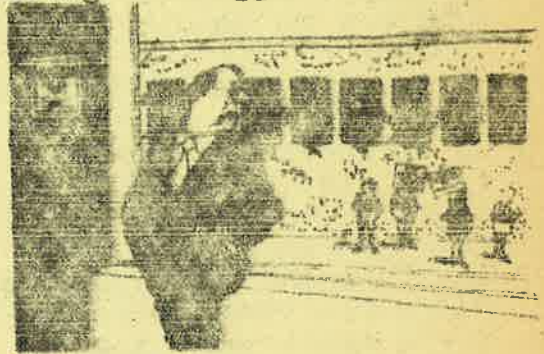
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# Retail Clerks Fight Takeaways!

On November 3, the United Commercial Food Workers (formed when Retail Clerks and Amalgamated Meatcutters merged) Local 444 contract expired. This contract covers about 2,000 workers at Kohls, Jewel, Sentry and Piggly Wiggly grocery stores in the Milw. area. The companies are proposing major takeaways. They want to eliminate the present cost-of-living and make the baggers "utility men", eliminating their job description, and forcing them to do any type of work with no pay increase. Further, they want to eliminate paid holidays, sick days and overtime pay for Sunday. The individual food companies are demanding separate contracts, where before all four stores bargained together.

At a recent union meeting the union officials laid-out the proposal and stated that the union was not going to accept this offer. However, no strike was called or plan of action developed. The only thing discussed was the need for patient negotiations and picketing of non-union stores. The entire membership was outraged by the

companies proposal and the Executive Boards do nothing approach. One union member stood up and stated that if workers be patient and let negotiations go on for months it would leave the workers helpless. The time to hit these food companies is now during the biggest money



Just because 1% of the adult population in the U.S. owns 40% of the wealth doesn't mean the other 99% have to be soreheads about it.

making season - Thanksgiving and Christmas. This contract comes at a time when the food industry is in fierce competition with each other due to rising food costs. The national trend involves union-busting, closing-outs and increased automation.

Computerized scanners are used entirely on the West

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# Seraphim Down, But Not Yet Out!

Christ T. Seraphim, Milwaukee's "French kissing judge," has been charged with misconduct in office by the State Judicial Commission. An unprecedented disciplinary hearing will be held by a three-judge panel into charges of gross personal misconduct involving 6 incidents ranging from illegal cutrate access to cars to depriving defendants of due process in his courtroom.

Seraphim has been known to abuse poor and working people and minorities with terms like "scum" and "filth". Time after time, he has taken one look at a defendant and proclaimed him guilty, even before hearing evidence.

A broad, popular movement The People's Committee to Oust Judge Seraphim, was formed last Spring to get the judge kicked off the bench.

The committee's activities 5

including a recall campaign that got over 30,000 signatures, focused the entire city's attention on the judge's misconduct.

When the charges were announced, Seraphim came out fighting. He denied his guilt, saying "Do you think I would touch a woman's



breast in public?" He announced his candidacy for the Court of Appeals against one of the men conducting the investigation. Rumor has it that he is already lining up young women to work on a Supreme Court campaign. That's called pawing your way to the top.

## **FIRE BREIER Petition Started**

A petition campaign seeking the ouster of Police Chief Brier has recently been launched. Brier is well known and hated for the dictatorial and bigoted way in which he runs the Milw. Police Dept.

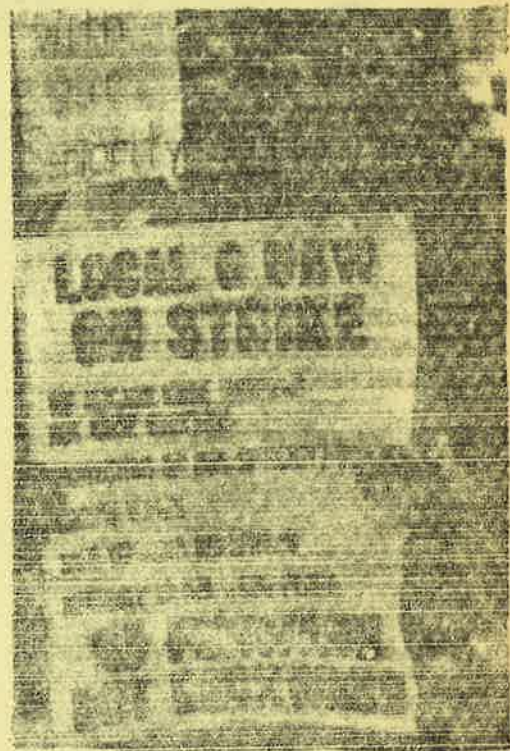
Right now there is a bill in the State Legislature seeking to make the Police Chief's retirement mandatory at 70, which would mean Brier would be gone in 2 yrs. or less.  
FOR MORE INFO. OR PETITIONS CALL 265-6632 Jess Klienert

# Harvester Strikers Rally In Chicago!

A group of United Workers Organization members from AMC in Kenosha attended a strike rally of International Harvester workers in Chicago. I-H workers are on strike fighting to keep voluntary overtime in their contract.

About 300 I-H workers marched and chanted at the rally which was called by UAW Local 6. A UWO member who is a steward at UAW Local 72 in Kenosha spoke to the marchers about how AMC tries to take away voluntary overtime every contract, but the people won't stand for it.

The I-H workers are still out now. They are fighting to retain voluntary overtime and remain an example to the rest of the UAW.



## Allis Chalmers...

FROM PAGE 1

Allis Chalmers has put out their intention to get some form of forced overtime in the contract, a right Allis Chalmers workers are not about to give up.

Allis Chalmers has gone through many changes since last contract's 6-week strike. Part of the company was bought by Siemens, splitting off a section of the plant and dividing the union.

Next year the Siemens division will completely close down. This will mean



the loss of 300 more jobs on top of the hundreds that have runaway to Allis Chalmers' overseas and southern plants. CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

# Sewerage Workers Finally Win Contract

"This small union (local 366- AFSCME) generates more grievances than the other city of Milw. and Milw. county unions combined." This from chief county negotiator Mortier on the first day of the strike.

On Thurs. Nov. 15th' the nearly 400 sewerage workers of this local returned to work ending a 30 day walkout. They had finally gotten a contract nearly an entire year after the old one expired. The 28-month contract included a 16% pay increase, a plan for re-

solving a number of outstanding grievances and arbitration award disputes, and an agreement not to penalize any of the strikers.

Two years ago the city brought in a big-time consultant and they have been attacking working conditions and the union ever since.

They have refused to settle grievances and live up to arbitration awards. They refused to negotiate a new contract. These union-busting attempts continued into the

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## Sadlowski Sues USWA Leaders!

Ed Sadlowski, the defeated reform candidate in the 1977 United Steel Workers of America (USWA) elections, filed suit in early Nov. charging union leaders with violating union members' democratic rights.

Under a 1978 union rule, only USWA members can contribute to any union elections. This gives the incumbents a big edge in the race for top office because their financial support will come from the 1200 member international staff all of whom are appointed by the international president. Since anyone not backed by the machine in power doesn't have equal

access to these funds, Sadlowski claims the new rule violates steel workers First Amendment rights.

Sadlowski may run again in the 1981 USWA elections. His suit gives him new visibility.

In the past few years both the United Mine Workers (UMWA) and USWA have seen big challenges to the kind of entrenched leadership that refuses to stand up for members.

Sadlowski promised 400,000 members who work in the steel mills the right to vote on contracts, a right they are denied under the present USWA constitution.

## Our reply to O'Donnell's armbands

# NO DEFENSE FOR THE SHAH!

Since November 4, when students in Tehran took 60 American hostages in response to the Shah's coming to the US the crisis with Iran has captured world attention. There have been a number of rightwing rallies in cities calling for deportations of Iranians or military invasion.

Now County Exee O'Donnell has started passing out black armbands at Milwaukee plants like Allis-Chalmers. This is nothing but a cheap and opportunistic trick by O'Donnell to ride back into office on the backs of the hostages. It is whipping up more hysteria at a time when we need reason and facts.

What are the facts? Who is this man, the Shah, who --

Carter says we let into the country for medical and humanitarian reasons?

\*\*\* The Shah stole 20 billion dollars when he fled Iran and is the largest depositor in Rockefeller's Chase Manhattan Bank.

\*\*\* Thousands died in the torture chambers of his secret police, trained and armed by the US. On Sept. 28, '78 5,000 people were killed in Tehran.

\*\*\* Carter only let the Shah in after months of pressure from his banker Rockefeller and Kissinger, knowing full well that this was a provocation that would lead to the embassy being seized.

\*\*\* The shah allowed only one political party--his own.

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## COMING EVENTS over the Christmas season

\*\*\*ANTI-NUCLEAR FILM  
"Paul Jacobs and the Nuclear Gang"

Sunday December 9 3:00pm  
Worker Center 4409 W. North  
Milwaukee, WI

The Black Hills Alliance and the Briggs&Stratton Worker are sponsoring this top notch dramatic film exposing the dangers of nuclear energy to our

futures. This is a film you don't want to miss.

\*\*\*CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

This second annual United Workers Children's Christmas Party will be a good time for the whole family. Plans are now being finalized. Call 447-1104 for more information.



# UWO MEETING REPORT:

On Sat. Nov. 10th a general membership meeting of the UWO brought together members and activists from a dozen Milwaukee area local unions. Plans were discussed for this year's X-mas party, to be held Dec. 8th at the Pladium. (Tickets are available at the Workers Center: 445-5816.) Also a X-mas party is being organized for the kids.

A report was given on the Dynamatic strike which just recently ended.

Att. Mary Joe Schlavoni,, our guest speaker, outlined certain legal rights of union activists, including the right to distribute literature that is union related on company property, as long as it is not in a work area or does not interfere with production. She also detailed certain precautions

that can be taken in the content of literature, how to use the NLRB, etc...

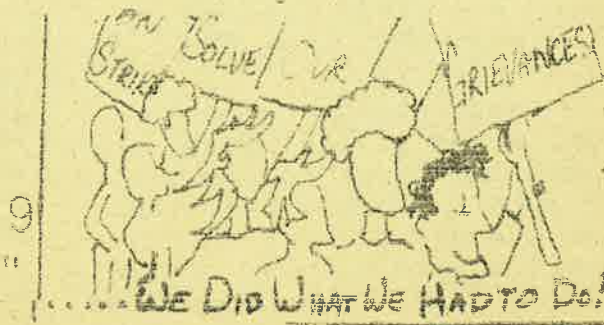
The discussion was lively. It became clear that the experience of most UWO members has been that various labor laws and government agencies are very ineffective and weak in protecting workers on the job. These regulations and agencies, even the strong ones, are generally bound up in endless amounts of red tape. However the knowledge of legal rights are necessary in organizing on the job. It is for this reason that we have decided to print the names and numbers of agencies in the Organizer from time to time. Further, as soon as possible we will devote a column in the Organizer to information on legal rights.

FROM PAGE 6

In the last few months the company has stepped up harassment leading to a department-wide wildcat, followed by a management lockout that ended in a victory for the UAW members.

Allis Chalmers workers have begun actively organizing around the contract. They circulated petitions around specific demands. "The Rank and File Coalition" sent out leaflets preparing

for the contract. UAW members are anxious to get it on with Allis Chalmers. We can look for some news from the West Allis plant early in the new year.



# Dynamatic strike victory

The Dynamatic office workers came out of an eleven week strike with their first contract since their union was organized. Office and Professional Employees Local #9 in Kenosha is now the only group of salaried workers in the giant Eaton Corp. to have a contract. Their strike coincided with a strike of 385 production workers represented by Machinist Lodge #34. The Machinists settled Nov. 5, while the Office Workers were on the bricks for 2 more weeks.

Local #9's contract includes new provisions for grievance and arbitration procedures. They also won procedures for promotions and layoffs.

The strike was characterized by injuries on the picket line, injunctions, restraining orders and company propaganda mailings.

In the face of the company's attacks, the strikers built support for their struggle among workers

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## Strike Ends At Racine Steel

For almost 3 days workers at Racine Steel Castings in Racine were on strike. The Executive Board had extended the contract one day past the expiration date to call for a ratification vote, but the company offer was even too lousy for them, so instead, they decided to call a strike.

As picket lines went up people started digging in for what they felt would be a long strike.

That Sunday, two days after the strike began, union officials went to the plant and told pickets that the strike was over. A ratification vote was set for Monday at 9AM. Even before the ratification vote was count-

ed UAW 553 president Leroy Wooley had told the 1st shift skilled tradesman to go back to work. It was 10AM Monday morning. The production workers would start 2nd shift!

Voting and explanations of the proposal took less than a half hour. Wooley and company praised the contract "as one of the best in the local's history." Some of the highlights include 84¢ over three years, caps on the COLA of 40¢ and 35¢ with the cap lifted the 3rd year and slight improvements in vacations and 30 and out program. The skilled tradesmen received an additional 35¢ plus 3% the 2nd and 3rd years.

**Merger...** FROM P. 1  
is a big step toward making the Teamsters, one of the most corrupt and gangster-like international's, represent and back up its 2 million members.

The action which ended 5 months of negotiations between the leaders of the groups has been brewing for years since the two groups found themselves doing much the same things.

The Professional Organization of Drivers (PROD) was formed in 1971 as a lobbying organization for trucker's safety. TDU was formed in 1975 to coordinate the fight on national contracts and for more union democracy.

Both PROD and TDU organized to fight against a sellout Master Freight Agreement in 1979.

The 450 Teamsters at the convention heard Bill Lamb,

recently expelled from the United Mine Workers for opposing that union's leadership. He urged TDU not to abandon rank and file organization when they did get control of the union. This point was particularly important since nearly every TDU member who gained union office dropped out of TDU. Lamb was speaking from his own experience in Miners for Democracy which backed Arnold Miller against the corrupt Tony Boyle in 1972. As soon as Miller won he dissolved the Miners for Democracy, and, step by step, abandoned every fighting and democratic principle he had promised to uphold.

The convention decided that during the coming year, TDU will put emphasis on the locals, on building local chapters and developing more rank and file leaders.

## ***Join the United Workers Organization***

The United Workers Organization is just that—united workers. We are union members, rank and file and officers, who are tired of being harassed and pushed around on the job. We are working to organize the rank and file members of our locals to stand up to the increasing company attacks and violation of our rights and to demand our unions do the same. We are dedicated to building our unions into the fighting and democratic organizations they must be. We are active in the shops and locals where we work, and in building more unity among all workers in the area through strike support and other activities.

The United Workers also serves as a co-ordinating center for various information, such as organizers' legal rights, workers compensation regulations, etc. If you need information or help in organizing or want to have a struggle in your shop written up in the Organizer, call: Milwaukee, 445-5816; Kenosha, 652-3759; Racine, 632-6689.

## Sewerage workers...

FROM PAGE 7

strike, but once sewerage workers finally walked out on Oct. 15, there was no going back without a settlement.

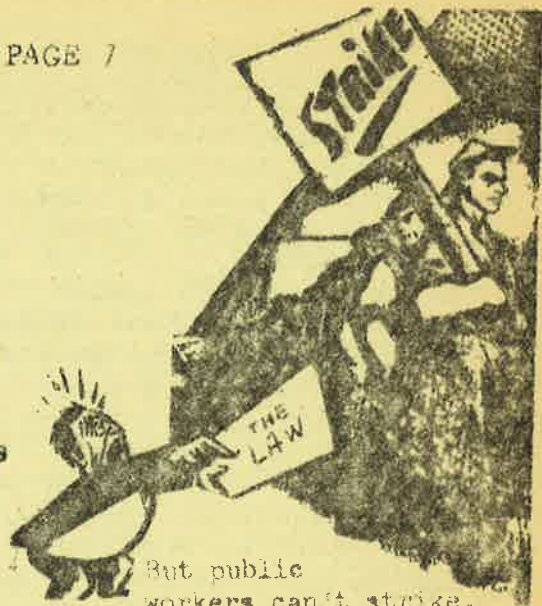
On Nov. 7, the city got a court decision ordering the strikers back to work. They accused sewerage workers of damaging vehicles and breaking windows trying to portray the strikers as dangerous criminals. City representatives threatened action against the three locals who were honoring the picket lines. They used the state law making all municipal workers strikes illegal (except where the local contract specifically allows strikes.) Still the Local 366 members refused to return to work. Four days later the city, showing their true colors, backed out on a settlement. At the last minute they went back on an agreement not to penalize the strikers.

But the sewerage workers would not be broken. Despite the court order, broken ag-

## Briggs...

FROM PAGE 8

around. After the final elections, rank and file activists will focus on the continuing struggle to democratize the union and make it represent the members, and on the contract that expires in August of 1980.



reements, and supervisors replacing strikers, the picket lines remained strong. The local even began inviting members of other unions to help man the line.

On Nov. 14, the sewerage workers got their contract. The union busting attempt had shown you can fight "city hall" and win.

We wonder what Chief Negotiator Mortier has to say about this small local now?

## Iran... FROM PAGE 3

\*\*\*He ruined the economy with his policy of rapid oil export and massive imports of arms and other goods.

Should the lives of 49 Americans be risked for a man who is comparable to Hitler? Should we risk another Vietnam because Rockefeller wants this thief and murderer here? Think about it.

## Dynamatic...

FROM PAGE 10

in the area. Machinists and Office Workers union members from other plants in the area as well as workers from American Motor's Kenosha plant attended a strike solidarity rally in Kenosha. Support came from as far away as Connecticut where an office workers union sent a check for \$1,000 and promised to send another if needed.

The United Workers Organization (UWO) helped strikers make "Victory to the Dynamatic Strikers" buttons which were sold in the area. A strike support collection at American Motors brought in \$200.

As the strike built more momentum and unity, some

union officials tried to stop strike support work. When the UWO wanted to collect strike support money at Eaton's Cutler-Hammer plant in Milwaukee, these officials said, "No, the Machinist Lodge there is considering a sizable donation." The collection was held and \$41 sent to the striking office workers who expressed their appreciation by a card. It was reprinted and put up around the Milwaukee Cutler-Hammer plant. No money was sent from the Cutler-Hammer Machinist Lodge.

The strike at Dynamatics showed that the conglomerates can be beaten. Ninety office workers in the area put their demands to Eaton Corp. and made them listen.

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## Retail Clerks...

FROM PAGE 4

Coast. These scanners check out twice the number of customers than regular registers eliminating hundreds of jobs. Food stores in Milwaukee, where both National and A&P have recently closed down, are trying their best to keep up with the "national trend" of ripping the workers off. This contract is in effect a test to see how much the food stores can get away with.

Right now the union has no real plan on how to fight these take-aways and job eliminations except for pa-13

tient negotiations. The workers seem willing and ready to do more. As one bagger stated at the union meeting, "What do I have to lose, my job? Well it seems they're trying to take that away anyway."

Fellow workers in Milw. we need your support if a strike, boycott, or walk-out occurs. We know everyone needs food and the companies will use that to intimidate us and try to break our union. Your support will be gladly appreciated.  
A UNION MEMBER OF LOCAL 444

**UNITED WORKERS  
CHRISTMAS PARTY**

**SAT. , DEC. 8**

**MUSIC 8:00 P.M. TILL ?? FOOD  
PRIZES LIQUOR**

**CAPITOL PLADIUM 2724 W. CAPITOL  
D.J. - WNOV'S LARRY K. MILES**

**\$2.00 (\$2.50 at door)  
FOR INFO OR TICKETS CALL 445-5816**

**United Workers Organization  
4409 West North Avenue  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53208  
Milwaukee 445-5816  
Kenosha 652-3759  
Racine 632-6689**