

The ORGANIZER

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Ladish Strike Strong in 2nd Month



ON MAY 8TH OVER 500 LADISH STRIKE-ERS AND OTHER UNION SUPPORTERS HELD A MASS PICKET AT THE PLANT.

The 2200 members of Machinists Lodge #1862 at Ladish hit the bricks on April 11 and have been wearing out the shoe leather ever since.

The members of the six other unions at the big Cudahy plant began honoring the picket line immediately and within a week Ladish announced a plant-wide layoff until the strike is settled.

In the first days of picketing, workers massed at the big gates and had smaller groups covering the little side doors.

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Rubberworkers strike Uniroyal

Over 8,000 members of the United Rubber Workers have been on strike against Uniroyal since May 9, including a plant in Eau Claire, Wis. The strike, which is supposed to set the pattern for the rest of the "big 4" rubber companies, is almost as much a strike against government intervention and Carter's

7% guidelines as it is against the rubber companies. On the picket lines in Detroit, Chicago, and across the country, workers are calling it "Carter's Strike."

The URW leaders announced a 33%, 3 year tentative settlement April 19, the day before

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Join the United Workers Organization

Higher prices...unsafe working conditions...harassment...increased discrimination...gasoline shortages: Working people are catching hell on all sides. The United Workers Organization was formed to get working people organized to fight sellout contracts, company productivity drives and other problems we face on the job and in the communities.

The United Workers Organization is composed of shop committees in plants around the Milwaukee, Racine, and Kenosha area. If you're tired of being pushed around driven down and sold out--Join the United Workers Organization.

Contribute Articles

The pages of the Organizer are open to anybody wanting to publicize their struggles on the job or in their unions.

United Workers Organization
4409 W. North Ave.
Milwaukee, WI 53208
445-5816
Racine-- 632-6689
Kenosha-- 652-3759

HURT ON THE JOB?

Too often we're hurt on the job and the company manages to rip us off of our workers' Comp. A lot depends on the speed we file for our benefit, whether we keep records, and the report we fill out.

The United workers has put out a brochure to help people when they are eligible for workers' Comp. Ask for a copy from a UWO member or call 445-5816.

Make Workers' Compensation work for you.

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OSHA Sets Up

Phone Hotlines

Workers and employers who wish to make complaints about job safety or health hazards in workplaces or who want information on these matters from the Occupational Health and Safety Administration now have a special telephone number to call.

In Milwaukee the number is 224-3315. Outside the Milwaukee area the toll free number is 800-242-9680.

The service was set up to "encourage people to seek our help in correcting dangerous situations before they become tragic incidents," Ronald McCann, regional administrator of the federal agency, said.

Oust Seraphim Now!

Judge Christ Seraphim has got to go! For the last 20 years he has been known as the "hangin' judge", coming down hard on all working people, and especially hard on minorities. Chief Breier has you picked up, and "Christ" sends you up for the max, regardless of the evidence. That is, unless you have bucks and influence.

He has shown his complete contempt for working people and his stand with the bosses by sending people up before him on minor charges out to scab on strikes as an alternative to fine or jail. He has a habit of trying to humiliate those who come before him if they aren't dressed as fine as "his honor".

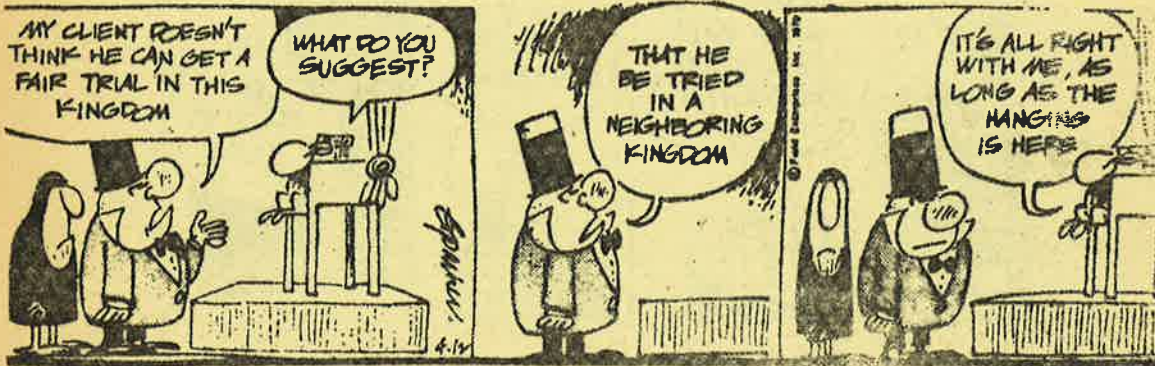
But lately, Seraphim has made the mistake of exposing himself. He has been accused by several women of trying to molest them in the Safety Building where they all work together; of using his court to give preferential treatment to a car dealer appearing before him in return for a dis-

count on a car; of having a kick-back deal with a local hotel where he sends his juries to sequester them during trials... and the list keeps growing almost daily.

The U.W.O. has joined with several other organizations to form the Peoples Committee to Oust Seraphim. A recall petition will begin circulating on May 31st, and about 79,000 signatures will have to be collected in the 60 days of June and July. Already a demonstration of 100 persons was held at the Milwaukee Athletic Club, where Seraphim lives, to "throw the Bum out". We plan to go out strongly to all the street festivals this summer and to cover the city neighborhoods district by district. An office is being set up in the Center/ Holton St. area, and a fund raising party is being planned on or around June 23rd.

The effort to oust this dog needs lots of volunteers and plenty of money. Join the campaign! Write to P.O. Box 08103 or call 447-1009.

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AOSmith Azell Berry Rehired

After 3 months, Azell Berry, a fired A.O. Smith worker, won his job back. On April 4th, he was back to work because the company knew there was no way they could win their money case in arbitration, especially with all the support Berry had in the plant.

Berry, a Black man, was accused of hitting a foreman in a dispute over job assignments. The foreman had given a lower seniority worker the job Berry had bid on and had a right to get.

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Productivity Drive Hit

A.O. Smith's productivity drive has hit department 1737 like a nuclear bomb and the fallout is going to cause Smith some big problems.

Where there used to be 3 men on a job, there now is only one. The rates have been slashed (the company even eliminated an Industrial Engineering man.). The workers and stewards are faced with a group of supervisors who make a total mockery of the grievance procedure. It has gotten so bad that some of the foremen work on the line right in front of the stewards.

Safety has gone right down the drain with the company's profit-frenzied drive. One brother's

foot was smashed when a 6,000 lb die fell out of the press he was running.

In response to the anger of the membership and stewards, union president Paul Blackman called for a department union meeting before work. Two meetings have been held, with good turnouts at both. The brothers from department 1732 made it clear that they aren't going to take the job eliminations, rate cuts, and unsafe conditions.

The men made suggestions for a slowdown, boycott of overtime, and an end to extending grievances, as well as making the committeeman show his face more often in the department.



Defeat Weber, Defend Affirmative Action

Thousands of minority and women workers would not have their jobs today if it wasn't for affirmative action programs that forced the companies to hire them. Affirmative action programs are one of the gains that were made by the civil rights and Black peoples' movement for justice in this country. Hundreds of thousands of Americans of all colors took to the streets in the 60's and early 70's to fight the daily oppression that Black people and minorities are subjected to --discrimination in jobs, housing, education and 2nd class treatment in society.

AOSmith CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

The foreman in this department has a record of discrimination against Blacks in overtime, job assignments and discipline as well as playing the favoritism game for others.

On top of this, A.C. Smith has been the scene of an intense productivity drive, called Operations Analysis, over the last 2 years. Rates have been slashed, jobs eliminated and safety conditions let deteriorate.

Hand in hand with this drive for production has been a marked increase in discrimination against minority workers and general harassment.

Berry and some of his fellow workers went to the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission to file a discrimination suit. There they found out that



The rich and powerful who run this country are now trying to take back the little

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a couple of class action suits against Smith had already been filed.

The United Workers Organization helped unite Black and white workers to support Berry.

They distributed leaflets and wore buttons and raised over \$130. Over a dozen came to the union meeting.

The company tried to sucker Berry by offering him his job back if the man would admit hitting the foreman and take his time off as a disciplinary layoff with no pay.

Berry told them to cram it. Now he's back to work, fighting for back pay and to get the suspension off his record. The grievance committee recently voted to take the case to arbitration.

Teamsters Roll Past 7% Guidelines; Build Contract No Vote on Work Rules

On April 11, after a 10 day strike/lockout, Teamsters President Frank Fitzsimmons signed a 3 year Master Freight Agreement with Freight Management Inc. Voting began April 25, and results won't be in until late May. But 2 rank and file groups have organized the largest "No" vote campaign in recent Teamster history.

The pact provides 30% over 3 years. It "bent" Carter's 7% guidelines, but it's clear that this won't come close to covering the present 13% inflation rate.

What made many drivers mad was the lack of progress on non-money issues:

- 70 hour work weeks with 8 hours off between schedule at straight time pay. The union demanded 48 hours off between runs.
- Company efforts to increase the length of trailers which leads to more accidents, injuries, and deaths.
- The union did little on other safety provisions under the last contract that were ignored by many companies.
- Company use of casual workers to replace full timers.
- No change in the grievance procedure, which is a long process and full of hassles.

The Teamsters for a Democratic Union has been leading such



TEAMSTER MEMBERS PICKETING AT CONSOLIDATED FREIGHTWAYS IN MILWAUKEE.

the rank and file activity. They filed a suit against the Teamster leadership to make them back down on claims that a 2/3 vote is necessary to defeat the contract. Now a majority "no" vote will defeat it.

Adding to the contract rejection sentiment was the 4 week wildcat by 10,000 steelhaulers covered by the contract. They wanted the return of the 26% for each haul provided under the last contract; payment for 6 sick days which they hadn't received and the right to vote separately on their part of the settlement.

Voting results were not available at press time, but regardless of the final count, the Teamster leadership is more shaken, the trucking companies more threatened, and Jimmy Carter less smiley.

TRA Won at AMC

The UWO at AMC in Kenosha was a major force behind a recent Labor Dept. ruling that could add up to millions of dollars in Trade Readjustment Act (TRA) benefits for past and future lay offs at the plant. TRA provides special benefits for workers who lost their jobs due to foreign competition.

When 1500 were laid off in March, many of the people who were certified for TRA in the past would not get it anymore. The UAW International had not filed for a re-certification because they didn't think it was worth the effort, even though UAW Local 72 at AMC pays \$200,000 a month dues into that same International!

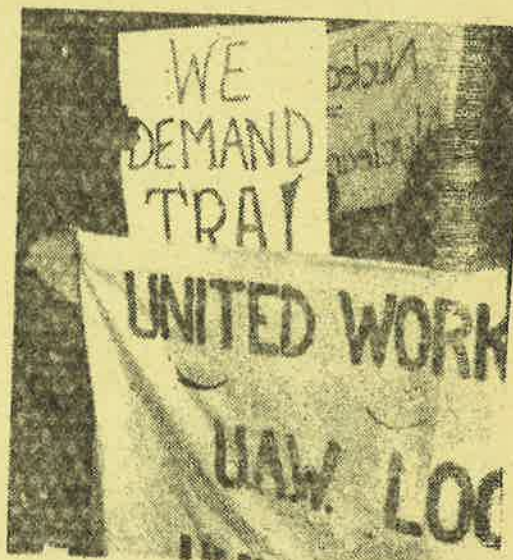
The UWO and others in the shop began passing a petition demanding TRA for everyone laid off. In 3 days 325 people who were getting laid off had signed the petition.

The petition was presented to the Local 72 TRA representative and the Executive Board sent a letter to the International asking them to file for a recertification. Once again the UAW big shots in Detroit refused to file. But Ray Majerus, head of the UAW region, no doubt feeling the heat a little closer to home, filed for a new certification.

The UWO also presented the petitions to Congressman Les Aspin. Democrats and Republicans both have made and broken promises to working people in the past. The peti-

tions were presented to Aspin because it was one more way to pursue the struggle. A group of 7 laid off workers went to Aspin's office and we made sure to inform the press.

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Singer Workers Demand TRA

For a year now, jobs at Singer Controls have been going to Canada. Employment has gone from a high of 1400 in Jan. of 1978 to around 800 now. Three lines have been moved, with more moves being planned.

Several workers got the idea of fighting for TRA money from AMC workers. After a petition was signed by almost 100 people demanding TRA money, the union agreed to file for TRA on the workers' behalf. Workers are now waiting to hear the results.

Rank & File Make Gains In Elections Racine Steel Castings

When the smoke had cleared after the May elections at UAW Local 553 at Racine Steel Castings, 8 out of 13 company minded union officers had gone down to defeat. The race was so hot that the union called the police to keep the ballot box. A sellout president and financial secretary kept their seats by only 20 votes out of 800.

This election was the most controversial in recent years because it represented a real chance to change union policy from co-operating with the companies to beginning to fight. The biggest issue is health and safety. When workers refuse to do unsafe work, the union has backed the company.

The UWO chapter backed members of the reform slate and

ran their own candidates; with fliers, sample ballots and lots of in-plant campaigning. All during the campaign, the UWO chapter pulled workers together to fight the company around a safety case. This not only kept the fight going, it also showed what kind of a union was needed.

The UWO candidates made a strong showing pulling between 150 and 180 votes in the general elections and 184 in the runoffs.

With the elections over and 8 new union officers the workers feel they have a good chance of getting organized to win something in their contract six months from now. We're sure to make the new officers live up to their campaign promises.

Bus Company

The recent primary elections in Milwaukee's Amalgamated Transit Workers Local 998 was a big victory for the 1,100 rank and file bus drivers and mechanics.

The incumbent president, James Heidenreich, was knocked out of the race by a big margin.

During the transit strike, Heidenreich tried to push 3 lousy settlements on the rank and file. After the first one was rejected, he did as little as possible to build the strike or inform the public about the issues.

Two days before a 2 year contract was offered and accepted, he claimed the company would absolutely not make a 2 year contract offer.

The presidential race is now between James Brown, current vice president, and Phil Conn. While Brown recommended the first of the 3 proposed contracts, he broke with the board, and called for rejection of the 3rd offer.

In the vice presidential race Darrel Rothe, a rank and file leader during the strike and member of Running Hot, a group

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Newport News Setback

The 15,500 ship yard workers at Newport News, Va. went back to work after a 12 week strike, in a big defeat for union organizing in the South.

A major share of the blame for the defeat lies with the USWA International leadership who did nothing to build active, broad support for the strike.

The strikers themselves fought hard. They turned down, 6,000 - 0, the companies demand for "unconditional surrender" that the local union officials recommended. The company wanted the strikers to come

back to work, not necessarily their old jobs, through the employment office. At one point 50 state police "appeared out of nowhere", according to one striker, to join with local cops to beat and arrest strikers. Police cordons swept into strike headquarters and local restaurants, where uninvolved bystanders were arrested and clubbed. This police attack occurred only days after the 6,000 - 0 vote to stay on strike. Ten days later they went back to their old jobs but without union recognition

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Newport News striker Bruce Colwell was assaulted by police on April 16. Few newspapers picked this this picture up from the Associated Press. The incident was part of a police reign of terror on strikers.

Steelworkers gain in union election

Elections for offices in all locals of the United Steel Workers of America (USWA) came up in April. In many locals it was a head on battle between union officials who want a cozy relationship with the companies and the workers who are tired of being pushed around and sold out and who want to fight. Steelworkers shook up the leadership in locals across the country in the growing union reform movement that began two and a-half years ago with the campaign to elect Ed Sadlowski and dump the Abel-McBride company machine. Following are reports on several USWA elections.

Rexnord

Workers at Rexnord, members of United Steel Workers #1527, held elections for local union officers last month. In recent years, there hasn't been much of a contest at election time and many officers have run unopposed.

But this time, the election was a big issue in the shop as a group of union activists, including United Workers Organization members, got together to challenge the union leadership.

The vote came down to the wire. The challenging slate was called TIME FOR A CHANGE and its candidates came within 20 votes of winning plant-wide offices and 3 short of victory for a grievance committeeman. The man for president fell only 60 votes short in his race.

As Rexnord has pushed for more production and for profits in recent years, many workers have grown dissatisfied and disgusted with the performance of the union officers and the International.

Faced with problems like lousy rates and "point systems" to control absenteeism, Rex workers have been looking for ways to fight. It's not often that they find them from the union officials. Their answer is, "Its rotten, but what can we do?"

The handling of the recent contract was typical. The union left the membership completely in the dark about the progress of the negotiations until the day they had to vote on the proposal.

The union officials at Rex

were returned to office but they had a run for the money. For the next 3 years, they have a choice of moving ahead or the workers at Rexnord will leave them behind at the next election.

Wehr Steel

At Wehr Steel, United Steel Workers of America (USWA) Local #2996, a new group of officers was elected. Leonard Tipton, a former vice-president, won over the incumbent for president.

The momentum for throwing out the old officers came from a lot of abuses that peaked at their strike last May. When the contract expired, the workers hit the bricks, but the bargaining committee told everyone

to go back to work without a new contract. Tipton broke with the bargaining committee to recommend a strike.

The membership struck for a week with no leadership from their officers.

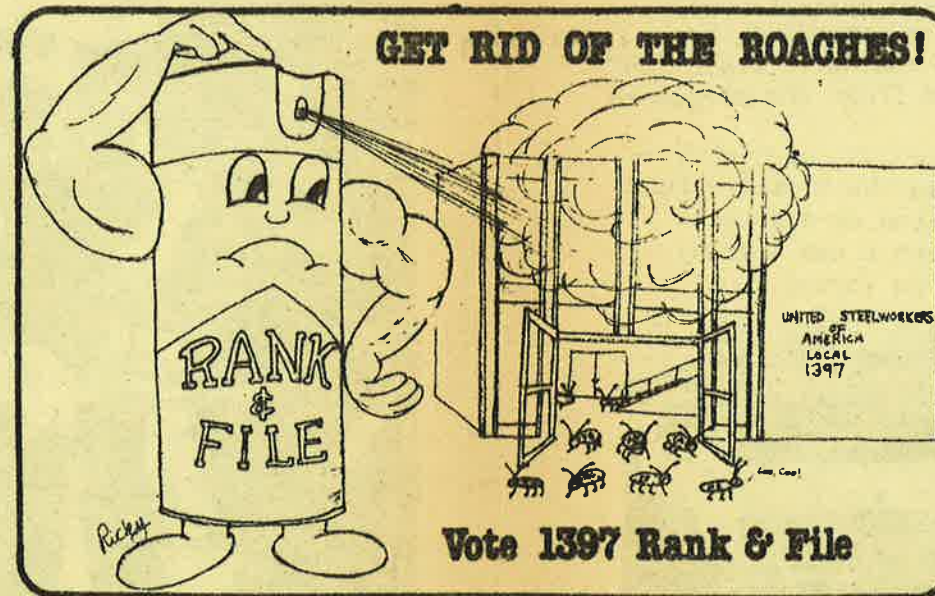
So it was "Good riddance to bad rubbish" when election time came around this April.

Homestead P A

A reform group called Rank and File swept their elections by an average of 2-1. In Homestead PA, in the heart of both US Steels' and unions' international headquarters. Local #1397 is the third biggest USWA local in the country. Lloyd McBride, the International president, refused to come to the swearing-in ceremony.

The group has helped build the fight for the Right to Ratify (contracts in basic steel) for several years. It swept 16 seats on the 20-person Executive Board including all top spots.

Reform slates were either newly elected or retained their seats in Local 1010 (Inland Steel) in Gary Indiana, Local 67 (National Steel) at Granite City near St. Louis, Local 6787 (Bethlehem Steel) in the Chicago area, Local 1938 (US Steel) in the Minnesota iron range and locals 2609 and 2610 at Sparrows Point in Baltimore, MD.



This cartoon is reprinted from 1397 Rank & File, the news letter of the USWA group in Bethlehem Steel, Homestead, P.A. that swept their union elections by a 2 to 1 vote in April

A&P-YELLOW CAB CLOSE

Just eight days after A&P's announced closing, Yellow Cab Company closed its doors to cabs represented by The Independent Taxi Drivers Union. Owner John Boynton wanted to raise daily cab fares by \$4 per week with no guarantee that the company would remain open. The drivers voted this down knowing that Boynton would pocket the extra thousands of dollars and close shop anyway.

This is the same guy that demanded a daily cab rental fee in 1974 from the drivers when he owned Checker Cab Co. That time he was able to squeeze the extra money out of the drivers and their union, only to close a few months later.

Boynton's reputation hasn't changed. He refused to negotiate over the health insurance policy, the pension plan or severance pay. He verbally refused to pay unemployment insurance benefits but drivers called his bluff.

Boynton was notorious for lousy repair on his cabs. This prompted union officials to

say that he ran a training shop for mechanics rather than pay more money for steady maintenance. One of the negotiating points for the Aug. 5 contract deadline was the need for a second shift maintenance crew.

Most of the drivers collect unemployment or have other jobs, some at other cab companies or own cabs bought from Yellow Cab.

Companies closing their doors, pushing hundreds out on the streets is nothing new. From the almost total closing of the AMC body plant in Milwaukee, to the run-away of many jobs at plants like Square D, workers are left with little choice but to fight as best they can. At AMC workers fought the first attempts to move the carpet department down south. At A&P workers raised hell at their union meeting demanding the union do something to fight the closings and fight for severance pay.

At Yellow Cab, workers have voted to use their strike fund to sue Boynton or negotiate a contract with a new company should one be formed.



NEARLY ONE HALF OF MILWAUKEE'S CABS HAVE BEEN IDLE SINCE YELLOW CAB CLOSED. THIS MEANS LESS TRANSPORTATION AND HUNDREDS LESS JOBS.

Bus Drivers Get Nite Stewards

Members of Local 998 of the Transit Workers Union recently won the right to have stewards for the night shift.

At their April 5 morning union meeting, a motion to have night stewards passed by a 3-1 vote. The same motion passed unanimously at the evening meeting.

The idea was brought before the Thursday morning Executive Board meeting by rank and file operators. Some of the board

members wanted the night stewards to be appointed by the day stewards. The operators wanted the stewards to be elected. They felt holding elections would get more members involved and would help strengthen the union.

After an hour and a half of sometimes heated discussion the election of stewards was won.

Running Hot, a group of rank and file members of Local 998 helped to win the fight for night stewards.

BUS ELECTIONS

in the union, defeated all contenders and will face a run-off in the final election. He ran on a program calling for democratic and fighting unionism, declaring the necessity to change not only the faces at the top of the local, but the type of unionism that keeps members in the dark and reduces them simply to dues payers.

In the race for recording secretary another Running Hot mem-

ber, Jerome Williams, will be

running against the incumbent, Jerry Bacala, who is best known for being part of Heidenrich's executive board.

The bus drivers have already flexed their muscles by kicking out Heidenrich. If Brown, Rothe and Williams are elected in the June 19 final balloting, it will put in a fighting leadership for members of Local 998 and drive another nail in the coffin of union-company co-operation.

MILWAUKEE FORGE FUND FRAUD

The president of Local 3205 of the USWA at Milwaukee Forge on 15th & Oklahoma, is under the gun. Some workers there are saying he "lost" around \$40,000 from the union's "sunshine" fund.

The fund comes from a percentage of vending machine sales in the plant. It's used for payments to workers off sick.

people haven't been getting those payments recently. The president, Brubaker, has repeatedly refused to say how much money is in the fund, and hasn't asked the company for an annual audit of the funds since he took office in 1967.

Brubaker's attorney asked that Brubaker be allowed to make restitution for any missing money.

Thousands Hit Nuclear Dangers

On May 6, 110,000 people marched in Washington to show the anger that the American people have towards the power companies' and government's arrogance. People more and more are saying No! to their disregard for the health and future of the country's people for the sake of profit.

The huge demonstration went right to the foot of the Capitol to hit the energy policies of Carter and Energy Secretary Schlesinger. The lead contingent was composed of residents of the Three Mile Island, PA area. The thousands of marchers came from many local anti-nuclear struggles.

Marchers came from...Rocky Flats, Colorado, near Denver, where on April 29, 15,000 demonstrated against a Rockwell International nuclear weapons plant and munitions dump. The April 29 demonstration followed shortly on the release of figures of the high cancer rate in the area...

Seabrook, NH, where thousands have repeatedly demonstrated against a seaside nuclear power plant that is a potential threat to that part of the New England seacoast...and they came from the Groton, Connecticut struggle against the building of the Trident nuclear warhead submarine. 3,000 people had demonstrated a month before when Rosalynn Carter was there to launch the



sub. It is reported that the Trident has the arms equivalent of 2040 Hiroshima type bombs.

Since the May 6 demonstration there has been anti-nuclear power action going on in Wisconsin. On May 12, several hundred people marched in front of the Wisconsin Electric headquarters in downtown Milwaukee to draw attention to that company's policy of building nuclear power plants in Wisconsin. A June 2 demonstration is planned to take place at the proposed site of a nuclear power plant in Haven (Sheboygan County). UAW local 833 at the nearby Kohler Co. has gone on record as opposed to the Haven plant.

Indians from the Black Hills in South Dakota came to hit the uranium mining in their historic burial grounds. The mining would leave the region uninhabitable

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Rainfair Rate Hike Won

At Rainfair in Racine, International Ladies Garment union members in the collar section won some better rates after 7 months. Back in December they walked away from the job to see the union and filed a mass grievance. The company promised to retime the jobs. But as soon as the women went back to work, Rainfair dropped their promise.

A month and a half went by with no action, so the workers plastered their area and the time clocks with stickers, demanding the jobs be timed so they could make more than \$2.90 to \$3.50 an hour. Rainfair got uptight and timed the jobs. They said the rates were good.

Now the girls were really mad.

RUBBER -- CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the old contract expired. The next day, Carter officials called Rubber company officials to Washington to convince them to take a strike instead of meeting the union's demands.

Uniroyal then went back on their agreement, and even took out full-page newspaper ads claiming that reneging on their agreement was a patriotic effort to block "the URW battle against our government's program to defeat inflation." With inflation rising at 12%, and the cost of necessities rising at nearly double that, even the original settlement is inadequate.

The strikers are demanding a decent wage increase. A bet-

They made it known to everyone what was going on.

They walked out again and told the company they weren't going to work any overtime and certainly weren't going to work hard on the collars when they weren't making any money.

Rainfair gave in this time and gave the girls a 20% raise on some of the rates. It was an \$1.33 raise on one style of coat. It was about time the girls finally got their fist in the door. And it was only because they fought longer and stronger than the company—and didn't give up like Rainfair expected.

They are now trying to get the rates changed on all the collars.

ter Cost of Living clause, job security provisions and a company promise of neutrality in organizing drives at non-union plants.

Uniroyal has several non-union plants, including one in Oklahoma which puts out half of their company's radial tire production.

The Uniroyal strike will have repercussions beyond the other 3 rubber companies it sets the pattern for-- Goodyear, Goodrich and Firestone. It is aiming to break Carter's 7% guidelines that the Teamsters bent. With major contracts coming up in auto, electrical and other industries, workers all over the country are watching the rubber strike.

Defend Affirmative Action

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

that was won, with the help of a Mr. Brian Weber. They're saying that there is no longer discrimination in our society and any programs designed to compensate for discrimination is in fact "reverse discrimination."

This is a straight up lie. Take AOSmith for example. It is in Milwaukee's Black community and has a high percentage of Black workers, but only 1% of the skilled trades is Black.

Brian Weber is a lab technician at the Gramercy, LA plant of Kaiser Aluminum. He makes \$21,000 a year. He has filed a suit with the Supreme Court against the company and the United Steelworkers Union. He and his rich backers hope to wipe out the affirmative action program negotiated between Kaiser and the USWA, and in so doing wipe out all affirmative action programs. Weber has said that he isn't after a better

job for himself. He simply wants to stop affirmative action, or in plain English--keep Blacks, minorities and women down, and out of the skilled trades.

The Black population of the Gramercy area is 40% and yet even with this affirmative action program in effect only 5 Blacks and one woman hold skilled trades jobs out of 297 skilled jobs.

In the first two years of the plant's operations, no Blacks were hired. Until the plant was organized by the USWA, the company segregated seniority lists by race and assigned different sets of badges to Blacks and whites.

Before the union came in no Kaiser workers, Black or white, was allowed to bid into the skilled trades jobs. Those were filled from the outside. Now there are training programs.

NUKES. CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14
and destroy their sacred grounds. They've pledged to fight by any means necessary to win their just demands. Jerry Brown, Ralph Nader and the rest of the political showhogs who headed up the march refused to let them speak. Brown and Co. want to keep the anti nuke movement under their

control. But the fighting spirit of the Indian movement is necessary to stop the rampaging power companies.

The Indians are fighting to protect their lives from the profit system, whether its over nuclear power, land grabs or jobs. This spirit challenges the very system that the march leaders want to protect.

Ladish CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Some supervisors found it rough getting through the lines and one went to the hospital instead of to work. "We thought he was a scab trying to take away our jobs," the strikers said.

The Ladish Company gave the workers no choice but to strike. In their "final offer" on April 10, they refused to go over Carter's 7% guidelines. For the workers, 7% is worse than an insult. They especially want a big pension increase.

"We've got to have '30 & out with a big pension," one striker said. "We might be able to get 30 & out under the (Carter) guidelines, but who can afford to retire on the pension we have?"

The men also want the right to re-open the negotiations on wages after the first year of the contract so they can bargain to keep ahead of inflation.

Most strikers say, however, that the guidelines alone wouldn't have made them decide to strike. As one man put it, "Ladish wants us to put our union rights back to the 1800's and we won't stand for it."

Under the company's plan, the workers' shop floor muscle would be seriously cramped because they would lose the right to strike as the last step of their grievance procedure. Ladish wants to submit all unresolved grievances to an "impartial" arbitrator. This is costly, time-consuming and as often as not ends up with

the workers getting the shaft. Worse, it takes from them what the company fears most—the workers' right to stop production.

Along with this, Ladish wants to limit the things that workers can grieve to items specifically covered by the contract. One striker told the story of a supervisor who cut off the top of a wash room door so he could see at a glance who was in the can. "We filed a grievance on that and got it changed," the striker said. "Under the new proposal, we wouldn't be able to do a thing about it because it's not covered in the language."

The other major issue is job combinations, eliminations and automation. Ladish wants some machine operators to run two machines at once when before they were running only one. They are also planning to install automated stock handling equipment. This adds up to fewer jobs and more work for those remaining. In a near unanimous vote, the machinists turned down the lousy offer and went out.

The men were prepared for a strike. Days before the vote, stickers went up around the shop telling the company what to expect. "On the line in '79" The union distributed "30 & out" buttons.

On Tuesday, May 8, workers from several area unions including United Auto Workers, Allied Industrial Workers,

Coming Events

MAY 28 NOON - MEMORIAL DAY PICNIC. LINCOLN PARK, HAMPTON & GREEN BAY, MILW.

JUNE 10 - RACINE-KENOSHA UWO PEOPLE'S PICNIC. \$2 IN ADVANCE \$3 AT THE PARK. ALL THE BEER YOU CAN DRINK. LOVE EX-PRESSION/ORQUESTRA TIERRA LIBRE.

JUNE 2 - ANTI-NUKE DEMONSTRATION AGAINST PROPOSED POWER PLANT IN SHEBOYGAN.

JUNE 3 - BRADY STREET FESTIVAL - PETITION DRIVE AGAINST SERAPHIM.

MAY 31 - PRESS CONFERENCE BY PEOPLE'S COMMITTEE AT SERAPHIM'S COURT ANNOUNCING RECALL CAMPAIGN.

JUNE 19 - JUNETEENTH DAY - NORTH 3RD STREET. NOON TILL ?

JUNE 23 - FUND RAISER FOR SERAPHIM RECALL CAMPAIGN. (TIME & PLACE TO BE ANNOUNCED.)

MAY 19-26 - VIETNAM VETERANS WEEK. MAY 28 JOIN VVAW IN PARADE DOWN WISC. AVE. 1:30 PM 10th & WISC.

Newsletter for the United Workers Organization
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