



THE HEARTBEAT

published by the METRO NUCLEUS of the COMMUNIST LABOR PARTY of the USNA

APRIL 23, 1976

Vol. 2, No. 6

Assault In Pharmacy

On Friday, April 17th, Geri Hopkins Pharmacy Clerk-Typist was hit by Pharmacist Carl Kyberg. This is a fact, that no one including Carl denies. Geri said he struck her from behind, with what, she wasn't sure. Carl states he "tapped" her with a pen.

It was around 2:00 p.m. Most of the other women were at church (Good Friday). Carl told Geri to re-do some labels. He is famous for messing them up, losing them etc. and then telling the women to re-type them. Last Friday was no exception. Geri simply stated that she would do them but it was not necessary to keep making busy work as there were other jobs she had. He told her not to talk back. She began to type. A few seconds later he comes up behind her and "wam"! (or "tap" depending on who you want to believe). Geri demands an apology from Carl and he refuses. Chief white chauvinist, slow-foot Miller smirks and tells her to go back to work. By now Geri is hurting and upset. She tells Carl, she'll go to the union. At that point Carl apologizes and begs her not to take it further. Miller then agrees, in his sloppy "brush it over way" that he'll "write a report". The union is called by a co-worker.

The entire Grievance Committee confront Carl and Miller with Geri present. Again Carl admits he "tapped her with his pen", that he's sorry, it had been a rough day and let's forget it. Miller's scratching out a report. He refuses to suspend Carl. Anyone of us would have been out on 12th street so fast that it would have made the speed-up that House-keeping and Attendants do look like slow-motion!

Security still hasn't showed. The Grievance Committee took Geri to the E.R. Mac finally lumbers in. The police are

called. This was an assault! Mac takes Geri's story. When asked what would have happened if a worker had hit a supervisor, Mac replies "I would have hauled them immediately up to administration. Fine- Mac and the Grievance Committee go back to the pharmacy for Carl. Again, the same story. He's sorry, he was just kidding. Kregar calls Mac and tells him "just write a report". The union demands Carl and Miller's job. Carl for hitting a worker. Miller for condoning it and running a rabid white chauvinist department. That pharmacy had falsely fired two black men (they both got back pay), called a black women worker in there "black bitch" and now OK'd the hitting of another black female worker. Since then, it has been discovered that this "tapping" and pinching is a frequent occurrence.

Meanwhile, Patrolman Ward from the strike breaking, false arresting 10th precinct is interviewing Geri in the E.R. This punk thinks it's a joke. Gives her incorrect information on how to file a complaint and issue a warrant. When asked who had issued warrants for the picketers arrested just one year ago; who had charged them with assault, he said "no one". Yet they got busted, knocked down, insulted and thrown in jail.

Administration, security, the police all did nothing except consistently defend their dictatorship over us and their sacred private property above our physical well being. Carl's still working. Geri has a neck brace. Miller's still lopping around. Yet administration suspended Brenda T. for 35 days for absenteeism even though she had a doctors letter, with no hearing, no nothing. Security forced Milton B. to open his locker with no prior investigation, evidence etc.; frisked the entire afternoon shift one day a few months ago, threaten Emma's life and pulled a gun on the house keepers and on and on.

continued on pg. 2

Assault con't.

During this same time Mac was only given a vacation when he was caught stealing meat. The police beat up members of Maggie's and Delores' family, illegally arrested picketers; turned the other way when the Klan burned crosses just a few months ago on Detroit's eastside, Taylor, Mich. and Harlan County, Kentucky.

This last attack is most dangerous regardless of how serious Geri's injuries are. Management has formally extended its right to hit workers. Security and the police protect this right. They do not have to be paid off to do it. That is their job - to protect the private ownership of the hospital, mines and factories etc. at any cost to the workers. It is the capitalistic way that strips democracy from the workers, equality from women and national minorities and protection from brutality and injustice

If the workers' controlled the hospital, if we policed ourselves; if we made the laws what would we do? Fire Carl. Fire Miller. Enforce due process. Remove Kregar and suspend Patrolman Ward for not seeking justice. Under Capitalism right now, what do we do? We sue, press charges, file a grievance and wait months for results while harassment of activists increase, bribes are offered and collaborators are promoted. Socialism (the first case) where the working class makes decisions and carries them out in the interests of real equality and justice is what we must fight for, while we sue, grieve and continue to resist these fascist like attacks. Gestapo, concentration camp - these are the words people that work here are beginning to use to describe the situation. Yes it can happen but no it won't, if we unite. Build and join the Communist Labor Party that fights today and now and tomorrow with the goal of socialism.

We demand:

- Carl & Miller's job!
- prosecution with due process and a fair hearing
- that no worker ever be disciplined or arrested for responding in kind to a physical attack by supervision, security or the police!

UNION LEADER SUSPENDED!

Tuesday at 5:00 P.M., Rita was suspended for 4 hours. They used the excuse that she hadn't reported back to her work station between meetings (11:00 A.M. to 1:30 P.M.). She thought she'd been cleared all day. She was with the rest of the Grievance Committee in Conference Rm # 1 the whole time and management knew it! Yet they gave her and later Vernatta and Regina the third degree on their whereabouts. Rita ended up with a suspension. But what's the real deal?

The deal is that on Monday, the union met with the Medical Attendants to fight the layoffs. On Tuesday morning, the Grievance Committee met with Bannon, head of the Board of Directors and at 5:00 P.M. that same day, Rita's suspended. Bannon didn't like the unions demanding no layoffs no evaluations. His line is its "our attitudes", "the neighborhood", the foreigners" that is causing a loss in membership. But we know its Blue Cross' plan to eliminate real patient care and eventually the whole hospital.

Rita's suspension is an attack on all of us. The bourgeoisie's (ruling class) tactic has always been to attack and isolate leaders and fighters. The bourgeoisie has no understanding that the working class, hundreds and millions of us will continue to fight regardless. That the working people will rally to defend honest leaders and keep producing more leaders from its struggling heart. All the bombs, tortures and exploitations that Angolan miners; Vietnamese peasants; and Cuban field hands experienced did not stop them from achieving liberation. And it will not stop us - a great and patriotic working people of many nationalities right here in the USNA and down South in the seething colony of the Negro Nation. We can see clearly that the man intends FACISM here at home in order to go to war abroad.

Fight suspensions, layoffs, evaluations!
An attack on one is an attack on all!
Free the Negro Nation and all oppressed nations!

Layoffs Continue

Are layoffs a problem at Metro? Have you noticed anyone missing lately? Well, Metro does not exist apart from the rest of this city where unemployment continues to stay at record-breaking levels. Yes, layoffs are happening at Metro, too! Where?

Layoffs are hitting hardest in housekeeping and medical attendants right now. In housekeeping they are being threatened with the layoff of one person, yet, they are already working two short.

Medical attendants have continued to be hit with layoffs since the strike. At Metro West, some were not called back from the strike and at the Main three of the attendants called back were not called back as medical attendants. A couple of months ago three more attendants were laid off and now management has notified four more that will be going. That is ten people in one department, not to mention those at Metro West, and seniority for medical attendants is back to 1973!

The medical attendants have met and they have united to fight back together. 1) They will not accept any overtime; 2) They will not be sped-up; and 3) When they are called in for "counseling" by a supervisor, they will not go in without their union representative. The HEARTBEAT and all honest workers commend the medical attendants for this united stand!

Why are layoffs being experienced here and elsewhere? Because it is under capitalism that production is done for profit not for the needs of society. Productivity (the number of things produced in a given amount of time) is higher in industry than it has been for years and years. Since unemployment is also up and money, in general, has not been put into technical improvements in the plants and hospitals, speed-up is the method in which this rate of production has been increased. The result is not only health and safety accidents among workers, but overproduction (too many products on the market for the number of consumers).

The solution? For the capitalists, the only solution can be war! Why? Because war means a demand for a whole new group of products (war machines) and it also means the destruction of markets that already exist elsewhere which will have to be rebuilt, such as houses, roads, food, etc.

In the daily newspapers we can see the ruling class preparing for this already. Recently the Detroit Free Press ran a series of articles on the Soviet Union, attacking it as a militaristic state. There have also been continued attacks and threats on Cuba for its involvement in Angola. The Congress has voted more money to the military budget to purchase new bombers to replace the B-52's, yet, this new bomber has not even been completed or tested yet. Why are the capitalists preparing for war against the socialist countries?

Because, for workers, the only solution can be socialism. Under socialism there is no unemployment. There is full employment because production is planned to meet the needs of society. Because the workers, the majority who create all the wealth through their labor, are in control of the state apparatus. That means no more Rockefellers and Fords whose interests are only for the wealthy few at the top. Socialism means services, such as health care and education, that meet our needs, not drain our pockets.

It is again in this light that the HEARTBEAT puts forth the slogan -- JOBS WITH PEACE! Yes, unemployment is high and layoffs at Metro are on the rise, but no worker wants to go to war in order to get a job. We must continue to demand that jobs be created here at home at the expense of the military budget.

And here, within Metro, we must continue to fight back!

NO OVERTIME! --- NO SPEED-UP!
Demand Union Representation When "Counseled!"
Demand **JOBS WITH PEACE!**