

14 Charles Lane
New York, NY 10014

May 18, 1978

TO STEEL FRACTION HEADS, TRADE UNION DIRECTORS, AND ORGANIZERS

Dear Comrades,

1. After the Coal Strike

Solidarity with the national coal miners' strike became a central political focus for the steel fraction this past spring. We helped initiate and organize many successful support actions all across the country. These activities were a real aid to the miners. They also broadened our experience in the steel union and won respect for our comrades from many union activists.

Through the miners support activities the steel fraction has come in contact with workers who are potential Militant subscribers and recruits to the Socialist Workers Party. One of our top priorities now should be to follow up with systematic efforts to continue political discussions with these workers.

Fractions will want to draw up lists of workers met in the past couple of months and check for each of the following:

Does this person read the Militant? Does he or she have a subscription? If not, they should be encouraged to buy one.

Have they been invited to a party forum, discussion, or campaign event?

Did they read the special feature in the Militant on the meaning of the coal strike? If not, they should get it now-- it is just off the press as a Pathfinder pamphlet and will be arriving soon in branch bookstores. The coal pamphlet is intended to aid in contact work and we want to make a big effort to get it into the hands of steelworkers and other working people. In some areas it may be possible to organize informal get-togethers to discuss the pamphlet and the lessons of the coal strike.

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Whether we have one new contact or ten coming out of coal strike support work, what matters is that the fraction discuss, decide, and organize to "talk socialism" with them and bring them closer to the party.

2. July 9 ERA Action

The latest Party Organizer (Vol. 2, No. 3, May 1978) and recent issues of the Militant have explained why and how the party is mobilizing to support the July 9 March on Washington called by NOW for passage of the ERA and extension of the ERA ratification deadline.

Recent pro-ERA statements by George Meany and other top union officials (see "Women In Revolt" column in May 19 Militant), and Lloyd McBride's appearance together with NOW President Eleanor Smeal at a Pittsburgh Americans for Democratic Action dinner (see attached copy of Steel Labor article), underline the likelihood that July 9 can win very broad official union endorsement.

This action also has great potential for active union participation. The success of our Chicago fraction in helping to organize a steelworkers contingent in the April 29 ERA demonstration there can, we think, be repeated and extended. (See article in May 12 Militant by Carolyn Jasin describing how the contingent was organized. Attached: letter from District 31 Director James Balanoff and leaflet distributed by USWA Local 65.)

Local steel fractions should be discussing how they can best participate in our national campaign to support and build July 9. Among the possibilities are:

* Getting endorsements from civil rights or women's committees, from local unions, and from union officials;

* Passing local resolutions of support, including a financial contribution to help build the action;

* Getting the local union to print leaflets, post notices, publicize the action in its newspaper, etc.;

* Organizing steelworker contingents and union busses.

Progress in this work should be reported to the Militant for publication in a "July 9 Countdown" column that will appear beginning in the May 26 issue.

3. Marroquín Defense

Attached is a copy of the labor appeal for political asylum for Héctor Marroquín, along with a list of USWA local presidents and other union officials who have endorsed his defense. Obtaining further endorsements (on the endorser cards available from the Marroquín defense committee in your area) and signing up co-workers on petitions for asylum are first and foremost a way of helping to save Marroquín's life by blocking his deportation to Mexico. They are also an opportunity to discuss the plight of undocumented workers, how Washington backs repressive regimes around the world, and why both the U.S. and Mexican governments fear Marroquín's socialist ideas.

The petitioning effort and plant-gate rally for Marroquín at the Brooklyn Navy Yard (see April 14 Militant) set an example of audacious and well-organized campaigning in his defense and showed the potential response of industrial workers to his case.

4. SWP Election Campaigns

All across the country steelworkers and other union comrades are running for public office as SWP candidates. Their campaigns take up the big issues we want to discuss on the job and in the unions. They set a model of independent working-class political action.

During and since the coal strike, comrades have reported more discussions on the job about Carter's strikebreaking role and the government's antilabor policies. Our campaigns offer the best opportunity to address ourselves to this disillusionment with Carter, to explain the nature of the Democratic Party as a capitalist party, to discuss the kind of class-struggle program the unions need, and to explain our support for the idea of a mass labor party based on the unions.

In addition to discussing our campaigns with individual co-workers, fractions should be looking for opportunities (such as the "candidate night" events organized by some unions) to suggest that the union membership get a chance to hear all the candidates, including the socialist workers who are running.

5. USWA Convention

Delegates will be elected this summer for the USWA international convention, which begins September 18 in Atlantic City, New Jersey. In some areas union militants who have been active

in coal miners support, former Steelworkers Fight Back activists, etc., may be running for delegate.

Election procedures vary greatly from local to local. Often local officers choose themselves as delegates with barely the formality of a vote. Smaller locals are frequently unable to send any delegates at all and are pressured to surrender their credentials to a staff rep., depriving them of any real representation.

In discussing how we will relate to these elections, one necessary first step is to find out when and how they are being held, what the local officers plan to do, and who if anyone else plans to run. The international constitution and local by-laws should be reread. The April Steel Labor reports that McBride plans to enforce restrictive requirements for delegates (to be eligible, one must have attended at least one-half of regular union meetings for the past two years), even though the U.S. Supreme Court last year overturned similar requirements for electing union officers.

Whether any comrades should run for delegate is a tactical decision that must be made by the fraction in consultation with the branch or local leadership, based on the specific situation in each local union. Frank Lovell discussed some useful guidelines for union elections in a contribution to the SWP Discussion Bulletin, Vol. 34, No. 4, June 1976. It is worth rereading today.

The National Office should be kept informed of preconvention developments in each local area, including plans by any opposition forces to run.

6. Minutes

Although our steel fractions generally take minutes of their meetings, many do not regularly send them in to the National Office. Promptly sending in minutes is necessary for building an effective, nationwide fraction. Minutes provide the party center with regular information about the fraction's activities and discussions. Minutes also help make it possible to organize timely and lively Militant coverage.

It is preferable that the fraction secretary type the minutes (for readability and for copying), but we would rather receive handwritten minutes than none at all.

7. New Fractions

The steel fraction includes a growing number of comrades who are new to the industry and the USWA, and some who are new to the party. It will be helpful to review the material on steel printed in party bulletins last year: "Report on Steelworkers Fight Back and Party Perspectives in the U.S. Labor Movement," SWP Discussion Bulletin, Vol. 35, No. 2, June 1977; "Party Tasks and Perspectives in the Labor Movement," Internal Information Bulletin, No. 6 in 1977, September 1977; and "The Party's Work in Steel," Party Organizer, Vol. 1, No. 4, December 1977.

Studying the Afterword to Teamster Bureaucracy by Farrell Dobbs is useful to keep our day-to-day work in steel in the broader framework of our strategy for building a class-struggle left wing in the unions.

Comradely,



Andy Rose



Joel Britton
SWP National Office



April 10, 1978

TO: ALL ILLINOIS LOCAL UNION RECORDING SECY'S.
SUB-DISTRICT DIRECTORS
STAFF REPRESENTATIVES

On April 29 an Illinois March and Rally has been called to urge the State Legislature to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment. The vote is expected this Spring.

Only one year remains to gain the support of the three more states necessary to make the ERA a part of the U. S. Constitution. Illinois is a crucial state.

The April 29 event has been called by a broad coalition of community, labor, religious and women's organizations, as well as many prominent individuals.

Some of the supporters of the Rally include Region 4 of the United Auto Workers, United Steelworkers District 31, District Council 11 of the United Electrical Workers, Clara Day, International Vice-President of the Coalition of Labor Union Women, and the Illinois Federation of Teachers. Organization such as Operation PUSH, the National Council of Negro Women, the National Assembly of Religious Women, and the Chicago B'Nai B'rith Women are endorsers. Governor James Thompson, as well as many State legislators have called for support to the April 29 gathering.

No one has a greater stake in the passage of the ERA than the Labor movement. Almost every major trade union organization in this country is on record in support of the Equal Rights Amendment, including our International and the AFL-CIO ... and with good reason.

Today, approximately 42% of the American work force are women. An increasingly large percentage of our own union members are women. The ERA will make it unconstitutional to discriminate against women on the job.

It will mean that denial of social security and other government benefits to the families of employed women is illegal.

The Equal Rights Amendment will outlaw discrimination against pregnant working women who are denied government benefits such as unemployment compensation and temporary disability payments.

The passage of the Equal Rights Amendment will not only benefit working women, but will also strengthen the labor movement in fighting for fair treatment and decent conditions for all working people.

I urge you to join in supporting this Rally, to pass resolutions of endorsement in your local, and to encourage our membership to participate in the Labor Contingent.

Enclosed is a leaflet with specific details.

Fraternally,

James Balanoff
James Balanoff, Director
USWA - District No. 31

JJ:mas
Enclosure

RALLY FOR THE ERA

SAT. APRIL 29-CHICAGO

12:30 - ASSEMBLE AT STATE & WACKER
1:00 - MARCH, 2:00 - RALLY - DALEY CNTR.

Local 65 of the United Steelworkers voted to add its support to the April 29th rally for the E.R.A. The rally has been endorsed by a broad coalition of labor, community, religious and women's groups.

WHY IS THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT IMPORTANT FOR WORKING PEOPLE?

- The E.R.A. will prohibit discrimination against women in government jobs and will provide strong backing for laws against discrimination and for job equality in private industry, such as U.S. Steel.
- Women are half the work force. Most working women provide a lot or all of their family's income. Job equality means they will be better able to support themselves and their families.
- The E.R.A. will end discrimination against pregnant working women which denies them such government benefits as temporary disability pay when they can't work.
- The E.R.A. means that the families of working women will receive equal social security benefits.
- For men, job equality means a better family income if your wife works and a better life for your family if something happens to you.
- The E.R.A. is a fight for equality. It's passage can only strengthen the labor movement in fighting for fair treatment and better conditions for all working people.

**JOIN LOCAL 65's CONTINGENT...
BUS WILL LEAVE AT 10:30 FROM
LOCAL 65 HALL, 9350 S. CHICAGO**

FOR INFORMATION CALL:

PAT CECIL: 374-3497

TONI STERLING: 487-7055

UNION HALL: 731-6500

(Reprinted from Steel Labor, April 1978)

Far right has targeted labor and women's movement: McBride to ADA

Pittsburgh, Pa.—The far right is out to destroy American labor and has also targeted the women's movement and this could have "dire consequences" for the United States if it succeeds, USWA President McBride warned the 30th annual Roosevelt Day dinner of the Western Pennsylvania Chapter of Americans for Democratic Action (ADA).

Mr. McBride, the principal speaker at the ADA dinner honoring the memory of President Franklin D. Roosevelt, pointed out that "basically only two countries in the industrial world—the U.S. and Canada—have a stated national policy in favor of collective bargaining for workers.

"The continued opposition of the far right and large multinational corporations against our stated policy could have dire consequences because if it succeeds it would remove the system of checks and balances from our industrial system and could produce the same conditions that were largely responsible for the Great Depression," McBride stated. "I would not be surprised if such conditions would cause a revolution."

Mr. McBride said the forces of the extreme right are taking a "dangerous gamble" by their continued attacks on the labor movement, as well as the feminist and civil rights movements.

THE USWA PRESIDENT RECALLED the relationship between the ADA and the labor movement "in the early days when we were applauded and condemned together. Where the labor movement

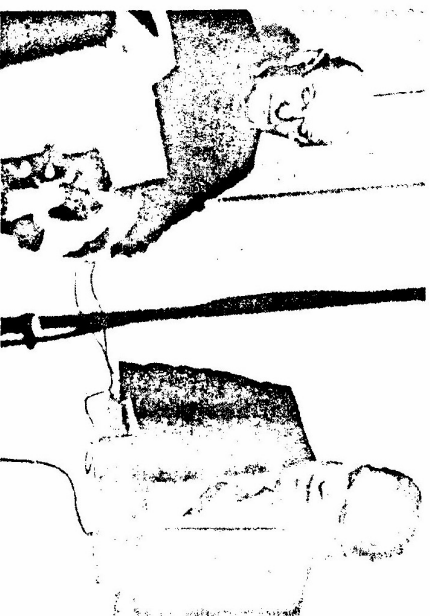
was applauded, the ADA was discussed with pride. Where it was popular to condemn the labor movement, it was popular to condemn the ADA.

"For many years, the labor movement and the ADA marched together to the same tune and maybe that day will come again," Mr. McBride said. He noted that the labor movement and the ADA "agree on many things and have much in common" and have supported the same legislation in the areas of tax reform, national health insurance, women's and minority rights, full employment, labor law reform, and fighting poverty and inequities in our society.

Eleanor Smeal, president of the National Organization of Women (NOW), was the honored guest at the dinner, and McBride pointed out that NOW also supported the campaigns for labor law reform and full employment. Mr. McBride said the labor movement needed help on the labor law reform bill "now more than ever because it faces a filibuster in the Senate and because anti-labor forces have mounted a gigantic letter-writing effort to defeat it."

"Anti-labor forces have even sent letters to senators bearing the names and addresses of our members and local union officers," Mr. McBride said. "We know this is true because our people have received thank you replies from senators for their letter allegedly opposing labor law reform. This tactic could evolve into a national scandal."

Ms. Smeal also warned that the "old right is back again" and said it was not only anti-labor but anti-feminist. She said that the states that have ratified the Equal Right Amendment are basically the "right-to-work" states and added that if women do not achieve constitutional equality this year and within the first three months of next year, "our cause will have lost."



USWA President McBride at press conference with Msgr. Charles Owen Rice, president of the Pittsburgh chapter of Americans for Democratic Action and a veteran of early Steelworker organizing campaigns.

Héctor Marroquín Defense Committee
853 Broadway, Room 414, New York, New York 10003
(212) 254-6135

LABOR ENDORSERS OF MARROQUIN'S APPEAL FOR ASYLUM

George Alvarez-Bouse, Delegate, United Federation of Teachers, NYC
Norma Amedee, Delegate, 1199 Drug and Hospital Workers Union, NYC
Robert Arnowe, President, American Federation of Teachers Local 2254, Indiana
Leonard Barker, President, United Steelworkers Local 2584, Pittsburgh
Henry Bayer, Director, Council 101, AFSCME, Illinois
Kirk Bigelow, 3rd Vice President, AFGE, NYC
Marcos Calderon, Chief Steward, IUE Local 780, San Antonio
Pete Camarata, Teamsters for a Democratic Union
Jesus Manuel Cintron, Delegate, 1199 Drug and Hospital Workers Union, NYC
James T. Cleary, Representative, ACTWU, Madison
Howard Deck, President, AFSCME Local 590, Philadelphia
Armengol Domenech, United Furniture Workers Local 140, NYC
Stephen P. Consor, Delegate, United Federation of Teachers, NYC
Percy Edmond, Recording Secretary, USWA Local 150, San Francisco
Michael Flug, Secretary-Treasurer, AFSCME Local 836C, Detroit
Earl Gilman, President, Service Employees International Union Local 535, SF
Patrick Gorman, Chairman of the Board, Amalgamated Meat Cutters and
Butcher Workmen of North America
Fabian Greenwell, President, OCAW Local 4-16000, Baytown, Texas
Peta Henderson, President, Evergreen State Col. Federation of Teachers, Wash.
Leamon Hood, International Union Area Director, AFSCME, Atlanta
Harry Ibsen, President, Communications Workers of America Local 9415, Oakland
Walter Johnson, President, Dept. Store Employees Union, Retail Clerks
International Assoc., San Francisco
Gary Kapanowski, Chairman, Temple University AFSCME
Michael Kozak, Floor Representative, CSEA Local 687, Albany
Daniel J. Kuschke, Executive Board member, Hotel-Restaurant Workers Local 17, Minn.
Charles Leonard, President, USWA Local 7097, Pittsburgh
Max Liberles, President, Illinois Union of Social Service Employees Local 2000, Detroit
Joe Klostermann, Business Agent, Laborers Union Local 89, California
Ray Markey, Executive Board member, N.Y. Public Library Guild Local 1930, AFSCME, NYC
Joe Norris, President, IUE Local 1013, San Antonio
William Onasch, President, UE Local 1139, Minn.
Antonio Orendain, Director, Texas Farmworkers Union
Michael D. Parrish, President, I.B.T. Local 265, San Francisco
Sergio Ponce, Organizer, I.B.T., Houston
John Perko, President, USWA Local 6115, Inland Steel, Virginia
Rudy Rodriguez, President, IUE Local 780, San Antonio
Robert Simcox, Secretary-Treasurer, Chauffeurs Union Local 265, Teamsters, SF
Terri Snell, International Representative, AFSCME, Phoenix
Walter Snyder, Vice-President, CSEA Local 654, Albany
Joseph Sperling, Vice-President, District Council 37, AFSCME, NYC

partial listing
organizations for purposes of identification only

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853 Broadway, Room 414, New York, New York 10003
(212) 254-6135

Text and signers of labor appeal

We support the appeal for political asylum by Héctor Marroquín, a fellow trade unionist who faces deportation to Mexico where he fears he would be jailed, tortured, and possibly killed.

As a student in the early 1970s, Héctor Marroquín incurred the wrath of the Mexican government for helping to organize peaceful, massive marches in favor of democratic rights and university autonomy. He was falsely accused by the police of murder, assault and "subversion." He was then tried and convicted in the Mexican press and forced to flee for his life. In 1974 he came to this country as a political refugee without papers.

In 1977 Héctor Marroquín participated in a successful organizing drive for Local 949 of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters at the Houston Coca-Cola bottling plant where he worked. He is known in Houston's Latino community as an activist in the movement against racism and as a member of the Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialist Alliance.

We are concerned that Héctor Marroquín not be deported by our government to Mexico where he would be victimized. Although we do not necessarily agree with his political views, the labor movement must stand four-square behind victims of government repression and injustice. We appeal to all trade unionists to come to the defense of Héctor Marroquín.

An injury to one is an injury to all! **Leonard Barker**, president, United Steelworkers Local 2584, Pittsburgh; **Henry Bayer**, director, Council 101, American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, Illinois; **Pete Camarata**, Teamsters for a Democratic Union; **Percy Edmond**, recording secretary, USWA Local 50, San Francisco; **Michael Flug**, secretary-treasurer, AFSCME Local 836C, Detroit; **Earl Gilman**, president, Service Employees International Union Local 535, San Francisco; **Patrick G. Gorman**, chairman of the board, Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmen of North America; **Harry Ibsen**, president, Communications Workers of America Local 9415, Oakland; **Walter Johnson**, president,

Department Store Employees Union Local 1100, San Francisco; **Charles Leonard**, president, USWA Local 7097, Pittsburgh; **Max Liberles**, president, Illinois Union of Social Service Employees Local 2000, AFSCME; **David McCullough**, vice-president, United Auto Workers Local 869, Detroit; **John Perko**, president, USWA Local 6115, Inland Steel, Virginia, Minnesota; **Joseph Sperling**, vice-president, District Council 37, AFSCME, president Local 371, New York City.

Unions listed for identification purposes only.



Patrick Gorman, chairman of the board of Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmen of North America.