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PORTUGAL



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GET THE U.S. OUT OF SOUTH AFRICA



The truth about South Africa has been revealed by the South African prime minister Vorster.

With a single decree he banned two newspapers and every black organization in the country—from the Soweto Students Representative Committee right throughout to the Christian Institute.

At the same time, it is now absolutely clear that Steve Biko, the student leader who died in prison, was murdered. His autopsy showed massive concussions on his head.

For years we were told by newspapers and politicians in this country that given time, South Africa would gradually move towards greater rights for the black population.

Now Vorster has declared that there will never be any possibility of black people enjoying equality with whites in South Africa.

Even those who have in the past preached non-violence to the black majority now admit that "there can be no peaceful change."

But that only leaves one alternative—full support for those prepared to use any means, including armed struggle, in the fight to overthrow the South African reich.

Here, in the United States, we can support that struggle by fighting to get US imperialism out of all of Southern Africa—no arms, no trade, no investment, no loans. No support to the racist regimes! □

ESSEX STRIKER BEATEN

"Next time, I'll be prepared"

ELWOOD, IND—Georgia Ellis, of UAW Local 1663, is the elected spokesperson for the strikers at Essex Wire in Elwood, Indiana.

She is tireless in her efforts to get the word of the strike to Essex plants elsewhere and to all who might sympathize with the cause of the two hundred Elwood strikers, who are predominantly women.

On the morning of Oct. 12, Ellis was attacked and brutally beaten by a man who had entered her home. She was badly bruised, her cheekbone was cracked, and quantities of her hair were pulled out.

Despite the toll taken on her slight frame by the attack, Ellis, who is a grandmother, was soon back at her job spreading the news about the strike.

"The next time somebody comes in," Ellis said, "I'll be prepared."

ESSEX

According to Ellis, the man was not one she recognized as being from the rural Elwood community. Essex has been using out of town scabs and out of town goons in the course of the strike, which began in April.

Still the local police denied that there was any evidence of a connection with Essex, and the company issued a pious declaration denying its involvement and pronouncing the assailant a sick man.

For some time now, Ellis has received calls that have threatened her with breaking her fingers so she cannot write and breaking her jaw so that she cannot talk.

But the coward who lined his pockets by carrying out these threats has only succeeded in strengthening the determination of Local 1663 to win the strike. □



Georgia Ellis

“The court’s message is clear: don’t be honest, don’t be open”

On October 3, the U.S. Supreme Court refused to hear the appeal of Jim Gaylord, a teacher with 13 years experience, who was fired five years ago by the Tacoma, WA., School District.

His crime was that he acknowledged being a homosexual when asked by a school official. Although he was unaware of an anti-gay teacher policy, and though the School District maintains that there is no such policy, the only grounds given for his firing were his admission that he was a homosexual and the District allegation that such status constituted “immorality.” This was a “public status incompatible with the conduct required of teachers in the district.”

Gaylord appealed to the Washington State Supreme Court which upheld his firing on the basis that homosexuality is “immoral” based in part on the 1967 Roman Catholic encyclopedia definition.

Gaylord said he was “both angry and disappointed with the Supreme Court’s decision not to hear the case. “The Supreme Court, by declining to hear this appeal, has said that the fundamental human and civil rights of a large segment of the American population are not important enough to be defended and protected by our highest judicial body. It is a blow not only to gays, but to every minority group.”

Here Diane Eggleston interviews Jim Gaylord for *Socialist Worker*. □



Jim Gaylord

“The Supreme Court didn’t make any statement. But, by rejecting my case they didn’t actually put a stamp of approval on what the State Court had done, although they have allowed the Washington State Supreme Court decision to stand.

I was very disturbed, since in fact the Court’s message to gay teachers is clear: Don’t be honest; don’t be open; don’t imagine that you have the rights that all citizens are supposed to have. It is not a matter which affects only me personally; it affects millions of gay men and women across the country.

I think the U.S. Supreme Court has taken only one gay case and that one was in 1967, involving immigration. In the last few years they have declined to take four gay teacher cases, letting stand two that were quite unfavorable, mine being the worst of the bunch.

This was particularly frustrating to me, because mine in many ways was an ideal test case. The School District handled my firing so badly, blundered on so many counts, that if ever there was a clear case for reinstatement, this was the one.

I didn’t know that the Tacoma School District had an

anti-gay teacher policy. As a matter of fact, to this day they contend that they don’t have a generalized policy.

Yet in the trial in September of ’73, we found out that they had, in fact, fired maybe half a dozen or a dozen others in several previous years, on grounds of sexual conduct or misconduct. I happen to be the first fired for status.

POLICY

If they can fire you for conduct and they can fire you for status, I don’t know how they can contend they don’t have an anti-gay teacher policy. I have tried to lead a very quiet life.

I still hope to. I’ve always led a very discreet life. But talk about a “Catch 22” situation: the School District used my discretion as proof that I knew that it was immoral to be gay and that I would be fired if anyone found out about it.

Then at the same time they maintained that they didn’t have an anti-gay policy, and they fired me for the immorality of being a publicly known homosexual.

So if you keep it a secret, or you try to, you’re proving it’s immoral. But if you’re open about it, that’s immoral, too.

They expect that gay teachers would come out of the closet and go on stage in front of thousands! But what do they do, but the one thing that insures that I will become a “publicly-known homosexual” which is fire me. And then force me to sue to get my job back.

CONSCIOUS

The whole thing flabbergasted me. I taught American Government, I consider myself intensely middle class, and here I’m getting screwed over by American government and the middle class!

It’s made me more conscious of this type of thing and, yes, I guess I’ve had some contact with people who’ve had that experience. I’m sure you realize that the gay movement is not all that united: there’s the conservative wing and the radical wing. I consider myself a conservative, but at least I’ve had a great deal more contact with the radical. I’ve become more appreciative of their point of view, not that I’m there by any means.

The conservative wing tends to focus on the gay rights issue, where the more radical element emphasizes the importance of all minorities working together to eliminate injustice.

I’m not willing to say that all gay libbers must become more active in all these liberation movements, but I am more aware of the importance of these other movements.

Until the most recent stage in this whole thing the overwhelming bulk of support came from my straight friends and my fellow teachers and the union. It was the union (AFT) that paid the legal costs of two trips to the State Supreme Court and provided me with jobs. It was teachers and former students who offered to testify.

It wasn’t really until this year that there’s been much attention from the gay community...but that was part of the legal strategy. I was focusing primarily on the teacher issue that just happened to involve a gay teacher.

STAND

I hope that some gay teachers, at least, will be willing to take a public stand. I’m not encouraging everyone to by any means; that’s basically a decision that every teacher has to make for himself: how open to be about their gayness.

On the other hand I feel that it’s important for everyone, for every gay teacher, to become active in the equal rights movement in some way. It doesn’t have to be a public sort of thing.

You should join some organization that is working for this kind of equality, whether it be the Dorian Group in Seattle, the National Gay Task Force, or whatever. If you don’t stand up for your rights, then they’ll be taken away from you.

Of course, they may get taken away anyway, even if you do fight for them. But you stand a much greater chance of losing your rights if you don’t start to fight for them.”



Demanding independence for Puerto Rico nationalists seized the Statue of Liberty

It's hypocrisy- South Africa will get the guns



Andrew Young

By MICHAEL LETWIN

The Carter/Young promise of support for a six month UN arms embargo against South Africa announced Oct. 27th is a farce.

The US claims it had a "voluntary" arms embargo on the white racist regime since 1963. However the US has vetoed proposed UN arms embargoes numerous times, most recently in 1975.

Most important, however, is that there has never been a real American arms embargo on South Africa. Through a series of tricks, the US government has devised means to get arms to the racist regime.

NON-MILITARY

The most obvious example of American support for the South African regime has been supplying military equipment while pretending that it's not military at all.

An example of this is the possession by the South African military of at least seven C-130 military transport planes, shipped directly from the US to South Africa, supposedly as non-military equipment.

The C-130 is a transport aircraft specially designed for the shipments of troops and military material.

It was the mainstay of American military transport in Vietnam, where it was also used extensively as a gunship for point-blank "counter-insurgency."

In addition, the US allows the sale of civilian Cessna and Piper Cub light aircraft which form the backbone of the South African government's all-white "Air Commandos," a component of the vast volunteer military forces designed to be used for

reconnaissance in cooperation with ground forces in repressing black uprisings.

One military expert put it this way—"Without these aircraft, the helicopter, Cessna and Dakota, problems of supplies and communications would be insurmountable."

American police equipment is also termed "non-military" by the US government, and as a result, the South African police are equipped with some of the most advanced "crowd control" equipment in the world.

This equipment has played a key role in the murder of thousands of black South Africans in the past few years.

Most significantly, the US provides heavy military equipment to South Africa by selling licenses to Western European allies to produce military equipment, who in turn provide it directly to South Africa.

For example, the Ford Motor Company has licensed Oto Melara, a major Italian arms manufacturer, to produce a version of the M-113A1 armed personnel carrier, which is then sold to South Africa.

Meanwhile, Bavia, a Portuguese firm, is producing the V-150 Commando personnel carrier under license from Cadillac Gage of Detroit. The Commandos, like other US weapons produced under license, were in the process of being delivered to South Africa earlier this year. No attempt has been made to stop them.

U.S. investments in South Africa

Over 360 U.S. Corporations have invested over 1.5 billion dollars in South Africa.

Who are these companies? The list reads like Fortune magazine's top 100 corporations. General Motors, US Steel, Coca Cola, Pepsi Cola, Gulf and Western, General Electric, IIT, Texaco, Standard Oil of California to name a few.

The Ford Motor Company, which began investing in South Africa in 1924, has investments of over \$63 million.

Mining is central to the

South African Economy. In 1975 Kennecott Copper announced its first investment of \$120 million to develop Titanium. Kennecott only had to provide 39% of the capital. The South African government provided the rest. According to the South African government, "the main use of Titanium metal is in the manufacture of aircraft engines and their bodies."

Caltex Oil has expanded its investment in South Africa. Caltex claims 21% of the South African market in the refining of crude oil, with a

reported investment of \$34 million.

The expansion of Caltex's investments has not led to increased employment for Blacks. In the ten years Caltex has been in South Africa, it has cut in half its Black workforce, while white employment has increased.

The United States is the largest single supplier to South Africa, responsible for about 16% of its total \$8.58 billion in imports. Boeing captured the largest single sale with \$185 million worth of 747 jets.

The other side of US trade with South Africa is exports. Last year this amounted to \$1.35 billion.

US banks and their overseas branches are now involved in South Africa to an extent of almost \$2 billion. \$672 in short term loans. \$181 million in long term loans and \$1.108 billion in loans from overseas branches of US principles.

Banks involved include Citibank of New York, Chase Manhattan, Manufacturers Hanover, Morgan Guarantee and the Bank of America. □

WHAT WE THINK SOCIALIST WORKER

The 'embargo' is a fraud

The arms embargo is a fraud. It's as plain as that.

The fact is that Jimmy Carter and Andrew Young are simply a little embarrassed by the sheer naked brutality of their allies in the South African government.

They are also afraid of the power of the growing black movement in South Africa—and in Zimbabwe (Rhodesia). They are afraid that if the white rulers of South Africa go "too far," the prospects of real black rule in Southern Africa will actually be increased.

So now they are attempting to "moderate" the racists in Pretoria. They think that they can do this by applying a little pressure—this time in the form of threatening the supply of arms to South Africa.

CONCERN

Their major concern is maintaining the regime in South Africa—a regime which they believe is the new Gibraltar of western military power as well as the rock of capitalism in Africa.

Andrew Young calls capitalism "the free market system." In May, he put it this way to an assemblage of Johannesburg businessmen (all white):

"My argument boils down to my conviction that the free market system can be the greatest force for constructive change now operating in the world.

"The most successful transformation of society can come not from some fiery ideologue's doctrine, or even from the force of arms, but rather from advancing technology and organization for the production of goods and materials."

No wonder Vorster does not take this man seriously.

The Republic of South Africa is the most advanced nation in all of Africa. It far and away leads in technology and in goods

and production. It is totally the product of the free market system, and it is thoroughly integrated into world capitalism.

South Africa is backed up by western imperialism and without this support, military and economic, it could not survive. The "limited" arms embargo does nothing at all to change this.

It is also one of the most vicious, reactionary regimes ever constructed anywhere. The truth is that in South Africa apartheid and the "free market system" were built simultaneously. One is impossible without the other.

This is why we believe that there is no way to reform the system in South Africa. We also believe that this is what the masses of black people in South Africa are learning today in their heroic resistance to the avalanche of government repression.

SUPPORT

Therefore, we unconditionally support the freedom fighters in all of Southern Africa—in Namibia, and in Zimbabwe, as well as in South Africa, for we unconditionally support the liberation of the black masses of Africa from these racist regimes.

At the same time, South Africa is a modern capitalist state. Neither black liberation nor socialist revolution will be achieved on the basis of guerrilla war—urban or rural.

It is the black working class which is the key to future developments. They can take the wealth and power of South Africa in their hands, and they have the capacity to transform it into black power and socialism. The two are inseparable.

In the last analysis it will be their fighting capacity, including their ability to organize a revolutionary socialist workers party, that will decide the fate of Southern Africa.

US out of Southern Africa!

Victory to the Freedom Fighters! □

SECRET

American arms also reach South Africa through secret "transshipment," which simply means addressing arms to one country which then secretly ships them to South Africa or Rhodesia. There is almost no way to keep track of such practices because of the tight security surrounding all military equipment.

The South African Air Force has 40 Lockheed F-104G Starfighter fighter/bombers provided by the US through the West German Air Force.

Israeli arms also are provided in massive amounts, and these are built with technology gained from the US through NATO, and other military arrangements.

It is because of all this that South African Defense Minister Botha could reply casually to Carter's announcement of his support for a UN arms embargo on South Africa:

SELF-SUFFICIENT

"We are self-sufficient enough, without any great effort, to fight any non-conventional war against us, and with a special effort, we can sustain anything of a conventional nature they can throw against us, on a limited scale." □

300 rally for Essex strikers

ELWOOD, IND—Three hundred people turned out to support the striking Essex Wire workers of UAW Local 1663 in Elwood, Indiana, on October 16.

The supporters drove their cars past the Essex plant and through the town of 12,000. Townspeople came out as the cars passed by to give a victory sign with their fingers. Some of the cars carried signs expressing support from several nearby UAW locals.

Others carried signs demanding an end to company violence.

Georgia Ellis, of Local 1663, who had been beaten the previous week, spoke to the supporters at a rally after the caravan, about her determination to keep fighting. A former employee of a Cleveland Essex plant described the anti-labor practices the company used there.

A UAW official had words of praise for the strikers

in face of the violence employed by the company. But the UAW has not mobilized its considerable power to win this important strike against indent wages and working conditions.

REJECTED

The strikers recently rejected a company offer which did not guarantee a return of all the strikers. The caravan and the rally make clear to the company that, despite pressure from the UAW to settle

for less, these people will only go back together.

A maintenance man from the plant said, "I don't think Essex had any idea that these people would fight like we are and obtain the support we've gotten throughout the nation."

And then he added, "The laws favor the big corporations. The working man doesn't really have the right to negotiate under the present system." □

New England GM workers fight over-time

FRAMINGHAM, MA—On Tuesday, October 25, workers on the second shift at the Framingham GM plant refused to work overtime.

The line time was posted as 2 am as usual. But since the second shift was rehired in October, 1976, there had not been overtime beyond 9 hours.

On this night, however, the foreman told workers on the break the bad news—that the line time would be 2:30 am.

RESPONSE

Workers in the plant had the same response throughout all the departments—"To hell with this."

Some workers used their breaks to get copies of the contract, and to tell other workers that the contract states that any overtime over 9 hours is voluntary.

Talk ran through the plant of walking out at 2 am. Picking up rumors, the foremen tried to put a damper on things, saying, "You're not really going to walk out, are you?"

But when 2 am came, much to the surprise of management, 10 to 20% of the shift said, "Okay, let's go!" They calmly walked off the shop floor past supervisors who took down the names of those who left.

The line closed down at 2:12 am. Those who walked out had won their right to refuse overtime. Those who stayed in the plant for the most part sympathized with the walkout but fearing reprisals decided to stay.

The next night workers were congratulating each other. Some who did not walk out gave the "V" sign to those who had. Most of those who walked out were women and blacks.

Management has harassed some of the workers who walked out, but there have been no firings.

RETALIATION

The major retaliation for the walkout was to force the second shift to work five hours on Saturday, which is permitted by the contract.

The first shift too has been refusing overtime and also had a walkout in the same week.

Besides giving workers a feeling of solidarity, the walkout has given the workers more confidence to file grievances as well as to refuse any future overtime.

78's, that is grievances against speed-up, are being filed in both shifts throughout the plant. Since change over, line speed has gone from 42 to 57 cars per hour. There is even some talk about a strike if these grievances are not settled soon. □

Talking about socialism...

We rely on the power of the working class

The latest German hijack came to an abrupt end on Tuesday morning, October 18.

But the implications will worry people for a lot longer—in particular, the implications of the deaths immediately afterwards in a West German jail of three of the hijackers' alleged colleagues.

The authorities claimed they had "committed suicide," two of them by shooting themselves.

But the three were held in the strictest possible security, denied access even to lawyers.

It would seem impossible for them to have had weapons or even a means of hanging themselves.

One can only conclude that they were murdered.

The press has referred to the hijackers, and their colleagues who kidnapped the industrialist Hans Martin Schleyer, as "left wingers." They called themselves the "red army faction."

But in reality their methods were quite different to those which socialists use and argue for.

The red army faction originated in the disgust felt by large numbers of people at the horrors and hypocrisy of those who run society.

REASON

The reason for this is simple. Many of those who today dominate industry, the armed forces, the police, the newspapers in Germany, started their careers as enthusiastic servants of Hitler's Third Reich.

Schleyer, boss of the German Employers Federation, for whom we are supposed to weep, showed his "commitment to freedom" by his friendship with the Nazi Goebbels and by playing a leading role in the Nazification of the German universities in 1936.

He served three years in prison for war crimes in the



The hijacked German jet

late 1940s.

In recent years, such people have excelled themselves by banning from most state jobs, such as teaching, those they define as "subversives"—which means anyone who has vaguely left-wing socialist ideals.

Again and again in the last ten years, they have unleashed armed police against left wing demonstrations, causing several deaths.

They have also helped provide South Africa with the means of manufacturing atomic weapons.

However, the disgust felt by Baader, Meinhoff and their friends did not develop in a socialist direction. Instead of seeing the answer to the problems of society in the collective action of the workers who make up the majority of society, they believed a few courageous acts of their own could do the job.

But for every industrialist they kidnapped, there were ten thousand prepared to take his place. The kidnappings only served to turn unpleasant ex-Nazis into public heroes.

The heads of the police found all the public support they needed for ever more repressive measures, not only against the kidnappers and hijackers, but against anyone wanting to change society.

There was a rising toll of arrests, jail sentences and judicial murders of those alleged to be "terrorists." The hijackers and kidnappers felt that to defend their friends they had to use ever more desperate measures.

The culmination was the threat to blow up the aircraft full of vacationers—a horrific threat opposed to everything that socialists have ever stood for.

Of course, socialists believe that force is necessary on occasions. So does anyone who takes part in any political action, left, right or center.

PROVIDE

It ill becomes governments who manufacture napalm, who boast of their paratroop regiments, who provide nuclear know-how to South Africa and are moving towards neutron bombs, to claim otherwise.

But the force we support is that which working class organizations have to use to deal with those who would violently smash their struggles—the force needed to stop Nazi incitement to racial murder, the force needed to prevent strike-breaking, the force needed eventually to prevent a small privileged minority thwarting the efforts of the majority of workers to bring about socialist change.

Such force will involve neither hijacking nor kidnappings, nor the threat to blow up plane-loads of ordinary people. □

BOEING

17,000 ON STRIKE

A report from Michelle Celarier of the Northwest Passage

If they knew they had security, they wouldn't work; and, anyway, an employer in a free enterprise system has to be able to get the best for the least. If one worker is being inefficient, you have to be allowed to get rid of him... Management's job is to show a profit.

William Allen,
former Boeing President

With Boeing's profits presently the highest in its 67-year history, it didn't take long (20 minutes to be exact) for an overwhelming majority of its production workers, members of the International Association of Machinists (IAM), to vote "strike" on Oct. 3.

Three weeks into the strike, with no concessions from the company, workers at strike

headquarters were standing strong, saying "We'll take it to the finish." In its first of three strikes 31 years ago, the union lost its union shop and demands for seniority.

Those issues are still at the bargaining table, as well as increases in an inadequate pension plan and a 10% wage hike. As 24-year Boeing veteran Sarah Infelise said, "If we don't get a good contract this year, we never will."

It's the first time in 12 years that Boeing workers have struck. It's also the first strike since the Boeing lay-offs of 1969-72 cut a workforce of over 100,000 by 70,000 with disastrous effects on the Seattle economy and the strength of the union.

Now employment has been cut back to 54,000, 17,000 of whom are members of the striking IAM. A predomi-

nantly white male union, it includes workers in all phases of production work, with varying levels of skills and 11 pay grades, averaging \$7/hr.

Four thousand machinists at Boeing plants elsewhere in the country are on strike, as well as 15,000 IAM members at three Lockheed plants in California, another major aerospace firm.

In spite of Boeing's record profits, the company no longer maintains the stranglehold with which it once gripped Seattle. Its immense lay-offs caused unemployment to soar and created a rather dreary slogan for what was then a company city: "Will the last one to leave Seattle please turn off the lights?"

STRAPPED

More important than Boeing's lessened impact on

the economy is the fact that its workers no longer feel so strapped by the company. The stranglehold has lessened on them too.

More job security than they've had since the lay-offs and a great deal of anger over Boeing's treatment of its employees over the years is a combination which could lead to a very effective strike. Quite simply, the workers see Boeing's economic security and are demanding a share of it.

"We've been talking strike ever since the last contract," says Jerry Shreve, vice president of the local and a 20-year employee of Boeing. Workers were initially dissatisfied with that contract, he says, although they did get a substantial wage increase, the first in six years.

Though no one expects Boeing's employment to reach the heights it maintained during the military expansion of the 60s, with Vietnam and the space program propping it, the company itself is sitting pretty. The second largest defense contractor in the nation, it accrued \$1.3 billion in orders for the Department of Defense in 1976, with the Air Force its largest single contractor.

MILITARY

The Boeing Company originated in 1916. But it took World War II to develop its potential and the ensuing cold war to maintain its position in the military-industrial complex. It has designed space systems for NASA, the Minuteman ICBM (Inter-Continental Missile), B-52 bombers and was in the preliminary stages of designing avionics for the B-1 bomber before that was canceled this summer. (Boeing still has hopes for the Cruise Missile contract.) Although the B-1 cancellation deprived the company of a potential \$20-30 billion, it still made \$200 million more in 1976 than ever before, reaching at that time a record of \$3,919 million in sales.

by Pat Morgan



Boeing field in Seattle, Washington



Charles Rice—Boeing striker

Boeing negotiator Pete Bush states the company's position on the strike issues bluntly: "Our position is simple; we want to be able to manage the company."

IAM district vice president Shreve, who recalls being "next in line to go" during the massive lay-offs, calls the company downgrading system "disgusting." They could do it again at any time," he says, making the observation that in terms of employment, "aerospace is a declining industry."

The spectre of lay-offs may hover over the workers, but one issue which has become of major importance in negotiations this year is the pension plan. A large percentage of Boeing's present workers are those who have lasted through the lay-offs, who have many years of seniority. In five years, 20% of the workforce is expected to retire; in 8 years, it is expected to be 60%.

"Who wants to work all their lives and retire to poverty?" asks Shreve. □

GIANT TAX BREAKS

Carter's made a promise to the steel barons

GARY, IN—The protectionist alliance of the United Steelworkers Union and the steel industry put its case to the Carter Administration in October.

In return the steel industry received a promise to enforce the anti-dumping laws against Japanese and European steel.

The USW officials got nothing at all. Now they must go home and face mill shutdowns and unemployment levels of 60,000—and a hard time from the steel companies.

Lloyd McBride, president of the USW, has committed the union to a position of favoring import quotas.

Before the meeting with Carter, McBride spoke against mere enforcement of the anti-dumping laws saying, "The problem with the wheels of justice is that they grind so slowly."

McBride must have been

surprised when the chairman of U.S. Steel and head of the American Iron and Steel Institute Edgar Speer expressed satisfaction with the administration's stance.

CONTENT

The steel barons are content for the moment with filing dumping complaints against foreign steel. But this situation will not last.

The Carter administration has promised a comprehensive steel policy and the companies are playing the waiting game for bigger stakes than the immediate relief from foreign competition which quotas would get them.

What the steel industry is expecting is a gigantic tax break either in the form of investment credit or accelerated depreciation allowances. It is also possible that the administration will relax anti-

trust laws.

These steps will make it possible for the steel industry to build new plants and eliminate older inefficient mills and in the process reduce the number of jobs in the steel industry.

First the Abel and now the McBride administrations in the USW have played along with the steel companies. Their reward is unemployment and a tougher line from the companies in negotiations.

While McBride is in Washington presenting the industry's position on imports, USW members in the Mesabi Iron Range are on strike for the third month.

And now steelworkers laid off in the recent mill closings have been denied pension benefits by the same companies their union is going to bat for. □

POOR LITTLE RICH BOY

Before Mark Miles entered college this year, he had a small problem. He had to get rid of his car. So burdensome were the responsibilities of the car that Mark, at age 19, was developing ulcers. The "problem" car, though, happens to be a \$100,000 gold plated Cadillac.

The restored 1931 Fleetwood convertible coupe was covered with 23-carat gold inside and out, upholstered in white leather with mink carpeting and has silver-plated door handles. The hubcaps had seven medium-size diamonds and the car keys were gold plated with 11 encrusted diamonds.

This poor student was in such a hurry to sell his car, he had to take a \$46,000 loss on the sale.

However, he was philosophical about the deal. "You lose money one place and make it back in another." Needless to say, Mark is the son of a wealthy Louisville family and has not had too hard a time "making" money. □

Write On!

Have you heard something funny? Outrageous? Terrible? Corny?

Send it to "Graffiti"!

c/o
Socialist Worker
PO Box 18037
Cleveland, OH 44118

The Senate this month voted overwhelmingly to let children as young as age 10 work as harvest laborers.

Senator after senator proclaimed the virtues of learning good work habits, breathing fresh air and discovering the value of a dollar at a young age. Senator Bob Packwood of Oregon said that "children are safer picking strawberries... than they are playing in the park." □



British Airways recently added another Concorde flight to its prestigious London to Bahrain route.

Now there are two flights each week to the Persian Gulf city.

The Concorde, which is already losing money hand over fist, made the first flight on this new run—absolutely empty. □



By PATRICIA GILMAN

High Class

Kids on the street are busted for cocaine every day. Very few of the big dealers are ever caught. If you're rich enough, however, the "habit" no longer becomes a crime but a chic new fad, and your preference is catered to.

Maxferd's, a San Francisco jewelry store, provides

diamond-encrusted razor blades for \$500 and custom-designed spoons that sell for as much as \$5,000.

The store sold \$40,000 worth of cocaine spoons last year. Propinquity, a Los Angeles store, stocks vials made of glass and 14-karat gold at \$4,000 each. □

IT'S ONLY FOR MORALE

Government travel costs total \$2.7 billion annually. Tax dollars go to Federal official's first class flights such as that from Washington to Bonn, Germany which costs \$1,484 per person, complete with champagne.

Other details that have come to light: Officials of the World Bank, which receives much of its financing from the U.S. took nearly 600 trips this year on the costly Concorde. The World Bank, which administers a \$40 billion loan program for the impoverished countries of the world, spent \$12 million on travel last year. Spouses often accompany officials at Government expense for "public relations" purposes, solely to attend social activities. The World Bank spent \$603,000 last year on trips for 203 spouses explaining this "improved morale." □



GOOD GRIEF!

Anita...



Right On!

The National Peach Council, an agricultural group has suggested that workers who do not want children and persons who would like to get around religious bans against birth control be allowed to handle a pesticide that has been known to cause sterility.

The executive secretary of the Peach Council, in a letter to O.S.H.A. said, "while

involuntary sterility caused by a manufactured chemical may be bad, it is not necessarily so. After all, there are many people now paying to have themselves sterilized."

In addition to causing sterility, the pesticide, called DBCP, has shown to cause stomach and mammary cancer in rats. □

KLAN ON PATROL

Immigration officials in San Ysidro, California are in hot water with minority groups in San Diego.

The officials apparently gave David Duke, grand dragon of the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, "the red carpet treatment." After Duke presented a plan to use to

1,000 Klansmen to patrol the borders against the inflow of illegal aliens, he and his friends were given a tour of the port of entry.

The District Immigration officer claims that the tour was routine and that he discouraged any Klan patrol. All we can say is—it doesn't look good. □

Here's one way to make a killing

America's poor are twice as likely to undergo surgery as better-off citizens are. This surprising conclusion, from a recent study by congress, is less a reflection on the health of the poor than on that of the nation's floundering public medical programs.

Much of the surgery, it seems, is not urgent, and some is hardly necessary; many people have tonsils, appendices or gall bladders removed as a simple precautionary measure. The doctors are forcing unneeded surgery on their poorer patients knowing they can get handsome fees from the public health program.

Surgery accounts for as much as a fifth of the total cost of Medicaid, the health program which covers the medical costs of the poor. A little over half the Medicaid bill, now running at about \$18 billion a year, is met by the federal government, and the rest made up by state and local governments. Abuse of the system is notorious. Best

known are the infamous "Medicaid mills" where the poor consult the doctors, with the doctors claiming monstrous reimbursements of fees from the government.

Last year in New York city, where almost 2 million people are eligible for Medicaid, Municipal officials recommended that the poor should go to one laboratory in particular

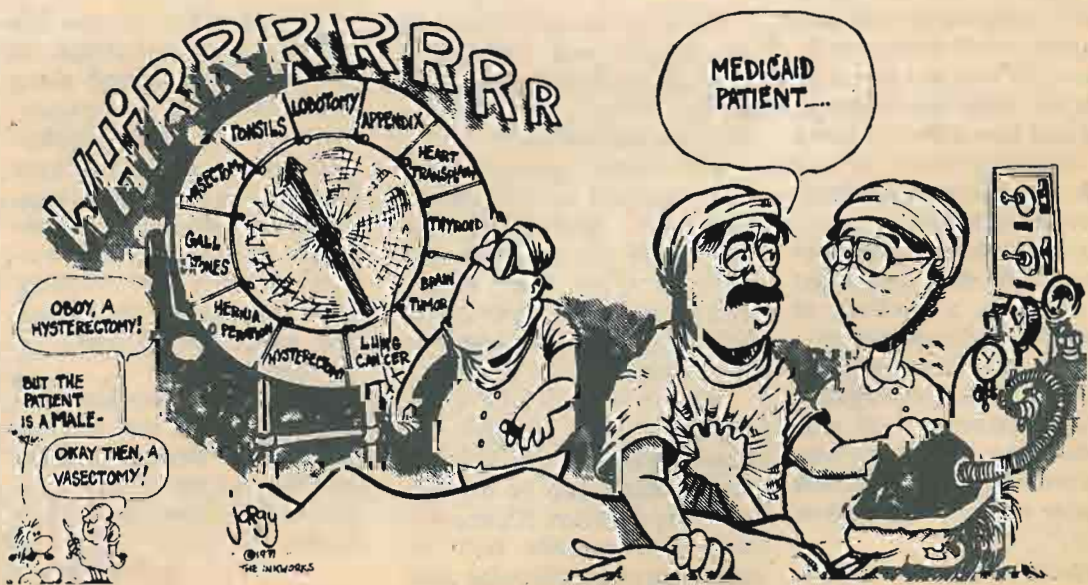
which was cheaper and offered simpler services.

But the laboratory's rivals, joined by the department of health, education and welfare, protested that this went against the Medicaid patient's freedom of choice; and the plan was dropped.

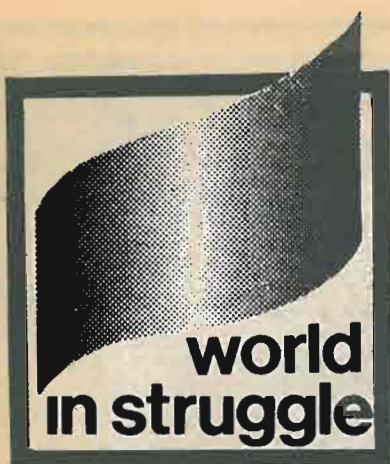
The "choice" in Medicaid has always tended to be more what doctors want to offer

than what patients expect to receive. And it is frequently not, even now, a fair choice.

A study published in July by the Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore shows that Medicaid patients entering hospital for surgery are far more likely to be treated by trainee surgeons than other patients are. Only the cost is the same. □



New strike wave hits Eastern Europe



**500,000
WORKERS**

HUGE PROTEST IN SPAIN

In a momentous show of strength, more than half a million workers demonstrated in Madrid only two days before the government-opposition agreement. The demonstration was organized by the major trade unions in opposition to unemployment, the rising cost of living and against the introduction of a social contract.

The center of Madrid was packed solid with a sea of red flags and banners, and the chanting of "For trade union unity," "Freedom and total amnesty," "long live the struggle of the working class." □

Arrests in Australia

SYDNEY, AUST.—Police in Brisbane jailed 371 persons who had been arrested during a massive protest against the government's recent decision to resume mining and export of uranium.

The demonstrators were arrested when they tried to break through a police cordon and march on state offices in the Queensland capital, 450 miles north of Sydney. □

Another massacre in Ethiopia

The Ethiopian military government, the Derg, murdered at least 300 left-wing opponents last week.

The government is in deep crisis because it is losing its wars against the Eritrean liberation movement in the north and against Somalia in the south-east.

This is the second massacre of the left by the Derg. In May it murdered hundreds of members of the revolutionary party, the EPRP. At that time a pro-Russian section of the left, the Meison party, supported the government. But last week those murdered included many Meison members.

But that has not stopped Russia and Cuba from continuing to arm the Derg. □

Strikes in Poland and Rumania and a riot in East Berlin.

The workers of Eastern Europe have been on the move again over attempts by their rulers to make them bear the burden of the economic crisis.

Strikes and slow-downs took place last month in at least

five mines in the Silesia region of Poland, including the Sosnowiec and Halemba pits.

INFLATION

The strikes were in protest at the acute shortage of meat in the stores.

Since the nationwide general strike in the summer of last year, the government has been frightened to use price increases or wage cuts to drive down workers' living standards.

Instead, it has insured that there are such short supplies

of food in the stores that, despite long hours of waiting, workers cannot use their wages to buy the things they need.

This is called "hidden inflation" and is hated as much by the workers as open inflation.

In Rumania, the coal miners in the Kiuiu valley, which produces two-thirds of the country's coal, struck at the beginning of August over pay, pensions and food shortages.

The miners' shut-down strike forced the country's president Ceausescu, to rush to the area. But he was shouted down when he tried to speak to a miners' mass meeting, and the strikers only returned to work after their demands had been met.

In East Berlin fighting broke out between several hundred young people and the police.

The demonstrators shouted slogans in support of Wolf Biermann, the East German left-wing song writer who was forced into exile in West Germany, and chanted "Russians out."

DISCONTENT

The occasion for the riot was the closing of a popular jazz concert at nine in the evening, while a nearby Russian orchestra was allowed to play on for an hour longer.

But the background to the discontent lies in recent government economic measures. These have turned goods such as washing machines and refrigerators into luxuries which are in short supply and which few workers can afford (a refrigerator costs all your wages for seven weeks, and a washing machine all your wages for nine weeks).

DEPORTED

Yet the workers know the same goods are available on demand to the privileged few who possess western currencies, and that they are being exported to West Germany at a quarter of the East German price.

In the last year, the government has deported dozens of intellectuals, many of them left wing, for oppositional activities. But this clearly has not stopped opposition growing among the workers. □



German workers 1953. Now Eastern European workers are in revolt again.

Argentine women demonstrate

On October 15 police in Buenos Aires broke up a demonstration of 350 women who were protesting the kidnapping of their relatives.

In recent months thousands of people have been kidnapped by right-wing gangs working with the army and police. Many victims are still missing.

Argentine police arrested about 150 of the demonstrators along with several Argentine and foreign journalists covering the protest. □

CZECH DISSIDENTS SENTENCED

Four Czechoslovak political dissidents went to trial on charges of subversion October 17. The next day, after a trial behind closed doors, they were given sentences ranging from more than one year to three-and-a-half years.

Vaclav Havel, a playwright; Frantisek Pavlicek, a theater director and playwright; and Jiri Lederer, a journalist, pleaded not guilty.

The three had been among the first of 700 people who

signed Charter 77, an appeal that the Czechoslovak government enforce civil liberties that are guaranteed by that country's constitution.

Ota Ornest, a theater producer, did not sign Charter 77. According to the *New York Times*, he pleaded guilty to having maintained links with Czechoslovak emigres.

Havek's and Pavlicek's sentences were suspended for three years. □



**Bureaucracy
and Revolution
in Eastern Europe**

by **Chris Harman**

296 pages

**\$4.95
from Hera Press**

THE MINE WORKERS TODAY

The rank and file is militant, but the union is in trouble

The national contract between the United Mine Workers and the Bituminous Coal Operators' Association (BCOA) expires early next month—December 7. The coal miners are by far the most militant and class conscious workers in the United States today. And, with coal now a precious commodity, thanks to the soaring costs of fuel, the miners might well expect to occupy a very powerful position at the bargaining table.

Not so. The UMWA leadership has entered these negotiations weaker than ever before. Here Cal Winslow examines the background of this situation by tracing the history of the reform movement in the United Mine Workers—the Miners for Democracy (MFD). It is an important history, for the coal miners have consistently been the vanguard of the U.S. working class, and the results of their struggles will certainly effect us all.

Today, there is no attempt to hide the exclusion of rank and file miners from the national negotiations between the coal operators and the UMWA.

Arnold Miller and his new vice-president, Sam Church, a former Boyle supporter from Virginia, are meeting in closed sessions with the representatives of the companies.

They have hired a lawyer, Ronald Nathan of Washington, and he is, in effect, the spokesman for the miners.

The *Miners Journal* has been instructed not to comment on the negotiations. The issues in dispute are only known to the miners in so far as Nathan and the companies choose to make them known—through the press.

DASHED

The great hopes for reform, built upon Arnold Miller's victory over the corrupt Tony Boyle, the man who ordered the murder of his earlier opponent, Jock Yablonski, have been dashed.

What happened?

Arnold Miller was elected president of the UMWA on the slate of the Miners for Democracy (MFD)—an organization which was actually formed at Yablonski's funeral.

It was an alliance of three forces in the union—the Yablonski supporters, led by his two sons, lawyers Ken and Chip Yablonski; the Black

Lung Association; and the Disabled Miners and Widows.

It built itself on the growing militancy of miners in the economic recovery of the 60's and on the shock and anger in the aftermath of the explosion in 1968 at Consolidation Coal's No. 9 mine in Mannington, W.Va. where 78 miners were killed.

In 1969, the Black Lung Association led one of the most important political strikes in recent U.S. history. They closed nearly every mine in the state of West Virginia, bringing out 45,000 miners, forcing the state legislature to produce a black lung bill.

The following year, the Disabled Miners and Widows led 40,000 miners out on strike demanding benefits for the disabled and their survivors.

WHEELING

These three groups met in Wheeling, W.Va. in May, 1972, where they nominated Arnold Miller, a partially disabled miner from Cabin Creek, Mike Trbovich, a Yablonski supporter from Pennsylvania, and Harry Patrick from Fairmount, W.Va., to challenge the Boyle regime.

The following December, the Labor Department, mainly as a result of the Yablonski killings, supervised an election in the UMWA.

The MFD defeated Tony Boyle. It was a stunning victory. Until then it was

almost unheard of for a rank and file slate to seriously challenge, let alone defeat an incumbent regime in a major union.

The miners did it.

In office, Miller, Patrick and Trbovich set out to change the union. They sold its fleet of Cadillacs. They revived the mine workers *Journal*.

They planned and led the 1973 Convention in Pittsburgh—a convention which led the *Wall Street Journal* to say that "too much democracy could be a bad thing" while it warned of "anarchy."

In 1974, rank and file miners were able to participate in the national negotiations, and, for the first time, ratify the new agreement.

There were problems, however. While the Black Lung Association and the Disabled Miners and Widows had been grass roots movements, built from the bottom up, the Miners for Democracy began as an electoral organization, concentrating nearly exclusively on changing the leadership of the union.

Its strategy was often charted by the lawyers, chiefly the Yablonski's, but also Joe Rauh, the CIA liberal from Washington, D.C.

In an all out campaign for victory, there was an agreement to keep politics out of the movement. There also was an agreement—unstated but successful at the Wheeling convention—to nominate no blacks.

The MFD was also strictly tied to the Democratic Party—in office the Miller/Patrick regime supported almost every Democrat in the coalfields—including Wayne Hayes in Ohio (the corrupt agent of the power companies of East Ohio) and the racist George Wallace of Alabama.

POSITION

Still, none of this fully explains the utter collapse and degeneration of the UMWA leadership today. The explanation of that can be found



State troopers stand guard over hand-cuffed miners

Police attack

STEARNS, KY—On Monday, October 17, state troopers, clad in riot gear, waded into a picket line of striking miners, arresting 120 miners and their wives and injuring 15.

Then, on October 26, Judge J.B. Johnson, in a vicious attack on the strikers and their effort to win a union, sentenced 11 of the miners to 6 months in prison for contempt

of court.

68 other miners were found guilty, but were given conditional release, on a bond of \$1,000 each, and on the condition of "good behavior" and "no violation of the law."

Among those hospitalized and now jailed was Mah Vanover, the president of the Stearns' miners who have been striking 15 months now for union recognition. Van

over is now in the position of the trade union leaders in every union.

In Washington, the UMWA leaders turned their attention to congress, to the politicians, to the courts, and to negotiating a contract once every three years, as does the whole of the American trade union leadership.

Yet, in the coalfields, a fierce and bloody struggle continued between the miners and the operators. In the past 3 years, there has been an unprecedented strike wave.

Miller, Patrick and Trbovich vacillated. They said they supported the rank and file—because they feared the loss of the miners who were their base. But they feared the courts, the congress, and the coal operators more.

Finally, they actually sided with the reactionaries in the coalfields to denounce the wildcat strikers. At one point they had two wildcat leaders expelled from the union.

The UMWA leaders wanted a democratic union, but that was not necessarily connected to the struggle in the coalfields and in the end that struggle overwhelmed them. They were smashed between the coal operators and the courts on the one hand and the insurgent miners on the other.

Now Miller is alone at the top of the union. Trbovich attacked him from the right at the 1976 Cincinnati convention. Patrick challenged him in the June, 1977 election. He attempted to resurrect the image of the MFD, but it was far too late.

After all, he had led in demanding it. And on the basic issue in the union, wildcat strikes and the right to strike over local issues, Patrick's record was exactly the same as Miller's.

The struggle in the mine continues, and there is no doubt that the December contract fight will be absolutely crucial. And, already, there are efforts to organize a new rank and file movement.

Still, the demise of the MFD and the collapse of the reform leadership is a real tragedy and there is no guarantee that a new generation of militants will learn correct lessons—nor that they will be able to avoid the MFD mistakes.

The miners' movement shows the fantastic power of organized workers, but it also shows the limitations of pure militancy.

There are times when the struggle for ideas can be crucial for the movement and today may well be one of these, for rank and file miners



RUSSIA

How the Revolution was lost

Chris Harman

50c

available from her press

box 18037 cleveland, ohio 44118



Stearns miners

er's elbow was shattered. The miners had assembled to stop the Blue Diamond coal company from bringing scabs to their Justus Mine at Stearns. The week before 16 miners were arrested when they tried to stop state troopers from escorting scabs across their lines. The strikers have been limited to six pickets by a court injunction, but they

chose to defy that injunction on Monday morning, because they believed their "jobs were at stake and this is one last attempt by the company to break the strike."

ARRESTED

Police said they arrested the women involved because "they were trying to destroy police cruisers." But Lee

Potter, the UMW organizer accused the governor of the state and the troopers of trying "to scab the mine."

The Stearns strikers have hoped that Arnold Miller would call out other miners to support their strike, but thus far Miller has made no comment. The night of the arrests, he was unavailable, as he was attending a baseball game in New York. □

ce difficult but decisive questions.

Can a successful ongoing movement be built without a commitment to the struggle at the base, in the coalfields; 2) independence from the trade union leadership and the Democratic Party; 3) a full guarantee of equality to the black miners, and now to the growing number of women miners?

Finally, can the coal miners continue to ignore the problems, political and social, of the rest of the country? And can they let the anti-communism which pervades the

union cut them off from the other forces who are willing to fight for change?

Certainly the answers to these questions should be an emphatic "No."

It must be clear today, at least to a small number of miners, that their enemy is the system—organized capitalism. They fight its police (as at Stearns), they fight its courts (and the fines, injunctions, and jailings), and they fight the giant oil and mining monopolies—companies that buy and sell congressmen and presidents.

Socialism is the alternative and socialists and socialist ideas should play an important role in reshaping a rank and file movement in the coalfields.

All the problems which the miners face—the development of Western coal and the related problems of the energy crisis, the collapse of their own health and welfare services, and the killing drive for profits from coal—show that the coal miners cannot carve out a separate solution to a crisis that is developing on a world scale. □



bovich, Patrick, and Miller

U.S. Supreme Court still has case

1,000's protest Bakke decision



Anti-Bakke demonstration at the University of Indiana

Thousands marched in a number of cities this October protesting the California Supreme Court decision that would eliminate special enrollment programs for minority students in professional schools.

The demonstrations were called for the week of October 3-8 by the National Committee to Overturn the Bakke Decision (NCOBD) and the Black American Law Students Association (BALSA).

HALF

More than 2500 marched in Oakland, California, with half the demonstrators being Black and Latin. Over 130 groups including Bay Area Locals of AFSCME, CFT, Retail Clerks,

and the CWA, endorsed the march.

A thousand marched in Seattle, Washington; Washington, D.C.; and Los Angeles. 250 marched in New York City.

WOMEN

All the demonstrations had large contingents from the women's and gay movements, as well as from the Black, Asian and Hispanic communities.

The Supreme Court heard oral arguments for the case on October 12. Its decision will have a profound effect on affirmative action programs for women and minorities in education as well as on the job. □

new from here press

Southern Africa after Soweto

ALEX CALLINGOS AND JOHN ROGERS



\$4.95

BLAME THE STEELMAKERS

Dear Socialist Worker,
Thought you might be interested to know that District 31 of the United Steelworkers (Chicago-Gary area) just passed a resolution on steel layoffs that did **not** blame foreign imports.

No, they put the blame where it belongs—on the companies here at home who raise prices at the drop of the hat.

U.S. Steel has been raising prices and laying off for years. If they can get the government to give American steel a monopoly by banning imports, they can raise prices even higher.

And if they continue to convince steelworkers to blame the Japanese for layoffs, plant closings, and rotten working conditions, then we

will write letters to Congress instead of set up picket lines.

You have to give credit to the folks in the P.R. department down at **Iron Age** (yes, that's really the name of the steel industry's magazine). Just by waving the flag they've almost managed a real neat trick: no strikes, high productivity (i.e. fewer workers) and high profits for them.

High unemployment and prices for us.

While a single resolution out of a District 31 conference won't change much, it's nice to let people know that steelworkers aren't quite as dumb as the union and the company thinks.

K.S.
Gary Branch
I.S.O.

Not all technology is neutral

Dear Socialist Worker:

I liked your article in the September issue on the nuclear power question. I stated clearly a socialist analysis of the problem.

At one point you state "It is not technology which is a fault. Instead it is the greed of the power companies and the drive for profits."

This is certainly true. Technology in general is not the problem. Technology is not an absolute force that molds society to its will as some believe. For example, the technology for mass transit has existed for years.

Yet it is extremely underutilized because it threatens the profits of the auto industry. Which forms of technology are used depends on social decisions.

In this society those decisions are made by capitalists and their agents according to how they effect profit and the maintenance of the system as a whole.

However the fact that technology as a whole is neutral leads some socialists to believe that every form of technology is neutral: that all forms that exist today would be cleaned up and made better under socialism.

I don't believe this is the case. Some forms of technology are "capitalist" in the sense that they are perfectly suited to capitalism.

Nuclear fission power is one of these. It relies on a limited fuel supply that can be monopolized by large oil companies etc. It requires government subsidy for development and government guarantees of "return on investment." It requires tremendous investment and produces few jobs.

All this adds up to high profit rates. The very process of nuclear fission power is such that it is virtually impossible to make it safe—even with the best intentions, which the capitalists of course don't have. Other forms of energy that are safe, relatively cheap and rely on unlimited resources are available.

This makes it extremely unlikely that a rational, safe, humane energy policy (that is a socialist energy policy) would include nuclear fission.

S.L.
Seattle

Letters

Write to Letters,
Socialist Worker
P.O.Box 18037
Cleveland, OH 44118

Is Klan at Essex?



The picket line at Essex in Elwood, Indiana.

Dear Socialist Worker,

I have been told that the Ku Klux Klan is involved in supporting the strike in Elwood, Indiana, and that Elwood is a Klan stronghold.

I wonder if any of the **Socialist Worker** readers in Indiana could tell me if this is true.

Are there Essex strikers or strike supporters who are Klan members? If so, what role do they play in the strike?

Thanks very much.

D.M.
New York

OTHER WHITES HAD LOWER SCORES

Dear Socialist Worker,

I came across some interesting figures on the Bakke case, now before the Supreme Court. Bakke claims that minority students who were admitted to the UC Davis medical school were "less qualified" than he on the basis of grades and test scores, and that he was, therefore, the victim of "reverse discrimination."

However, there were 8 white students admitted to the medical school with lower overall scores, and 36 whites with lower grade point averages. Bakke and his supporters are focusing on the minority students admitted rather than on these "less qualified" whites, because they hope to gain from white racism what they couldn't on the merits of the case.

Affirmative action is **not** "reverse discrimination." It represents the struggle of minorities and women for **reversal** of the discrimination they face not just in education but in jobs, housing, and society as a whole.

Deborah Roberts
Cincinnati, OH

This is a bill that's too liberal for Massachusetts

Dear Socialist Worker,

The repercussions of Dade County continue. A bill that would have prohibited the discrimination of gay people in public employment was twice voted down in the State House here.

The legislation was mild. It would have brought Massachusetts into line with a 1976 Supreme Court ruling.

The bill exempted teachers, in order to get it passed.

But it was too much for a majority of the legislators. "It's coming to the point where if you're female, black, gay, and blind, why, you could almost become Governor," said one.

Another was quoted as saying: "Homosexuality should not be considered a

civil right. This is not the proper sort of thing we should be doing."

Massachusetts is thought of as a liberal state. Recent moves against Medicaid abortions, the decriminalization of marijuana, and this gay legislation prove this to be a shaky assumption.

Kent Worcester
Boston, MA

L.A. truckers ask strike sanction

LOS ANGELES—For eight weeks, we have been fighting Alltrans/ACME to get our jobs back. Over Labor Day weekend, this year, Alltrans Express (a division of ACME Fast Freight) closed down operations and sent us notice. They sent our freight to ACME's new dock.

When we began picketing this dock, we found that the new carrier, Intermodal Container Service, had signed a

Teamster contract with local 986 before they took the work and before they had any workers.

ILLEGAL

We've been trying to get local 986 to drop this illegal contract so that we can get a sanctioned strike. So far we have held out on our own—without strike sanction.

We've collected over \$4500 from other Teamster members

in the L.A. area to help us with our strike and legal expenses. Most union freight drivers have refused to cross our picket lines. Dock workers from one freight company have come in numbers to help us picket.

FIGHT

We have rank and file support. They understand that this is an important fight to save master freight

jobs from going substandard.

Intermodal and ACME have gotten temporary restraining orders, injunctions, and contempt of court actions against us almost whenever they wanted. W.N. Dennison, Intermodal owner, has sent his scab workers out to start fights with us—so we will get thrown in jail.

One guy was instructed to run over our picket line with a tractor trailer. And several

of us have been popped in jail.

We still need a strike sanction to completely stop ACME, Intermodal and all their allies. We have faced the courts, physical threats and jail for our jobs, but because the union may get sued our locals are unwilling to give us unqualified, 100% support.

by Duncan West
IBT Local 208

How we almost lost Detroit

By CHRISTINA BERGMARK

"Let's face it, we almost lost Detroit." These are the words of an unnamed engineer at the Enrico Fermi nuclear breeder reactor near Detroit.

He could have added that we also almost lost Idaho Falls, the Lake District in England, and a large chunk of Ontario, Canada. Next time we may actually lose a city, or worse.

WE ALMOST LOST DETROIT by John C. Fuller, Ballantine Books, New York, 1975. 260 pages, \$1.95.

We Almost Lost Detroit is the case history of one nuclear breeder reactor. Fuller traces the reactor from its original plans, through government and private studies, insurance hassles, official cover-ups, actual construction, testing and operation of the reactor and, finally, the accident that almost ended in a catastrophic "runaway atomic meltdown" and explosion.

On October 5, 1966, the control panel inside the Fermi reactor near Detroit suddenly registered high radiation levels, a sign of critical danger. The reactor's control sys-

tem was automatically activated, but no one knew whether the controls would hold or a meltdown and explosion would result.

EXPLODE

It was entirely possible that the reactor might explode and break the containment building around it, releasing enough radioactive material to contaminate Detroit and thousands of square miles surrounding it. A conservative estimate of the potential death toll, had the reactor blown, is 133,000.

Technicians and scientists at the Fermi reactor were able to avert catastrophe, in Fuller's words, "by their planning, their expertise, their ingenuity, the low power level—and some luck." And Fuller asks the key question, "Why should the population of Detroit be faced with even the potential of such a disaster?"

It's impossible to rule out human and mechanical error in design, construction and operation in the production of nuclear energy. The tiniest error or machine malfunction could spell disaster, two min-

utes or ten years later.

The federal government, through the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) and the giant power companies, continue to opt for nuclear power plants for one reason only—they are a highly profitable solution to the problem of finding an alternative to diminishing supplies of coal and oil.

For years, the AEC and private research firms have investigated the dangers of nuclear reactors, which are being built near major cities all over the country.

The results of these investigations are terrifying. For example, according to a report of the Planning Research Corporation in 1965, "We are 95% confident...that the probability of occurrence of a catastrophic accident during a reactor year is less than one in 500." In 1985, when there are 500 reactors (AEC expectation), we should expect one catastrophic accident every year.

GOAL

When the AEC reaches its goal of 1000 atomic power plants in the country, the possibility of a major holocaust would rise to one every six months.

Fuller relates, "In the worst case, for a relatively small reactor, the AEC estimated 3400 people could be killed, 43,000 could be injured or stricken with radiation poisoning...and an area the size Pennsylvania could be contaminated...A new study that nestled in the 'Official Use Only' files of the AEC went far beyond these estimates."

The AEC knows that if the public discovers the possibility of explosions, there will be widespread protest. They also know they have no answer to the danger of huge quantities of radioactive waste. So they suppress report after report that might alarm us.

Given the incredible dangers of nuclear energy production, you'd think the nation's planners would begin examining energy alternatives—solar, tidal and geothermal energy, and thermonuclear fusion.

The problem is that there are no planners. We live in a "free enterprise" system, and decisions are made on the basis of what will pay off the biggest and the soonest.

COMBINE

William Heronemus, engineering professor at the University of Massachusetts, blames the huge "power group"—a combine of the utility companies, the AEC, and owners of reactors—for the headlong rush to nuclear fission power.

He and other leading scientists contend that the harnessing of solar energy and the production of thermonuclear fusion power could be worked out before we run out of fossil fuels, if resources for research and development were made available.

The AEC excuses its cover-ups, covering two decades, by saying that most people are too uninformed (read "stupid") to weigh the pros and cons of nuclear energy production. Therefore, they have to lie to us in our own interests, while they do what's best for the country.

But the growing anti-nuclear movement is evidence that large numbers of people are realizing that we are the ones who will pay when a disaster occurs. It's our homes, our jobs, our health, our countryside, and our lives that are threatened.

Now, before it's too late, we must force them to end the gamble.

IT'S A ONE-MAN SHOW

John L. Lewis was the fiery, autocratic president of the United Mine Workers for more than thirty years.

He was instrumental in building the CIO. He was adored by miners, hated by labor officials, employers and government leaders. He called himself a "disciple of discontent."

JOHN L. LEWIS: DISCIPLE OF DISCONTENT. A two-act play written by James A. Brown, starring Robert Lansing.

James A. Brown has written a play about the life of Lewis. It is brilliantly acted by Robert Lansing. The play has been sponsored by the United Labor Agency of the AFL-CIO in Cleveland.

ONE-MAN

It is a one-man show, with Lewis talking to the audience about his life. The first act is Lewis' triumph: his early life in the miners' union, his rise to the presidency, his fight in the AFL to organize production workers, and his role in the formation of the CIO.

The second act is about his personal and political defeats. It opens with Lewis' break with Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Lewis opposed Roosevelt's third term because he was

against America's involvement in World War II.

Testifying before a Senate committee on wartime production, Lewis thundered, "No, I will not sign your patriotic no-strike pledge, and no, I will not give patriotic speeches. If financiers can reap huge profits from this war, my miners can win better wages." Lewis staked his CIO presidency on workers not voting for Roosevelt in the 1940 election. But Roosevelt won, and Lewis resigned.

HEAD

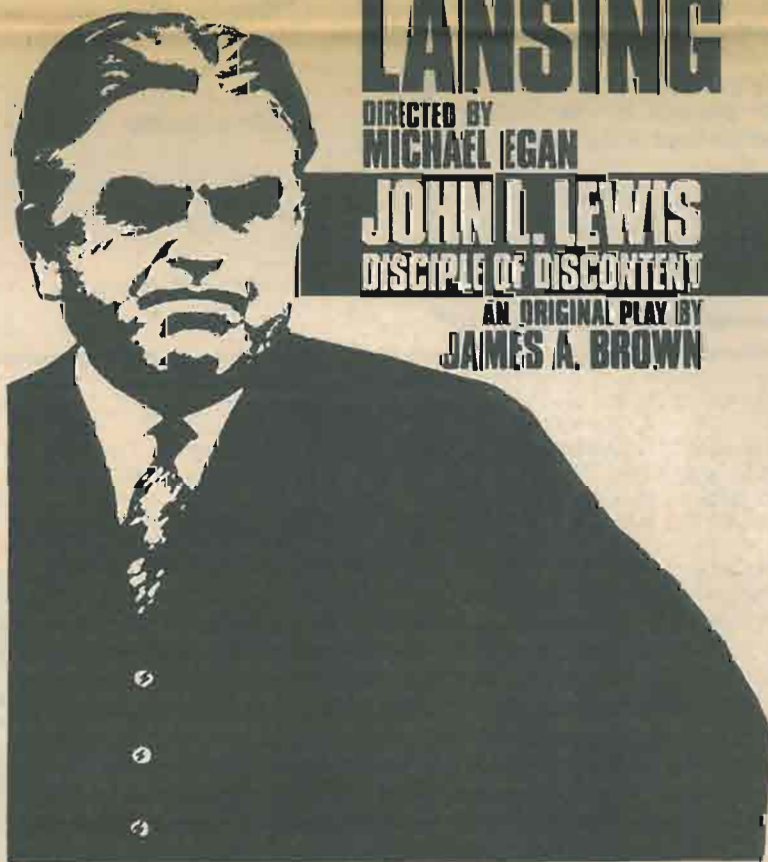
He remained president of the miners' union and head of the miners' pension fund until his death in 1969.

The play is relatively honest about Lewis' shortcomings. He was vain and autocratic. He was also an opportunist.

He had no love for radicals, particularly members of the Communist Party, whom he used to help build the CIO: "They were the only ones who could do it."

At the same time, he made sure that they would never hold positions of authority. As he said, "Who gets the bird, the hunter or the dog?" As soon as the CIO was built, Lewis summarily fired his CP organizers.

Lewis bragged about putting his relatives into union



posts and about his high lifestyle, claiming that miners want their leaders to look like bosses. The play also refers to his shady dealings with multi-millionaire Cyrus Eaton over using miners' dues to set up a "miners' bank."

LEGACY

But it is in the area of Lewis' legacy to the American labor movement that the play falls short. Lewis was not a "benevolent" dictator of the UMW.

His legacy was one of corruption, mismanagement of the pension fund, and the loss of over 100,000 miners' jobs to mechanization. While

Lewis is responsible for building the steelworkers union, it was and is a top-down operation.

Today, steelworkers and miners have to fight both the companies and their union officials for better wages and working conditions. This also is Lewis' legacy.

The producers hoped the play would be "workers' theater," but unfortunately few except union bureaucrats attended the recent Cleveland production. Nevertheless, it's a very good play about a vital period in union history, and you should hope it comes to your city.

by Barbara Winslow

Duncan Hallas speaks for ISO



Duncan Hallas, the national chairperson of the Socialist Workers Party (Great Britain) is presently on a speaking tour of ISO branches and college campuses.

He has spoken to well attended meetings in New England, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Indiana and Chicago, and will travel to the West Coast.

The range of topics have included The Meaning of Marxism, the Fight Against

Fascism in Britain, Euro-communism, and The Need for a Revolutionary Party.

Hallas has also travelled to Canada to speak for the International Socialists—Canada, a fraternal group of the SWP (GB) and the ISO.

Hallas will conclude his tour in Boston on November 12th, at the ISO New England regional conference. He will be speaking on Revolutionary Traditions. □

Portland anti-Bakke demo draws 200

PORTLAND, OR—With demonstrations across the nation against the Bakke decision, 200 members of the Oregon Coalition to Defeat the Bakke Decision marched through downtown Portland to a rally Saturday, October 15.

The Coalition initiated its activities with a picket line 3 days earlier when the U.S. Supreme Court began hearings on the Bakke case. The Saturday rally heard militant speakers elaborate on the coalition's demands—"Unite to defeat the Bakke Decision," "Stop the Attacks on minorities and women," "Defend and extend affirmative action in jobs and education."

SPEAKERS

A speaker from the National Lawyers Guild pointed out the weaknesses in Bakke's case. The case had not been defended well, he claimed, because the university was indifferent to the needs of minority students. A black city worker



Portland anti-Bakke demonstration

spoke on the special problems of minority women and the necessity for women of all races to unite and fight for their rights.

All speakers emphasized that the way to fight for affirmative action is to help rebuild the movements of blacks and women that had gotten affir-

mative action programs started.

The spokesperson assured the rally that "the coalition will continue to focus public attention on the Bakke case and other actions that will stand up for the importance of affirmative action programs." □

SOCIALIST WORKER FUND APPEAL

Socialist Worker and the ISO are beginning a fall fund drive.

The money will be used to buy needed equipment to put out the paper, as well as to help build our organization.

We urge all Socialist Worker readers to contribute. Also subscribe to the paper, and get a friend to subscribe. Then send us \$25, \$15, \$10 or even \$5.

We have to rely on our

subscribers and readers. In order for our paper to improve, to build up our circulation, and to be able to cover more stories, we need more money.

So, please, dig deep into your pockets for the Socialist Worker fund drive!

Send contributions to:
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ANITA IN INDY

INDIANAPOLIS, IN—October 9th, a cold and rainy evening, found about 800 people with picket signs marching for gay rights in front of the Coliseum where Anita Bryant was the guest star for a "decency" rally staged by some Baptist ministers.

The Indiana Coalition for Human Rights sponsored the gay rights rally which had participants from as far away as California. There were people from the International Socialist Organization, Xanthippe Women's Collective, Lesbian Activist Bureau of Cincinnati, and representatives from the National Organization for Women.

There were also representatives from Depauw University, Ball State College, and the Bloomington and Purdue Gay Alliances.

SIGNS

Some of the signs carried by the marchers were, Save our Children from Bigotry, and Gay-Straight, Black-White, Same Struggle-Same Fight which was also used for a chant.

The spirit on the march was very high and we all vowed to "greet" Anita again in Fort Wayne, IN, on Oct. 28.

by Cathy Cesnik
Indianapolis ISO

FOR WORKERS CONTROL

Workers create all the wealth under capitalism. A socialist society can only be built when workers collectively seize control of that wealth and democratically plan its production and distribution according to human needs instead of profit.

The working class is the key to the fight for socialism. Freedom and liberation will only be achieved through the struggles of workers themselves, organizing and fighting for real workers' power.

REVOLUTION NOT REFORM

The capitalist system cannot be patched up or reformed as some union leaders and liberal politicians say. Capitalism is based on the exploitation of workers. No reforms can do away with this exploitation. The only way workers can

FIGHT OPPRESSION

Capitalism divides the working class. It pits men against women, whites against blacks. Capitalism fosters and uses these divisions to prevent the unity necessary for its destruction. As capitalism moves into crisis, oppressed groups—blacks, women, latins, native americans, youths, gays—suffer most. We support the struggles of these oppressed groups.

We oppose racism in all its forms. We fight segregation in the schools and housing and against racist firings and harassment. We demand freedom for all political prisoners.

We fight for women's liberation. We are for equal pay for all women workers. We fight for an end to forced sterilization and for free abortion. There should be free quality child care for all who need it. We fight for the opening up of jobs for women and an end to sexual harassment and

INTERNATIONALISM

The working class has no nation. Capitalism is international and that is why the struggle for socialism must be world wide. A socialist revolution cannot survive in isolation.

We champion workers' struggles in all countries, from Portugal and Spain to Chile and Puerto Rico, from Palestine and Eastern Europe to China and India. We support all genuine national liberation struggles. We call for victory of the black freedom fighters in Zimbabwe and South Africa. We oppose all forms of imperialism and oppose sending U.S. troops anywhere in the world to impose U.S. interests.

Russia, China, Cuba and Eastern Europe are not socialist countries. These countries are not governed by workers' control but by a small bureaucratic class. A revolutionary movement must be built in these countries to achieve workers' control.

WHERE WE STAND

come to control society and create a system based on freedom and a decent life for all is by overthrowing capitalism and replacing it with revolutionary, democratic socialism.

FOR A WORKERS' GOVERNMENT

The present state apparatus (federal and state governments, the courts, army and police) was developed to maintain the capitalist system. This apparatus cannot be taken over as it stands and converted to serve workers. The working class needs an entirely different kind of state based upon mass democratic councils of workers' delegates.

Supporting the present state apparatus is a vast network of propaganda—newspapers, radio, television, movies. Workers are bombarded daily from all directions with capitalism's point of view. The working class needs its own sources of information. To help meet this need, we are dedicated to building a newspaper that the working class can trust and use in their fight against the present system.

firings. We are for an end to discrimination and harassment of sexual minorities.

We support the independent organization and struggles of oppressed peoples to strengthen the working class struggle for socialism.

FOR RANK AND FILE ORGANIZATION

The unions today are largely business machines that long ago stopped fighting seriously for the interests of the working class. Business union leaders either act as brakes on workers' struggles, or as police, delivering workers into the hands of the bosses. We fight to change this.

To make the unions fight for workers' interests, power must be built on the shop floor. This can only happen if the rank and file organize themselves independently of the union-bureaucrats. We work to build rank and file organizations in unions and companies wherever we are employed.

REVOLUTIONARY PARTY

The activity of the ISO is directed toward the initial steps of building a revolutionary party in a working class that is today fragmented and cut off from socialist ideas. Revolutionaries must be involved in the day-to-day struggles of workers and other oppressed groups at the work places, in the unions and in the communities. We build every struggle that will strengthen the self-confidence, organization and socialist consciousness of workers and the oppressed.

As the working class movement gathers strength, the need for revolutionary leadership becomes crucial. We are part of the long process of building a democratic revolutionary party rooted in the working class. Those who agree with our stand and are prepared to help us build toward revolutionary socialism are urged to join us now.

International Socialist Organization

- | | |
|-----------------|---|
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TWO YEARS AGO IN PORTUGAL

The workers were not far from power

By
**BARBARA
WINSLOW**

Two years ago, Portugal was gripped with revolutionary fervor. In the summer and fall of 1975, the revolutionary movement was on the offensive.

Workers had taken control of some 300 factories. There had been massive occupations of the land.

The army was racked in conflict between the left and right. A left-wing organization of soldiers and sailors, the SUV (Soldiers United Will Win) led a series of massive demonstrations in Lisbon.

The left had also taken control of two positions in the battle for the media—**Radio Renascenca** and the newspaper **Republica**.

The government had so little control that it considered moving from Lisbon to Oporto, a more conservative city in the North of Portugal.

In fact, the Portuguese working class was not far from actually taking power.

The 25th of November changed all this.

Right wing military police and commandos were ordered to take over the military installations controlled by the left. When the left wing soldiers attempted to retaliate, they found themselves isolated.

The Communist Party, the main force in the working class, held back its support. Costa Gomes, acting for the "Socialist" government, announced a partial state of siege and imposed a curfew.

The military police began arresting and imprisoning left wing officers and soldiers. Otelo de Carvalho, the left-wing general was relieved of his post.

REVERSED

In a matter of a few hours, the revolutionary process, which first began in Africa, and then led to the overthrow of the Portuguese fascists in April, 1974, had been decisively reversed.

Today, the situation in Portugal is very different.

The Socialist Party (PSP) has maintained its power and is systematically pushing back the working class.

The Barreto Law, which involves agricultural cooperatives, if enforced will leave an estimated 20,000 to 30,000 agricultural workers out of work. The government is cutting off credit to the militant farms and factories—until the old bosses return. Only then, will the government extend credit.

In Barcelas, when 600 women were out on strike protesting a 50% wage cut, they were attacked and beaten by the security police.

At an automobile components plant in Barreiro, there had been successful workers management for three years. 170 workers had managed to pay off most of the

back debts, and even found employment for 12 others. Just recently, the GNS bludgeoned the workers into taking back their old boss.

The government is also purging the remnants of the left from the military. 1,000 soldiers still face court martials. Any soldier suspected of being a left winger is dismissed.

The "Socialist" government, in reality, is a capitalist government and is imposing these harsh measures on the working class in order to receive loans from the United States, Germany, and the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

There has been resistance. There have been strikes of textile workers, metal workers, hotel and construction workers.

Students have fought the reintroduction of the fascists into the schools. In April, this year, they struck at the University of Coimbra, protesting the rehiring of 6 fascist professors. The strike spread to Lisbon and Oporto where one student was killed by the police.

Unfortunately, nothing yet has been able to stop the right-wing tide.

LEFT

The largest organization on the left is the Communist Party (CP). It claims a membership of 115,000 and is now in the midst of a campaign to recruit 10,000 new members by Christmas.

It is the only party with any real influence and membership in the working class.

The Communist Party, however, like its counterparts in most of western Europe, is today a reformist organization, set on a course of attempting to influence and ultimately join in a capitalist government.

Its role, consistently in the course of the Portuguese



One of the massive demonstrations in Lisbon in the fall of 1975

upheaval, has been to restrict the battles, the strikes, and the militant demonstrations by the working class. It has even gone along with the PSP's plan to return the agricultural co-ops back to the former bosses.

At the same time, none of the groups on the revolutionary left has been able to build an effective alternative to the CP. Today they are in a rapid decline, both in membership and influence.

RIGHT

In the meantime, the right wing grows. The leaders of the paramilitary Portuguese Liberation Army (ELP) have been reinstated in the army. It is estimated that there are 800,000 repatriots from the wars in Angola and Mozambique. This is in a country of just 9 million.

In these circumstances, the PSP may continue to limp along if it applies its austerity measures. But the final act of the Portuguese revolution is still not complete.

Whatever the final conclusion to today's struggles, the events in Portugal have—and should continue to have—a profound importance on the international revolutionary movement.

Portugal, the weakest link in the capitalist chain of Europe, threatened to become the launching pad for socialist revolution on the entire continent.

Yet, the simple (and often repeated) truth remained that without a revolutionary party in Portugal, there would be no

revolution.

In 1974 and 1975, there was the time to build. The Maoists, however, followed the lead of China and supported the capitalist government—arguing that socialism would have to wait for "national liberation."

The Revolutionary Party of the Proletariat (PRP), the best hope of the left, rejected this stages theory of revolution, and it launched a number of impressive initiatives—including the Revolutionary Council of Workers, Soldiers and Sailors, as well as the SUV.

It failed, however, to understand the strength of the CP in the factories and workers commissions, and instead of attempting to prepare the working class for taking power, it looked to the left wing units in the armed forces. It presumed that the workers would simply follow.

The danger in November was that the right wing would be able to force a confrontation with the left before there was a mass revolutionary party and the institutions of workers' power (councils).

That danger became reality on the night of November 25.

Just weeks before the coup, Chris Harman writing in the **International Socialist Journal**, explained the situation of the revolutionaries this way:

"In Portugal, there is no possibility of evading for more than a few months (at most) sharp, armed clashes between the classes.

"That is why the most urgent task for the revolution-

ary left is to build the political, organizational structure within the working class up to the level of its armed, military support within the ranks of the armed forces.

"A failure to do so will not only condemn the Portuguese working class to defeat. It will also throw away the best opportunity for a revolutionary breakthrough in Europe since 1917."

Whether or not Portugal will yet become the Chile of Europe remains to be seen. The drama is still not complete. The lessons, however, are already clear. □



African liberation sparked the revolution in Portugal.

Why they want to close Cleveland's schools



By **BETSY LEWIS**

CLEVELAND, OH—On October 6, the Cleveland School Board announced that Cleveland's schools were dead broke and that they would have to close down on October 17.

This would not have been the first school closure in Ohio. Toledo schools did close in October—until January, 1978. Other districts have also been shut down.

But in Cleveland, the issue is not money. It is busing. And Judge Frank Battisti, the man who has ordered busing in Cleveland, even went so far as to call the closure announcement a "publicity stunt."

The Board of Education and its President, Arnold Pinckney, an insurance executive, along with the Superintendent of Schools, Paul Briggs a banker, are determined to fight desegregation and busing.

The Judge, on the other hand, is bound and determined to carry out the law—to desegregate the Cleveland Schools—a very delayed response to the struggles people made in the 50's and 60's for integration and equal opportunity for black and white students.

But no longer is there a strong black movement to back up the fight for desegregation. Instead the issue has

become a political football for politicians and businessmen. Not only are they using "busing" to try to divide people and set whites and blacks against each other, but they are divided on the issue themselves.

CRISIS

The School Board figures if it can't stop desegregation and busing, it can at least delay it. And most important, the Board can use the willing newspapers and TV to make the judge look foolish and to make busing seem ridiculous.

The schools' sudden bankruptcy is supposed to prove that the Cleveland Schools simply cannot afford desegre-

gation.

The State Auditor and State Superintendent both authorized the closing of the Cleveland schools by October 21 because of the lack of funds. But the Board added that there was one way for the schools to remain open—if the teachers, custodians, bus drivers and other workers were willing to continue working without pay.

In Ohio, schools are not allowed deficit financing to meet the payroll. School workers would either have to wait until the legislature passed an amendment allowing the schools to borrow, or if this did not happen, workers would have to wait until the

schools received next year's budget money.

Amidst great publicity teachers voted 3 to 1 to continue working without pay. Custodians and other workers voted unanimously to continue working; the bus drivers being Teamsters did not vote but also agreed to work.

But, in all of this excitement, one important fact was ignored. This past April Judge Battisti had ruled that no school could close without the Court's permission because schools might be closed to further segregate students or to stall the desegregation process.

The School Board and the press knew about this ruling because the Board and the Court had already fought long and hard over the closing of six schools at the beginning of the school year.

The Court has done a good job of pointing out the nature of our School Board "leaders." But the Court cannot be counted on to find the solutions to the financial problems that the School Board has created. Already, the judge has suggested that one solution would be to reduce teachers' salaries.

SALARIES

In 1970, teachers' salaries accounted for more than 60% of the total school budget. Now, teachers' salaries are less than 40% of the budget. The teachers' contract negotiations with the Board are underway and right now the Board will not even agree to a 5% pay increase.

According to one Cleveland school teacher, "The teachers really missed the chance by not flexing their muscles in a show of strength and dissatisfaction with present conditions and pay, when they voted three to one to work without pay. This could have given us power in the negotiations. But the teachers were confused and afraid because of the sudden crisis atmosphere."

This "crisis atmosphere" certainly diverts people from the real issues. The Court may be able to enforce the desegregation order, but has no power to wage a fight against this crisis atmosphere that the School Board and various racist, anti-busing forces can create.

There is, however, a coalition of teachers, students and other people in the city who understand the need for desegregation, who could make themselves heard. The voice of opposition to the lie and racist attitudes exemplified by the Cleveland School Board could make a difference when the next "scare" is created.

HISPANIC COUNCIL REPORTS No American dream here

NORTHAMPTON, MA—Discrimination in one way or another affects all Third World people in this valley.

In this area, (Northampton), the main victims are Latinos, most of whom are Puerto Ricans, who came here under the illusion that they would find work, a better environment, and a better life for their children.

The conditions on their island homeland—a colonial possession of the U.S. for nearly a century—often made this the only alternative to poverty and despair.

For Puerto Ricans, as well as other Third World people, the American Dream never came true. The reason for this is obvious.

SURVEY

Nevertheless, in order to determine the vital needs of Latinos in our area, and to discover exactly where discrimination exists in this community, the Hispanic Council for Human Rights very recently conducted a survey of the Latino community.

The Council, formerly known as the Puerto Rican Committee for Human Rights, is a group of individuals who in response to acts of harassment and discrimination against Latinos, have organized themselves to combat this oppressive disease of American Society.

The majority of Puerto Ricans, both men and women, have been employed for at least three years, (contradictory to the myth of being on welfare), doing factory work, machine-operating, farmwork, housecleaning, secretarial work and cooking.

The wages that most of these workers receive, however, is at (or below) the U.S. Govt. poverty level for a family of four.

CHILDREN

Of all the people interviewed, nearly half have children of school age.

These are Spanish-speaking families, who unanimously stated that they wanted their children to retain their culture and language, while at the same time acquiring the ability to speak, read and

write English plus the skills that could lead to a better life.

Yet, what do they find? There is no adequate bilingual/bicultural education program in the area schools—even though this is mandated by law.

In addition, it was discovered that access to employment, decent medical care and legal assistance is made nearly impossible by the lack of Hispanic or bilingual personnel in the hospitals, courts, welfare, and employment offices.

The people interviewed unanimously agreed on the need for Hispanic employees and interpreters in these key agencies.

DISCRIMINATION

Social service centers, set up to attempt to alleviate these and other problems, such as H.C.A.C.'s Centro Hispano, find themselves facing the same discrimination. The Centro Hispano is presently fighting an eviction notice.

Educational centers like the Farm Worker's Council, which is run by people of the His-

panic community that it serves, offers courses in basic English and Math, High School equivalency exam preparation, and other pertinent services.

Recently, their contract was terminated and funds that would enable their program to continue were channeled to other sources. Apparently, officials of this city (Northampton CETA) presume themselves more qualified to run a program for Latinos than the people from the Spanish-speaking community themselves, who have been running it successfully for two years.

These above-mentioned instances and many more are clear examples of discrimination. But cases of discrimination have been fought and beaten before through people's struggles, it can and must be combatted here and now. To do this, we must overcome the mistrust that divides us and come together to continue working to obtain justice in our community.

In Unity There is Strength.

VIRGINIA TEAMSTERS INVEST IN NONUNION TRUCKING

ST. LOUIS, MO—Members of IBT Local 600 here have accused Virginia Teamsters Joint Council 83 of owning stock in the Overnite Transportation Co., a nonunion trucking company which recently opened a terminal in St. Louis.

And, according to Lysle Hazelgrove Jr., the president of Richmond, VA, Local 322 and a trustee of the union wel-

fare fund, the union did own stock in Overnite. However, according to Hazelgrove, the stock was sold in late 1976—at a 10 percent profit.

NONUNION

"I really don't see the difference," says David Prater, a member of IBT Local 74 in Cape Girardeau, MO and a member of the union reform

group, PROD.

"It (the Overnite stock) was nonunion when they bought it and it was nonunion when they sold it. Hazelgrove should personally apologize to local 600 and all Teamsters here."

Overnite pays dockworkers and drivers in St. Louis \$4 to \$4.50 an hour. Local 600 members are paid \$8 to \$8.50 an hour.

International Socialism is the monthly journal of the Socialist Workers Party/Contents: Black youth in revolt/Fascism and the working class/British Leyland, shop stewards and participation/reviews, letters, notes Number 102 October 1977

Women workers sterilized in Pennsylvania zinc plant

CORAOPOLIS, PA—When Vicky Read, a 22-year-old resident of Coraopolis, PA, saw in an ad announcing that a nearby zinc mineral plant was hiring women, she jumped at the chance to earn \$4.70 an hour.

With her handicapped husband out of work and a small child to support, her income of \$2.50 an hour at a local hospital was just not enough.

"They didn't tell us it might be dangerous," Ms. Read says, "and I just figured it was a chance to get a good job. All I knew was that my father worked there (St. Joes Mineral in Monaca, PA), and my uncle, and my grandfather before he died of lung cancer."

At St. Joes, Ms. Read was assigned to what they call the roaster department, one of several processing plants in which the company uses lead to produce zinc and acid.

DIRTY

"It's very dirty and hot," Ms. Read says. "It's over 100 degrees at all times. It's

dirty up to your knees and it's all in the air. You have to wear respirators, but even that doesn't help a whole lot. You can smell the gas. It burns your nose and throat. It's common knowledge that you can get sick working in there, but no one likes to talk about it."

About three months after she started working in the roaster department, the company called together 17 women who were employed in the processing plants and told them they were being transferred because high exposures to lead in the plants could be dangerous if they became pregnant.

"They told us," Ms. Read recalls, "that if we wanted to have our tubes tied or have a hysterectomy or something like that, that would be perfectly all right and we could stay where we were. The only way we could get in the plants any more was to have papers from the doctor saying we could not have children."

The women were told they would be transferred at the end of the month to the labor pool, where they would be assigned to janitorial and yard work at reduced pay.

"I was very upset," Ms. Read says. "It meant a reduction in pay and nowhere to bid for upgraded jobs under the union seniority system, because there aren't too many places to work in that mill that aren't exposed to lead. I really needed to work."

Until she was transferred, Vicky Read was one of an estimated 1 million women, according to the Health Education and Welfare Department (HEW), in their prime child-bearing years who work amid potential exposures to chemical substances and processes that can cause birth defects and miscarriages.

Vicky Read is one of an untold number of women around the country who are losing their jobs, or being excluded from jobs, because they are pregnant or capable of becoming pregnant. Other

women are undergoing tubular ligations or hysterectomies to keep those jobs.

HAZARDS COMMON

Exposure to chemicals that may sterilize a woman or even harm a fetus is common for workers in the chemical industry today, yet fewer than 4% of the country's 5 million workplaces have had first time inspections.

Even when they finally get around to doing their job, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) often makes costly mistakes. OSHA is now considering a revised standard for exposure to lead, since recent medical evidence sug-

gests that the current standard allows concentrations of exposure that could cause miscarriages.

Naturally the industries are screaming. The lead industry calls such proposed revisions unduly restrictive and far too costly. They would rather continue production with an all male work force and not be bothered with questions of sterility, miscarriages, and birth defects.

But male workers are not safe either. There is growing evidence that the reproductive organs of male workers might also be harmed by toxic substances and processes. □

Abortion amendment delays wage increase

NORTHAMPTON, MA—Last June 28th Massachusetts state employees, represented by the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), ratified a new three-year contract.

The contract promised most workers a \$12.50/week pay raise for the first year beginning August 1st. State workers have not yet received any raise, and probably will not receive any until January 1978, because the pay-raise bill has been held up in the state legislature.

The reason for the delay is the addition of a new amendment to the bill. This is the insidious Doyle or Anti-abortion Amendment. It is similar to recent federal legislation and court decisions which would cut off all federal funds for abortions.

The Doyle Amendment would also cut off all Massachusetts state funds for abortions.

There is no denying that state workers deserve and need a raise. Since 1969, their average wage has risen only 30%—during the same period the actual cost of living rose more than 57%. Therefore, the real pay of the average employee has **dropped** more than 17% in terms of what it will buy.

Considering the rise in state and local taxes, he/she may be as much as 28% worse off than in 1969. Many thousands of state workers make well above this average wage.

DIVIDE

By attaching the anti-abortion amendment to the state employees pay-raise bill, the legislators are trying to utilize one of their oldest tricks. They want to divide the poor and working people and start them fighting among themselves: men vs. women, blacks vs. whites, etc.

Meanwhile...On October 18 the Massachusetts House quickly approved a bill providing \$1.5 million in pay raises for the already over-paid state legislators, members of the judiciary and other management employees not represented by collective bargaining.

Under this bill, state legislators will receive a \$4,000 pay raise over the next two years.

Since July 1976 when the legislature voted to put themselves in Group 19 of the pay classifications, they have received four pay hikes and under this bill would get two more. □

Wayne Standley
AFSCME

Northampton, Mass.

STUDENTS SUPPORT STRIKERS

Here's your garbage, Yale



Students put garbage on Yale University steps.

NEW HAVEN, CN—Blue collar workers at Yale University have been on strike for a month. The workers, represented by Local 35 of the Hotel and Restaurant Workers Union, had been working without a contract since last July.

The main demand is for adequate job security. The full-time work force is almost half what it was six years ago. The University has replaced many full-time workers with part-timers who do not receive any of the hard-won union benefits, like health insurance, paid vacations or sick pay.

The second major demand concerns cost-of-living adjustments (COLA) and wage increases. In a statement distributed among employees and students the University claims that it will "guar-

antee" combined raises and COLA's of 16.4% to 22.2% over three years. The University includes in this computation a 9¢/hr. COLA which was negotiated in the last contract. The University's offer thus shrinks to about 14% to 20% increases over three years.

If inflation continues at about 7% each year, or 22% over three years, the total increases offered by the University will lead to a decline of real wages for the workers. The union's proposal would put the workers a few percentage points ahead of inflation.

STUDENTS

In the struggle between union and university, Yale students appear to be caught in the middle, but student actions will be important in

determining the length of the strike. The University can get away with a lengthy strike if students remain passive.

However, some students have organized a support committee, and are calling for students to put pressure on the administration to agree to return to negotiations or go to arbitration. They are circulating a petition asking the University to negotiate or arbitrate, and wear red T-shirts which read "Students Support Yale Workers."

There have been several demonstrations of more than a hundred students. At one demonstration, students marched to the administration hall with full garbage bags normally collected by scab workers, and dumped them on the steps. □

by Amy Tyson

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Show-down

in the coalfields

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NATIONAL COAL CONTRACT EXPIRES IN DECEMBER

"The coal companies, for whom I speak, are determined to eliminate the wildcat."

These were the words of Joseph P. Brennan, the president of the Bituminous Coal Operators' Association (BCOA).

He opened this year's negotiations with the UMWA with the threat that, unless the wildcat strikes are stopped, "It could well mark the beginning of the end of the national coal agreement."

These were strong words, of course. But Brennan and the BCOA have been locked in battle with the coal miners for years now and they are determined to force a victory in the national contract which expires December 7.

On the other side, the 130,000 coal miners covered by the national agreement are equally determined to win a breakthrough in the contract, and a substantial number of them believe that it is now or never on the issue of the right to strike—the key issue behind the wildcats.

The three years since the last contract have seen a steady escalation in the struggle in the mines—a struggle that is based on the fundamental relations in the mines: job assignment, bidding, safety, absenteeism.

ATTACK

The companies, enjoying their greatest profits in history, have tried to push productivity up in the mines, and to do this they have attacked the rights and organization of the workers in the mines.

The coal miners have resisted and the wildcat strike has been their chief weapon.

In 1976, wildcat strikes amounted to 2 million days work lost to the employers—won by the miners. This was 43% more than in 1975 when 1.4 million days were won on strike. In 1977, strikes were



Rank and file miners want the right to strike

up by more than 50% and in August had already surpassed the total number in 1976, figures already unparalleled in American industry.

In part as a result of this struggle, coal miners have forced productivity down in the mines by nearly 50% since 1969. At the same time, they have maintained relatively high wages. Under the current agreement, the average hourly straight time pay in 1977 is \$6.67.

CONFLICT

It has been a bloody conflict, however. Hundreds of miners have been jailed, fined, fired. Many have been beaten by the police.

The deaths in the mines also continue, both in the ever recurring disasters, such as

the Scotia explosion in 1976 when 26 men were killed, and in the day to day slaughter.

This year 111 miners have been killed in the mines. Other thousands have been seriously injured.

The coal miners want the right to strike so that they can defend and extend their rights in the mines without turning to the time consuming and biased grievance and arbitration procedures, and free from the interference of the courts.

The companies are demanding "stability" in the mines—that is no strikes in the life of the contract. In return they promise "wages, benefits, and other amenities."

Arnold Miller, the President of the UMWA, is negotiating for the union.

In 1974, Miller presented the miners an agreement most accepted, including a 64% increase in wages and benefits over three years.

He did not win, of course, the right to strike, and this led directly to the massive wildcat strike waves of 1975 and 1976, when first 80,000 and then 120,000 miners organized prolonged nationwide strikes.

This year, Miller is incomparably weaker. His administration disintegrated in 1976 and 1977. His former allies deserted him, his staff departed. His organizing campaign finally ground to a halt.

Now, UMWA coal amounts to little more than 50% of the

nations' coal production—down from 68% just five years ago. At the same time, the steel and power companies are boasting of stockpiles that will last more than three months, while hinting that they will bring non-union coal in from the West if necessary.

Miller, therefore, is desperately hoping to avoid a strike. "We don't want a strike," he told reporters when the negotiations were convened. His spokesman, Attorney Ronald Nathan went farther and agreed that the union was "more anxious than the companies" to settle early.

Miller's plan is to settle 10 or 11 days before the expiration. This will give him time to have the members vote on the new contract before the old one expires. Coal miners maintain the tradition of "no contract—no work."

FEAR

Both Miller and the operators fear that a strike, once begun, will develop into a major confrontation, right in the heart of winter when energy demands are highest.

Nevertheless, on October 27, Miller was forced to suspend negotiations, saying there was "absolutely no progress" in the first three weeks of the bargaining.

The companies were continuing to demand the right to take punitive measures

against wildcat strikers, including reducing the daily pay of miners involved in wildcats. They also want the right to discipline miners for "excessive absenteeism."

The union wants a new system of financing the health and welfare funds, specifically so that company payments are not tied directly to production.

In June, the companies simply stopped paying health benefits, claiming that wildcat strikes had depleted the funds available, but an independent survey showed that the real cause of the crisis was the skyrocketing cost of medical care.

85,000 miners struck in July and August, forcing the companies to restore the benefits.

WAGES

Wages will be an issue, and both Miller and the companies hope the miners can be bought off.

At this point, it seems unlikely that a major strike can be avoided—the issues are too big, and the sides too far apart.

The danger for the miners is clear enough. If Miller can push through an early settlement, the companies will almost certainly win new weapons in their fight to discipline the miners.

The task of the rank and file is to see that there is a strike in December and then to force the "right to strike" back onto the bargaining table. □

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