



Sanderson's striker

BREAKTHROUGH AT SANDERSONS!

LAUREL, MS—On January 24, the strikers at Sanderson Farms won an important victory.

The National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) ruled that Sanderson's must rehire 200 fired workers, and that he must resume negotiations with the union, the International Chemical Workers Union (ICWU).

Sanderson is planning to appeal, but the strikers are jubilant.

They have been out on strike almost two years. The workers, mostly Black women, stopped cutting

chickens on February 27, 1979, and since then have maintained themselves on \$15 a week strike benefits.

Gloria Jordan, the vice-president of ICWU Local 882 said that the ruling was "like breathing clean air again. I have no doubt we will win."

But the strike is still not over yet, and the workers still urgently need support. Please send messages and contributions to ICWU, Local 882, 226d Ellisville Blvd., Laurel, MS 39440. Attention Gloria Jordan. □

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PRO-CHOICE ACTION: see page 5

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Why they tried to kill Bernadette

SEE PAGE 2 FOR AN EXCLUSIVE REPORT FROM NORTHERN IRELAND

ATLANTA: HOSTAGE CHILDREN

On January 26, the body of another Black child, Terry Lorenzo Pue, 15 years old, was found strangled to death in a suburb of Atlanta.

Terry is the 14th Black child killed in Atlanta, and one of seventeen who have disappeared in the past eighteen months.

Little children now are afraid to go out of doors. Some will not leave their parents side. A generation terrified—held hostage by fear.

There have been no arrests in Atlanta for these killings. The mayor has now appealed to Ronald Reagan for help, but there has been no answer. Ronald Reagan, of course, is too busy whipping up the hostage hysteria. Ronald Reagan is too busy threatening massive retaliation against future hostage takers.

And he is also busy deregulating oil—for the benefit of the oil monopolies—and planning the dismantling of the food stamp program. And what could he do anyway? Massive retaliation against the racists of Atlanta?

VICTIMS

The Black children of Atlanta are not the only victims. Seven Black men have been murdered by racists in Buffalo, and similarly no one has been arrested. There have been scores of other such killings in the country.

BY

MARY WILLIAMS

Why is there no national outcry against these killings? Why no yellow ribbons tied until the killers of the children are caught? And what about the Americans gunned down in El Salvador?

The answer is simple. The hostage hysteria has a purpose. And that purpose has nothing to do with human rights, nor with mistreatment of the innocent. If it did, surely there would be a national outpouring of emotion for the children of Atlanta and their families.

The purpose of the well-orchestrated hostage hysteria is, one, to convince the American people that the U.S. and Exxon, etc., have the right to the oil of Iran and the Middle East.

And, two, the purpose is to prepare public opinion to support military adventures to take and keep control of that oil—or whatever Reagan decides are "American interests." □



A UDA gunman

Why they tried to kill Bernadette

In this article Eamonn McCann, an old friend and comrade of Bernadette's tells why they tried to kill her—why the right wing wants Bernadette dead.

You can send telegrams and cards to Bernadette and Michael McAliskey at The Royal Victoria Hospital, Falls Road, Belfast, Northern Ireland.

An awful lot of what has been written about Bernadette in the past weeks reads like an obituary. In the Dublin Sunday Press, People's Democracy leader Michael Farrell, had an eloquent piece about her spirit living on as long as the winds that blow and the tides that turn.

POLITICS

When she gets better and reads some of this stuff, she will be livid. She is a very tough woman and clear minded about politics and will know well why the far right tried to kill her.

It was because they reckoned she was a threat to the Northern State and of course they're right: so she is.

To be preserved, the Northern state needs the Catholic workers covered. A couple of years ago, the British authorities and the Loyalists believed that between them they had achieved that.

The IRA conceded it was on the brink of defeat. Campaigns in support of prisoners were drawing pathetically little support. Roy Mason had high hopes of imposing a new settlement.

In Britain, the Irish issue seemed near enough dead.

REASON

But that didn't happen—and Bernadette was one of the reasons why.

The resurgence of militancy in the past two years, the return to mass politics on a scale unknown since the early 70s has been, up to a point, her doing.

It is possible slightly to personalize it like that, because in the absence of any viable revolutionary socialist grouping, it falls sometimes on individuals to turn the tide.

Bernadette did that, and not through this so-called charisma, but through a willingness to keep at it when almost everyone else thought it was futile.

When she puts her mind to it she is a marvellous organizer, and she personally put together the platform on which the united

front campaign against repression was launched over two years ago.

On that platform she polled 35,000 votes in the European election of June, 1979—in many ways a more formidable and significant achievement than her first election victory twelve years ago.

It was after the European election that the Republican movement joined the united campaign.

RESULT

The new confidence and militancy of the mass rallies and marches was the result.

It was the fact that she more than any other person had brought this about that put her high on the death list of the Orange ultra-right.

The Northern state and people like Bernadette can not peacefully co-exist.

So the struggle, as they say, will continue.

...and some unanswered questions

What were the soldiers who found Bernadette and Michael McAliskey on the morning of January 16th up to?

The commanding officer says that the men of the third Paras (paratroopers) were on "routine patrol."

OPERATION

This is not true. The Paras were miles away from their normal area of operation in County Armagh.

The Argylls are the "resident" unit in the County Tyrone area where the McAliskey's live.

Whatever the Paras were doing, it wasn't routine. The house had obviously been staked out.

Soldiers had been dropped in the vicinity by helicopters the previous day.

Was it staked out because the army had a tip-off that the murder bid would be made? If so, how come three hit men in face masks were able to reach the cottage and spend some time prowling around before smashing into the house and putting seven bullets into Bernadette and three into Michael?

The lane to the cottage is a rutted dirt track, four hundred yards long. A car's maximum speed along it would be ten miles an hour.

How come there was no action from the army until the murder attempt was over?

How come the killers got so

far? People have been shot dead in the North for far less by undercover patrols.

How come the commanding officer of the third Paras, Hew Pike, was at the scene with a press statement even before the local cops had arrived?

Some local sources insist that the army allowed the attack to happen before making their play.

That they thought they could have Bernadette dead and bag the killers in the bargain. Two birds with one stone.

It is the type of suggestion, which, in the absence of information is impossible to prove—or disprove.

But the more fundamental

political questions can be answered readily enough. The Ulster Defense Association (UDA) has never hidden its intention to kill people like Bernadette McAliskey.

It's "supreme commander," Andy Tyre, spoke on British television a few months ago about the organization's intention to "eliminate pro-Republican leaders."

The UDA does not deny that in recent months it has killed Miriam Daly, John Turnley, Ronnie Bunting and Noel Little, all prominent H-Block campaigners.

The UDA remains a perfectly legal organization. Mr. Tyre carries a loaded and perfectly legal revolver. A few years

ago, one of his clubs was ceremoniously opened by junior minister Lord Belstead.

Mr. Tyre has never been arrested in his life. It is the general background, as much as the murky circumstances of the Paras behaviour on the morning, that leads Catholics in the North to quite reasonably suspect the worst.

IDENTITY

They know that while the UDA can go too far, and that its rank and file members foul with the law, there is an identity of interest between the police and the army.

Both seek the elimination of "the rebel element" and the preservation of the Northern state.



APPEAL

John Anderson wrote us this: "I just heard Bernadette has regained consciousness. It takes a lot to kill a socialist with her spirit."

"I am sending \$5.00 to start a fund for Bernadette and her family. No doubt others have the same idea."

People who would like to make a contribution to help the McAliskey's through these difficult times can send them to the McAliskey Fund, c/o Socialist Worker, Box 18037, Cleveland, OH 44118.

U.S hands off El Salvador!

Stop the war plans

In El Salvador, 2% of the population owns 60% of the land.

Eight percent of the population receives 50% of the national income.

In 1979 unemployment was 25%. The population is overwhelmingly united against the right-wing government that maintains this system.

Today this country is the flashpoint for all Central America—and everyone there is expecting an American military invasion.

ARMS

From 1950 to 1979 the Pentagon spent \$16.7 million training and equipping the armed forces of El Salvador. There are U.S. military advisors there now.

"Emergency" military assistance to El Salvador worth \$5.7 million was approved by Congress in March 1980.

The Carter administration said this was for "non-lethal" aid, but it is known to include combat related equipment such as 7,500 CS tear gas grenade launchers.

In addition the right-wing junta in San Salvador has been provided with night vision weapons and technology and related equipment perfected in Vietnam—clearly for use in operations against guerillas.

As part of a new military package for 1981, the junta has been promised helicop-

ters, jeeps, patrol boats and aircraft engines.

On top of all this there is a booming private trade in arms between U.S. dealers and the El Salvador armed forces. Carter stopped military aid to the junta just long enough to shed a hypocritical tear for the murdered American nuns then quickly resumed it. Carter—like all the presidents before him—was committed to maintaining American domination in El Salvador.

Reagan has made his sympathy for the right in Central America clear to everyone.

SOLUTION

His advisors are now telling him that there is only one solution to the problem of Central America.

One, inject massive military aid and unite the Central American armies into a single force.

Two, invade El Salvador, just as the marines did in 1931. Three, organize and finance the ex-members of



A young guerilla

100,000 MARCH ON CAPITAL

WASHINGTON, D.C.—On January 15, 100,000 demonstrators met here at the base of the Washington monument to honor the late Martin Luther King Jr.

The march was by far the largest Black demonstration in Washington since the civil rights marches of the sixties.

Tens of thousands of Washington residents were joined by car loads and more than 200 chartered bus loads of protesters from the East and across the Midwest.

HOLIDAY

There were portraits of King everywhere. Marchers chanted "We want a holiday—Black folks holiday!" and "We took a holiday."

The march was first called and organized by the singer Stevie Wonder out of his feeling for "one of our great leaders. The crowd roared out "Happy Birthday."

But it was clear that the rally was also about Reagan, the new administration, and the rising tide of racism in America.

The racism sweeping this country—the murders of children, the shootings on the streets, the cutbacks and attacks from the Congress—will not be tolerated indefinitely.

Signs read "Where are the Atlanta 15?" and "I want a job."

Clearly this demonstration then was also a warning that Reagan had better not go too far—the anger is rising in the Black community. And Miami is still on people's minds. □

Socialist Worker

WHAT WE THINK

Somoza's national guard and prepare an invasion to destroy the Nicaraguan revolution.

And four, blockade Cuba.

All this has a great attraction for Reagan. He wants to show the world he is a tough

customer, and unlike the Middle East or Southern Africa, military intervention in Central America would be a good display of power without a serious risk of setting off a global conflict—especially

with Russia tied down in Afghanistan and Poland.

The main problem is Mexico. The U.S. needs Mexican oil and the Mexican government is dead set against American military intervention. This may still convince Reagan to stick to reliance on the Central American armies.

Whatever happens, our job is to raise as much opposition to military support and intervention in El Salvador as possible.

The right in Central America knows it has Reagan. We must show the people of Central America that they also have an ally here. □



Anti-draft conference called

by RETHA HILL

The first national anti-draft conference will be held in Detroit, February 13 through 16 at Wayne State University.

The conference was called by the national Committee Against Registration and Draft (CARD).

CARD is a coalition made up of fifty-four nationally affiliated organizations. Over 300 local groups also make up the committee structure.

Although CARD is a young organization (it was founded in 1979), it mobilized forty thousand people to Washington D.C. last March 22, to protest former president Carter's call for the reinstatement of draft registration.

TIME

Now, barely a year after Carter's initial request for \$13 million to resume registration, CARD will be mobilizing hundreds of activists from around the country for the first national convention.

The convention couldn't come at a better time. Already hundreds of thousands of

young men, aged 18 to 20, have been forced to register for the draft.

The military budget proposal for this year exceeds \$200 billion. A renewed and dangerous spirit of militarism is sweeping the country—culminated by the installment of Ronald Reagan as the fortieth president.

Military intervention is fast becoming a reality.

Last year under the Carter administration, the U.S. gave \$5.5 million in military credits and \$90 million in economic aid to the repressive government of El Salvador.

U.S. military advisors are stationed in El Salvador and 12 special deployment aircraft for transporting American soldiers are on stand-by in Panama.

On the day of the return of the 52 hostages, president Reagan stated that any further holding of Americans as hostages would result in swift retaliation.

The rising cost of funding the military budget will increase inflation and the burden of taxes. This can only result in a reduction of money available for social needs. Rising unemployment with its accompanying backlash against minorities will be the only possible result of a depressed economy depending on the arms race and war.

ISSUES

It is these issues that the movement against registration and the draft will have to take up. The national CARD conference will deal with these concerns and more through a series of workshops. Also, once the activists have been armed with the "why?" of the movement, they will be taught the "how to's" in a series of workshops, dealing with practical skills such as public speaking, the uses of media and starting chapters of CARD in their local area.

The most important aspects of the convention will be unifying the movement through a series of plenary sessions in which the principles of unity, political direction and objectives for the future can be worked out.

ATTEND

We urge activists and socialists to attend this conference. It is a must for activists involved in the struggle for civil rights, dignity and social equality.

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Enraged bus drivers protest rape

CLEVELAND, OH—Enraged by the rape at gunpoint of a woman bus driver, more than 100 RTA workers met here on January 25 and planned a protest march. It was the fourth rape of a woman bus driver in the past year.

The meeting followed a sick-out by women drivers and was marked by repeated outbursts of shouting and applause about the RTA's insensitivity to drivers' complaints.

Drivers have long complained about the lack of

security. It was pointed out that the RTA did not even realize anything was wrong when the woman driver was more than a half hour late—many of the systems' two-way radio systems do not work.

The group also threatened to strike if their complaints are not taken seriously. "We're not talking about months or weeks. This will have to be settled in the very near future," said an angry driver.

The drivers said that they will have the full support of the 2,000 members of the Amalgamated

Transit Union, including bus drivers, rapid transit workers and maintenance workers.

The demonstration will start at 10:00 am in the Public Square. The workers will march in uniform.

SUPPORT

Other groups supporting the march are the Cleveland Pro-Choice Action Committee and Take Back the Night.

THE POLITICS OF BLACK LIBERATION IN AMERICA

The Nazis, the Klan and the need for a socialist alternative



The Buffalo area Nazi Party announced plans to demonstrate on January 15th—Martin Luther King's birthday.

Applauding the ".22 caliber killer"—the man believed to have assassinated four Black men in Buffalo last fall—as a "great white hunter," they called for a "white civil rights day."

Posters proclaiming "100 white men with guts . . . wanted" began appearing in Buffalo.

The Nazi provocation did not go unchallenged. The Martin Luther King Memorial Day Coalition and other groups called for a counter-demonstration and rally for the same day and site.

SMEAR

Buffalo's mayor, James Griffin, predictably, moved to ban the counter-demonstration. He had said nothing of the Nazi's plans to march outside City Hall.

A smear campaign was launched against the coalition, and the media screamed of potential violence on the day. A typical newspaper headline read: "Police assign hundreds for rallies." Mounted police, dogs and helicopters were to be put into action. The mayor threatened to arrest any counter-demonstrators.

And in a cynical move, the mayor also announced an "official" rally at noon on the same day—headed by various

city officials and politicians—to honor King.

But the coalition was undeterred, and on the 14th the mayor backed down on his threats.

The demonstration was successful in several ways. 500 attended the rally. Cars and buses from other cities in the Midwest and East came to Buffalo. The mayor and local press failed in their intimidation attempts.

The Nazis dared not march. Two made a brief appearance under heavy police protection.

As at other anti-Nazi or anti-Klan activities, the majority of those at the rally were clearly organized, committed leftists.

Of course the smear campaign against the demonstration might account for some no-shows. But the Buffalo demonstration is the rule, not the exception.

The dozens of demonstrations, rallies and meetings of the past year attest to one fundamental fact: those willing to consistently confront the Klan and Nazis today are leftists and militant Black groups.

Partially this is a reflection of the prevalent mood and level of organization in the country today. At the present time it is the left which understands the necessity of con-

fronting the Klan and Nazis. It can provide an explanation of the resurgence of such groups within the context of the crisis of the system, and provide a strategy for their defeat—and a vision of the future.

This of course does not mean that non-leftists will not and can not be brought into the struggle against the Klan and Nazis. On the contrary, we must always strive to do that.

But there is no doubt that such activity will continue, in the immediate future, to be dominated by socialists and those influenced by socialist ideas. Certain conclusions follow.

Because of the relative small size of the left, posturing—the bluff and bluster about mobilizing the masses into direct confrontation with the fascists—the talk of armed action by a few, has to be sharply avoided.

The left on its own today is not strong enough to stop the Klan and Nazis permanently.

Our ability to stop the Klan and Nazis is integrally related to our size—or more correctly our lack of significant numbers.

Therefore, the degree to which we can rebuild a socialist current which can provide an alternative and a fight-back on the many issues that face American workers over the next years, is central to strategy to defeat the fascists.

In short, the success of the fight against the Klan and Nazis will depend on building revolutionary socialist organization, spreading its ideas and rooting it in the working class.

That is why, for us in the ISO, the fight against the Klan and Nazis is and will always be integrally related to building our organization, to building a socialist movement in the U.S.

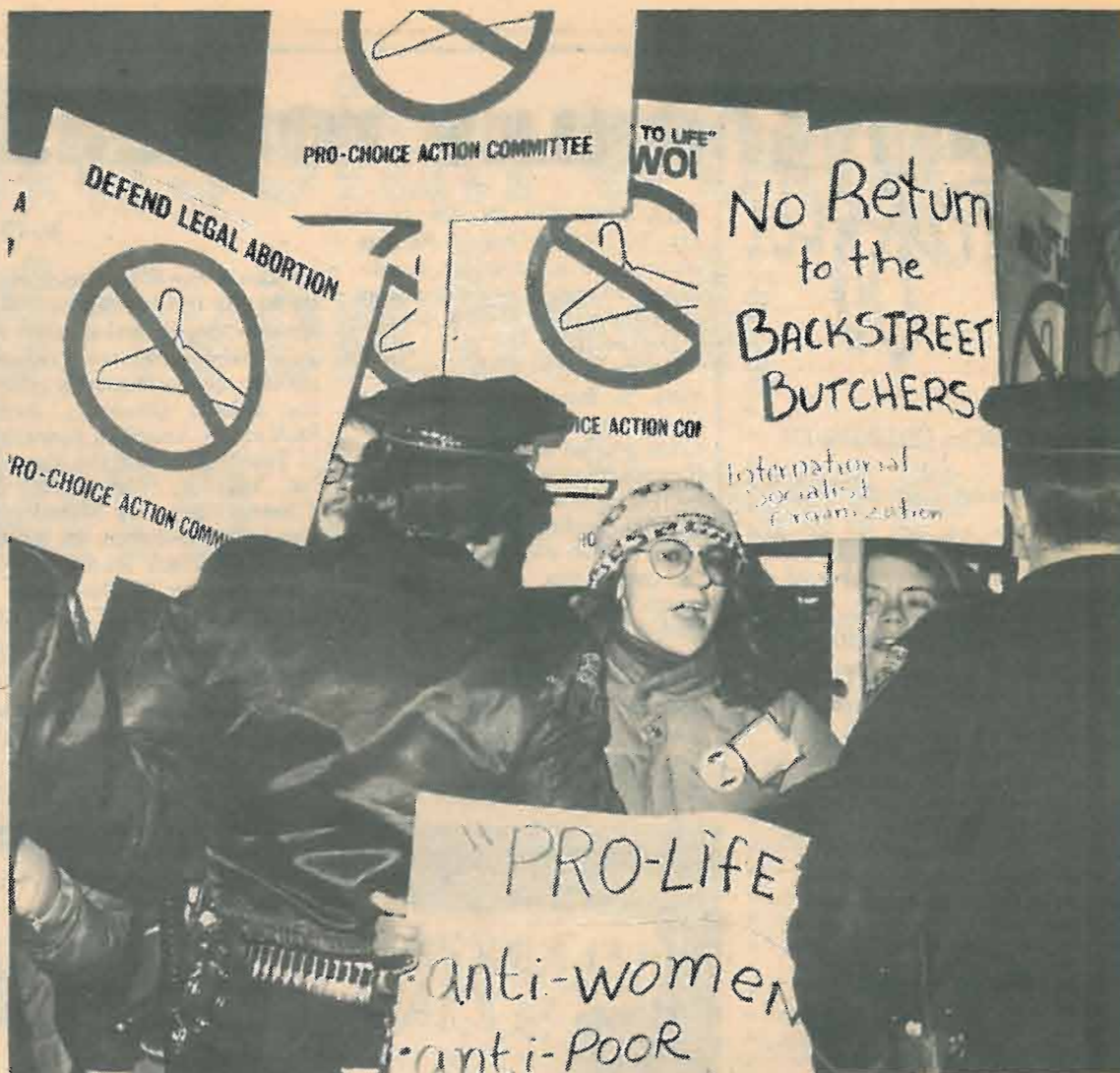
AIMS

These are not counter aims—the building of a revolutionary party which can challenge this decaying system of crisis will be our only guarantee of victory over the Klan and Nazis.



We can stop the 'right-to-lifers!'

by CELIA EMERSON



CLEVELAND, OH—Over 200 hundred people confronted anti-abortionists on January 22nd, the 8th anniversary of the Supreme Court's decision to legalize abortion.

The counter demonstration was called by the Cleveland Pro-Choice Action Committee, one of the member groups of the Reproductive Rights National Network.

Every January 22nd, the anti-abortionists have a "memorial" for the so-called lost fetuses and to renew support for their anti-woman, anti-abortion campaign. And, every year, feminists, socialists and other activists militantly confront them.

DANGERS

This year, there was a great deal of pro-choice activity in Cleveland and throughout the country. In Cleveland, thousands of leaflets warning women about the dangers of the right were distributed at workplaces, welfare offices, and at the showing of "9 to 5."

Omni Health Clinic announced that it would perform free abortions for poor women on January 22nd, and Omni, and all the other abortion clinics were swamped with calls. Omni further announced that it would perform free abortions for women who are victims of rape and incest.

JOIN

Rhonda Copelon, activist from the Center for Constitutional Rights was the featured speaker at the January 22nd pro-choice rally. She warned of the dangers of the so-called human life amendment and urged people to "fight every battle, even for medicaid funding." She also told people to either join a pro-choice group or raise the issue wherever they worked and in their communities.

Abortion rights activity took place in other cities as well. In some cities like Boston and Madison it was included in the counter-inaugural events.

Chicago Women Organized

for Reproductive Choice held a rally and celebration which drew 350 people.

In New York City, over 25,000 leaflets about the dangers of the human life amendment were distributed. The New York Committee on Abortion Rights and Against

Sterilization Abuse (CARASA) held a meeting on reproductive rights.

Picketing for abortion rights also took place in Washington D.C. In Iowa City and Buffalo a series of community meetings was held around the issue of abortion rights.

On February fourth, the National Organization for Women and Women USA have organized a mass lobbying effort on Washington. The demands of the meetings and lobbying are for equal rights, reproductive rights and economic rights. □

"There is a majority in this country that supports choice, but it might not be a majority tomorrow unless we organize"



Rhonda Copelon

Thousands rally against draft registration

In January, thousands of people took part in anti-draft registration demonstrations and rallies in cities and towns from coast to coast.

This is a report of one such demonstration, held near Chicago, by the North West Suburban Coalition Against Registration and the Draft (NWSCARD).

The report is by Bobbi Harris of NWSCARD.

OAK PARK, ILL—Despite sub-zero temperatures, 50 people gathered in front of the Oak Park post office on January 3rd to protest registration for the draft.

The demonstrators ranging in age from 10 to 70, marched, chanted and handed out leaflets to passersby for two hours, until the post office closed.

This rally was part of a series of events planned for the final week of mass registration. In future, young men will be required to sign up within 60 days of their 18th birthday.

RESPONSE

Near West Suburban Coalition Against Registration and the Draft, sponsors of this rally, were pleased by the turnout and the public's response. Many people driving past honked their horns and waved in support, and several young men crossed the street to join the marchers.

During the past six months NWSCARD has been very active around this and related issues. Educational on nuclear power and life in the military were presented. At this second forum the twin myths of "equal

opportunity" and "great technical training" were exposed.

Many Blacks and other minorities have heard these lies and, pressured by a declining economy, increasing racism and rising unemployment, have looked at the military as their only way to get ahead.

In reality, they've found the same problems in the army that they found outside it.

Another event scheduled was a draft counselling session. Questions about non-registration and CO status were answered by the panel, which included a lawyer, a Vietnam vet and a man who successfully resisted the draft. Alternatives to registration were stressed, along with a discussion of the economic reasons behind the current drive toward military superiority.

EDUCATE

NWSCARD plans more educational and programs in the high schools on such topics as the economy and US involvement in El Salvador. As spokesman Don Robinson says, "We have to educate people, that's the only answer." □



Anti-draft demonstrators in Oak Park, Illinois

Graffiti

by PATRICIA GOLDSMITH

The newest consumer society . . .

Peking's "Democracy Wall," once covered with handwritten posters, now carries advertisements for stereo equipment and Kodak cameras.

In fact advertising is a booming industry in China with three Japanese and one British advertising agency cornering the market.

The two largest Western advertisers are De L'Oreal who make perfume and Kodak. The products they advertise are nothing but dreams for most Chinese people.

Nevertheless there is a growing middle class and Kodak and De L'Oreal don't think they are wasting their money. They have looked at the way China is going and believe it is becoming a consumer society . . .

Pornographic cookies . . .

"These are obscene cookies, and there's no way you can get around that," said James Wright, executive director of the Maryland Moral Majority.

He was outraged at the sale of gingerbread people by a local store—"the Gingerbread Man"—which feature prominent sex organs and big smiles.

Wright tried to convince the police and state attorney's office that the store had illegally sold obscene material to minors. However, the state's attorney could not find them illegal.

Wright was outraged. "It's mind boggling to me that a kid can walk in and buy them. The intent of the store is to sell pornographic cookies, else why call them X-rated."

The store's owners say they don't sell the little guys to people under 18. □

Disgusting . . .

Add Aloysius Andrew Haulk to the list of most disgusting justices of the decade.

In recent weeks, speaking from the bench, Haulk has deplored the immigration of "faggots from Cuba" to this country and denigrated a sex discrimination suit by saying women "have a monthly problem which upsets them emotionally, and we all know that." □

And freedom of speech . . .

After university lawyers advised the student government that the 1st amendment probably applied at Cleveland's Case Western, the ISO was recognized as a student group.

The vote was 9 for, one against, 17 absents! □

RALLY TO RESIST THE NEW RIGHT

by FRANK FOULKS

BLOOMINGTON, IN—On January 20, 1981, as Ronald Reagan was sworn in as president, a coalition of Bloomington leftist groups staged a march to resist the rise of the new right.

200 demonstrators gathered at noon in front of the Monroe County courthouse and marched to the Indiana Memorial Union on the campus of Indiana University.

At 12:30 about 350 people filled Whittenburgher auditorium to listen to the short speeches by representatives of the groups which participated in the coalition.

GROUPS

The following Bloomington groups were represented by

speakers—the Bloomington chapter of the ISO, the Bloomington Feminist-Socialist Collective, the Paddlewheel Alliance (an anti-nuclear, environmentalist group), the Indiana University faculty local of the American Federation of Teachers (AFT), the Palestinian Solidarity Committee, the Citizens Party, the Bloomington Gay-Lesbian Alliance, the Indiana University Black Student Union, the Committee for Democracy in Latin America, the Turkish Student Union, and Bloomington Against the Draft.

Before and after the speeches, The Microdots, a local new wave

band entertained the crowd.

The speakers emphasized the connections between the goals of the groups which made up the coalition pursued.

Milt Fisk, who spoke for the Bloomington chapter of the ISO, warned that unless the American labor movement stages a credible resistance against the assault of big business in the next round of bargaining, the American labor movement will, in the next four years, find itself as powerless as it was in the 1920s.

Tanya Hays, of the Bloomington Gay-Lesbian Alliance, said that her group, in the light of the

increase in right-wing activity, had become convinced of the necessity of forming political alliances with groups representing other minorities.

PRECEDENT

She invoked the precedent of Nazism, declaring that "we won't let them pick us off one by one."

The coalition that staged the march to resist the rise of the new right represents the first attempt of the organizations involved to act together.

For the activists who organized it, the march forms a basis for further cooperation among the groups in common projects. □

TALKING ABOUT SOCIALISM

"An extraordinary sister in struggle"

Bernadette McAliskey: A rebel's rebel

by CELIA PETTY

Bernadette Devlin McAliskey, the 32-year old Irish revolutionary and leader of the movement for a united, free Ireland, and her husband, Michael McAliskey, were shot down in their home in Coal Island, Northern Ireland, while getting their children ready for school. The wire services reported that she took 7 bullets and her husband took 3. Three right-wing Protestants are being held for questioning.

It was a horrible three or four days of frantic phone calls to friends and newspapers to try to get some idea of her condition and her chances for survival. Finally, five days after the shooting the morning papers reported that she had told hospital workers: "they think they got me, but I'm not dead yet."

HOPE

It wasn't much, but it sent out a spark of hope to the thousands of supporters and admirers waiting for some news.

For many of us who grew up in the 60s Bernadette Devlin was a much admired figure. In those defiant times, she was the rebels' rebel.

Even if you didn't know much about politics or the situation in Ireland, it was really something to read about the youngest member of Parliament who in 1970 socked the racist Enoch Powell on the floor of Parliament.

For all her notoriety, she was and is a serious revolutionary who understands that the struggle for Irish freedom is part of the struggle for socialism around the world.

Devlin's political activism began with the Civil Rights Movement in Northern Ireland in the late 1960s. As she fought for reforms to better the lives of the Irish working

class, she began to understand that the social order, capitalism, was the heart of the problem, and the real reason for British imperialist domination in Northern Ireland.

RELENTLESS

Since then she has been a relentless, unyielding fighter, most recently working in the campaign of political prisoners in Ireland to achieve political rather than criminal status in jail.

In person, Bernadette Devlin McAliskey seems a surprisingly ordinary woman. She

has not the time for the arrogance and snobbery of the known and admired. The street fighting, campaigning, and political activity that has been her life for over ten years, seems to have given her an unusual understanding of what it means to be a comrade.

But there is also a spirit of tough defiance about her that probably saved her life. In Ireland violence and terrorism are part of the everyday arsenal used against the freedom fighters.

Bernadette has come the United States many times in

the past ten years, including last year, when many ISO members and Socialist Worker readers were lucky enough to hear her speak, to talk to her, to get to know her.

She came seeking support for the cause of Irish freedom. But she always sought that support in the context of the struggle for freedom and socialism in this country.

When she first came over, the Mayor of New York gave her the keys to the city. She in turn gave them to the New York Black Panthers. She supported busing in Boston on a later trip—despite the bitter racism that so poisons Boston's Irish community. She argued the case for internationalism, including the urgency of building a revolutionary socialist workers party right here in America.

There are, according to Bernadette, 15,000 troops, 10,000 soldiers in the Ulster Defense Regiment, and 12,000 members of the Royal Ulster Constabulary, or "about 40,000 armed military personnel supposedly keeping peace among a population of a million and a half." In this atmosphere it is easy to imagine that right-wing terrorists feel free to smash their way into the home of well-known activists and open fire.

SPIRIT

But they have been defeated once again—in no small way—by the strength, will and spirit of an extraordinary sister in struggle.

At this writing, Bernadette Devlin McAliskey is in serious but stable condition. She has regained consciousness, has begun talking with family and friends. To the benefit of revolutionaries around the world Bernadette Devlin and Michael McAliskey are recovering in hospital in Belfast.

Our hearts are with them. □





Russian street cleaners

Russian women driven back into the home

by CLAIRE HERSCHFELD

The Russian government is trying to drive women back into the home. Women now form over half the workforce.

But on January 1, new labor laws came into effect, banning women from about 460 heavy jobs.

The idea isn't new. The government began to bar women from the most highly paid heavy jobs such as driving buses and mining as long ago as 1957.

SHORTAGES

Women in Russia were sent to work in heavy jobs under Stalin not to liberate them, but because of a desperate shortage of men after a revolution and two world wars. Even then the government considered that such jobs were 'unfeminine' and that a woman's place was in the home.

Today, the government still needs women in the workforce—there is a labor shortage, not an unemployment shortage in Russia. But it needs them even more in the family.

The government has failed to provide the essential social back-ups for the working mother. Maternity homes are often dirty, the women in them are treated with contempt, medical services are poor.

Child care centers are badly run and there are far too few of them—only enough for one child in three. Housing is so inadequate that young married couples often share a room with their parents.

There is often no meat, milk or eggs in the shops and women have to line up for hours to get what they want. There are few household appliances—vacuum cleaners for example hardly exist.

RESULTS

The average Russian man is extremely male chauvinist and won't help in the house.

As a result, Soviet experts have estimated, women work a 'double shift': eight hours at their jobs and between four and six hours at home.

While men work about 50 hours a week, Soviet women work 80. They have no leisure time and are always exhausted.

Not surprisingly, Soviet women are ceasing to have children. The average Russian family has only one child.

The Russian population of the Soviet Union is almost static. The chief industrial areas of the country face a desperate shortage of labor in the 1980s. The Soviet government is extremely worried about this.

The obvious solution to the population crisis would be to improve living conditions.

Surveys show that Soviet women want to have more children and would if they could bring them up properly. But the government doesn't want to do this. Instead it wants to strengthen the family

by driving women out of the workforce.

This is partly because improving living conditions is expensive and partly because it finds the family a useful means of ideological control.

Russian women who have dared to attack the family are being harshly persecuted.

SEIZED

The feminist journal *Woman and Russia* was seized by the KGB. Leading feminists, Yulia Voznesenskaya, Tatyana Goricheva, and Natalya Malakhovskaya, have been harassed and forced to emigrate. Natalya Lazareva, a member of the feminist *Maria Club*, is about to go on trial and will probably be sent to a labor camp.

The Soviet policy of pressuring women to have children, by confining them to the home and victimizing feminists, is likely only to anger Soviet women.

They won't stop working if they can possibly help it because wages are very low (the average is 37 roubles, about \$60 a week). Even a family with only one child cannot survive on the earnings of one member. □

Poland: the fight for the five day week

Poland's workers took two well earned Saturdays of rest last month.

Their old boss Gierek promised them a five day week, way back during the upheavals of 1970. All they got was one Saturday a month, introduced in 1980.

Last summer, the demand for free Saturdays was one of twenty one conceded by the government, only to be denied again before the year was out.

Today, Polish workers are showing that the only way to get a reduction in hours is to take it. Virtually all of Po-

land's large factories were empty on Saturdays.

And buses and trains operated a Sunday service, many shops announced Saturday closing in the future and many workers in essential services wore red and white armbands as a gesture of solidarity.

AFFORD

Government spokesmen on Polish TV have argued that the Polish economy is in such bad shape that it cannot afford this reduction in hours.

The truth of the matter is that Poland's economy has a quite heavy level of hidden unemployment—workers idle at work due to management inefficiency, corruption and poor industrial relations. If workers in Poland really controlled their country they could easily do the same work in less time.

Workers who stayed away on Saturday have been threatened with loss of pay and bonuses. But Solidarity has replied with the threat of strike action if this is carried out.

The atmosphere in Poland is not as tense as you might expect. A worker in the Gdynia shipyard told me:

"We have no time to get

excited. It takes such an effort to simply live, the hours after work spent lining up or searching from shop to shop for what you need, the hassles with the Christmas ration cards . . . when you get home you are ready to drop.

"There is no time to think about what might happen. A lot of my friends have had worried phone calls from the West. We treat it all (the threat of invasion) as a bit of a joke."

The Poles have very little to lose. They have their new weapon—Solidarity. Therein lies their only hope of making life more bearable. It will take more than the rattle of tanks from the East or appeals of patriotism from Warsaw to make them break ranks.

UNFULFILLED

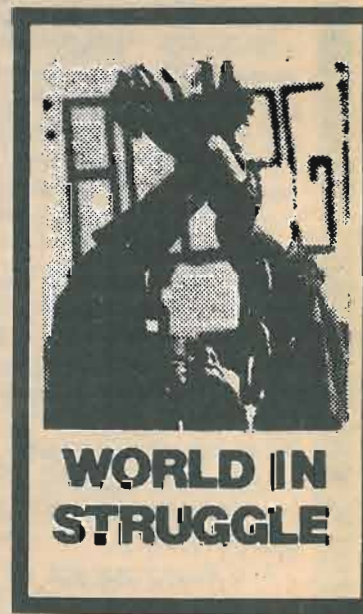
There are still many of the 21 agreements of last summer left unfulfilled. The questions of maternity leave, of speedier housing for newlyweds (who usually have to wait fifteen years to get an apartment), of access to the mass media for Solidarity, of political prisoners, are only some still to be fought for.

Unless Solidarity moves forward on these questions it will get beaten and lose everything. □

RACISM AND THE FRENCH CP

The French Communist Party is diving deeper into the gutter of racism. Party secretary general Georges Marchais led 5,000 demonstrators through the Paris suburb of Vitry in support of the Communist-run local council's opposition to the housing of Black immigrants in the area.

Meanwhile in Rennes, Communist Councillors are opposing the use of city funds to build a mosque and a Koranic school for immigrants from North Africa. □



NEW STRIKES SWEEP POLAND

As we go to press, an explosion of wildcat strikes is sweeping Poland.

In Bielsko-Biala, an industrial city near the Czechoslovak border, a general strike affecting 110 factories demanded the dismissal of five local government leaders.

Another strike shut down the steel mill in Katowice, and more than 100 mines were struck in Upper Silesia, in Bialystok and in Lodz.

At the same time farmers are expected to spread their strikes, and students are sitting in at Lodz University, where they are demanding a national student congress to

compete with the party-run student association.

The Bielsko-Biala strike, which shut down all industry, including the auto plant which makes Polish Fiats, is to continue until the government agrees to negotiate.

So far the government has refused, saying that the replacement of officials is "political."

These few strikes are almost all the result of local initiative, with the national union, Solidarity, playing no role, or, in some cases, acting to discourage strikers.

And they are another example that in Poland things will not stand still.

ASHTABULA NURSES FIGHT FOR THE RIGHT TO HAVE A SAY IN THEIR OWN LIVES!

The reason we organized to start with is that people got frustrated with not having any means to change anything. There are no rules at that hospital—whatever rules that there are are changed indiscriminately, they're not written down and they're not for everybody.

There was no bidding for jobs, no posting for jobs—no one knew what job was coming up.

MOOD

Consequently, if you want to go from third shift to second shift, you can either butter up to the nursing office or go down and fake hysteria—and maybe you get on and maybe you don't, depending on what kind of mood they're in and that sort of thing.

Nurses now are, for economic reasons, forced into doing things that they know are wrong. When you've got too many patients to take care of you can't do it right. It's not just a legal responsibility—it's a moral one that you have that says "I'm supposed to do this right and I've got to half-step because I'm in such a big rush and people are screaming at me."

We covered for the doctors for the longest time—we covered up their mistakes. To the doctors we're sort of subservient, semi-intelligent technicians.

There was a big incident in the emergency room where four people were in a head-on collision—2 people died immediately. We wanted to put burr holes in to relieve pressure from the swelling of the brain. We went through 8 doctors trying to get somebody to come in and do it. Nobody came.

One of the patients turned out to be a nephew of a member of the board of trustees—and then the shit hit the fan. But that kind of thing had gone on constantly before. The doctor we had the biggest problem with happens to be a very powerful member of the board of trustees.

We finally got fed up and decided to organize. The level of frustration was such that it took about 10 days to 2 weeks to organize everybody.

BELOW

It was very apparent in the negotiations that the administration wanted us to strike. We dropped below our original bottom-line economically, we gave up the cost-of-living and a whole lot of things because we thought there was going to be a settlement. We stuck to our guns on the moral/ethical issues, we didn't compromise those.

We bargained right up till about 5 o'clock in the morning. It became apparent to us

'We want a nurses union!'

The nurses at Ashtabula General Hospital have now been on strike seven months—the longest nurses strike in U.S. history. They are picketing 24 hours a day—in the middle of a bitter Ohio snowbelt winter. The hospital has refused to negotiate with them since before Christmas. Now they say further negotiations will begin only after the annual certification inspection in mid-February.

Tom Wagner, an Ashtabula nurse and a member of the negotiating team, talked to Sharon Smith of Socialist Worker about the strike and why the nurses are so determined to win.

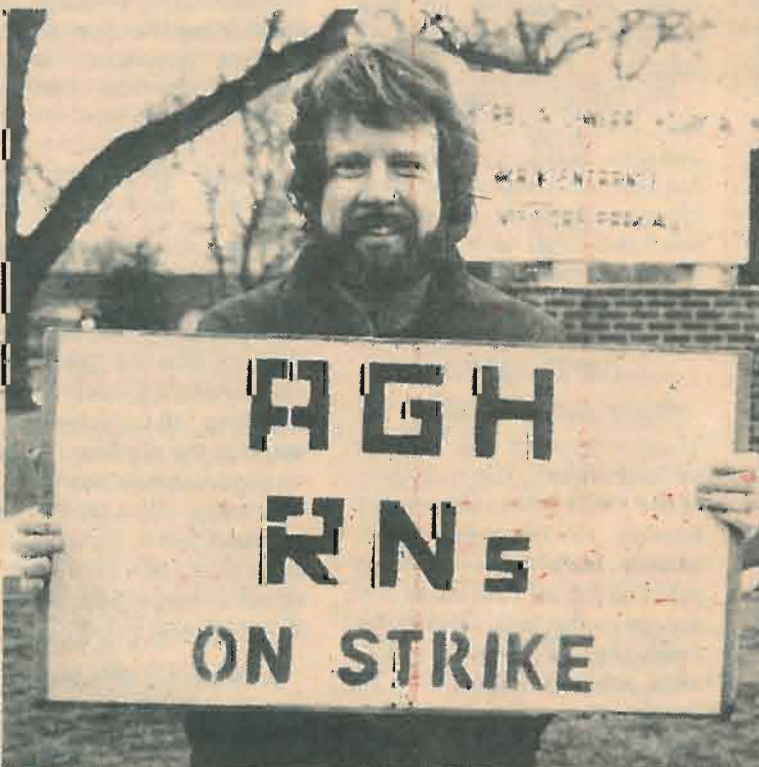
that they just didn't want to negotiate. They don't want a nurses' union, and the intent through this whole thing has been to get rid of it. They want to get it back to the good old days when nurses knew their place.

WAR

What we have seen is a continual state of war. At the beginning of the strike, the mandatory membership clause was not an important issue. Practice issues—floating, training, orientation—were the important issues. As it became apparent that the hospital was out to bust us, the fight has been for our survival as an organization.

They may give us the money, the practice issues,

Tom Wagner



they will do whatever they have to do in order to get us to come back in without a good strong union. And in 2 years they won't have to worry about it because we won't have enough strength to fight them.

The anti-union stuff we get from the hospital is just incredible. It's the same thing that we've been fighting against this whole time—it's this patronizing attitude that everybody knows what's good for nurses except nurses!

MONEY

It's the same attitude women get treated to in general, but especially if they're teachers or nurses or in a typical "female" role. You're not

supposed to want money, or decent working conditions. Their attitude is "We take care of you, don't you worry about it." They have trouble comprehending that you can think for yourself.

SOLE

Most nurses are either sole supporters or joint supporters for their families. They've got a job just as legitimate as any guy. There are very few nurses with a husband who stays at home. If their kids are sick, it's the woman who's going to have to stay home and take care of them. But the hospital has denied us that right. So consequently, a nurse with a sick child has to call up and lie—say that she's sick.

The biggest thing that's kept me going through this strike is the change of a bunch of people from an attitude of "I have to take what comes down the pipe" to "I have a say in my own life—and not only that I have a stake in other people's lives."

"We covered for doctors for the longest time—we covered up for their mistakes. To the doctors we're sort of subservient, semi-skilled technicians."

HEALTH

Health workers in the United States now number about 6.5 million. They comprise over 5% of the labor force.

While doctors are still men, women are 75% of health care workers—nurses aides, dieticians, workers, and in some cases technicians jobs.

Blacks and Hispanics, particularly in large cities, make a large part of the health work force, and they are usually confined to the low paying, non-prestige jobs at the hospitals—aides, housekeeping, cooks, transport. In New York City, between 80% and 90% of all these jobs are held by Blacks and Hispanics.

GROWTH

Since World War II, the health industry has experienced continuous growth. Employment in the health industry grew more than 50% in the years 1965-71.

But most of the investment in health care in recent years

see more



Hospitals for people, not profit

The health care industry is now the second largest in the U.S. It will account for about 10% of the Gross National Product (GNP) this year.

But while hospitals and other health care facilities spend vast sums of public relations money putting forth an image of a "friend of the community," to patients it quickly becomes obvious that these institutions' number one priority is not patient care.

HOURS

A rushed and often weary staff, doctors who do not remember your name and disappear after a few minutes, long hours waiting in the hospital emergency room—these are the memories that dominate most patients' visit to the hospital.

Who is to blame for the sorry state of patient care in the health industry? Certainly it is not health

workers, who are most often overloaded with work, and who themselves are frequently kept waiting for doctors, or medications or supplies to arrive from other departments.

And, while the American Medical Association (AMA) has over the years carefully created a well-calculated shortage of doctors, they are not the root of the problem either.

Patient care is a by product of, rather than a priority for the health care industry. The real priority is profit making.

The American medical scene has become dominated over the past 20 years by medical research complexes—representing a tight alliance of research hospitals, profit-making drug and medical equipment industries, and medical insurance agencies.

In these conditions, a health care system which is truly responsive to the needs of the people it treats is impossible. When profits come first, people come second.

The bankers, medical industrialists, and insurance magnates who control the health industry want to make a profit—indeed they have to, for that is the name of the game under capitalism.

So they squeeze their workers and they get every penny for their equipment. And the administrators, who follow their orders, do the same. The patients—and the workers suffer.

Health workers, however, are not trained in business schools, and they most often work in hospitals and other health facilities because they would like to help people.

Their interests, in the long run, are the same as the patients—or, the same as all of us. They want well-run, well equipped and well staffed hospitals that serve the needs of the patients, not profits.

SYSTEM

The fight for a decent health care system, therefore is inseparable from the fight of the health workers for decent jobs and living conditions. And that is why it is so important to support health care workers in struggle, whether in Ashtabula, Ohio or in New York City.

We want a society in which human need comes first, a socialist society, and a society in which workers control their lives—on and off the job. There are few places where this demand is more necessary than in health care. □

missed 20 days of scheduled work."

Particularly for semi-skilled workers in health care, wages are extremely low, hardly compensatory for the inconvenient shifts. Even for registered nurses, the average starting salary is \$13,000 and a nurse who has worked 20 years only makes \$17,000.

EXPANSION

While nearly 80% of hospital workers remain unorganized, most unionization has occurred in the last 20 years—along with the massive expansion in health care—and much of it part of the civil rights movement of the sixties.

At the same time the health industry is expanding, there is a savage attack on public hospitals.

The economic crisis—particularly the crisis in the cities—is leading to cut-backs in nearly every form of public health care. And the workers who staff the county hospitals, the state mental hospitals, the welfare programs associated with health care, are seeing their futures disappear through the decimation of health programs and the closing of hospitals.

SUPPORT

Hospital workers are a significant and growing section of the working class today. Their struggles for better wages and more humane conditions should be supported.

The fight for health workers' rights, is in effect, a fight for better health care, for everyone. □

WORKERS: A GROWING FORCE

BY SHARON SMITH AND FAITH SIMON

has been in new forms of technology and advanced machinery.

Hospital jobs have become increasingly narrow and specialized—not just in technological areas but in patient care as well.

PAY

Many hospitals are "non-profit." But all "non-profit" means is that these hospitals don't have to pay out their excess income to stockholders.

They use this money to

grow. In effect, they operate on the same principles as any profit making business.

WORK

Understaffing exists in nearly all hospitals and nursing homes, in nearly every department. The work is exhausting, the shift spent running from place to place, trying to get everything done. It is frustrating as well, as there's often not enough time to do a complete job.

Because hospitals are so

understaffed, they require of many employees mandatory shift rotation, without child care assistance. There is mandatory holiday work, and work at least every other weekend. There is tight control of sick time.

A nurses aide from Ashtabula General, Ann Loyd was "written up" for missing more than 20 days work, after having surgery in the same hospital she worked!

"They didn't care," she said, "They said, 'You still

Some facts on health care workers

● There are 6.5 million health care workers in the U.S.

80% are women
13.4% are Black
3.3% are Hispanic

● There are 431,000 physicians
10.7% are women
9.5% are Black and Hispanic
Their average salary is over \$60,000

● There are 1.2 million registered nurses
96.8% are women
11.4% are Black and Hispanic
Their average salary is \$13,000

● There are 1 million nurses aides, orderlies and attendants (many of whom are part-time)
They are 87.5% female
30.6% are Black and Hispanic
Their average salary is \$8,500 if they work full time

● The average weekly salary of all health workers is \$192.62 as of October, 1980
This is well below the average for all private workers which is \$243.92

● Nursing and personal care workers average only \$129.44 a week

● Hospital workers average \$212.89 weekly. They are the highest paid health workers and the most unionized

● Women physicians earn 41% of what male physicians earn.

● In 1977 a government survey showed that of all private health care workers only 11.4% were in unions

● Health care workers are represented by 42 different unions

● The main unions are the American Nursing Association, which has 187,000 members; SEIU which has 200,000 members in the health care industry; and 1199 with 100,000 members, 70% of whom are Black and Hispanic, and 85% are women

● Hospital strikes really began in the late sixties. In 1960 there were thirteen strikes of only 550 workers

● In 1969 there were 43 strikes, of 59,000 workers

● The highest level was in 1976: 71 strikes of 49,500 workers. This includes only strikes in private hospitals and medical services.

Compiled by Ben Blake

Letters

IMAGINE!

Dear Socialist Worker,

About the article on John Lennon: A brilliant musician, yes.

A part, to one degree or another, to many of our lives, yes.

An expression at times, and very briefly of radical movements, yes.

A working class hero—sorry, no.

John Lennon's radicalism, historically, can only be described as a series of one-night stands, instead of the consistent life-long commitment that is portrayed in the article. Even during Lennon's most "left-wing" days his songs smacked of a definite elitism that came from his very privileged position.

The privilege that can only come from a multi-millionaire who has nothing to lose but everything to gain.

"A working class hero is something to be... Just follow me." Right, John!

Lastly, the article goes on to say "despite his extreme wealth he was always for the labor movement." Does this include the \$10,000 Lennon and Co. donated to the New York police department for bullet-proof vests? Imagine!

Dan Petty,
Cincinnati, OH

Keep it up!

Dear Socialist Worker,

Your coverage of the Ashtabula nurses strike is inspiring. Keep it up!

Deborah Soloman,
Philadelphia, PA

HUMAN

Dear Socialist Worker,

The human face on all those social service cuts was made evident to me this month.

A fifteen year old high school student here needed an abortion. Scared her mother would discover the pregnancy, abandoned by the responsible male, and poor, she found herself in her second trimester, before she found help.

Medicaid of course would not pay. Moreover, no doctor in this city—home of the "right-to-life"—would perform the procedure.

To make this story short: needed medical care for this individual required the efforts of several dozen people, who raised the money and sent her over two hundred miles to a clinic, fed and housed her.

This was her first trip ever out of the city.

It was marvellous to see people come to the rescue. But what about those who don't get someone's attention? This girl was ready to try the coat-hanger method when she found us.

What is really needed in for all those helping, caring, people (the majority) to come together into a visible movement to take back medical and human rights that the organized right-wing has so callously grabbed away.

Bill Roberts,
Cincinnati, OH

The left and the new economic crisis

ANALYSIS
BY
MILT FISK

It was only decade ago, but it seems an age.

There was optimism in the air for the left.

The left had made gains in numerous areas. Consider just a few.

The military was riddled with discontent, and thousands took to the streets upon the Kissinger-Nixon invasion of Cambodia.

Rank and file groups could be found in major unions. Miners for Democracy (MFD) ushered in years of wildcatting by coal miners.

There was, at last, an Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) with a broad mandate.

The legitimacy of the state suffered blow after blow culminating in Watergate.

And the existence of a women's movement led to the legalization of abortion.

DEEPER

The expectation was, with long-term economic crisis settling in, that the leftward trend would both deepen and broaden.

It has done neither. It has been the right that has benefitted from the crisis—while the left has languished into near insignificance.

Why? Old lessons need to be learned over in each period.

The lesson here is that in its early phase economic stagnation can produce a retreat rather than an advance. Gains made by the left can be lost when prosperity ends.

The left that came out of the civil rights and anti-war movements peaked in the 1970s. It was a phenomenon of prosperity.

With the cup brimming over, people asked—why have the overall gains been so minimal for most people?

Why hasn't prosperity been translated into rights for Blacks and women?

Shouldn't prosperity buy safety in the workplace and an end to union autocracy? Couldn't prosperity be used to construct a better quality of life, rather than to produce more means of destruction?

These were the questions that produced a left wing movement in a period of prosperity.

But if prosperity made the left, stagnation decimated it.

Two factors contributed to the decline of the left and the rise of the right.

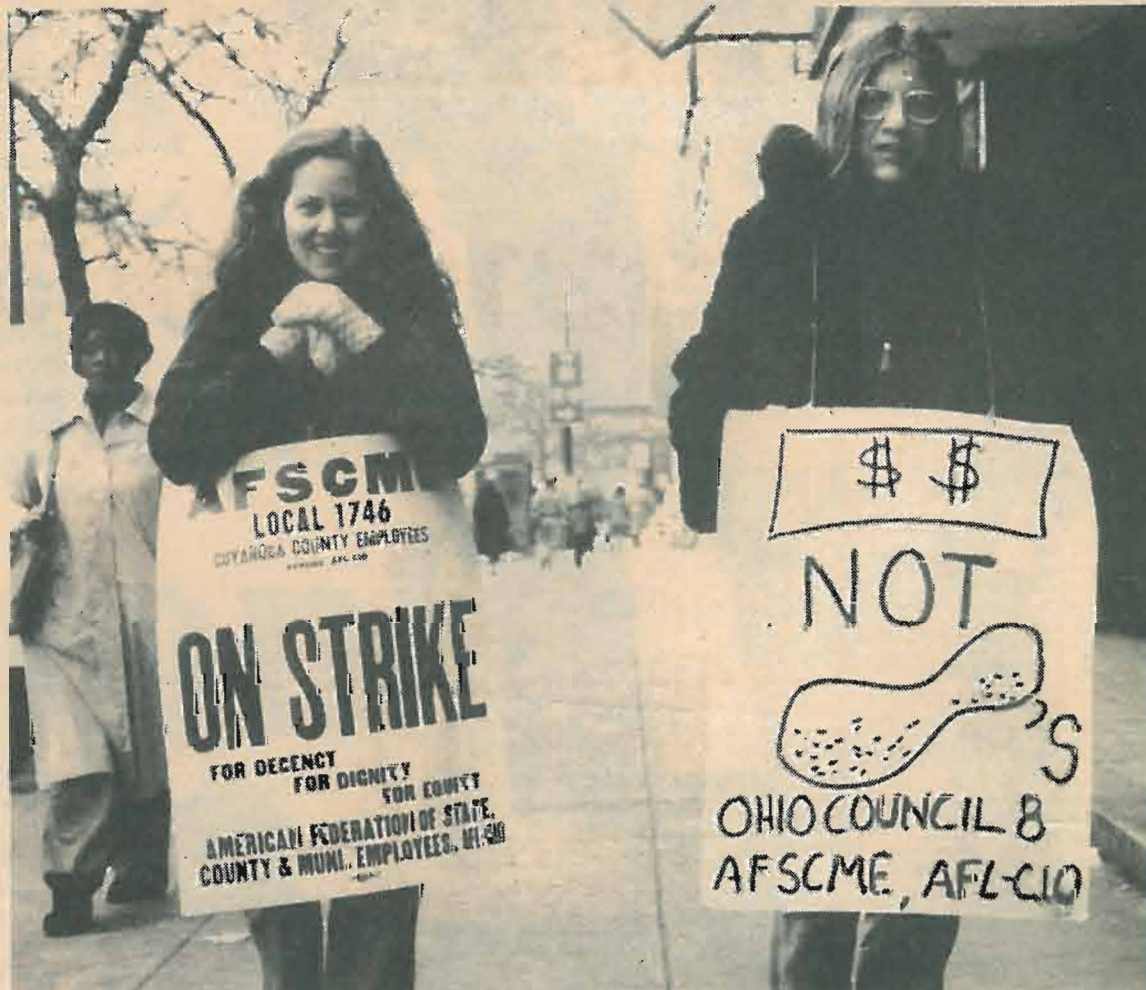
First, there was the employers' offensive which began in earnest in 1970.

And second, people looked for protection in the institutions created by compromises—institutions partly forced by opposition movements. They found the institutions were all too vulnerable, especially when the movements that made them were gone.

When the economic crisis first began to unroll, the employers were caught off guard.

Workers continued to make gains through the late 60s.

But, after the strike wave of 1970, the employers began a fight



The radicals of the sixties are demoralized, but the possibilities exist for a new and stronger left.

promises laid down during prosperity still existed?

Others argued that the ideas of women's liberation were fine.

But with declining living standards, increased unemployment, increased divorce rates, and the continuation of job markets segregated along sexual lines, the implementation of those ideas could often lead to isolation and poverty for women.

When fundamentalists celebrated traditional sex roles, they were joined by many others who feared there was no real alternative within an inflexible world.

And to top it off, the new militarism has come along.

With plants closing and inflation going wild, it was easy enough to reconsider the revulsion with the Vietnam War. Maybe losing the Vietnam War set the stage for a weaker US position around the world that allowed foreign steel to get a bigger share of the world market and that encouraged the Arabs to raise the price of oil.

OIL

However faulty the logic, it is still attractive—bucks for bombs and Alexander Haig's return to nuclear brinkmanship are the price for the stronger world position essential for revitalizing the economy.

The gutless post-Vietnam foreign policy let the world run over us economically—so runs the argument.

What did the gains of a decade ago net for us? They have now been made pretty shadowy by the economic crisis.

The miners have Sam Church, a throwback to the Boyle days.

The Supreme Court has been gutting OSHA, and Donovan will no let safety interfere with profits.

No sooner did America recognize the grotesqueness of its imperialism than it readopted it as an economic necessity.

The task of socialists is to understand this demoralization, rather than capitulate to it.

GAINS

The gains of the sixties were forced from the government and industry. They were real gains to be certain, but they were not ends in themselves.

Now they are being taken away.

We must argue that the problem was not that the reforms of the sixties were somehow mistakes, but that they were simply insufficient, particularly in the face of an economic crisis.

Some have argued that demoralization cannot be overcome, and that the best socialists can hope for is a broad coalition to defend minimal democratic rights.

But this would mean the liquidation of a true left, and be ineffectual in any event.

The demoralization with the left that developed in the seventies can be overcome.

For as the crisis continues into its second decade, a true left—a left with a sound understanding of the nature of the period and the crisis—is an absolute necessity.

The new right-wing government can itself help to rebuild the left.

It not only cannot resolve the economic crisis but will inevitably make life worse for workers, women and minorities.

People will be disillusioned with something new.

It will no longer be the compromises forced by the movements of the early '70s—it will be with the staunchly pro-capitalist and anti-progressive policies of right-wing politics.

People in growing numbers will then be willing to fight for effective unions, reproductive rights, and security from nuclear destruction.

HASTEN

We can hasten the advent of such a turn by exposing the bankruptcy of the political program of the right and by pointing the emerging opposition in a militant direction. □

A PAGE FROM WORKING CLASS HISTORY

"no power greater"

by BARBARA WINSLOW



SAD SONGS FROM THE COAL FIELDS

The trouble in coal in the twenties and thirties was reflected in the mournful songs of the people of the mining camps.

Aunt Molly Jackson, a midwife and minstrel, was the author of *Dreadful Memories*:

"In 19 and 31, the Kentucky coal miners were asked to dig coal for 33 cents a ton."

When miners went on strike, they were blacklisted, unable to get food or medical care for their families:

"Thirty seven babies died in my arms the last three months of '31," Aunt Molly lamented.

She was so "stirred up" she wrote this song:

Dreadful memories! How they linger;

How they pain my precious soul.

Little children, sick and hungry,

Sick and hungry, weak and cold.

■ ■

"I wrote this song when I was thirty," Florence Reece remembers of 1931.

"I had eight children and my husband he was organizing for the union. He had been in the mines since he was eleven.

"My father was killed in the coal mines. He was loading a ton and a half for 30 cents.

"That's what he got killed for, for nothing. I never knew if Sam would come back when he went into the mines in the morning."

*Come all you poor workers,
Good news to you I'll tell,
How the good old union
Has come here to dwell.*

*(Chorus:)
Which side are you on?
Which side are you on?*

*We're starting our good union
We know we're sure to win.
Because we've got the gun thugs,
A-looking very thin.*

*If you go to Harlan County,
There are no neutrals there,
You'll either be a union man,
Or a thug for J.H. Blair.*

*They say they have to guard us,
To educate our child.
Their children live in luxury,
Our children almost wild.*

*Gentlemen, can you stand it?
Oh tell me how you can?
Will you be a gun thug
Or will you be a man?*

1931: Bloody Harlan



In Harlan county, Kentucky, in 1931 there existed only a dim memory of the United Mineworkers Union. District 19, headed by William

Turnblazer, was just a paper organization. Harlan was considered to be the toughest spot to organize.

As one operator put it, "We can't do business if they have unions."

In February, 1931, the operators cut wages 10%. The coal industry in the United States collapsed during the depression of 1929.

But even before the crash of '29, coal began to fail. The peak price for coal in 1920 was \$4 a ton. By 1929 it fell to \$1.73. By 1931 it was at \$1.31.

Immediately a secret meeting of miners was held.

53 men met in the dead of night in front of an abandoned mine near the Black Mountain camp.

INSTANT

The miners had to be careful for discovery by the operators meant instant firing and blacklisting. The 53 got some support from their International union, and by mid-February, after another wage cut, rank and file meetings spread beyond Black Mountain into the coal camps of Harlan town.

By March 1st, thousands joined the union.

2,000 rallied in the Gaines theater in Pineville to hear a

HOW THE MINERS LOST THEIR UNION

speech by Phillip Murray, the vice president of the UMWA.

But the union warned against strikes and urged cooperation between labor and management.

The coal operators responded by firing 135 miners at the Black Mountain mine and 35 at Black Star Coal. Hundreds others were evicted.

EVICCTIONS

The next day, Harlan's sheriff, John Henry Blair brought in 150 mine guards, known as "gun thugs," to head up the evictions.

W.B. Jones, secretary treasurer of the Black Mountain local union knew that the only way in which Black Mountain could stand firm was to organize and get support from the other miners.

On Sunday, March 15, 2,700 miners and their wives marched from Evarts down the Clover Fork to the town of Verda. There 300 other miners joined the union.

The union relied on the miners strength in numbers and determination.

Roving pickets, sometimes as many as 2,000 strong, were used to shut down the mines and to protect the miners.

Three carloads of gun thugs passed through Evarts to escort a new mine foreman to the company camp.

As the union miners gathered along the road, both sides opened fire. The Battle of Evarts lasted 30 minutes leaving four dead.

This battle gave the operators the excuse to use the full power of local state and federal authorities to crush the union.

The miners were put in a position of being called murderers and gun thugs.

Immediately 300 national guardsmen were sent in with the written consent of UMW's Turnblazer.

Sheriff J.H. Blair then raided the local UMW office "finding" evidence of membership in the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW).

"CONSPIRACY"

This was all that was needed to arrest a number of miners on a charge of criminal conspiracy and 43 others for the first degree murder of a mine guard during the battle of Evarts.

At this point the UMW totally abandoned the Harlan county miners.

While they had never given them much support this act of treachery only encouraged mine operators to continue their ruthless persecution of miners and their families. □

WHERE WE STAND



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 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.

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, the education system. 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 the fight against the present system.

Fight Oppression

Capitalism divides the working class — pitting men against women, whites against blacks. Capitalism fosters and uses these divisions to block the unity necessary for its destruction. As capitalism moves into crisis, oppressed groups — blacks, women, latins, Native Americans, gays, youth — suffer most. We support the struggles of these oppressed groups.

We oppose racism in all 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, supporting equal pay for all women workers. We fight for free abortion and an end to forced sterilization. There should be free quality child care for all who need it. We fight for equal hiring opportunities for women and an end to sexual harassment and hirings. Discrimination and harassment of sexual minorities must be fought.

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

Rank and File Organization

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

To make the unions fight for workers' interests, workers must organize their power 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.

Internationalism

The working class has no nation. Capitalism is international, so 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. They are state capitalist and part of one world capitalist system. We support the struggles of workers in these countries against the bureaucratic ruling class.

Revolutionary Party

The activity of the ISO is directed at taking the initial steps toward building a revolutionary party in a working class fragmented and cut off from socialist ideas. Revolutionaries must be involved in the daily struggles of workers and oppressed groups at the workplace, in the unions and in the communities. We build every struggle that strengthens 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.

Join the International Socialist Organization

For more information about the International Socialist Organization (ISO), please write to Box 18037, Cleveland, Ohio 44118.

ISO NEWS

What's ON

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

BALTIMORE

Ahmed Shawki on **Reaganomics-Thatcheronomics: The Not So New Economics and the Working Class**. February 8, 7:30 pm, Bread and Roses. Call 235-4620 for more information.

BOSTON

Cal Winslow on **Facing up to Reagan**. February 1, 7:30 pm, 595 Mass. Ave, Cambridge. Call 282-6711 for more information.

Film: "Finally got the News."

February 15, 7:30 pm, 595 Mass. Ave. Cambridge. Call 282-6711 for more information.

John Mason on **Racism and the Rise of the Right**. March 1, 7:30 pm, 595 Mass. Ave. Cambridge.

CINCINNATI

Ahmed Shawki on **Post-Hostage Iran**. February 3, 8:00 pm, University of Cincinnati, TUC 423. Call 871-1371 for information.

Ahmed Shawki on **Reagan: the socialist alternative**. February 4, 12:00 noon, U of C, TUC 424. Call 871-1371 for details.

Barbara Winslow on **The Great Debate: Washington Vs. DuBois. Blacks Under Capitalism Series**. February 7, 8:00 pm, 134 Kinsey.

ISO Women's Caucus: Potluck Benefit for Sanderson's Strikers. February 21, 7:00 pm. Call 721-2134 for details.

CLEVELAND

People United Against Repression (PUAR) on **Racism and Repression in Cleveland**. January 30, 7:30 pm. Call 371-7648 for more details.

Ian Birchall on **Workers Against the Monolith: the Communist Parties Since WWII**. February 11, 7:30. Call 321-6143 or 371-7648 for details.



CELEBRATE WITH US

March 8 is International Women's Day. ISO branches will be celebrating this working class holiday this year with meetings, dinners, speeches, films, parties, etc. Join us for the fun.

You can find out details about International Women's Day in your area by contacting the local ISO or contacting ISO, National Office, P.O. Box 18037, Cleveland, OH 44118.

PROVIDENCE

Cal Winslow on **Facing up to Reagan**. February 3, 7:30 pm, Arnold Lounge, Brown University.

SEATTLE

Steve Leigh on **Trotsky on Permanent Revolution**. February 15, 100F Hall, 915 E. Pine.

Kent Worcester on **Marxism and the Party**. February 17, 7:30 pm, Arnold Lounge, Brown University.

Ian Birchall on **The Gang of Four Trials**. February 19, 1:30 pm, U of W Hub 309. 8:30 pm, 100F Hall, 915 E. Pine.

"The philosophers have merely interpreted the world. The point is to change it."

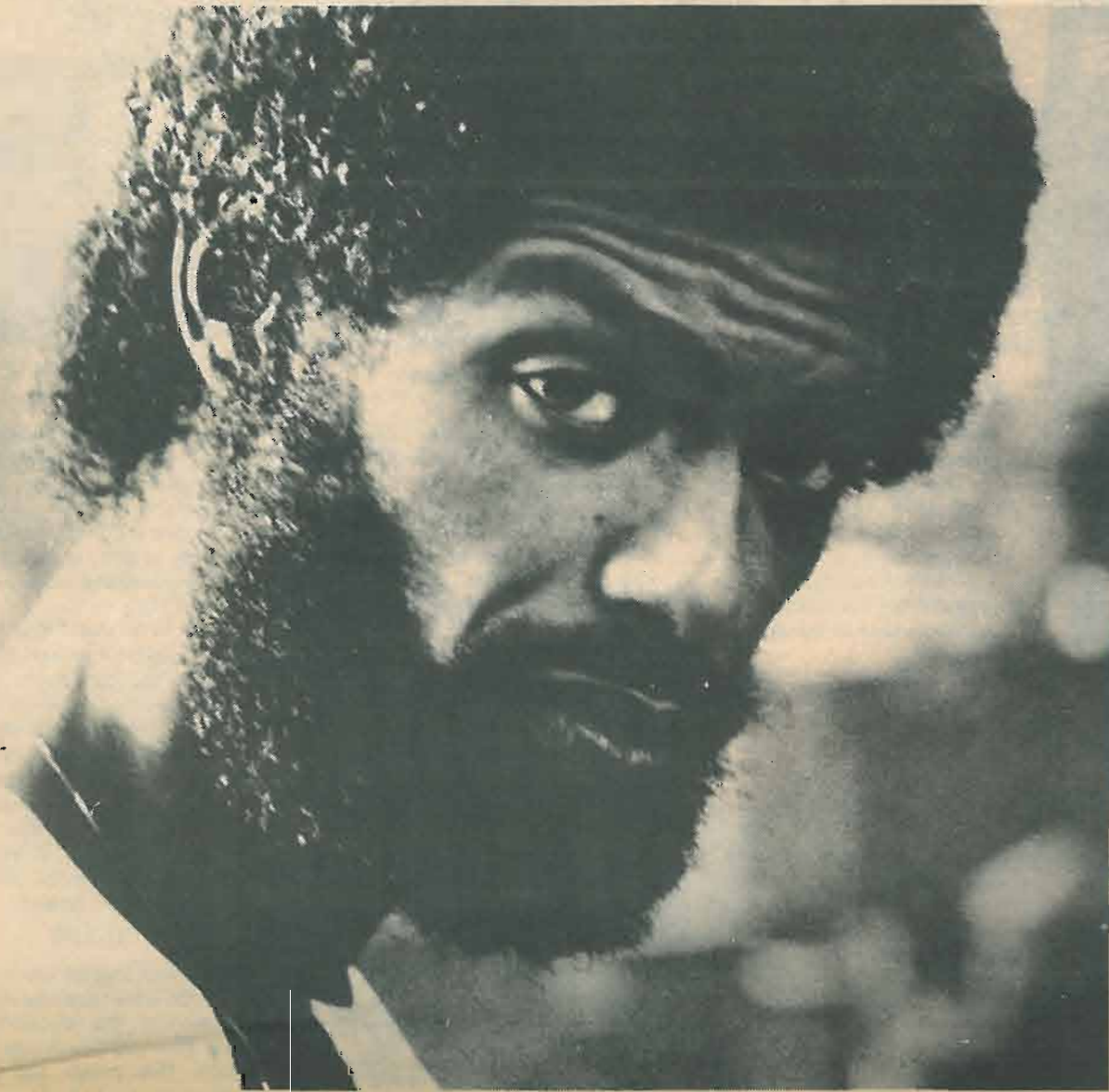
— Karl Marx

If you want to help us change the world and build socialism, join us. There are ISO members and branches in the following cities:

- Baltimore, MD
- Berkeley, CA
- Bloomington, IN
- Boston, MA
- Charleston, WV
- Chicago, IL
- Cincinnati, OH
- Cleveland, OH
- Dayton, OH
- Detroit, MI
- Fort Wayne, IN
- Indianapolis, IN
- Kent, OH
- Los Angeles, CA
- New York, NY
- New Haven, CT
- Northampton, MA
- Philadelphia, PA
- Providence, RI
- Rochester, NY
- San Diego, CA
- Seattle, WA
- Trenton, NJ
- Washington, DC

ISO National Office, P.O. Box 18037, Cleveland, OH 44118

reviews



WHAT
WOULD
IT
MEAN
TO BE
FREE?

Wouldn't you like to see a place where children freely run and play?

Wouldn't you like to feel that you hold your own destiny in your own hands?

These questions are asked by Gil Scott-Heron, a poet who wanted to fuse together his lyrics with music. The rich cultural vein of Black music, from jazz through to soul, seemed like the perfect vehicle to carry his political ideas to a mass audience.

Over the last decade he has written some of the finest lyrics and together with pianist Brian Jackson, has produced some of the finest jazz/funk to be found on vinyl.

I spent money this Christmas on his new album *Real Eyes*. Refusing to be silenced by the flashing lights of

ROGER HUDDLE REVIEWS GIL SCOTT-HERON

'party' disco or the rightward swing of Raygun's America he has again produced, with his band The Amnesia Express, a fine political album to listen and dance to.

PROMISE

The opening track, (*You Can't Depend On The Train From Washington*), concerns the promise made to freed slaves after the civil war that they would receive forty acres and a mule:

I see people on their way to work

I see factories bursting at the seams.

I see people listening for the whistle on the train that will carry their dreams . . .

(But) don't depend on the

train from Washington it's 100 years overdue.

Not Needed and *Waiting for the Axe to Fall* are about things that affect all workers. The first is about retirement: *The only thing worse than being old is being old and poor 'cause they'll use you and discard you when you're not needed any more.*

Waiting for the Axe is about all kinds of working people living a life full of stress and worry and without any control just waiting for the axe to fall.

The music pushes forward all the time punctuated with searing horns and crying gui-

tar all pinned down with taut Afro-American rhythms. These are followed by a ballad, *Combinations*, a plea for just that.

FUTURE

Side two opens with a great put down of the macho man: *A Legend in His Own Mind*. The *Klan*, an indictment of the KKK is the only song not written by Scott-Heron but fits perfectly into the album.

Your Daddy Loves You is a song to his daughter Gia Louise. A song for the future. The last track *You Could be my Brother*, asks the listener to learn from experience and to fight together for a better world.

Gil Scott-Heron continually

puts forward the ideas that people can take control of their own destiny or that we should be outraged by injustice and he never says that the fight for freedom will be easy.

And in my mind that makes him a socialist. He feels that his contribution in that struggle is through his music. And that road has many pitfalls. Because a record is finally a piece of merchandise open to the pressures of the market place. I hope that he continues to make good music with a sting in its tail.

Almost any album by him is worth listening to and if you've got the money—buy him! Particularly *From South Africa to South Carolina* and *It's Your World*.

SAVAGE

But my favorite album is *Secrets* released in 1978 and by far the most political and poetical. Songs about the South (*Cane*), working as a miner (*Three Miles Down*), the *Third World Revolution*, the prison of narcotics (*Angel Dust*), and *Angola, Louisiana*, where the sun won't go alone.

And the madness of American business, which is where the beast roars most savage. One track from *Secrets*, *A Prayer For Everybody*, sums up his music!

This is a prayer for everybody in the world

*'Cause without you and without me
Without love and harmony
Without courage and dignity
What would it mean to be free.* □

Questions from a worker who reads

Who built Thebes of the seven gates?
In the books you will find the names of kings.
Did the kings haul up the lumps of rock?
And Babylon, many times demolished
Who raised it up so many times? In what houses
Of gold-glittering Lima did the builders live?
Where, the evening that the Wall of China was finished
Did the masons go? Great Rome
IS full of triumphal arcades. Who erected them? Over whom
Did the Caesars triumph? Had Byzantium, much praised song
Only palaces for its inhabitants? Even in fabled Atlantis
The night the Ocean engulfed it
The drowning still bawled for their slaves.

The young Alexander conquered India.
Was he alone?

Caesar beat the Gauls.
Did he not have even a cook with him?
Philip of Spain wept when his armada
Went down. Was he the only one to weep?
Frederick the Second won the Seven Years' war. Who
Else won it?

Every page a victory.
Who cooked the feast for the victors?
Every ten years a great man.
Who paid the bill?

So many reports.
So many questions.

—by Bertolt Brecht



on the picket line

UMW STRIKES PEABODY COAL

DENVER, CO—938 members of the United Mine Workers Union (UMW) struck five mines of the Peabody Coal Company on January 16.

Peabody is the nation's largest coal producer, and the strike might have important implications both for the UMW's efforts to organize the largely non-union Western mines, and for the national coal contract which expires on March 27.

The walkout began when union negotiators turned down Peabody's "final offer" of a 34% increase in wages and benefits over three years.

COLA

The union is demanding a settlement that would put UMW miners in the West on par with non-union miners and miners belonging to other unions.

It is also demanding a cost-of-living clause—a demand negotiators for the BCOA would like to defeat in the national contract. □

**BUS
DRIVERS
MUST
TAKE
BACK
THEIR
UNION**

Greyhound bus drivers and terminal personnel are ready to grab the wheel from their union leaders over a contract dispute.

Faced with a 58.5% contract rejection last December, Amalgamated Transit Union International President, Dan Maroney has forced a revolt in the Greyhound Division of the union. Greyhound workers and many of the leaders of that division in ATU were ready to strike after voting down their contract. Moroney called off the strike saying two-thirds majority was needed.

DRIVERS

Drivers and terminal workers in Minneapolis and Portland, Oregon responded to Moroney's undemocratic rule with a walkout. Ninety workers were fired. There were also work stoppages in Columbus, Ohio and the Bay Area. As Dennis Mower, President of Local 1055, Portland said, "Almost to a man, there's rebellion here against ATU."

A more dangerous rejection by rank and file workers to their sell-out leadership is taking place in



"Inflation is killing us"

California. Signatures are being collected for a decertification election. At this time it appears certain that the 4,500 signatures are in the bag. This opens up the possibility of an all-out fight between ATU, the Teamsters, The United Auto Workers, and the company.

Decertification fights are usually a sign of demoralization among the rank and file. Instead of organizing to take back a union that is theirs, Greyhound workers are ready to take out their frustrations by punishing the top leadership of ATU.

There is no doubt that leaving ATU would be a serious financial blow to the leadership. Greyhound division represents a quarter of the 160,000 ATU membership. Unfortunately, if successful, this move will not dislodge the leadership. The real losers will be the rank and file. The 15,000 Greyhound workers, if organized correctly, could be the core of a force to turn ATU around.

READY

Top union leaders are claiming that right-wing, anti-union forces are leading the decertification drive. Whether this is true or not misses the point. Greyhound workers are ready to do anything to strike back at a union leadership that has done little over the last decade to build confidence in the union.

A driver in Cincinnati told *Socialist Worker* that the union is totally out of touch with the workers. "Up at the top they've forgotten what it's like to be gone from home for days and weeks, or to be laid-off for half a year or more. People think we make a lot of money. They don't realize that for a lot of us we have to make it in five or six months. Also, our conditions are hard—away from home a lot and heavy responsibility. We are losing ground. There's no question about that."

At this point the rank and file is only being organized negatively. Communication between workers is only through rumor and the petition. Clearly what is needed is a rank and file newspaper that can take up the arguments and point a direction. A few thousand copies in any form could be quickly circulated through the country as drivers pass their cross country buses on to each other. Such an effort would do much to pull a rank and file back together and offer a positive direction for all of ATU.

What is happening in the Greyhound division of ATU is an ominous sign. Decertification moves are likely to become more common place as demoralized and unorganized rank and filers seek revenge. If this kind of reactionary solution is to be stopped, it will take an organized section of rank and filers to step forward and offer a lead.

STEPS

Every unionist should see the Greyhound fight for what it is and take the necessary steps now to strengthen their own union. Only a rank and file organized through their own paper can build a union strong enough to fight companies like Greyhound. □

by BILL ROBERTS

TALKIN' UNION BY JOHN ANDERSON

LAY OFFS BUT NO FIGHTBACK AT UAW LOCAL 600

Ford Local 600 boasts of being the "World's Largest Local Union." With upward of 35,000 members it should be a powerhouse in the UAW. It was this local the Communist Party made a major contribution in organizing in the '30s and '40s. After the UAW won bargaining rights in 1941 the Ford workers had the best contract and the best wages and working conditions in the auto industry.

With its membership reduced by more than half during the last 30 years the local has as many retirees as workers in the Rouge plant. Workers at the Flatrock Casting Center are members of Local 600. Ford has announced this plant with 5,200 workers is being phased out over the next two years. The work is being moved to Ohio and Canada.

SMALL

On Thursday, January 8th, the Local advertised a mass demonstration at Ford World Headquarters between 9 am and 5 pm. All Local 600 members were urged to participate in the demonstration. With the temperature at 12 degrees the turn out was small. Upwards of 150 were there when I passed the glass house at one p.m.

Going to the Local on Dix Ave. I saw not a sign advertising the picketing. After looking around for some time I found a copy of Ford Facts, the local union paper. This four page paper, published monthly had little to say of the 5,200 of its members being laid off.

Once the voice of progress in the UAW, Ford Facts has become a house organ more interested in fringe benefits than in hours, wages and working

conditions. On the front page of the January 5th issue was a headline, "No cost dental care, a better way." At the bottom of the page was a slogan, "Buy a Ford product and save a job."

The first two pages were covered with pictures of officers of the local, a map giving the location of the clinic and pictures of dentists and dental technicians at work. Not until page 3 was there a notice of the demonstration Articles by the chairmen of eleven units gave little information on the 60 or 70,000 Ford workers who are on indefinite layoff. There was nothing about the crisis in the auto industry.

REFERENCE

The word "strike" or anything suggesting a class struggle appeared in none of the articles written by the chairmen of the units. Only Al Gardner, president of the skilled trades made any reference to Chrysler. He said, "It makes sense that if Chrysler's demands are met, then Ford will come running for similar concessions . . . Now the indications are that Ford will ask for concession; no doubt GM will follow and the demands will snowball throughout the industry and its suppliers."

Reading the paper one can only come to one conclusion: The officers of Local 600 do not want to generate any opposition to a wage freeze or even a cut in wages. On January 9th, the *Detroit Free Press*, reported the Ford Motor Company declared a 30 cent dividend on 1.2 million shares of common stock. From their policies one might come to the conclusion the UAW leadership was more concerned with



John Anderson is a lifelong militant and socialist. He was formerly president of UAW local 15 in Detroit.

the interests of the stockholders than with those of the Ford workers.

GM and Ford have made public statements calling on the UAW to renegotiate their 1979 contracts that run until September 1982. If they follow the Chrysler pattern it means a wage cut of \$3.00 per hour or \$9,000 for each worker during the contract.

The high wages of the auto workers are largely a myth. Pete Kelley, a skilled worker in the GM Tech Center reports on his wages. He says, "I am paid \$13.40 per hour. After federal tax, FICA tax, state tax (and city if you live in Detroit), I take home \$9.00 per hour. That is my spendable wage . . . out of the \$9.00 take home pay, you subtract property tax, school tax, gasoline tax and luxury tax on alcohol, cigarettes, etc."

SOLVENT

Chrysler may remain solvent long enough to set a pattern for wages in the rest of the industry. Few believe it will be in existence by 1982 contract time. The Chrysler agreement will be used to cut wage, pensions and fringe benefits in the auto industry. It will not save the jobs of the Chrysler workers. The rhetoric of president Reagan will not solve our economic problems. Only the struggles of the workers will solve their problems. □



Stewart Warner: Shut it down!



Striking Stewart Warner workers

by BEN BLAKE

CHICAGO, ILL—At midnight, January 24, 2,500 workers of the United Workers Association, UE Local 1154, struck the five Chicago plants of Stewart Warner Corporation.

Their aim is to win better wages, fringe benefits and pensions.

And to end management discriminatory practices against women.

The strike was approved by a 5 to 1 margin at a meeting of over 1,500 workers on January 21, and began after the company had locked out workers without prior notice on January 23.

BELOW

For Stewart Warner workers the strike is important in many ways.

Wages of the auto components manufacturer now average \$6.33 an hour, 98¢ an hour below the average for all industrial wages in Chicago.

Half the workforce makes \$5.80 an hour. With inflation at 14%, the 8% wage increase offered by the company would probably mean Stewart Warner workers would lag even further behind—if it was accepted.

The union also aims to improve medical benefits, cost of living coverage and to increase the tiny 3.7 cents an hour company contribution to the pension plan.

In addition, an important demand involves setting up a mechanism to upgrade the lowest paid job classifications where a majority of the several hundred women at Stewart Warner are concentrated.

Despite the fact that this is the first time that all five plants have been struck at once, Stewart Warner workers have been very active and enthusiastic in backing up their union.

On January 26, over 1,000 workers came out for a mass picket and rally at the main plant.

MURDER

In the words of Steve Cohen, editor of Local 1154's newspaper, "We felt the company had been getting away with murder for years, and that something had to be done about it."

APPLYING FOR NOTHING

EAST CHICAGO, ILL—On January 21, some 5,000 people responded to an Inland Steel Company advertisement seeking applicants for future positions, creating a major traffic jam.

There were no job openings—the ad, the company said, was designed to update its application pool for future openings.

INJURIES

Five people received minor injuries when scuffles broke out among people in line. They were treated at local hospitals and later released.

Company officials estimated 5,000 people showed up at the plant, creating a traffic tie-up that extended for six or seven miles along Indiana 912.

People began arriving about 5 am, and the traffic jam lasted from 6 am to nearly 9 am.

Some people parked cars on the highway and walked to the plant! □



MOGADORE, OH—The strikers at Cornwell Tools have been walking the picket line since May 5. They are fighting to defend their union contract.

Cornwell has refused to bargain in any serious way so far, and most strikers believe the company plans to use scabs to decertify the union.

The leadership of the United Auto Workers seems content to watch this local union of 70 members die. They are, apparently, too busy negotiating billions of dollars in concessions for the Chrysler Corporation to

have time to support strikers in Mogadore.

The only hope for the strikers to take action themselves—they must begin to publicize their strike and get support from other workers. The issues—take-away contracts, threats to close the factory, union-busting—affect all industrial workers in Northeastern Ohio.

The Cornwell strikers deserve your support—but it will only be forthcoming if they go out and get it. The company and the International are banking that they won't. □

A personal history by a rank and file worker

THE DEPRESSION OF THE THIRTIES



BY JOHN ANDERSON

Available from Hera Press, PO Box 18037, Cleveland, 44118. 50¢.



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Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALIST ORGANIZATION

MINERS PREPARE FOR STRIKE

**NATIONAL
COAL
CONTRACT
EXPIRES
MARCH
27**



CHARLESTON, W.VA.—The contract between the 170,000 members of the United Mine Workers (UMW) and the nation's 130 major coal companies—the Bituminous Coal Operators' Association (BCOA)—is set to expire at midnight, March 27.

The negotiators for both sides say they are anxious to avoid a strike, particularly a repetition of the 1978 negotiations, which led to a strike of 111 days, the longest coal strike in U.S. history.

OPTIMISTIC

Sam Church, the new president of the UMW, known as "Boss Hog" to the rank and file, says he's "optimistic that we can get a good contract without a strike." And the companies are piously appealing for "peace in the coalfields" this spring.

Wishful thinking apart, however, the fact is that the sides are very far apart. Many of the issues which led to the 1978 strike remain unresolved, and the companies have already unveiled a new program of take-aways.

"We went on strike for 111 days in 1978 and we didn't get anything," says Ed Bell, the newly elected president of the union's district 6—Ohio and the West Virginia panhandle.

Bell is right. Despite the courage and solidarity of the rank and file miners, the companies won a partial victory. Miners lost part of their health and welfare program, they

failed to win the right to strike, they lost their cost-of-living clause.

District 6 officials calculate that the cost-of-living defeat alone cost miners on average \$1500 a year in wages.

What was not taken directly in the contract has been won in arbitration.

The Arbitration Review Board has virtually rewritten the contract in favor of the companies—most notably by giving companies the right to fire picketers (ARB 108) and through a number of decisions allowing punitive absentee policies.

"The coal miner wants to work," says Bell, "but he can't work with another contract like the one we have."

OFFENSIVE

The companies are on the offensive. "The overriding problem for the 1981 negotiations," says Bobby Brown, the president of Consolidation Coal of Pittsburgh, the largest employer of UMW miners, "must be to restore and enhance the economic viability of that part of the industry represented by the UMW."

His meaning is simple and clear. He wants increased productivity in the coal mines, a harder and faster pace from the workers who hold the most dangerous jobs in America—124 coal miners died on the job in 1980.

REPORT BY CAL WINSLOW

He wants, as he told the Chamber of Commerce here in Charleston, "the maximum utilization of men and machines," whatever the cost.

Brown has two main demands. First he wants the introduction of rotating shifts ("21 turns") so that there is never an interruption of production.

Second he wants to destroy the present job classification system—reducing it to three or four classifications, regardless of skill and experience.

The rotating shifts would eliminate weekends for coal miners, and all that means for personal and family life, as well as eliminate premium pay for those who now must work Saturdays.

The coal miners, for their part, want more holidays and shorter hours. They have been fighting for this for a decade.

ABOLITION

They wanted an uncapped cost-of-living clause, they want improved pensions, the restoration of full medical coverage and the abolition of the Arbitration Review Board.

But their backs are up against the wall.

Bobby Brown became the virtual dictator of the BCOA only after Consol withdrew from the Association, charging the companies had not taken a hard line in 1978.

Consol came back only after

forcing the others to agree that in 1981 the BCOA would speak with one voice—Bobby Brown's.

Brown believes that this is the year to defeat the miners.

In fact he is gloating—over the fact that the negotiations begin with 25,000 miners unemployed.

He also points to the fact that there are already record stockpiles of coal, far more than the previous records of 1977 which kept the utilities and steel mills going through one of the most bitterly cold winters in history.

He is happy that there is now an excess capacity of 100 million tons in the nation's coalfields, most of it in the unionized East. And that UMW miners control only 44% of the industry—down from 70% in 1970.

He also knows that behind the coal companies stand the oil monopolies with their millions—Consol is owned by Continental Oil—and the police, the courts, and the new Reagan government.

But money and power doesn't always win. No one expected the coal miners to hang on to as much as they did in 1978.

And already there are signs that the rank and file will fight—if necessary.

In two districts, 6 and 12 (Illinois) union officials who supported the 1978 agreement

have been replaced in the past month by rank and file slates who opposed it. There are district elections in ten more districts this year, something which will do more than a little to keep "Boss Hog" Church's attention.

But there will have to be a strike, for the companies will give nothing away.

The companies can be hurt—they don't like to watch their profits disappear, especially not now when the coal industry is showing some signs of reviving, and when coal exports are booming.

The miners still have power, and they have another potential strength as well.

In 1978, toward the end of their long strike, there was the beginning of a solidarity movement, as thousands of ordinary workers around the country began to respond to the appeals of the miners for support.

This year the miners will need help even more, but so do all workers.

The miners showed the potential of workers' power and of rank and file solidarity last time.

This time they can make it real.

They can begin a fight-back for all workers—and there has never been a time when this was more needed.

So victory to the miners! Solidarity with the miners! The miners' fight is our fight and they can lead the way! □