



The crisis of the farmer

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THE WASHINGTON CAMPAIGN
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WE WANT JOBS! AT UNION WAGES



Ronald Reagan is still promising a recovery, but the unemployment figures in March showed 10.3% without jobs—plus millions of young people who are not counted because

they have never worked.

Reagan does have a plan for these people however—the subminimum wage.

We have to say 'no' to this—"No

way!" Young people working for the minimum wage are already slave labor. We want jobs for youth, but at union wages. □



IN REAGAN'S AMERICA

Health care: a two class system and getting worse

Here in Cleveland the unemployment rate is 13%, people are waiting in line for a lousy chunk of government cheese, and the Salvation Army beds are filling up with homeless families.

At Cleveland Metropolitan General Hospital, the public hospital where I work, the number of new patients is increasing daily as people lose their medical coverage along with their jobs.

Metro General sees the majority of Ohio's welfare patients (92,000 clinic visits just last year).

DOCTOR DENA MAGOULIAS ON THE NEW CUTS IN HEALTH CARE

The hospital desperately needs emergency funding to be able to see all the extra patients.



But on March 4, the Ohio Department of Public welfare slashed the Medicaid budget for outpatient care by 43%.

As a result, Metro General, which is funded largely by Medicaid, estimated it would lose \$8.5 million a year.

How will that loss be made up? The hospital started by announcing a hiring and wage freeze, and by threatening to lay off 450 employees.

In addition, some outpatient clinics may have to be closed.

Hospital employees were also told to cut costs in other ways: nurses will be observed and will be fired if caught sitting on the job. Clinics will have to try to recruit more patients with insurance (even though we are supposed to be a county hospital serving the poor.)

Doctors are supposed to see patients more quickly, since the more patients you can see the more money the hospital gets.

Also we are advised that we will have to start admitting more patients to the hospital—even if they still pay for inpatient services.

Preventative medicine will be ignored because the clinic visits and checkups which keep people well, do not make as much money as hospitalizing someone once

they are dying. What will happen at Metro General and at county hospitals across the country is basically more of the herding of patients in and out, and sacrificing good care.

What about private hospitals? These hospitals see welfare patients mainly because Medicaid reimburses them and they found they were able to make money off poor people.

Now with the cuts, these hospitals are turning patients away from their doors.

At St. Luke's Hospital in Cleveland patients are being turned away if they don't live in the hospital's census tract, and they are not being told where else to go.

Some of these patients have serious illnesses and their lives are endangered by them being turned away.

Others, when refused at hospital clinics in their neighborhoods, will have to take two or three buses with their sick children and go to the county hospital (which now can't afford to accept them).

The medical system has always been a two class system and is getting worse.

SEPARATE

Medicaid still separates the rich from the poor because Medicaid patients often go to public clinics and wait in long lines while the rich can afford private doctors with carpeted, air conditioned waiting rooms.

But Medicaid is better than no medical care at all.

Not only must we fight to prevent Medicaid cuts, but must fight for a medical system which gives all people equal quality care—a system which will only be possible under socialism.

Nuclear war—save the experts

by LANCE SELFA

In case of nuclear war, don't worry about the government. It's making plans to take care of itself.

Four to five thousand elite bureaucrats and politicians, most of them middle-aged white males, have been picked for survival during a nuclear strike, according to government plans obtained by a *Washington* magazine writer.

Who makes the chosen few? Bernard Weiss, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's emergency planning director explained.

POSITION

"It's position versus expertise," said Weiss. "At NRC we picked people basically, although not solely, by position. In the case of nuclear attack we would need high-level management people capable of dealing with broad management questions."

The rest of us, 80 percent of the American population, are to be evacuated from 400 "high risk" urban areas to the rural countryside.

Government plans don't say what happens to the other 20 percent of the American population. In fact, the government plans to sacrifice the lives of about 40 million people.

ESSENTIAL

There is one agency that is essential to the U.S.'s bounce-back from attack, according to plans. That is the Selective Service System.

When the bombs hit, an SSS official will be in a Washington bunker restarting the draft. Says the official confidently: "We can deliver the first inductees on the 13th day."

CALIFORNIA COURTS OUT OF THE CLOSET

SAN FRANCISCO, CA—The California court system is coming out of the closet on the matter of genocide against gays and lesbians.

It is now okay to murder gay people, as long as you claim that you were repulsed by them.

In two separate cases this year, admitted killers of gay men have been found completely innocent of all wrongdoing by homophobic judges and juries.

CASE

The most recent case involved Jeffrey Long, a 19 year old drifter, who was found innocent of murdering Bud Kramer in the gay resort town of Guerneville.

Long admitted to having a gay relationship with Kramer, but said that he was thrown into a panic by Kramer's sexual advances one night.

Said one 70 year old resident of the town, "That verdict was bullshit. Saying that you're thrown into a panic by a homosexual advance in this town is like saying you would be thrown into a panic if you saw the pope genuflect in the vatican."

Long was found guilty only of arson—for setting Kramer's body on fire!

Even more shocking was a San Francisco's jury's acquittal of another admitted gay killer.

After stabbing his victim twenty-one times in the face and neck, Andrew Toney was set free because his victim had asked him to go home with him after meeting in a gay bar.

In the upcoming trial of another gay murder trial the San Francisco public defender's office plans to use the gay advances defense again.

Peter Keane, chief attorney in the case says, this new trend is "just a growing pain

by JOHN FOWLER

that the gay community must accept.

"We can't change to a one-sided system of justice just to satisfy one group."

These rulings are only the latest and most blatant efforts of the ruling class to take advantage of the homophobia that they have nurtured.

In 1979, San Francisco gays rioted for two days after supervisor Dan White was found guilty of simple manslaughter for the premeditated murder of the gay city supervisor and the pro-gay mayor.

White's defense included admitting a long standing prejudice against gays and overconsumption of Twinkies.

RELEASED

He will be released in January next year.

Gays need to come out on the streets and take a stand against these unjust rulings.

The courts will only listen to their voices when they are militant.

L.A. COPS KILL FIVE YEAR OLD

by PETER COGAN

Once again a trigger happy policeman has been exonerated after killing a Black person.

Only this time the victim was only five years old.

JOB

Patrick Mason had been left alone by his mother, while she went off to her \$100 a week job at Sears.

They had recently moved to Los Angeles from the tenements of Chicago, looking for a better life.

Unable to afford a babysitter, with no day care centers available, his mother was forced to leave Patrick alone

while she worked.

The cop, officer Sperl, was supposedly answering a truant complaint.

Let in by the manager he opened fire when he allegedly saw a gun pointed at him.

Next to Patrick Mason's body lay a red toy plastic pistol. He died an hour later.

His mother, Patricia Ridge, couldn't even afford to bury her son.

And now, while the killer cop goes free, Patricia Ridge is being blamed for her son's

death, charged with child neglect.

What kind of justice is this? While federally funded day care centers are closed, forcing thousands of mothers to leave their children home alone in order to work, Patricia Ridge is charged with child neglect.

JUSTICE

She went to work hoping to escape welfare. She expected to find her child a safe home.

Instead, she comes home to find him shot dead by a trigger happy cop. This is justice in Reagan's America.



Patrick Mason

RACISM AND THE HAROLD WASHINGTON CAMPAIGN

Chicago hasn't had a Republican mayor since 1927. Winning the election seemed to be a matter of winning the Democratic nomination.

At least, that's what Harold Washington expected when he won his party's nomination last month. But that was before Washington's color entered the picture.

Washington, of course, is Black—and by playing on racism his millionaire Republican opponent, Bernard Epton, hopes to create an upset. His slogan goes: "Epton, before it's too late."

Epton claims that he's referring to the city's financial crisis. What he's really referring to is the fact that although Republican mayors are rare in the windy city, Black mayors are unknown.

COUP

By using racism in a city where 95% of the whites live completely apart from 95% of the Blacks, lacklustre Epton hopes to turn his lacklustre campaign into a Republican coup.

The local Democratic Party establishment are doing their best to help this coup.

Seven of the 50 ward committeemen have joined Epton's campaign. Many of the others refuse to take sides—and those who verbally sup-

port Washington do so passively.

Traditionally, the establishment has propelled the party's nominee into power.

Washington isn't receiving the same treatment.

Vicious racism is now central to Epton's campaign.

An anonymous leaflet circulated on the southwest section of the city warned of "contamination and occupation of the city hall by a Mr. Baboon."

Some of Epton's supporters T-shirts that read: "Vote Right, Vote White." Epton's band swings to the tune of "Bye, Bye, Blackbird."

If it weren't for the pressure from national Democratic party leaders, who fear alienating Chicago's Black population, local Democrats would most likely be joining in the revery.

Socialist Worker

WHAT WE THINK

This crude anti-Black feeling is disgusting—to say the least.

There is nothing worse than watching Republican and conservative Democrats use any and all ways to prevent Washington's victory.

But this doesn't mean that we can ignore the fact that Black Democrats run cities just as white Democrats do.

To illustrate this point, look at the example of Detroit's Coleman Young. Young, who ran on a more radical campaign than Washington, has cooperated with the automakers and presided over the destruction of working class Detroit. The result—more Black unemployed in Detroit than in any other U.S. city. And this would have happened under any Democrat.

To function as an elected official one has to "play ball."



This means compromises, deals, and politics as usual.

Otherwise, the other players—bankers, money dealers, developers, city government bureaucrats—will take the ball away.

Washington may want to give Chicago's teachers all they demand in the upcoming contract talks.

But what will he do when the banks say that there isn't the money?

He may want more federal money. But this means making peace with the White House.

He may want his legislation passed in the state legislature.

But this means making peace with the party establishment—and they will expect a high price.

It shouldn't come as any surprise, then, that candidate Washington is acting as mayor Washington would act.

PROMISE

He has backed off from an earlier promise to fire the police commissioner.

He actively seeks the support of the establishment.

He politely dropped Jessie Jackson, because Jackson started to chant at the post-nomination party that went "We want it all!"

While this may be disappointing, it has to be placed in context.

Washington was a loyal machine Democrat for sixteen years. During these years he was a minor, but integral part of the Daley operation.

As congressman he voted for the Solomon Act—registration. He did so not out of conviction, but instead because to get along, one must go along.

It still looks like Washington will win, and his victory will be due in part to the support of the "left."

Many sixties radicals and ex-Maoists have plunged into the campaign—a few of them are prominent inside of it.

Sections of the left have intervened, at least in print,

but presumably in other ways as well, to change the politics of the campaign.

One newspaper on the left, *In These Times*, has devoted considerable space to the campaign. This space hasn't, however, been aimed at keeping Washington left of center.

Instead, Washington was praised for distancing himself from the "shrill" Jesse Jackson.

And he's urged to name his transition team and "demonstrate substantial white participation."

In other words, Washington is being told—by these left supporters—to conduct his campaign purely in order to gain conservative white support.

Everything that was distinctive about the Washington campaign—especially its powerful relationship to Chicago's angry Blacks—is being dropped.

If the issue were simply racism, we would certainly endorse Washington.

But it isn't. There are Black mayors today in Detroit, Los Angeles, Atlanta, Washington D.C., Gary and Newark.

Those cities are all in terrible condition—filled with poor, the unemployed, deteriorating spiritually and physically.

The issue is the system behind this structure—and the Democrats part of that system—and part of the problem.

Electing Harold Washington won't change this—it will simply channel Blacks into the party—then betray them. □

HANDS OFF NICARAGUA! OUT OF CENTRAL AMERICA

Today, everyone from *Time* to the *New York Times* agrees with what the rebels of Central America have been arguing for many months.

The Reagan administration is stepping up its campaign to regain control of Central America—whatever the cost.

TRAINED

Somocistas (contras or counter-revolutionaries), 2,000 strong invaded Nicaragua in March—trained and paid for by the United States.

The Reagan administration has reportedly authorized \$19.95 million for covert activity designed to "destabilize" Nicaragua.

At the same time, the administration wants another \$110 million from Congress for the war in El Salvador—a war which the government's American trained and equipped army is clearly losing.

HOPE

The U.S. is building up the Honduran army—and urging that Costa Rica build an army as well—all in the hope of

expanding the war in El Salvador into a regional war—with the aim of not only winning in El Salvador, but overturning the Sandinistas in Nicaragua as well.

No wonder there is more talk of another Vietnam.

Of course there are differences.

But, in the first years of the war, the United States was quite confident that the massive use of troops would not be necessary.

STOP

But the important thing is not to second guess Reagan and his advisors. The point is to stop this from becoming another Vietnam now—before it's too late.

Hands off Nicaragua! U.S. Out of El Salvador, No more Vietnams! □

FIGHTING WORDS

If there is no struggle, there is no progress. Those who profess to freedom and yet deprecate agitation are men who want crops without plowing. They want rain without thunder and lightning. They want the ocean without the awful roar of its mighty waters.

—Frederick Douglass, 1857

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Columbus resisters challenge Reagan's war

COLUMBUS, OH—Goaded by receiving a letter from the District Attorney threatening prosecution, Scott VanValkenburg, 21, chose to speak out publicly March 24, in Columbus, Ohio, about his reasons for not registering for the draft.

Two other 21-year old non-registrants, Brian Bursak, a journalism student at Ohio State University, and Wayne Cope, a member of the Columbus Anti-Draft Campaign, joined VanValkenburg in the speakout, which terminated with the burning of VanValkenburg's letter from the District Attorney.

WITNESS

Despite 33 degree temperatures, about 50 sympathetic persons witnessed the noon speakout in the shadow of the District Attorney's office in



the Federal Justice Building in downtown Columbus.

Three uniformed government security agents, one of whom asked for a copy of the speeches which were available in printed form, stood guard on the Justice Building lawn.

March 24 was chosen as the date of the speakout by VanValkenburg because it marked the third anniversary of the

assassination of Archbishop Oscar Romero in El Salvador.

"Despite personal risk, Romero," said VanValkenburg, "actively worked for peace and justice, and openly criticized the government for human rights abuses."

VanValkenburg responded to reporters, "I am not looking forward to going to jail, but I feel speaking out about resist-

ing the growing militarization of our society overrides what might happen to me.

"The Reagan administration is preparing for war, and draft registration is an integral part of the buildup."

Bursak, as well, linked draft registration with preparation for U.S. intervention in El Salvador by stating:

As I saw an increase in U.S. military aid and advisors to the country of El Salvador; as I saw the interests of corporations like McDonald's, U.S. Steel, and Exxon being threatened by the just liberation struggle of the people of El Salvador; I realized that the U.S. government needed a draft to do what it has always done: to militarily intervene whenever the interests and profits of the U.S. corporations are threatened.

That's why Reagan is asking Congress for \$60 million more to help the Salvadoran government which represents an elite minority 'owning' 80% of the land.

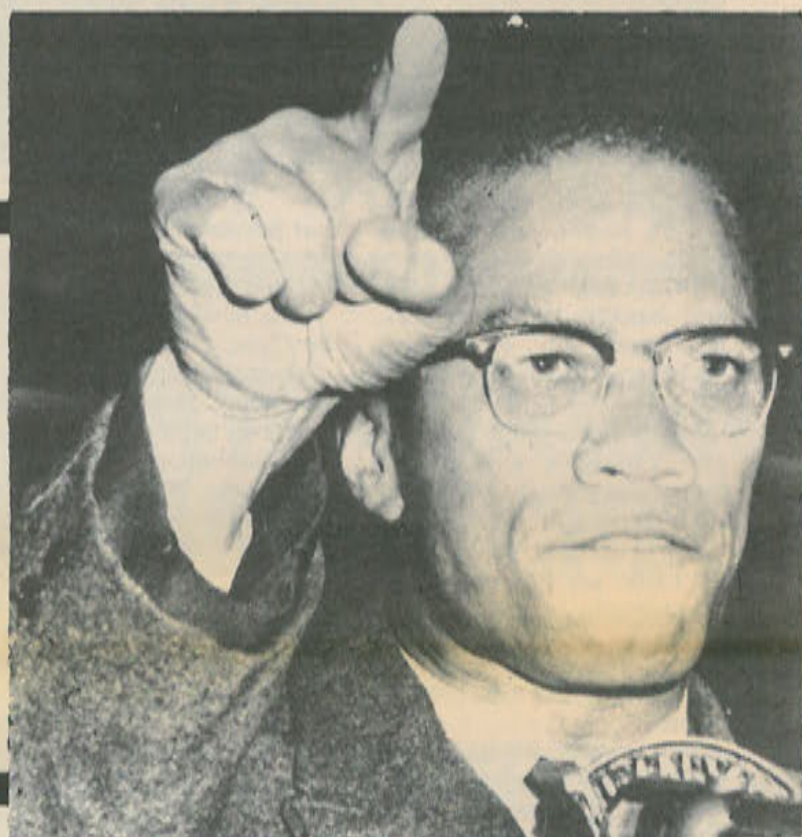
RETURNS

They're losing the civil war against the peasants and the majority of the people, threatening continued U.S. corporate economic returns from this Central American country.

Resist, we must, every way we can, continued and escalating military aid to El Salvador, as these three young men in Columbus, Ohio, are resisting being drafted to aid the Salvadoran and American elites.

Instead, we need to abandon our unjust, exploitative economic system and institute one based on social justice for all.

by MARY HESSEL



BY ANY MEANS NECESSARY: BLACK POLITICS IN AMERICA

Black freedom and presidential politics

Malcolm X

Jesse Jackson says he might run for the presidency of the United States.

He's serious, and a number of Black journals have been taking him seriously.

A Black person running for president is nothing new—Frederick Douglass ran in the late 1870's, Eldridge Cleaver in 1968 and Shirley Chisholm in 1972.

Everybody understood that they were campaigning as a protest candidate, but this time, in the wake of the upset victory of Harold Washington in the February Chicago primary, Jackson believes he can make a difference.

WIN

The 1984 election, according to Jackson's strategy, will see four white Democrats competing against Reaganomics, not for Black votes.

Jackson fears that Black concerns—like affirmative action, desegregation and equal employment opportunities—will be overshadowed by economics.

He argues that only if there is a Black candidate on the platform will the white candidate who has a "genuine commitment to racial justice" be forced to stand up in a manly fashion.

BY RETHA HILL

The only way for Jackson to force the issue of racial justice, as anything more than a protest candidate, is to get through the early primaries.

A native of Chicago, and an early supporter of Washington, Jackson's decision to run could not help have been influenced by the Black congressman's win in the most segregated city in the United States.

With only \$500,000 in his campaign chest, Washington turned his campaign into an emotional appeal to Blacks.

More than 300,000 Black voters registered between August and November last year—in record numbers they went to the polls and made Washington the Democratic nominee for mayor.

Can Jesse Jackson do the same next year?

He obviously thinks he can. But, as Black columnist Carl T. Rowan reminded Jackson, the early primaries are in New Hampshire and Iowa, not exactly Black strongholds.

Rowan raises the concerns that Jackson may indeed make a difference, but not in the interests of Black people.

He agonizes over what will happen when a Black, who can't win the presidency, enters primaries in New York, Illinois and California, and take so many votes that the white candidate with a genuine commitment to racial justice loses and the white conservative winds up with the Democratic nomination.

Jackson retorts that no matter what happens at the polls, the following results will be produced.

● Blacks will have a greater interest in politics and will start registering and voting in greater numbers.

Jesse Jackson and Harold Washington



What Jackson ignores is—first of all—that no Black person will ever win the highest seat in this bastion of racist capitalism.

But even if Jackson or some other Black wins the presidency, it would not make a whole lot of difference for the lives of Black workers—or white workers—or any of the poor and oppressed in this country.

The president is just a front man for a ruthless machine called the "capitalist state."

The purpose of the state is to protect the interests of the ruling class it serves.

A Black president could not, therefore, stop the capitalists from constantly seeking to maximize their profits at the expense of the people.

He could not stop Dow Chemical from polluting rivers with Dioxin.

He couldn't change the way that capitalists compete with one another—he couldn't stop periodic economic recessions.

He could not end institutionalized racism, any more than Harold Washington will end segregation in Chicago or Coleman Young could stop layoffs in Detroit.

The only way Black workers can improve their lot is by seizing control of society along with working class allies, not by voting for Jesse Jackson.

VOTING

Since the end of slavery, Black people have been convinced that by voting for the right man can make a difference.

History has shown that strategy to be a fallacy.

They have to change the system which exploits and oppresses them—not the color of the slave drivers.

Jackson should not participate in promoting this lie. He should be actively involved in organizing Blacks not to vote, but to revolt.

My brother: sent to his death for the profit system

My brother, Anthony Quirk, was a crewman on the Marine Electric, the ship that capsized and sank off the Virginia coast in the early morning of February 12th.

Thirty-six men died in that tragedy, three survived. My brother was among those who died.

Tony died at the age of 33, the youngest of seven, six boys and one girl.

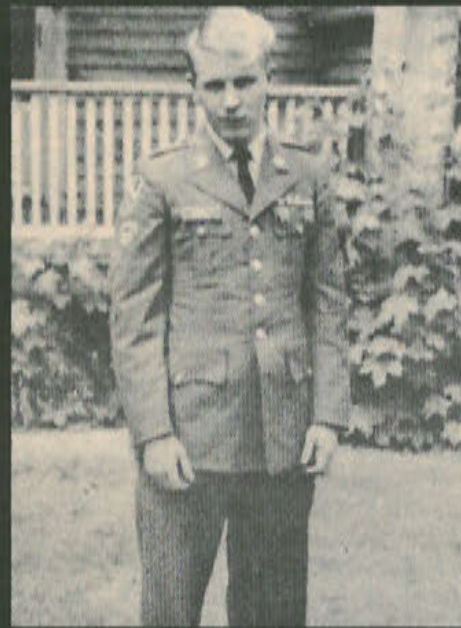
He worked in the merchant marine about seven years and was a member of the National Maritime Union. Most of all though, he was a member of the working class and one who believed in socialism.

I am sure that Marine Transport Lines Inc., the company that owned the Marine Electric, and the National Maritime Union will find plenty of unemployed men to replace the 36 who died on the Marine Electric, my brother Tony among them, and I am just as certain that the families of those men will never replace them.

BLIZZARD

The sinking of the ship was an avoidable tragedy, a by-product of capitalism.

TONY QUIRK AND 35 OTHERS KILLED IN A BLIZZARD BY MARINE TRANSPORT LINES BY MICHAEL QUIRK



The owners sent it, a "rust bucket", out into a blizzard, gale winds and high waves.

In their role as capitalists they were seeking to maximize their profits, no matter what the social costs.

In not ordering the ship to remain in port until the storm was over and in not ordering the needed repairs to be made on the ship,

they were minimizing costs.

Now they seek to limit their liability for the loss of 36 men to the value of the ship, a 39 year old "tub", and its cargo, a pile of coal.

Whatever compensation the families of the deceased crewmen receive from the company will be paid by the company's insurance agent.

In order to make-up for

its loss the insurance agent will increase the premiums paid by some marine transport companies. The companies will in turn increase the rates they charge the jobbers who receive the cargo they transport.

The jobbers will then include their increased cost in the selling price charged the ultimate consumers, me and you.

We share in their losses but we don't share in their profits.

All of us finance the loss of 36 men caused by the profit-maximizing behavior of a few capitalists who own the Marine Transport Lines Inc.

As usual in most industrial accidents, those who died in the sinking of the Marine Electric were working class people.

Had the same sort of wet suits been standard safety equipment on the Marine Electric many of the crew would have survived their ordeal in the frigid waters they were tossed into.

CAUSE

Working class people are constantly dying and being maimed in industrial accidents, many of which are caused by capitalists seeking to enrich themselves no matter what agonies they inflict on all of us.

The near massive disaster at Three Mile Island is, perhaps, the best contemporary example of how capitalists are willing to risk the lives and health of millions in order to maximize their own profits.

Private ownership of productive property and production for profit instead of need cause a low value to be placed on human life in this society.

Private ownership of the means of production allows a relatively few people, capitalists, to exploit working class people and inevitably results in such tragedies as the sinking of the Marine Electric.

The laws created by representatives of the capitalist class and the judicial system they administer and control may or may not hold those who caused the tragedy accountable for it.

I do, and I do so as a working class person, one who has lost a brother to a social system he did not believe in and opposed.

While I want to see the people punished who made the decisions directly related to the sinking of the Marine Electric, I want even more to see the institutions changed which influenced them to make the decisions they did.

It's more the basic institutions of this capitalist society and less the greed of the Marine Electric that are responsible for the loss of my brother, Tony's life and lives of 35 of his crewmates.

I have no illusions, though, that the inquiry into the causes of the tragedy and the legal proceedings stemming from it will implicate private ownership of the means of production as a cause for it.

Only we as working class people opposed to capitalism can do that in the case of this tragedy and others like it.

My brother Tony was a white, Irish-American.

He died out there in the ocean with crewmen who were Black, who were Puerto Ricans, and other diverse ethnic and racial origins, the ocean doesn't care, neither do the capitalists.

The thing that the crew most had in common was that they were working class.

They were out on the ocean not from love of it but from need, economic need, and it will be out of the same need that all working class people will create a socialist United States.

COOPERATE

Just as they cooperate in sailing ships, they will someday cooperate in creating and administering a socialist United States.

I look forward to that day just as my brother Tony did.

There will come a time when among other industries in the United States, the marine transport industry will be run by the workers who are in it for the benefit of us all.

It will be a democratically socialized marine transport industry and the workers in it will determine the safety conditions of the ships they sail on.

They will decide if they want to risk sailing out into a blizzard and they will decide if the cargoes of the ships they are on are worth more than their lives.

Reagan's giveaway to the fast food industry

The Reagan administration is pushing two youth employment plans which amount to giveaways to the fast-food industry.

One proposal being debated in Congress calls for a summer subminimum wage for youths. The other program, which goes into effect this summer, offers big tax breaks for employers of disadvantaged 16 and 17 year olds.

The subminimum wage proposal is quite appealing to the fast-food industry, one-fourth of whose workers are teenagers.

A Detroit hot-dog stand owner asked: "Why should I hire them at \$3.35 (current minimum wage) when I can get steady help for that pay?"

"It's not just \$1 we're talking about. To me, that dollar is multiplied by, say, four employees, by so many hours a day, by taxes and social security.

"For me, that extra dollar could represent about . . . \$3,000 a month."

Apparently the Reagan administration is more concerned about restaurant owners' profits than about young workers' needs.

In his 1984 budget, Reagan included a proposal to lower minimum wage to \$2.50 per hour for the summer months. The provision applies to workers younger than 22.

"My concern is not whether McDonald's makes money or Burger King makes money," said Secretary of Labor Raymond Donovan. "My concern is to be given a tool by Congress . . . to begin to attack this national tragedy."



Lining up for jobs in Chicago

Youth unemployment, standing at 22 percent, is a national tragedy. For young Black males, the figure is 57 percent.

But Donovan's solution will add to the overall unemployment tragedy as employers replace older workers with "cheaper" young laborers.

A 1981 Wage Study Commission report concluded a 25 percent cut in the minimum wage would open up 250,000 jobs for youths, but it did not say many of those jobs represent employers' substitution of young workers for older workers.

Maryland fight for jobs

ANAPOLIS, MD—"What do we want? Jobs! When do we want 'em? Now!"

Two hundred laid-off workers chanted these words in Annapolis, the Maryland state capital, on March 7.

As their voices boomed in the courtyard outside the Maryland state legislature, they knew that the senators

The AFL-CIO executive council adopted a resolution opposing the subminimum wage plan in February. AFL-CIO president Lane Kirkland called Reagan's proposal "an abomination."

BELOW

An unemployed 21-year old Los Angeles woman was even more direct. She said minimum wage work is "already slave labor. Many kids don't know what the minimum is, and they're already working below it."

by LANCE SELFA

and congressmen inside could hear them.

As one laid-off Maryland dry-dock worker said, "I can't feed my family on bureaucratic bull."

One message was perfectly clear however: the fight will continue. By any means necessary.

by TY MILLER



Graffiti

by KENT WORCESTER

I'll get you guys . . .

Leroy Jenkins, television evangelist, has vowed to preach against evangelists such as Oral Roberts and Billy Graham for ignoring him while he was serving time in a South Carolina prison.

Jenkins served nearly four years on convictions for conspiracy to commit arson and assault.

He told a crowd of 1,500 in Delaware, Ohio that while in prison he had God's help in killing a prison guard.

The guard had told him to keep a revival meeting a little quieter, and Jenkins told the guard that "I hoped you fall dead in the tunnel."

It just so happened that the guard died within the month.

As Jenkins tells it: "I'm just like Jesus, just like Him. You do Him wrong, and He'll send you to hell. If you do me wrong, you wish you were in hell."

Other evangelists might be wise to take care. □

Liabilities . . .

Ted Turner, owner of the Atlanta Hawks and Atlanta Braves and cable television mogul, told reporters why he wouldn't sell the money losing Hawks even though they were a financial liability.

"If I sold all my liabilities, I wouldn't own anything. My wife's a liability, my kids are liabilities, and I haven't sold them." □

He says he's stuck with it . . .

Reagan on Reaganomics: "Somewhere along the line our economic program got tagged with that label."

"To tell you the truth, it isn't a name I would have chosen. It sounds like a fad diet or an aerobic exercise. But we seem stuck with it." □

They're falling again . . .

Howard Baker Jr. on El Salvador: "There's a far more credible argument for the domino effect in El Salvador than there was in Vietnam." □

Doing well . . .

No need to worry. General Alexander Haig is doing fine, thank you, despite being outside of the White House.

For one thing, he's now a consultant for the giant MGM/United Artists Entertainment Company in Hollywood, earning a cool \$25,000.

And for being on the company's board of directors he gets \$2,000 a meeting. (Thanks to M. Crowley.) □

WAYNE STATE AGREES TO SOUTH AFRICAN DIVESTMENT

On March 9, the Board of Governors at Wayne State University voted in favor of a resolution to divest from all banks and corporations having ties in South Africa.

This ended a long struggle on the issue of divestment.

Arthur Johnson, vice-president of community relations at Wayne State, commented at a conference on divestment held in Detroit in June, 1981 that Wayne State "would divest in six months."

YEARS

It took nearly two years to make good that statement.

For although the issue of divestment had come before the Board of Governors time and time again, the Board kept putting it off.

What shook the Board of Governors out of its lethargy was a law passed by the Michigan legislature in December 1982.

by JOYCE WILLIAMS

It states that "All public educational institutions must divest from Banks and Corporations that do business in South Africa by April 1984."

Several on-campus student organizations, including the Pan-African Student Union and the Swahili Club, began to mobilize for support of divestment.

Fact sheets on South Africa were compiled and distributed, as well as a petition speaking of divestment.

PICKET

On the day of the Board of Governors meeting, a picket line made up of students, activists, and community people marched in front of the Alumni House where the Board met, chanting "We'll march, we'll shout, we'll get Wayne State out."

Afterwards, the participants went inside to hear the decision.

Abayomi Azikiwe, president of the Pan-African Student Union, spoke to the Board of Governors when the divestment issue came up on the agenda.

He spoke of the oppressive conditions faced by Blacks in South Africa—the bantustans, the high death rate among Black babies as compared to whites, the pass books Blacks are forced to carry, the economic exploitation of Blacks.

When the Board voted on the resolution, it passed unanimously.

VICTORY

Though the passing of the resolution represented a victory, it is not enough. We must continue to educate and to mobilize support for all human rights struggles. We would also do well to remem-



ber when any victory is won, that "eternal vigilance is the price of liberty," as Ida B. Wells, the great Black investigative reporter and feminist put it. It was true in her day—and it is still true now.

TALKING ABOUT SOCIALISM

Doesn't Russia show that Marxism doesn't work?

The Russian Revolution is often referred to as the beginning and end of working class revolution and rule—a nice idea that can't work.

For socialists the 1917 revolution is a powerful source of inspiration. Its subsequent defeat is our albatross.

Therefore, the "Russian question" is one of those far-reaching questions that continually challenges us to explain what we mean by working class rule.

VICTORY

There can be no doubt that the Russian Revolution was a genuine working class victory. The Bolsheviks took power with the active support of the great majority of the working class.

Even the Mensheviks, the liberals of that time, admitted in a resolution they passed just after the revolution: "The Bolshevik revolution of October 1917 has been historically necessary and expressed the endeavour of the toiling masses to steer the course of the revolution wholly in their interests . . ."

But it was a workers' revolution in a country in which the working class was a small minority (five million out of a population of 160 million). Without the support of the peasants, the great majority of the people, it could not have succeeded in the first place, let alone survive for the four years of civil war and invasion by the armies of 14 capitalist states, including the United States.

The peasants wanted land

by BILL ROBERTS

of their own on which to develop as small scale capitalist farmers; they wanted their debts cancelled, and they wanted an end to Russia's participation in the first imperialist world war. The Bolshevik slogan "Peace, land and bread" expressed the peasant's demands. Together with the worker's demand: "All power to the soviets" (workers' councils) a revolution was forged.

STEP

From the beginning there was a built-in contradiction to the revolution. The Bolshevik leaders understood this. They knew very well that Russia on its own, with a small working class, poorly developed industry and a backward economy, could not make the giant step into socialism.

1905: Russian workers



The Russian revolution and workers' power

Lenin said in 1921: "What we actually have is a workers' state with this peculiarity, firstly, that it is not the working class but the peasant population that predominates in the country, and secondly, that it is a workers' state with bureaucratic distortions."

The "Bureaucratic distortions" were themselves a direct consequence of the weakness of the working class. By 1921 the small working class was even smaller than in 1917.

The world war and civil war destroyed Russian industry completely and disrupted the supply of raw materials. By 1921 the total output of manufactured goods was down to one-eighth of the 1913 production figure.

A trade union leader, Radzutak, noted: "The workers, thanks to the contraction of production in the factories, are being absorbed into the peasant mass." By 1921 the work-

ing class was down to one million!

FADED

In spite of famine, disease, and war, the peasants supported the Soviet government throughout the civil war. A victory for the counter-revolution would return the landlords. But once the war was over their support faded quickly.

By 1921, the workers' government found itself ruling through the party and state machinery without the support and even against the "immense majority" that Marx had regarded as the basis of a workers' state.

The communist leaders looked to the west, especially the German workers, to rescue history's first workers' government. And while they waited, they bought time by putting down a peasant revolt in Tombo and a sailor's uprising at Kronstadt.

"The socialist revolution in Europe must come and will come," wrote Lenin. "We are now, as it were, in a besieged fortress, waiting for the world socialist revolution to come to our relief. If the German revolution does not come, we are doomed."

The German revolution was defeated. So were the revolutions in other European countries. Was Lenin right?

In one sense no, because the regime survived. But in the crucial sense yes. For what survived was not a workers' state but a dictatorship over the working class and the peasantry. □

HOW THE POPE'S TOUR HELPED REAGAN IN CENTRAL AMERICA



WORLD IN STRUGGLE

John Paul II's March 2-9 trip to Central America and the Caribbean left many in those areas with a sense of being betrayed.

The trip had been awaited as an occasion on which the pope would encourage them in their struggle.

Guillermo Ungo, president of the El Salvadorean FDR, had urged John Paul II to "express himself in the concrete situation in a concrete manner" when he arrived.

With Reagan fighting a clandestine war on Nicaragua's border, and pushing for more funds for the government of El Salvador, the pope could have pointed the finger at the U.S.—as the agent delaying peace and refusing dialogue.

Instead, he upbraided petty tyrants—Rios Montt of Guatemala for executions on the eve of his visit, and Jean Claude Duvalier of Haiti for perpetuating a system of destitution.

People felt swindled because the pope's call for peace ignored the obvious cause of war.

STRIDES

The official Church has, nonetheless, made great strides in the past 150 years.

The rebel priest Miguel Hidalgo, who fought for Mexican independence from Spain 1810, was accused of heresy.

When his revolutionary band was defeated, he was imprisoned by the Church and turned over to Spanish authorities for execution.

Since then there has been the social teaching of Leo XIII on the injustices to labor under capitalism and the opening of the Church by the Second Vatican Council to the Third World.

Despite these changes, one hurdle has not been crossed. This is the class struggle.

The Pope purports to be a friend of the poor, a defender of the oppressed.

Yet, as his recent trip to Central America vividly shows his actions help the brutal rulers of Central America—and their masters in Washington D.C.

Milt Fisk writes from Mexico City

John Paul II spoke in Panama about the "egoism" of the class struggle.

His solution to social ills is respect for human dignity, something that he says is lacking in both "the collectivist system" and "purely economist capitalism."

He expressed the conviction that respect for human dignity can come to Central America and the Caribbean without class struggle against their ruling minorities.

This stems from the view, expressed in his 1981 encyclical *On Performing Work*, that there is no conflict between labor and capital at either the national or the international level, since each requires the other.



The Pope in Nicaragua

The papal position is that a reformed capitalism, involving a capital-labor partnership, will satisfy the need for human dignity.

At the international level this implies a call for reforming U.S. imperialism. Such a reform will give the workers and peasants in the countries he just visited their dignity without their having to fight against either U.S. capitalism or its local capitalist supporters.

The real reason John Paul II made his 2-9 March trip might also have been the defense of Catholicism against Protestant fundamentalism, which has won 20% of Guatemala.

PRIESTS

Or it might have been the defeat of the popular Church in El Salvador or the revolutionary priests in Nicaragua.

He surely desired each of these things.

But his integrating theme was—as it will be in Warsaw in June—that partnership between classes within the present international and national orders is the answer to social ills and that class struggle is odious and selfish.

In Guatemala he attacked "revolutionary confrontations" and called for a new dialogue "based on ethics, on economic and social relations

in order to surpass and avoid absurd wars and fratricide."

He appealed to "the sense of the absolute and the transcendental" and to "universal values" as opposed to class struggle.

It still takes two to tango even to the tune of universal values.

So who is holding back? There is the aggressive determination of the Reagan administration, the new call for farcical elections in El Salvador, and the butchery of Rios Montt.

This should show the pope that, by calling for revolutionaries to lay down their arms, he is ignoring the real source of lack of dialogue.

It is the U.S. government that encourages local repression and fans the flames of war.

It should be evident that without the pressure of class struggle, revolutionary confrontation, and civil war neither the petty tyrants of the area nor the U.S. will enter any "dialogue."

The slurs from the Vatican press on his Nicaraguan hosts made clear the pope's disgust with their determination to fight against subordination to U.S. capitalism.

In his presence, Sandinista leader Daniel Ortega docu-

mented U.S. backed incursions into Nicaragua since 1980.

Yet not once did the pope refer explicitly to the need for the U.S. to end its support for Somocista reaction.

He chose instead to blur the issue by speaking of a need to end intervention from all quarters.

And he chose to ignore the pleas of mothers of Nicaraguan soldiers recently slain on the border "to pray for our martyrs."

But the Vatican press did not denounce as uncouth President Alvaro Magana of El Salvador for announcing, in the pope's presence, the U.S. plan for elections within a year.

Elections, however diversionary, are not recognized by the pope as part of the war waged by the local oligarchy against workers and peasants.

The millions who listened to John Paul II on this trip are evidence that he is a man with a dislike for inequality, malnutrition, the denial of political rights, repression, and exploitation.

He has become a man of the people to an extent that few other official leaders in history have.

It would be blindness to say his trip didn't matter. His intervention in Central America and the Caribbean matters because it will sap vital energy from the revolution.

For example, the conservative archbishop of Managua, Miguel Obando y Bravo, has had his hand strengthened against the revolutionary priests.

The pope revised the memory of Archbishop Oscar Romero of San Salvador to that of a "devoted pastor of his flock"—from that of a preacher who openly denounced U.S. imperialist actions.

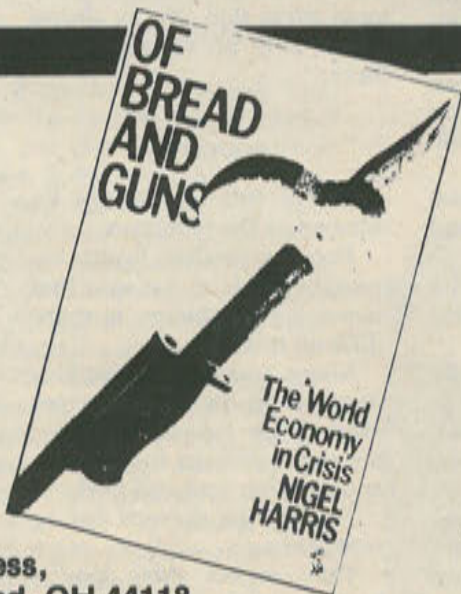
The pope refused to honor the revolutionary dead and called on priests "to make bridges between diverse tendencies."

EMPTY

The inability of the pope to offer a concrete road to peace in Central America shows the limitations of a universalist morality and humanism.

The people will find way to improve their situation. It will be along the route of class struggle, revolutionary confrontation, and civil war.

While warming to the pope's recognition of their plight, the emptiness of his call for peace, concord, and dignity has left the workers and peasants of Central America with a sense of being swindled. □



Nigel Harris's new book on the world crisis

\$6.95 from Hera Press, Box 18037, Cleveland, OH 44118

DEPO-PROVERA EXPERIMENT THREATENS WOMEN

CINCINNATI, OH—A nurse at the Adolescent Clinic of Cincinnati's Children Hospital recently informed a group-home worker that Depo-Provera—an experimental synthetic hormone that has twice been rejected by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) as unsafe for birth control—is being "widely prescribed" to the adolescent women of Cincinnati.

Sadly, she was revealing this information in order to persuade the worker that this drug is quite safe.

Obviously, she reasoned, if we are using it a lot it must be okay.

FOREIGN

For further evidence, she cited the fact that "millions of women in foreign countries" have been receiving Depo-Provera for years.

Adolescent Clinic services many of Cincinnati's youth programs.

The individuals receiving this chemical and, therefore, being placed at risk for breast cancer, depression, reduced sexual energy and sterility, are disproportionately poor and Black, and many of them have been adjudged "retarded," "crazy" or "delinquent" by the "nor-

WEST COAST CLERKS WAIT

SAN FRANCISCO, CA—Ten thousand retail clerks in the food industry are waiting to hear if they will be striking or not.

Their employers are the giants of the supermarket world, who's profits have been booming in the last year.

Safeway profits went up by 47.5%, Lucky Stores rose by 20%, and Alpha Beta Markets had an incredible 63.4% increase.

UNION

They want a weak union so that they can bring in new technology and substitute workers without any union say.

Key provisions of the new contract include:

1. A super seniority clause which allows the owners to ignore previous seniority provisions.

2. Elimination of the employer obligation to maintain the level of benefits in the health insurance program.

The workers responded on March 13 with a 89% strike authorization vote, but since then the union leaders have led them into a jungle of red tape and confusion.

On March 24 a secret informal agreement was reached. Since then, the workers haven't been told a thing. Many retail clerks fear the worst.

It is up to the clerks at their mass meetings to make sure no contract is passed which will destroy their job protection.

It will be more difficult to fight next time if the bosses get what they want this time.

by DAVID SIDDLE

by LESLIE THOMPSON

mals" in the psychiatric and legal systems.

And, of course, they are all women.

The clinic was, however, recommending injecting exactly such a drug into the body of a fifteen year old woman living in a welfare-funded group home.

Their plans ignored the facts that she was not sexually active and that she said she had no intention of becoming so in the near future.

In fact, the only apparent reason for their supposed concern about future pregnancy was that she had been raped and, therefore, stood a good chance of being raped again!

A letter to the clinic director, informing him that the National Women's Health Network had been informed of the clinic's practices, had, of course, no impact on the frequency with which Depo-Provera is being prescribed to Cincinnati women.

FIRE

His response, instead, was to demand that the group-home workers who were asking questions be fired, or else he would deny medical services to the residents of the home where they worked.

Collective, as well as individual, action is necessary, and plans are already underway, by the Alliance for Reproductive Rights-Cincinnati (ARRC) for both an educational forum and direct action against the clinic.

Upjohn Co., the manufacturer of this dangerous chemical, has already been granted a special hearing by the FDA, in the hope that the ban on the drug will be lifted.

Upjohn, aided and abetted by the equally profit-oriented medical profession, have already found ways to circumvent the ban.

The drug can already be "legally" prescribed in the U.S. on the dubious grounds that it has been approved as a pain-reliever in certain types of cancer.

If the ban on contraceptive use is lifted (which, given Reagan's choice of appointees the FDA, seems likely).

Upjohn expects that four million more U.S. women will use the drug, and hopes that it would be distributed worldwide on an even more massive scale than is already occurring.

Nowhere is the connection between the oppression of women and an international economic system based purely on the profit motive more obvious.

The profit margins of pharmaceutical companies, like Upjohn, exceed those of any other industry.

RESISTANCE

Anyone wishing to join the growing resistance to the use of Depo-Provera should contact either your local Reproductive rights group or the National Women's Health Network at 224 Seventh St. SE, Washington, D.C. 20003.

CRISIS OF THE AMERICAN FARMER

Sheriffs are seizing farms. Productive land is lying fallow. Yet millions do not get enough to eat. Kent Worcester explains why.

Jerry Wright's Springfield, Colorado farm was put for sale in early January because he couldn't keep up on the loan payments.

His farm had been threatened ten times in the last fourteen years by the local credit agency for slow and non-payment.

Some 400 of his neighbors and supporters tried to stop the auction by storming the Baca County Court House.

They were met by tear gas and clubs wielded by a sheriff's posse—a posse which included a small number of Springfield merchants.

Three arrests were made. Order was kept and within minutes Jerry Wright had lost his farm. Another foreclosure had occurred.

FORECLOSURES

Foreclosures have been occurring with regularity in this country recently.

Occasionally, arrests are made when farmers create "public disturbances", as in Springfield.

Sometimes crowds are angry but helpless as banks and credit agencies take farms.

This is what happened, for instance, to Ruth and Ed Campbell of Nobelsville, Indiana, when their farm was taken over by the Production Credit Association. Forty chanting farmers were unable to prevent the foreclosure.

More often, the individual farmer resigns to fate and gives up quietly.

Foreclosures, and protests against them, have placed farmers in the news.

They have also spurred the growth of the American Agricultural Movement (AAM), the most militant of the several farmer's organizations.

As one looks into it, moreover, one finds that the problem is very large. American agriculture is in crisis. Consider the facts:

- 8,000 farms failed last year. Jerry Wright was not alone.

- Ten percent of Ohio's farms, for instance, are on the verge of failure.

- Twenty-five percent of the farmers who have borrowed money from the Farmers Home Administration are seriously delinquent in their payments.

- Total farm income declined in the late 1970s by one third, and by \$6 billion in 1982.

- Farm machinery makers blamed the crisis when they laid off 20,000 in 1982.

For the independent farmer, typically a grain producer in the midwest farm belt, debt, foreclosures, failures are serious threats.

This is why one such farmer, Jim Brokaw of Forbes, North Dakota, told the business press that "we're sitting on a keg of dynamite out here."

POPCORN

All of this can partly be blamed on the recession.

For the smaller farms especially, bad times means that necessary machinery is more difficult to afford.

Many small farm families depend on outside income, often from industrial jobs—but these jobs are less certain and certainly less well paid.

Bankers get nervous during recessions.

They expect their money back promptly, and they are more cautious in extending

credit. High interest rates make loans more expensive.

At the same time, the recession has lowered the demand for meat. Less meat sold in the supermarkets means that ranchers order less grain for feed.

So the recession is one cause. But there's another. Perhaps, one might think, drought or some other natural disaster is to blame. But no.

Instead, everyone agrees that the major problem is too much production.

Too much food, too much grain, too many dairy products. In Iowa, farmers burn corn instead of oil.

Government officials in Nebraska are urging that popcorn be used as packing material.

Journalists, officials, and agricultural experts all talk about this without one hint of irony.

It never occurs to them that we are fortunate indeed to have "too much."

To state the point plainly: do we have too much food in the famine stricken areas of the third world, such as the sub-Saharan, or the Indian continent?

Do we have too much food for the malnourished in our own cities?

Of course not. But to even mention this is to come off rhetorical or utopian.

As the experts and analysts will explain, prices need to remain where they are, or even rise, in order that the middle merchants—the supermarket chains, the export



firms, the food distributors—sustain a decent profit.

Besides, these experts will tell you, if price levels are ignored market incentives would disappear and the farmer would have no reason to work.

And they would say this despite the fact that only a tiny part of the retail price of food-stuffs is determined by the wholesale cost charged by the grower.

The result then, is universal regret that bumper crops continue.

One is left saying, as the London *Sunday Times* did; that "when the widely predicted emergency comes and . . . tens of millions of people starve to death, one trusts they will understand why."

PIK

Whatever the cause of the crisis, Reagan's administration was initially unwilling to get involved.

After all, his predecessor, peanut farmer Jimmy Carter, had helped provoke the crisis in the first place with his embargo on exports to Russia.

As a result of the embargo exports went down—not only to Russia, but to other Soviet satellite countries worried about the instability of the source—and this meant that the bumper crops were harder to sell abroad.

But early this year Reagan introduced the payment-in-kind program, or PIK.

The new program encourages farm land to be taken out of production, in order that production lowers—and prices rise. Various payment schemes, mostly involving credit, will compensate the farmers.

The plan is popular. An estimated 46 million acres, twice the amount expected will be taken out of production.

In total, one-third of all grain land will lie fallow in 1983.

A recent *New York Times* editorial praised the plan because it won't add to the federal deficit. "Anyone have a better idea?" they asked.

But PIK has its problems—even if we ignore the tragedy of encouraging farmers not to farm.

For one thing, agricultural workers, who own no land and therefore cannot benefit from the plan, will find less work available.

Also, those industries directly related to agriculture, such as fertilizer and farm machinery, are expected to go into depression due to PIK.

Workers in these industries can expect serious layoffs.

And these programs disproportionately help bigger farms, and farms run by agribusiness.

If a farmer owns enough areas to produce only a small surplus, then credit in exchange for lowered production hardly makes sense. But for the farmer with a massive acreage, some credit and some production is more acceptable.

It may not need saying, but Reagan's agricultural policies dovetails his other policies—the richer you are the better the policies are for you.

MOVEMENT

Reagan waited a long time for the workings of the market to put farmers back on their feet. It didn't happen.

But some farmers at last didn't wait. They organized—often in alliance with the 20,000 member American Agricultural Movement. Jerry Wright is a member.

The AAM, founded in 1977, came to prominence later that year after sponsoring tractorcades through state capitals and Washington D.C.

Fighting for easier credit the AAM also demanded full or 90% parity.

Parity would set retail prices at levels which would

give farmers a complete return on their costs.

The AAM has also argued for import quotas and tariffs.

Tractorcades have been replaced in recent years by other tactics—sometimes lobbying, sometimes confrontations at farm auctions.

In general, the AAM contains farmers of all political persuasions.

Some AAM members are major producers—others are typical of the traditional family farm.

Radical rightists, a minority of the AAM, have been active and militant.

Jerry Wright's supporters included members of the Farmers Liberation Army, and he himself has attended meetings which teach techniques concerning blowing up bridges, roads, and dams.

As he explained, "We're prepared to fight now for the outcome of the battle that's being waged for the control of this country by the Rockefeller cartel and the international Jew-Bolshevik cartel."

CONTRADICTION

The particular ideas of individual AAM members are not as important as the demands they raise.

As far as this is concerned the aims—and results—are contradictory. On the one hand, the AAM is right to demand credit, and is right to storm court houses in order to get it.

On the other hand, import quotas are no solution.

Quotas would mean higher food prices—which might help the middle merchants, but might also backfire in the form of declining sales. Certainly consumers would be hurt.

Additionally, import quotas and tariffs pit American farmers not against food monopolies, but against farmers and ranchers of other countries.

Parity is tricky. Traditionally, parity has been linked to various plans to keep fields fallow.

As we've seen these plans are only of substantial benefit to the largest farms.

AAM literature has suggested that the government subsidize prices through regulating crop output. They say that the commodity dealers "get more than their fair share."

Prices should be regulated—and the profits of the middle merchants need, to be questioned.

The best form of price regu-

lation, for the small farmers and for consumers, doesn't involve crop restrictions, however.

Instead, the government should subsidize basic food stuffs and donate the surplus to famine hit areas.

In this way, the benefits of America's high agricultural output would go to those who need it.

UNDERDOG

In one sense, we socialists are happy to support the underdog.

Despite the circulation of far right ideas within the AAM, the central thing is that the small farmers are arrayed against some of the main players in the capitalist system—firms like Tenneco, Del Monte, Exxon, etc., and the banks.

Small farmers—while not comparable to industrial workers or even agricultural laborers—are exploited by debt, long hours, and low pay.

Socialists are in favor of equitable farm prices, and government intervention in the form of direct subsidies, easy credit, and decent medical and retirement provisions.

Fights against foreclosures can be inspiring.

When steelworkers in Pittsburgh protested the foreclosures of homes, they had the example of the farmers in mind.

But farmers are not workers.

They fall into an unusual category of small business people who are more directly exploited and more likely to fight back. In this regard they can be compared to the independent truckers.

Their struggles should be supported, spread, and related to working class struggles. As Mary Elizabeth Lesse, Kansas populist, once said "Raise less corn and more hell." □



AAM protest at the White House

WOMEN

by LESLIE THOMPSON

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The plan is popular. An esti- mated 46 million acres, twice the amount expected will be taken out of production.

In total, one-third of all grain land will lie fallow in 1983.

A recent *New York Times* editorial praised because it won't a federal deficit. "Any a better idea?" they

But PIK has its p even if we ignore th of encouraging farm

For one thing, ag workers, who own a therefore cannot be the plan, will find available.

Also, those indu rectly related to ag such as fertilizer machinery, are expe into depression due

Workers in these can expect serious la

And these prog proportionately hel farms, and farms ru business.

If a farmer own areas to produce on surplus, then cred change for lowered j hardly makes sens the farmer with acreage, some cr some production acceptable.

It may not need s Reagan's agricultur dovetails his other the richer you are the policies are for y

MOVEMENT

Reagan waited a for the workings of t to put farmers back feet. It didn't happ

But some farmer didn't wait. They or often in alliance

20,000 member Agricultural Movem Wright is a member.

The AAM, founde came to prominence year after sponsori

comes through stat and Washington D.C

Fighting for eas the AAM also dem or 90% parity.

Parity would s prices at levels wh

TOO MUCH ON THE 'EVILS OF RUSSIA, CHINA, CUBA . . '

Dear Socialist Worker,
Please cancel my subscription to your paper.
I sent for information regarding your organization, but it seems I did not read far enough in your paper. You deny that Russia, China, and Cuba are socialist.
There was a big article in the democratic socialist paper, *In These Times*, about this, as to whether or not they are socialist. The conclusion was that American socialists cannot deny that they are socialist because, in the first place the American people would not believe this, and in the

second place, the *origins* of those regimes were socialist, or put in clearer terms, they are *historically rooted* in socialism, or socialist ideals.
The point was made that democratic socialists must convince the American worker that socialism will not take the form here that it has in those afore-mentioned countries because we have a democratic tradition.
My own opinion is that socialists simply play into the capitalists' hands by denouncing Russia, China and Cuba.
There are some positive aspects to those regimes,

especially in China and Cuba. Besides this, there is always the real potential for change. I would urge a tolerant attitude toward the problem of "the real, existing socialism." I could not comfortably be a member of any organization that does not hold this tolerant attitude.
Besides, if I want to read about the "evils" of Russia, China, and Cuba all I have to do is subscribe to the *National Review* or *Conservative Digest* not the *Socialist Worker*.
Cordially,
Ernest Field,
Cleveland, OH



HEALTH AND SAFETY NOTES

BY MATT FILSINGER

VDT . . .
Union officials at a Vancouver, Canada hospital are calling for a ban on the use of video display terminals, after a sixth abnormal pregnancy occurred among women using the computer equipment.

In July, hospital workers at Surrey Memorial Hospital in suburban Vancouver reported that of six recent pregnancies among VDT operators, only one had produced a healthy baby. Two of the women miscarried; one gave birth prematurely; one baby was born with a club foot; and another was born with bronchitis.

Now yet another hospital worker has miscarried. In the wake of that miscarriage, the Hospital Workers' Union is demanding an immediate shutdown of the terminals until they can be thoroughly tested by an independent agency.

Similar clusters of multiple miscarriages have occurred at other workplaces in the U.S. and Canada. However, the total numbers of women involved have been so small that scientifically "significant" studies have not been possible. □

EPA and OSHA . . .

The EPA's cozy relationship with industry is no longer a secret. Lack of enforcement of regulations, mismanagement of money, and "sweetheart" arrangements with the very companies which were to be controlled, were the policies of the EPA under Reagan's friend Anne Gorsuch Burford.

But now that she's gone, things will still be the same. That's because her policies were Reagan's policies. And it's the same policies which are being implemented by every other federal regulatory agency.

OSHA was no exception. As one Congressional staffer said: "We think things are worse at OSHA than they are at EPA in terms of collapsing before industry. OSHA has institutionalized industry dominance over regulations by allowing companies to set up voluntary compliance programs." Although workers suffer worsening conditions, don't expect Congress to force any real improvements. □

Letters

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

ISRAEL: THE CENTRAL AMERICAN CONNECTION

Dear Socialist Worker,
The Israeli state was founded in 1948 partly as a refuge and haven for the survivors of Nazi terror and the Holocaust.
But over the years, playing their role as "watchdog of imperialism", the Zionists have enjoyed some very strange bedfellows. The fact that the South African state is based on Nazi principles and much of its leadership was interned during the Second World War for its fascist sympathies has not stopped Israel being one of its major trading and armaments partners.

In two recent raids a girl of 13 and a boy of 14 were murdered on their way to help with the coffee harvest and a man was left dead with his ears cut off, his tongue cut out and his eyes gouged.
But these events will leave Menachem Begin unperturbed. Even if his hands do not drip with the blood of the Sabra and Chatilla refugees camps in Beirut they have been stained for more than 30 years with the blood of Deir Yassin.



Victims of Israeli war

Tony Hodges,
Managua, Nicaragua

Prisoner writes: "I want information and material on socialism"

Dear Socialist Worker,
I recently became knowledgeable of your publication *Socialist Worker*, and found it to be very informative. And I would like to receive a subscription to your publication but unfortunately due to my condition of confinement, which is presently in the dungeon of G.I.C. Dallas, I don't have the money to cover the cost at this time.
I am one of the P.O.W.'s who tried to liberate ourselves from the concentration camp at Grateford, Pennsylvania

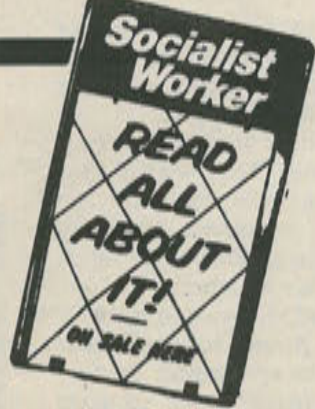
(G.C.I. Grateford) October 28, 1981, which lead to a hostage situation and our being transferred to federal (camps) prisons November 2, 1981.
In March of 1982 we were returned to the Pennsylvania prison (camp) system to face charges which arose from our attempt to liberate ourselves and the hostage situation. I have since been held in the dungeon and segregation camp in the camp G.C.I Dallas and due to my continual confinement in segregated status it is difficult to keep informed.

The only new material we receive is from other comrades who come to the hole, or from comrades who are in transit and come through the segregation. In fact that is how I became knowledgeable of your publication.
Therefore I would greatly appreciate a subscription to the *Socialist Worker*, and any information and material on socialism.
I anxiously await your reply.
In strength and struggle,
Lawrence Ellison,
Dallas, PA

Buy It, Read It, Sell It!

Socialist Worker sellers reported good luck selling the paper to strikers and the unemployed in the month of March.
In Detroit, many were sold at a rally of striking Champion spark plug workers—much to the dismay of the local union officers.
In Annapolis, Maryland, there was an excellent response to the paper at a statewide unemployed rally.

The feature article on Karl Marx by Duncan Hallas also went very well—especially at his meetings commemorating the 100th year since his death.
Sales should be even better this month—especially as the weather improves in many places.
Be sure to hit the hospitals and health care facilities in your area—the cutbacks in medicare are already causing strikes of



nurses and hospital workers.
And don't forget the subs. We need the subs and so do the subscribers!
Ahmed Shawki

"no power greater"

by BARBARA WINSLOW



TOLEDO AUTO LITE STRIKE:



National Guard attacks Toledo strike

HOW THE UNEMPLOYED SAVED THE DAY

The depression, which began with the "great crash" of 1929, meant enormous misery for the American working class—no jobs, homes, farms, savings, even nothing to eat.

By 1932, 15 million workers were unemployed.

Out of sheer desperation, they developed ways to fight for their interests.

In the early thirties, unemployed organizations took direct action to fight against evictions, for greater relief, for bootleg coal.

The unemployed marched and rallied for jobs or relief.

POTENTIAL

These early organizations, demonstrations and actions by the desperate of the thirties was the first sign of the potential power of the American working class.

It was then the unemployed joined with the employed, as in the case of the great Toledo Auto-Lite strike, that an alternative to suffering was posed—not just for the unemployed, but for the employed workers as well.

Toledo, Ohio, was the glass and auto part center in the twenties and thirties.

It had been devastated by the depression.

One out of three workers was standing in line for relief.

In 1933, the Lucas County Unemployed League, which was organized by the socialist American Workers Party (AWP), organized mass militant actions and won some cash relief.

Revolutionaries forged links between employed and unemployed and helped unleash U.S. labor's giant step

The Unemployed League policy was for unity between the employed and the unemployed, and it organized the unemployed not to scab during strikes.

In April, Federal Labor Union #18384 at the Auto-Lite, Spicer and Bingham parts plants struck for a wage increase.

Auto-Lite and the other companies kept their plant open, hired scabs and got a court injunction preventing mass picketing.

The intervention of the Lucas County Unemployed League and the American Workers Party helped save the strike, and turned what was looking like an inevitable defeat into a tremendous victory.

First, the AWP called for mass picketing against Auto-Lite. Ted Selander and Sam Pollack, two members of the Lucas County Unemployed League, members of the AWP, announced that they would defy the court injunction.

They joined the picket line and were immediately arrested.

Two days later they were back on the picket line, were rearrested with forty others for contempt of court.

The League packed the courtroom, with hundreds of supporters singing and chanting.

The judge issued no decision. Selander, Pollack and the others returned to the picket lines.

By May, there were more than 10,000 picketing.

SYMPATHETIC

Deputy Sheriff David Kreiger decided to take matters into his own hands.

He could not rely on local police, who were sympathetic to the strikers. He deputized special police paid for by Auto-Lite.

These special cops started arresting and beating people. The police used tear gas, guns, fire hoses.

The picketers were incensed at the brutality of the police and fought back throwing bottles, bricks and stones. They were so effective that the police were forced to stop herding the scabs into the plant.

Sheriff Kreiger then called

the National Guard—900 men, 8 rifle companies, 3 machine gun companies and a medical unit.

Kreiger was afraid to call out Toledo's 107th Cavalry—some of them might be on strike.

The crowd both jeered and fraternized with the guardsmen. Many of the strikers tried to win the guards over to the side of the strike.

Some World War I veterans wore their uniforms and medals on the picket lines.

Women talked about what the strike meant to the workers and their families.

The press reported that many guardsmen voiced sympathy with the strikers. Some even quit and went home.

On May 24, guardsmen fired into a crowd of 6,000 strikers, killing two and wounding 25.

More bloody fighting broke out. The fury of the workers was so great that the guard was forced to retreat back into the plant.

Only when four more militia companies were sent in—more troops than ever seen in

Sam Pollock, one of the leaders of the historic Toledo Auto-Lite strike of 1934, died in Los Angeles on March 4 at age 73.

He was the leader of the Lucas

County Unemployed League. He became a revolutionary socialist, and remained one through the forties.

Ohio before in peacetime—and when the plants were shut down was the situation eased.

But by June 1st, 85 out of 103 local AFL unions had called for a general strike. That evening over 40,000 rallied at the Lucas County courthouse square.

With the threat of a general strike, the Auto-Lite company capitulated and signed a six month agreement including a wage increase, with a 5% minimum above the auto code.

Local 18384 became the exclusive bargaining agent in the plant, therefore keeping out company unions.

Rehiring began slowly at Auto-Lite. The company did not want to hire back strikers.

Only when a crowd assembled at the plant, threatening more direct action did Auto-Lite finally give in.

The way was cleared for the unionization of the automobile industry.

BEGINNING

Within a year, Toledo workers organized 19 other small parts plants, and in the next led a successful strike against General Motors, beginning the conquest of GM.

The Toledo Auto-Lite strike paved the way for the organization of the mass production workers into the CIO.

The socialists of the American Workers Party demonstrated that you could forge unity between the employed and unemployed, take on the giant companies, the courts, the national guard and win. □

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, Latinos, Native Americans, gays, youth—suffer the most. We support the struggles and independent organizations of oppressed people to strengthen the working class struggle for socialism.

BLACK LIBERATION

Our support for the struggle against racism is unconditional, and we oppose any attempt to subordinate this fight. We fight racism in all its forms, from institutionalized "legal" racism to the activities of groups such as the Nazis and the Ku Klux Klan.

We fight segregation in the schools and in housing, we support affirmative action, and we oppose racist firings and harassment. We support armed self-defense in the face of racist attacks. We support independent self-organization and the right to self-determination of the Black community. We demand freedom for all political prisoners.

WOMEN'S LIBERATION

We fight for women's liberation. We support equal pay and equal job opportunities for all women. We demand free abortion and an end to forced sterilization, and quality child care. We oppose all forms of violence against women including sexual harassment at work. Under capitalism the state intervenes to maintain women's subordination within the family, to maintain oppressive sex roles and her exploitation at work.

We support lesbian and gay liberation. We demand quality sex education in the schools; we are for lesbian and gay custody rights and the right to be open lesbians and gays at work, home and in school.

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 Poland to Puerto Rico, from Palestine to El Salvador. We support all genuine national liberation struggles. We call for victory of the Black freedom fighters in South Africa and Namibia. 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 those 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.

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



What's ON

BALTIMORE
Ty Miller on Rosa Luxemburg and the German Revolution. April 17, 7:30 p.m.

Day School and May Day Picnic. Talks, music, food. April 30, 12:00-10:00. Call 235-4620 for details.

CHICAGO
Christina Bergmark on **The Fight for Reproductive Rights.** April 8, 12:30 p.m. University of Chicago.

Lance Selfa on **Nuclear Weapons: Protest and Survive.** April 16, 7:30 p.m.

May Day Celebration. Speaker: John Anderson. Food and music. April 30, 12:00-5:00 p.m. Call 288-7572 for details.

CINCINNATI
Study Series. Dan Caplin on **Revolutions in the 'Third World'.** Sunday, April 10, 12:00 p.m. Call 531-8371 for details.

CLEVELAND
Dena Magoulas on **Health Care and the Profit System.** April 15, 7:30 p.m.

May Day Picnic. Food, games, talks and more. May 1, 12:00-5:00 p.m. Call 371-2370 or 371-7648 for details.

DETROIT
Retha Hill on **The Civil Rights Movement and Black Power.** April 16, 7:00 p.m. Call 527-2810 or 833-0621 for details.

KENT
Film: **Reds.** April 8, 9, 10, 8:00 p.m. University Auditorium. Call 673-1710 for details.

A new release from Hera Press, telling the story of one of the first big strikes of the thirties—a turning point for auto workers

50¢ from Hera Press, Box 18037, Cleveland, OH 44118.

1933-1983

THE BRIGGS STRIKE



FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY EDITION BY JOHN ANDERSON

50¢

MADISON
April Stoltz on **Puerto Rico.** April 22, 7:30 p.m. Call 251-4006 for details.

NEW YORK
Kathy Ogren on **Why Socialists Need to Organize.** April 8, 7:30 p.m.

Day School. Dinner and party to follow. April 30, 12:00-7:00 p.m. Call 316-0569 for details.

ROCHESTER
Marxism Study Group. **The Struggle Against Apartheid.** April 11, 7:30 p.m.

Cal Winslow on **Socialism and America.** April 14, 4:30 p.m.—R.I.T., 8:00 p.m. U. of R.

Marxism Study Group. **Martin Luther King and the Civil Rights Movement.** April 25, 7:30 p.m. Call 235-3049 for details.

SANTA BARBARA
Day School. **The Politics of the International Socialist Organization.** April 23, 12:00-5:00 p.m.

SAN FRANCISCO
Larry Bradshaw and John Fowler on **Fighting Racism.** April 6, 7:30 p.m.

Carol Siddle on **Alexandra Kollontai.** April 20, 7:30 p.m.

Day School. Talks on **The Current Crisis, Why the Working Class, Roots of Oppression, The Need for Revolutionary Organization** 11:00-7:00 p.m. Dinner and party to follow. April 24. Call 285-1908 for details.



"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
- Bloomington, IN
- Boston, MA
- Charleston, WV
- Chicago, IL
- Cincinnati, OH
- Cleveland, OH
- Detroit, MI
- Fort Wayne, IN
- Indianapolis, IN
- Kent, OH
- Los Angeles, CA
- Madison, WI
- Minneapolis, MN
- Muncie, IN
- New York, NY
- Northampton, MA
- Philadelphia, PA
- Portland, OR
- Rochester, NY
- San Francisco, CA
- Seattle, WA
- Toledo, OH
- Washington, DC

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

Frances Farmer: the film doesn't do her justice

Frances, the motion picture about controversial Frances Farmer, the 1930's film star who after a brief, but impressive career suddenly went "insane", is based on William Arnold's much more interesting biography of Farmer, *Shadowland*.

But it distorts or suppresses startling information Arnold uncovered about how the psychiatric establishment worked with the government to have Frances committed because of her left-wing political views.

FOCUS

Thus, instead of placing what happened to her in its social and political context, it narrowly focuses on the individual, ignoring the broader implications of her story.

Moreover, what we do see of Frances as an individual is only a shadow of what she really was.

One never gets from the film an idea of her great creativity as an actress, her uncompromising rebelliousness, or her deep compassion for human suffering.

Frances' creativity, her political commitment were inextricably intertwined, and to understand her we have to understand this. The film begins by focusing on her first controversial act, an essay she wrote at sixteen titled "God dies," which won a National Scholastic Essay Contest.

However, her much more controversial trip to the Soviet Union is glossed over, nor does the film show that Frances' association with the drama department at the University of Washington brought her into the thick of Seattle's radical political scene.

In 1934, the year she won the trip in a contest sponsored by the *Voice of Action*, Seat-

Frances Farmer was a beautiful young actress headed for a brilliant career in Hollywood.

But she was interested in radical politics, sympathized with workers and was independent and defiant.

Christy Brown reviews the film—which tells the terrible story of what happened to her.

tle's communist paper, the radical labor movement, which had been brutally beaten down in the 1910's was again on the rise.

Frances was politically active in the demonstrations. Her acceptance of the trip earned her the undying enmity of Seattle's power structure, especially of Judge John A. Frater, a member of the American Vigilantes of Washington, a group formed to crush the radical labor movement.

Frater, who had a long history of "busting radicals," was later to preside over Frances' commitment. All this is not mentioned in the film.

Once in Hollywood, Frances is shown struggling against the dictates of the studios, but her continued involvement in radical politics, including her deep sympathy for the plight



Frances Farmer

of migrant farmworkers, is conspicuously omitted.

Frances' work with the Group Theater, and her disastrous affair with leftist playwright Clifford Odets is developed, but without a political context, one cannot see how her work there fit into her overall development as an actress.

JAILED

Frances' first incarceration was in a private sanatorium in California where she was sent after she was jailed for violating her probation after a drunk driving conviction and for striking a make-up woman on the set of her last picture.

From the movie, one gets the idea that Louella Parsons and her mother were out to get her. But, according to Arnold's account, many people in Hollywood felt that "she was being railroaded because of her politics and her unconventional lifestyle."

In the sanatorium she was given highly dangerous insulin shock treatments, which frightened her so much she tried to escape.

The film does show the shocking conditions at the

asylum at Steilacoom in Washington State where she was twice incarcerated, the last time for five years.

It shows her stripped naked, thrown into an overcrowded ward with no sanitation, gang raped by soldiers from a nearby army base, subjected to weekly shock treatments, and finally subjected to a lobotomy which left her a hollow shell for the rest of her life.

But by placing the sole blame on her mother, who wanted to force her daughter back to her movie career, when she wanted to give it up, *Frances* neglects the larger implications which Arnold stumbled upon in his search to uncover why Frances went insane.

Arnold was forced to conclude that Frances was never really insane. Much of her behavior—drunk driving (which she denied), a blow to the jaw of the make-up woman who was harassing her, foul language, bucking the studios and the Seattle establishment, was inappropriate to her role as a woman.

In a male it would be unexceptional.

This, coupled with her political activities, infuriated the power structure in Seattle, the studios, and her mother.

Arnold points out that Judge Frater wanted to "get" Frances and he shows how the psychiatric establishment in Seattle was only too willing to help him do just that.

Arnold became aware of how the International Congress on Mental Hygiene in 1930, the first gathering of the world's psychiatrists, laid the foundation for the use of psychiatry as a weapon of political and social control all over the world.

Accordingly, in the next decades laws were passed which gave psychiatry vast powers to "arrest, detain, and sentence any citizen to an indefinite confinement without due process."

DISSIDENTS

Much has been made in the West of the use of psychiatry in the Soviet Union to incarcerate dissidents.

Yet one of Arnold's sources, a bodyguard for Marion Zioncheck, the radical congressman from Seattle who committed suicide after being held incommunicado in a mental hospital in Washington D.C., claims that both Zioncheck's and Farmer's commitments were part of a conspiracy by the American Vigilantes "to 'do in' all the leading radicals of the Northwest by having them declared legally insane."

Frances' mother Lillian was a fantastic conservative who was convinced "the communists" had brainwashed her daughter, but whether she went to the authorities or they came to her is immaterial because if the laws had not existed which allowed Frances to be committed or the atmosphere in which being a communist or associating with communists was considered a mental aberration, Lillian Farmer would never have been allowed to control her daughter's life.

She was as outspoken and forceful as her daughter, but she was on the right side of the political fence, and so posed no danger to the establishment.

NATURAL

This Orwellian situation of parents turning in their children or vice versa is only natural in a society which whips up patriotic fervor and sees socialism as akin to devil worship. Lillian Farmer convinced herself that she was doing her patriotic duty. □



Farmer in custody in California



Indiana Whirlpool workers draw the line



Over 3,000 angry protesters gathered in New Bedford, Mass. on March 14th to express their outrage at the barroom gang-rape of a 21-year old woman.

Marchers crowded into the square in front of the New Bedford City Hall carrying signs and candles.

by PAULA CAREY

"Rape is not a spectator sport."

EVANSVILLE, IN—"We simply want to retain what we had—but with dignity," said an I.U.E. Local 808 official one month after the workers of Whirlpool Corporation's Evansville Division went on strike for the third time since 1970.

SUPPORT

In 1970, when the Evansville Division employed as many as 8,447 employees, Local 808 of the International Union of Electrical Workers struck for 110 days.

In 1974, with 6,984 workers, the union struck for 122 days.

Today the local represents 4,200 employees and the strike is at least two months old.

by JOHN SLAGTER & WILLIAM STANT

Local TV and radio, the Evansville newspapers, local bankers, the Chamber of Commerce, and even some local clergy have lined up solidly in support of Whirlpool.

They've waged a consistent campaign to convince the community that the union's demands are "unreasonable," that the union is responsible for the loss of jobs, and that Whirlpool and the community are its innocent victims.

Is this campaign meeting with success?

Yes, since while it has not alienated the local from the majority of the community, it has forged a greater spirit of solidarity and a higher level of militancy within Local 808.

This is exemplified by the fact that after 30 days on strike the number of workers willing to "kneel to management", as one man on the picket line said, has declined from approximately one third to less than 2%.

Whirlpool, rather than negotiate a just contract with the workers, is transferring low volume production from Evansville to other plants in Arkansas and Tennessee.

During the 1974 strike they moved refrigerator production to Fort Smith, Arkansas. Yet today refrigerators are the highest volume product made at the Evansville Division.

OFFER

The company's pre-strike offer has not been modified. They want to limit pension benefits to a \$1.00 per month per year of service increase, replace the open-ended COLA with a 12¢ cap on semi-annual cost of living adjustments, reduce night shift bonuses, and put employees to work on weekends without bonus pay rates.

Using the need to plan production costs to "justify" a severe limitation of COLA, Whirlpool admits what the members of Local 808 already know—that recovery will be highly inflationary, and that to accept management's "reasonable" offer is equivalent to accepting a substantial pay cut and corresponding reduction in their standard of living.

Meanwhile, Whirlpool realized net profits of \$101.6 million in 1980, \$125.5 million in 1981, \$139 million in 1982.

Management continues to receive a substantial yearly bonus. Cash dividends to stockholders are higher than ever, and capital reserves are sufficient to permit self-financing.

Extracting givebacks and concessions from workers confronted with these facts is only possible because of the nationwide retreat of the labor movement.

Local 808's attempt to maintain its previous COLA and improve pension benefits is made to look "unrealistic" because the bosses, the capitalists, can point to workers everywhere giving it back in order to keep their jobs.

The Evansville strikers know where they stand.

They know who is responsible for producing value at Whirlpool and that the time for concessions to those who merely think they do is over.

Somewhere along the line, the nationwide trend of givebacks and defeats for labor must be stopped.

Strike support donations and letters of solidarity are needed. Send them to I.U.E. Local 808, 2333 Bergdolt Road, Evansville, IN, 47711.

Victory to the Evansville strikers! □

TALKIN' UNION BY JOHN ANDERSON

UAW CONVENTION: HAND-PICKED DELEGATES WITH BANKRUPT IDEAS

On May 15, the UAW will open its 27th Constitutional Convention in Dallas, Texas. The decisions that should be made by convention delegates have already been made by the International Executive Board (IEB), several of whom will end their careers in the UAW when the new hand-picked officers are installed in office.

PROMISE

The convention promises to be a cut and dried affair. The machine has been wining and dining local leaders who will be delegates or fraternal delegates to the convention.

In an open letter to Owen Bieber, vice-president of the UAW and selected to follow in Fraser's footsteps, to become president, I wrote the following:

"I have been a member of the UAW since 1936. I was chairman of the 1937 sitdown strike at Fleetwood Fisher Body. I was president of Local 15 from 1947 to 1949.

"Some years ago the local began holding elections in the plant cafeteria because of lack of interest in local elections. I have had many Fleetwood workers tell me, 'We don't have a union in Fleetwood.' Workers from other plants have told me the same.

"The Regional Office, the International reps and the GM Department conspired with management to elect people to office who they could manipulate and control. When opponents were elected these same forces con-

spired to make it impossible for them to perform their duties. Elections in Local 15 have become a farce.

"The election of delegates to a convention should not be held in a place the company is in a position to influence the voters. Union people will walk the 200 yards necessary to vote for candidates in the election.

"The unemployed and the retirees are at a disadvantage in campaigning and voting in an election held on company property.

"I protest the use of the *Fleetwood Organizer* being used as campaign literature for the incumbents . . ."

This letter was read at the March membership meeting. No one challenged anything in the letter.

Many other GM locals have similar arrangements for holding elections. It is just one more way managements are able to influence local elections. It favors machine candidates who have "good relations" with management.

MAJOR

The employers played a major role in Reuther's take-over of the UAW in 1947. They continued to give him their support until his death in 1970. They continue to give full support to his heirs.

In recent months when tens of thousands of auto workers are destitute there have been a number of farewell parties for retiring bureaucrats. The



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

price per ticket, \$35 and \$40. Local 15 spent \$800 on Fraser's party. In addition bought a gift for \$176.75. When Fraser first negotiated the GM concessions Joe Gaston Local 15 president denounced Fraser as a crook.

The salaries and expense accounts of the same local bureaucrats reach fantastic amounts. I am told the chairman of the shop committee at Cadillac was paid more than \$80,000 for putting in his time in 1982. The Cadillac Engine Plant has been working 10 hours a day seven days a week.

OPERATION

The UAW-GM Department has a joint operation going with the corporation to collect food for the unemployed who have exhausted their unemployment and SUB benefits. All they have is rhetoric for utilities, house payments, car payments and other fixed expenses. Most of these unemployed have lost their health insurance—many their life insurance.

The hand-picked bureaucrats who will take over after the convention will be bankrupt of ideas as their predecessors. There will be hundreds of opposition delegates at the convention, but without an organization, a caucus, they will be able to do little to change the direction of the UAW. □



LABOR IN BRIEF

CATERPILLAR STRIKE LONGEST IN UAW HISTORY

PEORIA, IL—The strike of the United Auto Workers (UAW) against Caterpillar Tractor is now the longest major strike in the history of the union.

The strike, which began October 1, seemed near a settlement in February, but that hope was dashed when Reagan announced his new farm policy.

The policy calls for taking more land out of production—thereby reducing still further the demand for agricultural machinery. □

STEEL INDUSTRY CONCESSIONS

PITTSBURGH, PA—Steelworkers' local presidents gave in last month and agreed to a contract with the steel industry that will be 41 months in duration and involve \$3 billion in concessions.

The vote was 169-63. A similar agreement was voted down in November.

The agreement includes a \$1.25 per hour pay cut, suspension of COLA payments for the next year, a weeks vacation is given up in 1983, and the Extended Vacation Program is given up. □

WEIRTON STEEL BUY-OUT

WEIRTON, WVA—Steelworkers will vote on May 1 whether or not to buy National Steel's Weirton division, but, according to the Rank and File Committee, many of the details of the buy-out are secret.

One important question is that of concessions.

The Joint Study Committee, which worked out many of the plans, recommended that steelworkers, members of the Independent Steelworkers Union, accept 32% cuts in wages and salaries—to make the mill "competitive."

But Rank and File Committee members are afraid that the USW's recent decision to grant to industry massive concessions will lead to even bigger demands at Weirton. □

UMW BANS FOREIGN CARS

WASHINGTON, DC—New miners president Rich Trumka says his union is now "back on the track."

But among the "new policies" of the union is this curious policy.

As of April 1, all foreign cars will be banned from the union parking lot.

At the same time, Trumka is pushing a plan to increase port capacity so that more coal can be exported. □

THOUSANDS OF UNEMPLOYED MARCH ON WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON, DC—On March 15, thousands of unemployed workers travelled to Washington to bring their complaints to their senators and representatives.

Organized by the National Unemployment Network, they came from Ohio, Michigan, Pennsylvania, Illinois, Indiana, Maryland, and New York.

A few came from the New England states, and even from as far away as California. Union locals, churches, and other community groups endorsed the trip.

Evelyn Mills, from Cleveland, was laid off from Warner and Swasey in June of 1982—the first time she had been out of work since 1960. "You can't tell me I don't want to work," she said.

PROGRAM

The workers wanted a jobs program to help end unemployment, further extension of unemployment benefits, and an end to foreclosure on homes.

There are 12 unemployed in this country and the \$4.6 billion jobs bill being considered by Congress is not enough to help so many people. The AFL-CIO has put forth a proposal for a \$60 billion jobs program, but it is unlikely that the government will consider it seriously.

The government does not want to spend very much money on working people.

Teenagers from Cleveland, Pittsburgh, and other cities came with the other workers to protest Reagan's proposed \$2.50 subminimum wage for teenagers this summer.



Flint auto workers march in Washington

The youth group holds that the subminimum wage—which is 75% of the regular adult minimum wage of \$3.35—would not create more jobs, only encourage employers to hire teenagers and fire adult workers, who are more expensive.

The young people also asked that the inner cities of the Midwest be declared disaster areas because of the high youth unemployment and the adult unemployment as well. Minority teenagers are particularly hurt—50% do not have jobs.

The workers spoke to their representatives in the morning and again in the afternoon. Between lobbying sessions

there was a demonstration on the steps of the Capitol.

Most of those who came knew that their lobbying would have little effect. They complained that politicians continuously lie to them and do not care about the suffering in the cities.

Many were openly hostile to their representatives.

Workers are suspicious of the government. They realize that Congress serves big business, not the masses of workers. They realize that lobbying is not likely to do much good.

Workers should not go to lobby. More militant action is needed.

Shows of strength like the rally at the Capitol have an effect on the government. A

mass movement helps to organize workers and promote solidarity. Ultimately, however, something more revolutionary is needed.

LISTEN

One Cleveland woman said, "Communication is our greatest weapon—not arsenals in the street."

But it is time to stop begging to favors and start demanding immediate action. Communication is worthless when you are speaking to someone who isn't going to and doesn't want to listen.

Merely raising eyebrows is not enough. Raising consciousness is not enough. It's time to start raising hell. □

by ELEANOR TRAWICK

THEATER JANITORS PICKET GOLDEN GATE FIELDS

ALBANY, CA—The opening of this year's horse-racing season at Golden Gate Fields (GGF) on February 4 marked a new assault on Theater and Amusement Janitors Local 9, SEIU.

Management offered everyone of the fifteen unions at the track wage increases of 17-19% over three years except one—the janitors.

LOWEST

The janitors, who are the lowest paid of all the track

by SANDY HIOTT

employees, were only offered a nine percent increase over three years.

Further, management also demanded a twenty percent cut in the numbers of janitorial jobs and an increase in the workload of the remaining employees.

But the real issue of contention is management's demand to eliminate the union hiring hall.

As Local 9 member Charlie

Ridgell pointed out: "This demand is really an attempt to bust the union."

In 1979 paramutual clerks agreed to management's demand to eliminate their hiring hall and now thirty five percent of all clerks are non-union.

Local 9 has responded by calling a strike and boycott of GGF. Picket lines of up to 200 people are maintained through the help of many other unions in Alameda County.

These pickets lines back up traffic for hours all the way to the Bay Bridge and have resulted in a 30% drop in business.

Both the city of Albany and the state of California have suffered a large loss of revenues from the taxes collected on betting.

Despite the decline in business and pressure from the state government, GCF has refused to modify its demands.



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PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALIST ORGANIZATION

AKRON: "THE REAL NURSES ARE OUT!"

by FAITH SIMON

On Wednesday, March 23, the registered nurses at Akron General Hospital went on strike for a wage increase, to maintain their benefits, and, to protect their union.

Akron, Ohio, once the center of the rubber industry, is now a depressed town.

Most of the tire plants have had massive layoffs or have closed down altogether.

Unemployment is high, and many young people are leaving the area to try to find work elsewhere.

LOW

Wages for the nurses are low—as low as two to three dollars an hour less than in neighboring Cleveland.

New nurses start at \$8.80 an hour and nurses with 15, 20, even 25 years experience and seniority make \$10.30 tops.

When their contract expired, the nurses knew they had to get a decent increase in wages if they were going to be able to keep their families' heads above water.

But not only is the hospital refusing to make a reasonable wage offer, they are attacking gains won in earlier contracts.

The hospital administration wants to change the insurance coverage from the "usual customary and reasonable" coverage to an 80/20 plan.

**WAGES FOR
AKRON NURSES
ARE LOW—
UNEMPLOYMENT
IN AKRON
IS HIGH**

Very simply, management wants the nurses to pay for 20% of their families health care out of their own pockets.

When the nurses fought this idea in negotiations, the hospital suggested it be applied only to new employees.

But that's only one of the many ways management is trying to divide and conquer.

They have two more tricks in particular up their sleeves.

One new idea is to install what they're calling a clinical ladder for promotions within nursing.

They've written a management rights type clause in which all power is in the hands of the nursing director.



Akron nurses on strike

A nurse seeking a promotion would be required to complete 70 hours of continuing education courses at her own expense (and it is very expensive) but then the final decision would be with the boss. As one striker put it, "It's nothing but a return to the merit raise system."

Another trick management probably considers their ace in the hole is use of the PRN pool.

PRN means use as necessary and the pool is a group of nurses who make more per hour than the top scale, work day shift Monday thru Friday, do not work holidays, and are not in the union.

The hospital administration uses these nurses as a lever against those in the bargaining unit.

According to striker, Alice Water, "it's just another hospital ploy to pit nurses against nurses. But it won't work."

The hospital also seeks to put a cap on tuition reimbursement, a benefit that was fought hard for years back.

FIRST

Back in 1977, Akron General nurses organized into the Ohio Nurses Association (ONA) and won their first contract.

This was no small feat. They are the only RNs in the city with any union representation. And they intend to keep it.

"They want to break us.

They want to make sure staff nurses have no voice in anything we do," says Alice Water, a Akron General nurse for 7 years.

But the nurses say no. Over 400 of the 450 have struck and intend to stay out as long as necessary.

BARGAIN

At this point the hospital is refusing to bargain with the nurses at all.

There are no negotiations scheduled and both the hospital management and the local media are blaming the nurses.

They talk about the high unemployment and the medicaid cuts, and how they just can't afford to pay the nurses any more, and they should be glad to have a job at all.

What they don't talk about is where the money really goes.

"We see so much waste, what they said about money just doesn't sit right with us," says Kathy Cash, chair of the negotiating committee.

"Just over the past few years we've seen lots of money spent.

"The residents just got a \$5,000 per year raise, and they just bought their second CT scanner.

"That makes four scanners just in the Akron area, that's waste.

"But the real waste is in these management studies they've been doing. They

actually hired an outside management firm for one year to do a climate study to see if we're happy her at Akron General.

"What do you think they discovered?"

Despite the bad press, the community is supportive of the strikers.

Akron is a union town, and many of the unions have voiced their support.

Most of the hospital workers, all except the LPNs (who are not represented at all), are in the United Rubber Workers (URW).

Although the union has publicly come out in support, the hospital contract does not allow the workers to honor the nurses picket line.

However during the first few days of the strike, iron workers doing construction work on a new building extension, refused to work.

Elevator workers, the plumbers and pipe fitters and some truck drivers have also supported the strike.

SUPPORT

The nurses hope to begin to do some community fundraising this month and expect good community support.

As one striker put it, "We may be out for a long time and we'll need all the support we can get."

Please send messages of support and donations to: Kathy Cash, 109 Forest Hill, Munroe Falls, Ohio 44262. □

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