

# WORKERS' Power

WEEKLY NEWSPAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS APRIL 4, 1977 #201 15c

Inflation . . . . .	2
Women Miners . . . . .	4
Real Pension Fraud .6-7	
Women Steelworkers .8	
Zimbabwe . . . . .	11

## FITZ IS DESPERATE

# Teamster Dissidents Expelled!

**CHRYSLER WILDCAT**

**"Our strike has the sanction of human decency"**

by Steve Burns

**INDIANAPOLIS — "What Fraser did was come down from Detroit and scab on our strike."**

This is how an angry member of UAW Local 1226 described the defeat of their 12-day wildcat strike against the Chrysler Electrical plant here.

Strikers returned to work on the second shift Tuesday afternoon after a mass membership meeting addressed by UAW Vice-President Doug Fraser that morning. About 2000 of the local's 3000 members came to the meeting.

The strike began on March 18 after a foreman who had assaulted a steward served only a three-day suspension. The steward was still on the street "indefinitely," pending investigation." The strikers demanded that the foreman, Marvin "The Cruncher" Crutcher, be fired.

The Local 1226 leadership had warned the company that the members might take action. The officials took the position that while they hadn't called the strike, they would back the members on the issues of the wildcat.

Strikers threw up barricades at the company gates and the plant was shut down tight.

A group called Indianapolis Electrical Plant Chrysler Workers for Justice took out an ad in the Indianapolis Star addressed to "Brothers and Sisters and Friends of all working people."

It read in part, "We are aware that our action does not have official sanction. We realize our jobs, livelihood, and union are at stake but so is our dignity as working people. Our strike has the sanction of human decency."

Through the 12-day strike, the union members' determination to beat Chrysler remained so strong that it took the full force of the International union officers to break them.

For the full story of one of the most shameful sellouts in recent history, turn to page 3.

• Pete & Al's record vs. Frank & Richard Fitzsimmons' record.  
• Rank & File reaction from around the country.

—Page 5

by Dan La Botz

**DETROIT—Two national spokesmen of the rank and file union opposition group Teamsters for a Democratic Union were expelled from Local 299 of the Teamsters. Pete Camarata and Al Ferdinand were ousted from the home local of Jimmy Hoffa and Frank Fitzsimmons. Behind the expulsion are Fitzsimmons and the International Union.**

Rank and file members are outraged by this latest attack on them and plan a mass demonstration at the Local 299 hall Saturday April 2. Pete and Al are also filing for a temporary restraining order to stop the expulsion.

The two are charged with participation in an unauthorized work stoppage. But the expulsion is really an attempt to break the growing rank and file movement in Detroit Teamsters.

### MILITANTS

In the past year, rank and file Teamsters have carried out at least four militant wildcat strikes. They have organized a campaign to change Local by-laws, and do away with the patronage machine of appointed Business Agents. They are preparing to run a rank and file slate to take over at least two locals, 299 and 337.

Support for the TDU movement has mushroomed, with hundreds of members attending local TDU meetings and union local meetings. Rank and filers see the expulsion as simply the latest in a long series of acts of harassment, intimidation and discrimination.

While the expulsion was carried out by local officials, the real power behind it was Bobby Holmes, International Vice President, and Frank Fitzsimmons, International President. Holmes is also head of Joint

Council 43 and of Local 337. He is being threatened by TDU in his grocery local.

especially Fitzsimmons, have been caught between government investigations and rank and file militancy in the form of the national movements TDU and UPSurge.

These International officers,

They are losing their grip on the union.

The trial of Pete and Al was a kangaroo court from beginning to end. The local has had only one election since 1967, despite the fact that the law provides for elections in local unions every three years.

The witnesses in the trial were all appointed Business Agents. The jury was made up of executive board members and stewards who are part of the local machine.

The union constitution was violated since both men on trial had legal cases pending involving the local and therefore may not be brought up on charges.

Pete said, "I didn't think the local union would be stupid enough to do this. The charges were too flimsy. The only people to give real meat to them were local union Business Agents."

"We know all these people are appointed, that they owe their 100% support to the local union executive board.

"That's what they based the expulsion on."

TDU militants expect the fight against the employers as well as against the union officials to grow.

As Al said, "These officials have not only been a party to the sell-out—they have perfected it to an art. I believe this will do more than the TDU could ever do, to effectively show the membership of the Teamsters union that their only help is to work in their own self-interest."


"They can no longer trust in their officials at any level—on the floor of the local, in the Joint Council or in the International—to act in their interest.

"This expulsion cannot be ignored without the members ignoring themselves. They cannot rally to the defense of myself and Pete Camarata without rallying to their own defense."

**ATTENTION ALL TEAMSTERS**

**STOP INJUSTICE**

Defend the Rights of the Rank and File



**RALLY!**

This Saturday, April 2nd, 12 noon to 3PM

Union Hall, Trumbull (north of Michigan)

**ALL TEAMSTERS COME OUT**

after the convicted members. This will show every member the truth.

The charges were trumped up and the court was a collection of kangaroos.

Wendel and Joe and Holmes and the filers would like you all to shut up. If they succeed in shutting up Pete and Al then you are in it. If the rank and file Teamsters for a Democratic Union (TDU) then they will get you.

We were once invited to a mass meeting open to all Teamsters that will be held in Detroit. Pete and Al thought you should come because this action is long to all including Pete and Al's right to belong in the local and rights. We are here to defend yourself and your rights. We are here.

Rank and file Teamsters are turning out their brothers and sisters from Locals 243, 299 and 337 in Detroit and 332 in Flint for the Saturday rally to defend Pete and Al.

# INFLATION

## Carter policy: prices up, profits up.

### YOU ARE PROBABLY GETTING POORER

YOU MAY NOT have noticed yet, but you are probably getting poorer. Prices are going up faster and faster. And, if your wages are not going up as fast or faster, you are getting poorer.

In February, prices for consumer goods rose by 1% for that month alone. If that continued for the rest of the year, prices would grow by nearly 12%. And that is about as fast as prices have ever grown in the United States.

In 1976, prices for consumer goods only grew by 4.8%. For the 1970's, that is a fairly low rate.

Still, the average weekly income that a worker with three dependents actually had to spend, after taxes and price increases, rose by only 11c a week. For the whole year, it went from \$92.29 in December 1975 to \$92.40 in December 1976.

#### TAX BITE

To put it another way, hourly wages for workers rose 6.7% in 1976. Prices rose 4.8%. This left a 1.9% increase in hourly wages for the whole year.

Taxes took most of that in spite of an increase in overtime worked by many workers. The chances are, in 1976, you broke even.

If prices keep rising the way they have in January and February of this year, you are likely to end up in 1977 poorer than when you started.

by Karen Kaye

Almost daily, we hear that President Carter will soon unveil his anti-inflation program. The news has reported its evolutions since the campaign from a "wage-price restraint system" to "jawboning" which has now faded into "consultation."

If it seems like all this has little to do with inflation as working people know it, you are right.

The tightening pinch in the pocketbook, the plain fact that wages are not keeping up with prices, and that for most people, the standard of living is declining, will not be answered by "consultation."

Despite his phone-in show, Carter will not ask you what wage you need. Consultation is for business-only.

For working people, Carter's anti-inflation program is a plan for keeping wages low and unemployment high, especially among women and young people, who are entering the labor force in large numbers.

#### VOLUNTARY COOPERATION

As the Wall Street Journal put it, "In attempting to restrain inflation through voluntary cooperation, the Carter administration is planning to expand its knowledge of the cost and price structure of major industries and develop 'guiding principles' on an industry-by-industry basis.

"With this information in hand when they sit down with business executives, administration officials would try to bring about 'reasonable' price decisions in the private sector. It's less clear how they expect to influence the wage side."

It may be less clear to the Wall Street Journal, but the employers who read that newspaper have already made their intentions quite clear.

"The wage side" will be "influenced" by business extracting



"By being unemployed we are saving ourselves from a ruinous inflation."

standard wage settlements from the unions with the cooperation of the gutless union bureaucrats, who will love to be "consulted" in Washington.

This has already been done or attempted in contracts settled over the last year. With benefits included, they averaged 8.5% in 1976, down from 11.4% in 1975.

For example, auto workers found out that their 20c wage hike,

negotiated in September, turned out to be 1c new money. [For another example, see the accompanying article on the Teamster settlement.]

#### HELP MAINTAIN PROFITS

Carter's anti-inflation policy is not aimed at helping average people make ends meet. It's aimed at helping U.S. business maintain

the healthy profits they've enjoyed for the last two years.

To do this, the Carter administration inherits a task that Ford left unfinished—getting U.S. corporations to invest in new plant and equipment so they can remain competitive.

As the Wall Street Journal of March 18 said, "... the key to [the economic recovery's] longevity lies in a major upturn in capital spending. However, the long awaited boom in this critical sector of the economy is still being awaited."

It is "still being awaited" because business owners won't invest if they think inflation is coming.

The strategy emerging from all this seems to be to keep unemployment high as the way to keep inflation low.

#### FUNDAMENTAL TRUTHS

Carter's Secretary of the Treasury, W. Michael Blumenthal, said about this, "Deeply imbedded in the minds of businessmen are the fundamental truths, as they see them—which are that you cannot bring unemployment down without getting inflation up."

If your goal is profits, he's right. And that is the goal of the Carter administration—continued profits for business.

But the working people and the unemployed who are being made to pay for those profits have a different goal—jobs and decent pay.

And we can make the businessmen provide that out of their fat profits, if we are willing to fight back.

We won't be consulted in Washington, but we are consulted every time they tell us to accept speed-up, lay-offs, or a bad contract.

What's your answer? If we say "no" together, we can win.

Winos, unite! A Canadian study has shown that red wine (and grape juice, too) may be good for you. Seems that certain acidic compounds which come from grape skins fight viruses which cause stomach and intestinal disorders, skin and membrane blisters, and psoriasis. Researchers for the Canadian Bureau of Microbial Hazards did not issue any statement about how much wine is necessary to combat these diseases.

#### Workers' Power 201

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## Teamster Raise Vanishes

THIS WEEK 425,000 Teamsters will receive a 74c boost in their hourly wage.

April 1 is the anniversary of the Master Freight Agreement. It provides for a 50c increase at the beginning of the second year, plus a cost-of-living increase that works out to 24c. This 74c represents an increase of about 9.5%.

Sounds pretty good. But when you match it against the growing prices of the last year, it doesn't look quite so good.

#### PRICES ROSE

According to the government figures, prices rose 6.6% from last April to the end of

February, 1977. If we assume that the figures for March will be about the same as February, then prices will have risen 6.6%.

So, rising prices will have whittled that 9.5% increase down to less than 3% before you get to spend any of it. By the time Teamsters get their next raise, in April, 1978, they will be way in the hole.

And remember, brothers and sisters, if Frank Fitzsimmons had gotten his way last year, things would be even worse. Fitz wanted to open bargaining by asking for only \$1.50.

Fortunately, the Teamsters for a Decent Contract (now Teamsters for a Democratic

Union) put the heat on. Fitz had to open bargaining with a \$2.00 demand and settle for \$1.65 plus Cost-of-Living.

#### FAT PROFITS

It is often said that inflation hurts the employers too. Maybe so. But nothing like it hurts the workers.

In 1976, the top 97 trucking companies, excluding those sections of the United Parcel Service affected by the eastern strike, increased the "Revenue Tons Hauled" by 12%, to 194 million. Their net income, their profits, however, went up by 70% in 1976, to \$300 million. These trucking companies

buy fuel and certain industrial products to keep running. The price of fuel in 1976 rose 8.1% on the average, while prices of finished industrial goods went up 6.5%. The price of labor went up about 10%.

So, on the average, the trucking companies' costs went up around 9%. Meaning, their real (after inflation) profits went up by over 60%. Not too painful, we'd say.

But don't worry about the trucking employers. The ICC just granted them the right to increase freight rates by 6.7% to 8.3%. Teamsters have to fight for their wages, but for the employers, it's "ask and you shall receive."



## Chrysler Vs. Auto Workers

# FRASER SAVES THE CRUNCHER

by Steve Burns

A 12-day wildcat strike at an important plant was just too much for the mighty Chrysler Corporation to sit still for.

If the walkout continued even for a few more days, other production plants would have to begin closing.

But the company did not want to give in, knowing that a victory would increase the strength of the already militant workforce.

For instance, **The Cruncher**, the foreman the workers wanted fired, is black and the steward he assaulted is white. Yet most of the 500 blacks at the plant were supporting the strike. Some were in its leadership.

As one black activist put it, "If the union is beaten, the company's racism would be twice as hard to fight."

### HEAT IS ON

By the middle of the second week the heat was on. Chrysler sued the local, the International Union, and specific members of the local. They asked for \$1.5 million flat plus \$238,000 per day out in damages.

They got an injunction which forced the barricaded gates

open, and limited pickets to four per gate. And they fired key union officials and suspended 44 known militants. In spite of the pressure, the strike remained solid.

On Sunday, March 27, the UAW International stepped in. Chrysler Department head Doug Fraser came to Indianapolis and advised going back to work.

But the local leadership unanimously refused a company offer to guarantee their jobs while "letting some of the 44 fall by the wayside." The company then fired all 22 of the local's elected officials.

International President Leonard Woodcock used his authority to call a special membership meeting on Tuesday. At the meeting, Fraser told the strikers, "I can't help you because the strike is illegal and unconstitutional. You're stepping in quicksand and you're getting in deeper and deeper."

### GO BACK

He said that there were already casualties to the union and that staying out longer would only result in more. He said it was impossible to guarantee anybody's job be-

cause "we're in a no-win situation...go back to work."

Then Local President Larry Schick spoke. He said, "I can't go back through that gate while even a single person is still on the street from this incident."

But indicating Fraser behind him, he said, "These men have lots of experience at breaking wildcats. They'll bring people in, put a trusteeship on us, force the gates open, and the plant'll work. I'll never work at Chrysler again, but we might save something for the rest of you if you go back now."

At this point the International took the mike and called a straw vote. Regional Director Dallas Sells declared it 4-1 for back to work and adjourned the meeting.

It was clear the vote had not been 4-1 for going back. But the strikers knew they had been beaten by the combined efforts of the company and the International. Many of the men wept openly.

Back at the union hall, one member expressed the feelings of many by ripping the pictures of Woodcock and Fraser off the wall and smashing them on the floor.

industry picketing bill, defeated in the House of Representatives March 23, 217-205. Some labor leaders feel a word or two from Carter could have swung enough votes to make the difference. But Carter kept his mouth shut.

### MINIMUM WAGE

The next day, though, Carter had plenty to say. He proposed a minimum wage increase of only 20c, to \$2.50 an hour. The AFL-CIO was demanding \$3.00.

"This is incredible," said one lobbyist for the AFL-CIO. "And this was supposed to be the year of labor!" said another union official. Meany noted that Carter's proposal would set the minimum wage at 38c an hour below the government's official "poverty level," and 33c an hour below the buying power a worker on the minimum wage had in 1974.

The politicians aren't done yet. Right now there's a bill sailing through Congress to reduce unemployment compensation benefits. The bill could cut the maximum number of weeks an unemployed

worker could collect benefits from 65 to 52. It would also shift the financial burden of the final 13 weeks' payments from the employers to all taxpayers.

This cut comes despite the continuing unemployment rate of well over 7%. For February, official unemployment was 7.5%. The AFL-CIO said a more realistic estimate of the unemployment rate would be 10.3%.

All these defeats—and there will no doubt be more in the future—come at the hands of an overwhelmingly Democratic Congress and a Democratic President elected with enormous labor support. Eighty-eight Democrats voted against the picketing bill.

### RE-THINKING THINGS

With these defeats, some elements of the AFL-CIO leadership are re-thinking things. Some labor leaders are apparently gearing up for a new attack on George Meany's leadership. But their complaints have nothing to do with

## McCullough In Run-off, Expects V-P Victory

WARREN, Mich.—The first round of balloting in the vice-presidential race at Chrysler Local 869 is over. Progressive Slate candidate Dave McCullough will face Administration candidate Frank Fazio in a run-off April 5.

The race was clearly a choice between the racist, in-bed-with-the-company ruling clique and McCullough's grass roots challenge. McCullough received 817 votes to Fazio's 740. The other four candidates split only 465 votes among them.

### CHALLENGE

McCullough told Workers' Power, "The reason we were able to challenge the Administration, even though we were in known opposition to the UAW International, was that we managed to unite a large chunk of skilled workers with production, and had a thoroughly

integrated, black and white, male and female campaign committee.

"But in the last three days I've been accused by the Administration of Communism, blowing up a production line, threatening to put workers on welfare, getting our wages reduced to \$2.25 an hour, and threatening to kill a fellow worker."

McCullough's best strength is among production workers, less than 40% of whom voted. Fazio pulled a larger proportion of the 90% of skilled tradesmen who turned out.

The rest of the Progressive Slate, running for UAW Convention delegates, did not fare as well, although McCullough's campaign manager came within 100 votes of victory.

The slate pledged to continue working together after the election, when it will join with others to create an ongoing caucus.



Cartoon from a McCullough campaign leaflet.

## UAW Local 47 Slate Denies Sellouts Victory

by Neil Chacker  
UAW Local 47

DETROIT—The Rank and File Slate in the United Auto Workers

Local 47 (Chrysler's Detroit Forge) pulled few votes in the election for UAW Convention delegates. But nevertheless, the slate had a strong impact on the election.

Aside from the Rank and File Slate, there were no other slates running. All the other candidates stood as individuals. This seems to be a tradition in the local, the violation of which was an experiment on our party.

There were 35 candidates running for three delegate and three alternate slots.

While the Slate only pulled about 100 votes total, it created a situation that denied victory to the Administration hacks. Only one sellout won a last-place spot on the delegation.

The work of the Rank and File Slate members in the Coalition for a Good Local Agreement, where the plant turned down an inadequate contract twice, raised the level of hostility to the Administration. The established oppositionists were the first beneficiaries.

The membership is opposed to the bureaucrats but not yet ready to take a chance with those who are seen as more radical.

Five of the winners might be called soft-core militants. They oppose the administration, but do nothing to organize the rank and file against them.

Some of them are the best union officers in the plant, for which they have been frozen out of the inner bureaucracy.

Over time the Rank and File Slate and our supporters will try to harden up some of the soft oppositionists and replace others. The experience of the campaign taught everyone a lot about the need for organization and unity.

# Meany Gets Bloody Nose

"The administration [minimum wage] proposal is shameful. This is a bitter disappointment to everyone who looked to this administration for economic justice for the poor."

—George Meany  
March 24, 1977

"Mr. Carter's arms-length relationship with labor in fact accords with the normal Democratic [Party] approach."

—The New York Times,  
editorial  
March 26, 1977

by Jim Woodward

At age 82, George Meany is forcefully being taught the facts of life.

Fact #1: the Democratic Party is not the party of working people.

Fact #2: labor does not win legislative gains through high-priced lobbying and public relations campaigns. It wins by using or threatening to use its muscle: its power to shut down industry.

In the last week, organized labor has suffered defeat after defeat in Washington.

First, there was the construction



South Africa may send troops to fight in the Zaire war.

**AFRICA NEWS**, a weekly bulletin on African affairs, reports: "Unsure whether his own troops can or will crush the rebellion now underway in Zaire, President Mobutu has quietly asked Pretoria (South Africa's capital) to make crack South African paratroopers available.

"At least that's what those 'well-informed sources' so prevalent in diplomatic circles are saying. They predict that well-disguised but well-equipped troops will show up if Mobutu's regime becomes endangered."

In the past two weeks, both Cuban Premier Fidel Castro and Russian President Podgorny visited several important independent African countries.

In Zambia, Podgorny held lengthy discussions with Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda and Joshua Nkomo of the Zimbabwean Patriotic Front.

The Patriotic Front is a military alliance of the two liberation movements fighting to free Zimbabwe (Rhodesia). These movements are ZAPU (Zimbabwe African People's Union, led by Nkomo) and ZANU (Zimbabwe African National Union, which represents the best-organized and largest liberation army).

Podgorny pledged Russian support for the Patriotic Front. The meeting with Kaunda was clearly a big gain for Russian diplomacy in Africa.

**AGENT?**

Is Kenneth Kaunda a Russian agent in Africa? Hardly. Of all the African Presidents, he is one of the most anti-Communist and most opposed to Russian influence.

Kaunda was a strong backer of the pro-Western armies that tried to capture power in Angola. Among African leaders, he was also the most prominent in trying to begin a "dialogue" with South Africa a few years ago.

Despite his current speeches in favor of the Zimbabwe liberation war, Kaunda's basic position is still the same. He is a pro-Western ruler. He would favor a "peaceful settlement" if the United States and Britain could arrange it.

But Kaunda wants credibility as an African Statesman. He would like Patriotic Front supporters to believe he was key to lining up the Soviet endorsement.

And Russia, despite U.S. propaganda, is not strong enough in the region to threaten him. So Kaunda maneuvers.

The Russian government, for its own imperialist reasons, is appearing to be champions of national liberation in Africa. The USSR would like to dominate the continent as thoroughly as it does Eastern Europe.

But it can't possibly do that. Geographically, Russia is too far away to dominate southern Africa like Eastern Europe, and other Russian military commitments also make that impossible.

All it can do is trade support now for the hope of favorable relations with the new governments after the liberation wars are ended. This hardly turns the actual liberation movements into puppets of Russian imperialism.

But if Russian influence is gaining in Africa, there's a simple reason. Russia's world imperialist rival is the United States. The U.S. is actively working against the widely supported liberation movements. It is still trying to save the white capitalist rulers of Rhodesia and South Africa.

# Women Miners Win Bath House Fight

by Eric Redson

**TWILIGHT, W. VA.**—Women have established their right to hold traditional male jobs over the last couple of years. The struggle to get these jobs has also put these women in the forefront of establishing workers' rights on the job.

Here in West Virginia, the coal companies have had to make the adjustment to women working in the mines, but not voluntarily.

Debbie Harless and Lynn Dawson are both coal miners in the United Mine Workers of America District 17. Though they work for different companies in different mines, they have common problems to face.

All the mines under the UMW contract have bath houses and sanitary facilities for the miners—male miners that is.

**BATH HOUSE PAY**

When Debbie and Lynn began working they were given bath house pay instead of being provided with showers and change rooms. But even the amount of bath house pay varied from company to company, although it was supposed to be established on a district basis.

Recently the women at Lynn's mine, Eastern Associated Coal's Harris Mine, demanded that they be provided with the same facilities as the men. With the local mine committee behind them and a grievance filed, they won the temporary use of the bosses' showers and a promise by the company to build one for the women.

When Lynn told Debbie of the success at Eastern, Debbie demanded the same from Armco where she works.

Armco balked at first, trying to say that the women had agreed to the bath house pay instead of facilities when they were hired. Debbie pointed out to the company that the women hadn't agreed to anything, but had been told that was the way it would be.

It didn't even get as far as a grievance. Armco conceded the point saying, "We knew we would have to do it sooner or later anyway."

**FIRED**

A few weeks after Debbie's confrontation with the company over the women's bath houses, the company fired her for allegedly striking a foreman.

Though the incident that led to the firing was not related to the bath house question, Armco took the opportunity to be rid of an aggressive woman who stood up for her own and other miners' rights.

It was Debbie's word against the foreman's and the company said, "Whether the incident took place or not, we have to fire Debbie."

To the rest of the miners in the local at Armco's #8 and #9 mines,



Debbie Harless (left) and Lynn Dawson.

to let the company fire Debbie on just the word of the boss was a threat to all of them. It set up a situation in which any miner could be fired or framed by a boss who had it in for them.

After a week of meetings between the company and the mine

committee, the miners struck in support of Debbie.

Within two days the company had agreed to rehire her. Another small victory was won and another step was taken by the miners to establish their rights through direct action.

# BRITISH BUSINESS LIKES 'LABOR'

by Dan Posen

The British Labor Party's government squeaked past a "no-confidence" motion last week. The motion was presented by the opposition Conservative Party.

If this motion had passed, new general elections would have been

scheduled. The Labor Party would probably be badly beaten.

But the Labor Party could only save its government offices by moving well to the right. It promised the more conservative Liberal Party more power if they bailed the Labor Party out of the crisis.

**DELIGHT**

Big businessmen in Britain were not disappointed that Labor managed to hang on to power. Most of them were delighted.

In an election big business will support the Conservative Party. But they have been quite happy since the Labor Party has been carrying out almost the same policies.

Britain's leading business magazine, "The Economist," says, "The key social issue next winter will be confrontation with some key public sector unions." Big business doesn't believe that a newly elected Conservative Party government would be able to attack those unions as effectively as the Labor Party.

British capitalists are happiest of all about the Labor Party's coalition with the Liberal Party.

The Liberal Party is basically a smaller model of the Conservative Party. And Labor Prime Minister Callaghan has pledged to consult with the Liberals on major policy issues.

**JOBS CUT**

In particular, the Labor Party is giving up pledges to nationalize the

shipyards and to save jobs in auto and other faltering industries.

Before the vote in Parliament, the Labor Party government even tried to make a deal with the ultra-right extreme right, known as the Ulster Unionists. The Unionists want all black and Asian people driven out of Britain.

This demonstrates the hopelessness of trying to win socialism through capitalist elections. Labor Party campaigners always tell British workers that a vote for Labor is a step toward the goal of socialism.

But Labor once in power turns out to mean cuts in services, higher unemployment, and deals with the right to keep Labor ministers in their comfortable offices.

In by-elections for vacant Parliamentary seats, the revolutionary Socialist Workers Party (formerly International Socialists of Britain) has begun running candidates of its own, to build support for revolutionary ideas and organizing a rank and file workers' movement.

That movement is the only alternative to the Labor Party—which has survived this "no confidence" crisis to sell out another day.

# BLACK WOMAN LOSES BEFORE WHITE JURY

Joanne Chesimard, a leader of a black nationalist group called the Black Liberation Army, was convicted of murdering a New Jersey state trooper and sentenced to life in prison on March 25.

Chesimard (also known by her Muslim name, Assata Shakar) was wounded when state troopers stopped the car in which she was riding on the New Jersey Turnpike on May 2, 1973.

Two medical experts testified that when she was shot she was unarmed with her hands raised over her head.

The all-white jury ignored this testimony.

When the verdict was announced, Chesimard said, "I am ashamed that I have even taken part in this trial. You have convicted a woman who had her hands in the air."

The defense believed that the publicity in New Brunswick, near where the shoot-out occurred, made selection of an unprejudiced jury impossible, but the judge denied a motion to move the trial.

The police were out to get Chesimard and her two companions, known black revolutionaries. One was shot dead and the other is

serving life in prison for murder.

Defense attorney William Kunstler said that the verdict would be appealed. If Kunstler can prove his allegation that a juror left the hotel where the jury was sequestered, a mistrial may be declared.



Joanne Chesimard



# TEAMSTER OFFICERS KICK OUT TDU ACTIVISTS

## WHO WOULD YOU EXPEL?



Tim Witri, Signal Delivery Service, IBT Local 243

"It's my feeling that Pete Camarata's expulsion, and Al Ferdnace's expulsion, is just another in a long series of events that has kept Pete and Al—and all the rest of us in TDU—from trying to gain power and have a voice within our union. We're not going to let it happen. And we're going to do whatever we can to fight it."

Aaron Kesner, Glendenning, IBT 705

"The real reason for expelling Al and Pete is that the union doesn't want the members to be informed about union matters. We're not supposed to have a voice or run for office or bring up issues on the floor at union meetings. There's no representation of the members. They only want timid people at the union meetings, but the union officials can't be allowed to get away with this type of underhanded thing. It's happening all over—Chicago, California, Detroit. They may not like us, but as far as we're concerned, they can just pack up their bags and leave. If Fitz isn't satisfied, he should resign from office."



Russ Schram, Complete Auto Transit, IBT Local 299.

"I think the deal that they tried to pull was to keep Pete out of the by-laws campaign because his strength was too powerful. And this is just one way of doing it, expel them. And I think it stinks. It's just a no good deal. I seen Pete out there the last day of the strike. Pete had nothing to do with it. He was out there talking to us guys. Far as I'm concerned he got a raw deal."

The officials of Teamster Local 299 in Detroit are desperately trying to keep Pete Camarata and Al Ferdnace out of the union. The two militants have already been expelled. Now the Local 299 bureaucrats are fighting to make the expulsion stick.

There can be little doubt that International Union President Frank Fitzsimmons is behind this. His son, Richard Fitzsimmons, is a Vice President of Local 299.

Pete and Al are active leaders of the Teamsters for a Democratic Union (TDU). Discontent has been growing for a long time in Local 299. TDU has organized that discontent.

Local 299 TDU is now successfully conducting a campaign to democratize the by-laws. With support growing all the time, TDU recently



### Pete Camarata

- TEN YEARS a working Teamster.
- HELPED build the Teamsters for a Decent Contract, which pressured Fitz into tougher negotiating.
- OUTSPOKEN rank and file delegate at the 1976 Convention. Beaten up by Fitz's thugs for his opposition.
- FOUNDING member of the Teamsters for a Democratic Union, member of its National Steering Committee and leader of the Detroit chapter of TDU.
- HELPED launch the campaign to democratize the by-laws of Local 299.
- SUPPORTED the Farm Workers' struggle to build their own union.
- GUILTY of supporting Al and the other carhauers in their fight for justice and a decent contract.
- ATTENDS all Local 299 meetings that Local officials don't bar him from.

### Al Ferdnace

- TWENTY FIVE years a working Teamster, 10 as a carhauler.
- LED the carhauers' fight to dump a rotten contract. Twice they voted this contract down, but the International insisted it was ratified.
- PUT out the "Six Way Split," a newsletter by and for rank and file carhauers.
- WITH Pete and many others, organized the Detroit TDU into a powerful force for union democracy.
- AIDED and supported the strikers at Pressure Vessel Service. The company was trying to force through a contract specifically awarding the only black driver a lower rate of pay.

**Pete and Al stand for the principles and practice of militant, democratic trade unionism. Frank and son Richard stand for collusion with the employers, corruption in the company of murderous gangsters, and personal wealth and power.**

**Pete and Al belong in the union. Frank and Richard belong in prison.**

announced in its Detroit paper, "The Rank and File Speaks," that it will challenge the local leadership in the fall elections.

Obviously, Frank, Richard and others in the official family are afraid. They hope to eliminate the problem by eliminating Pete and Al from union membership.

This heavy-handed move will not work. It will not stand up on its own merits, and it will not break the movement behind TDU. It is the desperate act of people too corrupt and too removed from the lives of working people to understand what is going on.

The records of some of the main characters on both sides are clear. Judging from this record, who would you expel from your union?

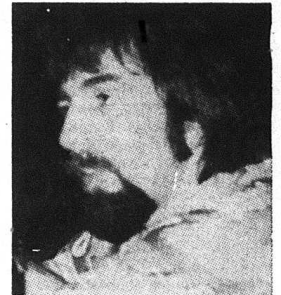


### Frank Fitzsimmons

- RESPONSIBLE for loss of over \$400 million in Pension Fund money to his gangster pals.
- OPENED the last three Master Freight negotiations with wage demands below what the employers were willing to give.
- GAVE AWAY the contract clause allowing stewards to call a 24-hour work stoppage at any work location twice a year.
- GAVE himself a 25% salary increase in 1976 to \$156,250—not including expenses.
- BAILED Richard out of possible jail term for mis-use of union funds by promising Teamster support to Nixon in 1972 elections.
- HANGS with top Mafia leaders, real estate swindlers, Richard Nixon and other known criminals.
- HELPED employers prevent the Farm Workers from democratically selecting their own union.

### Richard Fitzsimmons

- UNDER indictment for looting union insurance fund. This fraud cost Teamster rank and filers \$3 million.
- NARROWLY escaped indictment for mis-use of union funds in 1972. Caught buying a fur coat with union funds.
- NEVER accused of doing an honest day's work, but draws over \$60,000 in union salaries.
- NO longer attends meetings of Local 299, of which is the Vice President.



Rege Miller, Hall's Motor, Steward Local 249, Pittsburgh TDU Steering Committee

"Sounds to me like Fitz and Company are really afraid of the small man like us. For a guy who told the rank and file to 'Go to Hell' only a few months ago, he sure is scared—having to expel TDU people from the union."

Robert and Wanda Ellerman, Los Angeles Teamsters

"We, like a great many Teamsters around this country, have known Pete Camarata for over two years. As far as we're concerned, he is one of the finest men we've ever had the privilege of knowing. Pete has been one of the leaders of TDU. He was the only elected delegate from Local 299 who stood up to the International at the last convention in Las Vegas.

"And for these Local 299 officials to bring such out and out blatant charges as instituting wildcat strikes in Detroit, when thousands of other Teamsters were involved and at this late date [over a year later!] it has to be obvious to every Teamster that this is no more than an out and out power play, to rid their local of two of the main spokesmen for the rank and file."



Laura Hodge, UPS, IBT 705

"Nobody is fooled what the real issue is. They're afraid of the rank and file getting themselves organized and having any kind of power in our own union. Pete and Al represent rank and file members who have fought to get the union back in the hands of the members. You can be sure we're not going to put up with it."

# TEAMSTER PENS

## CROOKS COLLECT

THE TV AND THE papers talk about the way the Teamster Pension fund scandal affects the men at the top. They've been showing us the ugly mugs of gangsters like Nilotro, Teamster officials like Fitzsimmons, and politicians like Bert Lance.

The papers have ignored the real scandal. The scandal looks a lot different when seen from the bottom of the heap. That is the story of a working man or woman, Teamster rank and file, who sees 20 or 30 years of their life go down the drain.

Robbed by the government, the boss, the Teamster bureaucracy, and the Mafia.

Now that is a tragedy and a scandal. And the well-publicized back-stabbings that we've been hearing so much about are really a joke.

What it all means is simply that there has been a falling out among thieves. Here are their stories:

### IBT Tops

First of all, the Teamster officers are scandalized by the government's investigations. After all, IBT officers feel that they've been good citizens.

Year after year, they've worked with local and national government. It has been a non-partisan effort to further their common goals: Power and Money.

Fitzsimmons (and Hoffa before him) worked with Nixon and Ford, with Mayor Daley in Chicago and with Goldwater in Arizona.

The Teamster tops cut in

Attorney General Kleindienst with a \$100,000 legal fee. They cut in Attorney General Saxbe with a big loan to Bally Slot Machines. Saxbe (along with Fitzsimmons) was a stockholder.

And more recently they cut in Bert Lance, Carter's Budget Director, by putting a big deposit in his Georgia bank.

After years of close cooperation, Teamster leaders are shocked and surprised that the government is trying to get them to clean up their act.

### Feds

Secondly, the government is scandalized. The Central States and other Teamster pensions funds were created in 1955.

Practically from the beginning, the White House, Congress and the courts have protected the Teamster-Mobster clique who run the Pension Funds.

Investigations continually fizzled out, court cases dragged on and on. Recently there have been several phony clean-ups, and two or three new plans announced.

Right now Jimmy Carter and Ray Marshall, his Secretary of Labor, are making a deal to ease out some of the bigger crooks. But they are protecting the basic set-up of the fund.

The government is embarrassed that the Teamster and employer trustees stole so much, from so many, so often.

The crew that the feds are backing has been stealing with

little moderation or discretion. Not thousands or even millions, but hundreds of millions (\$400 million at the government's last estimate).

### Bosses

Third, the employers are scandalized. The IBT officers they've been counting on are losing their grip on the union. The bosses have counted on Fitzsimmons, Presser, Peick and the rest of the gang to keep the membership in line.

But now there's a real scandal, much bigger and more threatening to the employers. In almost every big city, there's a group of angry rank and filers organizing to throw out officials, organizing to fight the employers.

And the rank and file has put together a national organization, Teamsters for a Democratic Union, to challenge the union's incompetent and corrupt dictatorship.

### The Mob

Last, but hardly the least, even the Mob is scandalized. And that says something, because it's not easy to shock the Syndicate.

The Mob was scandalized when Jimmy Hoffa threatened to blow their cover. (And Hoffa was probably scandalized when the Mob buried him.)

The Mob is equally shocked to find that Frank Fitzsimmons is considering getting out of the union hot seat before they want him to. □



The major beneficiaries of the Teamster Pension Fund have been the owners of establishments such as the Stardust in Las Vegas (below), rather than the union's retired membership.



## THE FACTS

**THE 2.2 MILLION members of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters are covered by 240 different pension plans.**

The pension plan that has been the subject of so much publicity and so many investigations is the Central States, Southeast and Southwest Area Pension Fund.

**This fund covers 400,000 Teamsters, 70,000 of them retired. It has assets supposedly worth \$1.4 billion.**

An unusually high percentage of the money is invested in real estate—over 70%.

**The government has estimated that \$400 million has been stolen from the fund.**

Daniel Shannon, pension fund administrator, has said that the fund has \$500 million in future commitments which it cannot meet as presently organized.

**Various fund investigators have guessed that only 10-30% of the Teamsters covered ever actually get pensions. Between 90 and 70% never get any pension at all.**

Most fund critics agree that this fund is controlled by organized crime.

## THE ISSUES

The central issue for and file Teamsters are vesting, portability and continuous service.

Vesting means that union members are entitled to receive the money the employer has contributed to the fund of their behalf.

Portability (or reciprocity) means that members have the right to carry pension credits to (or to exchange them with) other pension funds, in the event they change employment for any reason.

Continuous service means that members must work continuously for employers who pay into the same pension fund on their behalf. Continuous service rules have been arbitrarily strict.

The Pension Reform Act (ERISA) has made some improvements in vesting rights. So far, however, government agreements have postponed the implementation of even these. Portability is not significantly affected by the Act, and the changes in continuous service rules are not likely to affect the majority of Teamsters.

Under the much touted "new" regime of Daniel Shannon, no serious changes in eligibility have been instituted. Benefits remain the same as they were three years ago.

## Thieves Fall Out

For over twenty years, the crooks who've controlled the trucking industry, the Teamsters union and its pension fund have had quite a racket.

The government regulated trucking rates—making the industry one of the most profitable investments in the country. Protected by the feds, trucking profits have averaged close to 20%, while manufacturing has been closer to 14%. (For every \$100 you invested in trucking you got back \$120.)

High profits, based on shipping charges, were passed on to us as consumers.

### MORE MONEY

The relatively high profits meant that for years the employers were willing to grant truckers and dock workers more money than most factory workers got.

But Teamsters paid for their better wages. The union hierarchy used the opportunity to destroy the power of the members. They traded away rank and file control and working conditions for the

wage gains.

The union once had a strong rank and file power, in the barns and warehouses and on the streets. Elected stewards used to shut down the barn when they had a grievance.

But the Teamsters became a union where a Business Agent in his Buick was like a cop in his black and white. The Teamster officials have become the employers' police force to keep the rank and file in line.

It wasn't so hard to be the companies' cops when the union could deliver fat wage increases to the rank and file. But, since the Vietnam war, both the industry and the economy have changed.

Between World War II and Vietnam, the country was relatively prosperous. Trucking companies grew. There were jobs. Wages and benefits went up.

World War II, Korea and Vietnam wiped out business competition in Europe and Japan. And the demand for military equipment was partly responsible for the American economy con-

tinuing to grow.

### UNPOPULAR

But after Vietnam, industry found it harder to make wages popular. And that's bad for business, including trucking.

Big manufacturers, like General Motors, are tired of paying high shipping charges. And they are finding it harder to keep their own profits healthy by passing the high rates on to consumers—especially unemployed consumers.

To lower rates they want to end federal regulations and bring competition back into the trucking industry. The main competition would come from non-union, scab companies.

The government is no longer sure that it can regulate and protect the trucking industry and its profits.

The trucking employers, especially the big ones, are beginning to feel the crunch. They are fearful of a coming scramble caused by deregulation.



# ION FUND

by Dan La Botz

## MEMBERS PAY

THE REAL Teamster pension fund scandal is the fact that the Teamsters rank and file working membership has no voice and no control over the fund's organization or policy.

Because they have no control, as many as 90% of Teamster retirees are cheated out of pensions. That's the real scandal and the real shame.

The employers' contributions to the pension fund are subject to collective bargaining and are paid in lieu of wages. This means the money belongs to the workers. And you'd think it should be controlled by them. Yet the 2.2 million Teamster rank and file working members have no control whatsoever of their money. The organization of the various funds, the writing of the rules for retirements and pension are completely out of the hands of the rank and filer.

### TAFT HARTLEY

The government set up the rules governing pension funds in the late 1940's, when there was an attack on militant rank and filers in the unions. The main law governing pensions is the Taft-Hartley Act, passed in 1947.

Taft-Hartley says that union pension plans must be jointly managed by the union and the employer. The law was an attempt to make unions cooperate with the employer, rather than struggling against them.

This collaboration between the boss and the union bureaucrats is the biggest problem of the rank and file.

Under the Taft-Hartley Act, the union trustees are almost without exception union officers. Employer trustees and union bureaucrats have made the system what it is today... And what is it?

Instead of one Teamster Pension plan for the union's 2.2 million members, there are 240!

That's where the shakedown starts. Each plan has its own trustees, auditors, actuaries, office staff and so on—multiply it by 240 and then bill it to the working Teamster.

Second, there is no uniformity

BILL WEINER, an East Coast truck driver, joined the IBT in 1930. He was involved in union organizing drives as a rank and file member. In union recognition and contract strikes, he was beaten by strikebreakers and cops.

For 30 years he was a loyal and active member in good standing.

Weiner retired then and was denied a pension. He did not have enough continuous service in one plan and there was no portability between plans. Only after years of fighting was he finally given a pension of \$35.00 a month. Thousands of other Teamster retirees are not so "lucky."

### among the different plans and funds.

Some are run by insurance companies, like the Western Conference Pension Fund covering 500,000 Teamsters which is managed by Prudential Insurance.

Others are trusted plans like the Central States covering 400,000 Teamsters.

Some Teamsters are covered by an employer pension plan, and other Teamsters belong to no plan whatsoever.

### "CONTINUOUS SERVICE"

The great number of different pension plans results in major problems for Teamsters: eligibility rules that most Teamsters can't meet because they change employers frequently.

Most pension plans require Teamsters to have 20 or more years of continuous service with employers who pay into the fund and to be working for such an employer at the time of retirement.

In the trucking industry there are thousands of competing companies, and hundreds of mergers, buy-outs, and bankruptcies. In hard times, when the employers attack working conditions, it's often hard to get twenty years with the same employer in the same fund.

In order to keep working, Teamsters are forced to change

employers, union locals, and pension plans.

But few pension plans have "portability," (the right to carry pension credits from one plan to another), or "reciprocity," (the right to exchange pension credits between funds).

Most Teamster pension funds don't cooperate with each other. As a result many Teamsters who've worked in the industry for 20 or 30 years don't have nearly enough pension credits to retire with a pension.

### OTHER EFFECTS

Because Taft-Hartley requires union-management cooperation, it gives the boss a right to say where you will spend your money.

It has been a source of collusion, collaboration and conflict of interest between union and management. It has undermined all the basic principles of unionism.

Employer trustees arrange loans for their companies through agreements with union officials and union officials get union pension fund loans and become employers.

John Murphy, a former Pension Fund trustee, arranged a loan to build a terminal for his company, Gateway Transportation.

Donald Fitzsimmons, son of IBT President Frank Fitzsimmons, got a loan for his company,

Accurate Freight.

Other such loans went to ACE, whose Chicago terminal was bought by Spector.

Drivers for Accurate, Gateway, Spector and other Teamster barns can't expect to get decent representation when their employer is their union!

Valley Steel Corporation of St. Louis wanted to reject their contract and strike in the late '60's. The company and the union joined together to force them back to continue working and to accept their contract.

The company had received a large Pension Fund loan, and was owned by Robert Crancer, Hoffa's son-in-law.

When "Dutch" Woxberg retired from the executive board of a Los Angeles Freight local, he got a loan from the Central States Pension Fund to buy the non-union Checker Cab Company in Las Vegas. The scab cab company was "owned" by the union pension fund.

The Pension Reform Act (ERISA) was supposed to end these practices. But Morris Shenker, front man for organized crime, has a case in court right now for accepting a Pension Fund Loan for a corporation of his that owned Western Transportation.

The union supposedly exists for one purpose—to join workers together to fight the employer. The joint control of the pension fund by employers and union officers has meant that they have joined together to fight the rank and file working members.

Several years ago, Overdrive magazine estimated that only one Teamster in eight ever got a pension. More recently, PROD, the Professional Drivers Council, estimated that the figure may be one in ten.

That's the real scandal: Teamster rank and filers have no control over the pension money they earn; they have to live by portability and reciprocity rules that they don't make. And as a result, many, if not most, Teamsters, are cheated out of their pensions altogether.

That's the real scandal—as the rank and file lives it and knows it.

# Ranks Need Control

RANK AND FILERS have begun a fight against the source of the pension problems, and have proposed changes.

John Daniels, David Dutchak and 10 other rank and file Teamsters were participants in the pension funds of Locals 705 and 710 (both freight locals in Chicago) and in the Central States pension fund.

These Teamsters have sued the Union and the Pension Fund and its union and employer trustees in Federal Court. They claim that the fund is being diverted into illegal purposes and is used by organized crime.

They also claim that the union and employer trustees of the fund are using their position to enrich themselves, and enhance their own position, rather than to protect the interest of the Teamster membership.

They are suing to prove that the continuous service, portability, and other pension plan rules are capricious and arbitrary.

They are demanding that the court put a stop to these practices.

The case has been supported by various organizations including The Gray Panthers, a group of

militant older people, by PROD (the Professional Drivers Council), and by Teamsters for a Democratic Union (TDU).

### TDU PENSION REFORM COMMITTEE

Teamsters for a Democratic Union has begun a Pension Reform Committee which will attempt to organize rank and file support for Daniels, Dutchak and the other retired Teamsters.

The TDU is specifically demanding:

- That the independent trustees be

electd rank and file working union members;

- TDU believes that with rank and file control of the fund it would be possible to get Teamsters a decent pension: \$650 at 50 years of age after 20 years of service, with;

- A Cost of Living raise for pensioners.

- And TDU believes it is possible to work out portability between the Teamster pension funds.

The demand for rank and file control of the pension fund is the one proposal that could make a difference in the Teamster Pension fund.

# Labor Notes

by Jim Woodward

Teamsters Local 299 President Robert Lins and Secretary-Treasurer Otto Wendel are upset that Detroit News columnist Fred Girard thinks they are "animals," "stupid" and "thugs." The two officers are suing Girard and the Detroit News for \$1 million each. Girard's comments appeared in a March 6 column which urged Local 299 members to join Teamsters to a Democratic Union (TDU). If Lins and Wendel are upset at the names Girard called them, they should hear what some of their members are saying these days.



The sweet innocent, Teamster President Frank Fitzsimmons was scheduled to speak to a group of high school honor students the day he agreed, under government pressure, to resign from the Teamster Pension Fund. He told the students the government had "failed to find anything amiss" in the pension fund.

Scotia Coal Co.—first they try to kill you, then they poison the survivors. It was just over a year ago that 26 miners died in two explosions at a Scotia Coal Co. mine in Kentucky. Recently the cities of Cumberland and Hazard, Kentucky have been forced to close down their water systems due to heavy pollution from Scotia Coal operations. In Cumberland, this happens several times a month. A health official quoted in the Mountain Eagle, a Kentucky newspaper, said he had seen cases where this pollution had eaten through a quarter-inch stainless steel cable.

Flight attendants for Trans World Airlines have voted to dump the Transport Workers Union in favor of a new union, the Independent Federation of Flight Attendants Union. The vote was 2549-1682. It was interpreted as a sign of dissatisfaction with the TWU and a move towards more militant unionism. TWA management issued a statement claiming it had treated its employees fairly.

Supporters of anti-labor "Right-to-Work" laws have failed in their attempts to get these laws passed in two of their target states this year: New Mexico and Idaho. The laws forbid "union shops."

CWA Local 5709 in Indianapolis has dished out \$4000 to buy a dog. It's a "dope-sniffer" the Marion County Sheriff's Department will use to help find hashish, marijuana, and harder drugs like heroin and cocaine. Some telephone workers are wondering why the CWA decided to buy the dog.

An Alabama local of the Clothing Workers Union was assessed more than \$2500 in damages for not stopping a six-hour wildcat strike at the Fortex Manufacturing Co. Union officials had urged the workers to end the strike. But an arbitrator ruled that wasn't enough. He said the officials should have crossed the picket lines themselves and should have threatened to fine the strikers or suspend them from the union. All this because they had a no-strike clause in the contract.

In 1976, workers in the following European countries received, on the average, wages and benefits higher than in the U.S.: Sweden (\$8.54); Denmark (\$7.50); Belgium (\$7.29); and West Germany (\$7.08). In the United States, the average worker got \$6.67 an hour in wages and benefits. In these figures, vacation pay, layoff pay, pensions, and other fringe benefits are included.

Quote of the week: "This victory belongs to you as well as to the Farm Workers. . . . It is a tribute to your leadership and unselfish assistance for our union cause." Cesar Chavez wrote to George Meany after the United Farm Workers union won its long fight to stop the Teamsters from raiding its membership. Apparently Chavez decided to issue the statement to maintain relations with Meany, but still, it's nothing less than a big lie. No one knows better than Chavez that after making a \$1.6 million contribution to the UFW in 1973, the AFL-CIO gave virtually nothing but verbal support. It forced the UFW to drop the use of a major weapon, the secondary boycott, and it refused to endorse the union's boycott of Gallo wine.

The Chavez letter also said: "Each affiliate of the AFL-CIO exhibited its solidarity with the Farm Workers." In fact, the Retail Clerks and the Meatcutters took out full page newspaper ads in several cities to denounce the UFW's boycott: A curious notion of solidarity.

The new Assistant Secretary of Labor for Employment and Training is Ernest Green. Green was one of the black schoolchildren who were kept out of a Little Rock, Ark. high school in 1957 by the racist Governor Orval Faubus. Green now makes \$50,000 a year, while Faubus has taken a job as a bank teller.

What's happening where you work? Send items for this column to: Workers' Power, Labor Notes, 14131 Woodward Avenue, Highland Park, MI 48203. Or phone 313-869-5964.

# BILL WOULD OVERTURN COURT MATERNITY BENEFITS ISSUE HITS CONGRESS

A BILL WAS introduced in Congress on March 2 that would overturn the reactionary Supreme Court ruling on maternity benefits. The Supreme Court ruled on December 7 of last year that employers can exclude maternity benefits from their health insurance policies.

The bill, the Hawkins-Williams Amendment, has been endorsed by 82 members of the House, and seven members of the Senate. It is supported by 44 different unions, women's organizations, and civil rights groups.

The bill would amend Title VII of the Civil Rights Act to specify that the prohibition against sex discrimination includes "pregnancy, childbirth, or related medical conditions."

The swift response by members of Congress to the Supreme Court ruling occurred because they are under pressure from the unions and women's groups.

It shows that the Supreme Court miscalculated when they figured they could get away with attacks on women's rights.

The Campaign to End Discrimination Against Pregnant Workers is a coalition that was formed to unite women's groups against the Supreme Court decision. This group was instrumental in pushing this legislation. Susan Ross, co-chairperson of the Campaign, explained that the intent of the legislation is to get employers to stop discrimination against pregnant women. "If a pregnant woman is able to work, she will be treated like all other able workers. If a pregnant woman is unable to work, she will be treated like all other disabled workers."

Ross warned that if the Supreme Court decision is allowed to stand, it may erode women's position in the work force. For example, employers may refuse to hire pregnant women, or may fire women when they become pregnant.

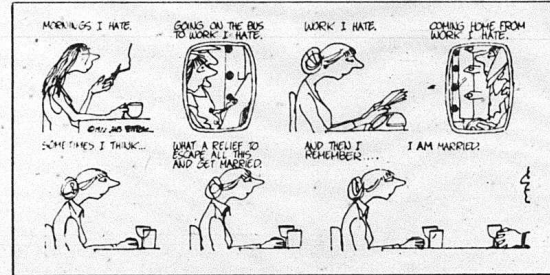
## UNIONS

Many union leaders are championing the Title VII legislation. The AFL-CIO Executive Council issued a statement in support of it. William Pollard, AFL-CIO Civil Rights Director, said they will work to get the bill passed in Congress and to get Presidential approval.

Favorable legislation is not a substitute for a good contract. This legislation is a step forward for working women, but whether it is passed or not, unions can win good maternity benefits in their contracts.

Because of the reactionary Supreme Court ruling, these will be harder to win—and some working women may find themselves fighting just to defend what they have already won.

E. Clarke



## Steel Women Organize For Maternity Bill

GARY, Ind.—Women steel workers in District 31 met here on March 20. Twenty women attended from fabricating shops and basic steel mills. They represented six steel locals from the Chicago-Gary area.

The first important battle the District 31 Women's Caucus has taken up is the question of maternity benefits and pregnancy leaves. The women made plans to go to Washington, D.C. to speak in favor of the Hawkins-Williams Amendment at hearings the end of April.

The Hawkins-Williams legislation would amend Title VII of the Civil Rights Act to prohibit discrimination because of pregnancy.

## RALLY

The District 31 Women's Caucus made plans to build a rally among women steel workers as a send-off for those attending the Washington hearings. The Caucus plans to contact women's groups and sisters in other unions to participate in this move toward equality for working women.

At the meeting, women discussed their experiences with maternity benefits in steel. Experiences differ from mill to mill, and even department to department. Some women are forced to quit early, others are forced to work, even when they should not due to health reasons. Benefits paid for time missed are usually a lump sum for about six weeks. This

In defense of polyester! This useful fabric is looked down upon by management types, reveals a column in the Detroit Free Press. Titled "The Executive Mystique," the column advises bosses on impressive dress. A recent inquiry came from a woman promoted to management, seeking advice on a new wardrobe. To benefit her "elevated" position.

The answer from author John T. Mallory reads in part, "Although you want it to be wrinkle resistant, you don't want it to look like cheap polyester. If it has that cheap look, pass it over. It can only be worn by women in non-authoritative positions."

Mothers who wear polyester, don't let your children hear about this. They may not obey you any more.

never covers even the most normal maternity leave time.

The District 31 Women's Caucus was formed during the Sadlowski campaign. Sadlowski pledged to establish women's committees if he won.

## ORGANIZE

Steel women felt they needed to organize in their own defense in the union and on the job. They realized that unions run by men would have little understanding of the problems of working women. Women steel workers face nonexistent or poor pregnancy benefits, no child care provisions, no toilet facilities where women are not the majority, and discrimination on the job by the company and fellow workers.

Part of the plan is also to educate men that the women's problems are problems that everyone shares—namely a dictatorial, tight-fisted company that controls its workers by dividing them against each other.

## Judgement Day For Judge Stump

In 1973 Linda Kay McFarlin and Leo Sparkman were married. In 1975, they discovered that Linda had been sterilized without her consent when she was 15.

Linda's sterilization by tubal ligation was ordered by Circuit Judge Harold D. Stump of DeKalb County, Indiana. The judge was petitioned by Linda's mother, who claimed the girl was retarded—although she attended school and made normal progress.

Linda was taken to the hospital, where she was told that she was having her appendix out. Three doctors performed the operation. When the Sparkmans learned why they could not have a baby,

they sued the hospital, the doctors, the judge, and the mother. They charged civil rights and constitutional violations. A U.S. District Court judge dismissed the case, saying that Judge Stump had "absolute judicial immunity."

## GETS HIS

But last week a Chicago U.S. Court of Appeals overturned that decision and ruled that Judge Stump is subject to a civil rights damage suit.

Thousands of women who have been victims of forced sterilization join Linda in wishing that Judge Stump gets his.



# TOO DANGEROUS FOR CHICKENS, BUT OKAY FOR WOMEN

## DES Daughters Sue Drug Companies

by Elissa Clarke

"I'm one of the lucky ones. Women have died from this," said Lynne Levine. Levine is 26. Two years ago, she had a radical hysterectomy and a vaginectomy to remove cancer that had developed in her cervix.

Lynne Levine's cancer began before she was born. Her mother took DES (diethylstilbestrol), now

known to cause cervical cancer and vaginal abnormalities in the daughters of women who took the drug during pregnancy.

In Michigan, 184 DES daughters are suing 16 drug companies that manufactured and sold DES. All the young women have cancer.

The drug companies have moved for dismissal of cases where the prescription drug or manufacturer

cannot be identified. This means all the cases would be dismissed, because prescription records from 10 to 30 years ago have been destroyed.

The hearing for dismissal was held in Detroit on Monday, March 28. Over 150 cancer-plagued women and their families attended.

Attorneys for the women argued that the drug companies should be forced to stand trial as a group because they acted as a group in promoting and developing a market for DES.

Between 1947 and 1964, DES was prescribed to hundreds of thousands—maybe as many as two million—pregnant women to prevent miscarriages. In 1968, it was discovered that daughters of these women were developing abnormal glands in their vaginas and cancer or pre-cancerous lesions of the cervix. The drug was taken off the market as a pregnancy aid in 1971, but it is still used for other purposes.

During the hearing, Attorney Lawrence Charfous charged that:

- Abbot Laboratories, as early as 1940, knew that large and prolonged doses of hormones might promote the growth of tumors, and even drafted a warning to that effect. The warning was never made public.

- Before 1947, 300 scientific articles appeared (50 of them specifically concerning DES), that discussed the relationship between hormonal drugs and cancer in animals.

- As early as 1950, Squibb Co. discussed the fact that leading doctors had concluded that DES was useless as an aid in pregnancy.

But a memo said that Squibb would "continue plugging" the use of DES by pregnant women.

- In the late 1950's drug companies ceased selling DES to chicken farmers (it was used to fatten the hens) because DES posed a danger of cancer to the chickens—but they continued sell-



Lynne Levine. Hysterectomy and vaginectomy at 24. "I'm one of the lucky ones."

ing it to expectant women for another 20 years.

The DES law suit in Michigan is the most advanced to date. The decision reached by Judge Thomas Roumell will affect thousands of young women. The decision is expected in 30-40 days.

The drug companies have come up with a legal loop hole that may allow them to weasele out of their responsibilities for cancer in DES daughters. It will be impossible for any woman to identify the specific company whose drug she took.

But identifying the exact company is a smokescreen. The real question is whether women can be used as guinea pigs for the drug companies. None of the 16 companies ever conducted laboratory tests on animals to determine the effect of DES on fetuses. Too dangerous for chickens, but okay for women.

DES is one in a long list of dangerous drugs that are fed to women by the pharmaceutical industry. The list includes thalidomide, birth control pills, and the Dalkon shield. These and other products have been prescribed to women without adequate testing. They have led to deformed babies, cancer, blood-clotting, strokes, gall bladder disease, massive bleeding, and death.

Now DES daughters in Michigan and all over the country are standing up and saying No! They say the drug industry will have to pay for its negligence. Right on! □

## BOSSSES TRYING TO BREAK TEAMSTER LOCAL 70

by Paul Ryan

OAKLAND, Calif.—On March 1, Teamster Local 70 was ordered by Judge Alfonso Zirpoll to pay over \$3 million in "damages" stemming from the 1970 wildcat strike.

If Local 70 is forced to pay this fine, it could bankrupt the local.

Every trucking boss in the country is rejoicing at this attack on Local 70. Judge Zirpoll and the California Trucking Association (CTA) have pushed Local 70 up against the wall. Even in order to appeal the decision, the local will be required to post a large bond.

The response of the Local 70 officials has been to run scared. At a regular membership meeting on March 24, Secretary-Treasurer Chuck Mack said that the local's attorneys see little chance of winning an appeal.

He said that bankruptcy proceedings are now being considered; a court-appointed trustee would decide how to pay off the local's debts.

Mack also stated that the International union does not want to have anything to do with the problem.

### RE-OPEN CONTRACT?

At no point did any Local 70 official even suggest that the local might go on the offensive to force the companies to back off from their lawsuit. Quite the contrary, Mack even went so far as to state that "there is a possibility that the contract will be re-opened to settle this lawsuit."

The worst resolution of this crisis would be that attempt to wring concessions from Local 70 on work rules and conditions in exchange for dropping or reducing the fine.

To break Local 70 would be a real plum for the trucking bosses. Local 70 is a strong local with above-standard local conditions.

According to one rank and file member of the local, the CTA has tried this tack before. During the 1976 contract negotiations, the CTA offered to negotiate about the strike damage suit in exchange for changes in the hiring hall and 8:00 starting time provisions.

Rank and file members of Local 70 have begun to respond to the crisis. They are circulating a petition demanding a special membership meeting to discuss the situation.

"People are feeling discouraged," one Local 70 member told Workers' Power. "None of us are lawyers, and that's where this game is being played."

"We might have to turn into vindictive bastards and start a grievance war or something against the CTA. We'd probably have a wildcat today if they tried to take away our starting time or hiring hall."

Local 70 rank and filers will have to get themselves together to fight this attack. Concerned members could hold demonstrations at the appeal hearings. They could launch an investigation of the pro-company Judge Zirpoli. They could organize to reduce local expenses by measures such as cutting the salaries of the business agents.

Every labor organization and Teamster local in the country should be prepared to rally to Local 70's defense if financial assistance is needed. □



## Gays Organize To Defend Sexual Freedom Act

Anita Bryant, the lady who touts the virtues of Florida orange juice, is on a crusade against gay rights. Bryant and her organization, Save Our Children From Homosexuals, are leading a drive to repeal Miami's Sexual Freedom Act.

The Sexual Freedom Act is an ordinance that prohibits discrimination because of sexual preference. The ordinance, passed a year ago, makes Dade County, Florida, the 39th community in the United States to ban discrimination because of sexual preference.

A similar bill, H.R. 2998, is pending in Congress. It would grant all gay people basic civil and human rights.

Bryant and Save Our Children From Homosexuals have collected 60,000 signatures on a petition. They are demanding that the Miami ordinance be put on the ballot, where they hope it will be repealed.

### PREJUDICE

Bryant's crusade has the tone of a witchhunt. Her prejudices against gays are shocking. She speaks about homosexuality as if it were the plague.

In Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, an editorial titled "Homosexuals Want To Take Over Here" appeared in a community newspaper. The editorial said, "It was not too long ago when people hid their perversions and sordid social inadequacies, but now some of them feel compelled to parade them openly, with defiance and even pride."

"It is this element preying upon our children and vulgarly exhibit-

ing themselves who are determined to take over Ft. Lauderdale.

In a counter-reply, James Henley, a Ft. Lauderdale gay, put his finger on the prejudice that has been displayed in the anti-gay crusade. "Substitute the word 'black' for 'homosexual' and it reads like a tract from the Ku Klux Klan. Your brand of poisoned thinking has been out of fashion since they stopped burning Jews at Auschwitz. You owe gay people an apology."

### BOYCOTT

The anti-gay hysteria has inspired gay people to organize to defend themselves. Groups all over the country are urging boycotts of Florida citrus products.

On Saturday, March 26, gay rights activists met with presidential aide Margaret Costanza in the White House. They lobbied for repeal of laws that discriminate against homosexuals.

Laws like the ordinance passed in Miami are of critical importance to gay people. Many gays would like to come out, but they are afraid to do so because they might lose their jobs. Anita Bryant also stands to lose her job because her anti-gay prejudice has started a boycott of the products she is employed to advertise.

Says Bryant, "I would rather have the love of God and be making this a better place for my children—even if my livelihood is stripped away."

She does not mention the livelihood of the thousands of gays affected by the Sexual Freedom Act. □

E. Clarke

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# Where We Stand

## WE OPPOSE

- **CAPITALIST EXPLOITATION**  
We live under the capitalist system. The wealth produced by working people is stolen from us by private employers. They prosper from our labor.
- **CAPITALIST CONTROL**  
Capitalists use their profits only to make more profits. When they need fewer workers, they create unemployment. When they need more money, they speed up work, downgrade safety conditions, and raise prices. The capitalist system spends little on health care, a clean environment, or social services, because these things make no profit.
- **OPPRESSION**  
Capitalism needs inequality. Because it needs profits, it can't provide enough for all. So it gives some groups of people worse jobs and lower pay, and labels them inferior. In particular, capitalism locks black people into the bottom of society, and spreads racist ideas to keep them there and justify it. Capitalism keeps women responsible for taking care of the workforce when it is not at work, including children, who are too young to work. Women who work for wages have two jobs.
- **CAPITALIST GOVERNMENT**  
The government serves the capitalist class. Its only purpose is to protect the private profit system. It protects its interests abroad through economic control of other countries, spying and wars.
- **BUREAUCRATIC COMMUNISM**  
Russia, China and other countries with economies like theirs are also oppressive class societies, run by a privileged ruling class of bureaucrats. They are not socialist and must be overthrown by the working class of those countries.

## WE SUPPORT

- **THE RANK AND FILE MOVEMENT**  
The unions protect workers from their employers. But today's unions are run by privileged officials who sell out because they support the capitalist system. They want labor peace, not labor power. We support the struggle for rank and file control of the unions.
- **LIBERATION FROM OPPRESSION**  
Black people are an oppressed national minority in the United States. They have the right to self-determination—to decide their own future.  
The struggle of every oppressed group for equality is a just struggle—Blacks, women, gays, Latinos, American Indians. We are for the independent organization of oppressed peoples to fight for their freedom.  
Support from the entire working class movement will make the struggles of both—the oppressed and the class movement—stronger.
- **SOCIALISM**  
Society should be run by the working class. The wealth produced by those who work should go to fill people's needs, not to private gain.
- **WORKERS' REVOLUTION**  
But the capitalist class will not give up their rule and profits voluntarily. Socialism can be created only when the working class seizes control of the factories and makes their own government. The working class will rule democratically because it can own society's wealth only together.
- **INTERNATIONALISM**  
The struggle for socialism is worldwide. We support every fight of the working class against exploitation, and every struggle by nations fighting for independence from foreign rulers. We support every struggle for freedom—from the people of southern Africa against racism and western colonialism, to the struggle against bureaucratic rule and Russian imperialism in Eastern Europe.  
We demand complete independence for Puerto Rico from U.S. colonial rule.
- **REVOLUTIONARY PARTY**  
The most class conscious members of the working class have the responsibility to lead the struggle toward socialist revolution. To do this they must build an organization to put their consciousness into action and make their leadership effective.
- **INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS**  
The I.S. is an organization of revolutionary socialist workers. We are open to all who accept our basic principles and are willing to work as a member to achieve them. Join with us to build the I.S. into a revolutionary party, to build the movement to end exploitation and oppression and to create a socialist world.

**Workers' Power**  
313-869-5964



Demonstrators march in Detroit, commemorating the Sharpeville massacre.

# NO MORE SHARPEVILLES!

On Saturday, March 26, rallies and marches across the country recalled the brutal tragedy of the Sharpeville massacre 17 years ago in South Africa. On March 21, 1960, South African police opened fire on thousands of peaceful Black demonstrators. Sixty-nine Blacks died.  
The police were protecting the racist system of apartheid from any public opposition. Indeed, they

were murderously crushing the organization of Black discontent over outrageously racist laws.

Today, when the fire of freedom again burns strong in South Africa, the Sharpeville massacre is bitterly remembered by supporters here of the liberation movements in Southern Africa. Here are reports from three cities.

**PITTSBURGH**—This was the first local demonstration in support of the liberation struggles in southern Africa here. About 75 people joined in a picket line circling a busy downtown square.  
Large numbers of shoppers found out about the seriousness of the liberation struggles—and about the need to give active support.  
Several local speakers called for continued efforts to build the movement against racism in America, as well as southern Africa.  
The action was organized by the Free Southern Africa Committee—a coalition including the I.S., members of the Southern Africa Liberation Committee, various leaders of the black community and the churches and others.

### KEEP IT UP

The group plans more activities, which already have included talks on radio and TV and in the schools. Committee members have shown the film "Last Grave at Dimbaza" to audiences throughout Pittsburgh, getting an excellent response.  
Besides educational activities there will be other events opposing US government and corporate support for the white minority capitalist regimes of Voerster and Smith.  
The Committee will meet to discuss future activities at St. Brigid/St. Benedict the Moor Church on April 7 at 7:30 pm. All persons interested may attend, and information may be had by phoning 461-2975.



**ATLANTA**—"If it was up to me, you would all be behind bars!" yelled the store manager.

The local Southern African Liberation Committee was continuing its drive to rid the city of sardines packed by South African Blacks under slave labor conditions, and the targeted store manager was mad.

But, angry as he was, and despite a futile attempt to get the police to make us leave, finally, the store manager had to give in.

"Until June 26, 1976 the rich white racist businessmen of South Africa were convinced they had created a system that would last forever. The revolution began that day by students in Soweto township ended that dream.

"The Sharpeville massacre in 1960 was the end of a generation of peaceful protest for justice in South Africa. The Soweto uprising is the beginning of a new generation—the generation of South Africa's Black revolution."

"Most important of all, today's new revolutionary movement in South Africa is not aiming for reforms in the apartheid system. It is aiming for total change—for Black Power and Revolution."

—Butterfly, of the Red Tide, speaking at the Detroit rally

The Committee had demanded the store remove the sardines from the shelves. They refused—claiming no individual store in the chain could make such a decision.

So we set up a picket line and we asked people not to shop there until the sardines were taken down.

We soon began to turn several shoppers away and were able to start discussing the issue of apartheid with them. A few signed up with the Committee.

When the store manager saw how effective the Committee was, he threatened to call the cops. The picket line ignored him and continued its march.

The cops appeared but it soon became clear they could legally do nothing. At that point the manager gave in.

It was the fourth victory in a week for the S.A.L.C. So until all Del Monte Empress and Eatwell sardines, all of which are packed in South Africa; are out of Atlanta, the cries of "Don't shop here" will reverberate throughout the city.

Benjamin Vernon

**DETROIT**—"We are fighting, We are learning, Flames of freedom, Keep on burning!" Over 200 people were marching, rallying and picketing here in memory of the Sharpeville massacre.

Led by the militant and aggressive Red Tide, a coalition including the Southern African Liberation Committee, the International Socialists, NSCAR, and others protested the racist apartheid system that still continues in South Africa.

"Down with apartheid, land of hate; Down with Voerster's racist state!" and "Get white racist hands, off the Black people's lands!" rang out from the crowd as we marched down Woodward Avenue in the bright Saturday afternoon sun.

### OUT NOW!

Larry Smith, S.A.L.C. spokesperson, said that the rally's purpose was to honor the martyrs at Sharpeville in 1960, to show solidarity with today's South African revolution, and to demand that US government and industry get out of the region.

Recalling the 1960 massacre, Red Tide speaker Butterfly told the demonstrators:

"The new laws required each and every Black African to carry pass books 24 hours a day. This law was rejected by the Black masses.

"Their tactic was the same as hundreds of civil rights marches and sit-ins in the US. To overturn the brutally unjust law they brought in massive numbers of protestors, thinking that the pigs came in armed to the teeth.

Without any warning, they opened fire on the Blacks. The final recorded deaths from the Sharpeville massacre alone rose to 69.

"And the only crime they committed that day was Black people stood up and fought for what they believed in."

### PICKET

Butterfly announced a Red Tide picket immediately following the rally. The target was a nearby bank which sells the Krugrand—South Africa's infamous gold coin.

The militant picket line of around one hundred sent two delegations inside Michigan National Bank. Outside we chanted, "Michigan National sells the rand, Gold from a racist land."

Inside, one group confronted a bank official, demanding that the sales of the blood-drenched coin stop. The other group spoke with the bank tellers, trying to convince them to help oppose the coin sales at the bank.

## JOIN US!

If you agree with the views expressed in this paper and  would like more information, or  would like to join the International Socialists, then send this form to: **INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS, 14131 Woodward Ave., Highland Park, MI 48203.**

Name .....

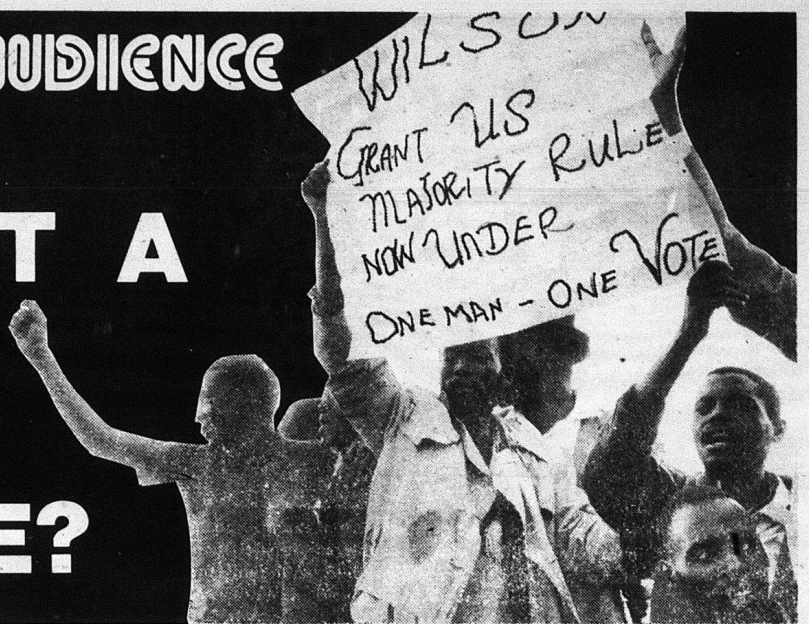
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# VIEW FROM THE AUDIENCE

## WHO'S GOT A RIGHT TO ZIMBABWE?



"The question of whether this conflict could be settled by peaceful negotiations could have been answered in 1966. We began this war in 1966. We are fighting for our country.

"We are at war just now, and this war shall continue until the settler regime surrenders. This means agreeing to turn over power to avoid further bloodshed. Until then we shall negotiate with them on the battlefield."

—Robert Mugabe, Secretary-General of ZANU (Zimbabwe African National Union), interviewed in Mozambique by CBS News

IF YOU WATCHED the Monday night CBS documentary "Who's Got A Right To Rhodesia?", you saw one of the best news features to hit television in a long, long time.

Amazingly, this program presented a 99% accurate, objective picture of what life is like in Zimbabwe (Rhodesia) under racist minority rule. Hopefully, it will be re-run to pull in part of the audience that was tuned in to the Oscars or watching the NBC feature on Muhammad Ali.

electricity, refrigeration or plumbing.

Whites on their day off were shown bowling on the lawn, or being serenaded by an orchestra, or judging black children's singing of Christmas carols by a white European standard.

Their children are educated to become tomorrow's rulers. They are taught that Rhodesia was "civilized" by Cecil Rhodes and his British South Africa Corporation, who actually invaded and conquered in 1897.

Black children are descendants of a Zimbabwe civilization over 900 years old. Today, those whose parents can scrape up the tuition fees are sent to overcrowded schools where they are trained for lives of servitude, menial labor and fear.

### NATIONAL LIBERATION

"Who's Got A Right To Rhodesia" also showed the other side of life in Zimbabwe today—the national liberation war which is

bringing down the racist regime.

Unfortunately, there was no footage of the liberation army in training or action. But there were scenes from the concentration camps where African villagers are forced to live.

And there was actual footage of an American mercenary fighting for the racist army.

We also were shown films of convoys of cars, who travel the highways in packs by daylight only, at up to 100 miles an hour, to avoid attacks from the freedom fighters.

Most important of all was the shot of a triple-trailer Mobil Oil truck bringing Rhodesia the fuel it needs for its economy and the war effort. Mobil, the United States oil giant, has secretly and illegally supplied the racist economy with its oil needs ever since 1970.

The oil is routed through a string of phony South African connections to hide its real origin.

If the United States government really wanted a peaceful settlement and immediate majority rule in Zimbabwe, all it would have to do is stop Mobil Oil's pipeline to

Rhodesia. That would be the end of the war and the racist minority regime.

Instead of spelling this out, the program showed footage of Jimmy Carter speaking at the United Nations. The producer of the show even echoed Carter's line that a black government would be obligated to honor the property rights of the whites.

This is the one major point where "Who's Got A Right To Rhodesia" fell down.

To establish human rights in Zimbabwe, the liberation army will have to start by taking away the land from the rich farmers who stole it from the black masses.

Then the foreign-owned factories, the white settlers' mansions and bank accounts have to be taken over to start providing a decent life for the six million blacks who rightfully own the country.

When that happens, we will find out where the United States government really stands on majority rule and human rights for southern Africa.

—Dan Posen

"Who's Got A Right to Rhodesia?" A CBS documentary. Presented by Bill Moyers.

For anyone with eyes to see, this documentary answered its own question. Zimbabwe (Rhodesia) rightfully belongs to its 96% African majority, the six million people who do the work that makes 250,000 racist European settlers rich.

The show left no doubt that the settlers are strictly a caste of ruling parasites who do no useful work.

For whites, the per capita number of swimming pools is the highest in the world outside Beverly Hills, California.

Black workers employed by firms like Coca-Cola and Lever Brothers live in hostels (barracks) and dormitories, packed up to 25 in a room.

In the segregated townships, black families with five or more children live in two rooms without

One month after ROOTS was shown on TV, health department officials across the country reported that newborn babies were being named Kunta Kinte and Kizzy. In New York City, there were 20; in Los Angeles the figure was 15. There were 10 in Detroit, 8 in Atlanta, and Cleveland twins got both names.

"Like Kunta Kinte, he should be free, he should be somebody, and know that he is somebody," said Netherli Reid, 18, mother of Kunta Kinte Reid, born February 18 in New York's Harlem Hospital. □

# WORKER AIDS FREEDOM FIGHTERS

Members and friends of the Detroit Southern Africa Liberation Committee have been working hard to collect shoes and clothing for the freedom fighters in Zimbabwe (Rhodesia).

One of these people is EZELL TYLER. So far, he has collected over ten large bags of goods for the Committee to send to the Zimbabwe African National Union (ZANU).

Tyler has been collecting among his friends, relatives and co-workers. He is a regular reader of Workers' Power, works at Chevrolet Gear and Axle and lives on Detroit's west side.

Workers' Power asked Tyler to tell us about his experiences.

"I'll try to help anyone in need, that's why I'm collecting. I told people at work, and they responded with clothing and shoes. Some have brought things to work, and some I picked up.

"It only takes a few minutes of my time to go collecting, and I'll take the time to do it. I have a trunk full of stuff now, and I have promises for some more. People just keep saying they'd like to help.

"Some people I talk to don't already know what is going on in

Zimbabwe. When I explain, they want to help.

"Some want to help regardless of what it is for. Others will say, 'Why should we help them. We need help here.' And I explain that these people are much less fortunate than we are.

"They are trying to change things, and they are very poor and don't have our advantages.

### OUR PROBLEMS TOO

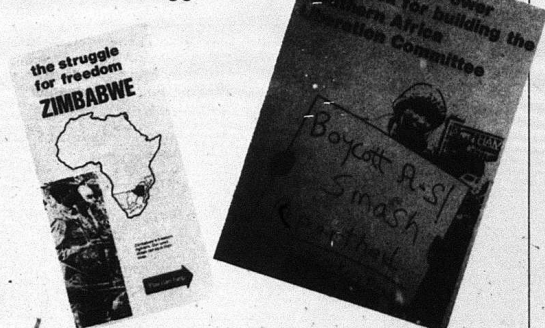
"Other people's problems are our problems too," I'll say. That's the way I look at it.

"As long as the Committee is sending the stuff over there I'll keep collecting it. And I would like to give my thanks to all the relatives and co-workers and friends that have contributed with me."

Detroiters who would like to join the Committee in building support and giving aid to the freedom fighters can call 867-3837.

Each Saturday the Committee will be collecting shoes and other goods in different areas of the community. Supporters and donors are always needed. □

### Join The Struggle!



• Workers' Power Handbook for Building the Southern African Liberation Committee (50c) is a guide for joining in the struggle to aid the freedom fighters in South Africa and Zimbabwe.

• Also available, brochures that are useful for distribution during shoe collections or other activity. Outlines the struggle in Zimbabwe. (Bundles of 100—40c)

• Sun Distribution has a catalogue of literature on southern Africa available through Sun. (The catalogue is free upon request).

Order from Sun Distribution, 14131 Woodward, Highland Park, Michigan 48203.



# Workers' Power

## UNITED PARCEL SERVICE

# Back On The Old Rampage

UNITED PARCEL SERVICE is threatening the livelihood of 260 sorters and loaders at its Pittsburgh hub. And a botched job of contract negotiations by Teamster President Frank Fitzsimmons may help them get away with it.

UPS wants to get rid of all the full-time jobs and turn them into part-time work. To do this they plan to transfer the work of 150 part-timers to a new hub at New Stanton, Pennsylvania, about 40 miles from Pittsburgh.

They also plan to transfer the work of 110 out of the 120 full-time workers to New Stanton and to change these jobs to part-time.

The Pittsburgh hub would retain fewer than 20 sorters and loaders for local delivery. Almost no full-time jobs would remain.

This maneuver is part of a national drive by UPS to eliminate full-time workers on the inside, and replace them with part-time employees. The company hopes to undermine the shop floor organization of traditionally militant hubs like Pittsburgh.

The Pittsburgh situation arises from confusion over the content of the current contract. A new contract covering 15 Eastern states including Pennsylvania was ratified by the union membership in

December.

Teamster President Fitzsimmons, however, has refused to sign the contract because of a disagreement over how the contract actually affects the protection of full-time jobs.

### INTERPRETATION

Teamster leaders claim that the wording of the unsigned contract prevents the move to New Stanton and the subsequent elimination of jobs in Pittsburgh.

The company claims the wording clearly allows them to do just what they are doing.

In fact, the wording of the draft shown to rank and file members in December said only that the number of full-time inside workers cannot be reduced while there are part-timers working in a hub. It did not explicitly prevent a move such as the one to New Stanton.

The contract was negotiated by Teamster President Fitzsimmons himself. After a 13-week strike, Fitzsimmons stepped in at the last minute to come up with a settlement. It appears that he botched the job.

One Pittsburgh UPS worker told Workers' Power that it was possible Fitzsimmons had gotten a



These Pittsburgh UPSers fought long and hard during the Eastern UPS strike to get their union to stand firm on job protection. If Fitzsimmons had listened to membership then, they wouldn't be in such a mess today.

verbal agreement on the protection of full-time jobs. If so, the company is now simply ignoring it.

Since there is nothing in writing, the union is forced to fight in the shadowy realm of interpretation:

### STRIKE AUTHORIZATION

The leaders of Pittsburgh Local 249 have gone one step further. They are asking the Joint Council and the International for strike authorization.

The leaders of Local 249 are certainly aware, however, that a strike by Pittsburgh alone could not overthrow the entire 15 states

contract mess. It may be a move to pressure the International into broader action against UPS.

International Vice-President William McCarthy of Boston is now negotiating with UPS over the interpretation of the contract and the New Stanton-Pittsburgh situation. McCarthy was the chief negotiator who sat on his hands for weeks last fall until Fitzsimmons stepped in.

Supposedly a written decision will be handed down April 4. Without a lot of pressure from below, little indeed can be expected from the likes of McCarthy and Fitzsimmons. □

## UPS Is After New York Teamsters, Too!

THE WORST SUSPICIONS of New York Teamsters Local 804 members have been confirmed. United Parcel Service wants to bring New York into the Eastern States contract and to eliminate as many full-time jobs as it can.

The Eastern States contract, already ratified by the union last December, has not been signed by the Company. The New York contract was due to expire June 30.

A few weeks ago, UPS offered to negotiate the New York contract early. A vague reference to retroactive pay was made to induce Local 804 members to approve the idea.

Local President Ron Carey recommended acceptance of the company proposal for early bargaining. Carey said that he interpreted the retroactive pay offer to extend a whole year back. He said nothing about the Eastern contract situation, where the company was trying to eliminate full-time jobs.

### CLEAR INTENT

Last week, however, the company made its intentions clearer by proposing that the retroactivity extend back to December—in line with the Eastern contract.

Carey is still saying he will fight for a full year's retroactivity, plus health and welfare improvements. But it is clear that the company is out to maneuver 804 into the Eastern contract.

If anyone in New York doubts what that would mean, look at what is happening in Pittsburgh. (See accompanying article.) □

## Detroit Red Tide

# Arrested for Leafletting - Again!

by Frank Runninghorse

DETROIT—"I'LL VIOLATE your constitutional rights," Mr. Gilliam, principal of Mackenzie High School, shouted at a Red Tide member who was being handcuffed and arrested

by the police on Thursday, March 24.

Then, in a most cowardly act, while the Red Tider was handcuffed and restrained by the police, Gilliam grabbed him by the throat, began choking him and attempted

to bite his nose. The police stood by and watched. Finally one cop told him, "Stop it."

Red Tiders had been leafletting to inform students of a demonstration against the racist government in South Africa. A team of four Red

Tiders was standing on the public sidewalk in front of Mackenzie High handing out leaflets. After an hour the principal, Gilliam, came out and told us to leave or be arrested.

We informed him that this sidewalk was not school property, but belonged to the people of Detroit and that we intended to peacefully exercise our First Amendment constitutional rights to leaflet and inform the people.

### POLICE

Within minutes the police arrived. We explained to them that we were within our rights of free speech. We showed them a letter from Deputy Chief of Police Bannon, which verified our rights to leaflet on public sidewalks, and ordered the police to stop arresting us for it. But they arrested us anyway.

We had taken the precaution of bringing along a Red Tide reporter with a camera and tape recorder because Red Tiders had been arrested at Mackenzie before. Only an acquittal by a jury trial saved us from prison terms that time.

And it was good that we did take

these precautions, because Gilliam came out, lying through his teeth, saying we were up on school property and refused to leave.

Our reporter was taping the whole event which made the cops extremely mad. They kept shouting at him to "turn it off." The reporter was arrested even though he wasn't passing out leaflets.

All that day we were shuffled from precinct to precinct. The cops took our camera and tape recorder from us and tampered with it against our protests.

### JAIL

While we were in jail, we repeatedly asked to be allowed to make our phone call so we could raise the \$300 bail before the banks closed. But they refused. In fact, we might still be in jail right now if an inmate-trustee didn't make the call for us.

This is the 30th arrest and violation of our rights to free speech in the last 13 months. But the Red Tide will not be stopped. You can jail a revolutionary, but you can't jail the revolution!

Free the Mackenzie Four! □



Red Tide member being handcuffed on the public sidewalk where he was arrested for distributing leaflets. A second Red Tide member [right, holding leaflets] is about to be arrested and then assaulted by Mackenzie High School Principal Gilliam [center].