

# Supreme Court Slashes Rights

see pages 6-7

AQUISITIONS SECTION  
STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

610 STATE ST.  
MADISON WI 53704

# WORKERS' POWER

WEEKLY NEWSPAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS JUNE 27, 1977 #213 25c

In This Issue	
Africa Solidarity	2
TDU Victory	3
Coors Boycott	5
Nazis March	10
Frank Robinson Fired	11

# FBI Hit Men Free

## Chicago Black Panthers Lose Suit

by Kate Stacy

At 4:00 a.m. on December 4, 1969 Mark Clark answered a knock on the door of his Chicago apartment, "Who is it?"

Those were the last words he ever spoke.

In the next few minutes volleys of shots burst through the door from police carbines, shotguns, handguns and a submachine gun.

In the bedroom Fred Hampton Jr. lay sleeping. He had been drugged by a police agent with a near-fatal dose of seconal.

Police came in and fired shot after shot into his head.

A few minutes later one cop saw Hampton's toe move. More bullets were pumped into his body.

Hampton was Black Panther Party State Chairman for Illinois. Clark was a Panther deputy.

The raid was carried as part of the FBI's COINTELPRO program.

The families of Mark Clark and Fred Hampton and seven survivors of the police raid sued the officials responsible for that night of bloodshed for \$47.7 million.

They charged conspiracy to violate the Panther's civil rights, using excessive force and wrongful death.

The jury deadlocked. U.S. District Court Judge Joseph S. Perry, 80, directed them to dismiss all charges.

The judge said that the Panthers had "failed to sustain a version of proof in every claim."



Fred Hampton, a leader of the Black Panther Party

## FBI used informer to stir Panther trouble -- lawyer

By Rob Warren

The stated purpose of the fatal Black Panther raid by State's Atty. Edward V. Hanrahan's men here in 1969 was to seize weapons.

And weapons were seized -- 10 of them, including --

## 'FBI told me to drug Hampton before raid'

Informant tells refusal to aid in plan

### The Evidence

Here is some of the evidence that emerged during the 320 day trial.

A paid informant and provocateur for the FBI, William O'Neal Jr., purchased rifles and ammunition on FBI orders and with FBI funds while posing as a member of the Chicago Black Panthers.

(Panther attorneys also maintain that O'Neal urged Panthers to blow up military arsenals; designed an airplane to blow up city hall; built an electric chair to scare Panther traitors; organized robberies; and blew up a car. These charges were not introduced into the court proceedings.)

On instructions from the FBI, O'Neal suggested to the Panthers that they raid an armory for

weapons. He offered to provide tools and explosives (gifts from the FBI). The Panthers declined.

Another informant testified that the FBI had asked her to drug Hampton on the night of the raid.

The FBI asked the Chicago police to conduct the raid in search of illegal weapons—despite knowing from their own informant, O'Neal, that none existed. The police refused.

(The FBI then went to Illinois State's Attorney Edward Hanrahan. He agreed to the raid, using the Chicago police assigned to his office.)

On J. Edgar Hoover's instructions O'Neal was paid \$300 for his part in the "successful" raid.

### The Cover-up

Throughout the trial the govern-

ment, particularly the FBI, continued its policy of cover-up.

Early on the judge ordered the FBI to release all of its secret files on the raid. The Bureau released a three-inch stack of documents.

But during the trial an FBI agent referred to an item that had not yet appeared.

That slip led to the discovery of another \$5,000 pages of material that the FBI had intentionally withheld.

Incredibly, federal taxes are paying for the defense against the Panther suit. The bill is already over \$2 million.

This generous funding was arranged because the police were acting as government representatives during the raid.

In addition to the government lawyers, private attorneys were put

on Chicago and Illinois payrolls for the case.

In the meantime lawyers for the victims of the raid refused to do without trial transcripts. The FBI could not afford the \$100 a page charged for photocopying.

### The Deal

Lawyers for the Panthers have charged that former State's Attorney Hanrahan and federal officials struck a deal that each would withhold evidence that implicated the other.

Originally Hanrahan and 20 federal and local law enforcement agents were also defendants in the suit. But the very congenial judge dismissed charges against them last April.

By the end of the trial only the seven policemen who actually fired shots remained as defendants.

The raid that murdered the Chicago Panther leaders and crippled their organization was a COINTELPRO project.

COINTELPRO stood for Counter-Intelligence Program, an FBI project to "discredit, misdirect and neutralize" Black organizations.

It was COINTELPRO which also wretaped and threatened Martin Luther King with blackmail.

The U.S. government's agencies to defend law and order violated every law and trampled every Constitutional right in order to destroy their victims.

Then they covered up the evidence. And eight years later, American justice legalizes the cover-up and sets the guilty free. □

The week of June 16, the first anniversary of the Soweto uprising, was a week of rebellion and struggle in South Africa.

Official government reports said ten Blacks were killed by police. As usual, reports also commended the police for their "restraint" and "courage" in shooting down unarmed Black teenagers.

A white police constable, A.L. Dorfling, was fatally wounded "when a colleague's weapon accidentally discharged while he was on riot duty in the Atteridge township, five miles west of Pretoria" said a newspaper account.

What a shame. Of course, the names of Black children killed when police guns discharge are in most cases never even published.

In Soweto the first day of a work boycott saw 80% worker absenteeism in Johannesburg.



Then the struggle spread—to the important industrial center of Port Elizabeth and other communities.

The week of Black struggle in South Africa was also marked by a week of stepped-up solidarity activity by supporters of African liberation in America.

Soweto commemoration meetings, pickets of the South African Krugerrand coin, and shoe collections for freedom fighters of Zimbabwe (Rhodesia) were held.

On this page are stories and pictures covering a few of these solidarity actions.

Today, solidarity with southern African liberation is taking place on a small scale.

In the years to come it will be a growing, massive and militant movement—to get American imperialism and colonialism out of southern Africa forever!

# Freedom for southern Africa It's our struggle, too!

## Oakland

by Anne Larson

OAKLAND, CA—The local chapter of the Southern Africa Liberation Committee (SALC) won its first major victory here June 18.

The Committee forced a large downtown jeweler, Marc Rice, to discontinue sales of the South African gold coin, the Krugerrand.

Recently the Oakland Tribune and other local newspapers began running ads for the Krugerrand. The Marc Rice Company was one of the stores listed as an outlet for the coin.

A delegation from the Committee approached Rice asking him not to sell the coins. The SALC members explained that Krugerrand sales in this country help prop up South Africa's racist system.

Three Black gold miners die every shift in South Africa, mining the gold that is used to make the coins.

### INTIMIDATE

Rice refused to stop selling the coin. He even sent a copy of the letter presented by the SALC to the District Attorney in order to intimidate the group!

So the SALC had to take more drastic steps.

On June 18, sixteen members and supporters of the Committee set up a militant picket line in front of the jewelry store.

The group chanted: "Marc Rice lend a hand, Don't sell the Krugerrand."

Leaflets were distributed to passers-by and shoppers asking them not to patronize the Rice store.

At first Rice was terrified. He kept his store locked up well past the opening time. Then he changed his mind and unlocked the store.

Then he called up a friend of his, another jeweler, who came over to confer with him. After about an hour, they came out to talk with the picketers.

The jewelers gave in! Both agreed not to sell the coin, to take their names off the ads and to put a sign in their store windows announcing that they no longer carry the Krugerrand.

The SALC supporters celebrated their victory in a nearby coffee shop and made plans for spreading the boycott to other Bay Area stores and businesses that still carry the racist coin.



Opposing Krugerrand sales in Oakland.

## Pittsburgh

by Celeste Taylor

PITTSBURGH—The Black Solidarity Fair was held here June 2-4. The Fair, held annually, draws over 40,000 people. This is the largest Black event held in Pittsburgh.

The Southern Africa Liberation Committee was able to have a booth at this all-important Black event. The results were quite overwhelming.

We were able to sell all but a few pieces of our literature. We also collected close to 200 names of people interested in SALC activities.

People who visited the booth were really interested and were tired of just talking about the problem. They wanted to do something constructive to aid the struggle for freedom in Zimbabwe.

It was a good feeling to see so many Black people show solidarity with the brothers and sisters of Southern Africa. And that is exactly what the whole fair was about: solidarity among Black people.

A general meeting was held on June 16, as a follow up of the Black Solidarity Fair. A presentation on Soweto leading up to Zimbabwe was given.

The background of the SALC and how it relates to the struggles was given also. A question and answer period, followed by a general discussion, brought out a lot of good ideas.

SALC was able to attract a reporter who works for the largest Black paper in Western Pennsylvania. He plans to cover all of our events.

We were also able to come up with a fund raising committee. Through this summer the committee will be planning things such as

discos, carnivals, and car washes.

The money will be used for the shipping cost of the clothes and shoes being collected for the freedom fighters in Zimbabwe. We are also planning several boycotts and demonstrations this summer.

From all this, the Pittsburgh SALC was given a big boost in morale. It can be expected that this committee will become large, which will mean more and better things coming forth.

## Atlanta

ATLANTA—"While President Carter shoots off his mouth about human rights, he looks the other way while American multi-national corporations like GM, Chrysler and Ford pay starvation wages to the Black segment of the population in South Africa."

So said Al Ferdnace at an Atlanta International Socialists-sponsored rally and community conscience. Sixty people came out in support of the freedom fighters of the southern African conflict.

Their local Southern Africa Liberation Committee is active in raising funds and material aid (shoes, clothing, sanitary napkins for women) for the Zimbabwe African National Union.

Ferdnace, a Teamster activist from Detroit's Local 299, spoke about how American foreign policy is not only supporting the racist apartheid regime in South Africa, but also is killing American citizens.

He compared Africans' lack of freedom to conditions in the U.S: "In the South Bronx of New York, Blacks and other minorities have no jobs at all. Human rights,"

Ferdnace said, "should be extended to all people. Not just those that Carter considers to be human."

## Los Angeles

LOS ANGELES—The former president of the Black Consciousness Movement, Thamsanqa Ngubeni, raised his fist, bowed his head and asked the crowd for a minute of silence.

A small gesture of commemoration to hundreds of his brothers and sisters murdered while struggling for freedom in South Africa's Soweto just one year ago.

On Saturday, June 18th, a "Community Program on Soweto" was sponsored by the Los Angeles Southern Africa Liberation Coalition which includes the International Socialists.

The Coalition grew from the group that staged the mass action against the US-South Africa Davis Cup Match in Newport Beach, in April.

The program also featured another South African student,

Ntongela Masilela, and a representative from the Pan African Secretariat, which is affiliated with the Pan African Council in Africa. Also included was the movie, "There Is No Crisis Here."

Masilela explained the history of oppression of Black South Africans by the white ruling class.

Ngubeni followed with a presentation on the state of the movement at present. "There have been attempts at strikes in some factories since Soweto but they have been crushed because the government is so militarily strong," commented Ngubeni.

"The only opposition is the armed struggle—it has to be fought."

The Coalition wound up the program with a pitch to get people actively collecting clothes and participating in picket lines to stop the unloading of South African goods from ships.

Brad Black



In Austin, Texas, Southern Africa Liberation Action Committee (SALAC) members have collected 1500 pairs of shoes and hundreds of pounds of clothing for Zimbabwe freedom fighters.

## Austin

# Workers' Power Summer Schedule

In accordance with our regular summer schedule, Workers' Power will not be published next week or the following week. The next issue will appear in three weeks, and will be dated July 18, 1977.

### Workers' Power 213

Copyright © 1977 by I.S. Publishing Co. Editor: Kim Moody. Production Editor: Karen Kaye. Circulation Manager: Tom Dougherty.

Subscriptions: \$10 for one year; \$5 for six months. Introductory rate: \$1 for eight issues. Institutional: \$15. Foreign surcharge: \$15. Foreign air mail: \$20 for six months.

Published weekly, except the first two weeks in July and the last two weeks in December. Second class postage paid at Detroit, Michigan. Send notice of undelivered copies or change of address to: Workers' Power, 14131 Woodward Ave., Highland Park, MI 48203.

Workers' Power is a subscriber to Liberation News Service and a member of the Alternate Press Service. It is indexed in the Alternate Press Index and microfilmed by University Microfilms. International Standard Serials Number (ISSN): 0019-0535.



# A GIANT MONOPOLY VS. BUSINESS UNIONISM

The Communications Workers of America (CWA) and American Telephone and Telegraph (the Bell system) are negotiating national contracts covering 500,000 workers. Contracts expire August 7.

The phone company is the largest corporation in the world. Its profits in the first three months of this year were \$1.09 billion.

The CWA, made up of workers in one of the most vital industries, should be one of the strongest unions. Instead, it is one of the weakest.

The major issues are:

- Job Security. A shorter work week, with no loss in pay would "spread the work" as an alternative to layoffs.
- Cost of living on Pensions.
- Upgrading of jobs traditionally assigned to women. Bell has always placed women in the lowest paying positions, such as operator.

## PROFITS

High phone company rates last year pushed the company's profits to \$3.8 billion. Yet one top Bell executive states: "There is no way to get down to the President's 4 per cent inflation goal unless the level

of labor settlements is brought down."

Bell's profits increase came not only from increasing rates. They managed to increase productivity more than 10% last year, through technical improvements and by working people harder.

## LAYOFFS

Some 20,000 workers have been laid off in the last several years, primarily in Western Electric. Others, mostly operators, are offered transfers to distant cities, which, of course, they don't accept.

This amounts to layoffs, but isn't charged as such.

Charging customers for Directory Assistance calls has greatly reduced the traffic (operator) workforce.

A long-standing pattern of discrimination against Blacks, women, and union militants continues. Generally in the lowest paying positions, women and Blacks are subject to the worst working conditions and harshest supervision.

These company practices call for the union to fight back aggressively, but the CWA carries out policies guaranteed to end in defeat.

To show how eager they were to reach a settlement without a strike, the union opened negotiations a month early, in May.

Former CWA President Joseph Beirne once told phone workers, "Trying to stop the Bell system with a strike is like throwing a stone at the Queen Mary as it steams out of New York harbor."

## AUTOMATION

Both union leaders and the company agree that AT&T's high degree of automation, and large



**American telephone service...**

## Great, but it takes our members to make it work.

Since fast, dependable telephone service is essential to the way you live and work, you have a big stake in the outcome of negotiations now underway between the Communications Workers of America and AT&T—the Bell System, Western Electric, Bell Laboratories.

We're negotiating a new national contract covering more than half a million CWA members—the people who make, install, operate and maintain the complex telephone equipment that provides you with such fast, efficient service.

Our current contract expires at midnight on August 6, 1977. We want you to know what we're proposing in the new one, and why we deserve it.

The following national bargaining proposals are high on our agenda:

- Job Security**, because more than 95,000 jobs in the telephone industry have vanished since 1973.
- Upgrading of jobs** traditionally held by women, because discrimination against women is intolerable and completely unacceptable to CWA.
- Pension Improvements**, because older workers have earned their right to retire with dignity and with an income that will provide a decent standard of living.
- Wage Increases**, because CWA members are among the most productive workers in the nation, and contributed substantially to the record profits reported by AT&T last year.
- Health Insurance Improvements**, because health care costs are climbing beyond a worker's ability to pay, and many health needs are not presently covered.

In addition to these proposals, there will be local bargaining on working conditions with individual companies of the Bell System. Local bargaining will begin on June 8.

**Reasonable Proposals**

All of our proposals are reasonable, and are well within our increased productivity. The Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that the increase in pro-

PRODUCTIVITY (Percentage increase) 1974-1975

107% Telephone Industry

45% National average

ductivity from 1974 to 1975 in the telephone industry was 107%. Labor economists expect the 1976 increase to be at least that high when the figure is released. This is more than double the average 45% for all industry.

The superb level of productivity of CWA workers has helped make American telephone service the finest in the world, has held telephone costs down for consumers, and has contributed greatly to the growth and success of AT&T and its subsidiaries. Traditionally in our free enterprise economy, workers are entitled to share in their increased productivity.

This is what our bargaining is all about. We only want what we have earned and our share of what we have helped AT&T earn.

GLENN E. WATTS  
President

COMMUNICATIONS WORKERS OF AMERICA, AFL-CIO

What we do is important to you.

LOUIS B. KNECHT  
Secretary-Treasurer

Instead of preparing for a militant national strike, CWA is launching a national advertising campaign aimed at America's "opinion-makers." The campaign might make more sense if the ads read: "When we go on strike don't pay your phone bill."

## Flint TDU Gains In By-laws Fight

FLINT, MICH.—"I would say that the people in office now are well aware of the fact that if we can propose a good state—which we intend to—that their jobs are in jeopardy."

That's what Howard "Tuck" Tucker had to say after the by-laws vote held in Teamster Local 332 on

June 21-24. Tucker is editor of "Skid Drop," the newspaper of the Flint chapter of Teamsters for a Democratic Union (TDU).

One of the by-laws proposed by TDU got the two-thirds majority needed to win. It called for reduction of dues for Teamsters who have been laid off over one month to \$8 per month, the minimum allowed by the International.

Other TDU proposals called for elected business agents and stewards, for regular membership meetings and for regular financial reports. Most of these by-laws got about 64% of the vote.

The next elections in Local 332 are in December 1978.

Dan La Botz

## Pepsi Degeneration

We've all heard about the "Pepsi Generation."

In Brazil, the multi-national soda company changed its slogan to the "Pepsi Revolution."

A spokesperson for Pepsi explained why: "We provide them (the younger generation) with a mechanism for protest, if through consumption."

Workers of the world—consume! □

## Mich. Bell Sued For Sexism

"It never dawned on me that if they were willing to pay a man \$75 more than they were paying me, I should even question it." Those are the words of Sally Gerlach, one of 10 women suing Michigan Bell for discrimination.

The suit is a result of a 1973 discrimination complaint filed with the Equal Employment Opportunities Commission (EEOC). Thirty-four engineering layout clerks said that

they were being paid less than men doing essentially the same job.

Bell claims to have a good equal opportunity record, ever since a 1971 suit against the company by the EEOC. But despite the publicity, little has changed for Bell employees, as is demonstrated in suits like this one.

Bell offered the women a \$500,000 out-of-court settlement, but 10 of the 34 decided that this

was not enough, and filed the class action suit.

Sally Gerlach pointed out: "The difference they were offering amounted only to the difference between the two salaries for nine months." Gerlach said she became a feminist in the process of pursuing this claim.

About 100 clerks around the state will be affected. Included in the suit is a claim for \$6 million in back pay alone. □

## Buy A Postcard - Help Free Gary Tyler

DETROIT—The Northwest Detroit branch of the Red Tide began a postcard campaign to free Gary Tyler.

In just two hours they sold 200 postcards addressed to the governor of Louisiana, demanding that Gary Tyler be set free immediately.

Gary Tyler is a young Black man who was framed for the murder of a white boy during an anti-busing riot in Destrehan, Louisiana two and a half years ago.

Although the evidence against him was nonexistent, and the prosecution witness recanted their testimony, he was convicted. Tyler was first sentenced to death. Later it was changed to 99 years in prison.

The Red Tide's postcards said, "All the evidence is that Gary Tyler's only crime was to be young and Black in the midst of a KKK attack on integration."

His lawyers are now appealing in the Louisiana courts, after the US Supreme Court refused to hear the case.

The Red Tide has helped to sponsor demonstrations, sold Free Gary Tyler T-shirts, and publicized his case for over a year. Last week they went door to door in a northwest Detroit community explaining Gary's story and selling the postcards.

**PEOPLE FAMILIAR**

Many people were already familiar with the case. Some bought extra postcards for friends to mail.

The Red Tide plans to continue the campaign to free Gary Tyler. The Southwest Detroit branch and the Chicago branch will also take it up.

You can help by writing to Governor Edwin Edwards, State Capitol, Baton Rouge, LA 70804. Demand an end to the

# Spain's Rigged Election

The western press is celebrating the outcome of the recent Spanish election with headlines like "Spain: Democracy Wins."

It was the first election since Franco's fascist army took control of Spain's government 38 years ago, in a war against the working class.

After Franco's death last year, his handpicked successors promised to democratize. Spanish rulers and western powers hoped that elections would defuse the explosion of strikes and political parties produced by the Spanish working class in the last year.

Final results pleased European and American governments. Prime Minister Suarez's party, the Union of the Democratic Center, won almost half the seats in Parliament.

## RIGGED

But Suarez didn't win through democracy. The election was carefully rigged so that his party would win.

An urban worker's voted counted between one fourth and one fortieth of a rural landlord's. Rural areas and landowners tend to be much more conservative.

For example, in the agricultural, sparsely populated Soria district, 33,500 votes were required to elect one representative. In Madrid it required 141,250 votes, over four times as many.

For members of the Senate, which can veto Parliamentary decisions, the gap was even more incredible. From Soria, 25,000 rural votes would elect one senator, while from Madrid it would take 1,130,000 to elect one!

In addition, King Juan Carlos was empowered to name 41 senators, all pro-Suarez and former supporters and officials of Franco's fascist regime.

Spain has many political parties, not just a couple huge business parties to dominate the country, as in the U.S. The government solved this problem by allowing Suarez to control half the Parliament with only one third of the votes.

## NEW SET-UP

Several left-wing parties were legalized before the election. The Communist Party, the Socialist Workers Party and others were allowed to run. These parties accepted the rigged election set-up and the political system the employers are constructing to run post-Franco Spain.

Revolutionary socialists do not accept rigged elections and capitalist rule. Their parties are still illegal. So are many radical neighborhood, women's and youth organizations.

In exchange for legalizing the official Communist and Socialist Parties, Suarez intends to enlist their aid in controlling the working class.

During the election campaign, these parties gave little or no support to many strikes and demonstrations against police killings and the jailing of political prisoners.

The American press and government will continue to love the new Spanish government as long as it keeps Spain stable.

But in Spain, the working class movement is under no illusion that the "new democracy" is for them.

# HOW AMERICAN ARMS KILL FOR SOUTH AFRICA

## Lockheed Aircraft's secret links revealed

WEAPONS, ammunitions, and military planes are being shipped by United States firms to the white-supremacist governments of South Africa and Rhodesia.

Recent investigations have uncovered a widespread chain of arms shipments to South Africa. Such shipments are supposed to be illegal under official U.S. policy.

Jimmy Carter preaches about peaceful change for southern Africa, but he looks the other way while the South African police state arms itself with American weapons.

Those weapons will kill thousands of Black Africans struggling for the land and the freedom that is rightfully theirs.

The chart on this page shows how one part of this trade, the sale of U.S. military planes to South Africa through Italian companies, is structured. It was printed in a Special Report by Michael Klare, published by the anti-apartheid Transnational Institute.

## TRICKS

The trick is that instead of selling planes to South Africa directly, U.S. firms like Avco-Lycoming and Lockheed sell their technology or arrange joint production by U.S. and foreign firms.

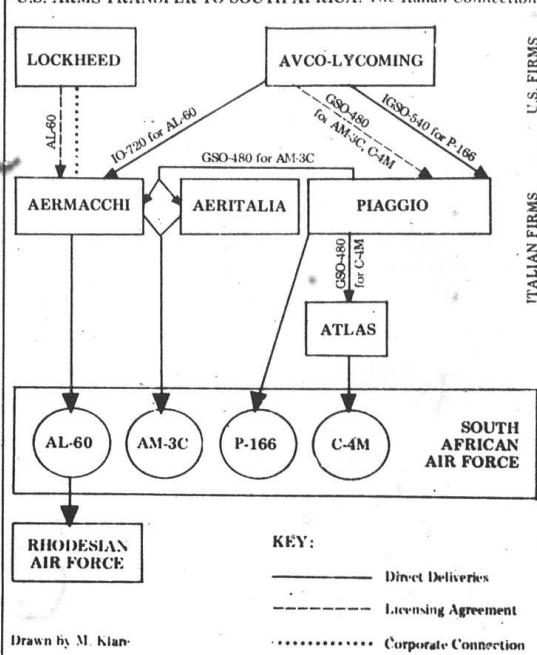
Michael Klare explains: "Theoretically, the foreign firms involved are prohibited from selling U.S.-designed arms to any country on the U.S. embargo list (for example, South Africa). But in practice it is relatively easy to get around this restriction, since the U.S. government rarely monitors these arrangements.

"Some of the most active producers of U.S. arms are located in Italy. Some of these same firms are also deeply involved in arms sales to South Africa."

Here are four examples:

- The so-called AL-60 is in fact

U.S. ARMS TRANSFER TO SOUTH AFRICA: The Italian Connection



the Lockheed 60. Its producer, Aermacchi, is partly owned by Lockheed. The IO-720 shown in the diagram is a 400 horse power engine for the AL-60, supplied by Avco-Lycoming for sale to South Africa.

Most or all of the AL-60s sold to South Africa are reportedly given to the Rhodesian Air Force for bombing raids against Black freedom fighters and villages in neighboring Mozambique.

The AM-3C, a three-seat cabin plane, is a variation of the Lockheed 60. Besides training and ground support functions, it can be equipped with rockets, bombs, machine guns, and napalm tanks. South Africans call it the "Bosbok."

The Piaggio P-166S Albatross is a twin-engined plane, primarily for maritime surveillance, but can also carry rockets and bombs. Avco-Lycoming supplies the 6-cylinder piston engines.

The C-4M is supposed to be a South African design, but it is also based on the AL-60, powered by Avco-Lycoming engines produced under license in Italy by Piaggio.

## CANARY ISLANDS

This is only part of the story. In 1975, Winchester corporation sold \$354,000 of arms and ammunition to the Canary Islands!

What would the Canary Islands need with this hardware? Answer: nothing.

In fact, an estimated \$300,000 of this represents arms to be shipped to South Africa.

A former Colt Industries executive was sentenced to a year in prison for illegal arms sales to South Africa.

But the overwhelming bulk of the trade goes on while the American government looks the other way.

# Israel: where a torture cell is called "democracy"

Israeli occupation leads to massive Arab resistance—which leads to torture cells.

IMAGINE A JAIL CELL where a prisoner is being held for interrogation.

It is not an ordinary jail cell. It is equipped with special features designed to encourage the prisoner to talk and confess.

For one thing, it is two feet long, two feet wide, and five feet high. It is too low to stand, too narrow to sit.

Embedded in the cell walls and on the floor are sharp-pointed metal and stone objects. The prisoner will be held there until he is ready to sign any confession, true or false, put in front of him.

Where is this torture chamber? In Brezhnev's Russia? In the Latin American dictatorships of Brazil, Argentina, or Chile? In Idi Amin's Uganda? In the dungeons of the Shah of Iran, where political prisoners are mutilated and broken alive?

It might well be any of these. However, this particular cell is located in a country which is held up to the world as an oasis of

democracy and human rights.

It is a jail cell in Israeli-occupied territory, where the Israeli police hold Arab prisoners suspected of committing or having knowledge of actions against the state.

This is only one feature of the use of torture by Israel, revealed in the bombshell report published by the London Sunday Times last week.

The paper names names and documents dozens of proven cases of torture. They took place at six centers in the occupied West Bank towns of Nablus, Ramallah, Hebron, as well as the Gaza strip, Lod Airport and a facility called the "Russian Compound" in Jerusalem.

## SYSTEMATIC

The Sunday Times, which is neither a radical nor anti-Israel paper, concluded: "Torture is organized so methodically that it cannot be dismissed as a handful of cops exceeding orders.

"It is systematic. It appears to be sanctioned at some level as deliberate policy."

The report also documents cases of torture by means of electric shocks, sexual assaults, and beatings.

These revelations are nothing new to people who are familiar with Israeli politics and the small, but courageous Israeli civil rights movement.

Torture of prisoners in Israel, mostly Arabs but also some anti-Zionist Jewish revolutionaries, has been documented for years through the work of activists such as Israel Shahak and Felicia Langer. They were ignored or persecuted.

Now, however, one of the most prestigious newspapers in the western world, has investigated the same charges—and found them true. Because of this, the Sunday Times report is a tremendous political blow to the reputation of the Israeli state.

The Carter Administration is the chief military and political backer of Israel. And yet the Carter Administration claims to defend human rights in Eastern Europe.

## PALESTINE

The publication of the Sunday Times report and exposure of Israeli torture will not change Israeli policy in any major way.

The State of Israel, today, has occupied the lands and homes of several million Palestinian Arabs.

Israeli state policy denies the Palestinians any rights as a nation, any right to a homeland and political independence.

A state which suppresses the legitimate political rights of an oppressed nation is going to violently crush their basic human rights, too.

Israel, as it exists today, is an occupying power over the Palestinian people. Torture of Arab political prisoners is built into the bones of that relationship.





Los Angeles rally supports Coors boycott.

# LOS ANGELES No Union-Busting! Build The Coors Boycott!

LOS ANGELES—Shouting "Viva la Huelga!" and "Boycott Coors," over 150 pickets marched through the business district of the Chicano barrio in East Los Angeles June 18. As they marched, they leafleted cars and stores. Passers-by honked horns or raised their fists in support. Many took boycott signs. The demonstration, one United Farm Workers union supporter told the crowd, "was a dream of a lifetime."

The reference was to the joint sponsorship and participation in the demonstration of members of

the L.A. County Federation of Labor AFL-CIO, of Teamsters Joint Council 42, and of the UFW headed by Cesar Chavez. For a long time, these three labor groups were at odds due to Teamster raiding of the Farm Workers.

The demonstration was called by the Coors Boycott Committee in support of workers striking the Coors Brewery in Golden, Colorado. The Committee is composed of several of the strikers from Brewery Workers Local 366, AFL-CIO.

It was announced at the demon-

stration that in California, Coors sales are down some 19% over the last month. California accounts for about 40% of all Coors sales.

## UP AGAINST GREAT ODDS

The Coors strikers are up against great odds. Coors itself is viciously anti-union. Its contract offer to the brewery workers is an all-out attack on union rights. Coors would have its employees subjected to lie detector tests at any time at the discretion of the company. They would also be subjected to physical searches and examinations at any time.

The company has proposed 56 reasons to immediately discharge an employee. It is backing up these union-busting demands by hiring scabs to break the back of Local 366.

Many union brewery workers are also scabbing. All this makes the boycott that much more important.

While Coors employees are in the AFL-CIO, most other brewery workers are in the Teamsters Union. This is why the Teamsters support the boycott.

Over the past 13 years Coors has led California beer distributors in an attack on Teamster-organized beer drivers. Last year, Coors led L.A. County distributors in a successful union-busting attack on the drivers who struck for 'six months.

Coors even refused to sign the pathetic contract for its shops, which have all decertified from the union. Other distributors are beginning to do the same.

## SOLD OUT

It is ironic, though, that the Teamster local that is supposed to be taking the lead in the boycott, Local 896, is the same one whose officials sold out the beer drivers by ramming the last contract down their throats.

Small wonder that less than ten beer drivers showed up at Saturday's march! Boycott leaders can expect only token help from these quarters.

But the rank and file Teamster group, Teamsters for a Democratic Union, has been helping out the boycott committee. They have been getting Coors strikers to appear at local Teamster meetings, getting boycott literature and bumper stickers out, and building for the June 18 rally.

Coors is also notorious for its discriminatory hiring practices against racial minorities, its opposition to the Equal Rights Amendment for women, and its funding of various right-wing groups. So there is an opportunity for building a broadly-based boycott among union members, minority communities, and women.

Maybe you thought Richard Nixon lost his job. Actually, he's still working at his favorite occupation: crook.

Nixon owes \$432,000 in back taxes. But the IRS won't prosecute him. Now the statute of limitations has run out on \$148,000 of what he owes.

# Italian Senate Kills Abortion — Battle Goes On!

by Elissa Clarke

Italian women were certain they were going to win a liberal abortion law. The bill passed the lower house of the Italian parliament in January. It was expected to pass in the upper house.

But in a surprise move last week, the Italian Senate defeated the bill. The action by the Senate shows the government's contempt for the desires of the people.

According to a poll, 91% of Italians favor the right to abortion, despite the fact that most of the population is Catholic.

In April, more than 50,000 women marched in Rome to demand legal abortion. The demonstration was organized hurriedly when it looked as if the lower house would not pass the abortion bill.

The women marched through the churches and palaces of old Rome. Young men cheered them on. It was the largest feminist rally ever held in Italy.

The demonstration forced the lower Chamber to pass the abortion bill. If it had passed the Senate, Italy would have had the most liberal abortion law in the world.

Abortion would have been treated like any other operation. A woman would have been entitled to a free abortion during the first trimester of pregnancy for social, economic, or psychological reasons.

The law now in effect considers abortion a "crime against the race." It was written 40 years ago, during the fascist Mussolini era.

Upon news of the defeat, women's groups and the tiny Radical Party announced that they would collect 500,000 signatures for a national referendum next year. The referendum would overthrow the existing abortion law.

The anti-abortion forces who won in Italy are similar to the well-financed anti-abortion lobby in this country.

Its first goal is passage of a bill submitted to Congress that would ban the use of Medicaid funds for abortions. The bill has already passed the House.

The example of Italy shows that women must demonstrate and organize to defeat that attack. □



Italian women demonstrate to force parliament to legalize abortion.

# Italian Feminists Offer: "A political abortion at a political price"

Italian women have been pressing for legal abortions for years. Italy is a poor country, and many women cannot afford to have large families.

Over one million women get illegal abortions every year, mostly from feminist groups.

Under the existing law, the penalty for performing an abortion is two to five years in jail. But no one has been formally charged with this offense in years.

The government knows that the women's movement would take to

the streets if they tried that.

A woman who needs an abortion in Italy goes to the headquarters of a feminist group. The feminists conduct weekly information sessions on obtaining abortions.

The feminist groups offer "a political abortion at a political price." They charge 50,000 lire, or \$58. Private doctors charge about \$600.

The operations are performed in private homes by women trained to conduct simple abortions.

One woman - described her

abortion: "Everything was very relaxed. One of the women performed the abortion, which was almost painless. The other held my hand and explained every step.

"And they talked to me all the way through. I think it was the talking that helped most. I gave them what I could afford, about 25,000 lire."

Italian feminists will not give up with the current setback. They have already won the right to legal abortions. It is just a question of time. □

# Washington's Rich Old

## Carter, Courts & Congress Roll Back Workers' Rights

by Karen Kaye

NEW LEGISLATION and court decisions coming down in recent months are reversing the gains won by working people over the last 40 years.

The attack on such basic necessities as the right to strike is coming from every level of government.

With alarming regularity, state, local and federal government bodies are limiting the right to collect unemployment insurance and welfare, and cancelling programs designed to overcome race and sex discrimination.

In the community, right wing organizations such as the Ku Klux Klan and the Nazi Party are surfacing while the government looks the other way.

The signal for the attack came from Washington, in the first

Below, Supreme Court justices: John Paul Stevens, Lewis F. Powell, Jr., Harry A. Blackmun, William H. Rehnquist, Thurgood Marshall, Williams J. Brennan, Jr., Warren E. Burger, Potter Stewart, Byron R. White.



of the 1960's.

The Democratic Party, the "nice cop" of the two-party system, is the architect of this attack.

Without militant protestors demonstrating on the White House doorstep, the Democratic Party finds it easy to shed its liberal costume, revealing the business suit underneath.

### DENY BENEFITS

Part of the attack goes straight for labor's throat.

The Supreme Court ruled last week that states may deny welfare benefits to children of men who go on strike or get fired for "misconduct."

The ruling cancels a basic right that working people wrested from business in Roosevelt's New Deal, 40 years ago.

An Ohio court ruled recently that the state no longer has to pay unemployment benefits to workers laid off when their company shuts down because a supplier company is being struck.

Other decisions attack sections of the working class in a classic "divide and conquer" method.

The number of Black people and women in the workforce has increased greatly in the last 25 years. A successful attack against these groups will spell disaster for all working people.

For example, Carter's new welfare plan will force many recipients to work for their small check. This will keep higher paid, union members out of work and will lower wages.

### WOMEN

Carter says his goal is to reduce the welfare rolls. But he raised no protest when the Supreme Court ruled last week that states may refuse to provide Medicaid money for abortions. The decision will trap many women on welfare.

A heavily-financed, aggressive campaign to stop the Equal Rights Amendment from becoming law is also in the works.

An ERA defeat will signal employers to push women out of decent jobs, back into the worst-paid work—and onto the street.

The growing right-wing movements will appeal to working people with a set of ideas designed

to justify these moves, using every old prejudice in the book...

New studies will "prove" that the welfare rolls are filled with lazy "chiselers," not with our mothers and sisters who can't get work or afford childcare.

The current rash of news articles about gay teachers who seduce their students is an example of how this propaganda works.

The attention given to these incidents is designed to make people think that seducing children is part of being gay. In reality, it is done more often by "straight" people.

### RACISM

The climate of divisive hate will attempt to stir up racial divisions too.

The gains that Black people died for in the movements of the 1950's and 60's are under attack.

Another recent Supreme Court decision says that seniority systems that enforce pre-1965 race or sex discrimination may stand. (1965 was the year that the Civil Rights Act went into effect.)

The high court also approved South Carolina voting districts that were set up to ensure that no Blacks will be elected to the Senate in a 25% Black state.

The House has passed a bill that will ban the use of federal funds to



enforce any "ratio, quota or other numerical requirement" relating to race, creed, color, national origin or sex.

### DESTROY UNITY

In order to achieve an attack on Black gains, America's rich rulers will have to destroy the greater measure of Black-white unity that has developed since the 1960's.

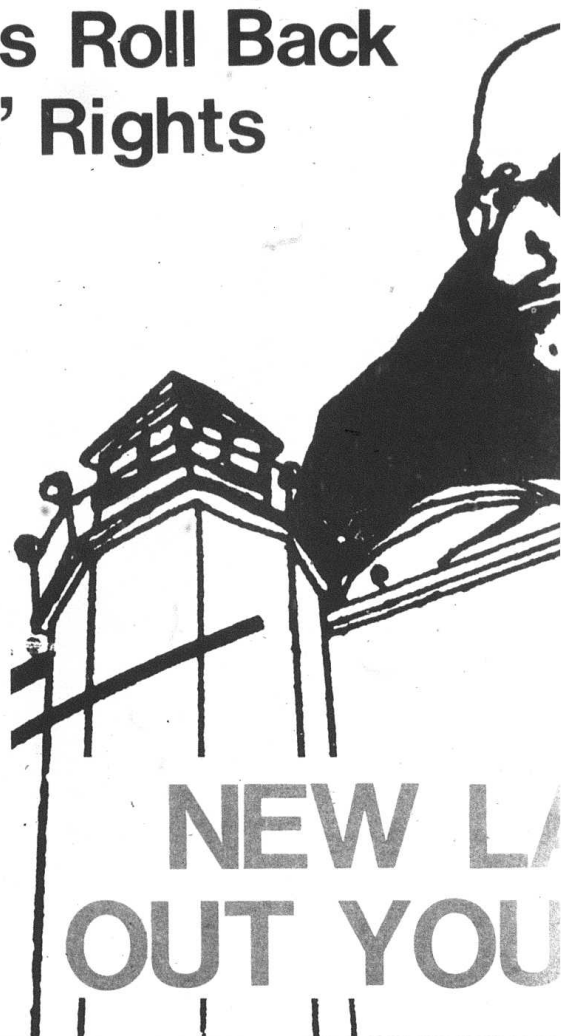
Covert funding to groups like the KKK and publicity for racist views will attempt this.

The decisions also will attempt to send women back to the kitchen and the cradle (see accompanying article).

Working people must resist this attempt to divide us against one another.

The "dog eat dog" philosophy works only for capitalists, who must compete with each other ruthlessly to survive.

But for working people, the old labor credo still rings true: "An injury to one is an injury to all."



## The new laws will restrict

HERE IS A QUICK summary of some of the decisions and proposals that will be particularly hard on our living standards and the quality of our lives.

### SUPREME COURT

The court placed a time limit that individuals must file within if they are objecting to a discriminatory act. This ruling affects women and minorities.

An airline stewardess had lost her job in 1972 because of "no marriage" regulations. When those were struck down she regained her job. However, she was not eligible for seniority going back to her original hire because she did not file for it until she regained her job several years later.

The court said seniority lists can segregate Blacks, Spanish-speaking people and women into lower paying jobs if they were set up before 1965. (This is when the Civil Rights Act which prohibits such separate and unequal lists went into effect.)

This decision particularly condemns older Black men to lives of low-paying, back-breaking labor with no hope of job upgrades.

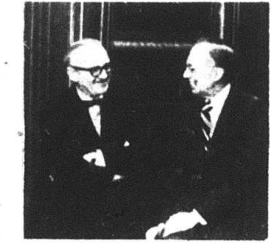
The Supreme Court voted that states may deny unemployment benefits to workers who are laid off because of a labor dispute at another company.

States may also now deny welfare benefits to the children of fathers who strike, are fired for "misconduct" or quit work.

States are no longer forced to use Medicaid funds to pay for elective abortions. This sets off numerous battles in state legislatures over the right to abortion.

Public hospitals are no longer required to perform elective abortions—making it difficult for many women to get one at all.

In probably the most astounding decision of all the Supreme Court upheld a Georgia ruling barring a white couple from adopting their Black foster child.



months of the Carter administration.

His opposition to labor's construction site picketing bill in February was a tip-off to big business that his administration would be sympathetic to anti-labor policies.

### SQUEEZE

The attack comes at a time when US corporations are sharing in the troubles of the world capitalist economy.

Business competition among nations has increased since World War II. The U.S. no longer enjoys the control over international trade—its booty when the war destroyed foreign economies.

Businessmen hope to squeeze the extra profits they need from the American working class. The recent business recovery only whetted the corporate appetite for profits.

U.S. business wants to cut the "frills" of wage gains, and greater opportunities for Blacks and some women, that it was forced to give in





# Men Make The Rules



## LAWYERS WIPE YOUR RIGHTS

### that your rights.

• Finally the Supreme Court upheld the right of the Attorney General to allow racist voting laws to take effect by not exercising power to veto them. At issue was the South Carolina Senate. The voting districts are drawn up to keep the Senate all white, despite the 25% Black state population.

Attorney General Kleindienst did not object to the setup until after the deadline for such an objection. It appears his aim was to make no waves until after his boss, Richard Nixon, had finished running for his second Presidential term. Too bad for the Black voters in South Carolina, said the High Court. They are now stuck with the racist voting districts.

#### CONGRESS

Both Houses of Congress gave the Supreme Court a run for its money last month—especially in the out-and-out racist category. • The House voted that no federal funds can be used to

implement federally ordered affirmative action plans.

• Both the House and the Senate Appropriations Committee voted to prevent HEW's Secretary Califano from cutting federal funds to school districts failing to comply with civil rights laws.

• The House voted to prevent federal funds from being used for abortion. The House voted no funds at all—not even to save the life of the mother. A similar bill is in progress in the Senate.

#### WHITE HOUSE

Not to be outdone by his right-wing friends, PRESIDENT CARTER released the bare bones of his welfare reform proposals:

- It cuts off benefits for a substantial number of people.
- Sets benefits at one-half to three-fourths of the poverty level.
- And offers no financial relief to overburdened state and local welfare programs. □

# Abortion Still Legal — If You Can Pay

by Elissa Clarke

In 1973 the Supreme Court ruled that women have the right to abortion. Now it seems you only have that right if you can afford it.

Two decisions—one by the Supreme Court and one by the House of Representatives—pave the way for a ban on the use of Medicaid money for abortions.

• On June 17, the House of Representatives passed an amendment that would prohibit the use of Medicaid funds for abortions.

It would not allow the use of Medicaid funds under any circumstances—not for rape, not even when the mother's life is in danger.

On June 21 the Senate Appropriations Committee voted to ban Medicaid funds for abortion, with the exception of cases of serious genetic disease, rape, incest or danger to the mother's life.

The whole Senate will debate the question again. Whichever compromise version finally passes Congress, it is certain that the new law will mean drastic cutbacks in the number of poor women who can get abortions.

#### COURT RULES

• On June 20 the Supreme Court ruled that states do not have to spend Medicaid money on abortions which are not "medically necessary."

A state Medicaid plan can now bar funding of elective abortions, but provide funds for women who choose to give birth. The Supreme Court declared that this does not violate the Constitutional guarantee of equal protection!

If states wish to include such abortions under Medicaid, they can do so—but that is extremely unlikely.

Already states are rushing to stop paying for poor women's abortions. The day after the Supreme Court decision, Connecticut Governor Ella Grasso announced that Connecticut would take advantage of the new ruling.

In Michigan, state legislators said they would propose a law to bar Medicaid abortion payments. It is certain to pass. Other states will be lining up to do the same.

#### OPEN SEASON

Rep. Henry Hyde (R—Ill.), sponsor of the House amendment, said, "Today is Whale Survival Day. There will be demonstrations and music in Lafayette Park. We put a limit on the number of dolphins who could be slaughtered. ... Under the Bald Eagle Protection Act, it's a crime to take possession of an eagle egg. But it's open season on human beings."

The Hyde Amendment makes it open season on pregnant women. Hyde and 200 other Representatives voted for a bill that has no regard for the woman's life.

The Hyde Amendment was

passed by both Houses last year, but it was never enforced because of an injunction by a New York federal court.

The Supreme Court is expected to rule on the Hyde Amendment soon. It is virtually certain to uphold it.

Jimmy Carter will not veto this bill. He has already said publicly that he does not support the use of federal money for abortions.

Carter has betrayed his campaign promise that he would take no action against abortion rights.

The anti-abortion forces, the so-called right-to-life movement, has won two significant victories. The right to abortion has lost a major battle.

For poor women, there will no longer be a right to abortion. If you can't afford one, you won't get one.

Poor women will be forced to get dangerous, back-alley abortions. Or they will be forced to bear children whether they want to or not.

#### CONSERVATIVES

The members of Congress who support the Hyde Amendment are the same conservatives who oppose programs that help working people and poor people.

They are very concerned about the "right to life" of an unborn fetus, but they have no concern for the quality of life of the babies and children who are here now.

Rep. David Obey (D—Wis.) said of his colleagues, "Where have those voices been on votes to increase appropriations for family planning to avoid the necessity of abortions?"

"Where have those voices been on votes for day care centers? Where are your votes when it comes to capital punishment?"

When it comes to questions of hunger?"

The fact is that Congress and the rest of the government are not willing to spend money on social programs. Costs that used to be paid by the government are now falling on private families again.

Many judges see strengthening the family as one of the objectives of their rulings. The Supreme Court said that states have a "valid and important interest in encouraging childbirth."

They did not say what that interest is, and they would probably be unwilling to spell it out. The interest is to reproduce a large work force that can be used to keep wages down.

#### MONEY NOT THE ISSUE

The Hyde Amendment and the Supreme Court ruling are a defeat for all women, whether they need Medicaid or not. It is obvious that the issue is not the \$50 million that pays for Medicaid abortions annually.

The issue is abortions themselves, and a woman's right to control her reproductive functions.

The "right-to-lifers" won this one, but they will not rest. They will go on to attack every woman's right to abortion.

This setback to women's rights does illustrate one lesson.

The women's movement disintegrated after its 1973 victory, when the Supreme Court ruled in favor of abortion rights. The right wing regrouped and gained strength.

Winning is not enough. Once working people have won a gain, the movement cannot fall apart—because that is a signal for the opposition to take the offensive.

Women must use this issue to organize and defend the gains we have won—and to move forward.



# POLISH REVOLUTIONARY WORKER SPEAKS

## "A vast mafia rules...the people have to do away with them."

In 1970-71, a wave of strikes swept Poland. Edmund Baluka was the leader of the strike committee at the Warski shipyard. He is now in exile.

In this interview he gives us an idea of the struggle of Polish workers and revolutionaries today. Workers in the United States are

often attacked by the government through injunctions, police escorting of scabs, and calling out the National Guard against militant strikes.

Polish workers face something even worse—a real police state. There are secret police offices in every major factory. Political files

are kept on workers who organize on the shop floor, in the government-controlled unions, or in the community.

Workers have to carry "labor books" which are actually passports in their own country. These books record their work record and political activity.

Strikes are considered sabotage of the government and even treason. They are punishable by long prison terms or even death.

Nonetheless, the struggle of Polish workers goes on—for real unions, for Polish independence from Russia, for an end to the power and privilege of the Polish bureaucracy.

Edmund Baluka tells us where that struggle stands.

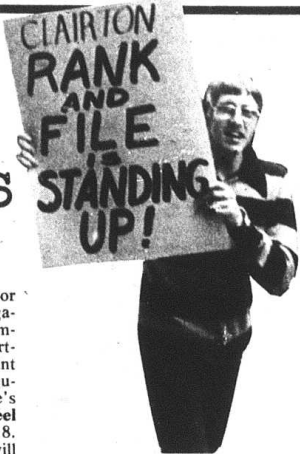


Polish workers' strikes have shaken bureaucrats' rule.



### Labor Notes

by Jim Woodward



The Department of Labor will conduct a major investigation of Ed Sadlowski's complaint, filed with the Department June 17. The complaint charges that fraud and irregularities led to Lloyd McBride's victory in the United Steel Workers election February 8. The Labor Department will assign 230 investigators to the case, and must make a report within 60 days. Despite the large-scale investigation, we'll give anyone 10-1 odds the government will side with McBride.

The Pittsburgh Pepsi-Cola bottling plant regularly has 10% of its production and warehouse employees on the sick and injured list because of the plant's high accident rate. For this the local Teamsters for a Democratic Union chapter is nominating the Pepsi stockholders for honorary membership in the Meatcutters Union.

Many states are cutting back on unemployment benefits. Some examples: The Illinois Senate wants nonstriking workers who honor picket lines declared ineligible for benefits, along with workers who quit because their spouses are transferred to another city; Minnesota will no longer honor honor claims of those who quit their old jobs without good reason—and their boss determines whether it was a good reason.

The Postal Service has been ordering its letter carriers to cut across residents' lawns in making their daily rounds. It's part of a full scale speedup against postal employees. In St. Louis, carriers fought back by getting a local ordinance passed forbidding carriers from crossing lawns. At least one carrier has since been arrested for following Postal Service orders and crossing a lawn.

**News Leak:** Tension is mounting as negotiations between the Canadian government and the Canadian Union of Postal Workers near a June 30 deadline. In Pointe-Claire, Quebec, a supervisor refused to let a postal clerk go to the bathroom. The postal worker protested by urinating on the mailroom floor. Postal officials hope this affair doesn't set off a sprinkling of similar job actions elsewhere.

The Interstate Commerce Commission (ICC) is supposed to regulate railroads and trucks in the public interest. Two of its agents, however, have apparently been doing their regulating in the interest of the mob. ICC Secretary Robert L. Oswald and Congressional Liaison officer Richard Kyle have been put on "administrative leave" by the commission for allegedly giving special favors to Greenberg Express Inc., a trucking company. This was apparently done in the interest of the "family" of late mobster Carlo Gambino of New York.

**Picket Line Funnies Dept.:** Workers at Lapham Hickey Steel in Chicago (Steelworkers Local 3020) have been on strike for ten weeks. Things heated up recently when a company security/gon pulled a striker away from a truck which was crossing the picket line. According to one of the strikers, they responded by grabbing the gon and "acquainting him with the pavement." The guard jumped up and, putting handcuffs on his fist (a la brass knuckles), ran after a striker. The cops arrived just in the nick of time. The guard swung at the striker. He ducked, and the guard smacked the cop. Police are planning to press charges against the security guard.

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

There are nine members of the Workers' Defense Committee under arrest at the moment. There are arrests taking place in Ursus—altogether about 30.

In the most important Polish factories, [the bureaucrats] are sitting on a powder keg.

The economic situation that's developing in Poland today is also very important. There is the movement for the freedom of the country, for the removal of Soviet occupation troops, but today the economic and political developments taking place together are going to be catastrophic for the country.

#### INFORMATION CIRCULATES

Poland is certainly one of the most advanced countries in the Soviet bloc from the point of view of the political situation.

The people are no longer as afraid, they talk among themselves in the streets and even in the coffee shops.

Despite censorship and the blocking of information, nonetheless information circulates and the people know what's going on.

Polish workers know quite well, despite the blocking of communication in the press and so on, that young Stanislas Pyjas was murdered, that there have been demonstrations in Cracow.

But the situation of the working class is that it analyzes the situation, it listens, but if it doesn't see anything else develop, it will not take the initiative itself.

Actual production is about 50% of the government plan, 60% in the shipyards. That means in this system that the workers are talking more than they work.

You don't know what they're talking about, but you know they're talking. You can say, in general, that there's more discussion than production.

#### INDEPENDENT UNIONS

The slogan of "unions independent of the government" was raised in 1970. There were fights at the beginning in which the unions began to be independent.

But little by little the Communist Party succeeded in liquidating all that. The unions have again become the direct transmission belt of the Party and of the government.

In a bureaucratic type system, the creation of unions independent of the Party would mean the end of the regime.

In Poland, in the Soviet Union too, 99.9% of the big wheels in the

factories are members of the Communist Party and there is a whole system for maintaining these Party people in these posts. Isn't that a class?

These people have their own special department stores, all kinds of special things for them—now, when there isn't enough food to go around in Poland. They live well, send their kids to special schools, etc.

You might say that they are a group of bandits, a vast mafia, that imposes its terror over the majority of the people.

In any case the people are going to have to do away with them.

#### A STEP AT A TIME

You have to remember that in the [Communist] system, most workers, if you talk to them about socialism, reject that word at once. You can't begin like that, that would cut off the least educated people.

But it is to just those people that we must go, and you can only do that a step at a time, trying to clear things up, to raise the consciousness of the workers.

In general, you can say that for the workers of Poland, Czechoslovakia, and the Soviet Union itself, there is no possibility of a return to capitalism.

It is clear that the only system that can exist in these countries in the future is socialism. Today there is no socialism—there is a Stalinist-type repression, bureaucracy.

The only future is socialism, but to get there the workers have to deal with a very powerful force, which is the bureaucracy. We have to rely equally on the aid that the workers of western Europe can give us.

The workers of Eastern Europe, in Czechoslovakia, in Poland, and in the Soviet Union, are watching the way the workers of Western Europe fight.



## Proud To Be A Socialist And A Communist

Dear Workers' Power,

Last week's article on Socialism or Communism contained some serious errors in its definition of communism. I would like to explain my understanding as a Marxist of the use of the word "Communism" historically by working class revolutionaries.

First, let's lay a basis by reviewing the definitions of capitalism and socialism.

Capitalism is characterized by the ownership of private property and the control and ownership of the means of production (factories, hospitals, mines, etc.) by a few people, the capitalist class.

This system forces the majority of us to sell our labor in order to survive.

And since we don't own and control the factories, hospitals, etc. we have no control over what our labor produces or who profits from our labor.

Socialism is an economic and political system in which the working class collectively owns and controls the factories, hospitals, schools, and all the resources of society.

Because we live in an interdependent world economy, socialism can only fully be achieved on an international scale.

Under socialism the economy is planned to meet the needs of all—and it is the responsibility of the workers' state to see that this is done.

Communism is that final stage of socialism when the society the workers have created on an international scale has advanced to such a level that a state, even a workers' state, is no longer necessary to ensure that production will continue for the benefit of all.

We can only begin to imagine what communism will be like, for in the process of creating a

socialist society we will be changed as human beings, eliminating the racism and sexism that is socialized into us today, and freeing ourselves from the dehumanizing jobs that rob our energy and time, so that we will be able to develop our full potential.

The states of China, Cuba, and the U.S.S.R., are states centered in an imperialist world and states that were born of economic scarcity, not of the tremendous productive capacity of the world today.

We can not look to them for an understanding of what socialism or communism is. Rather, we should study the history of those countries and their revolutions and understand why and how they developed.

I am proud to be both a socialist and a communist.

Kathy Wycowski  
Brooklyn, New York

## Phone Co.'s Generosity Swindles Employees

Dear Workers' Power,

Recently you ran a story about the telephone company giving each employee a share of stock. There's more to the story.

First of all, we don't even get it—they hold our precious stock in trust for us for seven years.

And second, it's all a big tax swindle.

In return for giving us the stock, they get an equivalent tax credit, which this year amounts to \$87 million! This is because of a new law which is supposed to encourage companies to invest in new equipment.

But since AT&T gets rid of jobs every time they install new equipment, a lot of us are betting we'll see pink slips long before we ever get the stock certificate.

Irene Winkler  
CWA Local 1101  
New York

# RAPE IS NOT A NORMAL REACTION

Dear Workers' Power,

I was disgusted reading about the recent judge's ruling which excused rape as a "normal reaction" to this society.

When my sister was 16 years old, she was a very beautiful young woman. She never lived to be 17. She was killed while being gang-raped. The boys were just out for a few kicks. The medical opinion was that she was

shame of it.

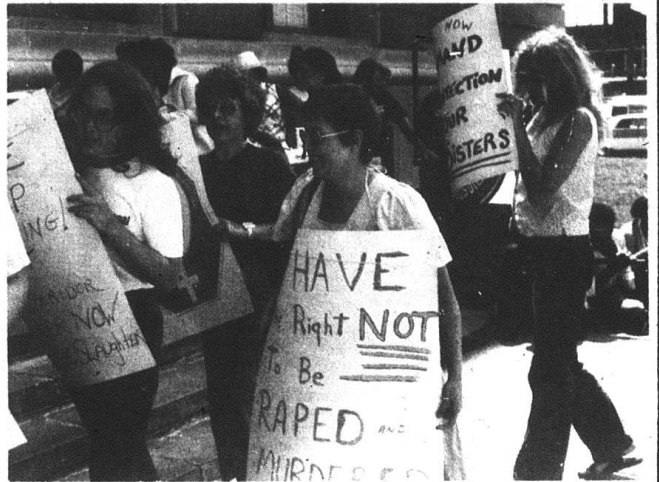
Young boys are taught all too often that sex is a form of power and conquest. The female always wants it, you know—no matter how often she says no; she only resists because she is supposed to, to keep up "appearances" (supposed to appear to be conquered!). Sex and violence go together "naturally," and a little brutality in a man is sexy and

horror.

And that is to fight to destroy so criminal a system with every ounce of dedication and strength. And to use our power to re-build one in which it is equality, joy, pleasure, and mutual concern which are normal; where it is brutality, fear, and oppression that are not.

Some one ought to inform His Honor that pay-back is a bitch.

In 1975 Detroit women demonstrated against "Bigfoot"—a rapist-murderer—and the inaction of the police. The police did not take Bigfoot seriously because his victims were mostly prostitutes. In some communities women have organized vigilante squads to deal with rapists.



probably unconscious when they took her.

This is what this judge has ruled to be normal. That a young girl who loved life should have her own smothered out forever—well, that's the price to pay for a little fun for the boys. A fair and "normal" exchange.

The judge was right—about one thing. Rape is a product of his society—that's the crime and the

exciting...

From there, it's not a very big step to rape.

What the judge was wrong about were his conclusions. There is only one sensible reaction to a society that defines "normality" and "human nature" this way; to one that must produce violence, rape, murder, and crime; to one that can turn the most joyful human experience into pain and

His will come as we re-build that new society. I hope that losing his job will only be a temporary hardship. For I'm confident that his day in court will also come—when he and his vile kind will be judged by the victims and the people of this country—with revolutionary justice, and with equal mercy.

C.C.  
Pittsburgh, PA

# Black Pa. Prisoner Faces Death Row For Self-Defense

by Celeste Taylor

Recently inmate James Taylor was charged with first degree murder in the death of a Steward at Greaterford Prison in eastern Pennsylvania.

As usual, the facts have been greatly distorted since it involves a Black prisoner and a white employee.

The media has covered the incident extensively, blowing everything out of proportion. They are making it impossible for him to ever get a fair trial in Montgomery County.

It all started June 5, when inmate James Taylor went to the kitchen to complain about the food. The prison had been under investigation already for the dog-look food that was being served to the prisoners.

The Steward has been known for his boisterous and arrogant attitude. He immediately told James "he didn't feel like hearing the shit and to get the hell out of his face." At the same time the Steward was pushing James out of the kitchen.

James in turn struck the Steward, who fell to the floor. A rush of guards, noticing the commotion, came in and began beating up on James.

It was a free-for-all and no one knows if the Steward ever got back up at that point. He was pronounced dead a short while after the whole incident was over.

Many questions remain unanswered: the issues of harassment and provocation; the role of the guards; the fact that no one checked on the Steward's condition while James was being beaten, etc.

The D.A. will be pushing for James to be put on Death Row, and brothers and sisters, the way human rights have been violated recently you can bet the death penalty will come back into use in no time.

### DEATH ROW

And that means James and a whole lot of other people, mainly Black brothers, will be put to death. Their murderer is a system that calls itself democratic and supposedly has respect for human rights. Now isn't that ironic.

This is just another indication of how insane this whole capitalistic system works.

James needs help, and that is why Workers' Power is asking everyone who cares about human rights to pull for this brother.

James was just protecting himself in a place where it is of utmost importance.

Recently people have given support for another brother, Gary Tyler, who was railroaded. Let's see that kind of thing continue, for the list is very long, sisters and brothers, for people who need it.

The court wanted to appoint James a lawyer to the case so that they will be sure of a victory. James has a very good lawyer who has taken the case.

He is not supported by the government and is in need of funds. So anything you can spare will be greatly appreciated.

A defense fund has been set up for James and all money supporting his case should be sent to: Colie Chattelle esq., 4026 Market St., Philadelphia, PA 19104. Tel. 215-387-5700.



# Stop The Nazis' March In Chicago Suburb!

## Nazi Hosted On Detroit TV

by Marilyn Danton

LAST WEDNESDAY, I was watching the 11 o'clock news on Channel 2 in Detroit. Suddenly a swastika appeared in the background, and the newscaster began interviewing Frank Collins, head of the American Nazi Party, by telephone.

The occasion for the interview was the Supreme Court ruling allowing the Nazi Party to hold a demonstration in the Jewish suburb of Chicago, Skokie.

This vicious fascist went on and on about how there was a group of Nazis in Detroit, but that they are underground at this time.

The Nazis, according to Collins, are concentrating on Chicago, since the "Black Revolution" has not succeeded there, and white people still hold the power. Unlike Detroit, which would have to go through a process he called "de-negrofication."

But more shocking was the way the newscaster, Joe Glover, handled the interview. He was "yes sirring" this filthy fascist all over the place. I couldn't believe it was happening.

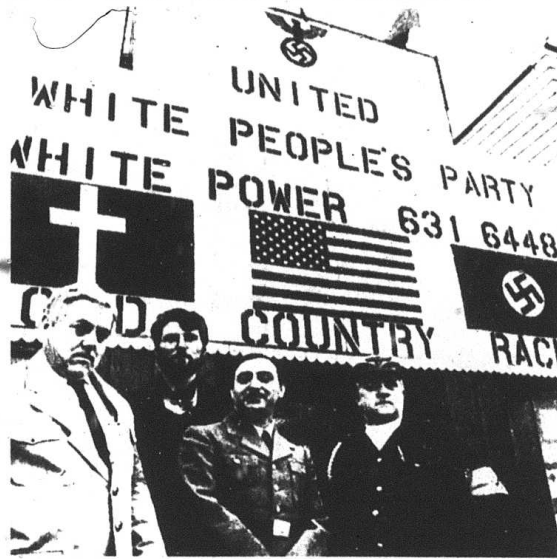
Afterwards, Glover made no editorial comments, but went on to the next story.

I was stunned and ill. But apparently I wasn't the only one. The station received numerous calls protesting the way the interview was handled.

Beverly Payne, a Black woman and one of the main newscasters for Channel 2, resigned her \$80,000 a year job in protest. She agreed to return if the station issued a public apology.

### BLACK PROTEST

Ten years ago this would have never happened. In 1967 the Black Power movement was strong, as



J. Ross Baughman, a Lorain, Ohio newspaper photographer, took this picture during a recent meeting of Nazi leaders in Cleveland. Baughman spent eight months infiltrating the Nazi party. In the back of their office hangs an autographed picture of Adolf Hitler, which, translated from German, says: "...for my good friend. A. Hitler." Third from left is Frank Collin of Chicago, whose interview on a Detroit TV station caused a storm of protest.

was the anti-war, students, and women movements.

But all this has changed. There are no powerful movements now, and the ruling class is taking back the reforms that we had won.

Everything is moving to the right. Now we can have interviews

with fascists on a major television news program that are no different than interviews with governors and other prominent people.

The right wing is organized. We—working people, Blacks, and women—have to organize too if we want to live decent lives.

## Southern Africa News

Kenya is an East African country which maintains extremely close ties with British business.

Kenya is ruled by dictator Jomo Kenyatta. Of course, as a member of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), Kenya regularly denounces white minority rule in South Africa and Zimbabwe (Rhodesia) and supports the economic boycott of those regimes.

But under the table, Kenya imports Rhodesian and South African goods under phony labels.

A Kenyan member of Parliament, Mr. George Anyona, exposed this fact during a Parliamentary debate. He said South African and Rhodesian goods are shipped to Britain, stamped with false labels and trademarks, then re-exported to Kenya.

That very night, May 5, according to the Tanzania Daily News: "Mr. Anyona was arrested inside Parliament Building by

twelve armed policemen and escorted by police vans to an unknown destination tonight."

The "unknown destination" is one of Jomo Kenyatta's prisons, where George Anyona will quite likely meet the same fate as Kenyatta's other political critics—murder.

Kenya, by the way, naturally joined the other British Commonwealth countries in condemning "gross violations of basic rights" in neighboring Uganda.

Here is a dispatch filed last month from the French press agency in Africa:

"Johannesburg, April 17—Western hostility to South Africa has prompted a leading member of the South African government to suggest, for the first time, the possibility of an alliance with China to contain Soviet expansion in Africa."

"Information and Interior Minister Connie Mulder put the idea

to Parliament in Cape Town last week.

"He said that in the present political context, South Africa could opt for a non-aligned policy and seek from Peking material and political support which the West, particularly the United States, has refused to give."

American papers reported that Ambassador to the United Nations Andrew Young received a hero's welcome from Black South Africans when he visited there on his recent Africa tour.

That's not exactly the way it happened. Black militants made it clear they wanted nothing to do with building up Young's phony reputation as a friend of Africans.

The Black People's Convention and the South African Students Organization, two leading groups of the Black Consciousness Movement, refused to meet Young. They rejected last-minute appeals from the U.S. embassy to change their minds.

They stated that if Young wanted to consult Black South African opinion, he should meet the "true Black leaders"—the jailed and banned officials of the outlawed nationalist movement.

## Boston: 7000 March for Gay Pride

BOSTON—The largest, and one of the most important, demonstrations to occur here in many years took place on Saturday, June 18. Over 7000 people participated in the Gay Pride march. That is more than three times the number that participated last year. The recent defeat in Dade

by John Green

CHICAGO—The Supreme Court, in a 5-4 decision, has ruled that Nazis have the right to demonstrate in Skokie, Illinois. Skokie is a Chicago suburb with a high Jewish population. Many are survivors of Nazi concentration camps.

So, now, Nazi leader Frank Collin has announced plans to demonstrate there July 4.

Last May Day, they attempted to hold a similar march, but were barred by an Illinois judge's decision that the march might be violent. The Supreme Court ruling overturns this decision.

Advocating "white power" and the elimination of Jews, the Nazis plan to build a popular movement to turn America into a fascist state.

### GROUPS OF THUGS

They are most active in Chicago, their national headquarters. Until recently, they have concentrated their attacks on Blacks, leading groups of thugs, wearing "white power" T-shirts, into the Black communities to bust heads.

In response to these attacks, in August 1976, Blacks organized a march into Chicago's all-white Marquette Park to show that they wouldn't be intimidated.

During the march, Nazis led whites in tearing up the sidewalks with jackhammers and hurling the pieces at the demonstrators.

Some liberals, like the American Civil Liberties Union, think the Nazis are a bunch of harmless cranks who have the right to free speech, just like anyone else.

In truth, they are the enemies of all working people. They want to put Jews and Blacks into concentration camps, and will do the same to anyone who stands in their way.

Workers have every right to stop the Nazis from spreading their poison. The best way to kill this sort of movement is to fight them whenever and wherever they attempt to parade their colors.

In Skokie July 4, everyone should join in turning the Nazis back!

## Anita Bryant Hysteria Spreads

Since Anita Bryant's successful campaign to overturn a gay rights law in Miami, other local governments are getting in on the act.

In Warren, Michigan, a suburb of Detroit, the City Council passed a resolution expressing "deepest gratitude and support [for her] brave and righteous campaign."

The Illinois state legislature passed a similar resolution.

The anti-gay activists hope all the publicity will help their cause.

Since the setback for gay rights, the newspapers have been full of anti-gay propaganda. So-called "scientific" articles on homosexuality, opinion columns, and news stories on child molesters are in the news media every day.

It is a fear campaign, intended to spread the idea that gay people are child molesters who threaten everyone around them.

Wherever these anti-gay ideas come up, at work or in the community, they must be argued against and defeated.

# 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. Capitalism keeps women responsible for taking care of the work force 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 working 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 world-wide. 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 lead the movement to end exploitation and oppression and to create a socialist world.

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

## 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

Address

Union



# VIEW FROM THE BLEACHERS

THE WORKERS' POWER CAVALCADE OF SPORTS THE WORKERS' POWER CAVALCADE OF SPORTS THE WORKERS' POWER CAVALCADE OF SPORTS THE WORKERS' POWER CAVALCADE OF SPORTS

## Black Manager Fired...And Black Coach Is Purged

by Dan Posen

Two Black sports figures lost their jobs last week.

One of the cases is sure to generate a lot of headlines and controversy. The second one will pass almost unnoticed.

The headline case, of course, is the firing of Frank Robinson, Cleveland Indians' manager and the first Black manager ever hired in big league baseball.

There was nothing surprising about the firing of Robinson. The incredible thing is that during his two and a half seasons, not one other Black manager was hired in the major leagues.

This was in spite of the fact that in this period, at least two-thirds of the teams have changed managers at least once. That makes over twenty managers hired, all white, in a game where the majority of

starting players are Black or Latin.

Once again, baseball managers make up an all-white craft. The hiring of a second Black manager may be years away. During the two and a half years of Robinson's tenure at Cleveland, the underlying racial structure of baseball has not changed a bit.

The all-white manager caste, by the way, includes any number of certified losers and incompetents who are found stumbling from one team to the next, until finally doddering off into retirement or scouting jobs.

This does not prevent baseball owners and their press lackeys from explaining that the lack of Black managers is due to "the absence of qualified Blacks with minor league managing experience." Bullshit!

Despite all this, the Cleveland Indians' front office is likely to

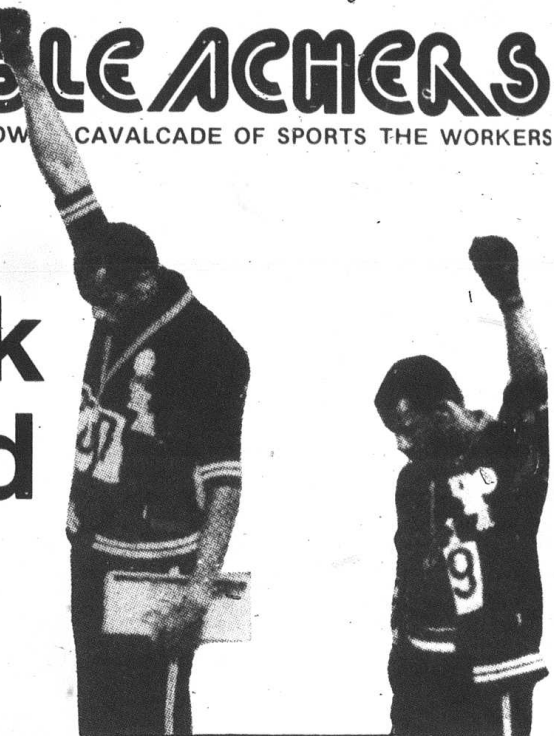
escape the charge of racism in the firing of Frank Robinson.

### FRONT OFFICE

The reason for this is that, with Robinson at the helm, the Indians were really and truly falling apart. This collapse, in turn, was largely due to the fact that the Indians' front office itself is the most ridiculous spectacle of mismanagement and bad comedy west of Shea Stadium.

Robinson, much like any manager Black or white, took the blame when the team drove straight to the bottom of the American League. But he was not fired a month ago, when the team hit rock bottom, a time when it might have been hard to even find anyone willing to take over the mess.

Besides trading the team's top relief pitcher, management made



Tommie Smith and John Carlos at the '68 Olympics.

sure the Cleveland media knew that several Black Indians' players were feuding with Robinson.

It was after the team showed signs of straightening out, and even had a modest two-game winning streak, that Robinson was suddenly replaced with coach Jeff Torburg.

That's baseball, in more ways than one.

Anyway, Frank Robinson with his 586 career home runs and nearly 3000 hits, is almost a sure Hall of Fame selection. But do you remember a track star named Tommie Smith?

about keeping politics out of sports.

Last week, Tommie Smith was on the teaching faculty of Oberlin College in Ohio. Oberlin takes great pride in its liberal reputation. After five years, Tommie Smith was up for tenure. He lost his job when a secret vote of tenured faculty members went against him.

Smith was told he was refused tenure because of "substandard teaching" and "not publishing anything in his field."

Not publishing? Are you kidding? Tommie Smith is an assistant football coach and physical education teacher!

Head football coach Dick Rein-deau, shocked, said "Tommie Smith has a great rapport with students. He is one of the most loyal and hard working assistants I've ever had."

"Substandard teaching?" Crap. Tommie Smith says it all: "It's all connected to '68. That will always be held against me, simply because it's something I believed in."

Tommie Smith, victim of another racist political purge. Smart of the Oberlin faculty to do it the week the Ohio papers' sports headlines are dominated by the firing of Frank Robinson.

## The Split At Split Rail

by Paul Merton

AUSTIN, Texas—An experiment in "socialism-in-one-honkytonk" came to a jarringly capitalistic halt, as most of the members of a collective were taken away in police cars.

The Split Rail, one of Austin's best-known honkytonks, was reopened six weeks ago as a democratically-run workers' co-operative.

As a welcoming leaflet from staff to customers put it, "We are a group of people working together without a boss."

Things worked out differently, however. At the first, Bobby Nelson, a lawyer with a national reputation as a "radical," and her friend, lawyer Martin Wiginton, persuaded the others that the Rail's lease should be in Nelson's name alone, purely as a legal convenience.

But later Wiginton started acting as if he were manager. He even tried to fire five workers on his own authority, but backed down when the staff voted to keep them on.



Split Rail workers being hauled away in a police car.

### ULTIMATUM

Last week, Nelson and Wiginton issued an ultimatum—the workers could buy the business for an arbitrary sum or accept Wiginton as boss with full managerial power.

The workers responded by firing Wiginton from the collective. They changed the locks and ran the Rail themselves for a week, managing it more successfully than before.

The "radical" Bobby Nelson called in the police and had the workers arrested for "criminal trespass" on June 16.

Now picketing the Split Rail, the workers are demanding that the agreements on which the collective was formed be honored.

They also demand immediate reimbursement for the many hours of unpaid labor which most of the

staff donated to the Rail before it opened.

As one of the workers, Mary Ann Ravey, put it, "We donated that labor to the collective, not to a capitalist."

Like many bosses, Nelson-Wiginton/claim to represent the Split Rail "community" (customers) and the best traditions of the institution (honkytonk). But, Ravey says, "The real issue is a power issue."

Appealing to the right of capitalist ownership, backed up by the power of the capitalist state in police uniform, the new bosses have won control.

### LEARNING FAST

That is the only way Bobby Nelson, as legal owner, could defeat the democratic decisions of

the workers.

Learning fast in the course of the struggle, the workers are organizing the fight back, through picketing, publicity, and building a Split Rail Workers Support Committee.

Because of the radical past of the new bosses, many on the left have been slow to come out in unconditional support of the workers.

The ability of the small Austin left to overcome personal loyalties is being put to the test.

Whatever Nelson, Wiginton, and the Split Rail workers may have thought they were doing at the start, the sordid reality, capitalist property relations, has imposed a clearer definition of what is happening now.

It is a struggle between capital and labor, and socialists need to be clear which side they are on. □

## WORKERS' POWER

Subscribe to Workers' Power. \$10 per year. Six months: \$5. Introductory sub: \$1 for 8 issues.

I enclose \$..... Please send me a ..... subscription to Workers' Power.

Name .....

Address .....

Trade Union .....

14131 Woodward, Highland Park, Michigan 48203

SUBSCRIBERS: If you're moving, notify Workers' Power of your new address four weeks in advance. The Post Office will not forward weekly publications to your new address. Undelivered copies are returned to Workers' Power and cost us money.

# Workers' Power

## Mine Strikes Hit Back At Health Benefit Cuts

by Jim Woodward

On June 20, the trustees of the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) Health and Retirement Funds announced sharp cutbacks in health benefits available for active and retired coal miners.

For the first time since the Funds were established 30 years ago, miners will have to pay up to \$500 a year in doctor and hospital bills.

Within days of this decision, tens of thousands of miners were on strike in protest.

### FIRST ROUND

The national coal contract does not expire until December 7. But on June 20, the opening bell rang and the first round of that fight began.

And just like a prize fight, the whole thing could be won by either side with a knockout punch along the way.

The UMWA Health and Retirement Funds are legally separate from the union. They are administered by one union-appointed trustee, one company trustee, and a third, supposedly neutral trustee.

For over a year, both the coal operators and the union leadership have been trying to use the Funds as a means of cracking down on wildcat strikes.

In response to unsafe conditions and arbitrary and arrogant employers, these wildcats have been escalating at a phenomenal rate.

In the first five months of this year, the 120,000 miners covered by the bituminous contract were on wildcat strikes a total of 869,000 days, up 92% over the same period last year.

### OWNERS SCARED

This militancy is the reason the miners have some of the best wages and benefits around. But the coal operators are upset that neither they, nor the courts, nor the union leadership has been able to control the wildcats.

The operators are afraid that if they cannot slow this militancy by December, they will almost have to write a blank check for the new



As these miners were voting June 14, trustees of the Health and Retirement Funds were hiding their decision to make miners pay some medical bills.

contract. They hope the Health Funds cuts will help them.

The four Health and Retirement Funds are financed by employer contributions based on the number of hours worked and the tonnage of coal mined.

The Funds trustees claim that \$69.4 million in employer contributions has been lost due to wildcat strikes since the 1974 contract was signed.

They claim the cuts "were necessitated by the precarious financial situation of both the 1950 Benefit Trust and the 1974 Benefit Trust."

Yet there was a way to avoid the cuts. Money could have been diverted from the two healthy funds.

The coal operators agreed to do that twice last year—in May and October. But they refuse to do it now. The operators have decided that now is the time to put up a

fight against the miners.

### FIGHTING BACK

And as expected, despite the lack of leadership from their union, the miners are fighting back in the only way they can.

On June 20, as word of the health care cuts spread, wildcats developed in West Virginia, Pennsylvania and Ohio.

By the 21st, 18,000 miners were out. The next day, the total jumped to 31,000.

The Funds trustees clearly timed their announcement carefully. It came just before the two-week miners' vacation, which begins June 27. The trustees hope the protest strike momentum cannot be sustained after the two-week break.

The trustees also waited until just after the UMWA's presidential election to avoid hurting Arnold Miller's chances or re-election.

Harry Huge, the Funds' union trustee, was appointed by Miller and contributed \$1,000 to Miller's campaign. Had they made the announcement earlier, chances are Miller would have lost.

In any case, Miller is still in trouble. He issued a strongly-worded press statement, demanding the operators agree to re-allocate money from the two solvent funds.

He said the cuts "could and should have been avoided but for the stunning display of callousness by the oil and coal company executives who control the Bituminous Coal Operators Association."

### RE-RUN DEMANDED

But Harry Patrick, who came in third in the union's election, said Miller "is covering his own tail in

this whole thing," and demanded the UMWA executive board hold a re-run of the election.

Just before the election, Patrick had charged that the cuts were going to be made, and that the announcement of them was being delayed to help Miller.

A re-run of the election is the only legitimate decision the executive board can make, given the circumstances.

But with or without a re-run, it's the actions of the rank and file miners that will determine the fate of the health care cutbacks.

With the cuts, the coal operators have chosen to attack every miner, but particularly the elderly, the sick, and the retired—those least able to pay for their own health care.

The operators aren't out to raise the rate of death and sickness among miners... though that will

### PATRICK WON YOUNG MINERS' VOTE

The results of the June 14 miners' election spell trouble for Arnold Miller, even though he was re-elected union president.

Official returns will not be available until July 15, but it appears that Miller polled only about 42% of the vote in the three-way contest. Executive Board member Lee Roy Patterson had about 31%, and Secretary-Treasurer Harry Patrick came in third with 27%.

That means that even if Miller's victory is upheld by the union's executive board, he does not have majority support among the membership. But even these figures do not indicate accurately the little support Miller has.

One-third of the UMWA's 277,000 members are retired. While they vote in union elections, they cannot vote on contract ratification.

Half of the 180,000 active miners are under 35, and they are extremely militant. According to Tom Bethell, former UMWA research director, only 29% of the miners under 35 voted for Miller. Patterson got 32% of their votes, and Patrick 39%.

What that means is that Miller—or whoever ends up negotiating the new contract—is really going to have to produce or see the contract rejected.

Only 55% of the miners voted in favor of the 1974 contract. Rank and file initiative has soared since then, so miners are not likely to settle for second best this year.

be the result. What they want to do is defeat the miners now, to make the job easier in December.

But their plan can be turned against them. The widespread wildcats that are resulting from the operators' strategy can protect the miners' sick, elderly, and retired members, as well as themselves.



This miner has Black Lung disease. It can't be cured, but it can be treated. If the miner can afford it. New rules say all miners now have to pay up to \$500 of their medical bills each year.

**'WE ARE OUR OWN LIBERATORS!'**

Voices of the Freedom Fighters in Southern Africa

ZIMBABWE - NAMIBIA - SOUTH AFRICA

"We Are Our Own Liberators." This slogan of the freedom fighters in southern Africa is expressed on a two-color, 18x24 inch poster. New from Sun Distribution. \$2 each, \$1. each for 5 or more.

I want to order ..... posters.  
Enclosed find \$ ..... in check or money order.

Please send to:

Name.....  
Address.....  
City/State.....  
Zip.....

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