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1981 Contract round: see page 4

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REAGAN'S MILLIONAIRE PIG FARMER PLANS TO TAKE FOOD STAMPS FROM HUNGREY CHILDREN

HOW LOW WILL THEY GO?

John Rusling Block is a pig farmer. He owns 3,000 acres of prime land in west-central Illinois near Galesburg. It is worth \$10,000,000.

On January 20, John Block will become the Secretary of Agriculture in Ronald Reagan's new cabinet.

Accepting this new job, Block told reporters that he was anxious to reduce federal grain and meat inspections—the inspections interfere, it seems, with profits.

But mostly, he said, he hoped he could reduce the government's food stamp program. He set his goal as reducing the food stamp program by ten percent.

Food stamps are used by poor people, and unemployed people, people who can't afford to keep food on their tables otherwise, people who are having a hard time providing food for their children.

Food stamps are also used by strikers, workers who must go without pay and unemployment benefits in their struggle to win or maintain decent working conditions and wages.

They are used by the elderly—whose pensions and social security aren't enough. By young people who must sacrifice just to get going in life.

ENOUGH

Ask someone who is unemployed or on strike if they think the food program is enough, if food stamps are easy to get, if there shouldn't be more, not less.

And then ask about the fact that ~~Nancy~~ Reagan is now planning how to use \$1,000,000 of public money to redecorate the White House.

And about how Ronald Reagan is planning to allocate the \$200 billion that is planned for the 1981 military budget. And then ask yourself—isn't there something wrong with this system? □



John Rusling Block



Cutting back the food stamp program will hurt millions. But the cabinet won't suffer. Most of them are already millionaires

DEMONSTRATION FOR REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS JANUARY 22, 1981

Places:
New York
Los Angeles
Chicago
Cincinnati
Cleveland
Buffalo

See page 2 for details



The "human life" ammendment: A fertilized egg will have more rights than you do

One of the most cherished dreams of the new right is to add a "human life" ammendment to the Constitution.

And if this happens, don't be surprised if you find that the fertilized egg has more rights than you do.

The ammendment would do much more than simply make abortion a crime, as it was before the Supreme Court made abortion legal in 1973.

It would declare the fertilized egg a person under the Constitution, criminalizing, in the words of Rhonda Copelon, a pro-choice lawyer, "abortion as murder and subordinating women's bodies, health, work, and even lives to fetal survival."

PRINCIPLE

The "human life ammendment is being proposed in a variety of forms, but its chief principle is fetal personhood. The consequences, according to Copelon, are sweeping.

The supporters of the Constitutional ammendment justify their position with the religious belief that the fetus is a sacred, innocent, ensouled human being.

Abortion, therefore, is tantamount to murder, and women who have abortions are heinous sinners. Never mind that not all American share these beliefs—the ammendment would enforce them whether you like it or not.

One ammendment, proposed by Senator Jesse Helms (R-NC) and Representative Dornan (D-Calif) declares: "The paramount right to life is vested in each human being from the moment of fertilization without regard to age, health, or condition of dependency."

This version, according to Copelon, could impose additional obligations.

"To reduce the possibility of miscarriage, for example, the state might prescribe dangerous drugs, notwithstanding their impact on a woman's health or their likelihood of producing diseased, defective, or doomed children."

Another version of the



ammendment would change the name from the "human life" to the "innocent life" ammendment.

Apparently this is a legal effort ensure that there are no exceptions at all to allow abortion, but some supporters also prefer the word "innocent" to differentiate opposition to abortion from opposition to capital punishment.

DEATH

Many "right-to-life" organizations are equally committed to restoring the death penalty—that is to give the state the right to execute per-

sons it feel then to be less than "innocent."

All this may seem a little far fetched and far off. And there are "right-to-lifers," such as Strom Thurmond (R-SC) who heads up the Senate's Judiciary Committee, who would support women who are victims of incest or rape.

But there are people who strongly object to any concession whatsoever. "The fetus is innocent," they claim, "Why should it be punished?"

The majority of American people, including the overwhelming majority of women, support a woman's right to

choose an abortion, yet this right is already strictly limited and increasingly threatened.

The first victims were millions of poor women who lost the right to use Medicaid for their health care. Congress, three fourths of the states, and the Supreme Court combined denied them of the right to funded abortions. The rights of working women are also under attack, as are the rights of young women.

The new right can, of course, be stopped, but only if the fight is begun to organize the real majority—the majority who support a woman's right to choose.

The Reproductive Rights National Network (R2N2) is doing this, beginning with pro-choice rallies across the country on January 22.

ISSUES

Margie Fine, the national coordinator of R2N2 emphasized the importance of these rallies: "What characterizes the movement for reproductive freedom is an understanding of the interrelated issues



Rhonda Copelon

that we have to fight for so women have control of their bodies and lives.

"This includes adequate childcare and housing as well as abortion and freedom from sterilization abuse."

These rallies must be supported and built—they can help break the silence and provide an alternative to the "right to life."

Rallies are planned in cities including New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, Cleveland, Cincinnati, Iowa City and Buffalo. Be at the one in your city. □

Sanderson's Farms striker says: 'All we we want is freedom and dignity'

by CINDY SENEFIELD

LAUREL, MS—The strike by workers at Sanderson Farms chicken processing plant is near the end of its second year.

Two hundred and eight workers, mostly Black women, went out on strike in late February 1979.

20 are still picking up strike benefits which are a meager \$15 a week. Many of the women who went out on strike were the sole supporters of their children. Many of these women had to get other jobs.

But many of them would go back to Sanderson Farms if

the working conditions improved.

The strikers least concern is money, although they only make \$3.15 an hour. Their major concerns were the inhumane conditions.

BREAK

Before they went on strike, their lunch break was cut from 30 to 20 minutes, and two coffee breaks from ten to six minutes.

There are only four toilets for the women workers, and often only one or two toilets was in working order.

If you're late five minutes, because of a flat tire or taking



Gloria Jordan, vice-president ICWU Local 882

a sick child to a doctor, you are considered absent for the whole day, and even though you work for the rest of the day you are not paid for it.

Three absences in thirty days results in termination. If terminated once you do not get a vacation, and you need one year's seniority for vacation and five for the pension plan.

Why? Jo Sanderson says those chickens mean more to him than any human being. This is obvious by the way he treats his workers. Some of the foremen in the plant are KKK members, and when

the workers came out on strike, one striker had her house burned down.

FREEDOM

These workers are striking for freedom and dignity. They have no intention of letting go of the strike.

The strikers had a good Christmas. They received boxes of clothing and toys from supporters around the country.

However, they still need financial contributions and most especially letters of encouragement and support. □

UPS DRIVERS WALK OUT

CINCINNATI, OH—On December 10, approximately 150 United Parcel Service drivers in Cincinnati walked out for three hours to protest the suspension of two fellow drivers.

One package car driver was suspended because he could not keep up with the production quota set for the previous twenty days while a supervisor rode with him.

The other driver was suspended supposedly for lateness.

UNION

In spite of urgings by union officials from IBT Local 100 to return to work, they held out.

This show of solidarity worked. Both drivers were reinstated.

But now the drivers fear retaliation will be taken after the Christmas rush. □

by JOE DENTON AND CELA PETTY

Sanderson's strikers appeal: Please send contributions and messages of support to ICWU, Local 882, 226 d Ellisville Blvd., Laurel, MS 39440. Attention Gloria Jordan, vice-president.

The new cabinet: white, male, earns \$285,000 a year, has six years of college and three club memberships

THE NEW (AND OLD) RIGHT TAKES OFFICE

In 1958, Nancy and Ronald Reagan starred in the General Electric Television Theatre production, "A Turkey in the White House."

Ever since then they have had presidential aspirations. Unfortunately for us their hopes and dreams have come true. On January 20, Reagan becomes president.

If that wasn't enough to spoil the holiday season, Reagan has made sure with announcing his cabinet selections. A law clerk at the Sup-

reme Court said of Reagan's election: "It's a great step forward for white men."

In spite of the token female and Black, the composite cabi-

net member is white, male, earns \$285,000, has 6 years of college, and 3 club memberships. The cabinet includes 4 attorneys, 5 corporate executives, a college professor, an oral surgeon, and a millionaire farmer.

Socialist Worker
WHAT WE THINK

HYPOCRISY: THAT'S THE ONLY WORD!

Tehran and the fate of the hostages dominated the news over the holidays.

But in El Salvador, however, just before Christmas, three American nuns and a lay worker were raped, murdered and thrown in a ditch by right-wing killers organized by the military in San Salvador. They died because they supported the opposition. Then just after New Years, two more Americans were killed—Americans killed, apparently, because they were working with labor organizers and were carrying out land redistribution.

REACTION

What was the reaction in Washington? Were the assets of El Salvador confiscated? Were El Salvadorian students attacked on the streets? Deported? Was there a wave of patriotism, stirred up by the White House and the media?

No. The Carter administration continued diplomatic relations with the right-wing terrorists in

by MARY WILLIAMS

El Salvador. And Ronald Reagan and his new staff openly encouraged the right in all of Central and Latin America.

There is only one conclusion. It is not the lives of the Americans in Tehran that concerns the government. It is money and power.

The hostages are still in tehran because the United States won't give back the Shah's stolen wealth. But more importantly because the United States is still hoping it can win back the Iranian oil.

SUPPORT

There are no outpourings of patriotism for the nuns in El Salvador because the United States—both Carter and Reagan—support those who ordered and carried out the grisly Killings. □

PROTEGE

The most prominent selection in Secretary of State Alexander Haig, former Nixon chief-of-staff and Kissinger protege.

Despite his coaching Nixon to lie to Watergate investigators and being the hit man in the Saturday Night Massacre, Haig will have no problem with receiving Senate approval as Secretary of State.

As Secretary of State, Haig will bring along his record of advocating the carpet bombing of Hanoi and Haiphong Harbor during the Vietnam War.

The carpet bombing served no military purpose but, as Haig put it, "showed our allies that we are willing to brutalize North Vietnam."

Haig also believes that Henry Kissinger, who engineered the most massive aerial bombardment in history, was soft on the war.

At the same time he continues the tradition that a Rockefeller employee hold the Secretary of State post.

He is on the Board of Directors of Chase Manhattan Bank, and was promoted by David Rockefeller.

While Haig will be pushing a nuclear brinkmanship foreign policy, Jeane Kirkpatrick, the ambassador to the U.N. will echo the same line in the General Assembly. A "neo-conservative" professor from Georgetown she caught



Alexander Haig

Reagan's eye with a paper calling for more support by the U.S. to "moderate autocrats" such as the Shah of Iran or Somoza of Nicaragua.

The right should be pleased with Reagan's selections for director of the CIA and National Security Advisor.

William Casey, director of the CIA, described as "remarkably inarticulate" by the *British Manchester Guardian*, played a key role in the cover-up of I.T.T.'s role in the overthrow of Allende in Chile.

Richard Allen has limited experience on national security advising but does have some knowledge of strategic materials. He formerly lobbied on behalf of white South Africa—to lift sanctions on the importation of Rhodesian chrome.

ARDENT

The designated Secretary of Energy, James Edwards, an oral surgeon, is an ardent supporter of nuclear power. He also has a bent for foreign policy. On a recent trip to South Africa he said that "the Black influence in American politics prevented white South Africa from getting its fair share of sympathy and understanding."

Racism within the Reagan cabinet is not limited to foreign policy.

Attorney General designate William French Smith, Reagan's personal attorney, is a member of the Board of Regents of the University of California. Smith led the fight to admit Allen Bakke to U.C. which represented a major setback for affirmative action.

As chief counsel for the Mountain States Legal Foundation, James Watt has been filing briefs with the Supreme Court attacking treaty rights of Native Americans so oil companies can enter Native American lands in search of gas, oil, and uranium in the southwest.

Among his duties as Secretary of the Interior, James Watt will oversee the operations of the Bureau of Indian affairs.

What he can't do in court he will have a chance to do with departmental edicts.

Watt is a member of the Mountain States Legal Foundation, which was founded by rich, reactionary, union buster and racist Joseph Coors.

It doesn't appear that labor has much representation either with this group—the National Right to Work Foundation hailed the nomination of Raymond Donovan. Donovan's company, Schiavone Construction is currently under investigation for bribery, racial and sexual discrimination including harassment, and 135 citations from OSHA—57 for serious dangers.

Organized labor's only presence was Teamster vice president Jackie Presser of Cleveland, Ohio, on the economic affairs panel of the Reagan transition team.

Considering his \$279,000 a year salary from 5 teamster positions and documented crime ties from the New Jersey Commission of Investigation, it's not very likely that working people had much of a voice during his 2 week stay in Washington.

RAMPANT

So 1981 and Ronald Reagan, here we go! With cuts in services, attacks on unions, racism and sexism rampant, and an aggressive new right wing shift in foreign policy, there is no choice but to fight back. □

by BRIAN GIBBONS

FIGHTING WORDS

I did violate every one of your laws and still come before you and say: to hell with the courts—because I believe in my right to live is far more sacred than the sacred right of property that you and your kind so ably defend.

Worker to Judge, 1915

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1981: A crucial year for American workers

1981 will be a crucial year for American workers. Over 2½ million workers will have their union contracts renegotiated, and millions of other workers will be offered derisory wage and benefit increases.

Meanwhile, inflation will continue at or above the present 14%, a full 5% higher than average wage increases. This only means one thing. Real wages are dropping by 5% a year and the employers are squeezing as much as they can out of the working class.

They fully intend to continue this theft in 1981.

CONTRACTS

Some large contracts are up—coalminers in March, railroad workers in April, postal workers in July, and supermarket, construction and airline workers throughout the year. But already the employers are predicting a quiet year at the negotiating table.

They are heartened by the fact that fewer union contracts are up this year than in the previous two years, and that the last two years have seen record low levels in the numbers of days lost to strikes. But that's only one side of it.

The other side is that the attack on the working class in 1981 will be more brutal than ever it was in the 70s.

Reagan is going to abolish the minimum wage, opening the way for a massive reduction in wages, and he is going to dismantle OSHA, which means a direct increase in the number of deaths and injuries on the job.

And the employers themselves are out for blood. Their profit rates are hurting and they want workers to pay.

Reagan's election will be taken as a green light for union busting, which will reach record levels in 1981. The capitalist class will make a special effort to reduce or abolish cost of living agreements (COLAs) in many contracts.

By busting unions, or at least paralyzing their ability to win higher wage and benefit settlements for their workers, the employers hope to be able to keep their non-union pay scales even lower. The more union employees win, the more employers have to pay non-union workers.

JUSTIFY

And how will this brutal employers' offensive be justified? It will be justified as necessary to the fight against inflation. But that is sheer nonsense. Even the esteemed *Business Week* admits there is "wide agreement that wages have not added much to inflation" (December 15th 1980). How could they, when wages are running 5% behind inflation?

NEIL SMITH ON THIS YEARS' CONTRACT ROUND

So, when they want to keep wages down, the employers tell us one thing, but when they really want to understand what's happening to the economy, they say another (but only to themselves of course). The employers are the real cause of inflation when, instead of investing in more jobs, they speculate their capital on the gold and silver markets, the stock exchange, the money market—anything but productive jobs.

PRODUCTIVITY

And what will be the cry of the employers during 1981? Higher productivity!! In all

of the wages talks they will try and link higher wages to higher productivity by workers. During the present crisis, the productivity of workers has fallen an average of 1.2%.

But 1981 may not be the quiet year the employers are hoping for. They are banking the working class will just take whatever is given to it in the way of low wage rises, high prices, attacks on the unions and repression in the streets. But Miami and the other uprisings of last summer showed just how explosive the working class can be. And the memory of the heroic strike of the miners in 1978 lingers on. □

It is vital to bring the anger and militancy of Miami and the organization of the mines to the struggle over wages and working conditions, because it is the wage system itself which is at the center of exploitation and oppression in a capitalist society.

PROFIT

It is no mystery to anyone that when you step into the factory or hospital or office or supermarket where you work, one part of your 8-hour day is spent working for yourself, making your wage. The other part of the day is spent working for the boss—making his profit.

**FIGHT
BACK
OR
GET
LESS**

Postal contracts to expire;

Many issues face postal workers as the July 21, 1981 contract expiration approaches.

The current economic crisis and the resultant right-wing political shift which elected Reagan make all government workers subject to vicious attacks.

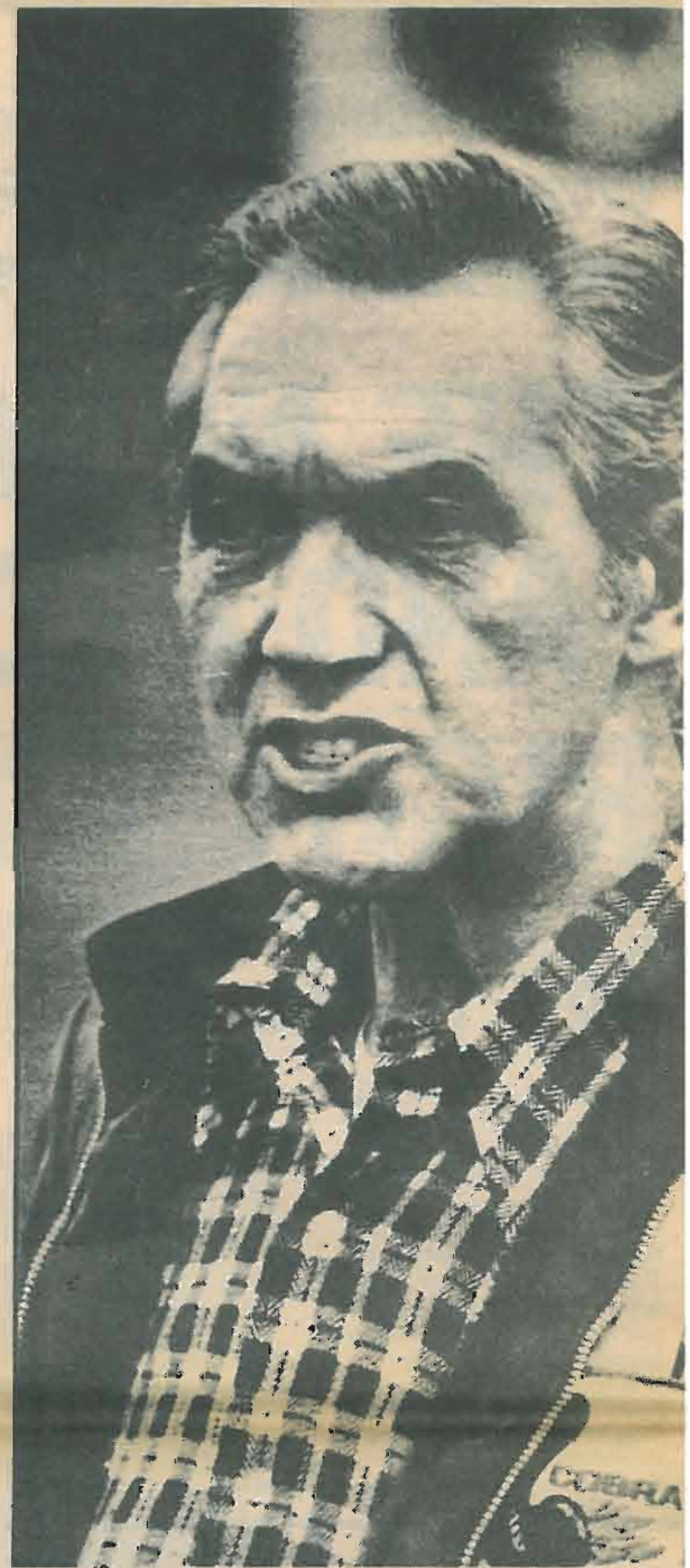
The contract will be one of the first major opportunities for Reagan to try to keep campaign promises of lowering federal costs.

Postal workers are already on the defensive facing a

\$750,000,000 cut in the federal postal budget and threats to end six-day delivery (a move which would eliminate 30,000 jobs in the carrier craft alone).

CAPPED

Postmaster General William Bolger sees the main issue as wages and Cost of Living Adjustments (COLA). Although the uncapped COLA gave workers only a 21% increase in the face of more than 30% inflation, it cost the postal service one billion dollars since 1978.



Mahwah, N.J.: laid off Ford workers

This is what Marx called the theory of surplus value. Every work day is divided into necessary labor—the amount necessary to make your wage—and surplus labor—the remainder, which the capitalists take as profit.

The employers will demand a "fair day's wage for a fair day's work." But if the day's wage is produced in less than the 8-hour working day, then in the name of "fairness", shouldn't the boss either reduce the working day to 5 or 6 hours, or give massive pay increases to cover the hours of the working day that workers aren't paid for?

There is no such thing as a

"fair wage" so long as the capitalist makes a profit from the worker's work. By definition, the wage system is robbery. In 1981 the employers will just want to rob a little more, that's all.

CAUSE

And why are they blaming workers for lower productivity? The cause of lower productivity has nothing to do with workers, but with the old worn out machinery which the employers won't replace because they're far too busy trying to make a buck on the money market or some other speculative venture.

But it's not simply that the

Management would like to see COLA capped or eliminated to keep increases at 6-7% over the next seven years. Postal workers realize the COLA issue is the bread and butter issue and union officials are saying they will call a strike over the issue.

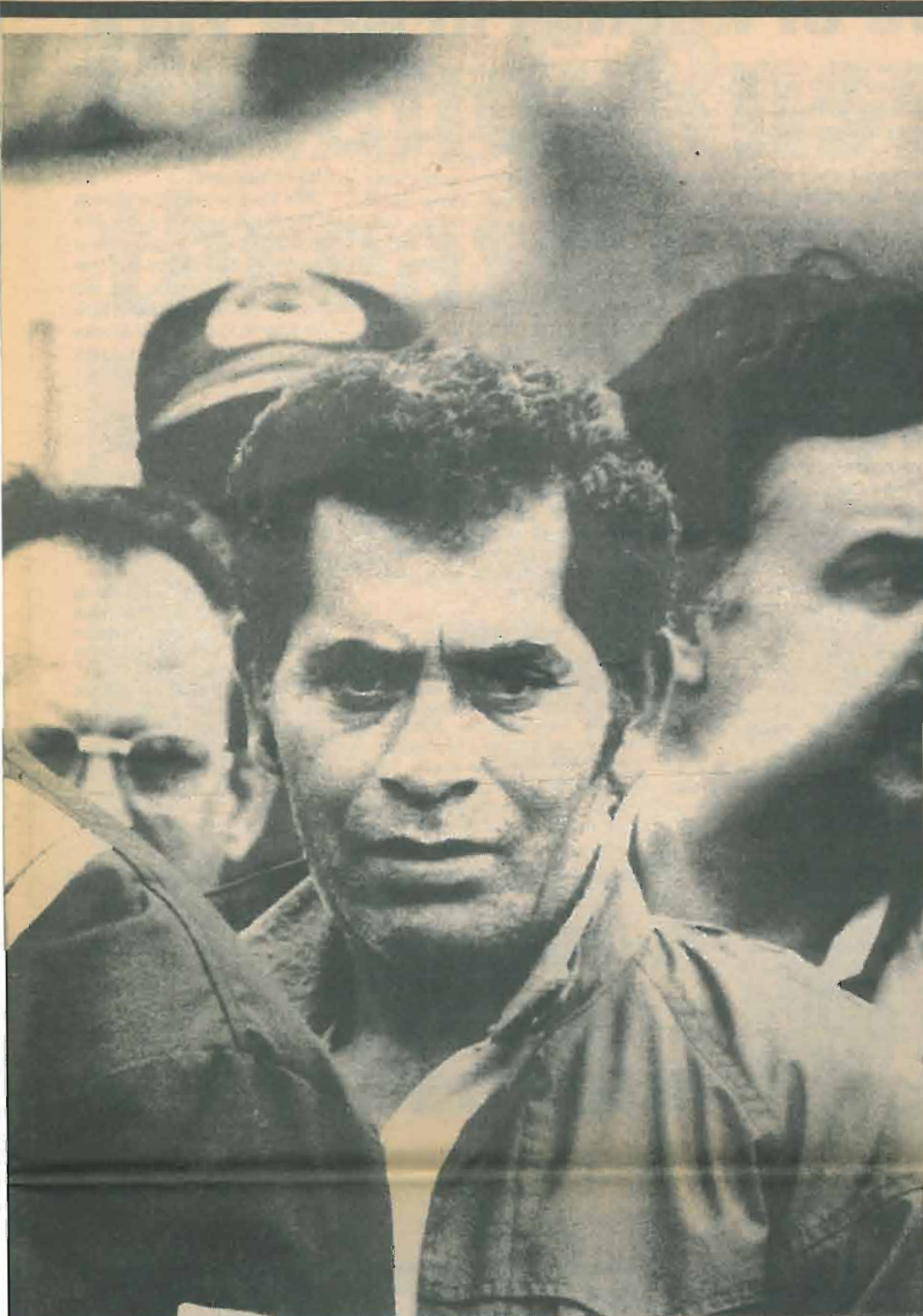
Reagan's response to this has been to threaten to end the postal monopoly on first class mail.

The union officials say that the first step in negotiation will be to get COLA increases received as a result of the last

contract rolled into the basic wage and to maintain uncapped COLA.

Beyond that they are not going for anything new. Their attitude is one of "we'll be lucky to keep what we got—the economy is bad and will be so for 2-4 years. Postal workers are going to have to do their part and grin and bear it until better times come around."

The unions are not going for anything new this contract. Lots of shop stewards would like to see stronger language



Attack on unions, Blacks MASSACHUSETTS TAX CUTS HIT WORKING CLASS

by PETER LOWBER

Last November, those who voted in Massachusetts passed proposition 2½ by an overwhelming 2 to 1 margin.

Proposition 2½ lowers the assessment rate on property taxes in Massachusetts to 2½%—that is a 50-60% cut in property taxes.

Its implementation will severely lower municipal and town revenues, which are based on property taxes.

SCHOOLS

Cuts that have already been announced for next year include the closing of 25 Boston schools, layoffs of 300 of 800 Cambridge teachers, the closing of the Boston Public Library and its branches on Saturdays and Sundays, complete shutdown of mass transit on Sundays, a cutback of 4 hours per day of mass transit (probably meaning no buses or subways after 10 p.m.), the elimination of many bus routes, the closing down of day care centers (at least one in Dorchester has already announced its closing).

There will undoubtedly be closings of health care and elderly centers as well.

Proposition 2½ is a complete disaster for everyone who lives in the cities, but mainly it hurts the working class, especially Blacks and the elderly.

The politicians are blaming the crisis on the public workers unions.

The fact that these same politicians are paid by our tax money and get about two to four times what the average top union pay is, is never mentioned by them or by the press.

In particular, the wrath of the politicians and media has fallen on the Carmen's Union, the largest and strongest union of the MBTA (Metropolitan Boston Transit Authority).

This is partly to cover-up the incompetence of MBTA management, which allowed the MBTA to go bankrupt this month, but it is also a conscious attempt to mount an anti-union drive. If the politicians can beat the Carmen's Union, they will be much more brazen against all other, weaker unions.

In December, when the MBTA went broke, it took an emergency session of the state legislature to find some funds to keep mass transit running.

In fact the MBTA advisory board, headed by Governor King, closed the mass transit down for one day, threatening total chaos in Boston.

The 1981 MBTA budget provides a cut of \$6 million. Considering inflation, this cut is actually much larger.

Besides the cuts in service

mentioned, the legislature decided to cut Carmen Union benefits.

Automatic cost of living adjustments, provided in the Carmen's contract since 1973, were wiped out by the legislature. Also permitted by legislative decree is contracting outside of the union for maintenance and repairs.

Non-union part-timers will also be hired for the first time.

This action was taken by the politicians without even any consultation with the union bosses.

Until now, Carmen Union bosses made or broke politicians in Massachusetts and an action like this could never have been considered before the passage of proposition 2½.

The Carmen's Union is prohibited by statutory law from striking.

But what does the law mean in light of the actions by the state legislature? If the legislature by its laws can abolish a legal contract, then why should the trade union members feel any respect for the law?

Perhaps the example of the Polish workers will give some courage to them and other public workers, who are caught in the same crunch.

But the issues are much larger than simply ones affecting union members, although union members are in the strongest position to do anything about it.

Proposition 2½ was initiated by a local right-wing group. Its effect will obviously devastate the working class dependent on city services—while the middle class living in the suburbs might save \$500 a year from the tax cut.

VOTE

The overwhelming working class vote for 2½ is not surprising. Property taxes are incredibly high.

Massachusetts has the highest property tax rate in the country. And the tax is truly reactionary. It is inequitable, and its burden falls on the working class. People with large amounts of capital do not have their capital taxed.

The major financing for city revenues throughout the U.S. comes from the property tax, which is the main reason why municipal budgets are in danger of bankruptcy everywhere.

The property tax hits at the heart of the capitalist system. It brings up the whole question of financing.

Think of what that \$175 billion a year that goes for nuclear weapons and the MX missile would do for our cities. The disparity clearly shows the social irresponsibility of both the right-wing and the liberals.

TIDE

Proposition 2½ is not isolated from any other of these questions. We will turn the tide only when significant numbers of working class people see the connection between the attacks on their jobs and communities and the more general crisis in the system.

When these connections are made, then we can abolish 2½ and replace it with a real alternative: taxation of corporate profits to finance social services.

bosses are greedy. As capitalists they have to make a profit to survive, and in the present crisis, some of them haven't been doing too well. So they dump on the working class. It's the logic of the system.

It's also the logic of the system that the working class can only defend its right to a basic standard of living by fighting back against the employers' offensive. They say their profits are important. Damn their profits if people can't afford to eat and live.

The struggle for higher wages and against the reduction of real wages is central to the workers fight back.

As Rosa Luxemburg said, "the struggle against the fall in relative wages is not a struggle on the basis of the capitalist economy, but a revolutionary, subversive attack on the very existence of this economy."

1981 will be a heavy year. There will be a lot of struggles to defend the wage gains and benefit packages fought for in the last two or three decades. For non-union workers who made fewer gains, it will be an even harder year.

But who will be content with simply defending past gains? The bottom line of the capitalist wage system is that if you don't struggle for more you

get less.

It's a class struggle. And it never goes away. It's not just there at contract time, but it's there in all the niggling harassment of every single work day.

It's a struggle that will never go away as long as we are enslaved by the wage system, which is why the real struggle in 1981 will be for positive wage gains and for a "socialist movement of the working class."

This movement will adhere not to the conservative motto of "a fair day's wage for a fair day's work," but as Marx said, will stand for the "abolition of the wage system." □

rank and file must organize

on workplace issues since the contract is vague and this vagueness benefits management.

In recent elections, two of the five unions (National Association of Letter Carriers Union and American Postal Workers Union) representing postal workers, overwhelmingly elected "militant" candidates to top union positions.

Vincent Sombrotto of the NALC and Moe Biller of the APWU are both well known for their leadership roles in the 1970 postal strike.

Sombrotto was a shop steward at the time and Biller was local president. Both are from New York City.

Despite having led a militant strike in 1970, they both stress legislative action as the key to success for postal workers—friends in Congress are to be written and supported.

This is because several of the issues affecting postal workers are dictated by federal law and not specifically "contractual" issues such as the separation of federal retirement and social security

and the nine digit zip code.

The first would bankrupt the retirement fund and the second would eliminate 80,000 jobs (10% of the total postal workforce). Negotiations must center on these issues as well.

RESPONSE

How seriously the government pushes these issues will determine what the response to them will be.

Postal workers like most other workers at this time are fatalistic. They think what is going to happen is predeter-

mined and that there is nothing they can do to affect the outcome.

Activists in the union must convince others that there is a need to fight back and that it can be won.

If Biller and Sombrotto call a strike they will be followed, but how well they lead remains to be seen.

Rank and file workers should be prepared to do it on their own. This will require the building of a rank and file organization.

by JOHN TRIPLÉTT

Graffiti

by PATRICIA GOLDSMITH

Let them eat . . .

Nelson Chaves, a Brazilian nutrition expert, urged his government to solve the nation's chronic food shortages by encouraging poor people to eat rats. □

An honest mistake . . .

When third grade students in a Connecticut grammar school were asked to spell the word relief, more than half of them answered "R-O-L-A-I-D-S." □

Cooperation . . .

Democrats and liberals are charging that the new Reagan administration will cripple the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and no doubt that will happen.

But if it does it will only be part of a process well underway.

On December 30, the EPA and United States Steel agreed to changes in the pollution control program that will save the company a whopping \$51 million.

The agreement alters a 1979 consent decree that was meant to force U.S. Steel to invest \$400 million in pollution control. It was hailed as the EPA's greatest victory at the time.

The new agreement allows U.S. Steel, the nation's largest steelmaker, to reduce pollution control in five Monongahela plants in Pennsylvania. "The environmental officials were cooperative and flexible in the deliberations," says U.S. Steel's chairman, David Roderick.

Cooperative and flexible? Sure. □

Exclusive rights . . .

The trial of the 'gang of four' is not only a means of settling old scores for the Chinese government.

It is also a useful source of revenue. The Chinese national television company has sold exclusive rights for the reports of the trials to the US television company, CBS, for a price of forty thousand dollars.

A similar deal has been made with Japan. □

Workers of the world . . .

While leaders of the United Rubber Workers were campaigning to get union members to "buy American" Firestone announced its decision to invest \$80 million in a new tire making facility in Mexico. □

Absolutely nothing . . .

A record was released in London this week entitled *The Wit and Wisdom of Ronald Reagan*. It contains . . . nothing! Both sides are absolutely blank. □

New wave of killings in New York

BUFFALO, NY—The racist attacks on Blacks continue. The state of New York witnessed the latest wave.

Last week, two Black men were stabbed to death in Buffalo and Rochester and three others in Buffalo were attacked and seriously wounded.

There was also a spate of stabbings in New York City—where four Blacks were assaulted.

The deadly assaults in Buffalo date back to September 22. From September 22 to 24—within 36 hours—four Blacks were shot in the head and killed. The assailant was dubbed the ".22 caliber killer"—because of the weapon used.

And in October, two Black taxi-drivers were murdered—and their hearts cut out.

To this day no one has been arrested—and authorities in Buffalo say that no arrests are imminent. They also claim that racist groups like the Klan and the Nazis are not involved.

Yet the Nazi Party has applauded the murders in its

press and called the ".22 caliber killer" a "great white hunter." They are openly organizing in Buffalo.

The Nazis have called for a demonstration on January 15—the date of Martin Luther King's birthday—in front of Buffalo's City Hall.

The mayor of Buffalo, James Griffin, at first said nothing about the Nazi's intention to march. It was only after counter-demonstrations were announced, that he deci-

ded to step in—banning both, claiming he wanted to avoid violence.

But it is the Nazis who are violent—who applaud racist murders. Posters publicizing the Nazi march make their intentions quite clear. One Nazi poster reads: "100 White Men with Guts . . . Wanted."

FILTH

Whether or not the attacks are the work of a racist lunatic, sympathetic to the Nazis or

Klan, or part of an organized effort by a racist group, they must be stopped. The Nazis and Klansmen must not be allowed to spread their racist filth unhindered.

We have to stop the growth of the Nazis and the Klan. We have to build a movement capable of halting the increasingly racist climate in the country—a movement which can stop the attacks on Blacks and the attacks on the gains made in the last decades. □

SACRIFICE WILL NOT SAVE JOBS

DETROIT, MI—On December 22nd a Chrysler Council meeting was held at the Airport Hilton near Detroit. Douglas Fraser, Mark Stepp and the top bargaining committee indicated they were prepared to capitulate to the demands of the Chrysler Corporation and the money changers in Washington.

For two hours the delegates vented their bitter complaints against giving up everything the UAW has won during the last twenty-five years. COLA, the annual improvement factor, paid holidays, SUB and other fringe benefits the auto workers have taken for granted.

The delegates complained that while the workers were giving up the basic necessities of life, members of management were being given special favors, like a \$15,000 membership in an exclusive country club.

INFLATION

The delegates expressed opinion that Lee Iacocca was leading a campaign for American industry to cut wages by eliminating COLA and the annual improvement factor in union contracts. This, Iacocca says is the only way to stop inflation.

In spite of the seriousness of the situation not one word was said indicating that the UAW was preparing a defence of the workers and the union, much less of a counter-attack.

Giving up \$4.00 per hour in 1981 and \$5.00 in 1982 each Chrysler worker will sacrifice upwards of \$15,000 during the life of the agreement.

Making these sacrifices will not guarantee them a job. The company may still go bankrupt. The company will be free to close plants, contract work to low wage suppliers and to import parts and cars when it is to the financial interest of the company to do so.

TALKING ABOUT SOCIALISM

Why isn't Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday a holiday?

A racist climate is necessary for the system

by DEBORAH ROBERTS

A march and rally will be held in Washington, D.C. on January 15 to pressure Congress to make Martin Luther King's birthday a national holiday. The initial call for the demonstration was made by singer Stevie Wonder at a press conference on November 25.

OPPOSITION

Since then, similar marches have been announced in several other cities, including Louisville, Cleveland, Detroit and Atlanta. Legislation to make King's birthday a national holiday has been introduced in Congress several times since the Civil Rights leader was murdered in 1968. Each time, the legislation has been defeated.

Since 1968, many cities have named streets running through the Black areas of the cities concerned. In addition, 15 states have established a mid-January holiday in honor of King. The bill to establish such a holiday nationally will face even tougher opposition in Congress this year than in years before.

Obviously, naming streets and holidays after political leaders normally doesn't cost the system anything. In Ohio, King's birthday has been a state holiday for several years, and Black people suffer even more discrimination, unemployment, and racist harassment than when the holiday was established.

Because the cost to the powers-that-be would be so minimal, it's significant that a national holiday in King's honor was not established years ago. But the racist climate in America is necessary to the system, and that climate determines that the proposal will be controversial.

For the Black movement generally, and for white racists as well, this struggle is symbolically important. As Stevie Wonder and others planning the Washington march said, their purpose is also to protest the rising reactionary and racist trend in the United States.

Wonder noted the "upsurge of hatred and bigotry" reflected in the murders of Black people across the country, and said that a national holiday for

King would increase the confidence of "those who are unable to express their civil and economic rights."

INSPIRE

As socialists, we understand that symbolic expres-

sion can often inspire and lead the concrete, day-to-day fights for social equality.

The fight to honor King with a national holiday could provide such a spark. Our job as socialists is to help turn the spark into a roaring fire. □



Left, Stevie Wonder, above, Martin Luther King Jr.



*The time is overdue
For people like me and you
You know the way to truth
Is love and unity to all God's children
It should be a great event
And the whole day should be spent
In full remembrance
Of those who lived and died for the oneness of all people
So let us all begin
We know that love can win
Let it out and don't hold it in*

Sing as loud as you can

*Happy birthday to you
Happy birthday to you
Happy birthday*

Poland: Russian threats continue



WORLD IN STRUGGLE



Polish worker listens to strike news

The rulers of Russia may not yet have made a definite decision to send troops to smash the independent Polish unions. But they have issued their final warning.

That was the significance of the Warsaw Pact meeting last month, following on from the mobilization of armed forces in parts of Russia close to Poland's borders.

The Russians are out to show that they can move in

with huge force in very little time, unless the rank and file in the independent unions voluntarily hand full power back to the regime.

What the Russians face in Poland is no less than an unfinished revolution. And there is only one way to halt an unfinished revolution. And that is through the deployment of the forces of counter-revolution. It is this deployment which the Polish and Russian governments are trying to bring about.

They have a problem. There are very few people in Poland prepared to do the job. A few hundred thousand corrupt petty bureaucrats and bosses, fearing for their privileges, their bribes and possibly their lives, will back whatever the Russians do.

But the great mass of the population are lined up with *Solidarity*, the independent union organization.

In an attempt to buy support for their friends in the Polish leadership the Russians have promised some food supplies, to reduce the bitterness in the meat lines of Warsaw and Gdansk. But the Russians' abilities in this direction are limited—there are meat lines in the cities of Russia where similar bitterness is brewing.

DEGREE

Another attempt to gain some support has been the bringing into the inner circle of the Polish leadership of General Moczar. This man is best described as the Ronald Reagan of Poland. He has built up a certain degree of

by CHRIS HARMAN

popular support in the past by rabid nationalism, including overt anti-semitism.

Finally, the Polish rulers are trying to gain support by pretending that they want to work alongside *Solidarity*. They are urging its leaders to accept a 'social contract' to help the government restore control.

EXPERIENCE

Unfortunately, some of *Solidarity's* leaders and some of the best known dissidents are thinking along the same lines.

Yet all experience teaches that once it has regained control of things on such a basis, the government will return to the attack on *Solidarity*.

You cannot treat a mass movement against oppression and exploitation as a stage army, to be moved into and out of action as required by diplomatic exchanges with governments.

But this is how the 'moderates' in *Solidarity* seem to be treating their own supporters when they urge them not to stage 'wildcat strikes' against the behavior of local bosses bureaucrats and policemen.

Events in Poland can only move in two directions. The first, which seems increasingly unlikely, would be for the 'moderates' in *Solidarity*, together with the Catholic church and the 'liberals' in the government to succeed in persuading the workers to abandon militant action in an attempt to ward off the Russian threat.

The other option is for the workers' movement to keep moving in the direction of a total, revolutionary challenge

to the state. Every move in such a direction will increase the threats from Russia.

But the Russians are not invincible. They are showing signs of timidity about going into Poland. They know from their experience in Afghanistan that sending in troops is one thing, quelling the population is another.

They know that the heroic resistance the Poles put up against the German rule in World War Two, culminating the great Warsaw Uprising of 1944, could be matched by similar resistance to Russian rule.

Above all, they know that economic crisis means a prolonged battle—to subdue Poland could precipitate unrest within the rest of Eastern Europe.

UNREST

Already strikes and demonstrations in Russian ruled Estonia have been followed by reports of unrest in the mines of Northern Czechoslovakia, where there is a large Polish speaking minority.

And even before the Polish events, in the early summer, there were strikes in Russia's huge auto plants at Gorki, Togliattigrad and Kama River.

Poland's workers movement can respond to the Russian threats with a retreat into 'moderation'. But this will give their enemies time to regroup and eventually deliver a crushing blow.

Only a deepening of the struggle inside Poland and encouragement of these movements in other East European countries can undermine those who would crush them. □

CONCESSIONS IN H-BLOCK

The 53-day-long hunger strike by Irish political prisoners in the H-Blocks of Long Kesh and Armagh Women's Jail ended on December 18.

The British Tory government was forced to make concessions on each of the prisoners' demands. These include: the right to wear civilian clothes, exemption from penal work, the right to organize education and recreation, the right to associate freely with other political prisoners, the right to receive and send mail and have visitors, and the restoration of remission.

FORCED

There is no doubt that the four year "blanket and dirt" protests forced the British governments hand.

The National H-Block Committee claimed over 350 local action committees had been set up around the country. It is planning a national conference in mid-January.

The hunger strike also showed it is possible to win industrial action in the South in support of the struggle in the North.

But the hunger strike also ended paradoxically.

The British government is also claiming victory—and not simply to save face.

The British government has not suffered a major defeat.

It has managed to extricate itself from a very difficult situation without loss of face. There was no public climb-down.

Nor have the terms of the final settlement been admitted by the government—only hinted at. It has not granted the prisoners "political prisoner" status as it did previously in 1972 to end another hunger strike.

CONCESSIONS

Still important concessions have been won. And there are threats of another hunger strike if the government fails to implement the agreement.

Mass political action has once again been placed on the agenda. Transforming that movement into one that not only fights British imperialism but for workers' power is the task that now faces Irish revolutionaries. □

REBELS APPEAL TO RUSSIAN SOLDIERS

Reports from Afghanistan say that rebel forces are distributing leaflets in Russian to the Russian forces, urging them to refuse to carry on the war.

The leaflet refers to the "political system which, in the USSR... has created a new ruling class of exploiters and oppressors, with permanent lines in the shops and chronic shortages of necessary articles and foodstuffs."

LIBERATION

The leaflet goes on to urge Russian soldiers to "fight for a national and social liberation of your own people and against the despotism of the imperialist clique in Moscow."

"Turn the imperialist war into a war of liberation!" □

“There is an atmosphere of

death”

The brutal tortures and executions of 6 leaders of the Democratic Revolutionary Front (FDR) and of 3 American nuns and an American lay-worker have once again brought international condemnation upon the bloody military dictatorship of El Salvador.

Once again this small Latin American country has a new government, the fourth in little over a year.

These events plus the rise to power of the “new” right have caused many Americans to question the future role of the U.S. in Central America.

The overwhelming majority in Central America live in conditions of extreme poverty. They have suffered decades of military rule and exploitation by an elite group of wealthy families.

The involvement of the U.S. in the region is not new either. Since the beginning of the century Uncle Sam has been keeping Central America safe for investments by providing enough guns and military training to safeguard the rule of a small, pro-North American oligarchy.

The U.S. has opposed all movements for radical social change—be they nationalist or communist—in the area and

has sought to crush them by any means necessary—even direct military intervention.

A State Department memorandum from 1927 illustrates both past and present U.S. policy:

“We do control the destinies of Central America and we do so for the simple reason that the national interest absolutely dictates such a course . . . Until now Central America has always understood that governments we recognize and support stay in power, while those we do not recognize and support fall.”

The victory of the Sandinistas in Nicaragua caught officials in Washington off guard.

PERMIT

The Carter administration was forced to accept the new regime as a fait accompli (though not without pursuing a policy of destabilization).

It is quite clear, however, that Washington will not permit another Nicaragua.

Each of the four governments formed over the last year in El Salvador have been attempts to cope with the growing revolutionary momentum in the country and the region as a whole.

All of them bear the stamp,

“Made in U.S.A.”. All have tried to exhibit a reformist image, while ruthlessly wiping out all opposition.

REFORMS

Many reforms have been initiated over the last year, such as nationalization of the export trade and of 51% of the banks, and expropriation of some of the larger land-holdings by the government.

But these reforms have not increased popular control over resources and capital. They have only made it easier for multinationals to invest in the country.

By moving troops into government expropriated haciendas, the junta has created a network of terror throughout the countryside.

James Petras, an authority on Latin America, characterized the land reform as having

“transformed a traditional dictatorship into a ruthless totalitarian police state.”

This is borne out by the fact that between January and August 52% of those assassinated in El Salvador have been peasants.

The present government in El Salvador was formed in the second week of December only hours after the departure of an American delegation “investigating” the murders of the nuns and the missionaries.

CONSERVATIVES

The new president, Jose Napoleon Duarte, is the first civilian to hold office in 49 years.

A member of the conserva-

SPECIAL REPORT BY NEIL SEALEY

tive wing of the Christian Democratic Party, he elected to the presidency in 1972, but was ousted by military and lived in exile until the fall of 1979.

Though he was a respected figure during the 60's and 70's, he has lost all popular support because of his participation in the U.S. backed junta.

The State Department and the news media have tried to portray this new government as being even more committed to reform and civilian participation.

In reality the regime moved further to the right. The power of the rightist military has actually been consolidated and strengthened.

The new vice-president, Col. Jaime Abdul Gutierrez, also the Commander-in-Chief of the armed forces (as proposed to the president, Duarte). He is a close associate of the Minister of Defense, Jose Guillermo Garcia, who is part of the extreme right wing in the armed forces.

This also means that he is the coordinator of the so-called “extremists on the right” para-military death squads.

Actually the rightist para-military groups play a very visible role for the military. Many soldiers are both members of the armed forces and of the terrorist groups.

REIGN

Carter and Reagan have very few differences in their attitude towards the present crisis in Central America.

It must be remembered that the bloodshed started under the Carter administration.

Reagan will only build on this foundation by openly backing pro-U.S. dictators such as Lucas Garcia in Guatemala—and giving the CIA reign over the area.

A letter from El Salvador

This is from a letter that Sister Maura Clarke, a Maryknoll nun murdered in El Salvador last month, wrote to Sister Kathleen Kelly of Chicago October 21:

There are so many deaths everywhere that it is incredible.

The “death squadron” strikes in so many poor homes. A family of seven, including three small children, was machine-gunned to death in a nearby town just last week. It is a daily thing—death and bodies found everywhere, many decomposing or attacked by animals because no one can touch them until they are seen by a coroner. It is an atmosphere of death.

The organized, as they call the left, are made up some of those simple, courageous, suffering farmers. In the Pastoral de Asistencia (Pastoral Assistance) work that Ita began in Chateango, one comes into contact with so many poor refugees—women and children especially, who have lost husbands, brothers, fathers. (Ita is Sister Ita Ford, another Maryknoll sister murdered with Clarke on December 2.)

It has become an ordinary daily happening. Two lovely young women were cut into pieces by machetes in a community nearby where so many of the people have been killed. The brave mother of one of these young women is also the mother-in-law of the other and she was here with us taking refugees. We are trying to help the refugees—bringing them to shelters and getting food to places where it is desperately needed.

Archbishop Romero (murdered while he said mass in San Salvador March 23) and all the martyrs of this little violent land must be interceding for a new day for Salvador.

I am beginning to see death in a new way, dearest Katie. For all these precious men, women, children struggling in just laying down their lives as victims, it is surely a passageway to LIFE or, better, a change of life . . .

I don't know what tomorrow will bring . . .

With all my love, Maura



“Death is everywhere”



In El Salvador, the right-wing terror attacks are utterly indiscriminate. Jean Donovan, one of the American nuns murdered in December wrote home just days before her death that she had "picked up a 12 year old last week who appeared to have been macheted by members of ORDEN—the paramilitary security force," which has American advisors. The children in the picture are shoe shine boys in San Salvador.

No more Vietnams: U.S. hands off!

The bloody right-wing rampage continues to escalate in El Salvador, where more than 10,000 people have died in the past year.

Yet the press here still wants us to believe that the source of the killings is violence from both the extremes—left and right.

TERROR

Yet the killings of the American nuns, and the murder of the two Americans working with the land redistribution has underlined the fact that this is not true.

The overwhelming part of the killing is done by the right. It is a right-wing terror campaign carried out against the people of El Salvador by the millionaire rulers of that country—backed by the United States.

Socialist Worker

WHAT WE THINK

El Salvador is ruled by the military, though there is a token "civilian" government under Duarte, a graduate of Notre Dame University.

They rule on behalf of a dozen families, called the "oligarchy," who control 80% of all the wealth. They maintain their power by terror, pure and simple—death squads, assassinations, torture.

This is in fact so obvious that even American diplomats say that better than 90% of the rightist killings in El Salvador are carried

out by the official Security Forces.

These security forces are, of course, financed in large part by the United States. This past year, under the Carter Administration, the United States gave El Salvador \$90 million in economic aid and another \$5.5 million in military credits. The rebels believe that in fact they were given far more.

At the same time, it is clear that American advisors are also involved—the rebels estimate at least 300.

Then on December 17, Thomas Bracken, a former Las Vegas policeman with CIA connections was killed in San Salvador. Bracken was a gun runner in El Salvador.

The Carter administration stopped aid and shed a few tears for the American nuns murdered in December, but then quickly resumed aid.

Reagan, however, has made it clear that there will not even be tears. Just when the leftist leaders were being rounded up and slaughtered in San Salvador in early December, a delegation of Salvadorean businessmen, known as the Productive Alliance, was in Washington seeking sympathy and understanding from Reagan advisors.

They went home convinced that a Reagan

administration would quickly increase military aid to help in wiping out revolutionaries and reformers alike. They let this be known without delay. The killings escalated.

At the same time self-proclaimed Reagan emissaries have been turning up in Central America recently to assure local butchers that the new administration would back them all the way.

CONTENTS

One of the American nuns, Jean Donovan of Cleveland, wrote a letter to Senator Edward Kennedy just a few days before she died. The letter was never mailed, but her parents let the contents be known.

Just three days before her body was found in a grave near San Salvador, Jean Donovan wrote:

"As a North American, one of the hardest things to see is how the people are suffering here because of the actions of our government."

In El Salvador, nearly the entire population is united against the military and the oligarchy. The only hope for the rulers is that American aid will keep them in power—by giving them the guns and money to massacre any who stand in their way. We must not let this happen.

El Salvador can become another Vietnam. U.S. hands off El Salvador! No weapons! No money! No soldiers!

The opposition to the oligarchy

The Democratic Revolutionary Front today has the backing of the masses of the Salvadorean people.

It is a coalition of some 150 groups spanning all sectors of society. Enrique Alvarez Cordova, the assassinated president of the FDR, was a wealthy cattle rancher who turned his holdings into a peasant cooperative.

ORGANIZE

The Secretary General of the Popular Revolutionary Bloc (BPR), Juan Chacon, was assassinated the same day. He was the son of a peasant

organizer and was active in trade union work in the cities.

The armed wing of the organization is called the Farabando Marti Front for National Liberation (FMLN). The majority in the Front belong to one of the revolutionary organizations formed in the 1970's

The BPR is the largest and has a base of peasant and workers. The armed wing of the popular forces along with the Communist Party of El Salvador make up the FMLN.

In response to recent events the FMLN has called for an

"escalated offensive" against the junta's armies.

In the last year they have scored key military and diplomatic victories.

The platform of the Front calls for the complete overthrow of the oligarchy and dismantling of the military machine and for their replacement with a democratic revolutionary government and a people's army. The Front says it will seek to distribute all resources more equally by a process of nationalization and socialization.

The platform is not socialist,

but calls for a mixed economy and a foreign policy of non-alignment. A literacy campaign, a housing program and improved health care are some of its major goals.

ROAD

This year more than 10,000 have died. Tens of thousands have been left homeless, most of them fleeing the government's terrorism.

The road to victory for the people of El Salvador has been and will be long and bloody—yet the alternative is worse. □

Letters

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

METRO: WAITING GAME

SEATTLE, WA—After a decision by the membership in mid-November to take their contract to arbitration, Metro bus workers in Seattle seem no closer to having a new contract two months after the old one expired.

Since then the lawyers for each side have been waging battles in court rooms over whether the union has the right or the obligation to force Metro Transit into arbitration when negotiations reached an impasse.

IMPASSE

Metro insists there is no impasse and that they cannot be forced to give up present and future negotiating rights.

Issues of wages, cost of living, further hiring of part-time drivers—nearly the entire contract—have not been resolved.

Taking the arbitration road to gaining a contract looked like the safest way out two months ago—much easier than striking before Christmas for two weeks or more. Certainly easier than bucking the new lawyer-minded union leadership that promised a success in arbitration.

But, more and more, Metro workers are becoming anxious about handing over their destinies to arbitrators who will take four to six months to decide.

Even the possibility of a check for retroactive pay may not erase the memory of these months of not knowing anything, not having any direct role in deciding.

It is entirely up to an arbitrator whether the membership's wishful thinking will come true.

This is unlikely. One example is the Chicago Transit Union which lost a 25 year old cost of living in arbitration just last year.

Who knows what the arbitrator will see as "fair" for both sides in Seattle.

Meanwhile, Metro beefed up its part-time work force while conditions for full-time drivers declined.

FATE

Hopefully all this frustration will turn to anger over handing over their fates to lawyers, judges and arbitrators.

Direct action will be harder next time, but the lessons of not striking or even being willing to strike may come home.

by DIANE EGGLESTON

**WHY
YOU
SHOULD
BE A
SOCIALIST**

by CAL WINSLOW

\$1.00

Hera Press



IRAN/IRAQ: DON'T TAKE SIDES

Dear Socialist Worker,

This letter is in response to your coverage of the Iran/Iraq war. I disagreed with the conclusion that we should support Iran.

In general, we should not support either side in a war over territory between two capitalist governments. Workers have no interest in supporting one group of rulers over another when each side will sacrifice its own people to get a little more wealth, power, land, etc.

The only exception should be if some economic/military power tries to impose its control over a weaker, poorer

nation—such as the U.S. trying to control Iran under the Shah. Then we should support the weak nation trying to win its freedom from control by the imperialist power.

But this doesn't seem to be the case in this war.

Sure the U.S. at first supported Iraq. But even at the start, the war was primarily over territory between two economically weak countries. Iraq is not a stable U.S. ally. The U.S. is now backing off from Iraq and is afraid Iran will be "dismembered."

The U.S. will use the war no matter who wins to increase its power in the whole region.

Economically it will resupply oil technology destroyed in the war and gain a greater foothold in the oil of the area. Militarily, it will use the excuse of "instability" to increase military bases, ships, etc., in the Persian Gulf.

Your conclusion was that we should support an Iranian victory because an Iraqi victory would help all the conservative forces in the region.

But this is pure speculation. An Iranian victory might strengthen the Khomeini government against the workers' movement in Iran.

No matter which side wins, the majority of the people in

the area will lose—more U.S. influence, deaths of thousands, destruction of livelihood, etc.

We should oppose both sides. The prolongation of the war only hurts most of the people of the area and helps their rulers and the U.S.

Our main emphasis should be on getting the U.S. out of the region: No ships; No AWACS planes; No troops; No U.S. intervention period!

Next we should support the people of Iran and Iraq in demanding an end to the war.

Steve Leigh
Seattle, WA

Concessions won't save Chrysler

Dear Socialist Worker,

Chrysler's in deep trouble again. A subscription to *Socialist Worker* would have told the Chrysler heads that their bail-out strategy based on a better economy wouldn't work.

High interest rates and a continued downturn in 1980 ruled out any Chrysler comeback.

Chrysler's declining fortune is our national joke—except for those who work for it. For

the blue-collar assembly workers and the white-collar clerical workers, these bailout measures have hurt the hardest.

Concessions from the UAW were the lynch-pin for the bailout plan devised last year, and further concessions—to the tune of \$600 million are presently being negotiated.

The other auto companies—GM, Ford and American Motors—are watching the negotiations to see if they too can take a contract in the middle of its three year period and demolish any auto-worker gains.

Ronald Reagan may speed up Chrysler's collapse by using bail-out money to beef up the military budget. He has little sympathy for the heads

of Chrysler and even less for the thousands who work for it.

The solution lies in Chrysler workers—blue and white collar—demanding jobs. Every federal tax dollar put into Chrysler should defend much needed basic industry jobs and not the big salaries of the Chrysler heads.

There is a real need for cars of all kinds—both here in the U.S. and abroad. The plants should be nationalized under workers' control and the Chrysler chiefs should not be compensated.

At the minimum, struggling for these demands will on its own produce important gains, and pose the real alternative of workers' power.

Kent Worcester
Boston, MA

NO HOLIDAY FOR KING

Dear Socialist Worker,

Talk about racists. The governor of Pennsylvania just announced that he was going to rescind the order that made January 15th, Martin Luther King's birthday, a state holiday.

Some Black legislators are going to try and revoke this, but it looks unlikely.

It seems that at a time when you hear more stories about rising

racism, the Klan, Nazis, the murders in Buffalo, Rochester, New York City, that making King's birthday a national holiday would be even more important.

But I guess with Reagan's election, politicians don't even have to go through the motions anymore.

Randy Cline
Pittsburgh, PA

A PAGE FROM WORKING CLASS HISTORY

"no power greater"

by BARBARA WINSLOW



Two hundred years ago: rebels in the American Revolution



The radical Sons of Liberty in 1773

On the night of January 1, 1781, in their winter quarters in Morristown, New Jersey, the disgruntled soldiers of the Pennsylvania Line (the state's troops fighting in the Continental Army), acted.

After some obviously pre-arranged disturbances and diversions, small groups, repeating "rumors" of an imminent enemy attack, assembled on the parade grounds with arms and knapsacks.

Unable to dissuade or intimidate them, the officers, after suffering several casualties, found themselves confronted with a "Board of Sergeants" which had taken control of the encampment in the name of the soldiers.

GRIEVANCES

Professing continued loyalty to the Revolution, but determined to present their grievances to the civilian authorities, the soldiers gathered their equipment and provisions. Leaving the confused and angry officers with no one to command, they marched towards Philadelphia under their own leaders—men like John Williams, Daniel Connell, William Bowzar, Jack Maloney, George Gonzall, and their unnamed comrades on the Board—who never attained the fame of those who had consistently lied to them and robbed them. For a brief instant, the spectre of social upheaval threatened the coalition of merchants, slave-

No section of colonial society made such heroic sacrifices as did the "lower orders" in the cities.

The most militant opponents of British power, the craftsmen and unskilled laborers there also tried to influence a more democratic writing of the constitutions of the newly independent states, clashing with ideologues of "checks and balances" against popular government.

These pre-factory urban workers also sought to control prices charged by their "betters" engaged in speculation to gain monopolies in the necessities of life for city dwellers by creating artificial scarcities and hoarding goods.

Such men enlisted in the Revolutionary Army out of all proportion to their size within the predominantly agrarian population of the colonies.

Politicized by the Revolution, soldiers often joined civilian actions to confiscate hoarded goods from merchant "patriots," or to confront politicians known to be pro-British, anti-democratic, or sympathetic to profiteering.

This month's column, written by Martin Becker, recalls these early rebels. □

owners, and other "Founding Fathers."

Fearful of the apparent popular support for the "mutiny" in the New Jersey countryside, and, according to General Washington, of "the numbers who would join them" in Philadelphia, nervous state officials convinced the Line to stop at Princeton and negotiate. On January 5, the Board demanded a general amnesty, adequate provisioning, the settlement of back wages, and the discharge of all who had served three years with the option of reenlisting.

Faced with what one historian called "a well-managed strike," the politicians promised to meet these conditions and quickly dismissed the troops.

However, talk is cheap. After raising several new units in May, the officers responded to the complaints of reenlisted soldiers about inadequate

provisioning by punishing at least six men, three of them tried and shot, and a fourth apparently killed without the nicety of a court martial.

OUTBURST

In 1782, another outburst of discontent faced similar repression. When, in 1783, authorities dismissed the Line without settling back wages or properly provisioning the men for their trips home, several hundred veterans marched on Philadelphia, threatening the newly formed Bank of North America and forcing state officials and members of the Continental Congress to barricade themselves inside the public buildings.

Similarly, when the New Jersey Line emulated their comrades-in-arms during January, 1781, their officers, under Washington's advice, promised them amnesty and agreed to their demands while

the commanders secretly rushed New England troops to the scene.

Surrounding the camp and disarming the New Jersey troops, the officers then identified the worst agitators and chose several to stand trial, assigning their brothers to serve as the firing squad which would itself be covered by the guns of the New Englanders.

The offenders were summarily tried, taken a few feet away, knelt in the snow and shot. The rhetoric of the Washingtons, Hamiltons, Jeffersons and other bigwigs notwithstanding, deceit and brutality enshrined an upper crust notion of "liberty."

FREEDOM

The soldiers' ideas of "liberty," the meaning of human freedom for which they fought concerned itself with

issues like being paid, the redress of grievances, equality, and collective action.

The noble resistance of the native American tribes, rural uprisings like Shay's Rebellion in 1786-87 or the Whiskey Rebellion of 1794, slave revolts like Gabriel's Rebellion in 1800, the development of popular political clubs, strikes, and trade unions nurtured this alternate set of ideas about "natural rights" and "liberty."

An American radical tradition began with the establishment of an independent American nation.

PRECURSORS

Two centuries ago, in the huts of Morristown and in the snows of Pompton, our precursors launched a struggle for the rights of working people.

The roots of the coming American Revolution touch the "Founding Fathers" only insofar as their war inspired the forerunners of the modern working class to political action, including efforts to think and act for themselves apart from the concerns of their "betters."

It should be no surprise that the capitalist media "forgot" that "bicentennial minute," or decided instead to discuss Martha Washington's tea service.

The spirit of self-organization and class struggle by the armed "rabble" of 1781 haunts them still. □

WHERE WE STAND



• Workers' Control

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

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

• Revolution Not Reform

The capitalist system cannot be patched up or reformed as some union leaders and liberal politicians say. Capitalism is based on the exploitation of workers. No reforms can do away with this exploitation. The only way workers can come to control society and create a system based on freedom and a decent life for all is by overthrowing capitalism and replacing it with revolutionary, democratic socialism.

• A Workers' Government

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

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

• Fight Oppression

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

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

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

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

• Rank and File Organization

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

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

• Internationalism

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

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

Russia, China, Cuba and Eastern Europe are not socialist countries. They are state capitalist and part of one world capitalist system. We support the struggles of workers in these countries against the bureaucratic ruling class.

• Revolutionary Party

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

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

Join the International Socialist Organization

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

ISO NEWS

What's ON

BLOOMINGTON
Rally to Resist the Rise of the New Right. January 20, at noon, Bloomington Court House, march to Whittenberger Auditorium. Phone 336-6972 for details.

John Mason on **Black Politics in America**. December 29 at 7:30 pm. Call 336-6972 for details.

CINCINNATI
Joe Denton on **Blacks under Capitalism Series: Black Reconstruction and Jim Crow**. January 10 at 8:00 pm, 136 Kinsey. Phone 871-1371 for details.

CLEVELAND
Martha Sonnenberg on **The Fight to Save Cook County Hospital**. Friday, January 16 at 7:30 pm. Call 321-6143 or 371-7648 for details.

DETROIT
Forum on Black Liberation, sponsored by the Wayne State Black Students Association and Detroit ISO. January 21 at 4:00 pm. Call 868-2932 for more details.



Pamphlets from Hera on women

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BY BARBARA WINSLOW

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Jean Smith

WOMEN AND THE FAMILY

10 pages 50¢

available from Hera Press, Box 18037, Cleveland, OH 44118



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— Mary Harris "Mother" Jones
(1830-1930)



BUTTONS

50¢ from Hera Press

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

— Karl Marx

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

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

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

reviews

John Lennon, musician. 1940- 1980



If John Lennon were alive today, he'd probably die laughing at many of his obituaries.

Many of his struggles, his attempts to clarify the issues discussed in some of his music and his attempts to clarify the myths surrounding him, to simply say "What's the big deal?" are being buried by the fuss.

EVERYONE

Everyone from the *New York Times* (who panned "Sergeant Pepper" when it first came out) to the *National Enquirer*, have been trampling each other in the rush to hover over his body like vultures and capitalize on his death.

The legend that doggedly followed him all his life, and that he tried to elude, has now firmly been entrenched.

As Jimi Hendrix laconically put it: "Once you're dead, you're set for life."

But one thing that all of the bilge pumped out by the media cannot swamp is this: John Lennon, folks, was political in his unique and peculiar way.

Some of his post-Beatle solo work ranks as some of the best political music ever recorded. An element of political savvy also pervades much of the Beatle's music.

Although his upbringing was not as grimy as the legend would have us believe ("I was half a class higher than George, Paul, or Ringo . . ." he said in his final interview. "We owned our house"), he immediately became aware of class conflict, and the awareness remained with him throughout his life and throughout many contradictions.

TWO

"In England there are only two things to be, basically: you are either for the labor movement or for the capitalist movement."

Despite his extreme wealth, he was always for the labor movement.

The Beatles first gained popularity in the English port of Liverpool by playing rhythm and blues and rock and roll in a most uncompromising style.

At a time when rock and roll was exemplified by people like Bobby Vee and Del Shannon—clean and bland.

The Beatles' greasy hairdos and leather jackets were as iconoclastic and threatening as the Sex Pistols spiked hairdos and torn T-shirts were in 1977.

After they became managed by Brian Epstein and were signed to the EMI label, the matching suits and the mop-tops were cultivated.

One only has to listen to their rendition of "Twist 'n Shout" to realize that they may have cleaned up their image, but their music was as raucous and exciting as ever. Despite deviations into soppy territory and a wholesome image, they retained an edge.

In most cases, the edge was provided by Lennon.

In 1963, the Beatles played at the Royal Variety show in London in front of the royal family. At the end of one song, Lennon looked towards the royal box and said: "Those of you in the cheaper seats, clap your hands. The rest of you, rattle your jewelry."

In 1965, they were made Members of the British Empire (MBE), an award normally reserved for distinguished government bureaucrats.

PROTEST

Said John upon its receipt: "I thought the MBE was for killing people." He returned the celebrational symbol of imperialism in 1969, accompanied with a letter that read: "I am returning this MBE in protest against Britain's involvement in the Nigeria-Biafra thing, against our support of America in Vietnam, and against 'Cold Turkey' slipping down the charts."

He settled in New York after the break-up of the Beatles. He hung around with an

assortment of radicals including Abbie Hoffman and Jerry Rubin.

He staged some of his well known 'peace events,' cut his hair, sold it and donated the proceeds to British Black power activist Michael X. He put out songs like "Imagine," "Power to the People" and "Working Class Hero."

His pointed wit, candor and politics were none too pleasing for Senator Strom Thurmond, who asked then attorney-general John Mitchell to deport Lennon, citing his political activism as a prime reason for doing so.

Thus began the long struggle against the U.S. immigration authorities, which was eventually won, and probably accounted for his departure from radicalism.

Whatever people may think of Yoko Ono, Lennon's continual involvement of her in his projects was waged as a battle against the racism and mysoginism that surrounded the Beatles myth.

Discussing various attempts to get him to form a touring band, he said: "The very fact that they would imagine I would form a male group without Yoko! It was st!!! in their minds . . ." Her inclusion in a male dominated profession, and her replacement in John's private life, a very public private life, of the rest of the Beatles, threatened the image

MATT BACKER ON JOHN LENNON

of camaraderie that always surrounded the band.

Said Lennon: "Nobody ever said anything about Paul's having a spell on me or my having a spell on Paul! They never thought that was abnormal . . . we spent more time together in the early days than John and Yoko: the four of us sleeping in the same room, practically the same bed, in the same truck, living together night and day, eating, shitting and pissing together!"

INTERVIEW

He discussed his private, professional and political life extensively in the last interview. He talked about politics and about sexism, and ironically, the interview appeared in *Playboy*.

Over the last five years, Lennon concentrated on raising his child, making a fuss about something that many women are familiar with.

"What have you been doing?" was a common question. Lennon, a man courageous enough to take on a traditionally female task, replied: "Baking bread and looking after the baby . . . bread and babies, as every housewife knows, is a full-time job . . . I thought 'well, Jesus, don't I get a gold record or knighted or nothing?'"

The last album, "Double Fantasy," was disappointing, seeming to celebrate the joys

of upper class family life (very nice John, but so what?) There was a glimmer of hope, however. One track "Woman" contained traces of feminism. ". . . it suddenly hit me. I saw what women do for us . . . Women are really the other half of the sky. . ."

The Lennons seemed to retain some radical ideas, despite owning luxurious properties around the world and being in control of ridiculously large sums of money. "The Bhuddist says 'Get rid of the possessions of the mind'" said Lennon. "Walking away from all the money would not accomplish that. It's like the Beatles. I couldn't walk away from the Beatles . . . If I walk away from one house or 400 houses, I'm not going to escape it . . . So what the hell—if that's a paradox, then I'm a socialist."

FRIEND

Perhaps we socialists are a bit like the journalistic vultures, claiming a piece of the corpse. But hell—he was a friend to a lot of people who never met him. A Boston newspaper put it very aptly, in terms of left and right: "One of the good guys is gone."

Whatever his idiosyncrasies, he was on our side, even up to the end. The last word goes to Ray Charles, who said, "John Lennon was one of our own, and losing him makes me mad as shit." □



on the picket line

RAVENNA TEACHERS BACK ON PICKET LINES

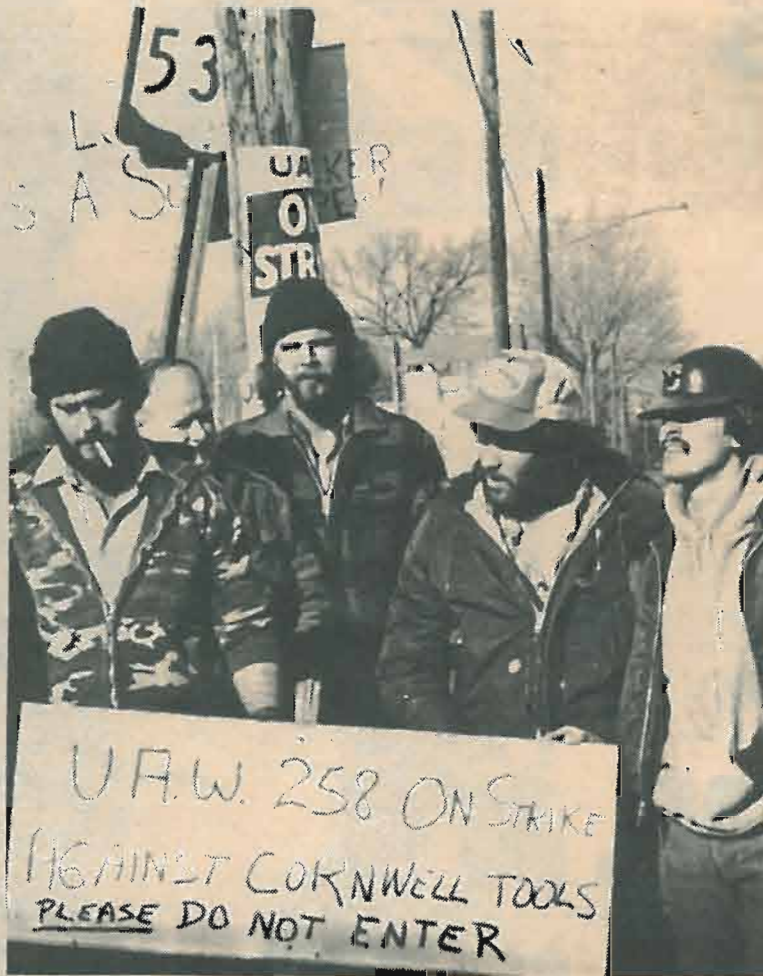
RAVENNA, OH—Teachers here have defied a court issued back-to-work order and returned to the picket lines.

The teachers took down their picket lines in late December, but now charge that the Ravenna Board of Education still refuses to bargain in good faith, and say they have no choice but to strike again.

SOLID

The Board is trying to keep the schools open, but first reports are that the overwhelming majority of the teachers are solidly behind the strike.

The teachers want a wage increase of 9.8% and the Board has offered 2%. □



Eight months on strike

Support the Cornwell strikers

by CAL WINSLOW

MOGADORE, OH—The seventy strikers at Cornwell Quality Tools are standing firm, despite eight months on strike, and all the odds against them.

Court action ruled out effective picketing in the first days of their strike. But in December, the courts intervened again, banning a dozen of the strikers from picketing altogether.

FIRE

Also in December, the strikers' trailer was blasted by shot guns, and one night it was set afire. Now the local police are threatening to remove the trailer altogether—leaving the strikers with nothing but a fire in the midst of a severe Ohio January.

All this action has its purpose. Cornwell has been hiring strike-breakers right through December, and pick-

ets estimate there may now be as many as thirty working. There is even a possibility Cornwell will put on another shift.

It's easy enough to see why the courts and the police are teaming up against the strikers. The Mayor's son is actually a foreman in the plant.

What's harder to understand is why the strikers are getting so little support—especially from their own union, the United Auto Workers, which has tens of thousands of members in North-eastern Ohio.

So far the U.A.W. International seems content to let the strike drag on indefinitely.

The problem is that when the strike is a year old, Cornwell will be able to go to the NLRB for a decertification election. And if they can continue hiring permanent replacements (scabs), they will win the election.

The workers at Cornwell need to win a decent contract. As it is, the top paid workers earn only a little over \$6 an hour. They face inflation too, and the company wants massive take-aways in working conditions and benefits.

According to one striker, there have been 11 strikes at Cornwell since the plant was organized in 1950. There have been three strikes of more than 100 days. The first big fight—when the union was won—almost brought in the National Guard.

START

That kind of fighting spirit still exists at Cornwell, but it will have to be put to use—a good beginning would be to start getting the word out about Cornwell's union busting campaign.

Akron (right next to Mogadore) is a city with a strong union tradition. There is no doubt that support could be found there—for the strikers, for the picket lines, for the strike funds.

Contributions and messages of support can be sent to U.A.W. 258, 532 Killian Road, Akron, Ohio. □

TALKIN' UNION BY JOHN ANDERSON

AUTO WORKERS NEED WORLDWIDE SOLIDARITY

A year ago when the Chrysler workers agreed to forego wage increases totalling \$446 million they were told that in 1982 their wages would again be at a par with Ford and GM. Now Chrysler workers are being asked to accept another reduction of \$150 million.

They call it a wage freeze but it will cost every Chrysler worker \$2,500 in addition to another \$5,000 the Chrysler workers have already given up for the duration of their three year contract.

DECLINE

Even with these sacrifices by the workers there is little hope for Chrysler avoiding bankruptcy. With interest rates continuing to reach record highs, car sales are on the decline.

If the Chrysler workers accept further cuts in their income AMC and Ford have already indicated that they too will ask for wage concessions. There is little doubt that GM will follow in the footsteps of Chrysler and Ford.

During 1980 GM lost \$800 million, Ford \$1.2 billion, Chrysler \$1.5 billion and American Motors \$156 million. These losses must be blamed on the greed and shortsightedness of the corporation managements. They were making such huge profits on the big cars, they failed to see the need for a small fuel efficient car. Instead of trying to build a quality product they built in obsolescence. The result has been a growing market for the small well built foreign car.

Ford's losses in the US were more than offset by its profits on foreign operations. Having plants in Mexico, Brazil, Spain, South Africa and other low wage areas, Ford was able to earn substantial profits in those countries.

American Motors, which also faces bankruptcy, has given Renault of France a controlling interest in the company. GM is spending \$4 billion on plants in Austria, Spain and Ireland. In order to survive the American companies are becoming global corporations. This is not a new development. Ford and GM have long had plants in more than 20 countries.

Up until now the UAW has seen little reason for establishing ties with the French, British, German, Italian or other foreign trade unions. The red-baiting of the UAW leadership made such ties impossible. The Communist Party and Social Democratic leadership of many of these unions are labor bureaucrats little better than their American counterparts.

Recently Donald Ephlin, Director of the Ford Department of the UAW held a Ford World Auto Council meeting. There were 49 delegates from Ford plants in 13 countries. They visited Ford's Fiesta plant in Valencia, Spain. The 10,000 ride to work in buses. With their low wages they can't afford to buy the cars they build. It is said their wages are less than half the \$10.51 rate paid an assembler in a US plant.

The Ford World Auto Council meeting was called by the International Metal Workers Federation. The Swiss



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

based body coordinates industrial unions in 68 countries.

Owen Bieber, Director of the UAW-GM Department, it is reported, will hold a world conference of GM workers next June in the US.

The UAW and its leadership have many barriers to overcome before they can join in actions of solidarity with foreign workers. They must give up their red-baiting of workers who are led by self-proclaimed "socialists" and "communists." They must rid themselves of their corporation loyalties. These global companies recognize no national boundaries. The workers must learn to do the same.

CHALLENGE

When workers are faced with unemployment or other problems they are open to ideas that offer a solution to these problems. The Polish workers have shown the courage to challenge the state capitalism that opposes them. The American worker must have the courage to challenge the private capitalism of the global corporations. They will have powerful allies around the world.

Without a socialist movement in the industrialized countries there is little hope for worldwide solidarity. We must build a strong socialist movement in the US. □

A personal history by
a rank and file worker

THE DEPRESSION OF THE THIRTIES



BY JOHN ANDERSON

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



COAL CONTRACT COUNTDOWN

Rank and file coal miners in Western Kentucky have stopped the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) from using non-union coal at its plant at Paradise, Kentucky.

COMPANY

The miners fought several pitched battles with police, truck drivers and company goons, but they won in the end.

On December 2, thirty-four miners were arrested. They were charged with a variety of misdemeanors after a demonstration of 500 stopped scab coal trucks, drove police back and turned over and stoned a number of police cruisers.

TVA says it is trying to be competitive in using scab coal, but the union says it is "union busting" and has pledged to continue the fight to stop the use of non-union coal in Kentucky power facilities. □

Oppositionists have won nearly all the top offices in District 6 of the United Mine Workers.

Ed Bell, a local union president, defeated incumbent District 6 president John Guzek by a margin of 3,849 to 2,274.

In addition to Bell, Tony Bumbico was elected as the district's representative to the International Executive Board. John Prout was elected vice president; Steve Kubic, safety coordinator; and Jim Hepe and Jim White organizers.

REJECT

District 6 represents 15,000 coal miners in Ohio and the West Virginia panhandle. In the last contract fight, District 6 miners voted twice to reject proposed settlements and fought to extend the strike that lasted 181 days in 1978.

Gusek and the union's international leadership

argued for the settlement that cost the miners dearly in health and welfare benefits, COLA and pensions.

Sam Church, the new president of the UMW, has promised an early settlement when the coal miners contract expires this year. He may well find this more difficult as a result of these elections. □

One hundred and twenty-three coal miners died on the job in 1980, according to the January issue of the *United Mine Workers Journal*.

INJURED

In addition, 16,602 miners were injured. The figures cover the period up to December 5, 1980.

Most of the fatalities occurred in underground mines with the most frequent causes of death being roof falls, haulage and machinery accidents, and

accidents involving explosives.

HIGHEST

West Virginia, Kentucky, and Pennsylvania, the top three coal-producing states, had the highest number of deaths with 29, 27, and 15 respectively. Of the 123 who died, 76 were union members and 47 were non-union.

Until August, it appeared that the death toll in 1980 would be substantially lower than the toll of 144 in 1979. However between August and November there were 54 deaths in the coal mines.

ISSUE

The national contract between the UMW and the coal operators expires in March of this year. Safety will be a big issue—the companies are pushing for productivity. The miners are fighting for their lives. □

"There will be a battle"

CLEVELAND, OH—175 workers at Accurate Die Cast here, members of International Association of Machinists (IAM) Local 439, have been on strike since November 6. The company offered a wage plan for the next three years that would include increases of 7%, 9% and 9%, but only if inflation goes over 10%. This "deal," a losing proposition from the start, was rejected by the unionists.

"The company threatens us—they say they will try to bring scabs in and if we stop them, they'll just close the plant," says one striker. "But we're in good shape. Out of 175 of us, just a few won't picket."

The company's excuse for not granting the workers' demand is that it cannot afford the increases. But the strikers have solid proof this is a lie. Area newspapers report that company president George Slyman is constructing condominiums in nearby Wickliffe, Ohio worth some \$81 million.



Striking machinists

"And he says he can't grant our increases?" The strikers refuse to believe it.

The strikers say most drivers coming into the plant honor the picket line. However, most know nothing about the strike until they arrive at the plant gate.

"Publicity has been one of our main problems," they report.

But the police certainly

know about the strike. "There are robberies and rapes in Cleveland and you can't find a cop," says picket John Perdaka. "But there are dozens of police coming by here every day."

Striker Bob Namy says the union hasn't done enough to keep the workers informed of progress in negotiations. While the workers elected their negotiating committee, the union's local president is not elected by the members of the local. So the process of negotiating the contract is well removed from the workers it will effect.

BATTLE

The pickets now see what kind of coverage they will get from the papers: the running of want adds for scabs. The scabs may appear any day, as the next step in the company's attempt to break the strike.

"If the scabs do come," the workers vow, "There will be a battle. We won't allow them in." □

by GLENN PERUSEK

AMNESTY AT NIPSCO!

MICHIGAN CITY, IN—The long strike between the Northern Indiana Public Service Company (NIPSCO) and the United Steel Workers Union (Local 12275) is about over.

Management and union representatives met in Washington with federal mediators just before Christmas and brought back an offer they hope the membership will accept.

The new contract would include wage increases of 6%,

5% and 4½% over three years plus an uncapped COLA.

But the negotiating committee recommended that the members turn down the offer until two key points are settled.

First, the union wants total amnesty for thirteen workers who have been fired in the course of the strike.

And, second, the company wants to pro-rate vacations, effectively eliminating vacations for workers because of the long strike. The union says this is unacceptable. □



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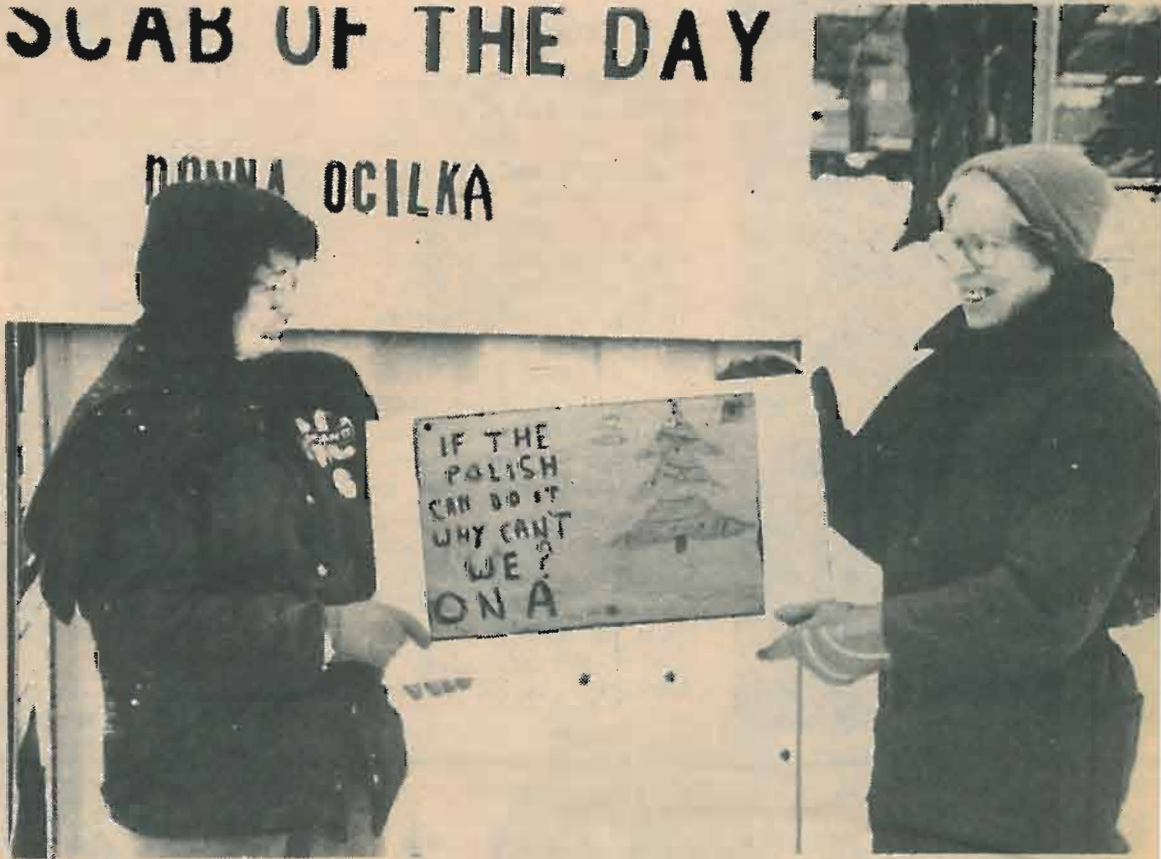
PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALIST ORGANIZATION

SUPPORT THE NURSES!

"WE WILL WIN"

SLAB OF THE DAY

DONNA OCILKA



Ashtabula nurses

ASHTABULA NURSES TELL WHY THEIR STRIKE IS THE LONGEST IN U.S. HISTORY

ASHTABULA, OH—After six long months, the ONA (Ohio Nurses Association) strike at Ashtabula General Hospital has now become the longest nurses strike ever in the U.S.

Despite sub-freezing temperatures, the nurses picketed right through Thanksgiving and Christmas. They continue round-the-clock picketing, warming up in their small trailer between shift changes. They are determined as ever to win.

ISSUES

Wages, mandatory union membership, the right to strike and honor other union picket lines are the key issues left to be resolved.

In a recent survey taken among the 170 striking nurses, the vast majority refused to return to work without a union contract and a closed shop.

But the administration makes it difficult to further negotiations, when they don't present any new proposals.

Lisa Thompson, a striker, explained: "The hospital

maintains that they want to negotiate, yet their lawyer either doesn't show up for negotiating sessions, or he leaves his briefcase in his car or at home."

So far, the administration's wage proposals to the nurses have been meager. According to Rachel Omus, "With a raise of only 20¢ per year, as you gain seniority, your actual wages go down."

OVERTIME

Money has not been the only source of dissatisfaction for Ashtabula nurses. They are tired of being floated to other floors for unnecessary staffing shortages. They are tired of working 12 hour shifts, with no overtime pay.

They are also unhappy with the nursing administration, which is unresponsive to the problems they encounter day to day.

When there is a conflict between a nurse and a doctor over a medication order or

REPORT BY SHARON SMITH

policy, "we get no support from the powers that be," says Thompson. "From supervisors to the director of nursing, they let it be known that they stand with the doctors—not the nurses. You may know an order is wrong, yet the nursing office will tell you: 'If the doctor said do it, do it'"

"We've always protected the doctors, but we're not going to do it anymore," added Karen Marr.

The nurses worry about that they'll look like the "fall group" when hospital room rates go up. But there is no reason why room rates should increase at Ashtabula General. The hospital, which has non-profit status, is a private hospital which grosses over \$1 million per year, and owns several million dollars worth of stocks and bonds.

Ashtabula General has accumulated so much profit that a couple of years ago, the IRS threatened to strip them of their non-profit status if

they didn't spend some of it.

The obstetrics/pediatrics floors have not had major improvements in 40 years. Rather than improve these areas, the hospital instead chose to construct a new gift shop lobby as their last building project.

Hospital improvement projects seem to provide the dual function of boosting business for members of the the hospital board of directors!

Koski Construction, owned by Frank Koski, board member, paved the hospital parking lot and re-built the hospital lobby. Carlyle's Department Store, owned by Tyler Carlyle, board member, provides much of the furniture found in Ashtabula General. And Mrs. J. Lundi, board member, runs the hospital gift shop.

Over the last several months, doctors have continued to call the striking nurses—trying to convince or coerce them into returning to work.

CONCERNED

Barbara Mills reports, "I've had doctors call me. They made me feel worse than a rat. Yet basically, we're all very caring, concerned people."

Hazel Lehtiner, state ONA board member and Ashtabula striker, said that the nurses have been accused of not acting "like professionals."

"I don't mind being a skilled laborer," she said. "We're not going back without a contract."

It hasn't been easy, but the strikers have managed to keep

most of the 235 bed hospital shut down since August. They've been helped along the way with the support of trade unionists, not only in Ashtabula, but in surrounding areas.

The front of the hospital lawn was lined with signs of support from other union locals until a security guard pulled them out. ONA members from Youngstown raised \$1,000 for the strikers at Christmas time.

WALKATHON

On January 9, ONA members are planning a walkathon from Youngstown to Ashtabula—to raise money and support for the striking nurses.

Many of the Ashtabula nurses have not been able to get other jobs to tide them over during the strike. They need your support in continuing their struggle.

Send contributions to: Kathy Keller, chairperson 2190 South Ridge East, Ashtabula, Ohio 44004

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