



## Socialism and the American working class

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# Socialist Worker

Paper of the International Socialist Organization  
25¢ monthly



The First May Day  
See page 11

NUMBER 73



MAY 1983

### MILLIONS MORE TO EL SALVADOR



Soldiers carrying away the bodies

# Reagan backs the butchers

**WHY U.S. POLICY IS A FAILURE**

**SEE PAGE 3**

By all accounts, including the government's own, the military of El Salvador has already murdered 30,000 civilians, people dead just because they got in the army's way.

Now Reagan wants another \$600 million for these butchers, and threatens to prevent a guerilla victory in El Salvador whatever the cost. See page three for more.

# WEST VIRGINIA: THE MOST UNEMPLOYMENT SINCE HOOVER

"This is the first time they've all shut down," says Charles Hodge, "Even in Hoover's time, some of them were working."

Charles Hodge lives in Gary, West Virginia, where there is 90% unemployment. U.S. Steel has closed all seven of its mines in Gary.

"We live just from month to month," says Hodge.

"We get by on necessities, no luxuries," says Mike Krajc, who has four children. Krajc has worked in the mines since he was sixteen and never been laid off before.

His unemployment compensation runs out this month, and he is uncertain whether he will be eligible for extensions, if they are passed by congress.

## SCATTERED

Gary is a small town, 3,500 people who live in houses scattered along a narrow southern West Virginia valley in McDowell county.

But McDowell County has 33.4% unemployment—and District 29 of the United Mine Workers (Southern West Virginia) has 60% unemployment.

West Virginia, whose economy is based on coal—and related industries such as steel and chemicals—

West Virginia has 21% unemployment, one town, Gary, has 90%

recently passed Michigan as the state with the highest unemployment. West Virginia has more than 21%.

Talk of recovery does little to encourage West Virginia coal miners, for it is easy enough to see that there is a large inventory already above ground.

It's stored in thousands of gondola cars that sit on rail tracks throughout West Virginia, miles of cars lining the states' river valleys.

Coal miners are suffering throughout the country.

One District, 19 in Kentucky and Tennessee, has 66.3% unemployed. Ohio has 53.9% unemployed. District 5 in Southwestern Pennsylvania has 62.7%.

Some miners are stoic, but others are angry. There have been contingents of unemployed demonstrations in Washington, D.C. and in Pittsburgh.



The depression in the coalfields lasted until the seventies

Hundreds of Ohio Valley miners joined steelworkers in Pittsburgh in April to jeer Reagan, when he came to the steel city to talk with the steel bosses about job training programs.

## PLEDGE

Rich Trumka, the president of the UMW, who was elected last fall on the pledge that he would accept no concessions in next year's contract, inherited this situation.

But that will not make his problems—nor the rank

and file's—any simpler.

The companies haven't been bolder since the days in the early thirties when they ran union organizers out of the southern coalfields at gunpoint.

Consol, the industry giant, is planning to open five non-union mines in Pennsylvania next summer—in Waynesburg, in the heart of the eastern coalfields.

And certainly U.S. Steel, which has savagely attacked its steel making

employees, is not going to be intimidated by campaign promises.

The union has already begun establishing relief funds—and committees are operating in nearly every district, doling out a little assistance to the families suffering most.

But the question is, will the miners actually fight back? A quick look at history shows they have never won anything without a struggle—strikes, organizing drives, mass action.

Yet today there is virtually no resistance in the coalfields. One of the very few strikes is in Garland, Oklahoma, where a handful of miners have been on strike more than two years.

Miners' leaders hope that a recovery will embolden the rank and file, but Trumka is also flirting with reinvestment schemes, surely a deadly diversion.

Trumka argued in his campaign that the union needed intelligent leadership, and this may well be the case, but all the intelligence in the world will not turn back companies like Consol and U.S. Steel.

That will take a fight. And the coal miners can do it.

## UPSURGE

They have taken a lead in nearly every great labor upsurge, from the drive to organize the first industrial unions, to the CIO campaigns of the thirties, and in the rank and file rebellion of the seventies.

And they can do it again. A lot is at stake.

The great depression of the thirties lingered into the sixties for coal miners. The alternative to struggle is a new depression. □

## Reagan and the nation's children

John and Donna Smith live in Cleveland, Ohio. John was laid off from his job at Ford and was forced to take a janitorial job for \$150 a week.

Few benefits came with the job. And when Donna got pregnant the couple found

themselves without health insurance.

They didn't qualify for Medicaid, and, like so many other American families, couldn't come close to being able to afford private health insurance.

Thus there was no way that Donna could afford prenatal checkups. As a result, complications developed. The baby was born early and weighed only five pounds.

## COST

Then when they took the baby home they discovered how much formula and diapers cost—must more than they were able to afford.

Donna applied for Women, Infants and Children (WIC), a federally-funded program which furnishes food supplements to pregnant women and children under five. But she was put on a waiting list.

Doctor Dena

Magoulas

tells what Reagan's cuts are doing to poor children



In desperation, she began to add extra water to the baby's formula to make it last longer. By the time the baby was two months old it weighed only six pounds.

Then the baby caught a cold. It was so malnourished it could not fight off infection. When they took it to the emergency room it had to be admitted to the hospital for pneumonia.

The baby recovered and began to thrive in the hospital. At that point Donna and John, who had tried to be good parents in difficult circum-

stances, were charged with child neglect.

Such a scenario is typical these days as a result of unemployment and the budget cuts which have occurred in health care and benefits for the poor.

Reagan's budget includes a \$700 million reduction in Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC), which helps families with children pay for housing, utility bills and clothing.

Without AFDC many families would be out in the streets. □

WIC is also being cut at a time when more and more people cannot afford to buy proper foods to feed their families. Here in the Cleveland area there are 2,500 names on the waiting list to receive WIC supplements.

Mothers who cannot make their welfare checks last until the end of the month are feeding their babies diluted formula. Pregnant women are eating bread and spaghetti to fill up and are becoming malnourished and anemic.

How many poor children will end up like the Smith baby? The baby's three-week hospital stay for pneumonia and malnutrition cost \$10,000.

Preventive care provided by Medicaid and WIC food supplements would have spared this child's suffering and the cost, to its family.

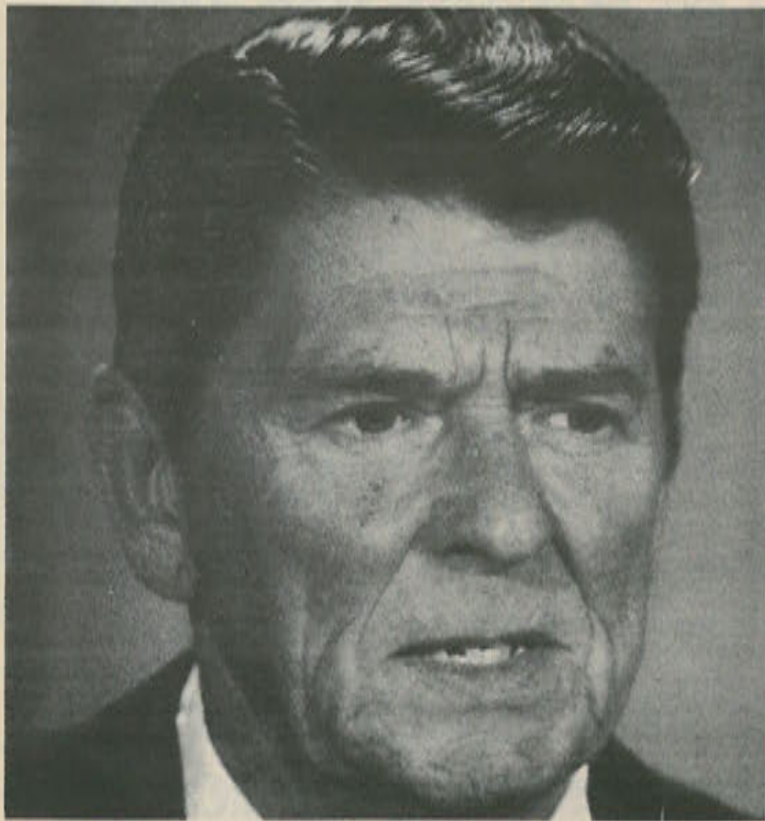
## FAMILY

With all these cuts affecting poor children, how can Reagan continue to say that he is "pro-family"?

The truth is that Reagan and the rich capitalists he represents care more about their tax cuts than the health of the nation's children. □

BY  
JOE ALLEN

# Reagan's desperate gamble



**Socialist  
Worker**

WHAT WE THINK

The Ronald Reagan's wars in Central America are not going well.

In fact, they are in deep trouble, such trouble that he and his supporters produced a joint session of congress—so that the president could plead for money.

Reagan wants \$600 million more, a trifling amount he claimed, less than is spent in this country on video games.

ANTE

He proposed a plan to "prevent a crisis."

Yet it is clear there is already a crisis—he's losing. His new plan is simple—up the ante—more guns, more advisors, more war.

He took up the "defence of democracy" of course. He denounced a "concerted campaign" by "Marxists" to take over the region.

The "communists" are at the door—Russians, Cubans, Nicaraguans, yes, even the Libyans and the PLO. The United States itself is threatened.

Nicaragua, he noted, is closer to California, than California is to Washington, D.C.

The speech was a classic of 1940s style cold war hysteria.

He even quoted Harry Truman himself in defense of freedom, democracy and the American way.

Never mind, of course, that the president of freedom loving Guatemala told the press that he favors "killing those he fails to convert to his political beliefs."

Never mind, that Honduras is completely run by the military, led by strongman Gustavo Alvarez, with the help of millions in U.S. support.

Never mind the 30,000 civi-

lians killed in 'democratic' El Salvador—the overwhelming majority of whom, by all accounts, victims of the top military.

There's much more of course.

It's not just that the butchers who run the military in

El Salvador are preoccupied with killing civilians.

They are also killing each other—that is when they are not recycling U.S. aid into Swiss bank accounts and Wall Street.

The officer corps, is led by soldiers who "work" nine to five and have weekends off.

No wonder they are losing. So Reagan wants to pay them more.

BILLION

The \$600 million that Reagan says is nothing will in fact bring U.S. aid to El Salvador up to more than \$1 billion in his term alone.

It will mean that U.S. taxpayers will spend no less than \$140,000 per guerilla Reagan wants to kill—there are only 7,000 fighters under arms on the rebel side.

The 7,000 are winning, however.

The latest military offences by the revolutionary forces of the FMLN have won important victories, including the capture of the city of Berlin—a town of 35,000.

They control 40% of the countryside.

These victories have precipitated a deep crisis in the officer corps, including the rebellion of Colonel Bustillo in April.

They have led to the resignation of defense minister Garcia, a pillar of U.S. policy in El Salvador.

He has been replaced by the butcher General Vidas Casanova, the commander of the vicious national guard.

This army cannot win.

No wonder Reagan's own advisors, according to the *L.A. Times*, are secretly telling congress that the army as it is now constituted will lose, that massive aid will win, but only in a war that might last from two to seven years.

Reagan's plan is a classic cold war adventure—step by step the United States tak-

ing over the wars in Central America. Reagan and his advisors learned nothing from Vietnam.

It has nothing to do with democracy and freedom.

Reagan cares no more for democracy in Central America—which he calls "America's backyard," than the Russians care for the rights of the Afghanis—in their backyard.

The point of the operation in Central America is to defend American interests—the interests of western capitalism. By any means necessary.

Reagan promised that the use of U.S. combat troops is not planned. So did Lyndon Johnson in 1964, referring to Vietnam.

Nevertheless, U.S. combat troops may well be in El Salvador by the end of the year.

CHECK

This is what Reagan's advisors are privately telling the Democrats—unless they give him a blank check to neutralize Nicaragua and prevent a guerilla victory in El Salvador.

He has to be stopped. There will be hundreds of demonstrations this spring—against nuclear weapons, for jobs, for justice.

The wars in Central America must be raised in all of them.

We must support the rebels in El Salvador and Central America—for their sake as well as our own.

We will never win anything in this country if we allow Reagan to once again smash the fight for freedom in Central America under the heel of U.S. imperialism. □



Jeanne Kirkpatrick—fanatic on El Salvador

## THE BEIRUT AMERICAN EMBASSY: 'A NEST OF SPIES'

One of the more interesting aspects of the bombing of the U.S. embassy in Beirut is the fact that whoever did it was able to get no less than eight CIA agents at once.

TOP

Among them was Robert Ames, the CIA's top man on the Middle East. Great piles of secret data were also apparently destroyed. Marines by the score are still searching through the rubble, looking for classified information.

Clearly, the Beirut embassy was the center of a very important espionage operation. It was a "nest of spies", as the Iranians put it, when they captured the American embassy in Terehan in 1979.

CENTER

The fact that the embassy was a CIA center seems to have surprised no one this time around—but it is probably worth remembering all

the self-righteous talk about the innocent victims of the Iranian students.

It is probably also important to understand why it is that American embassies are so often the target of attacks by various rebels around the country.

Whether or not the bombing of the embassy in Beirut will actually do anyone any good is another question, however.

The problem is that there are lots of CIA agents.

REPLACED

The ones killed in Beirut will be replaced by equally disgusting characters—and Reagan will no doubt see to it that the recruitment and training of CIA agents is stepped up. □

## FIGHTING WORDS

When the policeman's club descends upon the head of a striker, he hears the echo of the vote he cast at the preceding election.

—Eugene Debs

**Socialist  
Worker**

May, 1983

Socialist Worker is published monthly by the International Socialist Organization, Box 18037, Cleveland, Ohio 44118

## THE REAGANS SAVE \$48,000 ON TAX CUTS

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Ronald and Nancy Reagan saved a good bit of money this year—\$48,000—thanks to the federal income tax legislation sponsored by Reagan and adopted by the congress.

### WORTH

The Reagan's net worth is estimated to be \$4 to \$5 million.

The Reagan's tax return showed that the president had a total income of \$741,253 in 1982. His salary is \$200,000 a year.

The Reagan's saved a good deal of money on the sale of their house in Pacific Palisades, CA, which went for \$1,000,000—thanks to the Reagan sponsored Economic Recovery Tax Act of 1981.

But most of the Reagan benefits came from the 1981 tax law that reduced the highest bracket on all income to 50%—from 70%

This cut saved the Reagan's about \$47,000 from this tax law alone. □



A very happy Reagan

## Thousands wait for jobs in Pennsylvania

BESSEMER, PA—In September, 1982, the Bessemer Cement Company shut down, throwing 200 people out of work.

Now the plant is being re-opened, but under new management—S.M.E. Bessemer, owned by Standard Machine and Equipment of Uniontown, PA.

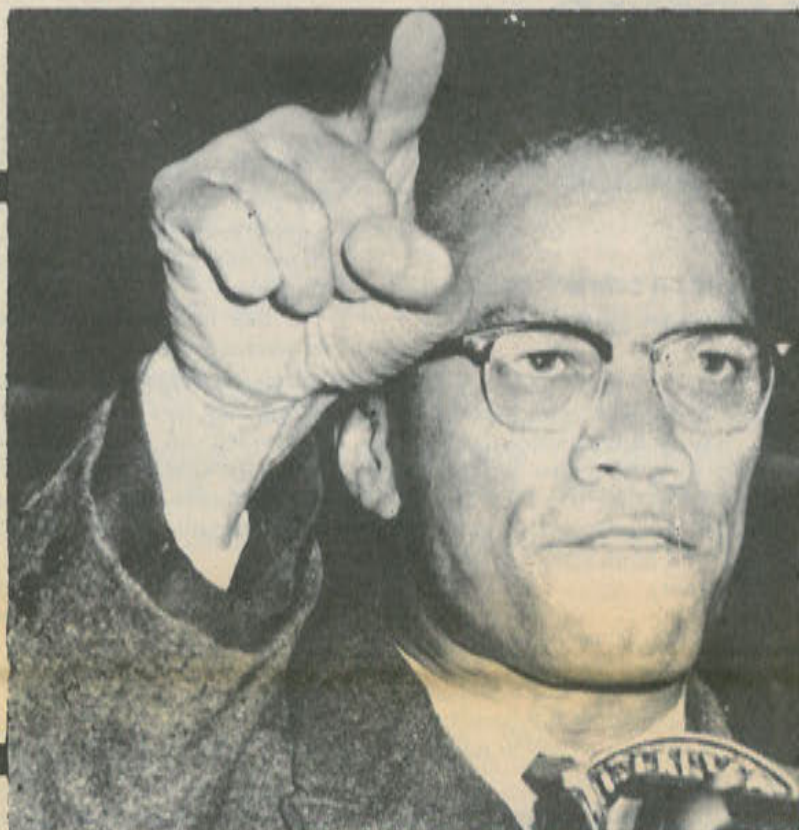
The new owners told a meeting of city businessmen on April 5, that they were confident that they would develop a thriving business in Bessemer. They also have plants in Toledo and North Canton, Ohio.

The president said that the plant was purchased for \$17 million and that S.M.E. planned \$20 million for modernization.

### UNION

Applications were taken for 150 jobs, beginning April 6. But, the company announced, the former employees, members of the United Steelworkers, would not be taken back.

Nevertheless, 5,000 workers lined up the night before waiting for the opportunity to work. Bessemer has a population of 1,427. □



## BY ANY MEANS NECESSARY: BLACK POLITICS IN AMERICA

# WHY BLACK PEOPLE SHOULD NOT BE IN THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY

Malcolm X

In itself, the recent election in Chicago should be enough to convince Black people why they should not be in the Democratic Party.

(Being in the Republican Party is for most Blacks a negligible point so it won't be discussed here.)

The politicking behind the election of Harold Washington as mayor of Chicago shows for the umpteenth time that when it comes to fighting racism the Democratic Party will sell out every time.

But since some Blacks, including Jesse Jackson (a Democratic presidential hopeful), were quick to point out that the Democrats did come to Washington's aid.

### LATE

Walter Mondale, Ted Kennedy and others threw late, but much needed support to the Black congressman.

Those Blacks conclude that the Democratic party is still where Blacks should be.

If however, we look back on history we can clearly see that the Democratic Party has an illustrious and successful history of selling Black people down the river—both literally and figuratively.

Throughout slavery it was the Democrats who fought to keep Black human bondage a proud American tradition.

### BY RETHA HILL

After the Civil War, it was the Democrats who consistently proposed legislation and offered compromises to take away the hard won gains of the newly freed Blacks.

But Blacks weren't in the Democratic Party then, you say.

If we jump forward in history to the beginning of the long coalition that continues today between Blacks, labor and southern white racists that started with the election of Franklin Delano Roosevelt, we can see the true nature of the Democratic party.

Roosevelt was elected—with the help of Black votes—

as a response to the disastrous policies of the Republicans which had plunged America into the great depression.

It was the first time Blacks had voted en masse for a Democrat.

What they got for their votes was discrimination in every program set up to help the poor.

Blacks received lower wages from work programs set up by the government, got less (or no) relief money, and were turned down for agricultural assistance grants.

When World War II started in Europe and industry began to roll, Blacks were not hired back into the factories at first.

Franklin D. Roosevelt refused to force the defense

industry—which held government contracts—to hire Blacks despite the pleas of the NAACP and other Black organization.

### MARCH

Not until A. Philip Randolph called for a march on Washington of 100,000 Blacks did the Democratic president give in.

Within two years, however, the Fair Employment Practices Committee had been scuttled by bureaucratic maneuvers.

It was the Kennedy and Johnson administrations, however, which should have convinced Blacks to avoid the Democratic Party.

Throughout his term in office, Kennedy refused to come to the aid of Blacks fighting vicious racist mobs in Montgomery, Selma, Oxford, Atlanta, Jackson and other cities—unless it made front page headlines world wide.

When it didn't, Blacks died because Kennedy would not call out the troops to protect civil rights.

Johnson went as far as to have Martin Luther King followed and bugged by the FBI, and had the FBI infiltrate the Klan and murder Blacks.

He turned his back on the millions of disenfranchised poor Blacks in the south and

the millions of discouraged and poverty stricken Blacks in the north.

AT the 1964 Democratic convention when the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party, representing 60,000 disenfranchised Blacks, asked to be seated instead of the all-white delegation, Johnson sent Walter F. Mondale (a current presidential hopeful), to convince the Blacks not to rock the boat.

### LATER

When they refused, Mondale helped to draft the resolution which basically said that the Democrats would deal with the racists later.

Later never came. In addition, the FBI kept surveillance on the Blacks attending the convention under orders from Johnson.

These are just a few examples of how the Democrats have stabbed the Black race in its back.

How can Blacks think of supporting such a hypocritical racist party in 1984.

Just because there is no alternative today, does not mean we cannot create one tomorrow.

Black people can win true liberation without the aid of the Democratic party or any other capitalist party, but only if we unite and fight back. □

*Celebrating Washington's victory in Chicago. But how much will change?*



# AMERICAN INDIAN MOVEMENT ACTIVISTS ON TRIAL IN OREGON

PORTLAND, OR—American Indian Movement (AIM) activists Ken Loudhawk, Russ Redner, Kamook Banks and Dennis Banks will soon be tried here. The trial is set for May 23.

They face charges of possession of firearms and explosives dating back to November, 1975.

These charges have been thrown out twice in lower courts for unnecessary delay and because the government destroyed all the alleged explosives.

But the government reinstated the charges after winning on appeal.

The fifth defendant, Anna Mae Aquash, was extradited to South Dakota in 1975. A bench warrant for her arrest had been issued by mistake.

## SHOT

Three months later, her remains were found in a ravine on the edge of the badlands.

The FBI claimed that she died of exposure. But at her family's demand, the body was dug up and a second autopsy was done.

She had been shot in the back of the head at close range.

Since January 1983, defendant Dennis Banks has received sanctuary from the Onondaga chiefs in New York state.

Banks faces a fifteen year sentence for his conviction at Custer, South Dakota, on eleven counts of riot, assault, arson, burglary and conspiracy.

The charges date back to early 1973 when, according to five witnesses, Darryl Schmidt came into a bar in Buffalo Gap, South Dakota and said, "I'm going to kill an Indian tonight."

He stabbed Wesley Bad Heart Bull to death. Schmidt is white.

Schmidt was charged with manslaughter.

American Indian Movement leaders, including Dennis Banks, held a meeting with local law officials in Custer—and persuaded them to increase the charge to murder.

There was a support rally outside the court house.

When Wesley's mother, Sarah Bad Heart Bull, tried to enter the meeting, the highway patrol choked her with a night stick. There was a riot.

## PROBATION

The killer got two months probation for manslaughter. Sarah Bad Heart Bull got three to five years.

Dennis Banks was slapped with three counts of arson, burglary and malicious damage to public property. Banks was convicted of all charges.

Learning that there was a contract on his life, in the South Dakota prison system, he fled to California.

After a massive petition campaign he was given sanctuary by governor Jerry Brown.

## KIRK LAMBERT ON NEW GOVERNMENT REPRESSION

During the campaign for governor candidate George Deukmajian made it clear that he'd ship Banks back to South Dakota if elected.

When Deukmajian won, Banks didn't wait. He moved to New York.

If Banks attends the trial in Portland, he risks extradition to South Dakota.

Founded in the 1960s, AIM represents Native American's demands for sovereignty, self-determination and restoration of treaty rights.

These rights are directly opposed to corporate interests. Eighty percent of the uranium and 33% of the coal deposits in this country are on Native lands.

AIM is in the way of the drive by the big energy companies and the government for higher profits and more nuclear weapons.

## TARGETS

Ken Loudhawk, Russ Redner and Kamook Banks are not criminals. They've been targeted by the government because of their active involvement in AIM.

Donations can be sent to: Loudhawk, et al, National Offense/Defence Committee, 2147 Southeast Yamhill, Portland, OR. 97214. □

CHICAGO, IL—Harold Washington eeked out a 65,000 vote victory in Chicago's April 12 mayoral election, making him the first Black mayor in Chicago's history.

The election, which brought national and world attention to Chicago was marked by racism—by the republican mayoral candidate Bernard Epton and a good percentage of Chicago whites.

In this Democratic machine town, Republican candidates usually don't stand a chance.

## MONEY

But Epton, with money from the Republican National Committee, hired president Reagan's advertising agency and formed a slick campaign which played on the racism of the city's whites.

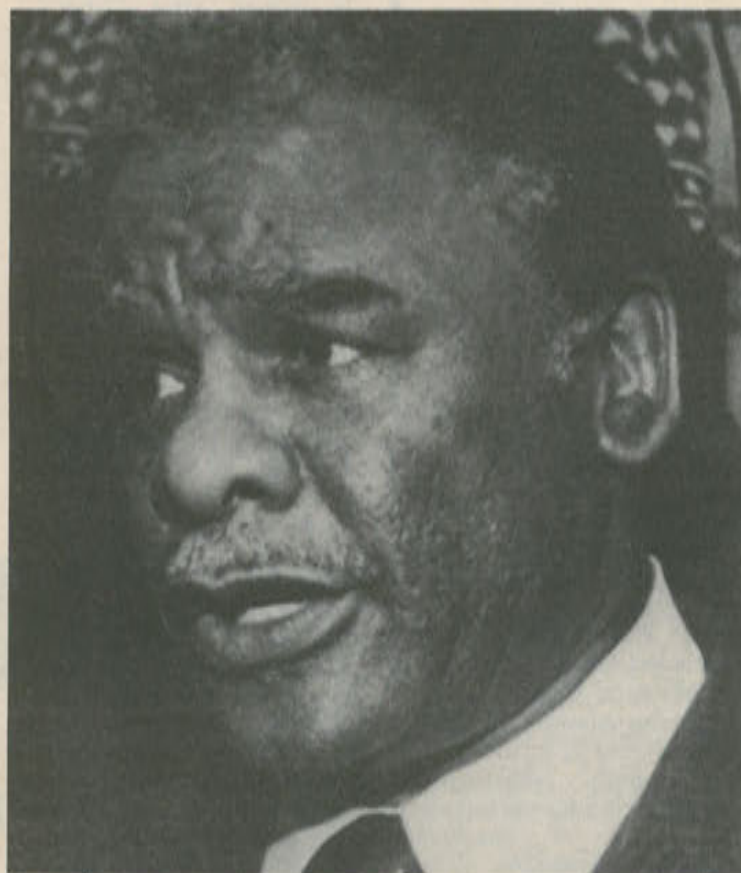
He came close, but huge turnouts in the Black and Hispanic communities, the former voting 98% to 2% for Washington, overcame the racist vote.

As after the primary, when Washington beat two other candidates in an even closer election, the spirit in the Black community is rising high.

Washington's victory led to the resignation of police superintendent Richard Breyzcek, one of the most scientific and effective perpetrators of police brutality in the country.

But how far the reforms go is up to Washington now and Washington alone.

The so-called "grass roots movement" that elected him



Mayor Harold Washington

was dismantled the day after the election.

As with all movements based around electoral politics it ended at the ballot box.

Washington is now unaccountable to the people who elected him for the length of his four year term.

So far Washington's only noteworthy move has been to consolidate his power and the power of the regular Democratic Party, over the old guard Democratic machine.

In addition he has set up several transition "teams" to form a policy for his mayoralship.

While one team works on how to get money to neighborhoods for renewal projects, another works on how to get money to businesses and keep them in Chicago.

The problem is that Chicago is \$100 million in the red already.

The debts are coming due and the bank accounts are empty.

Washington's statement on public housing is indicative of the problem: "Public housing isn't going to flourish," he told the Chicago Sun-Times "It's a question of dollars and cents."

## SERVICES

This same "question of dollars and cents" faces the schools, transportation and city services, all of which are looking at enormous shortfalls again this year. □

by ALAN MAASS

# FIREARMS SEIZED IN RAID ON NEW ORLEANS KU KLUX KLAN



Federal agent in New Orleans

MONTGOMERY, AL—Klanwatch, a project of the Southern Poverty Law Center, reports that the weapons pictured above were seized by federal authorities—"illegal weapons, dynamite, and Klan literature . . . in New Orleans from Ku Klux Klan members.

"Klansmen now openly associate with Nazis, and often use the dreaded swastika emblem."

Klanwatch also reports that from Alabama to California "secret KKK paramilitary camps are training members 'to kill Jews and niggers in the coming race war.'

"Even children are being indoctrinated in their philosophy of hate. Young boys in the KKK camp in Texas have been taught how to choke 'Jews and niggers' to death." □



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# Graffiti

by KENT WORCESTER

## M\*A\*S\*H...

Like millions of others, we watched the final M\*A\*S\*H episode. Annie V. Babcock, however, a Black woman who served as a nurse in Korea, found the show lacking.

She wrote to the *Seattle Times*: "Of the 33,629 battle deaths and the 103,284 wounded, the complete (T.V.) Korean War was fought with one Black nurse, one Black psychiatrist patient and one episode where a Black football star lost a leg. The Black nurse wasn't even allowed to tell her future plans in the final episode.

"Sincerely yours—the Black nurse who worked air evacuation. I received M\*A\*S\*H's patients."

## Burned alive...

Prison officials couldn't explain it. Executing John Louis Evans III, at Holman Prison, Alabama, took ten minutes and three powerful jolts of electricity.

As his lawyer said, "John Evans was burned alive by the state of Alabama."

After five minutes and the second jolt, a witness to the execution sought clemency from Governor George Wallace, since the punishment was "cruel and unusual". The governor refused to intervene.

Prison spokesman Ron Tate reported that "This was supposed to be a very clean manner of administering death. The chair checked out fine. I don't know that it can be explained."

## Be fair to the rich...

We have recently come across a pamphlet, printed in 1934, entitled "Be Fair to the Rich", by Ronald Tootlebridge Skippy. It is probably a parody, but we aren't sure. Do any readers know?

Here's one passage: "The backs of the rich are bent low with depression burdens. The great majority have suffered heavy losses these past few years. Yes, bitter losses.

"How would you like it if your fortune had been reduced from twenty-two millions to a scant eight millions in less than forty-eight months? That, my friends, is what happened to my Uncle Fergie.

"You may say, 'he's not badly off. He still has eight millions'. Yes, that's true. True as far as it goes.

"But at bottom it's a superficial and heartless remark." □

## ANOTHER "LIBERAL" ATTACK ON ABORTION

BY MARJORY JONES

In early April, with little publicity, the Senate Judiciary Committee voted on a new anti-abortion amendment.

The Eagleton amendment is named after "liberal" Senator Thomas Eagleton of Missouri.

### SECURED

The proposed amendment reads: "The right to abortion is not secured by the constitution of the United States."

This amendment is but another compromise with the many anti-abortion amendments proposed by right-wing senators such as Orrin Hatch and Jessie Helms.

Passage of the Eagleton amendment would nullify the 1973 Supreme Court decision

which legalized abortion for women.

Not only will the senate be deciding women's reproductive freedom, but the Supreme Court will be ruling sometime in June on the constitutionality of a number of restrictive anti-abortion laws.

Included in the rulings will be on the issue of abortion rights for women under 18, the 24-hour waiting period, and "informed consent."

Reproductive rights activists should plan on spring and summer activities and keep a woman's right to abortion. □



Waiting for cheese in Cleveland

The government's distribution of free one pound chunks of cheese it to be cut back by 20 million pounds a month, announced agricultural secretary John Block on April 26.

Figures show that commercial sales of cheese dropped by nearly 25% last winter, and the cheese manufacturers don't like it.

Like we said, who says profits don't come first?

## TALKING ABOUT SOCIALISM

What about Russia? Is it democratic?

Last month I talked about the successful working class revolution in Russia in 1917 and its subsequent defeat. What replaced working class power in Russia?

In Russia, in spite of a formally democratic constitution, participation in the most important decisions is left to a select handful of top leaders.

Free political activity is suppressed and criticism of the regime is limited to the shortcoming of individual managers, never to the system they are part of.

A Soviet "60 Minutes" would be possible, but not a Soviet *Socialist Worker*.

Workers in Russia do not exercise control, over industry or the state.

By 1929, the last remnants of working class control over production were eliminated.

In their place came the manager whose orders were "to be unconditionally binding on his subordinate administrative staff and all workers."

Trade unions were stripped of all functions pertaining to the defense of workers' needs, especially wage negotiations.

### ENFORCER

Instead, they became the enforcers of production quotas sent down from above.

In 1930, all workplaces were forbidden to hire workers who had left their previous job without permission.

An internal passport containing the previous job record was introduced.

Forced labor was begun on a massive scale. In 1928, there were only 30,000 prisoners in camps in all of Russia. By

by BILL ROBERTS

1930, official figures jumped to 662,257 prisoners.

By 1935, the figure jumped to 5 million. And by 1942, somewhere between eight and fifteen million were slaving in work camps.

In Russia, the state owns the means of production, but who owns the state?

Certainly not the workers. Working class organization exists only on paper.

The union of soviets, or workers' councils, is non-existent except as a rubber stamp organ for the bureaucracy's plan.

Since the end of the twenties, every decision made by the supreme soviet has been unanimously taken.

### RECORDS

In the official records of the proceedings, there is no record of a negative vote, an abstention, or a proposal for an amendment.

All recorded speeches are for the decisions passed.

More often than not, the decisions taken by this supposedly highest body are after the fact.

Such was the case when Russia switched alliances from England and France to Nazi Germany in 1939.

Two months after the alliance was announced, the highest body in Russia approved it.

The economic five year plans were routinely approved months and even years after they are put into effect.

## The fatal results of 'socialism in one country'

In short, the complete separation of workers from control over the means of production and the prohibitions against self-organization provided the necessary conditions for a rapid accumulation of capital under the direction of the bureaucracy.

History of course does not move in a straight line.

One of the cruel ironies of the Russian experiment was that in attempting to hasten the building of "socialism in one country" the bureaucracy, with the five year plan, laid the foundation for the building of state capitalism.

This "route to socialism" was fatal. Lenin had argued on more than one occasion that internationalism was the way forward: "We always staked our play upon an international revolution and this was unconditionally right..."

"We always emphasized the fact that in one country it is impossible to accomplish such a work as a socialist revolution."

Capitalism is a world system.

Its defeat will only come at the hands of an aroused international working class.

To attempt to build socialism in isolation necessarily pushed Russia into the international order of competing states and as Lenin warned: "The existence of the soviet republic side by side with the imperialist states for any length of time is inconceivable. In the end one or the other must triumph."

### MARKET

Lenin was not just referring to military intervention.

He also referred to the "international market to which we are subordinated... and from which we cannot escape."

Next month we look more closely at state capitalism in Russia and how the logic of world capitalism and the strengthening of the Russian state has produced greater class antagonisms and not the victory of socialism. □



A commissar listening to hungry peasants

# Solidarnosc: rebuilding power at the workplace



Walesa announcing signing of August 1980 Gdansk agreement

## THE WORLD CRISIS COMES HOME TO BRAZIL

The world crisis came home to Brazil with a vengeance last week, when laid-off chemical workers led demonstrations in Sao Paulo which culminated in riots outside the governor's palace.

Sao Paulo is the largest industrial conurbation in Latin America, producing more than most countries in the continent.

With a population of 13 million, and nearly two thirds of the country's industry, it was the heart of the Brazilian economic miracle of the 1960s and 1970s.

Now the boom is over. Brazil owes foreign banks \$90 billion, and has been forced to go cap in hand to the International Monetary Fund.

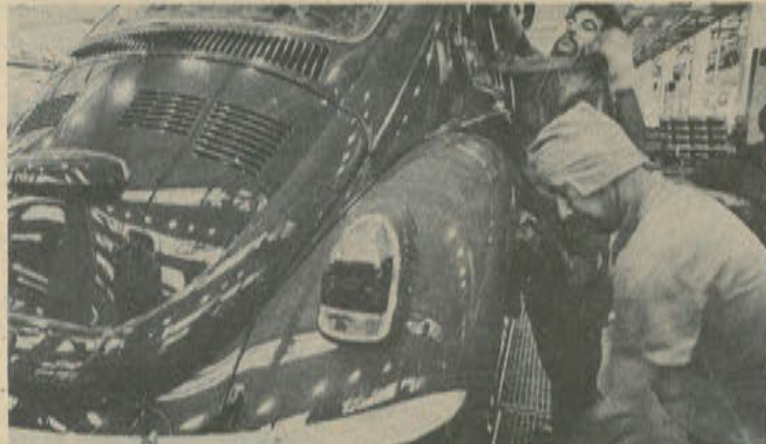
The result has been spending cuts and a "maxi-devaluation" of the Brazilian currency which has sharply reduced living standards.

### SUFFER

The basis on which wages are increased in line with inflation (which is currently running at 100 percent) has been changed so that better-paid workers will suffer a cut in real wages.

Employers have responded to the crisis with massive layoffs. Estimates of urban unemployment vary between 13 and 20 percent.

There are already 770,000 unemployed in Sao Paulo state, and the local Federation of Industrials reports that layoffs in the first three months



Making VW's in Sao Paulo

of this year exceeded the total for the whole of 1982.

Since unemployment benefits are virtually non-existent in Brazil, many workers who enjoyed a reasonable standard of living during the boom have been pitched into the most abject poverty.

Around them is the mass of underemployed shanty-town dwellers surviving on whatever casual work they can get.

### TARGET

Conveniently enough for Brazil's military government, the main target of the rioters' anger was Franco Montoro, newly elected governor of Sao Paulo.

Last year's elections gave the liberal opposition control of ten of Brazil's 23 states, but left the military firmly in control of the central government.

Montoro was elected on the promise that he would create

40,000 new jobs in Sao Paulo, but he does not have the money to carry out this promise.

He and his fellow liberal governors of the main industrialized states, Rio de Janeiro and Minas Gerais, denounced the riots as the work of "the enemies of democracy."

### ORGANIZED

The key question is now whether the social explosion in Sao Paulo's streets will be translated into organized action in the factories where Brazil's 12 million workers have real power.

The left wing led Workers' Party headed by auto workers' leader Luis Inacio da Silva "Lula" won 30-35 percent of the vote in Sao Paulo's industrial suburbs in the elections.

Support for effective worker resistance to austerity exists, if anyone is willing to tap it. □

Poland's underground trade union, Solidarity, has shown once again it has not completely been crushed, despite sixteen months of military rule.

It has called for workers to defy the regime and organize their own demonstrations for May Day.

The slogans are to be: "Free the political prisoners; stop the price rises; the fruits of labor to society; peace and solidarity; restore union freedoms; restore self management; restore civil liberties."

The way the demonstrations were called is an important rebuff for the regime.

The underground leaders of the union met with Lech Walesa, elected president of the union during its period of legality.

The meeting was a double blow to the dictatorship's pretensions.

First it showed how limited in reality is the ability of the state's forces to stop the underground.

### HUNT

Every secret policeman in the country is hunting underground leaders like Zbigniew Bujak and Bogdan Lis.

Presumably Walesa is meant to be under continual surveillance.

Yet the police knew nothing about the meeting until Walesa released details to the press.

More importantly, Walesa has for the first time, since he was released from internment late last year, identified himself with the underground union leadership.

Yet the main reason the regime freed him was the hope that his 'moderation' would lead him to denounce the underground leaders.

The regime's real problems have been thrown into relief by the meeting.

The military take over of sixteen months ago succeeded in breaking up the old structures of the union and in shaking workers' confidence in their ability to win strikes.

So last year saw a feeble response to calls from the underground for strike action, despite numerous street demonstrations.

And, towards the end of the year, the regime enjoyed considerable success in arresting activists and in dismantling resistance structures.

Activists had started the year with the slogan, "The winter is theirs but the spring is ours", meaning they expected a quick victory against the military.

Many ended the year depressed after the complete failure of a general strike called for early November.

### FAILURE

Since the failure of November's general strike there have been signs of continued resist-

by CHRIS HARMAN

ance of a localized often fragmented form, in many factories.

Scores of reports tell of regular collections for union activists, of work to rules and go-slows against victimizations, of the continued collection of dues and the paying of benefits by Solidarity, of short strikes over factory issues.

The regime lives in fear of this resistance suddenly coalescing into a new, national strike wave of the sort which shook it in 1956, 1970, 1976 and above all July and August 1980.

It knows its police and army could not cope with a movement of all workers, as opposed to demonstrations by the militant minority alone.

That is why it reached an agreement with Cardinal Glemp, the head of the church, last autumn.

He denounced a proposed general strike, in return for agreement on a papal visit to Poland next month.

Soon after, the regime released most of the trade union activists it had interned at the time of the military takeover.

These manoeuvres have bought time for the regime. But they have also complicated its situation. For they have created new opportunities for people to engage in semi-legal forms of opposition.

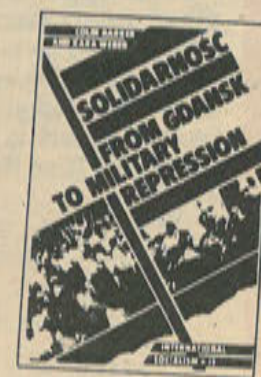
The decisive question now will be whether the underground leaders know how to cope politically with these opportunities.

Last year they made the mistake of being over optimistic—basically, because they did not start from what the real situation was in the factories, and instead thought in terms of gestures which would force the regime to negotiate with them.

### WORKPLACE

If they work correctly, there will be an explosion of workers' anger powerful enough to overthrow the regime.

But that can only be built if every call for a demonstration or token strike is linked to the all important question of rebuilding confidence in the workplace. □



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BY  
CAL WINSLOW

May Day, the celebration of the struggles of workers, past and present, will probably go unnoticed this year in the United States.

There is not so much to celebrate.

### CRISIS

Eleven million workers are "officially" unemployed.

Two million people lived on the streets last winter. Countless others are without homes—camping out in the suburbs of Houston, living in station wagons in California state parks.

The longest economic boom in the history of capitalism has come to an end.

The estimate is that there will be 35 million workers unemployed in the industrialized nations of the West before this recession hits bottom—and as yet it has not, Reagan's claims to the contrary.

The world system is in crisis.

There have now been four recessions in the past dozen years, and each has been deeper than the one which preceded it. The prospect is for continuing economic stagnation, and new recessions to come.

Chronic unemployment, cheese lines, a generation of young people who may never work—this is what we have to look forward to in the United States.

The situation is the same world wide.

Poland's Solidarnosc exploded when that country's "communist" rulers raised food prices by 200%—in a vain attempt to resolve Poland's economic crisis at the expense of the workers.

Today in France, the "socialist" Mitterand is doing the same thing—imposing an austerity program along similar lines to Reaganomics.

In the face of this crisis, the state of the unions—the only working class organizations to speak of—is very bad indeed in the United States.

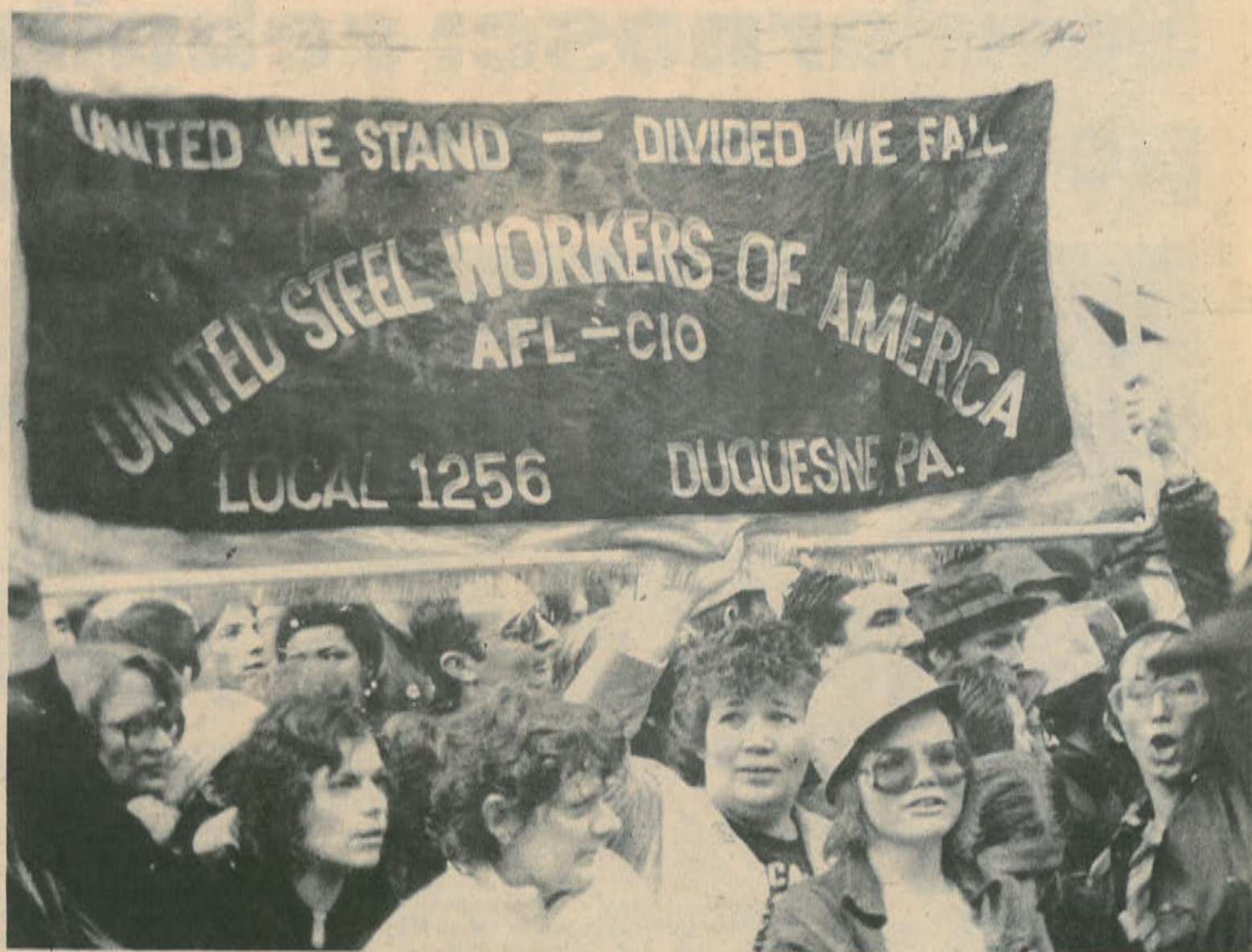
The one union which attempted to stand up to Reagan, PATCO—the air traffic controllers—was smashed, literally wiped out of existence.

Concessions are commonplace—nearly every new contract includes them.

Billions of dollars are being given to the employers, from General Motors to the corner grocer—all from the wages of workers.

Trade union membership has declined to below 20% of the workforce.

The vast majority of American workers are at the mercy of their employers, who at-



Steelworkers demonstrating against Reagan in Pittsburgh

tempt to compensate for declining profits by attacking the wages and the working conditions of their employees.

### STRIKES

Strikes are few and far between, and when workers go on strike, they can expect to be out a long time—and get very little for their sacrifice.

Caterpillar tractor workers have just returned to work after seven months on strike—the longest strike in the United Auto Workers history.

And what have they won? A three year wage freeze.

Striking Detroit teacher



UAW officers say the strike was a victory because Caterpillar wanted more.

It's not that action is impossible.

When AFL-CIO president decided to show Reagan that the labor movement still existed, half a million angry workers marched on Washington—the overwhelming majority of the rank and file workers who travelled to Washington at their own expense.

But Solidarity Day led to nothing—except a half-hearted attempt to influence the 1982 congressional elections for the sake of the Democrats.

There is a new gangster in charge of the Teamsters union—Jackie Presser of Cleveland.

But Presser is very different from his immediate predecessors.

### DELIVER

Jimmy Hoffa terrified the employers and the workers alike, and did in fact "deliver the goods" to a considerable proportion of the truck drivers in this country.

But that was when the economy was expanding.

Today the employers are far from afraid of "the strongest union in the free world." The Teamsters have lost hundreds of thousands of members.

Presser himself negotiated concessions and give-aways that not only undercut the national trucking contract, but also set Ohio Teamsters against truckers in other states.

The left-wing of the labor movement is small, but not insignificant.

The problem is that while William Winpisinger, the president of the machinists, talks about socialism, he does nothing to support workers in struggle—from PATCO to Brown and Sharpe machinists on strike in Rhode Island.

All too often, the "left" proposes economic nationalism, investment schemes and electoral politics—not working class struggle.

There is no sense in downplaying problems such as these. They are the facts of life.

But they are no reason to give up. On the contrary, today's crisis is our opportunity. And not because we welcome suffering.

The point is that capitalism is a system permanently in crisis—it is a system based on

exploitation and oppression, a system in which war and economic crisis are an almost constant feature.

Today, it is possible for socialists to get a hearing in the working class—and this is a fact of immense importance for anyone who wants an end to capitalism.

Things are changing in the American working class, perhaps not so fast as we would like, but much more quickly than many people, socialists included, actually think.

When Ronald Reagan visited Pittsburgh recently, he was met by several thousand protesters.

### WORKERS

But unlike so many anti-Reagan protests, this one was made up overwhelmingly of workers, mainly steelworkers, but also coal miners and others.

The protesters, who stood in a torrential rain for hours, included many workers who a few years back never dreamed

Solidarity march in Warren, Ohio





# SOCIALISM AND THE AMERICAN WORKING CLASS

that they would find themselves marching in the streets, shouting obscenities at the president of the United States.

## FUTURE

But there they were—and they are a sign of the future.

And they are the reason socialists should be optimistic, no matter how difficult the immediate circumstances. For they represent the class that has the power to change things—for the better.

The system isn't working, and workers are beginning to look for alternatives.

The main problem for us, for socialists, is that we are so few in number.

The danger is that when the anger and frustration that is building up inside the working class explodes—as it always has done in the past—there will not be a socialist organization capable of taking advantage.

The left of the sixties developed as an alternative to the "old left"—the left that identified socialism with Russia—despite Khrushchev's revelations, despite Hungary 1956, despite the fact that Russian workers were, if anything, more oppressed than their Western counterparts.

And it developed in opposition to liberalism (social democracy in Europe)—to politicians like the Kennedy's who promised reforms, but delivered the Bay of Pigs, Vietnam, politicians who were an obstacle to the civil rights movement in the South.

But the "new left" developed outside the working class—socialists and communists had been driven from the workplaces and unions during the McCarthy period.

## RADICALISM

Consequently, the radicalism of the sixties affected the working class only indirectly—via the radicalism of youth, the Black movement and the women's movement—though this fact remains important, as Blacks and women workers are still more militant and open to political ideas on average.

The majority of workers, particularly the blue collar workers of the industrial unions, were not affected by the movements of the sixties—or they were affected negatively, seeing the anti-war movement, or the struggles of Blacks and women, as threats to the relative prosperity they enjoyed.

The "socialism" of the sixties, consequently, had very little to do with Marx's idea of "self-emancipation of the working class"—particularly the American working class. Or with the traditions of American workers.

Socialism was identified with "Third World" struggles—the Vietnamese, the Cubans, or in this country, with a separate solution for Blacks, Hispanics, women.

This perspective matched the arguments of the cold war professors of the fifties, for whom the working class no longer existed, certainly not in America—where everyone was "middle class"—or about to be.

And today, as a result, the left is defeated, demoralized and tired. It is in no position to respond to today's changing conditions. The Vietnam war ended. The youth grew older. The Black movement was defeated.

This is a tragedy, to be sure. Hundreds of thousands of people became subjectively revolutionary in the United States in the sixties.

But practically nothing of this is left today.

The point of this is not to discourage socialists, but

simply to say that socialists today must look to the workers' struggles of the future, and not the movements of the sixties.

The way forward is not a regroupment of the remnants of the sixties movements, but involvement in the struggles of today. And the struggles of young people—the new generation of socialists. They exist. The job of socialists today is to relate socialist ideas to them—and to attempt to win workers, such as those who demonstrated in Pittsburgh to a socialist organization.

## POTENTIAL

The fact is that the working class is far from dead and buried.

Internationally, the Polish workers showed this—when they came very near to establishing workers' power in a country where there is no free speech, no right to strike, no right to assemble.

The potential in the United States is far greater. There are more than 80 million wage earners in this country—and while the structure of the working class is changing, its numbers are growing. There is an overwhelming working class majority.

The economy is being "restructured". White collar and service sectors are expanding, manufacturing is declining.

But this has nothing to do with the theory of a "middle class majority."

How "middle class" is a teacher in Ohio who starts at \$9,000 a year—not too far from the government's poverty line.

And, despite a relative decline, industrial workers in this country still have great potential power.

The truckers showed this in 1974. The miners did the same in 1978.

The railroad engineers, barely 28,000 strong, sent congress into a panic last summer when they set up

picket lines in front of most of the nation's railroads.

Socialists today must relate to these struggles—and to the hundreds of strikes which take place—the ones that rarely make the news.

And this can be done, though it is not usually as glamorous as we would like it to be.

Over the past year, we in the ISO have worked with striking telephone operators in Boston, autoworkers in Michigan, nurses in Ohio, grocery workers in California. And we have had some success.

We have found that workers can be won to socialism, as the only practical alternative to the crisis—and that they can be won to a revolutionary organization.

We have a long way to go—in a sense we are starting from scratch.

But we are convinced that we can make a contribution to rekindling the flame of socialism in the United States.

And that we can create a viable socialist organization—an organization of Blacks and whites, men and women, white and blue collar workers—people who share a common vision of socialism and a commitment to working for it.

## URGENT

And this remains an urgent task—for increasingly revolutionary politics are the only alternative to the crisis both in the short term and the long.

We don't have to have unemployed steel workers—not when most of the world's population goes hungry for want of tractors.

We don't have to have hungry children—not when a third of this country's productive land lies fallow.

And we don't have to have war. But we will, unless we have an alternative.

The alternative is workers' power and international socialism. We urge you to join us in the fight for it. □



## CHICAGO: SOUNDS LIKE THE LEFT WAS FOOLED

Dear Socialist Worker,  
Your editorial on Harold Washington didn't make the point strongly enough—his victory will make no difference.

Even if he were committed to serious reform, there is no money for liberal programs. As a democrat, committed to whatever you want to call it—"the system", "capitalism"—he will be forced to cut social services

and break public union strikes.

You wrote in your editorial that "he actively seeks the support of the establishment."

I'll say! Did you see the unity breakfast he had with his opponents? So far he hasn't said anything even remotely hostile to the democratic party machine and to the industrial establishment.

You also wrote that "Everything that was distinctive

about the Washington campaign...is being dropped."

When was it distinctive? Sounds like he's fooled the left to me.

I hope this doesn't sound like rhetoric. A democrat is a democrat, and a democrat helping out business in a recession is a democrat helping out business in a recession.

Steve Bright  
Joliet, Ill.

## HEALTH AND SAFETY NOTES

BY MATT FILSINGER

What health problem costs \$14 billion dollars each year, has been around for thousands of years, and affects almost everybody?

Ring around the collar? Nope! Bad breath? Not really.

Back injuries? That's it!

### ESTIMATE

Researchers have estimated that 70-80% of the world's population will suffer low back problems at some point in their working life.

In the U.S. approximately 15% of all workers compensation claims are for low back injuries. These amount to over \$1 billion per year. As we know, it is hard to get workers comp.

The National Institute for Occupational Safety & Health (NIOSH) estimates that if you include lost work time and medical expenses for everyone who hurts their back on the job, the annual cost in the U.S. is really more than \$14 billion.

Most back injuries occur from lifting. Yet even with such a widespread and severe problem there are no OSHA regulations for lifting.

It is up to workers to protect ourselves. Here are some ways to make lifts less dangerous.

Wherever possible lift with both hands, with the object directly in front of you.

If you can, arrange so that you don't have to pick up or place objects from either the floor, or from a high shelf.

Keep the object as close to you as possible. Lift smoothly, without jerking.

### GRIP

Make sure you have a good grip, and steady footing. Most of all, if something seems too heavy get help.

Finally, fight against piece rates. As we all know, it just creates unsafe conditions by forcing us to take shortcuts, and push ourselves too hard. □

What's happening where you work? Send in a report to Health and Safety Notes.



# Letters

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

## WHAT HOPE FOR SOCIALISM?

Dear Socialist Worker,  
Through the guidance of the *Guardian*, I am becoming an aspiring socialist.

I am convinced that neither the brutal oppression of the soviet models, nor the tendency in the west toward cold-blooded accumulation are the hope of the future.

What hope does socialism offer to the U.S.?

Has the party moved beyond the narrow sectarianism of Thomas and De Leon?

Please send me a year of *Socialist Worker*.

Sincerely,  
DuWaine Carver,  
Tampa, FL

Dear Socialist Worker,  
I think you spend too much time on Russia and particularly on the Russian revolution.

There have been many revolutions since then—so surely the revolutionary experience is far wider than you suggest.

I suggest that you might be able to learn quite a bit about the revolutionary process from the revolutions in the third world.

Thus far none has resulted in a perfect socialist state, but, neither did 1917.

Bob Stevens,  
Harrisburg, PA

## Why not more on the movement



Anti-nuclear weapons marchers in Chicago

Dear Socialist Worker,  
The anti-nuclear weapons movement is the most important social movement in the world today, and yet *Socialist Worker* virtually ignores it.

Why is this? Is the movement so big that it is not pure enough for you?

I would think that the issue

would be perfect for socialists, especially international socialists.

It is an opportunity to make the connection between weapons spending and cuts in social services and rising unemployment.

It is probably the simplest

way to show the fallacy of the idea that Russia and the other state capitalist countries are socialist—unless of course, one supports the idea of "workers' bombs" which presumably you don't.

And it is an example of the utter insanity of a system based on competition between corporations and countries rather than human cooperation.

Why not more on the movement, then? Your readers deserve it.

Rebecca Lawrence,  
Kansas City, MO

Dear Socialist Worker,  
I'm not ready to join your group, but I'm ready to give money. Here's \$20. Use it however you want.

Last month's article on the death of 36 merchant marines was very moving.

Sincerely,  
Sheila Becker  
New York City, N.Y.

## Socialist Summer School IV -OHIO

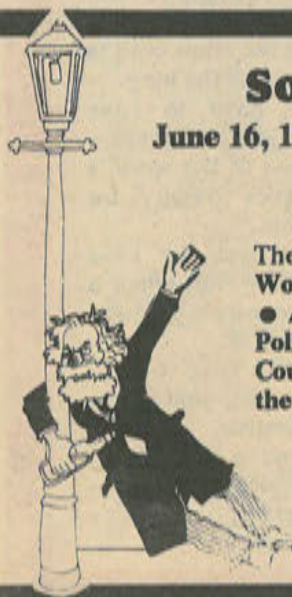
June 16, 17, 18, 19

Join us for three full days of Marxist education, recreation and entertainment.

There will be lots of talks, including—● Barbara Winslow on *Women, Prehistory and the Origins of Women's Oppression*, ● Ahmed Shawki on *Marx and Marxism*, ● Retha Hill on *The Politics of Black Democrats*, ● Brian Erway on *the Unemployed Councils of the Thirties*, ● Faith Simon on *Chile: Ten Years Since the Coup*, ● Deborah Roberts on *The Masses*.

There will be good food, comfortable accomodation, swimming in a heated pool, fun, games, childcare for the kids.

For more information, just write:



# "no power greater"

by BARBARA WINSLOW



## CHICAGO, 1886: THE FIRST MAY DAY

The first and fateful May Day was in 1886 when 350,000 American workers went on strike for the eight hour day.

In Chicago, 40,000 went on strike, and another 45,000 won the eight hour day without striking.

Strikes for the eight hour day continued. By May 3, *John Swinton's Paper* jubilantly announced, "It is an eight hour boom, and we're scoring victory after victory."

But on that day, police fired on workers who were demonstrating at the McCormick Harvester factory.

Four men were killed, scores other wounded.

### ATMOSPHERE

Immediately, the atmosphere of the strike turned bitter.

Anarchists began circulating leaflets calling for a meeting at Haymarket Square the next day to protest police brutality.

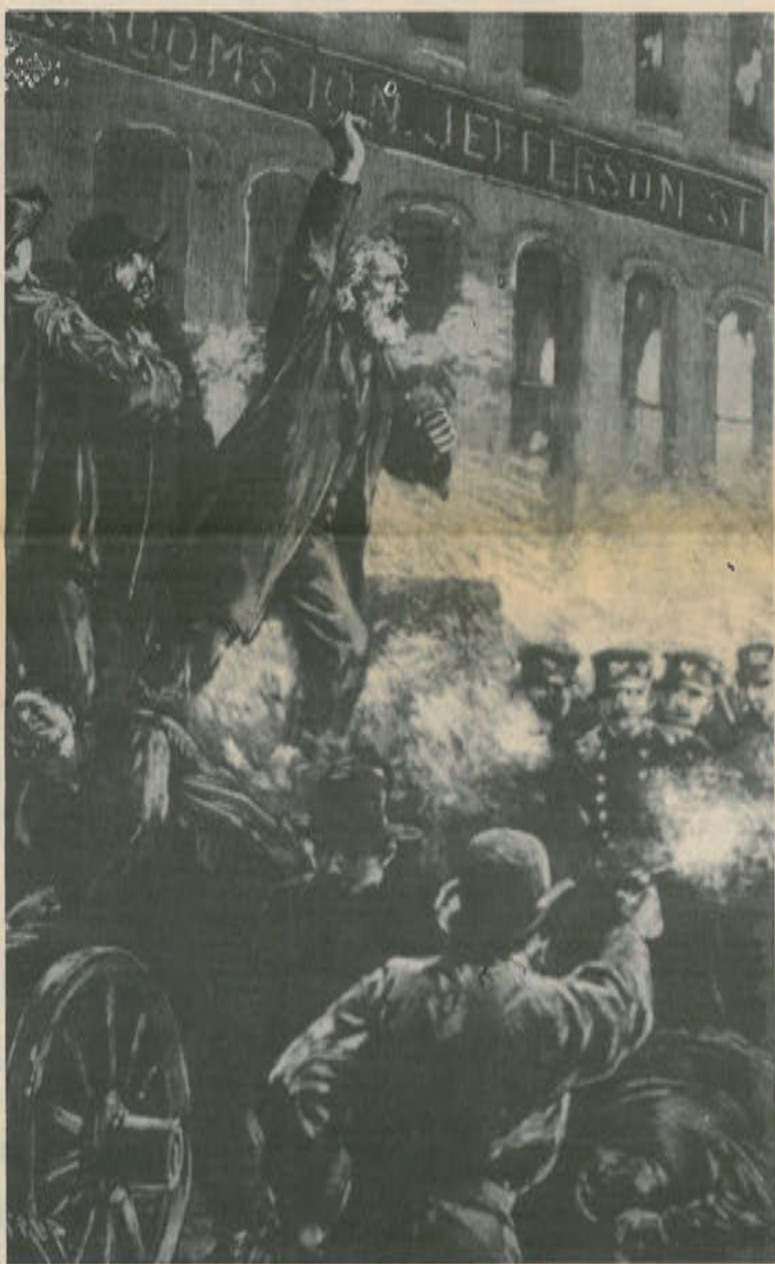
About 3,000 people attended the rally at Haymarket, including the mayor, listening to anarchists condemn the police and call for further strike action.

At about 10:00 pm, the rally was winding up.

Samuel Fielden, an anarchist was saying, "... in conclusion ..." when 180 police marched onto the crowd and ordered the meeting to disperse.

As the speakers climbed down from the platform, a dynamite bomb was thrown at the police, killing one person and wounding seventy.

The police then fired into the crowd killing one and wounding hundreds more.



The next day the Chicago authorities took the offensive, arresting known anarchists, socialists and labor militants.

One Chicago socialist wrote to English revolutionary William Morris—"today social-

ists are hunted like wolves . . . The Chicago papers are loud with the demand for the lives of prominent socialists."

Of the hundreds of workers arrested eight were finally selected for trial: Albert Parsons, August Spies, Samuel Fielden, Eugene Schwab, Adolph Fischer, George Engel, Louis Lingg and Oscar Neebe.

These men were hated not just because of their anarchist convictions, but because their militant spirit and organizing abilities helped make Chicago the outstanding labor city.

### ACCUSED

It did not matter that none of the eight men, save Fielden, who was speaking, was at the rally when the bomb was thrown.

## The execution of the Haymarket anarchists created a new generation of revolutionaries

The men were accused of murder on the grounds that their speeches and leaflets had incited someone to throw the bomb.

The trial of the eight men was a travesty.

They were condemned for their revolutionary ideas, not for any specific deeds.

States Attorney Grinnel's speech to the jury summed it up, "Law is on trial. Anarchy is on trial."

"These men have been selected, picked out by a Grand Jury because they were leaders. They are no more guilty than the thousands who follow them.

"Gentlemen of the jury, convict these men, make examples of them, hang them and you save our institutions, our society."

The ruling class had spoken, "The men must hang!"

And so without caring anything about "justice", six men were sentenced to hang. In spite of glaring irregularities all the higher courts supported the death sentences.

As soon as the men were condemned to die, the labor and socialist movement began a massive campaign to save the lives of the anarchists.

Demonstrations for their release took place as far away as England, France, Germany, Belgium, Russia, Italy and Spain.

But on November 11th, 1887, Parsons, Spies, Engel and Fisher were hanged.

The execution of these men made socialists and revolutionaries of the next generation.

Bill Haywood, Emma Goldman, Eugene Debs—all were moved to fight for the working class as a result of the execution of the Haymarket martyrs.

A monument to these men was unveiled in Chicago on June 25, 1893.

But the greatest monument to these men is that their words and deeds will always inspire future generations of workers to struggle for human freedom.

### TESTAMENT

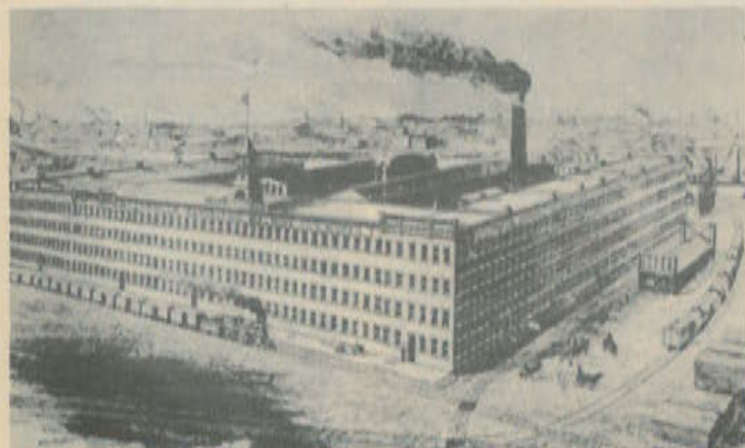
The closing words of August Spies at his trial are our testament to May Day:

"If you think that by hanging us you can stamp out the labor movement . . .

"The movement from which the downtrodden millions, the millions who toil in want and misery—expect salvation—if this is your opinion then hang us!

"Here and there you will tread upon a spark, but there and there, behind you and in front of you, and everywhere, flames blaze up.

"It is a subterranean fire. You cannot put it out." □



The McCormick works in 1873

# WHERE WE STAND

## WORKERS' CONTROL

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

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

## REVOLUTION NOT REFORM

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

## A WORKERS' GOVERNMENT

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

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

## FIGHT OPPRESSION

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

## BLACK LIBERATION

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

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

## WOMEN'S LIBERATION

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

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

## RANK AND FILE ORGANIZATION

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

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

## INTERNATIONALISM

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

We champion workers' struggles in all countries, from Poland to Puerto Rico, from Palestine to El Salvador. We support all genuine national liberation struggles. We call for victory of the Black freedom fighters in South Africa and Namibia. We oppose all forms of imperialism and oppose sending U.S. troops anywhere in the world to impose U.S. interests.

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

## REVOLUTIONARY PARTY

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

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

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



# What's ON

**BALTIMORE**  
**May Day Celebration.** Talks on Why we Celebrate May Day, The Rebel Girls of the IWW, How the Russian Revolution was Lost, party to follow. April 30, 3:00 p.m. on.

Neil Smith on **The Economic Crisis.** May 22, 7:30 p.m. Call 235-4620 for details.

**BLOOMINGTON**  
**May Day Picnic.** Speakers, food, and games. April 30, 1:00-6:00 p.m. Call 332-6682 for details.

**BOSTON**  
**May Day Picnic.** Ahmed Shawki on The Origins of May Day and the Fight for Workers' Power. 4:00 p.m. Somerville. Call 427-7087 for details.

**CLEVELAND**  
**May Day Picnic.** Speakers, food, games. May 1, 1:00-6:00 p.m.

Christina Bergmark on **Chicago After Harold Washington's Victory.** May 13, 7:30 p.m. Call 371-7648 or 371-2370 for details.

**CHICAGO**  
**John Anderson on May Day A Working Class Tradition.** Film: **Salt of the Earth.** potluck dinner 6:00 p.m. April 30.

ISO International Conference. Talks on **State Capitalism, South Africa, Central America, the Middle East and World Crisis.** May 21, 1:00-7:00 p.m. Call 288-7572 for details.

**CINCINNATI**  
**May Day Picnic.** Speakers, food, games. 12:00-6:00 p.m. May 1. Call 871-1371 for details.

**Missile Madness** by Pete Binns \$1.50 from Hera Press



**DETROIT**  
 Retha Hill on **Blacks and the Democratic Party.** May 7, 7:00 p.m.

Film: **Up From the Ashes.** May 21, 7:00 p.m. Call 833-0633 or 527-2180 for details.

**NEW YORK**  
 Talks and Discussions on **The Economic Crisis, The Anti-Militarist Movement, Revolutionary Feminism, Black Nationalism and Socialism, State Capitalism in Russia, Why We Need a Revolutionary Party.** April 30, 2:00 p.m. on. Party to follow. Call 316-0569 for details.

**PHILADELPHIA**  
 Neil Smith on **Gentrification: The Attack on Working Class Housing.** May 21, 7:30 p.m. Call 625-9342 for details.

**SAN FRANCISCO**  
 Dave Siddle on **Germany: The Lost Revolution.** May 4, 7:30 p.m.

John Fowler on **Malcolm X.** May 18, 7:30 p.m.

Jim Swann on **The roots of Militarism.** June 1, 7:30 p.m. Call 285-1908 for details.

## تونى كليف : سرمايه داري دولتى در شوروى

سرمايه داري دولتى چيست ؟  
 چگونه بوجود آيد ؟  
 چرا دولت شوروى يك دولت كارگرى نيست ؟  
 آيا بحران اقتصادى در شوروى وجود دارد ؟  
 آيا قانون ارزى در شوروى عملكرد دارد ؟  
 آيا مبارزه طبقاتى ه سرمايه داري دولتى را تهديد ميكند ؟

## انتشارات سوسياليسم

Tony Cliff: **State Capitalism in Russia**  
 \$12.00 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:*

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

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

## The musicians who took the world by storm

Twenty years ago (can it really be that long?) the world of popular music began to take notice of a repeatedly successful band called The Beatles.

They would soon come to dominate it.

What made this band unique and successful?

As everyone probably knows, the Beatles came from Liverpool.

But the town was important before their arrival, and continues to be today, because it is one of Britain's biggest industrial centers (currently devastated by the crisis and Thatchernomics) as well as being a major port.

Both elements contributed to the Beatles' genesis.

### SAILORS

Liverpudlians were exposed to jazz, country and rhythm and blues brought in by sailors off American ships long before people in the rest of the country.

When rock and roll exploded throughout Great Britain it was already firmly entrenched in Liverpool.

The songs that John Lennon and Paul McCartney would skip school in order to write were steeped in Black American R and B ("One After 909", on the "Let it Be" album is one song from that period.)

John Lennon never forgot the experience of hearing Little Richard sing "Tutti Frutti" for the first time.

The essence of that music stuck. When asked in 1971 what, essentially, his primary influence was, he replied "Wop-bop-a-lunna-a-wop-bam bo!"

Although the band occasionally backed the likes of Tony Sheridan in order to keep the wolf from the door, they remained a raw rock and roll band, wearing leather and greasing their hair long after

### TWENTY YEARS AGO THE BEATLES CAPTURED THE POPULAR MUSIC MARKET IN AMERICA

#### MATT BACKER EXPLAINS WHY

Elvis got drafted and Paul Anka became the staple diet of youth.

Brian Epstein was attracted to the Beatles rawness, as was George Martin the producer of a small classical music label called Parlophone, who signed up the band after virtually every label in London turned them down.

#### MOP

Even when the band emerged as four identically clad adorable mop tops, the essence of the raw R and B band with the enormous Liverpool following shone through.

Songs like "Twist and Shout", "Dizzy Miss Lizzy" and "Long Tall Sally" remain quintessentially exciting rock and roll performances.

Jerry Lee Lewis, an unreigned and controversial rock and roller to this day had given the sterilized white idols like Bobby Vinton and Pat Boone the generic term of "Bobbies" and he observed that "The Beatles cut down all those Bobbies like corn before the scythe."

The Beatles will remain

remembered for their songs.

By writing as well as performing their own material they broke the stranglehold of the record executives who would use groups as mouthpieces for their own pop.

Perhaps because they grew before the rock and roll marketing mechanism had been reached, they were able to provide diversity, and the constant inventiveness that springs from freedom of experimentation. Early albums share old country and western songs like "Act Naturally".

"The White Album" has the sing-along "Ob-la-di-ob-la-da" on the same disc as the loopy avant-garde "Revolution #9" and the crunching "Blues".

This diversity is almost entirely absent in today's popular music, which is strictly marketed as, for example "Rock" or "Disco".

If a record is successful, it is assumed that the formula is correct and the formula is repeated, as many peeved music fans know, ad infinitum.



Any successful artist will have to come to terms with wealth and the isolation it breeds.

The Beatles like so many others could not avoid its pitfalls. Despite radical tendencies John Lennon spent the end of his life singing trite odes for the joys of parenthood, and Paul McCartney has consistently produced the

same formulaic garbage he once so brilliantly avoided.

Lennon was a millionaire 150 times over, McCartney's wealth could probably enable him to buy New Mexico (MX missiles included) as well as putting in a fair bid for Arizona.

Ringo Starr, now a sedentary resident of Monte Carlo, sang on his first solo single "Gotta pay your dues if you wanna sing the blues and you know it don't come easy."

Trite and predictable? Not coming from a man with a severely deprived childhood, the equivalent of a ninth-grade education and plenty of experience drumming the workingmen's clubs throughout northeast England.

Socialists will probably correctly criticize those in positions of privilege, but will no doubt find themselves enjoying ideologically suspect music at one time or another.

#### APPRECIATE

It is important to understand, as with people like Ray Charles or B.B. King, (bearing in mind their different backgrounds and the fact that they were never cultural phenomena like the Beatles) and appreciate the music they made as well as the journey they made in the process. □

## The best new book on Karl Marx

The centenary of Karl Marx's death has brought us a number of books on the man and his ideas.

One of the best of these is Alex Callinicos' *The Revolutionary Ideas of Karl Marx*.

"Marx's ideas," Callinicos begins, "have suffered an enormous distortion, both by the defenders of the existing order and at the hand of his followers. The aim of this book, then, is to rescue Marx from the distortions; to present in as clear and simple a manner as possible, his basic ideas."

#### OVERVIEW

After a brief biographical overview, the various influences on Marx are discussed—including French

by DAN CAPLIN

revolutionary thought, British political economy, and German idealist philosophy.

Callinicos provides a particularly clear summary of the difficult ideas of Hegel.

**The Revolutionary Ideas of Marx, by Alex Callinicos, Bookmarks, London, \$7.95**

The work continues with Marx's method of historical materialism.

In contrast to those who accuse Marxism of being a dogma, an ideology divorced from reality, it is shown that

historical materialism begins by looking at the real world.

Marx himself once said, "the premises from which we begin are not arbitrary ones, but the real individuals, their activity, and the material conditions of their life."

The key factors are the forces of production (the level of technology) and the relations of production (the class structure.)

These condition the other aspects of society, such as politics and ideology.

#### HISTORY

Marx's most important work, *Capital*, is summarized without oversimplification.

Marx saw capitalism not as a "natural" system, one that would always exist because of

"human nature", but as a product of history.

Socialism is shown both to be possible, given the abundance capitalism creates, and necessary, because of capitalism's inherent economic crises.

What was socialism to Marx? It certainly wasn't a bureaucratic one-party state, as many have claimed.

Callinicos gives many examples indicating that for Marx, socialism was the self-emancipation of the working class.

Far from advocating the strengthening of the state, he looked towards its eventual abolition.

All socialists should read *The Revolutionary Ideas of Karl Marx*.



on the picket line

# Caterpillar and UAW combine to starve out striking workers

"Caterpillar starved us out until we were all about to lose everything we ever worked for.

"You think this place looks decrepit, well, all Peoria is a mess because no one's got any money. I voted for the contract, but I didn't like it.

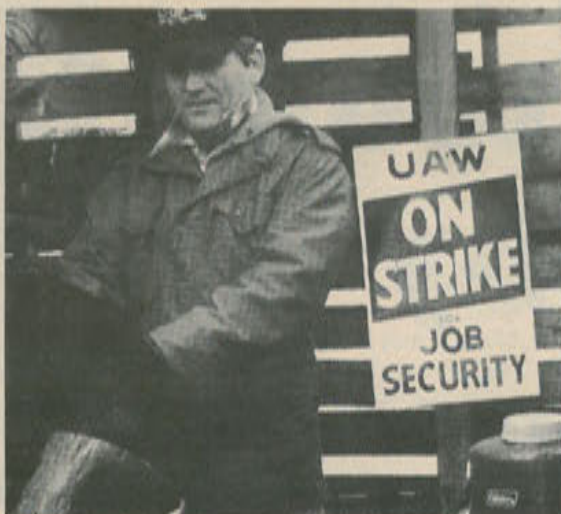
"I just didn't see where I had any choice."

So ended the 106 day strike against Caterpillar Tractor Company, the longest company-wide strike in the history of the autoworkers union.

The opinion of this striker reflected the sentiments of the majority of Cat workers—who voted 2 to 1 to return to their jobs on April 25.



The UAW's Steve Yokich



A striker in Peoria

## ARMED

The strike had pitted 36,000 Cat union employees, with their \$65 a week strike pay, against the management of one of the most successful multinational corporations in

the world armed with a \$2 billion stockpile of merchandise.

The company won. The union rank and file fought hard since October 1st to retain the old three year contract intact.

Then in mid-April top UAW

officials intervened on the side of the company.

According to the chair of the union's central bargaining committee, Jim Sharp, the almost unanimous opinion of local officials to continue the strike was overridden by

UAW vice-president and agricultural implements director, Steven Vokich.

Sharp told Peoria workers at a rally held before balloting that "the committee's hands were tied. He (Votich) gave everything away."

The central bargaining

committee had recommended to the rank and file a continuation of the strike feeling a better deal could be struck, given Cat's position in an economic upturn, while losing hundreds of millions of dollars with dwindling stockpiles, pending defense contracts, and increasing competition from Komatsu.

## GIVEBACKS

Sharp's angry comments referred to a series of givebacks Cat got in the new contract, including:

- Three year base wage freeze
- Reduction of cost of living adjustments
- Elimination of two holidays
- An average \$60 a week cut in disability benefits
- Replacement of nine days off for perfect annual attendance with 4½ days pay.

In exchange, Caterpillar set up a profit sharing plan. The first annual payment per union member is projected at \$558 to be paid in April, 1985.

These concessions will mean a cut in real wages of Cat workers as inflation heats up in the "recovery".

With 20,000 workers on indefinite layoff, the reductions in days off of those lucky enough to be working, will mean fewer recalls.

Pressure on the job is sure to intensify with a confident management coming off the strike victorious.

The significance of the defeat goes beyond the Cat workers.

It follows recent setbacks in the auto, steel, and freight industries and will increase management pressures for concessions in major upcoming labor negotiations.

Deere workers, whose contract was extended pending the outcome of the Cat strike, will be immediately hit.

International Harvester workers will face the prospect of further giveaways on top of those lost in the 172 day defeat in 1979-1980.

The 2,600 workers at Allis Chalmers, fighting to prevent the destruction of their union, will face an even cockier management encouraged by the outcome of the Cat strike.

What can be done to prevent defeats like this in the future? Two key principles used by workers in past periods of economic crisis need to be revived.

## FUTURE

Solidarity and rank and file organization.

It is now up to the most determined among the over 5,000 Cat workers who rejected the contract to begin the difficult process of building an organization of union activists that can blunt the coming management attacks on the shopfloor and prepare for future strikes in which the support of workers in other companies and industries can be won and the treachery of the top UAW leadership beaten.

by BEN BLAKE

## TALKIN' UNION BY JOHN ANDERSON

# PROFITS SOAR: WORKERS GET UNEMPLOYMENT

General Motors had a net first quarter profit of \$653.1 million, the best since 1979. Chrysler earned \$172 million (in the same period), also a record for the company. Ford will earn upwards of \$200 million in the first three months of the year.

After the call backs GM says it will have 127,000 still on permanent layoff. There will be 230,000 on indefinite layoff in the industry.

## CREDIT

The glowing stories that build Douglas Fraser as a labor leader leave no doubt that he is given credit for the growing profits for the companies. If Fraser had had his way at Chrysler, there would have been no Chrysler Canada strike and the company's profits would have been even larger.

There are also endless stories about the unemployed auto workers who are begging for food, losing their homes and suffering all the hardships of the unemployed. Neither the UAW or the employers have any solution for the problems of the unemployed.

While Douglas Fraser is calling for a domestic content law, the corporations are developing their ties with foreign competitors so that when the UAW comes to the bargaining table in 1984

they can make further demands on the union.

Since the Chrysler concessions in 1979-81, there has been no leadership in the UAW. Department directors, regional directors and local unions are free to make whatever concessions are demanded by the employer. The policy is not to serve the workers but to get as many dues paying members as possible. Working class solidarity has become a subversive idea in the UAW.

## PROTECTIVE

Recently the workers in the Fleetwood tool room were told that unless they give up their coffee break and protective clothing, the tool room would be closed in August. This was supposed to meet the lower costs in other tool rooms.

Worker is pitted against worker, plant against plant within the same company. Local is pitted against local, region against region in their bid for dues paying members. Michigan employers open plants in Ohio, Indiana, Tennessee or Kentucky. The state with the lowest wages and the worst conditions and with the greatest tax incentives gets the work.

In recent months GM subcouncils have been meeting in New Orleans.



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

There have been demands for a strike vote to protect their present relief system. The company wants to stop the lines for ten minutes in the morning and in the afternoon and thus eliminate the relief men and women.

The uncertainty about UAW members being given jobs at the GM-Toyota plant in Fremont, California is also generating strike sentiment.

The administration caucus is recommending to the convention that the constitution be changed so the locals would get 48 cents of the dues dollar instead of the present 38.

## BENEFITS

Strike benefits would be raised from the present \$65 to \$85. These concessions to the locals will keep the delegates in line during the convention, but they do nothing to solve the basic problems of the UAW membership.

There must be a program for the elimination of overtime, a shorter work week and a break with the Democratic Party. These are not yet in sight. □



## UPS BUSTS UNION

CLEVELAND, OH—United Parcel Service (UPS) is getting a little crazy here.

UPS workers are members of the Teamsters union, Local 407, the truck drivers' union in Cleveland.

Recently Sam Theodus, Local 407's president, instructed one of his organizers, Joe DiMaria, to go out to the UPS Hub in Middleburgh Heights and hand out leaflets asking UPS workers to buy raffle and dance tickets—projects organized by the local to help unemployed members.

Local 407 has about 3,000 unemployed members, with a total of only 4,000 dues payers left.

UPS workers are the largest group—a quarter of the membership.

### CONTRIBUTIONS

Apparently most of the employers Local 407 deals with came through with contributions of their own—even Stouffers.

But not UPS. When DiMaria appeared in the company parking lot he was met by Jerry Fisher, UPS manager.

Fisher told DiMaria he couldn't pass out the leaflets—because the leaflet pointed out that UPS was refusing to cooperate.

Fisher said that was portraying the company in a bad light.

DiMaria refused to leave. So Fisher called the cops.

DiMaria was arrested, frisked, handcuffed, and charged with criminal trespass.

Now it's not unusual for Cleveland Teamster officials to get in trouble with the law. But for collecting money for the unemployed and needy? Really.

### POLAND

And that's not the end of the story. We have been selling *Socialist Worker* at Cleveland's UPS Hub since the paper was founded in 1977, and it's always been a good sale.

UPS now says that buying a copy is cause for immediate firing. The company sent two stupidvisers out to watch *Socialist Worker* be sold in April—no doubt to make good on its threats.

What's going on! Is Cleveland Poland? General Jaruzelski take note. □

# AKRON GENERAL: STRIKING NURSES BATTEN DOWN HATCHES

AKRON, OH—The strike at Akron General Hospital is now into its second month.

And with no end in sight, the nurses are batten down the hatches for a long fight.

As striker, Kathy Cash put it, "We're stronger than ever. And we'll stay out as long as it takes."

The 400 striking nurses are represented by the Ohio Nurses Association.

They struck on March 23 when it became clear that the hospital was not unly unwilling to bargain in good faith but really was after one thing only—to break the union.

Alice Walter, one of the nurses on the negotiating committee sees it this way, "The most important thing is the fact that we're out here."

### ISSUES

"That's more important than any of the contract issues. What they basically want is to break the union."

"It's like back in the thirties. Like having Andrew Carnegie call in the Pinkertons, it's like the Homestead strike. The hospital wants control and that means no union."

The hospital management has tried various tricks to try and intimidate the strikers.

Every nurse has received a

### REPORT BY FAITH SIMON

letter about how good the contract offer is. The head nurses and scabs call the strikers at their homes to tell them they had better come back.

### RUMORS

Some of the doctors have been spreading rumors that the hospital will have to close, or that all the strikers will be fired and new nurses will take their places.

But their scare tactics just backfire.

"We're getting madder—and we're getting work," says Kathy Cash.

Many of the nurses have been able to find temporary jobs through hiring agencies. "Often it means driving into Cleveland (40 miles) and going into a hospital you've never been in before. But it's worth it."

The management at Akron General may act undisturbed by the strike but the effects are being felt.

Only about 250 of the 557 beds are filled. Intensive care units have been combined and



Striking nurses: It's no bed of roses

some areas have been closed entirely.

But the worst effect has been on the quality of care.

Many of the scabs are management people who haven't practiced nursing in a long time, if at all. This can only mean shoddy care for patients.

But the bosses don't care. "It's these sharpies in their three piece suits who are running the hospital. The patient is the last on their list of priorities," said Alice Walter.

And if the patients really are last on the list, they're running neck and neck with the workers.

The hospital has taken advantage of the strike to launch an attack on the entire workforce.

Aides, secretaries, maintenance, and dietary workers have had their hours cut.

Nancy Conley, president of the United Rubber Workers local under which these workers are organized, states that this is a clear violation of their contract.

### STRIKE

URW has filed an unfair labor practice against the hospital.

Conley goes on to say, "The hospital is not only out to bust ONA, but URW as well."

The past few years have

seen a number of strikes of hospital workers to keep their unions.

"Hospitals, like other businesses are using the economic situation as a lever to force givebacks," says Alice Walter.

The strikers in Akron are fighting for a decent contract.

They want a wage increase, to bring their wages to the level of other nurses in the area.

They also want to make sure that their benefits aren't cut and that their bargaining unit is expanded to cover nurses in new areas the hospital is opening up.

### FORCE

What the hospital wants to do is: force nurses to pay for 20% of their health insurance, to install a clinical ladder to reintroduce the merit raise system, broaden the definition of management to cut nurses out of the bargaining unit, and to extend the contract to 33 months so that it would expire just before Christmas.

Akron nurses say No! to these takebacks and union busting tactics. And they ask for your support in their struggle.

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



# Join Us

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- I want more information about the International Socialist Organization

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# Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALIST ORGANIZATION

## SOLIDARITY WITH THE MEAT PACKERS

**"They made us an offer they knew we would refuse"**

CINCINNATI, OH—"The company came to us and said, 'Hell, yes, we're making plenty of money, but you aren't getting any of it,'" said Larry W. Phelps, as he walked a picket line in front of the Copaz Meat Packing Company.

### OFFER

All 350 United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) walked out April 18, after the company "made us an offer they knew we would refuse, so they could hire new people at lower wages," John Ragland, steward for Local 7A told *Socialist Worker*.

Copaz, a modern plant, produces 60% of the lunch meat and wieners for Kroger. They want to cut wages by almost \$3.00 per hour.

In addition, they want to cut vacation time and interfere with the seniority system.

**Joe Denton reports on union-busting in Cincinnati**

*Copaz striker talks to Socialist Worker*

Pickets at the plant entrance are restricted to four by court order.

The company got the temporary injunction after management attacked a mass picket line on the first morning of the strike and received some of their own abuse back from angry workers.

Pickers told *Socialist Worker* that anger at the company and its representatives in the plant had been building for years.

One picketer told *Socialist Worker* that three people had been hit by cars driven by managers.

One woman was shoved so hard by the hired goon squad, that she developed blood in her urine.

Copaz has hired Metropolitan Security Services, a Maryland based union busting outfit.

### PARAMILITARY

They are paramilitary in appearance and action—they salute their bosses. They use video cameras mounted on the company roof and have on occasion displayed weapons and tear-gas canisters.

Three of these goons attempted to intimidate *Socialist Worker* reporters as we talked with the picketers.

This is only the latest attack by the meat packing industry of Cincinnati against the UFCW.

The John Merrell Company

closed its Partridge meats packaging plant here when workers refused to take pay cuts, throwing 250 people out of work.

Another packer, Kahns, locked out 500 workers, when they refused to take pay cuts in the middle of a contract.

Unfortunately, these fights have remained isolated and are now tied up in legal proceedings that threaten to destroy the union.

Copaz workers are ready to stand strong. They have the backing of machinists and

boiler operators' unions which are honoring the picket lines.

But it will take more. Solidarity of all kinds is needed.

In these times, no union can stand by itself. Every effort must be made to secure the physical as well as monetary support for these workers.

We cannot afford to let another union be busted. Every worker has a stake in this strike.

Donations and messages of support can be sent to: UFCW Local 7A, 1150 West 8th Street, Cincinnati, OH 45203.



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