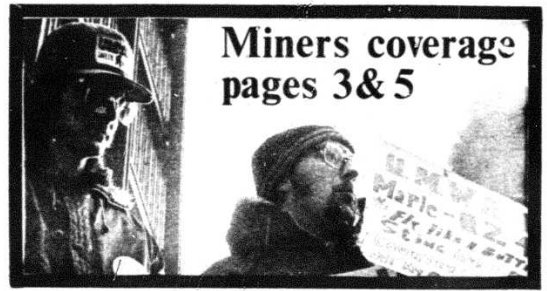


# WORKERS' POWER

WEEKLY NEWSPAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS MARCH 27, 1978 #247 25c



Miners coverage  
pages 3 & 5

## RHODESIA:

# Under The "Peace" Mask

These regulations are posted in village areas by the white-run Rhodesian army. They give you a clue to what life is like for Blacks in that country. A recently announced "settlement" between the Rhodesian government and Black political figureheads hasn't changed things.

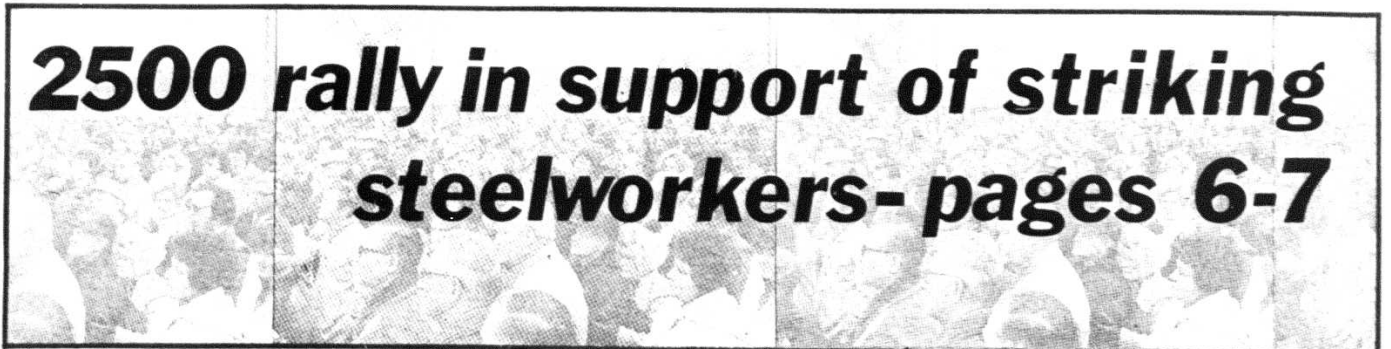
The agreement is designed to convince soldiers in the Black liberation armies of the Patriotic Front to stop fighting. In the past few weeks, however, the liberation armies have responded by intensifying the war.

## WARNING!

You are now warned that as from dawn on the 20th January 1978, the following restrictions will be imposed upon all of you and your Tribal Trust Lands and African Purchase Lands.

1. Human curfew from last light [twilight] to 12 o'clock [noon] daily.
2. Cattle, yoked oxen, goats and sheep curfew from last light to 12 o'clock daily.
3. No vehicles including bicycles and buses to run either within, from or to either the TTL or the APL.
4. No person will go either on or near any high ground or they will be shot.
5. Cattle, sheep and goats, after 12 o'clock, are only to be herded by adults.
6. No juveniles (up the age of 16 years) will be allowed out of the kraal [village compound] area at any time either day or night, or they will be shot.
7. No schools will be open.
8. All schools and grinding mills will be closed.

## 2500 rally in support of striking steelworkers - pages 6-7



# "We're at the point now where we can't wait"

*"A couple of guys got together at the dinner table one night and decided to make it in southeastern Colorado, and decided they was gonna strike, and it just snowballed from there and went all across the United States." — the birth of the American Agriculture Movement*

by Paul Broz

Farming is a rough life. Up before dawn, work until dusk. Hard work. But along with it comes a sense of satisfaction, a feeling of independence, and the knowledge that you are helping to feed the world's people.

Dale Arnold, part of the American Agriculture Movement, raises wheat on 160 acres of land near Brighton, Colorado. Arnold, his wife, and three kids, figure that unless things change for the better in a hurry, this may be the last year for them on the farm.

Last week, at the urging of the American Agriculture Movement, American and Canadian farmers in the wheat belt that stretches across central U.S. and Canada began plowing under their winter wheat crops, as a protest against low prices.

"They're going to start with 5% and keep tearing it up [each week] until they get to 50%," says Arnold.

"When we have 50%, then it won't matter. We'll get our price then because there won't be any crop to cut us down."

He figures that about 75-80% of wheat belt farmers are participating, in an area which produces 80-90% of North America's wheat.

The goal of the farmers in the Movement is 100% parity prices for their crops. Parity would give them the same buying power as they had during the period from 1910-14.

## SUPERMARKET

But a living income for farmers doesn't necessarily mean large price increases for consumers, says Arnold.

"It's not going to raise the food dollar all that much... Two cents out of a loaf of bread is all that the farmer gets out of it. On a 60 cent loaf, somebody in between is making 58 cents."

He forecasts even higher prices for consumers if small farmers are allowed to go under, claiming that big agribusiness would then be able to raise prices at will.

"There's a big farm out east of here about 50 miles. All I know is that New York money came in and bought it..."



Farmers want a fair deal.

They're paying three times what the land is worth. If they lose money, it's no big deal—they don't have to lose their farms."

Arnold knows several farmers who have gone broke. "Most of them have sold out and had to go to town to work and compete in town for jobs that, if they wouldn't have been forced off the farm, would have left a job for someone else."

## FOOD FOR MINERS

Farmers are sympathetic to the problems of striking miners. Earlier this month they organized a food caravan to Kentucky.

More support is on the way. "We're in the process right now of putting more food together and distributing it to the retired miners, and miners that's on strike right now on the western slopes of Colorado."

"We know what they're going up against... There's no way they could get me in the mines

for any amount of money. And if they want to work in a mine, let's pay 'em."

The last few years have been tough, but the future could be even bleaker. Ineligible for food stamps or welfare, because of their equity in buildings and equipment, many farm families live in poverty, or are forced deeper in debt.

Farmers aren't organizing to get food stamps, "because we're the ones that produce it." There is talk, however, about forming a union.

"Whatever it takes to make it work, that's what's going to happen... We've got the tool that'll pull everyone to their knees."

"When we're talking of price, we're not talking of a get rich deal—we're talking about cost plus a reasonable living."

"We're at the point now where we can't wait. We either got to do something or that's it." □

## Ali-Spinks rematch in So. Africa?

"Whatever happened to the Muhammad Ali we used to know?"

That's how one spokesman from the growing movement against U.S. ties to South Africa reacted to news that an Ali-Spinks rematch was being scheduled for the South African Bantustan of Bophuthutswana.

According to late reports, the whole project may now be scrapped, but the original plan was cooked up by two of the fight business' shadiest operators, namely Bob Arum and CBS television.

Arum, who runs the Top Rank promotions outfit, thought he could get away with billing Bophuthutswana as "the world's newest independent nation."

Actually, the territory is one of the so-called "tribal homelands" which deprive millions of South African Blacks of citizenship.

The scheme of staging a fight there caused such an uproar that Arum quickly switched the planned site to Mauritius. However, the fight was to be backed financially by Southern Sun, a white South African hotel chain.

The first Ali-Spinks fight was sad enough, but the thought of Muhammad Ali fighting for South African businessmen's profits is unimaginable. □

D.P.

## Countdown For Equal Rights Small Turnout In Detroit, Setback In Kentucky

DETROIT—March 22, exactly one year to go. Will the Equal Rights Amendment go up—or down?

From a demonstration held here today, it doesn't look too good.

The demonstration was called by the six Detroit-area chapters of the National Organization for Women (NOW). But only a hundred people showed up on a warm, spring day. Carol King, president of the Macomb County NOW, asked the gathering: "What could turn the tide on the ERA?"

She answered, "Letters, letters, letters. Write letters to our representatives in Congress and the Senate."

Sadly enough, it is precisely this strategy—Congressional lobbying, economic boycotts, getting Democrats elected to office—that has led

to the disastrous state of the ERA today.

Only a complete about-face of this strategy has any hope of pushing the ERA over the top. Only massive demonstrations of women will convince the politicians that they have to line up on the side of equal rights.

However, Linda Miller, President of Detroit NOW, told Workers' Power that there will be no more demonstrations in Detroit over the next year. "We need to do some difficult political work, and that isn't accomplished in the streets."

## KENTUCKY

A setback for the ERA occurred in Kentucky on March 16 when that state legislature voted to rescind its



Two Detroiters listen to ERA rally.

earlier approval of the ERA.

Kentucky is the fourth state to rescind, but the decision has no legal status. The ERA still needs three more states to win.

However, the decision in Kentucky is one more indication that the ERA is in deep trouble.

But even in the face of defeat, NOW still clings to the same strategy. Nan Frost-Welmer, President of Michigan NOW, addressed the Detroit rally. She lamented the

fact that "most of the traitors who have sold us out will not be up for re-election before 1979."

The sad thing is that although NOW, joined by other national organizations like ERAmerica, as well as thousands of smaller women's groups, has the forces to mobilize impressive numbers of women all over the country, but they refuse to exercise this power.

That is the road to equal rights. □

## Workers' Power 247

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# MINERS TELL THEIR STORY IN DETROIT

by Jim Woodward

DETROIT—The coal miners' strike has changed a lot of people. You could see that here last week as eight West Virginia miners spent two days talking with auto workers, steel workers, and other union members.

One way you could see it was through the reception the miners got in Detroit. It goes way beyond sympathy for the miners' strike.

Richard Webster is treasurer of United Auto Workers Local 51 and co-chairman of the Union Committee to Support the Miners, which brought the group to Detroit. At a press conference March 17, Webster outlined the support the UAW had provided the miners.

Then he added: "Our members are concerned and fear that the fight which is being waged by the United Mine Workers is just a part of our own struggles. We've had experiences ourselves where the government itself has intervened in some of our strikes in behalf of management."

Could the UMW strike lead to greater militancy in next year's auto contract? he was asked.

## "IT'S UP TO YOU"

"Most definitely," Webster said. "I believe that the mine workers have set the stage around the country to let people know that if you do stand up, that you don't have to accept anything that's

handed out. It's up to you."



Richard Webster, Bill Bryant, and Jim White at a press conference.

The miners' strike may also lead to greater cooperation among union members in Detroit. Dave Roup, an officer of Steelworkers Local 2659 who introduced himself as "just a country boy from Harlan County," emphasized this point.

"Let me say that this all-union committee is long overdue—about 200 years or so," Roup told a March 18 rally. "If this [coal] contract is ratified, it is my hope that this all-union committee can stay together to take on all these union-busting companies. 'I'd like to mention the Oakland Press, right in our back door. Scabs are doing their jobs at this very moment. We must put a stop to this anti-union movement.' The Union Committee brought

## HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE COAL FIELDS

UAW LOCAL SUPPORTS THE MINERS



Detroit area steelworkers and West Virginia coal miners pose for a picture after the miners' support rally.

Bill Bryant, Chairman of the Mine Committee of Local 1766, Jim White, Chairman of the Safety Committee of Local 1638, and six members of their locals, to speak to the rally.

While in Detroit, they also spoke to the news media and met informally with union activists.

The Detroit City Council presented them a resolution expressing "support of the efforts of the United Mine Workers of America to reach a just settlement of the current strike through the collective bargaining process."

In presenting the resolution, Councilman Ken Cockrel said: "We wish you well and take the position that the working people of the city of Detroit could learn from the example that you're setting, an example of fighting back against the bosses."

The miners were clearly aware that working people around the country were benefiting from their

example. Bill Bryant said even if the latest contract, which he opposes, is approved, the miners "have won a victory... because I think we've helped the other unions in the whole country."

## "IT'S COMING"

Later he explained: "I think the time's coming when labor in this country is going to have to mount an attack against the corporations that are trying to destroy the labor movement, and folks, I'm telling you, it's coming. They're trying every way in the book to get rid of the labor organizations. It's time for everyone to stand up and be counted, because when they attack one union they attack them all."

The outpouring of support from union members across the country is a sign they understand this, and that the coal strike has had a real effect on their lives.

It was also clear that the strike has had a major effect on many coal miners themselves. Jim White explained:

"Before, most of the young miners had never endured a long strike. A week under Tony Boyle, 30 or 40 days after we put in Arnold Miller—and that was about the extent of it. Nobody knew the suffering and sacrifices that people had to give up 30 years ago.

"But instead of the wound closing as the BCOA turned this strike out longer and longer, it just reopened old wounds. And I think the union's got stronger."

## "I WANT TO GO TO JAIL"

Bryant added: "At our [local] meeting, we talked about the Taft-Hartley Act. We told everybody to go to work—doing the job we were directed to do. But I heard people that you thought would want to work say, 'there's no way.' When they got outside, everybody said 'there's no way we're going to work.'"

"It really surprised a lot of people in our local—how the people you wouldn't think would do things like that, how they felt, how they

resented [being ordered back to work]."

Bryant said one miner had called him up and said, "Bill, call all the news media, I want to go to jail."

"I asked why," Bryant related. "The miner replied: 'I want the American people to know what this Taft-Hartley Act is—what it's all about; what the big corporations are doing to the little man.' He said, 'I've been in jail before. I was ashamed of it, but I'll be proud to go this time.'"

It's that spirit that's running through the coal fields today. By forcing a 15-week strike, the coal operators have erased the miners' fears that their union is weak, and have sparked a spirit of confidence and victory.

Jim White captured that spirit as he ended his speech at the Detroit rally.

"Back in the late 60's," White told the audience, "Martin Luther King said that he had a dream. He said that he'd climbed the mountain and he'd seen the promised land."

"Well, I tell you what, these damned coal companies might as well get ready because we're comin' up that mountain. And if all you other unions will just hold our hand, we'll build the promised land!"

Taft can mine it... Hartley can haul it... I SUPPORT THE MINERS

Show your support! Buttons 25c each

Order from: Sun Distribution 14131 Woodward Highland Park Michigan 48203



This rally raised \$1,253.54 for the District 6 and 17 Miners Relief Funds.

## What About The Contract?

Each of the eight coal miners who attended the Detroit solidarity rally was opposed to the tentative contract they will vote on on March 24.

"If I leave you with nothing else, I want to leave one thing," Bill Bryant said. "The reason we've been striking is to try to get back what we lost. The news media are saying the miners want the moon. This is mistaken. We are just wanting back what we lost."

Jim [White] made a statement yesterday saying they took everything away from you, gave half of it back, and now want to call it even. These coal companies a long time ago underestimated our union, but they were wrong, and I think we proved them wrong. The government and all of them."

The contract provisions the miners most object to are:
 

- **Pensions.** No movement towards equalization of pension. "You can take two people in the mines with 30 years service,"

said Bryant. "One of them gets \$250 a month; the other one'll get close to \$600 a month."

• **Incentive plan.** The contract allows companies to set up incentive plans for high productivity, subject to local union approval. Jim White noted that "in the coal mines of the United States, every year we get 130-140 death rate. This is the worst accident rating of anywhere in the world." The incentive scheme can only make things worse.

• **Health plan.** The contract abolishes the centralized UMWA Health Funds and puts health care in the hands of private insurance companies. The miners view this as a threat to the clinics they have built in many communities. Bill Christian, one of the visiting miners from Local 1766, is on the board of directors of the Cabin Creek clinic, as are miners throughout the coal fields. The miners also object to a

\$200 deductible for medical care that had been completely free until last year.

## TAFT-HARTLEY

They were equally adamant in their opposition to the Taft-Hartley Act.

"The Taft-Hartley law punished nobody but the working people," said White. "The only bargaining power the working people had was the strike—to cease production—and when the President forced us to go back to work under the Taft-Hartley law, he never punished the coal companies at all."

"The only people he punished was the working class of people. That was just a perfect example of big business and the government hand in hand against the working people time after time after time again."

What White said eloquently, Bryant said succinctly: "Taft can mine it, Hartley can haul it, and Carter can shove it!"

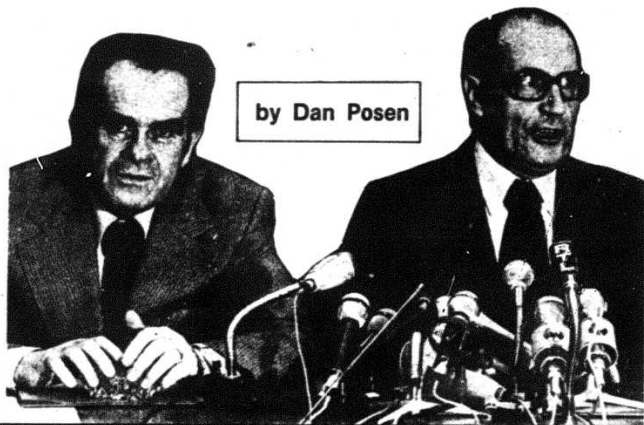
A wild buying spree hit the French stock exchange Monday, as investors celebrated the defeat of the left in the second and final round of the Parliamentary elections.

Just a few months ago, victory for the Socialist Party-Communist Party alliance had seemed certain.

The alliance, called the "Union of the Left," promised substantial wage increases, nationalization of major industries and a transformation of the economic and social structure.

A victory in the French elections was expected to be the first real test of the politics and strategy of "Eurocommunism."

It would mean a chance for a Communist Party in a western European country to put into practice—if it could—its promises for a peaceful, non-revolutionary road to socialism.



by Dan Posen

Leaders of the Left—Georges Marchais, Communist Party; and Francois Mitterrand, Socialist Party—were defeated when election results came in (below).

# France — why the Left lost

The French Communist Party, since its last Party congress in 1976, has been promising that a large enough left-wing popular majority could achieve socialism through legal reforms, without a Chile-style reaction from big business.

But when the votes were finally counted March 19, the long-awaited left-wing majority had gone up in smoke.

The "Union of the Left" candidates, including Communists, Socialists and the smaller middle-class Left Radical Party, got just over 49% of the popular vote.

However, due to the number of right-wing representatives elected from smaller rural districts, the right-wing government coalition emerged with 291 seats to 200 for the left.

In this case, unlike Chile, it turned out that French big business didn't need fascism, a military takeover or civil war to beat back the challenge from the left.

All that President Giscard d'Estaing had to do was warn that a left-wing victory would mean economic chaos—and then sit back and watch as the Socialist Party-Communist Party alliance self-destructed.

## CRUMBLING UNITY

The alliance began crumbling last September. The Communist and Socialist Party leaderships began fighting over how their election program should be interpreted, and whether it should be amended to nationalize a greater number of major corporations and their subsidiaries.

The Communist Party, apparently, was afraid that the program was too moderate. The program called for nationalizing only a handful of companies, leaving most of capital untouched.

If the left won, the Communist Party would be part of a government coalition with the Socialist Party, yet unable to keep the promises that French workers would expect from the Communist Party in power.

A victory based on the original "common program," instead of giving the Communist Party a slice of real power, might actually trap the Party in a government which would disappoint and alienate the industrial working class.

So Communist Party leader Georges Marchais began demanding the addition of other companies to the list of those to be nationalized, as well as specifying that subsidiary companies be taken over.

This was only one problem with this new strategy. The Communist

Party had agreed to the mildest possible reform program in the first place, precisely to make itself look respectable and well-mannered, to avoid frightening the middle-class voting base of the Socialist Party.

## TWO FACES

Trying to face in two directions at once, promising real changes to workers while telling property owners it's all peaceful and legal, has wrecked more than one "Parliamentary road to socialism" in the past.

When the Communist Party started pressing for more militant policies, just a few months before the election, the middle class began deserting the left in the polls. The Socialist Party leadership reacted violently against the Communist Party.

The split reached down to the rank and file level, as working class Communist Party and Socialist Party supporters at municipal and village levels began denouncing and voting against each other in local government councils.

The Communist Party and Socialist Party ended up running without a common program at all, but simply an agreement to support each others' candidates in the runoff elections.

As might be expected, a considerable number of Socialist Party voters ignored this deal and gave their second round votes to the right.

## STRUGGLE SET BACK

The victory of the right is an important political setback for French workers. Much of the blame for this will go to the Communist Party, for the obvious reason that its sudden change of line prevented a left-wing victory.

The biggest defeat is that the more fundamental debate among French workers—whether socialism can be voted in and implemented on the "common program" model—will be pushed into the background for the time being, as the major parties on the left try to recoup their losses.

But French workers have lost only an election. Unlike Chile they have not lost their unions, their right to strike, their shop floor leaders and militant organizers.

There is a very real possibility that strongly unionized French workers will be determined to win through struggle the wage increases and other economic gains they lost at the ballot box.

If this occurs, the French working class may be back on the offensive sooner than anyone realizes. □



French President Giscard d'Estaing

## Italian Communists Ally With The Right

In Italy, the Communist Party doesn't have to wait for elections to join a government coalition.

It is a junior partner in the Italian government already, through a complicated agreement with the ruling Christian Democratic Party.

The Communists have temporarily dropped their demand for positions in the Cabinet. In return, they are allowed to participate in drafting major parliamentary legislation.

Unlike France, where the Communist Party attempted to create a left wing alliance with the Socialist Party, the Italian Communist Party is cooperating with the government of the right wing and the Vatican.

The Communist Party leadership strategy is that the worsening crisis will eventually force Italian businessmen to accept a full-fledged coalition government with the Party.

## DEEPENING CRISIS

And the crisis is definitely worsening. In the words of one Italian journalist, "We're going to be the first developed country in the world to turn into an underdeveloped country."

The Italian economy is held together at this point with an incredible mess of corruption, payoffs, international bank loans and regional poverty organized by the Christian Democrats.

So the deepening crisis may force the Italian businessmen to accept the Communist Party as a full-fledged partner.

On the other hand, the Party may cripple its own support by helping administer the crumbling Italian economy.

The Communist Party will support legislation that includes cuts in workers' pensions, wages and other bitter austerity measures.

One indication of the vacuum on the Italian left is the activity of the terrorist so-called "Red Brigades." The kidnappings and murders carried out by the Brigades have caused a huge law-and-order backlash.

Italian revolutionary socialists are beginning to suspect that behind the "Red Brigades" left-wing talk, money and expertise from the extreme right may be involved in a program to provoke massive state repression against the whole left. □

D.P.

It turned out that French big business didn't need fascism, a military takeover, or civil war to beat back the challenge from the left.

All that President Giscard d'Estaing had to do was warn that a left-wing victory would mean economic chaos—and then sit back and watch as the Socialist Party-Communist Party alliance self-destructed.

THERE WERE TWO main revolutionary left slates in the first round of the French elections. The revolutionary left won a total of just over three per cent of the vote.

The largest number of votes went to the slate fielded by the revolutionary socialist organization Lutte Ouvriere (Workers' Struggle). □

# Big Loan To Aid Zambia —Or Rhodesia

The Carter administration can't publicly bribe an independent Black African country to support the Rhodesian "internal settlement."

But it can accomplish the same thing through the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

The IMF is an international organization that loans money to countries that are having trouble paying their international debts.

It is supposed to be non-political, but since the U.S. is the IMF's largest contributor, Washington dictates who gets a loan and who doesn't.

Today the IMF is being used to bribe the government of Zambia into relaxing its total ban on trade with Rhodesia. Zambia is one of the Black countries bordering Rhodesia.

## SHIPPING ROUTES

Zambia will get a \$400 million loan from the IMF on one condition—that it "use cheaper trade routes."

This condition means Zambia would start shipping its goods through Rhodesia again. Zambia had closed its borders with Rhodesia as part of an international effort to put economic pressure on the white minority regime.

Zambia is too poor and its economy too shaky to turn down a bribe of this size.

When Zambia starts shipping through Rhodesia again it will be a tremendous victory for Ian Smith and his Black collaborators in the internal settlement. The reopened trade with Zambia will be very convenient for countries eager to trade with Rhodesia and even invest there.

## SOUTH AFRICA

This isn't the first time the United States has used the IMF to back up minority rule in southern Africa.

In 1976, five months after the Soweto massacres, South Africa asked the IMF for \$186 million. Although South Africa had already received \$180 million, the U.S. insisted this new loan go through.

And it did go through, even though the governments of Germany, Italy, Spain and Portugal opposed it.

A year later, South Africa came back for another \$56 million. This time it was the freedom-loving Carter administration which forced through the money for South Africa.

For these loans, \$107 million came directly from U.S. contributions to the IMF.

These IMF deals are perfectly suited to the Carter administration. The loans to Zambia go to erid Rhodesia's isolation.

Those to South Africa help solve South Africa's balance of payments and economic difficulties—which are caused by its massive military spending.

For Carter, it means he can continue to make speeches about the U.S. commitment to freedom and majority rule in Africa, while behind the scenes U.S. money keeps the white minority in power.

How much does it cost to end your car hassles?

Apparently more than \$15,000. That is the price that Valerie Morrow paid for her air-conditioned, front-wheel drive, yellow El Dorado.

Now Morrow is suing General Motors because the car cost her "time, expenses, business loss, and embarrassment" to the tune of \$20 grand.

The car does not yet have 12,000 miles on it, but it has spent more time in the repair shop than on the highway. The reverse gear engages when the car is in neutral. The electric buzzer under the driver's seat buzzes without cause. The side window is faulty.

Morrow pleaded to the judge: "I have had more pain than I have had pleasure and ask that the honorable judge will rescue me from this vehicle which scares me no end."

And the Big 3 wonder why sales are slumping.

# American Labor Salutes the Miners

by Marilyn Danton

"IF WE LOSE this fight, it's a loss to all the unions," a miner told a rally in Cleveland.

And every day unions are increasing their solidarity efforts to aid the striking miners, proving that they understand this statement.

In a highly significant move, the San Francisco Building Trades Council passed a resolution calling for a 24-hour work stoppage if Jimmy Carter uses any armed troops to force the miners back to work.

Copies of the resolution were sent to every building trades council in the state, as well as the state and national building trades councils, asking them to take similar action.

## STRONG ACTION

Workers' Power asked Stanley Smith, head of the Building Trades Council in San Francisco why the Council took this strong action.

"We passed the resolution and urged other councils to do the same because the miners are out on strike and deserve labor's support," he said.

"The Building Trades here in San Francisco have always supported other workers on strike, especially where safety is involved.

"The accident rate in construction is second only to mining."

Other locals had already passed resolutions in favor of a work stoppage, including key ILWU locals in San Francisco and Los Angeles.

UAW Local 1364 Executive Board in Fremont, California also endorsed the work stoppage and offered to help coordinate the action with other locals.

While it is not likely that this action will be necessary, the growing movement for a political strike in support of the UMW recalls earlier days when labor solidarity was more than just words.

These and other unions are planning a massive rally in April 1 at the ILWU Local 10 Hall in San Francisco.

Not to be outdone, the east coast was also active in building support for the miners.

In Boston, over 1700 people crowded into the IBEW (Electrical Workers') local hall for a miners' support rally. Individual and local union contributions for the relief funds raised \$8850.

In Cleveland, a rally of 100 held by the city-wide AFL-CIO heard miners from District 6 tell supporters:

"There's one thing they're not going to do is shove anything down our throats. If you stand and fight you can win anything...you must be able to live in dignity."

At rally's end, participants

joined militant teachers on a picket line at the Cleveland Board of Education. The Board had missed pay day for the teachers for the second time this school year. (The next day, the Board managed to borrow the money to pay the teachers.)

Trenton, Michigan was the recent scene of the jailing of seven auto workers for disobeying a court injunction against a wildcat walk-out. There, rank and file miners spoke at the Local 372 meeting of Chrysler Trenton Engine Plant on March 18.

The local allocated \$2000 for the miners from union funds, and collected another \$200 by passing the hat. Plant gate collections were held on March 23 and a caravan to West Virginia is planned for April 5.

From Cincinnati, the Hotel and Restaurant Employees union is flying food shipments in its twin engine plane to UMW districts in West Virginia, Alabama, Kentucky, Illinois and Ohio.

The plane is making two flights a day.



Cleveland solidarity rally.

# HOW 160000 COAL STRIKERS REPEALED TAFT-HARTLEY

by Kim Moody

It's only happened once before in history, but on Friday, March 17, Federal Judge Aubrey Robinson turned down the Justice Department's request for an extension of the ten-day restraining order against the United Mine Workers' strike.

Robinson said the government had failed to prove that there was a threat to the health and safety of the nation, as required under the Taft-Hartley Act.

Adding the real reason for his decision, the judge noted that the miners "are not paying attention to what I do anyhow."

In effect, the miners have done in practice what twenty years of

legislative pressuring and lobbying failed to do. They repealed Taft-Hartley, at least in the coal fields.

The miners showed that solidarity and militancy can defeat anti-strike injunctions.

This action has meaning for all organized workers, a meaning that applies to more than Taft-Hartley injunctions.

For several years now the courts of this country have been trying to set labor policy, by interpreting the right to strike out of existence.

The Norris-LaGuardia Act prohibits the use of court injunctions in labor disputes unless violence is involved or another law, such as Taft-Hartley, prescribes specific circumstances for issuing an injunction.

But in 1970, in a case known as *Boys Market*, a judge decided that injunctions could be issued against strikes over issues that can be handled in the grievance procedure. The argument was that a grievance procedure "implies" a no-strike agreement.

The judge also held that the law had to be brought into line with national labor policy, which, he declared, favors labor peace.

Since 1970 there have been dozens of court decisions upholding this strike-breaking re-write of the Norris-LaGuardia Act. Scores of judges have jumped on the employers' union-busting bandwagon. Their unique contribution is to

by-pass Congress and re-write the law in favor of the bosses.

Now the miners, too, have by-passed Congress, which is not about to repeal Taft-Hartley or other anti-labor laws, and repealed the law by ignoring it.

They have also shown that the Carter Administration has more bark than bite.

With the Postal contract talks coming up this summer and several big contracts expiring next year, this is a good thing for union activists to know.

The ability of any union or group of workers to defy an injunction depends on the balance of power at the moment. But the miners have shown us all that it can be done.

# 2500 RALLY FOR LA'

LATROBE, Pa., March 19—Palm Sunday in this small town forty miles east of Pittsburgh saw the streets brimming with people and spirit, with colors, cheers, signs and with banners streaming in the March wind.

Strikers and their supporters and families, as well as many strangers who quickly became friends, turned out 2500 strong for this Labor Solidarity Rally in support of members of United Steelworkers Local 1537 who are entering the ninth month of their strike against Latrobe Steel.

The company has been attempting to impose conditions which, in the words of Monsignor Rice, the well-known "labor priest" in the area who spoke at the Rally, add up to "industrial and economic suicide" for Latrobe workers.

Many workers believe that Timken bought Latrobe Steel in 1975, is playing a waiting game and trying to starve the strikers into submission.

They don't intend to let it happen.

by  
Candy Martin

That is why the local's Executive Board joined with the Pittsburgh-based Committee of Concerned Unionists—a group formed through solidarity events with the nation's coal miners—to bring together unionists from valleys all over the region and from over 100 different local unions.

"Now don't be afraid of moving back a bit onto that Timken property to make enough room," Bill Ehman, the Local's vice-president, told the enormous crowd as it gathered in front of the mill after marching down Ligonier Street. "I don't think they'll bother us today," he grinned.

Laughter and cheers rippled through the crowd and the rally began.

Speaking for the Committee of Concerned Unionists (CCU), Mel Packer described "the most vicious employers' offensive we've seen since the 20's and 30's."



2500 unionists and their families march down Ligonier Street in support of striking Latrobe workers.

He also described the fight back by union men and women. "You can be sure," he finished to chants from the audience of "We Will Win!," "that whether you're Teamsters or steelworkers or autoworkers or whatever, as long as we can keep marching together, like the

miners here today, we will win." Packer, who is a Teamster from Local 249, read a motion which his local had passed in support of the Latrobe workers promising collections of clothes and canned goods. "Labor Priest" Monsignor Charles Owen Rice described the

struggles that it took to build the unions and there were some brief words from 1537 President Joseph DeFail. Then James Coyne, Director of USW District 19, explained to cheers that "this negotiating committee proved that its backbone is as strong as the steel that we manufacture across the street."

Then Ehman introduced the final speaker, International President of the United Steel Workers of America, Lloyd McBride. "Now we have someone here this afternoon," Ehman said, "that most of you have been looking for for a long time..."

Laughter. Then quiet. Would McBride announce the International's decision on the desperately needed loan which the local had requested over a month ago? (At present the local's meager strike benefits are being used to maintain insurance coverage for the strikers.)

PERHAPS...

It seemed so. McBride spoke of his great pride in being among

# What's Behind Big Steel's Off

Everyone in the crowd that filled the streets of Latrobe on March 19 knew there were more reasons than one for the massive Labor Solidarity Rally that day.

The long strike at Latrobe Steel has been no isolated case.

Thousands of workers in the steel valleys surrounding Pittsburgh—and in cases like Pullman, across the country—have been forced out on strike since last October.

They work for fabricating and specialty steel companies, many of which supply the basic steel industry. They account for the largest proportion of membership

in the Steelworkers Union (only about a third of the union's members are from the basic steel sector).

The companies they work for want to break the "me-too" tradition of accepting the Basic Steel Agreement negotiated by the United Steel Workers of America (USWA) and the nation's biggest steel corporations.

When a newly-negotiated contract took effect in basic last fall, the me-too companies decided to make their stand.

They demanded that gains which it has taken labor decades to win—from seniority rights to incentive plans to union representation in grievances—be surrendered.

The strikes in response have been defensive. In the words of District 19 Director James Coyne, the strikes are "not to attain benefits, but to retain benefits that have been in existence for forty years."

Most of the disputes would be better characterized as lock-outs than strikes. In many cases, the companies are negotiating in bad faith or not at all.

But striking steelworkers are no less stubborn than the employers. Most, determined to win, are staying out—for as long as it takes.

At Mesta Machine, strikers returned after five months for a better settlement than the Basic Agreement they originally struck to win. Four thousand workers at Blawnox Steel won the Basic package after a ten-day strike in February.

The truth is that the trend of attack and resistance spreads well beyond the valleys of Pennsylvania, beyond the small fabricators, specialty producers and steel sup-

pliers. It affects shops both big and small and extends from Kentucky to Minnesota. It has one important common denominator—the steel industry.

Pressing against an economic crisis that is emerging world-wide, the steel industry has taken the lead for all employers in a tough offensive against labor.

The victory last year of Lloyd McBride as President of the Steelworkers' union served as their green light. McBride, the hand-picked successor of I.W. "No-Strike" Abel, defeated insurgent

## At Latrobe:

Timken bought Latrobe Steel in 1975. Last fall it demanded that all previous agreements made with the local union be nullified. It insisted that the company have the right to void any arbitration decisions it found distasteful.

The list of its demands left virtually no union right unchallenged. It attacked seniority rights, vacations and pensions, scheduling, coffee incentives, wash-up time, coffee breaks, the grievance procedure...

On August 1, the union struck. USW #1537 is demanding the same package as basic steel, the same package it has traditionally received.

Workers' Power interviewed striker Joe Camaione (10 years at Latrobe), his fiancée, Rita Bosco, and Lorraine Opatka and her husband Larry, a 12-year Latrobe employee.

Joe: This strike has made this local stronger, one hell of a lot stronger.

Lorraine: It was very weak before.

Rita: You had the older guys and the younger guys not seeing eye to eye...

Joe: But now, everybody's pulling together. And it's going to continue after the strike.

Lorraine: I think it all changed after the vote. When they saw how much the company was trying to take away, that's when a lot of people, especially the wives who didn't take part before, got involved.

Larry: When they explained the

offer at the meeting in the question and answer period—that what they were doing to us, people voted it down 1068 to 1. The company was shocked. They were preparing the plant to come in that night, Sunday night. They didn't know what to do.

Joe: We were up at the Touch-down Club one night and Pischke (chief company negotiator) stopped over. He told us we had it too easy over the span of years he was there, but Latrobe could never afford a strike being that it was a

locally-owned company. But since Timken bought them, he said, they could damn well afford a strike. I said, you mean you're trying to starve us out...

Rita: The big companies are just trying to break the unions, that all. I just think they're really testing this union.

Lorraine: I feel like this is a test for the unions everywhere, in this area, because if these guys lose, then the other companies are going to start testing too...



Left to right: Joe Camaione, Rita Bosco, Becky Ehman and Lorraine Opatka. (Larry Opatka not shown.)

## At Pullman S

"Me-too" agreements were always automatic at Pullman Standard. Until last year.

That's when employees received letters from the company saying they could no longer expect to get the same as basic steel.

What the company should have said was that it would no longer agree to working conditions that were already in existence at Pullman—and had been for 25-30 years.

Perhaps it should have also mentioned that once it forced a work stoppage, the company would refuse to negotiate.

In the strike that has lasted since October 1, the main issue is incentives. The company wants to wipe out "task grievances," which allow workers to receive a new time study on any given job if the original time study sets unrealistic production quotas.

The task grievance also recognizes the right to strike against productivity increases on the tracks where the railroad cars come through.

As one striker put it, "Without the task grievance, the company could just cut jobs, and without the right to strike we can't back the company down."

Under the existing incentive plan, in addition to the normal production quotas, there is a special "over-production" goal. Workers who make the specially high goal can receive a pass to go home early, with eight hours pay plus incentive bonus.

The company is demanding that



Left to right: Donald Olekszak, Mike Howard.

these earned passes be done away with, and that employees be required to meet the over-production goal every day of the week before receiving any incentive.

(This would mean that a breakdown on Friday, or a slow-down by the company, would cost workers their entire week's incentive.)

The hatchet man behind the company's negotiating position is ex-astronaut all-American Colonel James McDivitt. He took over the Steel Division (Pullman Standard) of Pullman, Inc., as President

# TROBE STRIKERS

such fine unionists and declared the total solidarity of the International Union, the officers, and the Executive Board with "your struggle here."

After explaining how well he understood the hardship of a long strike, McBride finally got to what everyone had been waiting for:

"The need for money when you're on strike is one of the things that following my return to Pittsburgh, I will ask our other officers and members of the Board whether or not, out of consideration for the special condition that we find here, perhaps if our union can find a way, and I think we can, but I'm not the judge of that, perhaps we ought to put the ante in the way of strike assistance."

"I don't know what will come of that but it seems to me that under all the circumstances, it's an idea that's entitled to consideration."

"It was all doubletalk," said a striker later on. Others were less polite.

"I was really surprised he came at all," said another. "Someone must have kidnapped him and put him in the car."

Fortunately, the Latrobe strikers are not relying simply on their International Union for support. Before the rally ended, Ehman asked those present to shout out the unions they represented.

USW 1266!... UAW 1984—Diecasting!... IBT 407—Cleveland!... USW! USW! UAW!... Electrical Workers! Iron Workers! United Mine Workers! Glass and Ceramic Workers! Westmoreland County Labor Council!...

Office and Technical! Service Employees! International Ladies Garment Workers! IBEW! Armstrong County Labor Council! AFSCME! Locals from Canada!... and the list went on.

It was an impressive showing.

Later, the same spirit and solidarity was reflected as the crowd gathered again over beer at the American Legion Hall.

Murphy, the bartender who provided the refreshment free, said he had taken in plenty of money from Latrobe steelworkers over the years and he was happy to be giving a little of it back. □



Marchers gather in front of Latrobe Steel for Labor Solidarity Rally organized by USW Local 1537 Executive Board and the Committee of Concerned Unionists.

## ensive — And The Fight Back

Ed Sadowski, who stood for important rank and file reforms in the union.

Expecting little resistance from McBride, Big Steel launched its attack on the iron range of Michigan and Minnesota.

The 137-day strike that resulted was the longest in the steel union's history.

That strike ended last December in victory for the 16,000 iron ore miner-members of the USW. Their determination and solidarity, in spite of McBride, forced the Big Steel Companies which own the iron ore mines to back down.

Before the dust had settled, coal miners facing an out-and-out attack on their union by the operators began the longest national strike in UMW history.

**Hardest of the hard-line operators in the coal industry was... U.S. Steel.**

(Steel corporations have significant holdings in the mines.)

Like their brothers and sisters on the iron range, miners have beaten back Big Steel's plan to break their backs. U.S.S. was forced to withdraw from the negotiating committee for the BCOA (Bituminous Coal Operators' Association).

The employers have gotten a lot more than they bargained for when they began their attack on the American worker.

In each case, the steel bosses have risked more than just the defeat of their plan to roll the unions backward.

**Their ENA has each time become more visibly jeopardized.**

The Experimental Negotiating Agreement (ENA), a secretly-negotiated agreement between Abel and Big Steel, surrendered the union's right and power to strike in the basic steel sector in 1973.

Both industry and the union bureaucracy heralded the ENA as a milestone in industrial-labor relations—a pillar of harmony between thieves.

But it has been a thorn in the side of steelworkers ever since. It was a major issue in the rank and file "Fight Back" network that backed Ed Sadowski.

Sadowski, who became the symbol of the fight against the ENA, won the vote in basic steel—the section of the union where the no-strike deal applies.

**A new and open challenge to the ENA would cause a major**

shake-up in the steel industry. Yet that is precisely what Big Steel has opened up with its attack.

For it has become obvious to steelworkers everywhere that if the (non-basic) workers at Latrobe, Mesta, and Pullman were saddled with the ENA and had no recourse to strike, they would be working under slave-labor conditions today.

**And it has become vividly clear on the iron ore range and in the coal mines that the only way to stop the steel corporations' advance, the only power the union has, is the power to stop the wheels of the machine.** □

## andard:

are members of USW Local 1450. **Workers' Power** visited their picket line and interviewed Mike Gavula, Donald Olekszak, John Howard, and Leroy Nyland. Donald and John work on the track, where the incentive issue is so critical. Mike works in the punching department and Leroy is a laborer. Each has 13 years seniority.



Gavula, Leroy Nyland and John

in 1977. His job—cut costs.

"What does he know about it?" one Pullman worker remarked. "He's never made any railroad cars!"

Last November, Pullman strikers made headlines when 100 of them set up another picket in New York City—against plans to re-name Wall Street "Pullman Street" for a day, in honor of Pullman, Inc.

Of the 6500 Pullman workers who are out nationally, about 7000 work at the Butler, Pa. plant. They

Howard: The company's trying to get as much as they can and take away from us what they can, and in the meantime we just can't live with it.

**You can't go back and make less than what you were before.** Not with prices going up and everything.

You got to stay with everyone else. Like Big Steel got their agreement last August, right? Okay, right now as it stands, we're almost eight months behind Big Steel.

Now, for us to even go back and take the same package as Big Steel, unless I'm looking at it goofy, we're losing.

**Olekszak:** We're just trying to keep what we had, not get anything more.

**They want to take away things that we've had for 20 and 30 years, before I even worked in the mill.**

They haven't offered us anything since October. Not a thing. They want to take the task grievance away so we have no recourse. The new plan will give them all the power, the union will have no power at all to do anything if it's not right.

My brother-in-law called me

from New York. They pulled the same thing up there. Little companies would get everything booked up way ahead, four or five months ahead.

When it came contract time, they'd make such a ridiculous proposal the men would have to go out on strike.

**So they're doing this all over the country. I think they're just trying to break the unions.**

Now they get unemployment after seven weeks on strike in New York. We need to get some legislation here and in other states. Because you're on strike, you can't get another job. They won't hire you. This puts us in a heck of a position.

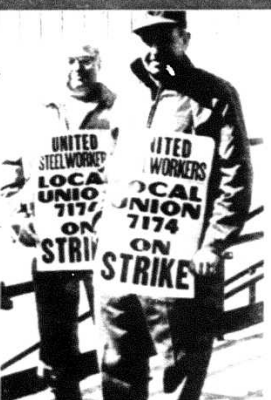
**Gavula:** I don't understand the issues very well, I'm not on the track. If they go on strike, I go out too. I'm a member of the union.

**Nyland:** I worked on the track before—I wouldn't stay on that job. It was getting too much and too loud. It's really hard work there.

**Gavula:** They send guys home in the summertime it's so hot. You can't stand it. And in the winter it's so damn cold... I agree with the strike, I'll go along with it, and I'll back them.

**Nyland:** The company wants to cut back the incentive base. They don't even want to go with what we had in the last contract. And I can't understand that. I figure, we should at least have what we had before, because we don't want to go backwards, we want to go forward! □

## At Mesta:



Pickers at Mesta

Workers at Mesta Machine struck in early October.

**When they returned five months later, they had won more than they were asking when the strike began.**

It took some solid determination. One picketer was run down by a foreman's car.

Four ratification votes were taken between October and March. The first three offers of 40c, 60c, and 80c were rejected. Finally members of USW #7174 settled for \$1.05—25c above the basic settlement.

"We stuck by our guns and came out smelling like a rose," explained

Francis Lagon, a long-time skilled tradesman at Mesta, in a telephone interview.

**Lagon says the union is a lot stronger at Mesta now. Workers no longer face petty harassment from the company as before.**

In cases like the Mesta strike, steel companies have tried to blackmail strikers by claiming they cannot compete or will be forced to move out.

So on some recent strikes, Lagon said, "people didn't stick together and accepted crumbs. Mesta paid where other locals took smaller settlements. But the result hasn't made Mesta any less competitive."

Lagon guesses that smaller fabrication shops see a strong future for themselves because of needed renovation in basic steel and a resulting demand for materials. He also guesses that that is one reason for the current trend of attacks by employers—that they would like to beat the workers and the union down now so they will be in a position to make even greater profits as their operations expand. □

**The companies' offensive—and the resistance by steelworkers—is being waged at other, even smaller, companies. Next week, Workers' Power will look at some of those strikes—including McConway-Torley, McIntosh-Hemphill, and Pittsburgh Gear.** □

# Speaking Out

## What We Think

# ISRAEL: Expansion In The Name Of Security

THREE HUNDRED THOUSAND new Middle East refugees. Villages and civilian camps buried under tons of rubble. An uncounted number of dead, crippled or missing. These are the results of the first week of Israel's massive takeover of southern Lebanon.

**Nothing could better illustrate the basic issues in the Middle East struggle—and why none of those issues have been settled in 30 years.**

Officially, Israel's government justified its invasion on grounds of the need to "protect Israel's security from terrorist attack." The issue of Israel's "security problem" is used to justify every military build-up, and any adventure it carries out against neighboring countries.

But the real question is, why does Israel have this "security problem" at all? The answer has nothing to do with the usual explanations: that the Palestinians goal is to drive Israel into the sea; that 100 million Arabs are driven by a fanatical hatred of three million Jews; and similar rubbish.

Israel's "security problem" is a result of the way the state

of Israel was created, and of its policies ever since.

Eighty per cent of the Palestinian Arab population of what is now Israel was driven from its homes and lands in the first Middle East war of 1948. A major cause of this tragedy was that the leadership of the Zionist movement made a conscious political decision: the new state of Israel would not be a country where Jews and Arabs lived together in political and social equality.

Israel was to be, instead, a "Jewish State" where Arabs would be a barely tolerated, second class minority. To carry out this decision raids were staged by Zionist forces on Arab villages—including the massacre of 250 civilians at Deir Yassin—and stories were circulated to encourage others to flee.

**Why is this 30-year-old history still relevant? For one thing, because the same methods are still in use today.**

It became clear during the Israeli invasion of Lebanon that the new flood of refugees was no "by-product" of attacks on Palestinian commando bases. The pattern of Israeli bombing was deliberately intended to cause the mass panic



Southern Lebanon: villagers flee from Israeli invasion. This is the way the Israeli government claims to protect its "security."

flight of Palestinian refugees and Lebanese Moslems out of southern Lebanon.

This chapter is not yet over, either. Israel has announced that it will withdraw from Lebanon when there is a "settlement" that not only closes southern Lebanon to the Palestinians, but also forces the closing down of all Palestinian bases everywhere throughout all of Lebanon. In other words, we are told that solving Israel's "security problem" now depends on crushing all Palestinian organization in Lebanon.

Even having concentrations of peaceful Arab citizens inside Israel is part of the ever-present "security problem." A secret official report, written during Israel's previous Labor Party government, called for an intensified campaign to force Israeli Arab citizens out of the northern Israeli area of Galilee, where Arabs make up 52% majority. This would be done by cutting family allowances, restricting educational opportunities and forcible takeovers of Arab-owned farm lands.

And on the Israeli-occupied West Bank, the Begin government now says it will maintain permanent military and political control. No political authority independent of Israeli control will be tolerated.

### PUSHING BACK BORDERS

**Isn't the pattern clear? Israel's efforts to solve its original "security problem" have been based on pushing back its borders, taking over more Arab lands, expelling the Palestinian people from ever-widening circles of territory in the Middle East. And every time this is done—from the seizure of the West Bank and Golan Heights in 1967, to the occupation of Lebanon today—Israel's new "security problem" becomes bigger and more dangerous than before.**

Israel's real "security problem" is its refusal of the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination. That refusal is what has made Israel an alien intrusion into the Middle East. So long as it continues, nothing can force the Palestinian people to stop fighting against Israel, for their own homeland.

If any military force could crush the Palestinians, it would have been the Israeli Army. Thanks to American government aid, Israel has overwhelming military superiority over all the Arab states put together. It has military stockpiles to carry it through any foreseeable new Middle East war for years to come.

But the Palestinian commandos weren't crushed. They fought very effectively against Israeli ground forces, retreating in the face of air attacks.

**The Palestinians have been militarily and strategically set back. But there is no reason to think that seizing 15 miles of Lebanese coastline makes Israel more secure, politically or morally, than it was before.**

## Fighting Words

“The man who is the enemy of the Black laboring man is the enemy of the white laboring man the world over. The same influences that go to keep down and crush down the rights of the poor Black man bear down and oppress the poor white laboring man.”

Henry Wilson  
U.S. Senator, 1863

## As I See It

# Learn from the miners

by Don Quenneville, UAW Local 47

We in the UAW have seen from the very beginning what significance the coal miners' strike has for all working people.

The rank and file of the auto industry know very well what a take-away contract is—we have had to deal with this kind of contract for years. But management is now on an even more aggressive offensive than in 1976, and we can take all bets on what negotiations will be like in 1979.

**With the kind of struggle that has gone down with Essex Wire in Elwood, Indiana to the coal fields of Virginia, the coal strike is following the same threatening pattern—the drive to bust the unions.**

The shame is that our union leadership of today offers no resistance to this offensive.

The lesson we have learned from these courageous coal miners is simple but powerful: solidarity. It has showed us as well that John L. Lewis once said about the Taft-Hartley Act is that all we have to do is ignore it, and it would go away.

But, what was more important in the defeat of this labor busting move on the part of the Carter Administration was



the strong unity and cohesive action of the miners. It has demonstrated to American workers that if we stick together, we can accomplish what we set out to do—and more.

Even more significant in this struggle was the demonstration by the United Mine Workers' rank and file that just because a union leadership is weak doesn't mean that the rank and file has to be weak too. The strength demonstrated by these miners was not only a surprise to the coal operators, but to their own leadership as well.

We must realize the effect this strike has had on the economic needs of those miners. They have had no strike benefits, no health care, food is short with bills piling up. Oh, they have gotten and will get what various labor organizations are collecting but this won't last forever and won't go very far among 160,000 miners.

**If the miners still end up losing on their contract we can at least remember that they didn't lose the strike, because they have set a precedent that cannot go unnoticed nor unheard for a long time. I can only hope we all learned from their struggle.**

Maybe, just maybe, we will still proudly relate to our grandchildren about the Great Coal Strike of 1978 which was the beginning of the biggest labor movement of the 20th century, and a victory for the American working class. □

## Where We Stand

Workers' Power is the weekly newspaper of the International Socialists. The I.S. and its members work to build a movement for a socialist society: a society controlled democratically by mass organizations of all working people.

Because workers create all the wealth, a new society can be built only when they collectively take control of that wealth and plan how it is produced and distributed.

The present system cannot become socialist through reform.

The existing structures of government—the military, police, courts and legislatures—protect the interests of employers against workers.

The working class needs its own kind of state, based on councils of delegates elected at the rank and file level.

The rank and file of the unions must be organized to defend unions from employer attacks, to organize the unorganized, to make the union effective. Today's union leaders

rarely even begin to do this. The rank and file must organize to return the unions to the members.

The struggle for socialism is worldwide. We oppose everything which turns workers from one country against workers of other countries, including racism and protectionism.

We are against the American government's imperialist foreign policies, including its support of racist minority regimes in southern Africa.

We demand complete independence for Puerto Rico. We support all genuine national liberation movements.

The so-called "socialist" or "communist" states have nothing to do with socialism. They are controlled by a privileged ruling class of bureaucrats and must be overthrown by the workers of those countries.

Black and Latin people are oppressed national minorities in the U.S. They have the right to self-determination—to decide their

own future. We support the struggle for Black Liberation and the self-organization of Black people. We also fight for the unity of Black and white workers in a common struggle against this system.

We support women's liberation and full economic, political, and social equality for women. We demand outlawing all forms of discrimination against gay people.

Socialism and liberation can be achieved only by the action of a mass workers' movement. The most militant sections of workers today must be organized to lay the foundations for a revolutionary socialist workers' party.

This is why the International Socialists exists—to create that party. We are open to all those who accept our main principles, and who accept the responsibility of working as a member to achieve them.

Join with us to build a movement to end exploitation and oppression and to create a socialist world. □



News Analysis

# FOR YOUR VOTE, SENATOR BLIMP, NO PRICE IS TOO HIGH. . .

by Marilyn Danton

"Christmas on Capitol Hill," was how U.S. News and World Report vividly described the approval of the first of two Panama Canal treaties.

In fact, it was one of the most expensive auctions of Senate votes in recent political history. The Carter Administration paid in the neighborhood of \$3 billion, cash on the pork barrel head, to gain a total of three Senate votes to ensure ratification.

Senator Dennis DeConcini (D-Arizona) sold his vote fairly cheap. He agreed to vote for the Treaty after Carter agreed to purchase \$250 million worth of copper for the U.S. strategic stockpile.

Arizona, in case you haven't already guessed, is a major copper mining state. Senator Walter Huddleston (D-Kentucky) came over as a hard treaty supporter when Carter suddenly found federal funds in the millions for a major tunnel project in his state. Earlier, Carter had eliminated the funds, but somehow he miraculously changed his mind.

CASH SWEEPSTAKES

The biggest cash sweepstakes was won by Senator Herman Talmadge, a fellow Georgian. He came aboard the pro-treaty side when Carter dropped his opposition to a bill for an extra \$2.3 billion to farmers who retire crop land from production.

Trade-offs like this, in fact, go on all the time. What was incredible about this one was that there was little attempt to hide it.

The Carter administration staked a lot on this one. Following a year of defeats and muddles, of mistakes and problems—a falling dollar, growing inflation, no energy bill, a coal miners' union that just ignored him and his Taft-

Hartley back to work law—he badly needed some sort of victory, no matter what the price.

And, he was willing to beg and pay for it. So much so, that one Senator, Bob Packwood from Oregon, a Republican, a supporter of the treaties, said he was so "disgusted" with the deal President Carter was making to get votes, he might vote against the treaties in protest.

TWO TREATIES

Packwood accused Carter of playing "Let's make a deal" and pleading excessively for passage on the grounds that rejection would hurt his ailing Presidency. The Oregon Senator thought this in itself would damage the Presidency even more because "the public would think the treaties were bought."

The so-called "neutrality treaty" was only one of two

treaties which must be approved. The second treaty is the one which actually hands over the canal zone and the canal to the Panamanians in the year 2000. It will come up for a vote in April.

Both treaties must be approved by a two-thirds vote of the U.S. Senate before they can go into effect. Opening bids on the purchase of Senate votes for the second treaty have not yet been quoted.

But the real rip-off in these treaties is the rip-off of the Panamanian people. An amendment to the treaty just passed explicitly sanctions the use of U.S. military forces in Panama should "internal problems" in Panama threaten the canal operations.

Labor strife was frequently mentioned as one of the possible "internal problems." Maybe the Panamanian workers will have to take a page from the American miners—and tell the U.S.: you can't operate a canal with bayonets.



Senator Alan Cranston (left) works on Senator DeConcini, whose price was \$250 million in copper. The boss approved.

Workers' Power Exclusive

# Never Too Late for an Old Fool

by Woody Grimshaw

WASHINGTON, D.C., April 1—The throng of press people assembled today outside Joe's Bar and Grill buzzed as George Meany, President of the AFL-CIO, pulled up to the curb at the wheel of a beat-up 1963 Volkswagen.

Meany, perspiration glistening on his brow, wearing soiled blue jeans and a chambray work shirt, sleeves rolled up to the elbows, charged through the crowd and into the restaurant like a man possessed.

Earlier in the morning the media had received a mimeographed press release, signed simply, "George," hand-delivered by a furtive figure, variously described as squat and balding, in his late seventies or early eighties.

Joe and his waitresses had spent the morning tidying up the restaurant. For a speaker's platform they'd cleared two tables of mustard and ketchup bottles and pushed them together.

As television lights flared, Meany, a squat, balding man

of 84, began to speak, in a low, steady voice.

"Last night I had a dream. All day long the miners' strike had weighed heavily on my mind, and when I slept it was a fitful sleep.

LABOR PAST

"In my dream, that great labor leader and socialist from decades past, Eugene Debs, came to me. We shot the bull for awhile, then got down to serious business. Slowly, he helped me figure out what troubled me—helped fit the pieces together in my mind."

Here Meany paused, reflected a moment, then drew a deep breath.

"Today marks the end of the fat-cat labor bureaucrat!

"Look at us. We ride around in fancy limousines, while many among our membership have trouble making monthly payments on broken-down jalopies.

"We negotiate tiny wage increases for our membership, and call it a victory, then turn around and give ourselves fat pay raises.

"While we hob-nob with business executives, slopping up prime rib in luxurious restaurants, some of the people we are supposed to be serving have trouble even putting food on their tables.

"But this, I'm sad to say, is only part of the story."

PULLING THE WOOL

Meany's face was agitated. He seemed to be fighting something within himself.

"While we've been leading the good life, we've been telling American workers that their salvation lies in the Democratic Party. Bull crap!

"We've known all along that the Democrats are in bed with the bosses, and we've winked at it!" He pounded the air with his fists.

"All these years that we've been pussy-footing around with the Democrats, and where has it gotten us?

"We've still got mass unemployment. An over-priced health care system. Discrimination of all sorts. We've got wars.

"We've still got poverty, and the crime it breeds. And we've got jobs that reduce people to machines, that leave them tired, broken, after a day's work.

"But these things don't have to be. They're not written in granite. We've got the wealth, the resources, the power to

change them.

"It's time to end the charade!"

Meany was raving. His arms waved, his mouth curled. Spittle dripped from his lips.

For an instant he was quiet. Then, he began again, in great earnest.

"I'm ashamed to say that many times, when I was chauffeured home at the end of the day, through squalid ghettos that reeked of poverty and human misery, I would sip my drink and j avert my eyes.

"I got paid hundreds of thousands of dollars. I lived with the executives in their wealthy suburbs. I played golf with them in their country clubs. They invited me over to their houses for dinner.

"I was treated as one of their own, and after awhile I began to believe that I was. I forgot about the people I was supposed to be serving.

"Like a lunatic, I began babbling about common interests between workers and businessmen. I made statements about 'equality of sacrifice' when I knew in my heart that 'equality' didn't include me or my business friends."

SEEN THE LIGHT

Meany wiped a tear from his eye with a red paisley bandana, of the sort farmers have hanging from their pockets in magazine ads for Mail Pouch tobacco.

When he continued, it was with great resolve.

"It's taken me 84 years, but I've finally figured it out. Only one thing is served by poverty, war, unemployment. Only one thing—profit!

"The factories, the machines—they're owned by a tiny group of wealthy individuals. When they make decisions that affect everyone's lives they make them in their own interests, in the interests of profit.

"We labor 'leaders,' with our caviar, our fancy houses, our limousines, our summer cottages, have helped things along with all our myths about common interests and about reform.

"Well, that's all gonna end right now! I'm calling on all workers to seize the factories, the offices, wherever people do this world's work. Kick the bosses out! Let's run things ourselves.

"We can end poverty, end war, end discrimination. We can end the boredom of work, and start building a humane society.

"Let's get on with it. We've got a world to win!"

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# International Women's Day - Bringing our struggles together

March 8, 1978 marked the 70th anniversary of International Women's Day. The date was declared a holiday in honor of striking textile workers in New York City. After the labor upheavals of the 20's and 30's, Women's Day became a forgotten holiday until the women's movement revived it. These reports were filed after celebrations of International Women's Day around the country.

## New York

by Barbara Zeluck

NEW YORK CITY—A thousand women and men marched here to celebrate the 70th International Women's Day. It was the largest such demonstration in years.

Assembling in Union Square, the marchers proceeded across 14th Street and up 8th Avenue, chanting, "Gay, straight, Black, white, working women must unite," "Not the church, not the state, women must decide our fate," and "Jobs and daycare are our right. Sisters, let's unite and fight!"

A lively rally was held in Herald Square. Women spoke on the fight against cutbacks in education and health care, the importance of affirmative action to women and minorities, women's increasing mobilization in support of abortion rights and against sterilization abuse, lesbian mothers' struggle to keep their children.

A representative of the Trade Union Committee against Repression in Puerto Rico (TUCAR) spoke on the current Teamster and electrical worker's struggles in Puerto Rico and the role of women. Other international solidarity

statements were made by women from the Chilean resistance, from Iran, and from Zimbabwe.

The march and rally were organized by a coalition of 17 feminist and socialist groups. The successful march opened the door for more joint activity in the future and for a growing understanding of the connection between the many different struggles. □

## Boston

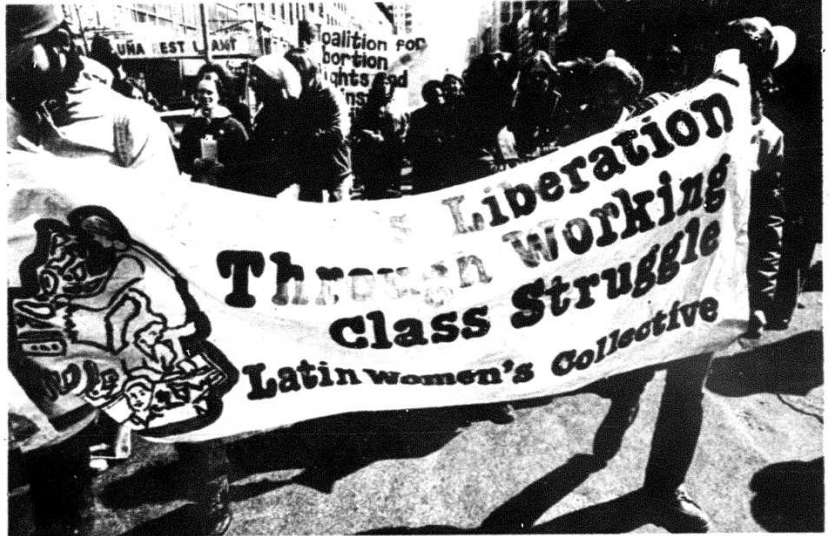
by Naomi Blodgett

BOSTON—More than a thousand women (plus a sprinkling of men) cheered as a women's karate group "smashed" the states which have not ratified the Equal Rights Amendment. The demonstration was part of an International Women's Day celebration held here on March 11.

The name of the state was written on a foot-square board. The board was held up and ripped with a karate chop from the hand or foot of one of the team members.

The toughest state to break proved to be Georgia, which brought the loudest cheers when it finally splintered.

The beat of an African drum by a



A thousand marched in New York City to celebrate the 70th anniversary of International Women's Day.

women's musical group called La Triba attracted people to Boston Common near the State House to see what was happening on this sunny day.

After the rally the crowd, now over 800, marched from Tremont and Boylston Streets singing and chanting "Power to the women right now!" On-lookers joined in, attracted by the continuing drum beats and the signs representing many women's concerns — gay rights, the ERA, abortion rights, equal pay, unions, lesbian mothers' rights, against sterilization abuse, prison conditions, rape, jobs for women, Third World women, battered women, wages for housework.

"Victory to the Miners" and "Free Joan Little" were seen on two placards; another read: "OUTRAGEOUS — Boston's Pay for Clerical Workers — ORGANIZE!" Others said: "No Woman Should Have To Live In Fear," "End Sexual Harassment at the Workplace," "Promote Equal Rights for Women Through Socialism."

Destination of the marchers was the old UMass building on Arlington Street, where after another high-spirited rally the crowd pressed inside for a program of skits, short talks, and music. □

## Pittsburgh

PITTSBURGH—Eleven women's and socialist organizations held a celebration of International Women's Day here on March 11. The celebration focused on the struggles of working women.

About 180 people attended a showing of the movie "Blow For Blow," an appropriate film for this holiday honoring women's struggle. It tells the story of French women textile workers who got fed up with working conditions and seize the plant. The strike ends in victory.

### HORROR STORY

Two speakers followed the movie. Rachel Maines, from the Women's Committee for Justice for the J.P. Stevens workers, spoke about the strikes for union recognition that have been going on at Stevens for more than two years. She stressed that the route to victory is for people to unite and

boycott J.P. Stevens products.

The second speaker was Marilyn Schultz, a member of the United Auto Workers, Local 1663. Marilyn was involved in a nine-month long strike against the Essex Wire Corporation last year.

Her talk was a horror story. Twelve fired, including Marilyn, the strike defeated, one woman shot and paralyzed for life.

Both the women's stories told of inspiring struggle, just as had been seen in the movie. Marilyn pointed out that one thing that the Essex strikers did win was unity and a sense of their own strength.

After she spoke, the audience collected \$75 for Carol Frye, the young mother crippled during the strike.

Music was provided by the women's vocal club Tri Debojke who are part of the Wild Sisters Coffee House, a feminist socialist club. □

## Detroit

by Emily Sharpe

DETROIT — About 300 people gathered here on March 11 for a celebration of International Women's Day. The day's events included a fair, workshops and program addressing women's struggles: past, present and future.

The fair gave Detroit women a chance to get to know each other, inspect literature, and check out

what women are doing in the city.

A wide range of groups participated—from the UAW Local 235's Women's Committee, to the Rape Counseling Center, to Hershef (a feminist bookstore), to natural childbirth groups, socialist organizations, as well as many others.

Towards the end of the afternoon, everyone gathered to listen to a narration discussing women's role in history. The narrative was brought up to the present by a slideshow that illustrated the problems that women face today.

At the conclusion of the program, a dozen women were honored for their roles in building the women's movement. Each woman was presented with a loaf of bread and a rose, symbols of women's struggles. □

### ESSEX STRIKERS

One of the objectives of the coalition that sponsored the event was to raise money for Carol Frye, a young mother who was crippled during a strike between the UAW and the Essex Wire Corporation last year.

Close to \$100 was raised for Carol.

Accepting a loaf of bread and a rose for the Essex strikers, Enid Eckstein, a Detroit auto worker, said, "It is important for us to honor sisters today who have put their lives on the line for the struggle, like Carol Frye did." □

## Labor Notes

by Jim Woodward

Union organizing last year suffered more defeats than ever before. Unions lost 54% of all representation elections and 76% of the decertification elections. One reason for this is clearly a union leadership that is largely satisfied with things the way they are. Another reason is a tougher anti-union attitude by the employers. The National Labor Relations Board reports that it recovered a record \$17.4 million in back pay last year for employees who were illegally fired from union activities. The previous record, established in 1976, was \$11.6 million.

Despite the fact that 20-25% of all textile workers get byssinosis—or "brown lung" disease—North Carolina has just granted the first worker's compensation claim for this disease anywhere in the South. Brown lung is a disabling disease which currently affects at least 35,000 workers. It is caused by dust in the textile mills and is similar to black lung, which affects coal miners. And like coal miners, textile workers have had to fight for compensation. The North Carolina case was won by Otis Edwards, a former employee of J.P. Stevens.

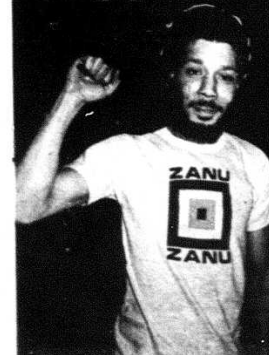
The Clothing and Textile Workers union scored another victory in its campaign to organize the J.P. Stevens Company when David W. Mitchell resigned from the Stevens Board of Directors March 21. Mitchell is chairman of Avon Products, and the union had threatened a boycott of Avon unless Mitchell cut his ties to J.P. Stevens. Mitchell said he resigned because "I cannot permit Avon to be drawn into the conflict." Earlier, the union had won a similar victory at Manufacturers Hanover bank.

Quote of the week: "I don't want you using my name. I don't want no federal marshals after me. Carter's thugs, that's all they are."—An unidentified West Virginia coal miner, speaking to a reporter last week.

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



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From Jamaica, music with the soul of revolution

# "We got to fight, fight, fight!"

**DETROIT RALLY SET TO DEFEND SAMI ESMAIL**



DETROIT—An important rally is scheduled for Saturday, April 1, at 1:00 pm at Kennedy Square in downtown Detroit to build support for the defense of Sami Esmail.

Esmail, a 23-year-old graduate student at Michigan State University, is being tried in Israel for being a "member of an unlawful organization" and conspiring to engage in terrorism.

Sami Esmail is an American-born U.S. citizen. He was arrested last December as he stepped off a plane in Israel on a trip to visit his dying father.

He was beaten, tortured until he nearly committed suicide. He was then forced to sign a false confession in Hebrew.

The activities with which he is charged consist of political activity in support of the Palestinian cause at Michigan State, and an alleged trip to Libya in the summer of 1976.

**LEGAL ACTIVITIES**

Esmail is being tried under Israeli laws that give Israel the "right" to try non-citizens for activities carried out outside Israel.

All his activities were perfectly legal under American law.

Despite this, it has been revealed that the FBI gave Israeli authorities information on Sami Esmail's activities. In fact, information to Israel from the FBI on Esmail's trip to visit his father may have been directly responsible for his arrest.

Widespread concern in the U.S. over this case, spearheaded by the Committee to Defend the Human Rights of Sami Esmail, has put the U.S. government on the defensive over its handling of the case.

Israeli and pro-Zionist forces have become so worried over support for Sami Esmail that they have begun a counterattack.

Monroe Friedman, president of Hofstra University Law School, is now on a speaking tour defending Israel's treatment of Sami Esmail and the legitimacy of the trial.

A spokesperson for the Defense Committee told **Workers' Power**: "We consider this an exciting development. It shows that our efforts really have them scared."

For more information about the case and the April 1 rally, in the Detroit area call 285-7935 or 284-1450.

D.P.

by Toni Hawk

PETER TOSH is one of the original Wailers. He has come out with a solo record that is another reggae masterpiece, in league with "Burnin'" by the Wailers, "The Harder They Come," "Police and Thieves" by Junior Murvin, "War in a Babylon" by Max Romeo and the Upsetters, etc.

The Revolution will be won here, in the belly of the monster, as they say, not in Jamaica. But a lot of the revolutionary music of today is coming out of Jamaicans.

But tell me, who are the criminals?

I really don't see it. I need Equal Rights, and Justice. There'll be no crime There'll be no criminals Everyone is fighting for Equal Rights, and Justice. Palestinians fighting, for Equal Rights, and Justice Down in Angola, for Equal Rights and Justice Down in Botswana, for Equal Rights, and Justice Down in Zimbabwe, for Equal Rights, and Justice Down in Rhodesia...

so simple only an illiterate Jamaican could play it.

The fact is that reggae is so complex only people who are tuned in can make music that connects up the feet, the bootie, the heart, soul, and the brain—the fact that it is revolutionary in outlook is no accident, it is a natural outcome of making connections.

The imitations of reggae that are coming out are pale imitations indeed. They take one layer of a multi-rhythmic music and leave out the politics.

**GET UP, STAND UP**

The other side of this record has a new version of an old Wailer favorite, "Get Up, Stand Up (for your rights)". Then there is a song called Downpressor Man, about the oppressor.

**Downpressor man, where you gonna run to**  
**Downpressor man, where you gonna run to**  
**All on that day?**  
**Can you run to the sea, but the sea will be boiling**  
**All on that day?**  
**You gonna run to the rocks, but the rocks will be melting,**  
**All on that day.**  
**You drink a big champagne and laugh, haw, haw**  
**I wouldn't want to be a flea, man under your collar,**  
**All on that day.**  
**You can't ride no one, they don't want no money**  
**They don't want money, cause money get funny**  
**Downpressor man.**

The very last song, Stepping Razor, is a very lively rhythm:

If you want to live, you better treat me good.

**THE ARTISTS**

Three other Wailers join Tosh on this album: Bunny Wailer, Carlisle Barrett, and Earl "Wia" Lindo, but not Marley himself. In addition, Robbie Shakespeare, Sly Dunbar, Harold Butler, Tyrone Downie, Bobby Ellis, Dirty Harry, Al Anderson, Karl Pitterson, Skully, and Abdul Wali appear in various songs. The sound quality is excellent.

There's a song about:

No master where you come from As long as you're a Black man You're an African.

There's a song about apartheid that begins with gunshots that sound like what Soweto must have sounded like:

We got to fight, fight, fight against apartheid Brothers got to fight, fight, fight against apartheid.

These three songs are part of one side of the record. Of course the music itself is great. Some elitist fool once said the reggae beat was

**EQUAL RIGHTS.** Peter Tosh. Columbia Records 34670.

The record companies put this stuff out because it sells real well and makes them money, not because they could possibly agree with the politics of the songs.

**OUR WORDS TOO**

Maybe they say, well, it's about Jamaica. But Equal Rights will be played in concrete jungles around the world by us and others like us, who care, because the words are our words:

Everyone is crying out for Peace, yes,  
 None is crying out for Justice. I don't want no Peace, I need Equal Rights, and Justice. Everybody is fighting to reach the top  
 But how far is it from the bottom?  
 I don't want no Peace, I need Equal Rights, and Justice. Everybody's talking about crime, crime,

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# WORKERS' POWER



# STOP THE DAVIS CUP!

## 5000 PROTEST APARTHEID ABROAD, RACISM AT HOME

by Dennis Stovall

NASHVILLE, Tennessee — Love 15, Love 30...

That's the way the Davis Cup match between the United States and South Africa was being scored inside.

But outside, Joseph Lowery, President of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, addressed a demonstration of 4-5000 people held here on March 18. Lowery looked at the score this way:

"Hate 15 Blacks. Hate 30 Blacks. Hate 40 Blacks—it's hate all Blacks—it's hate justice!"

The Davis Cup protest, sponsored by the NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People), was the largest civil rights demonstration since the 60's. The issue was South Africa and apartheid, but it was more.

Speaker after speaker pushed home the point that the fight against racism in South Africa is also the fight against racism in America and the corporations that profit from it world wide.

### MARCH

The day began with a three and one-half mile march from the Tennessee State Capitol to a park across the street from Vanderbilt University, where the match was held.

Nearly 3000 demonstrators, carrying banners and signs, chanting anti-racist slogans, began the march through Nashville. Hundreds more joined in as the march neared Vanderbilt University.

At the rally, Benjamin Hooks, Executive Director of the NAACP, spoke about this event as only the first of many to come.

This was a sentiment echoed in the speeches of all the groups



Protestors at the Davis Cup outnumbered spectators by more than two to one in the biggest civil rights demonstration since the 60's.

present.

Several hundred demonstrators picketed the gym where the games were being held. Less than 2000 people crossed the picket line to see the games.

The racists who crossed the line could have no doubt about what

people thought of them.

Although the matches were not stopped, the demonstration was a huge success. The 9000-seat stadium was less than one-fifth full. Financially, the match was a disaster—which means that no one will promote a U.S.-South Africa

match in this country again.

To critics who say that sports and politics shouldn't be mixed, Wilbert Davis, answered:

"Sports and politics do mix in South Africa.

"It is a political decision in South Africa that interracial teams do not compete against each other.

"It is a political decision in South Africa that in 1977 gave \$2 million to sports for four and one-half million whites—but only \$50,000 for 18 and one-half million Blacks!

"The Black People's Sports Council in Soweto has said that sports—or any other activity in South Africa—cannot be divorced from the present political system."

Wilbert Davis in the president of the American Tennis Association, the oldest national Black sports group in the U.S.

### FIGHT RACISM

Buses brought demonstrators from as far away as Washington, D.C. and Pittsburgh, but most were students from southern universities. They represented not

only all of the traditional civil rights organizations, but many socialist and Black nationalist groups as well.

Among the older demonstrators were many who had laid their lives on the line during the struggles of the 60's.

Today, they were prepared to do so again. The demonstration showed that the Black struggle is alive in America, alive and growing. The struggle is against racism in South Africa—and racism in America.

Dick Gregory said it as well as any of the speakers at the Davis Cup protest:

"Vanderbilt University is no different than all the rest of the institutions across this country. We have to change that; there's gonna be a new day today.

"I'm tired of living in a nation where, whether you're good or bad, if you spend a dollar it's gonna be used against the things you believe in.

"The corporation presidents are listening to this here today, because they know that in a few more minutes, they're next."

## Gary Tyler Defense Conference Set For April 8; To Plan New Offensive

A Gary Tyler Defense Conference will be held in New Orleans, Louisiana on April 8.

According to the Gary Tyler Defense Fund, "It will be the initial move to intensify the effort to FREE GARY TYLER.

"The Conference is intended to represent the determination of the Gary Tyler Defense Fund to mobilize people in response to the recent Louisiana Supreme Court's refusal to give Gary a new trial."

The plans include organizing support for a major demonstration to be held in the summer.

Gary Tyler, a young Black

prisoner now held at Angola prison in Louisiana, was convicted of murder when a white youth was shot during an anti-busing riot in Destrehan, Louisiana in 1974.

He was sentenced to die. After the Louisiana death penalty statute was overturned by the U.S. Supreme Court, the sentence was changed to life imprisonment.

There are no witnesses or other evidence of any kind against Tyler. The only person who testified against him, a young Black student, has revealed that she was threatened with violence and imprisonment herself unless she

agreed to lie on the stand against Gary Tyler.

Despite this, all motions and efforts to secure a new trial for this innocent victim of racist Louisiana "justice" have been denied.

The conference keynote speaker will be Robert Williams, a Black civil rights activist who spent years fighting frame-up kidnapping charges against himself in North Carolina.

To endorse this Conference, to send contributions, or to obtain further information, write: Gary Tyler Defense Fund, Box 52223, New Orleans, LA 70152. □