

the rank and file in action

Labor Today

25¢

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POINT PROGRAM TO FIGHT INFLATION

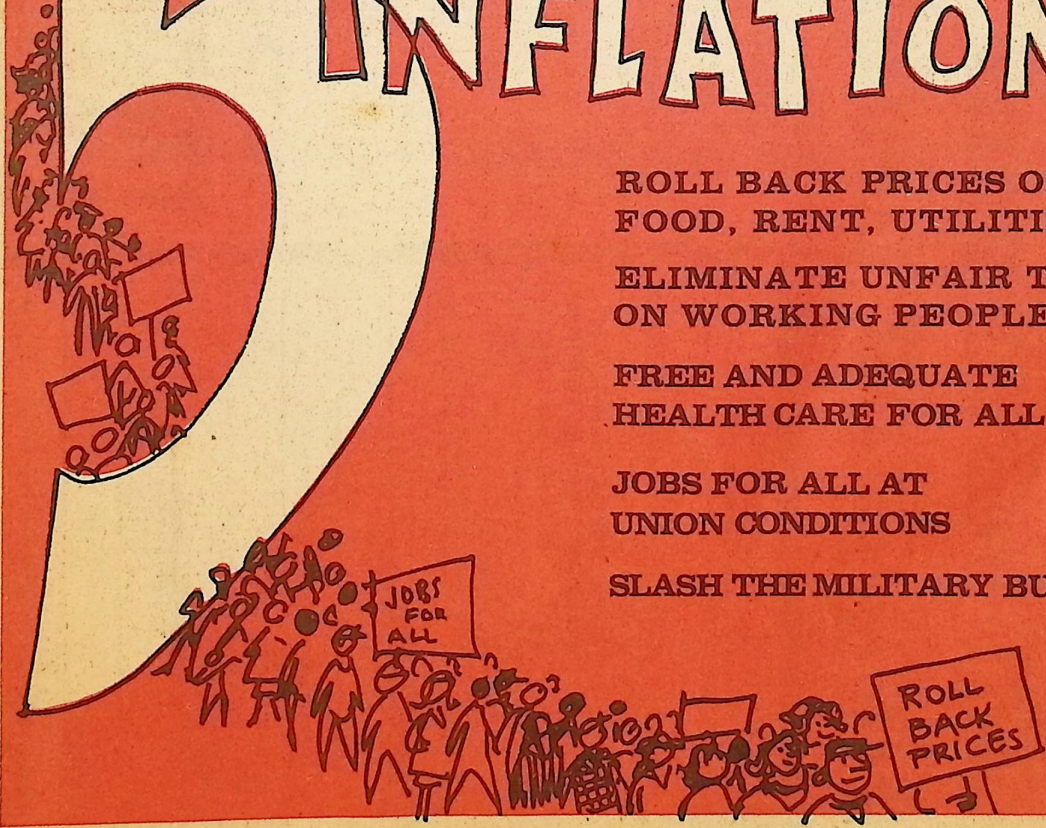
ROLL BACK PRICES ON
FOOD, RENT, UTILITIES

ELIMINATE UNFAIR TAXES
ON WORKING PEOPLE

FREE AND ADEQUATE
HEALTH CARE FOR ALL

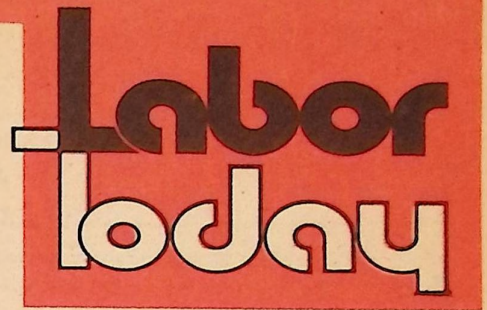
JOBS FOR ALL AT
UNION CONDITIONS

SLASH THE MILITARY BUDGET

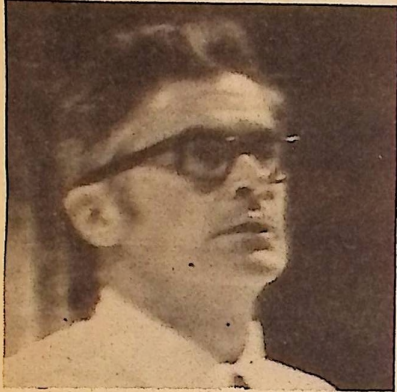


RANK AND FILE CONFERENCE FORGES. . .

A fighting program against inflation



FACES AT THE CONFERENCE



WILL PARRY,
PAPER WORKERS

by JIM WILLIAMS, Co-Editor
LABOR TODAY

Over 120 rank and file trade unionists gathered in Chicago September 14 for an "Emergency Trade Union Conference to Fight Inflation." The Conference delegates, who came from 15 states and 34 international unions, developed a program of economic proposals designed to halt inflation, called for legislative and political action to implement the proposals, as well as direct actions directed against monopoly price-fixing retailers.

A five-point program for congressional action called for:

A roll-back of prices, beginning with food, rents and utilities;

Elimination of regressive taxation, beginning with sales taxes on food and other necessities;

Free, comprehensive health care for all;

Public works to provide full employment with jobs at union rates of pay for all who seek work, with a special emphasis on the needs of ghetto youth; and

Slash the military budget to provide for the above.

Workshop reports approved by the delegates also called for support for nationwide direct actions against inflation on November 16; a rank and file delegation to the Economic Summit Conference called by President Ford on September 28; endorsed the proposed one-day strike against inflation being discussed by the United Electrical Workers (UE); and called for an anti-inflation demonstration in Washington, D.C. in March, 1975.

(continued on page 10)



OLA KENNEDY,
STEEL WORKERS

KEYNOTE SPEAKER TELLS WHERE TO START

Let's organize the grass-roots



BILL KRUMM,
GRAIN MILLERS

by FRED GABOURY
NATIONAL FIELD ORGANIZER
NCCTUAD

The National Coordinating Committee for Trade Union Action and Democracy called this meeting to take advantage of a period that we knew would exist while the new Ford Administration got its feet on the ground--while it worked out new approaches to deal with the wrath of a people who had, for the second time in less than a decade, driven a president from public life.

We knew, in the final days of Nixon's stay, that the big business policies that had guided his administration would remain.

Nixon appointed some 200 Federal Judges--4 of them to the Supreme Court. He appointed a majority of those sitting on all twelve of the Federal Regulatory agencies. He appointed all of the members who now sit on the National Labor Relations Board, the

Federal Mediation Service, and the Security and Exchange Commission--all key governmental bodies when it comes to the showdown battles that will be fought out over one or another aspect of inflation.

We knew that, until a movement and a campaign were organized in opposition to these policies, they would shape the direction of the Ford Administration.

We knew that if there is to be such a challenge it would have to come from those whose lives and well-being depended upon it. We knew that a fight-back movement with enough muscle to reverse the 17-month decline in real wages would have to come from the work place, led by a rank and file movement.

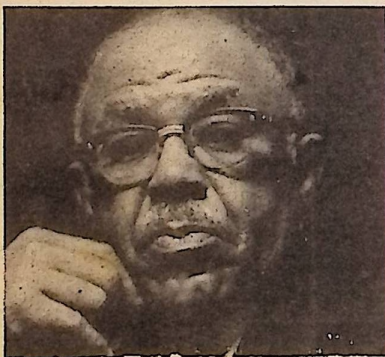
A FIGHT ON TWO FRONTS

Collective bargaining--wage negotiations--remains the major weapon in the hands of workers to defend and improve their economic position. But there is a limit to what even the strongest union can get from contract negotiations. Lower food and gas prices cannot be won at the bargaining table. Nor can tax relief. Artificial shortages cannot be stopped there either. These battles are fought out in the legislative arena--in precincts, in city councils, in state legislatures and in the halls of Congress.

INCOME DOESN'T COME IN

High prices, an unbearable tax burden and growing unemployment--plus artificially

(continued on p. 2)



RAYFIELD MOOTY,
TUAD CO-CHAIRMAN



FRED GABOURY
TUAD ORGANIZER



BOB HOLLOWWA,
MOLDERS

Organize the grassroots (continued from page 1)

created shortages and declining living standards--that's inflation to the average person. Put even more starkly it means that the income doesn't keep up with the out-go.

Inflation is the modern-day version of wage cutting. It is a method whereby the giant corporations use the government, its policies and its power to increase profits by redistributing the national wealth. Instead of using mounted cops to break pickets' heads, they use other means; "legal" means, means written into law through legislation, to increase the profits and wealth of the corporations and the handful of rich individuals who own and control them.

Government policies have contributed to the sky-rocketing rise in food prices, to rising interest rates, to high rents and to out-of-sight fuel and gasoline prices.

By its control of government at every level, big business has worked to saddle workers with an even heavier tax burden. The measure of their success is the fact that in the early 1940's workers paid only 30% of all federal income taxes. Today they pay something like 77%. Sales taxes, exacted at the state and local level, add nearly 10% to the cost workers pay for food and clothing.

Military spending, by its squander of human and natural resources, contributes to inflation in many ways. Military spending dries up money for socially needed programs of education, medicine, health care, housing and transportation. A glaring example: the housing situation. We have a shortage of housing, especially low-cost and low-rent housing. At the same time, housing starts are at near record lows; hundred of thousands of construction workers (most, except for laborers, are white) are out of work.

Military spending does not create jobs. On a dollar-for-dollar basis, military spending dries up jobs. In 1972 the Department of Defense spent \$43 billion to purchase goods and services in the market place. This provided one million jobs. If this same amount of money had been used to produce things people needed it would have provided jobs for 2½ million construction workers in private employment. If those \$43 billion had been spent for consumer goods, they would have provided 1.8 million factory jobs. If the same amount of money had been used by the government to build schools, houses and hospitals, it would have made jobs for 3,000,000 construction workers.

Government policies aimed at "cooling off" the economy by the callous creation of new millions of unemployed will not pro-

vide working men and women with relief from the ravages of inflation.

IT TAKES MORE THAN WORDS TO WIN A FIGHT!

Ours is the responsibility to help develop a movement of protest patterned somewhat after the anti-war movement of the late 60's, that will bring a public focus not only to the problem of inflation but the possibility of a fight-back. We are not just protesting inflation; we're about the serious business of putting together a winning fight!

We could start by taking on a couple of major food chains--A&P (whose profits went up more than 500% in 1973)--and Safeway (everybody remembers their policy against the UFWA)--are a couple of targets that come to mind. Let's begin a national movement demanding that the people who raise prices do it the other way, roll 'em back!

Couldn't this activity, with major emphasis on mobilizing the labor movement, give rise to a march on Washington in the early spring that would let a lot of people, on both ends of Pennsylvania Avenue, know that we were in town?

No matter where you work, in every city across the country workers pay their light bills to the same company. In New York it's Con-Edison. In Chicago it's Commonwealth Edison. In Los Angeles and San Francisco it's Pacific Power and Gas. In Seattle it's Puget Sound Power and Light. In Gary, Indiana it's NipSCO. In Alabama and Florida it's The Southern Company--which company, right now, is importing coal from racist South Africa. Behind the cover of the fake energy crisis, the cost of utilities have been pushed upwards even faster than the price of food. Curtailed use of power has meant increased prices to maintain profit levels. Even publicly owned utilities have joined the parade. Can we not get a movement going now in a hundred local unions and a thousand shops, demanding that the price of residential power and light be cut back to prices of last October?

Workers have the right to insist that city councils or other appropriate public-government agencies guarantee services for consumers rather than profits for stockholders. We can build a movement that will make them do it. Workers have no responsibility to guarantee profits at the workbench. We sure aren't going to accept responsibility to guarantee profits at the grocery store, at the utility company or at the gas pump.

This Conference would not be fulfilling its responsibilities if it didn't take into account--and take appropriate action on--some other questions before the American people.

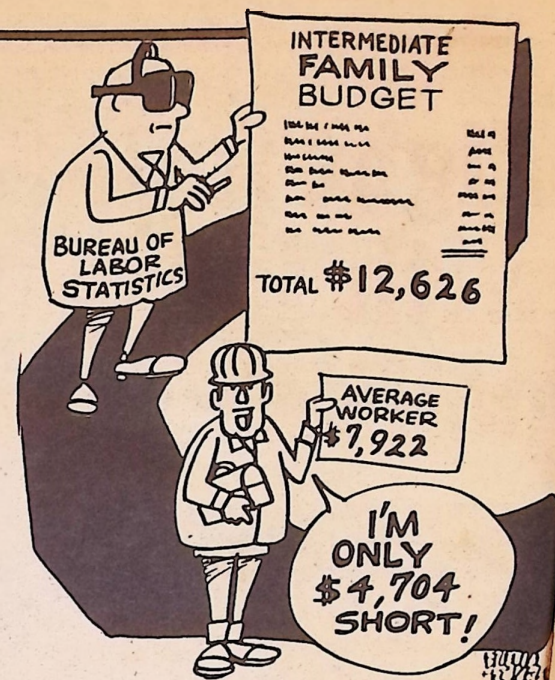
OUR NEW PRESIDENT

Whatever one would say about Gerald Ford, we all agree that he has a beautiful smile.

He smiles when he admits that he occupies the White House as the first non-elected president in the 200-year history of the Republic.

He smiles as he stands before Congress and announces that his Administration considers the battle against inflation as the number one priority of his Administration.

He smiles as he bravely confronts the VFW Convention and announces that the full weight of his Administration is going to be put on the side of justice when the question of amnesty for those who refused to participate in the criminal war against the people of Indochina is posed.



President Ford smiled when he announced his appointment of Nelson Rockefeller as Vice President of the United States. And, although I didn't see him, I have no doubt that he was smiling as he pardoned Richard M. Nixon thereby allowing him to continue in residence at San Clemente rather than San Quentin.

My guess is that he smiled every time he voted as he compiled a record of 109 wrong votes to 19 right votes on COPE's score card.

He probably smiled through all 25 of his votes against reductions in the military budget, 14 times against limiting or ending U.S. involvement in South East Asia, or for the \$250 million Lockheed loan.

Ford surely smiled as he voted against legislation providing public housing, medicare, food stamps and mass transit, against increases in the minimum wage and unemployment compensation programs.

Did he smile while he was amassing his reputation for consistent votes to weaken civil rights legislation before passage, while voting to weaken the Fair Employment Practices Bill of 1950, the Voting Rights Acts of '65 and '66, the Civil Rights Act of 1968 and the Equal Employment Opportunities Act of 1971? I suppose he smiled when, in 1966, he voted against consideration of the Civil Rights Act of that year and while consistently supporting so-called "anti-bussing" amendments.

Smiling all the way, he voted to allow wire taps without court approval, and "no knock" police raids, searches and for preventive detention.

He smiled as he endorsed the nomination of Judge Carswell and he never lost that happy look as he led his pack of laughing hyenas in an unsuccessful effort to impeach Justice William O. Douglas.

This record stamps him "approved" in the service of big business. It should serve as a warning: his pledge to be president of all of the people means that now all 210 million of us will get what 500,000 residents of Michigan got for 25 years--nothing!

His advice to wage earners that they tighten their belts and watch every penny reminds one of Coolidge's famous comment that unemployment was the result of people being out of work. The Ford smile, if we fall for it, will bite as deeply into our living standards as did Nixon's scowl.

When Gerald Ford gave a blank-check pardon to Richard Nixon, he committed an outrageous act. Gerald ("no more Mr. Nice Guy") Ford bluntly informed us that a bunch of cheap

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STAFF

EDITORS: John Kailin, Jim Williams
ART DIRECTOR: Peggy Lipschutz
CIRCULATION: Douglas Wagner
COLUMNISTS: Caryl Esteves, Fred Gaboury
EDITORIAL COORDINATORS: Andrea Shapiro, Susan de Gracia
OFFICE MANAGER: Jean Kransdorf
PRODUCTION: Ken Appelhans, Bill Appelhans, Bill Mackovich

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'NOT A NATURAL PHENOMENON' SAYS DEMAIO

Fight inflation with independent political action

by ERNEST DEMAIO
GENERAL VICE PRESIDENT
UNITED ELECTRICAL WORKERS

Recently, President Ford asked Americans to get down on their knees and pray.

What he really meant was that we should get down on our knees so that the big monopolies could prey on us.

These are not ordinary times. The workers of this country are facing the greatest crisis since the depression of the 30's.

There are some who will say that we are making a negative judgment of the Ford Administration before we know what steps the government will take. But we know very well that there is no possibility of real social change and improvement of the conditions of the people without far-reaching economic reforms that slash the profits of the giant monopolies that are draining our national resources. There can be no progress in the fight versus inflation until we slash the military budget.

The great financial and industrial powers who supported Nixon and then hand-picked Ford did not do so to get their privileges reduced. Ford picked Rockefeller, a major predator, to assure his fellow monopolists that their interests will be protected.

Any concessions to the people from this administration will come only from the pressures of an aroused, organized and articulate working class.

Apart from cosmetic changes, packaged and sold to the people by the mass media, there isn't the slightest hint of major change. The musty smells of the past are much more evident than any pretences to innovation, change and progress for the people.

So while the reign of Gerald Ford begins under the gloomy omens of political stagnation and economic uncertainty, our task is to clearly formulate a program that will defend and advance the interests and welfare of the people.

Behind the false facade of national unity lurk the lobbies of the powerful entrenched interests of profits and power. We in labor must not only hash out a program around which we can rally the people, we must also begin the arduous task of building the means by which we can guarantee a progressive future for our country.

The 5-point program of this conference is a good beginning. I can see no difficulties standing in the way of mutual agreement.

Where we are likely to have divergences of opinions will be the means by which we achieve our objectives.

It seems to me that we should not abandon those tactics with which we are most accustomed and which have brought some degree of partial success in the past. However, we are in a new political situa-

tion that calls for new leadership and new instruments.

As the economy slowly slides into chaos, and unemployment surges upward, hope for improvement will turn to despair. This situation will encourage the extreme right to put forth demagogues like George Wallace to seduce the desperate masses with the siren call of fascism.

President Ford has begun his mini-summit meetings with economists. These meetings are a hoax. They serve only to cover up the rapacious policies of big business which are leading the economy down the road to disaster. Inflation is not a natural phenomenon. It is the means by which monopoly capital robs the people.

The magnitude of the loss in real wages is staggering. In the twelve months ending in June, 1974, the loss in real wages for the average worker was 5.8% or \$8.97 a week. Annualized for the 78 million U.S. wage and salary earners, this totals up to over \$35 billion. This is the most massive transfer of wealth from the poor to the rich that has ever taken place in the economic history of our country. It explains why inventories are piling up and retail sales are falling.

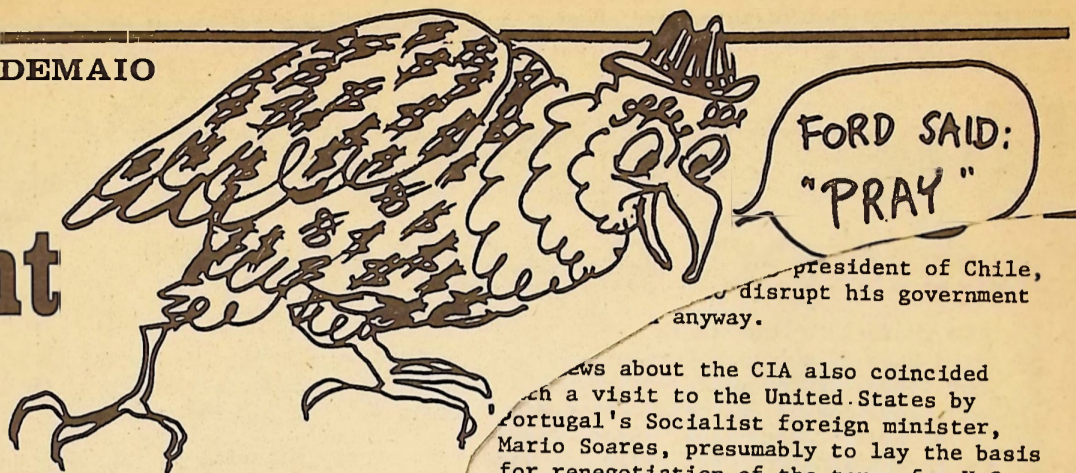
If inflation is hell for the workers, it is a profit bonanza for the corporations which sell less and make more profits by hiking prices. Food prices have risen 14% so far this year and we are being told that prices will continue to rise because of a drought. The harvest season is here. There is no more of a food shortage this year than there was an oil shortage last year.

The manipulators of the monopolists must be clipped. Prices must be rolled back. Taxes on all incomes below \$15,000 a year must be cut and the loss made up by increasing taxes on higher incomes and the corporations. The social programs for the people must be preserved and extended. In these days of detente, there can be no justification for the production of offensive weapons. The profits of the war profiteers should be taxed 100%. Crimes against the people must not pay.

The two-party system, the Republicans and the Democrats, have brought on these endless disasters. They have no program to help the people, because with a few notable exceptions, they have been bought and paid for by the monopolists who have done a job on the people, and are determined to continue to do it, and will unless we stop them.

Let us take a look at practical politics. President Ford met recently with the Black Caucus of 16 congressmen. Does Ford have anything to offer the Black people? He may try to con the Black Caucus, but he can't ignore it, because it represents a power bloc. And power is the name of the game.

For those who say the workers can successfully work in the Democratic Party, let's take a look at the record. Not one trade



...president of Chile, ...to disrupt his government ...anyway.

...ews about the CIA also coincided ...a visit to the United States by ...Portugal's Socialist foreign minister, Mario Soares, presumably to lay the basis for renegotiation of the terms for U.S. use of the Azores as a naval base. When President Gerald Ford bluntly defended the Chile operation, Soares must have had some secret worries. In a small and marginally stable country like Portugal, the CIA could wreak all kinds of mischief. By the same token, however, as is the case with many of the Mediterranean countries, it will be hard to forego the economic help which goes with the bases.

Tourism also plays a big part in the

unionist as such is in either house of Congress; 435 Representatives and 100 Senators.

No one will deny that we need a new independent political realignment that is based on labor, the Blacks, Latinos and other minorities, the peace groups, the environmentalists and others who believe in social justice and democracy.

It has been agreed that organized labor must lead the way. But does anyone believe that we can wait for George Meany and his Rip Van Winkle colleagues to take over the Democratic Party? Nevertheless, the top bureaucracy would start moving if the grass roots gets going.

This historically necessary task must begin somewhere, sometime. Only the most politically advanced may appreciate this necessity. But millions of U.S. citizens are turned off by the existing two-party system. They need and seek leadership. Who will provide the leadership? Who but us? Here and now.

This does not mean that we should turn our backs on the millions of workers who for lack of something better remain supporters of the Democratic Party. Nor does it mean that we abandon the handful of Democrats and occasional Republicans who remain true to the interests of the people.

While we support them, we continue to build our own independent political apparatus. And where the conditions are favorable, we field our own candidates. If we win, fine. But if we lose, we will at least have gained the experience and campaign workers for a more successful effort in the next campaign.

This will be a difficult task. At first we shall have many failures. Successes will be small and few. But we will have started down the long road to victory and power, of and by and for the people.

I am not suggesting that we set up formal machinery, elect officers and proclaim ourselves a new political party. But we can here resolve to take this perspective back to our unions. Discuss it with them. Take it up with community organizations. After we have felt the pulse at the grass roots we must meet again, at which time we can decide what our next steps should be.

In the meantime, we can buttonhole congressmen and senators and push them as far as we can on the program we adopt here.

BACK IN 1944

How the people elected a senator

Inflation is the most common cause of wage cutting. It is a result of government policy by the giant corporations use government, its policies and its power to increase profits by redistributing the national wealth. Instead of using mounted cops to break pickets' heads, they use other means; "legal" means, means written into law through legislation, to increase the profits and wealth of the corporations and the handful of rich individuals who own and control them.

Government policies have contributed to the sky-rocketing rise in food prices, to rising interest rates, to high rents and to out-of-sight fuel and gasoline prices.

By its control of government at every level Glen Taylor has worked to add to the wealth of the lumberjacks in the sawmills and the logging camps of central and northern Idaho.

Glen Taylor, who was playing a guitar on a radio station in southern Idaho, had twice run for public office in the state and been defeated. Glen wanted to run for U.S. Senate. He contacted the hard-rock miners of northern Idaho and the lumberjacks of the International Woodworkers of America. It was agreed that we would hold a convention on a weekend in Lewiston, Idaho. The miners and the woodworkers shipped the miners' and lumberjacks out of the mines and lumber camps with their wives and they went to Lewiston for a weekend.

Glen came. He presented his program. The hard-rock miners and the lumberjacks had supported Glen in his former campaigns. Glen's proposal was well discussed, and it was agreed that the miners and the woodworkers would raise the money from the mines and lumber camps and finance and help Glen handle his campaign. Glen returned to his radio station with his guitar and the miners and woodworkers returned to the mines and the lumber camps. They held meetings. It was well discussed with the membership in large meetings. They organized their PAC committees for Taylor for U.S. Senate.

It was agreed that the married miners would donate \$1 a payday. The single miners and woodworkers would donate \$5 a payday. Any international union representative from the Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers or the Woodworkers who came into the area, would be assessed \$50 each time they attended a meeting or came into the union hall, to finance the Taylor campaign. Radio time was contracted for on one radio

station in northern Idaho in the panhandle, in Wallace, and for radio time on the radio stations in southern Idaho.

Most of the material put out was run off on the mimeograph machines in the miners' and woodworkers' union halls. There were no full-time people on the Taylor campaign. This was a rank and file workers' campaign. Taylor and his wife and two sons toured the state in an old jalopy, meeting the people and passing out literature.

The senior citizens in the southern part of the state, with leaflets furnished them by the hard-rock miners and the woodworkers, followed the mailmen and put the leaflets in the mailboxes in the southern part of Idaho. The stump-ranchers, small farmers without any money, had nothing to contribute, but they passed out leaflets in campaigns for Taylor for U.S. Senate.

Meeting after meeting was held in the mines and lumber camps. The miners and their wives in northern Idaho put on all radio programs. All the material was written by them. Most of it was Roosevelt's program, rewritten for Taylor. It was Taylor's program. It was a rank and file-run campaign--the workers, the miners, the lumberjacks. It was a rough campaign--miners working eight hours on the job and going to the union halls at night. Woodworkers were working in the woods and going to their bunks and union halls, drafting programs and drafting leaflets, campaigning for Taylor. It was a campaign that all the workers in the mines and the lumber camps agreed to. It was their campaign.

Taylor defeated the candidate of the Democratic machine by a very slim majority. Idaho was divided about 50-50 Republican and Democrat. In the meantime, the international union of Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers had sent their PAC director into the mining camps to try to get the miners off of Taylor. They were told that Taylor couldn't win. The PAC director was thrown out of the union hall in Kellogg--that's Local 18.

Roy Atkinson, the Regional Director for the CIO for the Pacific Northwest, also CIO PAC director, came into the district and came to me. He told me that I had to get the miners off of Taylor--that he could not win. I reminded Roy that he had been a miner in the Coeur d'Alenes in the panhandle of Idaho, and he should tell

If you are a boss, turn off your radio...



the miners that Taylor couldn't win. I told him that I'd been around the unions for too many years to tell the rank and file that they were wrong when they were unanimous in agreement on any question. Taylor was their candidate, so Taylor would be my candidate.

I didn't think Taylor could win, but I wouldn't have dared tell a miner or one of the miner's wives that Taylor couldn't win. For they were in complete agreement that they were going to elect Taylor. And they had nominated him in the primary, state-wide, in the state of Idaho. Then came the general election. It was the same program over and over again. The miners and the woodworkers, miners from the Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers and the woodworkers from the International Woodworkers of America, two CIO unions, all rank and file miners, lumberjacks--writing materials, passing out leaflets, campaigning on the radio. When Glen came into northern Idaho they always had an hour's time reserved for him on the radio. When Glen went on the radio, he started off: "If you're a boss, if you're a mine owner, if you're a supervisor, then turn off your radio, for this is Glen Taylor and you won't like what I have to say."

Glen had a good solid program and a good pitch. The wealth of the earth belonged to the workers. The wealth of the forest belonged to the workers. And he laid it on the line. It was the miners' and the woodworkers' program; it was Taylor's program. The general election came and Taylor was elected to the U.S. Senate from the state of Idaho. This was independent political action. Grassroots independent political action. A lot of work. Hours of time. Everybody sincere. Everyone positive that they had to beat the opposition candidate, for he was not a candidate for them.

And for the doubting Thomases that say that independent political action won't work, the Taylor campaign in 1944 in the state of Idaho, is living proof that independent political action will work if you have the candidate, if you have the support for the candidate, if you can unite the people around your program and make it their program for their candidate, for any office. Yes, independent political action will work. But it won't work by itself.

You have to do it yourself to make it work. We know, because we did it!

The case of the missing October issue

A funny thing happened to the October issue of LABOR TODAY en route to the printers. It got lost. That's right. Lost. Gone.

We were faced with three alternatives: 1) we could slit our wrists; 2) we could try and recreate the October issue from memory; or 3) we could combine the October and November issues and maintain our reasonably accurate printing schedule.

After thinking about it for a long time, we finally settled on option 3. You are holding a combined issue of



12 pages. It will count as two on your subscription (we have been running a lot of 12 pagers lately) but its newsstand price remains the same as one issue.

Sorry about the inconvenience and we hope to avoid similar mishaps in the future.

LABOR UNITY IS KEY

A labor look at the new Portugal

by David Selden
Former President
American Federation of
Teachers

In Portugal at the end of September, two big questions loomed just over the political horizon: first, which party would emerge with the largest number of delegates to the constitutional convention scheduled for next March; and second, would the election of delegates take place at all.

My wife Bernice and I spent four weeks in Portugal. We left at the end of September as General Antonio de Spínola, head of the provisional government established last April 25, resigned because he could no longer command a majority of the military group which had put him in office. During our visit we had a chance to talk to government officials, party workers, and many just ordinary and somewhat bewildered Portuguese working people. Although we do not speak or read Portuguese, we were able to pick up enough to form a few tentative opinions, which seem to have been confirmed by subsequent events.

Spínola's departure resulted from his inability to reconcile his conservative personal philosophy with the left tendencies of the largest group of his supporters. In mid-September he finally agreed to suppress the organized fascist remnants of the 48-year Salazar-Caetano regime. Right-wingers then threatened violence—a threat which was given substance by the attempted rightist coup in Mozambique just the week before. The beleaguered president then attempted to look the other way while some of his conservative supporters tried to organize a rally of support.

The left parties reacted strongly. They demanded that the rally be cancelled on the grounds that it was an invitation to violence and possible armed overthrow of the government. Regretfully the 64-year-old general stepped aside, but not before bands of army and naval officers and citizen activists set up roadblocks to make sure that no guns were brought into Lisbon.

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

The walls of Portugal are covered with posters and scrawled slogans, an unthinkable indignity six months or so ago. They stand in sharp contrast to the walls of Spain, which are still largely untouched despite the obvious fact that the Franco dictatorship is losing its grip at last. In fact, one of the important significances of the Portuguese drive for freedom is the impact Portuguese events have had in Spain and throughout the Latin world.

Many of the Portuguese posters are advertisements for the various political parties, which are organizing like mad in the hope—if not exactly confidence—that the constitutional convention will actually occur next March as scheduled. For the moment, Socialists, Communists, and other left groups are loosely associated in a concerted front held together by fear that the armed forces may be tempted to substitute bullets for ballots.

Fifty per cent of Portugal's annual budget went to the armed forces before the April 25 overthrow of Caetano—who, by the way,

is in Brazil, from which he keeps in touch with former supporters still in Portugal. It was the staggering burden of maintaining the armed forces which finally pulled down the fascist government. The Portuguese empire, maintained for 500 years, just became too costly to support. The colonies themselves had long ceased to be paying propositions, according to officials in the new government.

COUNTRY AT THE CROSSROADS

April 25, 1974 is undoubtedly a watershed date in Portuguese history. Yet it is still not certain which way the nation will go, over the next few months.

The Portuguese people are individualistic and hard-working, yet bound together by a strong sense of national unity and national identification. Under the dictators, they knew that taxes were too high and that too many people were dying in protracted colonial wars which could not be successfully terminated. Whether they will be ready to take the next step and reorganize their society and economy to eliminate inequities and injustices and establish a new commitment to democratic principles, remains to be seen.

The Communists, Socialists and other left groups declared the week of September 9 through 15 a week of solidarity with the people of Chile. A big international conference of trade unionists was planned under the sponsorship of the Portuguese labor federation, Intersyndical. But Intersyndical is still weak because most

Allende from becoming president of Chile, and had worked to disrupt his government after he won anyway.

The news about the CIA also coincided with a visit to the United States by Portugal's Socialist foreign minister, Mario Soares, presumably to lay the basis for renegotiation of the terms for U.S. use of the Azores as a naval base. When President Gerald Ford bluntly defended the Chile operation, Soares must have had some secret worries. In a small and marginally stable country like Portugal, the CIA could wreak all kinds of mischief. By the same token, however, as is the case with many of the Mediterranean countries, it will be hard to forego the economic help which goes with the bases.

Tourism also plays a big part in the Portuguese economy. Foreign investment has been encouraged in order to speed up industrialization. These two needs have been ominously met with completion this year of the brand new ITT-owned Lisbon Sheraton. It was ITT which offered to give \$1 million to the U.S. government to carry out anti-Allende actions.

ENCOURAGING SIGN

General Spínola's resignation, contrary to his dolorous farewell speech on September 30, is an encouraging sign. To his credit, he chose to step down rather than plunge the nation into the civil war which surely would have resulted had he tried to establish a new dictatorship. The present government, while still run by

Rally in Lisbon celebrates ouster of fascist regime one year ago.



normal union functions, including strikes, were outlawed for 48 years. The conference did not take place, and a nationwide five-minute work stoppage called for September 11 was observed only spottily.

Other activities of Chile Week—marches, rallies, and local meetings—were carried out with some success.

The purpose of "Chile Week" was to emphasize the evils of military rule and to make sure that the Portuguese people do not permit their presently benign military men to fall back on the repressive measures which they supported for so long.

AMERICAN MANEUVERS

Right at the start of the week of solidarity with the Chilean people came the news that the CIA, by its own admission and in contradiction with earlier statements by its director and Secretary of State Kissinger, had indeed been heavily involved in trying to prevent Salvatore

military men, has forced the resignation of three right-wing ministers in addition to Spínola.

Portugal seems to have weathered its first severe test. The people of Portugal have won an important victory, and the rightists have suffered a defeat. Now let us see whether the variegated Portuguese left can stand together at least until a constitutional democratic government has been established.

Let us see also whether the Portuguese will be permitted by the great powers to work out their own destiny. A repetition of the American Chilean outrage will give conclusive proof to the world that democratic government in small countries is futile as long as the U.S. has the power to intervene when one's policies conflict with what are deemed to be American interests. And Portuguese politicians must certainly be aware that an attempted coup by any group, right or left, would certainly bring back the fascists.

GET YOUR UNION TO ACT ON

NOTE

(The Conference Organizing Committee prepared this file of resolutions. We hope that they will be helpful to you back home. Just change the word "conference" to the name of your local union. Then add one more "RESOLVED" that calls for sending the resolutions to your Central Labor Body. Generally, that's the Philadelphia Labor Council, the Santa Clara County Labor Council, etc. If you can't find out any other way, look in the Yellow Pages under LABOR ORGANIZATIONS. Always include a sentence that says to release copies of the resolutions to the press.)

OPPOSE CONFIRMATION OF NELSON ROCKEFELLER

WHEREAS, the nomination of Nelson Rockefeller as Vice President is a slap in the face to the working people of this country and to those who suffer from the oppression of racism, and

WHEREAS, Rockefeller is the czar of a phenomenal world-wide empire of high finance and is the high priest of a network of multinational, monopoly corporations, and

WHEREAS, possession of this empire brings into play the most basic conflict of interest with the people that a public servant can have, and

WHEREAS, the coal miners massacred at Ludlow, Colorado in 1914 were killed by Rockefeller guns; the 78 miners who died in Mannington, West Virginia died in a Rockefeller mine; the 41 prisoners and hostages at Attica penitentiary died when Nelson Rockefeller gave the order to shoot, and

WHEREAS, the people of New York well know the role Rockefeller has played, with his vicious anti-strike legislation against public employees and his hatchet-job on virtually every program to help poor people, and

WHEREAS, Congress, by either 51 votes in the Senate or 218 votes in the House of Representatives can stop the confirmation of Nelson Rockefeller as Vice President of the United States.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that this Conference firmly and resolutely opposes the confirmation of the Chief Representative of Big Business as Vice President of the United States, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that new elections be held to fill the office of Vice President, and, for that matter, for the office of President.

THE MILITARY BUDGET

WHEREAS, the United States has withdrawn its forces from Vietnam, but has continued to bankroll military dictatorships all around the globe, from Cape Town to Santiago, from Saigon to Brasilia, causing a military budget higher than during the Vietnam War, and

WHEREAS, the growth of detente and more peaceful relations with the Soviet Union and its allies has considerably lessened Cold War tensions--yet, we keep American boys on military bases all around the world, and

WHEREAS, economists agree that government spending on military items is the major contributor to the inflationary spiral, and

WHEREAS, not only is it wildly inflationary, but wasteful and unnecessary, to wit:

In 1972, arms spending provided one million jobs.

This same amount of money spent on useful items needed by the people would have provided jobs for:

2½ million

2½ million construction workers in private employment, or

1.8 million factory jobs producing consumer goods, and

Another 1/3 million construction workers to build schools, housing and hospitals.

WHEREAS, if our huge military budget is the main cause of inflation, then why do we continue to do it? If detente is producing a reduction in world tensions, why do we insist on an atomic force capable of killing everyone ten times over?

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that military spending must be cut by at least half, and the money put to use in building a better American with jobs and decent homes for all.



AGAINST THE PARDON OF RICHARD M. NIXON

WHEREAS, President Ford's pardon of Richard M. Nixon has brought forth a deserved wave of outraged protest from the people of our country, and

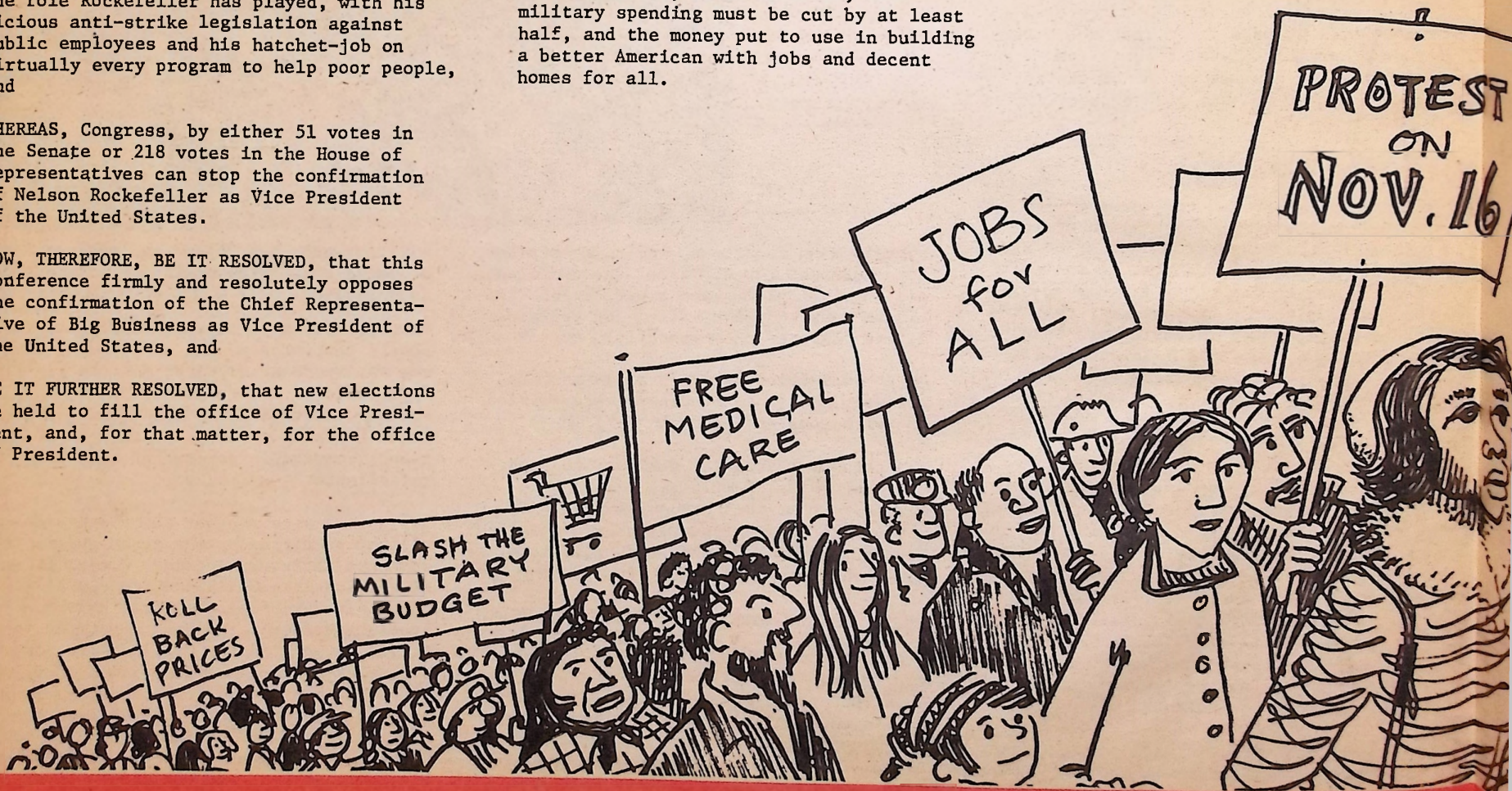
WHEREAS, the granting of an unconditional pardon before any trial procedures and before other Watergate facts have been made public is a blatant continuation of the cover-up of the countless crimes committed by the Nixon Administration in service of the corporate godfathers, and

WHEREAS, we believe, even as Mr. Nixon once said, "the Constitutional process must be allowed to run its course," and

WHEREAS, there cannot be two systems of justice in the United States, one for the rich and one for the poor. As a staunch supporter of "law and order," Mr. Nixon should welcome the opportunity to plead his case before the bar of justice in the manner of any other accused or confessed criminal.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that this Conference condemns the unwarranted pardon of Richard M. Nixon. We oppose any grants of clemency to any Watergate criminals, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we call upon the Congress of the United States to continue the impeachment proceedings against Richard M. Nixon.



IN THESE RESOLUTIONS

OPPOSE WAGE CONTROLS

WHEREAS, the cry for wage controls has once again been raised by Congressmen from both political parties, and

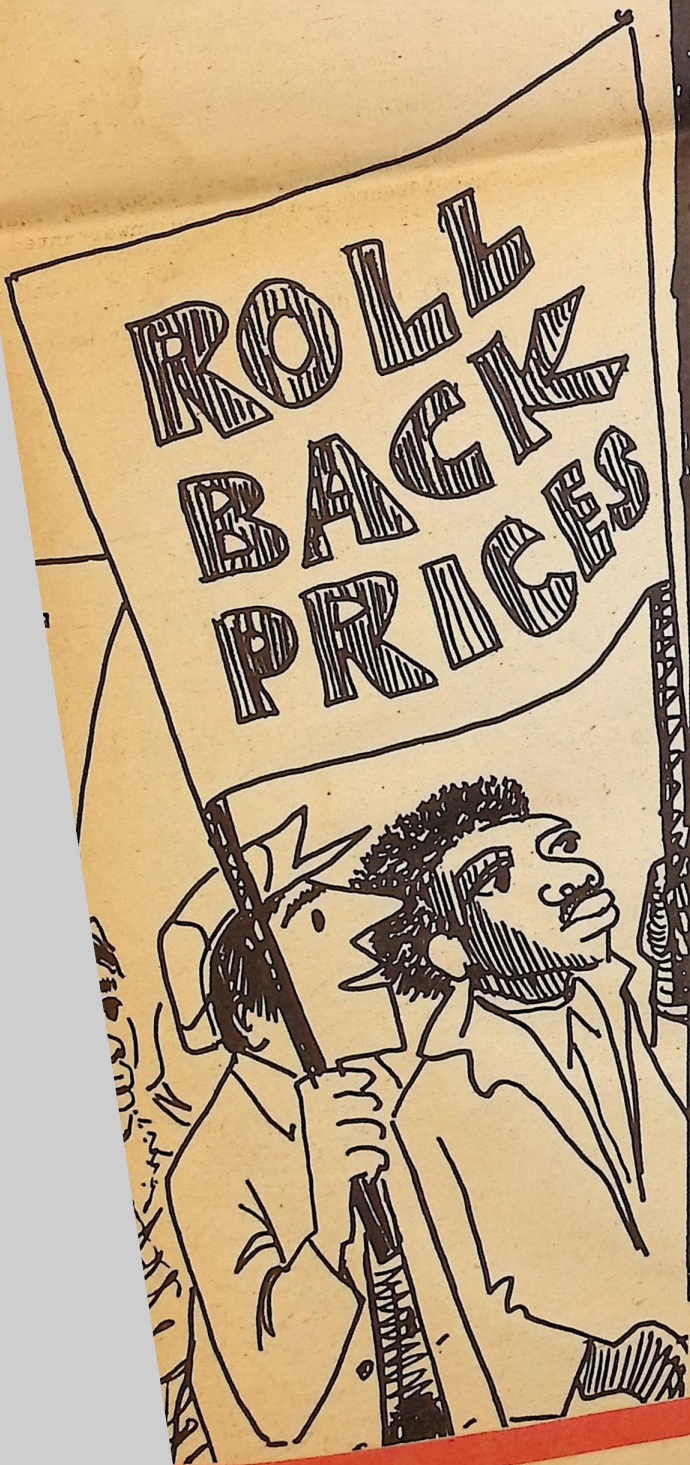
WHEREAS, joining with them in this call are major elements of the big-business controlled news media, and other leading business forces, and

WHEREAS, some top leaders of labor, by calling for "equality of sacrifice" appear to feel working people should sacrifice even more of their rapidly deteriorating living standards, and

WHEREAS, Congress has taken the first step toward reintroducing wage controls by voting to re-establish the Cost of Living Council.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that this Conference opposes the re-establishment of wage controls in any form, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Conference expresses its willingness to support all workers who are forced to strike in defense of their living standards.



STATEMENT ON HIGH COST OF LIVING PROTEST ON NOV. 16

Government managers of the economy have suggested the answer to inflation is to cut consumption by 1½% a year. For most of us, wages, salaries and retirement or other benefits never seem to keep pace with skyrocketing prices. We have already been compelled to cut our consumption by much more than that in the past year.

In June, food prices were 14.1% above a year earlier. But by July wholesale prices had increased at a 44.4% yearly rate. As a result, the average worker, despite any wage gains, lost more than 4.7% in purchasing power in the last months. This makes it clear that wage increases are not the cause of inflation.

The biggest item in the budget, rent or other housing costs, joins food and the other necessities at the head of the inflation derby. Bureau of Census figures again reveal that the economic squeeze is heaviest on Black and other minority communities. And runaway prices come at a time when taxes on small and medium incomes constantly rise and large scale unemployment remains and even shows signs of growing.

We believe something can and must be done about this situation. Congress and the various levels of government must act. Congress should halt soaring prices and even roll prices back at least to the 1970 levels. We have to convince them to act.

A first step would be to let our voices be heard together in large demonstrations in many cities across the country at the same time--Saturday, November 16. Tens of thousands insisting simultaneously that Congress act to halt soaring prices cannot be ignored. And President Ford would have to consider these expressions in determining his economic policies.

We call on like-minded community leaders to form a committee in each city and organize a demonstration on Nov. 16. We call on people from every walk of life to turn out on Nov. 16 in such numbers that even those who are hard of hearing will know we insist meaningful action be taken now against the runaway price of necessities.

(The above call is being circulated by a committee in formation. Among the individuals who have already signed are:)

Ernest DeMaio, Vice Pres.
United Electrical Workers

Peter Orris, Ex. Comm.
Med. Comm. for Human Rights

Alan Weaver, Ex. Bd.
AFT L. 1693

Jack Spiegel, Midwest Organizer
Shoe Workers Union

Carl Farris, Labor Secy.
SCLC

Jim Williams, John Kailin
LABOR TODAY

Peggy Martin
Illinois State Representative

Jane Benedict, director
NY Metro. Council on Housing

Father William E. Hogan

Rosella Bailey, Pres.
King City Unit, Elder Citizens
of Washington State

Clyde Bellancourt, director
American Indian Movement

Elmer Benson, former Governor
State of Minnesota

Bert Corona, secy. gen.
CASA

Angela Davis, co-chairperson
Nat'l Comm. Against Racism and
Repression

Dr. Carlton Goodlett, publisher
Sun Reporter

George Murphy
Baltimore Afro-American

(Additional copies of the call may be obtained from Jane Benedict, director, Metropolitan Council on Housing, 24 W. 30 St., NYC 10001)

I endorse the call for actions against inflation on November 16.

NAME _____
STREET _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
ORGANIZATION & TITLE _____



WAGES, TAXES, PRICES

How the monopolies pick your pocket

SUMMARY OF REMARKS

by Frank Rosen
International Representative
United Electrical Workers
Chicago, Illinois

President Ford has called upon a wide variety of economic experts to explain cures for inflation. They only agree on one thing, that inflation cannot be cured without economic consequences any more than a heroin addict can be cured without withdrawal pains.

It is here that the economists disagree. They cannot decide which is worse; inflation in its "cure", unemployment.

The issue of inflation is, therefore, in its truest sense, a political issue.

I am going to stray from the question of inflation as such because I think the question has to be put in a broader way-- what is causing the living standards of American workers to decline? What is causing the growth in unemployment?

Working people get robbed in three ways. We get robbed first as producers because we do not receive back the fruits of our labor. In fact, our share of what we produce gets less each year. Each year, we lose about 2 minutes each day. Right now, you earn your wages in about 2½ hours. The rest of the time you work, you're just working for the boss free and clear.



We get robbed secondly as taxpayers. The bulk of our taxes are regressive, that is, they fall hardest on the lowest income groups. The wealthy escape their share of the burden of taxes. Corporate taxes have dropped from about 3/4 or better of federal taxes to less than 1/4, due to the loopholes and the way the shale tax structure is rigged.

Thirdly, we get robbed as consumers. Not only do you pay more for the products you buy, but their quality is going down.



Keep these three areas in mind, because there are three areas in which we must fight to retain our living standards. We have to fight at the workplace to retain our share of what we produce. We have to fight in the political arena for a better tax policy and we have to fight as consumers against price-fixing.

The main cause of the decline in our living standards in the past few years can be broken into these categories:

Inflation, which includes government monetary policy, and price-fixing by the big corporations; and

The end of U.S. dominance over the world economic market and the rise of independent third world countries which are now beginning to set their own prices for oil, bauxite, etc.

Government monetary policy must be examined closely. Governments are the only institutions which can take perfectly valuable pieces of paper and print on them and make them worthless. Government has the power to print "counterfeit" money--that is, it prints more money each year than is needed to cover the additional output of real goods each year. It does this by spending more than it takes in and by borrowing to make up the difference.

Government policy allowed for an inflation rate of two to three percent each year from WWII until the Vietnam escalation in 1965. President Johnson made the political decision for no tax increase to finance the war. If he had increased taxes to finance the war, opposition to the war would have grown much more quickly.

Monopoly price-fixing has developed a kind of scenario. It creates artificial shortages, until prices go through the roof. First, there was a meat shortage. Then there was a grain shortage, and prices went up until there wasn't a shortage.

Last year there was an oil shortage--this year, there's a glut. Saudia Arabia has even cut back production. Why are they cutting back production? You can guess--it's to maintain the price of oil.

So, this is how the monopolies work. First they do something to "clean it up," to create a shortage and make you hunger for it, then they use that to justify price increases later. The old law of "supply and demand" that you learned about in school just doesn't hold water under monopoly conditions. That law says that as demand rises, prices rise, and as demand falls, prices fall. Well, take a look at cars. Sales are down, but that doesn't mean that car prices are coming down. On the contrary, they're going up about \$500 this year!

Corporate profits have gone up 54 percent in the last two years.

Most of the big companies are not being hurt by inflation or declining sales, even though smaller producers are being driven out of business.

Now, the other reasons for the decline in our living standards lie in the end of U.S. dominance over world markets; and the rise of stiff economic competition from Japan, Germany and France. The U.S. is back in the same kind of dirty economic world that existed before WWII. It can no longer dictate to other countries the way it used to. It is merely "first among equals." Therefore, it is trying to make up for its losses overseas by coming home and tightening up the screws.

As far as the military budget is concerned, we are taxed \$85 billion a year for some-

NO SHORTAGE OF PROFITS					
Scarcities and soaring prices translated into record results in the oil companies' latest earnings reports.					
COMPANY	1973 PROFITS FULL YEAR (in millions)	INCREASE OVER 1972	COMPANY	1973 PROFITS NINE MONTHS (in millions)	INCREASE OVER 1972
EXXON	\$2,440	59%	GULF	\$570	60%
TEXACO	\$1,292	45%	STANDARD OF CALIFORNIA	\$560	40%
Mobil	\$843	47%	STANDARD OF INDIANA	\$389	32%
SHELL	\$333	28%	ARCO ATLANTIC RICHFIELD	\$178	37%
UNION	\$180	48%	CONOCO CONTINENTAL	\$153	23%
CITIES SERVICE	\$138	37%	PHILLIPS	\$143	30%

thing that is worse than worthless. It is highly dangerous to us and the rest of the world.

Now it pays to know who your enemy is. He is interested only in profits. The going rate in the U.S. is a minimum of 12 percent on investments. (GM prefers 20% and gets it.) That explains higher prices when sales go down. If sales go down and you've got all this expensive equipment to keep up along with stiff mortgage payments, you've got to jack up prices to keep ahead.

David Rockefeller said recently that there's no need to panic at the news that some big banks are going to fail. If I were a Rockefeller, I wouldn't panic either, because they're going to pick up these failed banks.

The depression was not a disaster for the biggest fellows. It was a time when they gobbled up the little guys.

You should also know your enemy in the White House. There are no proposals there to help the people. All that Ford and his economists are talking about is how high they can let unemployment rise and get away with it.

Now, I don't know where the 12% minimum profit rate figure came from. I don't think it's in the Old Testament, or in the New one. It's not in the Koran and I don't think Confucius ever said anything about it. But nonetheless, it's sacred to big business and they're going to keep it unless the American people take it away from them.

They're trying to get us to assume the burdens of the problems they've created. Workers are eating less, more families are forced to have more working members, they're using up savings, cutting back on spending of all kinds.

Blacks, those on welfare, persons who are retired, are going deeper and deeper into absolute poverty.

What we need is a movement that understands that we must cut into that 12% profit margin of the big monopolies if we are to maintain our standard of living, to maintain our incomes and our jobs. We need to go after the enemy at the producing end, at the taxing end and the consuming end. You can't go after them in just one area, you have to reach them in all three areas.

We have to create a movement that will be like the workers' movement in Europe. There, the employers are scared to force a big confrontation with the workers because they may well lose it.

And when they get that way over here we will have a better quality of life for ourselves and our children.



The International Chemical Worker

A REAL TRUCK DRIVER'S OPINION...

'Movin' on' ain't us!

by JACK WEINTRAUB
IBT L. 85
PACIFICA, CALIFORNIA

This is a one-hour weekly National Broadcasting Co. release produced in Hollywood. It stars Claude Akins in the role of Sonny Pruitt, owner-driver of a tremendous 3-axle sleeper tractor and a 45-foot van, semi-trailer, and Frank Converse as Will, his second driver.

After the first episode, here was the reaction from truck drivers:

"They're nice guys but they ain't us!" was a typical comment.

"If people think that's us, we're getting a good image for a change!"

Many characterized the program as a soap opera on wheels. No teamster, however, overlooked the absurdity of Sonny and Will, deciding to load five tons of potatoes, picking up a sack and walking it more than 85 feet to the van instead of moving the van to the load. "You can tell these guys aren't teamsters. They're not any kind of worker. And neither is their director!"

Only a few had seen the second episode when we stopped for coffee the day following it. A brother asked what had happened.

"Well, this guy Sonny Pruitt is trying to stop this other driver going in the same direction. So he pulls his 45-footer up alongside the other guy's 45-footer on this two-lane road and the two of them race along while they argue. They go around a blind curve hogging the road just as a little old lady is coming at them in a passenger car." Everyone was paying attention.

"What happened then" someone asked.

"They spread apart onto the shoulders and let her drive through." There were hoots of derision and the subject was closed.

Now it's clear to us that, besides the fact that "they ain't us," they're not a good image, either.

If they ain't us, who are they? There are lots of "us." The International Brotherhood of Teamsters represents 450,000 drivers like us. There are hundreds of thousands more like us that are unorganized. Who are Sonny and Will?

Sonny Pruitt is one of the owner-drivers; the lease-haulers; the contract-haulers referred to in a derogatory manner as "gypsies" or as "operating under the hat." They are, in a sense, our "second cousins" and, although our kinship is usually recognized, there's hostility that surfaces readily. The working union members complain to the union about the constant damage these owner-drivers do to wages, working conditions and job opportunities. They are a headache!

Owner-drivers are organized into many associations and groups. One of the largest is "Overdrive," which leans to the right politically, publishes a slick

AUTHOR BY HIS RIG.
FREEDOM, ULCERS, DIVORCE
FOR THE OWNER-DRIVER



magazine, plants articles in the Congressional Record and holds three-day conventions at Lake Tahoe. Another group is the Chicago-based FASH, servicing the independent owner-driver steel haulers. There are many of these groups around the country, their aims and perspectives varying with their compositions. The "Truckers for Justice," for example, a smaller Tucson-based group, has a relatively progressive orientation and has recently concluded an agreement for cooperation with the United Farm Workers.

The trucking industry requires a number of owner-drivers. However, this is not the only factor that determines the present large number of owner-drivers. The biggest factor encouraging this phenomenon is the "free enterprise, rugged individualistic" dream of financial independence pumped into every pupil in school and everyone else through the newspapers, magazines, radio, and TV programs such as "Movin' On." Sonny Pruitt is an example of the exception in this field: the apparent winner, the proof that "it can be done!" Sonny says, "This is my rig, free and clear! I scrimped and saved and sweated to get it but now it's

mine!" That's the carrot, and where there's a carrot there's also a whip.

Sonny is an exception because that rig of his isn't the kind of investment that many people can manage without long-term mortgages. If just the 18 wheels and the spare are figured, it cost him over \$4,000 for the rims and tubeless tires. That's the start. The cost of the tractor and semi-trailer depend upon how much ego Sonny had, and how skillful the manufacturer's salesman was.

The whip is the finance company, usually a subsidiary of the truck manufacturer. Once embarked upon his dream, the owner-driver is whipped back and forth across the country, often keeping illegal double logs, undercutting rates, by-passing unions in order to pay casual help under scale, working the load all day after driving all night, then driving the next night with the help of "bennies." Ulcers and divorce are chronic to the group. Besides making

payments and supporting families, living expenses on the road are high. Few are psychologically equipped to live in the sleeper compartment.

The turnover in ownership is very high. Aware of this, the manufacturers play on the ego of the owner-driver to exploit him further.

"The manufacturers figure three ways to make money off these guys," a freight executive says. "First, they get the initial profit out of the most imposing and glamorous machine that they can peddle to them. Second, they set it up so that they control the parts sales. Third, they try to sell them a damn good machine that can take a beating and won't show it. This last is important because, when they reclaim the machine, as they do with regularity, they want to peddle it again. Sometimes they are able to sell the same machine three or four times with hardly any reduction from the original selling price."

The owner-driver, one of the most heavily exploited workers in the country, treasures his "independence." Just like Sonny Pruitt, I've known lease-drivers to travel 250 miles out of their way on a personal matter and then look for a load afterwards. That's why Sonny and Will are better subjects for a TV series than the line jockey who works the same strip of road year in and year out, or the local driver who spends more time backing the truck and working the load than he does driving forward.

They are good TV material because, although they are hard workers, they are strictly middle-class. They serve the media purpose of showing workers at their worst when they're workers, and at their best when they're middle-class. There is yet to be a good program about us working-class truck drivers.

"They ain't us!"

STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT AND CIRCULATION REQUIRED BY THE ACT OF AUGUST 12, 1970; SECTION 3685, TITLE 39, UNITED STATES CODE, OF

LABOR TODAY, "the rank and file in action"

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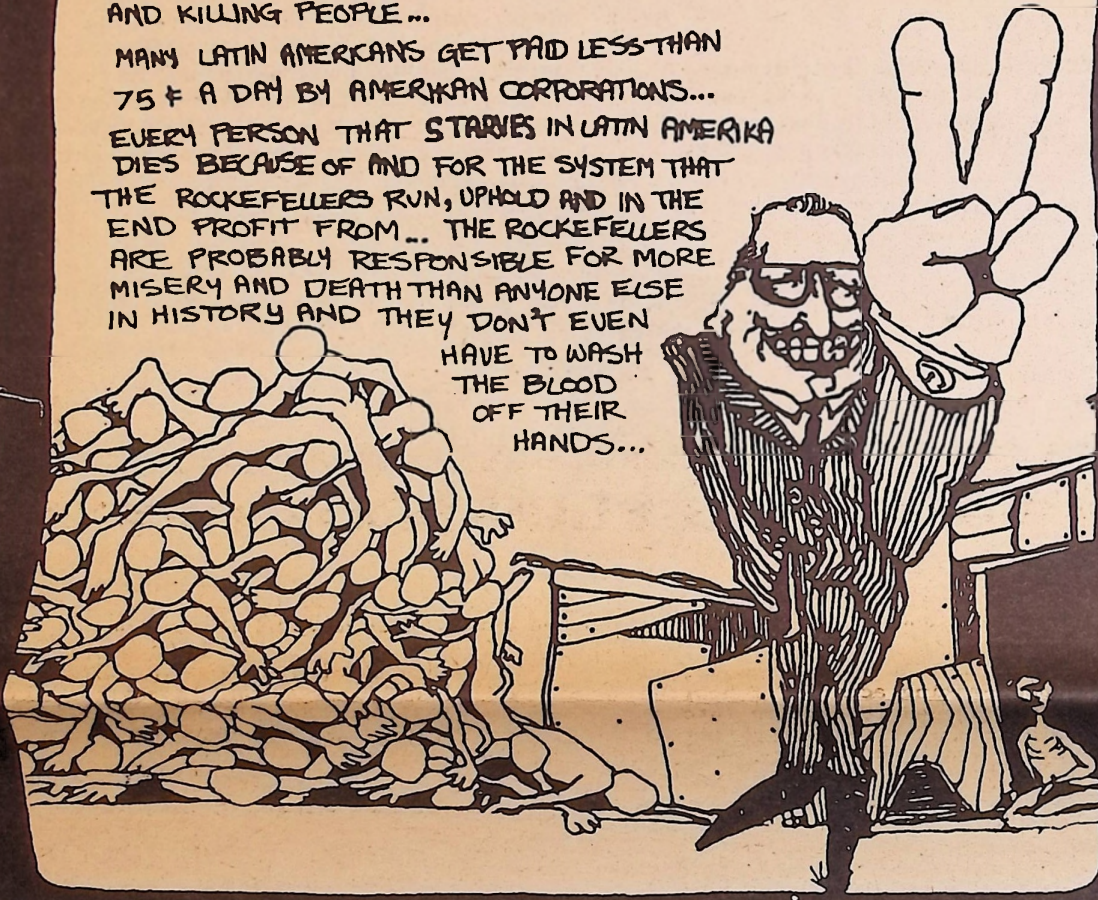
A. Total No. copies printed:	12,363	38,500
B. Paid circulation:		
1. Sales through dealers, carriers, vendors & counter sales	6,798	31,670
2. To term subscribers by mail	3,645	3,845
C. Total paid circulation:	10,443	35,515
D. Free distribution by mail, carrier or other means:		
1. Samples, complimentary & other free copies	245	385
2. Copies distributed to news agents, but not sold	550	600
E. Total distribution (sum of C & D):	11,238	36,500
F. Office use, left-over, unaccounted, spoiled after printing:	1,125	2,000
G. Total:	12,363	38,500

10/14/74 (Signed) John Kailin, Sec'y-Treas.

...THE ROCKEFELLERS DON'T KILL PEOPLE WITH THEIR OWN HANDS... THEY ARE PROBABLY VERY NON-VIOLENT PEOPLE... THE ROCKEFELLERS ONLY ORDER THE WARS... THEY ONLY RUN THE CORPORATIONS THAT MAKE THE BOMBS... THEY ONLY INSTALL THE DICTATORS THAT TORTURE THE PEOPLE...

THE ROCKEFELLERS PROBABLY DON'T LITTER... THEY ONLY RUN STANDARD OIL SO IT MAKES A PROFIT... AND THAT INVOLVES POISONING THE AIR, SPILLING OIL ACROSS THE OCEANS, DESTROYING HOMES, DISPLACING ESKIMOS, AND KILLING PEOPLE...

MANY LATIN AMERICANS GET PAID LESS THAN 75¢ A DAY BY AMERICAN CORPORATIONS... EVERY PERSON THAT STARVES IN LATIN AMERICA DIES BECAUSE OF AND FOR THE SYSTEM THAT THE ROCKEFELLERS RUN, UPHOLD AND IN THE END PROFIT FROM... THE ROCKEFELLERS ARE PROBABLY RESPONSIBLE FOR MORE MISERY AND DEATH THAN ANYONE ELSE IN HISTORY AND THEY DON'T EVEN HAVE TO WASH THE BLOOD OFF THEIR HANDS...



The Incredible Rocky/epf

national Harvester, RCA, to name but a few. A part of our job is to stop this outrage to end this conflict of interest. Our slogan, raised in thousands of union halls across the country must be: NO CONFIRMATION OF ROCKY! No fox in charge of the chicken coop!

CONGRESS CAN REJECT HIM

Congress has the ultimate authority to confirm Rockefeller. By a simple majority, either house has the power to send Rockefeller back to his Committee on Critical Choices. No honeymoon with the Ford Administration; no shotgun wedding with Rockefeller!

Speaking of Congress: once again key congressmen, from what United Mine Workers President Arnold Miller calls "both wings of the Money Party," are speaking of the need to re-impose wage controls. The indecent haste with which both houses re-established the Cost of Living Council points up the danger of new efforts at governmental regulation of wages. Let's make it abundantly clear--again from thousands of union meetings across the land--that we are not going to be saddled with another round of government efforts to control or limit wage increases.

While we're at it, we may as well make it clear that we are opposed to any moves of legislative action, executive decree, or by surrender from within, to restrict our right to strike.

We've got a job to do. We can do it--we must do it.

A fighting program

(cont. from p. 1)

The delegates also approved a proposal from a panel on "Labor's Political Independence," which called upon delegates to "take the Conference Program back home to popularize it among the rank and file, and to demand of political candidates that they publicly campaign for its essential features as a condition of our support."

The report concluded with concurrence in a follow-up conference in March, 1975 to "review and exchange our experiences" and that "based on these experiences, we project new goals, centered around the fight to elect a bloc of labor congressmen in the 1976 elections."

The Conference, which was chaired by G. Ronald McCantz of Seafarers' Local 777, was keynoted by Fred Gaboury, field organizer for TUAD, and followed by a panel on the search for labor's political independence which heard reports from Will Parry, Seattle, Association of Western Pulp and Paper Workers, Inc.; Bill Krumm, Minneapolis, Grain Millers; Bob Hollowa, Corona, California, Moulders; and Ernest DeMaio, Chicago, UE.

Parry reported on a "theoretically perfect" situation in the Washington state legislature: labor-backed Democrats in control of both houses and the governorship. Despite this, Parry lamented, labor was handed a series of defeats. Krumm said that rank and filers in Minnesota, growing restive in the merged Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party, reconstituted the Farmer-Labor Caucus pledged to support DFL candidates who backed its program as well as deserving independents. Hollowa told how rank and file miners and loggers elected their own senator, Glen Taylor, in 1944 against all odds.

The closing session heard and approved, with enthusiasm, the reports and suggestions of both workshops.

Organize the grassroots

(cont. from p. 2)

crooks mean more to him than the people of this country.

What about the people, President Ford? You say you pardoned Nixon as a "compassionate act," as an "act of mercy."

Well, how about a little compassion and mercy for us, too? What about a pardon for the taxpayer? What about a pardon for the unemployed? What about a little mercy and compassion for those condemned to live in slums and ghettos?

When the people are screaming with pain about inflation--you say that you'll "study about it."

Well, Mr. Ford, you don't need a summit to find out about inflation. You need to get off your summit and get down into the shops and mills and streets of this country and get an earful from the people. You've declined to invite us to your summit, Mr. Ford. But we've got news for you. We're going to be there anyway. Maybe you don't want to hear what we've got to say, but you can bet the people of this country will!

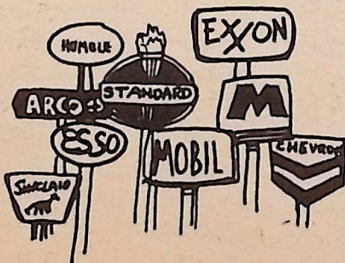
There are a couple of other items that must be brought before this conference.

One of these is the outrage that Ford is trying to put over on us by the nomination

of Rockefeller as Vice President. Imagine...the Butcher of Attica, with the massacre of 41 people on his hands, being concerned about high prices and unemployment. Imagine! A man whose family tradition reaches back to the bloody murder of the wives and children of striking coal miners at Ludlow, Colorado. Will this guy be concerned about shortages and sales taxes?

In 1959 his income from dividends was \$80,000 per week.

The Rockefeller empire, upon which the sun never sets and which is defended by U.S. troops stationed in some 40-plus countries, includes the nation's third largest bank, Chase Manhattan. John Henning, State President of the California Labor Council, brands Chase Manhattan as being in the forefront of the activities leading to the establishment of fascism in Chile.



Rockefeller has decisive stock holdings in Eastern Airlines, Atlantic Richfield, Bethlehem Steel, Con-Edison, Continental Oil, Illinois Central Railroad, Inter-

Labor Today can solve your shopping problems



by Doug Wagner
Circulation Manager
LABOR TODAY

The holiday season is fast approaching and pretty soon we're going to be stuck with the chore of holiday shopping. Well, what better way of shopping for your friends and loved ones than to let LABOR TODAY help. Send them a gift sub to LABOR TODAY. Or, send them a special sub and book offer!

Here's what you do! Send us the name(s) and address(es) of the folks you wish to send LABOR TODAY to. We will enter their names on our rolls and send them a card saying what a nice person you are on account of you have bought them a sub (and maybe a book) to LABOR TODAY.

For an extra added incentive, we will sell you five gift subs for \$10.00. That's \$2.00 a whack. Not bad in times like these.

Just to make things more interesting, we've added some new books to our list of books available from LABOR TODAY. Check them out.

Good shopping! And remember, what other way can you build the rank and file movement and keep away the shopping headaches!

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Dear LABOR TODAY,

Enclosed is \$10.00. Also the names and addresses of five friends. Please send them introductory subs to LABOR TODAY. Also mail them a card saying I am sending them this little consideration, and save me the trouble of sending them a card, too!

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Signed, _____

(the name you want on the card)

Enclosed is \$ _____ for _____ subs.

Please send a sub and (book) _____

to:

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For additional book/sub orders, use a separate sheet of paper.

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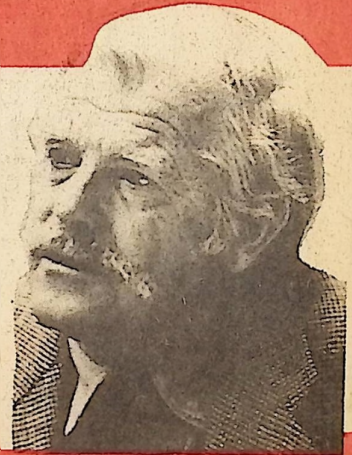


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