

the rank and file in action

Labor Today

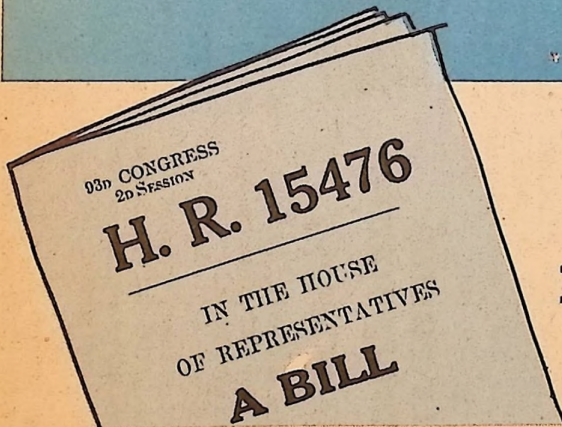
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Volume 14, No. 2,

412

Feb. 1975

Fight to rehire Chacon, Romero



Labor urges move on job bill

Anti-inflation struggle grows



says: **FIGHT LAY-OFFS!**

Celebration for Ernie De Maio



LABOR BACKS HAWKINS-REUSS BILL

A congressional plan for jobs

by "ANTON FRAIL"
District 65, Distributive Workers
New York, New York

Is it possible for Congress to legislate full employment? Congressmen Hawkins of California and Reuss of Wisconsin say that it is. Last June they introduced a bill called the Equal Opportunity and Full Employment Act of 1976.

The act says that every American has the right to a job and that it is the duty of the federal government to provide a job for those who can't find one. So far, this is nothing new--the Full Employment Act which was passed in 1946 said as much, and no one has gotten a job because of it. What is new about the Hawkins-Reuss Bill is that it would set up a Stand-By Job Corps which any unemployed adult could join. The Corps would pay the minimum wage or more, depending on skill, experience and training. It would be similar to the old Civilian Conservation Corps of earlier depression days, but broader in scope. In addition to conservation and public works projects, the Job Corps could also employ its members in such activities as combatting drug use and assisting the disabled and elderly. Programs for training and upgrading of skills are also provided for and thus lead to higher pay. The bill states that Job Corps members cannot be used to undercut the wages of privately employed workers.

The proposed act suggests that planning boards be set up in each community to decide which local projects the Job Corps should undertake. At least some of the members of the local boards would be elected; the rest would be appointed.

Passage of the Hawkins-Reuss Bill would be an admission by Congress and the country that private industry can no longer be counted on to provide full employment. The bill is also a further step toward public economic planning as a substitute for "free enterprise," which alone will create serious opposition in Congress.

The bill would benefit employed people as well as the jobless because it would dry up the pool of potential scabs and strike breakers usually formed during times of

high unemployment, when people become desperate for work of any kind. The bill is of particular interest to public employees and their unions, as it is an alternative to welfare forced-work programs, in which people on welfare must work for the city or county in order to receive their checks.

These forced-work programs create the fear that more and more job titles will be phased out of civil service and given to welfare recipients as a way of holding down the wages of public employees.

Can the Hawkins-Reuss Bill really end unemployment in the United States? There are some problems. The bill allocates no money for the public works program that it envisions. It leaves that to Congress to do annually. This means that there will be a constant political battle over the amount to be spent, the wages to be paid by the Job Corps, and the kinds of projects to be established. There is no guarantee that sufficient allocations will be made from year to year. A national Excess Profits Tax could finance the program so that the money would not have to come out of the pockets of working people, yet there is no provision for financing the proposal in the present bill.

The bill does not state specifically that members of the Stand-By Job Corps would be covered under the present federal order giving federal employees the right to organize unions. If the Stand-By Job Corps is to be a genuine form of employment and not a new form of welfare, then its members must have the right to organize, to bargain collectively, and to strike.

Labor Today



The importance of the proposed Equal Opportunity and Full Employment Act, despite these major limitations, is that it would provide needed work and income to anyone who wants it and is able to work. This applies not only to the unemployed, but to young people coming out of school, people on welfare, housewives who have never had a job, people who have been in prison, etc. For this reason, passage of the Hawkins Reuss Bill should be a definite priority for working people throughout the country.

In the last session of Congress the Hawkins-Reuss Bill was hung up in the Committee on Education and Labor. There was no organized support for it from the unemployed or from the labor movement. The bill in fact was not made a major priority of the AFL-CIO, perhaps because it was introduced late in the session.

When the Hawkins-Reuss bill is reintroduced in the new 94th Congress it can provide a focus for grassroots unemployed organization across the country. Because

(continued on p. 4)

THE BILL AT A GLANCE

- The U.S. Government guarantees a job to every adult.
- The Department of Labor establishes a Stand-By Job Corps open to all jobless persons; the Corps pays a monthly salary to its members for work on public service projects.
- The Stand-By Job Corps must pay at least the minimum wage. Skilled people receive higher wages. Job Corps wages must not adversely affect the local wage structure. Job Corps workers in construction must be paid at the prevailing wage rate in the construction industry.
- Local Councils are established to advise on Stand-By Job Corps projects.
- A National Institute for Full Employment is established to do long range studies aimed at developing a full employment economy.
- A National Commission for Full Employment is established to recommend federal policy in all areas affecting employment and labor relations.



Unemployment demonstration in Chicago was led by Charles Hayes, unionist, and rights leader Rev. Jesse Jackson

'SALT OF THE EARTH' RECURS

Struggle builds in fight to rehire Chacon, Romero

Steel workers who were the "Salt of the Earth" in the world famous movie of 1953 are again fighting to preserve the strength of their union.

Kennecott Copper Corporation has fired Juan Chacon, President of the local union in Bayard, New Mexico, as he was when he played the male lead in "Salt." Also fired was Financial Secretary Israel Romero. Both are charged with leading an "illegal" strike last July.

This situation led actor Will Geer ("Granpa Walton" of the TV series "The Waltons") to observe that "things haven't changed much in 21 years. Men who live in New York and Salt Lake City are still trying to run the lives of people here in Grant County."

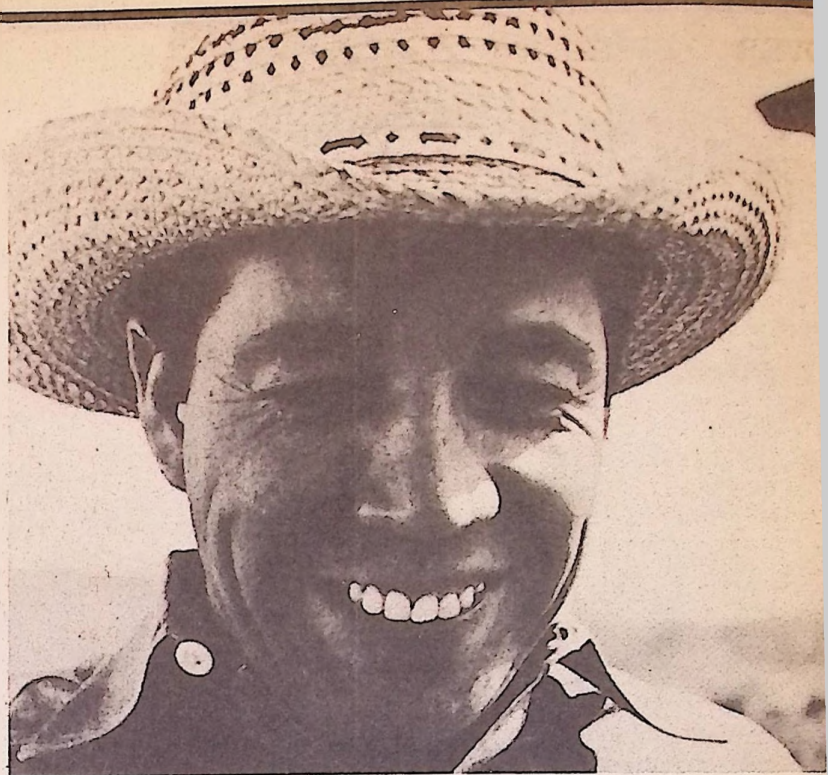
Geer, who played the sheriff in "Salt," was here December 27 to offer his help. He agreed to serve as co-chairman of a fact-finding commission to investigate the circumstances of the firings and make a public report. While addressing a group of unionists and friends, he promised to return and in the meantime to help by mustering support and raising funds.

Some things have changed. Local 890, formerly of the International Union of Mine-Mill and Smelter Workers, is now affiliated to the United Steel Workers (USWA) since the national merger in 1967.

On June 30, 1974, the national contract between USWA and Kennecott expired. United Steel Workers officials say they made a "gentlemen's agreement" with Kennecott to extend the former contract until July 14. Local 890 was not a party to this unwritten arrangement and did not know about it until later. Their experience with corporations has taught them that oral "agreements" are traps for working people, and that "gentlemen" who run the giant conglomerate concede only what is necessary to keep the machinery going. Even a written contract has to be policed and enforced by the union at the job site.

On July 1, at a special membership meeting, the members of Local 890 were informed that their contract had been extended by the International Union. A rank and file member moved from the floor to strike. There was

JUAN CHACON as he appeared in the movie "Salt of the Earth."



a prompt second. Other rank and filers talked about company stalling on important bargaining issues.

The vote to strike was unanimous.

Other USWA local unions in Arizona and New Jersey did likewise. The strike continued until July 21, when a new contract was reached at the national level.

Early in July, Kennecott sought a court injunction against the strike. District Judge Norman Hodges, denying the injunction, ruled that Kennecott had failed to prove the existence of a legal, binding contract.

Unable to exert its will by legal means, Kennecott resorted to naked economic power. On October 23 it fired Chacon, Romero and levied a five-day work suspension against Willie Gonzales and issued 200 letters of reprimand to workers who were charged with manning the picket lines.

This has been followed by a tough attitude on the part of the foremen and supervisors--an overall effort to intimidate the workers and union representatives.

The message is clear: If we can fire your union officers for union activities, we can fire any shop steward or employee, too, if he gets "uppity."

Local 890 immediately filed a grievance over the firings. At the "third step" of the grievance procedure, where a representative of the International Union always appears to support the grievance and help argue the union's case, no USWA representative showed up. This was a clear signal to Kennecott that the USWA was indifferent or hostile to the union's case.

The next step in the grievance procedure is arbitration. Here, the USWA has taken over the local union's case. Understandably, Local 890 is apprehensive.

While the firings of Chacon and Romero and the suspension of Gonzales didn't affect their immediate incomes, their job rights were destroyed.

Chacon, at 54, had 28 year seniority at Kennecott. He would be eligible for pension after another year and a half but had planned to work until age 65.

Romero is a relatively young man with five year seniority. After being fired by Kennecott for union activity, he would have to "go far away," as he puts it, to find employment.

For more information and/or to offer to help, write or call Chacon-Romero Defense Committee, 302 Tom Foy Blvd., Bayard, New Mexico 88023. (505)537-3992.

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Actor Will Geer a.k.a. "Grandpa Walton" came to L 890's Hall in Bayard, NM to propose a fact-finding committee to investigate Kennecott's firings of Chacon & Romero.



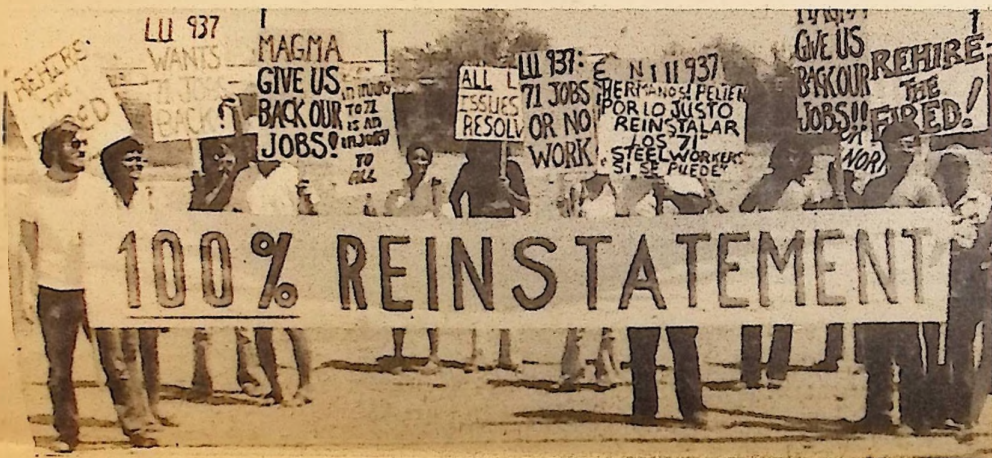
OVER 70 FIRED FOR STRIKING

Magma Copper workers continue job fight

by DAVID CANTRELL
USWA Local 937
Tucson, Arizona

Last June Magma Copper Company fired over 70 employees following a 2-day wildcat strike provoked by the Company over an arbitrary firing of a fellow worker. The fired workers included many rank and file steel worker leaders, including the only woman shop steward, two members of the Contract Negotiating Committee and other union activists.

Five months and one "legal" strike later, arbitration hearings over the firings have begun.



These last five months have been particularly hard on the fired copper workers and families, who are predominantly young and Chicano. All but several are members of Local 937 of the United Steel Workers of America. The majority are working elsewhere, but at lower wages, fewer fringe benefits and usually for non-unionized employers. Because of the "blacklist" in effect, only about 15 of the 70 are now working in the copper industry.

The mass firings are part of a campaign now being waged by the copper companies to eliminate militant trade unionists who defend the interests of the workers.

The hearings resumed in San Manuel December 17. Of 56 cases actually going to arbitration only eight had been heard by the first four days. Steel workers crowded into the tiny conference room. Fifteen workers are charged with "participation and/or leadership in an unauthorized work stoppage" and 41 are charged with "participation" only. Estimated people involved in the strike range from 1500 to 2000 workers.

Defending the workers is Carl Jones, an International Staff Representative sent in by the USWA from California. Although Jones has not been with the case very long, he has demonstrated a willingness to put up a fight against the company at the Arbitration hearings. This is very difficult in view of the fact that the company has stated at the outset of the hearings that any workers identified as active participants in the wildcat "at this late date" will be disciplined. This is an attack not only against the union's right to call defense witnesses but an attack against the very functioning of the union inside the plant. The Company can "discover" "at this late date" that said witness or said grievanceman was an "act-

ive participant" in an action involving most of Magma's employees last June!

Magma Copper Company, owned by Newmont Mining, one of the Big Five Copper Monopolies, is spending tremendous time, money and resources to "get" the fired 70 and make their terminations permanent. These mass firings are seen by the rank and file as an attempt to nip in the bud the militant resurgence of rank and file unionism that had been developing at San Manuel. These firings are seen as aimed at keeping the USWA in the Company vest-pocket. The strike is recognized clearly as a "set-up" by the Company to force the workers to move in the wrong way at the wrong time. When

Magma Copper workers demonstrate for rehiring of 71 who struck protesting firing of fellow workers.

the workers went on strike last June 12, they had the active opposition of local Staff Representative Lloyd F. Dayton, who went so far as to publicly criticize six rank and file activists as "strike leaders" in a leaflet distributed June 17. This leaflet has come back to haunt the union. Magma introduced it into the record to "prove" that "even the union" admitted the six's guilt. However, Local President

Frank Salas testified that the leaflet was not authorized by him.

The testimony and Company evidence introduced shows the flimsy character of their case against the 70. Eighty-four photographs have been introduced by Magma, some taken by salaried employees and some by Dave Mansinger of the San Manuel Miner, an "independent" newspaper. Some pictures are close-ups of one employee, some posed just for the camera with the person perhaps holding up a clenched fist. Now the Company claims that the clenched fist shows that the person was very active. Such is the shaky criteria Magma claims to have used in its choice of whom to fire and whom not to.

Take Mike Benavidez, a refiner in the Anode Department of the Smelter. Mike is a member of the Steel Workers and fairly well-known to the Company before the events of last June as an active unionist. The only charge against him is that he was passing out leaflets announcing a special union meeting for June 17. The meeting was called so that the membership could respond to the mass firings, most of which took place the morning of Saturday June 15. Mike's "crime" was coming to the defense of his brothers and sisters by distributing a leaflet.

The case of John Mackoviak is also interesting. One worker told this reporter that "even if Mac had been laid up injured in the hospital during the wildcat the Company would have fired him for leading the strike." Again the "evidence" was passing out leaflets, a fact Mackoviak will confirm. It so happens that Mackoviak is an out-spoken and well-respected rank and file leader among many workers at Magma. He has been the victim of the most vicious red-baiting campaign. Several months ago the Company tried to entrap him into committing an "unsafe act." He was the Safety Representative from the Mill and a member of the local Executive Board. Perhaps these facts will explain the vigor with which Magma has gone after him and many other of the fired workers.

Many rank and filers feel that without a mass fightback campaign involving the workers still in the plant and the people in the community, chances of being reinstated at full back pay and seniority is limited. The fired workers need the support of the entire labor movement.

COKE WORKERS RAP BACK-DOOR DEAL

Pact unsafe, unhealthy

by CLAIRTON RANK & FILE COMM.
USWA L. 1557
CLAIRTON, PA.

A new agreement on health and safety conditions for cokeworkers in Clairton, Pa. was signed November 14. The agreement is slated to affect some 40,000 cokeworkers nationally. The Clairton plant, a U.S. Steel plant near Pittsburgh, has the biggest coking facilities in the world.

The new agreement, signed by U.S. Steel and the USWA International and Local leaders, was not voted on by rank and file cokeworkers at Clairton. As usual, the Abel machine pushed this down the rank and file's throats. The cokeworkers got a chance to vote on the first company proposal and turned it down unanimously, saying it was inadequate. The vote was 510 to 0. Then, after three months of extension granted to U.S. Steel by the USWA, to the great dismay of cokeworkers, this new agreement was signed.

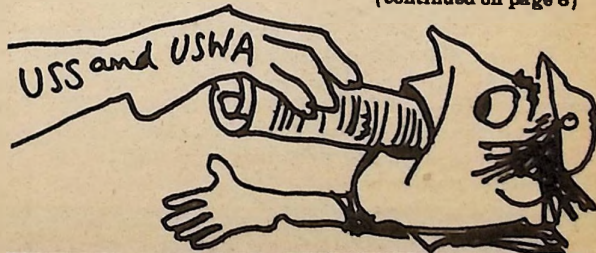
This new agreement was to go to binding

arbitration after the workers voted down the first company proposal; but instead of letting the rank and file vote on the final agreement, they signed it and forgot about the hearings and the cokeworkers.

The new agreement doesn't begin to meet cokeworkers' needs! There is a reshuffling process going on in the coke plant, making all workers rebid for their jobs again. Even the men with 30 years' seniority must now rebid for jobs. How would you like to have this happen to you in your factory or department?

The new agreement adds over 100 new jobs where new hires will be used as relief or

(continued on page 6)



Anti-inflation parley calls Washington march

The national movement that sparked anti-inflation demonstrations across the country on November 16 met in Chicago in December to lay further plans for action. Nearly 100 delegates from local anti-inflation groups attended the sessions which were chaired by Will Parry, President, N. Washington & Alaska Council of the Association of Western Pulp and Paper Workers. Parry was a key speaker at the TUAD conference on the economic crisis in September.

The delegates formed the National Coalition to Fight Inflation and Unemployment and named New York State Senator Sydney Von Luther to head the group. Von Luther

is a veteran trade unionist and a former organizer for L. 1199, Drug and Hospital Workers, AFL-CIO.

The group has called for a large-scale demonstration to be held in Washington, D.C., on Saturday, April 26. The demonstration will express dissatisfaction with the failure of the Ford Administration to respond to the runaway cost of living and the rapidly growing unemployment. The demonstration will call for a substantial rollback in prices and to provide jobs with adequate income for all unemployed persons.

The group is also circulating a national petition on inflation and unemployment which has already gained 100,000 signatures. The committee hopes to gather one million in time for the April 26 action.

For more information on how to conduct anti-inflation activity in your area contact the National Committee to Fight Inflation and Unemployment, Room 614, 160 Fifth Ave., New York City, NY 10010.

Protest Inflation & Unemployment A PETITION TO PRESIDENT FORD, CONGRESS, STATE & LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

Price increases on food, housing, utilities, gas, public transportation and other necessities are skyrocketing. As a result, workers lost (even after wage increases) 5 1/2% in real income in the last year. Over 6 million people are out of work. Particularly hard hit by inflation and unemployment are Black and other minority peoples, women, youth and senior citizens.

There is no end in sight. Even President Ford admits his program can not bring inflation under control before

mid-1976. Ford proposes to cut budget spending on items that benefit lower and middle income people, while leaving the swollen military budget alone. He says sacrifice will be necessary.

A program to combat inflation must end the years of sacrifice by lower and middle income people and the unemployed. The wealthy and the big corporations can afford to make some sacrifices for a change.

**WE CAN'T WAIT UNTIL 1976!
WE INSIST ON ACTION NOW!**

1. Roll back the price of necessities to the 1970 level!
2. Provide jobs for all jobless at union wages!

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY

STATE

A congressional plan for jobs (continued from page 1)

the bill is also in the interest of labor and community organizations, legislative coalitions can be formed around it. These are particularly important at a time when there appears to be a growing conflict of interest between the employed and the unemployed.

Even with the increased number of liberal Democrats swept into Congress in the recent election, the Equal Opportunity and Full Employment Act will not stand a chance unless there is a grass-roots movement behind it. Three specific actions need to be taken to support the bill:

- Resolutions in favor of the bill should be passed by union locals or legislative committees as well as by community and unemployed organizations. Copies to be

sent to local members of Congress and to the House Committee on Education and Labor, as well as local press.

- Petition drives should be conducted at work and in the community to alert people to the existence of the bill.

- Union locals, legislative committees, rank and file groups and community organizations should demand that their representative in Congress attend an "accountability session" to explain what he or she is doing to support the bill.

The Hawkins-Reuss Bill is a repudiation of the Ford Administration and its disregard for the needs of working people. The bill can be passed if we make it happen.



CHICAGO LABOR TAKES LEAD

Fight electric rate hike

Chicagoans were shocked to learn that Commonwealth Edison Electric Company has a plan to raise home electric bills by at least 15 percent or about \$3.50 a month.

If that wasn't bad enough in itself, Commonwealth Edison added insult to injury by its formal petition to the Illinois Commerce Commission which must approve such increases. The increase is not required to improve services, replace equipment or streamline operations. It is requested to raise the profit rate from the current eight percent to 11 percent to "stimulate investments."

Citizens groups throughout Chicago, including the newly formed Chicago Acts Against Inflation, left to denounce the increase.

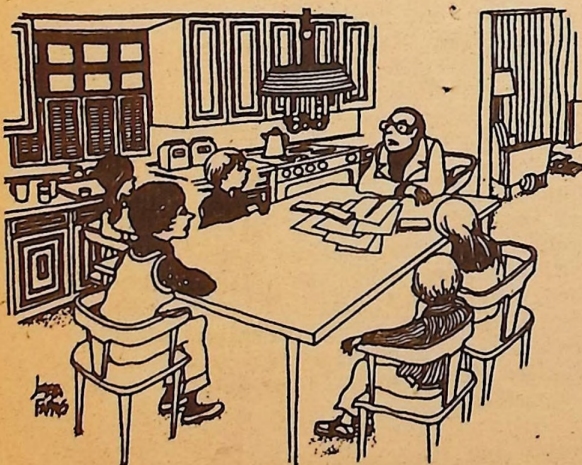
But the main response came from Chicago's labor movement in the form of a quarter-page advertisement in the Chicago Sun Times.

Denouncing the increase and comparing it to a two cent-an-hour wage cut, the ad said: "We are opposed to any increase. President Ford has told us that we can whip inflation by tightening our belts and cleaning our plates. He also suggests biting the bullet.

"We've got a better idea: keep prices down. A good place to start is with this rate increase."

Signers of the ad included: Patrick E. Gorman, Secretary-Treasurer of the Amalgamated Meatcutters; Charles Hayes, Vice President, Amalgamated Meatcutters; Edward Sadlowski, Director, District 31, United Steel Workers; Sol Brandzel, Manager, Chicago Joint Board, Amalgamated Clothing Workers; O.J. McClain, Director, District 7, Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers; Frank Rosen, President, District 11, United Electrical Workers; and Jack Spiegel, Director, Lake States District, United Shoe Workers.

Union organizations signing the ad included: Chicago Coalition of Black Trade Unionists; Chicago Coalition of Labor Union Women; and individual local unions of the Meatcutters, United Electrical Workers, American Federation of Government Employees; American Federation of State, County and



"I've called the family together to announce that, because of inflation, I'm going to have to let two of you go."



Organized labor demands: End inflation, no increase for Commonwealth Edison!

AN OPEN LETTER TO MARVIN S. LIEBERMAN

Marvin S. Lieberman, Chairman, Illinois Commerce Commission, 160 N. LaSalle, 19th Floor, Chicago, Ill. 60601

Dear Sir:

For the second time this year, Commonwealth Edison has its hand out. They have asked for a 15.6% rate increase that will cost residential consumers another \$3.50 per month (that's the same as a 2c an hour wage cut).

That's bad enough, but they've gone one worse: Commonwealth Edison is trying to stampede the Commission into giving them a 7.3% increase now, without following the usual procedure that gives the public enough time to be heard.

They claim they need this interim increase by January so they'll have higher profits so they can pay bigger dividends so they can sell some more stock.

We are opposed to any increase, interim or otherwise. President Ford has told us that we can whip inflation by tightening our belts and cleaning our plates. He also suggests biting the bullet.

We've got a better idea: keep prices down. A good place to start is with this rate increase.

Municipal Employees, United Auto Workers and LABOR TODAY.

As a result, labor delegations have intervened to oppose the price hike and have been at every public hearing conducted by the Commerce Commission. Until the ad appeared, few of the actual commissioners bothered to attend the hearings, leaving the job to a hearing officer. After the

ad appeared, the full contingent of commissioners showed up to hear Charles Hayes of the Meatcutters testify against the raise.

Hayes' testimony not only sharply attacked the economic arguments for the increase, but also called attention to close ties between Commonwealth Edison and some of the Commerce Commission commissioners.

REGULATIONS IN PLAIN ENGLISH

Illinois names Rachel Scott as Health, Safety head

Many state-run occupational health and safety programs are in deep trouble because they fail to meet federal minimum standards. Illinois is no exception. A recent federal study showed serious failures in the Illinois program. Union and medical groups are up in arms.

In the midst of this, the Illinois Industrial Commission has named Rachel Scott, 27, as director of industrial safety and health. Scott is the author of Muscle & Blood, a book exposing many workplace hazards. Her previous job was as labor reporter for the Baltimore Sunpapers.

Scott's appointment brought varied reactions. Business groups and industrial engineers immediately protested her appointment, attacking her qualifications. "They aren't used to having someone who is both young and a woman with that kind of authority," Scott told LABOR TODAY.

Labor and progressive groups adopted a wait-and-see attitude.

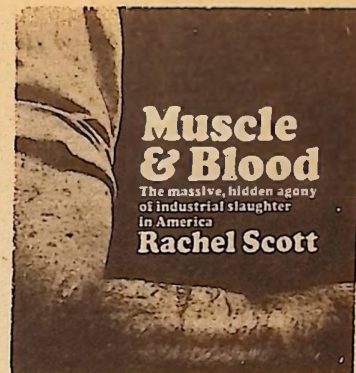
"The Walker administration is trying to rescue its sagging image," a medical specialist said. "Scott's appointment is basically a public relations gimmick by an anti-labor administration. That doesn't mean that Scott is qualified or not, it just means that she is being used."

Scott's announced goals are these: develop a program to monitor new chemicals, establish a system of state occupational health clinics and mobile units, a state-administered laboratory for testing substan-

ces to see if they are toxic, hearings to see if state standards are required to replace federal OSHA standards and to protect state employees not covered by OSHA.

"I know how politics work. I know how to get things accomplished," Scott said in response to attacks on her administrative qualifications.

Although labor has not joined attacks against her appointment, most unionists are waiting to see what steps Scott will take. A recent review of her book, Muscle & Blood, by the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers' LIFELINES hits her failure to note where unions and a mobilized rank and file have cleaned up dangerous situations. Disagreeing with her "cynical and unanalytical attitude," the OCAW cites her book's failure to report a six-month strike at Kaweck-Berylco which did much to remedy dangerous conditions she described in the book.



AWAC says

FIGHT: DON'T FLOUNDER!

Issued by AWAC STEERING COMMITTEE,
LASKER SMITH, Chairman
Ecorse, Michigan

Inflation and unemployment are raising hell with auto workers all over the place. It's lay-offs, short paychecks and payments due as more than two hundred thousand of us file for unemployment, food stamps and public assistance.

Lordstown, Tarrytown, Detroit, St. Louis, Kenosha, Flint, Pontiac...Look at the map--plants down all over the country as auto makers and parts suppliers jack up prices and cut back production in a mad scramble to increase profits.

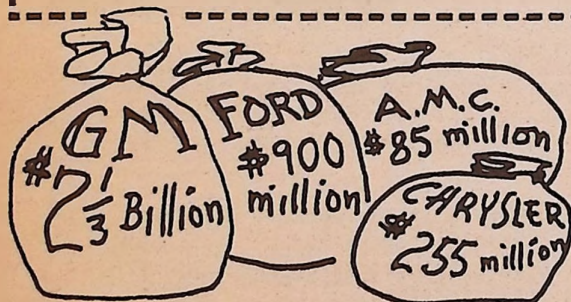
UNLESS WE GET OUR UNION MOVING ON A FIGHT-BACK PROGRAM, IT'S GOING TO GET WORSE WITH THOUSANDS MORE OF US WALKING THE STREETS.

Workers never got anything for nothing. That's why we fought like hell to build the UAW. That's why we've been fighting ever since. That's why we've got to fight now!

With the economy plunging downhill, the companies are trying to take away everything that isn't nailed down. They dilly-dally around with grievances, safety beefs and FEP cases. They're staying awake nights trying to figure out new ways to divide and weaken our ranks as they seek to take advantage of lay-offs (and racism among white workers) to eliminate Blacks, Latins and other oppressed minorities from the industry. They shuck-and-jive as they try to cover up the near-bankruptcy of the SUB funds. They've stolen our holiday pay from many of us. They've made a farce out of "30 and Out."

They've "made" some other things, too, like record profits. GM got away with more than 2-1/3 billion dollars in 1973. Ford took in 900 million; Chrysler raked in more than 255 million and American Motors ended up with "only" 85 million plus.

In '73, each and every worker in what they call the "motor vehicle and parts" industry produced \$41,123 worth of cars, trucks, and parts. A year's wages, even at \$5.50 an hour, would only come to about \$14,800.



After producing all of that wealth, auto workers have the right to be protected against unemployment, poverty and the financial burdens of poverty, sickness and accidents. We didn't mess up the economy. We didn't raise the prices of food, of rent or of 1975 model cars. It's not up to us to worry about profits. (Our wages were frozen in 1971--the price of food wasn't. We were limited to a 5.5% wage increase in 1973--dividends and profits weren't limited at all. Tell 'em that the next time somebody starts that baloney about high wages causing high prices.)

THE AUTO WORKERS ACTION CAUCUS (AWAC) HAS A PROGRAM TO END THE CRISIS FACING THE UAW MEMBERSHIP. WE CALL UPON THE UAW TO ADOPT A PROGRAM OF ACTION THAT WILL PUT THE UAW ON THE FIGHT-BACK PATH AGAINST INFLATION AND UNEMPLOYMENT.

It won't be an easy fight. We'll have to begin by putting an end to overtime work while our brothers and sisters are pounding the streets.

In order to fight unemployment and inflation, we'll have to do more than that. We'll have to mobilize all of the resources of the UAW--its leadership, its money and, above all, its membership--in a campaign to make the corporations part with some of that dough we made for them. That means a Special Convention so we can open the contract for a shorter work day (at no reduction in pay); so we can get more money paid into the SUB Funds and so we can raise pension benefits high enough so people can afford to retire.

We'll have to do more. High prices, high taxes and artificial shortages cannot be dealt with at the bargaining table. Even a union as powerful as ours can't do that. Congress has to take care of that kind of business. A 10% tax cut alone won't solve the problem. We've got to get the UAW behind a campaign to rollback and freeze prices. We've got to get our union behind a campaign to provide jobs for everybody at union wages and conditions. Our union should take the lead in forcing Congress to cut the military budget; to close tax loop-holes for the rich.

If we get going on these questions, we'll solve our problems. If we don't...well, like we said at the beginning, there'll be more of us walking the streets.

Coke pact unsafe, unhealthy

(cont. from p. 3)

spell people. In actuality, cokeworkers lost one-half hour of spell time in this new agreement. Stage charging was instituted, which is a process of cleaning ovens, doors, lids, goosenecks, and standpipes. It requires that more time must be spent in the extreme 200° heat to clean the ovens.

The new incentive pay is not an answer to the pressing question of hazardous duty pay. U.S. Steel figures maximum production comes before the health of cokeworkers.

The new health and medical program includes the following provisions: an annual physical examination (x-ray, pulmonary function test, etc.) by a U.S. Steel physician. U.S. Steel must provide a written note to each coke oven worker to inform him if he has some form of respiratory cancer or other forms of related diseases found in cokeworkers. However, the second provision allows cokeworkers for the first time to have the results of x-rays and other medical examinations sent to their own personal physician for verification.

The Clairton Rank and File Committee distributed a leaflet that called cokeworkers to a meeting to discuss the sell-out coke agreement. The local rank and file committee also circulated a petition against the new coke agreement. The petition stated



A PROGRAM FOR AUTO WORKERS

- Fight-back in the shop!
 - No overtime in any plant or department while any workers are on lay-off.
- Mobilize the UAW! Open the contract--now!
 - Six hour day--Eight hours pay.
 - Guarantee SUB Fund financing.
 - Raise all retirement benefits.
- Make Congress do its job!
 - Roll back and freeze prices, rents and medical costs.
 - Jobs for all at union conditions.
 - Plug tax loop-holes.
 - Cut military budget.



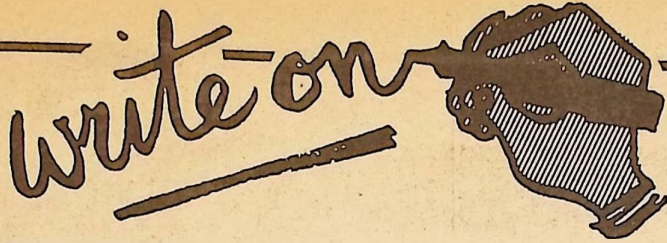
The Auto Workers Rank and File Action Caucus represents a movement of rank and file UAW members who are determined to defend their union, their jobs and their standards of wages and working conditions.

We aim to build and strengthen the United Automobile Workers of America, to re-vitalize and re-activate our union.

three reasons why the committee was against the agreement: cokeworkers did not get a chance to vote on the final agreement; cokeworkers must rebid for their jobs; and the agreement did very little on the question of health and safety. The rank and file committee also demanded that Local and International leadership of the USWA call a three turn union meeting to find out why this agreement was signed.

Joseph Odorcich, District Director of District 15, USWA, said in a meeting to discontented cokeworkers: "You never had the right to vote on this agreement, and they were kidding you when your officials said you had the right. Read your contract." Director Odorcich said also that the union started off with three basic demands to solve health and safety problems of cokeworkers. These three demands are: first, time away from the job (30-40); second, early pensions; and third, more money. At the end of the meeting, Director Odorcich did not mention to cokeworkers that they got none of these demands in the new agreement.

Odorcich and other top Local officials of 1557 told cokeworkers, "we've got our foot in the door now." The majority of cokeworkers at the union meeting disagreed with their Director.



INFLATION CONFUSES ECONOMISTS

To the Editors:

The only confusing aspect of this inflation is the inflated confusion of the leading economists. Inflated by their prestigious positions, they either do not know what they are talking about or they do not want us to know what we are talking about.

Granted, economics is not an exact science; but enough theoretical and practical knowledge exists to understand and solve so simple a phenomenon as valueless currency. Is it possible that some interests are not interested in stopping inflation and are following the well trod path of other countries, in the recent past, to economic, social and political turmoil? The economic credibility gap is growing wider and wider.

The value of the dollar is shrinking not because too many dollars are in circulation, but because too many empty dollars, which do not represent any new value of new products, are flooding the marketplace. It is only natural that when the amount of currency, regardless of the form, issued by U.S. Treasury, exceeds the amount of value produced in a country, the imbalance is inevitably reflected in the reduced value of currency--that is, inflation.

The second factor in creating the inflationary imbalance is the pricing of products greatly above their real value. This amount of dollars added does not represent any new value. These are also empty dollars; they are worthless. True, the consequence of this gross overpricing is a very pretty profit picture, as in the oil industry, for instance. But you can't fool Mother Nature--not for long anyway. Economic laws of motion will assert themselves. And the value of the dollar will shrink in direct proportion to the over-valued pricing.

The third factor in the creation of worthless dollars is the wasteful production of military hardware. As Ray Howard, The Sun-Times' columnist, observed, it is tantamount to the building of thousands of Cadillacs and pushing them all off a cliff. Their value is destroyed; they have no use value. Therefore, billions spent on their production are empty dollars, showered on the marketplace and adding to the imbalance.

It should be obvious, even to the leading economists, that a simple solution to inflation is the elimination or reduction of the three major factors causing the imbalance. That means curtailment of all practices leading to the creation and

circulation of empty, valueless dollars. The reason that the tight money policy, wage freezes, credit curtailment and high interest rates have had no effect is because the real cause of inflation was not even touched. And if this course should continue, inflation will be galloping on its merry way, while for the people, growing more desperate, the American dream will turn into an un-American nightmare.

Ruth Levitova,
Business Manager,
Locals 2601 and 444,
United Textile Workers of
America, AFL-CIO
Chicago, Illinois

LT PUSHED IN QUAD CITIES



To the Editors:

In November, 1974 we formed a Labor Today Circulation Committee in the Quad-Cities area.

At present we have four members kicking in \$5.00 per month enabling us to purchase a greater number of papers for our money.

We intend to build this committee and LABOR TODAY circulation by asking workers from different plants to join with us in a collective effort.

In December we got out 250 LABOR TODAY's in factories in this area. At present we have four members from UAW locals: Harold Vannier, Local 806; Mike Dorsey and Steve Townsend, Local 1304; and John Sutherland, Local 858.

Harold Vannier
UAW Local 806
Davenport, Iowa



SHANKERISM VS. CLUW

To the Editors:

I feel the need to mention a struggle occurring within the Philadelphia CLUW chapter.

The AFL, through the Philadelphia Federation of Teachers, wants control of CLUW here. The PFT (of which I am a member) sends women in leadership positions to harass, filibuster and attempt to confuse the issues and manipulate the meetings, especially if they haven't sent enough women to insure the vote.

At issue here is the number of rank and file versus paid staffers on the steering committee.

The PFT attempted to stack the last meeting to assure the vote for no quota. Rank and filers outnumbered them, so PFT staffers questioned the vote and demanded not that cards be shown, but that the meeting be ended. Reason? They had told other CLUW members--their friends--to stay home because of not having membership cards to show.

Since that futile meeting, the steering committee illegally elected another chairperson.

Our meeting next week may tell the tale. Some rank and filers are considering pulling out to set up their own organization.

I hear of similar occurrences within the New York chapter.

It is a shame when so few women are organized and when those who are organized are so poorly represented, that an organization begun with such rank and file enthusiasm as I participated in last spring in Chicago, should disintegrate like this.

I wonder if you can find out what is happening to CLUW elsewhere in the country and maybe report some good news if there is any.

Kristine K. Osbakken
American Federation of Teachers
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania



ROLL THE PRICES BACK!

UAW Local 6 President Norman Roth drafted new words to the union song "We're Going to Roll the Union On," to add new spirit to the anti-inflation fight.



We're gonna roll,
We're gonna roll,
We're gonna roll the prices back.
(repeat)

If the landlord raises rents,
We're gonna roll right over him,
We're gonna roll right over him,
We're gonna roll right over him.
If the landlord gets in the way,
We're gonna roll right over him,
We're gonna roll right over him.

(CHORUS)

If Congress raises taxes,
We're gonna roll right over them,
We're gonna roll right over them,
We're gonna roll right over them.
If Congress gets in the way,
We're gonna roll right over them,
We're gonna roll right over them.

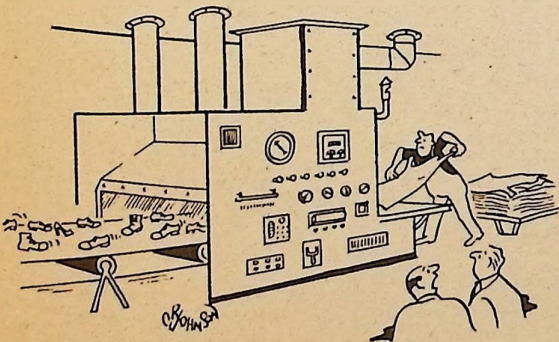
(CHORUS)

If supermarkets raise the prices,
We're gonna roll right over them,
We're gonna roll right over them,
We're gonna roll right over them.
If the supermarkets get in the way,
We're gonna roll right over them,
We're gonna roll right over them.

(CHORUS)

In 1975 we're gonna roll the people on,
We're gonna roll the people on,
We're gonna roll the people on.
In 1975 we're gonna roll the people on,
We're gonna roll the people on.

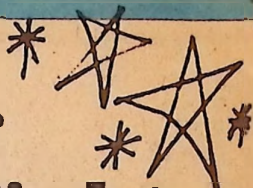
(CHORUS)



"NOW IF WE COULD JUST GET IT TO BUY THE SHOES!"

MARCH 8, CHICAGO

National gala to honor Ernie DeMaio, union fighter



A tribute to Ernest DeMaio, veteran trade unionist and fighter for good causes, will be held in Chicago, March 8, at the Pick-Congress Hotel.

DeMaio, who recently retired as a General Vice President of the United Electrical, Radio & Machine Workers after 39 years of building the union in the electrical industry, will be working at the United Nations in behalf of the world labor movement.

The Ernest DeMaio Tribute Committee says the affair "will not be just another testimonial dinner, but an affirmation of the kind of labor movement and society we would like to see."

Citing DeMaio's contribution to the UE, the committee's statement says that "many of us know that Ernie's involvement with the labor movement goes back farther than that. We mean the Ernie DeMaio who saw his father dragged off during the Palmer Raids, who fought to save Sacco and Vanzetti, who patiently struggled to build industrial unionism in the 20's when most workers only considered it a dream."

"We know the Ernie DeMaio who fought like hell, not only for his own members but for all working and oppressed people," the statement continues. "We know the Ernie DeMaio who stood up against racism. We know the Ernie DeMaio who stood up to the McCarthyites and the House Un-American Committee. We know the Ernie DeMaio who fought for peace when the newspapers call it 'unpatriotic.'"

Initiating sponsors of the DeMaio tribute include Frank Banks, GEB member, UE; Elmer Benson, former Governor of Minnesota; Harry Bridges, President, International Longshoreman's and Warehouseman's Union; Ralph Fasanella, painter; Elmer O. Fehlhaber, founder, The Newspaper Guild; Albert E. Fitzgerald, President, UE; Patrick E. Gor-



man, Secretary-Treasurer, Amalgamated Meatcutters & Butcher Workmen, AFL-CIO; Eugene Jasinski, correspondent, British Economic Observer; Emil Muelver, Director, Dist. 38, American Federation of State, County & Municipal Employees; Irving Nebenzahl, Veterans for Peace; Bob Travis, leader of UAW sit-down at Flint; and Coleman Young, mayor of Detroit.

Other sponsors (list still in formation) include John Chico, financial secretary, USWA L. 65; Len DeCaux, author of LABOR RADICAL; Frank Empsak, executive board member, UE L. 271; Carl Farris, Director, Martin Luther King, Jr., Workers Conferences; Harold J. Gibbons, IBT-Missouri Conference; Will Parry, President, N. Washington & Alaska Council, Assn. of Western Pulp & Paper Workers, Jesse Prosten, Vice-President, Amalgamated Meatcutters; and Paul O'Dwyer, President, City Council of New York.

The Tribute program will include remarks from persons whose lives were touched by DeMaio and by DeMaio himself.

A cultural presentation will be headed up by Earl Robinson, singer and composer. Robinson is best known in the labor movement for his song, "I Dreamed I Saw Joe Hill Last Night." Other compositions by Robinson include "Ballad for Americans," and "The House I Live In."

Tickets for the affair, which includes dinner, are \$12.50 and may be obtained from the DeMaio Tribute Committee, 37 S. Ashland Ave., Chicago, Ill. 60607. Phone. (312) 942-1323.

