

the rank and file in action

Labor Today

35c

Volume 15, No. 2

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February 1976

BIRMINGHAM

Black workers reject token back pay



Union women hold second convention

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Goke ovens must be made safe



How bankers rip off NYC

Labor leaders oppose S. 1.



"HIGHWAY ROBBERY" SAYS REV. BEN CHAVIS

Black ACIPCO workers reject token back pay

Labor Today

from Economic Fight-Back Project
Southern Organizing Committee
for Economic & Social Justice
Birmingham, Alabama

A ten year battle by Black workers against job discrimination at American Cast Iron Pipe Co. (ACIPCO) here is reaching a climax. The ACIPCO workers have rejected a one million dollar settlement of their claims for back pay lost since 1965 because of bias on the job.

They are demanding that U.S. District Judge Seyborne H. Lynne, who ordered the \$1 million decree, issue a new settlement. The workers originally sued for \$11 million.

Although it is being almost totally ignored by the local news media, the ACIPCO case will set a pattern for industries all over the country that are fighting court orders to give back pay to workers who have spent their lives locked into low paying jobs.

"Judge Lynne's order is the worst kind of tokenism," said Harvey Henley, a spokesman for the Committee for Equal Job Opportunity (CEJO), organized by Black ACIPCO workers.

"It's plain highway robbery," said the Rev. Ben Chavis, co-chairperson of the Southern Organizing Committee for Economic & Social Justice, a Southwide network of Black and white civil rights activists which is supporting the struggle of the ACIPCO workers.

The ACIPCO case came to a head recently when the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans finally ruled in favor of 718 Black workers who had filed the suit in 1966 asking an end to discriminatory practices, plus back pay and damages. The Fifth Circuit Court sent the case back to Judge Lynne in Birmingham for settlement. Judge Lynne then ordered ACIPCO to pay the total of \$1 million to over 800 workers to compensate them for wages lost because of discrimination since the effective date of Title VII of the 1964 Civil Rights Act on July 2, 1965.

"When you say \$1 million, it sounds like a lot of money--but it's not," said Henley. "You are talking about compensation to over 800 workers. For most of them, the payment would range from \$300 to \$1100. The amount of pay most of the workers actually lost over a ten year period ranges from \$20,000 to \$30,000.

Henley labeled as false a report that appeared in Birmingham newspapers at the time of the decree saying the average payments per worker would range from \$1200 to \$4000.

Throughout the long struggle at ACIPCO the CEJO has stressed the fact that money is only a part of the case. They stress that ending discriminatory practices in the plant is one of their main objectives.

Mr. Chavis and other members of the executive committee of the Southern Organizing Committee recently met in Birmingham with leaders of CEJO to plan a widened campaign against Judge Lynne's order. The executive



committee noted that a number of large companies are delaying making settlements in discrimination cases, awaiting the final outcome of the ACIPCO suit.

"The companies know that they are going to have to pay something now because of the

Civil Rights Act," said Mr. Chavis, speaking for the Southern Organizing Committee's executive board. "So their tactic is to try to settle these cases for pennies, as little as possible. If this ACIPCO decision stands, it will set a pattern for every industry in the country that wants to get out of paying fairly for the labor it's been stealing from Black workers over the years."

At present, Judge Lynne is using delaying tactics to keep the ACIPCO workers from carrying the case back to the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals.

Meanwhile individual Black workers are refusing to cash the checks being issued by ACIPCO under the token settlement, and CEJO has set up a picketline at the Federal Courthouse in Birmingham.

CEJO has called on community and local rank and file trade union groups to support the ACIPCO workers, and a number have responded. Meanwhile the Southern Organizing Committee has been urging its contacts throughout the South and the rest of the country to write, wire or phone Judge Lynne demanding that he throw out his token order and hand down a fair one.

(continued on page 7)

AN ATTEMPT TO SUCKER WHITE WORKERS

KKK at shop gates in Birmingham

by SCOTT MARSHALL
Birmingham, Alabama

There are a number of ways of telling when your rank and file group is beginning to have an effect in the shop. You can point to victories on the floor, cases of discrimination overcome or elections won. But members of a growing rank and file caucus at Pullman Standard in Birmingham, Alabama are faced with a very negative sign of their progress.

In early December the Ku Klux Klan began plant gate distribution of their particular brand of filth known as The Crusader. It came at a time just four months after the Pullman rank and file group had begun publication of their paper the Pullman Sparks. Some coincidence. No one can remember the Klan concentrating on plant gates before in this area.

The Crusader, claiming to be the "voice of the white majority", is filled with the most open and disgusting form of racism and anti-semitism. No new image for the Klan here. Many workers noted that the Klansmen were dressed in very expensive clothes and driving big cars. "They look like some of the wheels up in the office," said one white worker.

Pullman Sparks had some things to say about the distribution in their next issue. "The appearance of The Crusader is an effort

Scott Marshall



to crush the growing unity among rank and filers and rising militancy against unjust company policies. It is an attempt to sucker white workers into acting against their real interests. It not only seeks to divide, but to deflect attention from the real struggles."

It was also not a coincidence that in early December Pullman announced fresh layoffs, to last in all probability into next April. No one can prove at this point that the company brought the Klan in but they are certainly the only ones getting anything out of Klan presence.

The Klan at the shop gates is a lot more sinister than just being an immediate way of stirring up some division. It is not only intolerable to some that Black and white workers would be getting together on any basis, but it shows that some in this country are ready to "test the water" for fascism.

Alabama is Wallace's home state. He's preparing to try for the presidency, he needs to know how much people will swallow.

NATIONAL LEADERSHIP REJECTED

CLUW's second convention continues fight for rights

by BEA LUMPKIN
AFT Local 1600
Chicago

Union women are determined to continue the fight for their rights--this was the message of CLUW's second convention, December 5-7, 1975, in Detroit. An impressive number of women trade unionists attended: 1450 from 63 nationwide unions and 43 states.

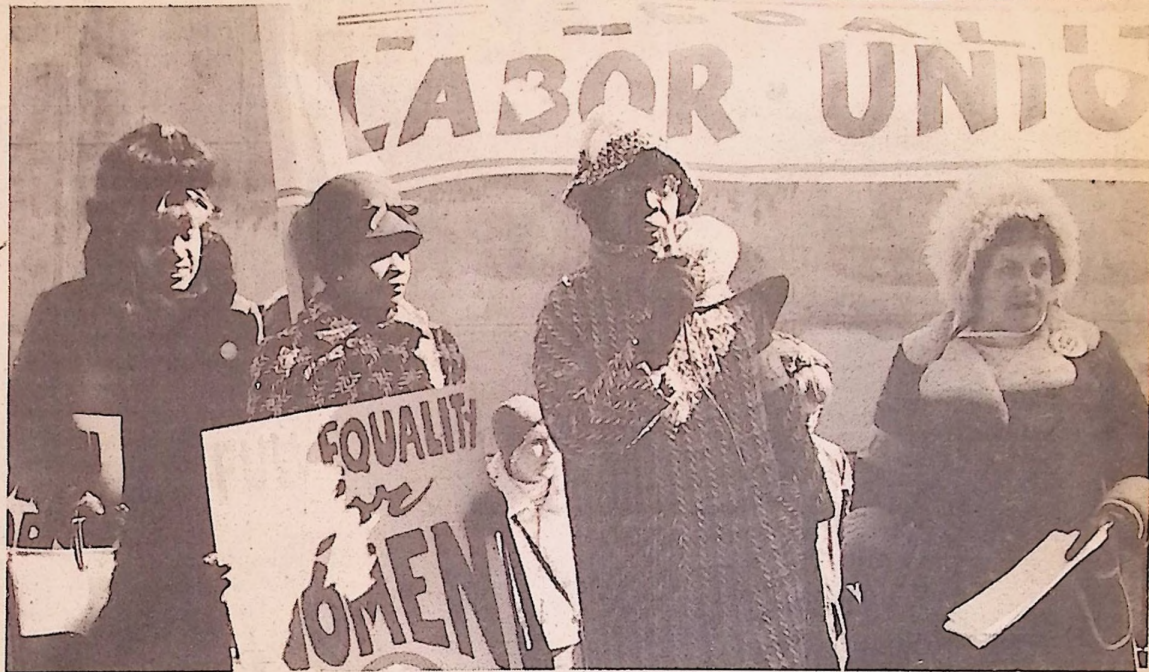
The stated purpose of the convention, to adopt a constitution and elect officers, was completed. The convention program did not include discussion on the economic crisis although this was the issue which weighed most heavily on the minds of the delegates coming from jobs with disproportionately heavy layoffs of women, especially Black women.

However, CLUW's program on the economic crisis was distributed at the convention. This program pledges CLUW's support to the Hawkins Full Employment Bill, a shorter work week with no loss in pay, support of the National Coalition to Fight Inflation and Unemployment and the Full Employment Action Council. The program suggests demonstrations, mass lobbying and picketlines to celebrate March 8, International Women's Day and to press for full employment, federally funded day care, health care and the ERA.

The true spirit of the rank and file union women was expressed in the wildly enthusiastic reception of Bella Abzug's speech, demanding full employment and calling for cutbacks in the military budget to divert money instead to education, health and welfare.

Rank and file sentiment prevailed at one point during the lengthy constitutional debate when an amendment to permit representation of smaller CLUW chapters on the new National Executive Board (NEB) won by a decisive vote, setting the minimum number at 50 instead of 100. Another occasion was in support of Addie Wyatt, a Black leader and Women's Director of the Meatcutters Union, upholding her rulings as chairwoman of the session, in face of repeated challenges by some right-wing delegates and so-called ultraleftists.

Many question why the tremendous potential represented at the CLUW convention was not transformed into immediate programs of action and fightback against the depression



Union women struggle for improved conditions

which is wiping out many gains won in women's employment.

One reason was the continued disruption by a number of splinter groups (loosely called far left by the N.Y. Times) who tried to divert CLUW from its course by taking the focus off union women and changing CLUW into just a general women's organization. Of

Regional vice presidents and chapter representatives sit on the NEB. An additional 45 NEB members will be elected by their union's CLUW members. In those cases where the election could not be held at the convention--because of the 20% of the union's CLUW members as quorum--elections will be by mail ballot and nominating petitions must be signed by 20% of the union's CLUW membership. In this opinion of this writer, the difficult requirements for nomination practically assures selection of these delegations by the union leadership itself, which is usually male.

The future of CLUW now largely depends upon chapter action programs to build CLUW membership among union women and the development of some type of inter-chapter communication. The strength of CLUW has been in its grass roots appeal which must be maintained. But the new constitution restricts future convention participation to elected delegates and will probably be much smaller.

Unless provision is made for full rank and file participation at all levels, the danger exists that the Meany-Shanker leadership can succeed in their objective of putting a strait-jacket on CLUW and converting it to a female version of the A. Phillip Randolph Institute. An active CLUW membership can preserve the militant, progressive qualities of CLUW and make a great contribution to advancing women's rights within the union movement and strengthening the position of organized labor.



Addie Wyatt,
Women's Director
Meatcutters'

course those who followed Meany's position on CLUW, making it just a paper organization, also did not want an immediate action program.

But the thousand-plus rank and file women present have the potential of fully implementing the CLUW program. However, better organization and communication are needed.

A position paper by officers of Chicago CLUW announced a workshop on implementing action for equal job opportunity, for full employment and for maternity rights. Although the Chicago position paper was well received, the workshop did not get underway until after the session at 2:30 a.m. and only 40 of the hundreds who were interested were able to attend.

The incumbent national leadership was re-elected: Olga Madar, UAW, President; Addie Wyatt, Meatcutters, Vice-President; Gloria Johnson, IUE, Treasurer and Joyce Miller, ACWA, Secretary.



Labor Today

Volume 15, No. 2 February 1976

LABOR TODAY--"The Rank and File in Action!"--is published monthly except August by Labor Today Associates, a non-profit Illinois corporation, 343 S. Dearborn Street, Room 600, Chicago, Illinois 60604. Phone 312/922-5560. SECOND CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60607 AND AT ADDITIONAL MAILING OFFICES.

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SUBSCRIPTION RATES

1 year \$3.50; 2 years \$5.00; 3 years \$7.00
FOREIGN \$6.00 per year Air Mail Only
Printed in U.S.A.

R&F STEELWORKERS' STATEMENT ON COKE OVEN STANDARDS

"Coke must be made safely or it will not be made at all!"

by GEORGE EDWARDS, Co-Chairman
National Steelworkers Rank and File
Committee

The fumes that pour out of the coke ovens contain hundreds of different substances. Already over 25 of these substances have been shown to cause cancer.

According to scientific studies, coke oven workers die of cancer at a rate 2½ times that of other steelworkers. Those who work on top of the batteries die of kidney cancer at a rate 7½ times that of other steelworkers and of lung cancer at a rate 10 times as high as other steelworkers.

What about the steel companies? Have they been trying to help end this situation? According to the American Iron and Steel Institute the net profits of the steel companies rose from \$775 million in 1972 to nearly \$2.5 billion in 1974. That is, they more than tripled. At the same time, according to the Third Annual McGraw-Hill Survey on Investment in Employee Safety and Health, the amount the steel companies spent to protect workers' lives fell from \$193 million in 1972 to \$92 million in 1974. I would like to introduce this McGraw-Hill survey into the record of these hearings.



Profits tripled but investment in employee safety and health was cut in half. It is therefore little wonder that there is a cancer epidemic among coke oven workers.

Furthermore we want to point out that these same scientific studies showed that the majority of the coke oven workers are Black. This is the result of racism on the part of the companies. They have especially assigned newly hired Black workers to the most dangerous, unhealthy, hazardous departments--such as the coke ovens. They have been doing the same thing recently to newly hired women steelworkers.

WHAT WE WANT

The situation we face is one that can no longer be tolerated. We are here today to present our thoughts on the kind of standard we need for the coke ovens. We present a common sense strategy based on the well thought-out proposals of the Standards Advisory Committee on Coke Oven Emissions.

Basically we want a standard that will protect coke oven workers from exposure to any amount of the cancer causing emissions. We want to insure that when coke oven work-

ers do their jobs they are making a living, not digging their own graves.

So, the first thing is to control emissions. Since cancer is the problem the standard should be based on a substance that is known to cause cancer. The OSHA proposal intends to measure dust particles. But this is not adequate. We need to measure substances which cause cancer. Therefore I support the recommendation of the Standards Advisory Committee that the standard be based on the lowest possible levels of the powerful cancer agent, benzo-a-pyrene.

NO VISIBLE EMISSIONS

Secondly, as originally proposed by the USWA, we need to have a "no visible emissions" standard. Our aim is to insure that no coke oven worker is exposed to any amount of cancer causing substances. It just makes sense to me that one way to begin this is to insure that there are no visible emissions during coking. At least this is a way for the workers themselves to make a simple check without having to use any complicated equipment and without having to worry about all-day "averages". When a worker passes out on top of the batteries it is usually not because of exposure to day-long averages, but because he has suddenly been exposed to an overwhelming amount of suffocating fumes and dust.

law will continue to be flaunted and the lives of coke workers will continue to be snuffed out. We demand a one-year deadline to meet the standards of the Advisory Committee.

SURVEILLANCE BY OUR OWN DOCTORS

A fourth point is medical surveillance. The proposed standard correctly emphasizes prevention and early detection of disease, particularly cancer of the lungs, skin and urinary tract. However, to insure that surveillance is carried out thoroughly and competently, the standard should be revised to give workers the right to be examined by the physician of their own choice. This must be without cost to the worker.

It can be a frightening experience to undergo a medical examination to find out whether or not you have cancer. The confidence and trust that must be placed in a physician is frequently not present where company doctors are concerned.

The records of whatever medical tests are made must be available to the worker and the union as well as the company.

If a worker's health is found to be adversely affected by work in a coke plant he must have guaranteed transfer rights without loss of pay or seniority. This guarantee is crucial to the protection of coke oven workers' health.

If the companies refuse to protect coke workers' health or delay abatement procedures they must still be required to transfer endangered workers and guarantee them jobs without loss of seniority or pay. This will also prevent the company from discriminating against workers who have gotten sick.

We strongly oppose the concept of basing a coke oven standard on any deal worked out between the companies and the union. We need guarantees written into the law and enforced by the government in the strongest possible way. The companies argue that a lot of what we have said should be put on the bargaining table to be negotiated between themselves and the union. But we cannot rely only on collective bargaining to protect workers' health. The force of law is needed.

IT'S THE GOVERNMENT'S JOB

When a union bargains it must take care of the most immediate things first--jobs, wages, economic security. The record high

STRONG ENFORCEMENT

A third requirement for a meaningful standard is strong enforcement. Just to change the numbers, that is, the measures level of pollution allowed in the air, doesn't do anything. The steel companies have laughed at such numbers in the past and will continue to do so unless there are strong enforcement procedures.

The standard must require the companies to install and use specific engineering controls and work rules. That means a rigid timetable and constant monitoring to see that the abatement plan is being met. We know that the technology is available. Japan and the Soviet Union have coke ovens with no pollution. Pipeline charging and dry quenching are some of the processes used. These methods not only control pollution but they are also more efficient and produce a higher quality coke than what we have in our plants.

The companies are most vigorous in their fight against specification of controls and abatement timetables. But without this the



George Edwards

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How the bankers are ripping

By MARTY ROSENBLATT
Member, Committee for a
Solid Contract

Over the course of the past year, the major New York City banks extracted major concessions from public employee unions. The concessions included mass layoffs, increases in the share of pension contributions by workers, changes in work hours and agreement by the unions to forego wage increases.

The people of New York City are now paying a higher fare for public transportation, have more children per classrooms, fewer schools and dangerously understaffed hospitals. They have suffered tremendous rent increases and an attack on rent control, tuition in the city colleges and further fare increases. The staffs of the museums, zoos, parks and libraries have been sharply reduced.

This attack on the wages, benefits and the quality of life of the people comes at a time when the banks are making record profits and getting historically high interest rates on New York City and MAC bonds.

THE ATTACK WILL SPREAD

It is important to place these events in context. The attack on the people of New York City is part of an overall strategy which will spread to people in other cities and states across the country.

Since January of 1974, the banks have continually raised the interest rates for the money which New York City had to borrow. The increased interest costs totalled 104 million dollars for fiscal year 74-75. On November 22, 1974 Mayor Beame announced the layoffs of 16,165 employees. The savings to be achieved from these layoffs totalled 104 million dollars--the exact amount of the extra interest costs charged by the banks. From November 22, 1974 the banks increasingly used their control over the money supply to extract concessions in wages and benefits of city workers. In March they cancelled a purchase of New York City bonds.

Between March and July they created an atmosphere of distrust about New York City and its public workers and public services. The banks increasingly stressed the need for a "new way" to deal with New York City's financial problems which they helped create. The "new way" was found under the threat of bankruptcy. First, Big Mac or the Municipal Assistance Corporation was created in July. Then in September the EFCB or the Emergency Financial Control Board was created. Both of these structures, superimposed on the City of New York, directly control the money flow to the city. Superimposed on this structure is Secretary of the Treasury Simon, a former bond salesman for Solomon Bros. He will review New York City's finances and then dole out a federal assistance check each month if he deems appropriate.

MAC and EFCB are heavily stacked with people representing banks, insurance, real estate and multi-national corporations. It is in their interest that these structures were created and in their interest that they intend to run New York City.

WHY NOW?

A natural question is why did the banks move on New York City the way they did, and why at this time?

On May 19-20, 1975, a conference was held at the New York Hilton Hotel. The conference was called "The National Conference on Capital Investment and Employment." It was sponsored by the American Bankers Assoc., the National Association of Manufacturers, the Chamber of Commerce, the Securities Industry Assoc. and the New York and American Stock Exchanges. The subject of the conference was the "Crisis of Capital Formation." Simply put the banks and the corporations feel they will not have enough money to invest over the next decade in things they call capital goods. The estimate for their requirements vary but a generally quoted figure is \$4.5 trillion. They expect to fall 650 billion dollars short of this requirement. They need this money they claim, to invest in such things as: energy, 800 billion; construction, 1.9 trillion; banking, 50 billion; agriculture, 400 billion; steel, 150 million; etc.

Where will this money come from? There are only two places this money can come from in their opinion.

WAGES AND TRANSFER PAYMENTS

This can be accomplished first by having workers work more for less money per day--productivity they call it. Secondly, the government must spend less on transfer payments, i.e., welfare, health, school lunches, public housing, social security, anti-poverty programs, civil rights, cultural activities.

If the government spent less in the public sector, and revised its tax structure and policies to benefit investments by banks and corporations, then the private sector would not have to compete with governments on state, local and federal levels for money. Larger amounts of money would thereby go to the private sector to increase their profits and make greater profit seeking investment possible.

THE TEST CASE

New York City is the first place that a direct attack was made on wages and services under this new strategy. In April, 1975 the Economic Development Council (whose Board of Directors are identical with the Chamber of Commerce and represents banks, insurance, real estate and multi-national corporations) issued a public position paper which essentially said that New York City's budget gap could be solved by renegotiating with the union and eliminating a wage increase due public workers on July 1, 1975. They also attack the pension benefits of public workers and were especially concerned with the effect of these wages and benefits on workers in the private sector. This was the major concession the banks finally achieved: a wage cut and freeze for three years.

The cast of characters of Big Mac and the EFCB reveal the interests they serve. The EFCB has as its chief private sector representative William Ellinghaus of New York Telephone Co., Bankers Trust, J.C. Penney and Bristol Myers. He was instrumental in the appointment of Kenneth Axelson from J.C. Penney as a deputy major in charge of overseeing the city's budget. Walter Wristor of the First National City Bank is also director of J.C. Penney. The other two representatives are David Margolis of Colt Industries, a gun manufacturing company which developed the M-16 rifle for Vietnam and Albert Casey of American Airlines. The investment advisor to Colt Industries and American Airlines is Lazard Freres, a senior partner of Lazard's is Felix Rohatyn, the head of MAC who is also a director of I.T.T., Engelhard Minerals and Pfizer Chemicals. Engelhard Minerals has heavy South African investments. I.T.T. wanted to pay the CIA one million dollars to "destabilize" Chile. Thus, the head of MAC, part of the financial overseeing mechanism which has been imposed on New York City to straighten out its finances, is also the director of a company that "helped" Chile straighten itself out with a military coup, bloodbath, and installation of fascism. I.T.T. also achieved notoriety for its attempt to acquire Hart-



of the people of New York City

Ford Insurance Co. when Ralph Nader Services exposed an attempted "fix" with the Justice Department to drop an anti-trust suit on this case in return for I.T.T. financing of the proposed Republican convention site in California.

Rohatyn was a key witness at the Senate hearing on this case. Lockheed Aircraft was able to receive federally guaranteed loans largely as a result of Rohatyn's work.

The Management Advisory Board created by Mayor Beame at the demand of Big Mac to monitor City programs and to evaluate City workers' productivity is made up of:

Richard Shinn, President of Metropolitan Life and a Director of the Chase Manhattan

Bank; Alton Marshall, President of Rockefeller Center and a Director of the Real Estate Board of New York; William Ellinghaus of New York Telephone, Bankers Trust, J.C. Penney and Bristol Myers and also on EFCB; E. Virgil Conway, Chairman of Seamens Bank for Savings, the head of the Securities Industry Association, President of the brokerage house of Shields-Model Roland, and a main speaker at the "Capital Formation Crisis" conference and one of its chief sponsors; John F. McGuillicuddy, President of Manufacturers Hanover Trust; and other such erstwhile representatives.

We should not forget that the announced keynote speaker at the "National Conference on Capital Investment and Employment"

was Nelson Rockefeller. Even though he did not speak because of other commitments, it was fitting that he be the spokesperson for the banking system. After all, it is his brother David who heads the Chase Manhattan Bank. The Rockefeller interests in oil, banking, multi-national corporations, airlines, foundations, communications and cultural institutions dictate their support for an attack on services and wages.

All of the above shows that the events in New York represent a highly organized attack on our living standards, for the benefit of a tiny banking and corporate elite. It also shows that, even though they have the upperhand now, they are vulnerable to mass action and exposure.

THE TIDE CAN BE TURNED

New York Public Workers start fight back

by JOHN TALBUTT
AFSCME Local 371
New York City

There is no denying that public employee unions took a beating in New York City in 1975. City Hall, under direction by the banks and major corporations, laid off thousands of workers, forced a wage roll-back, wage freezes, changes in working conditions and fringe benefits that hurt virtually every one of the more than 200,000 city workers.

This was done to the applause of all of the mass media and with the strong support of the overwhelming majority of the City Council and both houses of the New York State Legislature. Public employees were told that if their unions did not "voluntarily" agree to give up benefits guaranteed by their current contracts, they would come under the impact of laws passed by the City Council and State Legislature superseding their contracts and effecting even more drastic cuts and layoffs.

Each concession by the unions was followed by only a brief period of respite before

King Kong returns to New York



another "fiscal crisis" developed which, according to the banks, politicians and media, could only be resolved by more layoffs and another "voluntary" agreement.

Although the most recent such agreement was trumpeted by Victor Gotbaum (Executive Director of AFSCME's District Council 37, the largest of the public employees unions in New York City) as promising "three years of peace," there is really no reason to believe that the drive against public employee unionism will not continue.

And, since rather than promising "three years of peace" we see 1975 as the first round in a long fight, it is important to note that the banks didn't have it all their way.

First of all, they didn't even get close to their ultimate goal--to break the unions! Second, for the first time ever they found themselves on the wrong end of a trade union mass demonstration along with some very good educational work by AFSCME's District Council 37 about the destructive rip-off role they were playing. Third, there were two strikes; one by the sanitationmen in July and another by the teachers in September. Both of these strikes were the result of rank and file pressure and willingness to fight. Both were 99% solid. Both received strong community support--particularly surprising considering the anti-union mass media propaganda campaign that had gone on all year. The immediate result of both of these strikes, neither of which lasted more than a week or received full support (to say the least in the case of the teachers) from the top union leadership, was inconclusive. However, both were moral victories. Their effect among other public employees was like a spring wind blowing away defeatism.

So round 1 went to the banks, but not so much that we can't see how to win this fight

RANK AND FILE STRATEGY

The Committee for a Solid Contract is sure that the tide can be turned in favor of public workers. The broad outlines of our strategy include:

1. A bottom line of no layoff and no contract erosion enforced by the threat of a

strike by all public employees. There is growing rank and file support for this position which was in fact adopted by some locals within District Council 37. We feel that the top leadership of public employee unions made a series of terrible mistakes by negotiating behind closed doors and never projecting publicly and to the membership any positions from which we would not retreat. The rank and file was left in a leadership vacuum with only newspaper reports to rely on as to what was being negotiated. This was coupled with the failure to develop the threat of a massive strike of all or most public employees.

2. A trade union program of seeking support among the general public and the various community groups around a common program to save municipal services and stop all layoffs. The policies of the banks and corporations are a direct threat to all but the very richest of New Yorkers. Concrete alliances based on concrete programs can isolate the banks and thus defeat the politicians who march to their tune.

3. A continuing campaign to expose the banks and corporations. The Committee for a Solid Contract was the first to point to the banks as the main culprit behind the City's problems and developed much of the material on the banks that was used by District Council 37. However, the depths of the banks' villainy is still largely an untold story to the majority of New Yorkers. Public employee unions can perform a public service by bringing home to every New Yorker how the banks have placed their profits above the needs of the city.

Two other lessons of 1975 should be mentioned. First, we would have been a hell of a lot better off had there been more rank and file groups among public employees and it will certainly behoove those of us already in rank and file groups and TUAD generally to encourage the growth of other groups in 1976. Secondly, the past year has painfully borne out the need for independent political action on the part of the trade unions. With a very few notable exceptions all the Republicans and Democrats--even those who had received support from public employee unions--sided with the banks in their campaign to rip off public workers. It was a very bitter lesson and one we are not going to forget.

NIXON'S POLICE-STATE BILL

Labor leaders urge 'defeat S. 1.'

by JIM WILLIAMS, Co-Editor
LABOR TODAY

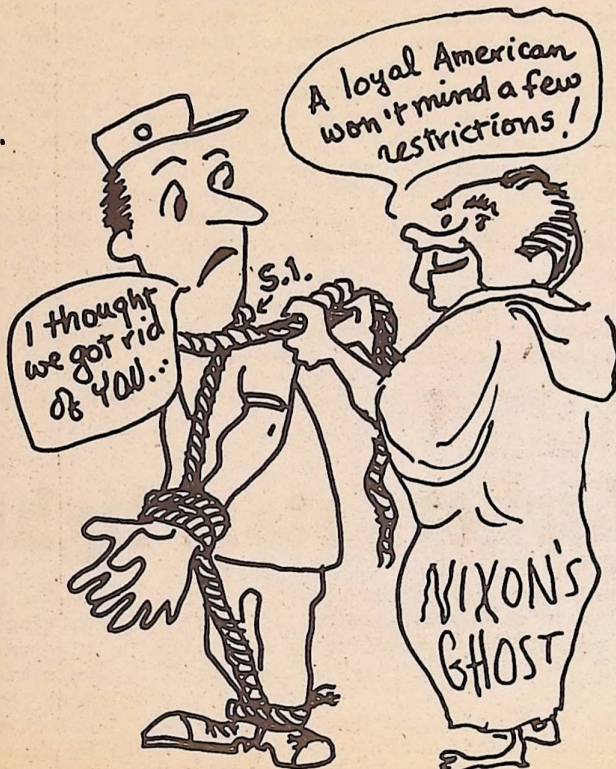
Richard Nixon and his gang of cut-throats may have been driven from office long ago, but one of their major pieces of legislation is soon to come up in Congress--and it would have the effect of making Water-gate legal. It is called the "Criminal Justice Reform Act of 1975," or simply S.1.

Former U.S. Senator Sam J. Ervin has claimed that "S.1 is simply atrocious and would establish what is essentially a police state." Its authors (former Attorney General John Mitchell, etc.) attempted to write into a new criminal code every restriction upon civil liberties, every method and device that the Nixon Administration thought useful in pursuit of its antidemocratic and corrupt policies.

Its 700 pages contain so many provisions that are designed to penalize the labor and peoples' movements that it is impossible to list them all here. But for these reasons, S.1 has been denounced by the United Steelworkers of America, the Newspaper Guild and the United Electrical Workers, among other unions.

STEEL LABOR says that "the insidious dangers inherent in S.1 are of even greater threat to institutions in a free society,

and especially to a labor movement which cannot be truly free if other sectors of society suffer official repression. The AFL-CIO Newspaper Guild has warned that



the bill is broad enough to prevent news-men from reporting on a variety of government actions, including official wrongdoing, or to bar government employees from exposing corruption and waste. The Guild condemns S.1 as a threat to press freedom and the right of every citizen to know how the government conducts itself."

S.1 contains many sweeping, vague provisions which are intended to be used against "criminals," but could easily be used against labor. Strikes could be again part of a "criminal conspiracy" and part of "criminal extortion."

Here is what some labor leaders are saying about S.1.

● Abe Feinglass, Vice-President, Amalgamated Meatcutters: "If they can get an S.1 type law on the books you have undermined the growing movement down below against joblessness and inflation. What the Ford crowd fears more than anything is a broad movement of Black and white, building up against the economic crisis, as you had during the Vietnam war. The S.1 bill would cut the ground out from organizing such a movement. The real question is jobs for everyone. We can get the labor movement behind the fight to kill S.1."

● The New York Chapter of the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists: "S.1 severely curtails the right of assembly as guaranteed in the Bill of Rights, a right fundamental to all trade unionists." S.1 also contains "provisions facilitating the use of undercover agents and provocateurs and nullification of the 1972 Supreme Court ruling on the death penalty; the death penalty being disproportionately applied to Blacks." In addition, S.1 would "reinforce the Smith Act" and give the police "the right to use deadly force against anyone suspected of any crime."

● UE's Washington representative said: "S.1 is a vicious piece of anti-labor legislation and should be defeated."

● Hudson Wells, Washington LABOR TODAY Representative and veteran labor organizer: "S.1 is dangerous anti-labor legislation, the worst since Taft-Hartley in the 1940's. It threatens free speech, freedom of assembly and press. It broadens "conspiracy" laws. These laws have always been used first and foremost against labor and its right to organize. Union leaders had better wake up to what's in store if this bill sneaks through."

● John Sheehan, legislative director of the United Steelworkers, has charged that S.1 would bring back the McCarthy era all over again. "It's a mammoth bill; the AFL-CIO is opposed to it, and we are too. We are concerned about the threat this bill poses to civil liberties."

● Paul Wagner, legislative director of the United Auto Workers: "It would not be the first time that a law was written presumably for one purpose and then used for quite another purpose. When they recodify the entire criminal code, we will have to re-establish our rights all over again."

● Patrick Gorman, Secretary-Treasurer of the Amalgamated Meatcutters, put it this way: "The whole act is an enormous danger to labor as it is to the country as a whole. It is a first step toward fascism."

ANTI-ENA LEADER REINSTATED!

Steel R&F victory at Lorain, O.

by BRUCE BOSTICK, Secretary
1104 Rank and File Committee
Lorain, Ohio

Rex "Auggie" Waldron, Chairman of the 1104 Rank & File Committee, was recently reinstated on orders of Federal District Circuit Court of Appeals in Philadelphia. Auggie was fired in March, 1974, for "absenteeism."

Waldron's firing was U.S. Steel's attempt to intimidate the tremendous anti-ENA movement that has developed in Lorain and also throughout the USWA. This movement is led by the National Steelworker's Rank & File Committee. Local 1104, Ohio's largest USWA local, was the first USWA local in the nation to pass a resolution opposing Abel's infamous no-strike deal.

Waldron was fired upon returning from Pittsburgh where he was part of a National Rank and File suit against the no-strike deal. Others in the 1104 delegation were George Edwards, Co-Chairman of National Steelworker's Rank & File Committee, and Bruce Bostick, Secretary of 1104 Rank & File.

Instead of intimidating the workers, the firing only whipped up their anger and increased their hatred of the sell-out no-strike deal.



Since the firing hundreds of 1104 members signed petitions demanding Auggie's reinstatement and calling for elimination of the ENA. The ENA is now condemned regularly in 1104 resolutions, on the union floor, and in the union paper. 1104's delegation to the 1974 USWA Convention was opposed to the ENA.

Waldron's reinstatement was the culmination of a long, hard fight. Originally a grievance was filed, but was dropped to enable an NLRB complaint to be filed. The decision to go with the NLRB rather than the grievance procedure came after Abel called in a speech for "cutting this cancer (the Rank & File Movement) out of our union." It had become clear that even though the local union would do what they could for Auggie, the International had no intention of defending him.

On November 6, 1974, the NLRB ordered Waldron reinstated, with full back pay and seniority. With no new evidence, U.S. Steel arrogantly refused to obey the decision and appealed. The Appeals Board of the NLRB upheld the decision in April, 1975. The company appealed again. They again offered no new evidence in appealing to Federal District Circuit Court of Appeals. Finally, in November, 1975, the Federal Court (only one step short of the U.S. Supreme Court) ordered Auggie reinstated with full back pay and seniority.

Auggie will now receive back pay totaling \$20,000 and the company has to post an NLRB notice stating that workers have the right to organize Rank & File Committees, and that they will not be harassed for "concerted activities for mutual aid and protection."

AUTO WORKERS FOR SHORTER HOURS

Local 6 backs 30 for 40

by NORMAN ROTH
UAW Local 6
Melrose Park, IL

On Sunday, October 12, 1975, the membership meeting of UAW Local 6, unanimously adopted a resolution to advocate and support the contract demand for a "30 Hour Week With 40 Hours Pay." This is to be our top priority demand for our UAW Special Collective Bargaining Convention early in 1976.

In the discussion on the proposal it was pointed out that the National ALF-CIO has published a booklet entitled, "The Shorter Work Week--A Tool to Combat Unemployment." The well-researched booklet clearly shows that for every hour we reduce the national work week without reducing our pay, we create job openings for one million additional workers.

Today we have the shameful condition of more than 13,000,000 workers unemployed

ACIPCO back pay

(continued from page 1)

For the ACIPCO workers now picketing the Federal Court Building, this has been a long battle. Many of them have been on picketlines there many times before.

CEJO was organized by five Black workers in 1964. The organization grew and now represents the majority of Black workers in the shop. ACIPCO employs a total of about 2500 workers, of whom about 1100 are Black.

In addition to filing the suit in Federal Court, CEJO has carried on an organizing campaign inside the shop and fought against a system in which Black workers were supposed to be represented in negotiations with management by a so-called "auxiliary board" with no power. There is no union at ACIPCO although the United Steelworkers of America has tried to organize there several times.

Although CEJO remains a Black caucus, some white workers have begun to take a second look at the organization in the last few years. In this latest struggle, some white workers have attended CEJO meetings and have supported its work.

CEJO leaders say that the maximum pay a Black worker could make in 1964 was \$2.37 an hour. The decision from the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals clearly outlines how Blacks were kept on lowpaying jobs by overt discrimination, and a biased testing and promotion program. Even after the company was forced to end some of these practices, the past discrimination locked the Black workers into the worst jobs.

The Court also noted that the 1964 Civil Rights Act provided for back pay "not to punish employers, but to compensate the victims of discrimination" and to "restore them to the economic position in which they would have been, except for the discrimination." CEJO stresses that the token payments ordered by Judge Lynne in no way provide for such compensation.

People and organizations that want to support the ACIPCO workers should communicate with Judge Seyborne H. Lynne (3323 Briarcliff Rd. East, Birmingham, AL, phone 205 322-5729) and demand that he issue a fair decree. Letters of support should also be sent to the Committee for Equal Job Opportunity, P.O. Box 2241, Birmingham, AL 35203.

and millions more underemployed. Industry has no plan to provide them with jobs. Our government is dragging its feet as though there were no urgency to the situation. The struggle is thrust squarely into the



lap of the Organized Labor Movement which is entrusted with the duty to protect our nation's workers. Our own jobs are at stake.

Therefore, the ad-hoc committee of UAW Local 6 propose the following:

1. That we involve the greatest number of members possible to actively support the demand for "A THIRTY HOUR WEEK WITH FORTY HOURS PAY."
2. That we work to set up a nationwide UAW Committee to win the "Thirty Hour Week with Forty Hours Pay."
3. That we establish ties with all other labor unions and with city, state and national councils that are working for this program.
4. That we maintain a clear non-factional approach to this problem so that we can win the broadest support for the program. We must avoid those traps that would sidetrack our struggle into dead end propositions that would weaken and delay our ultimate victory in the attainment of our goals. This is the same strategy used to win our Early Retirement Pension Program.

These are the first steps in a long and difficult struggle to win jobs for all.

Boycott
grapes



Coke oven statement (continued from page 3)

layoffs in the steel industry and the skyrocketing inflation will come first. The long-term problem of dying from cancer will be put behind the immediate problem of feeding our children and families.


But we cannot allow our health to be bargained away. The government must set a standard that will fulfill its duty to protect the health of all working Americans. This is the charge of the OSHA law and it is one that must be fulfilled.

Furthermore several thousand coke oven workers in this country are not represented by real unions, and are subject to working conditions imposed arbitrarily by the companies. It would also for this reason be a very bad precedent if OSHA were to rely in any way on agreements reached between the companies and the union in setting coke standards. It would be a bad precedent, and probably illegal for OSHA to do this, since three quarters of all American workers do not belong to any union.

An example of the inadequacy of collective bargaining in setting coke oven standards is the Clairton Agreement. This settlement, reached after the last USWA contract, places the burden of cleaning up the ovens on the workers, not the companies. They have to work faster to meet the maintenance standards, but there are no controls over emission levels.

The ultimate enforcement of pollution control and the most adequate guarantee that standards will be met is to give coke plant workers the right to strike if the companies do not clean up their workplace. We demand that the law provide such a right.

Coke plant workers are basic to the U.S. economy. You cannot make steel without making coke. And coke oven workers will no longer tolerate having to pay for their jobs with their lives. Large numbers have already demonstrated this. To take a slogan from the United Mineworkers, "Coke will be made safely, or it will not be made at all."



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The '76 Elections and you!



Starting in March, the nation's attentions will turn to the New Hampshire primaries and the opening guns of the 1976 national election campaign.

Since 1968, the disastrous big-business oriented policies of the Nixon and Ford administrations have cast millions of workers out of their jobs and on to the streets. The unemployment lines get longer as the unemployment checks get shorter.

Rampant inflation has meant that most workers are taking home less today, in real wages, than they did in 1968.

Nixon's racial policies of "Benign Neglect" have been exposed as malignant assaults upon the living conditions of the Black and other minorities, whose living conditions have deteriorated almost to a point where hope is extinguished. A whole generation of youth walk the streets, destined for a life without promise or purpose, unless something can be done.

As outright hunger in the U.S. grows, so continues wasteful military spending and the threat of wreckless war adventures in the Middle-East and Angola. Defeated in Vietnam, the war profiteers now turn their appetites to new continents.

Can these policies be stopped in 1976? Can the U.S. be turned around? Can full employment and peace be won?

This can also be a year for real labor independence. "There is only one party," said Arnold Miller, President of the United Mine Workers, "and it is the money party. It has a Democratic wing and a Republican wing." By posing its own issues in this campaign, rank and file labor can begin to move away from lesser-evilism to a new kind of politics.

LABOR TODAY will begin the process of helping to separate the chaff from the wheat. We will zap the worst enemies of labor and help to force some of labor's "friends" to take a new look at the issues.

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