

More Murder in the Mines

Industrial Worker

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Fifteen miners died in a methane gas explosion Tuesday, March 9th in a Blue Diamond Coal Company mine in Whitesburg, Kentucky, even though the company had been repeatedly told that the gas level was too high. Nine of the dead were killed in the explosion. The other six survived the original explosion and tried to barricade themselves in a side tunnel, but died when unexpected methane gas leaked in and suffocated them.

Inspectors from the Mine Enforcement and Safety Administration (MESA) had visited the mine and warned the owners about the dangerously high concentration of poisonous and explosive methane gas (which is given off by underground coal), and about the inadequate ventilation in the mine. The mine was actually closed Monday, March 8th, the day before the explosion, due to the high gas levels. The mine worked on Tuesday, even though the gas levels were no lower than they had been on Monday. In these circumstances there was bound to be an explosion, and what set it off is unimportant. For what it's worth, MESA thinks it was a hot-running machine. The morning after the explosion, the mine was closed to allow Federal investigators to make a tour. That afternoon, the mine was working again.

It isn't impossible to avoid mass murders like this one; it isn't even very difficult. What it requires is a decent ventilation system to keep the gas from building up; monitoring the air for gas; and, last but not least, NOT WORKING the mine if there is a high gas level. Of the three, the third is the most basic, most necessary, and most costly to the coal owners. Unlike the '50s and '60s, when the demand for coal was going steadily down, the '70s have seen a steady increase in use of coal. There are a number of reasons for this: rising prices of other fuels, the many problems and dangers of nuclear power, the current emphasis on the US producing its own energy, and so forth. What this means in economic terms is that the coal owners are making money hand over fist, with profits at record heights. Under these conditions, and with nobody sure how long the boom will last, no coal owner lets a working mine be shut down any longer than necessary—and they have some pretty funny ideas about what's necessary.

Far from feeling any responsibility for the hundreds of deaths a year their profits cost, the mine owners say they are persecuted by the "safety-crazy" inspectors of MESA. The owners of the Blue Diamond mine have publicly denied that their mine had either a gas problem or a ventilation problem. Earlier this year, a mine owner whose mine was closed after an accident killed five miners complained: "Every time someone gets a skinned knee we get a closure order." Actually, MESA is very mild about closing mines and assessing fines (for example, Blue Diamond was not ordered closed), and most of the fines it assesses are never collected.

The point is that our lives mean nothing to the employing class. The fines and damages that our deaths bring are considered a sometimes avoidable business expense. If our lives are to be treated as more than replaceable parts of the production process, something must be done to convince employers that it is neither safe nor profitable to continue their present ways.

Recently we've heard a lot about despicable deeds of the political shock troops of capital — FBI and CIA. But what have the employing class (capitalists) been up to with regard to surveillance?

At Blue Bird Food Products on Chicago's South Side, 35 television cameras mounted on movable tracks monitor the performance of the plant's 450 workers. In the monitoring room a time-study "expert" keeps detailed work records on each employee. Video tape gives management "instant replays" of any worker's actions. Travel passes must be obtained from a foreman before a worker can go to the storeroom, telephone, or washroom. And if anyone has thoughts of "escape", a canine patrol circles the perimeter of the plant. By the way, this is a union plant.

In 1974 the J. P. Stevens Company, a huge textile manufacturer in the South, was caught bugging a meeting of the officials of the Textile Workers Union of America (TWUA). In December 1974 the Union won a suit against

As things now stand, the future does not look too bright for the striking pressmen at the Washington Post, Washington DC's largest daily. The pressmen struck on October 1st against Post attempts to break their union, International Printing and Graphic Communications Union Local 6, AFL-CIO. They were joined by all the other printing trades — some because their contracts were up October 1st and others out of solidarity — and by about 250 of the 650 members of the Newspaper Guild, AFL-CIO, which represents reporters, advertising personnel, and clerical workers. The rest of the Guild members decided to scab, theoretically because some of the pressmen had disabled their presses before they left, actually because of the cozy relationship between the Post and its reporters.

The Post reacted to the strike by hiring "permanent" replacements for the pressmen and refusing to bargain with them. In the best traditions of divide and rule, though, it has not been quite so hard on the other crafts. On February 15th, the Guild scabs were joined by the Post's mailers (workers who prepare the paper for distribution) when their union, International Typographers Union Local 29, AFL-CIO, accepted a new three-year contract which included a cost-of-living clause, 70¢ an hour raise the first year, 50¢ the second, and 25¢ the third. By some oversight, the traditional thirty pieces of silver was omitted. The day after ITU 29 began to scab, it was joined by its sister local ITU Local 101, representing the Post's typographers. In fairness to the members of these locals, it must be mentioned that some are still refusing to cross the picket lines, even though the ITU immediately cut off strike funds when the locals returned to work.

The position of the AFL-CIO in the strike has been a strange one. All of the locals involved are affiliated with the AFL-CIO — strikers and scabs both. Meany and the AFL-CIO Executive Council have made statements of support for the strike, but the AFL-CIO as an organization, except for a demonstration and a rather ineffective boycott called by the Washington DC AFL-CIO Central Labor Council, has done exactly nothing to help the strike. George Meany has publicly said that he found it "difficult to see her (Kathryn Graham, publisher of the Washington Post) as a villain" in the strike, because he had "known her as a girl". Outraged at the lack of support from what they had always thought was their union, and desperate because of the defection of the ITU locals, 26 striking pressmen staged a sitdown in George Meany's office, demanding a stronger statement of support from the head of the AFL-CIO. Once there, they found out why they'd been having trouble. One pressman said "Meany has more money tied up in one rug on the floor than I make in a year."

Old George wasn't going to be intimidated by any mere workers, though. Not contented with refusing to talk with them ("They insisted that they were going to stay there until they got some kind of a statement from me, and they delivered what they characterized as an ultimatum. I re-

the Company and collected \$50,000 in damages. The out-of-court settlement stemmed from a suit demanding \$71 million for the spying operation.

New Jersey Bell Telephone Company says 177 of its customers — including the Air Force, the IRS, AT&T, and 15 newspapers — monitor calls, chiefly for checking the manners of workers.

Despite the fact that California is one of the few states which require tapped phones to carry a beep every 15 seconds, more than 600 capitalists are known to be listening in on their employees.

The rightist American Security Council, a private firm, have over 6,000,000 cards on radicals. They boast of having the "largest private collection on revolutionary activities in America". Companies that subscribe to their service can check on the "loyalty" of their workers.

The Communications Workers of America have accused "Ma Bell" and her affiliates of using monitoring to help get rid of unwanted workers, either by building a case to



Some members of the Newspaper Guild do support the striking pressmen at the Washington Post, as evidenced by this picket. (MILITANT photo)

fused to respond."), he had the police come and take them away. "The police told these people that once the building was closed, they couldn't stay there. Some of them left quietly, and others were escorted out by the police (and into a paddy wagon and down to the station. Ed.). And that was on orders of one of my staff of which I approved." All for having the gall to demand that their self-styled fearless leader stop sympathizing with the boss and give them some support.

As matters stand at our press date, only one other craft union is out with the pressmen: the photoengravers, members of Graphic Arts International Union Local 285, AFL-CIO. And they are negotiating a separate peace with the Post as fast as they can, and will probably be back soon. Meany has graciously consented to issue a statement urging the Post to accept binding arbitration. The pressmen continue to picket, and the Washington Post continues to come out on time.

fire them or by intimidating them into quitting.

According to the Wall Street Journal (March 21st, 1974) the IRS in Atlanta "secretly monitors 100 telephone conversations a day between IRS employees and taxpayers asking for help with their returns. The IRS says it does the same thing all over the country."

The Bell Telephone Company has a tightly organized group of 665 security agents, who can conduct legal taps in 85% (they do not yet have a total monopoly) of the US. The Company does not have to go through the courts or report them to any government agency. The wiretaps are allegedly used for investigating phone freaks (individuals who use electronic devices for making free calls). Misuse of this surveillance system is prevented, according to one agent, only by "my integrity and the integrity of those with whom I work". (laughter)

(Sources: MATCH, WEEKLY PEOPLE, LNS, and AP)

R. B. Sheetz

The Boss Is The Spy



Talk about poor and elderly folks getting ripped off by the medical appendage of the "free"-enterprise system had been mainly by word of mouth, until it was found that the same deft fingers had been dipping into the Government treasury, referred to in tones of righteous indignation as the taxpayers' money. One of the big difficulties in keeping tabs on scandals such as these is that in the whole United States there are only twelve medical-fraud investigators. At the same time there seems to be no lack of snooper talent like the FBI, the CIA, customs officials, company dicks, ad nauseum.

Speaking of customs officials, your scribe wandered into one of those cute little import shops that seem to be rapidly displacing poor workers in his neighborhood. Latino faces are being replaced by colorful ethnic pottery. Looking over some of the Mexican cooking pots, the kind that a good mess of frijoles can be whopped up in, I noted that there were neat little holes drilled in the bottom of each one. The sales girl explained that those were put there by customs officers at the border to render them unusable for cooking, in order to prevent the spread of lead poisoning (and to remove unfair competition to Teflon). Mexicans have been cooking their frijoles in these clay pots for millennia, and the only poisoning they suffered was from Spanish or Yankee bullets.

The chief exec of ole United made another of his momentous statements the other day. The Prez sayeth that in view of the present economic crisis, he refused to do anything to interfere with the flow of "free enterprise." Who the ever-lovin' hell is that ski-jum'jin Model T trying to fool? We know it's "free" enterprise that got us into this mess in the first place.

Tricky Dick, that staunch champion of free enterprise and implacable foe of communism, paid an "unofficial" visit to his good buddy Matzo Dung, accompanied by a personal guard of twenty Secret Service agents. (No, none of them had qualifications for investigating medical fraud.) Methinks Dicky is checking out people-control techniques, knowing that the old-style methods of free-enterprise control are falling apart. Our suspicions of the Shining Light of the East are being rapidly justified, judging by the kind of company he keeps.

The media are kicking up a lot of fuss over the US Bicentennial. Hell, we sandbacks are doing our Tetramillennium and see no reason for making any noise. The doctor says it's a good sign when the newborn has a husky voice.

CAC

Swedish Shipyard Layoffs

The now situation for us Kockum's Shipyard workers has clarified somewhat. Now we know that in two years the number of workers will be diminished by 1500.

The board of the enterprises hopes to arrive at this result through voluntary retirements and pensioning. What has happened, however, is that the number of those who throw up their situation has diminished. The so-called work-security law makes it expensive for the enterprise to kick people out. For my part it would come to six months' notice plus 15,000 Swedish crowns.

The Shipyard will have to dismiss 1500, as the State has put this up as a condition for giving out the guarantee money that will enable it to continue production. As it is so expensive for the employer to get rid of the workers, and as these don't resign voluntarily, the foremen have brought out the "whip" and begun to exercise much stricter surveillance and control, hoping for the effect that we will resign from the jobs by ourselves.

With dismissal impending, you might suppose the individual worker would be concerned about his future; but this is not the case, as especially the younger workers look forward to the day when they can use their time as they like.

From the economic point of view, we won't have a care in the world, as the compensation paid by the Government to the unemployed is approximately 100 Swedish crowns a day.

This frame of mind shows the total alienation from and lack of interest in the work that results from having to work for unknown owners of enterprises and having to be ordered about without a chance to influence the situation.

The chaotic capitalist system has to be destroyed and followed by globally-planned economy. When we get that far, we'll know we'll have guaranteed work for tomorrow.

Benny Roslund

UNION ODDS 'N' ENDS

THE COMPANY AND THE UNION AT UNIROYAL (News and Letters): They've got the Uniroyal plant on 12 hours a day, six days a week, even though there are still workers on layoff. The reason is to build up a stockpile for the strike everybody is expecting in the rubber industry (see related article). The union has done nothing about it. Work speed has been raised so often that the workers at the Detroit Uniroyal plant on the seventh floor sat down until the union told them to go back to work. Some workers were called back from layoff and told they would have to work for \$4 an hour instead of the \$6 an hour they got before. A grievance was filed, and the company paid — directly to the union. None of the underpaid workers have seen a penny of it.

TEXAS FARM WORKERS-ON STRIKE: Members of the Texas Farm Workers Union, a former affiliate of the United Farm Workers Union, AFL-CIO, have been on strike at the citrus groves along the Rio Grande since last January, protesting bad working conditions and pay averaging 56¢ an hour. The TFWU is also being evicted from its headquarters in San Juan by the UFW, which owns the headquarters building. The TFWU was expelled from the UFW last summer when members defended themselves against goons hired by the growers to break a melon strike, instead of following the UFW's let-them-beat-your-heads-in policy of non-violence.

SOLIDARITY WINS IN BOLIVIA: 36,000 Bolivian tin, antimony, and zinc miners went on strike to protest the firing of 820 shoe workers. The workers at the Monaco shoe factory — Bolivia's largest — were fired for striking against layoffs and bad working conditions. After two days of the miners' strike, the Government gave in and ordered all laid-off and fired Monaco workers rehired and working conditions improved. As we say, an injury to one is an injury to all.

MAYBE IT WILL GO AWAY: According to United Steel Workers President IW Abel, "Steel workers were fortunate enough to have steady employment during 1975." Sounds as if USW members were doing all right, eh? Especially compared with their less fortunate fellow workers in auto. Unfortunately, Mr. Abel either needs new glasses or never learned to read. The USW has 100,000 laid-off members in the basic steel industry alone. Funny kind of "steady employment", isn't it?

LEGAL BEAGLE NOTE 1: The US Supreme Court has struck another blow for its owners in deciding that picketers cannot picket in a shopping center without the permission of the shopping-center owners, by reversing a number of earlier decisions to say that picketers do not have any right of access to shopping centers under freedom of speech. This will cripple the United Farm Workers boycott, with its heavy reliance on picketing supermarkets, usually in shopping centers, and may hurt organizing in the retail trades, by banning strike pickets in shopping centers.

LEGAL BEAGLE NOTE 2: The National Labor Relations Board has also been earning its keep lately. Ever since hospitals came under the National Labor Relations Act, the business unions have been making a major effort to organize this large and poorly unionized industry. As usual, though, there's a catch. The NLRB has ruled that hospitals can forbid any organizing — even on breaks, during lunch time, and before and after work, when organizing is usually "legal" — in "patient care" areas. The rationale is that the poor sick people need to be protected from anything as controversial as unionism. The lack of sense in this is apparent to any hospital worker: Anyone who's really sick would almost certainly not notice the usually rather furtive process of organizing a union. In effect, the ruling forbids workers from doing anything to support a union in about two-thirds of their workplace.

THE LITTLE RAISE THAT WASN'T THERE: The Government of Argentina has decreed that every worker in Argentina will get a 20% wage increase effective the second week in March. Unfortunately the cost of living jumped almost that much (19.3%) in February alone. Inflation ran 423% over the last year, and is expected to run at least 300% in the year to come. No further raise was mentioned.

GM PROFITS: General Motors reported profits for 1975 up 32% over 1974. What this cost the 60,000 GM workers still on layoff was not mentioned in the report.

GM WORKERS: Local 216 of the UAW in Southgate, California has voted to occupy GM Southgate if the plant is shut down, as the company has been threatening. The Local's Executive Board twice tried to block the motion, and then tried to appoint the Occupation Committee, but were blocked at the meeting. The Committee was elected at the Local's March business meeting.

An Injury to One is an Injury to All One Union One Label One Enemy

Industrial Worker

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Kathleen L. Taylor, General Secretary-Treasurer

GENERAL EXECUTIVE BOARD

The General Executive Board is accessible to all IWW members who want to request actions or express opinions. To place matters before the GEB for consideration, members should send identical copies of all communications to the following GEB members: Richard Christopher, 1151 West Webster, Apartment 1, Chicago, Illinois 60614; Terry L. Dennis, c/o 2115 South Sheridan, Tacoma, Washington 98405; Gary Jewell, PO Box 306, Station E, Toronto 4, Ontario, Canada; Robyn Michaels, c/o IWW, 752 West Webster, Chicago, Illinois 60614; Shelby Shapiro, PO Box 864, Agana, Guam 96910; Red Warthan, Box 171, Stockton, California 95201; Craig Ziegler, PO Box 66913, Fairview Station, Houston, Texas 77006.

Greg McDaniel

Twin City Taxi Strike

A strike in which the rank and file take a position of reasonableness to the extent that we have, and that lays bare a company's policy and actions for all to see, is obviously putting the rank and file in that same "naked" position. And speaking as a picketer, such a strike opens ourselves up for all to see. I for one can't begin to evaluate the effect it will have on me personally, however one clear idea remains; and that is that the strike will not end now, next year, or ever. I'll leave the end to the law books or whoever records the official ending of a strike.

Violence appeared to be the only tool left behind for the strikebreaker, as if everything and everybody just disappeared on the day of the walkout, leaving behind only the last vestige of what might be called a conscience, or at least the space where it was.

This trucker here will mumble along with you and he'll fill in time when it's his turn, mumbling, gesticulating, and inwardly refusing to comprehend the fact that his union, the Teamsters, and our union recognize each other's picket lines as he waits for the police to arrive, and then all together including news coverage bust the line with 20,000 gallons of gas for each scab monster. He'll give a look as he passes by that says, someplace out in left field, you got no choice, buddy, but to gnash your teeth and figure out ways to slash his tires or break his windows, if nothing less than busting him.

Yet the facts are so blatant that actions become real, personal, and automatic. Then there's the presence that insists that you're right, that your actions are correct and will be duly accounted for, etc. And you go on within the law and of the law, and again you become so obviously right, until nature herself says NATURE.

We go back to work with a contract, which includes cab leasing, a compromise on 2% raises for part-timers, a few minor raises on vacations, and a pension. Yet the 9 1/2 day and percentages from the meter raise a year and a half ago stay in effect. The big news is that the drivers have their own union, the Guild of Taxi Drivers and Associated Workers, with a chance to build and grow.

Figures Don't Lie; Bosses Do!

"The First Quarter a Winner!" — Business Week

"Welfare Rolls Down: Economy Better" — Chicago Tribune

"Now, the Ford Recovery, Ford's Surprise Issue?" — Newsweek

"Administration Prepares for New Look at Economy" — Newsweek

With the press's attention toward the US Presidential election, government statistical bureaus are grabbing frequent headlines with graphs, charts, and figures intended to demonstrate a recovery from the economic depression which has gripped the country for over two years. It's a far cry, though, between politically designed statistics and the realities working people face.

There is no denying that the economic situation has improved according to some indicators. Corporate profits and productivity are up remarkably, with wholesale prices down a bit. These figures indicate no real improvement for workers, only for their bosses. They mean precious little to the unemployed. What do the statistics that affect workers and the poor really indicate?

THE WELFARE CASE

In one touted example during early March, the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare announced that the number of families on welfare rolls was down by .3% in November 1975 from the previous month. This, the Government claimed, indicated an economic recovery with, presumably, more people "off the dole and back to work".

Look closer, though. The number of families on welfare in November 1975 was in fact up 8.1% from November 1974, and was up over 15% in the last two years. Even from the previous month, the number of Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) families headed by unemployed fathers increased by 2.1% in November 1975. A more accurate trend indicator, this 2.1% increase reflects in good part the last resort of those unemployed heads of household for whom unemployment insurance benefits have run out. Although some 5.4 million workers now depend for their income on jobless benefits, which run for a maximum of 65 weeks, the Government does not bother with detailed statistics on workers whose benefits have run out. Considering the increase in unemployed heads of household dependent on AFDC and the 15% overall growth in the rolls over the last two years, a one-month, .3% decrease sounds like a Republican Party press release.

Indeed, such a slight decrease in these hard times may shadow bureaucratic harassment against long-time welfare dependents, stemming from the current Administration's railings against "welfare fraud". It is interesting to note here that in the related food-stamp program, the Agriculture Department found that fraud accounted for less than one in one thousand food-stamp claims, as reported in Senate testimony.

THE UNEMPLOYMENT STATISTICS

Recent unemployment figures show similar deceptively-managed statistics. Seasonally adjusted unemployment, say Labor Department economists, was down to 7.6% in February from 8.3% in December 1975. Yet the figures are adjusted more than seasonally.

It is common knowledge that Government statisticians do not acknowledge a great many unemployed workers as unemployed. "Discouraged workers", those workers who at least temporarily have given up a futile search for work in a jobless market, are cut out of the unemployment rate. Further, workers who would work full-time but were forced into part-time positions by job scarcity are counted by the Labor Department as fully employed. Studies conducted by the AFL-CIO's conservative Research Department reveal that at least half of all part-time workers would work full-time, were the jobs available. Allowing for "discouraged workers" and workers involuntarily on part time, the January 1976 unemployment rate would be 10.6% in contrast to the US figure of 7.8%. This figure is low too, considering the number of people who would work or look for jobs for the first time in conditions of high or nearly full employment.

Rather than accurately report the number of jobless workers, the Labor Department this year further distorted the unemployment picture through glossed-over seasonal adjustments, using the steep increase in unemployment in January 1975 as a statistical device to subtract from the unemployment figure. Even Government economist Arthur Greenspan admitted that the seasonal-adjustment formula was off, and the actual employment rate was probably higher.

Such statistical manipulations with the unemployment rate have been common to recent political administrations. Various politicians managed to lower the unemployment rate through one or another adjustment. For example, in 1965, enrollees in government "manpower" and educational programs such as the Jobs Corps were by bureaucratic fiat no longer categorized as "unemployed", as they had been previously, since the institution of these programs in the 1930s. No official or public announcement was made of this adjustment until it came out in a 1970 statement before a House of Representatives labor subcommittee. The adjustment makes a difference under those liberal Democratic administrations that claim the jobs programs are a "way out" of a recession. With their propensity to write unemployed workers out of the unemployment figures for political expediency, one wonders how long it will take Labor Department statisticians to achieve a zero unemployment rate without regard to the real conditions of the job market.

THE EFFECTS

The statistical shenanigans reflect more than election-year rhetoric. Critically approached, they show a genuine decline in working-class living standards since the inception of this depression. Even with the adjustments, a February 1976 unemployment rate of 7.6% is no recovery to anywhere near the 3.8% 1967 level, a year the Government uses for base comparisons. The Administration itself predicts that unemployment will remain at 7% at the end of 1976. In other words, working people are expected to live indefinitely with high unemployment. Granting that the rate of inflation was down to 7% in 1975 compared to 12.2% in 1974, it came nowhere near the pre-inflationary-surge rate of 3.4% in 1972. This decline in the rate increase prompted one somewhat inflated Government economist, Burton G. Malkiel, to term the economy "deflationary"!



A LIGHT SENTENCE FOR MURDERERS: Last June the INDUSTRIAL WORKER ran the story of Mayday at Spencer Leathers in Milwaukee — where, due to company negligence, two workers died and 28 were hospitalized for hydrogen-sulfide poisoning. Ten months later, the Awful Majesty of The Law was (finally) visited upon the company. Sort of. For causing the deaths of two working people, and damaging the health of 28 others, the company was fined the enormous sum of \$1,000. In fairness to the judge, it was the maximum the law allowed him to impose. Of course there was never any question of the owners going to jail or anything. That's for the common folk. What would have happened to a worker who, through negligence, killed two bosses?

POSSIBLE AND IMPOSSIBLE: When we complain about our jobs being dangerous and unhealthy, one of the stock answers is "It can't be done any other way." This is especially true with dangerous chemicals. Complain that a chemical causes cancer, or hurts your lungs, and they'll swear on a stack of bibles that it's the only one that will do the trick and it can't be used any other way. Actually this is bull, most of the time. According to the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, one of the 14 most cancer-causing industrial chemicals in use today (that they know about, anyway) is MOCA (4,4 methylene bis 2-chloroaniline). The company claimed that there was no way of reducing exposure. The union — Oil, Chemical, and Atomic Workers, AFL-CIO — said fine; in that case we are demanding that there be no use of the chemical at all. All of a sudden the company came up with this process that allows MOCA to be used without exposure. More expensive than previously, but less expensive than giving up MOCA altogether. Technology advances only when we give it a little boot in the right direction. (Information from Survival Kit)

QUESTION SECTION: Our readers have not graced us with a question this month. This means either that the column is doing such a good job that nobody has any questions, or that nobody is reading this thing. The "Is Your Job Killing You" column will research questions on job health and safety for its readers. Every question will be answered individually, and the most interesting and widely-applicable questions will be printed in the column.

Really, for a while there things just got so bad so quick that they couldn't get worse at quite so fast a rate.

Already the depression has affected collective bargaining. The International Ladies' Garment Workers Union contract negotiated last January affected 14% fewer garment workers, down to 103,000 since the previous contract was negotiated. The electrical-equipment-industry contracts to be negotiated by the International Union of Electrical Workers (IUE) and the United Electrical Workers (UE), affecting 162,000 workers, are down 21% in employment since the last contract signing. Auto-industry employment is likewise down 27%, with United Auto Workers (UAW) contract negotiations coming due in September. A 14% to 27% decline in membership in any labor organization only strengthens the other side.

THE IMPLICATIONS

This depression is a planned and managed one, as planned and managed as the Administration's snow-job statistics. Its management has thus far benefitted employers and capitalists. Though the Government publicly seeks to maintain a low unemployment profile, the maintenance of high unemployment serves to intimidate working people who still have their jobs. A 1975 second- and third-quarter productivity increase of 12% marks a vast speed-up on those working people who still have jobs.

How will working people gain back what has been lost? The political arena offers no solutions these days. Conservatives seek greater cutbacks in benefits and jobs programs. Liberals advocate some bills creating a few more programs. If history is any teacher, however, and the upswing for business lasts, the working class may break out in a dynamic militancy far beyond what economists and their statistics can predict.

Craig Ledford

SAILOR SACKED FOR SAFETY DEMAND: John McGill was the second engineer on the 900-ton coaster Saint Angus out of Glasgow, Scotland. At the port of Lachaline, the Saint Angus took on a load of wet sand. A little earlier, five deckhands had been lost overboard from a similar coaster, the Lovat, when the cargo shifted. McGill protested the wet-sand cargo, saying that it would do the same. The captain ignored him, and sure enough, on the way to Runcorn, their next stop, the cargo shifted and the ship tilted dangerously. At Runcorn, McGill called on the port official of his union, the National Seamen's Union, to have an inspector declare the Saint Angus unseaworthy. When the captain heard of this, he was not happy. McGill found himself not only fired, but banned from the Government-run hiring hall for sailors — meaning that he can no longer get work as a sailor, for the heinous crime of "calling a union official". The union, in the best tradition of business unions everywhere, has done nothing.

LEAD ALERT: According to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration of the US Labor Department, many lead-smelting plants, as well as other companies that expose their workers to high lead levels, are using dangerous drugs to bring the level of lead in the exposed workers' blood streams down rather than reducing the level of exposure to lead poisoning. The treatment, called chelation therapy, is supposed to be used only in cases of acute, accidental lead poisoning. Instead, employers are deliberately letting workers be exposed to extremely dangerous levels of lead, then using chelation to keep them from dropping dead — which would be bad publicity. Used over long periods of time, chelation damages the kidneys, and can eventually kill the user. The real solution — perfectly possible, but slightly damaging to profits — is to reduce the level of lead workers are exposed to. With its meticulous regard for our health, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration has not yet set any legal standard for lead poisoning, simply issuing a set of voluntary "guidelines" that the boss can follow or not, as he pleases.

CATCH-22 IN THE RUBBER INDUSTRY: In the negotiations going on between the rubber industry and the United Rubber Workers (AFL-CIO), health and safety on the job is not likely to be a major item. According to NEWS AND LETTERS, repeated demands to have issues like the high number of heart attacks and strokes among mill-room workers, and the use of hundreds of chemicals — most of which have never been tested for what they do to the people working with them — raised in national negotiations are being ignored. The only place where the elected representatives of the workers on the job can raise demands is in the supplemental contracts which deal with issues that have to be dealt with on a plant-by-plant basis. You would think that this would be where health and safety demands could be raised. But there's a catch. The companies claim that health and safety is an industry-wide issue that can't be dealt with plant by plant. It would seem that the illustrious URW officials and the beneficent companies don't like having the issue raised at all. Now if it was their lives....

News from Portugal NEW WAVE OF REPRESSION

The democratic and revolutionary movement within the military was developing into something really new. Intense political activity was going on. Some regiments were electing their own officers, and no orders of importance were being carried out without prior discussion and usually a vote. That was too much for most of the officers and for the Government: Who ever heard of an army or navy that refused to obey orders? It had gotten to the point where the Government sent troops to control or silence unpleasant voices (Republica, Radio Renascenca, Radio Clube Portugues). But, the troops, after talking to the workers there, went over to their side. So, the day before we arrived, they sent a couple of experts to Radio Renascenca. They were guarded by one of the few army units the Government could rely on, the paratroopers. But they were told (a lie) that they were to guard a governmental office. And when the "experts" had planted plastic explosives, the studios blew up and the paratroopers blew up too. They held a meeting at the barracks and swore never again to carry out any orders against the people of Portugal. Afterward it was they who guarded Republica against sabotage in their off hours (more about Republica below). Then most of the officers left and went over to another unit, and the military command decided to discharge all the paratroopers, at a time when there are about half a million unemployed in a country of eight million inhabitants.

That's what set off the movement that resulted in a giant step backward for military democracy, a big step backward for freedom of the press, radio, and petition, and a step backward of undetermined size for the unique Portuguese revolution, the 25th of November. That was a few days after we left; but with information obtained from our fellow workers at A Batalha and by reading and discussing here now in January, it's possible to give a general idea of what happened. The paratroopers, urged on by officers and non-coms connected with the Portuguese Communist Party, occupied two military airports, their headquarters, and the TV studio in Lisbon. They demanded that their boss be fired and that they themselves be allowed to remain in service. That was all. It seems that at least some of the party chiefs in the PCP expected not only big popular support for this action, but even military support.

It was a big bust. There were practically no communications at all, not even between the different paratrooper posts. A few workers' commissions mobilized to guard their factories, and some went to the Presidential palace — where they were later fired upon by the commandos. That was about all; the rest of the democratic military was confused, and held meetings but stayed put.

The conservatives and reactionaries, however, were not at all confused. They were evidently well prepared to move, and had just waited for the right moment. The commandos, who'd been trained by their commander Jaime Neves to do the dirty work of colonial war in Mozambique, had been isolated from the democratic process, and most of them were ready to follow any order. One by one they took over the occupied points, usually without shooting anybody. The rightists got the President (Costa Gomes never takes sides until he knows who is winning) to declare a state of emergency in Lisbon and shut off all channels of information in and around the city, while the Government radio under censorship in Oporto sent out communiques and music. All military commanders were ordered to report to the President. Some refused, and that led to the few shooting fights. Fortunately, only five people died in the process. The Government TV made a big deal of the funeral for the two commandos killed, but hardly mentioned the other victims.

A wave of repression got going then that seems not yet to have stopped, with raids on factories and co-op farms, on radical political parties, and on unions. A hundred commandos even raided a hospital, apparently since it had been opened by the LUAR, a resistance movement against fascism that is now working on the grass-roots level and co-operating with our fellow workers. More than two hundred have been sent behind bars, mainly radical military men. No papers or radio programs were allowed for a couple of weeks in Lisbon. Then the privately-owned papers were allowed to reappear, but the six big Lisbon dailies that had been controlled by the banks that had been nationalized in March, were in turn nationalized and forbidden to reappear until a new publisher and board of editors were named (around New Year's). The commercial radio stations also were shut down then, and all now are nationalized — except Radio Renascenca, which has been returned to one of its former owners, the Lisbon see of the Catholic Church.

Thus on one hand, the Government is able to proclaim: "Look what good socialists we are: We socialize the main organs of the press and radio." On the other hand, they can say they are for freedom by returning the "illegally occupied station to its rightful owners, thus guaranteeing freedom of religion as well as of information". As a matter of fact, with both classical and folk music as well as tin pan alley, RR seems at present better than the two Government stations being reorganized and offering mainly banal English and American pop with hourly news summaries for two or three minutes. Cultural imperialism,

I call it.

It is true that there were a disproportionate number of PCP people in press and radio before, but they were usually balanced by the others, and often were themselves quite objective. At present there appear to be plans to shut down one morning and one evening paper, leaving four big Government dailies. There still are several private and party papers in Lisbon. The PS (Socialist Party) has an evening paper, A Luta, very partisan, although not officially a party organ, while the PCP Avante has allowed one of its former editors to start a new daily, O Diario. One of the many Maoist groups had a daily too, but I haven't seen it anywhere yet this time. There are also O Jornal and O Dia, both bourgeois. O Dia appeared for the first time while the bank-owned papers were forbidden. Several other papers appear now more than weekly, including O Retornado (conservative, aimed at the three hundred thousand that fled from the wars of independence in Angola last year) and the excellent Expresso.

Republica is a case apart. Last year, when the conflict started at that paper, we were not well informed and we made some bad judgments. That means us in Sweden at Arbetaren, you in America with the Industrial Worker, and nearly all mass media outside of Portugal that mentioned the case. Most information came from one side, the well-oiled propaganda of the PS with its many spokesmen in English, French, Spanish, and German. Almost all of the workers at Republica speak only Portuguese.

his liking, PS general secretary Mario Soares was quick to grab the phone and squawk — and he certainly expected to be listened to.

Well, Rego refused to rehire the newsmen, so the workers elected an editorial committee and told Rego he could leave. Under protest he did so, and 20 out of 24 reporters and editors left with him. The workers adopted a statute that made them the most democratic paper around, with the hope of becoming the paper for the entire grass-roots movement in Portugal. But they had problems galore: big debts, lack of experienced newsmen. Rego wouldn't give up, and for a while there were two Republicas published. Later the PS and Rego started A Luta, not a very good paper, but with much more attractive makeup, print, and style. For a while last summer Republica's circulation fell to 8,000 copies, and the paper had little news in it. But when we were here in November, it was on the way up again, and with good contacts with the workers', soldiers', and farmers' commissions it was becoming a good and vital paper. It had lost almost all its previous ads and was living again on public subscriptions. These were not enough to make a profit; 35,000 copies had to be sold.

But in December Republica came to its worst crisis. The Government accepted the resignation of the officer who was legally responsible for the paper, appointed by the Government when Rego left in May, and at the same time fired two other officers who were on the executive committee. When this decision was published in the legal journal on December 23rd, the paper was left with no legal leg to stand on.

At an open meeting where some of the workers criticized the paper for being anti-PCP, and others for being too much in favor of other leftist groups (PRP and UDP, for example), while still others said there was too little news of workers' commissions, etc., etc., they decided to suspend publication until they could be more sure; there might even be risk of a lockout. Now they are trying to have talks with the stockholders to agree on a new board. Whatever happens, they won't compromise on the set of principles they adopted this summer, which are based on democracy and the desire to serve as the organ for the grass-roots organizations in Portugal. If it survives, Republica will need and deserve support from workers in all parts of the world.

Political and union activity has dropped quite a bit since November, but things will be warming up soon. One reason is to protest against repression, particularly the four dead and many wounded on the first of January when they asked for freedom for the two hundred and more in prison since November 25th. In November Portugal was probably the freest country in the world for speech and assembly; now it may be heading back to the bad old days.

But the bread-and-butter push for action will probably be stronger. The Government's New Year's present for the country was austerity. That means really hard times for the workers and little people of Portugal. While suspending the results of the latest collective bargaining, they announce up to 50% price increases on such vital things as public transportation, meat, gas and gasoline, postal rates, and potatoes. (They have been on price control, but doubled in price right away when the controls collapsed.) Having tasted freedom and a beginning of a better life, the people of Portugal won't stand by and let the clock be turned back. Now many of them know they can't rely on politicians or on friendly officers, but only on their fellow workers and neighbors. The grass-roots organizations will still make the Portuguese revolution a reality and a chance to end exploitation and injustice.

Dan Levitan



(Grafic from A BATALHA)

Here is their side of the story: Republica had always tried to be a medium for the man in the street. Public subscriptions had paid for the third and latest press. That was under fascism, and the paper was one of the few free ones: never a mouthpiece for fascism, and often censored. Right after the 25th of April it was the biggest paper in Portugal. But it never was an attractive paper: very old-style presses with bad print for both letters and pictures.

Soon the circulation dropped to around 36,000 as other papers looked better and had more features. The publisher, Paul Rego, became one of the big shots in the PS, and when the electoral campaign for the constitutional convention started last spring, he hired several PS newsmen and began giving the other men unimportant assignments. Then, in an "economy move", he fired several newsmen, none of them PS people. But when he then hired some more PS men, that was too much. At a meeting the majority of the employees demanded that the fired newsmen be taken back before hiring new men. At the same time it became apparent that the paper was becoming more and more of a PS organ without mentioning the fact. Not just in its editorial policy, but even in its news coverage — more about the PS some days than about all the other eleven parties competing in the elections put together. It wasn't very pleasant work for the typesetters sitting in their drafty room (some of the walls and ceilings have gaping holes and the wind blows right in, while the editors sit comparatively comfortably after Paul Rego's remodeling) — printing inch after inch of propaganda against their own opinions for a paper called "independent". And when something did come into the paper not to



This poster was one made and distributed by a group of workers, students and artists in Paris during the 1968 strikes. Translation: THE BOSS NEEDS YOU—YOU DON'T NEED THE BOSS. Atelier Populaire/LNS

HOW WORKERS RUN LISBON HOTEL

ARRIBA HOTEL: A YEAR OF SELF-MANAGEMENT

(This interview was translated from the December 20th A BATALHA.)

Almost all of the self-management experiences in Portugal result in a struggle for survival and continuation of work. In trying to overcome this problem, some of the collective management units, in order to achieve a better perspective and a stronger social awareness, have accepted very important mergers with other areas in the same business activities or even with more diversified popular organizations. It is obvious that without a union structure to co-ordinate and define such experiences, they will be limited to their own zones or regions.

On November 9th, 1974, a tourist complex of Arribas (hotel and motel) became self-managed, and according to what we could observe, this struggle was reduced to the continuation of the hotel-motel only.

THE CAUSES

The collapse of this enterprise occurred in 1973, and a committee of creditors was then formed to investigate the hotel-motel, in order to get back the money they had invested in it (...). In October 1974, when the contract of this committee was about to expire, the workers decided to request a vacation and a Christmas bonus. The request was declined by the committee. The argument was that "Since we are not owners, but merely creditors and investigators, we do not have to accept the workers' demands." They threatened to take the case to the Supreme Court... and, worse yet, they threatened to close up the installations.

Workers' Committee:

"Therefore, we had to get involved in the matter if we were to keep our jobs. And that was what we did. There was a need for funds; therefore, we requested them from the Ministry of Labor and from the Department of Tour-

ism, which promised to give us 100 contos for salaries, with the request that five persons sign the contract. These five persons (all heads of departments) were elected, later, as members of the Workers' Committee. Furthermore, the Department of Tourism requested that a Government official supervise the hotel administration, which was accepted."

THE FUNCTIONING OF THE COMPLEX

One hundred contos were not sufficient to operate this tourist complex; the workers, therefore, gave some of their own money to buy the foodstuffs, etc. During the first two months, the struggle was not an easy one.

Workers' Committee:

"Although the personnel were not prepared for this self-management business, they continued with the struggle until the end. There were times when they had to work from 10 to 14 hours, or even more. The personnel were becoming accustomed to being paid when there was money. Each person is responsible for himself. We hold weekly meetings to discuss every matter and solve the problems which come up. The workers are neither owners nor 'capitalists' in any way. Those who are admitted come and go as workers."

PROFIT?

Workers' Committee:

"The problem of profit in the situation we are now in is very difficult to solve. The profit we have made so far has been used to reimburse the workers who loaned the money and to pay the 100 contos to the Department of Tourism. We did not want to keep any money which could be useful to the workers. All this was paid in January. The practical solution we found for the profit was to invest it in new jobs — at the beginning we were only 28

workers, now we are between 40 and 45 — to improve working conditions, etc.... In all this we have already invested from 500 to 600 contos."

SALARIES?

Workers' Committee:

"Since under self-management we cannot guarantee the use of union contracts, we have to draw up our own. Women were discriminated against before here. They were making the minimum salary and had to pay the regular price for their meals. Now the working rules apply to everyone and the salary is the same. The highest salary was 9 contos (chef); his salary was not raised. The women making 3500\$00 were raised to 5500\$00. We tried, therefore, to make all salaries as equal as possible. They also received paid vacations and the 13th-month salary."

HOW DID THE CONSUMERS REACT?

Workers' Committee:

"When we started this struggle, we requested the support of everyone. The response was good, especially from the Renascença Radio Station and the Republica, which made an appeal to the workers to attend our headquarters. This was the first case of self-management, we believe, in the hotel industry. Due to publicity, we began to notice the difference. While our customers used to be few during weekends, now the hotel is filled to capacity. The working mass seems to support us. We gave parties and reduced the prices of accommodations 50% and the price of meals 25% for the off season."

WHAT ABOUT THE FUTURE?

Workers' Committee:

"Basically it belongs to the suppressed masses, and we are hoping to pay off our debts, which amount to 65 thousand contos. The state invested 25 thousand contos and the national banks 22,000 contos. As you can see, the state is in control — the largest creditor."

A Batalha (The Battle):

"As for us, perhaps it explains the 100 contos loan.... Are they related to other popular organizations, co-operatives, Workers' Committee, residents, etc.?"

Workers' Committee:

"No.... We have not considered this question in our daily struggle."

WHY NOT?

Note: Although we did not receive a direct answer, they told us that they didn't know nor had they read anything about self-management.

AGRARIAN COMMUNES

REVOLUTION IN THE COUNTRY:
COLLECTIVISM IN ALENTEJO

This is the report of a comrade who visited the Argeo Co-operative about 120 kilometers from Lisbon.

We are sitting in the meeting room at a wooden table; some members of the co-operative — they also call it a commune — are describing to me the reasoning behind the founding of the commune and its functions. As an introduction, one of the fathers says to me: "The Portuguese revolution is being made from day to day, and we are the ones who make it...."

The idea of the commune came from a group of workers who had emigrated to France. "When we were in France," one of the men explained to me, "we had already thought about unionizing ourselves in order to solve our problems; but only since April 25th, 1974 have we spoken seriously of the possibility of forming a farmers' production co-operative. When we found land in Argeo, the project began to be realized...."

"In the beginning," said Joakim, "we had only one acre; now we already have around 200, from which most of the small landowners come. They have given us this land because they cannot work it for some reason (age, for example). On these 200 acres we grow wine (grapes), 2,000 olive trees, as many fig trees, and a great number of tomatoes. We decided on tomatoes because there is a tomato-canning firm nearby. Today the co-operative is the main supplier for this firm."

"Even though the co-operative is mainly agrarian, we have decided also to include some livestock (sheep, cows, pigs), and we are beginning to organize a food co-operative for the workers of the area. These comrades often help other farmers; the carpenter, for example, invests his earnings in the collective."

"In Argeo, as in other country co-operatives, money is the biggest problem. The most important means of production belong to the capitalists. From there come our difficulties. We have applied to different banks for loans, and most of these applications have been unanswered. Meanwhile — and this is no irony — the Bank Espírito Santo (one of the largest capitalists) granted a credit of

200,000 escritos which, with the 800,000 from the Institute for Agrarian Reorganization and about 240,000 obtained through the help of the comrades, enabled us to launch our experiment. Until when? That we don't know, but we can say that despite the difficulties that come upon us from the capitalist industrial apparatus, the co-operative will not give in so easily. We know how hard it is to make our dreams a reality, and we also know that the further the realization goes, the greater the hindrance will be. In fact these sentences are in the introduction to the co-operative statutes.

"All members know what we intend: the radical change of the ties of living together and the work relationships between people."

"In the statutes can also be read: Since salary and profit are the basis of every capitalist enterprise, they are abolished by the co-operative. Right now, there is no concept of wages in Argeo. The profit achieved is divided among the members according to work time. A member can even give lessons in a school, but he has the moral obligation to give the money (earned thereby) to the co-operative in order that it can be divided. Every member, from engineer to worker, receives as much money as the others."

"All of that," says Joakim, "appeared to us at the beginning as a dream, but we are realizing it slowly. There are now about thirty members — mainly ex-immigrants — in the co-operative. Above and beyond the active members, the statutes provide for the membership of persons who without working the entire time in the co-operatives contribute to their development. The co-operative has about 100 such members in the region."

There are all together 130 men and women changing their working and living conditions. And Argeo is not unique. Country co-operatives with self-government are today a social reality in Portugal. In parting, a member offered me his hand and said: "We are attempting to go further than the parties suggest; we are going about the business of making our revolution."

BEFREUNG



NEW SONGS TO FAN THE

The IWW has always been known as a singing union. That hasn't changed. In addition to the classics in the "Little Red Song Book", members continue to write songs and parodies that reflect their times and experiences as well as their hopes for the future. We present a few of them here. Songs to familiar melodies simply have been printed with a reference to the original tune. Lead sheets have been provided where possible for new compositions. Try singing some of them. After all, they may be the classics of the future.

AUGUSTANA STRIKE SONG

This song was composed on the picket line at Augustana Nursery and was a co-operative effort of several of the strikers. It was one of several so composed in the best tradition of the topical labor song. The selection of the religious song "Doxology" for the tune was particularly apt, since the workers were on strike against Lutheran Welfare Services.

AUGUSTANA STRIKE SONG ("Doxology")

by SEIU Strikers

Praise Lutheran gods who scrimp and save,
Their ministers who rob the grave,
Praise church's wealth and property,
Tax-free rewards for sanctity!

This Lutheran pitch is guaranteed
To fill a guilty conscience need.
They'll squeeze your heart and tear their hair
To pay for scabs and half-assed care.

They'll pay so they won't have to see
This threat to their security,
Just hide them at this nursery
Behind false Christian charity.

They'll tell you that your work is grand,
They'll pat your back and shake your hand.
A boss will greet you at the door,
But give you not a penny more!

ROLL THE HOURS BACK

Many of the parodies of Joe Hill, Mac McClintock, and others were to contemporary popular songs. Although rock music has been popular for years, there have been few rock parodies. So here's one.

ROLL THE HOURS BACK ("Rock Around the Clock")

by The Irish Cowboy

First we worked twelve,
then ten, now eight,
And I don't understand
why we have to wait

(Chorus)

Just to roll the hours back again,
We're gonna roll the hours back again,
We're gonna roll, we're gonna roll,
We're gonna roll the hours back.

One worker, two workers,
three workers, four
Locked outside of the
factory door.

Shoutin' roll the hours back again,
We're gonna roll the hours back again,
We're gonna roll, we're gonna roll,
We're gonna roll the hours back.

Hundreds of the hungry,
thousands of the poor,
Millions of the workers
marchin' on the door,

Singin' roll the hours back again,
We're gonna roll the hours back again,
We're gonna roll, we're gonna roll,
We're gonna roll the hours back.

Bosses by the dozen,
bosses by the gross,
Bosses by the carload
Feein' real morose

Hearin' roll the hours back again,
We're gonna roll the hours back again,
We're gonna roll, we're gonna roll,
We're gonna roll the hours back.

(Repeat first verse and chorus)

LIP SONG

Ballads inspired by current events go back a long way. This one was inspired by the occupation of the Lip watch factory in France. The whole story is told in the song, just as it was reported in the Lip Supplement to the November 1973 INDUSTRIAL WORKER.

Musical notation for the Lip Song, featuring a melody line and lyrics: "THERE'S A WATCH MADE IN THE TOWN OF BESANCON, IN A WAY WE CAN CONDONE. THEY WERE TIRED OF THREATS AND LAYOFFS, SO THEY TOOK THEIR FACTORY OVER AND THEY RAN IT THEIR OWN WAY. OH, ME! OH, MY! WHO TOLD THEM THEY COULD DO IT? OH DEAR! MON DIEU! WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO? THE BOSSES, TAKEN BY SURPRISE, TORE THEIR HAIR AND DAMMED THEIR EYES TO SEE THE WORKING CLASS ARISE AND KNOW JUST WHAT TO DO. NOW THIS FACTORY MADE WATCHES AND I'LL HAVE YOU ALL TO KNOW, LIP CRAFTSMANSHIP IS WELL RENOWNED WHEREVER YOU MAY GO. BUT THE FIRM WAS TAKEN OVER BY A LARGER COMPANY, WHOSE BOSSES HAD MADE LOTS OF PLANS FOR 'THEIR' LIP FACTORY. OH, ME! OH, MY! WHO TOLD THEM THEY COULD DO IT? OH DEAR! MON DIEU! WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO? THE WORKERS TIRED OF THESE FOOLS AND TOOK POSSESSION OF THEIR TOOLS, ORGANIZED, MADE THEIR OWN RULES, AND STARTED UP ANEW. THE BOSSES ASKED THE UNIONS, 'CAN'T YOU DO SOMETHING, MERCI?' 'THIS ISN'T IN THE CONTRACT, 'AND YOU'VE GOT TO MAKE THEM SEE... 'THESE UNION BUREAUCRATS WERE SCARED, AND I'M QUITE SURE THEY TRIED, THEY TALKED TO THE FACTORY COMMITTEE, THEN THEY WRUNG THEIR HANDS AND CRIED, 'OH, ME! OH, MY! WHO TOLD THEM THEY COULD DO IT? OH DEAR! MON DIEU! 'WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO? 'THESE WORKERS VOTE ON EVERYTHING. 'THERE IS NO WAY WE CAN PULL STRINGS, 'AND WE'RE AFRAID THEY'RE PRACTICING 'DEMOCRACY THAT'S TRUE. SO THE BOSSES ASKED THE POLICE, 'IS THERE NOTHING YOU CAN DO? 'THESE BLACKGUARDS STOLE OUR FACTORY, 'SIXTY-FIVE THOUSAND WATCHES, TOO! 'AND THEY'RE MAKING AND SELLING WATCHES! 'ARREST THEM ALL, AND FAST!' 'THE POLICE SHRUGGED, 'ONE CAN'T ARREST 'THE ENTIRE WORKING CLASS.' OH, ME! OH, MY! WHO TOLD THEM THEY COULD DO IT? OH DEAR! MON DIEU! WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO? SO THE COPPERS SEIZED THE FACTORY, AND THREW THE WORKERS OUT, YOU SEE. SO THEY STARTED THE NEW LIP FACTORY IN THE BASEMENT OF A SCHOOL.

Words and Music by Kathleen Taylor

In nineteen hundred seventy-three,
In the town of Besancon,
The LIP workers made history
In a way we can condone.
They were tired of threats and layoffs,
They were tired of cuts in pay,
So they took their factory over
And they ran it their own way.

Oh, me! Oh, my!
Who told them they could do it?
Oh dear! Mon dieu!
What are we going to do?
The bosses, taken by surprise,
Tore their hair and dammed their eyes
To see the working class arise
And know just what to do.

Now this factory made watches
And I'll have you all to know,
LIP craftsmanship is well renowned
Wherever you may go.
But the firm was taken over
By a larger company,
Whose bosses had made lots of plans
For "their" LIP Factory.
Oh, me! Oh, my!
Who told them they could do it?
Oh dear! Mon dieu!
What are we going to do?
The workers tired of these fools
And took possession of their tools,
Organized, made their own rules,
And started up anew.

The bosses asked the unions,
"Can't you do something, merci?"
"This isn't in the contract,
'And you've got to make them see...'
These union bureaucrats were scared,
And I'm quite sure they tried,
They talked to the factory committee,
Then they wrung their hands and cried,
'Oh, me! Oh, my!
Who told them they could do it?
'Oh dear! Mon dieu!
'What are we going to do?
'These workers vote on everything.
'There is no way we can pull strings,
'And we're afraid they're practicing
'Democracy that's true."

So the bosses asked the police,
'Is there nothing you can do?'
'These blackguards stole our factory,
'Sixty-five thousand watches, too!
'And they're making and selling watches!
'Arrest them all, and fast!'
'The police shrugged, 'One can't arrest
'The entire working class.'
Oh, me! Oh, my!
Who told them they could do it?
Oh dear! Mon dieu!
What are we going to do?
So the coppers seized the factory,
And threw the workers out, you see.
So they started the new LIP Factory
In the basement of a school.

'Twas on September 29th,
They marched on Besancon,
LIP workers and supporters, too,
One hundred thousand strong.
The proletarian vanguardists,
The Commies and their crew,
Saw there was little they could say,
Still less that they could do (but sigh)
Oh, me! Oh, my!
Who told them they could do it?
Oh dear! Mon dieu!
What are we going to do?
Such acts require discipline,
Theoretical knowledge of Lenin,
Party leadership, carefully chosen,
And correct timing, too.

Now I'll conclude my story,
And I hope you've listened well
To the tale of the LIP takeover;
That is all I'm going to tell.
But some day, fellow workers,
We, too, shall seize the time,
And parasites around the world
In harmony will chime,
'Oh, me! Oh, my!
'Who told them they could do it?
'Oh dear! Mon dieu!
'What are we going to do?'
'The working class have risen on masse
'To take control of their lives at last!
'A revolution's come to pass!'
(With that I bid adieu.)

SONG FOR SECTARIANS

US members are not the only ones writing songs. Jim Burns, a British Fellow Worker, penned this one. It reminds us of an American song of the same name that we seem to remember appeared in the infamous "Bosses' Songbook" a few years back. Fellow Worker Burns suggests improvised guitar accompaniment to stress rhythm and specific point. "Special Branch" is the political wing of the British police.

SONG FOR SECTARIANS

by Jim Burns, X320132

"We entered the year of '76
with Capitalism in decline,
I decided to help it on its way,
and sign on that dotted line.

I joined up with the IMG,
and got into the fray,
but there was a disagreement,
and I moved along the way.

I gave my all to the WRP,
and held the banner high,
until we fell out on policy,
and they labelled me a spy.

The IS were next on my left list,
I sailed into their fight,
then we hit a point of principle,
and I suddenly saw the light.

I moved over to the RSL,
and then to the RCP,
I even tried the YMCA,
but none were right for me.

So I opened a small office,
and the plaque upon the wall
had the letters "IWRSL"
and "Soon may Capitalism fall."

I issued an eight-page paper
which attacked the other groups,
then I put out a manifesto,
and waited for my troops.

A year later there were ten of us,
and there would have been more,
but we had a factional struggle,
and expelled the other four.

But we carried on our work
toward the great change
by fighting the left-wing parties
that came within our range.

And now the group I founded
has purged me from its ranks,
and for my early efforts
never a word of thanks.

But I'll show them I'm strong,
I'll bring about their fall.
I'll sign with the Special Branch,
and inform on them all.

FLAMES OF DISCONTENT

WOBBLY FROM SPACE

This is a different kind of ballad — about something that hasn't happened yet. Leslie Fish took the characters from the popular "Star Trek" television science-fiction program and decided to see what would happen if they encountered "a little old union man". It was first sung to enthusiastic audiences at the IWW conference last September, and was a show-stopper at a convention of "Star Trek" fans. Sheet music will soon be available from the Chicago Branch.

Musical notation for Wobbly From Space, featuring a melody line and lyrics: "VERSE LISTEN AND I'LL TELL YOU A TALE THAT I'VE BEEN TOLD OF A UNION ORGANIZER WHO KNOCKED A STARSHIP COLD. THEY MET WHERE THE STARS ARE SCATTERED OUT ON THE GALACTIC RIM, AND STARFLEET COMMAND IS SORRY THAT THEY EVER RAN INTO HIM. FOLD UP YOUR GUNS! RUN WHILE YOU CAN! LOOK OUT! HERE COMES THE UNION MAN!"

WOBBLY FROM SPACE

by Leslie Fish

(1)

Listen and I'll tell you a tale that I've been told
Of a union organizer who knocked a starship cold.
They met where the stars are scattered thin on the Galactic Rim
And Starfleet Command are sorry that they ever ran into him.

(Chorus)

Fold up your guns! Run while you can!
Look out! Here comes the Union Man!

(2)

The ship was patrolling Rim stars when they got a call for aid,
And up came a local convoy in a hurried grim parade,
Saying: "Captain, we've got a monster who's too much for us by far,
So take him, please, and throw him in the heart of the nearest star."

(Chorus)

(3)

"Just why do you need a convoy?" the Captain wished to know.
"Three ships to guard the other, or he'll grab it as we go!"
Now the Captain was intrigued, and he said "Stand by for a scan."
But all that showed on the viewing screen was a little ol' union man.

(Chorus)

(4)

The Captain said "I can take him," and beamed the man aboard.
The convoy turned and raced away, crying "Thank the Lord!"
Then the Captain looked him over, and said: "Just what's going on,
"That they sent out half their trade fleet just to make sure you were gone?"

(Chorus)

(5)

The little ol' man just chuckled, saying: "Captain, don't you know?
"My job is organizing wherever I may go."
"Yes, and I can build me a union out of anything you've got;
"And the folks who run that planet, well, they disliked that a lot."

(Chorus)

(6)

"I first unionized the laborers, then I organized the clerks.
"Then I unionized the robots who staff the atomic works.
"But when I organized the milk cows and led them out on strike,
"Well, you can guess what official reaction to that was like."

(Chorus)



(7)

"All very nice," said the Captain, "but you can't do that in here.
"My crew are loyal Navy men, and we've no cause for fear."
But he heard the old man saying, as he walked out the door:
"Captain, you know, there have so been Navy unions before."

(Chorus)

(8)

The Captain soon forgot him, setting course for Starbase 5.
For all he saw, the Union Man might never have been alive.
Till a troubled ensign asked him: "Is it true, sir, what they say:
"That we've got high-hazard duty without high-hazard pay?"

(Chorus)

(9)

The Captain couldn't answer, except to say: "It's true.
"Starfleet could pay you better, but there's not much I can do."
But when he woke up next morning, he found out what morale was like;
For the bridge was filled with pickets, and the whole crew was on strike.

(Chorus)

(10)

The Union Man walked up and said "I'm sorry to trouble you,
"But your ship is now a job-shop of the IWW,
"We've sent our demands to Starfleet Command, and they said they'd grant us none,
"So we're just gonna keep on sailing until this strike is won."

(Chorus)

(11)

"Now further, we've decided to run this co-op style,
"Giving everyone experience at each other's jobs awhile.
"Now we like you too much to dump you at the first Starbase we see,
"But we've voted you to the galley, and this week's command to me."

(Chorus)

(12)

So somewhere down in the galley, you'll find poor Captain Kirk,
Scrubbing away on dishes, swearing it'll never work.
And ol' Spock as he dries those dishes says: "It might succeed, I fear,
"And please, sir, while you're washing, don't splash water in my ear."

(Chorus)

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POSSE COMITATUS



Members of the Posse Comitatus tried to stop Farm Worker organizers from getting to the fields around Stockton last year. (AFL-CIO NEWS photo)

The California AFL-CIO has called on law-enforcement authorities to investigate Posse Comitatus following a confrontation between members of the group and organizers for the United Farm Workers late last summer. Three Posse members were arrested after they tried to block UFW organizers' access to a field. (Dozens more were NOT arrested for doing the same thing — successfully, Ed.) The incident was reported by the national media, sparking an upsurge of interest in the group's vigilante activities.

Most of the recorded incidents of Posse activity, however, have been confrontations with law-enforcement authorities. The attitude of the Posse toward law-enforcement officers, especially Federal ones, is an outgrowth of the feeling on the part of many right-wingers that "pro-communist elements" of the Justice Department were responsible for the demise of the Minuteman organization. Police officials, on the other hand, are increasingly concerned about the Posse.

"They're nothing but a bunch of vigilantes," said San Joaquin (California) County District Attorney Joseph Baker in an interview with the Los Angeles Times.

Posse Comitatus confrontations with law enforcement have included the following:

* An IRS agent in Wisconsin was confronted by five gun-toting members, photographed, and subjected to questioning after he called upon a farmer in an attempt to verify the price of a farm.

* In Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, 30 men surrounded a policeman on his way to testify against a Posse member charged with assault with a deadly weapon.

* IRS agents in Sacramento, California were confronted by the Posse when they showed up to collect delinquent taxes.

An editorial published by Posse members in the National Chronicle elaborated on this point: "It will soon be dangerous for any elected official to return home, there to face a court of white, Christian Americans who have chosen to die rather than accept a treasonous offer of national slavery by those whom they have elected to office with the full understanding that they would defend the Constitution and not throw it to the dogs as they have done."

"You officials were sent to Washington to represent white Christian Americans, and NOT the riffraff Jews, Negroes, and other crosses as you have. It would be far better if you left America as did Benedict Arnold."

If law-enforcement estimates of the sensational growth of Posse Comitatus are to be believed, they have already equaled the size of the Minuteman organization at its zenith, and are showing no signs of slacking off.

The Posse, according to its leadership, isn't content with a membership that "sits home and reads and twiddles its thumbs and complains how bad things are".

"We have everything in the way of information that the John Birch Society has, plus more. Once the public is aware of what's happening, why, hell, this is a whole new ballgame."

After maintaining a low profile over the last half-dozen years, and generally avoiding faction fights, Posse Comitatus is emerging as an organization which aims to unite rightist paramilitary organizations throughout the United States into a cohesive force. Since the demise of the Minuteman organization in the late '60s, rightist paramilitary activities have been conducted mainly by local vigilante-type groups whose effectiveness has usually been very limited. With the emergence of Posse Comitatus (it claims 400,000 members, law-enforcement sources say 10,000), the far right is rising again.

Unlike the Minuteman organization, Posse Comitatus is decentralized in its structure. Local chapters, rather than the national leadership, are responsible for developing both strategy and tactics. Points of unity for the Posse are outlined in a blue-book statement containing mostly generalized statements of rightist philosophy, with a new twist: In addition to identifying communists as their main antagonists, Posse philosophy recognizes law-enforcement officials (and government in general) as antagonistic forces. The only authorities recognized by Posse members are county sheriffs, and even they can be subject to reprisals for acting in ways not approved by Posse Comitatus interpretation of Constitutional law.

The national chairman of Posse Comitatus, H. L. (Mike) Beach, began setting up Posse "charters" in 1969, and now claims affiliates in 48 states. Posse membership has been reported to overlap with other rightist groups, including the US Taxpayers Union. Charters are granted upon payment of \$21 in dues and the signatures of seven men. What each group does after the charter is granted is pretty much its own affair. Some groups are openly racist and anti-Semitic; others are not in keeping with the Posse's concept of decentralization.

(Editor's note: The Posse Comitatus came into national prominence last summer, when they were active in "protecting" California growers from the "invasion" of their property by United Farm Workers Union organizers. As an effective national right-wing group, the Posse Comitatus poses a grave danger to the union movement. Groups like the Posse are currently being used in Europe against the labor and tenants' movements, with unfortunate effectiveness. The following article is reprinted from Counter-spy, information supplied by the Terrorist Information Project of the Organizing Committee for a Fifth Estate.)

Locked Out of the Locker Room

On March 1st, Major League baseball's spring training was scheduled to begin. However baseball owners, in light of recent legal decisions regarding the reserve system (see the February 1976 Industrial Worker) and the impasse in negotiations with the players, have called a lockout.

The baseball owners have been reluctant to make any concessions to the Players Association on the reserve clause in the contract (which binds the player to the team that originally signs him or wherever that team trades him) pending the appeal of the ruling by the Federal arbitrator (upheld in Federal Court) which nullified it in December. At this writing, the ruling has been upheld in the Eighth Court of Appeals in Saint Louis, Missouri. The decision, like previous ones, advised the two parties to negotiate a settlement, something which the owners have steadfastly refused to do. In fact as long ago as the Curt Flood Versus Baseball Suit of 1970, Bill Veeck, now owner of the Chicago White Sox and formerly owner of other teams, testified that "owners should accept that the courts would strike down the reserve clause", and more recently said that the reserve rule was "indefensible, morally or legally". Veeck is opposed to the lockout and wanted to open his camp, but fearing the possible lifting of his franchise, has opened it only to those players not on the forty-man major-league roster.

Meanwhile, the players were open to compromise. That is, until the March 9th appellate-court decision. The owners' best offer to date has been to grant free-agent status to players after eight years. White Sox radio announcer Harry Carey speculated that the owners had blown their superior position by waiting out the courts.

The rostered players, meanwhile, have been working out on their own at college fields around Florida and Ari-

zona. They have been conducting their own practices despite admonitions by some managers that players don't

know how to get themselves in shape. Bob Watson, player representative of the Houston Astros, counters that they've all been through spring training before, and that although their practices are looser, they are still effective.

The players on different teams have been working out together and playing games together. The Mets and the Pirates, for example, pooled themselves and chose captains who in turn chose teams, sandlot style.

The players are ready to talk. This despite attempts by some owners to isolate players and negotiate with them individually or in small groups, and otherwise try to break the union. Players have even conceded the necessity for some sort of reserve system. Still, negotiations are bogged down by the owners' unwillingness to compromise.

However Red Smith, veteran sportswriter for the New York Times, mentioned in passing a syndicated story that Players Association Executive Director Marvin Miller had said that the players could probably run baseball better blindfolded than the owners run it now. They did in 1890, when the Brotherhood of Professional Baseball Players formed the Players League. This was done in response to the reserve rule and salary limitations. There were also no "team jumpings" in this reserve-rule-free league, something that owners insist is inevitable when there is no reserve rule. The Players League failed for lack of financial support. But maybe it was an idea that was ahead of its time. Maybe its time is now.

The Old Southpaw

Teamster Contract Up

There is a lot of pressure on Frank Fitzsimmons and the Teamster leadership during the negotiations on the Master Freight Agreement, which expired in March. On one hand there is massive rank-and-file pressure for a major increase in wages and benefits. On the other hand the Government is breathing down the union's neck in connection with ripoffs in the union pension fund, and the leadership knows that a nationwide strike (there has never been one) or a really big "inflationary" wage boost would only antagonize the Government more. Fitzsimmons has announced a contract target of 40% in wage increases over the next three years. While this is an impressive-sounding figure, much of such a settlement, if won, would simply be catch-up on the old contract. Most workers do not expect the leadership to present them with boosts nearly so large.

Various rank-and-file groups and caucuses have already begun to organize a rejection of the as yet unannounced settlement. Meetings and demonstrations have been held in several cities, and literature has nearly flooded the industry. They might have a fairly good chance to reject a contract bid and force the union into its first nationwide strike if these groups were not so bitterly divided among themselves. Virtually all of the large Marxist sects have set up their own caucuses, or are major influences in groups originally organized by non-aligned workers. They often spend more time yelling "Trot" and "Stalinist" and fighting over priorities and tactics than they do battling either the bosses or the union establishment. Thus no unified opposition to the contract will be possible, and Fitzsimmons's proposal will likely carry nationally. There are indications, however, that certain areas may see large-scale wildcats if a good package is not offered.

REVIEW

"EMMA" ON NEW YORK STAGE

It was with some hesitation that I, accompanied by three fellow workers, walked across Manhattan to that city's far west side for a performance of the play "Emma". Strange, I thought, to almost wish for police protection on the way to see a play about the life of Emma Goldman. New York is none too safe these days as the layoffs and high prices continue. Unfortunately some have found it more profitable, or easier, to steal from their neighbors than to get on the welfare rolls.

In any event, we arrived in plenty of time to watch the cast of the play prepare for a performance and to take notes on the audience. The cast is made up of poor actors and actresses who seem to live from hand to mouth. What little money is collected through the sale of tickets and theatre posters is distributed between the cast, the directors, and the stage crew.

The audience we saw, on the other hand, came from the middle-class suburbs. They knew precious little about Emma Goldman, and were more intrigued by who they knew in the cast and the slums surrounding the off-off-Broadway theatre. We were told later by the actors that this was not a typical audience.

The play opens with a meeting of the American bourgeoisie in the late 19th Century. We see represented company presidents, millionaires, and minor politicians. They are discussing the International Harvester strike. Later we see slides of the strike, and the first time we see Emma Goldman (portrayed by Susan Marshall) is just after the execution of the Haymarket martyrs. Emma was greatly affected by their struggle, as were millions of other workers the world over.

We see the life of Emma Goldman in the workers' movement: the woman's movement, the campaigns for free speech and for birth control. Of course, we also see her companions Alexander Berkman (portrayed by Stephen Randolph) and Johann Most (portrayed by Ed Schiff). A sizable part of the play is devoted to Berkman's time in prison, serving a sentence he got for attempting to assassinate Henry Clay Frick after the Homestead strike of 1892.

Wobblies may be interested to know that the play ends with Berkman's release from jail. Some of the last words spoken in the play are of the great value of the IWW and the then-current case of Bill Haywood's kidnapping. The play gives one a sense of history and struggle which most books can't provide. Because its author, Howard Zinn, is sympathetic to the cause of the working class, this play will bolster the spirit of the revolutionary worker and will educate his less class-conscious fellow wage slaves.

The cast would like to take the play into a prison, but the possibilities of this are rather dim. The audience is treated to a spirited rendering of a speech by Emma Goldman in which she urges workers to expropriate that which they need to live. This is hardly about to pass the watchful eyes of a warden or prison censor.

Something which apparently has not occurred to the drama critics of the establishment who saw the play, but which came to the mind of this wage slave instantly, was the involvement of the cast in the workers' movement. We were able to talk with five members of the cast after the play, and we brought up the subject of joining the struggle. All were sympathetic, and we expect to see more of them in the future. Their enthusiasm—their love for freedom—certainly comes across on the stage.

The script of the play is easily obtainable, and this play can be performed anywhere. I hope fellow workers will give serious consideration to performing it as a fundraising and educational event.

Tony Pestalozzi

HAPPINESS AND GOOD REPUTE

(A practical guide to dealing with doctors)

(continued from last issue)

Next to finances, medical terminology is the touchiest area of doctor/patient relations, and there is no hard-and-fast rule for handling it. In general, doctors consider this area to be sacrosanct, as though if patients can talk jargon as well as they, or understand their mystic mumblings, their tuition money was somehow wasted. On the other hand, there are occasions when the patient is expected to speak and understand this strange patois.

Doctors are exceedingly embarrassed by all mention of human excretory or reproductive processes and by death. If you have a urinary-tract infection, do not, as I once did, say "It hurts when I piss." Do as the blushing doctor once told me to do: "Say urinate." Not all cases are this clear-cut, however, and some of them require infinite tact. For instance, don't say "I think I have the clap." The doctor will think this is in poor taste. On the other hand, don't say "I fear I have had occasion to contract a venereal disease," because the doctor will consider this an unfitting statement coming from someone in your position. Perhaps it would be best to say "I might have VD," the informal "VD" putting you on a familiar but by no means overly intimate footing with your disease and your doctor. Notice, too, the qualifying "might" in the sample sentence. Always leave room for doubt, because if you make a definitive statement, the doctor will be forced to contradict you, as mentioned last issue, and you don't want to leave yourself open for anything like "Oh no, it's just a cold in the penis."

If you really can't understand medical jargon at all and the doctor has said something you feel it is important to know, ask him to repeat his statement in your native tongue. Be careful not to hurt his feelings. Tell him honestly that you admire his vocabulary, but that you have not had much schooling yourself and need to have things explained in the simplest possible manner.

When dealing with doctors, never say die, died, or dead. Doctors do not care to be reminded of their mortality by such blunt statements. On the other hand, don't say "passed on" or "went to join the majority". Doctors will usually consider statements of this nature too coy and view them with suspicion. If this topic of human finiteness should arise, such as when the physician is eliciting familial information during the history, be clinical. "What is the occupation of your sister's husband's father and his estimated annual income?" "He is deceased." "Is your mother living?" "No, she expired in 1970." Such exchanges will not unduly alarm your physician; but don't initiate conversations on this subject yourself, as it will be considered morbid.

Another subject of great delicacy is, of course, finances. Never attempt to discuss them frankly. Doctors justify their existence through money; it is what gives meaning to their lives. Many of them would prefer to make money directly and not deal with the middleman (patient). That is why there is so much competition among them for research positions. Unfortunately, the number of such positions is limited, so most doctors are forced to treat patients; but they never really adjust to this. They consider this an unpleasant necessity in much the same way that a bartender must consider washing glasses the cross of his craft.

Having patients ask them about money is always a very personal matter with doctors; it is like having an unattractive stranger ask about the principles by which you lead your life. Be tactful when discussing finances, but firm; you have a right to an estimate of expenses.

I can't give you much help on discussing finances, because it's such a personal matter that you have to tailor your approach to the personality of the individual physician. I had a strange experience, however, which I shall pass along to you for what it's worth:

I once was being treated at a clinic connected with a teaching hospital where all routine outpatient services were provided for a small registration fee. It became necessary for me to have surgery at the hospital, and this was not covered by the registration fee but was provided at a rate considerably lower than that charged by private facilities. I also had to pay for x-rays, anesthesia, medication, and various devices (such as crutches and braces), all at reduced rates which, nonetheless, totaled a significant amount.

One day, on a postoperative clinic visit, I went up to the desk to register and the woman there looked at my name on the register and said "Wait here a minute," in a most unpleasant manner. She left briefly, returning with an itemized statement. She said "Do you intend to pay your bill or not?" I told her I did, indeed, intend to pay, but I had not yet received a bill. She said "I'm showing it to you now." I told her that I did not feel this was the usual practice; that, more usually, a bill would be sent to my home; but that, whatever their practice was, I could not pay now, since this was a bill for several hundred dollars and I am not accustomed to carrying that much cash. She harassed me some more, but eventually allowed me to keep my appointment.

I was, needless to say, embarrassed about this, and doubly embarrassed because a long line of patients had been kept waiting behind me to register this transaction. The next week, therefore, I took along my checkbook and offered to make partial payment on the bill. The woman behind the desk (same one) became very perturbed and said "Please wait until we send you the bill. It complicates our bookkeeping if the patients come in here and try to pay their bills whenever they feel like it."

On subsequent visits I stepped boldly (or, as it were, hobbled bravely) up to the desk and demanded to pay my bill, and this woman (same one) always insisted that I was making her life hard by attempting to pay for these services. In this manner I kept them from sending me any statements for seven months after termination of my treatment, by which time I was much recovered from their ministrations and better able to view this incredible debt with equanimity.

Well, fellow workers, as you can see, I had accidentally stumbled onto the interesting fact that the same rule of contradiction which we discussed earlier in another context can sometimes apply to financing. I don't know if it works everywhere, because I have only used it at this one place; but you are welcome to try it.

X 33067

(to be continued)

Pacifist Publications

This is the second in a series of reviews on politically independent non-Communist publications. This review will deal with pacifist publications.

All opinions expressed are those of the writer. The IWW is not a pacifist organization.

CATHOLIC WORKER is the organ of the Catholic Worker Movement, a radical pacifist movement of the extreme left. Despite the religious overtones, there are always interesting articles about non-violent direct action, the plight of the farm workers, and prisons. The eight-page paper is published nine times a year. It costs one cent per copy. No individual subscriptions.

CATHOLIC AGITATOR is an eight-page monthly (nine only) newspaper. It's published by the Ammon Hennacy House of Hospitality, a Catholic Worker community. A one-year subscription costs 50¢. Write them at 605 North Cummings Street, Los Angeles, California 90033.

THE MOUNTAIN WORKER is also a Catholic Worker newspaper. It's published quarterly at the Catholic Worker Farm, Route 1, Box 308, West Hamlin, West Virginia

25571. A subscription costs \$1.50 per year.

DANDELION is the newsletter of the Movement for a New Society, a network of autonomous groups working non-violently for fundamental social change. The 12-page Fall 1975 issue (only one seen), which was devoted entirely to sexism, was excellent. A subscription costs \$2 per year. Write MNS Outreach, 4722 Baltimore Avenue, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19143.

WIN is the only weekly magazine of the non-violent radical movement. It is one of the best publications of the entire US left. Because WIN is free of political lines, dogmatism, and jargon, it is very readable. A one-year subscription costs \$11, or five issues can be obtained for \$1. Write WIN, Box 547, Rifton, New York 12471.

Libertarian socialist publications will be reviewed next. Sample copies of any pacifist publications not reviewed here can be sent to the reviewer (see Directory for address). The last reviews in the series will be a hodge-podge of publications.

R. B. Sheetz, Hawaii



Music Hath Charms For Soothing Savage Bosses

AMERICAN LABOR SONGS
OF THE NINETEENTH CENTURY
by Philip S. Foner
University of Illinois Press
Urbana, Illinois 61801
\$13.95

It can be safely said that the history of any nation is incomplete without the songs of its people, and this book certainly exposes a phase of American history that is woefully absent in official history texts. As implied by the title, this volume covers the songs that were in vogue during the last century plus a few that were sung during the last quarter of the 18th Century. Though the politicians of the growing capitalist class of the colonies had finally wrestled political independence from the British Crown, the lot of the ordinary worker of the newly formed United States was far from a bed of roses, having experienced no great change in economic status with the change of allegiance. Many of the states of the newly formed republic had property qualifications for voting which gave rise to a suffrage movement and a call for political action among workers by whom the eight-hour day was not even imagined.

However even in those days it was realized that there is no action like that of the withholding of labor, and strikers had to contend with the wholesale discharging of workers in the interest of cutting down on expenses. One of the songs of that period went like this:

.... In all the past reductions
did you ever hear them say,
To curtail our expenses,
we'll reduce the super's pay?
But rather they'll advance it,
knowing he will do his best
In case of an emergency
to help to rob the rest....

As can be seen, times really haven't changed too much. And at the eve of the Civil War the shoemakers of Massachusetts sang:

Be warned, ye men of Marblehead,
And men of marble hearts,
If we but stand aloof from you
Prosperity departs.

In this particular epoch, employers were already finding out that to cope with awakening militancy of native-born workers was to import immigrant labor to undercut the standards that were being gained by workers here. Despite attempts by nativist propagandists to stir up antagonism between native-born and immigrant workers in order to keep labor divided, there was in many instances a spirit of co-operation and unity between these two groups. They worked together for their own best interests. The immigrants came mainly from Northern Europe, and considerable numbers of German workers brought with them their socialist traditions, which consequently had their effect on the American labor movement. Many of the German labor songs appear here in translation.

For the black freemen before the Civil War, it was a different story. Because of the already well-ingrained racist pattern that was firmly entrenched in American folklore, trade unions and other workers' associations were closed to them. So at that time the only types of black labor songs were the songs of the slaves which reflected their hope for the betterment of conditions as well as ironically commenting on their present lot. A footnote tells how Frederick Douglass, on coming North from slavery, was dumbfounded to hear Northern whites talking of the singing among slaves "as evidence of their contentment and happiness". On the contrary, some of the slave songs reproduced here show an awareness of the nature of a class society that many whites were not yet aware of. With the freeing of the slaves, a fear of competition from cheap black labor was added to the traditional racist patterns of American thinking. In fact, blacks were being used as strikebreakers.

In the post-Civil War days there was heavy importation of Chinese coolie workers to develop the Western mining areas and to build the railroads, naturally to undercut native-born labor, and the prejudice against Chinese became as strong as that against blacks. Unfortunately many labor rallying songs of that time were railments against the Chinese. Most trade unions favored the exclusion of Chinese workers. A notable exception was the Colored National Labor Union, organized in 1869, which made a distinction between normal immigration of Chinese, which they insisted should not be interfered with, and the coolie labor which was brought under contract by the big employers whom they opposed.

The long depression of 1873-79 destroyed many of the unions in existence, but did not destroy the workers' hopes for a better future or the need for organization. Henry Ward Beecher, the clergyman abolitionist who was noted for his pious love of the slave during the Civil War, became notoriously anti-labor during the long depression, and said "... the man who cannot live on bread and water is not fit to live." All ages have their liberals. It was during the Railroad Strike of 1877 that a song, "The General Strike", was composed in which all the high politicians

will find themselves stranded when labor no longer produces the goods their existence depends on.

... We'll see Henry Ward Beecher,
the Plymouth Church preacher,
Giving up his fine robes
for the fair sex to wear.
We will see men of fashion
get into a passion
At their coachmen and footmen
doing just as they like;
You will see Kate O'Connor
with a women's-rights banner,
Leading our working girls
into the strike....

This little verse also shows that women's liberation did not start in the 20th Century. It was at this time that the Greenback-Labor Party, which advocated currency reform along with better conditions for workers, was formed. It fell apart after 1878 when the farmers and small businessmen abandoned or played down the demands of labor and stressed their emphasis on currency reform. But during this time many songs were written to the tune of "Hold the Fort", the English Transport Workers' song that came out at that time and was to provide the melody for many workers' songs to follow in succeeding years. The Greenbacks also gave birth to a song which was to be popular in labor and socialist circles for the next several decades, "Labor's Ninety and Nine", a parody on a famous gospel hymn:

There are ninety and nine that live and die
In want and hunger and cold,
That one may revel in luxury
And be lapped in its silken fold;
The ninety and nine in their hovels bare,
The one in a palace with riches rare....

The first labor organization whose name has survived the oblivion of history writers was the Knights of Labor, which used secrecy as a protection against blackballing of members by employers. They were the first to advocate the inclusion of all labor, black or white, regardless of religious affiliation. The big blot on their stand on labor solidarity was the Chinese issue. Terrence Powderly, the Grand Master Workman, ruled that Asians could not become members of the Knights of Labor, and boasted that the Knights had played an important role in securing the passage of the Chinese Exclusion Act passed by Congress in 1882. However, as the author points out, no labor organization before the Industrial Workers of the World made songs and ballads so much a part of its activities as did the Knights of Labor. And though the Knights of Labor were anti-Socialist, they nevertheless had a "Red Flag" song as well as their version of "Hold the Fort", entitled "Storm the Fort":

.... Storm the fort, ye Knights of Labor,
Battle for your cause;
Equal rights for every neighbor,
Down with tyrant laws!

Aside from the call for political action, no single issue in the 19th Century produced as many songs and ballads as did the movement for shorter work hours. Some songs came out for the movement for a ten-hour day in the 1840s, but the largest source of inspiration was the demand for an eight-hour day. With this came songs of solidarity with the farm worker and small farmer whose labor kept the urban worker nourished. When certain states passed an eight-hour law with the provision that it not apply to farm labor, a verse like this was inspired:

Although the bill that's passed
Stands rickety and lame,
Let's hope 'twill find its feet
When next you try again.
For surely there are none
(To truth and justice dead)
Amongst you to betray
The men who raised your bread.

Many songs gave strong reasons for the eight-hour day: the worker who never gets to see his little ten-month-old girl, or the worker who never sees his son awake because either the boy is still sleeping when he leaves for work in the morning, or the boy is already fast asleep when he comes home at night.

In Chicago the International Working People's Association, an organization of German anarchists whose English-language organ, Alarm, was edited by Albert Parsons, was 100% behind the eight-hour movement. After 40,000 workers went out on strike for an eight-hour day and most of the industries of Chicago were paralyzed, the shorter day was granted. Because of police brutality used against the workers at the McCormick Harvester Works, the IWPA called a protest rally at the Haymarket

Square in Chicago. It was at this mass meeting of peacefully assembled workers that a bomb was thrown by an unknown person or persons. No attempt was made to determine the real culprit.

The powers that be seized the opportunity to equate the bombing with the eight-hour movement, and after one of the most notorious kangaroo trials in United States history, sentenced the activists of the IWPA to be hanged or serve long sentences. Rather than discrediting the eight-hour movement, this government travesty only stirred up further interest among workers, who realized that these men were really being sentenced not for their anarchist beliefs having caused a bomb to be thrown, but for their militancy and effectiveness in the eight-hour movement. The martyrdom of the Haymarket Anarchists had inspired many songs dedicated to the martyrs and to the eight-hour movement which fill this chapter.

Between 1880 and 1900 there were many strikes, unemployment demonstrations, and boycotts. The boycott was discovered to lend excellent assistance to a strike situation, and was also used to continue the struggle when a strike had been defeated. The boycott had naturally inspired many songs, some of which are reproduced here. Interestingly enough, in an issue of the Workmen's Advocate of 1886 appeared a song entitled "Ye Gentle Boy-Cat" along with a picture of the Black Cat symbol twenty years before the founding of the IWW. In an interesting footnote, mention is made of Joe Hill's song "Casey Jones, the Union Scab", who is not even granted permission to enter Heaven upon his demise, and how a factory official in 1884 complained of the difficulties of securing room and board for his hired strikebreakers, as nobody in the community would have anything to do with them. A poem at the end of the chapter set to the meter of "The Raven", printed in 1889, has some strong Women's Liberation sentiment that is well worth reading.

An entire chapter is devoted to the songs inspired by various political-action attempts such as labor parties, farmer-labor alliances, and populism, as well as a few examples of anti-political messages, such as this ditty called "Circumstances Alter Cases":

.... They tax us, and they drive us,
And mock us in our woe;
They tell us we're responsible;
Though they know it isn't so;
And we stand right up and take it,
While the 'bloats' their pockets line,
Oh, we're several million darnedest fools,
About
Election
Time....

It's comforting to know that we Wobs weren't the first ones to come upon such basic logic.

Because of the large scale of socialist-minded immigrants entering the United States during the later half of the 19th Century, the labor movement owed its growth in very large part to the socialists and anarchists who were among the most active workers in the formation of trade unions. Likewise their contribution to the lore of labor songs during that epoch was quite prodigious. The last chapter of this book is devoted to the songs contributed by these people.

Though not all of these masses of immigrants were consciously ideological socialists, the falling short of the promises of the new land of opportunity quickly turned them into "unconscious working-class Socialists" who expressed themselves not only in militant organizing activity, but likewise in song. In Ireland, Czechoslovakia, Italy, and other parts of Europe, especially Germany, where many militant activists fled the reaction following the Franco-Prussian War, they came to find a new start.

There are many beautiful songs and ballads here, some written originally in English, others translated from the tongue they were originally sung in. Included is the classic "Hymn of the Proletariat" by the anarchist Johann Most, which was sung even by political-minded socialists.

This book, besides being a welcome addition to the library of the labor folk-song collector, is also a valuable aid to the serious labor historian. The songs in this book are written for the most part to melodies that were well known in the periods they were composed in, and in many cases musical notation is given where the melodies are no longer well known. There are reproductions of the originally published sheet music and the labor periodicals they appeared in.

At the end of this book is an envelope with a "sound sheet" which consists of a thin seven-inch long-playing record with examples of some of the songs given in the book. They are sung by a mixed quartet accompanied by a piano sounding very much like revival-meeting style, which is probably appropriate since many of the early labor songs were written to the tunes of old gospel hymns. All the songs presented in the book are in their complete texts, and all available history is given about them. Foner has apparently done a commendable job of researching here, and this reviewer is inclined to forgive him for his CP-ish slant on the books he had previously written about Joe Hill. This book is wholeheartedly recommended.



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BAKUNIN MEMORIAL MEETING

On Friday, March 5th, the Libertarian Book Club commemorated the 100th anniversary of the death of Michael Bakunin. The meeting was held at the Workmen's Circle Hall, 29th Street and 8th Avenue.

The meeting started promptly at 7 pm. The speakers were Sam Dolgoff, Murray Bookchin, and Professor Paul Avrich.

Sam Dolgoff, author of "The Bakunin Anthology", was the first speaker. He looked regal in his black-and-red plaid shirt and his once-beautiful black hair, now studded with silver. He talked with reverence about Bakunin's early work.

Murray Bookchin was the second speaker. His vitality and his flowing loose lovely hair brought Bakunin right to the platform. He talked about the impact of Bakunin's philosophy on the world exploited working class.

Professor Paul Avrich - tall, thin, and very handsome - talked about Bakunin's travels and his presence in the US. He said: "The present slogan of the IWW, 'workers' control of industry', is part of Bakunin's philosophy."

The Hall was packed, and it was wonderful to meet old familiar faces.

Minnie F. Corder

SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT IN MAY ISSUE

Due to the success of the memorial supplement to the November INDUSTRIAL WORKER, members and friends of the IWW will have another opportunity to exchange greetings, commemorate fellow workers, and show their support for this paper in the May Day issue.

As before, these ads will be for the sole purpose of extending greetings to the membership and friends of the IWW. IWW shops and other enterprises friendly to the spirit of the IWW may take ads which include the type of work done and location, but not quote prices or offer specific goods and services. IWW branches and groups may use their space to advertise local publications or events. No political advertising of any sort will be accepted. The Editor reserves the right to reject any ad found objectionable on these or other grounds and return the contribution.

To place an ad send your ad copy or camera-ready art in time to arrive at Headquarters no later than Thursday, April 15th. If you want the staff of the INDUSTRIAL WORKER to lay out your ad, send the text of the copy you want printed along with any graphic you wish to accompany your ad, and state the size desired. People are, however, encouraged to send camera-ready copy when possible. If your ad contains more than 50 words which must be typeset (as opposed to headline typefaces which our staff can press-type), please have your copy in at least a week in advance. Please make all checks and money orders out to the INDUSTRIAL WORKER.

RATE SCHEDULE

FULL-PAGE AD	\$100.00
HALF-PAGE AD	\$ 50.00
QUARTER-PAGE AD	\$ 25.00
EIGHTH-PAGE AD	\$ 25.00
ONE LINE IN A COLLECTIVE AD.....	\$ 10.00

We are looking forward to seeing your contribution to building the INDUSTRIAL WORKER. Many thanks.

Patrick Murfin
Editor

IWW Literature

CURRENT

- () IWW Questions and Answers 10c
- () Inflation 10c
- () Speedup: Slow Down and Live! (\$5/100)..... 15c
- () World Labor Needs A Union..... 25c
- () Constitution and Preamble of the IWW 25c
- () General Strike for Industrial Freedom..... 50c
- () The Industrial Unionist (current issue)..... 50c
- () Assorted Silent Agitators Packet..... \$1
- () The IWW in Canada (new pamphlet edition) 50c
- () What Sort of Union Is the IWW Asking
You to Build? 50/\$1

MUSICAL

- () The IWW Songbook 75c
- () The Rebel Girl (sheet music) 50c
- () The Internationale (sheet music)..... 50c
- () Workers of the World Awaken (sheet music)..... 50c

HISTORICAL

- () Pullman Strike..... \$2.95
- () The Centralia Conspiracy..... \$2
- () Autobiography of Mother Jones..... \$3.50
- () Gene Debs: Walls and Bars \$3.50

POSTERS

Printed

- () Organize! 50c
- () One Big Union 50c
- () Three IWW Anti-War Posters \$1

Linocuts

- () Joe Hill..... \$2
- () General Strike..... \$2
- () Red and Black Anti-war Poster \$2

MISCELLANEOUS

- () General Defence Button..... 35c
- () General Strike T-shirt (please specify size)..... \$5

Bulk orders of five or more of any item literature list may be ordered at a 40% discount unless otherwise noted. Postage costs will be added to all orders that are not prepaid. Please allow three weeks plus for delivery.

Name

Address.....

City..... State or Province.....

Country..... Zip or Postal Code.....

- () Enclosed find () for the literature ordered above.
- () Enclosed find () for a () year subscription to the Industrial Worker (1 year \$2.50, 2 years \$4.50, 3 years \$6.50, \$5 a year for institutions (\$10.50 for air mail).
- () Enclosed find () for a () copy bundle of the INDUSTRIAL WORKER (10c a copy for bundles of five or more).
- () Enclosed find a () donation to the IW Sustaining Fund.

AVAILABLE FROM LOCAL BRANCHES AND GROUPS

Available from the British Section of the IWW, 116 Chaderton Way, Oldham, Lancashire, England: THE INDUSTRIAL UNIONIST, 50c, 6 issues for \$5. Available from the Chicago Branch, 752 West Webster, Chicago, Illinois 60614: The Rebel Worker Song Card, 100/\$1.50, 1000/\$8. And Wildcat, 75c, Available from the Stockton, California IWW Group, Box 171, Stockton, California 95201: "The Wobblies: Solidarity Forever", by Lionel Youst, reprinted from the North Country Anvil, 30c.

Preamble of the Industrial Workers of the World

THE WORKING CLASS AND THE EMPLOYING CLASS HAVE NOTHING IN COMMON! THERE CAN BE NO PEACE SO LONG AS HUNGER AND WANT ARE FOUND AMONG MILLIONS OF WORKING PEOPLE AND THE FEW, WHO MAKE UP THE EMPLOYING CLASS, HAVE ALL THE GOOD THINGS OF LIFE.

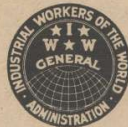
BETWEEN THESE TWO CLASSES A STRUGGLE MUST GO ON UNTIL THE WORKERS OF THE WORLD ORGANIZE AS A CLASS, TAKE POSSESSION OF THE EARTH AND THE MACHINERY OF PRODUCTION, AND ABOLISH THE WAGE SYSTEM.

WE FIND THAT THE CENTERING OF THE MANAGEMENT OF INDUSTRIES INTO FEWER AND FEWER HANDS MAKES THE TRADE UNIONS UNABLE TO COPE WITH THE EVER GROWING POWER OF THE EMPLOYING CLASS. THE TRADE UNIONS FOSTER A STATE OF AFFAIRS WHICH ALLOWS ONE SET OF WORKERS TO BE PITTED AGAINST ANOTHER SET OF WORKERS IN THE SAME INDUSTRY, THEREBY HELPING DEFEAT ONE ANOTHER IN WAGE WARS. MOREOVER THE TRADE UNIONS AID THE EMPLOYING CLASS TO MISLEAD THE WORKERS INTO THE BELIEF THAT THE WORKING CLASS HAVE INTERESTS IN COMMON WITH THEIR EMPLOYERS.

THESE CONDITIONS CAN BE CHANGED AND THE INTEREST OF THE WORKING CLASS UPHOLD ONLY BY AN ORGANIZATION FORMED IN SUCH A WAY THAT ALL ITS MEMBERS IN ANY ONE INDUSTRY, OR IN ALL INDUSTRIES IF NECESSARY, CEASE WORK WHENEVER A STRIKE OR LOCKOUT IS ON IN ANY DEPARTMENT THEREOF, THIS MEANING..... AN INJURY TO ONE AN INJURY TO ALL.....

INSTEAD OF THE CONSERVATIVE MOTTO, "A FAIR DAY'S WAGE FOR FAIR DAY'S WORK," WE MUST INSCRIBE ON OUR BANNER THE REVOLUTIONARY WATCHWORD, "ABOLITION OF THE WAGE SYSTEM."

IT IS THE HISTORIC MISSION OF THE WORKING CLASS TO DO AWAY WITH CAPITALISM, THE ARMY OF PRODUCTION MUST BE ORGANIZED, NOT ONLY FOR THE EVERY-DAY STRUGGLE WITH CAPITALISTS, BUT ALSO TO CARRY ON PRODUCTION WHEN CAPITALISM SHALL HAVE BEEN OVERTHROWN. BY ORGANIZING INDUSTRIALLY WE ARE FORMING THE STRUCTURE OF THE NEW SOCIETY WITHIN THE SHELL OF THE OLD.



Official Notice

The 1976 General Executive Board is issuing a call for new songs and a new cover design for the next edition of "The Little Red Songbook", to be published later this year. Songs submitted should pertain to labor struggles, and should have a musical score attached unless they are written to well-known tunes. Cover designs should be drawn in black ink on white paper. All songs and cover designs should be sent to IWW General Headquarters, 752 West Webster, Chicago 60614, no later than April 30th, 1976.

Industrial Worker



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CHEAP BOSSES BLOW UP WORKERS



Nine people were killed and several dozen were hurt when the Goodpasture grain elevator in the Port of Houston exploded February 27th. There is some argument about exactly what touched off the blast: a welding torch, a hot-running ball bearing in a grain conveyor-belt, a spark from an electric motor. Since most of the elevator isn't there anymore, and what's left is being torn down in an effort to stop the fires and smaller explosions that would otherwise go on for the next year or more (according to the Executive Vice-President of Goodpasture Inc., owners of the elevator), it is unlikely that the immediate cause will ever be known. The real cause was the grain dust inside the elevator and the company's unwillingness to do anything about it.

Fine dust suspended in the air is explosive no matter what kind of dust it is. Grain dust, which is flammable anyway, is one of the most explosive dusts in existence. While the grain is sitting in the elevator it's usually safe enough. But when you're loading or unloading it, dust gets kicked up, and once it's thick enough it will explode at the first spark.

This is not a new or startling discovery, nor was the

The aftermath of an atrocity. Demolition crews tried to tear down the remains of the Goodpasture grain elevator in Houston two weeks after the blast because further explosions were feared. As an indication of the power of the explosion that leveled most of the elevator, a railroad locomotive failed to pull down this part of the structure before the wrecking balls were called in. (HOUSTON POST photo)

danger at the Goodpasture elevator unknown. An inspection shortly before the explosion had turned up dangerous dust levels, with welding going on in the building. Clyde Graff, who lives near where the elevator used to be, said "I've been expecting an explosion down there for some time, what with that grain dust."

It's not difficult to deal with the hazard of dust explosions, it just costs some money. The two main safety measures are ventilation to vent the dust outside, and a sprinkler system to damp the dust down when it gets out of hand. Also, if the dust is thick, care should be taken to avoid sparks. At Goodpasture, none of these precautions had been taken, and welding was going on in heavy dust.

There is a lot of money in the grain-export trade these days. US grain is shipped all over the world, and makes up the difference between solvency and bankruptcy in the economy. As a result, there's a lot of money for owners of grain elevators, especially in the harbors. And especially if you don't shut the elevators down to make needed safety measures. After all, if you're lucky, there will be few enough survivors so that you'll have taken in more in profits than you pay out in damages.

Just a business risk. For them.

WOMEN FACE PERIL ON JOB

Supposedly women have been kept out of male-dominated industries for their own safety. Women have been considered too weak to lift heavy objects and too fragile to be exposed to heat and chemicals. Women can lift two-thirds of what men can lift (according to conservative studies). Also, there is more difference in lifting ability among women than between men and women. Women have different mechanisms for regulating their ability to withstand heat and temperature change, but their capacity is the same as men's. A woman's exposure to lead and mercury can harm her fetus; but so can her exposure to the man she is sleeping with if he works in a place where such chemicals are used.

Sexism becomes particularly apparent when one takes a look at so-called safe "women's" jobs. Fly the Friendly Skies of United and get kidney ailments, menstrual disorders, a mysterious nerve condition that resembles multiple sclerosis and/or alcoholism. People who have done research in the field suspect that nervousness and other problems may be caused by the constant roar of jet engines, as well as by ultrasonic sound and possibly even subsonic noise (or "infrasound") that causes body vibration. Attendants are not covered by the same flight time-duty time regulations as are pilots; attendants may have to work up to 30 hours without adequate rest time. Underneath that smile is a weary worker. Improperly secured galley equipment and unreliable jump-seat fasteners are other on-the-job dangers. The big new planes bring big new hazards. The DC-10s fly at a three-to-five-degree

angle, giving flight attendants severe back and leg pains from constantly walking uphill or downhill. Still another worry is radiation leakage from radioactive materials carried in the cargo compartments of commercial airliners. So far very little research has been done on this.

Nurses and nurses' aides, while caring for the sick, are endangering their own health. Nurses and other hospital workers exposed to anesthetic gases face the possibility of miscarriage or defective offspring. A Canadian research group also found a high incidence of birth defects among the children of nurses who cared for infants with infectious diseases and congenital defects.

A look into "women's work" wouldn't be complete without a look at the clothing industry. Women have been fighting against the death traps in this industry since the 1820s. The 85-hour week is dead, but most of the other horrors are still around. The air in the mill is still thick with dust, and speed-up is so severe that many of the women are on uppers to keep pace with the speed-up. It is suspected that this high level of dust and fibers from chemically-treated fabrics causes respiratory disease. Other dangers include chemicals used to treat fabrics; various aerosols, spray lubricants, and spray adhesives; oil mists from oils used to lubricate thread; high noise levels from machinery; trichloroethylene, a solvent used to dissolve plastic basting threads; and such chemicals as chloroprene and styrene, which are used to spray the edges of cloth to prevent raveling. The heat and humidity in clothing plants can cause the chemicals applied to fabrics to

oxidize and release such substances as formaldehyde. Occupational dermatitis is common among people exposed to chemical finishes on cloth, but no one has yet studied the extent of this problem in the clothing industry.

Furthermore, within the industries where women and men are hired, women very often get BOTH the worst pay AND the most dangerous working conditions. Clara Sif-

fer, in her survey of women's jobs in the District of Columbia, found that in laundries men usually are employed to run the washing machines, but women are hired to do the pressing. Consequently women get more heat stress and less pay.

R.B., X325787

