



# INDUSTRIAL WORKER

INDUSTRIAL WORKERS OF THE WORLD

★ EDUCATION ★ ORGANIZATION ★ EMANCIPATION

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## Bosses Hog World's Resources

When labor leaders meet on a national basis, they tend to talk about how to siphon more of the world's work into their own territory; when they meet on a global basis, they tend to talk about global problems that can't get solved in that way. The International Union of Food and Allied Workers' Associations (IUF), from its headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland, tries to protect biscuit makers in London, cheese makers in Holland, tea workers in Sri Lanka, soft-drink bottlers in Guatemala, and hotel and restaurant workers in industrialized and Third World nations alike. It is thus exceptionally alert to the problems facing workers everywhere, and has to take a wider view than internationals catering primarily to the workers in the industrialized quarter of the world.

The current IUF bulletin carries the remarks of its president, Gunter Doding, and its secretary, Dan Gallin, at its 1981 congress in Munich this year. Consider the world picture these summaries give.

Gunter Doding: "Half the annual expenditure on arms would suffice to overcome, for a period of ten years, all food and health problems in the developing countries; military expenditures of less than half a day would suffice to finance the entire program of the World Health Organization to eliminate malaria; the price of one tank could set up a thousand schoolrooms for thirty thousand children; forty thousand village dispensaries wouldn't cost more than one combat aircraft.

### You Can't Drink Arms

"Two and a half billion people have to put up with sub-standard drinking water. Eighty percent of the world's disease stems from dirty water—water that millions of women, and children have to fetch from great distances. Every day 16,000 children die of diarrhea. The World Bank thinks this tragic problem could be solved with the equivalent of 25 days' expenditure on arms annually for ten years."

### Transnationals Reshape World

"Transnationals," reported Dan Gallin, "are today the dominant force in the world economy. They are reorganizing the world's productive system under their leadership and according to their interest...."

"In Africa, Asia, and Latin America, high-technology agriculture, promoted by agribusiness and its partners in the chemical and metal industries, has driven hundreds of thousands of peasants off the land. Cash crops and luxury exports have been substituted for subsistence agriculture. Landless peasants gravitate to the shantytowns which surround every Third World city with a belt of human degradation and misery...."

"The (resultant) urban and rural unemployment causes governments to seek rapid industrialization at any price.... They underbid each other in offering transnationals... tax holidays... an infrastructure at government expense, exemption from the environmental-protection laws such as exist in highly-industrialized countries, and, in many cases, protection against trade-union organization...."

"Free-trade zones, of which there are now about 300 in Asia, Africa, and Latin America... have caused massive unemployment in entire industries, such as the electronics industry in the United States.... There is a direct link between the failure to solve the land question in the non-industrial countries and unemployment in the industrialized countries.... The Third World is being industrialized by transnational corporations on their own terms...."

"Proposed solutions to the North-South problem which do not take social conflict in the Third World countries into account, and which assume a mutuality of interest which does not exist as long as transnational corporations determine the world priorities in production and trade, are unrealistic and ineffective...."

### Seeds of Fascism

"The new world order the transnationals are preparing carries with it a definite threat to democracy.... The theory of development, shared by conservative governments in the Third World, the IMF, the World Bank, the UNIDO, and the governments of most industrialized nations and world powers, postulates that low wages and a high degree

of exploitation are necessary and inevitable conditions for development. All social, political, and economic life becomes subordinated to the effort to attract foreign investment.

In this view trade unions, or any independent popular or labor organization... becomes an obstacle that has to be cleared away.... Democracy itself is an obstacle that has to be cleared away—and it has been: in Indonesia, in South Korea, in the Philippines, in Thailand, in Argentina, in Brazil, in Chile, in Uruguay, in Guatemala.... This process is still going on: If unions protest the establishment of a non-union free-trade zone with a captive labor force, union rights in the whole country have to be curtailed, as happened in Sri Lanka; if unions receive international support, international solidarity has to be outlawed, as is being attempted in Malaysia. A socialist government like Manley's in Jamaica is cut off from international credit and the country driven into insurmountable economic problems so the conservatives win the next election....

"All transnationals, even the 'nice' ones, seek to transform the political environment in which they operate to make it more amenable to their interests.... What is ultimately at stake is democracy itself.

### Soviets in Same Game

"This threat to democracy is also confirmed through the growing co-operation between the transnational corporations and the state-capitalist, centrally-controlled, planned economies of the USSR, its client states, and China.... The state-capitalist regimes offer the same advantages as the free-trade zones do: political stability, low labor costs, safeguards against effective labor organizations and trade-union demands.... China has recently begun to establish free-trade zones on its territory and has announced that, in addition, it is prepared to engage in joint ventures with Western capital in Third World countries as a supplier of labor...."

"All of Eastern Europe, the USSR, and China constitute one huge potential free-trade zone. Investment by

the Western capitalist transnationals in the state-capitalist economies totaled about 110 billion in 1979" and is growing.... "The so far successful rise of an independent trade-union movement in Poland is of tremendous significance.... It opens up the possibility of a common front and common struggles of workers in both social systems."

### World Unionism Is Needed

The world labor movement, Gallin regretted, had so far not developed the capacity to link "the millions of small struggles workers conduct at their workplace to change their world... into a common struggle to change the world so it is fit for human beings to live in." He felt it could do better if the AFL-CIO acted less as though it were an international by itself, if African and Arab unions were less subservient to their governments, if European unions were less devoted to a new Common Market sort of nationalism. He welcomed the assistance Amnesty International and church groups had given the IUF in its successful struggle for workers' rights against Unilever in South Africa and Coca-Cola in Guatemala, and urged encouragement of coalitions.

Unions are tempted by growing unemployment, Gallin noted, to align with their employers in hope of getting more of the world's work for their own members—a policy obviously inappropriate in the 1980s. The lure of jobs had led French and British unions to champion the Concorde monstrosity, and induced construction workers to welcome expressway attacks on urban environments, fishery workers to line up with their employers on whale hunting, tobacco workers likewise on smoking as a health issue, and some food workers to support Nestle on its infant-formula damage to Third World people.

Gallin contrasted the action of the International Metal Workers Federation and the Chemical and Engineering Workers Federation, both of which have taken strong stands against the arms race even though it provides jobs for their members. But then again, that was at world congresses that encourage the modern global view. The old nationalist view won't work.

## British Sit-ins

Here in Britain the unemployed number three million, with another million hidden by Government schemes to exclude them from unemployment pay. Instead of needed wage increases, workers are induced to accept wage cuts to keep their jobs, and then lose them anyway. Every evening on TV there is a map of Britain with rings around the towns where factory closures have ended at least 250 jobs.

The unions of the Trade Union Congress are offering no effective opposition, and the rank and file have taken increasingly to sit-ins, occupying their old job sites and hoping to make them work. The women who occupied the Lawrence Scott jeans plant marched across Scotland for three days to advertise their fight, only to find that their union had withdrawn its support; but after seven months, they won anyway.

The workers at Gardeners (diesel-engine makers) also saved their jobs with a sit-in, again with more hindrance than help from union officials. But not all sit-ins are successful. One group was attacked by 80 bailiffs recruited after the bars had closed, breaking windows and swinging pickaxes.

At the Blackwell Bearings factory in Tewkesbury, Vickers Engineering is set to sack the local workers and transfer the work to a "development area" where it will get Government grants for creating new jobs.

At Barnes Flexible Packaging in Salford, members of the AUEW decided to go to those sit-downers at Lawrence Scott's rather than to ask their union leadership for advice. There they were told it takes grass-roots solidarity and the industrial-union spirit to win. That will be the position the IWW here will take when we go to Blackpool to join the Unemployed Right to Work marchers.

Lynn Hurst

### REFERENDUM

There is a referendum in the field for election of General Officers of the IWW and submission of proposed constitutional changes. Ballots are to be returned for counting by November 7th.

## NY Wobs Support Tomato Packers

In New York, IWW members picketed in support of tomato packers in an East Bronx factory where the Teamsters Union (which supposedly represented workers) and the factory owners had combined to deprive workers of their rights.

The union (represented by a pompous three-piece-suit) looked the other way when the bosses fired shop steward Roberto Sanchez, who had been informing the workers of their rights; while the management undercut the union contract in wages and benefits and the bosses sexually and physically harassed the female employees.

Those who continue to protest through their informational picket line have received a letter of termination.

A general defense fund has been set up to support the Goodie-brand tomato packers, who must now find a way to feed their families. If you wish to help out, please make a check payable to Roberto Sanchez and send it in care of Semel/Poulos, 788 Columbus Avenue 16D, New York, New York 10025.



These days humans are dying violently all over this great globe of ours, whether for political reasons or for reasons of human cussedness; and unless you as an individual are personally affected by any violence, the carnage remains but only occasional minor items in the daily news media. It seems it is only when a head of state or some other personage of great renown is bumped off that such happenings are meted out to us as a great tragedy.

As far as the personal observations of yours truly in perusing historical events both ancient and contemporary are concerned, the possibility of being bumped off is one of the risks that come along with the job of being a head of state, regardless of whether you have the reputation of being an angel or a bastard.

While news photos of the grief-stricken survivors of late heads of state may stir in yours truly a fleeting twinge of compassion, my tears have already been shed to the maximum for the millions who have needlessly met with violent ends over the years and are still doing so, often through the direct auspices of these revered heads of state. Whether a head of state causes the cessation of human lives by shipping lethal weapons to other heads of state or by initiating programs of "economy" in his own domain, there is no way your scribe can feel any common humanity with that person. So don't ever expect to see any eulogies to recently-defuncted rulers in this column. As the German poet Friedrich Hoelderlin so aptly stated: "Deep in my heart I detest the great men and their vicars, but no more than the intellectuals who would take their part."

In Moscow a demographer by the name of Viktor Perevedentsev has been exhorting young couples not to concentrate on their education so much—especially those who go to night school if they happen to be engaged in such pursuits as making a living during the day. It seems that if they work during the day and go to school at night, they don't have much time or energy to engage in indoor sports. Such extracurricular activity would best be left to couples who are past child-bearing age.

Old Viktor goes on to say that it is more important for young couples to make babies than to improve their minds. The reason that young couples should make more babies, he says, is to counteract the population explosion in the non-White Asian regions of the Soviet Union. Hot damn, but ain't that the big letdown: All these years I've been listening to the home-grown proponents of the Russian way of life coming on so strong about racial equality and all that jazz.

It's very interesting to note that Old Viktor's views appeared in the youth newspaper *Moskovsky Komsamlets*, whose distribution is concentrated in the western part of the Soviet Union, where the majority of the White population is located. One wonders what is being written in the journals that appear in the Asian part of the country. Anyway, we now know where to send our anti-abortionists and Dixiecrats. They should feel right at home over there. Really, what is the big argument between the Yankee and Russky politicians? Why should there be a war in which our Blacks and Chicanos would be tangling bayonets with their Kalmuks and Ughirs?

As this struggling little periodical has endlessly stated, the rulers of the World are more aware of their class interests than the slaves are.

This is the month that all good Yankees celebrate the holiday known as Thanksgiving, which commemorates the first permanently-successful English settlement in what is now the United States. But the settlers wouldn't have survived that first winter if it hadn't been for some neighboring Wampanoags who felt sorry for these poor fools who thought they were still in the English countryside, and who not only saved these pilgrims from certain starvation that winter, but also showed them the agricultural techniques that would insure their continued survival.

The Indians saved their derrieres, but for some reason known only to protestant fundamentalists, they gave their thanks to the Lord on high instead. Feeling quite secure that Providence was on their side, they then proceeded to drive the Wampanoags and all the other native nations that got in their way off the face of the Earth, and to this day they are still robbing the American Indians of what little land they have left. (Never underestimate the gratitude of God's chosen people.) However there are those who, like Professor Perevedentsev, fear a non-White population explosion, and have been busy sterilizing Indian women throughout Freedom Land. One must admit this is not quite as nasty as Hitler's soap factories, but the same morality is there.

So those of you here in Freedom Land, enjoy your turkey and cranberry sauce, because the next day you'll be serenaded with joyous Christmas music from the loudspeakers of every shopping center and business street in the country, as the following month will be time to celebrate the supposed birth of some hobo carpenter who, if he were on Earth today, wouldn't make the allotted 31 years that he had the last time.

C. C. Redcloud



## SOUND OF A DISTANT DRUM

It was happy time for Britain's three major parties, as in these weeks they held their annual conferences. Not for them the red leaves of autumn, the sound of a distant church bell drifting across a silent meadow, and the soft laughter of peasant girls gleaning the harvested fields with oil-burning tractors. For Britain's major parties it was Georgian Brighton and Blackpool by the oil-slick sea.

Every employable political expert within TV-camera range explained to Vicki, my aging hound, and myself what was happening to the nation and who was to blame, but not what to do in a Western World full of harvests, soil rich in mineral wealth, seas heavy with fish, factories tooled up for production, to solve the heart-breaking problems of hunger and millions of unemployed.

I am a television buff, for I hold that that small screen is a window on the world. As I sit at my kitchen table painting, I watch the self-elected leaders of our world on that television screen but three feet away, and we who are their creatures can form our own judgments not from the edited printed page, but from their word of mouth, and we can watch their lips and eyes but inches away.

There is the aged Reagan, Ma Thatcher with her glazed eyes and graveyard accent, and there at the Labour Party's Brighton conference poor old Michael Foot, loyal leader of Her Majesty's Opposition Party. Mark him well, comrades, for this aged radical may two years from now be Britain's Prime Minister if the Tories are kicked out of office, and you on your TV screens may see those two old men, Reagan and Foot, planning the Western World's life and death.

You ask who is Foot? A brilliant 19th Century-style political pamphleteer who exposed those within Britain who gave open or secret support to the German Nazi Government. Came the demonstration, and Michael was there. Came the mass anti-Hitler meeting in Trafalgar Square, and Michael was up there between Landseer's metal lions at the base of Nelson's column. We ran before the mounted-police batons and hurled bricks at the uniformed Fascist Blackshirts, and Michael was there, hair waving in the wind among the flowing scarlet flags and banners. And now this thin old white-haired man sits on the high chair as leader of the Labour Party.

This leader of Britain's working-class political party never spoke for the working class. He is and was the middle-class radical, the supporter of every good and noble cause, the radical conscience of Hampstead, Greenwich Village, and Martha's Vineyard; but never a presence on the picket line.

The rumblings of Brixton's war in the streets still send off their mean echoes; for David McCabe is out on bail for his appeal but crippled for life, and X is out on curfewed bail on the condition that he must not be on the streets after nine at night. Six and seven months after the Brixton riot new faces are peering from the docks of the magistrate's court, for the police have found a new way out of a jury trial: By dropping certain charges, they have ensured that the case can only be tried in a non-jury magistrate's court.

There is now the matter of Patricia Giambi. On April 11th at 9 pm, Patricia was grabbed during a police charge in Brixton's Railton Road. She was questioned by Detective Sergeant Cork of the CID, and two days later her passport was taken from her. She was refused bail, one reason given being that she "had come from Italy to Brix-

ton to plan the Brixton riot".

Some time later Patricia was granted bail, but when she arrived at her rooms a number of police and dogs came crashing into the house, breaking down the door of her flat. The police stayed until midnight turning the flat over, and finally arrested her and a friend.

On June 11th the police again burst into Patricia's flat, at 6 am, and new charges were made. In August Patricia was given her passport to visit her father in Italy, who had had a heart attack, but in September she had to return to Camberwell Green Court in London to face her charges.

From this whole mishmash of charges arising from the Brixton riot seven months ago, Patricia has been given 28 days' imprisonment in Holloway women's prison and deportation for "subversive activity". To "prove" this, there was shown in court "a photograph of bookshelves containing a selection of books including anarchist ones, and a poster carrying the slogan 'Bread, Love, and Struggle'..."

Patricia's appeal has been refused because "there is evidence to show she is an anarchist". At the moment of this typing she is in Holloway Prison, where she is denied visitors, gifts of food, and books, and may only receive cut flowers.

Arthur Moyse, London

★ EDUCATION ★ ORGANIZATION ★ EMANCIPATION



AN INJURY TO ONE IS AN INJURY TO ALL

ONE UNION ONE LABEL ONE ENEMY

### Industrial Worker

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# AMERICAN LABOR ROUNDUP



J.P. Stevens didn't reform when it made that settlement a year ago with the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers. The ACTWU is accusing the company of a series of unfair labor practices to defeat the union in an election at its Rock Hill, South Carolina plant. Shortly before the election it intimidated workers by firing an active unionist, systematically questioned the employees about their union sympathies, threatened to fire them if they struck, and paid laid-off workers to vote right.

Private-sector pension funds, says the Department of Labor, will exceed \$3 trillion and own between 54% and 60% of all corporate assets by 1995. Will workers own their own jobs then? Not unless they do something about it now.

The Laborers International Union (LIUNA) convened in Hollywood, Florida, gave their okay to more nuclear power plants, and voted to raise minimum dues for local unions from \$7 to \$9 a month. They increased their per-capita payments to \$4 a month, re-elected the president and vice-presidents by acclamation, and raised the salaries of the president and secretary to \$125,000 and \$120,000.

The re-election of officers was by acclamation with "token opposition". *Labor Notes* detailed the opposition: When President Fosco was nominated, Dennis Ryan of Local 1238, Iowa City, the president of the Iowa City Central Labor Council, rose to nominate Chris White of the dissident group "ROOR" (Ruled Out of Order) from Fairbanks, Alaska. LIUNA had tried to oust White for material published in the magazine *Mother Jones* a year ago, but withdrew those charges. Ryan was jumped by two-score thugs, but was nominated by Fred Noon of Des Moines. Ryan got a few votes, for the union attorneys prudently insisted that the dissidents' right to make nominations be respected.

UAW members at four Rockwell International aerospace plants voted 83% to accept a new three-year contract giving them an increase of 7% this year and 3% in each of the next two years, plus cost-of-living adjustments. One provision of the contract is that the union will have a role in the orientation sessions for newly-hired workers. Rockwell expects to hire 20,000 in the next few months, since Reagan has given Rockwell a multi-million-dollar bonanza to produce B-1B, "the son of B-1", a project that had been killed by Carter.

Last spring Sterling Radiator in Westfield, Massachusetts demanded that the UAW local give up previous gains and accept a two-tier wage structure under which newly-hired workers would always earn less than those already employed. A strike followed, and Reed National Corporation, which had bought Sterling Radiator a few years ago, sent in scabs.

An injunction against UAW Local 430 kept picket lines small and ineffective. But there was a large picket line there on August 27th, consisting of UAW members from nearby locals, with no 430 participation. At 7:15 the yellow bus with yellow scabs pulled up and faced a picket line that stopped them from entering the plant. Extra police were called to get the nervous scabs into the plant.

When police attacked the picket line, they encountered no violence. The pickets simply all lay down with their arms interlocked so the police could not readily disengage and arrest them. The police eventually arrested 91 pickets for violating that injunction—but it didn't work because it enjoined only the members of Local 430. So the battle continues, Amherst college students helping out by tracking down scabs and leafleting their neighborhoods with notices that they are "Wanted for Job Stealing".

Wide coalitions are one outcome of Reaganomics, extending beyond unions to a range of community interest groups. Virginia Action is an example. Its 13 affiliates include the Virginia State AFL-CIO; tenant organizations in Richmond, Alexandria, and Norfolk; the Council of the Southern Mountains, itself a sizeable group, with its magazine *Mountain Life and Work*; the Coalition of Labor Union Women; the Virginia Brown Lung Association; and various local action groups.

925 (pronounced 9 to 5) leafleted the Chicago Loop business district in October, figuring it was impractical to leaflet 30-story office buildings individually. Organizer Karen Nussbaum told a reporter that she got going on the organization of her fellow female employees when she was working in an office at the University of Chicago, and a student (male) came in, looked her square in the eye, and asked "Isn't anybody here?"



## STRIKE ENDS AT PORNO BOOKSTORES

Eleven Chicago porno shops were reopened October 1st after a seven-hour strike by employees dissatisfied with working conditions. The workers were protesting their pay, their job security, and a recent company decision that would have forced the employees to pay for their own legal defense if the stores were raided and the employers charged.

## Solidarity Day in D.C.

Traveling by bus to Washington for the September 19th Solidarity rally was an event in itself. Nearly every rest area on the Ohio and Pennsylvania turnpikes was packed with unionists bound for the rally. Restaurants had lines of hungry travelers. One union official said nearly every available bus in the United States was rented to get the more than a quarter million protesters to Washington. They came there in the first such rally the AFL-CIO has ever called to demonstrate to Reagan and the right wing that labor will not stand idly by while 12,000 Air Traffic Controllers are fired, OSHA gets dismantled, ERA goes unpassed, and the Voting Rights Act may not be renewed.

The Washington subway system had to be rented for the day to take people to and from the rally. This cost \$65,000. There was a fine rented sound system, and that cost another \$20,000.

From here in Detroit, UAW members and Steel Workers had to draw busses from as far away as California. Those who could not get on any of the busses formed car pools, rented vans, and packed themselves into family Winnebagos.

The entertainment at the rally was great. Linda Lavin ("Alice" on TV) and Ossie Davis were excellent emcees. The performers included Pete Seeger; Florence Reese (who wrote that good union song "Which Side Are You On?"); Celtic Folk, an Irish group who gave us Irish jigs and miners' songs; and Joe Glazer, who turned on a new version of "Solidarity Forever" to suit the occasion.

Many rank-and-file unionists were a bit skeptical as to how much good would come out of the march—but if they show the spirit on the job that they showed there, it will pay off.

Eric Glatz, IU 630

## SOME DID FLY

Counts of the paraders vary; the official count at the Mayor's office got past the 400,000 mark in mid-afternoon. The press and TV alone had 2,000 people there to cover the event. Over 5,000 busses from outside came to Washington and required special permits—they didn't drive downtown. The subways were "free" for the day. The delegation from Seattle, one of the country's notably stalwart union towns, did fly (the only group to do so). But they took a bus from Seattle to Vancouver, and then a plane to Toronto, through Canada's scab-free skies, and finally a bus to the parade. While banners ran to union initials and place names, Carl Haarer of *Lip* reports seeing a group of teachers carrying a banner that read: "Want to outsmart the Russians? Restore Reagan's education cuts." He also found one delegation irreverently chanting as they marched down Constitution Avenue: "Reagan, Reagan, he's no good; send his ass to Hollywood."



## Amnesty International Raps FBI's Abuses

Amnesty International, awarded a Nobel prize for its careful, factual work in exposing the torture and mistreatment of peaceful dissidents, published a 144-page report October 13th on the FBI's fabrication of evidence against people it didn't like.

The report urges that Reagan set up an independent commission to inquire into charges of FBI misconduct. It points to the FBI's Cointelpro counter-intelligence program, often aimed at developing crimes for entrapment. It focuses on the specific cases of Elmer Pratt, a Black Panther, and Richard Marshall of the American Indian Movement, and urges close investigation of how their convictions were obtained.

"Over a period of many years we've had cases referred to us of alleged FBI misconduct," the report says, "and we feel that in many cases the allegations have been substantiated."

### ☆☆☆ WHY JOIN THE IWW? ☆☆☆

Because there are things we can do together that we cannot do alone. Some of these things will benefit your job and some will merely benefit the human race. Whether we are in a position to get you a pay raise or not, your conscience will repay you and your self-respect will increase if you join with us to get things done.

Since we are a union, this offer is open only to those who work for wages or salary; but since we are building One Big Union, it is open to wage and salary workers whether they happen to bargain through other unions or not. Look at the directory on Page 7. If you can readily reach someone there, do so. If not, write to the General Secretary, IWW, 3435 North Sheffield, Chicago 60657, with a line about your job. The initiation fee is \$5 in the US, and dues are \$5 a month.

## capital crimes:

# MINING BOSSES DEFY LAW ON FAIR TRADE, HEALTH AND SAFETY

Mining corporations have resisted the legal requirement to supply underground miners with SCSRs—"self-contained self-rescuers". This piece of equipment, which supplies enough oxygen to give a miner an hour's chance to get out, would add only about three cents a ton to the cost of coal mined. Some companies sought delay in using it by asking permission to use smaller units that supplied oxygen for only half an hour.

Consolidation Coal fought the SCSRs through the courts, which eventually ordered that all mining companies must at least have orders placed for this equipment by June 21st. Under Consolidated's leadership, hosts of them placed their orders with one small company that had gotten its model okayed only on June 19th—a company that will be unable to deliver them for many months.

The UMWA is seeking unemployment compensation for 10,000 miners in West Virginia on the ground that President Brown of Consolidation Coal told UMWA President Church not to call him back for three weeks if the miners rejected the contract offer he had gotten from the Bituminous Coal Operators Association. Thus there was no valid bargaining in that period, no bona-fide offer of employment; and thus the men, say the union, are entitled to unemployment compensation.

Meanwhile Conoco, the oil company that owns Consolidated Coal, has consummated matrimony with E. I. du Pont, to move up now to seventh place on *Fortune's* 500 list. And meanwhile Consolidated has made a deal with a German mining company to develop mines in Pennsylvania and get better facilities for shipping its coal to Germany through Baltimore.

In Arkansas the UMWA strike against Garland Coal has continued since early summer, and the union has asked for removal of the state's chief mine inspector for failure to enforce state mining laws. In Oklahoma it is objecting to putting supervisors and other company officials on the state mining board for seats supposed to be filled, according to state law, by "practical miners".

## Thriving Cab Co-Op Still Needs Unions

Cab drivers have been considering turning Minneapolis Yellow Taxi into a co-operative similar to that developed by the Denver Yellow Cab Co-operative Association, which has been working to the satisfaction of its driver-owners for two years now. In Minneapolis the unions concerned, the Guild of Taxi Drivers and the Machinists, look to the Denver plan as an alternative to a system of individual leasing of the cabs by the drivers, a system they view as union-busting.

*Scoop*, a Minneapolis journal promoting both consumer and producer co-operation, writes of the Denver development:

"Now going into their third year, the DYCCA have doubled their wages, increased their business, and finally provided Denver with an efficient, quality, and respected cab industry. The workers have pride in their work, and aren't considered by their co-op management or by the city as just a group of two-bit scums who can't find a job anywhere else . . ."

"The unions at Minneapolis Yellow Cab Co-operative Association will continue to play an important role in the co-op's future. It is one of the strongest questions put before us. 'Why do we need the union when we've got a co-operative? Wouldn't the union be unnecessary under a co-operative?' 'No.' The role of a union in a co-operative is obviously different than under private ownership, but it is nonetheless important. It is imperative to have that healthy 'adversity' with the co-op management. After all, management is management is management."

"Management's primary concern is for the co-operative to become financially stable, to realize a profit and stabilize the company. The union's primary concern is to represent the workers and fight for their rights to better wages, benefits, working conditions, job protection, et cetera. The union keeps the co-op management honest and working for the interests of all its workers. Without the union there is no representative body to fight for each individual member's rights as a worker on day-to-day issues (such as being fired) or on longer-term issues (such as increases in wages, benefits, and working conditions)."

"Without the union each worker is pitted alone against management. Sure, they elect their Board of Directors, which hires the management, and can depose them with enough votes. But what is to insure that during that time the co-op management doesn't institute regressive policies which drastically hurt the work force—permanently? Nothing does—unless there is a union to stop it."

The Denver taxi workers are represented at present by four trade unions.

# HEALTH AND FREE ENTERPRISE

More than half of the 1,018 shipyard workers tested early this year for asbestosis, a lung disease caused by the inhalation of asbestos particles, were found to have it, the American Lung Association says. The tests, done 20 years after the workers' first exposure to the material, showed that 59% of the workers were afflicted with the disease, which is similar to black lung. The tests also showed that 31 of 305 wives of shipyard workers in Long Beach, California had contracted the disease through no more exposure than contact with the clothing, skin, and hair of shipyard workers. About 7% of the shipyard workers' children also had asbestosis. It is estimated that the disease, which takes two or three decades to show up, will have killed half a million Americans by the year 2000.

## US SILENT ABOUT ON-JOB PERILS

Federal agencies know the names of hundreds of thousands of people who have been exposed to cancer-causing chemicals on their jobs, but have made no effort to tell them about the risk to their health. Nor has any effort been made to identify or notify the 21 million workers (one in four) who are known to have been exposed to hazardous materials regulated by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

The National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), a primary holder of this information, has used the lists of names only for research purposes, waiting for the people on them to die. Then the names are followed up, and if the causes of death can be learned, they become part of the tally the Government uses to set up control standards for dangerous substances. The lists of names are on file at NIOSH and the National Cancer Institute, as well as with labor unions and in university research centers across the nation. While the labor unions that hold the information have made efforts (through publications or meetings) to get the word to their members, most of the workers involved are not unionized. In other cases, the exposed workers have since changed jobs.

The debate over what a government agency should do when it is reasonably certain that former workers have been exposed to a dangerous substance is not new. The uneasy conclusion has been that workers have the right to know about risks to their health, but that it would cost too much for the Government to find everyone, notify them, and then provide follow-up services.

In August, a joint-notification pilot program of NIOSH

and the Workers' Institute for Safety and Health, an arm of the AFL-CIO, began for the 1,100 chemical-plant workers in Augusta, Georgia, and for asbestos workers in Port Allegheny, Pennsylvania. For the Georgia chemical workers, the notification program comes nine years late: NIOSH learned of their exposure to a known carcinogen in 1972. But notification for the other 200,000 workers in the NIOSH files is still several years and billions of dollars away—if it comes at all.

## YOUR HEALTH

Dr. Peter Infante is back on his job as the director of OSHA's Office of Carcinogen Identification. He had been fired for passing along the news that NIOSH (the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health) had found grounds to suspect that formaldehyde causes cancer in people. The turmoil that followed this firing induced Assistant Labor Secretary Auchter to restore him to his job a month later. It still pays for Labor to howl.

OSHA (the Occupational Health and Safety Administration) now wants to ease the noise-control regulations on industry and will listen to the bosses' gripes on September 22nd.

Employers want to change the OSHA standard on Access to Employee Exposure and Medical Records. At present, workers have a right to see their own records, to copy them, and to let union representatives or others they may specify consult them. Often the relation between a work situation and an occupational health hazard can be established only by statistics drawn from such data. Auchter is now heading employer complaints that such access will destroy "trade secrets"—such as the names of the chemical agents that did the damage and were used in the industrial process. Unions and employers will be battling over this.

## CHICAGO HOSPITAL CUTBACKS

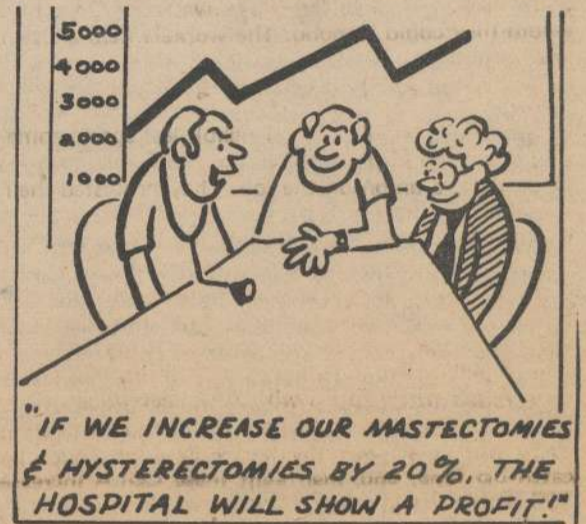
Chicago-area hospitals, like those in other Northeastern and Midwestern cities, are cutting back. Some have closed clinics, units, and scores of beds and laid off employees. Others have dropped services like occupational and physical therapy as unprofitable. The hospitals with the most Medicaid patients are hit hardest by President Reagan's and Illinois Governor Thompson's Medicaid cuts, and three may close.

Since hospitals can no longer expect to be reimbursed for the care of public-assistance patients, more and more hospitals are transferring patients to the beleaguered Cook County Hospital. This practice has broad implications, as pointed out by a spokesperson for the Illinois Hospital Association:

"In a devious way, federal and state officials are deciding to develop a two-class system of health care (one for the full-paying patient and one for the medically indigent) without ever announcing their intentions. It's a fundamental policy shift on how health care will be delivered, to whom, and under what circumstances. By the time people realize the political decision, it will be a *fait accompli*."

In the past, non-profit hospitals treated public-assistance patients and passed along the charges to privately-insured patients. Typically, a hospital charges 25% to 40% more to a privately-insured patient. Between 1975 and 1979, Medicaid payments increased 58% while private-insurance payments increased 74%. In short, the cost of treating public-assistance patients was met by padding private-insurance bills in a hidden, unlegislated tax.

As private insurance companies scrutinize claims more carefully, however, they are forcing non-profit hospitals to meet their whole costs of operation out of tax money. Cook County Hospital ran an \$80 million deficit in 1979 before the Medicaid cuts and increased patient dumping, and its continued survival was threatened several times in the last decade before the present crisis.



**In November We Remember  
JOE HILL, FRANK LITTLE,  
WESLEY EVEREST,  
And All Other WORKERS  
Who Died For Their Class!**

**BOSTON G.M.B.**



# WORLD LABOR NEWS

In India this summer the Government gave itself the right to forbid any strike it decided to ban. At Unilever's plant in Ghaziabad, the union sought public support for restoration of its cost-of-living allowance by an odd sort of hunger strike. The plant runs seven days, so each day some workers are off. Each day two workers fasted outside the plant gate for 24 hours. By using their day off, they lost no pay.

An alternative form of hunger strike also has been used in India: The hunger strikers lock the management in with them for fasting and meditation until some solution to their problem is reached.

Twelve members of the Chongye Local Labor Union (a branch of the South Korean National Garmentmakers) have been tried in secret in connection with an incident in late April, when some 20 members gathered to protest a letter from the Seoul City Mayor ordering the dissolution of the local. Following the dissolution order, the workers were forced to work nights and holidays, and minimum wage levels were ignored. The union sent letters of protest to Seoul City, but the authorities replied that since the union had been dissolved, there was no official body to whom they could respond. The workers held a sit-in and were arrested.

Say it with flowers: In Bangkok last spring some employees of the Manohra Hotel got fired when they started to promote a union on the job. They protested their dismissal with a parade, carrying bouquets for their fellow workers and funeral wreaths for the managers.

In 1975 the Australian Government set up a program through its Arbitration Commission to provide automatic wage adjustments to keep up with the rising cost of living, thus avoiding many strikes. Every three months wages were raised to keep up with consumer prices. The conservative Government changed this to adjustments made every half year, whereby the workers lost much before catch-up time, and then kept these COLA increases to 80% of the rise in prices. Now the whole plan is scrapped.

Late in September there were clashes between groups of young workers and the police in many German cities. Back of all this was the urban-renewal program in Berlin that razes many useable buildings and closed down 800, with the result that rents more than doubled. Organized groups of squatters have been occupying these buildings, cleaning, painting, and repairing their interiors and living in them with a constant guard against the police. On September 23rd, following ignored court orders, 2,000 Berlin police moved into eight buildings occupied by squatters to evict them. Klaus Rattay, aged 18, got shoved by police into the path of a vehicle and was killed. That night some 12,000 marched in a peaceful torchlight procession in Berlin, but in other cities protests collided with police and turned violent.

(That squatter technique has been experimented with in Detroit and Philadelphia, to demand a real homesteading of tax-delinquent properties, with the aid of ACORN community organizers.)

The Scottish clothing workers who made Lee Jeans at Greenock have succeeded in a seven-month sit-in by 140 workers. In February the owners said they were going to close the plant down or move it to Ireland. The sit-in by these women generated publicity that found both a buyer for the plant and orders for the jeans.

Zwelakhe Sisulu, a South African journalist, has been detained without charge and held incommunicado since June. No reason was given by the authorities. At the time of his arrest, Sisulu was restricted under a three-year banning order, which in effect placed him under house arrest. At the time of his banning, Sisulu was national president of the Media Workers' Association of South Africa, a union representing black journalists and media workers. Four other members of the MWSA executive board also were banned, as was Charles Nqakula, who took over as acting president. The banning followed a national strike by black journalists seeking better pay and working conditions.

Abbas Al-Khidir, president of the Sudanese Railway Workers' Trade Union (RWTU), was arrested in Khartoum May 30th with about 100 other unionists. The arrests took place just after the start of a strike called by the RWTU to protest the arbitrary dismissal of 20 railway workers and the rising cost of living. The strike was supported by several other unions, most of which had split from the RWTU to form separate unions such as the River Transport Workers' Union, although with 43,000 members the RWTU remains the country's largest union.

Shortly after the strike began, the President of Sudan ordered the RWTU dissolved and ordered the arrest of the union's entire executive council, numbering about twenty. Leaders of the other unions involved in the strike also were arrested. The strike nevertheless continued, halting the country's rail services. Demonstrations against the Government's actions were reported also in Khartoum and other parts of the country. Those arrested are being detained for an indefinite period without charge or trial in accordance with the national-security law.

Mehlolo Tom Rikhoto had worked for the same employer in Johannesburg for over ten years while his family lived 250 miles away. The South African law provides that if a black works for the same employer for over ten years in that city, he will have the right, despite apartheid, to bring his family there to live with him. So Rikhoto applied for permanent residence. He was reminded then that the law also required him to return to his native village each year to renew his labor contract. He had obeyed that law, and thus, ruled the authorities, he had never been in Johannesburg for over one year continuously. Friends of his took this Catch-22 proposition to the Supreme Court, which ruled in Rikhoto's favor. Still, he won't be bringing his family to town right away: The waiting list of applicants for housing has folks on it ahead of him who applied in 1970.



DID YOU GET YOUR INDUSTRIAL WORKER?

We have received many complaints from readers that they did not get the September issue of the *Industrial Worker*. We were a bit late mailing it, sending it out on August 30th instead of around the 20th. But the earliest we know of anyone receiving it here in Chicago was on Saturday, October 3rd—over a month after it was mailed.

The picture that builds up from varied complaints about no paper is that the entire mailing somehow got set aside, covered up, or withheld in some way. We hope you received it eventually—perhaps after you got your October issue.

We have a few hundred copies of the September issue at the office and can fill requests from those who did not receive it. Of special interest in it were three pages that had been made camera-ready by our fellow workers in Ann Arbor. These included efforts among word processors to bargain collectively in Ann Arbor, a visit from members of the English Worker-Writer Federation, an interview with Micah Kaminer on labor conditions in Israel, and some recollections of IWW activities in the Detroit area in the '30s. And of course our usual summaries of what is of prime interest to workers here and elsewhere around the world.

We would like to hear whether you got that September issue, and if so when.

## The Triumph of Joe Hill

(Glenn Plummer, currently with the education department of the United Food and Commercial Workers, initiated the petitions to pardon Joe Hill on the centenary of his birth, 1979. At that time he was a student in one of Bill Adelman's classes at the University of Illinois in Chicago. Plummer himself collected thousands of signatures on these petitions, and the Illinois Labor History Society that conducted the campaign received thousands of signed copies from all over. Out of that experience Plummer wrote this song to his own music, copyrighted by him.)

A martyr's slate is clean the day  
they clear old Joe Hill's name;  
That we have to wait these many years  
is tragedy and shame.  
But the story now is being told  
to workers far and wide  
Of how they framed, then claimed the life  
of "the man who never died".

Chorus:

Too many union members  
had never heard the tale  
Of how they took Joe from his bed  
and locked him up in jail.

(repeat last two lines)

Protests were heard throughout the world;  
"injustice", workers cried.  
But the trial was fixed as all agreed  
that the witnesses had lied.  
So they drilled a bullet through his heart  
and a worker's voice was stilled;  
Yet a martyr raised that very day,  
for a cause cannot be killed.

(Chorus)

With the body dead—and the ashes spread—  
his spirit still belongs  
To struggling workers everywhere  
who hear and sing his songs.  
So celebrate his memory,  
raise glasses to the skies;  
Then carry out his final wish:  
Go out and organize!

Go tell it to the workers  
Who have never heard this tale  
Of old Joe Hill whom they could not kill  
And how he did prevail.



The History of Labor  
Is Something  
We Dare Not Forget  
Chas. H. Kerr Publishing Co.

Our Hope:  
The World-wide  
Solidarity of Labor  
— E. Lachland

UNION DEMOCRACY  
UNION MILITANCE  
WORKERS' CONTROL

Solidarity Greetings to the IWW  
LABOR WORK GROUP

Socialist Party, USA  
1011 North Third Street  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53203  
414-276-0773

# PUERTO RICO—Not Quite Not a Colony

Militarily, US—Puerto Rican relations began on July 25th, 1898, when the US invaded Puerto Rico. Although guerrilla resistance by Puerto Ricans persisted for years, US forces quickly conquered the island. Politically, the US invasion did not exactly rescue Puerto Rico from Spanish colonialism. In fact, Spain was in the process of losing her colonial grip when the US muscled in. After decades of anti-colonial struggle, in 1897—Puerto Rico had won from Spain a "Charter of Autonomy".

While this charter was no Declaration of Independence, it came closer in some respects than Puerto Rico has been ever since. Among other rights, it permitted Puerto Rico to have its own currency, to enter into commercial treaties, and to approve or reject treaties or agreements made by Spain that would affect Puerto Rico's economic interests. A binding agreement between Puerto Rico and Spain, it could be amended (by its own terms) only by the request and consent of the Puerto Rico Parliament.

Nevertheless, without even the participation, much less the consent, of Puerto Rico, the charter was amended—or, more precisely, dumped—by the Treaty of Paris signed by Spain and the US on December 10th, 1898.

The new treaty provided that "the civil rights and political conditions of the territories here ceded to the United States will be determined by [the US] Congress". Thus, Puerto Rico's fledgling "autonomy", won in 1897 from Spain, was lost in 1898 to the US.

In 1900 Congress decided how the US would govern this foreign land. It passed a law (the Foraker Act) imposing a colonial administration on Puerto Rico. The US would appoint the Puerto Rico Governor and other principal government officials. Puerto Rico could not enter into treaties with other nations. Puerto Ricans would be subject to all US laws, but not to all constitutional protections. Puerto Rico's Legislature could pass no new laws without submitting them to Congress for approval.

Initially, Puerto Ricans were also denied US citizenship. However this was remedied by Congress (over the express objections of Puerto Rico legislative representatives) in 1917—just in time for Puerto Rican men to be drafted into the US Army on the eve of World War I. But if this "citizenship" bestowed on Puerto Ricans the right to die for the US, it did not also bestow on them the right to vote in US national elections or to have a voting representative in Congress.

This form of colonialism in all but name lasted till after World War II. In 1948, in the rush of the postwar decolonization movement worldwide, the US permitted the people of Puerto Rico for the first time to "elect" a governor to administer US rule of their country. Not surprisingly, a candidate backed by US money and by the US-controlled media, Luis Munoz Marin, won the election.

It was a dubious victory. The pro-independence Puerto Rican Nationalist Party had stuck by its traditional policy of non-recognition of and non-participation in any colonial institutions. The Party had urged voters to stay home on election day. With far fewer resources than Munoz Marin, the Nationalists made a respectable showing: about two eligible voters in five cast their ballots for Munoz Marin, while about two in five stayed home.

In 1950 the US Congress passed a law which permitted Puerto Rico to draw up its "own" Constitution—subject to approval by the US Congress. That Constitution proposed that Puerto Rico become a "Free Associated State" or a so-called commonwealth.

But Puerto Rico was to remain more "associated" than "free". Its proposed "commonwealth" status bore no resemblance to the kind of real independence enjoyed by Canada, Australia, and other countries in the British Commonwealth. Instead, its Governor and Legislature were still to function by authority of and subject to approval of the US Government. Puerto Rico was still required to use US currency, and was still barred from conducting independent foreign trade or diplomatic relations. Puerto Rican men could still fight for the Yankee President, but could not vote for him.

In 1952, the proposed new Constitution was put to a referendum vote in Puerto Rico. Only 46.5% of the potential electorate participated. This minority approved commonwealth status, but could not and did not reject independence, because independence was simply not on the ballot.

Notwithstanding the shortcomings of the new commonwealth status and the referendum approving it, the US was able in 1953 to capitalize on it to have Puerto Rico removed from the United Nations' list of "non-self-governing territories". The US, then at the height of its power and influence in the world, threatened to cut off foreign aid to the nations voting no. Even so, the vote was only 26 for removal from the list and 16 against, with 18 abstentions.

Puerto Rico's political status today remains that of a commonwealth. The question will be taken up by the UN General Assembly, however, on the recommendation of its special committee, whether to reverse the 1953 vote and return Puerto Rico to the list of "non-self-governing territories".

Economically, Puerto Rico is as much a US colony as it is politically. Today US capital controls 90% of Puerto Rico's industrial imports, 80% of its manufacturing, and 60% of its banking. By the late 1970s, a fifth of all US investment in the Third World and a third of all US investment in Latin America was in Puerto Rico. The island is the largest customer in Latin America for goods made in the US, and the fifth largest in the world. In addition,

Puerto Rico is an important potential source of oil, copper, nickel, and other strategic materials.

Through a series of legal chicaneries and economic manipulations, the US gradually forced most Puerto Ricans off their land. First the US straitjacketed the island in a one-crop sugar-export economy, only to relocate the sugar industry in Cuba later on. Then the US moved in with the much-touted "Operation Bootstrap", a capital-intensive industrialization program that created too few jobs for Puerto Rico's displaced and landless people. Furthermore, some 13% of the island's arable land is occupied by US military bases.

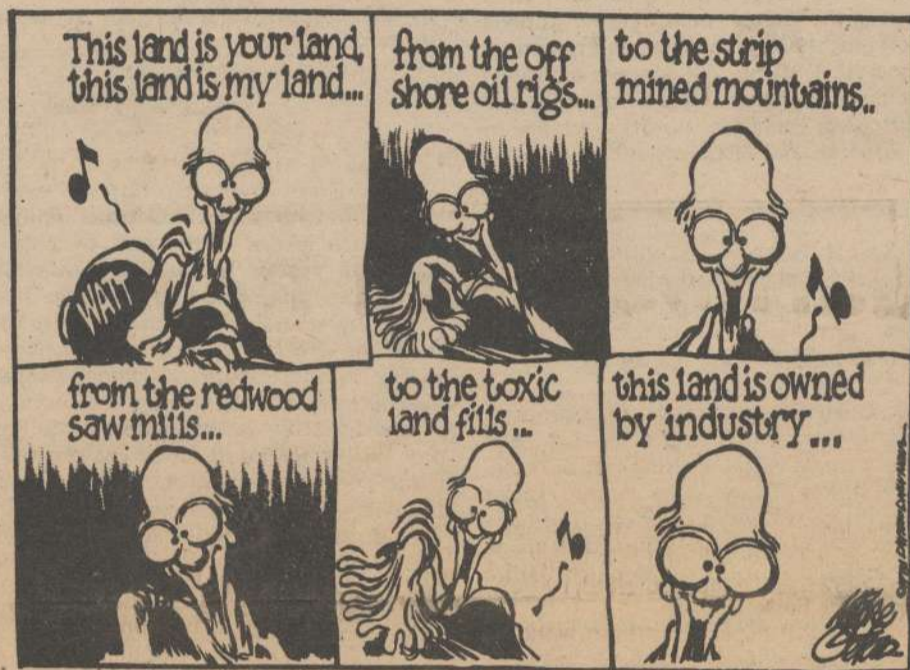
As a result, 2.5 million Puerto Ricans—nearly half the population—were forced to strap on their boots and emigrate to the US. Of those that stayed, as of January 1981, 58% of Puerto Rico's population was on food stamps. Yet despite this widespread poverty, Puerto Ricans are excluded altogether from several major federal poverty programs, and receive reduced benefit levels in others. As a result, Puerto Rico receives only half as much federal aid per capita as states with similar populations.

On top of this, recent cutbacks of Comprehensive Employment and Training Act (CETA) programs have elim-

inated more than 24,000 public-service jobs at a cost of \$120 million to the island's economy. This one cut alone raised the official unemployment rate from 18% to 20.4%, and the actual rate may be double that. A central tenet of Reagan's supply-side economic theory has been to partly offset federal spending cuts through generous reductions in federal income taxes that cannot apply to Puerto Rico, because its residents do not pay federal taxes. Further budget cutbacks in the food-stamp programs are expected to reverse a nearly decade-long trend that saw a slightly larger number of Puerto Ricans returning to the island than leaving, and send a new wave of emigrants to the US mainland.

The displacement of half the island's population, the forced use of the English language, and the sterilization of more than a third of Puerto Rican women of child-bearing age are only some of the signposts of colonialism. All these factors add up to more than the sum of their parts. Colonialism, at bottom, is more than an armed invasion, a faulty referendum, or an unemployment statistic: It is an affront to human dignity.

(adapted from *the Reader*, Volume 10, Number 51)



© Mike Peters, Dayton Daily News

## From the Bookcase

*Bitter Harvest: A History of California Farmworkers, 1870-1941*, by Cletus E. Daniel, Cornell University Press, 1981, 348 pages, numerous photos, \$19.50

Tom Carter, under-sheriff of Kern County, told an interviewer during the 1933 California cotton-field strike: "We protect farmers out here in Kern County. They are our best people. They are always with us. They put us in here and they can put us out again, so we serve them."

From the days before California became a part of the USA, farms there have been predominantly large, owned by an elite, and worked by a submerged class, native or imported—Mexican, Chinese, Filipino, Japanese, Puerto Rican, with a scattering of "whites". Workers have had to take what farm owners offered because of competition among themselves, the keener for ethnic differences and the need for a job. If they got "uppity" they faced a law and order openly and gladly subservient to the landowners.

Professor Daniel's book surveys the land-ownership history of the state as it changed from wheat land to more profitable crops, and the "search for a peasantry" that large farming required. Some did dream of an egalitarian land of small family farms, and some of larger farms worked at peak seasons by residents of industrial villages created nearby through economic planning. But harvesting and much of the other seasonal work has been done by migratory workers.

Despite the "1870-1941" in the sub-title, the focus of the book is on the years 1928 to 1935. In 1928 world politics led the Communist International to switch from "boring from within" to building its own party-controlled unions, or trying to. For parallel reasons it switched back to "boring from within" the established unions in 1935. In California agriculture the Communists faced no significant competition from other unions—state labor federation leaders hoped for farmers as political allies. (At the end of the account, when the Communists had swung around to organizing farm workers into the new CIO UCAPAWA, the AFL state federation arranged a master contract with the Associated Farmers so as to declare all strikes illegal and sanction strikebreaking.)

Thus in the seven years studied in detail in this book (1928-1935) the employers had the excuse of "fighting communism" for the atrocities whereby they kept their workers hungry and powerless. With vigilantes, clubs, guns, jails, murder, and ultimately the Criminal Syndicalism law they had used a decade earlier against us IWWs, they kept unionism from establishing itself despite union

heroism. Professor Daniel gives a detailed, documented account of all this, and alongside it of the New Dealing George Creel, thereby showing once more how treacherously close the paternalism of the do-gooders can come to fascism.

Throughout this account there is minimal reference to the IWW, chiefly regarding the hop-picker strike at Wheatland in 1913. In the Fall 1978 edition of *Labor History*, the Professor had an odd piece on that strike contending that the IWW chose to switch from organizing to the defense of Ford and Suhr. Photos in this volume of that miserable hop-picker camp before the Wobs struck it, and of the much better camp that was there the next year, show once more that "lost" strikes are far from complete losses.

Like Carleton Parker, Professor Daniel tends to view the "white" migratory farm as a tribe that must be inferior, or it would rise above that status. Yet on Page 99 of *Bitter Harvest* he documents the anti-IWW secret surveillance Parker conducted in 1914 and afterward, revealing those "110-cats" as far from an inferior lot. I think back to an assemblage consisting mostly of Agricultural Workers IU 110 members in the spring of 1922 on the outskirts of Oroville, California, to get local IWW newsboys out of jail. They did, and no one who heard their deliberations or conversed with them could call them inferior.

Why did they follow work that paid so little? Because they liked agriculture despite what the employing class had done to it, for it was the basic life-sustaining work of mankind. They preferred fields to factories, and they weren't fond of working steadily at one continuous job.

For a bit of background on how racial intolerance had kept California agriculture unorganized, see the thrilling account of the battle of Oxnard in some bound volume of the *International Socialist Review* for 1903, and you'll find that Samuel Gompers had refused to charter locals which included Asiatics.

### NEW BOOKS ON THE IWW

We expect shortly to review two new books on the IWW, both issued by Greenwood Press. One is a 224-page volume of recollections of free-speech fights titled *Fellow Workers and Friends*, edited by Philip S. Foner. The other, edited by Joseph Conlin, is a collection of essays by various historians on the IWW's job record *At the Point of Production*.

F. T.



**NOVEMBER**

*Red November, black November  
Bleak November, black and red;  
Hallowed month of labor's martyrs,  
Labor's heroes, labor's dead.  
Labor's wrath and hope and sorrow  
Red the promise, black the threat.  
Who are we not to remember?  
Who are we to dare forget?  
Black and red the colors blended;  
Black and red the pledge we made  
Red until the fight is ended  
Black until the debt is paid.*

— Ralph Chaplin  
November 1933



L. FISH

**Solidarnosc Had Roots**

Polish workers have surprised the world by their capacity to organize themselves independently of establishment unions. That capacity is not a flash in the pan that occurred in the shipyards of Gdansk. Instead it has roots, some of which are disclosed in a pamphlet which consists largely of translations from *Robotnik* of 1979, published by *News and Letters*, 2832 East Grand Boulevard, Detroit, Michigan 48211, price one buck.

These roots lie not only in paper but also in workers' personal knowledge of each other, much as has occurred in many a workplace in America, where honorable survivors of previous struggles form a trusted core for new ones. Whether in Gdansk or Pittsburgh, without planning it, they form a job-based, face-to-face, informal organization, warranting and receiving the confidence of their fellows, and thus enabled to get workers to trust one another (which is the starting point of any organizing).

From such "lost battles" a group of Polish workers were able to publish the two-page paper *Robotnik* in 1976 and keep it going to spotlight such complaints as forced overtime, unsafe working conditions, and other grievances that get attention only when they are spotlighted.

In its Issue Number 30, March 18th, 1979, *Robotnik* attacked an effort to extend the three-year term of union officials and called for an election, asking these questions:

"Who remembers that the time to elect union officials is coming? No one notices that their three-year terms of office have been extended through next year. No one cares, for the official unions haven't played any important role for a long time. . . . Are we too easily leaving the representation of our interests in the hands of people who do not deserve our trust? Let's not forget that, even in Poland, the first statutory obligation of a union is to defend the interests of the workers. . . ."

"What did the union officers do during and after the June events? What was their position on the June price hike? Did they defend co-workers dismissed after the strike? . . . Did they protest in writing against unjustified fines on workers—especially those workers with a previous history of being unaccommodating to management, the Party, or the 'high command'?. . . ."

"Cost-of-living adjustments have to be a permanent element of wages. . . . Methods of forcing overtime cannot be tolerated, whether it's by closing the gates so the shift can't leave, threatening with fines, or withholding the bonus pay. Taking away the one free Saturday a month is a scandal. . . . We cannot wait another year. . . . We have to demand that the union elections be when they were supposed to be—now."

Bits of that gripe may sound familiar to some American union members too. *Robotnik* used heavy satire, too, as in glowing praise of the "Party":

"This is all we know: The Party is infinitely good. It is wise, honest, and can do all. It is the heart, overflowing with love for the working people. It is the brain of the nation. It will supply a wife to your bed, find you an apartment, defend you against slander. . . . It takes care of everything. Like a good master, it worries about leaky roofs, steel for railroads, and railroads to haul the steel. . . . It knows how to reward people. In the pockets of the Party member's suit are stuck permits for a car and an apartment. . . . We watch the Party secretary's struggle with stubborn cement, with the Steyer trucks, and with those appendages to machines: people."

On June 9th, 1979 someone, probably the *Robotnik* group, brought out an imitation of the Government organ *People's Tribune*, much in the manner of April First journalistic spoofs here, announcing that Gierek had resigned and that Karol Wojtala, known to the rest of the world as Pope, was on the throne as Karol I, and the Polish United Workers Party replaced by the United Christian Workers Party, with made-up greetings on this occasion by notables around the world. In it workers were asking Karol I to "Let us celebrate all religious holidays: for example, Peter and Paul, St. George, Corpus Christi, Immaculate Conception, Ascension Day, St. Stanislaw, St. Andrew, and the other 35 saints who are dear to us. Of course we cannot work on Sunday, the day designated for prayer; we would also like to get ready for Sunday's celebration on Saturday."

It requires the discussion among workers of something other than ballgames to build the capacity for democratic organization—and having a paper devoted to that end is a mighty help.

★★★ **IWW Directory**

**NORTH AMERICA**

**ALASKA:** Anchorage IWW, Ruth Sheridan, Delegate, 4704 Kenai, Anchorage, Alaska 99504.  
Juneau/Douglas IWW, Barry Roderick, Delegate, PO Box 748, Douglas, Alaska 99824.  
Fairbanks IWW, Chris White, Delegate, Box 72938, Fairbanks, Alaska 99707.  
**ARKANSAS:** Arkadelphia IWW, PO Box 371, Arkadelphia, Arkansas 71923.  
**CALIFORNIA:** San Diego IWW Group, Sandra Dutke, Delegate, 4472 George, San Diego, California 92116, Phone (714) 296-9966.  
San Francisco General Membership Branch, Frank Devore, Branch Secretary, PO Box 40485, San Francisco, California 94140, Richard Ellington, Delegate, 6448 Irwin Court, Oakland, California 94609, Phone (415) 658-0293.  
Industrial Union 450 Branch, Laura Rosenfeld, Secretary, Synthex Press, 2590 Folsom, San Francisco, California 94110.

**IOWA:** All Workers Organizing Committee, Box 382, Sioux Rapids, Iowa 50585, or Jake Edwards, (712) 283-2816.

**ILLINOIS:** Chicago General Membership Branch, Leslie Fish, Branch Secretary, 3435 North Sheffield, Suite 202, Chicago, Illinois 60657, Phone (312) 549-5045. Meetings held on the first Friday of the month at 7:30 pm. Child care provided if notice given in advance to Branch Secretary.  
Champaign/Urbana IWW, Jeff Stein, Delegate, 1007 North Randolph, Champaign, Illinois 61820.

**MARYLAND:** J. K. Spitzberg, Delegate, 13042 Open Hearth Way, Germantown, Maryland 20874.

**MASSACHUSETTS:** Boston General Membership Branch and General Defense Committee Local 13, Willie Marquart, Branch Secretary, PO Box 454, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139. Meetings are held the first Sunday of each month. Child care provided if arranged in advance with the Secretary. Phone 522-7090 or 524-0529.

**MICHIGAN:** Detroit/Ann Arbor General Membership Branch, Eric Glatz, Delegate, 2305 West Jefferson, Trenton, Michigan 48183, Phone (313) 675-8959.  
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**MINNESOTA:** Minneapolis/Saint Paul IWW, Nancy Arthur Collins, Delegate, 1688 Dayton, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55104. Scott Burgwin, Delegate, 3343 15th Avenue South, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55407.

**MONTANA:** Thompson Falls IWW, A. L. Nurse, Delegate, Route 5, Box 88, Thompson Falls, Montana 59873, Phone (406) 827-3238. Missoula, PO BOX 8562, Missoula, Montana 59807.

**NEW MEXICO:** New Mexico General Membership Branch, c/o 700 Vassar Southeast, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87106.

**NEW YORK:** Buffalo IWW, Henry Pfaff, Delegate, 77 Ekhert, Buffalo, New York 14207, Phone (716) 877-6073.

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**OREGON:** Corvallis IWW Group, Bill Palmer, Delegate, 546 NW 14th, Corvallis, Oregon 97330.

Eugene/Springfield IWW Group, Tim Acott, Delegate, 442 Monroe, Eugene, Oregon 97402.

**TEXAS:** Houston IWW Group, PO Box 35253, Houston, Texas 77035, Phone (713) 865-4875, or Gilbert Mers, (713) 921-0877.

Austin IWW, Red River Women's Press, 908C West 12th Street, Austin, Texas 78701, Phone (512) 476-0389.

Rye, Texas: Fred Hansen, Delegate, Box 728, Rye, Texas 77368, Phone (713) 685-4875.

San Antonio: Industrial Worker Distribution Project, 1602 West Huisache (2), San Antonio, Texas 78201.

Industrial Organizing Committee, PO Box 12831, San Antonio, Texas 78212, Phone (512) 736-6033.

**WASHINGTON:** Seattle General Membership Branch, Charlotte Jahn, Branch Secretary, 3238 33rd Avenue South, Seattle, Washington 98144.

Bellingham, David Tucker, Delegate, PO Box 1386, Bellingham, Washington 98227.

Tacoma/Olympia General Membership Branch, Otilie Markholt, Branch Secretary, 2115 South Sheridan Avenue, Tacoma, Washington 98405, Phone (206) 272-8119.

**WISCONSIN:** Madison General Membership Branch and General Defense Committee Local 9, Richard Linster, Acting Secretary, 426 Cantwell Court, Madison, Wisconsin 53703.

**BRITISH COLUMBIA:** Vancouver IWW Group, Al Grierson, Delegate, 4631 East Pender Street, Burnaby, British Columbia V5C, 2N2, Canada.

**EUROPE**

**GREAT BRITAIN:** British Section IWW, Paul Shellard, Section Secretary, PO Box 48, Oldham, Lancashire OL1, 2JU, England. Elaine Godina, Delegate, Phone 061-633-5405.

**SWEDEN:** Stockholm IWW Group, Goran Werin, Delegate, PO Box 19104 104 32 Stockholm 19, Sweden.

**PACIFIC**

**GUAM:** Guam IWW Group, Shelby Shapiro, Delegate, PO Box 864, Agana, Guam 96910.

**AUSTRALIA:** IWW Sydney Office, 417 King Street, 1st Floor, Newton, Sydney, Australia.

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# DID YOU NOTICE?



Although long-range incarceration of prisoners of conscience has declined in Chile in recent years, short-term detention and torture are still common. Since March of this year, more than 370 people have been arrested, 300 of whom were released without charges after a few days of detention. Among those arrested were 200 people who participated in a May Day demonstration, and (in July) 10 members of the unofficial trade union CNS, whose President Alamiro Gutzman and Secretary-General Manuel Bustos remain in a Santiago jail. The possibility of torture now exists regardless of the type of detention, since after national and international condemnation some of the traditional torture techniques were replaced. The new methods, including electric shocks, suffocation, drugs, and psychological torture, produce fewer obvious effects.

In Mali, amnesty has been granted to more than 40 teachers who have been detained and banished for their role in an autonomous teachers' union. Thirteen teachers have been released after having been held without charge

or trial for five months, and 32 teachers may be allowed to return from the remote parts of the country to which they have been banished.

Suicide has now become Europe's third-most-common cause of death, exceeded only by heart attacks and auto accidents. Belgium reported one of the largest increases: 30% in 1977-79.

More people were executed in Iran in the four months of July, August, September, and October 1981 than in the entire world during 1980. Amnesty International reported that more than 1800 people had been executed in Iran since June 20th, compared to 1,229 executions worldwide last year—including 709 in Iran. More than 3,350 people have been executed in Iran since the Islamic revolution in February 1979, and more than 1610 since the June overthrow of President Bani-Sadr.

The US intends to increase its production of weapons-grade plutonium and tritium at Energy Department-owned facilities more than 70% to meet the demand for the Government's expanding nuclear-weapons program. The conversion of the Richland, Washington reactor from fuel-grade to weapons-grade plutonium would provide "an additional 750 kilograms per year", a Defense Department official said. About four kilograms of plutonium can make an atomic bomb.

Republican Senator S. I. Hayakawa of California wants to defuse thousands of American bombs littering Laos, but he's not in favor of removing live bombs from Vietnam. Asked if he really meant to say it was all right for the bombs to kill innocent Vietnamese farmers, Hayakawa replied: "It wouldn't break my heart."

Six years ago, stern warnings were posted alongside all roads leading into Massachusetts: Anyone convicted of carrying a handgun without a state permit would go to jail for one year, without exceptions. Today this, the country's toughest gun-control law, has cut the number of murders committed with handguns within the state significantly. In 1976, as the statute began to have its full effect, the number of murders committed with handguns dropped 21%. In 1977 the number of such homicides fell 55%. In 1979 there were only 54 handgun homicides out of a total of 208.

No US federal health plan will be allowed to pay for

an abortion except when the life of the woman is at stake, the Government announced the last week in September. Officials of the Office of Personnel Management warned federal-employee health-program carriers that any which provide non-emergency abortion benefits will be dropped from the program. Cuts were also made in the dental and mental-health benefit program which serves more than nine million federal workers.

Rioting spread to eight West German cities in protest of the death of a teenager during the West Berlin Government's use of nearly 2,000 riot police to clear eight buildings of squatters. The city's Christian Democratic Government was elected in May on a pledge to evict squatters from the estimated 800 city-owned empty houses in West Berlin. A first attempt to get tough in June sparked the worst violence to date, with 76 policemen injured and 55 arrests.

Pope John Paul II reaffirmed the idea that women's place is in the home, devoting themselves "exclusively to their families". He was willing that they be paid for this, lest having to work outside the home hinder the "primary goals of the mission of the mother".

Scores of people were injured in the worst rioting in Manila in five years as police with guns and clubs fought rock-throwing students denouncing the "US-Marcos dictatorship".

## Literature

### THEORETICAL

- ( ) IWW Organizing Manual ..... 75¢
- ( ) Collective Bargaining Manual ..... 75¢
- ( ) IWW Preamble and Constitution ..... 30¢
- ( ) Inflation: Cause and Cure ..... 25¢
- ( ) Workers' Guide to Direct Action ..... 25¢
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### AVAILABLE FOR LOCAL GROUPS AND BRANCHES

Available from the Chicago Branch, 3435 North Sheffield Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60657: *Fat Cat Poster*, \$5; *Metal Workers' Guide to Health and Safety on the Job*, 50¢; *Durruti: The People Armed*, \$5; *Bicicleta*, a Spanish anarcho-syndicalist magazine (in Spanish), \$1.50. Available from the Tacoma-Olympia Branch, 2115 South Sheridan Avenue, Tacoma, Washington 98405: *Fellow Union Member*, 10¢ each; bundles of 5 to 15, 5¢ each; 15 to 499, 3¢ each; 500 or more, 2¢ each.

## PREAMBLE TO THE CONSTITUTION 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 in 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 interests of the working class upheld 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 there is a strike or a lockout in any department thereof, thus making an injury to one an injury to all.

Instead of the conservative motto "A fair day's wage for a 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 everyday fight with capitalists, but also to carry on production once capitalism shall have been overthrown. By organizing industrially we are forming the structure of the new society within the shell of the old.



## BLACK CHILDREN'S DEATHS

One of every 17 non-white men in the US and one of every 32 non-white women between 16 and 19 are the victims of a serious crime each year. For every white male teenager murdered in America, five young non-whites are killed. Almost 50 of every 100,000 non-white youngsters under the age of 19 are murdered—and almost seven of every 100,000 non-white children under the age of four are murdered, according to a 1975 report by the US Department of Health, Education, and Welfare. Since then, police officials say, the figures have only gotten worse.

More young blacks are the victims of homicide than of heart disease, cancer, and the other major diseases combined. More black youths were killed last year in the US than all the blacks killed in the Vietnam War. The figures are necessarily incomplete. There are at least 50,000 missing or runaway children in the US, more of them black and poor than white and affluent. How many of those missing are dead is unknown.

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## WE MAY MOVE

There is a proposal under consideration that the *Industrial Worker* be produced and mailed from Albuquerque, New Mexico. If that is done, business with the paper and articles for it would still be handled at the Chicago office. Exchanges with the paper also should still be sent here so long as the editorial work is done in Chicago. The proposal is simply that the manufacturing process of the paper and its mailing be moved to the Sun Belt.

However we would not want to saddle the fellow workers there with subscriptions that have expired or are just about to expire. Please look at Page 1 of this paper, and on the dateline you will read "Volume 78, Number 12, WN 1424". WN stands for whole number, for this is the 1424th issue of this paper since it was first issued in November 1909 in Spokane.

Now look at your address label. If you are a member of this union, your card number appears there, and you will continue to get the paper so long as you pay your dues. But if you are not a member and get it as a subscriber, there will be a number after your name. If this number is lower than 1424, it means your subscription has expired and we have kept you on for an issue or two awaiting your renewal. If it is only a little higher than 1424, it means your subscription will expire soon, and we would appreciate your renewing it in advance, so that if we move our mailing operation to New Mexico we won't saddle the fellow workers there with a bunch of subscriptions about to expire. (If you are renewing, how about sending us \$6 a year instead of \$4, and getting a bundle of five each month for distribution?)

When you move, please give us your change of address ahead of time: *both your old address and your new one*. Otherwise the Post Office soaks us 25¢ for telling us you moved, and you miss the paper.