



INDUSTRIAL WORKERS  
OF THE WORLD

# INDUSTRIAL WORKER

★ EDUCATION ★ ORGANIZATION ★ EMANCIPATION

VOLUME 78, NUMBER 4 - WN 1416

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, MARCH 1981

25 CENTS

## HELP!

SAVE THE INDUSTRIAL WORKER!

Financial problems are not unique to the *Industrial Worker*. All radical publications are hard-hit—*Progressive*, *WIN*, *Monthly Review*—and *Seven Days* has folded.

It costs roughly \$560 an issue to put out the IW. Postage comes to \$75 a month, typesetting \$165, layout supplies \$15, and printing \$300 (up from \$240 in 1979). We sell about \$179 monthly in bundles and subscriptions, not counting copies to members. We get an average of \$273 a month in donations to the paper and sales of press stamps. The central organization is increasingly less able to pick up the difference between the IW's costs and its returns, particularly as expenses are rising and income is dwindling.

We are publishing this four-page issue to dramatize the *Industrial Worker's* plight.

The *Industrial Worker* is one face the Industrial Workers of the World have opened to the world—a silent agitator. The *Industrial Worker* provides a working-class slant to domestic and world news, garnering nuggets of information on stories played down by the boss press. And if we're to keep going, we need your help.

In the short run we need more donations to the sustaining fund. In the long run we need to triple our circulation. When you're done with your copy, what do you do with it? Hand it to a friend? If not, why not? Write to the paper and tell us why. If the articles we run are not relevant to your organizing needs, send us articles that are. For just 50¢ a month you can get five extra copies. Leave them in laundromats, on the bus, anywhere people might pick them up. We may get some extra subscriptions that way. More importantly, some more people may start picking up ideas about the One Big Union.



Jim Oldham and Pat Hadley at Work Shop Printers have IWW buttons. (Seattle PI)

## New York Branch Aids Local TDU

Members of the New York Organizing Committee of the IWW met in Manhattan January 9th to plan a fundraising party and raffle to provide a "home" for the New York Regional Teamsters for a Democratic Union (TDU).

TDU is a nationwide rank-and-file Teamster reform organization which currently has more than 9,000 members in all Teamster crafts and jurisdictions.

Why have Teamster drivers, dock hands, warehouse and factory workers, bookkeepers, and clerical workers all banded together in TDU to fight for union democracy and reform?

The answer is simple: Their union is the wealthiest and most powerful in America, but it's also the most undemocratic and corrupt. Official Teamster corruption hurts rank-and-file members in many ways. In return for relatively high wage settlements and a free hand to mismanage Teamster pensions and welfare funds, top IBT officials have given trucking companies unlimited control over the Teamsters' working conditions.

National freight agreements negotiated once every three years are almost immediately undermined by different supplements and endless local sweetheart deals covering work rules, changes in operation, and seniority.

In freight and other industries, long hours, poor job-safety conditions, and company harassment continue to plague the membership.

Instead of providing Teamsters with a tool to enforce

their contracts, the union's joint-committee grievance procedure is a way of constantly rewriting them—to benefit the boss. When active members protest against this, the joint committee can be used to railroad them too.

TDU believes that the problems of Teamsters on the job can be solved only by their regaining rank-and-file control over their union. Its program calls for direct rank-and-file election of stewards, business agents, joint council and conference officials, convention delegates, international officials, and vice-presidents.

Today TDU members are carrying the fight into every local union hall. They are organizing for decent contracts, fighting to get the membership the right to vote on all officers from steward to International General President, working for safety and health for all teamsters, designing legislation and fighting for its enforcement, teaching the membership how to fight and win grievances, working to reform local unions by passing democratic by-laws, running reform candidates for office in local union elections, and providing legal help for rank-and-file members via a network of TDU lawyers.

TDU's fight for rank-and-file control over their union strikes a responsive chord in IWW members, who are also working to establish democracy in their everyday life on the job.

The New York Regional Chapter of Teamsters for a Democratic Union plans to open a storefront in the New York area in which Teamster activists and TDU members

can meet, conduct educationals, store their records, produce their newspapers, and bring their families. While many committed members of TDU have already made monthly pledges to raise money for this purpose, they are still short of their goal.

For the last month New York Wobs have been meeting with TDU representatives to plan jointly the Storefront Benefit Party which has been scheduled to take place on May 2nd in New York City. They have volunteered their many talents and scarce time to make this project a success. They welcome the support and ideas of IWW members everywhere.

Fellow workers wishing to help should write to the New York Organizing Committee of the IWW in care of Rochelle Semel, 788 Columbus Avenue, Apartment 16D, New York, New York 10025, or phone (212) 662-8801.

## MAY DAY

On April 8th we plan to turn in the last of our copy for the May Day *Industrial Worker*, so it can be in the hands of our readers on both coasts for the celebrations in which they participate on Friday, May First.

On May Day, 1981, your physical presence at some gathering of your fellow workers should tell the world that you believe we should all stick together and not bomb each other. You can help make that clear by having some copies of our May Day issue with you. In bundles of five or more they cost you only a dime.

Your greetings in our May Day issue are welcomed (but no commercial advertising). That issue will be larger than usual, and can handle greetings all the way from one column inch to one page. This year we would like more small greetings than we had last year. Because we run three columns to the page, display spaces must fit that format. We recommend a half page (\$75), a half column (\$30), postcard size: five column inches (\$20), a column inch (\$5), or a full page (\$120).

Camera-ready art for greetings is much appreciated, and so are greetings we have to lay out ourselves. If you would like display space and want to leave it up to the *Industrial Worker* Collective to find suitable copy, we'll be glad to see what we can find. Please send greetings in early.

We also welcome input and suggestions for that May Day and other issues.



Teamster dissidents battle union corruption.

# SOUND OF A DISTANT DRUM

With that panache and air of studied indifference that has made the Island Race so unpopular with most—nay, all—of the world's populace, the men, the women, and even the small children not only shrugged off but appeared completely indifferent to the election by the American voters of Super Ron as Your Most Powerful Man in the World, friends. It is true that Ron is now one of the universal unholy trinity who hold my life in their hands, but the world has lived too long with atomic death to let that minor problem worry it over much.

Do I jest, comrades? The answer is no. For the jolly middle-class crusade to Ban the Bomb can raise a crowd but not an eyebrow within these small islands, as there are far too many problems for us to worry about death. There on our television screens, and in almost every newspaper headline, we have the Gang of Three, or Four, or the Limehouse Ten, according to who or what is climbing aboard their circus wagon. And in the bitterness, the anger, or the fullness of the American day, you could rightly ask "Who are the Gang of Three, and what's it to me, meatloaf: you with the cricket bat and the mouth?" And the answer is, comrades, that the working class within these islands are seeing a process that is common to every society, and that is an entrenched middle class attempting to take over, and all too often succeeding in taking over, a working-class organization.

Whenever any organization created by the laboring masses of the working class comes into being, it is born and it grows in the agony of its fight to survive. And in their fight for primitive justice the working masses have only one enemy, and that is the entrenched middle class within every society. Go back five thousand years in time, and the peasant, the slave, or the landless laborer has only one enemy. And that is not the king, not the baron, not the rich man in cocooned isolation, but the great parasitical host of administration classes that live off the oaf in office or the clod in power. So too with Super Ron in the White House, comrades. But whenever the laboring masses have managed to establish a foothold within their particular society—be it union, craft guild, or political party—then the children of the middle class have moved in for the rich pickings.

This is what is now happening with Britain's social-democratic party, the Labour Party, for the Gang of Three so loved by the right-wing news media in these islands, America, and Europe as "liberty" funpeople. With Europe's social-democratic parties now adrift, and its socialist ideals jettisoned for the expediency of collecting votes, the middle class now see this as their chance to move in and take over a mass working-class party. And what do they offer for their betrayal? It is to the middle-class voter that when the middle class wins control of the social-democratic Labour Party, then socialism shall be kicked out of the Labour Party constitution.

And that is enshrined in the Clause 4 that is printed in full on every Labour Party member's card: "To secure for the workers, by hand or by brain, the full fruits of their industry, and the most equitable distribution thereof that may be possible upon the basis of the common ownership of the means of production, distribution, and exchange, and the best obtainable system of popular administration and control of each industry." And that is the cancellation that the middle-class infiltrators into the working-class organizations offer the middle class for their support: the destruction of the fruit of centuries of militant working-class battles for social justice, and in its place a

managerial society with its mild reformist liberal pap.

Comrades, we can mock, we can jeer, we can point out all the obvious flaws and errors in other working-class organizations. But we must never take part in their destruction by the enemies of the working class; for we must never be like the German Communist Party, of whom history claimed that in 1933 they stood aside to let Hitler's Nazis destroy the German Social Democratic Party as the greater evil. Twenty million or more dead men, women, and children gave the lie to that. Six hundred years ago, in June of 1381, Wat Tyler and John Ball, the rebel priest, at the head of their peasant army, marched on London to confront Richard II for no more than social justice. And on the 13th of June, 1381, they assembled on Blackheath, and John Ball preached his sermon to that peasant army and cried out that slogan that this day could be carried on any or every picket line:

"Whan Adam dalf, and Eve span,  
Wo was thanne a gentelman?"

When Adam labored and Eve span, who was then the gentleman? Not a question, but an accusation. Wat Tyler, John Ball, and Jack Straw were murdered, but in London Blackheath still stands as an open place, and that slogan of John Ball is still the slogan of the day. So let us pray that those who believe in the creation of that just society for which those nameless peasants marched will meet on the 13th of June, 1981—not to honor them, but to take up their ancient and honored banner.

But there are battles to be fought, and for a brief while lost. There by London's cricketing Oval was the Kilner squat, wherein a handful of men, women, and children occupied 60 flats of a public-housing estate that a Tory council and the Thatcher Government were hawking off to private buyers. There behind the barricaded walls—no more than sheets of corrugated iron—those 200 people stood firm until, at 6:50 in the dark morning, over 400 police with riot shields moved in after ripping the chains off the improvised gate by using a lorry. These are the battle lines, comrades, and not in the great conference halls, or in the mouthings of the leader-writers of the pundits of the national press.

For myself I take my small and insignificant little part in the Kilner squat, wave to David Spain, and wonder if Philip's photographs will come out. And at night it is wine at Editions Graphiques among the Art Nouveau, and I leave to walk to the Hamilton Gallery for more wine among the beautiful furniture. And in the dark night, as I cross Berkeley Square, where once the nightingale sang, I meet an elderly critic who, having drunk his fill at Hamilton's, is on his way to Editions Graphiques to sup more wine. And we stand in the darkness of Berkeley Square sans nightingale, and amuse ourselves with gossip of how old Sir Tony Blunt, ex Sir and ex Keeper of the Queen's daubs, might have recruited more lads for Stalin's maniac cause not only at Cambridge, but yea God at Oxford, among the dreaming spires. And we spoke of the new don's delight in structuralism, with its touch of Parisian haute couture and Marxism, and we passed on with a gentle word of farewell—he to Editions Graphiques and I to Hamilton for the wine. And if you are there in the darkness, Wat Tyler, John Ball, and Jack Straw, call back the nightingale... call back the nightingale.

Arthur Moyses, London



Arthur Moyses and Vicki outside Hammersmith Central Library, London, which they rescued from demolition. (West London Observer)

## WE'RE IN AN OPERA!

From Christmas through January 11th, Modern Times Theater presented *The Bread and Roses Play* in New York. It's about the 1912 strike in Lawrence and is set to music by the late Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, 1756-1791. The plot? The *New York Post* says: "It concentrates on how two archetypal workers—an Italian weaver and his wife—become converted to the labor cause through their Jewish boarder, an IWW organizer." Or as Rachel Kranz explains to readers of *In These Times*: "Like many working-class Italians of that time, Giovanni and Emilia know their opera so well that Emilia can call her husband a 'Don Giovanni', a philanderer" for falling in love with that Jewish girl, all to Mozart's music.

The IWW is not a complete stranger to opera. Mary Davis and Joanna Sampson wrote the opera *Columbine* about the 1927 IWW coal strike in Colorado, produced in 1973. Though the grand operas carry scars from their misuse to star vocal gymnastics for the glorification of sugar daddies, there is in them a radical thrust, a natural consequence of the circumstance that those who have provided the world with beauty usually have not liked the world the way they found it. Mozart's distaste for bourgeois ways shows in his *Marriage of Figaro*, Puccini's detestation of tyrants in *Tosca*, and Verdi's anti-imperialism in *Aida*, while in 1848 Wagner fought on the barricades and Meyerbeer gave Marx money so he could print the *Communist Manifesto*. In 1920, when Italian steel workers headed a move for the workers to take over industry, Mascagni of *Cavalleria Rusticana* fame urged theater workers to organize and do likewise.

The 7th (1914) edition of the IWW Song Book carried some lyrics for ebullient tenors to sing to operatic airs: "Courage and honor to him who is jailed" to the soldiers' chorus in *Faust*, a portentous "We come" to the toreador's song in *Carmen*, and "Liberty forever" to the tune of the "Anvil Chorus".

## SUBscribe !!

The *Industrial Worker* is published monthly, normally eight pages, sometimes twelve pages. Subscriptions are \$4 per year. (The annual rate for libraries is \$8 and includes replacements.) Six-month introductory offer \$1.50, two years \$7.50. Make checks payable to IWW, 3435 North Sheffield, Chicago, Illinois 60657.

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



**Industrial Worker**

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE INDUSTRIAL WORKERS OF THE WORLD

3435 North Sheffield, Suite 202  
Chicago, Illinois 60657, USA  
Phone 312-549-5045  
(ISSN 0019-8870)

The *Industrial Worker* is the official organ of the Industrial Workers of the World. It is owned entirely by the IWW and is issued monthly. Second-class postage paid at Chicago, Illinois. Unless designated as official policy, *Industrial Worker* articles do not necessarily represent the official position of the Industrial Workers of the World.

NO PAID OR COMMERCIAL  
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THE FINAL DEADLINE FOR ALL COPY IS  
THE SECOND WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH

Mary Frohman, Business Manager

## New Song Book

Printing a new edition of the *IWW Song Book* will give us a chance to make some changes. Readers of the *Industrial Worker*, as well as our members, are invited to suggest what these changes should be. But please write your suggestions on a separate sheet that does not involve other IWW business, so these sheets can be shunted into one folder for the *Song Book* committee to consider.

You can count on it that long-standing favorite songs will remain. To make it easier to locate these, they have been put either up front, or right in the middle, or at the end of recent printings of the *Song Book*: "Solidarity", "The International", "Power in a Union", "Hallelujah, I'm a Bum", "Conditions, They Are Bad", "Hold the Fort", "Casey Jones", "Red Flag", "Popular Wobbly", and "The Preacher and the Slave". We would like you to list the six or so other songs in the book that you most want kept in. And, since we can't put in new songs and still keep the book the same size without leaving some old ones out, we would like you to list the six or so you feel could best be omitted.

We would also welcome your suggestions for songs, old or new, that you feel ought to be there but are not. Perhaps some old songs should be put into circulation again. The film *The Wobblies* has re-popularized "When You Wore That Button, That Wobbly Red Button". You can find that in the 14th edition or on Page 240 of Joyce Kornbluh's *Rebel Voices*. Or in the same book, on Page 138, you can find one of Joe Hill's old songs, "What We Want", which Todd Smith, a Cleveland folk singer who has collected the music for all the pop songs that Hill parodied, says is well liked when he sings it these days.



# BLOOD AND OIL

Petroleum production has always been a dangerous business. Exploration, drilling, production, transport, and refining of crude oil all have inherent risk. Even major advances in technology have done little to reduce the work hazards of the industry. As the lust for energy grew and oil-field technology was employed in more-and-more-hostile physical (and less-sophisticated political) environments, a once-risky blue-collar occupation became a full-fledged industrial killer.

Nowhere is this more apparent than in what is known as the international offshore industry. The name is misleading, since only the sources of petroleum and the industry's workers are international. The controlling com-

panies are overwhelmingly American. Because industry labor-power needs fluctuate constantly, it is impossible to determine the exact number of worldwide offshore workers. Most sources place the figure between 350,000 and 400,000.

On the job, workers must contend not only with the machinery itself, but also with adverse weather, dangerous boarding procedures from one vessel to another, drilling mishaps, fire or explosion, x-ray exposure, drowning, excessive noise, and toxic chemicals. The British Medical Association reports that offshore platform workers' fatalities are 10 times greater than those of coal miners. Offshore divers' fatality rates are 33 times greater than coal miners' and reach a death rate of 1% per year in the North Sea.

Press reports detail a numbing litany of death and dismemberment: 19 Norwegians killed in 1976 alone; more than 200 workers lost in the North Sea since 1969; 30 to 50 men per year killed or seriously disabled in Venezuela since 1929. Mexico reports 10 serious accidents per oil rig from 1974 through 1976. A Nigerian federal prosecutor says there is one serious accident per day in the slipshod offshore fields near Warri and Port Harcourt. Officials of the International Labor Organization (ILO) estimate that the industry claims between 250 and 700 lives per year.

The industry is dominated by American corporations working under subcontracts for the major oil companies. In 1962, almost 92% of all mobile offshore drillings in the world operated off the American coastline. By 1976, fewer than 36% were based there. Part of the reason for the dispersement was untapped oil fields elsewhere. But perhaps more important is that the American oil industry learned that tax advantages, lack of labor problems, lack of safety standards, and lack of regulatory restraints have made the oil business much more profitable abroad.

Because of the enormous economic and political power wielded by the international oil companies, governments often work hand-in-hand with them to minimize safety standards, underpay native workers compared to American workers doing similar jobs, suppress worker dissent, and discourage legal compensation for injury or death on the job. Strict safety regulations rarely exist, and are even more rarely enforced, in emerging nations. Often even those regulations that do exist are tempered by intensive industry lobbying.

Only four nations have reasonably strong unions representing offshore workers: the US, Norway, Holland, and Venezuela. In many parts of the world unionization is hampered not only by the overt opposition of the oil companies and the local governments, but also by the covert opposition of the US Government. Philip Agee has reported that one of his routine tasks as a CIA agent was to investigate prospective foreign employees of large corporations abroad to guard against those with left-wing associations. A third of the top twenty countries producing offshore oil have outlawed all unions, and nearly half have made strikes illegal.

Labor officials and workers around the world maintain that non-American workers are generally fired immediately if they are injured on the job. If they are lucky, they are paid several months' salary as compensation. Often medical expenses are not even reimbursed. Partially-disabled ex-employees must accept whatever terms the oil companies offer. Any worker who complains or files suit against the company will never work in the industry locally again.

(adapted from an article appearing in the February 1981 issue of *Progressive*)

## THE VENEZUELA STORY

As the site of the earliest offshore exploration and one-time world leader in petroleum exports, Venezuela occupies a unique position. It has passed through the stages we are seeing, or may expect to see, in other parts of the Third World: corporate domination of the Government, intense labor strife, progressive leftish animosity and intense unionization, and finally nationalization. Even that nationalization, however—the largest peaceful expropriation in history—has turned out to the advantage of Big Oil.

When Standard Oil (Exxon) and Royal Dutch Shell first moved into Venezuela during the early 1900s, the local Indian population already used seeping oil for lamps and medicine, though they had no knowledge of its growing importance in international commerce. Local laws requiring that resource concessions go only to Venezuelan citizens were circumvented with impunity.

Production began almost immediately, with the companies organizing work camps surrounded with barbed wire and guarded by soldiers. The agonies of life in those camps have become a national shame; dozens of novels and leftish pamphlets have emerged condemning treatment of Venezuelans by the international oil companies.

In July 1925, workers in the Lake Maracaibo region staged a mass meeting of oil laborers—the first in that area. On orders of dictator Juan Vicente Gomez, armed federal troops were dispatched to the scene. They arrived accompanied by the directors of personnel for the four largest companies, and immediately began firing into the crowd. A large memorial now stands in the cemetery of

Mene Grande commemorating the five workers killed in the ensuing melee.

No public organizing attempts were made until Gomez died in December 1935. On the day of his death, workers in the Maracaibo region went on a rampage, killing and beating many directors and staff workers of the oil companies. Two months later the first union was successfully organized at Cabimas, and by the next year a large strike had been called. After months of violence, the companies persuaded President Lopez Contreras to end the strike by decree, granting the workers a wage increase of 16¢ a day and the right to have cold water. Civil authorities arrested the strike leaders and harassed union officials through the end of World War II.

In 1946, a year after leftists seized the Government and called elections, the first collective labor contract was signed protecting petroleum workers. Between 1945 and 1948, Venezuela implemented a 50-50 split of company profits with the Government, but a military coup in 1948 forestalled further labor and nationalization fervor nearly a decade.

It was a decade which saw rising aspirations and political consciousness throughout the less-developed world. When the military Government fell in 1958 and the international oil companies renewed their efforts to reduce world production, Venezuela organized a national commission on hydrocarbons to regulate the country's participation in the industry—thus preparing the way for a series of maneuvers designed to gain control of the resources. Venezuelan Government officials were instrumental in the formation of OPEC in 1960 as a counter to industry's increasing corporate concentration.

When the cartel companies took advantage of the Suez Canal shutdown to raise shipping costs on exporters, the Venezuelan Congress voted to increase oil-company tax rates and raise oil price levels unilaterally. The move eventually stimulated other oil producers to do likewise in 1973, thus launching the "energy crisis" era, though ironically Venezuela remained aloof from the Arab-backed embargo when it occurred.

In March 1974 the Venezuelan Government created a Presidential Commission on Oil Reversion, charged with preparing the nationalization legislation eventually enacted in 1975. The bill established indemnity payments to the operating companies of over a trillion dollars in tax-free bonds.

The nationalization system is now being criticized in Venezuela as a "gift" to Exxon and Shell. Shortly after the contracts were signed, the president of Shell in Venezuela received a medal from Queen Julianna of Holland for his exemplary service to the Dutch economy.

As it stands now, in addition to the bonds for capital investment, the major companies hold service contracts which guarantee them Venezuela's oil exports on favorable terms. In the words of Gerasimo Chavez, general secretary of the largest oil workers' union: "Before nationalization Creole (Exxon) had thousands of laborers, significant investments in Venezuela, tax liability, and so forth. Now they have no strikes, no laborers, no assets, no fires, no sabotage. All they have is the oil."

(reprinted from the February issue of *Progressive*)

## SUSTAINING FUND

(Received December 15th Through February 15th)

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<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>533.50</b>

Many thanks, fellow workers, for your generous support.

## Literature

### THEORETICAL

- ( ) IWW Organizing Manual . . . . . 75¢
- ( ) Collective Bargaining Manual . . . . . 75¢
- ( ) IWW Preamble and Constitution . . . . . 30¢
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- ( ) Workers' Guide to Direct Action . . . . . 25¢
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- ( ) Organize! . . . . . 50¢
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### 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 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.

# DID YOU NOTICE?

Some 125 coal miners lost their lives and an additional 16,602 were injured in 1980. Most fatalities occurred in underground mines, the most frequent causes of death being roof falls, haulage and machinery accidents, and accidents involving explosives. The death toll was somewhat lower than in 1979.

The Retail, Wholesale, and Department Store Union (RWDSU) and the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) have agreed to continue merger discussions. Both unions have similar jurisdictions, especially in the health-care industry. RWDSU numbers more than 225,000 and SEIU more than 650,000.

The US Supreme Court has left intact a ruling that an employer can prohibit workers from speaking a language other than English on the job, even among themselves.

Officials at the Marion (Illinois) Federal Penitentiary recently ended a prisoners' work strike that started in September 1980 by closing down the shops in the prison and thereby eliminating the jobs. During the strike, prison officials kept word of the action out of the commercial news media and barred lawyers and legal workers from Marion. But the struggle to close Marion's long-term control units continues. For further information contact the NCSMB, 4566a Oakland, St. Louis, Missouri 63110.

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TO:

American television is still laden with ethnic stereotypes, despite demands by various groups for more realistic non-white characters. According to Bradley Greenberg, a researcher at Michigan State University, blacks on TV are younger and are less likely to be employed than whites. Blacks make up 10% of the TV "population", with half of those employed on all-black shows. Hispanics make up less than 1.5% of TV characters, with few Hispanic women ever portrayed. And of course Saturday morning continues to be the most prone to TV acts of physical violence.

Israel, South Africa, and Taiwan have formed an informal "alliance of shunned nations" in an attempt to fend off further isolation in the world. South African trade with both Israel and Taiwan is growing, and when Taiwanese visit South Africa, they—like the Japanese—are considered white. Taiwan's navy is now equipped with Israeli-made ship-to-ship missiles, and its air force with Israeli-made air-to-air missiles.

The editor of the *New England Journal of Medicine* is calling on the American Medical Association to declare it unethical for a doctor to derive any income from health care except fees for his own services. Doctors have become an important part of the ownership of for-profit hospitals, nursing homes, kidney-dialysis businesses, laboratories, pain clinics, and many other health businesses. A conflict of interest is plain: The doctor-controlled private-clinic industry lobby was able to "blunt the force" of a new law that could have moved thousands of patients from private clinics to cheaper home dialysis.

In the Rath Packing plant at Waterloo, Iowa, workers pick 10 of the 16 company directors. When banks would not lend the company money, the workers, organized in what has now become the United Food and Commercial Workers, bought into the company instead and arranged for control. Stock is owned individually, not by the union, bought at half the market price. Of the 3,000 employee stock-owned companies in the country, this is the only one with substantial worker control.

When Nissan Motor arranged a groundbreaking ceremony in Smyrna, Tennessee for its Datsun plant, building-trades workers stopped the show with a picket line and placards reading "The Union Is Ready; Is Nissan?" They want that factory to be union-built. Nissan plans to hire 2,000 in 1983 to produce 120,000 trucks a year.

Sweden spends more on arms per person than any other Western European country.

Steel workers ended an eight-month strike at Northern Indiana Public Service in January with annual wage increases of 6, 5, 4, and 3% for the next forty months.

The Firemen and Oilers defeated the National Association of Government Employees to represent the 4,600 non-instructional employees of the Philadelphia School District by showing that NAGE required 90% of dues to go to the national treasury and gave no direct control over selection of full-time reps.

The UAW's recommendations to the Senate committee appointed to deal with the auto-industry crisis: negotiate restraint on Japanese car imports; provide loans for cars, homes, and the like at lower interest rates; allow auto firms and parts suppliers an extra 20% investment-tax credit for investments to increase miles per gallon; give tax credit to consumers turning in gas-guzzlers for more efficient cars, and a scrappage bounty on cars ten years old or older.

The Industrial Union Department of the AFL-CIO, in a conference on industrial policy, contemplated the following facts: Between 1968 and 1977 manufacturing output increased 66% in Japan, 53% in France, 40% in Germany, and 29% in the USA.

Slave labor continues in Texas. The State uses prison labor to compete in the market place with a variety of products from mops and brooms to uniforms and mattresses. For more information write the Committee to Abolish Prison Slavery, 324 C Street Southeast, Room 303, Washington DC 20003.

Some 850 acres of Canadian forest are required for every Sunday edition of the *New York Times*.

## OFFICE WORKERS TAKE REVENGE

(A REVIEW OF "9 TO 5")

"You're a wart on the nose of humanity, and I'm going to blast it off.... Goodbye, boss man."

"Why me? I'm just an ordinary guy doing his job."

(movie dialogue)

Being a clerical worker, I was intrigued with the idea of taking revenge on one's boss. However the option to organize is not considered at all. The potentially radical subject of three clerical workers seeking to wreak havoc on their abusive boss dissolves into a giddy comedy, going only as far as Hollywood will allow.

The tone is funny and cute; the main actresses are Lil' Tomlin, Jane Fonda, and Dolly Parton. Sexual harassment is portrayed as amusing, and worse yet, harmless. The characters had their sympathetic qualities, but I distrusted their motives. What were they really after? They wanted

to turn the tables on the boss, but it seemed they even wanted to take his place, leaving the inequalities in power unchanged.

Sure, the boss is a bastard; there's no doubt about that. However the reason offered is not that he is the boss, but that he hates women, is a racist, shoots animals, is strict with office regulations, and has a condescending attitude toward his employees. The picture asks why can't he be a little nicer, instead of why can't his role be eliminated.

Kidnapping one's boss is fantasy; organizing around office conditions, though difficult, is possible. The movie is fantasy and nothing more. When an office worker is fired, and fired unfairly, Fonda gets up saying "It's so unfair... we've got to do something." At that point one gets the feeling that Fonda added this as an afterthought, as a feeble attempt to add some significance to the movie. But it doesn't work.

The movie's entertainment value is high, but I was expecting more. After the boss is secretly released from captivity, the Chairman of the Board congratulates him on

the office reforms carried out by the three women in his absence: flex-time, a day-care center on the premises, alcohol rehab, renovation to make the office cheery, and removal of the time clock have increased productivity and profits despite a wage increase. The boss is relocated in a long-term job in Brazil, and the three women, instead of communing with other clerical workers, barricade themselves in the boss's former office to drink champagne and toast their seizure of power. The *message* that emerges through the heavy veil of comedy runs that workers' conditions, and therefore their feelings about their work, can be upgraded, but the essential power relationships remain.

Sally Frye, X331612

(This movie grew out of talks Jane Fonda had with Cleveland Working Women. Members of that organization suggested some of the real events and some of the fantasies that went into the script.)

## FAMILIES AND MONEY

The real earnings of families with at least one wage earner fell 4.2% during 1980 because their wages could not keep pace with inflation. Median weekly earnings for working families rose 8% to \$412 in the year, but consumer prices rose 12.8%. Weekly earnings of two-couple families averaged \$443 compared with \$235 for single-parent female-headed families and \$371 for single-parent male-headed families.

Families headed by women are distributed across the country in basically the same manner as other families, but are slightly more mobile: Between 1975 and 1979 47% of female-headed families moved, compared to 41% of all families. The median age of women maintaining families in 1979 was 42 years, down from 48.2 in 1979. A majority of women heads of households had completed high school, and 21% had attended college.



## LESS ROOM

### FOR WOMEN COACHES

Ironically, as opportunities for women athletes grow, jobs for women in coaching and athletic administration dwindle. In the early 1970s, all ten women's sports programs in the Big Ten universities were directly administered by women. Today eight of the Big Ten's women's athletics programs have merged with the men's, and in each of the eight the merged program is administered by a man. Nationwide, at the collegiate level, nearly 40% of the head coaches in women's athletics are men. The women who formerly coached and administered have been relegated to assistant roles on the sidelines.