



INDUSTRIAL WORKERS
OF THE WORLD

INDUSTRIAL WORKER

★ EDUCATION ★ ORGANIZATION ★ EMANCIPATION

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GIMME SHELTER!

The rental vacancy rate and the completion rate of new apartments in the US are at their lowest since World War II. The US Census Bureau reports that the nationwide vacancy rate has dropped to 4.8%, but the actual rental market is even tighter than that figure indicates, as the Census Bureau sample includes dilapidated units and units without full plumbing. In rental units that are not substandard, the vacancy rate is nearer 4% nationwide and 3% in the Northeast.

Construction of new apartment units is declining very sharply, particularly for unsubsidized rentals. Much of the new construction is in the Sun Belt, with the Houston and Dallas/Fort Worth areas accounting for a fourth of the total. Atlanta reported increases in rental vacancies, and Phoenix reported reduced rentals.

Last year only a thousand rental housing units were completed per day in the USA, or 365,000 for the year—the smallest number of rental units built in 20 years. Only 260,000 rental units were started. Meanwhile, about 2% of housing units are lost each year through conversion or abandonment.

To buy a 65-thousand-dollar home at a 14% mortgage

requires monthly payments of \$732. For years the prudent rule was not to spend more than a fifth of one's income on shelter, so such a mortgage is only for those with incomes of \$45,000 per year and assured steady jobs.

Meanwhile, young parents born in the baby boom circa 1950, despite typical postponement of raising a family, find that they have to give up their dream of having their own home. That doesn't make headlines, but it is one of the major facts of modern life, not only in the US but also in many other countries—whether they have soviet, tory, liberal, or social-democratic governments. And it's producing tensions.

Some blame it on the high pay construction workers are alleged to get, but the unions reply with charts showing where the dollar for housing goes. Back in 1949, out of the typical dollar spent on new housing, 31¢ went for labor. In 1977 only 17¢ of that dollar went for labor. By 1977, however, 25¢ of that dollar, instead of 11¢, went for land, and 11¢ instead of 5¢ went for financing. The share for materials dropped from 38¢ to 30¢, and the share for profits and overhead rose from 15¢ to 17¢. In some countries this situation has resulted in proletarian squatter occupation of buildings. In this country to date the major result has been a growth of tenant organization among workers, who often have the delusion that they are "middle class". Last June 300 tenant activists met in Cleveland and founded a National Tenants Union with a paper called *Shelterforce*.

The National Tenants Union is most active in New Jersey. The New Jersey Tenants Organization has 60,000 members. By providing legal advice, organizing building groups, lobbying, and rallying support for rent strikes, they have changed several rules on security deposits, evictions, and the like in favor of tenants.

Why New Jersey? Writing about tenant activism in the *Democratic Left*, John Atlas and Peter Drier note that: "Lodged between New York City and Philadelphia, New Jersey has no television station or broadcast media market of its own. As a result, landlords cannot bankroll an expensive campaign against rent control."

Inadequate housing is a chronic disorder. Only in a deserted ghost town will you find a housing surplus. Capitalism, at least in its younger days, sometimes produced more shoes or coats or even cars than the working class would buy, but never more houses. Even old shoes don't outlast a business cycle, but a building does; and there has always been some uncertainty as to whether jobs would last long enough for those filling them to pay off homes. To house its industrial reserve army, the System builds Cabrini-Greens.

Canada's Labor Rebellion

CLASS SOLIDARITY IN VANCOUVER

The garbage kept piling up for three months in Vancouver and its suburbs as the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) and the Vancouver Municipal and Regional Employees continued their strike. The main strike issue is "Equal Pay for Work of Equal Value". The Greater Vancouver Regional District, which employs them, has refused to budge on this issue.

Despite its inconvenience, the strike has wide support. One mass demonstration dumped garbage at City Hall to urge the City Council to settle with the strikers, and gave birth to a strike song with some help from Al Grierson. A more recent demonstration by 500 members of various unions made the same pitch without the garbage.

The telephone workers have settled. In early February they had occupied the major installations of the British Columbia Telephone Company until enjoined, and on March 9th there was a one-day sympathy strike by several unions. It is an industry in which picket lines do not deter scab electrons from running right along the telephone lines, but class solidarity still made the company improve its wage offer and promise not to victimize those it had charged with unlawful acts during the strike.

The Office and Technical Workers are on strike in the department of the provincial government that handles auto insurance, and the fire fighters have voted to strike if necessary to win wage parity with the police.

IWW members, mostly members of the various unions involved in this struggle, have been promoting class solidarity. Bruce "Utah" Phillips was in the area, and was snagged along with Al Grierson to put on a benefit for the strikers.

CANADIAN WOMEN FIGHT INEQUALITY

At the March meeting of the Windsor chapter of the Law Union—a group of progressive lawyers and students—the topic was women in the labor force. The main speaker, Madeleine Parent of the Confederation of Canadian Unions, surveyed the wartime growth of women in industry, their postwar departure to low pay ghettos, such as teaching and clerical jobs where the better paid posts are given to men. Despite talk about equality, the gap between the average pay for women and for men in Canada had grown from \$4,300 in 1972 to \$6,700. She contended that traditional organizing procedures did not meet the needs of women: the times set for meetings for example. In the white collar sector the paternalistic attitude of management (usually male) that "we are all friends," deters organizing and needs to be offset.

Parent urged five main demands: legislation and collective bargaining provisions for equal pay for work of equal value; paid maternity leave with full pay and benefits, ex-

tendable to alternative paternity leave; child care so women are not forced to do two jobs; full pensions for women who break their employment because of child-bearing; protection against sexual harassment from those in authority.

Ray Murray of the Canadian Labour Congress talked about the effects of automation of women's clerical jobs. He advised them to retrain for jobs less likely to be wiped out. He was asked why unions in occupations where women predominate usually use men as organizers. He answered that he felt this was because women tended to look upon men as more authoritative. Madeleine Parent felt organizing could be done equally well by men or women. Unless there are women organizers, the pattern of male hierarchy will be reproduced in the unions, and that is inconsistent with rank and file control and self-organization.

L.W.

CANADIAN LABOR

- Quebec has now put company doctors on the provincial payroll. They are to be selected by worker-management health and safety committees, and 10% of the workers in a company can call for a doctor's dismissal.

- Hydro-Quebec contracts for the cleaning of its Montreal headquarters building to outside companies. It has changed these companies rapidly. As a result, the three dozen members of SEIU Local 298 who do the cleaning do not get to accumulate much seniority, or the longer vacations that go with seniority, even though they keep on cleaning the same building when contractors change. To get something done about this they went on strike, and even though Quebec has a strong anti-scab law, the contractor calls the scabs "management" and imports them from Ontario. The strikers are asking for only a five-cent wage boost because the wages of building-maintenance workers in Quebec are decided in industry-wide negotiations including employers of non-union workers, so there is little to be gained there; but they do want the fringe benefits that should go with cleaning that building year after year.

- US officers of a dozen building-trades unions have split the Canadian Labour Congress by refusing for the last year to pay per-capita to it, thus forcing their suspension this March. They refused to pay per-capita because the CLC had refused to oust the Quebec Federation of Labour when it accepted the affiliation of an Interprovincial Brotherhood of Electrical Workers whose members had parted from the IBEW, dissatisfied with IBEW services. The rift derives in part from the voting practice of giving each affiliated local one vote plus one more vote for each thousand members, to the advantage of unions with smaller locals.

Toy Wages For Kids



"McDonald's Windfall Gift Amendment": That's what Sol Chaiken of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union told a Senate subcommittee they should call three proposals to undermine the minimum-wage law. Instead, he noted, "these proposals are called by titles like Youth Opportunity Wage Act and Youth Employment Opportunity Act". One proposes to eliminate minimum-wage requirements for young workers entirely, another to cut the minimum wage to \$2.85, and the third to cut the wages of workers aged 16 to 19 to \$2.51 for the first six months of employment.

Boston Union Beaten

When workers employed by the Harvard Co-operative Society set out to organize in the United Food and Commercial Workers, they readily got over half their number to sign authorization cards. But when the NLRB election arrived on March 27th, only 156 of the 500 employees voted for the union, and 273 voted against. It was a victory for top-drawer union busting.

The manager had called frequent closed-door sessions of company employees on company time, and thus had had captive audiences. He told them the union drive came only from "the store's college-educated workers who had no loyalty to the establishment", as the *Harvard Crimson* puts it. "Many came to believe that joining a union would lead to union dues, more rules to obey... additional hassles and political complications."

The union elected not to file unfair-labor-practice charges, for this would have delayed the election and lost momentum. The election was held in the very area where the manager had held those closed-door sessions. The Harvard Co-op has six establishments. After the election the union supporters, taking defeat as a challenge, met on the bookstore's lower level to discuss strategy, including the possibility of filing charges with the NLRB. To think union, talk union, and act union as far as circumstances permit is the best way to build unionism, contract or no contract.



Here in one of Chicago's worst housing-project slums, where poverty and crime reign supreme, Mayor Jane Byrne and her husband have decided to take up residence to see for themselves why a neighborhood only a few blocks from their own classy high-rise should be so crime-ridden. There are those cynics who infer that she is pandering to the large Black voting bloc in Chicago, but many of the residents of this project—those who haven't been moved out prior to her moving in—welcome the security forces that abound since the Mayor's establishing residence there.

Nick Gouletas, the founder of one of Chicago's great real-estate empires, said on national television: "Turn Cabrini Green over to me and I guarantee there will be no more problems." That remark can be a fair indication of what will eventually happen to the housing project in question. Cabrini Green happens to be located on land with astronomical real-estate potential. It is within a short distance of the lake front and the downtown and Michigan Avenue shopping districts, and smack-dab next to expensive high-rise apartment complexes. Such prime land is not for long going to be wasted on poor people.

Inner cities have long been viewed as the poorer sections of towns, while suburbs have more or less been symbols of affluence. But with the rising cost of gasoline and the steady deterioration of mass transportation, it is not inconceivable that American cities will soon follow the pattern of metropolises in South Africa, where the poor and the minorities live in outlying "townships", coming into the cities on work passes or some other sort of passport. Your scribe has witnessed far too many nice modest neighborhoods taken over by developers, with the erstwhile residents having to move further away from the center of things.

The recent drygulch attempt on the life of President Reagan has once again stirred up the thorny question of gun control. It is ironic that it is only after a politician or other famous figure becomes the target of an attack that there is a media outcry against the prevalence of violence in the land of the free and the home of the brave. While it is acknowledged that life is every bit as precious to Presidents and rock stars as it is to the rest of us, and that their families love them too, it is bordering on the obscene that every day millions of ordinary people are afraid to walk the streets of the freest land on Earth.

In the big dispute over gun control, both proponents and opponents have valid arguments to present; but in this writer's humble opinion, the solution to this problem lies at the point of production. The only way to stop gun violence is to stop making the damn guns. All the factories that manufacture firearms should be converted to manufacturing pea shooters. Yours truly might be more kindly disposed to forking over some of his change on a dark street to somebody who threatened him with a pea shooter. Our politicians would also be less disposed toward getting our derrieres into wars if there were no guns to shoot with. And who knows: Even the cops might brush up on their etiquette a little.

The politicians themselves could encourage their hosts of security guards to seek more creative employment—since in a society where the most deadly weapon would be a pea shooter, there would be even less inclination to shoot at politicians.

C. C. Redcloud

Belleville Faculty Strike

The faculty strike at Belleville Area College (BAC) may set a pattern for community-college struggles during the '80s. For 18 days in November 1980, BAC faculty members stayed out of their classes in this Illinois town across the Mississippi from St. Louis, Missouri. They belong to the AAUP (American Association of University Professors).

The strike began over the administration's demands for greater "productivity". This meant increased lab ratios for science teachers, increased course loads for others, and increased hours for librarians and counselors. The teachers feared this "speed-up" would end up squeezing out some faculty members. They also resisted the administration's moves toward forcing all sections of a course to proceed through assigned class materials at the same rate (standardization) and taking away the faculty's right to assign grades.

Under the surface of the dispute seethed an issue which is significant for education workers throughout the country. Prior to the strike, the BAC administration had been investigating teaching by TV. The future could see the "best" teachers being put on videotape and the rest being phased out.

The administration used all the strike-breaking tactics it could muster. Immediately after the November 3rd faculty walkout, the administration began contacting potential scabs. The administration distributed a "fact sheet" to the students claiming that the increased work load would require the faculty to work "no more than 32½ hours per week". (The sheet conveniently omitted that this would be class hours only; presumably the administration wants a faculty that never prepares courses or grades assignments.)

On November 14th the School Board gave the administration permission to fire strikers. Instead, the administration called in the cops and had 59 faculty members arrested on November 19th. On the morning of November 20th the faculty returned to work without a contract.

The basic problem that the strike failed to deal with was that the faculty was unable to shut the school down.

No attempt had been made to unionize secretaries, maintenance workers, cafeteria workers, part-time faculty members, and the many part-time student workers. As a result, when the faculty walked out the school kept on running. The library was kept open by part-time student workers who had been trained by librarians who were now on strike. Service in the cafeteria was not even slowed. Secretaries kept on answering the phones and typing as if there wasn't even a picket line.

The separation of the faculty from the other university workers was due to the craft-union character of the AAUP. Perhaps the most elitist of the educational organizations, the AAUP feeds on the illusion of "professionalism". As a result of this illusion, the School Board and school administration were able to break the strike.

The other major limitation of the BAC strike was the administration's ability to mobilize so many students against the faculty. The good intention of not wanting to "use" students for their struggle led the faculty to avoid a concerted effort to win student support early in the strike. Of course the administration wasted no time distributing their distortion sheets aimed at convincing students that they were being "caught in the middle".

Bowing to the combined pressure of the administration and anti-strike publicity of the local paper, some initiated a law suit to get the faculty back to work. It was not until November 19th that large numbers of students came out in support of the faculty.

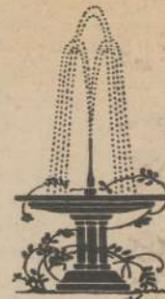
Education at the community-college level seems to be patterning itself after big business. Corporations have an uncontrollable urge to produce as cheaply as possible by breaking the production process into a series of simple steps. This division of labor allows them to replace skilled labor with lower-paid unskilled labor.

If schools can find ways to crank out larger numbers of students at less cost per student, they will try it. Increasingly-standardized classes, broken down into sub-units which proceed at identical rates, can be taught by someone who has less training, and who of course receives less pay. Standardization would allow for some of the sub-units of the course to be taught by TV, meaning a smaller number of faculty members.

Cranking out students whose "learning" has come from relating docilely to a TV set or some other mechanized zombie will provide the boss with the deal employee: one who is not reflective enough to challenge "profitable" decisions, and who has never had a response from, much less an argument with, an authority figure. Turning teachers into trainers who impart a series of "mini-skills" is not at all incompatible with what most employers expect from graduates.

(taken from *Workers' Democracy*, Volume 1, Number 1)

BIRTH of MAY DAY



World Labor Day got born May 1, 1890. It was conceived the preceding July when a practical occasion for an eight-hour demonstration on that specific date met up with a vague feeling that workers needed to assert the interests they held in common across all boundary lines. That 1890 date was set up as a one-time affair, but it aroused such enthusiasm that May Day has been kept alive as the most prominent world-wide institution so far created by the working class.

This interplay of specific circumstances and vaguely felt need is something worth looking into. It may suggest how to get from what we have to what we want.

On July 14, 1879 workers from various lands had met in Paris to rebuild an international of labor and socialist groups, since their first such international had fallen apart some 17 years earlier. The 100th anniversary of the Fall of the Bastille seemed the appropriate occasion to get together. (And the Bastille, in turn, happened to have been taken on a July 14 because the democratic forces were spurred to action by the dismissal of Necker, the one man in government most of them trusted.)

To this Centennial came Howard McGregor with a letter from Samuel Gompers asking for moral support for the demand for an eight-hour day to go into effect May 1, 1890, or no work. Gompers had hurriedly raked the fare together for McGregor to make the trip to offset the sudden defection of the Amalgamated Iron, Steel and Tinplate Workers from the eight-hour campaign. He felt this defection so damaged the prestige of the eight-hour drive that he grabbed at the chance for a better image from a resolution of support at this Paris conference.

Had it not been for this request from Gompers giving that May First date, the conference would have acted only on Lavigne's resolution that "a great international demonstration shall be organized for a fixed date that workers in all countries . . . shall on a specified day simultaneously address to public authorities a demand for a workday of eight hours and to put into effect the other resolutions of the International Congress of Paris." Lavigne had submitted this proposal to extend the experience of the French Confederation of Labor which had arranged for

simultaneous labor demonstrations throughout France on Feb. 10, 1889. A paragraph was tacked on to his resolution to make that "specified day" coincide with the American eight-hour drive for May 1.

Meanwhile in America, Labor Day, growing out of the same felt need for simultaneous demonstrations, was experiencing a protracted birth. It was first observed in New York, Tuesday, Sept. 5, 1882 to coincide with the Knights of Labor Convention. In August the New York Central Labor Union had declared that date to be "a general holiday for the workingmen of this city." It was such a success that it was repeated on Wednesday, Sept. 5, 1883. In 1884 the CLU decided to "observe the first Monday in September each year as Labor Day." The advantage of simultaneous labor demonstrations across the country led to resolutions in 1884 for its observation by both the Knights of Labor and the Federation of Organized Trades and Labor Unions that had been formed in 1881, became the AFL in 1886 and so leads AFL-CIO to observe its centennial this year. Workers were getting fired for taking off Labor Day until Congress in 1894 made Labor Day a holiday for federal employees, and, some say, this was to discourage observation of the more militant springtime labor day that aimed to unite workers world-wide against their exploiters.

Specific events met with widely felt needs to create Labor Day here and May Day in the rest of the world, and it has become increasingly appropriate that May Day be observed here too.

What are the widely felt needs of the 1980s? These: that we should not let our rulers set us to killing each other; that we should not let competition between us, across the street or across the ocean, weaken our bargaining power; that since we cannot let the drive for profit and power continue to direct the world's work without serious damage to this planet, we must arrange among ourselves for the rational use of our labor and resources for the common good. May Day is an appropriate time to plan some specific practical steps to turn those felt needs into working arrangements.

WE NEVER WIN ANY BALL GAMES, BUT WE HAVE SOME INTERESTING DISCUSSIONS!



**HAPPY
MAY DAY,
★ FELLOW
WORKERS!**

**Let's get out
there and WIN
some this
year!**

Thanks,

★ **Madison Branch,** ★
**for introducing me to
the Wobblies. Good luck.**

—David Steel

SOUND OF A DISTANT DRUM

Now murder is the name of the game, with thirteen young black people burned to death in London's New Cross, an attempt to burn seven people to death in the Socialist Workers' bookshop in Birmingham, and the badly-burned body of a dead woman found in the boot of the car used in the fire bombing of the Left-wing bookshop.

Harold Wilson was speaking the truth when he said that in 1966 high-level members of the British Establishment and the Secret Service met with Lord Mountbatten and discussed the organizing of a military coup to overthrow Britain's Social Democratic Government. One cannot doubt that Britain's top Establishment are always ready to use military force, as in 1926 and in Ireland, to maintain their wealth and position.

What the British national press has not yet got round to highlighting is the fact that in the early 1970s Cecil King, one of the great national newspaper barons, had secret talks with the late Sir Oswald Mosley, the slightly barmy leader of Britain's pre-war uniformed fascists, to discuss a military take-over of Britain in which the Military would be used to deal with any opposition. And this at a time when the ghastly late Duke of Windsor was doddering around the Paris night spots with a poodle on one arm and the Duchess on the other, waiting to be hauled upon Britain's royal throne as a puppet king.

This is all good banana-republic politics, ill fitting the island home of the mother of parliamentary democracy. But the stench of death and high treason fouls the air, and no one is arrested.

At this moment the murder of twenty black children in Atlanta is a major story for the British press and television, and in London's New Cross working-class district hundreds march to protest the death by burning of thirteen young black people. The police state that they cannot prove who fire-bombed the house wherein the young colored people were holding their party, and that they do not accept that a fire bomb was thrown into the house, but believe that the fire was started within the house. But who could have chosen to burn thirteen young people to death?

Prince Charles goes to New Cross to open a youth and community center as a gesture of appeasement, but still the dead in Atlanta and New Cross cry out for justice. And in Birmingham, the brutish heart of Britain's Motown, an alleged member of a nazi organization is being called on to explain why he is alleged to have blocked the small doorway of a Left-wing bookshop with a car, thrown a huge blazing fire bomb into the shop to burn seven peo-

ple to death, shot a colored man in the neck with a bow and arrow, and been driving a stolen car with the body of a dead woman in its boot. And the answer is that if those in high places within any society believe that they can use murder as a political weapon, then it must follow that the lower ranks of the lunatic fringe will claim that same privilege.

Unemployment continues to rise in the Western World; the cult of political and social revisionism is the order of the day from China to the White House; and floating to the surface is Britain's newly-formed Social Democratic Party preaching laissez-faire capitalism, managerial paternalism, Dickensian liberalism, and a fly-blown version of a Corporate State.

The spectacle of four authors arguing revisionism within a single week should command attention. One cannot challenge the courage of Milovan Djilas as he once more cries "betrayal" with his *Tito: The Story from the Inside*. But, Milovan, the people listened to you; so who betrayed who?

Manny Shipwell, the 96-year-old Labour Party politician, in his *Lead with the Left*, glories in his lifetime of involvement with the battles of the Labour Party, but fails to explain why he now wears a cloak of ermine, sports a comic coronet, and sits in Britain's House of Lords as a Life Peer—a working-class Falstaff boasting of old wars and ancient scars while kissing the hand of a Prince Hal.

David Irving, in his *Uprising*, sneers at the brave men and women who fought and died in the 1956 Hungarian insurrection. They cry that the battle is lost and argue the case into the arms of the enemy.

Shirley Williams is the spokesperson for the new Social Democratic Party. And here is her book *Politics Is for People*, with its empty bureaucratic answers to the economic and social ills of the working class.

All four of these works are based on two major fallacies: that the honored and ancient cause is lost, and that the status quo is Holy Writ, and all it needs is an injection of private greed and a committee of Christs to run our lives according to the uninspired teachings of Milovan, Manny, David, and Shirley.

All power is based on our labor, comrades, and we owe the power seekers nothing. We must stand together and fight together, accepting that our cause can be judged only by how we defend and protect the weakest in our ranks.

Arthur Moyse, London



Revolutionary

Greetings



To All
Our
Fellow
Workers



— The Syracuse IWW

MAY DAY



GREETINGS

from the

HOUSTON I.W.W.



Couldn't we? ★★★

"... We do our work with equipment owned by those who do not work even though we made the equipment, and they compel us to work for them because they own that equipment. They have us misorganized into nations so they can keep it that way through threats to set us to killing each other if we try to upset the arrangement. They keep us workers hostile toward each other with the news and entertainment that they feed us. The owners

of the equipment often own equipment in many different nations, but instead of this uniting us workers against them, it makes us afraid of losing our jobs and our meal tickets to workers in those other nations. We face the ultimate prospect that we will make this planet unlivable with atomic warfare.

Couldn't we workers have communicated with each other in some way, reasoned together, and reached our own decisions about what work we should do for the common good, and then carried out our collective decisions, instead of the decisions of those structurally foredoomed to send us all to disaster?"

(from the *Industrial Worker*, February 1981)

TACOMA-OLYMPIA BRANCH IWW
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Genesis, Genocide Bibles and Booze

It has been long known among us radical historians that whenever imperial powers wish to take over previously unsettled (by them) land for their own commercial exploitation, they launch "Operation 3-B"—the Bible, the bottle, and the battalions. When colonizers wish to colonize "new" territory, there is always the problem of disposing of those people who already happen to be there and have the temerity to claim original title to their land.

One means of such disposal is convincing the native population to passively accept the invasion of their land and to gracefully accept their colonial status. This means is a little less embarrassing to the colonizers than the actual physical extermination of the aborigines, a process which entails the added burden of embellishing history in the hope that the exploiters can emerge smelling more like roses than like dead fish.

After all, imperialists are concerned about their public image, especially if said image can be a determining factor in the success or failure of their enterprises. It is always better to be known as a "liberator" than as an enslaver. Even Hitler knew better than to advertise to the German people that millions of their fellow humans were being made into soap; and how many Americans know that the smallpox epidemic that ravaged the aboriginal population of Western North America in the last century was brought about by the US Army, which had shipped to the Indians blankets that came from hospitals where the patients had died of smallpox. While the white saviors had not bothered to familiarize themselves with the customs and laws of the aborigines, they did find out that smallpox was unknown to them and that they had no resistance to the disease. The resourcefulness of the avaricious must never be underestimated.

However the historians still refer to the defenders of their homeland as "savages" and the shippers of the infected blankets as "civilized", and except by a few radicals, the rise of Western Civilization is viewed as an inevitable but noble thing.

Whenever imperialist powers became aware of clean, unexploited territory, their vanguard scouts were invariably the missionaries who were shown as the selfless, dedicated individuals who only wished to bring light and hope to the poor uneducated "savages". The fact that these native populations had their own long-standing cultural traditions and attendant spiritual values was easily obscured by the evidence that they were living in a tech-

nologically-unadvanced society and were in sore need of the spiritual values of the technologically-superior modern society. The fact that the spiritual values of modern capitalist society came from a primitive society that at the time was technologically inferior to many of its contemporaries never seems to be taken into account.

The society that existed in the Near East three millennia ago was a very repressive society in which slavery, the subjugation of women, and the undisputed divinity of the ownership class were the natural order of things and were not in the least questioned. The significance of this is that the spiritual values of such a rigid, class-oriented society were made to order for the spread of ownership imperialism. It's no mere coincidence that such notorious demagogues as Chiang Kai-shek, Syngman Rhee, and Ngo Diem who came from Eastern cultures were converts to Christianity. Their choices of spiritual values were merely consistent with their politics.



In Brazil the Native Nations of the interior are currently being encroached on by the Salesian missions, which in their missionary zeal are doing their best to disrupt and destroy the lives of the interior Indians. The mission people are breaking up the communal long houses of the Indians and forcibly resettling them in river villages with mission boarding schools, resulting in the purposeful disintegration of the economic and cultural lives of these people.

It is no mere coincidence that the Amazon rain forest of Brazil is the site of the biggest land rush in modern history. Developers from around the World, including the United States, are participating in this huge land grab. In many instances the Indians are being ground down like rabbits in order to clear the land for commercial development. What is not realized by most of the World's populace, aside from the present accelerated genocide against the native Indians, is that the destruction of the Amazon rain forest is going to have an irreversible ecological ef-

fect on this planet's atmosphere.

The stripping down of the World's forests, the pollution of oceans from offshore oil wells, and the progressive atmospheric pollution of the population centers are the bitter fruits of an economic system in which control of the World's resources is concentrated in the hands of a few people. Aside from the technological advancements, it is basically the same kind of society that existed in the Near East at the time the Bible was written.

The spiritual and economic values of the Natural Peoples who are now under attack have a respect for the Earth and its resources, and also for the bounties of nature—to be worked with, not exploited. Such values are far more fitting to a modern World in which it is hoped to have a society with no wars or poverty; and while this writer does not tell anyone what their choice of religion should be, he urges that they consider the rights of others to pursue their own economic and cultural values and to do what they can to protest the despoliation of our Mother Earth.

Carlos Cortez

LABOR FILMS

In Seattle the IWW, in co-operation with the Northwest Labor History Society, is sponsoring a series of labor films April 13th through May 30th at the Seattle Labor Temple and at three community colleges. Speakers who have researched the topics will accompany the presentations, and speakers can be asked questions. Bob Markholt will do the honors at the showing of the Sacco-Vanzetti film.

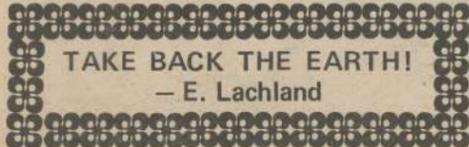
This procedure worked well with the showing of the documentary *The Wobblies* at the Harvard Exit Theater in Seattle March 22nd through March 28th to full houses. The local labor movement had co-operated in getting good audiences, and there were lengthy and attractive reviews in local papers. At each showing some IWW spokesperson commented on the film and on current IWW objectives. Both there and in New York, where it was being shown the same week, a brief IWW chronology was distributed to list activities in the years after those covered by the film. A good quantity of IWW literature got sold, and the IWW was given the names and addresses of many who want to be kept in touch.

In New York *The Wobblies* was shown at the Art Theater and was well received, extending IWW contacts there. The current issue of the magazine *Labor History* (Winter 1981) devotes ten pages to comment on this film. The film runs 89 minutes and can be rented from First Run Features, 419 Park Avenue South, New York, New York 10016.

VIETNAM RECONSTRUCTS

In May of 1975 Saigon greeted the entry of Provisional Revolutionary Government (PRG) troops with a mixture of apprehension and excitement. The U.S. Embassy had capped its years of anti-communist propaganda with a package of invented stories about the supposed atrocities in areas captured by the revolutionary forces before they reached Saigon. Some Saigonese imagined an immediate bloodbath. Others hoped that, with Thieu gone, all the country's problems would be solved.

There was no bloodbath. But there were no miracles either. Few people—among the people of the Saigon area, among foreign observers, even among the Vietnamese communist leadership—realized how intractable the problems left behind by the war could prove. Fewer still were



TAKE BACK THE EARTH!

— E. Lachland

prepared for the new problems they would face—problems within the revolutionary ranks as well as problems with their socialist neighbors.

In the last years of the war, inflation in the Saigon zone was 60% a year, and living standards were falling. Nearly 50% of the people who were employed were in the service sector of the economy, not in production, and 25% of the potential work force was unemployed. Per capita commodity output had fallen by more than 20% since the early sixties. Vietnamese who had money which could have been invested in local industry most often sent it abroad. Corruption was rampant at all levels of government. Throughout southern Vietnam 12 million people had been uprooted by the war, many of them kept under armed guard in the camps for "refugees from communism" designed to dry up the sea of people which kept the guerilla resistance alive.

After the war, the first priority was to reorganize the country so it could feed itself. The total production of staples in 1976 was 13.6 tons, a dramatic rise from the 1975 figure of 11.6 tons. But four years of abnormally bad weather—droughts in 1977, floods in 1978, too little sun in 1979, early typhoons in 1980—reduced harvests. Rice production fell in 1977 and again in 1978. In 1978 the country had to import nearly a million and a half tons of food—mostly wheat and wheat flour. Production in 1979 was only marginally higher than that of 1976. It was a recovery, but not enough to keep up with a population

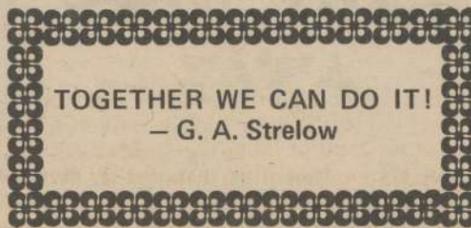
increasing at the rate of a million a year.

In the short run, government planners foresee that the Red River delta area around Hanoi, with good organization and careful management, will feed itself. Central Vietnam, the northern mountains and cities will be food deficit areas. The Mekong delta in the southernmost part of the country must make up the food difference.

Central Vietnam, where the long chain of mountains running the length of the country comes down to the sea, has always been the worst part of the country for farming. The strip of arable land is narrow, and overall it is less fertile than land in the northern and southern river deltas. On top of that, central Vietnam—the sections both north and south of the old North-South boundary—suffered most heavily from the war.

The present province of Binh Tri Thien straddles the former border. Every summer monsoon winds from India cross the Indochina peninsula, dropping rain in Laos, then sweeping with parching heat over Binh Tri Thien and neighboring provinces. Mountain forests which once moderated the heat were destroyed in many places by a combination of bombing and defoliation. As a result, summer temperatures which once were in the upper 80s and low 90s now reach well into the 100s. In the rainy season, the loss of the old forests means that water runs through the soil much more rapidly, since the roots of the young new trees hold less water. Eventually the forests will recover, but the process will take decades. Meanwhile the yearly cycle of drought and flood will be worse than ever.

The agricultural situation in the fertile Mekong delta is so different that it seems almost to be a separate country. Where irrigation and drainage systems are in good repair, farms in the delta can produce abundant crops at any season. The natural abundance of the land, however, is at once a blessing and headache to the leadership in the



TOGETHER WE CAN DO IT!

— G. A. Strelow

southernmost district of U Minh and elsewhere in the delta. With improved irrigation, a rice surplus for export is not an idle dream. The question is how to get the farmers to put out the extra effort.

Before the push towards manufacturing consumer goods as part of the "Resolution Six" of July 1979, the government leaders relied largely on appeals to patriotism when they asked the farmers to sell their rice and produce to the state. Because consumer goods were rationed, farmers tended to grow only enough food to feed themselves and just enough more to buy what little they were allowed.

The farmers' patriotism was beyond question. U Minh had been among the firmest revolutionary base areas since the days of the Viet Minh resistance against the French. But two-thirds of the farmers had been forced to go into "refugee" camps during the war and the other third had to go to revolutionary bases deep in the forest. When the war ended, their first concern was to return to their old homes and try to rebuild their private lives.

Government planners had hoped all the Mekong delta would be in cooperatives by this year. In fact, only about 20% of the farmers have joined, and cadres pushing too hard to sign farmers up have created resentment in some areas. As a result the government officially cancelled the 1980 goal and put renewed emphasis on the three basic principles of cooperatives: They must be voluntary. They

must be mutually advantageous. They must have democratic management.

Under the provisions of Resolution Six new emphasis is being given to material incentives. In a majority of cases, sales of rice to the state will not be for cash, but will be barter for hard-to-get items like consumer goods, gasoline and fertilizer.

Important though they may be, material incentives are not the whole answer to Vietnam's economic difficulties. Incompetence, corruption and suspicion have sapped the morale of many. And the problem is circular. Government workers are paid \$25 a month, enough for one person to get by on, but not enough to support a family. Thus some government workers find "outside" ways to make money, often by accepting bribes or pilfering state supplies.

In theory, the low state wages are supposed to be adequate because state workers can buy basic items like food and cloth at reduced prices. In fact, the state supply system is too weak to meet that responsibility.

When the country was unified after the war, the aim was to make the South look like the North as quickly as possible, without private shops or factories. Shops were closed, the former owners thrown out, before a state distribution network was set up. Wholesalers received some compensation for their inventory (paid in installments). Most of them waited for the first one or two payments, then went abroad. The small shopkeepers didn't have big inventories so had no claim to compensation. With less resources, they could also try to flee abroad, or try to make it in the rural "new economic zones," often without tools or agricultural knowledge. Poor planning caused many problems; often the settlers were given rice seed and land that would not support a rice crop. Many returned to the cities, living by begging, street trading or depending on relatives who still had money or work.

Many of the cadre from the north were totally unprepared to handle the situations they found in Saigon. Some became hostile when they saw Saigon workers living better on the garbage of the American military machine than they could on their salaries. Furthermore the shops and the black market were full of goods. Disputes broke out in the party between the liberals and the hardliners, between the pro-Soviet and the nationalist wings with the formerly underground cadres from the southern cities in the middle being accused of everything from factionalism to being molded by imperialist culture.

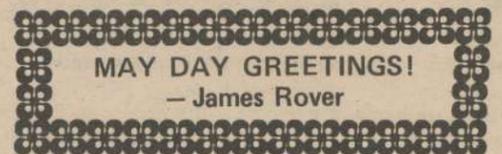
The Resolution Six was one result of these debates. It calls for a new stress on local initiative in planning and the greatest possible local autonomy. It encourages groups and individuals to set up small factories and handicraft workshops either to produce consumer goods for local consumption or turn out export goods.

These factories will help soak up some of the unemployment and underemployment. Unemployment in Ho Chi Minh City alone is in the hundreds of thousands. As factories hire some of the unemployed, they will relieve some of the pressures on the cities' resources. This makes it possible to rely more on persuasion and less on coercion to get people to leave the swollen cities and move to the new economic zones.

The economic problems Vietnam faces—those which are a legacy of war, those caused by the weather, and those caused by poor leadership—are serious and complex. But by some measures the country's economy has improved—13% unemployment is better than 25%, and prices doubling in five years is better than it was.

plp

(Adapted from issue no. 76 of *Southeast Asia Chronicle*.)



MAY DAY GREETINGS!

— James Rover



An Injury to One is an Injury to All One Union One Label One Enemy
Industrial Worker
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Mary Frohman, Business Manager

BOSTON BUDGET CUTS

Three months after wrapping up a proud celebration of its 350th year, Boston, Massachusetts faces some grim realities:

- A shutdown of its public schools sometime in April, throwing 64,000 students out of classes eight weeks early. One law suit is pending to require the schools to remain open 180 days, as state law requires, and two other suits have been filed to waive the 180-day requirement.
- Layoffs of up to 5,000 of the city's 12,000 workers and forced budget reduction of at least \$100 million.
- A sharp reduction in the city's mass-transit system, the oldest in the nation, serving 250,000 daily commuters. The cuts began at the end of March with a shutdown of much Sunday service, amputation of routes, and layoffs of staff and management.
- A reduction of the number of fire trucks that will answer each alarm. The Fire Department may have to

eliminate 20 of its 74 fire companies by July 1st.

Boston's financial bind, years in the making, came to a boil when Massachusetts voters passed Proposition 2½ last November. The measure limits property taxes to 2.5% of market value. Boston's rate was 8%, the state's highest and the city's major source of revenue.

The cut will mean about \$130 million available next year for the City's operating budget, compared to \$280 million this year. The operating budget does not include \$585 million the City is obligated to pay in fixed costs such as pension funds, which cannot be cut.

Mayor Kevin White sought to borrow some \$90 million with bonds backed by taxes on hotels, meals, off-street parking, and development, but Moody's Investors Service Incorporated canceled the City's bond rating because of the uncertainty. Demonstrators in a massive rally backed the Mayor's demand for help from the Governor and the State Legislature.

Capitalism vs Invention

The internal-combustion engine, plastics, computers, nuclear power—these are some of the many discoveries and inventions that could make life better, but don't.

In the February issue of *Harper's* Jonathan Kwitney details a conspiracy by General Motors, Standard Oil of California, old Mack Truck, Phillips Petroleum, and Firestone to deprive cities of electrified transportation so as to enlarge the market for rubber-tired gas guzzlers. They were convicted of this conspiracy in a little-known trial in 1949, as a result of which the companies were fined \$5,000 each and the human conspirators were fined \$1 each. During the 1930s and 1940s, through a front named National City Lines, the conspirators had bought up electrified transit systems, dismantled them, and forced the cities to replace them with GM or Mack busses.

That is how the free-enterprise system works, though textbooks may describe it differently. In Kenneth Scheider's 1971 *Autokind Versus Mankind*, one can trace how a potential liberator, the gas engine, became an oppressor that shoves us around to the benefit of real-estate operators and substantially takes over the management of our lives. Now San Diego is building the "Tiajuana Trolley" on old SP tracks to get around and down to the border, and other cities are rebuilding old electric lines.

Chicago's CTA raised fares again this winter and lost another 6% of its riders. One citizen group urges free rides during the less busy part of the day offset by higher fares during rush hours to even out peak loads. Our Boston members report that Boston's MBTA is deteriorating and "the membership of the carmen's union has shrunk by 500 members while the executive payroll has increased from 30 to 300". New York's CTA keeps a third of its fleet out of service while ridership grows and they need them all.

For the amusement of subsequent and, one hopes, more rational generations, we should leave a graphic record of how in our high technology we get around to work, to home, to our sundry destinations. Individual cars make public transport unworkable, and poor public transport makes individual cars necessary; so we stamp on each other's feet and swear at each other's driving half the way there. The 5 pm spectacle is a cardiogram of a society that has cultivated mutual disregard, lack of solidarity, and veneration of status symbols, and thrown rationality out the window.

The gasoline engine is not the only good invention that capitalism has abused. Consider plastics, used largely to create instant junk that won't decay: a blessing if confined to appropriate use; a menace to health if not so confined—as with fire hazards and carcinogens; but something no more to be left to free enterprise than nuclear energy. Back in the '20s British physicists were urging that research into subatomic physics should be discontinued until mankind achieved social arrangements such that this knowledge would be something safe for mankind

to have. We still need to create those social arrangements. Meanwhile electric bills go up to pay utilities for building nuclear plants that have to be put under wraps until some safe way is found to dispose of radioactive wastes.

Or consider the computer: It can remember more than we can remember; it can solve in an instant mathematical problems that would take us months; and it can even portray for us the range of choices open to us according to the data we feed it. There have been 15 "terrorist" attacks on computer installations in France since last April; and some note that these attacks followed a Government proposal for identification cards for all persons that would facilitate electronic retrieval of all the data on them in sundry computer memory banks.

Don't get mad at the computer. Visualize instead what modern data processing would be able to do for us: line up our "druthers", our wishes and preferences, and their distribution to make a good fit between the things and leisure we want and, on the other hand, the work we feel like doing, the planetary resources available, and the concern we need to show for coming generations. From this we/it could schedule what to make, where to make it, and where to move it, and dispense with the boss.

But that's another application of a good invention one cannot expect the financiers to finance.

f. t.

SUBSIDY SENT JOBS AWAY

It wasn't wage differentials that sent so much of the American electronics industry overseas. It happened because American politicians got taxpayers to fund the industry into locking itself into inflexibility.

Generous tax deduction allowances to the industry for capital investment led radio manufacturers to replace hand assembly operations with elaborate assembly lines. These new facilities were suited to producing large numbers of the same item at low unit cost, but they were not as open to changes in design as were the old, hand assembly processes. But in Korea, Taiwan and Japan, hand assembly persisted, and it was there that innovations launched by research and development departments here in Admiral, Philco, etc., were turned into new consumer products. These same advantages overflowed into the developing TV industry. Tax policies had locked American electronics into resistance to change.

A bit of industrial history may unravel the paradox. In the thirties the manufacture of radio components was already well modernized, but their assembly remained largely hand work. Manufacture of radios was highly competitive except for one limiting factor: to be in the business one had to be licensed to use certain patents, especially the RCA-Hazleton superheterodyne, and these patents were owned by a holding company that restricted the number of licenses. This restriction lasted until the courts ruled that the holding company must offer use of its patents to all comers on the same terms.

About that time the war turned the industry to military uses. Research for the military came up with new ideas applicable later to consumer radio and TV. When the war ended in 1945, millions of workers wanted radios and had money to buy them. Manufacturers took the wraps off their 1940 models and facilities, and found a ready market for their product while their engineering departments went ahead to supply the new knowledge developed during the war to the consumer market for both radio and TV.

This state of the art, during the late fifties and early sixties, got frozen into automated assembly facilities paid for by taxpayers at large through deductions for plant investment. The later innovations, dreamed up in R&D departments here, went to Korea and Taiwan for hands to build them.

There is nothing very novel about all this. Early in the century Thorstein Veblen commented on the "advantages of borrowing"—for the later developing country starts off with the latest state of the arts unimpeded by plants that incorporate earlier stages of the art. The aerial devastation of Japan and Germany gave them fresh starts that did prove advantageous even though not welcomed. Now in Japan again automation tends to freeze procedures so that now Japan manufactures the components usually, and they get assembled, by hand, in Korea.

It is the long-run tendency to replace men with machines whenever men's work has been routinized into scabbing on a machine. One outcome is that the boss invests less money in men and women and more money in things. Another outcome is that in a highly mechanized industry a change in wage rates has a much smaller impact on total costs than in a less mechanized industry. Lowering our pay would not bring those jobs back.

Susan Fabrick



Book Review:

Post-Revolutionary Societies: Essays by Paul Sweezy

Over the last thirty years the Monthly Review Press has produced a number of contributions to Marxism as a flexible, non-dogmatic social science. Paul Sweezy's latest book, *Post-Revolutionary Societies*, is a valuable contribution on a controversial topic.

The failure of "post-revolutionary" societies to develop along genuinely socialist lines has not been fully confronted by Marxist writers. Sweezy hopes to open a discussion on these societies as neither socialist nor capitalist, but with their own unique set of internal contradictions. The assumption that socialism must follow revolution must give way to the realization that new forms of class society may also follow revolution.

The oldest of this collection of essays was written in 1967 on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the October Revolution. It viewed USSR claims to socialism with some skepticism and gave evidence for the existence of a ruling stratum in the Soviet Union. The most recent essay, written in 1980, suggests that the Soviet Union is now a full-fledged class society and outlines the dynamics operating in its economy.

Other essays examine China and the Cultural Revolution, China's break with the Soviet model of development, the development of the Soviet Union's ruling class, and lessons to be learned for socialist strategy and tactics. Sweezy seems to take Mao's Cultural Revolution slogans at face value.

Whether one's politics are Marxist or not, the factual information about the Soviet society is fascinating, and so is this attempt to analyze it as a new category, neither capitalist nor socialist.

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Low Pay Won't Help

A comparison of wage policy for the less skilled in Singapore, Sweden, and the USA should tell us something.

As Robert Heilbroner described Swedish policy in the *New York Review of Books* last December 4th, national negotiations set the wage scales for all member industries, "deliberately raising pay rates at the lower end of the scales more than at the upper end. The result has been to bring more pressure on employers who pay low wages and who presumably have low productivity than on high-wage and high-productivity employers. As a result, low-productivity firms are constantly being pushed to the wall as part of a joint strategy by organized capital and labor to weed out the inefficient." Swedish labor is around 70% union and has avoided heavy unemployment. A long-range policy has been to train any disemployed for industries expected to expand.

In Singapore there is extensive industrialization, especially by the Japanese. It has been policy to provide the work force with a general and technical education and to keep wages at the bottom of the scale high enough to encourage capital-intensive rather than labor-intensive industries. Instead of unemployment in Singapore, there is a growing demand that workers be restrained from quitting their jobs to look for still better ones.

In America, consider what Lane Kirkland told the press during the AFL-CIO Executive Council meeting in February:

"The trade-union movement has not declined, [but] has declined as a proportion of the work force—a work force that has grown heavily out of part-time and intermittent jobs, heavily in service areas like fast food.... The work force at McDonald's now exceeds by far the work force at US Steel. That's what's happening in our economy. It's serious not only from the standpoint that job expansion is in transitory, intermittent, and low-paid employment, but [also from the standpoint of] the basic soundness of the economy."

It is a waste of an opportunity not to be paying the unemployed to attend schools appropriate to their needs, or for courses in how to survive if the power plants don't work, and there is no water in the taps, and the sewage system is bombed out.

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THEORETICAL

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Many thanks, fellow workers, for your generous support.

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 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.



(after Abbott, "AFSCME Steward")

... and if one has no Steward...?

CONVENTION MINUTES

Our fellow workers in Albuquerque undertook the printing of the 1980 Convention Minutes, and these can be obtained from them for one dollar.

They have also printed an attractive IWW 1981 calendar. It is 11 by 14, black and red on a yellow background, and in the center of the 12 months is the IWW bull's-eye: More Wages, Better Working Conditions, Shorter Hours, Abolition of the Wage System, Shop Democracy. If you add another buck for the calendar, that may leave a few dimes over for local organization work. Order from the IWW, PO Box 4872 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87196.

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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.

DID YOU NOTICE?



• In January Soviet patients took over a psychiatric hospital and held the staff hostage to protest receiving heavy doses of behavior-modification drugs. The incident was reported to have occurred in the Chernyakhovsk Special Psychiatric Hospital near the Polish border. The revolt was said to have ended after Hospital authorities agreed to investigate the charges, but guards stormed the lunchroom where the patients gathered after releasing the hostages. The guards beat the patients and took 25

and hopes for \$65 million more in spending cuts in Fiscal 1983.

• About half of Chicago's public-school teachers say they do not have enough writing paper and books for their students. And the reported shortage is most acute in schools whose enrollment is mainly black or Hispanic. Over 80% of the 303 school principals who responded to the *Sun-Times* newspaper survey said their schools had to hold fund-raising events or seek donations to buy supplies and equipment. Principals of schools enrolling many poor children were the most likely to resort to candy sales and the like to raise cash.

• A 6-3 decision by the US Supreme Court upheld a Utah law that requires parental notification in abortion cases.

• The US has 9200 strategic nuclear warheads (on missiles, submarines, and bombers capable of hitting the Soviet Union from the US or the seas), and 22,000 short-range tactical nuclear warheads. The US is making three new nuclear warheads a day. The firepower of these warheads is equivalent to that of eight billion tons of TNT, or 600,000 atomic bombs like the one dropped on Hiroshima. The Hiroshima bomb destroyed an area of three square miles. A Minuteman II missile would destroy an area of 72 square miles; a Minuteman III with Mark 12-A warheads would destroy an area of 88 square miles; and an MX missile with Mark 12-A warheads would destroy an area of 234 square miles.

• An American Library Association spokesperson reports that since the election of Ronald Reagan, complaints about the content of books in public libraries have increased fivefold. Callers, many of whom identify themselves as members of the Moral Majority (sic), protest the circulation of books such as *Our Bodies/Our Selves* and *Goodbye Columbus*.

• The so-called Family Protection Bill introduced by Republican Senator Laxalt of Nevada has some interesting provisions. The act would prohibit federally-supported schools from buying or preparing educational materials that "would tend to denigrate, diminish, or deny the role differences between the sexes as it has been historically understood in the US", would specifically exempt homosexuals from the protection of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and would exempt hospitals and private schools from the jurisdiction of the National Labor Relations Board.

• Poverty is one of the leading causes of cancer deaths in America. Cancer death rates have declined in the US overall, but not among poor people who lack opportuni-

only one American in five who had cancer survived. Now the rate is two in five. But in Harlem, New York, the rate is still one in five.

• British unemployment rose in March for the tenth consecutive month to a 40-year peak of 10.3%. The jobless total in Britain went up by 21,418 to 2,484,712 by official count. The March figure represents an increase of more than a million jobless since a year ago.

• New evidence gained from the FBI's COINTELPRO operation (an FBI program during the '60s to promote disruption in the US Left) shows that the FBI used the existing mistrust between the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee and the Black Panther Party to rupture relations between the two black activist groups. Stanford University historian Clayborne Carson has found FBI area-office quarterly-summary reports stating that agents made anonymous threatening phone calls to the families of leaders in SNCC and the Panthers claiming to be from the other group.

• The Ohio Valley wins the Did You Notice award for the national sacrifice area—a phrase coined recently to describe regions of the country which suffer hardships for the benefit of the rest of the country. Some 8,000 people in the Valley die each year from pollution-related heart and lung disease caused by coal-fired power plants. More than half the nation's sulfate-forming chemicals (air pollutants that have been linked to lung disease, acid rain, and poor visibility) from coal plants originate in the Ohio Valley. Meanwhile, strong efforts are under way to gut the Clean Air Act and the solar-energy and conservation programs.

• American anti-Arab sentiment has become almost routine, according to the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee. People who need someone to hate interpret events in the Near East as public sanction, lacking in anti-Jewish and anti-black bigotry. The scapegoating of Arabs extends from invidious media stereotyping to refusal to rent to Arabs.

• Police departments are being forced to think money-saving. Two towns in Massachusetts have formed mounted patrols to cut costs. Police experts figure it costs about \$1500 a year to keep a horse, as opposed to \$20,000 to buy and maintain a cruiser. In Kelso, Washington, however, patrolling cops ride bicycles. The bicycling cops report some catcalls from local citizens, but their most serious problem is numbed feet in freezing weather.

IN BRIEF

the pressure to settle. Two hundred members of the United Transport Union, which operates SEPTA's Red Arrow busses, were suspended for refusing to cross PTWU picket lines. On April 2nd service was resumed, with PTWU members to ratify the deal and SEPTA to give up its demand to hire more part-time workers in return for cutting the 16% pay boost the strike had gotten them to offer to 14.5%.

• Candidates for union office can now accept campaign funds from people outside the union. An appeals court in Pittsburgh has decided that the United Steel Workers of America must not bar such contributions. The union had adopted such a rule following the campaign in which Ed Sadlowski, a Chicago-area insurgent, almost won the presidency. In this campaign he had the support of various liberals, including Jane Fonda, and sizeable contributions from them. The Steel Workers may appeal this decision. To support their position the three-judge panel explained: "Even without contribution limitations, challengers to the union leadership face substantial barriers, especially the electoral power of the union staff. Union democracy can only occur if effective challenges can be made to the often-entrenched leadership."

• There's a picket line at Edmar's grocery on Chicago's Northwest Side. It used to be Edmund's, staffed by people getting union pay. It changed names and faces, replacing old-timers with part-time teenagers drawing the minimum wage, saying lower pay will permit lower prices. Now if Youth Opportunity eliminates the minimum wage and coaches kids in how to cross picket lines, it may change names and faces once more.

• Auchter, Reagan's head of OSHA, has asked the Supreme Court to delay an imminent decision on the 1978 cotton-dust standard pending cost-benefit analysis. He has withdrawn from circulation an OSHA booklet entitled *Cotton Dust: Worker Health Alert* because he didn't like the photo of a textile worker stricken with brown lung. His money-saving campaign may save money for employers, but it wastes public funds; for he has ordered the destruction of these booklets and the withdrawal of OSHA slide presentations and films on health hazards and on workers' rights under the health-and-safety law.

• Federal employees are getting unionized. The Government Office of Personnel Management reports that 1,167,265 of the Federal Government's non-postal employees are covered by negotiated agreements, and that 8% of all postal employees (some 586,100) are represented

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by unions. Many so represented, however, are not members of unions.

• A court has ordered the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers to void several clauses in its constitution that provide for discipline of members. The action accompanied an order to reinstate a member who had won local executive-board office and then been fired for what he had said about union officers. A study of 700 discipline appeals in the US and Canada led the judge to his decision to void the clauses.

• To cope with the problem of scab chicken being shipped out under various labels, the International Chemical Workers Union proposes that chicken not be served at group luncheons and union dinners, for "the whole industry pays very poor wages".

• Milwaukee firemen ended a three-day strike March 22nd after the Milwaukee Common Council voted reluctantly to raise firefighters' pay to the level of police pay. This gives the thousand firefighters about a thousand dollars more a year.

• The Sheet Metal Workers Union issues guarantees on the workmanship of its members installing solar-energy equipment. This is in addition to any warranties offered by contractors or manufacturers.

• Florida Steel must give Steel Workers access to its plants to give speeches up to 30 minutes in length and to respond to company talks regarding union representation. The NLRB has issued this unusual order because of Florida Steel's long record of unfair labor practices in 17 separate cases since 1974 and because circumstances indicate that ordinary cease-and-desist and make-whole remedies would not suffice.

...erated this would endanger...
certainly cut overtime. During the strike pickets at Con-
rail stations disrupted commuter service and increased

Who Can Join IWW?

Membership in the IWW is open to wage and salary workers only, and is open to almost all who work for wage or salary. We do not accept the salaried presidents of banks, or those who have hired out to repress the working class or to avoid awkward situations, even the most friendly salaried officials of trade unions and political parties.

Outside of such minor exceptions, we welcome all wage and salaried workers whether or not they already belong to and bargain through other unions. We do not ask them what their politics or religion or philosophy is. We ask only whether they want to help us build the more adequate solidarity of labor.

Wherever we can, we aim with your help to improve your job conditions. Get in touch with us to find out what we may be able to do. Even if it is not currently feasible for us to undertake organizing your job, if you like what we are trying to do, why not join us and help lay a foundation for the future both there and elsewhere?

If you are near any of our members listed in the directory on Page 8 of this newspaper, or if you are acquainted with any other members of the IWW, it is best to discuss your job situation with them. Otherwise write IWW, 3435 North Sheffield, Chicago, Illinois 60657. In the US our initiation fee is \$5 and our dues are \$5 a month.