



INDUSTRIAL WORKERS
OF THE WORLD

INDUSTRIAL WORKER

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★ EDUCATION ★ ORGANIZATION ★ EMANCIPATION

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SWEDISH UNIONISTS SAY, NO NUKES

SAC URGES WORKERS: MAKE NO NEUTRON BOMB!

SAC (Sveriges Arbetares Centralorganisation), a functioning labor union in Sweden, has sent the following *Open Letter to Workers Engaged in the Production of the Neutron Bomb* to the AFL-CIO, the *Washington Post*, the *New York Times*, and various other publications. In a covering letter Inger Raaby writes:

"Our hope is to get in contact with some of these workers, to discuss with them what they could do, and what we could do to support them."

To respond to this request, write Inger Raaby, SAC, Sveavagen 96, 113-50 Stockholm, Sweden.

OPEN LETTER TO THE WORKERS ENGAGED IN THE PRODUCTION OF THE NEUTRON BOMB:

A strong international consensus is reacting against President Reagan's decision to resume the production of the neutron bomb.

The neutron bomb, which leaves property undamaged, but gives human beings a painful and horrible death, has lowered the threshold, and thus increased the risk, of a nuclear war.

We, the Central Organization of the Swedish Workers (SAC), the anarchosindicalist labor movement in Sweden, would like to address ourselves to the workers who are directly involved in the production of the neutron bomb. We are aware of the fact that maybe thousands of families are depending for their subsistence on the wages earned in this production. Still *we urge you not to take any part in producing the neutron bomb, but to demand a change*

to a peaceful and meaningful production instead. Such a production, to cover the needs of the world today, is your right and the right of all workers.

By demanding this, and refusing to participate in the production of the neutron bomb, you would take not only the responsibility for your own working conditions, but also the responsibility which President Reagan is now failing to take, for world peace. It is our hope that such an initiative from you would also have positive effects in the Soviet Union, a country which is equally responsible for the present nuclear-weapons race.

The anarchosindicalists in Sweden, who have joined in SAC, are contending for a meaningful production, managed by the workers themselves. We consider it at

present two of our most important tasks to point to the possibilities for the workers to take over the full responsibility for production themselves, and to support initiatives for a peaceful production at the service of life and humanity.

You, the workers who are employed in the production of neutron bombs, have a historic opportunity to take such an initiative. We are convinced that workers and peace adherents all over the world will thank you and give you all the support and encouragement you may need.

The Executive Board
Central Organization of Swedish Workers
Stockholm, Sweden

Giveback & Takeaway

Collective bargaining is getting tough. The dream of a steady job has become more appealing than a fatter paycheck. Employers feel that they have unions over a barrel, and threaten that if we don't give in they will give our jobs to another plant, another town, or another country.

There is an answer for all that, and it's time to look for it.

Continental Airlines got its pilots to take a 10% cut and open consideration for deferment of pay increases due in 1982. Republic Airline employees have agreed to take stock in place of 15% of their pay. Employee stock-ownership plans are being used as disguised wage cuts, with no sharing of decision making. The Teamsters have agreed to open up their Master Freight Agreement because it was already so undermined by givebacks, with many members loaning their employers 15% of their pay, to be repaid if and when the company could afford it.

Timken Roller Bearing got the Steel Workers to recommend concessions in return for building a new plant in Canton, Ohio instead of building it in Kentucky or Tennessee. At first the Timken workers rejected it by a narrow 727-722; but after Timken conceded that it wouldn't change its way of calculating incentive rates, it got the workers to take an 11-year no-strike pledge and a 20% cut in starting wages, and let the company have the complete say about who could get transferred to that new plant.

Allis Chalmers asked the UAW for a one-year wage freeze as an alternative to closing or selling its plant.

American Short Line Railroads asked the Government to suspend safety regulations in the operations of its members' 250 lines "as a test group unless they are found to operate unsafely".

American Motors asks employees to loan the company a tenth of what they gained in their recent contract, to be repaid in 1984. Otherwise the company may close. High interest rates are blamed for the slump in the auto, con-

struction, and other industries. In Canada, instead of a Solidarity Day, workers, farmers, and consumers staged a mammoth demonstration in Ottawa against high interest rates. The Canadian employees of the Chrysler Corporation have decided for the first time to negotiate separately so as to offer stiffer resistance to giveaways; for south of the border, those who bailed Chrysler out can veto collective-bargaining agreements.

At the Illinois General Contractors' meetings, three times as many contractors attended the open-shop conference as two years ago, when it was taken for granted that big jobs would be union jobs. In 1970, 80% of all major Illinois contracts were awarded to companies that dealt with unions; this year, only 30%.

There are also the camouflaged takebacks. In Seattle Cudahy closed its meat-packing plant and laid off its 300 United Food and Commercial Workers. Ten days later the plant was reopened by Bar-S Foods, with a new crew hired at lower rates. The UFCW says Bar-S Foods is "an alter ego for Cudahy".

And so it goes. Think back 50 years to 1932, when the working class were over a barrel and in many a plant the boss came out into the shop to tell the workers: "There is a job we could get, if we cut costs and wages 10 or 15%." The workers in one plant were thus pitted against the workers in another in a progressive slide down the drain until the Government finally had to step in and save the employers. But the big change was this: The workers, who had previously built unions in good times and deserted them in bad, decided to organize and fight back.

That we have to do on a bigger scale than we did in the '30s, for industry is now on a world scale, with multinational corporations and international financiers playing us off against each other, as we were played off in 1932 by competing shops served by the same spur track.

During the AFL-CIO Convention, at a session for the Department for Professional Employees, to quote the *AFL-CIO News*:

"Speakers cited examples of 'technological scabbing' and intimidation of workers through sophisticated computer systems at a variety of levels—between plants, between companies within a country, and even on an international basis where employers play workers of one country against workers of another."

It may not be popular to doubt the efficacy or usefulness of efforts to keep the work in Toledo, or to keep it in Ohio, or to keep it in the USA, or to keep it in this Ford plant instead of that—but surely there isn't much for us to go after down that road, any more than there was in the threadbare '30s.

Before the UMWA was formed, coal miners organized in county organizations used to fight to keep production in their county. It seemed a bright idea at first, but eventually they decided that it didn't make much sense. The difference in communications, transportation, corporate structures, and the like between 1870 and 1982 make today's nationalism and regionalism as hopeless as county patriotism was then. Our hope for the '80s is that we will look the new facts of life in the face, get together the world over, and do what should have been done long ago: start production for use, making sure it's for our use and the common good.

Gentlemen Farmers And Genteel Poverty

Park Ridge, Illinois is not a farming area, but a residential extension of Chicago for its wealthier citizens. A Park Ridge segment of the American Farm Bureau Federation has induced the Federal Government, through Representative Henry Hyde of Moral Majority linkage, to demand that the United Farm Workers give back some \$427,960 in funds the Government gave Cesar Chavez's union back in 1978 to provide services to migrant workers. The funded services included grants for a microwave communication system to aid 20 migrant centers in California and help in establishing a credit bureau.

Hyde has charged that some of this money was "mis-spent" on organizing farm workers. The UFW says it won't return a nickel.

Why the sudden interest by "Park Ridge farmers"? Some may have investments in California operations that this year had to pay \$4.50 to \$6.50 an hour, plus health and welfare payments, instead of the old \$1.40 an hour they used to pay. Some may feel for Red Coach Lettuce, which the United Farm Workers is boycotting. Some may be concerned that the United Farm Workers last fall opened its first Midwest service center—a motor home with the UFW black eagle painted on the door—at Onargo, Illinois, just off I-57, along which those migrants come north to Michigan and Wisconsin. Or they may be peeved that the UFW has endorsed the FLOC boycott of all Campbell and Libby products. Congressman Rye is an outspoken moralist whose morals somehow always aid the rich and hurt the poor.

The current recession (depression? recession?) has hit the vacationlands, the sports paradises, the playgrounds of the gangsters and well-to-do in Northern Wisconsin. The Northwestern, the last railroad to serve Vilas County,

has pulled out, and promoters are hoping to turn the right of way into a giant snowmobile route.

But from the *Vilas County News* one learns that shoplifting is a problem, hitting the grocery stores especially hard, and that the offenders are usually elderly. "Rather than prosecute shoplifters, who could be neighbors or community leaders, that journal notes, 'merchants just ask restitution.' Is there some connection between this and the announcement that a local library offers 'a slide and cassette set on edible wildflowers'?"

This area is also the Dairyland of America that for years made it illegal to color oleo yellow. The same *Vilas County News* also notes that menus at nutrition centers for the elderly use oleo now, not butter. Starting in January there will be a charge for transporting the elderly to partake of those menus or to get their medical checks.

Heavy Navy expenditures for ELF do not seem likely to help the area either. ELF (extremely low frequency) is a \$230 million project to use the bedrock of the Upper Peninsula to send signals to US submarines deep in the oceans. The project would make Clam Lake, 45 miles west of Eagle River in the path of the prevailing westerlies, a prime target. Residents have already been shocked in their bathtubs by the project's extremely low frequency.



LEFT SIDE

editorial: Looking Ahead to 2011

Only recently have archaeologists in Peru discovered an ancient irrigation system utilized by the peoples of the Moche region before the coming of the European invaders. It was a highly-sophisticated system of water control that made 40% more of the land available for agriculture than is in use today. Some of the techniques that were employed, such as shaping the canals so as to control water flow, were not discovered by Western science till the 20th Century.

In the Southwest of what is now the United States, the aboriginal peoples had devised irrigation systems that supported cities of up to 30,000 inhabitants in what is now mostly desert. The irrigation works of Peru were lost because of the conquistadores' thirst for gold. Irrigation projects and their accruing benefits were far beyond the imaginations of those who were willing to kill each other for that pretty but otherwise useless yellow metal.

So in today's Southwest, the potential of that great land is seen by the chemical and coal conglomerates only as a means to the quick dollar, and never mind that their methods of extracting that quick dollar will turn that beautiful area into an arid wasteland. Only those whose ancestors have been farming that land for millennia are putting up a struggle against the depredations of these latest invaders, as with the Lakota Nation, who are determined that the black hills of South Dakota will not become a uranium slag heap.

At the University of Utah Medical Center, the process of higher education is taking a significant turn in our modern day and age. Some 650 beagle dogs are being injected with plutonium, which gives them bone cancer and a painful death. Beagles have bones that are similar to those of humans in construction and composition, and the purpose of this latest bit of academic endeavor is to determine human tolerance for radioactive materials. Yes, fellow workers, the year after next will be 1984; so ponder upon the bounties that your withholding taxes are bringing you.

Perhaps the Reagan Administration has been slashing a lot of benefits and social programs, but in certain departments things are as muddled as ever. One lady in California has been trying to return 51 of her aunt's Social Security checks, which the Social Security officials keep sending despite the fact that Auntie died two years ago, and despite the fact that copies of Auntie's death certificate have been mailed to said officials. Department officials have acknowledged that in the last month some \$60 million has been mailed to dead people; yet the live people are being economized on.

The latest flap is over the accusation that Moamar Khadafy of Libya has a contract out on President Reagan, which Khadafy has denied; and this writer is inclined to support his denial. If Khadafy is as rabidly anti-American as he is said to be, Reagan is far more useful to his purposes alive than dead.

However Ronnie, for all his winning smiles and nonsense philosophy, is no more than a front man, the same as all his predecessors were. The cowboy hero of erstwhile celluloid fame now takes his bows as the nation's top heavy, as well as the Number One scapegoat for all the big corporations. In another four years he may well be voted out to turn the stage over to another clown as the corporations go their merry way, while we working stiff curse the public servant who has been "voted" into office.

True democracy was practiced on this continent for thousands of years prior to the European invasion. Once the invaders secured a foothold on these shores, no effort was spared to subvert the representative governments of these Native Nations and to force them to conform to capitalist ideology by any means possible. Over 370 treaties were made between the United States and all the sovereign Native Nations, and every one of those treaties has been broken and is still being violated by the United States. Not a one has been broken by any of the sovereign Native Nations. I leave it up to you fellow workers who are familiar with union contract language to determine who is the illegal entity.

C. C. Redcloud

WHY JOIN THE IWW?

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

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

Thirty years from now, in the year 2011, those who came with the baby boom of 1946 will reach age 65. It's a bit premature, but happy birthday!

To make it a happy occasion, we must of course do a number of things in the meantime. We must reorganize our lives so we don't have wars, for the technology of war has become incompatible with the aim of keeping this planet the Home of Man. Nor should we keep on washing our topsoil into the oceans to grow grain to fatten cattle to give us heart trouble, or pollute the air and melt those polar ice caps—et cetera, et cetera—if we want anyone to have a happy birthday in 2011.

The demographers who specialize in such matters reckon that in 2011, 12.7% of the population will be over 65. That has some folks worried. They are worried over the 11.3% of us who are over 65 now, fearing that we may hang around long enough to embarrass the Treasury and Social Security Departments. They point out that back in 1920 only 4.7% of us lived past 65, and that Social Security was set up here in 1935 on the prospect of paying for itself. Yet now we start work later in life, quit earlier, and then, dammit, persist in living longer—all of which imperils Social Security. Other nations run old-age pensions as part of general outlays, with no effort to make them self-funding.

A smaller fraction of the population pays into a fund to support an increasing fraction who get past retirement age. This is spoken of as a hardship, even though it probably isn't: Would those at work find it better if the elderly started clamoring for their jobs back, or, not getting them, ceased to consume, and thus ceased to provide the employment that their living practices created?

At the recent conference where the Government cor-

ralled 2200 people to legitimate its plans for handling the elderly and making ends meet, it seems the ornery delegates held to the old-fashioned view that long life should be welcomed. Somehow no one there brought up the proposal that we start drawing pensions at age 20 when we could enjoy them, and then after 60 or so, start pressing buttons and pulling levers as geriatric therapy and productive industrial sociability, replenishing the fund, when we don't care any longer for skiing or other non-industrial pastimes. When we compare the technology of today with what was available a century ago, it would seem that a few three-hour shifts a week for those who couldn't find anything better to do should get the world's necessary work done—and if we are to keep this planet inhabitable we should quit doing all of the unnecessary work. It's this work that ought not to be done that endangers the human species.

Not mentioned at that conference either was the basic problem of how to make work rational. Is it rational for us to try to make a living selling our capacity to do the world's work to a social minority whose interests are opposed to the interests of the rest of us, considered either as wage earners or simply as human beings? It is this that leads to a host of irrationalities—fearing that someone else will do the work (here or abroad), welcoming jobs producing stuff to bump us off, stretching the work out even when it is painful to do so, hoping our products don't wear too well or last too long, and so on. The solution is rather obvious: for organized workers to take over the direction of the world's work for the common good. Don't wait till 2011!

ft

BIAS IN MOVIES

With *Norma Rae*, Hollywood had come a long way from its early treatment of unions. Ken Margolis summarizes that progress in a ten-page article in last summer's issue of the *Screen Actor*. He comments: "A union organizer could find in Hollywood films most of the standard reasons workers give for not joining unions." That is no coincidence. Back in the '20s movie czar Will Hays told an audience at Harvard Graduate School of Business Administration why it didn't make films out of Upton Sinclair's and Jack London's pro-labor stories. He said: "Make no mistake about the importance of amusement. Just as you serve the leisure hours of the masses, so do you rivet the girders of society."

The silent movies dealing with unions spoke of "outside agitators" rather than of union organizers, and ran to comedies that belittled them. In a 1914 movie, Charlie Chaplin scabs on bakers and they give him a loaf to bake with a bomb in it.

Where grievances were depicted as real, the solution given was to get the boss to understand it. The 1910 *Girl Strike Leader* marries the boss's son; in the 1912 *How the Cause Was Won* the boss's son goes to work incognito in the factory, unavailingly urges his father not to cut the pay, but an old Civil War comrade shows how to convince the boss by being friendly.

Margolis lists two films that favored unions: Sinclair's *Jungle* (1915), and the 1913 film *Why*—but they found it hard to get theaters to show them. With the first world war the tone shifted to that of contrasting "sensible unions" and militant ones, frequently the IWW.

With union growth in the '30s, basic admonitions tended to remain the same: Paul Muni got drunk and caused a mine strike in *Black Fury* (1935) and *Our Leading Citizen* (1939) advises local folks to settle their troubles without those outside agitators.

SUSTAINING FUND

(Received November 11th Through December 11th)

Anonymous	100.00
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Michael Doolan	5.00
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T. F. Carty	2.00
Pete Posthumus	10.00
W. Malcolm	1.00
Alan Graham	10.00
Pat McMillen	17.00
Switchman	10.00

TOTAL 255.00

Many thanks, Fellow Workers, for your generous support.

The 1940 *Grapes of Wrath* was novel in its honest depiction of workers' lives, and in 1941 anti-union Zanuck did agree to film the pro-labor *How Green Was My Valley* but left out most of the union content of the novel. *The Pajama Game* turned a realistic novel into a comic opera depiction of a union; in *The Garment Jungle* it's the boss's son again who wins fair play.

Films from Britain have taken the same course: *I'm All Right Jack* makes such a spoof of communist union domination that it is funny. *The Angry Silence* glorifies an ostracized scab. (Margolis does not comment on *Fame Is the Spur* that radicals relish even though U.S. Steel found something in it to sponsor on TV, or *The White Suit* that never wears out and thus leads to textile strikes.)

Unions have arranged for films giving the union perspective, notably *Salt of the Earth*, *With These Hands*, *The Inheritance*, etc., but usually only union audiences see them. The focus in recent films on union corruption, even if honestly done, tends to achieve the same purpose as the unscrupulous anti-union film—and it will unless it depicts also an effective struggle for union democracy to end corruption.

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AN INJURY TO ONE IS AN INJURY TO ALL
ONE UNION ONE LABEL ONE ENEMY

Industrial Worker

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THE SECOND WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH

AFL-CIO CONVENTION: They Represented Constituencies

The AFL-CIO held its 14th Biennial Convention—dating from the merger of the two unions—November 16th through 19th in the Imperial Ballroom of the Sheraton Center, New York City. It was billed as the 100th Anniversary of the American Labor Movement, dating from the 1881 Columbus meeting to which the AFL traces its ancestry. There were 836 delegates representing 91 international unions, as well as state and local bodies.

Speeches by New York Governor Hugh Carey, Walter Mondale, Edward Kennedy, Daniel Patrick Moynihan, "Tip" O'Neill, Danny Thomas, and others, along with several films, took up a large part of the proceedings. In between these entertainments, the Convention deliberated on 209 resolutions and elected officials for the coming two years.

The entertainment was definitely the main draw for many delegates. The ballroom was packed for the speeches. The discussion of resolutions saw a fair number head for the door. Resolutions presented before the Convention had been passed upon beforehand by the Resolutions Committee, consisting of Executive Council members, general presidents, and heads of state federations. In no instance were the recommendations of this committee opposed. A great majority of the resolutions were put to a vote and approved without discussion. What passed for discussion consisted of delegates on the floor, or Executive Council members on the dais, rising and speaking fervently in support of a particular resolution. Business was conducted at a brisk pace, with Lane Kirkland and the Executive Council very much in charge.

Officers for 1981-1983 were nominated and elected on the third day. Lane Kirkland, president, and Thomas R. Donahue, secretary-treasurer, were re-elected unopposed. Nominations for the 33 vice-presidents who form

the Executive Council provided the only excitement on the floor during the entire four days, and it was little enough. The 28 incumbents were nominated for re-election. Five names were placed in nomination by Kirkland, to replace vice-presidents who had retired or died. These five had been selected by a Nominating Committee appointed by the Executive Council prior to the Convention. They were the "official" slate.

At this point Bill Lucy, delegate from AFSCME, rose to state that he and others of the Black Caucus were displeased by the Nominating Committee's choices for the five positions. None of the Black Caucus's proposed nominees had been approved by the Nominating Committee. When informed that additional nominees would compete with all 33 official nominees, Lucy declined to nominate anyone.

Frederick O'Neal, president of the Associated Actors and Artists and the one black incumbent on the Executive Council, then rose and also offered exception to the Nominating Committee's omission of Black Caucus candidates. He concluded with the statement: "I shall vote for this slate (the official one), unless some other person is nominated." No one else was nominated, and the official slate was elected unopposed.

Lane Kirkland's comment on this slight ruffling of otherwise placid feathers was: "I believe there is some confusion between consideration and selection. There is no way in which a democratic process... can assure selection." There was no comment as to why these men, duly accredited representatives of their unions, were obviously reluctant to make nominations in opposition to the officially-endorsed candidates.

The resolutions adopted at the Convention offered few surprises. They reaffirmed the federation's commitment to New Deal liberalism, to liberal Democratic poli-

tics, and to more traditional concerns, such as tariff measures to protect union members' jobs. Discussion of organizing took half an hour.

The Convention did vote to increase per-capita dues from 19¢ a month to 24¢ a month for 1982, and to 27¢ a month for 1983. This will raise \$14.4 million over the two years, for a variety of purposes, among them the creation of a Labor Institute for Public Affairs, to specialize in using polling, television, and other advanced communications techniques to get the federation's message across.

There was no mention of union members' complaints concerning the distance of their union officials from their immediate concerns and the lack of responsiveness of the federation as a whole to rank-and-file union members, nor was there any discussion of union democracy, or the lack of it, within the AFL-CIO and its member unions. None of the delegates were directly elected by the members of their unions. They were mostly white and mostly male, and their numbers were top-heavy with union officials. They referred to their constituencies, the working men and women who belong to the unions making up the AFL-CIO, not as their fellow workers, their equals, but as their followers, as groups to be mobilized in support of the programs they were mechanically rubber-stamping at the recommendation of the Executive Council. As a worker, a shipping clerk on the graveyard shift, covering the sessions after putting in a night's work, I felt no common bond with these men. I doubt if the more than 13 million workers represented by the AFL-CIO would have felt much more.

Jim Jahn, X332060

(Jim Jahn is an active member of the New York Organizing Committee of the IWW, and attended the convention as a correspondent for the *Industrial Worker*.)

AMERICAN LABOR ROUNDUP

Perhaps it's the slump in auto sales, but the United Auto Workers are penetrating new fields. In Michigan 3,250 Blue Cross workers negotiated their first UAW contract for increases of 8%, 7.5%, and 5% in each of three years. At Cornell University in Ithaca, New York, the UAW organized 900 service and maintenance employees, of whom 200 had been getting less than \$4 an hour and another 300 between \$4 and \$5. It took a 10-day strike in October to win a settlement. The strike was backed by students, faculty members, and the University's 2800 non-union white-collar workers, who walked picket lines, raised funds with a raffle, and ran a strike kitchen supported by the town's alternative restaurants.

Union contracts made in the first nine months of 1981—in 418 bargaining units with over a thousand workers each—covered 1.5 million workers. They provided an average of 11.5% for the first year, and 9.3% averaged over the total length of the contracts. Where there were cost-of-living clauses, the first-year raise averaged 7.9%, but where there was no COLA it averaged 12.4%. First-year increases averaged 13.9% in construction, 12.2% in non-manufacturing industries, and 9% in manufacturing.

On November 29th, *Sixty Minutes* gave some coverage to the health-issue strike of the Oil, Chemical, and Atomic Workers at Jonesboro, Tennessee, fighting exposure to uranium dust in this plant where spent uranium, preferred because it is so heavy, is made into armor-piercing bullets. The plant is owned by a subsidiary of General Tire. The workers have been on strike since April 30th, and the scabs are breathing the uranium dust.

Nabisco has settled a sex-discrimination suit by setting up a \$5 million fund for 8,000 women who have worked in 11 Nabisco plants since 1973.

A quarter million railroad workers bargained concurrently through seven shop craft unions for new 39-month contracts, retroactive to April, providing for a total of 32.5% in increases. Another quarter million in six unions handling the movement of trains continue to bargain. Voting on acceptance of the shop-craft contracts runs to December 11th.

When Gulf and Western threatened to close down Windsor Bumper in Windsor, Ontario and move its dies to Grand Rapids, the workers who were on strike to retain their COLA clause got such widespread support from other unions, ready to tie up most of Windsor's industries, that the company settled and granted the COLA.

A union-label quiz in the November 12th issue of *Detroit Labor News* discloses that name of union and type of product don't always correspond. For example Sara Lee bakery goods are produced by the Aluminum Workers, Spaulding golf clubs by the Boilermakers, and Reynolds metal cans by the Electrical Workers (IBEW).

Co-ordinated bargaining by five unions at 27 plants of Square D Company last fall won boosts averaging 62¢, 34¢, and 33¢ in each of three years. The present average scale is \$7.84. The unions were IBEW with 3800 members, IAM with 1600, the Teamsters with 375, the Molders with 190, and the UAW with 70.

Strikes in October were lowest in 20 years, partly due to the recession, and partly because few contracts expired that month.

Job-caused injuries dropped from 6.1 million in 1979 to 5.6 million in 1980. The Bureau of Labor Statistics attributed a large part of the drop to a decrease in hours worked. Job-related deaths were 4400 in 1980, down from 4950 in 1979. BLS recognizes that the real figures are probably higher, but often physicians do not have full information about what leads to the injuries and deaths.

Teamsters who pick up 15,000 tons of garbage daily for 500 private carting companies in New York City went out on strike December 1st, rejecting a \$15-a-week raise as inadequate.

The Supreme Court has consented to review Charles Bowen's suit against the American Postal Workers' Union for not protecting him against unjust discharge in 1976. A federal jury found that Bowen was fined unfairly, and ordered the Postal Service and the Union jointly to compensate him. An appeals court reduced the award to just \$30,000 and exempted the union.

The High Court will also consider the suit of Mariano Falcon against General Telephone Company of Texas for discriminating in both hiring and promotion. The Court did rule in November that a boss's secretary is protected by the NLRA in such concerted action as signing a petition for reinstatement of a discharged fellow worker, provided that she does not have confidential information about industrial relations. (The boss's ground for saying he had the right to fire her was her confidential knowledge of other areas of his business.)

People working in the US Senate Restaurant have appealed to the International Labor Organization with the complaint that the Senate will not negotiate with their Capitol Employees' Organizing Group, for which most of them have signed cards. They say their right to form a union is protected both by the First Amendment and by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Retired railroad workers found their December 1st checks rather small. The Social Security component had been cut out because of that budgetary impasse, and the railroad part had been permanently cut by \$20 to \$30.

Chicago public-transit employees called for a local Solidarity Day demonstration December 19th to protest the City's plans to balance its budget by laying a lot of them off.



The mothers of over half of those under 18 are now working or looking for work: 54% of them now compared to only 39% in 1970. The big increase has been among mothers of pre-schoolers, 45% of whom are now in the labor force.

US Steel employees figure that their COLA provisions have added \$4.79 per hour to their typical paycheck since 1973.

Is it that unions aren't glamorized enough, or that in these changing times they need to do something out of the ordinary? Anyway, a Gallup Poll question posed both last fall and in 1955 asked: "Do you approve or disapprove of unions?" A quarter century ago 76% approved and only 14% disapproved. In 1981, however, only 55% approved and 35% disapproved. Perhaps that's because "vending-machine TV" doesn't depict reality. Machinist members monitoring the boob tube counted 44 attorneys for every plumber, nine advertising executives for every electrician, 14 Congressmen for every garbage collector, five times as many foreign spies as meat cutters, twice as many pimps as firemen, and 16 times more prostitutes than mine workers."

DOWN IN THE MINES

Larry Ratliff, co-owner of the Vanhose Coal Company of Harlan, Kentucky, was sentenced to 60 days in jail as the result of a mining accident that killed one of his employees. He is the first mining executive ever to go to jail for violation of the Mine Safety and Health Act.

Small mining companies are proving to be undesirable employers. Often they lease their equipment from larger companies to whom they sell their output and fold up with no assets, leaving wages due and checks that bounce. The UMWA reports that in its District 28 alone, 143 union members have been left unemployed in this way with \$325,000 due them.

In the first nine months of 1981 only 29 of the 87 coal miners who were killed at work were UMWA members, though the union represents about 70% of all coal miners in the USA—evidence that unionism does make work safer. Because strip mining produces more tons per man and is often not under the UMWA, only about half the coal output is dug by UMWA members. Most of the miners killed were in non-union underground operations.

These accident figures do not include the December triple tragedies that killed eight miners at an independent mine near Topmost, Kentucky; three more in a roof fall at the Elk River Sewell Company in West Virginia; and 13 in an explosion at Tennessee Consolidated's mine in Whitwell. All three companies have had numerous violations cited.

The Southern Appalachian Labor School sponsored a tour by the New York Street Theater Caravan through parts of Virginia, West Virginia, and Kentucky, with part of their program portraying the Molly Maguires in Ireland and in Pennsylvania.

SOUND OF A DISTANT DRUM

Arthur Moyses, London

It is no white Dickensian Christmas for the Island Race in this year of our Lord 1981. The gas oven that I light to warm the room hisses and splutters and burns. Vicki, my old black bitch, lies sleeping in the warm armchair in the last year or so of her short life. Through the windows may be seen a gray sky blanketing a gray world and a lone pigeon playing out its role as solitary sentinel on a rooftop television aerial against a skyline of high-rise working-class flats.

For the working class of the Western World it is a record of failure and retreat, as the right-wing middle class have consolidated power and authority in country after country. A left-wing government in France or Greece, and the people rightly take to the streets and cheer; but come the morrow here in London, and in that same bleak gray light from without my window we know that even the hard-fought-for minor reforms will be taken away.

Let us type the manifestos and march in the demonstrations, and God give me courage I will take my true place, though in the end we may have to mourn our dead and carry the knowledge that the end of our particular struggle is to create a new Frankensteinian bureaucratic middle class. But the battle must be fought, for while every victory holds the cancer of defeat, every defeat must be fertile soil to fight and fight again.

LONDON FARES

I am not bitter and I am not prating to the solitary pigeon seated on the television aerial outside my window; for this week, in pub or drear thinly-filled room (I forget which), I listened and spoke to Dave Wetzel, the happy extrovert, ex bus driver, and ex union official who signed his letters 'Yours in socialism' and who, with the London Labour Party's take-over of political power within the Greater London Council, became chairman of the largest public-transport system in Europe. And out of all that came a 25% cut in London's working-class commuter fares and an increase in local taxes to pay for it.

Yea, yea, yea, I stood and raged at the futility of it, explaining again and again that this was the moment to put socialist principles into practice by implementing a non-paying public-transport system as an example to

the working-class world; but I was dismissed as a "cynical sod". For middle-class votes were needed to put the Labour Party into office and maintain the support of the Tories holding Labour Party membership cards.

This week we wait for the Law Lords sitting within the House of Lords to decide on the judgment of Lord Denning, who told the mini social democrats in the Greater London Council that the mini-revolutionary social democrats acting as the supreme political authority over London's 8,000,000 people cannot reduce the bus and internal train fares. And this tragicomic situation is a classic demonstration that all the well-worded manifestos and all the votes cast by the London working class are useless against one of three judges sitting in a cozy oak-lined office. For now the social democrats have learned the obvious truth that behind Lord Denning's judgment lies the military might and authority of the State.

Perhaps this week the Law Lords will overrule Lord Denning's judgment, and the social democrats will be allowed to reduce the workers' fares to and from work by 25%. But the harsh lesson has been learned that you cannot vote a corrupt and evil society out of power. And comrades, I will take a raise in my old-age pension of \$60 a week before I turn up my toes.

There was great rejoicing on the right when Motown's top-ranking union bosses sold their members down the river by agreeing to a pay raise that could only mean a vicious cut in living standards and more men and women being thrown out of jobs. But as I stated in these columns it had to happen, and now it has happened, that 2,200 of the line workers employed at Motown's British Leyland Longbridge Metro works have now been manning the strike line for three weeks, and for the most basic and human of reasons. When the union top brass did their deal with Sir Michael Edwards, the bantam-size head of Britain's Motown, part of the sellout was a 39-hour week. And it was all signed and sealed, and the working men and women were forced back onto the line. But the management of Britain's Motown sat in their boardroom

laughing, for they believed that with the aid of the union top brass they had won, and the reduction of a 40-hour week to a 39-hour week was to be a glorious con job worthy of the Three Card Trick gangs that work my Soho area.

LEYLAND STRIKE

The line men and women had a 51-minute break split between the morning and afternoon shifts. The 26-minute break during the morning shift and 25-minute break during the afternoon shift has been railroaded by the national right-wing press and the TV media as a "51-minute tea break", and the striking men and women have been held up to public ridicule for striking for four weeks now over the loss of 11 minutes of a long tea break. But the truth is that by clawing back 11 of those 51 minutes each day, the hour reduction in the 40-hour week is turned into a joke.

That 26-minute break during the morning shift and 25-minute break during the afternoon shift allows for a handful of minutes to drink a mug of tea; but what is not mentioned by the whole of the right-wing national press or TV media is that these break periods include the official time allowed to perform the basic body functions of pissing and shitting. And from that Sir Michael wants to claw off 11 minutes—six minutes in the morning and five minutes in the afternoon. So if you are constipated or suffer an attack of diarrhea after the official time has elapsed, then, comrade, you can take care of business on your own time and are put on report. And again the union top brass are selling the strikers out by making the strike "official" but "urging 6,000 Motown workers not in dispute to walk past the strike picket and carry on working" while Sir Michael dons his company Father Christmas outfit.

I have just come back from a trip to the Serpentine Gallery to view the gentle 1930ish nostalgic paintings of the shy Craigie Aitchinson. I have drunk deep of the white wine and eaten of the food and kissed Sue Grayson, Angela Flowers, and Olive, and heard that 6,000 Motown men whom Sir Michael called upon to walk through the picket line have thumbed their noses at the top-brass union bosses and Motown's Sir Michael and joined the picket line. Let the line stand firm.

THE COST OF EMPIRE

The growth of American corporations from modest domestic enterprises to multinational giants with vast overseas holdings has been matched by a comparable growth in the US military establishment. Sometimes the sword has intervened in other lands to protect the advantages won by the dollar, and sometimes the dollar has rushed in to enjoy the benefits extracted by the sword.

About 1.5 million US military personnel are stationed in 116 countries. The US has more than 400 major military bases and almost 3,000 lesser ones situated in almost every region of the world.

Almost \$90 billion in military aid has been given to some 80 nations since World War Two, and every variety of weapon is sold to foreign rulers by US corporations. Two million foreign troops and hundreds of thousands of foreign police and militia, under the command of various dictators and juntas, have been trained, equipped, and financed by the US. The purpose of these police and militias has been not to defend their countries from outside invasion, but to protect the ruling cliques from their own potentially insurgent populations.

Furthermore, US corporations exert a controlling influence on the natural resources, land, labor, trade, finances, and markets of whole nations. In sum, much of the world has been transformed over the years into an American-equipped armed camp to preserve an American-dominated status quo. Over a twenty-year period the US Government spent \$2 billion to shore up corrupt governments in the Philippines, hoping to protect what amounts to a half-billion-dollar investment. The same pattern holds true in other parts of the world: The military cost usually exceeds the value of the investments.

Therefore, one might conclude that empires are self-defeating propositions, costing more than they are worth. A closer look, however, reveals that the people who profit handsomely from overseas investment are not the same people who foot the bill. As Thorstein Veblen pointed out in 1904, the gains of empire flow into the hands of the privileged business class, while the costs are extracted from "the industry of the rest of the people". The expenditures required to make the world safe for ITT, Chase Manhattan, and General Pinochet are taken from the pockets of the US working class.

Americans pay a heavy price in blood, sweat, and taxes for the US military-industrial global empire. They pay in other ways, too. As more and more industry moves overseas, attracted by the availability of cheap labor and high profits, more jobs are lost at home. The Ford Motor Company, for example, exports to Argentina not only cars, but whole factories, which produce cars that are sold both in that country and elsewhere. At the same time the Argentine junta receives millions in aid from the US taxpayers to keep Ford employees and other Argentine workers in line. Throughout the Third World, counter-insurgency and assassination squads trained and financed

by the CIA and the US military have terrorized and killed tens of thousands of unionists, workers, peasants, clergymen, and students who have offered resistance to the oppressive social orders of those countries.

Nor do the benefits of this empire trickle down to the American consumer, as is often supposed. The radios assembled by workers in Taiwan who work for 20¢ an hour, 10 hours a day, 6 or 7 days a week do not cost much less than those assembled in Ohio. Companies move to Taiwan not in hope of saving money for the consumer, but to increase their own profits. They pay as little in wages as they can, but still charge as much as they can in prices.

The multinationals also cause economic misery in the Third World—some of which returns to its makers. Native lands are expropriated by agribusiness, so that cash crops can be raised for export to more lucrative markets abroad, thus dispossessing the local peasantry. This has been the pattern throughout Latin America, with its teeming shantytowns and relatively-empty countrysides. Millions of destitute Latinos have been compelled to migrate to the US, many of them illegally, to work in sweatshops at starvation wages.

There are other ways Americans pay for "our" military-industrial empire. There is the distortion of an entire civilization's technology and science, as two-thirds of all research and development is controlled by the Pentagon. Small wonder we seem able to plan for monster science-fiction wars while our trains are worse than those we had 40 years ago.

The astronomical costs of military adventures in empire are a major factor in federal budget deficits, which keep Treasury borrowing high and therefore drive up interest rates. High interest rates push federal deficits even higher, while simultaneously feeding inflation. Inflation and high interest rates put houses, cars, and other major consumer goods beyond the reach of many buyers. Deprived of domestic markets, the managers of capital seek overseas in-

vestment—and to protect their interests, prod the likes of Al Haig and Caspar Weinberger into armed mischief on every continent.

Americans pay for their empire with the cutback of vital human services; the neglect of environmental needs; the decay and financial collapse of our cities; the deterioration of our transportation, education, and health-care systems; and the devastating inflation which is inevitable when hundreds of billions of dollars are spent each year to produce and maintain a military colossus.

And on top of these are the frightful social and psychological costs; the discouragement and decline of public morale; the growing anger, cynicism, and suffering of the poor and not-so-poor; and the threatened imposition of authoritarian solutions as the center is bled to fortify the periphery.

(adapted from *Progressive*, Volume 5, Number 11)

TIGHTEN THOSE BELTS!

As the *Service Union Reporter* notes: Treasury Secretary Regan attended 28 social functions in one 30-day period; Secretary of Labor Donovan threw a lawn party for 300 with two bands and open pits of sizzling beef and pork at his \$765,000 home; and for Nancy Reagan's birthday party food was flown in from Beverly Hills to a Virginia plantation.

The price of oranges is kept high by a government body, the Navel Orange Administrative Committee, most of whose members are selected by major orange growers like Sunkist. This committee has been empowered by law to say how many oranges can be put on the market at a given time, how many kept on the tree, and how many fed to hogs or otherwise disposed of. The Committee fined a San Joaquin Valley grower for donating a million pounds of oranges to a charity group.

Southwestern Bell in Austin, Texas wants to raise its phone rates. Among its financial exigencies it cites \$50 million to have portraits painted of Bell executives.

Reagan is reported to have paid only \$908 in taxes on his 680-acre spread in California, instead of the \$42,000 he should have paid, by having it declared an "agricultural preserve". He got into the big money by selling a ranch he had bought for \$65,000 to Twentieth Century Fox for two million, the laundry deal being arranged by William French Smith, whom he named Attorney General.

The General Accounting Office says the Agriculture Department is economizing with two few inspections and letting meat packers run dirty plants: dirty work trays, overhead condensation dripping on carcasses, flies and rodents. Workers prefer clean conditions, and would be the most reliable monitors if they weren't afraid work might shift to other plants if they demand cleanliness.

"Small Wonder We Seem To Be Able To Plan For Monster Science-Fiction Wars While Our Trains Are Worse Than We Rode Forty Years Ago!"

At the Knowledge Factories

UNIVERSITY EMPLOYEES SUE

The University Employees Union in Austin, Texas is suing the University for subverting the legislative process by ordering reduced rates of pay for anyone hired or promoted after September 1st, 1981. The law provided for a 14.3% raise for all university employees, not the 10% increase resulting from this order. The suit is funded by the Texas Labor Fund set up by the Socialist Party of Texas.

ACADEMIC SLAVE MART

During the convention of the American Historical Association in Los Angeles December 27th through 30th, the Radical Historians Association plans some shop talk. These academic conventions are often referred to by participants as "slave marts" where their professorial skills get displayed to potential buyers. In their Newsletter the Radical Historians note:

"Undergraduate teaching is increasingly being carried out by part-time adjuncts and by full-time faculty on short-term contracts, in short by workers who are underpaid and without job security or benefits. In many places this situation has created a false division and polarization between senior faculty and younger academics. While many scholars confront this situation on a day-to-day basis, it has become particularly acute for radicals." The

scholars get shunted to non-academic jobs.

In academe, as on factory floors, the young workers in a restricted labor market wonder why the old fogies don't get out of the way of their advancement—and the old should know it's a problem that requires two-way-street solidarity.

STUDENT PRESS

The ACLU will sue Northern Illinois University if three students are disciplined for exposure in their student paper of the ease with which habit-forming tranquilizers could be obtained from the student health center. The charge is giving false information to school officials, based on the fact that to get the data for their story they had gone to the health center saying they needed the drugs when they didn't.

UM FIVE YEARS LATE

On November 23rd, 1981 the University of Michigan signed a contract submitted by the Graduate Employees Organization (GEO) almost six years earlier. The University had claimed that the Teaching Assistants (TAs), Research Assistants (RAs), and other graduate employees (GSAs) were not employees. The University signed the contract after two unsuccessful appeals to the Michigan

Employment Relations Commission, which had ordered it to sign and begin bargaining with the GEO for a new contract. Meanwhile, the current contract re-institutes a grievance procedure and re-establishes the agency shop and dues checkoff for this affiliate of the American Federation of Teachers.

Negotiations are not expected to get far until February. Meanwhile organizing goes ahead, the grievance procedure is explained to graduate employees, and meetings will be held to determine the goals of the new contract.

Lack of union protection for five years has cost graduate employees dearly. Michigan teaching assistants' salaries are now among the lowest in the Big Ten. The University President admits that the TAs are underpaid. Graduate employees now carry 30% of the teaching load. The University spends less than 3% of its budget on the salaries of graduate employees. Most make less than \$5,000 a year for a two-term (fall-winter) appointment, and also have to kick back in the form of tuition on top of this. TAs are required to carry a minimum of six credits a term, and are offered a tuition credit that covers only a portion of their tuition costs. This is a widely-felt grievance. Only through organizing and militant unionism can graduate employees hope to get decent working conditions and a living wage.

Jon

Boycott Background

At Sterling Radiator in Westfield, near Amherst, Massachusetts, scabs are making baseboard radiators for stores and homes. They sell under such names as Kon-Pak, Versaline, Sill-Pak, and Classic. UAW Local 430 has been on strike there since spring. The Local was enjoined from interfering with the scabs, but with the help of friends, including students from campuses in the area, Local members have circulated pictures of scabs on posters captioned "Wanted for Job Stealing". On August 27th these friends and members from other locals confronted a busload of scabs with arms interlocked and prevented their entry. When police tried to arrest one, the whole line fell to the sidewalk, their arms still interlocked. It took hours to get them arrested. Then the judge pointed out that the injunction applied only to members of Local 430, and let them go. The strike and boycott continue, encouraged now by a documentary based largely on newsreel coverage of the August 27th incident.

In November of 1980 Moore-McCormack Resources bought out Kentucky Kosmos Cement Company and soon forced a strike by members of the United Cement, Lime, Gypsum, and Allied Workers. The Kosmos brand name now goes on a scab product that, like Kon-Pak radiators, should not be welcomed at construction sites.

Retail Workers organized the 18 clerks at one of Sobey's chain stores in Dalhousie, New Brunswick, Canada, in the fall of 1990, and had to strike to back up the demands for their first contract. In February the chain shut down that store. Sobey's in turn is owned by the Empire Company, which also has auto leasing (Avis), Pizza Hut, Lawton's Drugs, insurance agencies, and sundry enterprises under many names. The clerks' union RWDSU has asked for a boycott on only the non-union components of the octopus, looking for an Achilles' heel in there somewhere.

The Coors beer boycott is proving effective; in five years Coors's share of the Colorado market has dropped from 50% to 18%. In depressed times the boycott tends to supplant the strike, and unless serious attention is paid to it can become more of a ritual than an economic fact. How many union people boycott R. J. Reynolds, despite the Surgeon General's warning that these products endanger your health?

All Campbell's and Libby's products have been boycotted for three years now by the Farm Labor Organizing Committee, and Campbell has been fighting back with a label-collecting campaign in the schools through which to buy gym equipment. FLOC has been countering with campaigns in the schools about the use of child labor in the tomato fields of Ohio, and school children given this information have been voting to join the boycott instead of saving the labels. FLOC's boycott has the endorsement of many unions, including the United Farm Workers. Its aim is to get both Campbell and Libby to engage in three-way bargaining between tomato pickers, tomato growers, and canners.

And then there are those boycotts initiated for other than customary union reasons, like the boycott of Nestle products because of Nestle's practice of inducing Third World women to replace breast feeding with bottle feeding (with Nestle products), even when they lack sterilizing facilities. Or the boycott of Chapstick lip balm, Dimetapp, and Robitussin cold remedies, to penalize the A. H. Robins Company for distributing Dalkon Shields while suppressing the evidence that these interuterine devices were dangerous.

Steel workers have been boycotting all Proctor and Gamble soaps because the company won't bargain with them in Kansas City. For similar reasons, furniture workers have been boycotting New Galax mirrors.



SOLIDARITY / BOB BUCHTA

PREAMBLE TO THE CONSTITUTION of the INDUSTRIAL WORKERS OF THE WORLD

The working class and the employing class have nothing in common. There can be no peace so long as hunger and want are found among millions of working people, and the few who make up the employing class have all the good things of life.

Between these two classes a struggle must go on until the workers of the world organize as a class, take possession of the earth and the machinery of production, and abolish the wage system.

We find that the centering of the management of industries in fewer and fewer hands makes the trade unions unable to cope with the ever growing power of the employing class. The trade unions foster a state of affairs which allows one set of workers to be pitted against another set of workers in the same industry, thereby helping defeat one another in wage wars. Moreover, the trade unions aid the employing class to mislead the workers into the belief that the working class have interests in common with their employers.

These conditions can be changed and the interests of the working class upheld only by an organization formed in such a way that all its members in any one industry, or in all industries if necessary, cease work whenever there is a strike or a lockout in any department thereof, thus making an injury to one an injury to all.

Instead of the conservative motto "A fair day's wage for a fair day's work," we must inscribe on our banner the revolutionary watchword "Abolition of the wage system."

It is the historic mission of the working class to do away with capitalism. The army of production must be organized, not only for the everyday fight with capitalists, but also to carry on production once capitalism shall have been overthrown. By organizing industrially we are forming the structure of the new society within the shell of the old.

Whose Hills?

An 1800-page study of resource ownership in Appalachia documents what folks there have known first-hand for many years: Absentee ownership keeps folks poor.

The Highlander Center at New Market, Tennessee, long engaged in education for labor and community service in the region, has helped develop some research triggered by the floods in Mingo County in 1977 into a project stretching from West Virginia to Alabama. Strip mining and deforestation have made flooding worse. Folks driven from their homes by floods started gathering facts about who was responsible, and the Highlander Center managed to draw \$130,000 from federal funds for related research to defray costs of this grass-roots project.

The resulting Appalachian Land Ownership Study has collated data on 55,000 parcels of land covering 20 million acres. Though there are 30,000 owners of those acres, over 8 million of them are owned by 50 private owners and 10 government agencies. Ownership of mineral rights is usually separate from ownership of surface, and 70% of the mineral rights are corporation-owned.

There has been little money for community service in those hills, because the owners of this mineral wealth pay only about 25¢ an acre in taxes.

"This is first and foremost a citizen-based survey," Highlander sociologist Bill Horton is quoted as saying in the June issue of *Progressive*. "It is a result of local people seeing a need for information and devising a plan to get it. For less money than an outside consulting firm would have charged, the Appalachian Regional Commission has gotten an academically-sound study that is also practical and useful—and it will be used, because the same people who needed the information and went looking for it are now ready to apply the findings in their home communities."

Brother Mark Ormond, writing in the September issue of *The Catholic Worker*, gives a picture of what absentee ownership has done to the hills of Magoffin County, Kentucky:

"The original, densely-forested slopes could absorb the forty-five inches of rain that fall on the area each year. But these forested slopes began being shaved in the middle of the last century for the lumber needs of the expanding industrial centers of the Northeast. The second growth was cut for deep coal mines that crept into the region at the beginning of this century. A third growth will probably never mature with the advent of massive strip mining. The flood waters move through the hills of Eastern Kentucky; the soil finds its way to the Mississippi Delta; and the coal is exported to West Germany, where it is cheaper to import American coal than to comply with German mining regulations. Our need for profit has saved their environment. The profits? Most of the profits slip out of Kentucky without any loss due to taxes."

In Lincoln County, West Virginia, a local group found that Columbia Gas of Wilmington, Delaware owned two-thirds of that county's mineral acreage, and since 1949 had been paying taxes at 14¢ an acre. They went to court and eventually raised Columbia's tax bill 500%, increasing local revenue half a million a year. As Steve Askin put it in the *National Catholic Reporter*: "A different kind of tax revolt is growing in the rocky hills of Appalachia... citizens are pressing for higher taxes."



From the Bookcase

AT THE POINT OF PRODUCTION

The Local History of the IWW

Edited by Joseph R. Conlin

330 pages, \$29.95

Greenwood Press, Contributions in Labor History No. 10.

In the early years of this century labor educators on soapbox or in union hall often spoke of "the point of production." To explain a rich class that didn't work and a working class that wasn't rich, workers must be either paid too little at the job or charged too much at the store; but if their exploitation is at the store, then those who buy the most must get gypped the most, and one cannot explain this layer-cake sort of society on that assumption. So they concluded that the worker gets gypped "at the point of production" and that is where our battle lies. The phrase was in such extensive use that if a man grabbed his lunch bucket at a mine boardinghouse and said he was "headed for the point," no one doubted where he was headed. The "point" didn't mean the general industrial area, but the lathe, the mine work-face, the spot where his labor created wealth.

A history of the IWW on the job would be a most interesting book to read, but it remains to be written. The subtitle of this book indicates that Professor Conlin realizes he has gathered essays on the local history of the IWW rather than essays about what the IWW did on the job to improve job conditions. Perhaps someone will write such a book about some union based largely on its record of grievances processed, contract negotiations, and jobsite union pressures, merely salted by strikes. There should be a book on what the IWW did during ten years of job control on the docks of Philadelphia, a longer period in Cleveland metal working plants, conditioning the job at sea, making mine working practices safer, or changing the old timber beast into the modern lumber worker. That is the story of the IWW, and that is what historians systematically neglect to write about.

But these heavily documented essays do add to the growing body of information to be found on the IWW between book covers. Several essays are expansions on topics the authors have previously discussed in regional history journals—Robert Snyder does this with the study of the 1912 Little Falls knitgoods strike he published in *New York History* January '79; David Wagaman with his outstanding account of the IWW in Nebraska in *Nebraska History* Fall '75; or Guy Louis Rocha with his article on the IWW at Boulder Dam, *Nevada Historical Quarterly*, Spring '78.

Patrick Lynch gives the story of the predominantly Jewish stogie makers in Pittsburgh who joined the IWW in 1912, a bit apprehensive of what Socialist Party right wingers were saying about the IWW at that time, survived a lockout that lasted the summer of 1913, and maintained their union for years until stogie making vanished from the area, knocked out by the cigarette habit. The procedures these workers used to win and maintain better job conditions in these many small workplaces may to some extent be applicable to current situations where many small employers operate in a limited geographic area. Lynch's essay and Rocha's on Wobs at Boulder Dam do especially warrant the book's title.

James Osborne does manage a new slant on the 1913 Paterson strike. In the preceding century silk workers accustomed to a cottage-type industry in Europe came there to work with what was then up-to-date technology, and resented becoming appendages to these machines. By 1913 Paterson technology was outdated, and a new wave of immigration, largely Italian, occupied the less desirable jobs. A sizeable anarchist movement had developed among these Italians. By 1908 a better consolidated upper class

had secured the cooperation of some of the old settlers to impose a nonelective commission form of government that drove out the anarchist publication, and concurred with Sheriff Radcliffe that the immigrants were "a lower order of animals, unfit for free speech." The IWW was drawn into a strike impossible to win, for the better technology was elsewhere.

Of the three massive trials at the end of World War I, the one at Wichita has been probed the least. Earl Bruce White has been digging into these records for years and publishes some of his findings in this volume, the job angle here being the effort of the Agricultural Workers to develop an oil workers union in the fields of Oklahoma, another little-told tale.

Ronald McMahon draws on taped interviews to add to earlier accounts of the 1927 Colorado strike, and thus establishes that the state police were drinking the night before they shot down the pickets at Columbine, and that the Wald County sheriff had foreknowledge of their intent. Why didn't the IWW retain permanent organization in these mines? When I went to Butte in 1928 to send the IU 210-220 records to Chicago, I found in the correspondence of Kristen Svanum, the secretary of 210-220 during the strike, a scheme with Embree and others, to avoid issuing IWW cards to these miners, giving them only white Striking Colorado Miner cards instead, to keep them the more readily available to merge with some Kansas and Pennsylvania miners into a new organization that some in the Communist Party were already planning on in advance of the official change of line.

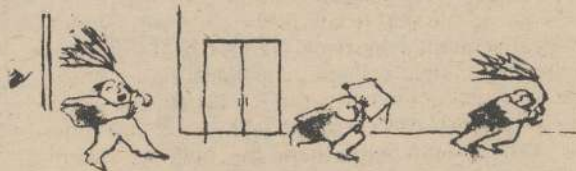
James Newbill gives the story of the IWW in Yakima,

1910-1936. He says the railroads prevented the deportation of the Wobs from Yakima in 1916: my understanding has been that the train crews refused to participate. Here the struggles of the '30s are told from the viewpoint of the farmers who ganged up to club strikers, and foolishly felt the more righteous about it because capitalism had victimized them too. It's interesting information, but not the IWW perspective.

Rocha ends his account of the unsuccessful effort of the IWW to organize Boulder Dam during its construction by recalling that back in 1931 at the start of this drive for job safety, one Wobbly had phrased it as a choice between getting red cards or a statue. Most didn't join the union, and they did get their statue, dedicated to the scores who "Died to Make the Desert Bloom." The desert would have bloomed just as well if they had organized for job safety instead of dying.

The volume has an 80-page bibliography on the IWW by Dione Miles, of the Wayne State University Archives. It is the most complete survey of the literature on the IWW that one can find. Among its listings are 90 doctoral dissertations on the IWW and 67 masters' theses. It has been a pleasure to correspond with some of those writing books and papers, and to find here and there a historian's recognition that the IWW and its message of working class solidarity is not a has-been but is a hope. It was a pleasant surprise to this curmudgeon to find that the volume is dedicated to him.

—Fred Thompson



Literature

THEORETICAL

- () IWW Organizing Manual 75¢
- () Collective Bargaining Manual 75¢
- () IWW Preamble and Constitution 30¢
- () Inflation: Cause and Cure 25¢
- () Workers' Guide to Direct Action 25¢
- () General Strike for Industrial Freedom 50¢
- () One Big Union \$1.00
- () Unions and Racism \$1.00

MUSICAL

- () IWW Songbook \$1.00
- () The Rebel Girl (sheet music) 50¢
- () Workers of the World Awaken (sheet music) 50¢
- () Joe Hill: IWW Songwriter \$1.00

HISTORICAL

- () The IWW's First 70 Years (hardbound) \$15.00
- () The IWW's First 70 Years (paperback) \$4.95
- () History of the IWW in Canada 50¢
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BOOK REVIEW

SCM's 60th Anniversary Songbook, produced by the Student Christian Movement of Canada, 736 Bathurst Street, Toronto, Ontario, M5S 2R4, 1981, 64 pages with music, photos, and footnotes

This reviewer must admit that he was a bit hesitant to do a review of a publication put out by a group called the Student Christian Movement of Canada. Being a fervent non-believer to start with, and considering the publicity such groups as the Moral Majority are getting these days, I couldn't help but be skeptical. But this book proved to be a pleasant surprise. Being from "south of the border", I'd never heard of the SCM before. But these songs amply demonstrate that the focus of this group is around social action of the best sort.

This is a compilation of old and new songs of protest and action. Many of them will be familiar to readers, such as "Bread and Roses", "Union Maid", "Joe Hill", and Holly Near's "It Could Have Been Me". The IWW is represented by "Solidarity Forever" and, of all things, "The Preacher and the Slave"! Many of the songs deal with the struggles within Canada. There are of course a sprinkling of Christian ditties, but they totally lack Farwell's fire and brimstone. In fact, the likes of him would probably consider this group akin to the Devil.

A few of the songs I found most interesting were songs I'd never heard before. This one, dating back to the '30s, is sung to the tune of "Three Blind Mice":

Prices rise, prices rise,
See how they mount, see how they mount.
They've raised the price of your daily bread,
And given you cruisers and guns instead.
For they know it won't trouble you
When you're dead
That prices rise.

Somehow this song seems strikingly up to date.

I recommend this book to anyone interested in Movement songs. There was no price listed on my copy, but a postcard of inquiry would be well worth the effort.

D. N.

"BREAD AND ROSES"

In the struggle for equality, one can turn to history for inspiration. One of the most outstanding battles is the Great Lawrence Textile Strike, led by the Industrial Workers of the World. At the turn of the century, Lawrence was a major textile town, and women and children constituted the majority of the labor force. Working and living conditions were abysmal. In *Rebel Girl: An Autobiography*, IWW leader Elizabeth Gurley Flynn notes that "Wages were... at the starvation point... Whole families worked at the mills to eke out a bare existence. Pregnant women worked at the machines until a few hours before their babies were born." (Page 127) Workers literally toiled from dawn till dusk. Undoubtedly, of all the workers, women and children were the most oppressed. Flynn further notes that "The women worked in the mills for lower pay and in addition had all the housework and care of the children." (Page 138)

Public pressure eventually led to passage of a law reducing the work schedule of women and children from 56 to 54 hours per week. Not surprisingly, this law was resisted by employers. Unwilling to tolerate a reduction in profits, recalcitrant capitalists chose instead to reduce the pay of all women and children. On January 12th, 1912, the first payday after enactment of the new law, workers chose to fight back. As noted by Melvyn Dubofsky in *We Shall Be All: A History of the Industrial Workers of the World*: "In one mill a group of Polish women, upon opening their pay envelopes, cried 'Short pay!', left their looms, and walked out." (Page 228) In all, ten thousand went on strike.

The strike took its toll. Strikers were poor, and their union, the Industrial Workers of the World, had no treasury. There was much hardship. Affective as well as material aspects of life suffered. Moreover, in addition to increased poverty, strikers were victims of phenomenal police terror. On February 19th, 1912, 200 policemen brutally assaulted 100 women pickets in Boston. Yet despite hardships such as these, the strikers persevered. Ultimately, the women won. In *Bread and Roses*, Milton Meltzer notes that "On March 12th the American Woolen Company gave in to the strikers' demands... Wages throughout the New England textile industry were raised 5 to 20 percent." (Page 186) Meltzer further states: "One of the best expressions of the Great Lawrence Strike is the poem 'Bread and Roses'. It was written by James Oppenheim when he saw young mill girls picketing with a banner that read 'We Want Bread and Roses, Too.'" (Page 188)

Though one battle was won, the strike continues. In raising the demand "We Want Bread and Roses Too", the IWW underlined the need for complete liberation. People need "bread"—material goods, the sustenance of life. But people need "roses" too. Nurturance, emotional fulfillment, and love are important. Accordingly, we must encourage new modes of interaction so that sexism can be destroyed. Patriarchy is a destructive, culturally-embedded force, and a revolution in consciousness is a prerequisite for its elimination. Consciousness must be raised. We must continue to hold high the banner "We Want Bread—and Roses, Too."

POINTS OF CONTENTION: ON VIOLENCE

LAWYERS, GUNS, AND MONEY

Folklore, social scientists, and criminals themselves have been telling us for years that there are two major causes of crime: individual character flaws and the desperation of poverty. Not much can be done to prevent the former, but plenty can be done about the latter. Unfortunately our lawmakers prefer to chase bogeymen—and for questionable reasons.

For example, there is an obvious and direct correlation between unemployment and violent crime; when the unemployment rate rises, so does the violent-crime rate. Higher unemployment is also directly related to higher admission rates of mental hospitals and emergency clinics, greater suicide rates, and even larger numbers of dental caries. The grim statistics are readily available from the US Department of Health, Education, and Welfare.

The FBI's Uniform Crime Reports statistics show another interesting fact: Communities with the highest violent-crime rates also have the strictest weapons-control laws. Indeed, enactment of restrictive anti-gun laws is regularly followed by a swift rise in the violent-crime rate. America's five most-violent cities—Boston, New York, Baltimore, Washington DC, and Cleveland—have extremely restrictive anti-gun laws.

In 1974 Boston was the fifth most-violent city in the US; in 1975 the State of Massachusetts adopted the Bartley-Fox Act, which set a mandatory one-year jail term for unlicensed carrying of a firearm, and by 1980 Boston was Number 1 in violent crime.

In 1979 New York was the fourth most-violent city in the US; in early 1980 the State Legislature added a law modeled after the Bartley-Fox Act to the state's already-stringent gun laws, and by the end of the year New York was in second place.

In 1979 Baltimore passed strict city ordinances on gun-owner licensing and firearms registration which made it almost impossible for a civilian to own and carry a firearm; the 1980 violent-crime rate jumped 19% to put Baltimore in third place.

In 1976 Washington DC was our seventh most-violent city; in 1977 private ownership of handguns was banned, and by 1980 Washington had reached fourth place—with a 17% increase in murder alone.

Remarkably, neighboring Virginia has no gun-ownership ban or carrying restrictions, but in 1975 passed a mandatory 5-year penalty for criminal misuse of a firearm; from 1975 to 1980 Virginia's violent-crime rate declined dramatically, and the murder rate dropped 9% from 1979 to 1980 alone.

The only other measurable effect of gun-control laws has been to lower the number of violent crimes specifically committed with handguns. Between 1974 and 1980 overall violent crime in America rose 26%, while firearm involvement in violent crime fell 12%. Violent-criminal preference in weapons has simply switched to, in decreasing order, bludgeons, knives, firebombs, long-guns, and miscellaneous weapons—often homemade.

The correlations are clear enough: Rising unemployment tends to increase violent crime, and depriving citizens of legal weapons only aggravates the problem. To reduce violent crime, then, the Government should concentrate its efforts on providing employment and reducing anti-weapons restrictions for all citizens.

Instead, American federal, state, and local lawmakers are doing precisely the opposite. According to the University of Illinois/Champaign's *Legislative Review* studies, there are currently some 126 federal, state, and local bills under consideration that would further restrict or completely ban gun ownership, but there are no bills currently pending which would provide jobs or job training, increase financial aid, or expand existing anti-poverty services. On the contrary, all anti-poverty services and funds are being *decreased*. The Federal Government's announced budget cuts in social and anti-poverty services are well known, while state and local cutbacks, while not so well publicized, are just as sweeping.

In Illinois, for example, State-funded General Assistance services are being cut at a projected rate of 20%. College scholarships have been cut in mid-year, and students are being asked to repay them immediately. Unemployment Compensation workers themselves are being laid off, and applications are being held for 90 days as funding cuts take effect. The Department of Vocational Rehabilitation (which has had its budget cut by approximately 9.8% every year for the last 10 years) is in danger

of folding completely, and the financial state of the Chicago Public School System is a notorious disaster.

Reliable information from less-wealthy states is more difficult to come by, but public-aid employees in Arizona already report bread lines in that state's three largest cities, including the capital.

The total extent of social-services budget cuts will probably not be publicly available till the second fiscal quarter of 1982; but the fragmentary early reports look very bad. So do current estimates of the 1981 violent-crime rate.

There are three possible reasons for this legislative backwardness. (1) Our lawmakers live in cloud-cuckoo land, and know nothing of the real situation of the people. (2) They hope that the poor will kill each other off with sticks and stones, and thus cease to trouble the rich with their cries and complaints. This is an unrealistic wish, since a quick glance at history shows that the poor are unlikely to obediently lie down and die without making some attempt to strike back at their masters. (3) They intend that, when the armies of the starving poor come to attack the masters' castles, the peasants will have no weapons but knives and clubs, while the rulers' armies will have everything from machine guns to the neutron bomb!

Fortunately, the poor do have other options. Anyone who reads this paper, or has been following current events in Poland, can guess what those are—even if our lawmakers can't. The only question is: How many innocent people will suffer from violent crime and all the other ill effects of poverty before those options are used?

The answer to all this is childishly apparent. Tyrannical political/economic systems are the root cause of violent crime, economic collapse, and social decay. Inevitably, the time will come when the workers of the world will have had all they can take, and will rise up and abolish those systems—and with them the bulk of violent crime and most other social ills.

Dan Pless
Mary Frohman
Leslie Fish

(Comment by other members of the editorial collective: As a labor union, there are many issues on which the IWW takes no position, yet on which our members probably have very definite opinions pro and con. Gun control is such an issue. The foregoing article came in response to the data in the November issue that Massachusetts's tough gun-control law had "cut the number of murders committed with handguns within the state significantly". It should not be assumed from the foregoing article that the IWW favors the abolition of gun-control laws either.)

IRE OVER IRELAND

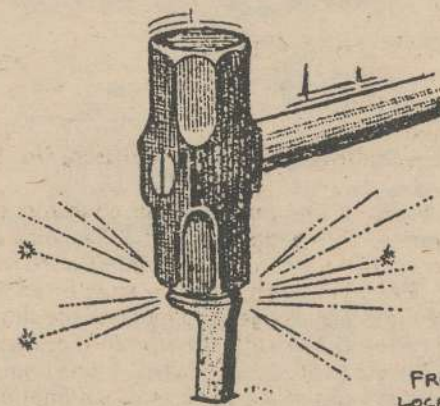
Our October issue quoted as news a letter from the Northern Ireland Labour and Trade Union Group proposing an All-Ireland Congress of Trade Unions and declaring the opposition of the Labor and Trade Union Group alike to British rule and to "paramilitary groups that weaken the trade-union movement as they increase sectarian division". The letter from this Northern Ireland Trade Union Group stated that while it consisted exclusively of trade-unionists, it was co-operating with the Labour Party of Southern Ireland and with the British Labour Party in its battle against unemployment.

From our members in Leicester, England we have a lengthy protest, reading in part:

"Leicester IWW reject totally the views in the October *Industrial Worker* article... We oppose the imperialism of one nation over any other, and support the right of the oppressed people to use arms.... Accusing the provos of causing disunity among the Irish working class is like accusing the anti-slavers in America of dividing the workers of the North and the South by raising issues they would rather ignore.... The British Labour Party's role in Ireland is one of shame to any socialist.... it was they who ended the political status (for arrested IRAs) and it was they who introduced the Prevention of Terrorism Act....

"The Labour Party of the South of Ireland is the descendant of the free state forces that opposed the continuation of the battle for a United Irish Socialist Republic, as proposed by James Connally (a founder of the IWW)...."

(Editorial comment: The IWW as a union takes no stand for or against any party, or in the quarrels of one government with another—and we wish workers would quit killing each other. ft)



FROM LOCAL 94

★★★ IWW Directory

NORTH AMERICA

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

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

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

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

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

MICHIGAN: Detroit/Ann Arbor General Membership Branch, Eric Glatz, Delegate, 2305 West Jefferson, Trenton, Michigan 48183, Phone (313) 675-8959.
University Cellar IU 660 Branch, PO Box 7933, Liberty Street Station, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104.

Upper Peninsula IWW, Robin Oye, Delegate, 1101 Cottage Drive, Hancock, Michigan 49930.

MINNESOTA: Minneapolis/Saint Paul IWW, Nancy Arthur Collins, Delegate, 1621 Marshall Avenue (3), Saint Paul, Minnesota 55104; Scott Burgwin, Delegate, 3343 15th Avenue South, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55407.

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

NEW MEXICO: New Mexico General Membership Branch, PO Box 4872, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87196.

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

Greater New York City Organizing Committee, Rochelle Semel, Delegate, 788 Columbus Avenue, New York, New York 10025.
Syracuse IWW, Georgene McKown, 117 Edgemere Road, Syracuse, New York 13208.

OREGON: Corvallis IWW Group, Bill Palmer, Delegate, 546 NW 14th, Corvallis, Oregon 97330.
Eugene/Springfield IWW Group, Tim Acott, Delegate, 442 Monroe, Eugene, Oregon 97402.

TEXAS: Houston IWW Group, PO Box 35253, Houston, Texas 77035, Phone (713) 865-4875, or Gilbert Mers, (713) 921-0877.
Austin IWW, Red River Women's Press, 908C West 12th Street, Austin, Texas 78701, Phone (512) 476-0389.
Rye, Texas: Fred Hansen, Delegate, Box 728, Rye, Texas 77368, Phone (713) 685-4875.

San Antonio: Industrial Worker Distribution Project, 1602 West Huisache (2), San Antonio, Texas 78201.
Industrial Organizing Committee, PO Box 12831, San Antonio, Texas 78212, Phone (512) 736-6033.

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

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

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

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

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

EUROPE

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

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

PACIFIC

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

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

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DID YOU NOTICE?

With three million unemployed in Britain, many of the Asians and West Indians who migrated there in the search for a better life after World War Two now find themselves mired in poverty and hopelessness. Many British professionals and skilled workers, who have also been hurt by Prime Minister Thatcher's slash-and-burn economic policies, at least have the option of leaving the country.

Last year 229,000 people emigrated from Britain, and according to a recent report by the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys, this year the outflow will be much greater. The Australian Embassy in London has been deluged with applications to immigrate—125,000 of them this year alone, while Canada is currently processing some 22,000 British immigrants and South Africa is offering to pay 80% of the one-way air fare from London to Johannesburg (whites only need apply).

One reason countries like Australia can offer jobs to hard-pressed Britons is that so much British capital has been invested abroad instead of being used to renovate outmoded industrial facilities at home. According to *The Financial Times* of London, Britain is Australia's largest source of foreign capital, accounting for 35% of all foreign investment in Australian enterprises. British investors have been abandoning their country for years; and now frustrated middle-class professionals are following suit.

Charles Wick, director of the International Communications Agency, says that economically-pinched Americans today enjoy viewing the luxurious Washington way of life that Reagan Administration members are practicing as much as Americans who suffered in the Depression enjoyed Hollywood movies. Says Wick: "During the Depression, when people were selling apples and factories were still and guys were jumping out windows because they had lost everything, people would go to the movies. They loved those glamor pictures showing people driving beautiful cars and women in beautiful gowns, showing that people were living the glamorous good life." (*The Empty Closet*)

The extent to which groups of people are sexually active is reflected in and caused by the independence they possess in all of their relationships—political, social, and economic. The less political and economic autonomy a person has, the less sexual independence s/he can express. Detailed sex-role models spell out who has power and who hasn't. Adult men (between the ages of 21 and 50) therefore are typically the most sexually active; adolescent boys; older men, and adult women are less active, and very young or older females are least active of all.

Blacks and other minorities are living four or five years less on the average than white Americans. Black babies die at about twice the rate of white babies in the first year of life.

Some Things Our Members Are Doing

BATTLING LANDLORD CRIME

One evening in late November, over a hundred residents of Chelsea, a downtown New York neighborhood, moved into a building to protest against the landlords' use of drug addicts and "goons" to terrorize tenants. Among them was New York Wob Marc Ribot.

There is a citywide scheme by landlords to remove elderly and minority tenants in rent-controlled apartments so they can renovate buildings into luxury apartments for the wealthy.

The building on West 16th Street in Manhattan was built in 1900 and contains 15 three- and four-room apartments. Five of these are occupied by long-term tenants, most of whom are Hispanic, elderly, and poor. One of the elderly victims, 84-year-old Maria Granja, has lived in the same first-floor railroad flat for 15 years. Because there was no gas to cook her food and no boiler to provide heat, the frail Mrs. Granja kept herself wrapped in blankets and cooked once a day on a dangerous hot plate.

"Now that I'm cold all the time, I have no appetite left," she told a reporter.

The building was purchased in December 1980 by a paper company controlled by landlords Musano and Cardassi. After purchasing the building, Musano and Cardassi moved a large number of goons and drug addicts into empty apartments.

Under instructions from the landlords, the "goons" (themselves victims of the system) broke into apartments, assaulted Maria Granja, ripping her door off its hinges, and broke pipes, gas lines, and the boiler in a campaign to terrorize and drive out the tenants.

Musano, Cardassi, and several other landlords in Chelsea have recruited a small army of drug addicts and thugs that they move from building to building.

The Chelsea community was also protesting the complicity of the City of New York in this affair. Its housing inspectors rewarded the landlords' destruction of the building by ordering the tenants to vacate instead of forcing the landlords to repair rotting beams caused by water damage induced by the landlords' agents.

The Chelsea Coalition on Housing, a respected group with long-term roots in the community, planned the direct-action campaign and sent out a call for help.

Using a front-room apartment in the 16th Street building as Coalition "headquarters", they began to fill up the building with neighborhood tenants willing to move in, begin repairs on the building, and provide protection for the remaining tenants. At the same time they were fighting the vacate order in the New York Supreme Court and seeking a city takeover of the building on the basis that the landlords had not paid city taxes in six years.

Imaginative tactics brought reporters and cameras from every major television station and several New York newspapers to the Chelsea building. These included Sunday services held by three neighborhood priests who led

the neighborhood in prayers and hymns on the building steps.

Since these events the City has ordered emergency repairs made on the building, stating that the costs would be billed to the owner. A previous check found 224 violations, 21 of them serious. But until the neighborhood organized to fight the landlords, nothing was done.

Wob Marc Ribot was joined in the protest by several members of the IWW's New York Organizing Committee.

Rochelle Semel, X328359

UTAH PHILLIPS TOUR

In January IWW folksinger Utah Phillips will tour California and Nevada. His engagements include:

- January 8th: Humboldt State in Arcadia
- January 9th: Nevada City
- January 10th: The Palms in Davis
- January 12th: Fresno
- January 13th: La Semilla Community Center in Sacramento
- January 14th: Chuck's Cellar in Los Altos
- January 15th: The Plowshares in San Francisco
- January 16th: Reno
- January 17th: A benefit to improve the Julia Davis Theater in Berkeley
- January 20th: Sonoma Community Center
- January 22nd: A house concert at the home of Lois Dickhoff in Los Angeles. For reservations phone (714) 595-2395.
- January 23rd: The Old Town Cafe at Leucadia near San Diego

Utah will tour the Coastal Northwest in February, the Midwest in March, the South and Southwest in April, and the Inter-mountain Northwest in May. To arrange for a concert reach him or Sheila Collins at 1720 West 14th Street, Spokane, Washington 99204, (509) 747-6454.

Utah toured Southwestern Alaska in December and the American Northeast in November. While his tours are his vocation, and not an IWW undertaking, with arrangements made through folk-song groups in most instances, Utah just can't avoid singing some Wobbly songs and doing us and the rest of the labor movement substantial good. Frequently we arrange literature tables at his concerts, with results that warmed the hearts of our fellow workers in Boston, Northampton, and New York City, and especially that of our old fellow worker Henry Pfaff in Buffalo, who again sold out all his literature.

We have been hoping to announce that Philo has released a new Phillips record: the performance he gave at a strike benefit in Vancouver, British Columbia last spring, taped live, with enthusiastic audience participation. The projected title: "We Have Fed You All for a Thousand Years".

"WOBLIES" FILM

That documentary *The Wobblies* keeps circulating, and though we have protested its implications that this union died sixty or so years ago, it does bring us in new members, and is being widely shown. The Central Organization of Swedish Workers (SAC) announces its circulation in Sweden in the latest issue of *Kontakt*. Various unions have shown it in this country, and on December 3rd it was shown free of charge ("everyone welcome") at the Postal Workers Hall in Saint Louis, sharing the program with *Rosie the Riveter*.

EYE ON LATIN AMERICA

The Libertarian Workers' Group in New York wish to bolster the activities of Norwegian libertarians and the America Latina Libertaria Coordinadora on behalf of imprisoned and underground comrades in Latin America. They write: "We need contacts and sources of information both in the Latin American countries and in exiled communities." The Group request that those having information that will help them write to them at Post Office Box 692, Old Chelsea Station, New York, New York 10113.

The long-employed method of using clay liners to contain chemicals at hazardous-waste disposal sites poses a potential threat to the drinking-water supplies for large populations, a Texas A & M University researcher warns. As much as 2% of the US's usable groundwater may be contaminated because liners can leak up to a thousand times faster than experts expected.

A recent report by the staff of the House Energy and Commerce Investigations Subcommittee has pointed out that virtually all the wealth of the US economy is flowing into the oil companies' treasuries—at the expense of the rest of the country. Of the \$19.6 billion in increased profits recorded by *Fortune's* 500 companies between 1978 and 1980, \$19.2 billion (98%) went to only 56 energy-related companies. Of the *Fortune* 1000 list, 82 oil and gas companies obtained 96% of the total net-income increase. And unlike Reagan Administration fantasies about newly-fattened businesses investing profits in new plants and jobs, corporations are taking a safer course—buying each other out in corporate mergers.

DC IWW GROUP FORMS

The first meeting of the Metropolitan Washington DC IWW group was held November 8th at the home of Fellow Worker John Spitzberg. It was the first step in building a reinvigorated One Big Union presence in the nation's capital. Plans for community reach-out, as well as other educational activities for making new contacts, were discussed. FW Spitzberg was elected delegate for the group, and FW del Valle was chosen to be the *Industrial Worker* correspondent. Those present felt that the group's first meeting was an encouraging step in the right direction—or better yet, in the "left" direction.

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Bellingham -- Radio and Films

A coalition of labor groups in Bellingham, Washington sponsored a Labor Film Series November 15th through 21st. The local branch of the IWW joined with Service Employees International Local 120, the Union Women's Alliance to Gain Equality (WAGE), and the Central Labor Council, in which the IWW has delegate status, in showing *Working for Your Life, Babies and Banners, Union Maids, Salt of the Earth, The Inheritance, Song of the Canary, I Am Somebody, Rosie the Riveter, and The Wobblies*. The films were shown at the CLC hall, where fellow workers sold literature, signed up some new members, and broadened contacts in this town of 45,000 people near the Canadian line. Turnouts averaged about 30 people a night despite wet and windy weather. Voluntary donations will aid in sponsoring more outreach of a cultural nature, such as films and plays.

In addition, the Bellingham Branch is sponsoring "Direct Action", a 30-minute weekly newsradio feature, on the local community station, KUGS-FM. Besides news from the *Industrial Worker* and other sources, broadcasts have included interviews with local labor activists as well as Centralia Massacre and Joe Hill memorials. Planned future programming includes coverage of women's organizing issues, discussion of collective workplaces, and labor-history shows along with the ubiquitous music. "Direct Action" airs 7 pm Tuesdays on KUGS, 89.3. Tapes have been made of most shows, and interested persons may contact the Bellingham Branch for further information.

1927 COLORADO STRIKE

Bob Rossi is gathering materials on the IWW coal-mine strike in Colorado in 1927 and 1928. If you have information for him write to Bob Rossi, 913-A Tenth Avenue West, Seattle, Washington 98102.