



INDUSTRIAL WORKER

INDUSTRIAL WORKERS OF THE WORLD

★ EDUCATION ★ ORGANIZATION ★ EMANCIPATION

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UNION BUSTING AT BUNKER HILL

The Bunker Hill Mining and Smelting Complex at Kellogg, Idaho has been producing silver and other metals for some 96 years. Last summer its owner, Gulf Resource and Chemical, said it would lay off its 2100 workers in February 1982. The broader economic impact of that blow would knock out the \$110 million annual payroll of 6,000 workers in Western Montana, Northern Idaho, and Eastern Washington and erase some ten million in tax revenue, but would ease a sagging mineral market by cutting out a fifth of the annual US production of silver, zinc, and lead.

Gulf rejected a proposal for an employee stock-ownership plan. In mid-December an "all-Idaho" team of investors emerged to buy Bunker Hill from Gulf. The team included Sunshine Mining of Kellogg, the Coeur d'Alene Mines of Wallace, and sundry regional magnates. They announced an option to buy the property for \$50 million plus \$15 million in future production. Later, they said, the bankers insisted that there must be an acceptance by the unions at Bunker Hill of a long series of concessions and a guarantee that there would be no strike or picket line in Silver Valley for five years.

The largest union at Bunker Hill is Steel Workers Local 7854, with 1500 members. Seven smaller craft unions have a combined membership of about 300.

On January 17th union members were to vote whether to accept that ultimatum: no strikes for five years; a 25%

pay cut the first year, and no paid vacations that year; reduction in employer contributions for health care; cancellation of three paid holidays; disregard for seniority; the permanent layoff of 700 workers; no more eight hours pay for being called to work on a scheduled day off; and more of the same.

Most members did not vote. Of the remainder, 695 voted to accept these terms, and 506 voted not to. Local union officers had urged rejection. They had asked Bunker Hill to open contract discussions so that the concessions demanded by the new investors could be formally considered, but neither Bunker Hill nor the investing group would talk with the unions. The local union officers in the Steel Workers refused to sign the election returns and resigned from office. An International "rep" from Pittsburgh reinstated the newly-resigned officers. Further complications arose. Steel Workers officials also refused to sign because they believed the vote was only an "advisory vote", and showed ballots with the word "advisory" printed across the top. Members said they saw no such label when they voted.

A series of emergency meetings followed in the local. The press portrayed the poor investors as shocked and tearful and unable "to believe this was happening". Some rank-and-filers arranged an unsanctioned election, voted out their officers, and elected a new slate ready to go along

with the concessions and to disaffiliate and form a body to be called the United Peoples Union of Silver Valley.

On February 4th federal mediators were to try bringing some sort of order out of all this. They face such puzzlers as these: There remains a valid contract between the Steel Workers and Bunker Hill running to August 23rd, 1982; the "All-Idaho" investor group refused to negotiate with the union, yet said the election results would constitute a binding agreement; and since 700 were to be laid off, they may have had no right to vote on the terms under which their fellow workers would retain employment.

The unions were in a position of "damned if you do and damned if you don't". Had they rejected the proposals, the press would have pictured them as responsible for closing down the mines in Kellogg. Now the workers are very disunited in this Silver Valley whose labor history matches strike for strike and casualty for casualty, generation after generation, that of any other area in the country. But they will surely not remain disunited for long. There are realists among them, like the miner who said: "It was worth \$65 million yesterday; it will be worth \$65 million tomorrow."

Sheila Collins

Collective Bargain Basements

Unions are finding it hard to bargain with deteriorating industries like railroads that go bankrupt, and with industries like oil that make huge profits, and with high-productivity pioneers in technology, like McLouth Steel, that go bankrupt anyway. Something new in collective bargaining seems needed.

A federal bankruptcy judge has approved an agreement between the Milwaukee Road and 7,000 of its employees, split among 15 different unions, to take a 7% pay cut for 1982, 1983, and 1984 to save the road \$44 million.

The Oil, Chemical, and Atomic Workers faced oil companies fat with profits and a supply-demand situation that would enable supervisors to keep the refineries running until the unions got weary of striking, so they gave up basic demands and settled for 9% this year plus 90¢ next year. President Goss of OCAW figures that of the \$1.40 you pay at the pump for a gallon, 1.3 cents goes for refinery wages. In Los Angeles, oil companies are experimenting with gas stations where you get service by plugging in a credit card—with no people around at all. Canadian oil workers (autonomous) raised a slightly-higher wage basis by 13.5%.

McLouth Steel of Trenton, Michigan is a pioneer in continuous casting—a highly-productive plant, where the workers, very reluctantly and with many obscenities, voted overwhelmingly to freeze COLA, raise no base hourly rates, scrap their work-shoe allowance, give up a week's paid vacation, and more.

Some at McLouth haven't collected last year's vacation pay yet. They had expected to get it in December, but early that month the company filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy. That barred it from paying any worker more than \$2,000 that month—and 160 hours at \$13 an hour gets past that without any vacation pay or other extras.

What's the trouble with McLouth? Its main customers are GM and Ford. Neither wage cuts nor harder work exempt it from the troubles of its neighboring plants, where Ford makes castings and Firestone makes rims, and both are closing. Perhaps plants selling to the carriage builders felt the same way when the automobile came in.

United Rubber reluctantly settled for 16,000 members at Uniroyal plants to suspend COLA through 1985, for previous union concessions to Uniroyal have not begotten prosperity.

In the National Master Freight Agreement the Teamsters have frozen base pay for 39 months. COLA increases will now come only once a year instead of twice, substantially cutting the amount paid, and new hands will start at 30% below scale. Will that give members more jobs? No; instead they expect more layoffs as bigger companies eat up smaller ones, and as changes in work rules let more

long-distance drivers deliver directly to consignees.

GM and US Steel reported profits again in 1981—GM \$333 million, and US Steel \$1.08 billion. US Steel contemplates using its acquisition of Marathon Oil to enable it to go in for direct reduction of iron ore to good-quality metallic iron at its Provo, Utah works, for that DRI process requires a lot of oil or gas and cuts out blast-furnace smelting.

What can we have in place of this collective bargain basement? The sun still shines, the crops still grow, and

it is technically possible to use our skills and resources to raise the food, build the homes, and make the clothing we need. For that we need to organize, but on a wider basis than in the past, so that we can reach a collective working-class decision about what we will do for each other instead of getting ready to kill each other at the behest of politicians, generals, and corporation heads. Do that, and they'll be bargaining for a change of jobs so they can get in on it.

ft

GUNS — OR DO YOU PREFER BUTTER?

You've heard the figures: The USA, with its amber waves of grain, is to cut down on school lunches, on hospitalization for aging veterans, on the number of inspectors OSHA can send to factories, and on the expenditure of its funds for almost all the other purposes that make any human good sense.

This is so the Government can have more to spend on arms. It's guns or butter time again.

It is a natural and healthy practice whenever government, national or local, starts spending an unusual amount of money on something, to ask: Could this possibly be for the benefit of those the Government does business with, rather than for the benefit of the rest of us? There is pressure enough to warp almost any politician's thinking in that direction.

Besides being victims of the arms salesman, are they victims of habit and custom? We are told that the Government accumulates arms only to maintain peace in the world. We are asked to believe that the more armaments there are here, and the more armaments this induces other governments to accumulate, the safer we will all be.

We are given a picture of the world which proclaims

that some Bad Guys over there, with a different variety of economic shibboleths, are conspiring and maneuvering along the fringes of their empire, and also along the fringes of the American empire, to gain a foothold or base for future operations against the Guys who run us here. The daily news leaves no doubt that that picture is for real. So what to do about it?

How about trying butter instead of guns? Those Bad Guys seem regularly to select spots where folks are hungry, poorly clothed, poorly housed, and bitching about the way the boss treats them. It would cost much less to do something about these economic problems than to go into the areas the Bad Guys penetrate and shoot them up.

That seems so simple, surely someone in a swivel chair must have thought of it some time. Are there difficulties in applying the idea? Would widespread well-being in El Salvador hurt the handful who own most of it? It probably would. Yet to buy them out and retire them would cost no more than a war there—perhaps not much more than the funeral costs of the Americans to be sent there otherwise.





LEFT SIDE

It was recently reported that if all the computers in the world were combined into one mammoth computer, this megalithic monstrosity would not have the intelligence of a six-year-old human being. This is cause for concern, as computers are having an increasing impact on our lives. If a computer screws you up, you may have an extra-large utility bill, or you may have to wait forever for that refund check. Your scribe cannot help but feel that it would be better to place our destinies in the hands of children than in the hands of machines programmed by senile bureaucrats afflicted with terminal adolescence.

Don't forget that much of the world's nuclear weaponry is hooked up to computers; so if you have received a check or bill with extra zeroes on it, feel frightened out of your wits and *mad as hell!*

Speaking of emotionally-immature bureaucrats, it appears rather odd that our own emotionally-retarded bureaucrat-in-chief weeps about human-rights violations in other parts of the world while continuing to send armaments and "advisors" to be used against a poor bunch of Indios who are only trying to get the banana-bought military fascists off their backs. Also, don't forget that the Indios have been getting the shaft on their own officially-proclaimed turf ever since said turf was first marked off. I don't think there is any other country that ties the record of breaking 371 treaties in the space of two centuries.

The same bureaucrat asked Congress to grant the chief executive extraordinary powers to keep "unwanted" immigrants off US shores. Such powers would enable the President to seal off any harbor, airport, or road to prevent "unwanted" access to his turf. He could also restrict travel by his own constituents not only to the country named in an emergency declaration, but also within his turf.

Detention camps could be set up for unwanted aliens, who could be transferred from one camp to another without any hanky-panky about human rights. In setting up such detention camps the Government could be exempted from any such annoyance as environmental laws. The Endangered Species Act, the Fish and Wildlife Co-ordination Act, and the Historic Preservation Act, along with any other similar federal, state, or local laws, could be washed down the drain if the President so wished.

Your scribe, who is a philosophical anarchist, does not believe in any type of immigration restriction, but at the same time wishfully wonders what this land would be like if there had been a better immigration policy four hundred years ago.

Immigration policies, like governments and frontiers, are of no earthly use to the human race, except to those few who utilize the three aforementioned anomalies to maintain control over everyone else. The only restriction there should be on venturing from one portion of the globe to another is an agreement to accept whatever conditions the natives live under; that is, no McDunghills or Kenschmucky Fries in the land of fricasseed yak yogurt, and no special inducement to attract tourist dollars that does not filter down to the ordinary inhabitant.

The way things now stand with the immigration authorities is that they allow full rein to those who are brought over to underwork union labor and to those who want to assist the native exploiters in their enterprises. Boiled down to the nitty-gritty, frontiers and immigration laws are, so far as the great majority of the world's population is concerned, just so much male-bovine by-product. I remember riding down one of the autobahns in West Germany with a friend who pointed out to me the transport trucks from East Germany. I remarked to him that people are unable to cross the Iron Curtain, but merchandise can.

Ivory dealers in Japan and Hong Kong are bribing African bureaucrats to look the other way while elephants are being slaughtered. The ivory tusks are being kept in storage vaults toward the time when the hapless pachyderms at last become extinct, and the owners of the stored tusks can then command new high prices for ivory.

It's about time some serious thought was given to the extinction of the profit system.

C. C. Redcloud



TO MAKE PEACE

In 1941, at 21 years of age, just off the farm and unable to get a job because of my draft classification, I enlisted in the Army to get my "one year" served so I could find employment. I was inducted in August of that year and trained in the 4th platoon of D Company, 13th Training Battalion at Camp Wheeler, Georgia, under platoon leader First Lieutenant A. Beard.

In a scheduled, prepared lecture, Beard told us matter-of-factly what other platoon leaders throughout the camp told their "boys" with the same prescheduled matter-of-factness:

that there is no such thing as international law or meaningful international agreement, and that Hitler had shown the Versailles Treaty to have been only a scrap of paper;

that the post-WWI Briand-Kellogg Pact, which banned poison gas, was such a meaningless scrap of paper, for there was no way to ban any weapon except by the use of a weapon more deadly;

that the European and Asiatic combatants up to that time (it was before Pearl Harbor) had chosen not to use gas for their own tactical reasons, for the wind could blow it back on them, and even if it did hit the target and kill all the foe, yet it so contaminated the area that those who used the gas still could not take their objective;

that, however, if the military should choose to use gas or any other weapon, it would do so regardless of bans and pacts, for the military makes all decisions on weapons and tactics, and the civil government will endorse the action of the military.

For tactical reasons, poison gas was not used in WWII, and so it seemed that the Briand-Kellogg pact was some-

how upheld. However massive aerial bombardment and the atom bomb were used, and the chemical warfare used in Viet Nam was equivalent to poison gas. Thus the actual course of war shows that Lt. Beard and his cohorts had been gruesomely, matter-of-factly, correct. There is no banning of any weapon except by the use of a worse one. Any ban today on neutron bombs or space weaponry would be one more 'scrap of paper.'

Npw, many years off the farm, and almost as many out of the army, though still unemployed at times, I reflect on all this, and, though I have joined in the demonstrations to ban particular weapons, I ask don't we waste our time and efforts when we direct them toward disarmament agreements and the banning of certain weapons? If we do get agreement on a ban, how do we enforce it?

We will surely do better to call on all people—and this means mainly the workers of the world—to refuse to use any weapon, to refuse military service, realizing that we too can go to prison for such prompting, just as others can go for heeding it. I do not believe men and women should be segregated in this.

Even that would be but a partial step, for a very small cadre on each or either side can carry out nuclear annihilation all too effectively. We must work toward a humanity-embracing labor union and cooperative society, toward the elimination of property, toward the sharing of all with all according to need. We must reach out to the workers who make and wield weapons to lay down the sword and smelt it, through industrial reconversion, into the proverbial plowshare. The cooperation of workers through a world union can ensure world peace.

—George La Forest



Keep Klobbering the Klan!

Klan Youth Corps Camps teaching the use of firearms in Texas, White Power T-shirts in Atlanta, and racial strife in high schools and between youth gangs in communities have led the National Education Association to take a stand. They have issued a 72-page instructional kit for schoolteachers titled *Violence, the KKK, and the Struggle for Equality*. The booklet can be purchased for \$4.95 from the Council of Interracial Books for Children Resource Center, 841 Broadway, New York, New York

10023.

The NEA, even in these days when circumstances have made it undertake union functions, avoids class-angling history. Racial turmoil among the young, however, has led it to urge telling some of the less-known facts about the ugly Reconstruction era, the history of the Klan, and what is behind clashes on civil rights in recent years.

Good union people of all races, creeds, and colors know we have to stick together to resist what the corporations are doing to us, using outfits like the Klan as their puppets.

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

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Back To Bourbon

Zinc and cadmium deposits, a side effect of air pollution, are building up fast in Lake Michigan. With no increase in the rate of contamination, zinc and cadmium levels in the water will exceed standards allowable for drinking water in 10 to 20 years, forcing cities like Chicago which get their water from Lake Michigan to make costly improvements to their water treatment facilities. The rate of contamination, however, is increasing up to 3% a year, and will increase even faster if the federal Clean Air Act is modified to permit increased burning of coal in the upper midwest. As it is, some ten tons of cadmium and 1,500 tons of zinc enter the lake each year, the result of coal generating and steel making plants. Meanwhile the Great Lakes Research Program, which studied the effects of water pollution, was disbanded by Reagan administration budget cuts.

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POVERTY AND SOUTHERN CHILDREN

From the outside, the Sun Belt is wearing a mask of success because of unprecedented growth over the last two decades. But from the inside, the Southeast is beset with a complex set of problems, many of which are eating away at the future of its children, particularly black children.

The South has more children than any other area of the US. Some four million of them live in poverty, painfully vulnerable to poor health, poor housing, poor nutrition, lack of basic education.

On the average, the South spends 25% less educating each pupil than the rest of the country. And it depends far more on federal funds for schools than the rest of the country. Average test grades in the South still fall below national figures and it has more students who have been "held back" a grade than any other region. For every 100 students in the region who graduate from high school, there are 38 others who drop out. In Mississippi the situation is even more alarming: for every 100 graduates there are 58.8 dropouts. The national average is 29 dropouts for every 100 graduates.

For Southern-born children, the chance of survival during the first year of life is less than other regions of the country. Seventy-two percent of the nation's high infant mortality areas are in the South. These include major metropolitan areas as well as remote rural counties. Outside the South, there are 15.3 infant deaths per 1,000 live births. There are 17.7 deaths per 1,000 live births in the South. Among nonwhites, the infant mortality rate for the South is 25.8 deaths per 1,000 live births.

The South gives welfare aid to fewer of its poor children than the rest of the country and gives less money to the ones it does aid. For the four million children in families below the poverty level living in the South in 1975, less than two million received Aid for Dependent Children grants. In other parts of the country, eight million of ten million poor children receive grants. Poor children in the South also were getting significantly less than the US average of \$240 a year in medical benefits.

LABOR BRIEFS

In January on California campuses a statewide election was held to determine what unions were to represent the 19,500 faculty members and 7,000 clerical workers in the California State College System. For each bargaining unit in the state, only one union could be elected. With less than half of the clerical workers voting, the California State Employees' Union won by a narrow margin over the AFSCME, with 700 voting "no union".

The professionals were more interested in the vote. Three quarters of them voted, but neither the AFL-CIO United Professors of California, a section of the AFT, nor the Faculty Association, a section of the CSEA that won the clerical vote, got a clear majority of the total vote; so there will be a runoff.

Chicago transit workers, firemen, and police have found bargaining a bit easier because the Mayor will soon have to run again. Transit workers are reported to have gotten slightly higher rates than are paid in other cities, with a top operator with three years' service getting \$12.54 an hour including the latest cost-of-living adjustment. Firefighters in Chicago will rank third in the nation, beaten only in Detroit and Houston; a Chicago five-year veteran will get \$24,318 in 1982 and \$27,595 after July 1983.

LABOR LAW

On First Amendment grounds it has been ruled that a worker who contributes to a union under an agency-shop agreement, but has refused to join it, must be offered strike pay the same as others so long as he honors the picket line, even if he refuses to walk on it.

A union can boycott an entire shopping mall, the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals has ruled, to bring pressure on one tenant to pay union scale. At a shopping mall run by DeBartolo Corporation the Laborers had informed customers of the substandard wages paid by this tenant, asking them to refrain from shopping at all stores on the mall, but adding that the union was "not seeking to induce any person to cease work or to refuse to make deliveries". That cleared legal entanglements.

Teamsters for a Democratic Union won a federal decision that Detroit Local 247 of the Teamsters must hold regular monthly meetings. The 5,000-member local has not held a meeting since sometime in the '50s. Reluctance to hold meetings may reflect strange thinking in give-back provisions, such as reduced pay for new drivers, thus providing an incentive to get rid of older ones.

On the Hatch proposal to amend the Hobbs Act, President Thomas Miehur of the Cement, Lime, Gypsum, and Allied Workers wrote the *Chicago Sun-Times*:

"There is an assumption that picket-line violence is rampant. It isn't; 96% of labor disputes are settled without a strike. The vast majority of strikes have no picket-line violence. When it does occur, it's instigated by employers or their hired guns as often as not. If Congress amends the Bobbs Act, it would subject workers involved

in picket-line disputes to up to 20 years in federal prison and fines up to \$10,000. But employers or their strike-breakers could throw a punch on a picket line and would be subject only to state prosecution with modest penalties."

CANADIAN POSTAL WORKERS

After a fairly successful 42-day strike, the Canadian Postal Workers settled a contractual dispute and won the following concessions among others:

- (1) Improved health and safety provisions, including the right to refuse unsafe work. (Note: Postal workers have the highest injury rate in the Federal Public Service.)
- (2) 93% paid maternal leave for 15 weeks.
- (3) A \$1.08 wage increase and increased shift premiums (60% of postal workers work nights and afternoon shifts).

FORUMS ON THE AIR

The Chicago Cable Television Commission has brought forth a 114-page report on how Chicago's cable communication system should be governed. The American Civil Liberties Union has been an active participant. Thus one recommendation in the report is for an independent, non-profit "access corporation", funded by a percentage of gross cable revenues, to provide affordable air time to non-profit community, civil, and issue-oriented organizations.

The Commission anticipates some 200 cable channels in the Chicago area, and wants to see 40 or so of them owned by that access corporation.

The new technology also permits two-way audio. Thus, to quote the report, "audiences will have the opportunity to participate, from their homes, in community life—a benefit of special importance to the elderly, handicapped, or others who are homebound."

The Commission recommends that the cable regulatory authority not have "any power to censor cable programming; instead, it should be empowered to prevent censorship". At the same time, the Commission is concerned lest "the vast amount of personal information in medical, academic, insurance, and other data banks accessible by cable" be used to trespass on privacy. The report opines that existing legislation is inadequate for the protection of privacy in this cable-TV age.

MAY DAY IS COMING

May First falls on Saturday this year. That is all the better for observing it with a worldwide demonstration of working-class solidarity against war and exploitation.

Have some copies of this paper on hand for that occasion. We will need our copy for the May issue by April 6th, and all orders for it by April 13th. Even that may not get it to all readers by April 30th, so we plan to have our April issue also suitable for use at May Day demonstrations, and suggest you play safe by ordering some extra copies of those now.

We will also carry May Day greetings. If we get more than would look good in an eight-page paper, we will either go to more pages or hold some for the June issue. Rates for these greetings will be the same as last year: \$5 for one column inch, \$20 for five column inches, \$30 for a half column, and \$75 for a half page.

This paper carries no commercial advertising, even if smuggled into a May Day greeting.

DOWN IN THE MINES

In 1980 there were 133 mine fatalities in the USA. In 1981 there were 153. Four disasters in December brought the total to the highest point since 1975:

On December 3rd, at the Elk River Sewell Company mine near Bergoo, West Virginia, three men were killed in a roof fall.

On December 7th, at the Adkins mine near Topmost, Kentucky, eight miners died in a coal-dust explosion.

On December 8th, a methane-gas explosion killed 13 miners near Whitwell, Tennessee.

On December 18th, at 4:30 in the morning, the Eastover Mining Company's wet-sludge dam poured 200,000 cubic yards of muck down an embankment on the community of Ages Creek in Harlan County, Kentucky, forcing the evacuation of 36 families and killing the postmistress. That fatality is not included in the 153 figure, for the victims were out of the mine—"safe at home in bed".

From the extensive coverage of these disasters in the January issue of *Mountain Life and Work*, the following details are drawn.

At the Sewell mine eight men had been running a continuous miner 350 feet below the surface when the roof collapsed. One man, working with roof props, managed to save himself with four timbers; two men were able to run out and get help; two were found under the continu-

ous miner and were saved; and the other three were killed. The mine was non-union, but UMWA miners in the area took charge of rescue operations. The mine owner is one of the seven members of the state's Coal Mine Health and Safety Board, and the disaster has forced him to agree to new roof-bolting procedures.

At the Adkins mine, the evening shift had entered the working area, 2500 feet into the side of a mountain, in a drift 34 inches high. A blast shot mud and debris against a cliff 280 feet from the mine entrance. Investigation after the disaster revealed illegal practices of storing explosives in the mine and failure to stem charges with clay to prevent them from shooting backward into the mine. Such an explosion might have triggered a coal-dust explosion. A few weeks later an area distributor of mine supplies remarked: "I've sold more rock dust in the three weeks following the disaster than I've sold to all the mines around here in the past year." (Rock dust is used to prevent explosions of combustible coal dust.)

Tennessee Consolidated has fought unionism, convincing many miners that if the union gets in the company will stop operations. Methane gas is listed as the cause of the disaster, but circumstances indicate that fear of the company is an even more basic cause; for 11 of the 13 men killed at Grundy Mine Number 21 were found squatting in a circle, probably debating whether or not to follow an order to work when the methane had reached a hazardous level, and the other two were found near their mining machine.

The mine is owned by Grundy Mining, which is owned by Tennessee Consolidated Coal, which is owned by the International Fluor Corporation. One miner who had worked that day said: "They weren't told to leave the mine; they were told to stay at the working section until management could figure out what to do." Since 1976 the mine had been cited by the MSHA (Mine Safety and Health Administration) 304 times, even though the MSHA sub-district director is a former management employee of Tennessee Consolidated whose office directly faces the MSHA office.

Since last June "Self-Contained Self-Rescuers" are required for all underground coal miners to assure them of oxygen. Probably in these accidents SCSRs would not have helped—but it is noteworthy that the men didn't have them. At the December 7th and December 8th explosions, some miners had been carrying forbidden smoking materials—a violation by miners that should have been prevented anyway by the company's mandate to search them.

The Ages Creek disaster killed a woman who had long been insisting that Eastover Mining's sludge dam imperiled her home, and forced 36 families to vacate theirs. Only a few days earlier the MSHA had decided that the structure was safe. Now the MSHA has laid off 700 of its force to cut the budget; companies are more "relaxed" in their relations with it; and Watt plans to reduce the Office of Surface Mining even further.

Two thirds of last year's mine fatalities occurred in non-union mines, where there is less pressure to abide by safety regulations. A large number were in small operations, but these often sell through large companies that do limit safety expenditures.

Since January 16th more miners were killed, seven in a Floyd County, Kentucky mine in which an explosion on January 21st hurled debris 500 feet from the mouth of the mine.

WINDSOR SITUATION

Last summer at Windsor Bumper in Ontario the UAW walked out when the company demanded that they give up their cost-of-living adjustment provisions. Windsor Bumper is owned by the gigantic Gulf and Western, which threatened on the fifth day of the strike to close the plant down permanently. The strikers moved into the plant and occupied it, with the support of a picket line outside, food a-plenty coming in, and the co-operation of fellow workers laid off at the next-door plastics plant, FCM. Other locals were prepared to make the picket line a massive barricade if efforts were made to pull the dies out of the plant. As a result, the company upped its final offer by more than half, the local gained preferential hiring rights for their fellow workers laid off from the plastics plant next door, and a score of the new hires are from that plant.



"We asked the union about concessions and they said we could make all we wanted."

SOUND OF A DISTANT DRUM

For two days a week ASLEF, the minority train drivers' union, have plodded on with their national strike. Telegraphing each and every punch to the employers and the Government, they have put their trains neatly to bed in the shed and struck for two days before returning to work. The drivers' cause is just, but their industrial actions are based on the logistics of defeat. Their reason for strike action is their claim that Sir Peter Parker (acting on behalf of British Railways and Ma Thatcher's Tory Government) has ratted on a pay agreement.

On January 4th there was to be a 3% pay increase for the drivers as members of the minority ASLEF union. But at the last minute Sir Peter Parker stated that the 3% increase would not be paid unless the train drivers agreed to a "productivity" deal which meant scrapping the eight-hour day and bringing in a "flexible" shift system which would vary duties between seven and nine hours a day.

Out of all the carnage and misery of the First World War, one of the small industrial victories to be won by the British working class was the eight-hour day. Truth to tell, it applied to very few of the British working class. For the millions working for a pittance it was an eight-and-a-half-hour day and a 48-hour week. But the train drivers won that eight-hour day, and hung onto it for 62 years. Now the Tory Government, in their open war against the working class, are set to smash the "eight-hour day".

The "eight-hour working day" may seem a pedantic point to those beyond these shores, but it is part of British working-class folk history. Over half a century ago, men and women marched through the cobbled streets behind the scarlet and black flags holding high banners demanding an eight-hour working day. To destroy that claim to an enshrined eight-hour day Ma Thatcher and her rat-faced Tory hatchet men see as a symbolic victory for themselves.

Ma Thatcher has had one small drear victory in that Sidney Weighell, the lost leader of the massive National Union of Railwaymen, has agreed to Ma's terms and signed away the rights of his passive members for a small wage increase. But it is a victory without laurels, for without drivers to drive the trains his silent majority of members cannot work. And to rub poor Sidney's compliant nose deep down in the dirt, Ma Thatcher, through Sir Peter Parker, informed the non-striking NUR railwaymen that they would be laid off on every Sunday that the drivers are out on strike.

Thus the dole-faced Sidney Weighell, as token manikin of the right wing, has—and I quote a right-wing national newspaper so as not to wrong Sidney—"accepted the loss of Sunday working, and this was endorsed by the union's executive." It could mean that working members of Sidney's NUR union could lose \$50 as a result of the loss of that working day, but evidently Sidney feels it is a good price to pay if it can destroy the ASLEF union.

There are two battles being fought in this weekly two-day strike. The vocal battle is against Ma Thatcher's Tory Government over the principle of the "eight-hour day", but the silent battle is that of a huge right-wing union bureaucracy seeking to destroy a small craft (train drivers') union that has the industrial muscle to bring an entire industrial set piece to a national halt.

That, in an American IWW context, is why the bureaucracy of Britain's massive right-wing unions are standing in the shadows vulturewise waiting and watching for a small union to destroy itself—so that they can pick the corpse clean after the Tories have moved away.

Raymond Buckton, the general secretary of ASLEF, has the cheerful honest air of a small farmer; but place not your faith in heroes, even if they appear to support your cause, your case, your ideals, your principles. For despite the solidarity of his striking ASLEF members and the striking splinter groups from Sidney's massive NUR union rightly raging over the loss of their Sunday working pay, one feels that Raymond is not leading his industrial ASLEF troops too well. He is making the classic industrial-conflict mistake of publicly informing the enemy of his plans for strike action, with the result that on the weekly two days of strike action the Tory Government and all the industries involved simply make alternative arrangements. It is industrial guerrilla war, Raymond, and in your setup, lad, you do not tell the boss man that you are leaving all the trains in on a specific "next Sunday".

But the battle is being fought, and support by those not involved can be our only action. Let us have no illusions, for the working class throughout the Western World are on the defensive, from Wales's comrades in Poland to Reagan's rejected fifth of a nation in the United States. A weak and pathetic leadership married to self-serving, self-seeking officeholders have dimmed the fires that once burned within the bellies of the great mass of the working class throughout the Western World. Bright dreams have become tarnished, red flags have become office dusters.

I sit in a pub in the Uxbridge Road and they are there—the local Labour Party bureaucrats and the town councillors ready to seek fresh office in the local May elections. And they rage and roar at me and shout me down as I make my points that the elected Labour Party representatives of the Greater London Council at County Hall, opposite the Houses of Parliament, have betrayed the London working class. For now within County Hall the elected Labour Party representatives are completely split into raging factions among themselves, while Ma Thatcher grins at them from across the narrow waters of the River Thames. Their one chance to make history was their chance to turn the huge London Transport passenger service into a socialist non-paying way of public transport, but they turned chicken in that great debating chamber.

Dave Wetzel leans on the bar counter bitter and angry, for he sees his role in history as chairman of the Greater London Council Transport Committee wasted as the weekend revolutionaries crawl for the door crying that it was not their fault but Lord Denning's "legal" decision, not their fault but the Law Lords' "legal" decision from the House of Lords, not their fault but the fault of the union delegates' block vote that would not let them put a socialist manifesto before the London working class. But the plain truth is that these political hacks prized office above principle, and when they were called on to face prison or loss of personal wealth if they stood by their pre-election political garbage, they literally cried "No, no, no!"

Arthur Moyse, London



International News

In Bolivia workers struck the country's largest shoe factory December 18th to demand reinstatement of union rights and amnesty for those arrested the previous year. Late in November the tin miners ended a two-week strike in return for the freeing of their arrested fellow workers. But they did not get their union-operated radio station back.

In the Sudan 10,000 "vagrants and illegal aliens" were rounded up last fall, and 3,000 of them were jailed on the charge of trying to "destabilize" the regime. The Government fights inflation by flogging merchants and customers who charge or pay more than the set price.

In Australia employers complain of high wages—like \$55,000 a year for dragline operators in Queensland coalfields, typical four-week vacations, a 35-hour work week as the norm, and paid leaves of absence of three months after 10 years and six months after 20. But it has oil, coal, ores, and excellent resources to exploit, so the employers are not giving up. The 170,000 aborigines, however, don't fare so well. They amount to only a little over 17% of the population, and are split into 600 tribes speaking 200 different languages, even though two thirds of them now live in urban squalor, deriving little from white culture to improve their lives, except for beer and TV sets.

In Venezuela wealth accumulates and half the people suffer from chronic malnutrition, the worse for the oil boom. Investment of oil profits in skyscrapers and efforts at diverse industries resulted in a collapse of agriculture and higher food prices, with most food imported now.

The Japanese Supreme Court recently ruled that it was illegal to impose a retirement age of 50 for women as opposed to age 55 for men. Draftswoman Miyo Nakamoto was ordered to retire at 50 by Nissan Motors (Datsun) in 1969. She filed suit, and won 12 years later. Nissan has now set the mandatory retirement age for both men and women at age 60, and has been ordered to pay Miyo some \$50,000 in back salary. Retirement in Japan at age 55 has this drawback: Pensions don't begin until several years later.

It's an ill wind that blows no good. In China surgeons get a lot of practice on missing toes and fingers as a result of accidents with poorly-guarded machinery. Two Chinese orthopedic surgeons have transplanted toes to act as fingers for a woman whose fingers on both hands were lost in an accident. The reconstructed fingers sense cold, heat, and pain, can hold a pen, and can perform a few simple tasks.

One of French President Mitterand's first reforms—the 39-hour work week—was greeted by the French working class with less than rejoicing. The measure provoked protests at the department store Galeries Lafayette, airports, the Kodak factory in Paris, and a major Renault auto plant. The postal workers' union called for a 24-hour strike. The problem is that the law is too vague, leaving uncertain the shorter week's impact on pay, coffee breaks, and lunch periods.

World Labor Shorts

TURKEY

While the capitalist press and politicians have been raging over the imposition of martial law in Poland they have been remarkably restrained, if not silent, when it comes to the repression of labor in other, friendlier, nations.

Take Turkey, for example. Since the military in this NATO ally took over in September of 1980 more than 122,609 people have been taken into custody. Amnesty International has reported (*Labor News*, Nov., 1981) that they have the names of more than 60 individuals who have died in custody since the coup. Furthermore, 10 people have been executed, with another 90 under sentence of death. Two thousand more death sentences are expected in upcoming trials.

Many of those arrested, tortured and/or killed are leaders and members of DISK (the Confederation of Revolutionary Trade Unions). The DISK was banned following the coup. These unionists are usually charged under Turkey's version of the Criminal Syndicalism laws. Article 141 of the Turkish Penal Code prescribes 8 to 15 years in jail for membership in, and death for "administering" an organization "aimed at establishing the domination of a social class over other social classes." On June 13 members of the Moden-Is (metal workers union) choir were sentenced to five and a half years in jail under article 142 for singing the "Internationale" during a union congress in 1979. They were found guilty of "spreading communist propaganda" (*Labor News*, Nov., 1981).

So, if you're planning to send a telegram to Poland to demand an end to martial law, as we hope you will, you might drop a similar line to General Kenan Evren, Ankara, Turkey.

—MH

INDIA'S GENERAL STRIKE

The general strike of January 19th to protest repressive legislation in India was throttled by the sundry parties competing for labor backing.

The strike was called by eight federations, each with political ties, with a combined membership of five million. They were indignant at provisions for arresting and holding people without trial for up to a year, and at the Essential Services Maintenance Act adopted in September. The ESMA provides fines and imprisonment for conduct that may cause "a cessation or retardation of work"—that is, a slowdown, work-to-rule strike, or any strike in railways, air traffic, hospitals, telephone and postal services, defense industries, or power sources like electricity or oil.

The biggest union body in India is the Trade Union Congress, which plays along with Indira Gandhi's Congress Party and has over two million members, largely in government employment. This body actively opposed the protest strike, and had its people waving flags and urging workers to go on in to work. But despite the arrest of many thousands of union activists the day before the strike and thousands more during it, several million did abstain from work in this land of 600 million. Ten strikers were killed by police.

This is the first widespread demonstration since the railroad workers called a general strike in 1974. (Rails did not strike this time.) Why does the Government enact these repressive laws? There have been very few strikes in India in recent years, but two political-science students at the University of Chicago, Sanjub Baruah and Manju Parikh, writing in *In These Times*, note that it may all be to facilitate a \$5 billion loan from the International Monetary Fund at the "sacrifice of India's economic sovereignty".

To Fight ONE BIG BOSS
Build ONE BIG UNION

Mergers vs Us

Working class austerity, regressive taxation, and militarist "Keynesianism" are often considered to be the most devastating elements of Reaganomics. As bad as they are, these tendencies are insignificant compared to the silent plank of the Reagan program. For, contrary to popular belief and Reagan propaganda, the current government is not simply turning back to the days of "laissez faire" capitalism. Rather it is a form of corporatist radicalism that is promoting a greater concentration of capital through corporate mergers.

Using his power as enforcer of Federal antitrust law, President Reagan has made it clear to U.S. corporations that the Justice Department will not interfere in friendly mergers. The most recent indication of this new policy was the Assistant Attorney General's announcement that the Justice Department was dropping the thirteen year old antitrust suit against IBM. This change in government economic policy has unleashed a wave of merger activity that has included some of the largest U.S. corporations. The most prominent of these mergers were the DuPont takeover of Conoco last September, and the recent takeover of Marathon Oil by U.S. Steel.

At the same time the Reagan administration, under the direction of former Merrill-Lynch executive Donald Regan (now Treasury Secretary), is totally restructuring the financial industry. In the name of "deregulation" the government is centralizing the investment markets. Whereas before, the investment market was broken into three sectors, government and industrial securities, banking, and savings and loans, the new program will end any distinction between the three types of institutions. The new set-up will end restrictions on interstate banking, allowing large financial institutions to swallow up smaller local banks. This process is already going on, with or without the new regulations, often with the help of millions in federal funds.

Before discussing what this signifies for the labor movement, it is necessary to dispel the ideological smokescreen put around the antitrust changes by Reagan mouthpieces. Reagan's cronies point to recent government rulings against the Mobil Oil takeover attempt on Marathon, the LTV attempt on Grumman, etc., as signs of vigilance in antitrust enforcement. These examples, however, were of "unfriendly" takeovers. These were takeover attempts where either the target corporation, or other corporations in the same or dependent industries, resisted the merger. Marathon Oil, for instance, resisted the Mobil takeover because it would have meant that Marathon's management would have been replaced by Mobil Oil's management. On the other hand, U.S. Steel was seen as a "friendly" partner because the corporation would need Marathon executives to run its oil operations.

In official government pronouncements, naturally, the distinction is not made between "friendly" and "unfriendly" mergers. This would give away the fact that the executive branch is a partisan of "special interests" and not carrying out a "mandate of the national will." So instead the Reaganite party line claims that as always the Justice Department will prosecute "illegal price-fixing" but it will not intervene in mergers simply because of size. In June of 1981, Attorney General William French Smith stated, "In any industry . . . competition will inexorably result in the elimination of some competitors—those that are the least efficient. . . . We must recognize that bigness in business does not necessarily mean badness and that success should not be automatically suspect."

Only three months later came the largest corporate merger in history, the \$7.1 billion takeover of Conoco by DuPont. Whether this merger will result in greater efficiency remains to be seen. In the past, corporate mergers between different industries have often resulted in incompetent management of the new subsidiaries from inexperience. Sometimes the new acquisitions have been made solely to raise capital through bleeding the smaller firm of its assets and then getting rid of it. More often than not, beyond a certain scale, bigger is less efficient, but the Reaganites only accept this reasoning when it deals with activities they don't like, such as welfare programs and labor unions. When it comes to the "supply-side" however, it seems that natural law becomes turned on its head.

What does this pro-merger policy mean for the labor movement? The rise of the new superconglomerates is rendering the AFL-CIO, UMW, and Teamster organizations obsolete. These unions divide workers into rigid sections which make them unable to act in solidarity to combat the increased employer concentration. The sectionalism of the union establishment is demonstrated in four areas, division by craft and industry, division by bargaining unit, division by nationality, and division by bureaucracy.

The division of workers according to craft and industry makes it impossible to combat the multi-industrial conglomerate. Take the example of the superconglomerate DuPont. Its holdings include chemicals, textiles, coal, and oil. Its workers are divided into the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers, the United Mine Workers, the United Steel Workers, and assorted craft unions. Each of these unions jealously guards its tiny jurisdiction and would not dare risk it in a sympathy strike with DuPont workers in another industry or union. Consequently DuPont has great freedom to deal with its workers as it sees fit.

This division by craft or industry can sometimes be overcome if all workers belong to the same union. The

division by bargaining unit, however, usually makes belonging to the same union meaningless. Take the case of the United Mine Workers, for example. During the 110-day coal strike in 1978, western coal was being mined by UMW members under a separate contract. The point is not that everyone should be covered by the same contract, but that when there is a conflict between respecting a contract, and sticking up for hard-pressed fellow workers, an effective union movement must choose the latter.

Then there is the problem of division by nationality. It is a fact that, in spite of calling themselves "international unions," most American unions do not give a hoot about non-American workers. The United Auto Workers is a good example of this. Practically all the problems of the U.S. auto industry are attributed by the UAW to cheaper foreign cars and low-wage foreign, particularly Asian, labor. (Note the emphasis on Asian, hence a subtle play by the UAW leaders on racial prejudice.) The outcome is that the UAW is promoting wage concessions to improve the competitiveness of U.S. cars against imports. The fallacy in this policy is that wage concessions will pressure auto workers in other countries to accept wage concessions also, which in turn will mean more concessions by U.S. auto workers. The purpose of unions is to stop workers from underbidding each other into poverty.

If these forms of divisiveness were not bad enough, there is the division created by the existence of union bureaucracy. The AFL-CIO, and its spinoffs like the Teamsters, are run by professional labor officials, not by workers themselves. This divides the labor movement into two classes, the rank-and-file and the union professionals, who are a middle class element tied to the employer. Many labor leaders have not worked in their industry for over twenty years. Often they were not workers to begin with, but lawyers and economists who started out in staff positions. These union professionals are willing to accept things like pay cuts and layoffs in order to preserve the employer's goodwill. This attitude was demonstrated recently when rank-and-file steel workers complained about the U.S. Steel purchase of Marathon Oil. Why should U.S. Steel be spending \$6 billion to buy an oil corporation instead of modernizing its steel holdings? The response of United Steel Workers president Lloyd McBride was that whatever was good for U.S. Steel financially was good for the union.

The present wave of mergers is bringing us closer to the reality of One Big Boss. It is time that American workers built One Big Labor Movement to better combat this



SIGN OF SUPPORT — Support for Polish Solidarity is shown on this water tower near the nation's Capitol.

trend. Although the IWW does not claim to have all the answers, its conception of "One Big Union," run by rank-and-file workers, is more relevant today than ever before. In 1905 at its very birth, the IWW Preamble contained these prophetic words:

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.

—Jeff Stein

SHOP MEMORIES

I worked for 14 years in a men's clothing shop that was making "Number 6 work". That means high-quality suits that sold to people who could pay the price.

The shop occupied a whole floor at 84 Fifth Avenue. The front part was used for the office, the cutting room, and the shipping room. The back part was used by the workers who sewed those beautiful suits. There in the back we sewed in the noise from the sewing machines and the heat from the pressing machines. If we complained, our union delegate would tell us: "You should be happy you are working." So we hand workers suffered in silence.

When World War Two came along, our company was given a government contract to make officers' uniforms. The shop became crowded, so finishers and buttonhole

WE'RE PINCHED!

In January the Government doubled its charges for mailing this and other labor papers. That pinches us hard. Besides that, the \$4 we charge for a year's subscription doesn't buy what \$4 did when we set that price years ago. That pinches us too.

We anticipate that the Board will soon raise that annual subscription rate to \$5 or take some other drastic action.

While money is acceptable in this pinch, we would prefer something even more helpful: more readers. Until we announce that the subscription price has been raised, we will gladly accept gift and other subscriptions at the old four-dollar rate. Don't you know some people who should be reading this paper?

Concurrent financial problems of the IWW greatly limit the support it can give this paper. We have been able to print and mail this and recent issues only because some members dug into their pockets to make direct payment of typesetting, printing, or mailing costs. Why did they do this? Probably because they realize that the ideas expressed in this paper are the best hope we have to avoid the destruction of this planet by its present mismanagement, and they figured how foolish they'd feel if they had kept those dollars until the sky lighted up with global nuclear combat.

So SOS! You need to spread these ideas.

The Industrial Worker Collective

makers were shoved into the shipping room. The company did not recognize that we were human beings who needed light to see what we were doing and tables to work on. The sweeper was told to nail some goods boxes together to be used as work tables. The splinters from these discarded boxes tore our stockings.

The officers' uniforms were sand color. If a finisher working at piece rates grabbed her greasy sandwich so she could eat while she worked, the expensive uniform got her greasy finger marks on it, and came back. The company hired a man to remove the stains.

Another shipment came back full of holes—from the splintered edges of those packing cases. So the uniforms were sent to a weaver.

We were too crowded. The bushelman who sat in one corner had to use the shipping clerk's table every time he had to mark a pair of pants to be shortened. Once, doing this, he accidentally took along an order slip that lay on the table. The shipping clerk, who had been with the company for 20 years, nearly got a nervous breakdown; for the slip was on a \$2,000 order, and he had to wire the customer for a duplicate.

There was much excitement in the shop over the disappearance of that piece of paper. At first I watched this excitement with amusement, for these greedy, stupid bosses did not see what was back of all this trouble. But I felt sorry for the old shipping clerk and decided to make things clear. I went over to the boss and told him: "If you would install paper towels and liquid soap so that the finishers could wash their hands, you would not have to pay cleaning bills. If you would call in a carpenter to give us tables, you would not have holes in the uniforms and have to pay weaving bills; and we would not get holes in our stockings. If you gave the bushelman a table where he could measure his pants, the shipping clerk would not lose his order slips."

The boss listened. He sent someone out for liquid soap and paper towels. The foreman phoned for a carpenter who made tables for us to work on, and the carpenter put in drawers in the tables for the girls' personal belongings. The bushelman had a table to himself to measure pants.

The company saved money on cleaning bills and on weaving bills, yet didn't thank me for bringing order to a messy situation. But one old finisher, in her broken Italian, said "God bless Minnie."

Minnie F. Corder

KANTO AL PUEBLO TO ASSERT NATIVE RIGHTS

The fifth Kanto al Pueblo will take place in Chicago in late August. This cultural event, which has been held annually in different locations since 1977, maintains a continuous link with the ancestral roots of the Native Peoples of the Western Hemisphere.

The delegates will include artists, poets, writers, and other creative workers, along with Native Spiritual Elders, and the cultural portion of this gathering will be shared with the general public, as culture is something to be shared with all humanity.

At a location not open to the general public, and outside the city of Chicago, a continental tribunal will be held to hear cases of abuse against Native Peoples. Priority will be given to non-governmental Indian representatives, international law groups, international and domestic human-rights delegations, and mass-media correspondents.

A representative of the fifth Kanto al Pueblo will meet with those concerned with the purposes of this gathering or of the Fourth Russell Tribunal on the Indians of the Americas held in Rotterdam in November 1980.



Literature

THEORETICAL

- () IWW Organizing Manual 75¢
- () Collective Bargaining Manual 75¢
- () IWW Preamble and Constitution 30¢
- () Inflation: Cause and Cure 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¢
- () Lucy Parsons: American Revolutionary \$4.50
- () Pullman Strike \$2.95
- () Autobiography of Mother Jones \$4.95
- () The Right To Be Lazy \$1.25
- () Eugene V. Debs: Spokesman for Labor and Socialism \$5.95

POSTERS

Printed

- () Organize! 50¢
- () One Big Union 50¢
- () One Anti-War Poster 50¢

Lino-graphics

- () Joe Hill \$5.00
- () General Strike \$5.00
- () Huelga General \$5.00
- () Draftees of the World Unite! \$5.00

Note: It costs about 80¢ to mail a poster or a sheet of music in a tube, so please do not send orders for music or posters of less than \$2.

MISCELLANEOUS

- () General Defense Button 35¢

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

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State/Province _____

Zip/Postal Code _____ Country _____

AVAILABLE FOR LOCAL GROUPS AND BRANCHES

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

A Different Art Gallery

It is a breath of fresh air in these days of increasing right-wing reaction to see a movie like *Reds* that says nice things about the IWW and Anarchists (of bygone days, of course) or other occasional manifestations of social consciousness. Art galleries have unfortunately become identified as the turf of the upper crust, where the status quo has been securely ensconced, and where heaven forbid that the creative output of an artist of social conscience should be on the walls to disturb upper-middle-class values (often shared, unfortunately, by clock punchers).

Such artistic expression of social consciousness as does appear is usually that of artists who have long since passed into the Great Beyond, leaving the impression that the social issues that inspired their work have likewise accompanied them on that irreversible journey. The galleries that do show any social art are usually those run by ethnic minorities who acknowledge that they have to struggle along without the patronage of that "art-buying public".

An encouraging development in Chicago is the opening of the Peace Museum at 364 West Erie. The title of the show running through the first two months of 1982 is *Against the Wall: Three Centuries of Posters*.

The three centuries, of course, include artists who are long gone, for the social issues that inspire the making of posters have long been with us. Ever since the invention of the technology for making more than one copy of an image, the social-protest poster has been a vital, though little acknowledged, facet of the human creative drive. If Goya, Daumier, and Kollwitz were alive today, they would no doubt be using their talents to oppose the destruction in El Salvador or the wanton disregard for our environment by those who control our lives.

In this show the posters that protest the recent war in Vietnam or the present one in El Salvador far outnumber the few examples from the days of the French Revolution

or the American Civil War. The significant differences seen in the posters of these three centuries are in the technology by which they were produced. At this exhibition there is an amazing variety of reproductive techniques: flatbed-run woodcut illustrations with movable large wooden type; beautifully-executed woodblock posters from Mexico; hand-run color lithographs from the earlier part of this century; multi-colored silkscreen posters from artists' collectives; the latest polychrome products using photo-offset equipment; some hand-lettered peace posters executed by schoolchildren.

The biggest selection of posters is from the Vietnam War. This is not only because that war was so recent that many protest posters are still extant, but also because that war brought on such an outpouring of social protest as had not been seen for decades. There is also a beautiful selection of posters from the days when the Russian Revolution brought a great resurgence of hope to the radical community. The exhibition includes posters from all over the world, some from the gallery's own archives, some on loan from private collections.

Unfortunately, this exhibit will be over by the time most readers see this report; but another exhibit is now scheduled that will be devoted to anti-war buttons: a creation that, like the poster, is not ordinarily thought of as an art form, yet is.

By and large, most artists have an ax to grind. To communicate our gripes to others, a bit of artistry helps, or else the soapboxer's audience walks away, or the eye of the reader turns elsewhere.

Mark Rogovin, the initiator and curator of this Peace Museum, is a moralist who runs one of the independent community art workshops in Chicago. He has painted many outdoor murals devoted to social issues, including a peace mural at one of the city's colleges. This exhibition was run with no admission charge, just a glass bottle at the entrance marked "donations". Since the doctor has taken yours truly off the jug anyway, I couldn't think of anything better to do with that extra piece of lucre.

Alfredo Nuberoja

BOOK REVIEW

Feminine Fortitude

You Can't Scare Me: Labor Heroines, 1930s-1980s, published by Union WAGE, PO Box 40904, San Francisco 94140, 56 pages, \$1.50 plus 65¢ postage

This pamphlet by the Union Women's Alliance to Gain Equality (Union WAGE) consists of short biographies of 10 women organizers and activists. The women—Dolores Huerta, Ethel Rosenberg, Mary Imada, Myra Wolfgang, Carmen Lucia, Elizabeth Nicholas, Elaine Black Yoneda, Dorothy Healy, Frances Albrier, and Lynn Childs—worked at jobs as diverse as railroad maid and cannery worker and organized as they could. Ethel Rosenberg is most widely remembered as being executed in 1953, along with her husband, Julius, as an "atom spy", while few remember her role in the National New York Packing and Shipping Company strike and organizing drive.

P. P.



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.

DID YOU NOTICE?

Internationally-known trade-unionist Neil Aggett, 27, was found dead in a Johannesburg, South Africa jail cell after more than two months of solitary confinement without charges. Police said it was suicide by hanging. Mammoth interracial protest followed.

The first of a group of 1,000 Salvadorean soldiers began infantry training at Fort Bragg, North Carolina in January. An advance party of 60 Salvadorean soldiers began basic training, with the rest of the battalion beginning in February. Also, about 600 Salvadorean officer candidates arrive in Fort Benning, Georgia for 16 weeks' training. The cost of the two training programs is about \$15 million.

Booz-Allen and Hamilton, a leading management-consulting firm, has spent a year studying the productivity of managers and professionals at 14 large corporations, banks, and insurance companies, and one government agency. It found that managers from the top boss down to the middle levels spend almost 12% of their time on "personal matters", and 25% of the remaining time on waiting, idle time, organizing work, scheduling, seeking people, seeking information, expediting, copying, and transcribing. Booz-Allen also estimated that over 45% of managers' time was spent in meetings. Talk about featherbedding and gold-bricking!

One third of the USA's nuclear power plants were shut in February, many of them victims of problems including a hydrogen explosion and various equipment failures leading to radiation and water leaks. Of the 72 US nuclear plants with operating licenses, 24 are shut down temporarily, and three others—Dresden 1 in Morris, Illinois; the Humboldt Bay unit in Humboldt Bay, California; and Three Mile Island in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania—are closed down indefinitely for major repairs and may never reopen.

Studies conducted in the areas of three US nuclear weapons plants have found higher-than-usual cancer rates. Frequencies of several cancer forms were 24% higher among men and 10% higher among women around the Rocky Flats weapons plant near Denver. High cancer rates have also been found near the Savannah River reactor in South Carolina and the Los Alamos Laboratory in New Mexico.

A set of nearly toothless federal regulations governing the delivery of hospital care to the poor lost another fang in February. The regulations were collectively known as the Hill-Burton Act, which was drawn in 1946 to require hospitals receiving federal grants and loans to deliver a certain amount of free care to poor clients. The Health and Human Services Department was set up as the enforcement authority, but now has two staff people assigned to monitor 7,000 hospitals in the six-state Midwest region.

Teenagers under 18 would no longer be able to get confidential help from the nation's 5,000 federally-assisted family-planning clinics under an unpublicized regulation proposed by Secretary Schweiker of the Health and Human Services Department. Under the proposed new regulation, family-planning clinics would be required to notify parents within 10 days after their children had received birth-control devices or prescription drugs for treatment of venereal diseases. Family-planning officials fear that the proposed loss in confidentiality could cut in half the number of teenagers seeking family-planning help. Meanwhile, government investigators have already begun a nationwide check of records in some family-planning clinics to determine whether they are using federal funds illegally to promote abortion as a means of birth control.

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, IL 60657, with a line about your job. The initiation fee is \$5 in the US, and dues are \$5 a month.

Even with heavy federal involvement, Aid to Families with Dependent Children—one of the major programs that Reagan wants to transfer to the states—shows bogging inequalities and injustices. Oil-rich Texas, with a 4.9% unemployment, pays a welfare family a maximum of \$140 a month, with the Federal Government providing 55.75% of the money. Economically-depressed Michigan, with 15.1% joblessness, pays a family of four up to \$538 a month, with the Federal Government paying 50%. Mississippi gives a welfare family of four \$120 a month, with the State Government paying \$27 and the Federal Government \$93. Vermont gives an AFDC family up to \$552 a month, because Washington pays about \$380.

When Tampax Incorporated polled more than a thousand men and women 14 and up, 64% said that women at work should hide the fact that they are menstruating, 36% said that women should continue their concealment efforts in their own homes, and 12% of the men and 5% of the women thought that women should try to stay away from other people while menstruating. It looks like female trouble. (*Her Say*)

Some 9.3 million people in the USA were officially listed as unemployed according to the Labor Department's January report. The unemployment rate was 16.8% for blacks and 21.7% for teenagers. Even the middle class is being hit harder in this recession than in previous times of national economic trouble. Overall unemployment in the white-collar category is now running over 4% as all service industries cut back.

SUSTAINING FUND

(Received January 15th Through February 10th)

Pete Posthumus	10.00
Bob Markholt	15.00
V. Chorlian	15.00
Ralph Koal	11.30
John Spitzberg	25.00
Rochelle Semel and Paul Poulos	25.00
Shelby Shapiro	5.00
Randolph Petsche	3.55
John Keller	1.00
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Many thanks, Fellow Workers, for your generous support.

ADDITIONS TO LITERATURE LIST



"It's folks like you who cause inflation. You used to ask a quarter, now it's a dollar!"

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★★★ 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, Ottilie 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.



LESS PAY = MORE JOBS?

Despite the rising cost of living, there was no increase in the minimum wage for 1982. Legislators believed, or professed to believe, that raising the minimum wage would decrease the demand for workers—especially for the young and unskilled who get close to the minimum wage. Some say that the cure for this massive unemployment of the young is to cut wages so that more employers would hire them. But does it work that way?

In recent negotiations, many unions have been giving back previous gains in the hope that this will enable their employers to give them steadier work. But does it work that way?

Some tell us that if the price mechanism is allowed to work freely, it brings supply and demand into balance; that if the demand for something exceeds its supply, its price rises, which encourages a larger supply and discourages the demand until supply and demand are in balance again; for if that stimulus results in too big a supply, the price falls, discouraging supply and stimulating demand, so that the two are in a steadily-quivering near-balance. But does it work that way when we are talking about labor-force jobs and wages?

We get jobs because it is expected that someone will buy what we produce. Will cutting wages—our wages or our fellow workers' wages—make a better market? Did wage cuts help sell goods in the '30s? Will they do so in the '80s?

It is probably true that Mr. Skinflint can stay in business a while longer if he can cut his pay rates more than his competitors, provided workers somewhere else are getting enough money to maintain a market for his products. It may also be true that in a non-union shop the guy who doesn't ask for a pay boost may outlast the guy who does. But such events will not diminish the total number of unemployed.

In the '30s we were told that to keep our jobs we had to work cheaper than the guys down the street. In the '80s we are told that we have to work cheaper than our



Seeing is Hearing

These hands spell *solidarity* in sign language. Noise pollution threatens to make more of us need it—both the solidarity and the sign language. It is an act of solidarity for those who can hear to learn how to communicate with their deaf fellow workers.

UAW Local 598 at Chevrolet's truck plant in Flint has pioneered in this endeavor by arranging a course in sign language for workers willing to learn it. At the local's hall there is a teletype telephone on which deaf workers can

communicate with the union, and they got the company to install a similar phone at the plant.

A conference of deaf workers at the union's Black Lake resort proposes in-plant certified sign-language interpreters, deaf-awareness training programs, captioned titles on company training films, and flashing lights to warn of health and safety hazards.

fellow workers across the ocean. Back in the '30s we found that it was better to organize with those guys down the street than to undercut their pay. In the '80s we will find that we have to be more international than the corporations we work for.

It is a delusion that lower pay will make more jobs. If low pay created a demand for wage workers, the slums on the outskirts of the cities of India and South America would be bustling with industrial activity.

While today's unemployment reminds us of the '30s, the world has changed since then. Our economy, which was once primarily local and had gradually become national, has now become global. The problem includes people sleeping in cardboard boxes in Calcutta and New York, workers filling an order in Detroit that might be filled in a dozen other countries, and Mr. Gotrox wondering in what country to invest the money he made off his hands in Peoria. The solution to the problem is not to be found in conventional thinking about GNP, supply and demand, tariffs, taxes, and the like, but in some very basic thinking about the resources mankind has and the uses to which these resources should be put.

ANTIWAR RALLY IN SC

A coalition of 15 groups met in Columbia, Georgia in January to plan a mass protest at the Savannah River Plant near Aiken, South Carolina over the Memorial Day weekend. The group chose Memorial Day because of its stress on remembering the dead of past wars. "In the event of a nuclear war there may be no living left to honor the dead", said Elton Manzione, one of those planning the mass protest.

This Savannah River plant is reported to manufacture all the nuclear components of the neutron bomb. The Memorial Day date was chosen also with the June 5th UN Special Session on Disarmament in mind.

The plant is operated by the DuPont Corporation and employs about 8600 workers. The group plan a peaceful, legal rally with speakers, music, and an ecumenical prayer service designed to coincide with a Peace Sabbath called for by religious leaders.

Some Things Our Members Are Doing

RAP WITH SOLIDARNOSC

On February 13th the New York IWW membership sponsored a rap session with an organizer of the teachers' branch of Solidarnosc at Cornell's New York campus.

COLUMBIA

Harbinger Publications is a printing co-operative in Columbia, South Carolina whose worker-owners have recently established a job branch of the IWW. They are active in other good causes too. Members of the union participated in a march held in Columbia to protest the US training of Salvadorean troops, and have been active in planning, along with other groups, for a large-scale protest at the Savannah River nuclear-weapons plant near Aiken, South Carolina. That rally is set for Memorial Day (May 30th), and has gained widespread support from activist groups throughout the country. The branch members are involved because they consider the plant a misuse of industrial capacity.

Since South Carolina is the least unionized state in the nation, the local Wobs are planning a monthly educational meeting to brief fellow workers on important issues affecting the working class. Harbinger is a project of the Grassroots Organizing Workshop, a pro-labor activist organization since its inception in 1977. The group operates the GROW cafe, and branch members use its facilities for outreach. Group members feel that the One Big Union idea can become an important factor in this state. South Carolina is the 49th state in per-capita income, but is second in illiteracy, second in infant mortality, and third in the proportion of families below poverty level. These are all very good reasons for organizing to do something about it.

Fellow Worker Elton and Sister Worker Lynn Manzione met with members of the New York General Membership Branch to discuss organizing strategy and obstacles facing organizing efforts in this so-called Right to Work state. Branch members find that their presence is greeted with considerable interest in the mill-worker neighborhood where their headquarters is located. The group will also become active in movement publishing, and has plans to re-issue some out-of-print IWW pamphlets along with other booklets on the struggle for economic justice. A catalogue of the publications they will be offering should be available by this summer. We want members in South Carolina and others interested in our efforts to get in touch with us at Harbinger Publications, 18 Bluff Road, Columbia, South Carolina 29201, (803) 254-9398.

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UTAH PHILLIPS TOUR

In March Utah Phillips will treat the Midwest to his wide range of hobo, labor, and movement songs. As of mid-February his Midwest schedule was incomplete, but included:

Chicago, March 11th, 12th, 13th, and 14th at Holstein's, 2464 Lincoln Avenue

Champaign, March 15th at Mables, 613 North Green, a benefit for the Prairie Aid

Grand Rapids, March 12th at the Yankee Clipper Library, 2025 Leonard Avenue Northeast, for the Folk Society.

Ann Arbor, March 19th and 20th at The Ark, 1421 Hill Detroit, March 21st at the Unitarian Church, Forest and Cass (see separate announcement)

Rockford, Illinois, March 24th at Charlotte's Web, 728 1st Avenue

Milwaukee, March 25th at the Blue River Cafe, 550 North Water

Madison, March 26th (location not sure, so inquire from Richard Linster, IWW delegate, 251-1937)

Minneapolis, March 28th at The Extempore, 325 Cedar Saint Cloud, Minnesota, March 30th at the Atwood Center in Saint Cloud State University.

Phillips's tour will take him into the South and Southwest in April, and into the Inter-mountain Northwest in May. To arrange a concert, contact him or Sheila Collins at 1720 West 14th Street, Spokane, Washington 99204, (509) 747-6454.

There has been some delay in the manufacture of the Phillips record taped live during a benefit for strikers a year ago in Vancouver, British Columbia. We hear it's a humdinger, with spirited audience participation.

PHILLIPS DETROIT CONCERT

IWW members in the Detroit area are arranging a special Utah Phillips concert March 21st at the Unitarian Church at the intersection of Forest and Cass. There a famous song about "pie in the sky" will accompany a bake sale here on earth, the proceeds to help the local IWW's finance their educational and organizing activities. The printed program for the occasion will permit the money-grubbing businessmen to participate too, by advertising their wares for a good cause. The Church can seat 600, and the union members are fervently praying for SRO.

IN SAN DIEGO

Utah Phillips's audiences in the San Diego area were all that could be accommodated. Sandra Dutky had an attractive red leaflet for them, containing the verses of Oppenheim's *Bread and Roses* and of Alfred Hayes's *Joe Hill*. It also offered local contact addresses and a

brief explanation of what the IWW wants to do.

Many concertgoers were from the La Jolla UCSD campus, so one contact listed there was Reed Kroopkin in the office of the student newspaper, the *New Indicator*. The leaflets were welcomed, treasured, and taken along, and the literature supply was sold out.

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AUSSIE REBEL WORKER

Volume 1, Number 1 of the *Rebel Worker*, an IWW publication from Sydney, Australia, for February and March has arrived. It is an attractive 8½-by-12 magazine of eight pages, published at 417 King Street, Newton 2042, Australia, a section of Sydney where Jura Books has long handled IWW kindred publications. It is issued by the Australian General Organizing Committee at \$2 per year for six issues. (May we suggest that non-Australian readers add a buck for additional postage?)

This February-March issue reproduces a famous poster from Australian World War I days on behalf of Monty Miller, then on trial at age 86. The poster noted that he had been active on behalf of labor 63 of those 86 years, from the strike battles of Eureka, Australia in 1854 to IWW strike activity in 1917.

A self-introducing editorial remarks: "The IWW has had a long and turbulent history in Australia. Its National Administration was established at Adelaide in 1911. During World War One it played a decisive role in the anti-conscription movement and agitation on behalf of direct action and industrial unionism within the Australian labour movement. As a consequence the Hughes government launched a wave of repression against it... The IWW has always had a membership in Australia... In recent years a regroupment has occurred among IWW members... as a result, the *Rebel Worker*."

It also lists other IWW groups at Perth and Brisbane in Australia.