



INDUSTRIAL WORKERS
OF THE WORLD

INDUSTRIAL WORKER

★ EDUCATION ★ ORGANIZATION ★ EMANCIPATION

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DETROIT PAPER

Chicago (WNS): The two-month strike against the *Detroit Metro Times* continues. The strikers, workers in the advertising department, are demanding a minimum wage instead of piece rates. (See the May issue of the *Industrial Worker*.) Management hired scabs to replace them, paying the scabs much more than what the strikers had requested.

Picketing has had a significant impact on the bosses, who are members of the Democratic Socialists of America. The paper has lost its credit standing with at least one graphics supply store. The size and nature of the ads in editions since the strike began make it clear that the paper is hurting financially. One worker, responsible for collecting advertisers' fees and for much of the *Metro Times* distribution, has quit. A writer has refused to contribute to the scab editions.

The picket line is temporarily down. The rest of the staff continue to work. But pressure continues to be put on management, with many letters of disgust at the scab hiring by members of the DSA. Letters in response to last

month's IW article have been coming in from Massachusetts to New Mexico. These all make it clear that continued strikebreaking by *Metro Times* owners is unworthy of DSA members.

In a surprise move, the Graphic Arts Union local's representative appeared at the hearing the strikers had with the National Labor Relations Board. The rep claimed jurisdiction over the employees of the *Metro Times*. When informed that the strikers had started their own union, he would not comment on who called in the GAU or on the fact that the strikers belonged to the United Metro Workers union.

The NLRB could eventually rule that both the GAU and the UMW have jurisdiction.

The Ann Arbor IWW has had benefits to aid the strikers. Over \$190 was raised by passing the hat among IWW members and guests. You can contribute to the cause by making checks payable to the IWW-MT Defense Fund in care of the Ann Arbor IWW, 400 North First Street, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48105.

Focus: World



A group of unemployed young people rally outside the European Parliament meeting in Brussels, Belgium in late April, demanding a four-day work week to help reduce unemployment.

FRITZ THE WORKS!

I was aided in my benign and unspectacular career of direct actionist by a face innocent of mischief. Ah, when I consider the events I might have moved, the devious patterns I could have devised in my own behalf! But remember, I was a plotter with principles.

My first essay into direct action took place, appropriately, in an arsenal of guns: in the toy department of Kress during the Christmas holidays when the Korean War was raging. Some malfunction inexplicably spiked every firearm where I worked as a clerk.

"Conscious withdrawal of efficiency" may go beyond the heavy-handed "malicious waste or destruction of an employer's property". A looser, more subtle construction of the term may include "refusal to perform assigned work in the approved manner and obstruction in all possible ways of the regular process of production" (or service).

The credit-rating desk at Sears-Roebuck sorely needed another clerical aide to answer phones, track down customers' financial standing in the files, and answer the voluminous mail.

Each worker at the credit-rating desk handled two phones. The company on each line was permitted four names for checking. Sears' revolving credit was organized into active, inactive, and dead accounts. Another department, deceptively called Sears' Easy Pay Plan, also contained active and inactive files. It was theoretically possible (but most unlikely) that a credit rater could search in forty drawers before she reported back to the dangling client.

Yes, we needed help. But the boss said no. (Save that extra nickel per hour the promoted employee would get.)

"Okay, so let's jam the phones," I proposed to my fellow workers.

Next day we launched our slowdown. Apparently we were as industrious as usual, tripping from file to file, recording data in a slow and measured script, oh so deferentially checking spellings and addresses with the poor employee left dangling on the other line, tracing customers from active to passive status and even unto their graves in the dead cabinet.

"Hold on there. We're still checking."

All day Sears' switchboard was jammed with baffled, vociferous, pleading, irate firms that couldn't get past the busy signal.

At four o'clock the boss introduced Maggie, our new co-worker.

Years later, a strike of Retail Clerks was in progress in Los Angeles. Several Wobblies, in their own spectacular way, launched a citywide shopping tour.

Our technique in loading our carts was exceedingly odd. We would set a gallon of ice cream and three dozen eggs on the bottom. Nestled around the ice cream were several bunches of green onions to lend a pleasant aroma.

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆
Special thanks for the support our readers have shown for the striking United Metro Workers. The strike continues. Keep up the pressure.
☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

Next came several very ripe bananas, avocados, and a generous bunch of Delano (then) scab grapes.

We then would add an expensive turkey for decoration. A few chicken wings, hot from the grill, slipped down onto the ice cream. And to top it all off, we thoughtful shoppers heaped a camouflaging array of heavy canned peaches and a sack of potatoes. Then we stationed our carts in several nice quiet corners and bolted through the back door. The distressed scab personnel no doubt took notice of our loads when the ice cream began to drip onto the floor.

On the bottoms of our baskets they found these notes: "Ha, ha! Friends of the Retail Clerks."

Dorice Mc Daniels

STRIKER JAILED

At Fort Worth, Texas on May 10th, Gary Greene was sentenced to 90 days in jail to be followed by 18 months' probation plus a fine of \$759 for having gone on strike with PATCO (Professional Air Traffic Controllers) in the summer of 1981. He had been convicted of the "offense" of striking while employed by the Government in December of 1981, and has now given up further costly appeal and gone to jail.

The right to strike is recognized in the 13th Amendment to the US Constitution, which abolishes slavery. To deny the right to strike is to establish involuntary servitude, and that amendment reads:

"Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States or any place subject to their jurisdiction."

The right of Government employees to strike was reaffirmed in a decision won by the American Civil Liberties Union last year in the case of two non-striking employees at the Air Traffic Control Center in Aurora, Illinois, who had been dismissed for joining the PATCO picket line to show their solidarity. In settling that case the FAA agreed to post a notice stating that "terminating employees for asserting the right to strike is improper and a violation of their First Amendment rights".

When we called the *Chicago Sun-Times* for details of this story (picked up via TV), we were told that this item had been crowded out of the paper as not very important.

Murder on the Farm

JURY RULES DEATH
"HOMICIDE BY GOVERNMENT NEGLIGENCE"

A jury in New Westminster, British Columbia has ruled that the death of 20-year-old farm worker Jarnail Singh Deol due to poisoning by the pesticide Monitor was a homicide. The verdict at a coroner's inquest agreed with harsh submissions by environmentalists and the Canadian Farm Workers' Union directed against the British Columbian Government and Agriculture Canada. It was recommended that the registration of pesticides be transferred to other agencies when it was found that Agriculture Canada continued to register pesticides tested at a US laboratory that has been charged with falsifying results. The jury also called for the cancellation of a planned British Canadian Government move to exempt farm owners from health and safety regulations.

Mr. Deol was poisoned at a broccoli farm near Surrey, British Columbia, where workers were harvesting crops while pesticides were being sprayed nearby. Pesticide containers were disposed of carelessly, and workers were provided with little in the way of either protective clothing or wash-up facilities.

Mr. Deol had apparently been poisoned four separate times in the month leading up to his October 3rd death. The poison was found in his stomach and in two nearby coffee cups at the time of death. Monitor was registered for use in Canada in 1974. In 1977 the fact that research into its toxicity had been faked came to light, but Canadian officials decided to continue to permit its use pending (very pending) new test results. Monitor is used also in the US.

In conclusion the jury called for sweeping restrictions on pesticide use in Canada. While coroner's juries cannot assess blame, the family of Mr. Deol called the verdict one of "murder by government indifference".



It is said that only children and fools tell the truth, and that in our day and age anyone who believes in straightforward honesty is naive, leaving us with the obvious conclusion that mendacity is the reality, and with the implication that we had better accept that reality if we are to survive in this World. If that is so, then your humble scribe and all the rest of us Wobblies are out of touch, which doesn't exclude those of you who keep forking over your infinitesimal two bits to read this struggling little rag.

Yours truly recently attended an art exhibition, not on the basis of the reviews that were printed in the local dailies, but on the recommendations of others who had seen the exhibition, titled "Naive and Outsider Art From Germany". Though I have been accused of being an artist by persons other than myself, I hesitate to say with authority just what constitutes "naive art", or what separates a "naive" artist from an artist who is not "naive". The one distinction I can see is that the serious academic artist goes to school to learn how to paint without perspective, while paying the instructors a lot of bread in the process.

Also, those who are designated as "naive" artists seem to be far more concerned with what people other than academic artists understand from their art. There are those whose creative urge can not be frustrated, no matter how much they have to occupy their lives with the day-to-day struggle for existence for themselves and their families. That they never had either the time or the money to acquire the schooled refinements of academic artistry has apparently saddled them with the designation of "naive" artist, but otherwise the term "naive" has no validity.

While some of the artists in this exhibition aspired to lofty pretensions, a great majority depicted in their art what was familiar and commonplace in their everyday lives. Most of them were either day-to-day working stiffs or housewives who took time out to say pictorially what they felt needed saying. Whether their paintings were of workers being crushed to death by machines or standing in breadlines during wartime, of a wife standing at the bedside of a husband who had died in an industrial accident, or of a pleasant little house being threatened by an atomic cloud, they were all about stark reality. And unless your scribe is sadly misinformed, that is supposed to be the exact opposite of "naive".

Now most of your gallery painters studiously avoid themes of social reality or anything equally unpleasant, and it is for that reason that they are assumed to be not "naive" artists, but hard-headed realists. After all, what artist in his right mind would expect to sell a canvas to a rich patron if that patron would then be expected to hang up in his mansion, for all his visitors to see, something that would remind them of the blood and suffering that produced their undeserved wealth?

An artist that expects to make a living at art and not have to punch a clock is going to studiously avoid reality. Honesty may lead to immortality, but it won't fill one's stomach. Rembrandt painted life as he saw it and the stuffed shirts as he saw them, but he died a poor man. Kathe Kollwitz depicted the sufferings of her class, and now her works—like those of Rembrandt—are demanding fancy prices among rich collectors. The underprivileged people whom Rembrandt and Kathe Kollwitz depicted in their art, as well as those who caused their underprivileged status, have all passed into the great beyond, and have thereby become acceptable subjects of great art. Great art is that which no longer disturbs any consciences, supposedly because it comes from the "naive" past. ("And of course, my dear, we've made so many advances since!")

When we talk of organizing all the World's workers so there will be no more wars or wastage of natural resources, there are those who tell us we are hopelessly "naive". We should be realistic and accept "reality". Let things take their course, and keep on working at our own destruction. "Things will never change; that's the way it is."

Obviously there are two kinds of "naive" and two kinds of "reality". It's up to us to determine which will be ours.

C. C. Redcloud

ECOLOGY BE DAMNED, SAYS BOSS

County Wins Powerline Ordinance; Defoliant Cancer in Rural Communities; Surface Mining on Prime Farmlands; Oil Drilling Threatens Water Supply; Lack of Water Will Depopulate the Mountains

Such headlines are but a sampling of what one sees in magazines and periodicals that are anywhere left of center, and can also be seen in the standard print media under more obscure banners. The continuing ecological disaster takes at best third place after war and politics in the mass media. If the sports pages were not toward the back section of the paper or at the tail end of the TV newscasts, the question of ecological crisis might be completely ignored. The biggest copy goes to the politicians and the spot announcements, loudly insisting that everything is hunky-dory with the natural resources.

Mainly the standard media exhort us to put our sentimentality aside, as the country needs the resources badly in order to compete with those greasy Arabs and shiftier Orientals, and claim that at present, in order to keep the economy from getting worse, there should be fewer efficiency-crippling restrictions imposed on this country's manufacturers.

Despite the fact that the Environmental Protection Agency is an arm of the same government that does not want to lean too much on the polluters, this agency nevertheless listed over 160,000 contaminated pits, ponds, and lagoons all of which pose a threat to the groundwater. It is a sad fact that more people see the spot commercial of Commonwealth Edison's well-kept trees and lakes each night than read the EPA's yearly findings. Con Ed cons the TV addicts into thinking that they are concerned for the ecology, and that if it's on television, it's gotta be so.

While our conditioning apparatuses, from kindergarten up, have extolled individual initiative and cited the American farmer as a shining example, those farmers who have not been foreclosed or otherwise gobbled up by agribusiness are going broke, depleting what is left of this land's resources. According to the American Farmland Trust: "Some three million acres are being lost every year to inappropriate development. That's twelve square miles a day converted to subdivisions, industrial parks, and

public works. Soil erosion is claiming the equivalent of another million acres every growing season, with over five billion tons of topsoil being blown or washed away annually. Driven by economic hardship, American farmers are pushing the land to its limits and beyond."

While it may be appealing to certain quarters to be able to have military and technological superiority over other parts of the World, the food has to come from the land that is being rendered useless for food-producing purposes.

The mad rush to compete in the global marketplace has additional drawbacks, of which the following is but one example: The State Office Building in Binghamton, New York has been a headache since February 1981, when a fire originating in an electrical panel spread to a transformer containing 1100 gallons of polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB), a very hazardous substance. Despite a cost of twelve million dollars, the cleanup is still not complete. Because laws had required transformers to be cooled with PCB until 1979, this hazard exists in most buildings built before 1980.

This entire publication could be filled for several issues with examples such as these of what the present economic system is doing to our planet. It is not solely restricted to capitalism of the free-enterprise variety, but applies to the "people's republic" variety as well. Under our present global mismanagement, the sale value of natural resources takes precedence over their use value.

No matter how much our manipulators exhort us not to put too many restrictions on those who deplete our global bounty, with each tract of natural landscape that is rendered useless, and with each waterway that becomes unfit for any form of life, the cost of our daily necessities becomes increasingly higher, and our labor power daily becomes more and more an outright gift to the employing classes. If we who produce the wealth of this World do not take things into our own hands, we deserve nothing better than having our accumulated works of art and literature left to the cockroaches, termites, and stinkbugs!

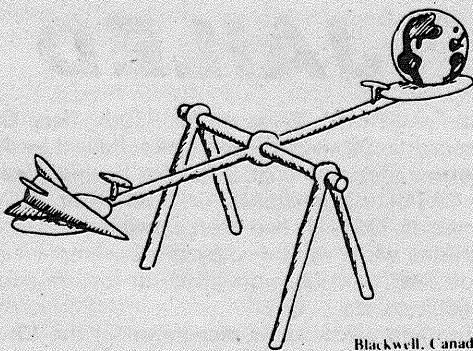
Alfredo Nuberoja

WORKERS CAN BUILD PEACE

Suppose governments were to invest their defense appropriations in training their people how *not* to co-operate with an invader. What then would be the chance of getting invaded?

The idea is not new. Newbold, a British military expert, came out with it shortly after World War Two. He had concluded that the geographic situation of Britain made it a sitting duck in any nuclear war, and in looking for ways to prevent such a fate he took note of the non-co-operation practiced in Norway to resist the Nazi invasion. He felt that that was a good start which could be greatly improved. He judged that if some of the technical expertise that goes into warfare were to go instead into teaching the general populace how to make an invading force unhappy, and into making them aware that their real enemies were the folks who had sent it there, invasion just wouldn't pay. In Norway the invaders had been made very unhappy, through chemical and mechanical ploys as well as through the Norwegians' main weapon: psychological warfare.

Why attack except to invade and exploit? No one domesticates wasps.



Blackwell, Canada

★ EDUCATION ★ ORGANIZATION ★ EMANCIPATION



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

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THE FINAL DEADLINE FOR ALL COPY IS
THE SECOND WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH

WANT TO BE TAPED ?

The tape recorder is preserving participant recollections of the labor movement on a large scale today. To add to the supply of taped interviews, and also to act as "a central depository and comprehensive directory of available material", the Oral History of the American Left has been organized at Taminent University, quartered in New York University. The slant of its directors: "We think the history of the American Left has suffered from a too-heavy emphasis on a handful of prominent leaders. In order to better understand the vital traditions of American radicalism, we hope to learn directly from those who actively helped shape them."

Independently from that, Fellow Worker William Ward has been taping recollections of American soldiers who were stationed in Russia at the end of World War One and resisted being used against the efforts of the Russian people to emancipate themselves. Now he contemplates a book of interviews to record the hopes and recollections of IWW members here active not only in the long ago, but also in the '60s and '70s.

If you have something you would like to get down on tape in these connections, write to the Chicago office of the IWW with a line about the situations you would like to record.

Sex & Employment

The plain statistics on unemployment rates in the US in the spring of 1983 seem to show women a little better off than men:

adult women	9.2%	adult men	10.1%
white women	8.1%	white men	9.2%
black women	16.2%	black men	20.5%

But you have to delve deeper into the statistics to reveal the whole picture. Women who maintain families suffer an unemployment rate of slightly more than 13%. This group "has had a sharp increase in unemployment", according to Samuel Ehrenhalt, regional commissioner for the US Bureau of Labor Statistics. The number of women maintaining families on their own, with no spouse present, has more than doubled over the last two decades, from 4.5 million in 1960 to 9.7 million in 1982. Female-headed households represent only 15% of all families, but half of all poor families.

Unemployment is computed by dividing the number of persons who are jobless and looking for work by the total number in the work force. Not included are those who are now working part-time but want full-time jobs, and "discouraged workers" (those who have given up looking for work). Women make up 66% of "discouraged workers", and blacks make up 40%.

The lower unemployment rate (compared to men) that women are experiencing these days is a reversal of the situation in 1972 and 1973. In a typical example—in New Jersey for the month of September 1973—unemployment was 5.0% for men and 8.4% for women.

Ehrenhalt calls the present situation "a blue-collar recession", with men's unemployment rising faster than women's because manufacturing jobs are dwindling while pink-collar jobs (low-paying, stereotypically female jobs) have increased. The largest occupational group in the US used to be industrial production (construction, manufacturing, and mining). Today it is clerical—handling the paperwork in finance, government, insurance, real estate,

services, trade, and transportation.

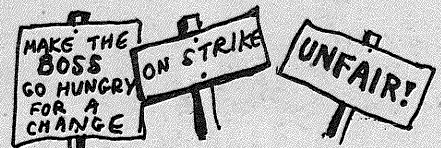
Despite this shift, job segregation by sex has persisted. Women's toehold on non-traditional jobs is crumbling. Between 1972 and 1979, women's employment in blue-collar jobs grew from 4.8 million to 6 million, or 25%. By 1982, women's blue-collar employment was back to the 1972 level. All the gains of the '70s have been wiped out. Only 1.9% of all employed women are skilled-craft workers, and of a total of 262,348 registered apprentices only 6,748, or 2.6%, are women.

One of the long-term trends in the economy is the disappearance of middle-level unskilled and semi-skilled jobs. With women losing ground in non-traditional jobs and the shrinking availability of good-paying manufacturing jobs, the possibility of using affirmative action as a strategy to improve women's position in the work force lessens. Ending the sex-segregated job market has usually been seen in terms of women integrating into higher-paying men's jobs. There seems to be no reason why men would want to push their way into lower-paying, dead-end jobs, in which one out of three full-time women workers earns less than \$7,000 a year.

If the present decline of blue-collar jobs continues, however, men and women could conceivably be competing for the same clerical jobs in the near future. The only precedent for this in US history took place at the end of World War Two, when demobilized soldiers sought women's factory jobs. Factories responded by laying off women workers wholesale, the Government closed down child-care centers, and the media took up the cry that women's place is in the home, economically dependent on their husbands. Many women fear that unless workers and the unemployed stand together to build a full-employment society, US women may again be forced out of paid work.

Meanwhile, there are officially 12 million jobless people in the US, the stock market soars, and the employing class rejoices over falling interest rates.

plp



AMERICAN LABOR ROUNDUP

Airline Pilots at Eastern Airlines voted by a narrow majority to postpone \$30 million in wage increases for a year; but when they learned that Machinists had gotten sizable increases, they wanted to "reconsider". Now the Pilots have negotiated debt securities that they estimate will give them 21% ownership of Eastern and two reps on its board, and are submitting this to their membership along with more flying time and cuts in vacation. But what effect on passenger safety?

Clothing and Textile Workers have negotiated a new 25-month agreement for the 3500 J.P. Stevens employees in North and South Carolina for whom the union made its first agreement in 1980, after 17 years' litigation. It has also made an agreement covering non-economic issues only for another 500 Stevens employees in Wallace, North Carolina.

With a substantial inventory still in the hands of Caterpillar and its dealers, and the Government giving farmers grain back in return for growing less, the UAW ended its seven-month strike with a new 37-month contract at 10 plants in six states, affecting 21,000 who expect jobs back and another 15,000 laid off. The 11-cent cost-of-living increase they would have gotten if they hadn't gone on strike goes instead into the fund for Supplementary Unemployment Benefits. There will be a 37-month wage freeze and profit sharing when "worldwide pre-tax earnings exceed 4.5% of return on average worldwide sales and net assets".

As of April 18th the Longshoremen's Union was able after a long wrangle between lawyers to enforce its previously negotiated right to require that its members stuff and strip containers anytime this work is done within 50 miles of an East Coast or Gulf port. Soon after that it negotiated a new three-year master agreement almost half a year ahead of time for 50,000 dockworkers (excluding Boston), raising pay a dollar an hour above the present \$14 for straight time. Companies gave in on an attempt to reduce the size of container gangs, and agreed to increase contributions to the union pension fund by 25¢ an hour each year—an increase from the present \$3 an hour to \$3.75.

Beverly Enterprises is the largest nursing-home operator in the US, yet two thirds of its employees have been getting less than \$4.03 an hour. Now the Service Employees and the Food and Commercial Workers are making a joint effort to organize them, and are also conducting a public campaign to improve the care of patients as well as the lot of workers. At the last stockholder meeting of Beverly Enterprises, the unions got 10% of the votes for their proposal to set up a panel to study the quality of patient care and to put a health-care expert on the Board of Directors.

Service Employees and 925 are launching a campaign among clerical and office workers in Southern Illinois and Missouri.

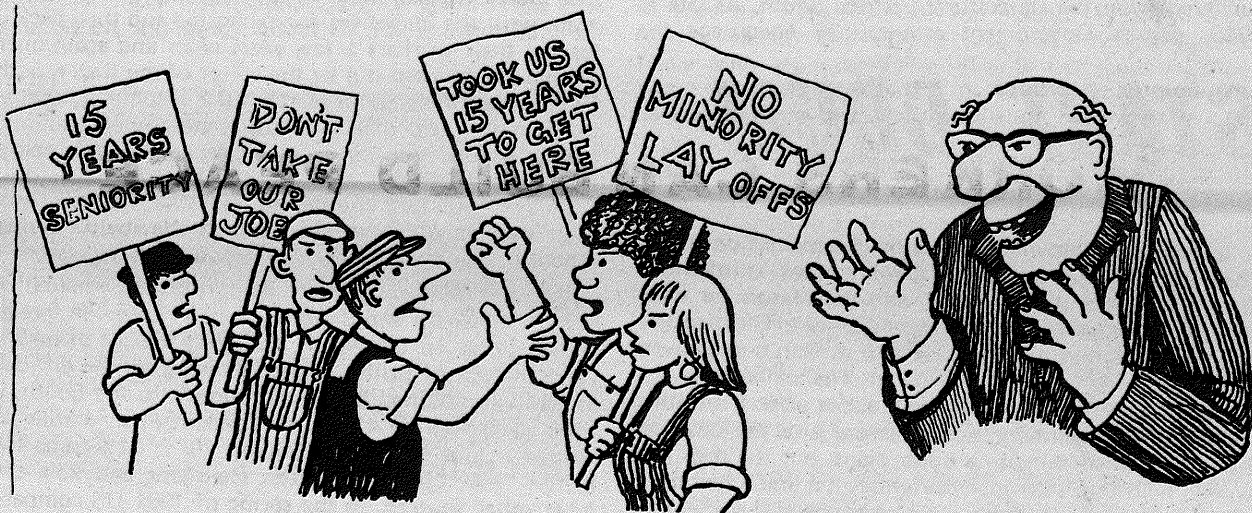
MCI (whose TV commercials offer you cheaper long-distance phone service) took over Western Union International from Xerox last year, and found that for the first time it had a union to deal with. MCI made \$86 million on sales of \$500 million last year, and doesn't want union members to dig into that.

Wilson Foods has filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy to escape its contract terms with Food and Commercial Workers at a dozen plants. A concessions contract was made in December 1981 freezing pay for 44 months, but Wilson wants to cut this rate by \$7.50 an hour. An earlier case before the Supreme Court raises the issue of whether bankruptcy proceedings free a corporation from its union contract obligations.

District 1139 has been elected to replace the Massachusetts Nurses Association by 3200 health professionals employed in 200 facilities around the state.

In Cleveland labor and social-service organizations have set up a Special Economic Response Team to give presentations at plants about to lay off workers. The Team will offer advice from the state employment bureau, consumer advisors, and mental-health experts on what layoffs may mean.

At its June 27th convention the Newspaper Guild will reconsider the plan to merge with the Typographical Union (ITU) into a proposed Media Workers' International Union. The proposal was ditched last year over dues arrangements and representation in the combined staff.



Nationalism Sows Disunity

There are some incidents that, like a searchlight in the night, outline the immensity of the task that those who believe in human solidarity have before them. They show the ever-confident leftist trumpeting of "imminent victory" and "rising struggles" to be nothing more than whistling past the graveyard. Such was the sad fragmentation of different demos, courtesy of brands X, Y, and Z of the Revolution, that happened with International Women's Day in New York. Such also was the rioting in northern New Brunswick, as New Brunswick workers went on a rampage against workers commuting from nearby Quebec.

The facts are fairly straightforward. The Quebec Government has legislation that prevents workers living outside the province from finding employment in Quebec. New Brunswick has no such law, and a few Quebecois truckers have found jobs hauling wood across the border, in northern New Brunswick. Truckers have been gathering for the last few weeks on the bridge at Campbellton, New Brunswick, and they have succeeded in stopping these shipments. Meanwhile, unemployment is running about 40% in the area, and people are on edge.

When the wood shipments were stopped, unemployed workers began to taunt Quebecois commuting to work in New Brunswick. This went on for about a week until, last March 29th, demonstrators at the bridge drove 30 kilometers to an airport at Charlo, where provincial Cabinet ministers were to meet them to hear their complaints. The Cabinet ministers never showed, and the violence began.

The workers attacked and overturned an RCMP car at the airport. They then boarded cars and began to work their way back to Campbellton. Along the way they attacked the Fraser Incorporated pulp and paper mill. Here they overturned four cars with Quebec license plates and broke into the company offices, throwing filing cabinets through the windows. Other lumber-company property was attacked, and a truck-scale building along the highway was burned. Lumber trucks were overturned on the streets of towns in the area.

The Government, of course, responded to this violence far more swiftly than it had to the 40% unemployment. Reinforcements from six RCMP divisions were brought in. Next morning about 200 of the estimated 500 rioters of the day before tried to shut down the Quebec/New Brunswick bridge, but they were dispersed by an RCMP riot squad. New Brunswick labor minister Joe Mombourquette suddenly found the time to fly in and hear the workers' grievances.

The violence was not a racial matter. Northern New Brunswickers are French-speaking Acadians, not English-. A lot of the workers' anger was directed at the lumber companies (New Brunswick is something like a huge company town, controlled by super-capitalist Irving), but few could deny that this was anger whose primary target was Quebecois workers. The companies were attacked not for their actions against all workers, but because they hired Quebec workers instead of New Brunswick men.

This was the sad thing. In another situation, what the New Brunswick men did could be looked on as an admirable show of the strength to fight back. In this case, it was instead an indication of just how well the ruling class's propaganda has worked. North American workers blame Japanese or German workers for their economic problems, and their unions cry out for protectionist legislation to "beggar our neighbor". Even within nation states themselves, politicians manage to pass the buck onto "damn foreigners" from other parts of the country. New Brunswick is hardly unique in this. Here out west we have one of the favorite occupations of Alberta politicians: grinding out stories about how "damn Easterners" are coming and stealing all the jobs—in addition to committing all the crimes!

Let's do our best to counter this sort of lie. It isn't the ordinary people of other countries, other provinces or states, other cities, or other blocks who are responsible for our problems. The villain lies elsewhere.

P. M.

SUBSCRIBE!!

(Trade) Unionism in Ireland

Organized labor in Ireland is in a rather paradoxical situation. In the 26 counties of Southern Ireland in 1975, 55% of all workers (33% of all female workers and 68% of all male workers) were unionized, ranking Ireland fifth among the European Economic Community countries in percentage of work-force unionization. The '60s and '70s saw an upsurge of white-collar unionism, particularly among teachers and bank workers. Unionized and militant (in all of Europe only the Italians are more likely to strike), organized labor yet seems to lack influence. Some of this may be due to the high unemployment (officially 15%), and some to the fragmentation of the labor movement.

Women in Southern Ireland make 55% of men's wages. Until recently, the civil service fired women employees as soon as they got married, although single women were allowed to have one "illegitimate" child before being obliged to resign. Many private employers still fire their female employees upon marriage, thereby keeping turnover high enough to ensure no buildup in seniority or benefit claims.

In the six counties of Northern Ireland, the percentage of workers in labor unions is slightly higher than in Britain but slightly lower than in the South. However in a statelet based on religious discrimination to maintain British rule, labor unionism is warped into the prevailing pattern of sectarianism. Loyalist-Protestant preoccupation with advantages over the nationalist-Catholic section of the work force defangs labor as a force against capital. Despite low wages and increasing layoffs/redundancies, strikes are rare. Between 1960 and 1973, the average number of strike days per thousand employees in Northern Ireland was 253, compared with 602 in Southern Ireland and 288 in Britain. Overall unemployment in the North is currently over 20% (28% according to trade-union figures), but it is very unevenly spread across religious groups and geographical regions, with about half the adult population jobless in nationalist areas.

The origins of the Irish trade-union movement lie in British-based craft unionism. Trade unionism surged forward with the founding of the Irish Transport Workers

Union by James Larkin in 1909. Membership was soon opened to all workers, and the union was renamed the Irish Transport and General Workers Union (ITGWU), with James Connolly as its Ulster organizer and secretary. In 1912 Larkin and Connolly were instrumental in the founding of the Labor Party in Ireland.

The partition of Ireland split the unions and the Labor Party into northern and southern organizations. Although the Irish Trade Union Congress, set up in 1894, did not split, northern influence in it waned. In 1927 only 17% of the delegates were from the North, compared to 32% in 1901. Throughout the South, large numbers of trade unions whose headquarters were in Britain fragmented, creating Irish-based unions that often existed side by side with the original union on the same job.

Trade unionism in Southern Ireland was also torn with internal feuds. Larkin, returning home from an eight-and-a-half-year stay in America in 1923 (he had been the main speaker at Joe Hill's funeral and had served time in Sing Sing for criminal anarchy), split from the existing leadership of the ITGWU and founded the Workers Union of Ireland in 1925. By 1960 there were 123 unions in Southern Ireland, with 84 of them having a membership of less than a thousand and many of them given to disputes over demarcation and membership "poaching".

About this time the Irish Congress of Trade Unions (ICTU) was created by the Amalgamation of the Irish Trade Union Congress and the Congress of Irish Unions—itsself formed out of the breakaway of the ITGWU and 10 other Irish-based unions from the Irish Trade Union Congress in 1945. The ICTU consists of both Northern and Southern unions, though delegates from Southern unions (about 75% of the total) vote only on Southern issues, and Northern delegates vote only on Northern issues. The Northern Ireland Committee (NIC) of the ITUC and the parent body itself are for all practical purposes separate organizations with paper unity at the top.

When Ireland was partitioned in 1922, the more industrialized but still primarily agricultural Northeast was sundered from the agricultural/pastoral South. As late as 1946, despite Government attempts to encourage the

growth of industry behind traffic barriers, agriculture accounted for 47% of the total employment in Southern Ireland, service for 36%, and industry for 17%. Even that 17% represented few big factories. In 1958 only 40 concerns outside the public service had more than 500 employees. Industry in the North was highly specialized around linen weaving, shipbuilding, and engineering, at first still under the control of the local bourgeoisie. Workers in Northern Ireland, although concentrated in a very few industries, were, like Southern workers, much divided by unions: 78% were members of British-based unions with branches in the North, 8% members of Southern-based unions with branches in the North, and 14% members of unions based in the North.

The Government of Northern Ireland, a single-party state run for and by the landed aristocracy, missed no opportunity to pit groups of workers against each other. Throughout the '30s Government officials urged employers to fire Catholics and hire Protestants in their places, and large numbers of Catholics were sacked or intimidated off their jobs. The NIC (the Northern Ireland Committee of the ITUC) was initially regarded with suspicion by the Government of Northern Ireland, both because of a general conservative antagonism toward labor and because of the NIC's ties, however nominal, to the ICTU as an all-Ireland body. But in 1964 the NIC was formally recognized by the Northern Ireland Government. The hidden price of this legitimization was to mesh trade unionism into the institutionalized sectarianism of the Northern Ireland economy.

By the mid '60s both the Northern and Southern Governments had abandoned any attempts to protect local capitalism and were actively encouraging foreign investment via "tax holidays", incentives, and cash grants. The basis of these investments has been that profits, not jobs, are ultimately subsidized. Industrial incentives are mainly capital grants encouraging capital-intensive investments. Thus new plants create very few new jobs, and investments in existing plants often result in a net loss of jobs. The incentives also draw fly-by-night ventures which operate until the incentives are exhausted and then pack up, leaving their workers a few years older and again unemployed. As pointed out by the editor of the Irish monthly *Business and Finance* in March 1972, a company that sets up with the help of a 40% Irish Development Authority grant, borrows the rest from an American bank, sells all its output on export markets, and pays no taxes on its profits contributes nothing to the Irish economy other than keeping a few workers out of the *borstal* (reform school).

Between 40% and 50% of manufacturing employment in both Northern and Southern Ireland is now in foreign-owned firms. In the North, the great weight of new investment was of British origin (allowing for the difficulty in labeling multinational corporations). In the South, US firms accounted for 42% of the investment generating new industrial jobs between 1960 and 1974; 21% came from Britain, 14% came from West Germany, and 23% came from other sources. In the spring of 1981 US companies were reaping the highest return on investment in Southern Ireland that they got anywhere in Europe—an average of nearly 30%.

Northern Ireland, as a separate unit, is much more export-oriented than neighboring economies, as the province itself is not large enough to provide much of a market for finished goods, and the border separates it from the rest of Ireland. Taking the value of exports as a percentage of Gross National Products in 1967, Northern Ireland exports accounted for 70% (55% to Britain, 15% to other countries). Comparative figures for other countries were Southern Ireland 25%, Britain 14%, the Netherlands 34%.

On the whole the Irish economies on opposite sides of the border have tended to converge, if only in the sense of leveling down. The decline of the main traditional industries in the North led to direct financial dependence on Britain and to the growth of state intervention in the economic system. In the South, the failure to establish an independent national economy capable of withstanding competition on the world market led to an end of protectionism and to re-integration into the British market with the Free Trade Agreement of 1965. In an attempt to avert stagnation and economic decline, both the Northern and Southern Governments adopted similar policies of attracting foreign investments through financial inducements. Differences in economic policy were further eroded by the entry of both parts of Ireland into the EEC in the early '70s.

Multinational interest in Ireland has been greatly weakened in the last several years by the international economic recession and the fall-off in world trade. In the South the Government's policy of subsidizing capital investment through increased taxation has resulted in greatly increased debts, while unemployment and the rate of inflation continue to climb. In the North the economic outlook is no less gloomy. As workers in both parts of Ireland are exploited by international capital, workers on both sides of the border must fight capital as a unit. The seeming paradox of Ireland is that while only a United Irish working class can resist the employing class in its national and international manifestations, the working class remains riven by national/loyalist conflicts under the color of religion as long as Ireland remains in its semi-colonial condition.

SOUND OF A DISTANT DRUM

Fortunate is the State whose citizens find a worthy and harmless outlet for their frustrations. In an age when society can count its unemployed by the millions, when social services for the old, the sick, and the hungry are being destroyed, it is good for the State to watch its citizens using their public State holiday marching by the tens of thousands not to protest social inequities, but to Ban the Bomb.

This is a protest peculiar to no particular class, so in the cheerful bannered parades Scrooge and Tiny Tim and Little Nell, Jesus and Judas can march side by side, and come sundown we can all go home saturated in a self-righteous glow.

I have marched on every Ban the Bomb march from the first in Trafalgar Square all those long years ago. For my reason has told me that the human race has now moved into that area of time warp when, like the electric light bulb, nuclear weapons are an inevitable product of a certain course of action. And while one might have a nostalgic desire for a return of the tallow candle and the bow and arrow, the bomb cannot be marched away. Only by eliminating the causes of international conflicts can it be defeated.

NO WASH-UP TIME

In Britain's Motown 5,000 workers came out on strike. They were the car workers at Cowley plant, an offshoot of British Leyland's car plant, and the reason for their strike was not money but "human dignity". The management believed that with a rising four million unemployed in Britain, they held the iron hand. The walkout by the workers—men and women—came about after frustrating months when a director openly swore at a workman on the line. A small thing in a noisy plant, but the men and women held that after many promises the union had done nothing. The final moment came when the men and women of Cowley felt that they had to take their own action against management and union top brass after the Cowley management stated that they were ending "washing-up time"—the three minutes allowed the workers at the end of their shift and before mealtime to wash their hands.

Since the walkout the Cowley work force have been driven back, and only car worker Raymond Farley will not be returning to work, because he committed suicide as a final act of despair.

Arthur Moyse, London

US Illiteracy

Increases

Some 23,000,000 Americans—one out of every five adults—are functionally illiterate, lacking the reading and writing skills necessary to cope in modern society.

An Adult Performance Level project at the University of Texas in Austin found that one out of three adults in the US could not read a bus schedule, determine how much money had been deducted from their paychecks, or match personal characteristics with job requirements listed in a help-wanted ad.

Illiteracy often accompanies poverty, social marginality, and political powerlessness. Some 56% of Hispanics and 44% of blacks in this country are considered functionally illiterate, compared to 16% of whites. Women are more likely to be illiterate than men, and rural areas have more illiteracy than towns and cities. High illiteracy rates are blamed on many things, including poor schools, poor guidance in the home, and the influence of TV and phone calls replacing books and letter writing. But whatever the causes, illiteracy takes both a high personal and a high economic toll—the human cost of isolation, alienation, and a sense of helplessness.

WHAT TIME IS IT?



IRISH NOTES

Ireland used to be something of an investor's paradise: Just imagine having your pick of a colony and a banana republic; the usual tax havens, subsidies, and special police; and—get this—regular elections to boot. But alas, times change. The latest survey of multinational investors finds the six counties of Northern Ireland a close second (to Greece) as the worst investment site in Western Europe. One American executive said his colleagues would think he'd "gone mad" for even considering Northern Ireland. I suspect his concern has something to do with the Irish guerrilla leaders who keep getting elected to parliament. Colony or no colony, that's no way to run a democracy.

The Irish Republic (the southern 26 counties) came in 10th on the investors' survey. But I'm sure this is just a temporary dip in popularity—nothing the Government won't be able to patch up with a little belt tightening. You see, the problem is that we've been "overspending", "living beyond our means". So with unemployment running up around 15% (officially), and those still at work needing about a 20% wage boost just to stay even with inflation, the Government has called for a six-month wage freeze just to get the "public sector" negotiations rolling. And the icing on their cake? Well, surprisingly enough, it's exactly the same thing the Federated Union of Employers has on offer for "private sector" employees—a whopping 5% wage boost for the year.

And the stimulus for this frugality? Who better to explain things than the Labour Party leader himself: "Every family in this country owes over 2,000 pounds to a foreign bank." Good old Dick Spring, latest leader of the party dedicated to "an all-Ireland workers' republic based on socialist principles". [Editor's note: The Labour Party is currently allied with the conservative Fine Gael Party in an anti-Fianna Fail Party coalition government. In practice, there is little difference between the three major political parties in Southern Ireland on social or economic issues.]

And the occasion of Spring's speech? Following in the footsteps of Connolly and Larkin, rallying massive resistance to the jailing of the Ranks workers? Well, not exactly. Actually Dick was explaining why his Government's budget features a 1.51-pound tax on a gallon of gas (one pound equals 100 pence: about \$1.30), another 50 or 60



LITERACY IN LATIN AMERICA

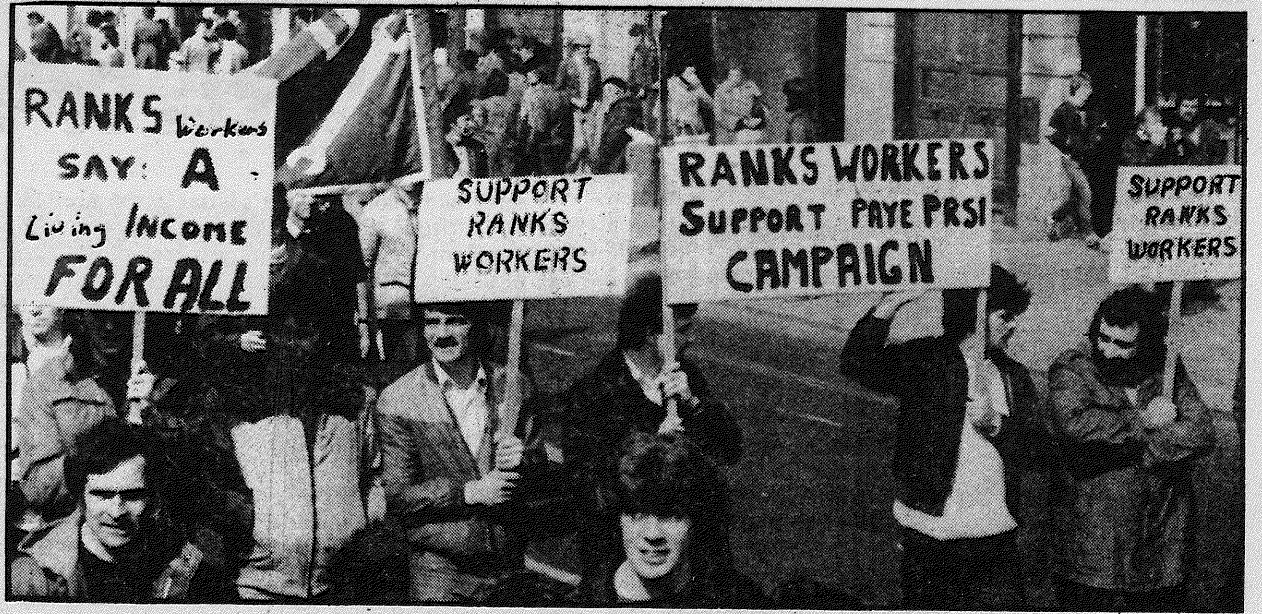
The two most successful literacy campaigns in the Third World have been waged in Cuba, which reduced illiteracy from more than 20% to less than 5% in 1961, and in Nicaragua, which cut its rate from about 50% to less than 14% in 1980. The success of the Cuban and Nicaraguan campaigns has been confirmed by UNESCO.

About three years ago, bent on proving that capitalism can be just as effective in reaching illiterates, Venezuelan businessmen started their own program, aimed at the 1.2 million adults in the country who cannot read or write. The main tool of the Venezuelan program is intensive radio and television advertising, unlike the Cuban and Nicaraguan campaigns, which used mass mobilizations of urban volunteers to teach the rural poor. The vocabulary in the Venezuelan primers is carefully non-revolutionary. "F" in our program is for 'familia', not 'fusil' (rifle)," reports one businessman.

Even the Venezuelan Government has admitted that the businessmen's program has made disappointing progress, perhaps due in part to the insipid vocabulary in the primers. According to Brazilian educator Paulo Freire and other literacy experts, use of emotionally-charged words like "hunger" and "land" stimulates enthusiasm to learn. But even more importantly, the Venezuelan program deliberately divorces literacy from what Freire calls "consciousness"—an understanding of one's power to change the world. The great success of the Cuban and Nicaraguan programs derives from the fact that they encourage students to feel they can make a difference and are involved in a larger social transformation. Raising political consciousness and acquiring literacy are thus part of the same process.

In Venezuela there is no reason for pupils to believe that literacy will increase their power to shape events. Instead, the Venezuelan businessmen seem to be trying to train people to be better recipients of messages, whether from employers, politicians, or commercial advertisers. And a lot of Venezuelan illiterates are not buying it.

(adapted from Volume 236, Number 18 of *The Nation*)



Ex-employees of the Ranks flour mills who have been occupying the company's mills in Philsboro and Limerick, Ireland have escalated their demands from better redundancy/severance pay to a government take-over of the mills, as the workers at the Clondalkin Paper Mills succeeded in winning after an 18-month occupation. The

Ranks workers are lobbying for official recognition of their action by their union, the Irish Transport and General Workers Union, and have joined the campaign against the inequalities in the Irish taxation system, particularly in the PAYE-payroll deduction taxes.

pence on a pint of Guinness [Editor's note: Ireland sober is Ireland free], hefty slashes in social-welfare benefits, and a special added feature for the growing unemployed sector: a 10-pound application fee for all Government jobs.

Now don't misunderstand me. It's not that Dick or the other Labour ministers have anything against workers. It's just a matter of priorities. If we are ever to achieve socialism, we must first convince the multinationals that the Irish people will make any sacrifice to provide profitable investment opportunities. This simple fact of life is of course fully appreciated by the Labour Party leaders and their colleagues atop the major Irish trade unions. The problem comes in explaining it to the workers.

Take the Ranks dispute, for instance. Here we have a clear demonstration of the priorities. You see, Ranks Flour Mills are subsidiaries of a British-based multinational. To keep profits tidy during the recession, Ranks decided to lop off a third of their Irish workers—not without compensation, of course. One Dublin employee was offered a solid 5,000 pounds for his 44 years at the Mills: take it or leave it. And the voluntary redundancy (layoff) agreement Ranks had already signed with the

workers? Well, you know how the stock market is.

Getting no support from their union, the workers decided it was time for a little direct action. When Ranks tried to close down their Dublin mill in early February, they found it occupied. Within a week, 14 workers were carted off to Mountjoy Jail. And why not? You know what happened last time the Government backed down on an industrial sit-in. They ended up buying the goddamn plant: Clondalkin Paper Mills. Just think of all that money wasted on jobs when it could have gone straight to Chase Manhattan. Or was it the World Bank?

So the Ranks workers ended up in jail. But their wives didn't. They held the mill and took to the streets as well. Faced with work stoppages and nationwide protest marches, the officials of the Irish Transport General Workers Union decided maybe they'd better have a chat with the Government after all. Today the Ranks workers are out of jail and back holding the mill.

L. O'Neill, Dublin County

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.



"SEE ANY OF THEM OUTSIDE AGITATORS?"

THE MORE THINGS CHANGE....

US Marines occupied Nicaragua from 1912 to 1925. Invoking the Bolshevik menace to hemispheric security, President Coolidge sent the Marines back to Nicaragua in 1927 to rescue a Washington-installed government from rebels led by one Augusto Sandino, who fought them to a bloody standoff. The Marines were not withdrawn till 1933, by which time the Somoza dictatorship and its national guard were installed. In 1979, of course, the last Somozan was overthrown by rebels naming themselves after Sandino. It is these Sandinistas that Reagan is now trying to bring to heel by sending "covert" CIA aid to the *contras* (including Somocistas, former Somoza national guardsmen) fighting them. If the word "enquagmired" ever catches on, remember you read it first in the *Industrial Worker*.

RALPH NADER URGES RESISTANCE TO MULTINATIONAL THREAT

(The following is a synopsis of a speech which Ralph Nader gave at the Native Resource Control and Multinational Challenge conference held in Washington DC in late 1982. The original was printed in Volume 14, Number 6 of *Akwesasne Notes*, published by the Mohawk Nation via Rooseveltown, New York 13683.)

Ralph Nader urges us to recognize that the multinational corporation is now flinging itself out of control—that it corrupts governments and societies because it has much more power than responsibility to go with it. The entire measurement of its activities is based on the stricured value system of maximizing the dollar; it is not curbed by an accountability to any other human values.

To demonstrate the awesome power of the multinationals, Nader cites Exxon's gross of 106 billion dollars per year, a gross bigger than that of a lot of countries. The techniques Exxon uses to wield power are many; they include bribery, the use of State Department embassies as their business agents, and collusion with the CIA to the extent that their purposes are sometimes indistinguishable from those of the CIA.

Multinational corporations are a threat to Third World countries because they can penetrate faster into remote areas of the world, and because Third World countries have to rely on the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, which often demand concessions in the development of natural resources before they will issue credit.

Nader says a major multinational corporate strategy toward indigenous and Third World peoples is to limit the area of conflict and impact, which leaves victims completely exposed in all areas of their lives while the multinationals, operating world-wide, are exposing only one of their tentacles. So the counter-response, Nader proposes, has to involve opening up other fronts completely separate from the one most concerned: When the multinationals reach into your area, you have to reach into their areas and challenge them where they don't expect you to. The idea is to increase the price and risk corporations have to pay for doing what they want to do in any area.

Nader stresses the importance of delaying tactics in fighting back, citing the usefulness of Environmental Impact statements in the US in giving potential pollution victims time to form a counter-strategy. You have to develop information networks, he urges. If people want to find out about the environmental records of DuPont or Aluminum Corporation of America or Reynolds, for instance, they can. When DuPont was going into Australia, Nader's *Multinational Monitor* revealed information which gave the lie to DuPont's claim that it had a good environmental record in the US. Australians then had information to back up their response to DuPont.

Nader says there's a need to increase the velocity of information about multinationals, and that *Multinational Monitor* magazine tries to meet that need. He also urges a set of advisory committees—such as legal, scientific, and health advisories—to link the indigenous or Third World cause with advisory committees in the home country of the multinationals.

Information connections, advisory-committee connections, and media connections must be tied in, Nader says. For instance if uranium is being mined, it's important that you be able to instantly obtain accurate material on radon gas and on how tailings contaminate water and emit cancerous gasses. You shouldn't have to wait five or ten years before you have more than just suspicions; you should have the best specialists in the world able to support your case, testify, and release information to the media so that it can be widely disseminated.

Multinationals, Nader warns, are good at selling a better life to people whose lands and minerals are used. One of their techniques is to establish public-health standards where they didn't exist before. They may build roads or buildings which stand out, but Nader says that while a few people in the community may get wealthy, an extractive economy initiated by outside forces uniformly has enormous destructive effects: It destroys culture, breaks down kinship structures and values, and brings contamination and loss of the subsistence base with an accompanying dependence on cash economy—the boom-and-bust syndrome.

Nader urges us to remember that dictatorships connected with new technologies can become much more pervasive dictatorships, more cruel than ever before. For indigenous and Third World people he sees the need for home-grown institutions dealing with natural resources and production for real human needs at a local level. The real issue at stake in the fight against the multinational corporations, Nader points out, is genocide—nothing less!

Our Readers Write

Dear *Industrial Worker*:

I agree with Morgan Miller's letter in the April IW about the IWW attitude toward the electoral struggle. Also, while the comment from the editors was technically correct, it was misleading. The IWW does not prohibit its members from voting or belonging to political parties (as long as they are not party officials). On the other hand, the IWW is on record as taking the position that these are ineffective activities and that the true path to emancipation is industrial organization for direct action.

I could go into a long list of IWW resolutions, educational materials, and slogans to back this up. The most significant of these would be the 1908 decision to drop the "political" organizing phrase from the IWW Preamble. But for the sake of brevity I will just quote from an IWW pamphlet still in use by the union, *The General Strike*: "Political action as a method of obtaining control of the machinery of production seems also peculiarly unconvincing. Only the most naive of politically-minded revolutionists believe that the ballot or constitutional amendments will induce the Vested Interests to give over control and title to the privately owned machinery of production." (Page 9)

For the OBU, Jeff Stein

A REPLY

Yes, folks, it's true: We have little faith in the idea of someone else "representing" you, be it through the NLRB or through the Government. But the IWW makes no effort to direct the political efforts of the membership. "Direct action" is our line. What matters is that the IWW and all its members are committed to supporting peoples' direct control of their lives.

Dave Tucker

FELLOW WORKER ROBOT

Robots are big news. Robotization is displacing many human workers at repetitive and dangerous occupations. Japan alone has over 76,700 at work. It is even predicted that "intelligent" assembly robots will be perfected within 10 years. This will make possible completely unmanned factories—in which the entire factory will be a gigantic integrated installation—by the 1990s. No wonder there's a "silent uneasiness" among the Japanese workers.

Unfortunately, the robots have already overwhelmed us. Only they're not "intelligent" silicon life, but intelligent carbon life. What else could you call a human being that does a job which can be done better by a machine? During Studs Terkel's interviews of workers, the most common description of their jobs—by both blue-collar and white-collar workers—was "I'm a robot."

This description of themselves as robots is more apt than they realize, for the word "robot" had its genesis in human form. In days of old, when knights were bold, the Czech serfs worked like slaves for their lords. The compulsory labor they performed was called "robota", and a serf was a "robotnik". So when the Czech dramatist Karel Capek wrote a play which featured mechanical men in 1921 (38 years before the first industrial robot prototype), he cleverly invented the word "robot". He intended this to mean "an externally manlike device capable of performing some human tasks or behaving in a certain human manner". Capek's play *RUR* (*Rossum's Universal Robots*) was performed in New York in 1922, and the word "robot" was soon assimilated into English.

The play *RUR* is a satire on mechanization, with the moral that freeing humans from labor eventually weakens and destroys them. The plot is simple. The bosses buy robots which do all of the work, and the robots rebel against their masters and exterminate them (perhaps proving once and for all that workers can live without bosses, but bosses can't live without workers).

Capek probably foresaw that "robot" would also come to mean "a person who works mechanically without original thought". For as early as 70 years before, John Ruskin had decried the effects of the division of labor: "It is not, truly speaking, the labour that is divided, but the men: divided into mere segments of men—broken into small fragments and crumbs of life...." But it was left to Fritz Lang's chillingly prophetic 1926 movie *Metropolis* to frankly warn of the robot's dual nature: "We have made machines out of men. Now I will make men out of machines," the evil scientist Rotwang boasts.

The bosses "love" their robots, just as the lords "loved" their serfs. Funny thing about those lords: After the end of the Hapsburg monarchy and the redistribution of the great estates under the Republic of Czechoslovakia in 1919, they aren't around anymore. It is satisfying to note that even the self-styled "Archduchess" Maria Hapsburg is today no better off than the third-generation-American descendant of robotniky who is writing this.

This didn't happen by accident. In Chicago, at the eastern end of the midway near Jackson Park, there is a statue of a rustic knight on horseback called "The Knight of Blanik" (from a Czech legend). Thousands of people

RESPONSE TO "STRIKING TIMES"

Several readers have responded to the "Striking Times" article in our May issue. This article publicized a strike against a newspaper owned by members of the Democratic Socialists of America. Here is one of the letters.

To Detroit Metro Times
2111 Woodward
Detroit, Michigan 48201

Dear DSA members,

I have received my copy of the *Industrial Worker*, and to my surprise I found your labor-management situation.... As a DSA member, Albuquerque contact in the Democratic left, and carrier of an IWW red card, I find your actions flatly out of tune with your membership in DSA. Hiring scab workers to break a strike is a purely capitalist action. Paying scabs more wages borders on fascism. End the hiring of strike breakers! Pay a living wage and decent benefits. I plan to bring this to the attention of the National DSA office and the National Executive Committee. You make me sick. You give DSA a bad reputation. Perhaps you belong in a neo-nazi or at least a Republican party. Please contact me if you can somehow defend your actions.

Yours in the strikers' solidarity
Ralph Richardson
An enraged DSA'er

WORKERS' CULTURE

Communication Workers have commissioned a play titled *Lineman and Sweet Lightning*, by Union Sister Productions. Its premiere was at the Kennedy Center, and it will be presented at the union's convention in Los Angeles in June. It's about the relations of telecommunications workers to one another during an organizing campaign.

Other recent labor plays: Bob Hinkley has authored *Streetcars and Strikers*, a play with music about his union (ATU Division 618), and UE organizer Emanuel Fried has come out with two: *Dodo Bird and Drop Hammer*.

In a half-hour film titled *One Voice*, the Baltimore Steelworkers History Project tells the story of steel-union struggles in the Baltimore area from 1886 to 1941. The theme of the picture: Workers in a company town need an industry-wide union. The USWA is circulating the film along with an exhibit of blow-ups of related historical photos, and it will be on exhibit at Indiana University in Indianapolis throughout most of May and at Wayne State University in Detroit throughout most of June.

Some 40 unions have so far contributed over \$2 million to create the TV series "Made in USA"—ten films designed to cover the history of the US labor movement. The first film in the series to go into production will be a two-hour drama, *The Killing Floor*, on the 1919 Chicago meatpacking strike. Three other scripts have already been written: one on women workers in the Lowell textile mills of 150 years ago, one on the efforts of Gompers and McGuire to create the AFL, and one on the Homestead steel strike of 1892.

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 U.S., and dues are \$5 a month.

pass it every day with perhaps a cursory "What the hell is that supposed to be?" This statue is an allegorical tribute to Tomas G. Masaryk (1850-1937), the philosopher president-liberator of the Republic of Czechoslovakia. The son of servants, Masaryk spent much of his life defending the civil rights of Slavs, Jews, and the other *untermenschen* of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. Finally he decided that trying to reform the System was like butting his head against a brick wall—it did nothing to soften the wall. Masaryk came to the conclusion that: "No state, no society... can long endure, if it infringes the broad rules of human morality."

The bosses wouldn't understand Masaryk's conclusion, just as the lords didn't. But perhaps the Japanese fellow-worker robots are just beginning to. When you're given the choice between increasingly scarce robot work and no work, human morality is superseded by the freedom to starve.

Earl Divoky



SUSTAINING FUND

DONATIONS TO IW SUSTAINING FUND

(Received April 13th Through May 10th)

A. L. Nurse, Thompson Falls, Montana	125.00
Pete Posthumus, West Patterson, New Jersey	100.00
Seattle IWW	15.00
Shelby Shapiro, Agana, Guam	5.00
Paul Cigler, Two Rivers, Wisconsin	5.30
Storm Warning, Great Lakes	20.00
F. Marquart, Albuquerque, New Mexico	10.00
M. J. Luce, Youngstown, Ohio	1.00
Gordon Herman, Spokane, Washington	10.00
Jeff Stein, Champaign, Illinois	2.00
Michael Keown, Thousand Oaks, California	3.00
George La Forest, Rockford, Illinois	5.00
Jack Ujanen, Lake Worth, Florida	20.00
Switchman	10.00
Semel/Poulos, New York City	50.00
X330545, Illinois	30.00
George Gromm, New York City	25.00
TOTAL	426.30

1% CLUB DONATIONS TO IWW GENERAL FUND

A. L. Nurse, Thompson Falls, Montana	125.00
X330545, Illinois	130.00

Many thanks, fellow workers, for your generous support.

Preserve
the
future.



GIVE to the
sustaining fund!



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
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ARIZONA: Stan Jaroszinski, IW Distributor, 719 South 4th Avenue (5), Barrio Hacienda, Tucson, Arizona 85701.

BRITISH COLUMBIA: Vancouver IWW Group, Box 34334, Station D, Vancouver, B.C. V6J 4P3 or phone (604) 430-6605.

CALIFORNIA: San Diego IWW, Sandra Dutky, Delegate, 4472 Georgia, San Diego, California 92116, Phone (619) 296-9966.

San Francisco Bay Area General Membership Branch, Branch Secretary, PO Box 40485, San Francisco, California 94140; Richard Ellington, Delegate, 6448 Irwin Court, Oakland, California 94609, Phone (415) 658-0293.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA: IWW, PO Box 53243, Washington, DC 20007

GEORGIA: Elton Manzione, delegate, 726 Pulaski, Athens, Georgia 30601, phone (404) 353-1218.

IDAHO: IWW Delegate, Route 1, Box 137, Potlatch, Idaho 83855.

INDIANA: IWW Delegate, 520 West Smith, Bloomington, Indiana 47401.

IOWA: All Workers Organizing Committee, Box 382, Sioux Rapids, Iowa 50585

ILLINOIS: IWW, 3435 N. Sheffield, Chicago, Illinois 60657, Phone (312) 549-5045. Members meet first Sunday at one of members' homes. For information call hall or Fred Thompson at 227-3630. Champaign/Urbana IWW, Jeff Stein, Delegate, 1007 North Randolph, Champaign, Illinois 61820

KANSAS: IWW Delegate, PO Box 522, Wichita, Kansas 67201.

KENTUCKY: Louisville IWW Group, c/o Long, 1841 Sherwood Ave., Apt. 2, Louisville, KY 40205

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

MASSACHUSETTS: Boston General Membership Branch, Steve Kellerman, Branch Secretary, PO Box 454, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139. Meetings are held the first Sunday of each month. Phone 522-7090 or 524-0529.

MICHIGAN: IWW Delegate, 415 Ethel, Grand Rapids, Michigan 49506.

Ann Arbor/Detroit General Membership Branch, 400 North First Street, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48105.
U-Cellar IU 660 Job Branch, 341 East Liberty, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48107.

People's Wherehouse, IU 660 Branch, 727 West Ellsworth Road, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104.

Ann Arbor Printers' Co-op, IU 450, 4435 Liberty Road, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48103.

Copper Country IWW: Robin Oye, Delegate, 1101 Cottage Row, Hancock, Michigan 49930

MINNESOTA: Minneapolis/St. Paul IWW, Nancy Arthur Collins, Delegate, 1621 Marshall Avenue (3), St. Paul, Minnesota 55104

MONTANA: A. L. Nurse, Delegate, Route 5, Box 88, Thompson Falls, Montana 59874, 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 Eckhart St., Buffalo, New York 14207, Phone (716) 877-6073

Central New York General Membership Branch, Branch Secretary Andrea Barker, 201 Seeley Road, Apt. 4-H, Syracuse, New York 13224; Georgene McKown, Delegate, 117 Edgemere Road, Syracuse, New York 13208

New York Regional Membership Branch, PO Box 183, New York, New York 10028. Delegates: Rochelle Semel, 788 Columbus Ave., New York, New York 10025, Phone (212) 662-8801;

Pete Posthumus, 35 Williams Drive, West Paterson, New Jersey 07424; Branch Secretary: Jim Jahn, 252 West 91st St., New York, New York 10024, Phone (212) 496-8913

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OHIO: IWW Delegate, PO Box 47, Dayton, Ohio 45402

ONTARIO: Delegate: Brian Burch, 13 Kerr Road, Station 30, Toronto

PENNSYLVANIA: Philadelphia, Tom Hill, delegate, 5023 Cedar Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19143

SOUTH CAROLINA: Meril Truesdale, Delegate, Harbinger Publications, 18 Bluff Road, Columbia, South Carolina 29201, Phone (803) 254-9398

TEXAS: Austin: IWW, 915 East 48½ Street, Austin, Texas 78751, phone (512) 452-3722. Houston: Gilbert Mers, 7031 Kernel, Houston, Texas 77087, phone (713) 921-0877.

WASHINGTON: Seattle General Membership Branch, 3238 33rd Ave. South, Seattle, Washington 98144

Bellingham GMB, PO Box 1386, Bellingham, WA 98227, Phone 671-9995. Meets first Monday at 6:30

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

WEST VIRGINIA: Michelle Wolford, 440 Pennsylvania Avenue, Morgantown, West Virginia 26505.

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

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

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NEW BOOK AVAILABLE

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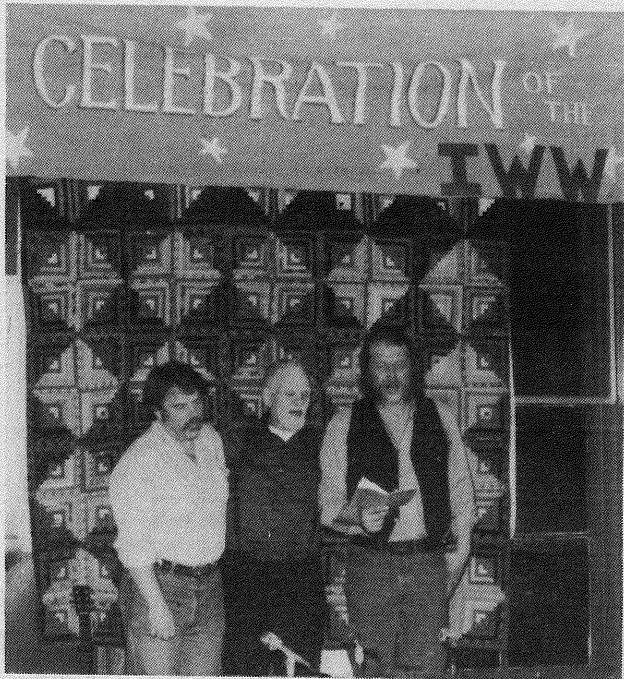
Farewell, Fellow Worker

It is with deep regret and sorrow that we note the passing of Fellow Worker Johnny Lynch (James Martin) on April 29th in New York City.

Johnny was a member of Marine Transport Workers IU 510, and in our many conversations he always extolled the IWW.

George Cromm

AROUND OUR UNION



De Snoose Brudders join with Frank Cedervall (center) for a round of Red Song Book tunes.



Veteran Wobs gather for Ann Arbor workshops: (left to right) G. Mangiopani, F. Cedervall, J. Cedervall, F. W. Chuck, and R. Verlaine.

MAY DAY CELEBRATION A SUCCESS IN MICHIGAN

Over 130 IWW members, friends, and guests came to hear Frank Cedervall's presentation on the "Moral Imperative to Be a Radical". A 50-year veteran of the IWW, Frank spoke during the Union's May Day celebrations in Ypsilanti, between Ann Arbor and Detroit. His "soapbox speech" focused on the continuous history of warfare on the planet Earth, stressing that humans have their work cut out for them in the struggle to divest corporations and governments of their massive powers.

Maintaining that "there is no better time to join the IWW and work together for a democratic world", Frank beamed with pride to be with so many other members of the IWW. "What are you waiting for? Join up!" he concluded, and the audience clapped and cheered. The delegates then signed up a bunch of new members.

"De Snoose Brudders", a pair of Wobs from Minneapolis, warmed up the crowded hall with songs and funny stories. The pair, Jeff Cahill and Bruce Brackney, were closing out a tour of the western Great Lakes. "Yansa Drummers", a women's drum group, capped the evening with African and Latin dance rhythms. Their presentation of Marge Piercy's poem "The Low Road" was particularly impressive.

CO-OP WORKSHOP

Earlier in the day, a workshop was held at a member's home. The topic was "worker management", and about 30 folks showed up for it. Discussion touched on many other subjects as well, including insights by participants in organizing struggles in the auto plants of Detroit and the coal fields of Illinois during the '30s. But the main interest at the workshop was how the IWW relates to co-operative workplaces.

One speaker pointed out that many of the larger producer co-ops are now hiring managers. While the actual work at these places was once performed by workers' collectives, market pressures are requiring belt-tightening. "As the co-op boards reduce democracy in these workplaces, the workers will want to organize into a union that understands their goals and needs," said a worker at the new IWW shop People's Warehouse. (See the April issue of the *Industrial Worker*). "Networking between the workers at these 'co-ops' will strengthen their position at the workplace and when confronting boards," she added. It is the realization that a co-op can not be isolated from the capitalist economy, with its managers, concessions, and exploitation, that will encourage co-op workers to join unions.

More workshops on various topics are now being contemplated by these active IWW branches. With membership and activism steadily rising in the Ann Arbor/Detroit area, interest and participation are expected to follow suit.

Chicago IWW contingent at Mothers' March for Peace, May 8th, 1983.



SPEAKER SURVIVES SKIRMISH

Fellow Worker V.T. Lee got back from the April 30th skirmish between peace people and the KKK at Meridian, Connecticut in time to discuss the history of May Day and the need to fight the boss on a radio station in his home-town area of Upper New York.

CHICAGO MAY DAY SPEAKOUT

In Chicago the IWW, the Socialist Party, and the Socialist Labor Party braved the unfavorable weather for a May Day Speakout in Lincoln Park. Besides talking about world labor solidarity, they began a move for these three groups and others to work together on forums, singouts, and other events as well as on future May Days.

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DID YOU NOTICE?

MINERS ONCE CARRIED CANARIES into mines to provide early warning of the presence of toxic gasses. Dismantling of environmental laws is putting children, who are substantially more sensitive than adults to the toxic effects of many pollutants, in the same position as those birds. Over 6,000 new cases of cancer in children (formerly rare occurrences) are now being reported each year. Cancer is now the second greatest cause of childhood deaths in the US (after accidents), and much of it is thought to be environmental in origin. DEHP (di[2-ethylhexyl] Phthalate), known to cause cancer in laboratory animals, is present in large numbers of baby products (bottles, pacifiers, toys, and the like), in which it is added to plastic to make it soft and pliable. Environmental Protection Agency internal documents leaked to the Environmental Defense Fund estimate that some children playing in the dioxin-laden dirt in Missouri are as high as a 7-in-10 chance of developing cancer, and are, according to one agency attorney—"human guinea pigs".

TURMOIL IN ESTONIA: Polish labor turmoil spread to the neighboring Soviet republic of Estonia in the fall and winter of 1981. Karl Vaino, first secretary of the

Estonian Communist Party, said in an article in a Party journal that a letter circulating in late 1981 called on Estonians to participate in a half-hour strike on December 1st and on the first of every month thereafter. He said that various calls for work stoppages were "similar to those advanced by Solidarity", and that Soviet authorities had to mobilize all their resources to restore control in Estonia.

SENATOR MARK HATFIELD of Oregon, in a paper entitled "The American Prison System: A Time-Bomb Ticking", wrote: "I believe offenders should pay a steep price for their crimes... but if one argues that a prisoner deserves whatever he or she gets in prison, then one must also be prepared to argue that society deserves what it gets when the prisoner is eventually released."

US TO EASE AFFIRMATIVE-ACTION RULES: The Reagan Administration is planning to cut some affirmative-action rules that require federal contractors to hire and promote minorities and women so that they would apply only to firms with 100 or more workers with federal contracts worth \$100,000 or more.

IN THE FIRST NINE MONTHS OF 1982, some 2.4

million members of America's work force of 100 million were treated in hospital emergency rooms for injuries received on the job, according to Atlanta's Center for Disease Control. Men aged 18 to 19 seemed to run the greatest risk.

THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE has a name for people who are not persecuted but believe they are ("paranoid"), but outside of Wobbly circles has no name for people who are being persecuted but think they're not ("Mr. Block").

COPS TARGET REPEAT OFFENDERS: In a new study, the Rand Corporation proposes using people's criminal history to predict their future behavior. It says repeat offenders should be incapacitated with stiff sentences if they fit a profile indicating that they are likely to commit more crimes. Based on this theory, the city of Minneapolis has targeted a number of repeat offenders and put every policeman in the city on a 24-hour lookout for them, whether or not they break the law. Once the targets have been selected, their names and what the police know about them—color photographs, addresses, descriptions of past criminal activity, known associates, and descriptions of vehicles they have access to—go in binders to every police precinct and division. Synopses and smaller photographs go into the blue pocket notebooks that are issued to every one of the 750 police officers on the Minneapolis force.

The cops watch the targets, note whom the targets meet with, and may photograph them or check the ownership of the cars they use. They follow the targets and may radio ahead to have them followed in adjoining precincts, and are encouraged to check the targets' homes to note whether they are present. The police report what they learn to a special telephone that feeds a large-capacity tape-recording system at police headquarters. Minneapolis Police Chief Bouza says the program, Target 8, violates no one's rights, but "I'm not going to extend the presumption of innocence to bums on the street."

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