



INDUSTRIAL WORKER

INDUSTRIAL WORKERS OF THE WORLD

★ EDUCATION ★ ORGANIZATION ★ EMANCIPATION

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25 CENTS

Wobblies work it out at 42nd Convention

More than 40 members and delegates of the Industrial Workers of the World participated in the IWW's 42nd General Convention, held in Chicago over the Labor Day weekend. Wobblies from 18 states and Canada—from both coasts and across the continent—came to confer over the problems the IWW faces and to share ideas for the future.

In conjunction with the Convention, hundreds turned out for two nights of IWW and labor songs (see related article in this issue). Both concerts were recorded, and the record is scheduled for release on May 1st, 1985 to commemorate the IWW's 80th anniversary.

Among the issues discussed were the need to revise and update the IWW Constitution, international solidarity efforts, ongoing organizing efforts, and how the bequest left the IWW by a long-time member two years ago can best be used to serve the union. The Convention was dominated, however, by a variety of charges and counter-charges stemming from the activity of a former member in Tucson, Arizona, and the attempt by last year's General Executive Board to expel a member in violation of the IWW Constitution.

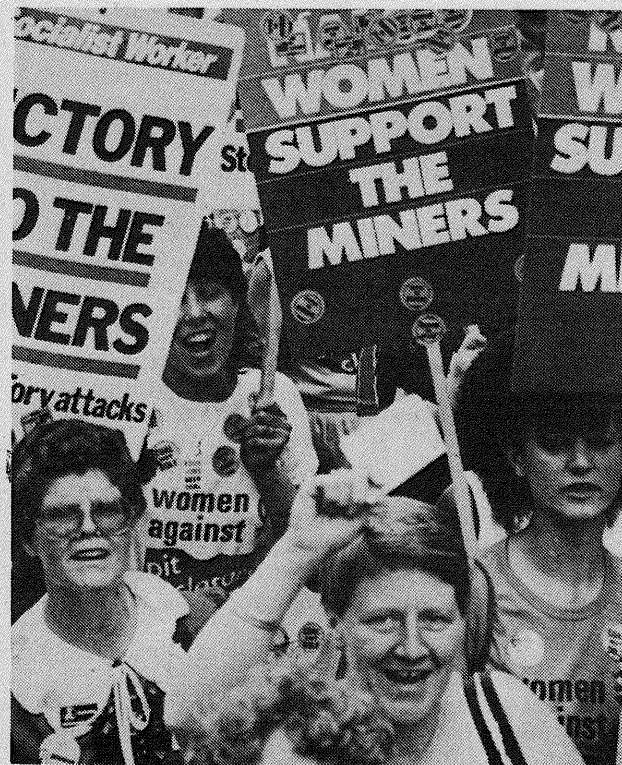
Because of our membership's determination to ensure that due process was adhered to, and that all parties were given every opportunity to present their arguments, several hours of the Sunday session were devoted to discussion of charges and hearing of appeals from two hearing committees. (No publicity on the results will be released until the appeals process is completed.)

Saturday morning was largely devoted to reports of IWW activities throughout the continent. General Secretary-Treasurer Jon Bekken pointed out in his report that membership continued to increase over the last year, with new IWW groups being formed in Winnipeg, Manitoba; Dayton, Ohio; Bisbee, Arizona; Oregon; and Kansas. The Vancouver IWW Group recently applied for and was granted a General Membership Branch charter, and a number of applications for IWW shop cards were received, from workers ranging from printers to floor-covering installers. In addition, the GST pointed to the IWW's efforts to strengthen our international relations, and to the opportunities for continued growth that offer themselves to us.

Striking Coal Miners Still Out

As of this writing, the strike by the British National Union of Mineworkers is in its seventh month. The strike was called by Arthur Scargill, Marxist leader of the miners' union, without a strike vote, to protest Government plans to close 20 money-losing mines and reduce the mining work force by 20,000 jobs.

Government and Coal Board leaders remain confident



During the area reports, delegates from several IWW groups and General Membership Branches reported on their activity. FW Dave Tucker reported on the ongoing organizing drive among orchard workers in central Washington, noting that several workers have expressed interest recently in helping with the drive. FW Mark Kaufmann, from the Ann Arbor/Detroit GMB, reported that the Warehouse job branch has concluded negotiations on its new contract, and that the U Cellar job branch is moving toward a settlement as well. The Cellar talks have focused on narrowing the wage differential by raising starting wages. In addition, the Branch is active in an organizing drive among office workers, and is preparing to bring out a monthly newspaper in co-operation with other local groups.

Similar reports were received from 18 states and two Canadian provinces. Frequently mentioned were strike-support work, assistance to rank-and-file struggles in business unions, distribution of the *Industrial Worker*, educational programs, and participation in demonstrations and pickets. Delegates were saddened to learn that one shop in the Twin Cities (Minnesota) had left the union following harassment from the ITU.

Also discussed was media coverage of the IWW. Members have appeared on radio and television over the last year, and a number of articles on the IWW have appeared in newspapers and magazines across the continent in recent months.

Saturday afternoon saw the conclusion of the area reports and the continuation of reports from the General Defense Committee and from a committee studying the feasibility of automating the IWW office (focusing on computerizing our records and mailing list). Messages from the International Workers Association (IWA/AIT), the Swedish Central Workers Association (SAC), the Socialist Party of Illinois, and the Libertarian Workers Group were read before the Convention broke down into the committees which do much of its substantive work.

Members and delegates struggled through long sessions to resolve the pressing business before the organization, wearing out two Convention chairmen and four recording secretaries in the process. Although many of

the strike will eventually be defeated, not through negotiation but through a steady drift back to work by miners in defiance of their militant leadership. Boss spokespersons have been predicting a gradual return to work for several months now, but thus far it has not occurred in any appreciable numbers despite hardships faced by mining families. The coal miners are getting no strike pay and are surviving through contributions from other unions and supporters.

The coal miners are getting mixed support from other unions. Twice in six weeks the Transport and General Workers Union, representing Britain's 36,000 dockworkers, has called short nationwide strikes in indirect support of the miners. A statement of support passed by the Trades Union Congress at its annual meeting in early September, however, replaced a proposal for a specific levy of 13¢ a week per member on each union to support the miners with a pledge for a concerted campaign to raise money. The Congress's General Council also toned down a proposal to block the transfer of coal, coke, or oil across picket lines, and another to ban the use of any such supplies delivered by non-union labor, and eliminated a proposal for a nationwide one-day strike.

Some of the leaders of the 98 TUC unions are uncomfortable with the miners' basic negotiating position, namely that no coal mine should be closed before it is exhausted regardless of how expensive it is to mine. Others feel that this is a political strike, with the miners hoping that they will bring down the Thatcher Government. But there was a deep feeling that the trade-union movement could not afford to let the miners be starved into submission. Still, it was unclear whether the support of the TUC will give the Congress's General Council leverage over the mine workers or will commit other unions to solidarity with the miners as they attempt to



IWW and other labor songs were featured as Wobbly musicians played before full houses in Chicago during the recent IWW Convention.

the issues under consideration were controversial, members worked to resolve them in a spirit of co-operation and unity in order to advance the interests of the organization. Nevertheless, it was not possible to finally resolve many of the issues raised at the Convention, including the bequest, constitutional revisions, and anti-IWW hate literature circulated to some of our branches and members under the name "Wobblies for a Democratic Union". (The Convention directed the General Executive Board to make a full investigation into this literature.)

As the Convention neared its conclusion, a collection was taken up for striking coal miners in Britain and steel workers in Illinois. A resolution urging IWW job branches to press for contract language protecting the rights of pregnant workers was approved, as was a resolution protesting the repression of labor in Guatemala. The General Defense Committee was asked to look into ways that we can assist striking Phelps-Dodge miners, and a resolution opposing efforts to impose external controls over working-class organizations (whether by governments, bosses, or union bureaucrats) was adopted.

The Convention concluded late in the evening, with all those in attendance gathering in a circle to sing "Solidarity Forever".

expand the sphere of the dispute, whether or not that involves newly-illegalized mass picketing and the banned picketing of sites not directly involved in the dispute.

"We know it's illegal, but we are going to stand by the basic and fundamental principles of trade unionism," said James Knapp, leader of the National Union of Railwaymen (sic). However Eric Hammond, the incoming head of the Electrical, Electronic, Telecommunication, and Plumbing Union, called the declaration of support dishonest, charging that it promised miners support that union leaders couldn't deliver and damaged the Congress's credibility in order to give it a temporary appearance of unity.

"My union is not going to stop power stations for this statement or 10,000 like it," shouted Hammond as some delegates and scores of angry onlookers yelled insults and clapped to drown him out.

Even the 183,000-member National Union of Mine-workers itself is split. In Nottinghamshire, where the most-productive mines are located, 80% of the workers have refused to join the strike and have kept Britain's coal production at 40% of the pre-strike level. The Government has the further advantage that the miners began their strike in early March during a period of low coal consumption, with huge stockpiles of coal—about 56 tons—already above ground.

It may be argued that the miners' leadership used poor judgment in calling for a strike in the face of such stockpiles, and not banning overtime and calling for slowdowns and work-to-rules before the strike to curb production. Still, one could not be sure that waiting would bring better times for striking. The Thatcher Government's policies have encouraged the plummeting of the country's union membership from 12 million in 1979 to the current 10 million, and the Government has passed new anti-labor laws.

These laws must be fought now, before they become accepted and while half the British work force is unionized. Organized labor in the US did not fight the Taft-Hartley Act, which outlawed secondary boycotts and communist union leadership. In accepting the legitimacy of this attack on labor, US unionism started on its long decline to where now only about 17% of US workers are represented by unions.



LEFT SIDE

A little over three and a half centuries ago this month a group of misfits landed on the shores of what is now known as Massachusetts. Ostensibly this boatload of people had come seeking religious freedom; but if one takes the trouble to make a close analysis of history, one can only surmise that the folks back home were not too broken up over their departure. As one radio wag said, the personality of the Pilgrims was about as pleasant as a teenage circumcision. It has also been said that when the Pilgrims landed at Plymouth Rock they first fell on their knees, then fell on the Indians.

At the time when those Englishmen who could afford it dressed in fancy frills and lace, they chose to dress in somber black with about as much dash as a church deacon. Apparently when they set up housekeeping in Massachusetts they labored under the assumption that they were still in the English countryside, because their agricultural methods did not yield them any provender for the ensuing winter. They would have starved to death, and those of us who are still working would have had one less paid holiday, if some neighborly Indians hadn't taken pity on them and kept them from starvation till the weather got warm again. Not only that, but their Wampanoag neighbors taught them some basic New World agricultural techniques, as well as introducing them to food products they had never heard of before.

After their derrieres were saved from starvation, the good Pills gave thanks to their White Protestant God and thenceforth turned their covetous eyes on the heathen savages. After all, it was much easier to raid the granaries of the Indians than to plant their own damn corn and squash. They could also reconcile any moral repressions on whatever female Indian they happened to chance upon, and it soon became their God-given mission to clear the countryside of the "pernicious savages" so the land could be free for God-fearing people.

While ridding the countryside of pernicious heathens, they also turned a tidy little profit for themselves by raiding Indian settlements and selling entire populations to the slave ships that docked at their holy ports. This little swept-under-the-rug bit of American history is one of the reasons why one out of every two black Americans has some Indian ancestry. After the countryside was cleared of Indians, the abstemious Pills continued to manufacture rum to sell to the slave ships. So much for the Pilgrims and their love of human freedom.

For some reason this group of people who were misfits on their own island nation, thanks to historians whose writing talents were better suited to fiction, have been foisted on the children of our class as the paragons of

honesty, virtue, and the American pioneer spirit. As children we were given to understand that the Pilgrims' landing at Plymouth Rock marked the real beginning of America, and that these people whom no one with even a minimal sense of fair play would wish on any unsuspecting population were personifications of the American spirit. Your scribe is inclined to give his fellow denizens of Freedom Land a little more credit than that.

The other day a colleague of this writer was expressing his extreme distaste for what is known as "oral history", as it contains inevitable inaccuracies due to the common human frailty of telling a story according to one's own liking. But while that may indeed be a disadvantage of oral history, the oral historians have yet to equal the outright fabrications of the professional history writers.

As for the Pilgrims coming across the ocean to find religious freedom, one can only reflect on what they did to those of their own people who did not agree with them one hundred percent. Being banished to the wilderness was one of the milder punishments, as it was far preferable to being dunked under water, locked up in the stocks, or burned at the stake.

One sometimes wonders if the same spirit of religious freedom still prevails today. The members of the Native American Church waged a struggle for many years for the right to practice their faith. The Native American Church, which is under no hierarchy or other centralized control, consists mainly of traditional Indian spiritual precepts mingled with those precepts of Christianity that are acceptable to Indians. One of the ceremonies of this church is the eating of peyote, a variety of cactus plant that has hallucinogenic qualities and is used to better see creation. While not being addictive or having a deleterious effect on users, it was classified for many years as a "drug".

Having been shown the error of its judgment by doctors and scientists, the Government in its magnanimity now classifies peyote as a "controlled substance". Because of a long legal battle carried on by members and supporters of the Native American Church, peyote as a controlled substance is permitted only to members of this church and to no one else. If anyone out there has any thoughts of getting his or her jollies from peyote, this is to let you know that you can get busted just as quickly as if you are caught with loco weed.

There's a federal statute that guarantees members of the Native American Church the right to use peyote as a sacrament in their religious ceremonies. However a few months ago a couple in North Dakota who are members of the North American Church were arrested for possession of peyote. The reason given by the arresting feds was that they were not Indian. While the man is white, his wife is of Mexican heritage; but of course the racial limbo that copper-colored descendants from below the Rio Bravo find themselves in is well known.

While it seems to be perfectly kosher for missionaries to set up business in Indian territory with the aim of proselytizing the Indians, if a white decides to embrace a "foreign" religion, he or she is in for harassment. One wonders at the impartiality of the freedom of religion here in Freedom Land. Will the children be able to have their peyote in school if the Supreme Court rules in favor of voluntary prayer in the schools?

If the Supreme Court rules that the human fetus has full rights, will I be able to collect my Social Security nine months earlier?

C. C. Redcloud

The Nightmare at Marion Prison

Leonard Peltier, a member of the Lakota-Chippewa Nation and American Indian Movement and a prison activist, is serving two life sentences for the deaths of two FBI agents who attacked Indian people on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota. His case has been going through the appeal process for several years now, and last April the US Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals ordered that an evidentiary hearing be held in the US District Court in North Dakota to consider new evidence found by the defense team and determine

whether there will be a new trial. Judge Paul Benson, who is to conduct the hearing, is the same judge who tried the case the first time around, and he has shown himself to be highly prejudiced against Indians, AIM, and Leonard Peltier. The Defense Committee is asking people to write letters to Judge Benson asking that he conduct a fair hearing or excuse himself.

"The purpose of the Marion control unit is to control revolutionary attitudes in the prison system and in the society at large."—former Marion Warden Ralph Aron.

There is little doubt that the prisons in the US are worsening at an alarming pace. Part of the reason is that they are putting more people in prison without building new prisons. In addition, there has been a real move within prisons to suppress all movements for prisoners' human rights. The Survival Network, an organization active in prisoner-rights struggles which has members in five federal and seventeen state prisons, has gotten reports from every prison it has members in telling of the suppression of basic human rights and of brutality, including sexual abuse. It also reports that any prisoners who speak up against this brutality and demand their rights find themselves in segregation or isolation. I am aware of seven prisons under complete lockdown, and four hunger strikes currently in progress.

If you are in a state prison and you persist in demanding your rights, the chances are very good that you'll find your way into the federal prison system, if they don't kill you first. If you keep it up, you'll find your way into the Marion control unit, a behavior-modification laboratory. Says Congressman Ralph Metcalfe: "The control-unit treatment program is long-term punishment under the guise of what is, in fact, pseudo-scientific experimentation." The unit is the end of the line for political prisoners in the US, and if the time comes when there is a general roundup of radicals, those the State views as leaders will go to the Marion control unit to break their minds, personalities, emotional ties, and in some cases health, so they will be

Wiggly-worm Unionism

Reading the *Industrial Worker*, I find: "The Phelps-Dodge strike began last summer, when the company asked for what the 13 unions representing the copper miners of Clifton and Morenci felt were unfair concessions."

Thirteen unions representing one mining operation? If I'd seen it elsewhere than in the *Industrial Worker*, I wouldn't have believed it. Thirteen unions to perform one operation! That's wiggly-worm unionism. One might wonder, too, where it says to contribute to a USWA local for strike relief, who represents whom? (I contributed a stingy amount to both addresses, if you're wondering.) USWA stands for Steel Workers, surely. Whatever happened to miners' unions representing miners?

You know, you sit and write this stuff (I'm speaking for myself), and you wonder if anybody reads it. I'm hoping that trade-union members, among others, will read this. Even if all of those 13 unions walked out together, and even if none of them has ratted on the others, it's solidarity with cracks in it.

How is your imagination running? Can you imagine one union for one operation, with all workers committed to common issues? Can you imagine a network of unions, the One Big Union, committed to the belief that an injury to one is an injury to all? Do you think you can be persuasive enough to persuade your closest fellow workers that the short-term gain is not nearly as important as the long-term good? Start talking. Movements that have changed things were talked about first, then acted on.

Pervicacia

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.

permanently neutralized.

Last October two guards were killed in the control unit. Following this incident, treatment of prisoners became exceptionally severe, and resistance on the part of some was countered by putting the entire prison on permanent lockdown, ending all religious rights for non-Christians. Leonard Peltier and two other prisoners—Standing Deer, an over-60-year-old member of AIM and the Spiritual/Cultural Council of Native Nations, and Albert Garza, who has been struggling for Jewish rights—began a fast for life, ending it after 44 days when they were threatened with force-feeding. They have been transferred to the US Hospital Prison in Springfield, Missouri, and reports reveal that Standing Deer has been badly beaten and that torture has been applied to his genitals. The Survival Network is urging concerned persons to write the Director of the US Bureau of Prisons to protest these conditions. (Addresses follow at the end of this article.)

Those who want more information on this struggle might obtain two publications available through the Survival Network: *Marion Federal Penitentiary: A Nightmare of Modern Justice* contains articles, documents, and letters on Marion and costs \$8 for 86 pages. *In Total*

(continued on Page 3)

★ EDUCATION ★ ORGANIZATION ★ EMANCIPATION



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

Industrial Worker

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Editorial Collective:

Carlos Cortez, Mike Hargis,
Penny Pixler, Fred Thompson



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Auto Workers Settle

Over 90,000 auto workers are on strike against General Motors as the *Industrial Worker* goes to press. The striking workers are part of a new "selective strike strategy" aimed at applying pressure to GM without endangering its long-term profitability. The strikes are aimed at assembly plants which produce some of GM's most popular orders, and can quickly produce a bottleneck with large surpluses of parts behind it, resulting in rapidly dwindling inventories.

GM is particularly vulnerable to this strike because it has been cutting inventories of new cars over the last few years in an attempt to trim costs and reduce the risk of being stuck with unsalable models.

Negotiations are continuing, as the UAW and GM attempt to resolve job-security and wage issues. The UAW is demanding a real wage increase of 3% a year as auto workers struggle to recover from the effects of concessionary agreements made in 1982. The union is also fighting to halt the loss of jobs which has confronted it since the sales slumps of the early 1980s and the auto companies' turn toward foreign production and automation.

Since 1978, 170,000 auto jobs—nearly a fourth of the total work force—have been lost to automation and "out-sourcing". Instead of organizing workers in other countries or in factories to which the auto companies subcontract production, or refusing to handle parts made by non-union labor, the UAW has been pursuing a protectionist strategy aimed at banning imports of cars or parts. The use of robots in the factories may have a more significant long-range impact. GM has 3,000 robots at work today, and plans to have at least 14,000 on the job by 1990. The cost of acquiring and installing these robots has been covered by the massive concessions negotiated by the UAW in the last round of contract talks.

Negotiations are not going well, as GM is resisting both job protection and substantive wage increases. The UAW's demands, however, must be viewed as exceedingly modest, given GM's huge profits. Last year GM earned \$3.7 billion in profits, paying its 350,000 workers a mere \$660 in profit sharing. In the first six months of this year GM has made \$3.2 billion, or \$9,143 for each worker it employs. Although the strike is cutting into profits at the rate of \$20 million a day, according to industry analysts, GM seems sure to earn at least \$15,000 off each and every auto worker it employs before the year is out. The question is not whether GM can afford pay hikes, but whether auto workers can afford to subsidize GM's owners at this obscene level.

There are signs that auto workers are discontented with the UAW's efforts. When the contract expired, rank-and-file workers at several locations—including Lordstown, Ohio—initiated wildcat actions. The president of a UAW local in DeWitt, New York ordered a strike without International sanction, although UAW officials succeeded in forcing workers there back to work. Workers in an assembly plant in Van Nuys, California were ordered back to work by UAW officials when they resolved local issues with the company, but instead they voted down the local agreement and vowed their determination to stay on strike until a new contract is won.

Not coincidentally, almost all of the locals ordered out on strike have historically been militant, and many of them would probably have struck with or without UAW International sanction. The UAW has consistently identified with GM interests throughout these negotiations, seeking only a modest wage hike and maintenance

PELTIER (continued from Page 2)

Resistance (newly abridged and revised) contains statements and poetry from Leonard Peltier, Standing Deer, and Bobby Gene Garcia (a prison activist involved in Leonard's struggle and later murdered in prison), and is available for \$3.50.

The 42nd General Convention of the IWW extended its solidarity to Leonard Peltier, designating him a class-war prisoner. It is extremely important to understand and assist this struggle. Otherwise, any number of us might find ourselves in Marion, subjected to the same conditions.

The Survival Network can be reached at Post Office Box 52282, New Orleans, Louisiana 70152. The Leonard Peltier Defense Committee publishes *Crazy Horse Spirit* (\$10 per year), and co-ordinates international solidarity efforts. Write the International Office for the Leonard Peltier Defense Committee at 2524 16th Avenue South, Seattle, Washington 98144.

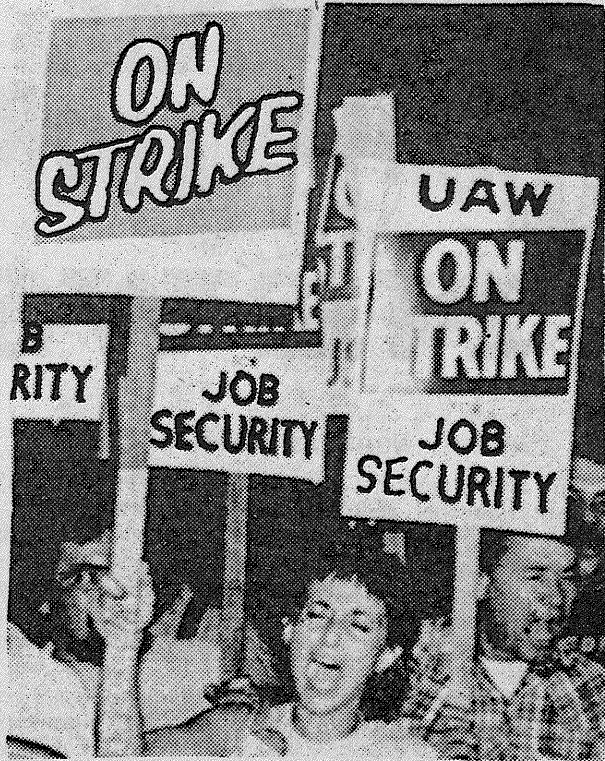
Judge Paul Benson, who is to conduct the evidentiary hearing, can be reached at the Old Federal Building, Courthouse Room 333, Fargo, North Dakota 58102. Protests over conditions in Marion should be directed to Norman Carlson, Director of the US Bureau of Prisons, 320 First Northwest, Washington DC 20537, or to Jerry Williford, Warden, US Penitentiary, Box 1000, Marion, Illinois 62959.

To inquire into the safety and welfare of Leonard Peltier (Number 89637-132), Standing Deer, aka Robert Wilson (Number 01499-164), and Albert Garza (Number 49602-146), write to these prisoners or to the warden at the US Medical Center, 1900 West Sunshine, Springfield, Missouri 65802.

Arthur Miller

of current employment levels.

Many workers, however, recognize that more can and must be won. While tens of thousands of auto workers remain laid off, the union has raised no objection to GM's imposition of mandatory overtime. A ban on overtime combined with a substantial reduction of the work week with no loss in pay could do far more to halt the erosion of auto jobs than can protectionist strategies which ultimately divide workers instead of uniting us to confront our common enemy. Refusal of overtime and speedups could increase the companies' vulnerability at contract time, and a total shutdown of GM operations could bring the corporation to its knees. Similarly, a strike against the Big Three auto makers could force an



UAW members cheer as fellow workers walk off the job at the GM assembly plant in Van Nuys, California.

industry-wide response to workers' needs and re-establish parity for Chrysler workers.

But instead the UAW has chosen a strategy of gradual escalation which can only prolong the strike while reducing the power workers can bring to bear. Negotiations are continuing as the *Industrial Worker* goes to press, with GM offering a retraining program for laid-off auto workers in response to the UAW's demands for job-security provisions. At this writing (September 20th) negotiations seem to be breaking down, and an all-out strike seems likely. However the costs of holding out are high, and continued escalation of the strike could cost GM \$200 million in profits this week; so the strike may well be settled before you read this.

In either event, auto workers need to consider new methods for carrying on their struggle. Working conditions have been eroding for years, as GM and other auto companies enforce speedups to compensate for layoffs and increase profits. Unemployment has been increasing while the auto industry has raised overtime to record levels, and the unions have failed to even raise the question of a reduced work week. (The work week has remained fixed at 40 hours since the early part of this century, even though all evidence indicates that a 20-hour work week is within our grasp both technologically and economically.) The UAW has failed to even raise these issues, let alone fight for them.

As the *Industrial Worker* goes to press, the UAW and GM have just reached a tentative pact. Although details of the agreement were not available at press time, reports indicate that GM has agreed to minor pay increases and to limited job guarantees for some GM workers. The UAW ordered its members back to work September 21st, ending GM threats of a lockout of all non-striking union workers. Late reports indicate that some strikers are refusing to return to work until agreements on local issues (mainly working conditions) are reached. A report on the contract provisions will appear in our next issue.

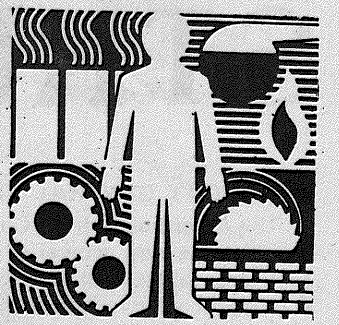
Jon Bekken

SURPLUS VALUE

Now that the dust has settled, the Miss America pageant (a three-million-dollar industry in itself in its vestal-virgin commercialism) and its sponsors (the American Greetings Corporation, Gillette, McDonald's, and Nestle) have made their usual bundle off Vanessa Williams' image while she was Miss America. *Penthouse* (part of the eight-billion-dollar-a-year US pornographic industry) estimates that it will clear a four-million-dollar windfall on the issue with Ms. Williams' nude photos in it; and Tom Chiapel, the photographer who bided his time till the negatives of photos of Ms. Williams would fetch the best price, has made his cut. And Vanessa Williams herself? Who ever heard of the one doing the work getting the money?

Fred Thompson's

labor in north america



Immediately after World War II, 3 out of 10 US workers were union members; now only 2 out of 10. At that time 4 out of 10 workers made goods for sale; now only 3 out of 10 are so employed, leaving 7 in "service" jobs. Years ago unions were composed almost entirely of folks who made products, but recent union growth has been mostly in such service areas as hospital work, teaching, and other public employment, with some invasion of office work. In the last 18 months the Service Employees added 165,000 members, mostly by affiliation.

Since a country imports goods rather than services, most unions whose members produce goods are complaining about unfair competition from low-wage areas. Union production workers get laid off because of this, and often settle into lower-paid non-union jobs. Now 15% of the population is below the poverty level.

The long-range trend must be for industrial processes to spread from the countries in which they developed (either because of head starts or while the rest of the world was at war) to less-developed nations. The UAW reprints a map from *Ward's Auto World* marking two dozen auto plants in Mexico ready to send 200,000 vehicles and a million engines into the US each year from places where typical pay is two or three dollars a day.

This is the current in which we now swim. Should we swim against it, or use it to develop a working solidarity to save this globe from its spoilers?

On this issue, obsolete union structures push us toward irrationality. Unions in the US, as elsewhere, have been built by a strange combination of ancient craft practices, an industrial-union tendency, and the happenstance grabbing in recent decades of whatever was handy to grab. Union structures in Great Britain are even more absurd. The South African Congress of Trade Unions comments on the poor results of bargaining by the various metal-working unions: "The employers are represented by one body—SEIFSA. They speak with one voice. Why then do our trade unions allow divided bargaining which makes us weak?"

Employer bargaining structures tend to be shaped by the extent of labor unity. The United Mine Workers face a geology that made productivity of different mines vary widely, but for years re-shaped the industry by demanding uniform wage rates. Yet this year, because the industry is so unorganized and mechanized, the union prepared to target selected employers—such as UAW practice has been in a field of few employers—and reached agreement. The Steel Workers used to bargain with a coordinating committee of the major steel companies, but now the employer association is down to five: Amco, Bethlehem, Inland, Jones and Laughlin, and US Steel.

Remember, the object of unionism is to prevent us from being used against each other, and union structures need to keep up with a changing world to do that. Union officers tend to resist progress that would eliminate their jobs, and union progressives tend to fritter away their time on changing union officers instead of modernizing union structures. The needs for industrial solidarity and for global solidarity intertwine, and face intertwined resistance. The most effective thing union members can do about this is take out an additional card in the IWW and circulate—and help write—its literature.

Some long fights do get won, as at Litton Industries and the hospitals in Minneapolis and New York. Four years ago the United Electrical Workers won an election at the Litton Industries microwave-oven plant in South Dakota. Now at last a contract has been signed, five months after the NLRB ruled that Litton must come up with a million bucks in back wages. The new contract raises the \$5.20 average for the plant's 1800 workers by a buck in three installments, and runs to '86.

Minneapolis nurses won seniority protection with a 40-day strike at 16 hospitals. Management had been replacing senior nurses with lower-paid part-timers. And in New York, Local 1199 had to keep 50,000 hospital workers out for 47 days at 59 nursing homes, facing a fine of \$45,000 a day for doing so, to win a 5% raise for each of two years and a promise of at least every second Sunday off.

Coal miners helped their employers get set for any possible strike by working six-day weeks as contracts required, and a couple of months before longshoremen in Britain went back to work, thus letting coal come in, John Moyle of the British Miners Union told the UMWA: "Both of our unions are facing a multinational crisis of jobs in our industries and in our communities. This is a critical time to start stepping up some international dialogue." US Steel Board Chairman Roderick announces: "We will produce fewer tons and fewer products in fewer places with fewer people, but what we do produce will be better in profit margin." And the Network to Save the Mon (Ohio) Valley is accused of putting a dead fish in a safe-deposit box in a Mellon bank.

STRIKE!

ONE-DAY GENERAL STRIKE IN ARGENTINA

The Argentine General Confederation of Labor (CGT) called a one-day general strike in early September: the first large-scale labor action in the nine months of the country's civilian government. The work stoppage came in the midst of government efforts to negotiate an agreement with the International Monetary Fund, a pact the unions expect to involve new austerity measures to comply with the demands of international capitalism. The strike primarily affected industry, and as many as 85% of factory workers stayed home, although many schools, banks, and retail stores stayed open. In the last years of the military government, as popular resentment of the junta soared, general strikes could bring the country to a standstill, with not a bus, fruit store, or vegetable stand staffed. The leaders of the latest strike, however, discounted comparisons to past strikes, saying that in 1982 and 1983 people had been afraid to walk the streets because of the soldiers.

GENERAL STRIKE IN BANGLADESH

Dozens of people were hurt and at least 15 arrested in clashes during a six-hour work stoppage in Bangladesh in late August. The strike was called to protest martial law, in effect since March 1982. Shops and businesses closed in all Bangladesh's major cities and towns, and most traffic was at a standstill.

INDIA STRIKE PROTESTS GANDHI POLITICS

Two states were crippled by a general strike and over a million people staged rallies across India in late August to protest Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's dismissal of an opposition government in the state of Andhra Pradesh. Activity virtually halted during day-long strikes in the two large opposition-ruled states of Karnataka and West Bengal, the United News of India reported. Most shops, offices, movie theaters, banks, businesses, factories, and schools were closed. Rail traffic was at a standstill in much of southern, central, and eastern India. At least 49,000 opposition-party activists were jailed in the southernmost state of Tamil Nadu for picketing government offices. Calcutta, India's largest city and the capital of Marxist-ruled West Bengal, was deserted for the protest day. But at least 47 people were injured when strikers and opponents clashed at the Dunlop Tire Factory outside Calcutta.

BREWERY STRIKE IN NICARAGUA

Workers at the State-owned Victoria Brewery in Managua, Nicaragua held a five-day strike in late August for higher wages. Victoria employees, like most Nicaraguan workers, have had their wages frozen since 1979 as part of a Government effort to control inflation. Strikes, illegal since a state of national emergency was declared in March 1982, were legalized August 6th as part of the Nicaraguan Government's attempt to establish adequate conditions for the country's November elections. The Victoria Brewery union, which like most unions in Nicaragua represents the workers in only one plant, is affiliated with the official Sandinista Workers Confederation.

Strikers were seeking 100% raises for those workers earning less than \$107 monthly, and raises of 75% and 50% for the others. Some 80% of the 2,000 workers in the Brewery supported the strike, though most union officers opposed it. At the plant, workers said their strike was nonpolitical.

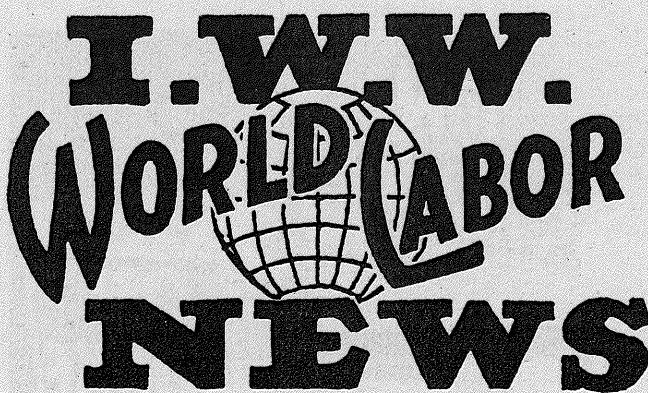
"We support and love the revolution," said a dispatcher, "but we also love our children and have an obligation to support them."

Continuing high inflation and the ending of many Government food-price subsidies won support from a

variety of sympathizers for the strikers' demands. A cavalcade of over 100 delivery trucks from other companies drove by the Victoria plant, honking their horns and shouting slogans in solidarity with the strikers. Prominent among them were Coca-Cola workers, who are also seeking wage hikes.

The Victoria workers returned to work after an appeal by the Labor Minister, who also warned the workers that they had not complied with laws that require a number of preliminary steps to be taken before staging a walkout. The workers asked for a mediation panel to issue recommendations for a settlement.

The attitude of the Sandinista Government toward the strike can be gauged by the speech made by one member of the nine-man Government junta, who called on workers "to behave more maturely and responsibly to prevent the right to strike from being converted into an instrument that can hurt the revolution".



CANNERY WORKERS STRIKE IN GHANA

In 1980 workers at a fish cannery in Tema, Ghana's largest industrial area, demanded the formation of a union and negotiation of their own contract at the Pioneer Food Cannery (PFC). They also demanded payment of back wages accumulated between the time when the minimum daily wage was raised from about \$1.50 to \$4.50 a day and the time the law was actually implemented.

The company delayed, dragging its feet until spring of this year, when it locked workers out, later dismissing them. The cannery, jointly owned by Ghanaian Mankozze Fisheries and Starkist International, later reinstated the workers at government request, immediately placing them on paid holiday leave, where they remained in mid-September. The company is threatening to relocate to another country in search of labor peace.

The vast majority of the 259 PFC workers are women, who become eligible for maternity leave only after two years with the company. Overtime is compulsory, and employees routinely work from 7:30 in the morning to 8:30 or 9:30 at night.

plp/jb

South African Miners Strike for Rights

As the *Industrial Worker* goes to press, we have just learned that 10,000 miners striking for union recognition have been forced back to work by threats of mass firings. Although some strikers were still holding out at press time, most appear to have returned to work. The 10,000 struck the Hartebeestfontein mine west of Johannesburg, demanding immediate recognition of the National Union of Mineworkers, which represents several thousand black gold miners. The mine employs 12,000 black workers.

Sound of a Distant Drum

Brighton, wedding-cake white in the warm sunlight reflected off the eggshell-blue sea, is playing reluctant host to the Trade Union Congress national conference. The wealthy residents, councillors, and paying guests are not the only ones biting their collective lower lips, for the major statesmen and women of the Trade Union Congress are being called on to give their public and active support to the striking miners and dockers, and these armchair generals of the army of the British working class fear the sound of the trumpet call.

The British coal miners' strike has now entered the bitter and angry stage of open violence on and off the picket lines, for with three striking miners dead and unknown numbers savaged by the police, the humor went out of the situation long ago. Scab coaches have been burned as industrial sabotage becomes part of this theatre of the street, and there have been ugly scenes of small groups of strikers and supporters smashing the doors and windows of solitary individuals stupid enough to harken to the sewer gurgles of the national press and "report" for work amid a solid bodyguard of police.

I am not playing the holy innocent, for I have stood on too many picket lines, yea even in this miners' strike, and I will take my place again the moment the call is

made. But I will not join the vigilante lynch mob using a worthy cause for their own sick pleasure. The police are in full riot gear and now outnumber the pickets, and in the small mining communities there will be a lifetime of hate and anger against those who scabbed.

Britain's dockworkers have finally answered the miners' call to stand by them, despite the propaganda of the whole Establishment press. As I write this, dockers have refused to cross the picket lines thrown up around the docks, with the inevitable exception of a few custom-built docks and the comic sad sack who insists on crossing the picket line, parroting the editorials and front-page headlines of the daily Tory press proclaiming that the dockers' strike is a "political" strike, and the scab wants a vote on whether he or she should come out on strike or not. Daily the news media have hammered this strike-breaking propaganda out from newspaper to TV, claiming that the strikes are political moves designed to bring down the Tory Government, and a "secret ballot" should be held on strike action.

But in that ol' final analysis, every protest by the working class is political, for the political decision by the Government to close steel works, coal mines, and docks, leading to the destruction of entire communities, is a

VANISHED

TWO GUATEMALAN UNIONISTS "DISAPPEAR"

In two separate incidents on August 14th, Jeronimo Lopez Diaz and Alberto Friley Escobar were abducted by men in plain clothes who forced them violently into two cars in the presence of witnesses. Amnesty International fears that both kidnappings were carried out by members of the Guatemalan "security" forces.

Jeronimo Lopez Diaz is secretary general of the Sindicato Industria Agricola de Conguaco, the Conguaco Agricultural Enterprises Trade Union. Alberto Friley Escobar is secretary general of a union in a European-owned factory.

Union members have been a particular target for repression in Guatemala in recent years. On June 21st, 1980, 25 leaders of the Central Nacional de Trabajadores (National Workers Congress) were detained by plainclothes and uniformed members of the national police as they met at CNT headquarters in Guatemala City to plan the funeral of another CNT leader. The latter had been arrested on June 20th, 1980, and his body was found the following day bearing marks of torture and gunshot wounds.

In response to inquiries by Amnesty International, the Guatemalan Minister of Labor at that time wrote that the unionists had been released. Other officials, however, claimed that they had never been detained. Cars belonging to some of the missing people were later seen in national police garages, but there has never been any further news of the whereabouts of the 25 union leaders.

Amnesty International has co-ordinated telegrams and mailings on behalf of these unionists. *IW* readers wishing to learn more about Amnesty International's work or the situation in Guatemala should write to: Amnesty International USA, PO Box 1270, Nederland, Colorado 80466, or Comite Nacional de Unidad Sindical de Guatemala, Apartado Postal 6-955, Cuauhtemec 06600, Mexico DF, Mexico.

ADVICE TO NEEDY CAPITALISTS

No doubt you're worried about the high wages you have to pay workers in Taiwan, South Korea, and Hong Kong. The *New York Times* (June 17th, 1984) has the perfect country for you: Haiti. "The prevailing Haitian wage is only \$2.65 a day... the annual cost of running a textile plant with 500 workers was \$588,300 in Haiti, \$789,800 in Costa Rica, \$919,700 in the Dominican Republic, \$1,048,500 in Colombia, \$1,057,600 in Mexico, \$1,156,700 in Panama, and \$1,828,200 in Jamaica. Another report... said the cost of producing and shipping a dozen shirts to the United States was \$51.76 in Haiti, \$54.25 in Costa Rica, \$55.50 in the Dominican Republic, \$56.92 in Jamaica, and \$60.20 in Barbados."

In fact one outfit, the MacGregor Athletic Company, has shifted production from Korea to Haiti. Although MacGregor does not pay higher wages, it has a soccer field for its workers. And some American companies are even giving their workers vitamin pills, which is cheaper than paying decent wages so they can have a balanced diet to begin with.

Next door in the Dominican Republic, the *Wall Street Journal* (June 18th, 1984) reports that Gulf and Western Corporation is looking for a buyer for its 200,000 acres of sugar, which employ 37,000 people during the sugar season. The *Journal* reports that Gulf pays its workers higher wages than the Government or other companies, but a typical paycheck is \$19 a week.

So for you capitalists who can't bear to pay workers the minimum wage in the US, or who are tired of paying even a fourth of that amount in Taiwan or Korea, your best bet is to move to Haiti or the Dominican Republic, where you can pay workers \$2.65 a day.

Get them as cheap as you can, wherever you can.

Earl Gilman

political confrontation carried to its logical conclusion: physical confrontation with the armed authority of the State. Comrades, there is no other place for us but on that picket line, and as for the whine for a "secret vote" on whether to strike or not, one can only reply that if one does not have the courage to raise one's hand at the union meeting, then one should stay in bed.

Meanwhile, in Brighton, we watch the "lions of the Left" and the "statesmen" of the Right as they mouth their prepared speeches to the delegates. And we watch them standing at the various bars explaining their reasons for ratting and their love for the "trade-union movement that they and their old fathers gave their lives for", and their sycophants buy them another double whiskey. The Tory press will as always scream of the split within Britain's trade-union movement. And the high-ranking parasitical scum who—as in every other country—have intrigued into high office and grown rich and greasy in that office will write their ghosted articles for the Sunday Tory press extolling their betrayals, their love for the union movement, and their respect for the tiny minority of scabs who have been greedy, foolish, or neurotic enough to live out those betrayals; for when this long strike is over, theirs will be the human tragedies.

But for us, comrades, it is the picket line, and to agree with the Tory sewer press that in that ol' final analysis every strike is a political strike, as I told my sergeant in World War Two.

Arthur Moyse, London

UNEQUAL PAY FOR EQUAL WORK:

Two-Tier Pay Scheme

The two-tiered wage system is becoming a popular item on the agendas of US corporations in collective-bargaining negotiations. Under this invidious scheme, which should be staunchly resisted by working people, companies typically pay new employees as much as 50% less than current employees—even though the new employees will perform the same jobs.

To the corporate eye, the beauty of the two-tiered wage system is that it gives management a seemingly painless way of cutting wages. Unlike the familiar give-backs demanded by industry, such as wage cuts, the elimination of cost-of-living provisions, and the relinquishing of paid holidays and sick and personal days off, the two-tiered system doesn't hurt current employees (who, of course, are the ones voting on the labor pact). This is the enticing appeal to selfishness on which management bases its hopes of slashing labor costs.

This summer the demand for the two-tiered wage system came to the surface as a divisive factor in the General Motors negotiations with the United Automobile Workers, the five-week New York hospital strike, the long-standing lockout at the Merck Chemical Company in Rahway, New Jersey, and dozens of other contract talks affecting practically every industry and union.

The practice has spread to the Federal Government as

well. Managers of the US Postal Service unilaterally imposed a two-tiered system, with a wage differential of almost \$4,000 a year. The order was rescinded at the behest of Congress and placed before binding arbitration. And National Aeronautics and Space Administration officials insisted on two-tiered wage scales in the aerospace-industry negotiations. President Reagan has demanded that Congress amend the minimum-wage law so that teenagers might be paid 85¢ an hour less than their older brothers and sisters.

The principle of equal pay for equal work is deeply ingrained in the workplace as part of the union tradition and the labor contract. Unions that accede to the bosses' demand for the two-tiered wage system are rightfully accused by new members of having sold them down the river. The byproducts of an underclass of employees who receive unequal pay for equal work are nagging grievances, divisions, frustration, and anger on the part of new employees. The byproduct of their higher wages is nagging insecurity, for the bosses have been given a pool of lower-paid employees with which to replace them.

(adapted from an article by Archer Cole, president of District 3 of the International Union of Electrical, Radio, and Machine Workers, for the *New York Times*)



T-BONE SLIM ON ORGANIZATION

"Organization? Industry is organized to get the most possible out of every man and woman working in a plant. Organized down to the security guards at the gate who search your lunchbucket for fear you might be taking home something you shouldn't.

"What we need is organization enough to have the company searched to find out if it is carrying home any parts of our wages."

NOTICE? DID YOU NOTICE? DID YOU

LOCKOUT IN VANCOUVER: As of mid-August, members of the Independent Canadian Transit Union (ICTU) had been locked out for eight weeks by the Vancouver Metro Transit Operating Company. Unions and other supporters contributed funds in support of the locked-out workers, and the ICTU established a "food bank" for the 100 or so drivers who need assistance. In June the Government passed an order-in-council preventing strikers from getting social assistance, thereby denying public aid to the ICTU workers.

SURPRISE, SURPRISE: A recent study by the Opinion Research Corporation, a management-consulting firm based in New Jersey, has found that growing numbers of employees, from middle managers down, have a declining opinion of their managers' ability. Employees reported that they were not getting information from above, and complained of a sharp decline in "the willingness of management to listen". The least contented, most critical group in corporations is the clerical staff, because many clerical workers see top managers in close proximity. Also, clerical workers tend to be non-unionized, and the Opinion Research survey raised (hopefully, soon to be realized) fears about their criticism of treatment by their managers and about their salaries, making them a willing audience for union organizers.

THE FOX AND THE HEN both advocate healthy chicken-house management.

OUT FOR A SPIN: Rolls-Royce Motors will treat each of its British employees to a chauffeur-driven 60-mile "spin through the countryside" in its new models. Retired Rolls-Royce test drivers will take 3,000 employees for hour-and-a-half rides. "Everyone at Rolls-Royce is part of the same team and should experience and enjoy at first hand the excellent motorcars we produce," said the company's managing director. Now that Rolls-Royce workers are getting a taste of what they produce, perhaps it will whet their appetites for the full value of their labor.

SEX DISCRIMINATION in Minnesota: The International Union of Electrical Workers has filed charges of promotion and pay discrimination against a Minneapolis stamp-engraving corporation. Male employees hold all the positions at the top two pay levels, while 90% of the company's female employees are concentrated at the bottom pay levels, even though the women's seniority averages 24 years and the men's 19.9 years. A prime reason for the pay gap is that female employees were excluded from a training session that enabled men to win higher-paying jobs.

A RED LIGHT TO UNSAFE working conditions: A group in Thailand called Friends of Women have formed to work for safer working conditions for the country's 400,000 to 700,000 prostitutes. The group are pushing for stricter penalties for pimps and for the establishment of special districts where women can work as prostitutes without legal retaliation, but are not working to outlaw prostitution, as they feel that many Thai women have no other way to support themselves. The group's campaign grew out of the deaths of five young women in a hotel fire near a police station. The women had been locked in their rooms to prevent their escape from the brothel.

BETTER THINGS TO DO: "Poor workmanship" in three of the nation's most important anti-tank and air-to-air missiles led the Pentagon to stop "progress payments" to the Hughes Aircraft Company in late August. The move came after a Senate committee uncovered allegations that assembly-line workers at Hughes had used company supplies to make jewelry and to produce bootleg cable-television receivers. Company officials admitted that on at least one occasion workers had shut down an assembly line to watch a pornographic movie. Pentagon sources said deficiencies found in work from those same assembly lines included failure to solder the proper wires in missile circuits, permitting glue to leak into delicate missile-adjustment devices, and failure to spot bent parts before weapons were delivered. The weapons from these lines are particularly crucial to US contingency plans for a war in Europe against Warsaw tank divisions.

THE DEVIL'S VOTE: The reverend Jerry Falwell, who delivered the benediction to the Republican Convention, declared that "The idea that religion and politics don't mix was invented by the Devil to keep Christians from running their own country." The country they own, or the country they live in with others?

PANACEA: We may be close to having all our problems licked in these United States. With schools open and lotteries bigger than ever in 17 states, many children will be able to spend their minute of silence praying to God that their fathers will win the lottery. God, however, may have problems deciding between all the worthy petitioners.

"OBJECTIVITY", as I understand it, means that it's not happening to you." (Andrea Dworkin)

BLOOD MONEY AND FREEDOM of the press: When 16,000 Vietnam veterans brought a class-action suit against the eight companies that produced and sold the Agent Orange herbicides to the US Government for use in the Vietnam War, the presiding judge decided to solicit the opinions of veterans and their families on the proffered settlement before making his decision. At the hearing held in Chicago in mid-August, an overwhelming majority of the veterans spoke against accepting the settlement. The *Chicago Tribune* coverage of the hearing quoted five people, four of whom were in favor of accepting, giving the impression that this was the prevailing sentiment. As the *Trib* had editorialized long, hard, and often in opposition to compensation for Agent Orange-related ailments, one can reflect on the "management" of news to conform to newspaper policy.

ARMS FOR NICARAGUA? "There has not been a successful interdiction, or a verified report, of arms moving from Nicaragua to El Salvador since April 1981," says David C. MacMichael, who was relieved of his CIA duties last July for challenging his "superiors'" line on Nicaragua. He had been a CIA analyst of military and political developments in Central America from 1981 to 1983. "The Administration and the CIA have systematically misrepresented Nicaraguan involvement in the supply of arms to Salvadoran guerrillas to justify their efforts to overthrow the Nicaraguan Government." But then anyone capable of reading a map well enough to see that El Salvador and Nicaragua have no common border would be doubting the reality of those arms shipments.

MOBILE RODENT CONTROL UNIT 1: In spite of five years' faithful service on behalf of the Rhosyllen (Wales) Government, Nigel the cat is losing his six-dollar-a-month meal allowance. As an economy measure, the Borough Council has told Nigel's fellow workers at the maintenance depot that they must pay for the cat's food. In retaliation, workers say they may enroll Nigel in the Transport and General Workers Union, Britain's largest union, with 1.5 million members. Shop steward Dave Scott said that, as a union member, Nigel would be entitled to free meals while on the job. (As well as all the mice he can catch?)

NEW ZEALAND LABOR FOLLIES: Word comes that the New Zealand Government has decreed what it is pleased to term "voluntary unionism", that is "open shopism", as part of its "national development strategy". Anything the union can win for freeloading non-union members will be accepted, of course, but there will be no job actions or even union dues for them. Fortunately, many of New Zealand's unionists are not taking this lying down. The 350 workers at Feltex Carpets in Christchurch held a five-day strike when a spinner resigned from the Woolen Workers' Union under the new law, returning to work only after discussions with the union's branch president and the company's industrial-relations manager. A short work stoppage by 600 workers at the Otahuhu Railway Workshop resulted in two individuals who'd decided to resign rejoining their union. Journalists at the Christchurch "Press", New Zealand's second-largest morning newspaper, placed a black ban on copy from the paper's Timaru reporter after he left the New Zealand Journalists' Union. Well-organized and close-knit locals can defend themselves; the main victims of "voluntary unionism" laws are unionists who work in widely-scattered situations and are more vulnerable to boss pressure to leave the union. The Clerical Workers' Union lost 2,000 of its 50,000 members in the first month after the law was passed.

DANGERS OF DEMOCRACY: The battle to get out the vote seems more exciting this year than usual. A member of the nonpartisan Project Vote was arrested and handcuffed in Cincinnati when she refused to stop registering voters at a welfare office. The charge was "wanton registration of voters". Who was it who said "If voting could change things, elections would be illegal"?

FREE ENTERPRISE: "Full employment would be incompatible with the free-enterprise system, which carries with it the right to a normal float of unemployment," says John F. Finelly of the Council for Economic Development. We can only take Mr. Finelly at his word.

WHERE STRESS IS GREATEST

It's not management people who suffer the greatest job stress. A national survey by the *9 to 5 Newsletter* concluded:

"It is women in the lower-level jobs—clerical, service, blue-collar—who experience the highest rates of both stress symptoms (eyestrain, headaches, nausea, insomnia, muscle pain, fatigue, digestive problems, etc.) and stress-related illnesses (high blood pressure, heart disease, gastritis, ulcers, colitis).

"The elements that make for the most distressful jobs are having a great deal of responsibility but little authority; working with an angry or hostile boss; not being treated with respect; being subjected to sexual demands or racial slurs."

readers' soap box

George Spies, formerly professor of oratory at Notre Dame University, wrote: A man once boasted that he loved his dog so much that he fed him Canadian bacon. Yet the dog died of starvation. *Why?* The bacon was attached to a string, the string was tied to a piece of wood, and the piece of wood was nailed to a platform. Every time the dog wanted a piece of that bacon, he had to jump on the platform. As he jumped to reach for that bacon, the piece of wood which held the string to which the bacon was tied jumped up, and the poor dog could never reach it. So he died of starvation.

To relate that story to the New York hospital and nursing-home strike: If the labor fakirs had called out the kitchen crew, that strike would have been settled in one day. But they had another contract.

Yours for labor solidarity

Minnie F. Corder

PRISONS AND LEGITIMIZED SLAVERY

Recently, while glancing through an old copy of the *Next Whole Earth Catalog*, I read an article which referred to your publication and to the Industrial Workers of the World. As a prisoner, having spent more than half my adult life behind bars, I am vitally interested in prison organizing, and in bringing about change in society leading to the eventual destruction of prisons.

With nearly three-quarters of a million people behind bars in a nation that holds itself up as the leader and model of the "free" world, the time has long since come when such legalized slavery should cease to be condoned. Prisons present neither a solution nor a cure for crime. The huge bureaucratic prison industry is guilty of perpetuating the myth that prisons deter and punish. Yet such statements are belied by the continuous call for more and more prison cells to be built. Nearly a thousand facilities are planned or already under construction in this country, at an estimated cost of more than seven billion dollars. All of this at a time when we are told that the crime rate is actually decreasing.

Naturally, the people who occupy those cells have no

say in the matter. Prisoners present no possible threat to the political hacks who continue to give in to the demands of the prison bureaucracy, though it is quite clear that the prison industry has failed in its stated aims since its very inception. Yet ever-increasing sums of money are poured into this foolhardy venture, which is rapidly becoming one of the major siphons of national income, along with that other absurdity, national offense, with its astronomically-expensive strategic weaponry.

This sad state of affairs will never change unless we take it upon ourselves to bring it about. Meaningful change is never imposed by those who profit from the status quo, but comes from the desire and determination of those who suffer under it. Perhaps prisons do indeed fulfill society's desire to remove from its midst those members who would prey upon it, but the numbers involved cry out loudly for drastic change within the very society that begets them.

Granted that there are some people in prison who have become so warped that reason alone dictates their segregation, a vast majority of prisoners are guilty of little more than being impoverished and downtrodden, victims of a class society that needs villains to punish as much as it needs heroes to worship. As long as this society continues to condemn people to enforced poverty, unequal employment, and inadequate housing and educational opportunities, the prison industry will continue its virtually unrestrained spending. Those already in prison, as well as those doomed to follow them, have a right to decent jobs, affordable housing, and quality education. History has shown us that half measures are totally ineffective; we are dealing with a cancer upon society—one of several—that must be cured regardless of how radical the therapy.

Prisoners and those destined to become prisoners must be organized into a cohesive force so that they may speak and act with authority. Such attempts to organize have historically been met with stiff resistance from the prison bureaucrats who view prisoner solidarity as a direct threat to their very existence and continued parasitic livelihood. Utilizing the hatreds and prejudices of society at large, prison bureaucrats are quick to initiate and encourage divisiveness and dissension among prisoners at the very first sign of unity. Prisoners must therefore be educated not to fall prey to the ploys prison bureaucrats use to ensure their continued subjugation.

I am very much interested in learning the IWW's position on this aberration of society. If possible, I would like to receive copies of the *Industrial Worker*; however because of my present circumstances I am regrettably unable to pay the cost of a subscription, and must rely

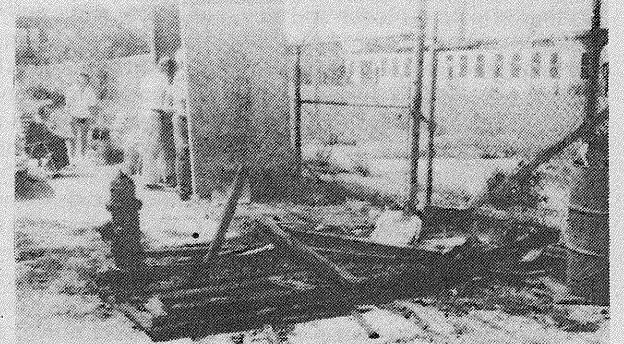
on the generosity of others also engaged in the common struggle.

Unity and Freedom,

Leonard F. Tate, C-36957
Post Office Box 600
Tracy, California 95376-0600

(The *Industrial Worker* has entered a class-war-prisoner subscription in FW Tate's behalf. Our ability to continue providing free subscriptions to prisoners, and to maintain *Industrial Worker* publication, is dependent on your contributions to the Sustaining Fund.)

UAW Picket Shanty Destroyed



Arson is suspected in the burning of UAW Local 449 picket shanty in use on Ninth st., where the unionists have determinedly continued their strike against National Metalcrafters (former National Lock) since April 16, 1983 in a quest for justice. Private security officers, quick to notice every time a picket sneezes or scratches his head, apparently did not see nor report blaze that burned shanty to ground atop a city fireplug, which was badly scorched.

Dear Readers:

How's this for law and order? The arson depicted in the enclosed clipping was done between 6 and 8 pm on Wednesday, August 8th, according to the few unionists who knew anything at all of it. My first knowledge of it came as a surprise at the start of my volunteer picket shift 2 pm Monday, August 13th. (I'm actually in UAW 1268.)

We picked some evidence out of the rubbish and I took it to the police. The police somehow had no knowledge of the episode, and neither did the fire department—even after almost a week! The *Rockford Star Register* would not publish the story. So I called the *Rockford Labor News* to come out to the scene to take this photo, but the only coverage they gave it was the caption.

And how's this for law and order? A month or so before the arson, I found a swastika on my doorstep. I live in a rickety old wooden apartment house in which all the other tenants are Laotian immigrants, right next door to a black man's auto body shop.

Beneath the surface, the arson and the swastika are closely related, for they reveal the undercurrents of total lawlessness, which the forces of law and order nourish through the impunity they give to capitalism's scabs and other hoodlums, while keeping the rest of us on the FBI "subversive" list.

Hope you can find a spot to run this warning. Enclosed is \$5 to help with printing costs.

In solidarity,

George La Forest
X332008

CORRECTIONS

Due to typesetting mistakes, certain errors appeared in the October 1984 *Industrial Worker*. In our article "Elections?...Thanks a Lot" (Page 6), it was stated that more than 600,000 delegates to the Democratic Convention were members of AFL-CIO unions. That should have read "more than 600 delegates".

Similarly, in our article "Needed: World Unionism" (Page 2), the date of the nationwide organization of US coal miners was given as 1890. It should have read 1890.

We regret these errors.

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A limited selection of silent agitators is available in the following designs: The Ass, Build Militant Unionism, Dodo Bird, Four-Hour Day, One Big Union, and Revolutionary Industrial Unionism (Victory). Send 2¢ each (50¢ minimum, please).

*These items are offered for sale as a convenience to the readers of the IW. They are not official IWW literature, and the union takes no position on their content. The IWW does not engage in direct or indirect alliances with political or anti-political groups or sects. Quantity discounts are available on only some of the above titles.

LITERATURE DISCOUNT POLICY

Bulk orders of five or more of any item on the IWW Literature List, unless otherwise indicated, may be ordered at a 40% discount if orders are prepaid. We offer a 30% discount on similar orders which we must invoice. Postage will be added to all orders that are not prepaid. Please allow three weeks for delivery. (ND) indicates that no discount is available.

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Introduction to the IWW: 10¢ each; bulk rate 40% discount, paid in advance. San Francisco IWW, PO Box 40485, San Francisco, California 94140.
Solidarity Bulletin (monthly publication): \$10 a year.
Vancouver IWW, PO Box 34334, Station D, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada V6J 4P3.

Please send all orders (unless otherwise designated) to: IWW, 3435 North Sheffield, Suite 202, Chicago, Illinois 60657 (USA).

N.Y. Hospital Strike Ends

In late August, 52,000 New York City hospital workers represented by District 1199 of the Retail, Wholesale, and Department Store Workers Union won a two-year contract that guarantees every other weekend off for union members and a yearly 5% wage increase which, because of an unfortunate concession, will not apply to hospital workers hired after July 1st, 1985. The 46-day strike, the longest and largest health-care strike in NYC history, affected 30 hospitals and 15 nursing homes. Most of the union members were orderlies, clerks, or housekeeping staff, however they also included technicians, physical therapists, and social workers, as well as nurses at five of the struck hospitals.

The strike also affected 18,000 patients. Hospitals were forced to curtail elective surgery, reduce admissions, and close many clinics. Increasingly exhausted supervisors worked 12-hour shifts to take the places of the striking workers, giving news photographers shots of doctors mopping floors and of hospital executives washing dishes. During the strike the New York State Health Department cited 14 of the struck hospitals for deficiencies, including medical and nursing mistakes, unsanitary conditions, dietary shortcomings, and inadequate physical examinations and medical and laboratory tests.

The State of New York, which controls 95% of the 30 private, non-profit hospitals' income by regulating the Medicaid and Blue Cross insurance rates (the public and private insurers that account for the bulk of the hospitals' revenues), has in the past imposed health-care settlements and financed them by agreeing to increase reimbursement. This year New York Governor Cuomo refused to intervene, leaving the union and the League of Voluntary Hospitals and Homes—the bargaining group for the hospitals—to do what they had never had to do before: negotiate a contract on their own. The unpreparedness of either for contract bargaining (the union, which broke from the national union this spring under the leadership of its president, Doris Turner, was said to be torn with internal strife) may have prolonged the

FIFTY YEARS AGO

1934 was a year of re-birth for a near-dead labor movement. Early in February in Minneapolis, coal drivers organized and won a strike in three days. On February 23rd, a federal labor union struck Auto-Lite in Toledo, and when an injunction stopped union members from picketing, the unemployed took over that chore and won the strike by mid-April. In May Minneapolis Teamsters went out again, and despite the murderous attacks of a citizens' army and the opposition of the strikers' millionaire union head, they won in late August when bankers quit threatening denial of credit to those employers who gave in.

On the West Coast an outlaw longshore strike demanded a dollar an hour, a 30-hour week, and a union hiring hall. When pickets were killed July 5th a three-day general strike followed. At the end of July the longshoremen won with an organized return to work.

During the '20s the AFL had grown dormant. The Depression led to new thoughts, among them interest in the IWW campaign (via a corps of soapboxers and millions of leaflets) to urge the jobless to assure those who still had jobs that if they struck, the unemployed would come not to take their jobs but to bolster their picket lines. This tactic had been proved out by the IWW on a construction project in Cle Elum, Washington in 1933, and had been successfully applied by others in Toledo. The IWW also re-introduced the old tactic of the stay-in strike in Detroit at Briggs and at Hudson Body, where little cards were passed down the line reading "Sit Down and Watch Your Pay Go Up" months before the sitdown wave flared up in Akron, resulting in a series of nickel pay boosts. FT

FAREWELL, FELLOW WORKERS

Fellow Worker Frank Marquat died Wednesday, September 5th in Albuquerque at the age of 86. Frank was a machinist by trade, a revolutionary by choice, and a union man and activist for over 70 years. As an organizer for the United Auto Workers in Detroit, he participated in the historic events which made industrial unionism a reality throughout the auto industry. He was one of the UAW's first education directors, serving in various locals until his purge as a "red" in the 1950s. Frank was a long-time member of the Socialist Party, and one of the founding members of the IWW's New Mexico General Branch.

Frank was many things as a person: tough, compassionate, intelligent, literate, and tireless in his work for a better society. In his later years, Frank would still give us priceless advice, help out in organizing drives, and speak out at educationals. Frank Marquat was my friend, and I miss him badly.

Renzo Giromini

As the *Industrial Worker* goes to press, we have also received belated word of the death of Fellow Worker Emil Pietz. FW Pietz, an agricultural worker who originally joined the IWW many years ago, re-established his membership in 1963, retaining it until his death in August 1983. Fellow Worker Pietz died in Cudahy, Wisconsin, where he spent his last years with his brother Herman.

strike.

During the strike, even though the hospitals derive virtually all their income through public or regulated sources, they refused to open their books so that union officials could determine for themselves whether the hospitals could afford a wage increase. Union leaders also called attention to the large salaries and expensive perquisites of hospital executives and physicians (the hospital directors make salaries of up to \$150,000, or 10 times what nursing attendants and orderlies make).

Pickets repeatedly clashed with police during the third week of the strike, with some 60 union members arrested in connection with strike-related violence. Under the new contract, these workers would remain on the hospital and nursing-home payrolls pending a case-by-case review of their status by an arbitrator chosen by both sides. Neither union nor management officials would say whether the arrested employees would be allowed to work during arbitration.

Strikers were under continuous pressure, large and small, during the strike. Patients' relatives shouted abuse at unionists walking the picket lines. A judge in Federal District Court in Manhattan granted a temporary order that effectively cut medical benefits for the strikers. The hospitals also threatened to replace all striking workers. While dismissing striking workers is against the regulations of the National Labor Relations Board, workers may legally be replaced and may reclaim their jobs only after their replacements leave.



Around Our Union

SEATTLE: Fellow workers from Portland, Seattle, and Vancouver met in Seattle on Saturday, August 4th, for a discussion of a proposed 1986 international IWW conference. A presentation "On the Need for an International Conference" was followed by a lively discussion which dealt with the general need for a new framework for global working-class dialogue as well as the specific idea of an international conference. Agreement on the need to pursue an international outreach led to the formation of a working group to further this end. The West Coast Internationalist Group drafted a statement of purpose and submitted a list of recommendations on internationalist issues to the IWW Convention. A complete report on this discussion is available for \$1 from the West Coast Internationalist Group, PO Box 20402, Seattle, Washington 98102.

ANTI-WAR ENCAMPMENT in South Carolina: IWW members participated in a two-month encampment this summer outside the Savannah River Plant near Aiken, South Carolina, which produces plutonium and tritium for nuclear weapons. Not only does this work threaten global life, but the byproducts of weapons manufacture threaten local living things.

IW SUSTAINING FUND

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TOTAL	235.00

Many thanks, fellow workers, for your generous support.

NOTICES

A petition for recall of IWW General Secretary-Treasurer Jon Bekken was submitted September 2nd, 1984. As required by the IWW Constitution, FW Bekken stands suspended from office until the completion of balloting, probably in early December. In the meantime, FW Rochelle Semel, chairperson of the General Executive Board, has assumed the position of General Secretary-Treasurer, as provided for in the IWW Constitution. FW Bekken has agreed to continue working in the office while the recall referendum is in the field.

Ballots for the recall, and for 1985 General Officers, were issued October 10th. Members who do not receive their ballots by the end of October should enquire.

As per the decision of the 42nd General Convention, production of the *Industrial Worker* will remain in Chicago. The Convention voted its appreciation to FWs Arnold and McMullen for their work on the paper over the last year.

IWW Directory



ALASKA: Anchorage: Ruth Sheridan, Delegate, 4704 Kenai, Anchorage, Alaska 99508. Juneau/Douglas IWW, Barry Roderick, Delegate, PO Box 748, Douglas, Alaska 99824. Fairbanks: Chris White, Delegate, Box 72938, Fairbanks, Alaska 99707.

BRITISH COLUMBIA: Vancouver IWW, Box 34334, Station D, Vancouver, BC V6J 4P3, Canada, (604) 430-6605. West Kootenay IWW, PO Box 941, Nelson, BC V1L 6A5, Canada.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA: Pat McConkey, Delegate, 1868 Columbia Road Northwest (610), Washington DC 20009.

CALIFORNIA: Little River: Industrial Union 130, c/o Graham, PO Box 302, Little River, California 95456. San Diego, Sandra Dutky, Delegate, 4472 Georgia, San Diego, California 92116, (619) 296-9966. San Francisco Bay Area General Membership Branch, PO Box 40485, San Francisco, California 94140. Oakland: Richard Ellington, Delegate, 6448 Irwin Court, Oakland, California 94609, (415) 658-0293.

FLORIDA: Fred Hansen, Box 824, New Port Richey, Florida 33552.

GEORGIA: Elton Manzione, Delegate, 729 Pulaski, Athens, Georgia 30603, (404) 353-1218.

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

IDAHO: IWW Delegate, Route 1, Box 137, Potlach, Idaho 83855. Southeastern Idaho Forest Workers Affinity Group, IU 120, Box 764, Pocatello, Idaho 83201.

ILLINOIS: Champaign-Urbana IWW, Jeff Stein, Delegate, 1007 North Randolph, Champaign, Illinois 61820. Chicago General Membership Branch, IWW, 3435 North Sheffield, Suite 202, Chicago, Illinois 60657, (312) 549-5045. Meetings first Wednesday of each month, 7:30 pm.

INDIANA: IWW Delegate, PO Box E-206, Richmond, Indiana 47374.

KANSAS: Lawrence: Jovan Weismiller, Delegate, 917 Ohio, Apartment A, Lawrence, Kansas 66044.

KENTUCKY: Louisville IWW Group, c/o Long, 1841 Sherwood, Apartment 2, Louisville, Kentucky 40205, (502) 456-4377. Meetings fourth Sunday of each month, 4 pm.

LOUISIANA: General Defense Committee, Arthur J. Miller, Secretary, PO Box 52282, New Orleans, Louisiana 70152.

MANITABA: Winnipeg IWW, "Haywire Brack", Delegate, Box 161, Station C, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3M 3S7, Canada.

MASSACHUSETTS: Boston General Membership Branch, PO Box 454, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139. Meetings first Sunday of each month, 522-7090 or 625-5107. Western Massachusetts IWW Delegate, PO Box 157, Deerfield, Massachusetts 01373.

MICHIGAN: Ann Arbor/Detroit General Membership Branch, c/o Kaufmann, 42 South Summit, Ypsilanti, Michigan 48197. Copper County: Robin Oye, Delegate, PO Box 392, Hancock, Michigan 49930. Grand Rapids: IWW Delegate, 415 Ethel, Grand Rapids, Michigan 49506. People's Warehouse IU 660 Branch, c/o Kozura, 2237 Shadowood, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104. University Cellular IU 660 Job Branch, 341 West Liberty, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48107.

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

MONTANA: Clark Fork Valley IWW, PO Box 8562, Missoula, Montana 59807, (406) 728-6053. Thompson Falls: A. L. Nurse, Delegate, Route 5, Box 88, Thompson Falls, Montana 59874, (406) 827-3238.

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

NEW YORK: Buffalo: Henry Pfaff, Delegate, 77 Eckert, Buffalo, New York 14207, (716) 877-6073. Central New York General Membership Branch, c/o McKown, 1121 Westcott, Syracuse, New York 13210. New York City General Membership Branch, PO Box 183, New York, New York 10028. Rego Park: Jackie Panish, Delegate, 99-12 65th Road (5-J), Rego Park, New York 11374, (212) 868-1121.

OHIO: IWW Delegate, PO Box 26381, Dayton, Ohio 45426.

ONTARIO: Brian Burch, Delegate, 257B Carlton Street, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M1A 2L4.

PENNSYLVANIA: Tom Hill, Delegate, PO Box 41928, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19101.

SOUTH CAROLINA: Harbinger Publications, IU 450 Job Shop, 18 Bluff Road, Columbia, South Carolina 29201, (803) 254-9398.

TEXAS: Austin: Andrew Lee, Delegate, 3402 Enfield (B), Austin, Texas 78703, (512) 472-7854. Houston: Gilbert Mers, Delegate, 7031 Kernel, Houston, Texas 77087, (713) 921-0877.

WASHINGTON: Bellingham General Membership Branch, PO Box 1386, Bellingham, Washington 98227, (206) 671-5209. Meetings third Sunday of each month, 6:30 pm. Seattle General Membership Branch, 3238 33rd Avenue South, Seattle, Washington 98144. Tacoma/Olympia General Membership Branch, 2115 South Sheridan, Tacoma, Washington 98405, (206) 272-8119.

WISCONSIN: Madison General Membership Branch and General Defense Committee Local 9, c/o 432 Sidney, Madison, Wisconsin 53703.

Fanning Flames

Wobbly musicians entertained sellout crowds at two shows during the IWW Labor Day Weekend Songfest in Chicago. Bob Bovee, Bruce (Haywire Brack) Brackney, Jeff Cahill, Mike Felton, J. B. Freeman, Eric Glatz, Fred Holstein, Robin Oye, Faith Petric, Utah Phillips, Mark Ross, Kathleen Taylor, and Marion Wade all gave stellar performances to enthusiastic audiences.

Both shows were recorded, and plans are under way for release of a "Little Red Record" sometime around May Day. The concerts were sponsored by the Hungarian Literature Committee, which also plans to release the record, titled "To Fan the Flames".

The concerts were among the highlights of the IWW's 42nd General Convention, held in Chicago that weekend. Delegates from around the country joined in with musicians on the choruses of well-known favorite songs from the "Little Red Songbook" and other labor and protest music collected by the performers, who are members of the IWW's IU 630 Entertainment Workers Union.

There were some new favorites as well, including Jeff Cahill's new song "The Organizer", which was well received, and Mark Ross's setting to music of Ralph Chaplin's "Song of the Rails", which has become a modern classic. The entire group sang "Power in the Union" and

"Solidarity Forever", which brought audiences to their feet.

There were many other outstanding performances by all the musicians, too numerous to mention individually. In all, there were about 40 selections suitable for putting on a record.

The familiar songs were well represented too, with selections from Joe Hill, T-Bone Slim, Utah Phillips, Haywire Mack, and Woody Guthrie rounding out each evening's entertainment. Utah Phillips acted as MC, and his stories of tramps, hobos, and working folks added some humorous insight into the union for those in the audience who were uninitiated (or as Fred Holstein remarked, "who had been dragged to the event by an over-enthusiastic friend"). The concerts also were a real boost to the Chicago Branch, who used them to make the union's presence known locally.

"The Singing Union" has once again made a valuable contribution to workers' culture. As we sing about our struggles and victories, we are reminded of the anthem of the Lawrence Strike of 1912: "Our lives shall not be sweated from birth until life closes. Hearts starve as well as bodies; give us bread, but give us roses!"

Judy Lyn Freeman



Some of the 13 Wobbly musicians performing to sellout crowds in Chicago during an IWW-sponsored Labor Day Weekend songfest.

DISGRUNTLED LILCO WORKERS SETTLE FOR LESS THAN THEY HAD BEFORE STRIKE

Members of both locals of the International Brotherhood (sic) of Electrical Workers on strike against the New York-based Long Island Lighting Company (Lilco) approved a contract in mid-August ending their five-week walkout, the first strike in the company's 74-year history. Local 1381, representing 1,360 clerical workers, voted 7 to 2, and Local 1049, representing 2,550 "physical workers", voted 3 to 2, to accept a contract that calls for a pay freeze for current workers.

The unions had first asked for a pay raise, but just before the strike began offered to accept a 12-month pay freeze. Lilco, which claims it is near bankruptcy

because of uncertainty over whether its Shoreham Nuclear Power Station will ever operate, had sought a 5% pay cut. Union members said, however, that lost wages during the strike had cost them more than a 5% pay cut would have.

The new contract, worked out in a 27-hour bargaining session, provides for 5% lower pay for starting employees than previous starting salaries. New employees would eventually reach the same pay schedule as workers hired under the previous contract, but must meet stricter standards of attendance, accident prevention, and discipline than existing workers.

Unlike the previous contracts with the electricians, which expired in July, the new contract extending into 1986 ends in February, which many union members feel

is to the advantage of the company because workers would find it more difficult to get casual jobs as gardeners or home-repair workers and would face higher living expenses during a strike in the winter.

"Who wants to stand out there at night on a picket line when it's 18 degrees?" asked one worker.

Much of the returning workers' bitterness centers on the consulting contracts given to Lilco's former president and former chairman of the board when they left the company this year, and a contract with the new chairman, William Catacosinos, which guarantees him \$600,000 should he leave Lilco.

"I'm not on strike against Lilco, I'm on strike against Catacosinos," said one worker. "Do you know how long it takes me to make \$600,000, even at \$25,000 a year?"

Much of the Long Island Lighting Company's financial trouble stems from its dabbling in nuclear-power schemes. Its 4.1-billion-dollar Shoreham Nuclear Power Station is still not in operation because Suffolk County, where Shoreham is situated, refuses to participate in the development of an emergency plan. Such plans have been required by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission as a condition of licensing since the accident at the Three Mile Island 2 reactor, near Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, in March 1979. The County contends that no plan could adequately protect the health and safety of those living near the Shoreham plant, which is on Long Island's north shore, 55 miles east of Manhattan. The State of New York has refused to overrule the Suffolk County decision.

Unemployment Blues

Hallelujah, I'm a bum; and if it wasn't for the unemployment office's bull, I could enjoy myself. I live in New York City, and the unemployment office I've been assigned to has ordered me down there three times in eight days, giving me little time to find a job (and no money yet). Two of the three times were for sheer nonsense. I had to wait an hour and a half on line in 90 degrees and 70% humidity, with no air conditioning and no windows, just to be stamped in and told to come back next week. The rest rooms have no toilet seats, and the pregnant woman in front of me almost fainted. The guy behind me had to come in even though he was on vacation for the next two weeks and was not requesting benefits till his vacation pay ran out.

After four visits to this insult to the working class, they still haven't interviewed me or approved any benefits. They just want to see how long I can withstand the heat and humiliation. The fifth time I went I waited five hours for a five-minute interview, and was told my case is still pending since the company hasn't responded to my claim. The efficiency of the capitalist system never ceases to amaze me.

There was some good news, though. Fellow Worker Jackie Panish was able to hand out about 40 IWW leaflets in 20 minutes and withstand some mild verbal abuse from a supervisor.

One highlight of my job search was answering an ad for a clerk, salary negotiable, and then finding out it was for the Salvation Army. They want to hire someone for their Department of Planned Giving (I'm serious), typing letters and handling frequent phone calls about donating your will to the various annuities and trust funds they've set up. (Sounds to me like they're doing better than most corporations.) The guy I talked to said the salary is \$180 to \$200 a week (not a living wage in New York City), and it's only negotiable within this limit. I figured I'd have to join their breadline to survive on that salary. But the next time I see someone in the subway soliciting money for one of their trust funds, I'll tell him or her about a union that doesn't promise "pie in the sky when you die".

Actually, the way I got unemployed was kind of interesting. I worked at a sleazy corporate travel agency which lied about giving raises, expected us to do three or four different jobs for the price of one, and gave no time off, paid or unpaid, for the first year of employment. I was already doing four different jobs, was promoted and not given a raise, and refused to do an additional higher-grade job. The latter infuriated my boss, and she was always looking for make-work for me to do when I wasn't busy, even though the travel agents, making double my salary, could read their newspapers as much as they wanted.

Anyway, I was getting fed up and decided that if they expected me to fill in for another worker (the one who pulled the airline tickets off the machine and was going on vacation), I would have to have the following week off, paid or unpaid. They refused this request, so I decided I'd tell them I was not filling in for the vaca-

tioning worker, but I wouldn't tell them this till the other worker was on vacation. This would give me some bargaining power.

Well, my boss was furious at me that morning when I told her. I hadn't seen her that angry since she missed a sale at Bloomingdale's. The tickets kept piling up for a good hour as my boss alternated between screaming at me and being nice ("Come on, I'll help you"), but I wouldn't budge. The important thing was that the other workers saw her ranting and raving like a lunatic, contradicting the "one of the boys" image she tried so hard to impress us with.

She kept trying to get through to the vice-president who ran the company, but the VP wasn't in.

"This is insubordination, you know," my manager said to me, as I shrugged my shoulders. "What if every worker decided to do only what he or she wanted to?"

Well, I had a nice answer to that rhetorical question, but I just shrugged again. Finally she had to do the tickets herself, including all the ones that had piled up and had to get out immediately, while I sat at my desk and watched. What a thrill! The ticket workers in the main office of the company loved the idea of the manager and travel agents processing their own tickets, and said they would refuse to be transferred if they were told to fill in.

The day ended, with my boss doing an admirable job, and the next day began the same way. But when my manager took an early lunch, I knew she was meeting with the VP in the main office and this "insubordination" would come to a head. She came back and again asked me to do the ticketing. I refused, and she told me to write a memo saying that I was resigning. Instead, I wrote the truth: that I wouldn't do another worker's job and receive no time off afterward, and left the office. As I approached the elevator, my manager came running out of the office.

"You didn't write what I told you to!" she yelled.

I looked at her, glanced at the elevator, and decided that the elevator was the best choice (never seeing her again). I also went up to the main office and confronted

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the VP, asking why I couldn't have time off. She gave me the same mumbo-jumbo word-for-word, and I left. Most of the other workers supported me, yet wouldn't do anything about it; but at least the company lost some respectability in everyone's eyes. At least two more workers expect to quit soon, and another one left about a month ago.

The only thing I'll miss is pulling down the right-wing silent agitators that have appeared all over the company's neighborhood, saying "Fight Inflation, Stamp Out Labor Unions." I was pulling off three a week, but they would just be put back again. There were a couple of strikes going on in the area against El Al Airlines and a catering place, so I'll bet it was one of those companies' idea. It really disgusts me that the corporations are not satisfied with monopolizing all the major media, but have resorted to using the people's grass-roots organizing techniques as well.

Anyway, I'll see you on next week's unemployment line, where according to Grandpa Ronnie, I help keep inflation down.

Bruce Kayton

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