



**INDUSTRIAL WORKERS
OF THE WORLD**

INDUSTRIAL WORKER

★ EDUCATION ★ ORGANIZATION ★ EMANCIPATION

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Canadian Bosses Attack; Workers Strike Back

Vancouver IWW members hit the bricks October 4th as part of their resistance to a many-faceted employer offensive now taking place throughout British Columbia.

The Canadian Union of Postal Workers (CUPW) called an all-union informational picket that day to increase public awareness of the Canada Post Corporation's demand for employee concessions in the current round of contract negotiations. The CUPW is asking for a job-creation scheme as part of its new contract, instead of the proposed job shrinkage, reduced service, and wage and benefit cuts. Vancouver Wobs distributed a leaflet on the hazards of concessions at the picket.

Concessions are also at the root of a lockout taking place in British Columbia against employees of Famous Players Theaters, a subsidiary of the four-billion-dollar transnational Gulf and Western Corporation, which has locked out cashiers, doorpersons, candy clerks, and ushers. These folks earned an average of \$6.50 an hour and had no medical, dental, or sick benefits. Their only perk was time and a half for Sunday work, and now the company is demanding that workers give even this up, in effect taking a 33% wage cut for Sunday work. Also being fought are contract changes which would reduce job security and employment levels.

Meanwhile, the Canadian Association of Communications and Allied Workers (CACAW), an affiliate of the Confederation of Canadian Unions, has been on strike against CNCP Telecommunications since August 28th. Again, the bosses demanded concessions. CACAW says that it is fighting to preserve public telegraph service in Canada by diverting resources to begin providing long-distance telephone service.

In mid-September CACAW asked CNCP Telecommunications customers and suppliers to stop dealing with the firm.

Two other current disputes involve cutbacks affecting Slade & Stewart and Kelly Douglas warehouse workers. On May 22nd, Slade & Stewart workers (all union members with 7 to 30 years' service to the company) were locked out after working 14 weeks without a contract. Slade & Stewart, a subsidiary of the Pacific Fruit Company, is a warehouse distributor of fresh and processed food. Pacific Fruit is the second-largest fruit company

in the world, and according to the Retail Wholesale Union it is nearly impossible to find a single restaurant in the interior of British Columbia that doesn't buy from Slade & Stewart.

Slade & Stewart is maintaining operations with 20 scabs making only half the wages previously paid. Management precipitated the lockout to eliminate "accumulated time off" (ATO) provisions in the contract. ATO is a mechanism whereby workers accumulated five hours per week of time off, which was later used as additional vacation time. Management is determined to increase its profits by cutting expenses, and has particularly targeted ATO. But the union is standing firm, insisting that there will be no concessions.

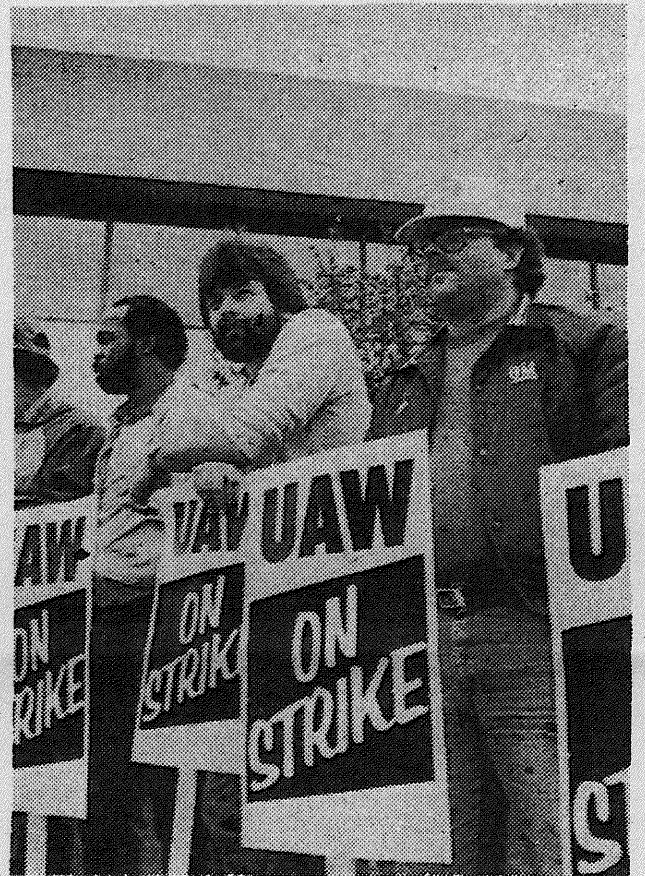
In spite of a court ruling restricting pickets, Slade & Stewart is losing money. In the Vancouver area, business is down to normal. The scabs are reported to be inefficient, taking several hours longer than the workers they replaced to do their jobs.

Kelly Douglas announced that it would close its warehouse in Burnaby, British Columbia October 15th, contracting the entire operation out to Johnston Terminals. About a hundred workers will get the chance of a lifetime—to join the Teamsters by working for Johnston. If they don't, these workers (whose seniority enables them to keep working at Johnston) will lose their right to severance pay.

Johnston Terminals gets the fresh-produce segment of Kelly Douglas's business. The workers transferring from the Retail Wholesale Union to the Teamsters get a six-dollar-an-hour cut in wages. A hundred other workers will lose their jobs altogether, as dry goods and processed foods are sent to a non-union firm.

And at Kwantlen College in Surrey, the Student Association is attempting to break the union certified to represent its two employees, one of whom decided to strike after the other was fired for union activity. The Service, Office, and Retail Workers' Union of Canada has announced that if the fired worker is not rehired, it will shut down the whole campus.

Reprinted from *Solidarity Bulletin*



Having refused the new round of concessions narrowly approved by their fellow workers south of the border, Canadian auto workers have mounted picket lines at GM's Ontario and Quebec plants.

Euro-socialists Push Capitalist Austerity

In mid-October, the socialist General Workers Confederation, which represents about half of Spain's workers, signed an agreement with the country's Socialist Party Prime Minister, Felipe Gonzalez, to hold wage hikes below inflation rates and to allow easier layoffs. The Spanish Government maintains that current laws—under which the employers' confederation (always a reliable source) estimates that it costs an average of more than \$70,000 in legal fees and payments to dismiss a worker—discourage small companies from re-investing profits in expansions, and prevent the creation of new jobs. The change in the laws regarding dismissals is being presented as part of the overhauling of Spanish industry in preparation for the expected Spanish entry into the European Economic Community (EEC).

Although the country's jobless rate is 18.5%, the Government industrial plan calls for cutting more than 10,500 jobs from State-controlled industries. Shipyards and steel mills are being closed or converted to other uses. Nearly 2,000 miles of railroad track are being shut down to cut the losses of the State railroad company. In return for increased employment, however (if easier layoffs don't spur job creation), Spanish workers are assured that a greater percentage of them will be entitled to unemployment benefits—from 25% in 1984 to 48% in 1986.

The communist unions' confederation, the Workers Commissions, has so far refused to sign the agreements, but the Government has not lost hope that it will.

Precisely what benefits Gonzalez expects Spain to

reap from EEC membership is unclear. Perhaps the idea is to better lure industry away from Europe's "snow-belt" to Europe's "sunbelt", with a hungrier and cheaper work force thrown in.

Meanwhile, social democrats in the heartland of the EEC, France and Germany, are dismantling their welfare systems and attacking unions as vehemently as Conservative England, as multi-national corporations set governments to bidding against each other on incentives and subsidies, while outmaneuvering State controls. This fall, the German Government also announced plans to allow easier worker layoffs despite 9% unemployment. Proposed legislation would also simplify procedures for hiring and firing part-time workers, widen employer discretion in establishing work hours, and totally eliminate the requirement of any company that has been in business for less than four years to negotiate a "social plan" regarding severance pay and benefits with its employees. All this in the name of "reducing business reluctance to hire". Under Germany's present laws, officials of the giant Krupp Steel Company complained, the cost of laying off 9,000 workers in its money-losing steel mills and shipyards in 1983 amounted to over \$90 million.

Corporations leap across national boundaries in true one-world spirit. Governments have no qualms about taking leaves from each other's books on how to deal with "uncompetitive" workers. When will the workers of the world get together? Whether in Spanish or German, "You're fired!" sounds pretty much the same.

ACTION ALERT!

THE INTERNATIONAL UNION of Food and Allied Workers' Associations has alerted its affiliates and contacts to the possible resumption of the international boycott of Coca-Cola in light of the company's failure to fully implement the agreement it reached last May with the Sindicato de Trabajadores de Embotelladora Guatemalteca (see the August *Industrial Worker*).

As the *Industrial Worker* goes to press, the IUF informs us that telephone service to the EGSA plant has been cut off, and gunshots were fired near the plant on October 16th. The call for an international boycott has been postponed, as the Coca-Cola Company is currently engaged in negotiations with three groups of potential buyers. The IUF reports that a number of difficulties—particularly financial problems aggravated by the passage of several months without wages—were weakening morale, but that STEGAC members remain determined to prevail. The Company is violating a number of terms of the agreement reached with the union last May.

The IUF asks that people send messages to Coca-Cola in Atlanta (PO Drawer 1734, Atlanta, Georgia 30301) expressing their concern that the agreement of May 27th has not yet been fulfilled; send messages of support to STEGAC (24 Calle 6-01, Zona 11, Ciudad de Guatemala, Guatemala) to let them know you still support them in their efforts to secure their livelihoods, safety, and dignity; send messages to the Minister of Labor (Senor Carlos Padilla Natareno, Ministro del Trabajo, Ciudad de Guatemala, Guatemala) expressing your concern that the plant is not yet re-opened and requesting that he act to protect the welfare of the workers; and send financial contributions for the workers to the IUF account (Coca-Cola Workers Solidarity, Banque Centrale Cooperative, Compte UITA Nombre 246750.29.00.90-3, CH-1211, Geneve 2, Switzerland). The IUF also asks that people prepare to take further support actions (such as boycotts and publicity and information campaigns) as they prove necessary.



According to Massau, the creator the Hopi Nation believes in, men should become as wise as he for the sake of their own survival; and the Hopi creation story says Massau was happy that humans were free and independent thinkers. In the creation legend found in the Book of Genitals, however, that creator didn't want people to be too smart, and they were specifically instructed not to eat of the tree of knowledge, lest they become as wise as gods. Some 40 centuries later, Robert G. Ingersol paraphrased the old fundamentalist platitude "An honest man is the noblest work of God." with "An honest God is the noblest work of man."

One has only to make a cursory summary of the history of various nations and nation states to reveal the relationship between the kind of god they believed in and the degree of their aggressiveness toward other nations. It is not too difficult to see why believers in the knowledge-loving Massau are held in subjugation by believers in the knowledge-detesting Jehovah. Somehow the Judeo-Christian "ethic" has been ideally suited to the spread of monopoly capitalism over the World.

A great deal of verbiage has been expended of late on the question of whether religion should be taught in schools. Your scribe would be most enthusiastically in favor of adding religion to the school curriculum provided that all religions were exposed to young developing minds. What better opportunity for drawing one's own conclusions about which professed faiths are better suited to a classless society?

This is not an attack on the Carpenter of Nazareth himself, but rather an attack on his professed followers. Of all the instigators of the World's "great" religions, Jerusalem Slim was the only one who was portrayed as a working stiff. It is said that he mostly plied his trade of carpentry and did his preaching in his spare time, refusing any compensation for "spreading the word"—a far cry from the preachers of today. If there ever is a second coming, the Naz will more likely find common ground with Wobbly soapboxers than with the well-fed ministers who daily take his name in vain.

One might well imagine what would happen to the money-changers in today's temples, not to mention the department stores and shopping malls. After all, how many times can one endure listening to Bing Crosby sing Christmas carols over a malfunctioning squawkbox?

Then there are the many students of history who doubt that the Carpenter of Nazareth ever really existed—and not without strong evidence to back their arguments. In all the historical chronicles that have come through the ages, there is not one mention of a man named Jesus Christ. The Romans, like the Greeks, kept meticulous records of those they executed, as well as of the manner in which the executions were carried out. But none of the myriad crucifixions they carefully chronicled divulges the name of the Nazarene, unless he was crucified under an alias.

Of course, anyone who has made a serious study of history knows that many historians write down only that which they expect to live on in posterity, and conveniently omit that which might be embarrassing or otherwise hard to explain. For instance, how often can you expect to find the names of Makhno or Bakunin in Russian history books? And for that matter, how much mention is given to Nat Turner, Wovoka, or August Spies in Yankee history books?

Christianity, in fact, did not even get prominent mention in official histories until one emperor, using the time-honored logic of "If you can't lick 'em, join 'em", made Christianity the official religion of the Roman Empire. Prior to that time, Christians were fed to the lions for the amusement of the aristocracy, who sat on the shady side of the Coliseum while the more proletarian sports enthusiasts sweated it out in the bleachers under the hot Mediterranean sun. For the most part, the Roman Establishment tried their best to ignore the Christians and what they stood for. The early Christians were anti-statists and anti-militarists who constituted a resistance movement against the oppression of the established Roman bureaucracy of that day.

All movements of great masses of humanity, however, invariably become personified by whoever is believed to be the chief activist; and whether or not there actually was a person by the name of Jesus of Nazareth, the Roman oligarchy can be credited with opening up a can of worms they couldn't handle till they finally pulled the teeth of this movement by making it the official State religion.

George Bernard Shaw was once asked what he thought about Christianity, to which he replied: "It sounds like a good idea; somebody ought to try it sometime!" Meanwhile, I will stay away from the stores till the holiday rush is over. Poor old Bing should be allowed to rest in peace.

C. C. Redcloud

Wobs in the News

The IWW, while small, remains alive and vital, and is winning increasingly sympathetic interest among workers across the continent. In response to our activities and our recent growth, a spate of articles have appeared in the press, and we have received some exposure on the broadcast media as well.

On September 24th, *Newsweek's* three million readers were treated to a three-column article, "The Union That Never Died", which mentioned our organizing efforts in Idaho, Ohio, and Washington State and our 42nd General Convention. Although the article was riddled with inaccuracies, such as the claim that the IWW advocates "sabotage", it notes that we refuse "to live sentimentally in the past", instead continuing the battle to organize the working class. And, thanks to a mention that we have just published the 35th edition of the "Little Red Songbook", several people have called to order copies.

That article generated a flurry of media inquiries. Reporters from newspapers in Chicago, Dayton, and Long Island called us regarding articles of their own. In early October the *Daily Northwestern* printed a feature story on the IWW based on a lengthy interview with Fellow Worker Jon Bekken, and *Newsday* ran a largely sympathetic article reviewing Wobbly philosophy and current activities.

FW Bekken also appeared on an hour-and-a-half talk show on WTAQ AM, the local ABC radio affiliate in La Grange (a suburb of Chicago). FW Bekken shared the airwaves with the right-wing owner of a local business, discussing the IWW, recent workers' struggles in South Africa, and other issues. The local boss, who had apparently been briefed on who he would be facing (though no mention of him was made to us), launched into a diatribe against the IWW, quoting from an encyclopedia article in an attempt to portray us as a violent band of Moscow-liners seeking to import the "Soviet" brand of state capitalism to the US.

In the face of this assault, FW Bekken demonstrated that this red-baiting scissorbill was misquoting the article and explained that the IWW was just as critical of the Soviet bosses as it was of the bosses in "Freedom Land", and that the IWW had never advocated violence, feeling that an organized working class was the best means of winning our objective. The bosses' contempt for us workers became clear when discussion turned to South Africa, and this right-wing lackey openly defended the apartheid regime, noting that if blacks were allowed political rights in South Africa, where they compose 84% of the population, they would quickly take over.

FW Bekken also appeared in a five-minute interview for a Florida radio station aired late in September.

Several members of the Chicago General Membership Branch appeared on WLWU FM's "Radio Free Chicago" program in late August, discussing what the IWW is up to these days and what kind of world we're trying to build. Among the participants were Fellow Workers Judy Lynn Freeman, Mike Hargis, Penny Pixler, and Fred Thompson.

Also in Chicago, the IWW got extensive coverage of our Labor Day Weekend IWW Songfest and recording session. The event was mentioned on two local radio stations and also in most of the local papers. The *Chicago Tribune* led its music column (headlined "Folk festival sings workers' praise for Labor Day") with an item on the concert beginning: "What better way to celebrate the Labor Day weekend than with a festival of labor songs?" The *Chicago Reader* devoted most of a page to

an article on the IWW, the concert, and the recently released 35th edition of the "Little Red Songbook".

In addition, Bill Munger's nationwide radio program, "A Mixed Bag", plugged the concert with a show featuring IWW songs and singers. And Chicago radio station WFMT featured excerpts from the concert on its "Midnight Special".

Local groups also have had their activities covered. A somewhat curious article appeared in the San Francisco *Appeal to Reason*. The Bisbee, Arizona *Daily Review* ran a front-page story in its July 20th issue headlined "Wobblies recall ordeal, fallen comrade". That article covered a memorial service held by IWW members in Bisbee for James Brew, a Wobbly murdered July 12th, 1917 when he resisted deportation by a vigilante mob. In addition to IWW members, local residents—including the son of one of the deportees—attended the event. The article also discussed the IWW's activity around the country and gave a sympathetic if somewhat inaccurate (they even got our name wrong) account of where we stand.

And, in an article about the Minneapolis Teamsters strike appearing in the social-democratic newspaper *In These Times*, the role of the IWW in making that strike possible is briefly discussed. The Dunn Brothers, who played a major role in organizing the strike, had been Wobblies, and their sense of how to organize and what to fight for was shaped, according to the article, by their time in the IWW. Unfortunately, this Wobbly impulse was soon buried by business unionism and mob control.

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.

WHY WE WANT YOU TO JOIN THE IWW

The IWW was started 80 years ago by men and women in various unions who saw the need to modernize old union structures. It has a proud pioneering history of getting workers of many languages and skills to take joint action, extending unionism to new industries and areas, and developing new tactics to meet new situations.

We took the name Industrial Workers of the World because even 80 years ago workers everywhere needed to resist being used against each other, either to menace each other's pay or (in wartime) to kill each other's kids. Today transnational corporations are using us against each other in just such ways. Collective bargaining keeps running up against that fact.

The labor movements of the world today need to modernize their structures and practices to avoid being used against each other both inside and across national boundaries. Your participation in the IWW, whether you bargain through some other union or not, can help accomplish this immense task.

For a five-dollar initiation fee and \$5 a month dues, you can be a member of the IWW and proud of that fact. By active participation in our efforts you can quit being part of the problem that menaces mankind, and become part of the solution instead.

★ EDUCATION ★ ORGANIZATION ★ EMANCIPATION



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

Industrial Worker

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WAGE SLAVE'S DICTIONARY

Merit Pay: A variant of the old carrot-and-stick approach to moving mules. As currently applied to public education, it is the belief that if teachers are treated like a bunch of jackasses, they'll turn their students into geniuses. This is considered by some the educational equivalent of supply-side economics.

Auto Workers Settle in US; Strike in Canada

The United Auto Workers settlement with General Motors was narrowly ratified in October, despite the opposition of 43% of UAW members. This concessionary pact was being voted down by the UAW membership when the bureaucracy pulled out all the stops, putting its huge staff to work full-time selling the contract and threatening to call an immediate walkout which UAW President Owen Bieber made clear would be intentionally lost.

The new contract continues the concessionary pattern established at GM and Ford in 1982 on the heels of the Chrysler concessions. At the same time that GM (and industry) profits are at an all-time high (last year GM earned \$3.7 billion in profits, and they have already raked in \$3.2 billion in the first six months of 1984), the UAW has accepted a contract so favorable to the company that industry executives, the business press, and Government economists are in ecstasy. Auto workers, however, are less pleased, and with good cause.

For 20 years—until the UAW began granting concessions to the industry to finance automation and runaway shops—auto workers won 3% annual raises in base wages after inflation. The new contract, however, offers a first-year scaled increase of 1 to 3½%, averaging only 2¼% (lower-paid workers get the lower percentage wage hike, better-paid workers the higher). In the second year of the contract, workers will receive a 2¼% lump-sum payment which will not become part of the base pay, and will not apply to overtime pay. This payment will be repeated at the same level in the third year of the contract.

In addition to these modest wage increases, which will average only \$857 a year while GM will earn \$15,000 in profits this year off each and every auto worker, major concessions have been exacted from cost-of-living allowances (which compensate for the ravages of inflation). The COLA formula has not been tampered with, but 24¢ an hour will be diverted to pay for benefits formerly paid by GM. This concession will cost every GM worker \$1045 over the life of the contract. After that, the COLA sacrificed by this contract will cost each and every member \$500 a year—forever.

In 1982 the UAW gave up nine paid personal holidays per year, which had originally been negotiated as a step toward reducing working hours and increasing unemployment. Now, with tens of thousands of auto workers on unemployment lines, the UAW has taken no action to restore these days off or to otherwise reduce working hours, instead settling for five days off over the three-year contract. More than 50,000 jobs have been lost due to overtime during the last year alone, yet the new contract places no restrictions on overtime, instead reducing the cost of overtime differentials.

The UAW made no significant gains on job security, despite the claims of Bieber and others to the contrary. Indeed, GM announced the layoff of thousands of workers from its Cadillac plant just days after the new contract was signed. Yet job security was what the GM pact was sold on.

The new contract obliges GM to establish a billion-dollar fund to be allocated over six years to temporarily support, retrain, and place workers displaced by technology, outsourcing, or transfer and consolidation of operations. But this program offers a funding level adequate to cover only about 4,000 workers a year, and fails to offer anything whatsoever to the tens of thousands of workers currently laid off. Moreover, GM plans to eliminate 100,000 of its 350,000 jobs by 1986, according to internal company documents leaked earlier this year.

Given the huge levels of unemployment currently prevailing in the US economy, it seems appropriate to question for what jobs these auto workers are to be retrained and placed. Government reports indicate that it is only in the minimum-wage service-industry jobs that any substantial employment increases can be expected.

The new contract also includes new concessions on health-insurance benefits, and excludes recalled workers from insurance and Supplementary Unemployment Benefits until they have been back at work for three months. In addition, the irregular attendance program is left virtually unchanged, and a wide variety of speedup measures and deteriorations in working conditions are left unchallenged.

Given this new round of concessions, workers' hostility to the new pact is hardly surprising. Votes in GM's largest plants went overwhelmingly against ratification, and media reports indicate that support for union lead-

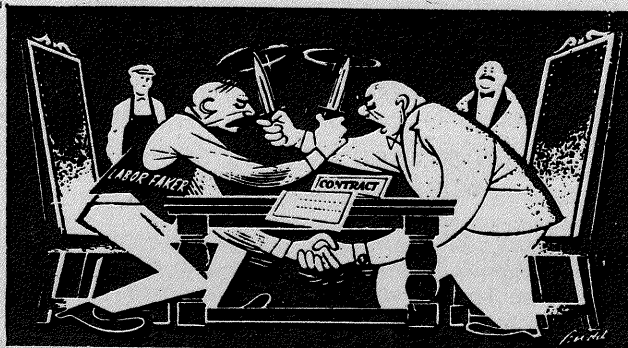
ers and worker morale is at an all-time low in the wake of this latest capitulation to the auto bosses. (Indeed, many are reported to be worrying that the UAW will have difficulty selling Mondale to their membership in the wake of this contract.)

The same day the GM contract was ratified, the UAW reached a similar agreement with Ford covering 112,000 workers. Ratification votes are proceeding as the *Industrial Worker* goes to press. The UAW has announced its intention to re-open negotiations with Chrysler and try for a similar contract there.

Once again, the IWW dictum that workers and bosses have nothing in common is being proved true. There is no disputing that concessions benefit employers, but workers do not benefit from them in any way. They do not create job security, as proved by the experiences of the past few years. Money saved through private-industry concessions is used to finance runaway shops, introduce automation, purchase other companies, and the like; while public-sector concessions are used to finance huge tax breaks and subsidies for corporations and the Military. Layoffs and new cutbacks have followed concessions wherever they have been made.

In 1982, the UAW granted huge concessions to Ford and GM. Those concessions made possible record industry profits, massive new layoffs, and outsourcing on an unprecedented scale. Workers, of course, gained nothing. Now, two years later, the UAW is accepting a new round of concessions. It's time for workers to dump the business-union bureaucrats off their backs and build militant, shop-floor-based revolutionary unions willing and able to fight in our interests.

Jon Bekken



CANADIAN AUTO WORKERS STRIKE FOR DECENT CONTRACT

Some 36,000 Canadian auto workers struck General Motors October 17th, after rejecting a company offer based on the concessionary contract narrowly accepted by US auto workers (see related story in this issue). The Canadian division of the United Auto Workers is insisting on 3% annual wage hikes, and is fighting for other contract improvements that would restore provisions lost in the 1982 round of concessions.

At *Industrial Worker* press time, GM had asked the union to return to the bargaining table to hear a new contract offer. If the strike is not settled soon, it could soon begin costing GM more than \$150 million a week in profits. And although GM hopes to gain a new concessionary pact like the one recently negotiated for US workers, Canadian auto workers are having none of it.

"They took a lousy contract in the United States, but we sure are not going to take one here," said an assembler at GM's Windsor plant. Nick Dzudz, an officer of UAW Local 1973 at Windsor, noted: "We gave the company concessions during hard times in 1982. Now we want our 3% a year, \$1500 a month in pensions, and shorter work time. They're making the money now; they can afford it."

There is no question that GM can afford much more than the union is asking. GM is currently making record profits, but wants to further reduce labor costs to help fund its program of automation and massive layoffs without cutting into those earnings.

As part of its strategy to divide Canadian and US workers, GM has begun lockouts against US auto workers. Already 22,000 have been laid off, and GM has announced plans to lay off 78,000 more if the strike is not settled. And there are reports that UAW officials are intervening to undercut the strike.

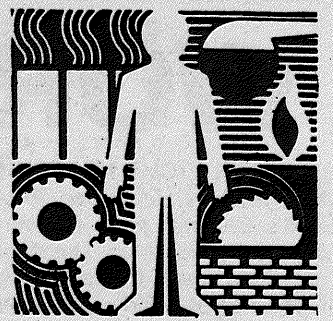
The *New York Times* quoted a UAW insider as saying that what UAW president Owen Bieber "doesn't want most of all" is for Canadian auto workers "to come out with an agreement substantially better than the US [pact]. And GM doesn't want it either." Reports continue to indicate that the UAW is pressuring Canadian officials to settle for terms little better than those that were reached in the US, and is threatening to intervene in negotiations if the strike continues much longer.

Thus, Canadian UAW officials are under immense pressure to settle. But at the same time, they could easily lose control of the rank and file if they don't win a pact substantially better than the US agreement. And GM could incur substantial losses during a prolonged strike, as it does not have alternative sources for many of the parts produced in its Canadian plants.

JB

Fred Thompson's

labor in north america



The Bakery, Confectionery, and Tobacco Workers have joined with the cigarette companies to sponsor ads saying: "Attacks on the tobacco industry threaten the livelihoods of thousands of Americans who have marched, worked, and struggled for causes we all believe in. The tobacco industry creates jobs which for many of us make the difference between poverty and dignity."

True, the tobacco industry creates jobs for both cigarette makers and morticians. But is it jobs or income that we really want? If it's work we want, why do foot-paths cut almost perfect diagonals across corner lots? If our economic practices were rational, would not the elimination of cigarette and arms making, and advertisement writing, and much other silly work increase both the number of things we could enjoy and the time we would have to enjoy them? And since, by this test, our economic practices are not rational, isn't it the primary function of the labor movement to make them rational? If we do that, will we have to keep on worrying that robots and modernization and imports "threaten" us with more leisure?

Auto Workers had to strike Mack Trucks in mid-October after trying to bargain for its remaining 9,000 employees since mid-summer. Mack and International Harvester both are strike-resistant, with production now largely overseas. At Square D the UAW got a new three-year contract for their 5500 workers in co-ordinated bargaining with five other unions.

Another major push toward industrial structure is in the printing and newspaper industry, where Lithographers and Engravers merged in 1964, and Printing Pressmen and Stereotypers in 1973. These both merged in turn in 1983 into the Graphics Communication Union, which devoted its 1984 Convention mainly to the prospect of adding the Newspaper Guild folks who write the stuff and the 75,000 printers in the ITU to its 200,000 membership. But the newspapers would still be delivered by the Teamsters, for craft structures cut across industrial ones. So far the upsurge movement in the Teamsters (Teamsters for a Democratic Union) has focused on the need for union democracy, and not on the need to reorganize union structures and jurisdictions. Its 8,000 members scored this year in making the Teamster leadership re-submit its bargain covering 90,000 UPS employees.

Teachers this fall had to strike for a long time in some places, from August to late October. Might it not be easier to win if teachers prepared alternative courses in churches and the like for the duration of the strike, with arithmetic lessons figuring out how little workers get of what they produce, and local-history real-estate lessons about who got what, and reading lessons prepared by Gene Debs and Jack London? After all, the teachers aren't fighting mom and pop, but the folks with the money.

The 13 unions fighting Phelps-Dodge have started the first corporate campaign launched by such a group of unions. It aims to bring pressure on P-D from unions claiming that pension funds kept in institutions are helping P-D fight the unions despite corporate losses. Steel workers are doing likewise in the Chicago area to fight the outfit that bought out Danley in Cicero and won't settle with the union. The United Mine Workers staged a similar campaign in Portland, Oregon, aiming to get a new contract at the Pacificorps mine in Wyoming.

Back in 1978, OSHA determined that arsenic was a hazard to workers in copper and lead smelters, and ordered a 50-fold reduction in the maximum permissible exposure to 10 micrograms of arsenic per cubic meter of air. It took till this fall to get the courts to agree that this limitation was reasonable and necessary.

The US Court of Appeals has ruled that American Cyanamid had the right to require that its female employees either get sterilized or quit, as their work might harm their unborn children. OCAW had fought this since 1978, but did score in a court-settled jurisdiction dispute with the Steel Workers, who had taken over its members at a Semet-Solvay Coke plant (incidentally cutting their pay) when Armco Steel acquired that plant.

The Social Security Administration denied so many benefit claims that the number of Social Security cases pending in federal courts hit the 50,000 mark, almost double what it was in 1981. An internal task force noted that this has resulted in adverse publicity and in court orders against the Administration "written in increasingly hostile terms". More than 200,000 had had their benefits cut off before Congress ordered a moratorium.

In the same three years, the average time from filing an unfair-labor-practice charge with the NLRB to getting a decision from it lengthened from 484 days to 627. And that's not all; it now takes another year and a half to get a federal court to enforce an NLRB decision.

Technicians and draftsmen at Westland Helicopters in Britain have negotiated a 32½-hour work week. The IMF says that's a record. Why not beat it in the US?

WORLD LABOR NEWS

AFTER EIGHT YEARS IN THE UNDERGROUND, IBM Workers United, an 18-strong group of workers at IBM's Endicott plant in Johnson City, New York, has come to the surface. The decision to come out into the open was made following the successful IBM Workers' International Solidarity Conference held in Tokyo last summer.

The Conference brought together 300 representatives of unions in France, Greece, Italy, Japan, Sweden, and the US. The delegates compared notes on such issues as the level of unionization in each country, international pay differentials, and the need for a shorter work week as a payback for the massive introduction of new technology and the resultant high profits IBM is making in each country.

Since coming to the surface, IBM Workers United, through its newsletter, the *Resistor*, has increased its agitation around such issues as job posting, posting of wage and work-level information, seniority pay, independent grievance procedures, favoritism, harassment, and discrimination. As a result, IBM Workers United has won new support and has caused IBM executives some anxiety.

THE INTERNATIONAL WORKERS ASSOCIATION has been active in support of the British coal miners' strike. Besides raising money (the IWA's section in Holland, the OVB, alone raised 10,000 pounds), the IWA sections in France, Holland, and Spain have sponsored speaking tours for NUM delegates, and members of the Free Workers' Union of Germany (FAU) and the CNT-AIT of Spain attended a solidarity rally for the miners in the Welsh town of Amanford. The rally, attended by nearly 5,000 people, heard an address by a CNT-AIT militant and listened to a solidarity message from the FAU. A message of solidarity from the IWW also was read out.

THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE CNT-AIT was evicted from its headquarters building in Madrid in June for non-payment of rent. The organization was refusing to pay rent because the socialist government of the PSOE (Socialist Workers Party), like the center-right government of the Union of the Democratic Center before it, has refused to turn over to the CNT-AIT its "Patrimonio Historico"—the accumulated value of the assets and property seized by the Francoists in 1939, which amounts to millions of pesetas.

The struggle for the "patrimony" has occupied the CNT-AIT for the last several years with legal and extra-legal actions (such as the occupation of buildings belonging to the old fascist "unions") in pursuit of this objective. A Constitutional Tribunal last year decided in favor of the CNT-AIT's claim that it was being discriminated against in the devolution of stolen property (the PSOE-connected UGT union having received its patrimony, and more), yet the Government still refuses to turn it over, no doubt well aware of what such a sum would mean in terms of resources for the Spanish anarcho-syndicalist movement.

The General Executive Board of the IWW has sent a letter to the Spanish Embassy demanding that the Gov-

ernment return the property of the CNT-AIT. Meanwhile, the National Committee of the CNT-AIT has moved into new quarters only five doors away from its former residence.

THE CONGRESS OF UNIFICATION bringing together the CNT-Valencia ("Renovadoras") and the CNT-AIT (Opposition) mentioned in the October issue of the *Industrial Worker* came off as scheduled at the end of June. While details concerning the number of delegates and who they represented are not yet available, we are in receipt of the Congress agreements. As expected, the main order of business was the organization's position vis a vis the Government-sponsored Enterprise Committees (ECs). The Congress affirmed its tactical use of the elections to the ECs as a way of gaining greater influence for its sections in the various workplaces (there are reportedly 500 CNT-V/CNT-AIT (Opposition) delegates currently on ECs). The long-range object is to deprive the ECs of all decision-making powers, returning these to the workers' assemblies and union sections.

In an attempt to keep delegates honest, the Congress agreements require regular, detailed reports by the delegates to their sections, and to the workers in general, concerning their activities on the ECs. In addition, the union sections hold letters of resignation, signed by each delegate in advance, which the sections can issue anytime a delegate violates his or her mandate.

Other accords deal with the PSOE-proposed Organic Law on Union Liberty, an attempt to further institutionalize the bureaucratic and collaborationist model of unionism represented by the UGT and the Communist Party-dominated Workers' Commissions; the need to make the Federations of Industrial Unions a reality; the various duties of the National Committee and its Secretariat; dues structure; and international relations.

Another Congress is scheduled for January of 1985 to officially launch the new organization.

Mike Hargis

UNIONS AND AMNESTY GROUP WORK AGAINST TORTURE

Amnesty USA has recently increased its contacts with union nationals here in conjunction with the Campaign to Abolish Torture, which Amnesty launched last April. Pervasive torture in Turkey, the first country targeted by the Campaign for special actions, is the focus of resolutions and official union correspondence with Government leaders by the Longshoremen's Union; the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees; the United Auto Workers; and the Newspaper Guild. Upon assuming control of Turkey's Government in 1980, General Evren disbanded all trade-union organizations, and police arrested 85 labor leaders and thousands of rank-and-file members. Many remain in prison and are believed to have been tortured.

A number of unions are helping publicize Amnesty's work against torture by printing articles about the Campaign in their periodicals.

Sound of a Distant Drum

The British miners' long strike has now become a classic part of working-class history, but no one dares forecast its outcome. The British miners are solid in their long stand, with the exception of a sad sprinkling of scabs who will have to carry their shame for the rest of their lives. For the men, women, and children on the picket lines and in the mining villages, solidarity is the order and the battle cry of the day.

Arthur Scargill knows that he has the mining men and women solidly behind him; but he knows, and they know, that this is not his battle. For once again the stench of betrayal drifts in from the locked and guarded rooms of Britain's union godfathers; and just as time and time again in Britain's industrial history they have sold out the union rank and file, so time and time again Scargill has appealed to Britain's well-paid union bosses for active help on behalf of the miners, and they have refused. They have made their token Judas payments gift-wise, but when the call has come from the miners to the railway men and women, the seamen, and the power workers to black the carrying or use of coal, the trade-union bosses have raised their pale pink hands in horror and talked of their members' "jobs" or quoted the rule book, while on the picket lines men have died or had their limbs broken because of the police.

Britain's right-wing craft unions have long based their actions and ideology on American unions' acceptance of a capitalist society with an elite working class. It's first into the pig trough, and to hell with any worker unable to make it. But for the lovable old windbags who sit in the soft, comfortable armchairs at union headquarters breathlessly waiting for an invitation that never comes (to take tea with Mrs. Thatcher and tell her how to run the British economy, as in the happy days of Wilson's deadbeat social-democratic government), the order of the day is fear. For like barrack-based generals pitched suddenly into a nuclear war, they have become terrified, clueless wonders thrown into a situation they dare not face up to. As the violence of the police escalates, with

solid lines of them beating their plastic shields and openly using plastic bullets against pickets, the elderly trade-union office holders sit and sweat. For the essence of this situation is a nation divided, as with Britain in 1926 or Poland in 1984, and the old men fear the responsibility.

To be old is no crime, comrades, but the trade-union bosses float upward as the last office holder is shipped off to the cemetery in a cloud of wreaths and fine phrases. Yet at last the bluff will have to be called, for literally minutes ago the final vote was counted of the right-wing craft union—the National Association of Colliery Overmen, Deputies, and Shotfirers—and they have voted by an overwhelming majority to accept strike action for the first time in their history. This is not because they love the striking miners, however, but in pure self-interest. For these men who represent the lower management echelon of foremen within the mines have been told by Mrs. Thatcher's chief hit man, Ian MacGregor, that they must force their way through the picket lines to report for work; and if (as has happened) they cannot make it, their pay will be cut.

If these men honor their vote by not going near any mine (yea, not even the token safety squads agreed to), then every coal mine in Britain, strike or nay, will have to close down, and Mrs. Thatcher will have done what the entire Top Brass of Britain's aging trade unions have so long failed and feared to do. So will Britain's lower-managerial echelons honor their vote, or will they opt for a private deal and betrayal in a secret session with Mrs. Thatcher's tory hacks. I cannot predict the outcome, comrades, but within days we will know. For if these men honor their pledge, then they will force the British Government, as with Poland, to take military action in that troops will be used for the winter transportation of coal. And only that senile old hag of history knows the answer, comrades—so onto the picket line!

Arthur Moyses, London

Readers of the *Industrial Worker* might like to check the following publications of the international revolutionary union movement:

Direct Action, newspaper of the Direct Action Movement, British section of the International Workers' Association (IWA/AIT), c/o Box DAM, 59 Cookridge Street, Leeds LS2 3AW West Yorkshire, England.

Rebel Worker, Australian anarcho-syndicalist paper (formerly connected with the Australian IWW), PO Box 92, Broadway 2007, Sydney, Australia.

A Batalha, organ of the Portuguese General Confederation of Labor (CGT), Apartado 5085, 1702 Lisboa Codex, Portugal.

Arbetaren, organ of the Swedish Workers' Central-organization (SAC), Sveavagen 98, 113 50 Stockholm, Sweden.

Le Combat Syndicaliste, organ of the French National Confederation of Labor (CNTF), Bourse du Travail 3, Rue Merly 31000 Toulouse, France.

Solidaridad Obrera, organ of the CNT-AIT of Catalonia, Calle Reina Cristina, 12, 2º, 2a (Esc. Izq.), Barcelona, Spain.

CNT, organ of the National Committee of the CNT-AIT, Tirso de Molina, 5, 2º, Madrid-12, Spain.

Lotta di Classe, organ of the Unione Sindacale Italiana (USI), CP 2382, 00100 Roma AD, Italy.

Arbeider Solidaritet, organ of the Norwegian Syndicalist Federation (NSF), Postboks 1735, 0121 Oslo 1, Norway.

Direct Aktion, organ of the Free Workers' Union of Germany (FAUD), Postlagerkarte 073654 A, 46000 Dortmund 1, West Germany.

BRITISH MINERS STILL OUT

British miners, on strike since early March, hang on as colder weather increases the demand for coal. Police violence, which has already led to the deaths of three miners, also continues, as police escort scabs into non-striking mines in Yorkshire.

In South Yorkshire, left-wing Labour Party councilors ordered police to sell their 18 horses and halve the number of dogs (34) in their canine unit, saying this step was needed to save money. But Conservative and police officials maintain that the order is intended to retaliate for the use of horses and dogs against strikers, and Home Secretary Leon Brittan has pressured the councilors to reconsider their decision.

Police violence was specifically condemned at the Labour Party's annual conference in early October, despite the attempts of Party leader Neil Kinnock to distance himself and the Party from the miners' vigorous self-defense tactics. In practice, however, the strikers cannot expect much support from either the Labour or Social Democratic Party opposing the current Conservative Government.

In mid-October the National Union of Mineworkers was fined \$250,000 for contempt of court. The judge said he could not permit the union to ignore his ruling that the strike was not "official" under the Union constitution, and therefore the Union must not threaten non-striking Union members with disciplinary action. The judge warned that non-payment of the fine might lead to court seizure of the Union's assets.

The miners' leader in Lancashire responded: "We shall keep on fighting even if we are broke. If we have to operate from the streets, we will carry on."

The strikers are not without support, either within Britain or abroad. Twice during the miners' strike, dockworkers have held sympathy strikes, and mine foremen

NEWS FLASH

As the *Industrial Worker* goes to press, a strike by mine foremen has been called off after their union accepted a compromise agreement. Negotiations with the National Union of Mineworkers are under way.

have offered their support. A delegation of miners' wives made a fund-raising tour through Southern Ireland, coordinated by the Dublin Council of Trade Unions, that raised 60,000 pounds. Thirty-five truckloads of food were delivered to the miners in mid-October as a present from French unions. According to an official of the communist-dominated CGT national labor federation in France, the gift of 400 tons of food was intended as an act "of solidarity not only of the French miners but of the whole French working class".

CLARIFICATION

An article on the British coal strike last issue stated that that strike "was called by Arthur Scargill, Marxist leader of the miners' union, without a strike vote..." In fact, the ongoing coal strike began when miners at the Cortonwood mine were informed that their pit was about to close. The miners responded with a strike, and asked for solidarity from the Yorkshire region of the National Union of Miners.

The entire Yorkshire region struck in response to the Cortonwood miners' appeal and a 1981 vote in which 86% of the membership had voted to strike to prevent pit closures. But it was the action of the rank and file, who sent flying pickets to spread the strike, that led to the nationwide coal strike. The NUM leadership entered the picture only after the strike had become national.

GRAPHIC PICTURE

AND THE POOR GET POORER

In 1983, despite the "economic recovery", the percentage of Americans living in poverty rose to its highest level in 18 years. But if the poor did not benefit from the recovery, who did?

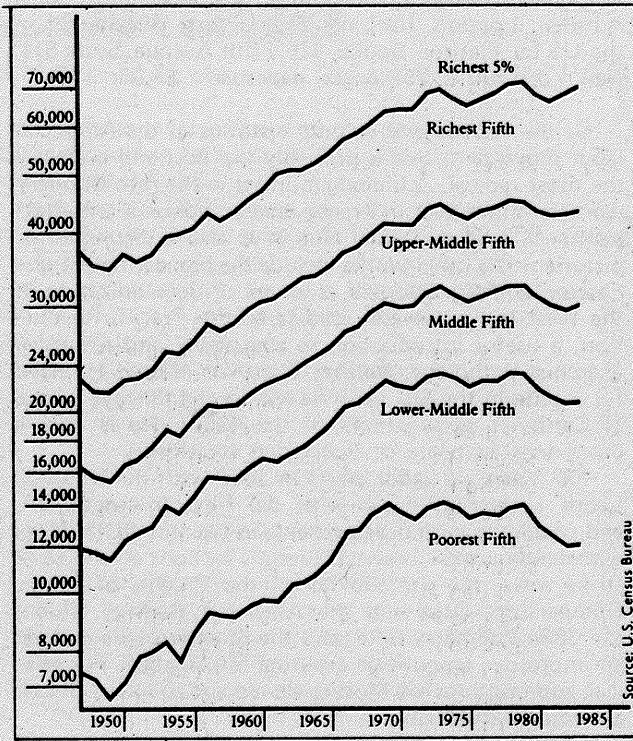
One chart shows the real incomes of social classes from the poorest fifth to the richest fifth, starting with the earliest Census Bureau figures (1947) and continuing through the just-released 1983 data. The other chart shows the Census Bureau's computed "index of economic equality", the measure of the spread between all incomes for each year.

The first thing to catch the eye about the class-income chart is the tremendous postwar boom from the late '40s to the late '60s. America's economic expansion nearly doubled our real incomes in those 20 years. Small cycles of boom and bust were superimposed on this pattern in the '50s, but vanished entirely during the steady upward surge of the '60s. And the rising tide not only raised all boats, but raised the lowest boats slightly faster. Not only wealth, but also economic equality was increasing. (Figures on the chart have been corrected for inflation and are shown in 1984 constant dollars.)

Around 1969, something happened. The rise continued for the rich until 1973, but among the poorest class (the 20% level) real income took its first significant dip in 15 years. Growth halted for everyone once the '70s were well under way. The boom-and-bust cycle returned, obscuring the overall trend with spells of cheering and hand-wringing every couple years; but when averaged out, the gap between rich and poor was beginning to widen again. For almost a generation, rich and poor had been ever so slightly converging; between 1970 and 1980 they began to diverge, with the rich inching up and the poor sinking down.

A watershed occurs in the chart at 1981. In the next two years the richest class (the top line) saw their incomes grow at a rate equal to the great postwar boom; the middle classes held steady; but the lowest working class (households at the 20% level or lower) slumped deeper into the deepest recession to strike any class since World War II.

The income-spread chart shows the Census Bureau computations for the yearly "index of economic equality". If the degree of economic equality among citizens defines a nation's social fabric, then this chart is the key to understanding America's changing character. The index is defined so that if everyone's income were exactly the same, the line would fall to zero; if one family were getting all the income and everyone else got nothing, the line would rise to one.



How is the US's wealth being divided up? Who is getting what? This chart shows the real incomes of social classes from the poorest fifth to the richest fifth. Families at the lowest line made less than 80% of American families and were only slightly above the poverty line for 1983. Families at the uppermost line made more than 80% of American families.

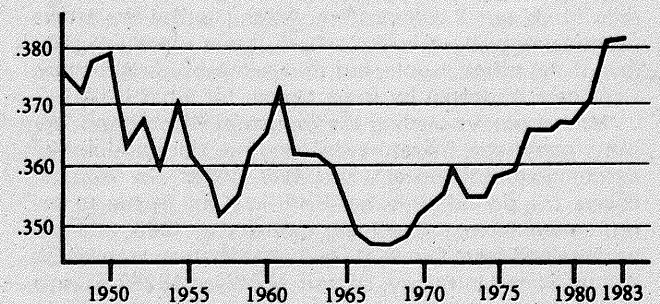
The index fluctuated widely every few years during the boom of the '50s and '60s, but it generally moved downward. The percentage of workers in unions was dropping and the income gap between men and women was widening, but the civil-rights movement, the expanding social programs, and the Kennedy-Johnson War on Poverty did shift some wealth downward. By the late '60s, the US had reached its golden age (such as it was) for income equality.

The '70s saw income inequality again begin to climb. As the economic situation worsened, the political situa-

tion paralleled it, as the employing class was in a far better position to look out for its interests than the working class. The Reagan years have seen this trend greatly accelerate. Income inequality bumped in 1981, then leaped to its post-World War II high, where it still remains. "Entitlement" has become a dirty word as social programs are slashed and the percentage of workers represented in unions drops to an all-time low.

Even without figuring in preferential tax cuts and non-cash benefits, the measure of inequality has risen by 10% since 1968. Average income overall is about the same, but we live in a rather different sort of society. It's hard to say just what a 10% increase in inequality means to the texture of our lives. If the non-communist countries were ranked by their indexes of income equality, the Scandinavian countries would be at the top, the US somewhat below them, Argentina and Brazil much farther down, and Guatemala near the bottom. The degree of change in the US during the last 15 years is small compared to the spread between other countries, but the direction of its movement is becoming clear. The US is becoming less like Sweden and more like Brazil.

(adapted from an article by Alan McRobert in the Reader)



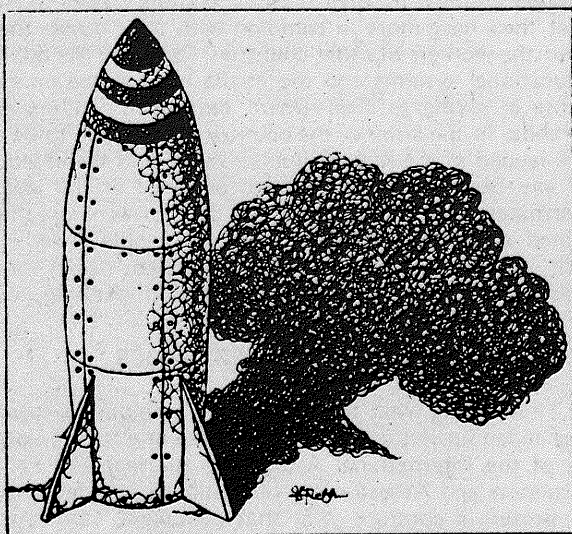
The U.S. Census Bureau's index of income inequality: 14 years of growing spread between rich and poor.

This chart measures the spread between US incomes. The index is defined so that if there were perfect equality (with everyone's income exactly the same), the index would be zero, while with perfect inequality (with one family getting all the wealth and the rest nothing), it would equal one. On this scale, America's 1983 index is 0.381, the highest since World War II.

Wars and Rumors of Wars

War Games Start

The fall season of war games opened in Europe September 3rd as NATO and Warsaw Pact forces began two months of military exercises. About 60,000 Soviet-bloc troops took the field in Czechoslovakia, as 58,000 British troops started crossing the English Channel to join in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's Autumn Forge exercise. The NATO exercise is being staged from Norway to the Black Sea and will eventually involve 250,000 troops.



Nuclear Policy Information Gap

Only about one out of five Americans knows that US nuclear policy has long embraced the idea of launching a first strike with nuclear weapons if the Soviets should attack Western Europe with conventional weapons. A poll by the Public Agenda Foundation (headed by former Secretary of State Cyrus Vance) found that 8 out of 10 people wrongly believe that US policy is to use nuclear weapons against the Soviets "if and only if they attack the US first with nuclear weapons". The long stifling of public debate on nuclear weapons and strategy has convinced the US public that the US military budget is designed for defense.

GERMAN ANTI-WAR PROTESTS RILE US

The US Army has urged West German officials to move strongly against "anarchists and criminals" trying to disrupt NATO fall maneuvers. Hundreds of demonstrators have tried to infiltrate munitions depots, sabotage military equipment, and blockade American, German, and NATO installations during exercises the alliance is calling Autumn Forge.

Protesters spray-painted military vehicles and equipment, slashed tires, cut fences, piled debris on railroad tracks, drove spikes into roads, and hurled incendiary devices. At one point, some 18,000 West Germans linked hands in a 12-mile "human chain" around military bases to protest NATO maneuvers in the Fulda Gap region near the East German border. Officials of the West German state of Hesse replied that to charge protesters with more than vandalism and disturbing the peace (sic) would be unconstitutional.

The same week, almost 15,000 people gathered at the German town of Hildesheim to protest the presence of 130,000 British soldiers assembled for "Operation Lionheart", the biggest maneuver of the British Army since World War II. Speakers from the six counties of Northern Ireland ridiculed British claims that their role in Germany was to defend freedom, pointing out that elsewhere British soldiers are killing people to hold on to the last remnants of the British Empire.

GUNS AND LACK OF BUTTER

Military spending in the Third World has increased dramatically in the last 20 years; since 1960 their share of total world military expenditures has doubled. During the '70s, developing countries increased their military spending three times faster than the industrialized countries. By 1980, Third World countries accounted for over two-thirds of the world's armed forces and imported \$20 billion worth of arms.

Some development economists have argued that military spending can start a cycle of investment and expenditure that stimulates the economies of developing countries. But few of the developing nations have their own defense industries; they send their money abroad to buy weapons, usually to one of the four major weapon-producing countries: the US, the USSR, France, and Britain. Instead of stimulating competition and investment, Third World military spending diverts resources

from domestic investment.

Yet Third World arms spending is not simply irrational. The process of economic development brings with it massive social change and political upheaval. As workers become more productive, they demand higher wages and more political say-so. Urbanization gives rise to new needs and demands for social services. Previously powerful groups of people, like agricultural oligarchs, may see their economic base of power erode when the structure of a country changes.

The governments of many developing capitalist nations increase their military capabilities as a means to ensure that upheaval does not disrupt existing structures of power and income distribution. Military force can keep wages low to make products competitive in foreign markets, and keep profits high enough to satisfy foreign and domestic corporations. Anastasio Somoza's regime in Nicaragua was an example of such a strategy.

NICARAGUA

ANTI-DRAFT DEMONSTRATIONS in Nicaragua: Radio stations in Costa Rica carried reports in August that demonstrations against military conscription were held in Chinandega, Nicaragua's fourth-largest city. The demonstrations were organized mainly by high-school students (there is no university in Chinandega) with the backing of most of their teachers and mothers. Reports on the anti-conscription demonstrations were not censored in the city, but 15,000 newspapers carrying the story were confiscated in the provinces of Chinandega and Leon. This news restriction took place a few days after the Government announced a halt to censorship of economic news.

Missile Envy and Other Fallacies

A man with an undersized penis is a creature doomed. Many adolescent boys live in fear that their organ might not measure up to that of their neighbor. To be a real man, one's penis should be as large as, if not larger than, that of other men. Such an organ should be quick to respond, and its impact should be powerful.

A nation with an undersized nuclear arsenal is a nation doomed. Many of "our" politicians live in fear that "our" weapons might not measure up to those of Russia. To be a safe nation, "our" nuclear arsenal should be as large as, if not larger than, that of the USSR. Such weapons should be quick to respond, and their impact should be powerful.

Is disarmament tantamount to castration? Is a nation without nuclear weapons emasculated?

readers' soap box

IN MEMORY OF FRANK MARQUART

Fellow Workers:

Enclosed is a donation of \$25 to the Industrial Worker Sustaining Fund in fond memory of Frank Marquart, who died on September 7th, 1984 in Albuquerque, New Mexico at the age of 85.

Frank was a trade unionist and libertarian socialist who personified the very best principles within the labor movement. Kind and generous toward his fellow workers, Frank did not waste his energies in vituperation against co-fighters of his own class, but reserved his anger and efforts for combatting the boss class and other purveyors of injustice.

For the OBU
Henry A. Siitonen, X324965

A TRIBUTE TO MINNIE CORDER

Good rebel fighter Minnie Corder, a member of the IWW since 1919, wrote to me from her nursing home in New York City a few weeks ago:

"I am terribly bored, but I guess I am lucky in a way. I have a very large room, and my bed is near the window. My best friend is my typewriter, and as long as my energy holds out I will protest. After I wrote my article [complaining about cockroaches] it was snatched up by one of the office people, but things improved right away. I am now respected by some people for what I did."

Minnie enjoys reading the *Industrial Worker* and any other good rebel literature she can find. Her unpublished autobiographical novel, *You Will Never Go Hungry*, covers the period from her birth in Kiev, Russia to her retirement from the garment industry in 1960, and can be obtained from Dione Miles, Labor History archivist at Wayne State University, Detroit, Michigan 48202. Minnie enjoys reading letters, so please write to her at the Florence Nightingale Nursing Home, 175 East 96th Street, Room 1005B, New York 10028.

Keep up the struggle, Minnie!

Ruth Sheridan, Anchorage

Literature

Practical and Informational:

- () Organizing Manual75
- () Collective Bargaining Manual2.00
- () Labor Law for the Rank and Filer*2.50
- () Inflation: Cause and Cure25
- () One Big Union (About the IWW)1.25
- () Workers' Guide to Direct Action35
- () The General Strike (by Ralph Chaplin)75
- () Unions and Racism1.00
- () IWW Preamble and Constitution1.00
- () Metal Workers' Guide to Health and Safety50
- () A Quiz on You and the Arms Race10
(10 copies .75; 100 copies 3.00,
2.50 per additional 100)

Music and Poetry:

- () IWW Little Red Songbook1.75
- () The Rebel Girl (sheet music)50
- () Workers of the World Awaken (sheet music)50
- () Didactic Verse (by Henry Pfaff)*2.00
- () The Grievance*95

Historical:

- () The IWW: Its First 70 Years (hardcover)15.00
- () The IWW: Its First 70 Years (paperback)4.95
- () Founding Convention of the IWW* (ND)15.00
- () History of the IWW in Canada50
- () Joe Hill: IWW Songwriter1.00
- () Lucy Parsons: American Revolutionary*5.95
- () Autobiography of Mother Jones*5.95
- () The Right to Be Lazy*2.25
- () Touring Pullman* (ND)1.75
- () Haymarket Revisited* (ND)3.00
- () Joe Hill (by Gibbs Smith)* (ND)11.95

Buttons:

- () Build Militant Unionism75
- () For More of the Good Things of Life75
- () General Defense Button35

Posters:

- () Joe Hill5.00
- () General Strike5.00
- () Huelga General5.00
- () Draftees of the World Unite5.00
- () Four Hours Work for Eight Hours Pay5.00
- () Fat Cat5.00

*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.

Review: 100 Years of Labor

100 Years of Labor in the USA, by Daniel Guerin, translated by Alan Adler, with an introduction by John Amsden. London, InkLinks/Pluto Press. Distributed in the US by Flatiron Books, 175 Fifth Avenue, Suite 814, New York 10010. 252 pages, paperback, \$6.95.

Of the various one-volume histories of the American labor movement, this is probably the best and certainly the most radical. A lifelong militant in the revolutionary workers' movement in France, and an honored anti-Nazi resistance fighter, Daniel Guerin is also a distinguished historian. His other works include the pioneering critique *Fascism and Big Business*, a survey of decolonization in the West Indies, several studies of the French Revolution, a useful introduction to anarchism, and a massive anarchist anthology, *Neither God Nor Master*. He lived for a time in the US, until he was forced to leave by the McCarthyist persecutions of the 1950s. He is now a prominent advocate of libertarian socialism.

100 Years of Labor starts in 1866 with the National Labor Union (affiliated with the First International), and concludes with developments in the mid-1970s. Notwithstanding their brevity, Guerin's sections on the 1877 strike wave, the rise and fall of the Knights of Labor, Gompersism, Debs and the American Railway Union, the 1894 Pullman Strike, and the mine workers include an impressive amount of essential information. His critical appreciations of Mother Jones and Daniel DeLeon are equally masterful.

The IWW is clearly the US labor organization closest

to Guerin's heart. "The founders of the IWW stood head and shoulders above Gompers," he points out, adding that the 1905 Industrial Union Manifesto and other early IWW texts "still shine today with a brightness that time has not dulled". Moreover, he declares the IWW to be "more in the American tradition than any other labor organization in the US". His summary of IWW principles, tactics, strikes, and free-speech fights evinces an unmistakable enthusiasm. He suggests, however, that "perhaps the IWW underestimated the occasional and partial possibilities of reform from within" the AFL unions. (It is true that the "1910s" witnessed a greater number of anarchists and revolutionary socialists in AFL unions than any period before or since.)

Subsequent sections of the book discuss the growth and decline of the CIO, the real nature of the New Deal ("Roosevelt Gives Capitalism the Kiss of Life"), the sitdown strikes of 1936-37, blacks and the labor movement, the labor bureaucracy's accommodation to the 1940s wartime hysteria and the infamous "no-strike" pledge, the devastating influence of the Taft-Hartley Act and the weakness of the AFL and CIO officials' struggle against it, and the Cold War purges of union militants under the guise of "anti-Communism".

Guerin's revolutionary libertarian perspective, which distinguishes his whole presentation from those of others who have written on these topics, also enables him to recognize the crucial significance of a number of labor struggles often regarded as "minor" by less discerning historians. For example, pointing out that the only AFL or CIO union that really defied the Taft-Hartley Act was the Typographical Union, he rightfully situates the printers' 1947-49 Chicago newspaper strike among this century's pivotal labor battles.

The book concludes with a critical discussion of "The Combative Sectors of Labor" during recent years—auto workers, steel workers, longshoremen, and the like—and the possibilities of a radical labor resurgence. Guerin sees the brightest prospects in rank-and-file opposition caucuses and the young participants in shop-floor and wildcat actions who, he hopes, will soon "discover for themselves new forms and vehicles of struggle bypassing the often decrepit structures of the traditional trade-union movement".

Originally written for the working people of France, this little book should prove to be of exceptional value to a new generation of labor activists right here in the US.

Franklin Rosemont

BOOK REVIEW

You Have No Country! by Mary E. Marcy: articles reprinted from the *International Socialist Review*, 1914-1917, edited and introduced by Franklin Rosemont, published by Kerr, Chicago, 1984, paperback, 77 pages, \$4.50. Available from the IWW, 3435 North Sheffield, Chicago, Illinois 60657.

In the often (but not often enough) repeated fable, a man and his donkey were in a field when they heard that an invading army was approaching.

"Let us flee," said the man.
"Why?" said the donkey. "Do you suppose they will make me carry two bags of grain at once instead of one?"
"No," said the man.

"Then what difference does it make to me?"

The articles in this book are classical expositions of the worker as the boss's donkey. It may be argued that since World War I, workers in the different countries of the world have been given enough benefits (thrown enough crumbs) by their national owning classes to feel that they have more in common with their bosses than with the workers of other countries. Certainly the public educational systems and the media have spared no expense in saying so. Everywhere, patriotism—willingness to enlist in the army of the country you happen to be in—is lauded as the highest human value, and the absence of any benefit accruing is cited as proof of the idea's worthiness. But if everyone asked themselves before they joined any army, "Will killing these people lower my rent, taxes, or grocery bills?", they might regain some sense of proportion. Reading this book might help, too.

plp

STRIKE FOR LOWER WAGES

Times being what they are, many a union has struck and ended up settling for a wage freeze or cut. But Local 32 of the International Association of Heat and Frost Insulators and Asbestos Workers pulled a one-day strike to protest a contract offer that contained "too much money". The strike, aimed at preserving current and future employment levels, ended with the 400-member New Jersey union ratifying a pact calling for a wage decrease of \$1.60 an hour over a two-year period.

"It [management's original offer of a three-dollar-an-hour hike] was irresponsible. It would have just about priced us out of the market," said James Grogan, business manager for Local 32 and president of the state Building and Construction Trades Council. Grogan also said the job action was in line with efforts under a co-operative program begun in New Jersey's unionized construction industry to cut costs and stave off competition from non-union builders.

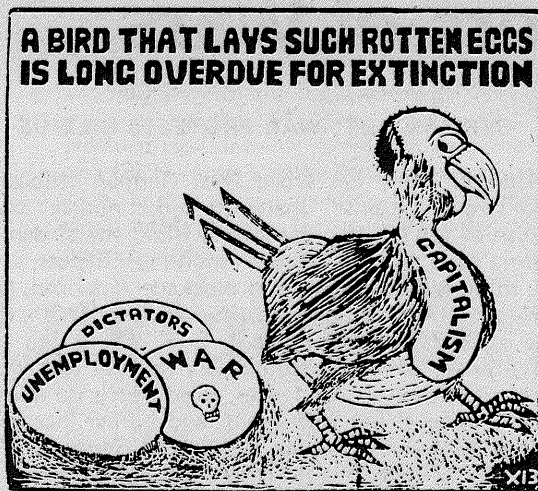
But did it ever occur to them to go out and organize those lower-paid non-union builders, rather than have their own wages cut?

IW SUSTAINING FUND

(Received During September 1984)

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Many thanks, fellow workers, for your generous support.



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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).

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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).

MINE WORKER STRIKES ROCK SOUTH AFRICA

Thousands of black mine workers have struck in South Africa since mid-September, facing shotguns, rubber bullets, attack dogs, and tear gas from mine owners and the South African Government. The strikes have been concentrated in the gold mines, a key sector of South Africa's economy.

Some 40,000 mine workers went on strike September 17th, demanding better pay and better working conditions. Black gold miners receive only \$250 a month, and the mines they work in have the worst safety record in the world. The mine bosses have responded to the strikes with vicious attacks, including a massacre in the town of Westonaria, close to Johannesburg, where at least seven strikers were killed and hundreds more were hospitalized with ruptured spleens, fractured skulls, and other serious injuries. Hundreds of other workers were wounded when police fired on 8,000 strikers, but have not sought medical treatment for fear of persecution.

The day after this brutal assault, 10,000 workers struck for union recognition at Hartebeestfontein, 100 miles southwest of Westonaria; but management succeeded in breaking this strike with threats of mass firing.

Additional police attacks injured over 350 strikers at mines in Welkom, south of Johannesburg, and Roodeport, just outside the city, when police fired tear gas and rubber bullets at picket lines.

The strikes by black gold miners—which were settled after management was forced back to the bargaining table and granted minor wage concessions—followed a strike by coal miners last summer and a wave of anti-apartheid protests. Other demonstrations against rent increases have seen police and army attacks met by massive resistance and torching of Government buildings.

Strikes by black workers in South Africa are becoming increasingly common despite police repression, as workers come to recognize the immense power they can exercise through industrial action. International labor solidarity could play a crucial role in aiding these struggles and deposing South Africa's racist regime.

DID YOU NOTICE?

NUCLEAR-FREE SOUTH PACIFIC: Representatives of unions from 12 island nations in the South Pacific voted to support the New Zealand Government's ban on visits to their harbors by nuclear-powered ships. The motion, proposed by the president of the New Zealand Federation of Labor, Jim Knox, was carried unanimously by the Pacific Trade Union Forum at the final session of its three-day conference in Nandi.

FILIPINO PICKET LINE ATTACKED: Troops and riot police firing automatic weapons attacked a picket line outside the Artex textile factory in Valenzuela, Manila on July 9th, wounding 70 workers and causing a supporter to suffer a miscarriage. The attack on the 200 Artex strikers, members of the KMU-affiliated SAMAR union, was the second attack against a Manila picket line in three months: An April 6th attack on strikers at the Foamtex rubber plants killed two workers. The Artex strikers' average wages were about half the decreed minimum wage of about \$2, with apprentices making about 50¢ a day. Overtime was epidemic: a 12-to-16-hour day and seven-day week were the standard rather than the exception. Factory conditions were appalling, with sulfuric acid and ammonia fumes in the air along with linen dust. "Diarrhea, nausea, headaches, and bad lungs are common," explained an Artex apprentice. On July 10th, the strikers resumed their picket.

ELEPHANT SENSE: The bi-weekly newsmagazine *India Today* of New Delhi reported August 31st that "Residents of a village near Shimoga... were getting fed up with the way state-transport buses gaily roared past without stopping. So they hired an elephant along with its *mahout*... Man and animal waited off the highway until the sound of a bus engine was heard... Then the elephant lumbered out into the road. Soon a convoy of stalled buses lined the highway... The drivers agreed to stop at the village."

REPORT ON BANK FAILURES: Criminal misconduct by bank officers plays a part in roughly 25 to 50% of the banking failures in the US, according to a study conducted by the House Government Operations Subcommittee. The report cited an FBI estimate that \$401.6 million was stolen through bank fraud and embezzlement in 1982—eight times the amount taken in bank robberies. But when was the last time a bank president's picture was seen on the FBI's most-wanted list?

CIVIL-SERVICE STRIKE IN ICELAND: A civil-service strike over pay in mid-October shut down Iceland's radio, television, and public transport, and cut most phone and telex links with the outside world. Postal services were suspended, and all schools and liquor stores (a State-run monopoly) were closed. Police stations, fire departments, and hospitals were not struck.

POPE WARNS AGAINST CLASS STRUGGLE: Pope John Paul II seized the occasion of a delegation of Peruvian bishops in Rome to warn against "class struggle, violence, and games of power"—as if the absence of class struggle wasn't violence of the institutional sort. After listing a series of examples of what he described as "moral decadence"—including divorce, abortion, birth control, and unmarried couples living together—the Pope said: "These bad examples come from the higher social classes, as a pernicious influence on the more humble class." Ah, the moral virtues of being poor. And if you refrain from class struggle, you can stay that way.

SCABS IN BASEBALL

When baseball umpires went on strike just before the playoffs this fall, demanding improvements in pay and working conditions that would have cost the league about \$300,000 a year (about as much as is spent on the average ballplayer), they were treated to as repulsive a display of union scabbing as has been seen in a long time.

Baseball players, solidly organized and not averse to striking in their own interests, could have won the umpires' strike in five minutes by making it clear that they would not take the field till the owners settled. Largely unionized grounds workers and fans could have done the same. Instead, the playoffs went ahead with scab umpires brought up from minor leagues and colleges, and the umpires capitulated to work the World Series.

Although the new baseball commissioner reached an agreement with the umpires in mid-October, the lack of solidarity from their fellow workers must rankle.

COAL MINERS SETTLE CHEAP

The United Mine Workers of America (UMW) have agreed to a new 40-month contract with mine owners which will raise wages a paltry 10¼% of the life of the contract, well below the inflation rate. Since there is no cost-of-living allowance, miners' real wages will continue to drop. In addition, the new contract places no restrictions on overtime (which has reached epidemic proportions), even though 52,000 coal miners are unemployed.

The new agreement does provide limited protections to prevent unionized mines from being sublet to non-union operators who then fire the work force, bringing in lower-paid, unorganized workers. It also establishes a "Joint Interests Committee" which will bring workers and management together to pursue their alleged common interests. Among other things, this committee will fight acid-rain legislation, thereby defending the "right" of the bosses to poison our water and soil to save the expense of building non-polluting plants. Having succumbed to the myth of common interests between labor and management, the UMW has struck a deal that is against the interests of all workers and will only contribute to the further degradation of the environment in which we must all live, and from which we draw our sustenance.

UMW President Richard Trumka negotiated the new contract without any membership input whatever. The union's negotiating position and objectives were never revealed to miners, and Trumka has sole authority over the bargaining process. At the UMW's last convention, delegates mandated that the union accept no concessions; but not even this mandate was honored.

The new contract is not only a defeat for US coal miners—who must redouble their organizing efforts and fight to take control over their union if they are going to have any hope of bettering their lot—but a defeat for all workers everywhere.

JB

SOLIDARITY IN PRACTICE

In late June of this year, armed agents of the US Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) rounded up 12 undocumented workers in a raid at Racine Steel Castings in Racine, Wisconsin. Two weeks later they returned to nab five more. All but one of the 17 are Mexican-born, and all had worked at the plant at least 5½ years.

The INS went to the management of Racine Steel, seeking to have the arrested employees fired. But United Auto Workers Local 553 wouldn't stand for it. Citing the workers' right to due process, the union threatened to file a grievance if the company acceded to Government demands.

"It really makes you wonder what the hell kind of country we're living in," said Local president Richard Fought. "We must defend the rights of all union members."

But a spokesperson for the Milwaukee INS argues: "These people have no right under Federal law to be working. The union has no right to say they have."

EMPLOYMENT? Unemployment in the Netherlands reached 18% this summer, well over the 10.4% average in the 10-nation European Economic Community. In September, unemployment rose to a record high of 12.9%, with 3.1 million out of work. The Northern Ireland border town of Strabane had the dubious honor of having the highest local unemployment rate in Europe: 41.2%. Unemployment hovers around 11% in Canada.

FAREWELL FELLOW WORKER

Fellow Worker Ed Spira died October 24th while addressing a peace-and-freedom meeting in Hayward, California. He had joined the IWW as a young man in Cleveland on general principles, and soon was working at an IWW shop, Draper Steel Barrel. He told the Army that he didn't believe working people should kill each other, but they insisted that he enlist. Soon he started a current-events class at the Army camp, and they asked him to leave.

He insisted that since they had required him to join, he should have the same opportunity as other rebels to go to college. He won, and subsequently became a civil engineer traveling to projects in Iran and other countries, retaining his IWW membership throughout his life. For he felt that the purpose of engineering should be to make this planet a good place for people.

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 Eilington, 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, Potlatch, 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. Wichita: IWW Delegate, PO Box 522, Wichita, Kansas 67201.

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.

MANITOBA: 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.

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 Eckhart, Buffalo, New York 14207, (816) 877-6073. New York City General Membership Branch, PO Box 183, New York City 10028. Rego Park: Jackie Painish, Delegate, 99-12 56th Road (5-J), Rego Park, New York 11374, (212) 868-1121.

OHIO: Dayton IWW Group: "Reuben" Slaton, Delegate, PO Box 26381, Dayton, Ohio 45426.

ONTARIO: Brian Burch, Delegate, 257B Carlton Street, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M4A 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. Orchard Workers Organizing Project, Box 2223, Chelan, Washington 98816. 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.

Around Our Union

ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN: For the last few months, our IU 660 Job Branch at the University Cellar bookstore has been negotiating a new contract with management. The Branch met October 4th to consider a number of issues that had arisen during the bargaining process, and to carry out other business. The Branch decided to donate \$100 to the strike fund of the AP Parts workers in Toledo and \$50 to the IWW migrant-worker organizing drive in Central Washington, and scheduled elections for the positions of branch secretary, stewards, delegates, and union representative to the store council. During negotiations the Branch has been meeting on a weekly basis. Among other issues pending is the possibility of organizing workers at the Barnes and Noble Bookstore scheduled to open at the Cellar's old location next January.

TERRACE, British Columbia: IWW members in Terrace sponsored a showing of *The Wobblies* October 6th, in the hope that it would spark enough interest to form a new IWW group in the province.

VANCOUVER: In addition to taking part in the West Coast IWW meeting (see article in this issue), the Vancouver General Membership Branch, which recently was given its charter, sponsored an IWW Benefit/Sellout Anniversary Ball Saturday, November 10th. The Ball commemorated last year's sellout of the burgeoning British Columbia General Strike, as well as raising money for IWW activities. IWW members also have been active in strike support and in the Organization of Unemployed Workers. The OUIW has been fighting for free bus passes for people on welfare, has been working to build solidarity between the unemployed and unions, and has made its hall available to the IWW for meetings. In addition, the Vancouver Branch is planning to construct a "pavilion of the unemployed" for the forthcoming Exposition, and is working on plans to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the IWW next year. A pamphlet on abolition of the wage system is in the works, as is a leaflet on reducing the work day.

CHICAGO: A half-dozen members of the Chicago Branch joined a picket line September 21st, protesting abuses of human rights in the Philippines and US intervention propping up the Marcos dictatorship. The picket, which drew about 50 people to the Philippine Consulate during working hours, was part of an international day of protest preceded by two weeks of activities in the Philippines and elsewhere. Several Wobblies took part in the picket, carrying signs calling attention to the suppression of labor in the Philippines and the murder of IWW member Frank Gould by Philippine police in October 1974.

Chicago Wobs also participated in a demonstration protesting US intervention in Central America and the nuclear-weapons buildup, though the Branch decided not to endorse the action because of its electoral orientation. The Branch has also continued its strike-support work, sending a donation to striking coal miners in England and joining picket lines at the Danly Machine Corporation. Some new Wobs have signed up in Chicago,

and the Branch is continuing its efforts to spread the IWW philosophy to Chicago's wage slaves.

LOS ANGELES: Several new Wobs have signed up in Southern California and are working to form a new IWW group. Members in the area are currently distributing the *Industrial Worker*, working in the anti-war movement, and spreading the IWW message.

The newly-formed Dayton, Ohio chapter of the IWW, which currently includes educational, general construction, and restaurant, hotel, and building service workers among others, will continue to meet the last Sunday of each month.

Our agendas thus far have included such topics as the Coors boycott, US involvement in Central and South America and related refugee and labor issues, sponsoring and involving ourselves in the Caravan of Salvadorans for Peace and Justice in Central America, which stopped in Dayton, and strike support in our area.

We desire to become actively involved in many facets of unionized life, and we welcome suggestions for our young but growing group, as well as donations to aid us in our activities and distribution of literature. Our chapter can be contacted at PO Box 26381, Dayton, Ohio 45246.

MEETING OF PACIFIC NORTHWEST WOBBS

About 20 Wobs gathered in Bellingham Sunday, September 13th. We had a party the night before, with songs by the Starvation Army Band, so we were all a little tired and some of us even a bit hung over. Members were present from Bellingham, Everett, Portland, Seattle, and Vancouver, BC. Vancouver Wobs gave a report on their activities, which include work within the Organization of Unemployed Workers, job organizing, and investigation of the possibility of using public TV as outreach.

We then moved on to discuss the prospects of a 1985 West Coast IWW Conference. Vancouver was selected as the site for such a get-together, but it was agreed that no single branch should be stuck with putting on the Conference alone. A committee was set up composed of at least one member and one alternate from each group. Juno, Montana, San Francisco, and Winnipeg Wobs also have expressed interest, so the idea of a travel pool to cut costs for members wishing to attend from distant regions was suggested. We felt that the Conference also should be open to other sympathetic workers' organizations (by invitation) and that some events should be open to the general public.

The theme of the Conference was visualized as "the relevance of the Preamble and the formulation of possible strategies for the IWW in a modern world". Such a conference would give the IWW a more uniform perspective, help create real solidarity and internationalism, demonstrate the continued worth of the IWW after 80 years, and help build toward a 1986 international conference.

Promising Start for Apple Orchard-Worker Organizing

Chelan, Washington (WNS): Apple pickers in this Central Washington agricultural area met in early October to discuss ways of organizing themselves. About 20 people attended the meeting, called by an IWW delegate working in the harvest. Discussion centered on the problems facing orchard-worker organizing, particularly the presence of a large "undocumented" work force which might hesitate to openly challenge orchard owners and contractors by joining a union for fear of deportation. But, it was agreed by all that these workers must be included in an organizing drive.

A major issue facing orchard workers is the variation in bin rates, which range from \$7 to \$10 for red delicious apples. (A bin weighs about 850 pounds when full, takes 1 to 2 hours to fill, and is the basis of our piece-rate system.) If an orchard workers' union could fight for standardized bin prices, the growers would not be able to continue the current discriminatory practice of pitting workers against each other by paying Mexican workers less. A standard minimum price of, say, \$10 for reds would also put a damper on the hard feelings that have developed among some American workers toward our Mexican fellow workers. These workers mistakenly blame Mexicans for "taking away jobs", rather than realizing that it is the owners who cut their costs by paying less.

Another major concern is the use of sprays, such as pesticides, herbicides, and ripening agents. The Orchard Workers Organizing Project has gotten together some information on these potentially-hazardous chemicals and distributed posters around the area warning about toxic hazards and telling how to recognize visible symptoms.

At that first meeting, there was little opposition to forming some sort of formal fruit workers' organization, and an IWW branch seems a distinct possibility. The advantages of forming an IWW Agricultural Workers' Union Branch include the following:

The IWW already has a membership in many industries, and fruit workers can receive outside support in the form of money and solidarity. (IWW members have already donated \$1,000 to help get started.)

The *Industrial Worker* could provide a monthly forum

for news and views of special concern to us.

The IWW already has basic structures in place—such as an office, mailing facilities, and a dues program—so we wouldn't have to deal with those things right off the bat.

The IWW has the potential to reach other agricultural workers outside our area.

The IWW provides an economic organization we can feel part of when not working in the orchards and packing sheds. (Many of us are seasonal orchard workers.)

A weekly mimeographed newsletter, "Pickin' Times", has been produced by members of the group. It is distributed by mail and passed hand-to-hand. It carries news of interest to orchard workers—such as articles on health and safety, reports on legislation affecting us, and info on the IWW. The first issue told the story of how pickers at one orchard, dissatisfied with the eight-dollar-a-bin rate for golden delicious apples, threatened to walk out if they didn't get the more widespread nine-dollar rate, and won their demand. People at that first meeting agreed that a Spanish edition of the newsletter is crucial, and we're working on that now. A Spanish-language *Industrial Worker* and other literature is likely to be necessary for the 1985 harvest.



Some of the half-dozen Wobblies who joined a picket line in defense of Filipino workers last September.

The next topic was the '86 Conference. The initial discussion in August by Portland, Seattle, and Vancouver Wobs was summarized. A need was expressed to do outreach within the IWW and to create contacts within the groups and then do international outreach. Translators are also needed for foreign correspondence. We also felt that members should discuss the possibility of a conference in the GOB. (Have any of you out there written to the GOB lately?)

One fellow worker mentioned that little was known about women in the Wobs, other than "stars" like Gurley Flynn, and that something should be put together on them—perhaps an oral history and articles in the press. The point was raised that there were not that many women in the organization, and that this could be traced to the erroneous view that the IWW was either dead or male-oriented, and that such a study could help offset this. After all, Helen Keller was a Wob. What about you?

We all felt that our gathering had been highly successful and concluded that we should do this on a regular basis, perhaps every three months. After singing a wild C'n'W version of "Solidarity Forever", we closed the meeting and went out for beer and pizza.

DISNEY WORKERS TAKE MICKEY MOUSE SETTLEMENT

Workers at Disneyland, in Anaheim, California, voted to accept a two-year wage freeze and return to work after a three-week strike, the third and longest since the "happiest place on earth" opened in 1955. All members of the five striking unions, representing ride operators, ticket sellers, sales clerks, candy makers, warehouse workers, janitors, wardrobe employees, and busboys (sic)—45% of them part-time workers taking between \$7 and \$10 an hour—were reinstated, and Disneyland officials agreed that only 10% of any union work could be subcontracted. There was no word about the 18-million-dollar suit filed against park officials who made citizens' arrests of six strikers who defied a court order against picketing near ticket booths.

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TO:

One of the key issues discussed was membership. How many people would have to join the union before we would have any chance to begin getting some measure of worker control on the job? Perhaps even a few hundred out of the thousands of migrant orchard workers in the Columbia River Valley, concentrated in a single region, could make their presence felt. Even fewer could probably pull off some successful job actions at individual orchards, as necessary.

As of early October, we don't have a chartered IWW branch yet; but the harvest will continue till the end of the month, and we will stay in touch with each other. One good way is to subscribe to the *Industrial Worker*, even if you don't join the IWW.

Contact the Orchard Workers Organizing Project c/o PO Box 2223, Chelan, Washington 98116, and watch for updates on this organizing effort.

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