



INDUSTRIAL WORKERS  
OF THE WORLD

# INDUSTRIAL WORKER

★ EDUCATION ★ ORGANIZATION ★ EMANCIPATION

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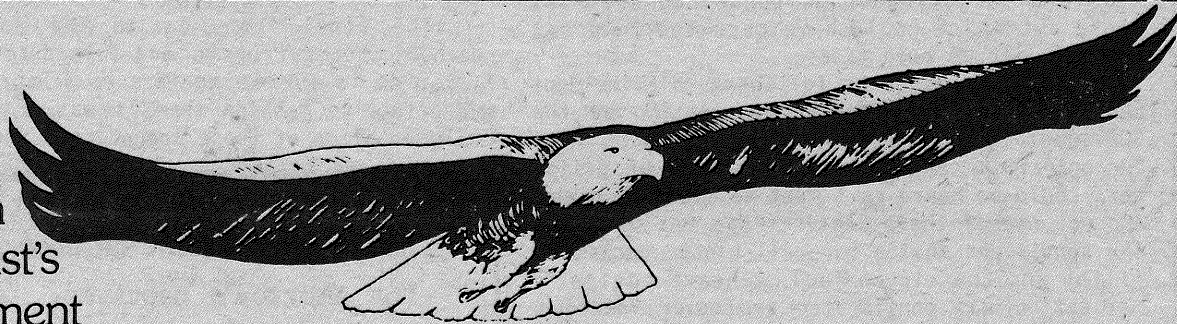
WASHINGTON, D.C. JULY, 1984



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Indian  
Activist's  
Statement



## Violence, Abuse in Penitentiary

by Leonard Peltier

On Thursday, October 27, 1983, an inmate was killed in another cell block. The events that led up to that specific killing are unknown to the general prison population, but the reasons all these killings are happening are known to us, the inmates, and I will explain later in this statement.

After every killing in Marion the prison administration's normal procedure is to lock down the unit where the murder took place and search for murder weapons and/or other evidence. At approximately 6:30 to 7:00 PM that evening, a number of us in my cell block heard the Duces (alarm) go off. Since we are locked in our cell block, we did not learn what was happening or was supposed to be happening until the next day on our radios. Then what we did learn was only that a prisoner had been killed by two other inmates. The following morning, October 28, our cell doors remained closed.

On Sunday, October 30, I learned that the real reasons we were under a lockdown, and also why the Bureau of Prisons (BOP) was sanctioning the brutal treatment we are now all being forced to live under. Also on that day I received a visit and I heard the story told by a guard to an inmate regarding another guard attempting to smuggle in some arsenic. It was at this time I decided to go on a Fast. I felt it was the only way to expose what was happening inside of this institution.

After this visit was over and I returned to my cell house (F block) I informed everyone of what I had learned. On October 27, after the investigators had completed their search of D block (where the inmate was slain), there was still one cell block that had to be fed. One-half of the cell block was called out to the mess hall at approximately 7:45 PM. Everyone in that cell block was hungry and in a great hurry. As they came out into the corridor, they were met by a large number of guards and Dean Leech, Executive Assistant to the Warden. The guards were lined up in order so they could "pat search" everyone. One of the prisoners yelled "shakedown" and proceeded to be searched. In the meantime, Dean Leech was screaming, "Slow down, don't run! Stop that man, search him!" One of the lieutenants said, "I already did." Leech yelled, "Well, I want his shoes searched too." Again without complaint the inmate removed his shoes. In the meantime another prisoner attempted to explain, "Christ, Mr. Leech, this is what that metal detector is for up there by the the Control Center."

In the meantime the inmate ahead of the line had put his shoes on and started at a very rapid speed toward the dining hall. Dean Leech then grabbed this prisoner by the arm and literally threw him against the wall and screamed, "I told you not to run."

Naturally, the inmate defended himself against this assault. In the ensuing confusion,

(continued on Page 2)

## Boeing Report Reveals Profitable "Patriotism"

by Bob McLeod

Boeing, a major defense contractor, recently released its 1983 annual report to its stockholders. The report contained interesting items about the antics and depredations of the military-industrial complex.

In one section, the report breaks revenues and profits down by civilian and military sectors. Looking at revenues, we see nearly \$7 billion in the civilian area, compared to \$2.6 billion in the military. When we turn to profits, however, the picture reverses itself dramatically. Here we have "only" \$98 million in civilian sector profits, compared to a hefty \$289 million from military production.

The difference becomes distastefully clear if we compute profits as a percentage of revenue. We find Boeing operating at a 1.4 percent margin in its competitive civilian efforts, but a more than healthy 11 percent in its "patriotic contributions."

Added to the obvious benefits which accrue from the company's cozy relationship with the Defense Department, certain intangible benefits also accrue. A case in point would be the Air Force's intervention in the last series of contract negotiations with the Machinists Union, when the Air Force approved of "cost-cutting" measures relating to labor. The Air Force also announced that it would be sympathetic and flexible if Boeing took a strike and failed to meet its contract deadlines. Patriotism is great for business.

The report was also enlightening as to the incestuous relationships prevailing among major American corporations. The following is a partial list of members of the Boeing Board of Directors, with the positions they hold for other financial and industrial giants:

Stanley Hiller, Jr., partner, Hiller Investment Co.; Lee F. Morgan, Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer, Caterpillar Tractor Co.; George M. Keller, Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer, Standard Oil of California (Chevron); David Packard, Chairman of the Board, Hewlett-Packard; Irving S. Shapiro, Director and Chairman of the Finance Committee, E.I. DuPont de Nemours; George H. Weyerhaeuser, President and Chief Executive Officer, Weyerhaeuser Corp.

To quote Ernest Mandel, "The United States does not have a military-industrial complex. It would be more accurate to state that it is a military-industrial complex."

## Industrial Worker On the Road Again

The editorial offices of the *Industrial Worker* are moving to Richmond, Indiana. After July 1, the new address for all copy, correspondence, etc. will be: *Industrial Worker*, PO Box E-206, Richmond, Indiana 47374. Business correspondence, such as address changes, subscription and literature orders, and so on, should still be sent to IWW headquarters in Chicago.

### Around Our Union: *Organizing in Sticks and Fruits*

#### Forest Workers Organizing Drive

Forest Workers of the Clark Fork Valley IWW group are interested in contacting all timber cruisers, loggers, log truck drivers, mill workers, reforestation workers and forest products workers in general who wish to increase communication among workers in the forest industry. Our purpose is to discuss organizing into the Lumber Workers Industrial Union No. 120 of the IWW. We are a small group of forest workers in the Rocky Mountain region, dedicated to workers' self-management and the socialization of forest resources for the enjoyment of society as a whole. Write to: Forest Workers, c/o Clark Fork Valley IWW, PO Box 8562, Missoula, Montana 59807.

#### Orchard Workers Organizing Drive

Plans to begin an organizing drive in Washington State's fruit orchards continue. (see June *IW*). If you can spare a few bucks, send them to: Orchard Workers Organizing Committee (OWOC), c/o IWW, Box 1386, Bellingham, WA, 98227. Make checks to IWW, please. We'll need to purchase extra copies of the October *IW*, get a mimeograph, and leafletting supplies. If you could use some work this fall, get in touch with OWOC.



Many thanks to fellow worker Charlie King, whose benefit concert in Massachusetts helped send a birthing clinic to Nicaragua.

#### New History Leaflet from Peterborough

The Peterborough, Canada, IWW has just produced a leaflet excerpting John Reed's account of the post-World War I trial of 101 IWW activists. Explains Ken Hone of the Peterborough IWW regarding the leaflet, "I thought it sufficiently important from an historical perspective to help rescue it from oblivion."

Reed, subject of the recent Hollywood movie "Reds," praises the men on trial. "As for the prisoners," Reed writes, "I doubt if ever in history there has been a sight just like them."

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## Left Side



Just this past week a visitor from Greece was staying at the domicile of your scribe and wanted to see more of the land of opportunity than was depicted in the travel guide book or the National Geographic. His wish was immediately gratified; it was not necessary for him to leave the Chicago city limits in order to see facets of Freedomland that are never shown in the travel brochures. A brief ride through the unemployed, working class and racial minority districts of the great Windy City elicited comments like, "Are people actually living in fire traps like those?" He was particularly appalled by garbage lying in the streets, due to garbage collections being made sporadically if at all.

He informed this writer that in even the most poverty-stricken villages in his homeland, people did not live as degraded as this. Indeed, your scribe has been to Europe a number of times himself and has never seen such outward evidence of economic extremes as can be seen in the average U.S. city. And I was taken around by those who were showing me the poor parts of their cities. One has to go to Latin America, Asia or Africa to see greater contrasts of wealth and poverty than can be seen here in Freedomland.

Here in Chicago it is believed that 700,000 people are affected by hunger; this belief is not being quoted from some wild-eyed radical rag (such as the *Industrial Worker*) but some conventional neighborhood periodical that specializes in advertising local businesses and prints news about church suppers and American Legion raffles.

The local federal food supplement program serves less than 41 percent of the eligible people in Chicago. Last year 41,000 people were turned away for lack of food to distribute. Requests for emergency food increased almost 700 percent in these two years. In this past year at one of the local food pantries, demand for emergency food had increased over 70 percent. This is all a result of the ever-increasing cutbacks in social service programs.

One of the 700,000 who are affected by hunger in Chicago is an elderly woman who takes her food to a neighborhood community center to eat because at home she would have to share it with the rats. Two-thirds of her social "security" check goes to pay the rent for the quarters she shares with the rats. What is left over goes toward food that has to be stretched out for the remainder of the month. Part of the food budget has to go towards rat poison and metal food storage containers to keep the rats from eating her food.

Lest one thinks that only the elderly who have been placed on the economic scrap-heap are victims of the undocumented rampant hunger, the president of the Illinois chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics has something to say about some of the future working stiffs of this society. According to her, the number of infants in the local county hospital determined to be malnourished rose from 50 percent in 1982 to 90 percent in 1983. One of the main factors involved in infant malnutrition is called water-intoxication which has increased 13-fold over those two years. This disease, which causes total body seizures, results from overdiluting infant formula so that the largest part of the infant's diet is sugar water.

July is the month in Freedomland to commemorate the slave-owners and Indian-butchers who questioned why the bureaucrats back in England should get a cut of the loot. I remember one friend of years back who was arrested for reciting the Declaration of Independence on a street corner. The cops thought he was a dirty communist. Later this same friend mollified the authorities by reading an essay on patriotism. The essay was by Adolf Hitler.

Draftees of the World, unite! You have nothing to lose but your generals!

C.C. Redcloud

# 'Savage Beatings Could Be Heard'

(continued from Page 1)

guards started striking convicts indiscriminately, who in turn started defending themselves and fighting broke out. Both convicts and guards who did not want any involvement started running to get out of the way. When everyone ended up at the Grill Gate near the Control Center, they all fell over one another and a large pile of people ended up on the floor--one of them Dean Leech. He was dressed up in a white shirt and tan colored pants, just as we are, and the guards who were coming to his rescue mistook him for a prisoner and proceeded to punch and kick the hell out of him. What is so horrible about this specific incident is because of Leech's unprofessional handling of prisoners a near riot broke out which could have resulted in great loss of life on both sides.

The days and weeks following this incident resulted in a cold-blooded retaliation by the BOP--something you only hear happens in Nazi concentration camps. Savage beatings of prisoners could be heard as I went to sleep at night. And not one of these beatings can be justified. The conditions inside our cell blocks became so filthy and the air so foul. A heart patient's medication was confiscated and never returned. All privileges for personal hygiene were denied, our cells were stripped and the furniture destroyed. Then we were literally thrown back into them with our arms handcuffed behind our backs and told, "You guys are paying for what happened in H unit."

I personally was struck on the left forearm and rib cage numerous times because I dared pass on the sandwiches that I refused to eat to someone who was still hungry. Danny Attaberry was struck on the hand for accepting them.

I can prove by a BOP document that this was foreseen, not only months but years ago. In fact, they encouraged it in a roundabout way. The document is called a "Program and Procedures Review of the United States Penitentiary, Marion, Illinois." It was conducted by the North Central Regional Office of the BOP, November 2-5, 1981. The review team consisted of George Raiston, who is the Regional Director, Assistant Director Ingram, and nine high-level administrators. Here is a direct quote from that document:

Even though Marion may compile a continuing list of problems such as escape attempts and assaults, or even murders, in the future, the Executive Staff must consider those events in the context of the intensely difficult population there. Balanced against those difficulties will be the benefit of a reduction in the number of problems in every other facility as a result of this concentration of management problems at Marion (emphasis added.)

If the regional Director expected murders to result as a logical extension of his policies at Marion, why did Director Norman Carlson, 5 wardens, and the top brass from all regions meet with Warden Miller in an emergency session on October 31, 1983? Why was there such a panic

reaction when they had already predicted more murders?

The answer is they did not expect the murders to be of guards, but rather murders of inmates. Also they had long ago decided the price paid--these murders--was nothing compared to the benefits: lower problems in other prisons. This is due to the so-called "trouble-makers" that were being put in Marion. It has been their intention to convert Marion from an open population to a closed, tightly controlled institution. The second reason for the over-reaction is to allow the Warden to shift the blame for the loss of his guards by making scapegoats of the entire prison population.

The final irony is in the conclusion reached in the Program and Procedures Review: "...Marion is operating in a much more secure and effective fashion than it was prior to the implementation of these procedures, inmates and

Human rights must be ensured  
for America's captives,  
especially for those of us  
who have done nothing to be  
punished for.

staff are safer as a result of these procedures." These are the "experts" speaking. Tragically, the warden, with his militaristic, disciplinarian mind-set has failed to learn the lesson that brutality and repression teach--and that is that violence breeds violence. And society will one day have to pay for what the prison "experts" continue to do to captive humans beings in their name.

There are 380 of us here at Marion. Our only chance for justice is our hope that all of you who read my words will write letters to the following senators and members of Congress calling their attention to the deplorable conditions existing here. Demand a congressional investigation into the illegal and unconstitutional actions. Human rights must be ensured for America's captives, especially for those of us who have done absolutely nothing to be punished for. In the name of humanity take some time and a few 20 cent stamps to write: Congressman R. Kastenmeier, Congressman Paul Simon, Congressman Ron Dellums, Congressman Don Edwards, and Senator Edward Kennedy.

## Maritime Unionist Dies at Age 73

Yesterday we were informed of the death of Bill Farrell at the age of 73. Bill joined the Marine Transport Workers Industrial Union 510 of the IWW in the 1920s, and shipped out to sea for most of his life.

His early organizing efforts in I.U. 510 forged a class consciousness and commitment to working class solidarity that stayed with him throughout his life.

After a lifetime at sea, he opened a bookstore in Berkeley and for twenty years provided stimulation and support for generations of Cal students. He was always to be found in the middle of demonstrations all over the Bay area.

In addition to the IWW, Farrell was a member of the Socialist Party. Later, with Max Shackman and James Cannon, he split to help found the Socialist Workers Party, of which he remained a member and lifetime supporter.

Our political differences never stood in the way of a long span of years involving intense direct action against the Vietnam war and pro-labor actions in support of all those members of humanity that get shit because they are powerless. Bill Farrell had power and guts. Finding himself in Spain, he backed the POUM and the CNT-FAI. He fought the Stalinists and the Fascists as long as he had breath in his body.

Bill spent the last years of his life on the Mendocino coast where he lived with his wife and lifelong comrade Ada and his anarchist pals.

He leaves a son, many grandchildren and an army of comrades and fellow workers that will toast his memory.

Alan Graham

★ EDUCATION ★ ORGANIZATION ★ EMANCIPATION

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

**Industrial Worker**

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THE FINAL DEADLINE FOR ALL COPY IS THE 10th OF EACH MONTH.

Please send all copy to: *Industrial Worker*, PO Box 53243, Washington, DC 20009.

## Bellingham Branch Project

# Food (and clothes) For People

The Bellingham Branch of the IWW, along with the Bellingham Food For People group, are currently working together on a new project aimed at helping to feed and clothe the poor and unemployed in our community. We'd like to share our excitement about this project with readers of the IW, and ask for your support of our efforts at community self-help.

We plan to open a Union Thrift Center and Community Free Store. The store would operate in two ways: On the one hand; the thrift store will collect, sort and recycle items for sale to the public at a low cost, with proceeds used to pay rent on the store/community center, and to continue our Food For People free meals. At the same location, a community Free Store would offer clothing and other household items free for all those who can't afford the outrageous prices currently found at our local Starvation Army and others of its kind.

We've made good progress so far in locating an inexpensive site, which is being held for us by a sympathetic landlord. We've already had many donations of goods to stock the store. We

have several volunteers, eager to get to work. All we need now is money for start-up costs--not a lot of money, but more than we can raise locally. And so we must ask for your help.

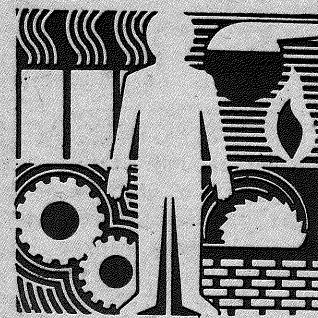
It's always hard to appeal for funds from fellow workers, who may be as broke as many of us. But a small donation from you or your group could help assure us of enough money to get this program off the ground and operating on a self-sufficient basis by the end of summer. If you can spare \$10, \$20 or more, it would really make a difference--and be greatly appreciated! All donations are tax deductible and, if requested, you would be sent a receipt for such purposes.

If you have any questions or concerns, please write or give a call to the Bellingham branch secretary, Walt, at (206) 671-5209. Checks or money orders should be made out to "Bellingham IWW/Food For People" and sent to: IWW/Food For People, PO Box 1386, Bellingham, WA, 98227. We thank you for your consideration.

In Solidarity,  
Michael Karn  
Walt O'dham

Fred Thompson's

## labor in north america



The obvious need for industrial organization has led to much merged bargaining. After 10 months of striking by 13 unions at Phelps Dodge, it took 350 National Guard to protect the scabs at an early May rally. After this, the governor urged P-D to come to the bargaining table...Postal Workers and Letter Carriers are bargaining jointly for their half million members; Rural Letter Carriers and the Teamsters Mail Handlers Division will bargain concurrently but separately for their 100,000. (The Post Office handles 40 percent more mail than it did in 1970 and with 62,000 fewer workers, while making \$1.4 million in profits in the last two years.)

The various railroad unions have filed very similar demands, in general seeking 10 percent per year over the next three years for 300,000 railroad workers split up into United Transportation, Locomotive Engineers, Maintenance of Way, Signalmen, Firemen, Machinists and other shop crafts that are asking \$13.26/hr. minimum.

Joint action by Service Employees and United Food and Commercial Workers to organize the 75,000 hands at the 800 nursing homes of Beverly Enterprises resulted in the company promising good behavior.

A major hindrance to the growth of solidarity is the fact that craft union structures transect a variety of industries, and can't simply amalgamate into functioning industrial organizations. In the newspaper field most crafts have consolidated recently into a Graphics Communication Union, leaving the Guild office hands and the ITU printers outside. The move for ITU to come in also was frustrated by officers who insisted on staying in office despite an election, as well as its merger with the Teamsters.

In any newspaper strike, the solidarity of the Teamsters is critical, but the workers of varied skills who create a newspaper don't want to be run by the folks who have been running the Teamsters. It is a structural headache that can be resolved only by a One Big Union structure that puts truck drivers or any other craft employed by a newspaper into one industrial union, yet permits them to take joint action with others performing similar operations in other industries. (To build that kind of unionism, carry an IWW card too.) Anyway, the decision of ITU officers to issue a referendum on joining the Teamsters got blocked by a suit in San Francisco brought by six ITU members, with the blessing of a Merger Committee for One Big Union.

Just as most unions are finding the NLRB is of less and less service to workers, so are the agricultural workers (excluded from NLRB jurisdiction) finding state bodies tougher to deal with. In California a backlog of more than 1000 cases piled up in May before the state's Agricultural Labor Relations board. But it did reluctantly and belatedly allow \$1.8 million in back pay for those who had to strike against Abatti Produce in 1978 when the Board's regional office calculated damages to workers at six times that amount.

A Texas judge has ruled that the exclusion of agricultural workers from state compensation laws is unconstitutional, as a result of ACLU efforts, and a new law is to be drafted. Many states exclude field workers from compensation coverage.

With good boycott support the Newspaper Guild got a three-year contract with the Consumers Union after a three-month strike. It covers the technicians and researchers at Consumers Reports as well as the writers and editors. Steelworkers continue the boycott of Proctor and Gamble; in 1979 they won an election at its Kansas City plant but the company continuously stalled on negotiations and recently got a company union to win an election over the Steelworkers.

## Convention Scheduled for Sept. 1-2

The Industrial Workers of the World will hold its 42nd General Convention on Labor Day weekend, September 1 and 2, 1984, as a result of a recent referendum. The Convention was overwhelmingly approved by IWW members, who also directed that it be open to both delegates and individual members.

The General Executive Board will announce an agenda in the coming weeks. Among issues expected to be discussed are current organizing campaigns, disposition of the Nelson bequest,

and other matters. In addition, plans are moving ahead for the recording of an album of IWW songs during two evenings of live benefit concerts over the weekend. The resulting record would be released in 1985 to commemorate the IWW's 80th anniversary.

All IWW members may participate in the Convention; others may attend as observers. Further details will be announced in union publications, or can be obtained from General Headquarters in Chicago after August 1.

## Around Our Union

# Snoring Away on the Benches

(continued from page one)

One hundred and one lumberjacks, harvest hands, miners, editors; one hundred and one who believe that the wealth of the world belongs to him who creates it."

For copies, contact: Peterborough IWW, PO Box 2144, Peterborough, Ont., Canada.

### Wobbly Biographies

On April 25 the Anderson Valley Advertiser in Mendocino, Cal. printed a full page of reminiscences by fellow worker Alan Graham. In it, Graham covered his evolution from the Berkeley student uprising to 1967 and Timothy Leary. Our copy will go into a growing file Fred Thompson has built up on biographical details of sundry Wobblies (agreeable of course to such record keeping) that he will eventually turn over to Wayne State Archives. That file started years ago when a student complained that he could find lots to read about the IWW but nothing about Wobblies--the human beings involved in it. Got some good stories for us?

### "Unload with Both Barrels"

During his recent visit to Massachusetts, Sam Dolgoff related this story to us youngsters:

### WHY JOIN THE IWW?

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

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



Sam Dolgoff, longtime Mob and retired house-painter, spoke to a crowd of 20 in Massachusetts this April. (Photo by Dave Tucker.)

"I remember talking to Carlo Tresca [an early IWW organizer] once. He was telling me about when he went to Illinois to work with the coal miners who were getting together there. Someone had arranged for him to give a talk in a small town. When he got there, he found a total of six people had showed up.

"Now Tresca was a great talker, but he could be a little boring at times. After a half hour or so, five of his audience were sound asleep, snoring away on the benches at this hall. Tresca droned on and on, and finally got tired. The one fella still awake just stared at him as he talked. Finally Tresca says, 'When are you going to fall asleep so I can leave?'

The coal miner replied, 'Well, I was waiting for you to nod off so's I could leave!' Tresca figured this guy had gotten a headful out of him, so they called it a draw and left. He later heard that this same fella had gotten the ball rolling with his fellow workers and got their union organized into the IWW.

The upshot of the whole story is that just because you have a small audience, like I did tonight in Greenfield, is no reason not to unload with both barrels. You never know who is going to take what you have to say to heart, pick up the ball, and run with it."

# Facing Solid Walls of Bayonets and Politics

The date was June 1941. The picket line churned around like a great wheel in front of the gates of North American, L.A.'s largest aviation plant. Each time around we observed more policemen ranked in hostile formation. Of the plant's 11,000 workers, 8500 had responded to a strike call when the local UAW demanded a 10 cent raise. I had joined their ranks as a concerned neighbor.

Suddenly someone on the line yelled, "Watch out, it's coming. Get your heads down."

A frenetic movement seized the crowd, and for a terrifying moment I was wheeled off my feet. Somehow I struggled loose and ran from I knew not what to crouch in a ditch about 20 feet

run into the path of another. Several militants snatched hot unexploded bombs in their handkerchiefs and hurled them back at the police.

Presently three steel-gray army trucks sped around the corner. A dozen soldiers clambered out and steered toward us with flashing bayonets. Other trucks brought reinforcements from Fort MacArthur. Several pickets were struck down with bayonet thrusts in their legs. For those pickets on the inner line of the circle there was no escape from the onslaught.

While overhead we heard the ominous drone of army planes, we faced a solid wall of drawn

bayonets moving steadily, relentlessly toward us. We were hustled a block away.

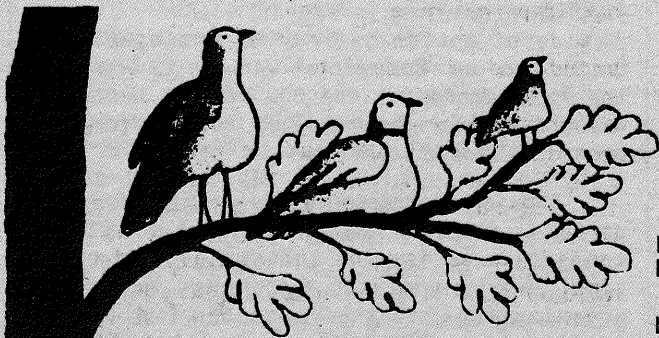
Was it government violence or international politics that lost that strike? Local UAW leaders who'd boasted about their determination to fight a long, hard battle hastily ordered the workers back on the job. Hitler had just broken his non-aggression pact with Russia by pouring three million soldiers across the Soviet border. Savvy?

Dorice McDaniels

Several pickets were struck down with bayonet thrusts in their legs.

away. But instead of finding safety I collided with disaster. A gray object with a red snub nose whined overhead and fell within a foot of me. I covered my face with my hands, and tears coursed down my cheeks.

At least a dozen tear gas bombs whined precariously around us. We dodged one, only to



by Fred Thompson

You are at the movies watching an animated cartoon. You see a banker reading a newspaper in the back seat of a chauffeured car as it is driven through the birches and pines of Northern Michigan. It is springtime. The car stops with a jolt where the pavement ends abruptly, facing a large "Dead End" sign and a smaller, crude sign reading "Boats for Rent," with an arrow pointing left.

The car backs a few feet, takes the rough unpaved road indicated by the sign, and soon the paper is jolted out of the banker's hands, flies out the window, and is caught on a barbed-wire fence as the car goes out of sight.

Behind that fence lies a flat, grassy area surrounded by trees with a bushy rise in the middle, as though some small lake with an island in it had filled up and turned into grassland. A deer steps out of the woods and comes front and center to look at the paper fluttering on the fence. She gets excited, waves her tail and tosses her head. Several small birds and a squirrel come to look at the paper. You get to see it too now. Its headlines read: "H-Bomb Tests," "Acid Rain," "New War Begins," "Top Soil Vanishing."

The birds summon other creatures to look at the paper. A crow solemnly utters the first words spoken in the movie: "We must bring humankind to trial." He sends off three small birds to arrest the banker.

The remaining animals prepare for the trial. Two squirrels bring the front page as indictment. The crow, as judge, mounted on a bush, empanels twelve creatures as jury, and names the fox prosecutor. The three birds return with the banker, flying about his head as he tries to catch them. When they have brought him to the judgment place, a family of skunks surround him with two porcupines as extra guards.

The crow explains to the banker: "We have arrested you and brought you to trial. This newspaper is your indictment. This paper shows that your species, the human race, is endangering itself and all of us. Have you anything to say for yourself?"

The banker explains that he is a good family man, is kind to children and pets, drinks only moderately, and even makes donations to a society for the preservation of wildlife.

The fox asks how he makes his living and why he comes here to lure fish under false

## 60 Chileans Killed in National Protests

by Penny Pixler

Since May, 1983 more than 60 Chileans have been killed during the monthly "Days of National Protest" against the Pinochet regime. Five more were killed in the March protest: a 12-year-old boy, a 23-year-old student and a 43-year-old man were killed in Santiago; another 23-year-old student was killed in Concepcion; a teenage girl died later of a gunshot wound. Police fired on a crowd of mourners returning from the funeral of another victim, wounding two students, and used tear gas and water cannon on rock-throwing university students.

Rodolfo Seguel, the union leader who organ-

ized the March protest, said "the people have responded fully to our call for peaceful protest. We hold the government responsible for whatever violence that occurs."

How much longer the anti-Pinochet demonstrations will remain peaceful is in doubt. On April 1, bomb explosions knocked down at least three utility towers, darkening Santiago from 9 p.m. until midnight. The Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front, a Marxist group named for a Chilean independence hero, claimed responsibility for the bombing.

President and army commander Pinochet has responded with a state of emergency declaration and curfews.

## The Trial of Humankind

pretenses to their death? Is it because he is hungry?

He makes his living, the banker says, by borrowing money at a rate of interest lower than he lends it, then lending it to more than one borrower at a time, so he can live on the interest he charges.

The fox gives up on his efforts to discover what this money stuff is, while the banker explains that he lends it to people so they can buy cars and to companies so they can hire people to build the cars, and to other companies so they can make bombs and planes, and to vari-

ous governments so they can buy the planes and the bombs, etc.

The fox inquires about the hazards created by these enterprises. The banker explains that governments need to borrow the money so they can defend themselves against the bombs and planes of other governments and have actually called the loans "life-savers." Besides that, the workers who make the bombs and planes all need jobs. If the banks did not finance the manufacturer, the little children of these workers would all go hungry. The very thought of this makes the banker take out his handkerchief to wipe his eyes.

The fox too is moved to tears by the banker's concern for the little children. Addressing the jury the fox points out that the banker's self-confessed kindness and excellent character only strengthen the indictment. It proves that the social arrangements that prevail among humankind are such that even kind-hearted men are driven by these arrangements to kill each other, and thus have invented weapons so deadly that they threaten all life on earth.

He waves the newspaper at the jury and calls attention to the prospect that even if they do not destroy all nature with their bombs they are likely to do so a bit more slowly with their smokestacks, their car exhaust, their soil erosion, and with all the things that humankind can be seen doing. The jury should be moved, not by the banker's tears, or his self-confessed kindness, but by their consideration for the well-being of all creatures great and small.

The jury gives its verdict: a series of 12 "guilty" votes.

The crow compliments the jury on its clear thinking, but explains that the verdict creates a problem for him as judge. The banker has been found guilty not for his own actions, but for the general behavior of mankind, and the two are inseparable. It is known that people have changed. They are not like the skunks who cannot help smelling; they did not always make cars and bombs. Because they can change, he feels he must put the banker on probation. He tells the banker:

"Understand that not only you, but all your human sisters and brothers are on probation, and this probation will automatically be cancelled unless you mend your ways. This is not simply because I say so. It is inescapably the way of the world."

The screen switches to the hand of the artist drawing the cartoon, and then his nose and then his face as he says, "And that is actually the way of it. We are all on probation."

### 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.**

# Small Group Campaign Weakens Unions

by Eichi Itoh

(Editor's note: The following is the third in a series on the labor control methods of Japanese management. Written by a rank-and-file postal worker in Japan, this series critiques a practice which is becoming more popular in the United States and other industrialized countries.)

The labor control system through small groups has been introduced into public as well as private enterprises. There were strong unions, especially at Japan National Railway (JNR) and the Postal Service, but the forming of small groups on the work floors destroyed such unions. Public workers did, however, find ways to resist this destructive reorganization of the workplace.

From 1970 to 1971 small groups called "the study teams of the productivity increase movement" were organized by JNR management. This campaign was called the "Marusei" movement. In their words, management's goal was "revolution of worker's consciousness" to increase productivity.

JNR unions, the National Railway Worker's Union (Kokuro) and the National Railway Locomotive Engineers' Union (Doro), were key unions and strongholds in the Japanese labor movement. In the past management had tried to eliminate their strength, but always failed. For example, management set up a strikebreaker's union, the Japan Railway Workers Union (Tetsuro), which drew workers from the two militant unions.

This time, the management set up "the study teams of the productivity increase movement." Formally the productivity campaign was not related to unions. "We want only to study the theory of productivity drive," said a group member. Theoretically the productivity campaign must be conducted by "autonomous" small groups,

but in practice the campaign was guided by management to change the balance at the workplace in favor of the employer.

The structure of the Marusei movement varied from one workplace to another but it can be summed up as follows: The stationmaster served as the president of the federation of the study groups, and the section chiefs as vice-presidents. Foremen were ranked as coordinators. Under this structure the study teams, which consisted of five to seven members, were organized at the work places. Team leaders were selected among the members and they recruited new members. They often induced union workers to desert Kokuro or Doro, the two more militant unions, and join the yellow union.

There were some cases where all employees at a station divided into small groups and joined the productivity campaign. This was ideal for management. It had the same function as quality control circles in the private sector. Workers were forced to be always aware of the efficiency and to "autonomously" conduct the productivity increase movement. They met once a week or every day after work to discuss productivity increase through the method of "criticism and self-criticism" within the small group.

The productivity campaign was in a sense a spiritual movement aiming at "the revolution of JNR employee's consciousness." A report says:

"Team leaders are sent to a joint study meeting for a week. They attend lectures on increasing productivity and various management theories. But most important is the candle party which takes place the last evening. Before a lighted candle every worker is asked to make a vow to conduct the productivity increase movement at his or her workplace. A worker begins to cry and confess: 'I am ashamed for my unawareness of efficiency.' The atmosphere becomes emotional. Another says, 'For a

new JNR,' and all say together, 'For a new JNR.'"

When we pay attention to the fact that the JNR is a stronghold of militant trade unionism and workers are well organized, the meaning of the slogan "For a new JNR" is clear. A new JNR had to be a non-unionized one or at least one free of militant unionism. The development of the productivity campaign coincided with an increasing number of unfair labor practices.

At first the two militant unions in JNR weren't concerned with the productivity campaign. But after it became clear that the management had conducted a series of unfavorable labor practices—such as hinting at promotion of those who deserted the two unions—Kokuro and Doro made a counterattack against the campaign. "Marusei" became the common word which meant the productivity increase movement through weakening the militant union.

On the working floor unionists who had participated in a study team were persuaded into deserting the group. Meetings to promote a productivity campaign were prevented from taking place by unionists. Meanwhile, an intermediate body which handles labor disputes decided that the JNR authorities interfered illegally with union activities, and ordered the JNR authorities to apologize. It was the workers' first victory. At the same time opposition parties began a joint investigation into alleged unfair labor practices which were prohibited by the labor union law. The Marusei campaign became a controversial political matter.

On October 27, 1971 the management of the JNR notified its two unions that the Marusei movement would be suspended for two months, and suggested setting up a joint committee to solve labor disputes. Two militant unions won. The Marusei campaign was not reassumed and the JNR workplaces remained the stronghold of the Japanese labor movement.



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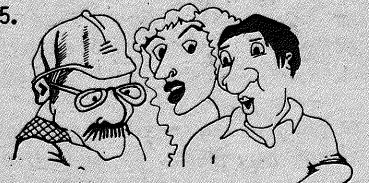
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## Views ...

"Surveys," not Seizures

### Guarding the Gates Against Migrants

On three different occasions in 1977, approximately 20 Immigration and Naturalization Service agents entered factories run by the Davis Pleating Company in Los Angeles. Some stood guard at each of the exits while the rest moved up and down the aisles of the garment factory asking where each employee was born and demanding immigration documents from those who were not U.S. citizens.

Of the 590 employees at those factories, 164 did not have the proper papers and were detained and arrested. Throughout that year, more than 20,000 were arrested in the Los Angeles area alone as a result of this INS tactic.

On April 17, 1984, the Supreme Court ruled that these unannounced raids, innocuously labeled "surveys," were within the bounds of the law and did not violate the illegal search and seizure clause of the constitution.

To support their decision, the seven-member majority asserted that the agents' actions were not a "seizure" because the factory occupants were theoretically free to walk out at any time. They were free, that is, unless they were stopped at an exit and couldn't produce papers, in which case they would be arrested.

This case began when four employees of the Davis Pleating Company, all legal residents of the United States, sued in federal court to challenge the constitutionality of the "surveys." Civil libertarians backing the workers argued that this practice results in the harassment of workers simply because of their ethnic origins. These factory sweeps were directed at one identifiable element in the U.S. population, namely Hispanics.

The 9th circuit court of appeals ruled in the employees' favor, saying that it would be illegal seizure unless the agents had a "reasonable suspicion" that the employee was an illegal alien.

In overturning this decision, the Supreme Court apparently finds no offense in the racist nature of this INS tactic. Even the case brought by the employees implies no beef with the government pouncing on "illegal" migrant workers. The most that is even under consideration in this judicial run-around is the protection of the workers who hold the right papers.

Thanks to judicial sanction, the INS will continue what is now their most successful tactic for locating and arresting migrant workers once they're across the U.S. border. (These workplace raids now account for 60 percent of arrests made away from the border.)

The branding of natives of this continent as "illegal aliens," was condemned by the 1983 Convention of the IWW; it also condemned the deportation of migrants back to intolerable economic conditions or to certain deaths under military dictatorships (see Convention Resolutions, *Industrial Worker*, October 1983.)

We find it ironic that a government composed of descendants of other countries, and who boast about those descendants coming here for economic and ideological reasons, should bar

others who come here for similar or more pressing reasons.

We Wobs would far prefer the presence of these migrating workers over that of the migrating corporations and the governments that serve them.

M.M.



## readers' soap box

Dear IW:

Jake Edwards' article on the problems with "worker ownership" at Rath Packing Company was highly informative. Clearly workers cannot buy their way out of the capitalist system. Workers generally do not have access to enough capital to modernize old plants that the previous owners allowed to decline. Banks and government agencies require workers to exploit themselves and give up workplace rights as a condition for getting loans. Often this leads to outright union busting.

This is not the only worker buy-out in the UFCW's history. In Philadelphia the UFCW arranged for a similar employee stock ownership plan with the A&P food store chain. As with the Rath plant, workers have little say in the management of the "worker-owned" stores and have been forced to accept wage cuts and speed-ups. The UFCW has had the nerve to call this "workplace democracy." At Rath, too, the International bears as much blame as the local union. So far it hasn't led to union-busting in Philadelphia, but as the saying goes, "With a union like that, who needs a boss?"

It is not enough to insist on a clear separation between labor and management. This merely accepts the wage system status quo. The position of the IWW as given in its Preamble is to completely do away with a separate class of managers and replace them with a system of workers' self-management. Workers who are seriously considering trying to keep an older plant going must insist on radical changes in managerial structure. The highest policy-making body in the plant should be the general assembly of workers, not a board of directors composed of majority shareholders or investors. Outside support should come from other workers in the community and the industry, not from banks, bureaucrats or business unionists. Most of all, workers must go into these buy-outs with their eyes open and not be fooled by naive liberals who claim that capitalism is compatible with workplace democracy.

In Solidarity,  
Jeff Stein

## Beyond Survival

### Strong Points with Weak Roots

**Beyond Survival: New Directions for the Disarmament Movement**, Edited by Michael Albert and David Dellinger. South End Press, 1983.

"A perplexing problem confronts the disarmament movement. It must broaden and deepen at the same time, two tasks that appear contradictory. To succeed it must broaden its active constituency to include people who have traditionally viewed unconventional ideas and activist movements with suspicion, if not hostility. But it must also deepen its critique of a society that is spiritually and politically capable of threatening to use weapons that can destroy the human race."

Thus begins this new anthology, aimed at convincing peace movement activists (and especially those involved in single-issue disarmament/freeze work) to broaden their perspectives and deepen their critique of society. Articles

address a variety of issues, from the connections between militarism and sexism and racism, to the "soviet threat." In the Introduction, Albert and Dellinger argue for a radical disarmament program, noting that notions of arms "control" and reliance on "experts" and political insiders—both Democrats and Republicans—are what got us into the present mess to begin with.

Four of the authors—David Dellinger, Alexander Cockburn, James Ridgeway, and Noam Chomsky—note the need for the disarmament movement to address the issue of conventional warfare. The June 12, 1982 demonstration, which went by without even a mention of the concurrent Israeli invasion of Lebanon, is cited as a specific example of the narrow focus of much of the disarmament movement. Dellinger also argues that any real peace movement must address questions such as hunger, which inflicts a massive toll upon the populations of the Third World.

(Continued on Page 7)

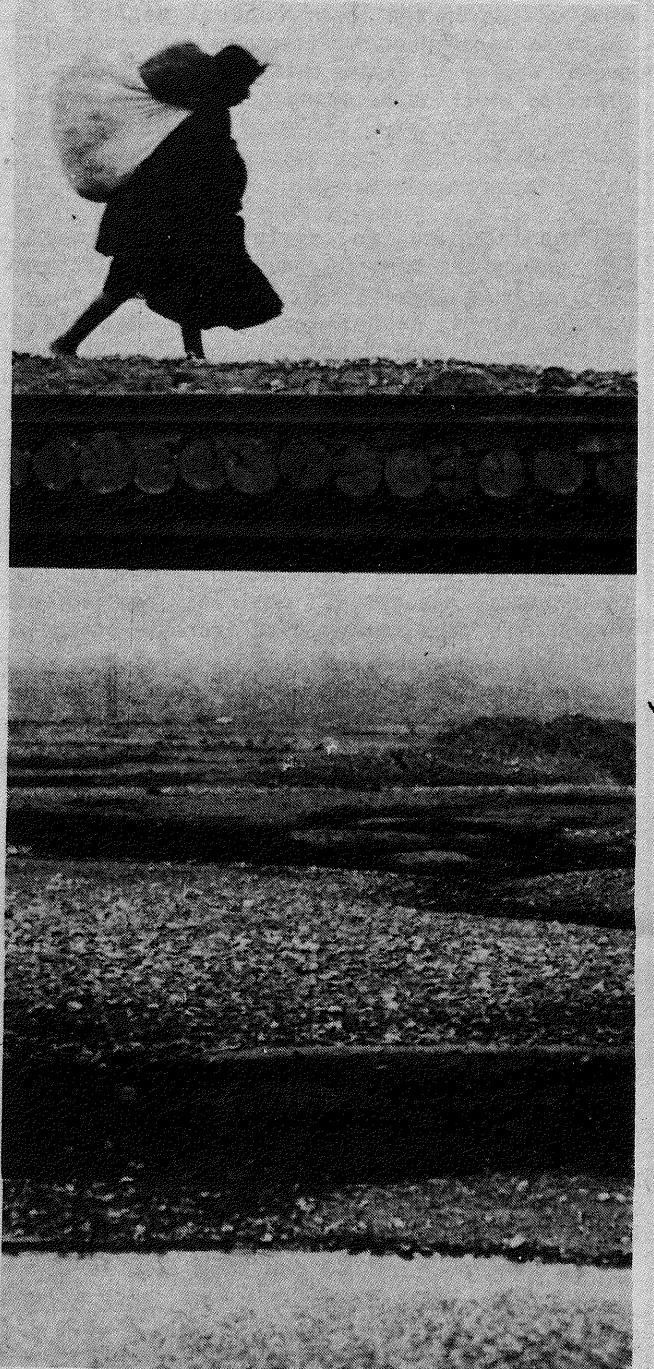


Photo: Salgado

## Unconventional Wisdom

One of the Houston dailies has announced that settlements are underway in the strike of culinary workers, bartenders, service personnel, musicians and stagehands against Las Vegas clubs and resorts. Details of the settlements will soon be known—if the parties involved permit publication. What is noteworthy here is the solidarity practiced by the trades affected. Satisfactory settlements must be reached for all lines of work before there is a return to work.

It is especially good to see musicians and stagehands supporting the service trades. Too often it hasn't been like that. The shows went on, you tell me? Don't spend time shedding tears over that. Rather, get to figuring how to persuade the performers to act like union people the next time.

Perhaps you would prefer an example of solidarity from an industry that produces a more substantial product than popular diversion. A point well taken, of course. But don't you think that there is a current of worker solidarity in today's workaday winds? It's been missing a while, I grant you. The Las Vegas strike was not an isolated happening in a western desert city. It was a symptom of what the unionized part of American labor is beginning to feel. Let us hope that the solidarity experienced will not be diverted to the short-term advantage but will be aimed at the long-term goal.

Production for use instead of for profit--  
Pervicacia

## ...and Reviews

# Economics that Go Down Easy

**Economic Expose: Who's Stealing Your Job and Picking Your Pocket?** by Steve Max. Citizen Action, 600 W. Fullerton, Chicago, IL 60614. 48 pages (8 x 11), illus. \$3.00 postpaid.

Here's some economics that's easy to read. Samples: "Each company tries to keep wages as low as possible, produce as much as possible, sell at the highest possible price, and employ the fewest possible people. That is a sure-fire formula for stagnation." Or: "When we make more products than are needed, the boss takes a holiday and eats, while the rest of us get laid off and don't eat."

There are graphs and statistics to supplement these broad contentions, plus a bit of recent economic history. After the massive destruction abroad in World War II, half the world's steel was produced in the United States, but with a little modernization here and much modernization abroad, this country turns out only 13 percent of the world total now. "1968 was the year the goose died." That's the year in which real spendable weekly earnings for a typical family peaked at \$166 (in 1977 dollars), rising from \$131 in the early 50s and dropping ever since.

One interesting chart lists the GNP of the various countries and the net sales of the major corporations in descending order: The sales of General Motors or Exxon are exceeded by the GNP of only 23 countries.

Another chart shows that in each major industry the top four companies control over half the market. Given this situation, Max reckons, the major decisions for the American economy are made by not more than 1,800 people, the chief executives of the major corporations. These 1,800 people have short-term interests in milking these companies while they run them,

rather than in modernizing them. Text-book economics doesn't work in this milieu. From 1973 to 1974 the steel companies cut production and raised prices and profits; in depressed 1983 they raised prices again.

These major American corporations are taking on Japanese partners in joint ventures. Max appears to share the UAW perspective that to become prosperous a country should keep out imports. He suggests also that the unemployed should have jobs cleaning up toxic dump sites, building the houses we need, and repairing roads and bridges, while the government punishes plant closures and eloping industries.

Max seems to contend that if we woke up some morning and found that the rest of the world outside of the United States had somehow disappeared, we could survive. We would only be missing bananas, coffee, and some strategic metals, needing to change export industries into something else, and facing the same old capitalist problem that producing more than we get endangers steady employment.

But the rest of the world is not likely to disappear, and we do like bananas and coffee. So isn't the sound union policy the one of the UAW back when it sought to organize continent-wide in the 30s, or for the UMWA back in 1890 when it brought coal miners working in different mines into one union? We need to build solidarity among all whom the employing class puts into competition with each other, whether it's across the bench, across the street or across the ocean. It's not easy--it never has been easy--but it is necessary not only so that we can all eat regularly, but so that we don't wind up bombing the hell out of each other. There's more hope in solidarity than in tariffs.

F.T.

## Uncertain Path to Disarmament

inued from Page 6)

The issue of conventional warfare, and its potential to touch off nuclear war, is a major focus of *Beyond Survival*, and its major strength. Chomsky's contribution addresses the connection head-on, arguing that nuclear conflict is most likely to break out as an escalation of conventional military conflict between superpowers. Third World conflicts, in which the United States and the Soviet Union are increasingly involved, represent potential flashpoints in Chomsky's view, with the Middle East being the most likely place for a nuclear war to begin.

Although important, Chomsky argues, the size of nuclear arsenals must be a secondary consideration. Our primary concern, if we are to avert nuclear war, must be to reduce tensions and conflicts at the points where war engaging the superpowers is likely. This cannot be done by supporting one set of politicians over another, as Chomsky points out by comparing Reagan's policies and former President Kennedy's, showing that their policies, actions and objectives were fundamentally the same.

In an article on "Labor and Disarmament," Paula Rayman argues for linking the labor and disarmament movements through concentrating on the negative impact of military spending on the economy.

Noting the crisis facing U.S. unions as a result of the economic decline, the failure of protectionism, and falling membership, Rayman declares that the peace movement can offer economic conversion as a program to escape the present morass most business unions find themselves in. She discusses at length various conversion campaigns conducted in the United States, and Great Britain, stressing their potential to ease the economic hardships faced by workers as a result of the debilitating effects of uncontrolled military spending on the economy. But questions of worker control, working conditions, internationalism, or the permeation of the entire economy by the military machine are not addressed.

Similarly, the contributors as a whole

skirt the need to transform society, choosing instead to perpetuate the illusion that disarmament can be achieved within the framework of the existing society. This is perhaps best illustrated by the persistence of favorable references to the nuclear freeze movement (although accompanied by rote assertions the the freeze does not go far enough.) Dellinger's statement, weak as it is, is the most radical on this issue:

When one finds oneself and one's companions at a dead-end on the edge of a precipice, the natural and correct thing to do is to cry out STOP! But the next necessary reaction is to turn back, change directions, find an alternative path.

But this analogy fundamentally misstates the situation. The nuclear freeze, based as it is on an appeal to the State to stop stockpiling ever-growing numbers of nuclear arms, is doomed to failure. Indeed, given the stress on attaining a bilateral freeze, it offers the State a potent weapon to defuse the disarmament movement and mobilize support behind the building of still more nuclear weapons. Each government can place the entire burden on the other.

Despite its shortcomings, *Beyond Survival* does effectively make the case for linking disarmament and anti-intervention movements. As such, it can be recommended to nuclear freeze activists, and others who insist on dealing with nuclear weapons as a single issue. The connections to feminism, the Eastern European peace movement, and the economy are similarly valuable contributions. But the book does not go far enough. Its emphasis on the freeze, its cheer-leading for economic conversion (to be implemented within the context of capitalism), its ignoring of more radical possibilities for uniting with labor, and its failure to address the roots of militarism and the arms race, severely limit its impact and value.

Jon Bekken

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

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- GUAM: Guam IWW Group, Shelby Shapiro, delegate. PO Box 864, Agana, Guam 96910.
- AUSTRALIA: IWW Sidney Office, 417 King St., 1st Fl., Newton, Sidney, Australia.

# Ottolie Markholt: Labor Activist And Labor Historian

An Appreciation by Stephen Schwartz

It would be hard to imagine a person who more clearly condemns the bourgeois educational system--in its relation to labor history, political radicalism, and the creative efforts of women and other oppressed groups--than Ottolie Markholt.

Most Wobs will know of Ottolie as a long-time labor activist and, since the 1970s, IWW member in the Tacoma, Washington area. What is unknown to Wobs and even, somewhat unbelievably, to labor scholars, is the depth and importance of Ottolie Markholt's contribution to labor historiography. Were it not for the efforts of Professor Robert Cherny of San Francisco State College, as well as the special opportunities offered by the creation of the Sailors' Union of the Pacific history project last year, this great intellectual achievement might have been ignored even longer.

To begin with, Ottolie Markholt is the unacknowledged author of a classic of labor, *The Sailors' Union of the Pacific (from 1885 to 1929)*, produced "officially" by Peter Blix Gill, a SUP pioneer. The "Gill Manuscript," the original of which is deposited in the Bancroft library at the University of California at Berkeley, has never been issued in the form of a book. There may be a number of reasons for this, but my own conviction is that the disinterest of publishers in the book is directly attributable to its strongly partisan character.

The Gill manuscript is not academic history. It is a manual of the ethical and practical goals, victories, and defeats experienced by a fighting organization during half a century. It is replete with detail meaningful to sailors and unionists, as well as privileged glimpses into the development of consciousness in the working class as a whole.

Peter Gill, who joined the Sailors' Union at its beginning, served for decades as the union's Seattle agent. In the words of "Nevada," a retired member, Pete Gill "was there when there weren't too many to keep the Union going," during the hard years between the breaking of the union by government and shipowners in 1921

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and the rebirth of the movement in 1934. When Gill retired from Union office in 1938, he was maintained at full salary by special action of the SUP, and mandated to write a history.

Ottolie Markholt, who was then married to Robert Dombroff, a prominent Seattle SUP activist, was retained to work with Pete Gill on his "memoirs." However, although the manuscript was completed and deposited in libraries, Markholt went uncredited for her work, and it was only thanks to the detective work of Prof. Cherny that her actual role was discovered.

To those involved in maritime labor scholarship, the significance of the Gill memoirs and of Markholt's work as a writer will need no explanation. Gill's history has been used by virtually every academic and non-academic com-

mentator on maritime unionism. Its traces are easily found, for example, in Hyman Weintraub's classic biography of SUP leader Andrew Furuseth.

When I began serious research on the SUP for a centenary book that the Union will publish next year, I was so impressed with the significance and clarity of the Gill memoirs that I then intended to dedicate my manuscript to him. However, "old Pete" has already been memorialized by the Union, which named the auditorium in its Seattle hall for him. While some might consider it inappropriate to dedicate a history of a sailors' union to one who was not even a member, the idealism, modesty, and acuity of Ottolie Markholt as an example of the best possible combination of action and reason, and a guide for my own efforts.

In addition to working on the Gill memoirs, Markholt has completed a book titled *Pacific Coast Maritime Unionism, Volume I*, for which she is seeking a publisher. She has also contributed important material for other publications on waterfront workers.

Ottolie Markholt deserves the publication of a full book; she deserves much, much more. She is a great writer, historian and activist. She represents the noble ideals of the IWW in a unique way that is of tremendous importance for those of us who want to see, here in the United States, the flowering of a libertarian intellect comparable to what exists in, for example, Italy or Spain.

Her lack of self-seeking and her virtual anonymity are a challenge to the tradition of academic vanity and exploitation. If there is any woman whose life and work stands as an incarnation of the best of the women's movement today, it is Ottolie Markholt.

[Stephen Schwartz is the director of the SUP History Project, as well as a IWW member.]

## Limiting VDT Health Hazards

by Dave Tucker

More and more workers use computer terminals on the job or at home. Video Display Terminals (VDTs) are now found in virtually every type of office work. While they have revolutionized office functions, there are a number of ways incorrect use can lead to injury in the form of eyestrain and body aches.

The National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) studied the recurring health problems associated with these machines, and came up with some of the following recommendations:

The workstation must be properly designed (see accompanying picture). The distance between your eyes and the screen should be between 17 1/2 to 20 inches. The viewing angle should be between 10 and 20 degrees below eye level; the bottom of the screen should be no more than 40 degrees below. These adjustments will help reduce back, neck and arm strain or injury.

The keyboard should be between 29-31 inches from the floor at the "home row." The chair should raise your body so that your upper arms are vertical and your forearms horizontal when typing. VDTs with detachable keyboards allow the user to adjust the height of the screen properly in relation to his/her sitting position. Adjustable chairs are essential, as office workers come in a variety of shapes and sizes. Be sure your boss provides every office worker with one.

Take breaks as often as necessary to allow your eyes to rest, and to relieve fatigue from sitting. (Sitting puts 50 percent more strain on the lower back than standing!) The NIOSH report recommends a 15 minute break at least every two hours. This is a minimum.

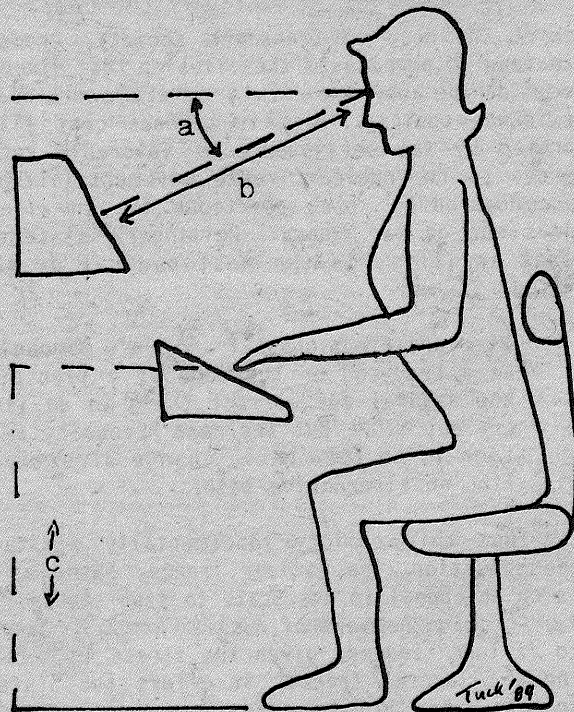
Control glare. Overhead lighting from fixtures or windows can make on-screen visibility hard. Use a separate light to illuminate the screen. Colored walls behind the VDT may reduce the glare, also.

Go for flexibility. All VDTs should be equipped with brightness and contrast controls--use them. Changeable colored screen backgrounds add variety. Keep the glass clean.

Exercise your eyes and your mind. Eye strain comes from focusing your sight on one single plane (such as the VDT screen) for an extended period. Make a habit of looking away from the screen periodically--glare at the boss, or wink conspiratorially at your fellow workers.

Hanging photos or pictures at different distances can help remind you to exercise your eyes.

Although the NIOSH study didn't discuss noise, many terminals have printers attached. These machines can be very noisy. Although muf-



Angle A: 10-20 degrees; distance B: 20-27 inches; height C: 29-31 inches at home row.

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flers are available, they are not profitable. One way to get the boss to provide noise protection was arrived at by office workers in Chicago. When the office manager refused their request, they turned their printers so the sounds were directed toward the boss's separate office. The incessant clatter did the trick, and within days, mufflers were installed to absorb the racket. Direct action strikes again.

Copy this article and show it to your fellow workers. Education is the first step to controlling the work we do. And VDTs provide a medium to talk with your fellow workers on the job, as many can be used to send messages back and forth between work stations, such as accounts of harassment from the boss, your true feelings about the work you are doing, or suggestions for improving or livening up your job. How about discussing a job action with everybody?

If you have heard of, or experienced, other ways to reduce these health problems or increase communication between VDT workers, drop us a line.

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