



INDUSTRIAL WORKERS  
OF THE WORLD

# INDUSTRIAL WORKER

★ EDUCATION ★ ORGANIZATION ★ EMANCIPATION

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## British Miners Hold the Fort

As the *Industrial Worker* goes to press, we have just entered the 20th week of the British coal miners' strike. Most of Britain's 134,000 coal miners remain on strike, despite Government efforts to exploit divisions in the National Union of Miners (NUM) to generate a back-to-work movement. Nearly 3500 miners have been arrested, 2 killed, and 600 injured as part of a Government onslaught against the striking miners designed to crush the miners' union. The NUM newspaper, *The Miner*, compares the repression being visited upon miners and their supporters to the "bloodied, oppressive, and fearful streets of Belfast" in Northern Ireland.

Yet despite the police repression, morale among the striking miners remains high. While several unions have withheld support—leaving Britain's most militant major union to fight a prolonged battle for survival that could have been won in hours with labor solidarity—dockworkers staged a national strike in mid-July, bringing the waterfront to a standstill. Unionists and others have raised substantial sums to aid the striking miners, who receive no strike pay. Many miners have to get by on welfare benefits of \$15.75 a week for a family of four, while single men get nothing. The only meal of the day for many is a lunch provided by the union.

But there will be no surrender, miners say. "It's do or die now," said David Miller, a branch secretary of the NUM. "We have lost too much to surrender. We are holding up the flag to the European working class, showing them that mass unemployment is not something they have to accept."

Unemployment is fundamentally what this strike is about. There are 3.5 million unemployed in England today, and the Coal Board is seeking to close several mines and throw 25,000 miners out of work. Most of those to be fired if the Coal Board should win live in villages where mining is the only local employment, and these miners would probably never work again.

The union is fighting for complete withdrawal of the pit-closure program announced March 6th, development of new coal capacity, introduction of a four-day work week, and substantial wage hikes to reverse the erosion of miners' wages over the last nine years. Although pre-strike coal production exceeded demand, the NUM argues that development of coal liquefaction and similar schemes, combined with abandonment of dangerous

nuclear-power plants, could revitalize Britain's ailing coal industry.

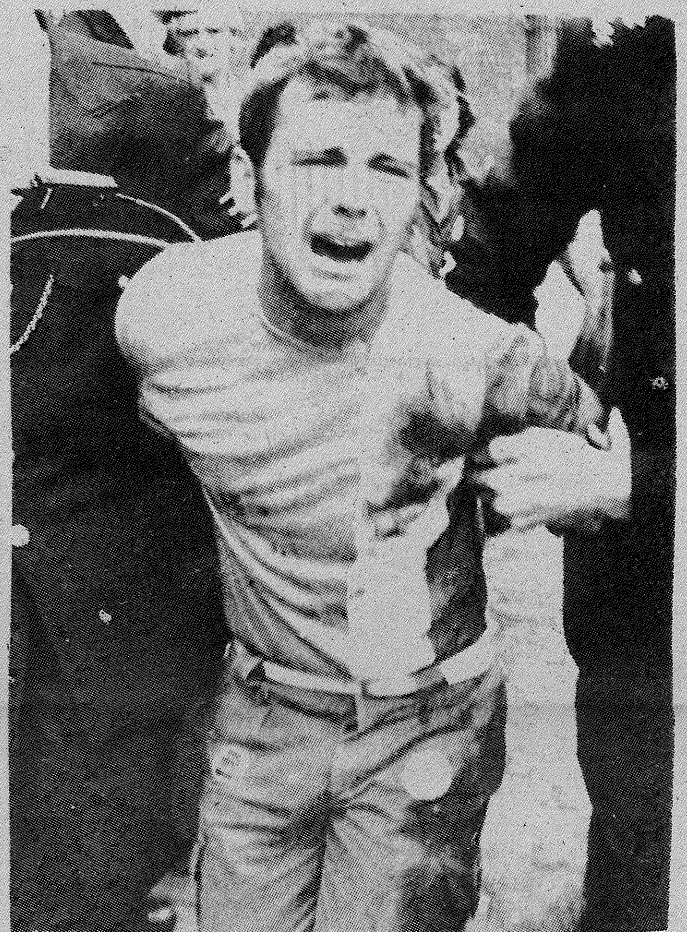
"It's winner take all," explains David Douglas, an official of the miners' union at Hatfield. "If we go back to work now, we have lost this union. If the Government loses we have protection of jobs, a recruitment program, a six-hour day, and retirement at 55."

Whether the union movement will survive in Britain is also at stake in the current struggle, as the Government is pushing legislation that would make it illegal for more than six persons to be on any picket line, require a six-week "cooling off" period before a strike could be called, and bring trade unions under Government control in a manner reminiscent of US labor law.

Despite the economic pressures and the severe repression directed against them, the miners appear headed for victory. If the strike does succeed, Thatcher's Government could well fall. For weeks, Government officials have predicted that miners would become discouraged and start drifting back to work. But that has not happened, and miners talk confidently of extending the strike into next year if necessary.

As time goes on, the miners' chances of winning will continue to improve. Coal stocks are nearly depleted, and the Government has turned to imports from Poland and other countries in an attempt to hold out. As cold weather sets in this autumn demand will soar, forcing the Government to settle. But in order to win the miners need concrete support—including both money and food. Donations can be sent to the Miners' Solidarity Fund, Saint James House, Vicar Lane, Sheffield, England. Checks and postal orders should be made payable to the Miners' Solidarity Fund.

Although the miners may well win this strike, it could have been won long ago with support from Britain's union movement. And as long as the unions cannot bring themselves to support each other in their struggles, it is hard to see how they will move beyond the desperate struggle to hold on to their current—often dangerous and miserably paid—jobs. In a worker-run society, the development and implementation of labor-saving technology could be combined with the elimination of unnecessary labor and the support of social parasites to cut the work week and provide decent jobs for all.



Striking coal miners are attacked by police while demonstrating in London June 7th. (Photo from *The Miner*.)

### CHICKENS COME HOME TO ROOST

Gordon Jones, a striking Yorkshire coal miner and former British soldier, drew some painful comparisons between the treatment he has received from the local upholders of law and order and the treatment he meted out to the locals during his three tours in the Six Counties with the Coldstream Guards. As he noted in the letter in which he sent his service medal back to the Queen:

"I am now a Yorkshire miner, and I feel that at the age of 31 I may soon be one of the forgotten masses. In other words, I was good enough to be a Yorkshire bullyboy fighting in Ireland, but not for my job."

Republicans in the Six Counties have repeatedly warned the English that the techniques the British Government has developed to repress its nominal citizens in Ireland—special laws, special non-jury courts, alterations in the laws of the usage of accomplice evidence and in the circumstances under which confessions can be accepted, and the use of weapons (plastic bullets) too often lethal to be used in Britain—would sooner or later be reflected in the treatment given dissenters wherever the Queen's writ runs.

killed.

For example, we have to climb a hundred feet down a ladder well into a tank that no one has been in for years, so no one really knows what's down there or what the tank has been used for. A chemist will test the air from the top, but it's our job to go down there and fix whatever is wrong. This is hard, dirty work (you don't know what a dirty job is till you've worked in a bunker oil tank), so anything good we get with this job doesn't come close to making up for what we had to do for it.

Shipping has been down for the last few years, and we all knew going into this year's negotiations that we'd get nothing new; we just hoped we wouldn't have to give anything up. Workers were willing to give up double time and to take a cut in wages, but the bosses wanted more than we could give. They wanted to kick the Teamsters off the waterfront. The bosses wanted us to show up at the ship (instead of the shop), and they would not start our time until we got there (sometimes we have to wait a long time for a boat out to the ship). This would

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## Bayou Shipworkers Strike

Working on ships on the Mississippi River, one gets a real sense of power: both the power of nature and the power of workers to create. Many a night has found me out on the fantail watching the ship make its way down the River. Down here most of the River is like a snake, and you'll lose your sense of direction if you're not careful. The River changes its personality quickly: You'll find different appearances, different people with different cultures, and tragically different abuses by humans. Every damn foul thing that the perverted mind of human greed can conjure up seems to get dumped in the River. From Baton Rouge to below New Orleans are innumerable chemical plants, oil refineries, waste dumps, and a nuclear-power plant. Then there are the grain docks, coal docks, general cargo docks, and a few container terminals.

There are three ship-repair companies under union contract down here (the unions stopped organizing 20 years ago), and they make up the bosses' association. On the other side, we have seven unions under contract which make up the metal-trades waterfront unions. Each union has its own talks with the bosses' association and its own contract. Add to that the seamen's unions and the longshoremen's union, and you have 10 contracts on the waterfront that I know of. All the unions are in trouble, but if they would ever work together most of the problems could be solved. Over a hundred years ago not only could the waterfront workers act together, but one of the first general strikes in North America began on the New Orleans waterfront and was soon taken up by most union workers in the city.

We work about 250 miles of the Mississippi River, from the northern Baton Rouge bridge (ships can't go past it) to Venice, which is the last town on the River

you can drive to. From time to time we end up out in the Gulf of Mexico.

We work both on US ships and on other ships from around the world (which is nice because seamen are generally well informed, and being able to talk to so many of them from so many different places I get a good feel for the affairs of the world that most people don't). Our job is to fix whatever goes wrong on the ships when they are in our waters. Some jobs may take just a few hours, while others may take months. For longer jobs the ships put in at one of the company's repair docks, or if they are too large at one of the non-union shipyards. The biggest shipyard, Avondale, will not hire anyone who has ever worked in a union shop.

The time we work varies from four hours to whenever the job is done. I once put in 19 hours in one day. Our contract reads that they can't work us past 24 hours, though I know a few people who got more than that out in the Gulf. We may get only four hours some weeks, and the most I have ever worked in a week was 92 hours: five 12-hour shifts and two 16s. We are hired by the day, and since there's no saying whether we work or not, we don't have to come in every day. Some people work all three companies, moving from one to another with the work.

Our hourly wage (\$14 an hour, with double time for all work over eight hours in a day and all weekend work) may seem pretty decent, but we earn every penny of it and should be paid a lot more for what we do. I speak as a pipefitter, which may be the worst of the trades. The myth that there's something romantic about ships should be destroyed, because the only people who could think such a thing don't know a damn thing about ships. The work is dangerous, and you can easily be crippled or



## Left Side

After an all-night rain,  
The sparrow drinks  
From the oil-ringed puddle!

One of the "liberal" periodical columnists recently wrote an article bemoaning the fact that most of today's Supreme Court justices are appointees from Republican Administrations, with the result that even if a Democrat is elected President this year, and even if there is a sweeping Democrat victory in the lower branches of government, we will continue to be saddled with a reactionary Supreme Court for the duration of the life spans of the old duffers who now sit on this august body. It did not occur to this columnist to question this "representative" government where the citizenry can exercise their "God-given franchise" to choose the enforcers of the law of the land, but the selection of the makers of the law of the land is completely out of their hands. Shouldn't even a sparrow have the right to drink clean water?

We are being admonished that we here in freedom land have the option of choosing our rulers, but who remembers the last time they had the opportunity of choosing who ruled the rulers? No, dear Fellow Worker readers, we don't have a thing to say about who become Supreme Court justices, judges, police chiefs, or ambassadors to sister nations. Not that we really should give a damn. If we had a choice of what we could vote on, it would more likely be the price of beans, rice, and potatoes or how much tax should be taken out of our paychecks. There never has been any draft act passed by popular vote, and there never will be. One ringing vindication of hope for the Human Race is that of all the wars that have marred Humankind's hectic history, none were fought by volunteers. Whenever humans did not need a draft act to take up arms, you can be assured that that particular incident was not granted the conventional dignity of being referred to as a "war".

The other morning I was berated for waxing poetical during the course of a "serious discussion". My companion of the morning was promptly assured that if the World's destiny was in the hands of poets, rather than the usual array of "statesmen", this would be a wonderful World. Knowing poets, of course, things such as punctuality might not be strictly adhered to, but it still would have definite advantages over having our present disasters right on schedule as we usually do. A fitting testimony to the survival capabilities of our species is our ability to make verse or song in the face of today's conditions.

Well, the benevolent rulers of freedom land have once again advanced their solution to the undocumented-immigrant problem with the Simpleton-Mazola plan. As might well be expected, it comes out with the employers holding all the aces. People who have been working at one job for years find themselves out on the streets because they didn't have a green card. At \$2.50 an hour, they are not likely to be replaced by "legals". As if the Spanish colonists did not leave the Mexican people in enough poverty, Uncle Schlemiel's take-over of the northern half of the country did not alleviate the problem. The aggressive acquisition of the richest part of Mexico ensured the poverty that today causes the unemployed Mexican to migrate northward.

As a college-professor friend once remarked, "They are getting back the land that was taken away from them." Talk about chickens coming home to roost! One has to consider that there is no greater or more irresistible force on Earth than migrating humanity, legality or not! As far as legality is concerned, all one has to do is reflect upon the 371 violated treaties to determine who are the illegal ones on this continent.

Old Unk killed off so many of the copper-colored people on this turf, but it looks like their copper-colored cousins from other turf are filling in the vacuum. There have been quite a few "undocumented" finding their way to freedom land from the countries in Central America where the US is supporting the local tyrannies. Since Unkie is picking up the tab for the cut-throats down there, he is prone to refer to these people as "economic" immigrants rather than political refugees.

From the first treaty onward, we could have told you, never trust a politician or a statesman. Yes there should be more poets at the helm, and also artists and music-makers. Statesmen we don't need. There is a big difference between creative people and destructive ones.

Dead smell from the lake  
Wafting over the carbon-monoxide  
Streets;  
The neighbor complains C. C. Redcloud  
About pigeons on his  
Roof!

# AROUND OUR UNION

DAYTON, OHIO: Fellow Workers in the Dayton area have signed up three new members and formed an IWW group which had its first meeting a month ago. The group are currently working in the Coors boycott campaign, and are distributing copies of the *Industrial Worker*. They are also trying to establish contact with other members in the region.

VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA: Vancouver IWWs have formed the Starvation Army Band, which has been meeting weekly to help fan a few musical flames of discontent. The band grew out of the guitar and singing that accompanied the IWW contingent at the April 28th End the Arms Race march. Vancouver Wobs are also pursuing efforts to organize the unemployed. Last April Wobs and friends from the region gathered at a conference, a detailed report of which is available from the Vancouver group. As a result of these activities several new members have joined, and the group are preparing to apply for a General Membership Branch charter.

BISBEE, ARIZONA: Members and friends of the IWW group in Bisbee, formed a few months ago, met at the graveside of FW James Brew July 12th to commemorate the mass deportations of Wobblies and other workers in 1917. Brew was the only Fellow Worker to resist the de-

portations, and was shot and killed by the bosses' thugs. Fellow Workers in Bisbee are distributing the *Industrial Worker*, and a print shop there recently applied for an IWW shop card.

ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN: Both the People's Warehouse and University Cellar IU 660 job branches are currently negotiating contracts. Negotiations at the Cellar are reported to be going fairly well. At the Warehouse, however, management remains intransigent, and Fellow Workers there are taking a variety of measures to try to force the bosses to come to terms. Fellow Workers in the Ann Arbor/Detroit area are also looking into various organizing possibilities, in order to kick off a drive in the next few months.

VICTORIA, BRITISH COLUMBIA: A tent-in was held on the lawn of the Victoria legislature buildings May 22nd to 25th to dramatize the desperate situation of the unemployed. Among the 90 people participating were Wobblies from Nanaimo, Gibson, and Vancouver. The protest began with 17 tents, but there were 50 tents up when it ended. Campers spent the days talking to people about unemployment, and many people donated food or money during the action. Leaflets were also distributed in downtown Victoria.

## Railroaders Win

RAILROADS LOSE RACE-BIAS SUIT: This spring a six-year-old suit against the Burlington Northern Railroad and all 13 unions affiliated with it culminated in an out-of-court settlement of \$60 million to be paid to thousands of black ex-employees—the largest settlement ever in a racial civil-rights suit. In 1973 Burlington Northern sold its dining-car division to Amtrak, and employees were offered a choice: go with Amtrak, or stay with Burlington and be retrained for a new job of same or equal status. But William McBride and William Butler, both former dining-car waiters, found neither the company nor the union ready to retrain them. They filed a complaint with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, which filed a lawsuit in 1978. Under the terms of the settlement Burlington Northern does not admit any liability, but sets aside a cash fund of \$10 million to satisfy the claims of blacks who can prove discrimination. As many as 8,000 claims are expected. For their part, the unions must comply with dual accumulation of seniority by blacks transferring from a predominantly black job category to a predominantly white one.

### 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.**

★ EDUCATION ★ ORGANIZATION ★ EMANCIPATION



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



## Industrial Worker

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Editorial Collective:

Bruce Arnold, Carlos Cortez, Mike Hargis,  
Marriane McMullen, Penny Pixler, Fred Thompson  
General Secretary-Treasurer: Jon Bekken  
Please send all copy to: Industrial Worker,  
3435 North Sheffield, Chicago, Illinois 60657.  
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## DID YOU NOTICE?

MICHAEL CAINE SUMMED UP the difference between the attitudes of the English and American working classes in the July issue of *McCall's* magazine. As the British actor pointed out: "If you see a guy riding in a Rolls Royce in England, you say, 'Well, one day we will get him out of that and destroy it.' In America, a guy says, 'One day I'm going to have a car just like that.'"

CAPITALIST LOGIC: At the beginning of the '70s Michigan's female prison population was 53% black. Today, 76% of Michigan's female prisoners are black (as compared with 65% of male prisoners). During the decade since 1974 only 8% of all women in Michigan's prisons had been convicted of homicide, while 43% were convicted of larceny from a building which involved less than \$100. It costs \$27,000 a year to keep a woman in a Michigan prison. Meanwhile, the average AFDC payment in Michigan during this same period for a family of 2.9 people was \$3800.

COMMUNIST LOGIC: In Rumania, Nicolai Ceausecu, First Secretary of the Communist Party and the country's long-time ruler, has reportedly ordered all Rumanian women to bear at least four children or be fired from their jobs. A woman who falsely claims to have been pregnant but miscarried can be sentenced to a year in prison. Concern over falling birth rates—faced with the "double day", women have chosen to have one or at most two children—has caused authorities all over Eastern Europe to try out a variety of stratagems, from curtailing access to abortions to lengthening maternity leave, to induce women to have more children, but this marks the first attempt to do it by fiat.

MURDER BY ANY OTHER NAME: Every time monetarist Federal Reserve Chairperson Paul Volcker raises the US prime interest rate one point, \$4.5 billion is added overnight to the servicing charges on the combined Third World debt. Volcker might just as well take several thousand African or Latin American babies out into a field and machine-gun them. In his official capacity, Volcker has been responsible for more deaths than the combined total of every "terrorist" group on the State Department's list. (We owe this insight to *The Nation's* Alex Cockburn.)

## Waterfront Piccards Ensure Defeat

(continued from Page 1)

mean that we would be on call to have to drive anywhere along 250 miles of river. Can you see yourself driving two or three hours, then working all night long (maybe 16 hours), then driving home? There's no way I would do it. That's why the companies have truck drivers. And if we let them kick out one union this time, next time it may be another union.

So for the first time, all seven unions got together to meet on the contract and take a strike vote. All the union bosses were there, and one by one the heads of each union got up and gave their pie-in-the-sky speeches about solidarity. But when you boiled the fat off each speech it said the same thing: We gotta go on strike, and we all know that we'll lose it because we can't act in our own defense; the only question is how badly we'll lose. We're faced with two facts that the unions can't deal with: One, the waterfront is slow. Two, the companies have opened up new, non-union shops under other names. The union bosses tell us we can't picket the new shops. So we all voted to strike, and we now find ourselves picketing shops with nothing in them, and a few repair docks. At one of those docks a ship did come in, and two seamen crossed the picket line. They were shot down and killed, most people say by strikers.

The fat cats are down on me, because at the meeting (and ever since) I got up and said that if the bosses want us to show up at the ships, then we should be able to picket the waterfront and thus close the river to all shipping, plus we should set up pickets in front of all the refineries and chemical plants because we have to go into them to work on ships. I said that if we did this,

the strike would be over in days. Also, I said that all the waterfront workers should get together and organize for each other's survival. Working together would solve our problem by refusing to move scab goods.

Unfortunately, the piccards got their way by telling folks that if we did this it would be against the law, and the piccards would go to jail (poor things), and they couldn't do us any good locked up. That's not the way I looked at it, though; the piccards didn't do us any good anyway, and if they were all in jail then we workers would have to deal with things ourselves, which should be the way things work anyway. So after three and a half months we are still on strike, with no end in sight.

The things to learn from all this are: One, don't stop organizing. These unions stopped organizing 20 years ago, and because of that the unions are weaker than they should be. Two, if you have to have so many unions they should at least work together on an ongoing basis. Three, AFL-CIO unionism has mis-organized workers into unions that can't function on the class-war battlefield because they have to compromise so much to stay legal. Four, if the workers act together, support each other, and use our power, we can win almost anything.

There are many who come off as groupies for the AFL-CIO unions who are fighting cutbacks, and it's okay to aid workers in this fight; but it's even more important to tell these workers that their problem comes from being mis-organized. Had workers organized right, we would not be going through this today; and we will continue to have problems like these until we do.

Arthur J. Miller, IU 320

## Toledo Workers Meet TASC

One of the most exciting events to occur in this part of the country has been the formation of the Toledo Area Solidarity Committee (TASC). TASC is one of a growing number of rank-and-file organizations that have been sprouting up around the country in response to Corporate America's continued attacks on organized labor. The employers' offensive has been effective, especially against union cities like Toledo.

TASC grew out of last year's ATU Greyhound strike. Numerous rank-and-file union members had been amazed at the response of organized labor in the PATCO strike. Toledo has many UAW members, and almost all had experienced the concessionary contract. They then witnessed the shameful conduct of many unions in breaking the PATCO strike. When the ATU Greyhound strike began, they vowed that working people would give a better accounting of themselves, and organized the Northwest Ohio Greyhound Workers Support Committee, which made it possible for the ATU to conduct a successful shutdown of Greyhound in that area.

At the time of the Greyhound strike, a group of workers were also striking Vroman Foods, a frozen-food packaging and distribution center. The Teamsters, the bargaining agent for the workers, had done virtually nothing to mount a strike action. According to one striker, "We just showed up at the plant gate, and the business agent passed out picket signs. That's about all the help we got."

The Vroman strike was over a month old when the Greyhound strike began. Vroman workers showed up en masse at the demonstrations organized by the Greyhound support committee. This show of solidarity by brother and sister workers who were in quite desperate shape themselves galvanized the labor movement in the Toledo area.

Individual strike committees were obviously inadequate to deal with the widespread attack on working people. The Vroman workers were at least as much in need of help as the Greyhound strikers. Numerous union contracts were going to be coming up for negotiation. The Toledo Area Solidarity Committee was the answer.

When this writer discovered TASC, it was active in support of three separate groups of striking workers: (1) UAW workers on strike against AP Parts (a strike that has received national attention due to a police riot against strikers); (2) the OCAW strike and boycott of

Sun Oil Company; and (3) the Teamsters who are trying to organize against the bankruptcy tactics of Interstate Transit. TASC, which claims over 2,000 dues-paying members, is committed to helping any workers who are either on strike or attempting to organize. The only requirement for membership in TASC is that one needs to be a member of a union.

TASC is first and foremost a rank-and-file organization. It includes individuals from just about every industrial sector. Its treasury is built entirely on the basis of its membership. (It will not take money from groups, institutions, or the like.) Its position on electoralism and parties is also similar to the IWW's. As described by several members, TASC's purpose is to help workers more effectively wage the economic struggle against the corporate offensive. An individual's political beliefs are that individual's business; TASC's business is an economic struggle, not a political struggle. The trade-union bureaucracy has put its money behind Mondale, but the rank-and-file militants of TASC see the creation of widespread working-class solidarity as more important.

The formation of TASC has excited attacks from two rather predictable sources. The employers, through their control of the mass media, attacked TASC as "reds". The second group that have attacked TASC have been the labor fakirs in the union bureaucracy. They have accused TASC of being dual-unionist, have supported the lies and distortions of the press, have threatened TASC members with the loss of their union cards, and have threatened TASC's union printer with reprisals for working with TASC.

At a rally that TASC organized to commemorate the 1934 Auto-lite strike, over 500 people gathered to hear one worker after another call for working-class solidarity and urge a general strike in the Toledo area. The strike would be called for at least 24 hours and would aim for an end to the use of strike breakers in the Toledo area and a show of solidarity with all striking workers.

TASC faces an enormous struggle, but its success will go far in promoting the idea of One Big Union of the working class united in solidarity. For more information and ideas on how you can help, write to the Toledo Area Solidarity Committee, 602 Dearborn, Toledo, Ohio 43605. They also have a videotape of their early experiences, which can be rented through the above address for a nominal fee.

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## IN SHORT....

**LILCO WORKERS REFUSE PAY CUT:** About 3,000 members of two locals of the International Brotherhood (sic) of Electrical Workers walked off their jobs at the Long Island Lighting Company in the second week of July after the Company asked them to accept a 5% wage cut. The Company's demand was preceded by an austerity program under which nearly a thousand Lilco workers were laid off, causing, in the words of the chairperson of the New York State Consumer Protection Board, a "marginally acceptable quality of service".

Cots and kitchens were provided for the 1400 supervisory workers who were expected to staff the Company's five generating stations on a 12-hour-day, no-days-off basis. Picketers around the stations engaged in speculation as to how long management workers could keep up the job. Last summer the Consolidated Edison Company of New York used 6,000 supervisory personnel

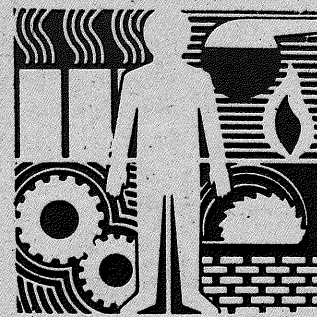
to take the place of more than 16,000 strikers, but Con Ed had fewer overhead power lines because of its urban service territory.

Lilco's financial difficulties stem from its investment in its Shoreham Nuclear Power Station, a 4.1-billion-dollar plant that is 1,000% over budget and has not yet been issued a low-power test license, much less an operating license.

**DANLY'S THREATENS TO FIRE STRIKERS:** After a 10-week strike of the Danly Machine Company in Cicero, Illinois by members of Steelworkers Local 15271, the Company sent letters to the thousand strikers threatening to hire "permanent replacements" unless the strikers returned and accepted a three-year wage and cost-of-living-adjustment freeze, lower wages for new workers, and an increase in workers' contributions to insurance payments. The strike began May 1st after 450 to 600 workers were laid off. There are conflicting reports as to how many strikers have returned to work because of the Company's demand, the Company saying 100 and the union saying 45 to 50.

Fred Thompson's

## labor in north america



Many union officers are coming to the conclusion that the NLRB has ceased to be of much use to workers. In the last days of Congress a union delegation told the politicians so. President Wynn of the Food and Commercial Workers explained that his union now prefers to bypass the NLRB and its delays and rely on strikes for recognition, supplementing this with "corporate campaigns and other forms of economic pressure". (Retirement-age workers may now recall that back in 1947, when Taft-Hartley was adopted, all unions for a while conscientiously abstained from taking their troubles to the NLRB until eventually those that did thereby won a license to raid those that didn't—the UMW, ITU, and IWW alone refusing to submit those Taft-Hartley affidavits.)

TV Broadcast Engineers postponed the walkout that would have come on the eve of the Democrat Convention, but rejected the NBC offer of a 50-dollar-a-week raise in each of four years. NBC said that if its 2700 engineers walked out, it would still cover the Convention.

With postal-worker contracts expiring July 20th, the four unions representing 600,000 postal employees started bargaining for new contracts in April, resisting Postmaster General Bolger's "two-tier wage schedule" and pointing out that the PO is turning a profit.

The Boilermakers, who absorbed the Cement, Lime, and Gypsum Workers, reached a three-year agreement with Lone Star Cement, trading concessions on health benefits, work practices, and vacations for a 2.5% increase in each of three years. Lehigh Cement rejected the same settlement, so it is being struck.

At Long Island Lighting, the Electrical Workers (IBEW) refused extension of their old contract for another year and walked out, leaving electric supply to their 1500 supervisors, who camped in the plant to work 12-hour shifts. Too many supervisors and grids that enable other areas to supply electricity make wider solidarity more urgent than it used to be.

Machinists voted 390-to-1 to strike the oldest bicycle plant in the country—Columbia at Westfield, Massachusetts. The company's best offer was a 10% cut in wages and a 30% cut in insurance benefits. A week later the company offered to extend the old contract for a year, but workers voted that down 327-to-9. They had the support of two other unions in the plant, the Metal Polishers and Allied Industrial Workers, whose contracts had not yet expired.

On Bastille Day the 6,000 registered nurses on strike at 16 Minneapolis hospitals since June 1st accepted the latest offer and went back to work. A major grievance had been uncertainty of jobs for top-pay, top-seniority nurses. Across the country hospital staffs are hard hit because money that should go for health care is being spent on getting us ready to kill each other. As the Minneapolis strike ended, unions in New York struck 30 hospitals housing 14,000 patients, and District 1199 struck 11 nursing homes housing 4600 elderly people. The nursing homes asked relatives of their patients to come in and take care of them.

At its recent convention the Newspaper Guild supported the International Typographical Union membership against take-over by Teamsters, and set \$1,000 a week for experienced reporters as its basic bargaining goal.

In Bellingham, Washington, city employees faced with a state law that denies them the right to strike got the Central Labor Council to set up an investigating committee to quiz each member of the City Council about good-faith bargaining and service to the community. Soon these city workers, organized in the AFSCME, had a new three-year contract giving them total raises of 15%.

The alliance of unions that has long been fighting Phelps-Dodge as a holdout on a general copper settlement now faces Kennecott Copper insistence on more give-aways. It says that though its hands are laid off for lack of a market, if only they will take a big cut they can discover a market for copper. Now that the International Trade Commission has found that over a quarter of the copper used in the US is imported, it will probably set import quotas so companies can raise prices. Global solidarity of copper miners and smelter workers is attainable, and would be much more likely to let miners live well.

The International Woodworkers in British Columbia say that McMillan-Blodel is closing down its sawmills, selling the BC forests to Japan and putting its old sawmill hands on the breadline. Unions need to be as global as the industries they organize.

## BUILD SOLIDARITY

# Whither Nicaragua, pt. 2

(Author's note: In February of 1984, three Chicago women—Penny Pixler, Kathy Taylor, and Hannah Frisch—went to Nicaragua for two weeks under the auspices of the National Network in Solidarity With the People of Nicaragua to help with the cotton harvest. The war and, paradoxically, the Sandinistas' very success at land reform caused such a shortage in the rural labor force as to leave the country without the necessary number of harvest workers.)

To get the harvest in before the spring rains started, the Nicaraguan Government called for volunteer cotton pickers, both at home and abroad. Nicaraguan schoolchildren took a winter vacation in the fields. My friends and I packed 50-pound backpacks, got our tetanus and hepatitis shots, obtained anti-malaria pills and water-purification tablets, and took our vacations in the Nicaraguan cotton fields too. While we waited for our work assignment, we gained valuable insight into the situation in Nicaragua by exploring Managua.

Public transportation in Nicaragua's capital is makeshift and overcrowded to the point of making Chicago's rush hour seem like a breeze. People hung out bus doors, and if the police weren't around climbed onto the roofs. A volunteer from Ypsilanti, Michigan was surprised to see a bus from her home school district making the rounds as part of Managua's public-transportation system; from the age of the bus, it might have been one she had ridden as a child. Hitchhiking seemed to be a class institution; rarely did a truck or old car pass with only one person in it, although shining new cars often did. People were very ready to wrestle with our halting Spanish to give directions, but in quake-battered downtown Managua telling North Americans to go where such-and-such a store used to be and turn left wasn't too helpful. Because of the war, no maps were available inside the country.

## Down on the Farm

Not that the state farm we went to was on any map; there was no village nearby, and we located ourselves by the proximity of the steaming crater of the San Cristobal volcano, the largest in the country. Fortunately for us, the prevailing wind blew the flames away from us, so we had to contend only with dust and smoke from the picked and burning fields. We had been warned before that we might find the heat and dust and adverse reactions to the herbicides, sprayed on the cotton plants to make the leaves fall off, worse than the actual picking; and that was indeed the case. As one stalwart volunteer put it: "I came down here worried about *contra* attacks, and now that I'm here my biggest worry is the *pica-picas* (poison-ivy-like vines that grow in cotton fields)."

But the farm provided us all with shifts of perspective. Without electricity, we and the work brigade of teenage Nicaraguans sharing the thatched dirt-floor barracks went to bed when it got dark (about 7 pm) and got up when the roosters began crowing steadily (about 4 am; the obscene birds crowed spasmodically all night). Even people who liked rice and beans got tired of them after a few days of eating them three times a day, while other people got picky when they saw how they were cooked: in halves of old oil barrels. On the day we had soup with bits of beef in it, a number of people were turned off from eating it after watching the calf being killed and butchered before their very eyes. Still, anything we wouldn't eat, the dogs, pigs, and chickens underfoot were glad to have; we nicknamed one pig after a Hoover vacuum cleaner. Through the helpfulness of the youth-brigade commander, however, we were able to arrange a shipment of pop from Chinandega to the farm; Coke never tasted so good.

We drank water by the quart. In the fields, every work squad of 10 people had a medical person to remind us to drink every half hour whether we felt thirsty or not, as heat stroke was a constant danger. Everyone tried to be in the fields before sunrise, to start work before it got hot, but we North Americans achieved that only a couple of days. By 10:30 or 11 the sun was too hot for even the local people, so everyone returned to the barracks for a four-hour siesta. At 3:30 the Nicaraguans and as many North Americans as felt up to it went back to the fields and picked until 5:30, leaving just enough time to hike back to the farm and eat before bedtime.

The farm had a well, but the water was too bad for even the local people to drink. (Only 34% of the people in rural Nicaragua have access to safe water.) Well water was used only for washing clothes and ourselves; with the heat and the wind, we and the clothes we were wearing would be dry within minutes after we poured buckets of water over our heads. The handful of women who lived on the farm were always washing clothes. Their energy and cleanliness made us feel grubby and lazy—particularly that of the women cooks who got up at 2:30 every morning to start boiling the rice and beans over wood fires and start grinding the corn for the tortillas. Water for drinking and washing dishes was trucked in in tanks. The local people could drink it straight, but we had to put purification tablets in it.

While we were in the fields we could see rain falling from the clouds over the mountains, a sure sign that the dry season was over. We wondered if all the cotton would be picked by the time the rains began in the lowlands. June reports from the Ministry of Agriculture in *Barricada International*, the Sandinista English-language

paper, indicated that 95% of the harvest was brought in, totaling 28,422 tons of raw cotton, a third of it machine-picked. The Ministry of Agriculture also announced plans to import 50 more mechanical pickers, and talked about the possibility of a boll-weevil control program based on biological methods to cut pesticide use; but the demands of war may make such programs expendable.

## The Blight of War

Not even the CIA claims that the *contras* have support inside Nicaragua, but the war on all sides of the country is warping every aspect of the socio-political-economic system. It may be that the aim of the Pentagon and the US National Security Council is less to have Eden Pastora marching through the streets of Managua at the head of an army of *contras* than to force Nicaragua to militarize to the extent that the revolutionary spirit of the earlier years will be stifled and the country will lose its dangerous attractiveness as an alternative to the Latin American status quo. Also, the emergence of a Cuban-style dictatorship would be used retroactively by the US Government to justify its attempts to "nip it in the bud". Certainly marxism contains authoritarian tendencies, particularly in its confusion of the working class, the party, and the State, and in a wartime situation the tendency is to identify the revolution with those giving orders rather than with strong rank-and-file organizations.

Neither Cuba nor Russia is bankrolling Nicaragua, however, so the money that buys the guns and ammunition comes directly at the expense of civilian needs. The Government has had to end subsidies toward the price of all food products except milk and sugar, and rationing continues. The country must mobilize for war rather than for campaigns like those for literacy and for vaccination against polio and malaria. Health-care workers and facilities are among the prime targets of *contra* attacks, and often cannot be replaced.

Strikes are illegal in Nicaragua, but as we were told in February, "They do it anyway." The longer the war goes on, the more pressure the Government will be under to clamp down. Censorship is worsening. Soon after the liberation, the Sandinistas closed the paper, *El Pueblo*, of the Albanian-oriented Frente Obrero group, and gave their printing press to the literacy-campaign people. *La Prensa* has articles censored (the paper was the leading voice of anti-Somosa opposition,

but since the death of its long-time editor, Pedro Joaquin Chamorro, has become markedly right-wing), although photocopies of the censored articles are allowed to circulate without official hindrance. The state of national emergency, first declared for a 30-day period in March 1982, has been extended eight times since then.

Everyone in Nicaragua remembers Somoza and the Somocistas vividly—and fought the war that cost 50,000 lives to get rid of them. No one in Nicaragua—from the campesinos in the fields to the leadership of the Sandinistas—is under any illusions about what would happen if the *contras* were victorious, even without the examples of Guatemala after Arbenz or Chile after Allende. So far the US Government has succeeded in toppling all but one of the reform-minded governments in Latin America, from Guatemala in the mid-'50s to the Dominican Republic in the mid-'60s to Chile to Jamaica to Grenada. Only Cuba has managed to hold out, and that at a fearful price of militarization and regimentation.

As of July, neither of the CIA-funded *contra* groups (the FDN, operating out of Honduras, and Pastora's ARDE, operating out of Costa Rica) has shaken the Sandinistas militarily, though they have struck deep inside Nicaragua, mined its ports, wreaked havoc in rural areas, and helped squeeze the crippled economy, bringing on shortages of basic foods and a booming black market. Furthermore, Congress has made moves to cut off US funding. What the Reagan Administration's and the Pentagon's next move will be is as yet unknown. But if they are allowed to proceed with their plans to crush the Nicaraguan experiment in transforming an unjust society into one better able to meet human needs, both the Nicaraguans and the rest of the world will be the losers. It will have been the American people, however, who let it happen.

We encountered little animosity toward us in all of Nicaragua (the Nicaraguans blamed the attacks on their country on Reagan). Under Somoza, they had no control over "their" Government whatever, and the idea of blaming us for "our" Government's activities didn't occur to them. Should it have?

Penny Pixler

## Labor News in Brief

In mid-July 35,000 British dockworkers represented by the British Transport and General Workers Union struck as an outgrowth of the coal miners' strike that began in March. The spark that triggered the dockworkers' walkout was the use of non-union labor to unload iron ore for a British Steel plant targeted by miners' pickets. Port employers were willing to settle that particular grievance, but were unwilling to pledge that they would refrain from using non-union labor in the future.

The 25,000-member National Union of Seamen, who work on freight ferries, struck in support of their fellow unionists and to protest the Thatcher Government's plans to sell profitable ferry services to private enterprises.

Six days into the strike, dockworkers agreed to a mediation effort; but that same day Dover dockworkers decided at a mass meeting to join the strike by boycotting freight shipments, though they agreed to work passenger ferries.

By July 17th the dock strike had shut down some 90 of Britain's 204 ports and halted shipment of around three-fourths of the island's imports and exports. The luxury liners *Queen Elizabeth II* and *Canberra* were among the ships diverted to France when Southampton workers refused to handle them.

[Note: As the *Industrial Worker* goes to press, we have just learned that the Dockworkers' strike has been settled.]

**UNION BUSTING VIA BANKRUPTCY:** Rockford, Illinois once had a supermarket called Jewel-Grand Bazaar with a union contract with its employees. One fine spring day this Jewel went broke, thereby canceling the union contract, whereupon the store promptly went back into business under a new name and with all former union workers at minimum wage.

About this same time, Jewel imposed a 16% pay cut on its employees (well, most of them; the chairperson got a raise from \$624,000 to \$900,000). When the United Food and Commercial Workers union complained to the National Labor Relations Board, the NLRB, an increasingly feeble stick for workers to lean on these days, decreed that the pay-cut violation of the contract was justified because the union had agreed to discuss the company's desire for concessions. [The entire Jewel chain has now been bought by American Stores.]

All this will certainly encourage other companies to pull similar stunts. In the meantime, popular awareness of what is going on should be built up. The only hope

of publicizing this would be some action odd enough and humorous enough to capture media attention. The *Wobs* and *Industrial Worker* readers, having no union bureaucracies to suppress their creative impulses, might be very well placed to generate some publicity on the plight of other workers. Think about it.

**UNION TEACHERS BUSTED IN PERU:** Amid the armed conflict between Peru's Government and the Shining Path guerrillas, members of Peru's teachers' union are shot at from both sides, but mostly by Government forces that have alleged ties between the union and leftist opposition parties. In rural areas of Peru, many teachers have suffered prolonged imprisonment solely because of their union activities. Among these are Isidro Nicolas Bodadilla (whose case Amnesty International has recently taken up), a local leader of the teachers' union who was arrested in June 1983 in the Andean highlands of the country.

On June 10th, 1984, tens of thousands of teachers and civil servants in Peru went on strike in a pay dispute. Six days later President Belaunde Terry decreed a 30-day nationwide state of emergency and suspension of civil rights. At least 50 people were arrested the first day of the decree. The Peruvian workers promised, however, that the state of emergency would not deter them from their strike, and threatened to engage in a hunger strike and seize Government offices to press their demands.

**NUCLEAR-FREE ROLLS ROYCE:** Shop stewards at the Rolls Royce plant in Hillington, Scotland voted unanimously, and the rank-and-file by a 3-to-1 majority, not to accept a 30-million-dollar contract for work on Trident missiles. "We refuse to work on such weapons which could be used against humanity causing mass annihilation. What we want is work which accomplishes some form of social need." Rather than take on the unions, management abandoned the contract.

## WHY NOT?

The IWW wants you—to join the 1% Club. Donate 1% of your income for operating expenses. Buy press stamps! Give to the Sustaining Fund! Help the *Industrial Worker*! When did your branch last cuss/discuss an article in the *Industrial Worker*? Leave an extra copy of the *Industrial Worker* in the laundromat!

# Clericals Organize at Yale

A little more than a year ago, a slim majority of Yale University's 2,650 clerical and technical workers (C&Ts) wanted to join Local 34 of the Federation of University Employees (an affiliate of the International Hotel Employees and Restaurant Workers Union).

Local 34 was not the first union to have tried to organize the Yale C&Ts. Working conditions were not worse than they had been, but the composition of the work force had changed in one significant way since the earlier organizing attempts. Ten years ago, most C&Ts were graduate students' wives or other married women earning a supplementary wage. Now many Local 34 members are single mothers who couldn't pay their bills on what the University was paying them.

Although starting salaries at the University compare favorably with those of secretarial employees at other local companies, the comparison ends there. After six years on the job, the average Yale worker makes \$13,473 a year, with next to no chance at advancement. By contrast to Connecticut university workers, unionized clerks at Southern New England Telephone are guaranteed a top-of-the-scale salary of \$18,746 after four years of employment.

The women's movement, too, helped change Yale clerical workers' feelings about their work. The C&Ts' gripes went beyond economic issues to the basic question of respect. Many felt that their male supervisors treated them like dirt.

While the unions involved in earlier organizing drives had sent in out-of-town organizers, the Local 34 election drive was led by John Wilhelm, the business manager of Yale's blue-collar union, Local 35, himself a Yale alumnus.

Hindering the organizing drive, beyond the usual problems, was the diversity and dispersion of the Yale work force. The C&Ts were spread out over hundreds of buildings and dozens of departments; their jobs ranged from assistant curators in University art galleries to laboratory technicians and library clerks. And University employees were encouraged to think of themselves not as mere workers or unionists, but as professionals, part of a privileged elite.

But as one popular Local 34 slogan put it, "You can't eat prestige."

Even amid the jubilation of the victory election, however, Local 34 knew an equally-challenging fight lay ahead: negotiating its first contract. The union had won the election by a very slim margin, and it expected Yale to drag out contract talks and try to bust the union by eroding the bargaining unit. Indeed, the University stalled and stalled, diverting the contract talks from substantive issues like salaries and job security to side issues like whether Local 34 members would get paid for the time spent negotiating. But for the union to walk out of the negotiations and off the job would only confirm the fears of the thousand C&Ts who had voted against the union.

Meanwhile, anger grew throughout the union. Through a bottom-up structure established during the election campaign, Local 34 kept the full membership informed about the continuing impasse and funneled grass-roots sentiment back to the 35-member negotiating committee, which reported to a 500-member contract committee, whose members in turn held regular meetings and phone conversations with the rest of the union.

By mid-March 1984, things were coming to a head. Local 34 voted overwhelmingly to strike within a month if the University remained unco-operative at the bargaining table. The union set about galvanizing support for a strike both on campus and in the New Haven community. The anti-union forces were also rallying: More than 100 C&Ts formed an anti-union committee. As the strike deadline approached, they called for a decertification election.

## Who Makes Decisions Here?

According to the conventional wisdom, Yale University counted on turning public opinion against Local 34. But in this fight, the locally-based and bottom-up-organized union could tap into widespread community resentment of Yale's attitude toward the city of New Haven. The C&Ts were "townies" with roots in the nation's seventh-poorest city, not "Yalies" with a stake in the University's \$1.1-billion endowment. The University's refusal to offer the city payments in lieu of property taxes, and its closed-door policy, had long fostered bitterness and tension between it and the city. Local clergy, professors, and students also lined up on

## Building Union Solidarity Discussed

Some 600 labor activists gathered in Ypsilanti, Michigan June 15th through 17th for a conference on Building Union Solidarity, billed under the IWW slogan "An Injury to One Is an Injury to All". The conference, sponsored by *Labor Notes* magazine, drew rank-and-file activists, low-level business-union officials, union staffers, and seven members of the IWW.

The opening session featured speeches on the question "Where's the Recovery?". Other sessions addressed the need for the labor movement to revive itself through new organizing, co-ordinated activities, strike solidarity, and resisting concessions in order to survive the new corporate offensive; the need to create a solidarity network; and the coming round of contract negotiations for auto and postal workers. I am easily bored by speeches, and so missed most of those presentations.

More interesting were informal discussions with rank-and-file activists and local union officials, and the workshops, where a major concern was building area-wide strike support. Speakers active in a variety of strike-support activities spoke on their efforts, and the labor activists who attended had quite a lot to say at these sessions. A recurring theme was the need for union activists to build strike-support activity autonomous of the union hierarchies and structures. As a shipbuilder whose local has been on strike for several months put it: "If you wait for the Internationals to act you're going to die." He noted that what was needed was not just regional strike support but international strike support, in order to confront the bosses who are organized on an international level and can just as easily switch production to another facility as ship in scabs.

Speakers noted that business-union leaders are good at making ringing speeches expressing their heartfelt sympathy and solidarity, but not nearly so good at providing material assistance. Even such non-controversial and fully-legal activities as raising funds for strikers' relief often have to be carried on without co-operation from local unions, noted one speaker active in the Toledo Area Solidarity Committee.

Many rank-and-file activists present argued that strike support must go beyond financial assistance, although such aid is of course important. What is needed, they argued, is for workers to refuse to handle scab goods, to refuse to take on work from struck plants, and to shut down connected industries or enterprises when necessary.

A workshop on the stagnation of the labor movement saw several unionists agree that reliance on labor law and court actions instead of on shop-floor activity, and reliance on the employer to collect union dues through check-offs played major roles in undermining the labor movement, promoting apathy and "fee-for-service" unionism. What was needed, it was argued, was for un-

ions to promote a vision, to actively involve their memberships, to democratize their structures, and to show through their activity the importance of unions in defending workers' interests.

A workshop on organizing—attended primarily by full-time union organizers—saw general agreement that the tactics currently being pursued by many business unions are frequently counter-productive. All too often, it was argued, unions are raiding one another and fighting vicious battles to represent easily "organized" public-sector employees—battles which leave many workers convinced that all unions are corrupt, seeking only to collect dues money from them. Indeed, many organizers involved in such campaigns were convinced that this perception is accurate.

"Members are secondary," said one. "It's the dues money that's important." Most of the organizers in attendance seemed to agree that what was important was to develop rank-and-file groups on the shop floor, and to organize from within. Newsletters, educational forums, and assistance to workers who request it can yield better results—they argued—than high-budget media campaigns aimed at winning NLRB elections. Moreover, such campaigns are often the only way of reaching that major section of the work force that is employed in small and medium-size shops.

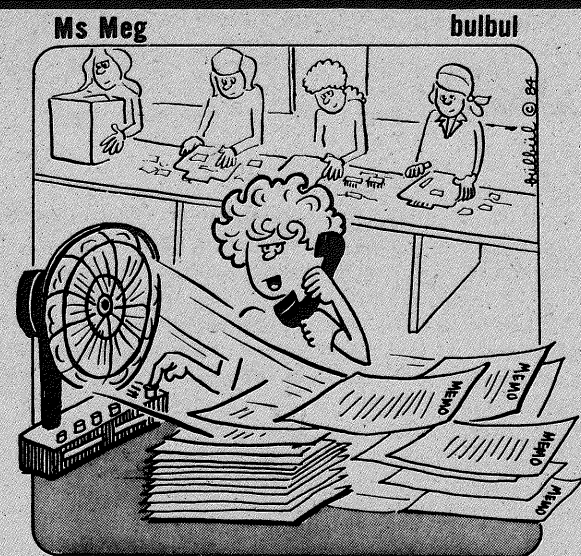
Overall, those attending this conference seemed to recognize that the current tactics of the business unions are obsolete, and entirely incapable of resisting the new corporate offensive, let alone gaining new ground. Most, however, are committed to the largely-futile task of trying to reform their unions from within, not recognizing the need for revolutionary industrial unions controlled by the rank-and-file. These activists are trying to build unions that will defend workers' interests under capitalism, not unions that will fight to abolish the wage system.

But many appeared open to other ideas. More than 150 copies of the *Industrial Worker* were distributed at the conference, and several pamphlets and leaflets also were well received. As these activists continue to bump their heads against the walls of business unionism and labor law, many are bound to turn to more viable strategies such as those offered by the IWW.

Jon Bekken

## TRANSNATIONAL CO-OPERATION

At the IWW general office in Chicago, we are setting up a folder on Transnational Co-operation. Readers are invited to send suggestions or material for that file, such as instances of the need for co-operation across boundary lines, the possibilities for such co-operation, and the impediments to it.



YES SIR, YOUR MEMO: (WE'RE ONE BIG HAPPY FAMILY... NO NEED FOR WOMEN TO ORGANIZE) IS BEING CIRCULATED.

Local 34's side, making contingency plans for a strike. More than 4,000 people turned out for a pro-union rally and torchlight march to the home of Yale's president. The strike threat was reinforced when Local 35, Yale's blue-collar union, voted to honor Local 34's picket lines. That meant a strike could shut down the University's dining halls and offices.

A week before the initial strike deadline, Yale came up with an offer of a three-year partial contract calling for an "agency shop". Labor-management committees would be established to review individual salary disputes, advance warning of layoffs would be given, and the University would give rehiring priority to temporary employees working on grants. Local 34 retained the right to strike as contract negotiations continued, and union negotiators were paid in full for time spent in the talks.

Nearly a quarter of the union's members who voted on the partial contract opposed it, fearing it didn't go far enough. The University came nowhere near meeting union demands on salaries and benefits.

But union organizers persuaded members that the union had won security provisions that would give it leverage to bargain for decent wages. New arbitration clauses in the interim settlement would enable workers to meaningfully grieve complaints for the first time.

In short, Local 34 settled for half a cake for three years. Whether they would have won more if they had struck is of course impossible to say. Shutting down as sprawling an institution as a university is harder than shutting down an assembly line; even to attempt it needs the co-operation of students, professors, and the general public. And popular support ebbs and flows. As one union member said the night of the contract vote, "You can only keep people on edge so long." Perhaps the union was wise to settle while support was at its peak and the University most afraid of having its reputation besmirched. But over the next years members of Local 34 will face a two-edged battle to keep control over their union and to strengthen their position vis-a-vis their employer.

(adapted from *Dollars & Sense*, Number 98)

## US FIRMS FIGHT ACTIVISTS ON SOUTH AFRICA

I confess I had never given much credence to the campaign for disinvestment in South Africa. But given the effort that US companies operating in South Africa are putting into counter-attacking the disinvestment campaign, perhaps it is hitting harder than I thought it could.

Three states—Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Michigan—and about 25 cities have adopted restrictions on investing public funds in US companies doing business in South Africa, and many more are considering it. A growing number of universities have also barred investment in South Africa, which has led to warnings from some business executives that US companies might rethink some of their "charitable" gifts. Billions of dollars in pension funds and endowments are involved, as are many of the biggest US corporations, such as Ford, General Electric, General Motors, IBM, and Mobil.

American business leaders contend that they have done much for the powerless black majority (84%) in South Africa, and can do much more by staying than by leaving. They say that they have voluntarily provided better pay and living conditions for black workers than they would otherwise have gotten. Activists in the US contend that US companies are exploiting cheap black labor in an apartheid society run by a wealthy white minority. Those who favor cutting foreign investment to force concessions from the white South African Government reject the argument of companies that black workers would be hurt first and most.

Steve Biko, leader of South Africa's Black Consciousness movement, had called for sanctions before his death from head injuries sustained during police interrogation while being detained under the Terrorism Act in 1977.

"We blacks are perfectly willing to suffer the consequences," Biko argued. "We are quite accustomed to suffering."

As Nthato Motlana, a physician and community leader in Sweto, Johannesburg's huge black township, pointed out, the only time the white Government made significant concessions to black rights was after the Sharpeville riot of 1960, when 69 black protesters were shot dead by police and "foreign capital fled these shores".

plp

readers' soap box

VDTs ARE BAD NEWS

I read your article [July '84] on VDTs [Video Display Terminals]—or Cathode Radiation Tubes (CRTs)—which was pretty good. However, we should not allow them to be imposed upon us. As a user of a CRT in at least 50% of my work at the railroad for over seven years, I have plenty of experience. They make clerical work petty and boring, but the worst thing about them is that they allow management to spy on workers. All labor contracts should have provisions guaranteeing workers the right to control their use. CRTs, like computers, are bad news. I see unemployment in the 25% to 50% range as a direct result of CRTs and computerization in the next 20 years.

Steve Condit

In response to Dave Tucker's article on "VDT Health Hazards" (July 1984), I'd like to pass on some information taken from the University of Minnesota daily's article on "VDT Health Effects" (July 9th, 1984).

CRTs (cathode-ray tubes), another name for the same device, can produce eyestrain and temporary distortion of vision among moderate to heavy users of VDTs (video display terminals). Whether there is permanent vision damage has yet to be proven.

In addition, the daily article pointed out that eight US and Canadian unions have won rights for pregnant women using VDTs: to transfer to other areas, receive extra unpaid leave (their right anyway), or wear lead aprons. These management concessions could well be attributed to the rise in birth defects of late among women working with VDTs. The article relates how a Canadian newspaper office, in 1979, reported eight instances of birth defects among women working with VDTs in their office.

Members of AFSCME Local 2822 here are in the process of meeting and conferring with management on VDT use. Meanwhile, fellow workers, it seems like the worker will again prove the work isn't safe, instead of the boss proving the work is safe.

Peace and Solidarity  
Gregory McDaniels  
Minneapolis

Literature

Practical and Informational:

- Organizing Manual . . . . . \$ .75
- Collective Bargaining Manual . . . . . .75
- \*Labor Law for the Rank and Filer . . . . . 2.50
- Inflation, Cause and Cure . . . . . .25
- One Big Union (About the IWW) . . . . . 1.00
- The General Strike, by Ralph Chaplin . . . . . .75
- Unions and Racism . . . . . 1.00
- IWW Preamble and Constitution . . . . . 1.00
- Metal Workers' Guide to Health and Safety on the Job . . . . . .50
- A Quiz on You and the Arms Race . . . . . .10
- (10 copies, .75; 100 copies, 3.00; 2.50 per additional 100.)

Music and Poetry:

- IWW Songbook . . . . . 1.75
- 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's First 70 Years (Hard.) . . . . . 15.00
- The IWW's First 70 Years (Paper) . . . . . 4.95
- \*Founding Convention of the IWW . . . . . 15.00
- History of the IWW in Canada . . . . . .50
- Joe Hill: IWW Songwriter . . . . . 1.00
- \*Lucy Parsons: American Revolutionary . . . . . 5.95
- \*Autobiography of Mother Jones . . . . . 5.95
- \*The Right to be Lazy . . . . . 1.75

Posters:

- Joe Hill . . . . . 5.00
- General Strike . . . . . 5.00
- Huelga General . . . . . 5.00
- Draftees of the World Unite . . . . . 5.00
- 4 Hours Work for 8 Hours Pay . . . . . 5.00
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\*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.

LITERATURE DISCOUNT POLICY

Bulk orders of five or more of any item on the IWW literature list, unless otherwise indicated, may be ordered at a 40% discount if orders are prepaid. We offer a 30% discount on similar orders which we must invoice. Postage will be added to all orders that are not prepaid. Please allow three weeks for delivery.

Unconventional Wisdom

A gut feeling: The current panic retreat of AFL-CIO unions in the face of capital's determined campaign has brought some union members to ask Why? In this machine age, maybe we ought to liken the problem to a vehicle that backed up when it was set in forward gear.

The IWW contends that part of labor's soft underbelly comes from officers enjoying unlimited tenure—so long away from the job and so long accustomed to soft living that they can no longer comprehend the problems and realities of the workplace.

This writer feels that many workers are ready to embrace the idea of a unionism that limits office tenure and pegs officers' salaries at amounts commensurate with industrial wages. To put it simply: making officers the servants of unions instead of making unions the servants (and playthings?) of officers. You won't find these questioning workers in numbers thick as fleas on a dog

or in bunches like bananas, but they're out there.

The next step, after solving the officeholding problem, is structuring the union into a genuine instead of an ersatz industrial union.

Restructuring of union organization is imperative to paving the way to union consciousness, solidarity, and concern for the whole working class. I don't think you can achieve the latter objective without the first: the restructuring of the union machinery.

It is just and fitting that workers be reminded that they owe support to the outfit the idea emanated from.

Another fact protrudes, of course. Unorganized workers have taken an even worse shellacking than those in unions (pensions denied, etc., etc., etc.). Communication with the unorganized worker is also in order.

Pervicacia

To Start a War...

A parchment scroll in a hermetically-sealed bottle was recently dredged up by oceanographers from the vicinity of the lost continent of Mu. This land was once inhabited by the bellicose tribes of Moronia and Berserkia. The following instructions on how to start a war, evidently one letter in a series, were addressed to the chief of Moronia by one member of his cabinet just prior to a war with the Berserkians. As every schoolboy knows, Mu was suddenly and devastatingly washed away beneath the Pacific by a mysterious blast resembling an H-bomb explosion about 25,000 years ago.

\* \* \* \* \*

At the outset of every great war, certain troublesome elements pose a problem. These are the intellectuals who, because they often entertain ideals, are constitutionally indisposed to reason from cause to effect in practical affairs. An astute military government, however, will mold their unworried visions to its end: give them jobs designing implements of war; buy their loyalty with bread. In justifying their economic motivations to themselves, intellectuals produce many gems of spurious reasoning which prove most effective in goading the general population into war. Their ability to coin slogans is truly remarkable. Indeed, an apt motto may serve to



still the fears of the most faint-hearted, as well as to whip a people into fighting spirit.

"Make the world safe for democracy"—what does it mean? As nebulous as the breeze, as fanciful as the most flimsy ideal, it has proved very useful in luring millions to their death.

What an innocent slogan: "Steps short of war!" But the victims are not advised just how much short of war we are prepared to take them, or how we are going to put on the brakes when we reach that critical point of no return.

If a lusty military program serves as a deterrent to war by the opposing side, as our fanciful intellectuals claim, each side should regard the nuclear testing of the other camp with more gratitude than fear. The greater arms buildup, the less chance of war, right? So say our clever savants!

Furthermore, advocates of preventive war evidently hope that somehow ends can be divorced from means, that democracy can evolve out of violence and brutality. It is a pretty picture, this—wielding a bayonet with one hand and dispensing an international bill of rights with the other. But it is an awkward compromise that will not be appreciated by either conquered Berserkians or hard-headed Moronian commanders.

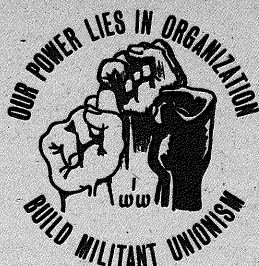
Never mind! When confronted with the hard steel of war, our brave intellectuals will cast aside their ideals. Thinking in terms of military cliches will become a habit and a way of life. They must choose between humanitarianism and rationalization of their mode of livelihood. They cannot have it both ways. The iron of war will enter their souls with every mouthful of bread wrung from their military employment.

The hostility that East and West have generated over the years is gathering momentum. Yet when the accumulated force of all our acts presses upon us in the single great event of war, the intellectuals will be the most surprised element of the population. The dimensions of their thinking will contract from the linear measurements of cause and effect to the single focal points of immediate issues. Historic perspectives will shrink to a host of seemingly unrelated facts. What and Who and When will acquire greater significance to them than How and Why. The drama of events will dull their perceptions to the commonplace of causes.

Now let the Berserkians provide us with a *casus belli*! It may be later than we know. The moments of history are ticking away, and the clock is beginning to strike.

Dorice McDaniels

**TAIWANESE MINING DISASTER:** 124 coal miners were trapped by fire and cave-in in mid-July in Taiwan's worst mine accident. One of the 22 survivors, Tsai Long-chi, said he escaped death from toxic fumes by urinating on a piece of cloth torn from his pants and putting it over his mouth—a technique he learned at miner training school to filter air.



BUTTONS AVAILABLE

We've just re-issued two classic IWW buttons. The first reads "For More of the Good Things of Life", the slogan surrounding the Patterson graphic. The second notes "Our Power Lies in Organization: Build Militant Unionism", with the words surrounding three rising fists. Both buttons are black and red on white backgrounds and 1½ inches in diameter; and they cost 75¢ each, with normal quantity discounts available. Get yours now.

Available from Local Groups and Branches:

From New York City Branch: **A Worker's Guide to Direct Action.** 50¢. PO Box 183, New York, NY 10028.

From the Tacoma/Olympia Branch: **Fellow Union Member.** 10¢ ea.; bundles of 5 to 15, 5¢ ea.; 16 to 500, 3¢ ea.; over 500, 2¢ ea. 2115 S1 Sheridan Ave., Tacoma, WA 98405.

From the San Francisco Branch: **Introduction to the IWW.** 10¢ ea.; bulk rate 40% discount, paid in advance, 30% of not.) PO Box 40485, San Francisco, CA 94140.

PLEASE SEND ALL ORDERS TO: IWW, 3435 N. SHEFFIELD, SUITE 202, CHICAGO, IL 60657 UNLESS OTHERWISE DESIGNATED.

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- X18584, Brooklyn, NY . . . . . \$11.00
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Many thanks, fellow workers, for your generous support.

# Fighting The Boss

On September 15th, 1983, Local 61 of the Industrial Union of Marine and Shipbuilding Workers of America struck Dravo, a multinational corporation near Pittsburgh with a union-busting reputation, after refusing a company proposal of a 38% wage and benefit cut. The strikers suspected that the company's calls for "job combinations, interchangeability, and flexibility" added up to "no more union".

In the manner of striking unions, the workers set up their picket line in front of the main gate of Dravo's main facility. There was no trouble with scabs crossing this line, as Dravo's management, prepared for a long strike, had arranged to sub-contract out the work to areas inaccessible to Local 61's strike actions. The plan was obviously to wait the union out.

To try to put pressure on Dravo's management, the union personalized the corporate leaders by publishing their names, addresses, and phone numbers in newspaper ads, giving the rank-and-file a chance for creative participation. Reportedly, calls were made to local nurseries ordering loads of cow manure to be delivered to the given addresses, as well as deliveries of pizzas, beer, dating services, and the like.

Eight months later, at a workshop at the Labor Notes

Conference in Michigan, the president of IUMSWA Local 61, Darrell Becker, summed up what had been learned on this strike. He pointed out that while back in the '30s a single union striking a single company could hope to cripple it to the point of winning their demands, these days multinational companies have more options. They can move the work formerly done at the struck plant to one of their subsidiaries, temporarily suspend operations, or, if the union is weak enough, simply hire scabs to replace the strikers. Injunctions limiting pickets, reversals of NLRB rulings, payoffs to judges by corporations, and jailings of strikers if things turn violent have made waging a prolonged strike extremely difficult.

Becker offers the following suggestions to unions contemplating a strike:

(1) Before the strike, research the company and get the union's story out as widely as possible to build up public support for the union.

(2) Go on the offensive by focusing on the company's policies, history, and the like, so that the company has to defend itself to the public and to the rank-and-file rather than to the union.

(3) Keep the membership strong by keeping them informed. Quash the company's lies before they take root.

## IWW Directory



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**LOUISIANA:** Alexandria IWW Hall, 710 Bolton, Alexandria, Louisiana 71301. 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. Western Massachusetts IWW Delegate, PO Box 157, Deerfield, Massachusetts 01373.

**MICHIGAN:** Ann Arbor/Detroit General Membership Branch, c/o Kaufmann, 42 South Summit, Ypsilanti, Michigan 48197. Copper County: Robin Oye, Delegate, PO Box 392, Hancock, Michigan 49930. Grand Rapids: IWW Delegate, 415 Ethel, Grand Rapids, Michigan 49506. People's Wherehouse 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 Marchall (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, (716) 877-6073. Central New York General Membership Branch, c/o McKown, 1121 Westcott, Syracuse, New York 13210. New York City General Membership Branch, PO Box 183, New York, New York 10028. Rego Park: Jackie Panish, Delegate, 99-12 65th Road (5-J), Rego Park, New York 11374, (212) 868-1121.

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

**ONTARIO:** Bruan Burch, Delegate, 13 Kerr Road, Station 30, Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

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

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

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

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

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

# Behind Bars: a book

*The American Prison System: From the Beginning: A Pictorial History*, American Correctional Association, College Park, Maryland, clothbound, 264 pages, 11 by 9, \$24.95

It is said that a picture tells more than a thousand words; yet this assemblage of rather well-chosen photos and drawings tells less about what it is like to rot in jail than do the few verses the book quotes from Oscar Wilde's *Ballad of Reading Gaol*. The focus of the book is on the physical prison plant rather than on the human material it processes. Most of the prisons shown look like castles, and as the book puts it: "These huge Gothic-style structures achieved an effect similar to the cathedrals of the Middle Ages—that of making people inside seem small and insignificant."

The bulk of the book deals with a past we are supposed to have discarded (tell Amnesty International), but do the pretty colored photos of modern installations toward the end of the book indicate significant change? A year is a year is a year.

Yet there has been change. There are pictures of pillories and convict ships and sundry instruments of torture. It tells of Peter Charbonneau, a 10-year-old who was committed to Kingston Penitentiary in Ontario in 1842. For such breaches of discipline as "staring, winking, and laughing, he was stripped to the shirt and publicly lashed 57 times in 10½ months."

The book gives prison-population figures for every 10 years. By and large, these have kept growing. "By the end of 1982, the national prison population reached an all-time high: 412,000 compared to 196,000 in 1972." More have gone in since the book was written, and judges would send far more if only there were room. Does the prison system decrease the amount of crime?

It should seem clear that putting people in prison does not check crime. This reviewer thinks he knows why.



because he put in four years in San Quentin for "criminal syndicalism". I went there expecting to find that prisoners in general would be a somewhat different lot than folks I had known on jobs and around towns, and it was a surprise to me to find that the folks in jail were on the whole indistinguishable from the folks outside: almost a random population sample. Yet the figures show that ex-cons are more likely than the general population to land in jail. The inescapable conclusion: Putting people in prisons makes them more likely to commit crime than letting them stay free. Countries that avoid putting people in jail have lower crime rates.

Prison guards have taken to unionizing, but this has been for the benefit of the guards, not the prisoners. The prison population is about 99% working-class, so the labor movement should show concern for its locked-up fellow workers. The recurrent prison riots are unmistakable shrieks that the world outside should look at what goes on inside. If labor representatives checked the prisons out regularly, there would be less occasion for riots.

Fred Thompson

# JOE HILL REVISITED

*Joe Hill*, by Gibbs M. Smith, Peregrine-Smith Books, Salt Lake City, 1984, 290 pages, paperback, \$11.95

This is a reprint of Gibbs Smith's definitive life of Joe Hill, issued first by the University of Utah Press in 1970, and later by Grosset & Dunlap under the title *Joe Hill, Labor's Martyr*.

In her introduction, Joyce Kornbluh presents an outline of the IWW as setting for the Joe Hill story, and rightly calls the book "a thoroughly scholarly volume on Joe Hill's life and influence". Appendices include Joe Hill's letter to the *Salt Lake Telegram* on how he was framed, his letter to the Pardon Board demanding a new trial, the Board's official turndown, and Archie Green's notes on the history of Joe Hill's various songs. Also included is a translation of a letter published in a Swedish labor paper in 1915, sent by a woman who purported to have been a witness in the case, contending that Hill was guilty. In the absence of trial records, historians have to depend on newspaper reportage of the trial, and there is nothing there to fit these allegations. It is plain that Hill was shot, with the bullet passing completely through him and his clothes, not long before he visited the doctor and not far away from him (miles from the holdup), and certainly with his overcoat off, for there were no holes in it.

The Hill case lives on. This spring Professor William Adelman of the University of Illinois labor program took thousands of petitions to the Governor of Utah, but securing no audience, left them with the Utah Labor History Society for later presentation. The IWW offers both

this book and its one-dollar pamphlet giving the main facts of Hill's life and the music for some of his songs.

There have been movies and plays on Joe Hill in English, French, German, and Swedish. His is a name well-known and well-remembered. Do you recall the names of any of his judges?

FT

### 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.**

# Irish Notes

(I haven't had time to get a column together, but ran across this letter from a corporate PR man here to some of his cronies back in the States. I can vouch for the facts. The rest of it's his problem.)

Look friends, I'm not trying to be nasty, but do us a favor. Leave Ron at home next time. If you need some paddies for election footage, fine. We'll fly them over to Burbank, donkey carts and all. But Jesus! Keep the nukehead outa here. The colonies got enough trouble without him blowing through like so much shit on a cyclone. You know what they're calling Ballyporeen, the President's ould homestead? Kilreagan! Four days in Ireland, four days, and I swear the guy saw nothing but the asses of secret-service men. We barely got up a rent-a-crowd for Galway, and Dublin was nothing but cops and scum. "Murderer!" "Terrorist!"

So guess who was left holding the can. The pillars of democracy, the lot of us, all decked out in the emperor's new clothes. We might as well have been drinking the blood of Romero up there at Dublin Castle, or toasting Reagan's good buddy, the Butcher of Manila. Thanks to Ronnie's little election junket, our cover's blown but good. You ever heard the word "gombeen"? It's the worst sort of moneygrubber. Guys who'd sell their granny to the glue factory. Well, that's us now, everyone who supped the cup with Reagan. As in: "How can you get 900 gombeens in the mini (tiny car)?" "Put Reagan in first and they'll all crawl up his ass." So next election do us a favor, okay? Shoot it in Hollywood.



Which reminds me. No doubt you heard about the EEC elections back in mid-June. Thank God that little commie Morrison got well thrashed by our man Hume up in Northern Ireland. But I wouldn't start crowing too loud about it. Don't get me wrong, it's good for the usual headlines—Gunmen Smashed at Ballot Box, Democrats Rout the Provos, that sort of stuff. But the truth of the

matter is that Sinn Fein held their share of the vote. Hume romped home on a fat fistful of transfers from nearly everyone else in Northern Ireland. That's right. The unionists are no fools. They know the difference between Uncle Tom and the Panthers. Besides, Hume's win won't be worth cowchips to the paddies, not with Paisley at the helm. Still, it buys us some time up North, and God knows we need it. Hell, it's not much better down here. Sure, our boys keep all the Southern EEC seats, but you know who the big winners were? Terrorists, quacks, and nobodys, especially the nobodys. Apathy ruled the day. Just like the States, the largest vote went to nobody. The first sign that people are copping on. Then there were the quacks, the liberals who still think they can do something about it. It was the usual nonsense—ecology, honest government.... If the economy picks up we can scuttle them with a few new election planks. But shit, the figures we're showing in public have unemployment at 16%, and it's due to hit 18% by next year.

Look, I'm not complaining. We've still got this place firmly in hand. Our take-home profits were near 30% last year, and that's a sweet little sweatshop in anyone's book. What's worrying me are the dole queues, heroin, and rattrap housing—the terrorists' bread and butter. We can't just bury them under next year's election platform. The country's too small for that. So either the bucks start cranking over pretty soon—like enough to get Ireland out of mothballs, or we're going to have to start reeving up the goon squads again. Either way's okay by me. Just give us the word.

L.O'Neil

## Phelps-Dodge Still Out

On May 5th the people of Clifton, Arizona held a combination rally and fiesta in support of the striking Phelps-Dodge copper miners, then into the 10th month of their walkout. Among the speakers was Dr. Jorge O'Leary, a physician who had been fired from his job at the Phelps-Dodge-owned hospital in the nearby town of Morenci for his pro-union activities. O'Leary set up a "People's Clinic" where strikers and their families could get free treatment.

About 3 pm members of the crowd began to jeer at



Police attack striking miner in Clifton, Arizona.

and heckle scabs driving by on their way to the mines. Suddenly one of the scabs pointed a gun at the crowd. The crowd pelted the car with rocks, and the cops fired tear gas. In the ensuing riot 11 strikers were beaten and arrested, and one cop was hospitalized. Later that night two members of the State of Arizona Department of Public Safety tried to drive into town and were met with a hail of rocks. Windows were smashed in the Chamber of Commerce building and the Valley National Bank, on whose board of directors are several Phelps-Dodge executives, as well as Arizona Governor Babbitt's brother. At that point a number of National Guardsmen were helicoptered into the area, at the Governor's orders, to reinforce the efforts of the state police to protect the scabs.

The Phelps-Dodge strike began last summer, when the company asked for what the 13 unions representing the copper miners of Clifton and Morenci felt were unfair concessions. The miners walked out and the company hired scabs, requesting and getting State protection for them despite Governor Babbitt's comment that "In my opinion, Phelps-Dodge has the worst record in labor relations of any company that has ever operated in Arizona. People just can't be treated like so many pieces of corkwood."

In addition to recruiting strike-breaking scabs, the company has served eviction notices on some strikers

still living in company-owned housing and has cut on credit at company-owned stores. The strikers are grateful for such help as their national unions have given them with strike pay and payment of their utility bills, but feel that the national leadership has abandoned the strike. The strikers are dependent on solidarity donations from church groups and other unions, because in these isolated communities there are no other jobs available. Contributions can be sent to the USWA Local 616 Strike and Defense Fund, PO Box 1017, Clifton, Arizona 85533 or to the women's auxiliary of the Copper Relief Fund, c/o Toni Potter, PO Box 518, Clifton, Arizona 85533.

plp

(The staff of the *Industrial Worker* wish to thank Fellow Worker S.E. for the information he sent us about the strike.)

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## General Strike called in Bolivia

A three-day general strike in Bolivia called by the Bolivian Workers Central in the second week of July shut down most mines, schools, public offices, and factories, despite hour-long pleas of cabinet ministers on state radio and TV for workers to report to their jobs. The workers launched the strike with a demand for automatic wage adjustments to compensate for Bolivia's inflation, now running at 760% a year, and the demand that the Government declare an indefinite moratorium

on payments on Bolivia's 720-million-dollar debt to US, European, and Japanese banks. The country of 5.8 million people has a foreign debt of \$4.4 billion.

The strike ended after three days as the labor confederation, which contains all of the nation's unions, was divided over how hard to press its demands. Some feared that a prolonged strike would set off another military coup like the one that occurred a week before the strike in which soldiers and police abducted the president of the country, Hernan Siles Zuazo, for 10 hours. There have been 189 coups in Bolivia's 154 years of independence.

The Danly strikers have filed a civil-rights suit in federal court to stop Chicago police from moonlighting as scab herders. The Fraternal Order of Police insists there is nothing wrong with scab herding.

### CHINA'S GROWING EXPORT: ITS WORKERS

Increasingly, enterprises owned by Chinese provincial governments or by the central government are earning foreign currency by sending Chinese workers abroad, seeming to do work no one else would undertake. "Because our company's principle is to provide service, we don't consider danger or difficulty. If other countries don't want to accept it, we will," said China Hubei's general manager, Wang Zhonghou. But one wonders whether Wang was one of the laborers the China Hubei Corporation for International and Technical Co-operation sent to Ethiopia to spend 33 months carving a 180-mile highway through rugged mountains at heights up to 12,000 feet. In the last two decades, Hubei has sent 11,000 people to work in 39 foreign countries. From the workers' wages, the Corporation deducts the cost of plane tickets, room, board, and taxes. Then it takes between 30 and 40% of what is left as a management fee. The workers are said to be happy because their net income was still many times what they could earn in China.

### IWW CONVENTION SEPTEMBER 1ST AND 2ND

The 42nd General Convention of the IWW will be held on Labor Day weekend, September 1st and 2nd. The Convention, which will be open to all IWW members and interested observers, will begin at 9 am at the Northside YWCA (5256 North Broadway) in Chicago.

Among the issues to be discussed are current organizing campaigns, the state of the union, the *Industrial Worker*, and related matters. A complete agenda, as proposed by the IWW's General Executive Board, was sent to all IWW members in early August, and copies may be obtained from the IWW for the cost of the postage.

Concerts "To Fan the Flames" will be held in conjunction with the Convention August 31st and September 1st. IWW and other labor and protest songs will be featured in these two evening concerts by IWW musicians. Both concerts will be recorded, and a record is slated for release in 1985 to commemorate the IWW's 80th anniversary. Among the musicians who have agreed to participate in the concert are Utah (Bruce) Phillips, Faith Petric, Marion Wade, Bruce Brackney, Mark Ross, Jeff Cahill, and Fred Holstein. Tickets are \$7 (\$5 for IWW members) and can be obtained at the door or from the IWW.

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