

INDUSTRIAL WORKERS  
OF THE WORLD

# INDUSTRIAL WORKER

★ EDUCATION ★ ORGANIZATION ★ EMANCIPATION

VOLUME 82, NUMBER 1, WN 1460

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, JANUARY 1985

25 CENTS

## N.Y. Wobs Strike Keller Fish

IWW members have been on strike against the William F. Keller Company of East Northport, New York since October 25th, demanding union recognition, an end to Keller's union-busting tactics, and improved working conditions.

Workers at this wholesale fish distributorship put in a broken workweek of 60 to 80 hours without overtime pay before the strike. They have no benefits whatsoever: no sick time, no vacation pay, no health plan, and no pensions. Keller's employees truck in fish from Maine to sell in New York's lucrative markets, working out of a tiny shack which was "home away from home" for at least one of Keller's road drivers, who is being forced to exceed the 15-hour workday set by the Bureau of Motor Carrier Safety. This shack was the only facility provided for this driver to rest at between runs, though it has no bathroom and nothing resembling a bed in which he could get the required eight hours of rest between tours of duty. Since the strike began, this worker (who is scabbing) has been given a hotel room by an employer desperate to keep his operation running.

Fed up with months of broken promises and rotten working conditions, the fellow workers at Keller called in the IWW. Six of the seven employees attended an organizing meeting, and five decided they wanted the IWW to represent them. The sixth turned out to be a company stooge who gave the boss a blow-by-blow account of the October 23rd organizing meeting.

Armed with this information, Keller telephoned his employees at home, telling them he would shut down completely if the IWW came in, and promising them continued uninterrupted employment if they rejected the union.

The next day (October 25th) an IWW organizer and a delegation of Keller's workers approached Keller at 4 am to demand union recognition. Keller refused, and also refused to halt his illegal threats and union-busting activities. Clearly he thought his workers would back down in the face of this intimidation.

But Wobblies are made of sterner stuff. Three workers promptly went on strike, and an IWW organizer filed unfair-labor-practice charges with the National Labor Relations Board that same day. They have been picketing ever since, in spite of continued threats and physical attacks.

Keller's stooge Peter Gibson, who had earlier sold out his fellow workers, tried to run them down on October 26th. Gibson actually hit one picketer with his truck,

though two others managed to avoid injury. He then brandished a two-foot-long iron bar, threatening further attacks against picketers. An IWW member tried to restrain him, and was arrested by the boys in blue for his trouble.

As the strike continues, the pressures on Keller to settle are increasing. Fed up with intolerable working conditions, a fourth worker walked off the job shortly before the strike began, abandoning his truck in Brooklyn. The scabs are not able to pick up all of the slack, as their 60-to-80-hour workweeks leave little room for speed-ups or increased workloads. And Keller is reportedly considering closing up shop and re-opening under a different name in hope of defeating our union. But if he tries it he'll find out the IWW is not so easily put off.

On October 29th we filed for an injunction against Keller and his stooge barring them from further intimidation and attacks. The NLRB has not responded to this request at press time—nor to the unfair-labor-practice charges filed earlier. Our fellow workers are under no illusions about the NLRB, realizing that their strike must be won on the picket line. But they do expect the NLRB to issue a complaint against Keller for its blatantly-illegal union-busting tactics, and such action could offer some advantages to our fellow workers.

All indications are that Keller plans to keep on playing hardball with his workers, knowing only too well that time and economics are both working in his favor. But our fellow workers are determined to win, and the IWW's New York Branch has committed itself to pressing this struggle.

More than \$300 was raised at a November 18th benefit at the United Storeworkers' Union hall, which was donated for the occasion. The benefit drew several fellow workers from throughout New York City to see the historical film *The Wobblies* and take part in an auction of memorabilia highlighted by FW Donovan's inspired comic routine in which he peddled items ranging from "one big onion" to a bottle of free speech. A new member signed up at the benefit, and several pieces of IWW literature were sold.

The Branch has also distributed hundreds of flyers publicizing the strike, and has started a sustaining fund to help the Keller strikers and their families. To help our fellow workers continue their strike, please send contributions to the IWW-Keller Strike Fund, c/o New York IWW, PO Box 183, New York 10028.



The IWW is on strike against Keller Fish, demanding union recognition and an end to Keller's union busting.

## Chile: State of Siege

In a display of terrorism reminiscent of the bloody 1973 military coup that brought General Pinochet to power, Chilean armed forces swept through working-class neighborhoods in early November, rounding up thousands of men and teenagers. Within days of the military government's new declaration of a state of siege, the 22,000-person squatters' camp of Raul Silva Hernandez and the 32,000-person Santiago suburb of La Victoria, both scenes of violent clashes with police, were raided by Army and Air Force troops aided by secret police. All males over 15 were taken off for questioning, and 323 of the Silva Hernandez detainees were arrested, though the others were eventually released. The La Victoria detainees were trucked off to a nearby soccer stadium for identity checks, and at least 227 were arrested. In La Victoria a French priest was killed during an anti-Government demonstration in September, and four other people have been killed in the surging opposition to the Pinochet Government since the "Days of Protest" began in May 1983.

### The "Days of Protest"

Ironically, many Chilean trade-unionists, recalling the labor-government clashes during Marxist Salvador Allende's presidency, initially supported the September 1973 coup led by Augusto Pinochet. One dramatic case was that of Tucapel Jimenez, leader of the National Association of Public Employees. A few months after the coup, Jimenez defended Chile's new military junta before a meeting of the International Labor Organization in Geneva. But by the time the regime unveiled its restrictive labor code—outlawing labor stoppages—in mid-1979, he had joined the growing band of union critics.

Jimenez was fired from his civil-service job shortly after the 1980 plebiscite (on which Pinochet bases his claim to the right to stay in office until 1989), which he had opposed. Over the next year, authorities prevented Jimenez and his supporters in the public employees' association from holding meetings with other unions. In February 1982, barely a week after he had held a press conference to propose a nationwide Chilean labor organization that would resist the Pinochet regime's economic policies, Jimenez was found dead in the taxicab he drove to support himself and his family.

Union involvement in the growing resistance to the regime took root, however, and in May 1983 a coalition of the copper miners' union, the trucking union, and opposition groups called for demonstrations on a "Day of Protest" each month until democracy was restored in the country. By August, the 10th anniversary of the Pinochet takeover, the Government had responded to the enthusiastic demonstrations with a mixture of token concessions and repression in hope of dividing the opposition. Pinochet reshuffled his Cabinet, relaxed press censorship slightly, allowed the official opposition Christian Democrat Party to hold rallies, and allowed the return of some exiles. (How many Chileans have been forced into exile during the Pinochet regime is a matter of debate: The Government claims 10,000, civil-rights groups 100,000.) He also ordered strikers ousted from their jobs, broke off talks with the Democratic Alliance (a group of six non-Marxist parties), had political leaders jailed, and ordered police harassment of dissidents.

By September 1983, 42 people had been killed by the police as student rallies, strikes, and barricades in slums augmented the monthly demonstrations. As an example

of the poor's growing willingness to challenge the Government, thousands of homeless families set up a tent city on the outskirts of Santiago—the first seizure of land by squatters since the Allende overthrow.

In the last several decades, many of Santiago's poor outlying districts had been created through property invasions by homeless families who could not find or afford traditional housing. Young families in the tent city were encouraged by their parents, who had won their own homes a generation ago by squatting. The occupation of urban land, farms, and factories peaked under the Allende Government. The Pinochet Government consequently made protection of property a key principle, describing land seizures as one of the forms of communist subversion that they intended to stop. But Santiago police were unable to stop the occupiers from erecting their precarious shelters of canvas, wooden sticks, and plastic (or an imposing fence of stones, planks, and wire) even by firing tear gas and buckshot.

All forms of protest crescendoed in 1984, as 30% unemployment and the impoverishment of even the middle class caused those who had bitterly opposed the Allende Government and supported the military regime on the ground that it was preventing a return to Marxism to have second thoughts. In 1975 the Government had begun a Programa de Empleo Minimo, an employment program that paid the equivalent of \$25 to \$50 per month for full-time menial work. The program was intended to be a temporary measure, but by 1984 the participants accounted for roughly 10% of the Chilean workforce and were not counted in unemployment statistics.

But as protest became more visible, so did the apparatus of repression. In May 1984 the Government passed new laws giving the secret police authority, without judicial warrant, to detain for up to 10 days and interrogate people suspected of committing terrorist crimes or holding views sympathetic with those of alleged terrorists. Torture, a perennial weapon of the secret police, was increasingly used by uniformed police. Amnesty International began to receive reports of "torture vans", driven to the sites of demonstrations, in which people were branded with the initials of the secret police and dumped back into the street. Other police simply seized people out of crowds and beat them in front of other demonstrators as examples.

(continued on Page 5)



# Around Our Union

**MILWAUKEE:** An IWW group is in the process of forming here following a visit by FW Fred Thompson arranged by a local Wob. FW Thompson spoke at a November 10th Armistice Day meeting attended by 35 people and sponsored by the local School for Workers. FW Thompson's message that "one group of workers killing another group of workers never made much sense" was well received, and several wage slaves from Milwaukee have asked the IWW for information on joining up. While in Milwaukee, FW Thompson was interviewed by Channel 12, and his speech was recorded by the local National Public Radio affiliate.

**VANCOUVER:** A Job Problem Hotline was recently set up by the Vancouver General Membership Branch. Workers in the Vancouver area facing a wide variety of work-related problems—from unfair dismissal to unpaid wages—or interested in organizing their workplace can now call 876-8438. The Hotline is staffed by fellow workers who can provide advice on a wide range of job-related problems and provide referrals where necessary. This Hotline is one of several ongoing projects sponsored by our Vancouver Branch, our most recently formed and one of our most active.

In addition, the Branch's Starvation Army Band have

been joining picket lines in Vancouver, distributing song sheets and getting picketers to join them in song. Vancouver Wobs have joined in solidarity work on behalf of Solidarnosc, issuing a pamphlet calling for the abolition of wages, and continued publishing their monthly newspaper, *Solidarity Bulletin*, whose most recent issue features an article on the 1926 British coal strike and its betrayal by politicians and business unions. The article suggests clear parallels with the current situation.

Meanwhile, word has reached us that Wobs in Terrace, British Columbia drew 15 people to their showing of *The Wobblies* reported in our last issue, several of whom have expressed interest in joining. On November 30th the fledgling group sponsored a potluck supper for IWW members and their friends, attended by Vancouver Branch member and IWW General Executive Board candidate Dave Bostock.

**NEW YORK:** In addition to the ongoing strike at Keller Fish (see article on Page 1), the New York Branch is printing up Silent Agitators to spread the IWW's message to the wage slaves in the New York area. The Branch has also donated funds to striking miners, and continues efforts to distribute the *Industrial Worker*.

## Nuclear Waste? Nein Danke!

Luchow, West Germany: Wendland (the "land turned around") lies fifty miles southeast of Hamburg. Here the Elbe River and a remnant of the primeval European forest interrupt the marshland of the North German plain.

Gorleben used to be just one of the villages along the Elbe River near the East German border. Now it's also the site of the West German nuclear-waste depot and reprocessing facility.

Thousands of local residents have voiced their opposition to the nuclear center during the last five years. They've petitioned, peaceably assembled, gone to court, demonstrated, sat in, and blockaded to no avail.

"It's five minutes to twelve," said a local resident at a recent meeting. "The temporary storage depot is ready. The permanent storage facilities are under construction, and soon the first truck transport of nuclear waste is due to arrive. Something has to happen now!"

Things are happening in Wendland. Police report over a hundred acts of arson and sabotage in the area during the last year. Vehicles and equipment belonging to construction companies taking part in the Gorleben project have been destroyed, with property damage amounting to over three million marks, and railroad tracks leading to the site have been torn up. No suspects have been apprehended.

This is highly significant for Gorleben, where the "Free Republic of Wendland" had long been the symbol of non-violent resistance to West German nuclear-waste disposal plans. The non-violent concept of citizens' action groups had continually prevailed over the proposals of more radical groups coming to the construction site from Hamburg, Hannover, or Berlin. Now some local residents are themselves opting for more radical action.

"When we had sit-ins in the trees," claimed one local activist, "they sawed the trees out from underneath us." It seems his convictions were no match for police power, and he's come to the conclusion that "It's really more effective in the dark. Nobody notices anything, and you can sneak away. The next morning people go: Hey, something happened!"

In spite of all protest, the nuclear-waste reprocessing facility in Gorleben is rapidly becoming a reality. Final construction plans were approved by the government of Lower Saxony in late June, even though three years ago,

at election time, Minister-President Albrecht had given a written promise to reject such plans.

Public opinion in Wendland is divided. Proponents of the project hope for more jobs and an economic upswing in the depressed region. They'd prefer sending the demonstrators "over there" (to East Germany) so that peace and quiet can return. Opponents have drawn tightly together since the impending atomic-waste transports were announced. And according to one local resident the continued resistance is having an impact.

"We got a million dollars in property damage. It's not inconsequential when one firm really gets hit, like I-Bau. They lost sixteen vehicles and two warehouses and pulled out of the project. There will be more firms if it continues like that. This is what they're afraid of. They might be able to guard their equipment more closely, but they can't police all the transport routes. Never."

A phone call to I-Bau Construction in Soltau drew a curt response from the firm's business manager. He insisted that the firm no longer be mentioned in connection with the Gorleben project, and then refused further comment.

In a recent interview with the German magazine *Konkret*, members of an affinity group announced plans to disrupt atomic-waste transport routes. Activity was scheduled for "Tag X", the day the first atomic waste would be delivered to the temporary storage depot in Gorleben.

"For us, 'Tag X' doesn't mean we have to stop the first transport. We know that when they've started up, we can stop any one transport. They may get a couple in, but not that next one. If the road is blocked or the railway tracks are torn up in the night, they can't be sure what's under way will actually arrive. Then it's not a storage depot anymore. It's only a risk."

Demonstrations and sabotage against the Gorleben project carried on through the summer and fall of 1984. "Tag X" finally came on a Thursday in late October—a day that saw undeclared martial law in Lower Saxony. Riot police sealed off all access routes to the area, stopping potential protesters by letting the air out of their tires. Known leaders were put under house arrest for the day. Important connections in the telephone-tree communications system simply went dead. An armed truck convoy thundered down the back roads near the East German border, stopping for nothing and no one, bringing in a load of medium-level radioactive waste.

Tom Starr and Axel Hanneman

So 1984 has drawn to a close, and according to the pundits we are passing safely into 1985 without suffering the pessimistic prognostications that Orwell had in store for us. Even those of us who were around when 1984 was written are persuaded to believe the pundits and their assurances, proving that the mills of the godless grind slowly but with exceeding thoroughness. Don't forget that flypaper is always sweet. The manufacturers of flypaper would never flavor their product with substances that would turn off the flies.

It was Buddha who admonished us that whenever we encounter an ideology that appeals to us, our first obligation is to carefully weigh all the arguments against this ideology before considering accepting it. The great American showman P. T. Barnum said that a sucker was born every minute. The survival of our species is dependent on how seriously we weigh these two contentions, which are, despite their divergent sources, closely related.

Ironically, in the land of Buddha a recent court case has been the latest scandal. A young woman was assured by her "doctor" that her rash could be cured if he ingested the recommended medicine and then administered it to her via sexual intercourse. Whether because of the failure of the rash to disappear or for other reasons, it wasn't until after the tenth application that she decided to have her doctor's medical qualifications checked into. Lest those of you readers of the masculine persuasion indulge yourselves in salacious tittering, take a look at the bill for your most recent office consultation and ask yourselves if you are really any different from this gullible young woman.

Before any Occidentals cast any aspersions on the credulity of those of other cultures, let them reflect seriously on their own performance in the recent "elections" here at Stateside. The realization might slowly sink in that Barnum and Orwell had pretty much in common, even though one tried to warn of a certain malady while the other capitalized on it.

Some scribes have lamented the lack of a sense of history on the part of the younger generation. They mainly attribute this lack to what they term a television attention span, as the reportage of the latest disaster or atrocity is immediately followed by an automobile or toothpaste commercial. But are we "older and wiser" ones so much different from the acne generation? Was the pronouncement of the State Department, a few years back, that Ho Chi Minh was far worse than Adolf Hitler greeted with accolades of regurgitation and flattery? When at the same time the Southeast Asian whom the State Department touted as a champion of democracy in that area not only admitted but declared that his only hero was Adolf Hitler? Was Orwell over-fantasizing when he wrote about the "Ministry of Truth"?

In every living room stands a "Ministry of Truth" that pulverizes our attention spans beyond recognition. And beyond the security of our domiciles there is a "Ministry of Truth" or two at every bus stop, where for only two bits we can put our sensibilities even further through the mill.

Orwell is no longer around to tell us "I told you so!" Not that he would have derived any satisfaction from doing so. He wrote his dire prognostications in the fervent hope that he would eventually be told he was all wrong; but alas, it is not turning out that way. When there are more people who take Billy Graham seriously than George Orwell, the realization that time is short begins to set in.

When a baby recently had a heart transplant with an organ from a baboon, there was a cry of outrage on the part of many. The mother of the child, being a true Mother, in her desperation preferred having a living child with the organ of a beast to having a child in the grave with a non-functioning organ made in the image of the Boss. Those indignant people should not look down on the baboons; in fact they might even contemplate brain transplants with their simian relatives. When the statesmen of the baboons become senile, there is a little more meat on the table for the rest of the community. Therein lies the proof that the baboons have greater potential for survival than their upright kin.

Unless we upright ones succeed in regaining our sense of history, the baboons might have to carry on the evolutionary process that we neglected to fulfill!

C. C. Redcloud

**NEW YORK POLICE KILL EVICTED WOMAN:** In late October a 67-year-old Bronx woman being evicted from a city housing project for nonpayment of rent was fatally shot by police after allegedly slashing at one cop with a butcher knife. Five cops entered the apartment of Eleanor Bumpurs, who owed five months' rent, after she refused to let in a city marshal with eviction papers. A police spokesperson said the shooting appeared to be "within department guidelines".

★ EDUCATION ★ ORGANIZATION ★ EMANCIPATION



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

### Industrial Worker

The *Industrial Worker* (ISSN 0019-8870) is the official organ of the Industrial Workers of the World, 3435 North Sheffield, Suite 202, Chicago, Illinois 60657, phone (312) 549-5045. It is owned entirely by the IWW, and is issued monthly. Second-class postage paid at Chicago. Unless designated as official policy, articles in the *Industrial Worker* do not necessarily represent the official position of the Industrial Workers of the World. No paid or commercial advertising ever accepted. The *Industrial Worker* is mailed without a wrapper to cut expenses, but a wrapper can be requested.

Editorial Collective:

Carlos Cortez, Mike Hargis,  
Penny Pixler, Fred Thompson

Please send all copy to: *Industrial Worker*,  
3435 North Sheffield, Chicago, Illinois 60657.  
The deadline for all copy is the 10th of each month.

#### CORRECTIONS

A number of errors appeared in the last issue of the *Industrial Worker*. On Page 1 ("Canadian Bosses Attack; Workers Strike Back"), a typographical error in the second column led to the statement that Slade & Stewart business "is down to normal". That should have read "is down to 10% of normal".

Also on Page 1 ("Euro-socialists Push Capitalist Austerity"), the "socialist" union, the UGT, is incorrectly identified as the General Workers Confederation. The UGT is actually the General Union of Workers. Also in that article it should have been mentioned that the National Confederation of Labor, the CNT-AIT, has rejected the austerity pact.

The cartoon on Page 3 accompanying the article on the Auto Workers settlement should have been credited to The People.

Also on Page 3, a typesetting error in that story led to the statement that paid personal holidays had been negotiated originally "as a step toward reducing working hours and increasing unemployment". That should have read "reducing working hours and increasing employment". The statement that the UAW contract failed to restore these personal holidays remains correct.

# Yale Strike Against Unequal Pay

On September 25th, 1600 of Yale University's 2600 clerical and technical workers, represented by Hotel Employees and Restaurant Workers (HERE) Local 34, walked off their jobs. Pay equity remains the key bargaining issue for this local, 80% of whose members are female and 17% of whom are minorities, with an average annual salary of \$13,424. By way of comparison, a truck driver at this New Haven, Connecticut university makes about \$18,000 a year.

A memorandum from Professor Raymond Fair, a senior faculty member in the Yale Economics Department, supports Local 34's contention that on top of underpaying the whole clerical and technical group, Yale discriminates by race and sex. To remedy this discrimination, Local 34 is asking for two types of raises. It is seeking across-the-board raises of 9%, 10%, and 10% over the three-year contract to bring salaries closer to those paid in comparable occupations dominated by men, and also increases in the minimum salary for each job classification, with a quarterly cost-of-living increase equal to three fourths of the inflation rate.

Despite its \$1.2 billion and growing endowment, the University flatly rejected the minimum increase and the COLA proposals. Instead it offered an across-the-board increase of half of what the union demanded, with the stipulation that any worker who reached the maximum salary in a particular grade would be ineligible for any increase.

After a year of fruitless negotiations and unsuccessful attempts to get Yale to agree to binding arbitration, over 70% of the workers struck. Local 34 is supported by HERE Local 35, which represents the University's kitchen and maintenance employees, 95% of whom have thus far refused to cross the picket lines. Supportive faculty members have moved nearly 600 of the 1,000

classes off campus because of the willingness of local churches and theaters to provide alternative space.

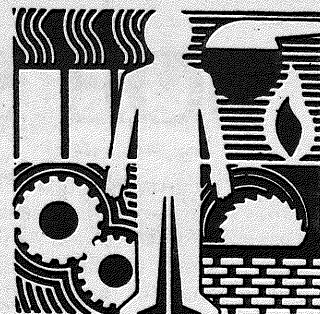
Students walk on almost all of the picket lines, and thousands have signed petitions and cards urging the University to either return to the negotiating table or agree to binding arbitration. Students have also staged a series of sit-ins to protest the early closing hours of the library due to the strike. In response, Yale has threatened the students with suspension. In order to bring additional pressure to bear on the Administration to settle, a group of students have filed a class-action suit against the University, seeking \$2 million for every week of the strike to be split among Yale's 10,000 students in recompense for prolonging a strike that has "destroyed the atmosphere of collegiality and intellectual inquiry".

As of the second week of November, 625 people—strikers, students, and supporters—have been arrested. Over 430 people, including Bayard Rustin, who had been given an honorary degree by Yale earlier in the year, were arrested during a November demonstration outside Woodbridge Hall. The demonstration, billed as a "non-violent witness for equality", marked the second mass arrest of Local 34 members. The first occurred October 5th when 191 were arrested in front of the house of Yale President A. Giamatti.

On the eve of the strike the University promised that it would be "business as usual" at Yale, with or without the clerical and technical workers. However closed dining halls, largely-empty classrooms and gym facilities, harried administrators handling phones and mail, and a growing paperwork backlog suggest that there will be no "business as usual" at Yale till Local 34 gets a contract.

Fred Thompson's

## labor in north america



As US Steel closes its plants and invests its take in oil and other industries, the steel workers' union fights the shutdowns and plans to branch out into other industries, perhaps even changing its name. (To match the conglomerates, we need One Big Union of all labor.) In Chicago, an injunction has kept US Steel from demolishing 17 major structures at its South Works. In Clairton, Pennsylvania, the Reverend Douglas Roth was arrested at his church pulpit for refusing to desist from his agitation on behalf of unemployed steel workers when told by his bishop to do so. He was backed up by 20 other members of the local clergy who oppose corporate investment abroad at the expense of local unemployment.

At Danly Machine on the outskirts of Chicago, steel workers have been on strike for eight months. Scabs go in under police protection, and the union counters with exposure of graft by the Ogden conglomerate that has bought the plant. On that ground the union opposes a 173-million-dollar Government contract to Avondale Shipyards, owned by Ogden, to build a power plant in Louisiana.

Shortly before Christmas seven Amalgamated Transit Union locals will be tried by the NLRB in Phoenix, because Greyhound accuses them of mistreating scabs during their 1983 strike. Meanwhile, a rank-and-file ATU newsletter asks members to wear a black ribbon to honor Ray Phillips, killed in that strike while on picket duty. It advises that even if ordered to remove the ribbon they will have "remembered Ray Phillips and reminded Greyhound that they remember". The Trailways bus conglomerate asked its employees (in the same union) to accept a 10% cut, a three-year freeze, and lower rates for new hands, and to vote for the cut before Thanksgiving.

The Teamsters have extended their United Parcel Service contract to the spring of 1987 for a current 68-cent increase and additional 50-cent increases in '85 and '86. This is a result of re-submitting the terms to union members, since a court had ruled in July that members had not had a proper chance to consider the contract.

The Post Office demanded a three-year wage freeze plus lower rates for new hands. Arbitration started late in October for half a million workers represented by Letter Carriers or Postal Workers, two unions that bargain jointly and are covered by one contract. There are separate negotiations for Rural Letter Carriers and the mail handlers represented by the Laborers.

About half of the 18,000 people who clean Chicago offices at night are represented by Service Employees Local 25, and they will get a boost from \$7.95 to \$8.20 in January. (Average pay for doctors rose in 1983 to \$106,000.)

Air Line Pilots draw strike benefits of \$2400 a month as they continue a strike now over a year old against Continental Airlines. Layoffs by seniority have made the youngest employees of Braniff Lines at Dallas Airport those who started work in 1958. (How about organizing One Big Union and laying off the capitalists instead?)

A strike of 6400 Machinists hit General Dynamics in Fort Worth early in November. Injunctions and arrests of pickets followed.

Southern Pacific Railway will have to pay \$3.5 million to settle discrimination suits by blacks, Hispanics, and women arising since 1968. Railroad unions were charged too, but they will not be fined since hiring, firing, and promotion are the exclusive province of management. The railroad agrees to upgrade the three groups, but only after regular seniority claims to jobs have been exhausted.

The UAW is fighting company interference with its efforts to organize the Kawasaki plant in Nebraska. It is taking its complaint to the Organization for Economic Co-operation, to which Japan, the US, and 22 other nations belong.

Collective bargaining has grown so complex that the George Meany Center for Labor Studies has now started courses on the use of microcomputers that negotiators can bring to the bargaining table for "instant answers to 'what if' questions and quick contract analysis". It still advises not to get "too involved with numbers instead of arguing for principles".

The working class produces all the wealth. The folks who don't work get most of it. The main objective of collective bargaining is to correct that.



BUTTONS AVAILABLE

### APPLE HARVEST ENDS:

## Picker Organizing Continues

Bellingham, Washington: 1984 was a poor year for both apple pickers and growers. Fruit was small and sparse due to a cool and damp spring (though one farmer claims that the new growth hormones used during recent years have had a cumulative negative effect on fruit size and shape). Pickers got paid at the usual piece rates, averaging around \$8.50 a bin. The highest reported wage was \$13 for a "perfect" bin of fruit (no bruises or other picker-induced damage). The lowest wage reported to an IWW organizer on the scene was \$6.50.

A bin is a plywood box, measuring four by four by two and a half feet. When the fruit is small and scattered on the tree, the bin fills slower, so pickers work longer and harder for the same money. Overall earnings were less than last year, which had a bumper crop. Since some of last year's apples are still on the market, the demand for this year's was depressed, reducing the farmers' prices as well.

Word got out over the summer of the impending poor picking, and many migrant workers, from Mexico to British Columbia, went out looking for other work. The Columbia River Valley, usually swarming with would-be pickers tramping and driving from place to place, was short on help. The state employment office even adver-

tised for pickers on the radio. This shortage of orchard hands was probably a major factor in keeping wages pretty much at the going rate, though plenty of farmers did cut them in the face of reduced market prices.

An IWW organizing drive got started this fall too, but the idea hadn't gotten around enough to take advantage of the labor shortage and get concessions from growers on wages and conditions on any kind of large scale. The apple season's main organizing focus was to sound out support for an orchard workers' union. The idea was talked up among some workers in the Chelan district, with encouraging results.

Next harvest the effort will intensify, with increased circulation of the *Pickin' Times* and attempts to get a greater consensus on the position a union would take on wages, conditions, and issues such as toxic sprays. People expressing an interest during this harvest have been urged to stay in contact, and all will get copies of this month's *Industrial Worker*.

Funding has continued to roll in from supporters in the IWW, and prospects are cheery for next year. For more information contact the Orchard Workers Organizing Project, c/o IWW, Box 1386, Bellingham, Washington 98227.

## High-Tech Hazards

Early on June 11th, 1984, John Zemotel, a technician at MACOM Corporation, a Massachusetts telecommunications-component manufacturer, either deliberately or accidentally inhaled arsine gas, a toxic vapor used to cook circuits into high-speed microchips. Within hours Zemotel, 31, was in a hospital with his kidneys failing, and 11 days later he was dead.

The production of gallium-arsenide microchips—cheaper and faster components that may someday replace silicon chips—uses arsine gas, a combination of hydrogen and arsenic that can be fatal in large doses. In smaller doses it is a suspected cause of skin and lung cancer and behavior changes including mood swings and paranoia. The company had transferred Zemotel from gallium-arsenide-chip production when a routine health check in March found that his urine contained higher-than-normal levels of arsenic.

Occupational-safety experts and union organizers say Zemotel's death dramatizes the dangers lurking in the laboratories and production lines of the high-tech industry. The critics deride the public notion of high tech as a "clean industry" where workers clad in white lab coats worry more about contaminating their products than about contaminating themselves. But industry officials say that isolated incidents have been overplayed, and point out that in 1982 (the last year for which figures are available) high-tech manufacturing workers nationwide had a 5.8% incidence of injury and illness, compared with 10.2% for all manufacturing jobs.

But few studies have looked at the possible long-term health effects of the high-tech workplace. A 1983 study in the *British Journal of Industrial Medicine* reported that electronics workers in Sweden, whose health was tracked over the last decade, had a higher-than-average

incidence of cancer in the respiratory system. A 1980 study by the California Department of Industrial Relations reported an illness rate among workers making semiconductors that was three times the norm in other manufacturing industries.

A Massachusetts law going into effect this year requires manufacturers to tell employees about toxic substances and their effects. Solvents like trichloroethane and methyl ketones, used to make microchips, are known to affect the human nervous system. Epoxies and chloronaphthalenes used to protect circuit boards are suspected carcinogens. What other chemicals in the high-tech industry are carcinogenic will be discovered by trial and error over the next decades, with the 2.4 million people who work for companies producing or using electronic components acting as guinea pigs.

### MAY DAY IS COMING ...

... And our May 1985 issue will carry May Day greetings. If we get enough, we'll put out a 12-page issue for the occasion. Rates for these greetings will be a nominal \$6 for one column inch, \$20 for four column inches, \$35 for a half-column, and \$80 for a half-page. If your greetings ad requires a lot of typesetting or layout or a reduction or enlargement, please add \$5.

This paper carries no commercial advertising, even if smuggled into a May Day greeting.

The deadline for May Day greeting ads—or other copy intended for the May issue—is March 12th. The issue will be mailed out in plenty of time to reach all readers by May Day, so if you want extra copies of this issue to pass around let us know by March 22nd (and enclose 10¢ per copy with your order).

# JOB SECURITY IN JAPAN and USA

Job security is much touted in labor circles in these times of high chronic unemployment—even if, as in the General Motors-United Auto Workers contract, it doesn't lead to much. US capitalists and even unionists are looking to Japan for inspiration. In Japan the model for men is lifetime employment by one firm, starting immediately after graduation and lasting until retirement. In the US, no one really expects that, but companies are talking about the benefits (profits) accruing to them from a more stable workforce. By avoiding layoffs a company can afford to invest more in training its employees, and can expect them to be more flexible about production changes and reorganizations, as their jobs will not be at stake.

To obtain these benefits, of course, a company must keep its workforce "lean" to avoid "redundancies" in times of recession or when large contracts are suddenly lost. In boom times, the company avoids hiring more "regular" workers, but resorts to requiring overtime, subcontracting out extra work, and hiring temporary workers. When demand shrinks, work formerly subcontracted out is returned to the main plant, overtime is canceled, and temporary workers are laid off, thereby saving the jobs of regular workers.

Obviously, this divides the workforce into two groups: those who have secure employment, and those who are "temps". Whether any US workers are getting more job security or not, the drift is toward hiring more temporary workers. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the average daily employment of temporary workers increased 24.4% from 1982 to 1984. More than 200,000 go off to work each day, and the total temporary workforce exceeds 2.5 million employees.

At one time, temporary workers were office workers needed for their secretarial and clerical skills ("Kelly Girls") and day laborers needed for unskilled factory work ("Ready Men"). Today, however, more and more businesses are hiring temps for the whole gamut of non-managerial work. With temps on call, employers can cut down or eliminate overtime, and save on the costs of interviewing, testing, and hiring new employees. But companies reap their biggest savings through not having to pay benefits—health insurance, vacation time, workers' compensation, pensions—or unemployment compensation to temps. These are paid by the temporary employment agency, if somehow an employee manages to work steadily enough to qualify for them.

If you suspect that temporary workers in the US include a disproportionately large number of women workers, you're right. And it's the same way in Japan: The male model of employment is counterbalanced by the female model of employment until marriage or the birth of the first child. Thus Japanese companies tend to hire younger, less-educated female than male employees, in hope of getting a few more years of service from them. Because of this, the 13 million women workers

(34% of the total workforce) in Japan make 53% of the salaries men make. A typical picture inside a Japanese corporation would be a blue-suited man sitting behind a desk being served tea by a young woman while an old woman sweeps the floor.

About 60% of Japanese women workers, however, are married. The concept that a woman's place is in the home puts married women under great pressure to prove their efficiency as employees. A study by the Women's and Minors' Bureau of the Japanese Ministry of Labor found that about 74% of women took less than the legal amount of maternity and menstrual leave, and many pregnant women did not ask for lighter work (even at the risk of miscarriage) for fear of being asked to resign.

Despite the work they can squeeze out of married women employees, however, companies prefer married women to be at home looking after their husbands so that their husbands can give full time plus overtime dedication to their jobs. At present, the officially-sanctioned workweek is 48 hours. As of last spring, only 25% of all workers enjoyed two full days off each week. In large companies, defined as those with a thousand or more employees, the 40-hour, 5-day week has become the norm. In companies with fewer than 100 employees, the Labor Ministry found that nearly 40% of the workers put in at least 48 hours. And construction, transportation, and small service-oriented companies have yet to trim their basic schedules to even a 48-hour week.

On the average, Japanese employees work 2,116 hours a year, compared with about 1800 hours in the US, or about an extra month. And the figures for Japan do not include either overtime or after-hours socializing with colleagues, regarded as critical for maintaining workplace cohesiveness. White-collar workers habitually stay in the

office long after the workday is officially over.

To maintain these hours, Japanese women are expected to make extraordinary sacrifices. The recently-published book *Japanese Women* points out that the husband not only depends on his wife for cooking, laundering, house cleaning, and whatnot, but also comes to rely on her services "around the body". In the morning she finds a complete set of clothing to be worn that day, and she may help her husband put on a tie and coat and place his shoes—which she has polished—where he can put them on easily. When he returns from work, she is called on to help him change clothes, to serve him at table, and to bring him whatever he wants—cigarettes, ashtray, drink, newspaper—or to change the television channel.

Hence the corporate interest in keeping women in the home maintaining their male employees' labor capacity (mental, emotional, and physical) throughout the long week. By helping keep male workers fit to work, unwaged Japanese women keep the bosses' profits up and workforce discontent down. Thus the bosses have every reason to resist changes in the current division of labor, which grants male workers a few crumbs of job and psychological security at the expense of women's increased job insecurity. Women can be shifted into and out of the workforce as the needs of capital dictate. When they are not working for wages themselves, their dependency on someone who helps keep up productivity. There's a direct relationship between the number of hours men work outside the home and the situation of women inside the home. Docile male workers and their employers both require that male workers have docile wives.

p1p



## DID YOU NOTICE, DID YOU !!

**NOW YOU SEE IT, NOW YOU DON'T:** On October 29th Aleksandr Belousov, secretary of the Soviet coal workers' union and member of the USSR Communist Party's Central Committee, announced on state television that Russia would be halting all deliveries of fuel to Britain as a gesture of support for the striking British coal miners. Six days later the Soviet press agency, Tass, published a denial. Meanwhile, in the South Yorkshire village of Grimethorpe, the police station was attacked in the course of two days' rioting as police tried to stop the families of striking miners from taking coal from stockpiles. "There are men in the cemeteries here who died in explosions, their legs blown off and gassed," one striker pointed out. "And they paid for that coal."

**POLES WARN EACH OTHER:** As of the second week of November, the Polish Government declared it would "take steps" against people who have been forming civic committees as pretexts for reviving the Solidarity movement and the Workers' Defense Committee, known by its Polish initials, KOR. At the same time, a prominent dissident, Adam Michik, said in an interview that he and a fellow dissident, Jacek Kuron, would join the Warsaw committee on police lawlessness if any of its less-known members were seized. The mutual warnings came as the Government said it was actively investigating the motives behind the killing of the Reverend Jervy Popieluszko, a pro-Solidarity priest, in which three Government security officers have been charged with murder. A Government spokesperson denounced Michik, quoting him as saying that General Jaruzelski had been handling the internal security service in such a way that its agents felt they could kill with impunity.

**QUICK:** Who or what is Martin Marietta? Martin Marietta is a corporation which ranks among the top 13 makers of the MX missile, along with Rockwell International, AVCO, GTE Sylvania, General Tire and Rubber, Honeywell, General Electric, Boeing, Westinghouse, Morton Thiokol, Northrop, Hercules, and TRW. Flush—psychologically if not financially—from their Nestle victory, the Infant Formula Action Committee (INFAC) have kicked off a new long-term campaign aimed at stopping the production of nuclear weapons by US-based transnationals. Using the *INFAC \$660 Billion Quiz* (the approximate amount of world military appropriations in 1983), activists took to the streets, asking people at shopping centers and bus stops what they really knew about corporate involvement in the nuclear-arms buildup. However the need for vigilance never ceases, particularly with infant-formula manufacturers in the Third World. This summer, field monitors from the International Nestle Boycott Committee found that in the Dominican Republic, Abbott/Ross Labs is cutting into Nestle's market share with an aggressive

program of giving hospitals free samples, as is American Home Products/Wyeth in Peru, while in the Philippines Bristol Myers/Mead Johnson is violating the WHO/UNICEF Code of Marketing Breastmilk Substitutes with donations of expensive medical equipment and uniforms to health workers.

**HOOLIGANISM?** However much it may be lauded in the boss press, China's lurch toward capitalism is coming out of the hides of the country's workers. Reportedly, disgruntled workers, angry over the Government's abolition of the guaranteed-income "iron rice bowl", have beaten and sometimes stabbed factory managers and peasants who have grown prosperous under the economic program of Deng Xiaoping, the current Communist Party leader. Sabotage directed against Government economic policies has been reported by the Chinese press in the provinces of Hubei, Hunan, and Shandong in Eastern China, Guanxi in the south, and Shanxi in the north.

**SEX-DISCRIMINATION SUIT SETTLED:** In October the Allstate Insurance Company agreed to pay \$5 million to some 3100 women currently or formerly employed as sales agents or trainees in settlement of a class-action sex-discrimination suit filed by Lola Kouba in 1975. Kouba, a former sales agent, charged that Allstate had violated the 1964 Civil Rights Act by giving her a guaranteed starting salary that was less than male agents received. The Company claimed that it did not discriminate and that the starting salary was merely based on the sales agents' prior salaries—the effect of previous sex discrimination.

**THE PRICE OF IMPERIALISM:** In October Israel announced the death of its 600th foot soldier in Lebanon since it invaded its northern neighbor 28 months earlier.

**TURKISH WRITERS ON TRIAL:** In October Turkey's military government put on trial the leaders of the country's writers' union. The union was accused of participating in a rally organized by the Confederation of Revolutionary Trade Unions and supporting the Istanbul Bar Association in its fight against security courts set up to try crimes against the State. The writers' union was also charged with opposing capital punishment and commemorating Nazim Hikmet, who was imprisoned for his poetry. The union is headed by Aziz Nesim.

**GENERAL STRIKE IN ECUADOR:** On November 1st Ecuador's United Labor Front held a 24-hour general strike to protest Government compliance with conditions set by the International Monetary Fund in return for refinancing the country's seven-billion-dollar foreign debt. Some 600,000 of Ecuador's one million workers stayed away from work, but transport workers failed to heed the strike call.

### 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.**

# Fight for Freedom in Latin America

## CASE OF IMPRISONED SALVADORAN UNIONIST MAKES WAVES

The election-time posturing of the Reagan Administration may do somebody some good. In a show of interest in human rights, the Administration, along with members of Congress and US labor leaders, raised the issue of Hector Recinos Aguirre and nine other trade-unionists imprisoned in El Salvador without trial since 1980. Recinos Aguirre, director of the National Federation of Salvadoran Workers, was arrested four years ago when electrical workers in El Salvador went on strike, blacking out most of the country for 24 hours. The workers, members of the Union of Hydroelectrical Workers of the Lempa River, took part in a nationwide strike to protest Government harassment of the Union and its members.

The Government charged Recinos Aguirre and nine other men with illegal possession of arms and acts of terrorism, claiming that the strike was designed to support guerrilla efforts to disrupt the economy. In 1983 the arrested men signed affidavits saying that they had been tortured while in prison. Salvadoran authorities have denied that the men were tortured and have attributed

delays in bringing their case to trial to the defendants' failure to arrange for proper legal representation.

The case of the imprisoned unionists has been championed in the US by Recinos's 16-year-old son, Hector. The younger Recinos said that his mother and 13-year-old sister were abducted from their home in 1982 by 16 armed men dressed in civilian clothing and have not been heard from since. After the abduction of his mother and sister, Hector and his two younger brothers took assumed names and went to live with their grandmother. Early this year Hector, Jaime (13), and Luis (11) fled to the US, crossing illegally into California after traveling by foot and bus from Guatemala, and applied for political asylum. In the meantime Hector has been in Washington, urging US labor leaders and members of Congress to demand that the Salvadorans give his father a fair trial.

## COLOMBIAN PEASANTS TORTURED AND KILLED AMID LAND DISPUTES

Throughout 1984, reports of Colombian Government forces torturing and killing peasants have reached Amnesty International from the region of Uraba, located on the Caribbean coast and isolated from other sectors of Columbia by a jungle and mountain range. After land-

less peasants occupied unused farms in Uraba, landowners denounced peasant groups as "guerrillas", and Government operations against these "guerrillas" resulted in a midsummer wave of killings. In addition, employees of private landowners have committed violent acts against peasants with the approval or co-operation of local authorities.

Security forces reportedly killed 54-year-old Isabel Caicedo, a leader of the National Peasants' Association, and her two sons on March 24th. Local sources said the officers claimed she functioned as a courier for the Popular Liberation Army. Peasant protests followed the killings, and two weeks later some of the protesters were abducted from their homes and killed.

## CHILEAN UNIONIST AND DAUGHTER TORTURED

Secret police arrested Lucia Guillermina Morales, a member of the Chilean National Trade Union Co-ordinating Body, in June 1983, and brought her to a detention center. Later officials detained her 23-year-old daughter and tortured the two women in each other's presence. The following testimony was reprinted from the Chilean weekly magazine *Hoy* by Amnesty International in its Campaign to Abolish Torture bulletin.

"It was about 11 o'clock at night," Guillermina said. "Four men burst into the house. My daughter told them I was in bed, but one of them came in and told me to get dressed. Then they 'bundled me into a Peugeot 504 taxi and pushed me down on the floor.'"

After arriving at the detention center, "they began to punch me about the head and slap me in the face. They also hit me on the ears. I began to lose my sense of balance." Her interrogators insisted that she admit to an affiliation with communists. "I only did my best to answer their questions. They kept telling me that they had 20 days to 'get the muck out of me.'"

Repeated threats culminated in the claim that her daughter would be brought to the center. "While being hit by somebody, I heard her voice and I knew they had brought her," Guillermina said. "I became desperate, I screamed, I began to cry. . . . How can you describe what it means? On the next day they took me to a metal rack and made me lie on it, naked, tied at wrists and ankles. With lead weights or electrodes they gave me electric shocks. . . . At one point I realized that my daughter was in front of me. I even managed to touch her. I felt her hands. 'Mummy, say something—anything—to make this stop,' she said."

Guillermina described her daughter's "frightful agony" as she witnessed her mother undergoing torture. Guards also subjected her daughter to electric-shock torture and held the women for days in "an unbearable atmosphere of fear and tension".

Eight other union leaders were arrested and tortured at the same time that Lucia and her daughter underwent their ordeal. Authorities banished Guillermina after her release to a small island in Southern Chile. By order of the Ministry of the Interior, the other unionists also were banished for three months after their detention.

## CHILEAN WORKERS REVOLT (continued from Page 1)

On October 30th striking transport workers brought Santiago to a halt, despite the hesitation of more reformist unions to join the call for a general strike. The night before, Santiago and four provincial capitals had been shaken by at least 12 bombings that damaged banks and telephone links, but caused no injuries. Some 25 people were injured in demonstrations led by university students and a Marxist coalition, as the police used water cannons. About 140 people were sent into internal exile to the small fishing village of Pisagua, a thousand miles north of Santiago, which had been used as a detention camp during the 1948 purge of communists. Some 400 people, including community and political organizers, were arrested, and the Government imposed fresh press restrictions preventing opposition or church radio stations from broadcasting any news programs.

By November 5th, eight demonstrators and six police had been killed and 1600 people arrested in the latest round of protests. Chile's 16-man Cabinet temporarily resigned "so that the President can take whatever decisions he believes necessary". The next day Pinochet declared a 90-day state of siege, suspending civil rights—not that there were many left in the country—and imposing a daily curfew from midnight to 5 am.

In the next few days police took over the offices of the Socialist Bloc, a group of five left-of-center parties, and arrested three of the Bloc's directors. The Government suspended publication of five opposition magazines—*Analisis*, *APSI*, *Causo*, *La Bicicleta*, and *Pluma y Pincel*—and the newspaper *Fortin Mappoclo*; severely restricted radio, TV, and newspaper reports of events; and banned all political meetings. The Government also imposed advance censorship on *Hoy*, the magazine run by members of the Christian Democrats. All media reportage of the raids on the Silva camp and La Victoria was forbidden, but reports were read at Sunday mass in Santiago.

Pinochet is determined to hang on to power with the backing of the Military—trained, armed, and funded by the US. Workers in the US have a special responsibility to rally support for the Chilean workers as they fight for control over their lives.

# More On Solidarnosc

## SOLIDARNOSC REAPPRAISED

The wave of strikes which swept across Poland in 1980 and 1981 focused the eyes of the world on the struggle of Polish workers. The militance and unity of the Polish proletariat served as an inspiration to workers around the globe. With the formation of Solidarnosc, all Polish workers regardless of craft or trade have united in "one big union". There has understandably been a great deal of interest within the IWW in Solidarnosc and the Polish struggle. The time has come, however, to take a closer look at Solidarnosc. What does it stand for? What are its objectives? And how does it relate to the principles of the IWW?

A working-class organization of the massive size and scope of Solidarnosc is bound to encompass a wide range of perspectives. To assess fairly the real positions of the organization, one must look to official pronouncements rather than focusing on the statements of this or that faction or, even worse, the subjective observations of journalists. What does Solidarnosc say of itself? In its first year of existence Solidarnosc was able to openly and publicly develop a definition of itself. At its first convention in October of 1981, it adopted the official Solidarnosc Program. This document must stand as the cornerstone of any meaningful analysis of Solidarnosc.

The Solidarnosc Program clearly and firmly links the interests of Polish workers to the cause of Polish nationalism. The union largely defines its objectives in terms of

## SOLIDARNOSC DEFENDED

In the accompanying article, FW Anderson criticizes the nationalist and reformist illusions of much of the Solidarnosc leadership, and rightly so. Yet the role of the rank and file, and of the revolutionary elements in Solidarnosc, cannot be passed over in any meaningful analysis of the nature and thrust of this beleaguered union.

Solidarnosc is currently outlawed, strikes are banned, and the Government is ruthlessly suppressing all dissent. Clearly, such repression would be entirely unnecessary—indeed, counter-productive—were Solidarnosc merely a nationalist and reformist union. It is precisely because of the significant revolutionary tendencies in Solidarnosc—exemplified by the Underground, which maintains hundreds of thousands of members and distributes clandestine publications throughout the country—that the Polish ruling class felt compelled to crack down and to maintain the ongoing repression. And it is against the revolutionaries and the rank and file that the brunt of that repression has been directed. Underground activist Bogdan Lis, for example, was arrested shortly after the much-vaunted "amnesty" was declared, and remains in prison today.

The IWW is currently raising funds for the Solidarnosc Underground, to assist our Polish fellow workers in carrying on their struggle, through the sale of voluntary-assessment stamps to IWW members, and contributions from others. This aid is one concrete manifestation of our solidarity with our fellow workers in Poland, who are struggling against overwhelming odds to rebuild and sustain an independent union and to defend their interests as workers.

In the course of that struggle Polish workers have made mistakes, they have not done all that we might wish, and they have compromised in hopes of escaping the consequences of open rebellion. But enough in common exists between the IWW and Solidarnosc that there is grounds for hope that Solidarnosc will develop into a truly revolutionary union. Solidarnosc cannot continue to develop in this direction, however, when its most rebellious activists, like Bogdan Lis, are sitting in prison. We have to support and encourage the efforts of rebel workers, in Poland and elsewhere.

the needs of the Polish nation-state. In its opening statement, "Who We Are and What We Want", the Program asserts that "There is now the possibility of a real national renewal. Our union, representing the majority of workers in Poland, seeks to be and will become the driving force of that renewal." It then goes on to make clear that "Our aim is to rebuild a just Poland." And it explains how "We seek a true socialization of our government and state administration. For this reason our objective is a self-governing Poland. . . . We shall support everything which strengthens the sovereignty of our nation and state, everything which furthers the development of national culture and knowledge of our historical legacy."

Yet this nationalist aspiration is carefully presented as compatible with the realities of Russian imperialism. The second section of the Program explains that "Our aim is to perform our great labor of renewal without damaging international alliances. The Polish nation, animated by a sense of its dignity, patriotism, and traditions, will become a valuable partner from the moment it consciously assumes its own commitments."

The same "realism" that frames Polish nationalism within the existing political realities of Eastern Europe also restricts Polish workers to the current constraining economic realities of the world economy. Rather than addressing the root problem of the wage system itself, Solidarnosc assigns itself the task of leading that system out of the crisis. In Section 3 on "The Union, the Crisis, and Economic Reform", the program proclaims: "In our view, government decisions have to be made credible if there is to be a rapid solution to the crisis. This is why we demand social control over the government's anti-crisis measures. If they are to be credible, then people with some professional and social authority must be appointed to leadership positions in the national economy." The Program goes on to accept the necessity of factory closures and price rises, but seeks to pressure the Party into sharing the decision-making process with a newly-created "Social Council for the National Economy".

In brief, what the Solidarnosc Program seems to be saying is: "If you let us in on the process, we'll make the Polish economy work." This is a far cry from the principles and objectives of the IWW. Nowhere in the Solidarnosc Program will you find any hint that "the workers of the world unite as a class, take possession of the earth and the machinery of production, and abolish the wage system". They are quite content to settle for Poland with the wage system. Nowhere in the Solidarnosc Program will you find an understanding that "trade unions aid the employing class to mislead the workers into the belief that the working class have interests in common with their employers". In fact their nationalist perspective fosters exactly this sort of illusion of a common Polish interest.

From the nature of their program and the record of their activity, there is every reason to believe that Solidarnosc would actively suppress the presentation of IWW principles within Poland today. The members of the Emmanuel Goldstein Group, libertarians in the Warsaw-area Solidarnosc, report being censored by Solidarnosc for criticizing nationalist and clericalist elements of the Solidarnosc Program. Recognizing the existence of this situation, we should consider carefully what actions will constitute meaningful solidarity with our Polish fellow workers. I would suggest that we support those Polish fellow workers (such as the Emmanuel Goldstein Group) who share our objective of global abolition of the wage system. We must carefully avoid any support for the deadly nationalist illusions of the Solidarnosc Program.

(The Solidarnosc Program is included in *The Solidarity Sourcebook*, New Star Books, 2504 York Avenue, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada V6K 1E3.)

Stan Anderson

JB

plp

# readers' soap box

## SHORTER HOURS ON BACK BURNER

Fellow Workers:

The Canadian UAW seems more bent on attaining reduced work time than we down here, though it still looks as though they aren't going to get the paid personal holidays back.

The devastation the auto workers underwent over the last several years, and the need to be "competitive" that the corporations have been stressing, seems to have put the quest for reduced work time on the back burner as far as the trade-union leadership is concerned. It looks like it's up to the rank and file to heat it up, because by the look of things some clumsy officials may have actually turned the damn burner completely off.

Autoworker,

Dearborn, Michigan

## SPINE-LESS AND SELF-SERVING

Fellow Workers:

It was with great dismay that I read the November issue of the *Industrial Worker*. First, while FW Kayton's article "Unemployment Blues", on Page 8, was a good description of a work situation which exploited workers, FW Kayton's solution was to quit his job and leaflet the unemployment office. A sincere and committed working-class Wobbly would have attempted to organize his workplace—taken advantage of an intolerable situation and worked to better the lot of his fellow workers, rather than making a cowardly run for the elevator. I am shocked that the *IW* would print a tale of such spineless, self-serving defeatism.

Also, on Page 1 of this issue, in an article on the 1984 General Convention, there is a reference to some sort of "hate literature" issued by a group called "Wobblies for a Democratic Union". While in Chicago to attend both my kangaroo court and the Convention, I had an opportunity to view some of this so-called "hate literature", and would say it was at best biting satire, at worst dumb humor. Has the *IW*, and the IWW, lost its sense of humor along with its will to organize? I hope not. To describe WDU leaflets as "hate literature" is knee-jerk over-reaction to the mildest form of criticism, much like a Fosco might react to legitimate LDU critiques, or a Presser to TDU tracts. I would hope FWs around the Union will take these wild labels of "hate literature" with a grain of salt till they have a chance to review the literature at their leisure.

In closing, I must correct the misspelling of FW Frank Marquart's name in his obituary printed on Page 7.

In Solidarity

Renzo Giromini

## RESPONSE

We regret the error in spelling FW Marquart's name. We also regret the groundless attack on FW Kayton, who is charged with being "spineless" and "self-serving" because his boss fired him after he refused to submit to a speed-up. Having been fired, this fellow worker used the elevator to protest his firing to his supervisor's boss (the "cowardly run for the elevator" described above). It is difficult to see what else (short of capitulation) FW Kayton could have done under the circumstances.

Giromini—who attended our recent Convention wearing a "Wobblies for a Democratic Union" T-shirt—goes on to portray the WDU as a legitimate union-reform

group. Yet among the "democratic" principles defended by the WDU was the claim that the General Executive Board has the right to expel IWW members without charge, hearing, or right to defense—a principle Giromini and other WDUers attempted to implement while on the 1983 GEB, and for which they were reprimanded by the Convention body. And the literature the WDU circulated prior to—and apparently at—our Convention was about as humorous as Reagan's celebrated joke about bombing the Russians.

This literature contains an ethnic slur, accuses various IWW members and officers of drug addiction, accuses our officers of being "corrupt" and "emotionally defective", and states that the Union is controlled by "neo-fascist liberals". A listing of WDU offerings in one pamphlet suggests "Our Friends the Ruger Mini-14 and the Browning 9mm Hi-power", followed by a "street map" of the home address of our then General Executive Board chairperson. After reviewing this material, the Convention—which was open to all IWW members—declared it hate literature, and directed our General Executive Board to conduct a full investigation into it.

Dear Fellow Workers:

Here's another example of capitalism's criminality, which is called law and order. This is the third episode of torching of UAW Local 449 picket shelters by scabs—traitors—who grovel for National Lock, alias Metalcrafters in Rockford.

The Rockford *Register Star*, at the start of this year—and-a-half strike, could blare its photos of scab-toting busses, each with a neatly-measured round hole suspiciously placed so accurately in the center of every window (but somehow no photos of any strikers either swinging or throwing anything), but could not publish anything whatever on either of these arson incidents, both of which I had to report to the Rockford *Labor News* to get any coverage at all.

Due to recent more or less favorable court rulings, things are looking a bit better for the 449 workers, and they have agreed to return to work, at least tentatively. However the three torch jobs (the latest one done sometime between October 19th and 22nd) show the hostility

# Excercise in futility

Every grass-roots movement requires a dash of persecution. It's the nudge that sets it going.

A Los Angeles initiative last spring, designated the Jobs With Peace petition, urged City Hall to put pressure on Congress and the President to allocate more money for local jobs and social services by reducing military spending.

Despite its innocuous nature, some saw the petition as a threat. Was the culprit the FBI or the police? Some pointed the finger at misguided defense workers fearing loss of jobs in this huge defense area. At any rate, one early Friday morning a Jobs With Peace worker found the office door broken down and \$200 gone. What was worse, 24,000 of the 70,000 signatures collected thus far were missing!

City Hall granted extra time to garner more signatures, and when word of the break-in circulated through the liberal community, many more volunteers sprang up.

The Jobs With Peace office, located in the ghetto, drew clerical workers and circulators from blacks, students, unionists. The Alliance for Survival, a peace group, became active in this drive which the Southern California Unions for the Freeze had launched. It was the kind of fellowship we'd known in old integration days!

Security, of course, was tight. A round-the-clock staff manned the office behind locked doors with iron bars. Volunteers were asked to phone in a day before showing up. Everyone breathed easier when the bundles of petitions reached City Hall and were duly qualified for the

## IW SUSTAINING FUND

(Received During October 1984)

Harry Siitonen, San Francisco, California (in memory of Frank Marquat) . . . . .	25.00
Mitch Sosna, Berkeley, California . . . . .	6.00
Appleknocker, Orondo, Washington . . . . .	5.00
Michael Proett, Somerville, Massachusetts . . . . .	5.00
Archie Green, San Francisco, California . . . . .	25.00
James Acord, Seattle, Washington . . . . .	1.00
Houston IWW Group, Houston, Texas . . . . .	70.00
Jeff Farrell, Denver, Colorado . . . . .	2.50
Terence Cline, North Lima, Ohio . . . . .	5.00
Michael Fine, Providence, Rhode Island . . . . .	10.00
Semel/Poulos, New York, New York . . . . .	25.00
X330545, Springfield, Illinois . . . . .	50.00
Appleknocker, Chelan, Washington . . . . .	5.00
Anonymous . . . . .	5.00
X18584, New Port Richey, Florida . . . . .	10.00
Sylvia Harrington, Port Richey, Florida . . . . .	15.00
Edwin Stamm, Lawrence, Kansas . . . . .	4.50
Ed Mann, Hubbard, Ohio . . . . .	3.00

TOTAL . . . . . 272.00

Many thanks, fellow workers, for your generous support.

—and perhaps the violence—to which the loyal union workers must return.

These torch jobs give us an inkling, if only a dim one, of what our unionizing black brothers and sisters in South Africa are now enduring, as reported by the SACTU Solidarity Committee. With the rise of the neo-Nazis and the KKK, these torchings of picket shelters, and the complete impunity with which they are done, could indicate that the fate of the South African black workers could soon be ours.

The picket sign which is standing is the one I used to carry. I have it now. I have given the other to Local 449 to symbolize that though scabs or goons might burn down the picket shelters, they can't burn down the union. Even with its flaws, the UAW is still a union, and the only one any of the Metalcrafters workers have.

George LaForest, X332008

ballot.

Jobs With Peace carried Los Angeles by a safe 61% margin on November 6th.

Does the sheep petition the wolf for greater areas to browse? Will Reagan chuckle in that famous throaty actor's voice as he flicks the "mandate of the people" into his copious wastebasket? Because of course the measure stands no chance of being implemented by the military-industrial complex that runs America today.

Dorice McDaniels

## JAPANESE RANK-AND-FILE PAPER AVAILABLE

Copies of the October issue of *Rank and File*, an English-language paper published by Zentei Omori, a branch of the Japanese Postal Workers Union, have been sent to us, and we are making them available to IW readers while they last. This is the publication from which the series on Japanese management methods which concluded last summer was reprinted. The October issue contains articles on the democratic union movement in South Korea, anti-militarism in Japan, and discrimination against workers of Korean descent in Japan, and is available from the IWW for 50¢ (to cover postage).

Those wishing to contact these workers can write to them at R&F, in care of Zentei Omori 3-19-13, Sanno Otaku, Tokyo, Japan.

# Literature

### Practical and Informational:

- ( ) Organizing Manual . . . . . .75
- ( ) Collective Bargaining Manual . . . . . 2.00
- ( ) Labor Law for the Rank and Filer\* . . . . . 2.50
- ( ) Inflation: Cause and Cure . . . . . .25
- ( ) One Big Union (About the IWW) . . . . . 1.25
- ( ) Workers' Guide to Direct Action . . . . . .35
- ( ) 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 . . . . . .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 Little Red Songbook . . . . . 1.75
- ( ) The Rebel Girl (sheet music) . . . . . .50

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

- ( ) Workers of the World Awaken (sheet music) . . . . . .50
- ( ) Didactic Verse (by Henry Pfaff)\* . . . . . 2.00
- ( ) The Grievance\* . . . . . .95

### Historical:

- ( ) The IWW: Its First 70 Years (hardcover) . . . . . 15.00
- ( ) The IWW: Its First 70 Years (paperback) . . . . . 4.95
- ( ) Founding Convention of the IWW\* (ND) . . . . . 15.00
- ( ) History of the IWW in 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\* . . . . . 2.25
- ( ) Touring Pullman\* (ND) . . . . . 1.75
- ( ) Haymarket Revisited\* (ND) . . . . . 3.00
- ( ) Joe Hill (by Gibbs Smith)\* (ND) . . . . . 11.95

### Buttons:

- ( ) Build Militant Unionism . . . . . .75
- ( ) For More of the Good Things of Life . . . . . .75
- ( ) General Defense Button . . . . . .35

### Posters:

- ( ) Joe Hill . . . . . 5.00
- ( ) General Strike . . . . . 5.00
- ( ) Huelga General . . . . . 5.00
- ( ) Draftees of the World Unite . . . . . 5.00

- ( ) Four Hours Work for Eight Hours Pay . . . . . 5.00
- ( ) Fat Cat . . . . . 5.00

## LITERATURE DISCOUNT POLICY

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

## AVAILABLE FROM LOCAL IWW GROUPS:

A Workers' Guide to Direct Action: 50¢. New York IWW, PO Box 183, New York 10028.  
Fellow Union Member: 10¢ each; bundles of 5 to 15, 5¢; 16 to 50, 3¢; over 50, 2¢. Tacoma/Olympia IWW, 2115 South Sheridan, Tacoma, Washington 98405.  
Introduction to the IWW: 10¢ each; bulk rate 40% discount, paid in advance. San Francisco IWW, PO Box 40485, San Francisco, California 94140.  
Solidarity Bulletin (monthly publication): \$10 a year. Vancouver IWW, PO Box 34334, Station D, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada V6J 4P3.

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

# Unionism Against the Law

AFL-CIO President Lane Kirkland has suggested that since there is an anti-union bias in the current labor laws all national labor laws should be repealed. Kirkland is not alone in his frustration. Many unionists both inside and outside the AFL-CIO have expressed alarm at NLRB rulings like that in the Milwaukee Spring case, which allowed an employer to break a union contract by moving the plant. The courts have tended lately to view union contracts as legally binding for workers, but have allowed employers to violate them in order to "remain competitive". Robert Pleasure, a lawyer for the Carpenters' union, was quoted in the November 6th *Wall Street Journal*: "We are living in the law of the jungle right now, except that unions are living in a cage and the employers are well armed."

Employers, naturally enough, are not enthused at the prospect of losing the protection of such laws as the Taft-Hartley Act, which outlaws sympathy strikes ("secondary boycotts"). However most business lawyers scoff at Kirkland's anti-legal talk. The AFL-CIO's entire organizing and bargaining approach is based on the NLRB and the courts. The days of the sitdown strikes are long gone, and any prospect of a return to those methods scares the AFL-CIO bureaucrats just as much as it does the employers. At best the business unions hope for a reform of the labor laws. Indeed, Lane Kirkland made the remark only a few years ago that "... when it comes to organizing, the plant gate today is the door of the halls of Congress."

Even if Kirkland and other AFL-CIO leaders are sincere, there is not much chance that unionism will be de-regulated. Labor radicals like union lawyer Staughton Lynd have therefore sought ways to outmaneuver pro-employer legal restrictions. New bargaining strategies and "model" contract clauses have been suggested which

would expressly forbid such things as subcontracting and runaway shops. Another tactic to get around legal obstacles to organizing might be to defer asking for union recognition and to strike initially for economic demands. Bargaining could be done through a committee or assembly of all the workers in the shop. This would sidestep most of the nit-picking legal delays employers can use to avoid union recognition.

Yet ultimately, no matter how useful in the short term, such suggestions miss the point. Looking for ways "around" anti-labor laws is still an acceptance of State restriction of workers' rights. In some cases, radicals like Staughton Lynd are actually encouraging workers to obey the law. For example, in his pamphlet *Labor Law for the Rank and Filer*, Lynd recommends that workers consult an attorney before doing anything that might violate the secondary-boycott prohibitions of the Taft-Hartley Act.

The union struggle is by its very nature a social struggle. In order to be effective, it must take into account such factors as worker morale and feelings of solidarity. Unions have to act quickly, while the taste of humiliation and injustice is still fresh in their fellow workers' mouths. Otherwise demoralization and apathy set in, and the opportunity is lost. The courts, labor boards, and legislatures are usually partial to the side with the most time and money. Even if the union wins on the legal front, the price of this victory may be defeat at the point of production. Unionists must consider the welfare of their fellow workers first, and the legal fine points second. If in the process a little civil disobedience should occur, it should not be for the sake of any "macho" bravado, but only because unionism is against the law.

Jeff Stein

## 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. Job Problems Hotline: (604) 876-8438. West Kootenay IWW, PO Box 941, Nelson BC V1L 6A5, Canada.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**KANSAS:** Lawrence: Jovan Weismiller, Delegate, 917 Ohio, Apartment A, Lawrence, Kansas 66044. Wichita: IWW Delegate, PO Box 522, Wichita, Kansas 67201.

**KENTUCKY:** Louisville IWW Group, Delegate, 2024 Baringer Avenue, Louisville, Kentucky 40204.

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

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

**MASSACHUSETTS:** Boston General Membership Branch, PO Box 454, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139. Meetings first Sunday of each month, 522-7090 or 625-5107.

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

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

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

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

**NEW YORK:** Buffalo: Henry Pfaff, Delegate, 77 Eckhart, Buffalo, New York 14207, (816) 877-6073. New York City General Membership Branch, PO Box 183, New York 10028. Rego Park: Jackie Painish, Delegate, 99-12 56th Road (5-J), Rego Park, New York 11374, (212) 868-1121.

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

**ONTARIO:** Brian Burch, Delegate, 257B Carlton Street, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M4L 2L4.

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

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

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

**WASHINGTON:** Bellingham General Membership Branch, PO Box 1386, Bellingham, Washington 98227, (206) 671-5209. Meetings third Sunday of each month, 6:30 pm. Orchard Workers Organizing Project, Box 2223, Chelan, Washington 98816. Seattle General Membership Branch, 3238 33rd Avenue South, Seattle, Washington 98144. Tacoma/Olympia General Membership Branch, 2115 South Sheridan, Tacoma, Washington 98405, (206) 272-8119.

Walla Walla: IWW, PO Box 392, Walla Walla, Washington 99362, (509) 525-0066.

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

### GENERAL STRIKE ROCKS SOUTH AFRICA

Hundreds of thousands of South African workers struck November 5th and 6th, protesting Government policies. The strike was joined by more than a quarter-million students and by anti-apartheid groups.

According to the Association of Chambers of Commerce, an organization of white businesses, at least 40% of black workers in the Johannesburg-Pretoria area, South Africa's most industrialized region, were on strike. Media reports indicate that as many as two thirds of black industrial workers participated in the strike.

Security police responded by raiding the offices of protest organizations and black unions, detaining several activists, and seizing documents, printing materials, and film. Some 6,000 black workers were fired by the State-owned Sasol oil-from-coal plant for participating in the strike and deported to the distant, poverty-stricken bantustans to which the South African Government tries to confine those black South Africans who are not immediately needed in industry.

During the two-day strike police killed at least 24 blacks, bringing the total killed by police in 1984 to more than 150. Thousands more have been swept up in Gestapo-style raids in which entire villages are arrested.

### STEEL WORKERS BACK AWAY FROM DEMOCRACY

At its recent convention the United Steel Workers (USWA) approved an Executive Board proposal to allow vacancies for International officers and district directors to be filled by appointment (previously a special election was required), and tabled a proposal to grant the membership the right to ratify contracts.

Faced with decreasing membership due to layoffs throughout the entire steel industry, the USWA has been expanding its organizing activities among workers in other industries, such as food workers and printers, and the convention approved a proposal to divert funds from the union's strike fund to pay for expanded organizing efforts in these areas. Increasingly, the USWA has been criticized for signing sweetheart agreements, especially covering food workers.

The USWA has never been a democratic union, as evidenced by the fact that its members have never had the right to approve their own contracts, and it is typical of the union hierarchs that faced with the eroding power of unions, their first concern should be to increase their prerogatives. As internal democracy shrinks within business unions, however, such unions tend to lose appeal to previously-unorganized workers.



Demonstrators in South Africa protest the fraudulent "elections" and demand the release of political prisoners.

### MINE CONSTRUCTION WORKERS REJECT CONCESSIONS

The United Mine Workers contract covering 10,000 mine construction workers, 80% of whom have been laid off, was voted down four-to-one recently. Eight years ago 20,000 UMWA members were employed to do construction work in the mines, but they have been undercut in recent years by cheaper competition from non-union contractors and the Steel Workers' Union.

The rejected contract contained major concessions, including the elimination of holiday and vacation pay and co-payments for medical benefits. The UMWA claimed these concessions would put their members back on the job by making union wages competitive. Despite the high unemployment levels, however, mine workers refused to accept these concessions.

The union appears to have abandoned efforts to gain a national contract, and is now seeking agreements on a job-by-job basis. In previous years construction workers often won their demands by picketing working mines, thereby pulling other UMWA members off the job. But that is not expected this time.

### WAGE SLAVE'S DICTIONARY

Economic Recovery: The collapse of the capitalist system.

## Subscribe to the Industrial Worker

NAME.....

STREET.....

CITY..... STATE/PROVINCE..... ZIP/POSTAL CODE.....

ENCLOSED IS:

\$1.50 for a six-month introductory subscription

\$4.00 for a one-year regular subscription

\$8.00 for a one-year library subscription

\$7.50 for a two-year regular subscription

\$11.00 for a three-year regular subscription

\$6.00 for a bundle of 5 copies monthly for 1 year

\$..... as a donation to the IW Sustaining Fund

PLEASE SEND ALL ORDERS TO: IWW, 3435 NORTH SHEFFIELD, SUITE 202, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60657

# Well, Screen My Genes!

Genetic screening is usually thought of simply as a way of testing for congenital disease. This is indeed the major thrust of the nearly 150 genetic counseling centers recognized by the US National Institutes of Health. From the early beginnings of pedigree analysis, this technology has progressed to where nearly a hundred metabolic diseases can be tested for by taking amniotic-fluid samples.

But there are other applications. The genetic basis of many diseases, such as color blindness, juvenile diabetes, and sickle-cell anemia, is a matter of common knowledge. What is less generally appreciated is that many genetic conditions are better described as susceptibilities rather than diseases. People possessing such genes will lead perfectly normal lives till exposed to particular environmental stresses.

There are few things more hazardous in our society than the places where most of us work. Physical stress there certainly is; the barrel may still roll on top of you. But increasingly it is what is *in* the barrel—one or more of some 3½ million chemicals, 63,000 of them in common use—that is the greatest source of danger. Yet not everyone is equally susceptible.

Our story begins in Korea, where American soldiers were lining up for their doses of primaquine, an anti-malarial drug. In the process, a number of soldiers were stricken with hemolysis (destruction of red blood cells). Blacks, Filipinos, and people of Mediterranean origin figured largely among the victims. The problem was eventually traced to a genetic marker in the gene coding for the enzyme glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase. This marker provides increased resistance to malaria, and is found more frequently in people from malarial areas. But it also triggers hemolytic illness on exposure to some 40 drugs and chemicals, including such common workplace pollutants as benzene, carbon tetrachloride, chlorine, cresol, lead, naphthalene, and ozone.

Several other genetic hypersusceptibility problems have been discovered since the 1950s. These include heterozygous sickle-cell anemia, which reduces people's tolerance for high altitudes and lack of oxygen or dehydration during heavy physical work. The sickle-cell gene is much more common among blacks than among other ethnic groups. There is also alpha-antitrypsin deficiency, which predisposes people to emphysema and chronic bronchitis. This increases the risk upon exposure to almost all industrial respiratory irritants. The Irish have the highest incidence of this gene.

Other hazards on this rapidly-expanding list include reactions to carbon disulfide and organic isocyanides, and the involvement of N-acetyltransferase in bladder cancer due to arylamine chemicals used in producing rubber, plastics, and dyes. And there are many more.

The technical problems involved in accurately diagnosing such non-manifest conditions and quantifying the risks involved are formidable. In no case has a perfectly satisfactory method been worked out, but many companies are already putting imperfect systems in place.

One source of concern is obvious. Many of the genetic traits involved are much more common in some racial groups than in others. Should screening become a mandatory requirement for employment, this would effectively discriminate against particular groups. In at least one prominent case, this has already happened. Following a series of deaths among black US Army trainees in 1968 and 1969, the Air Force Academy began screening applicants for sickle-cell anemia because of the danger to afflicted people of working at high altitudes. An average of five black students a year were rejected before a 1980 lawsuit ended this practice.

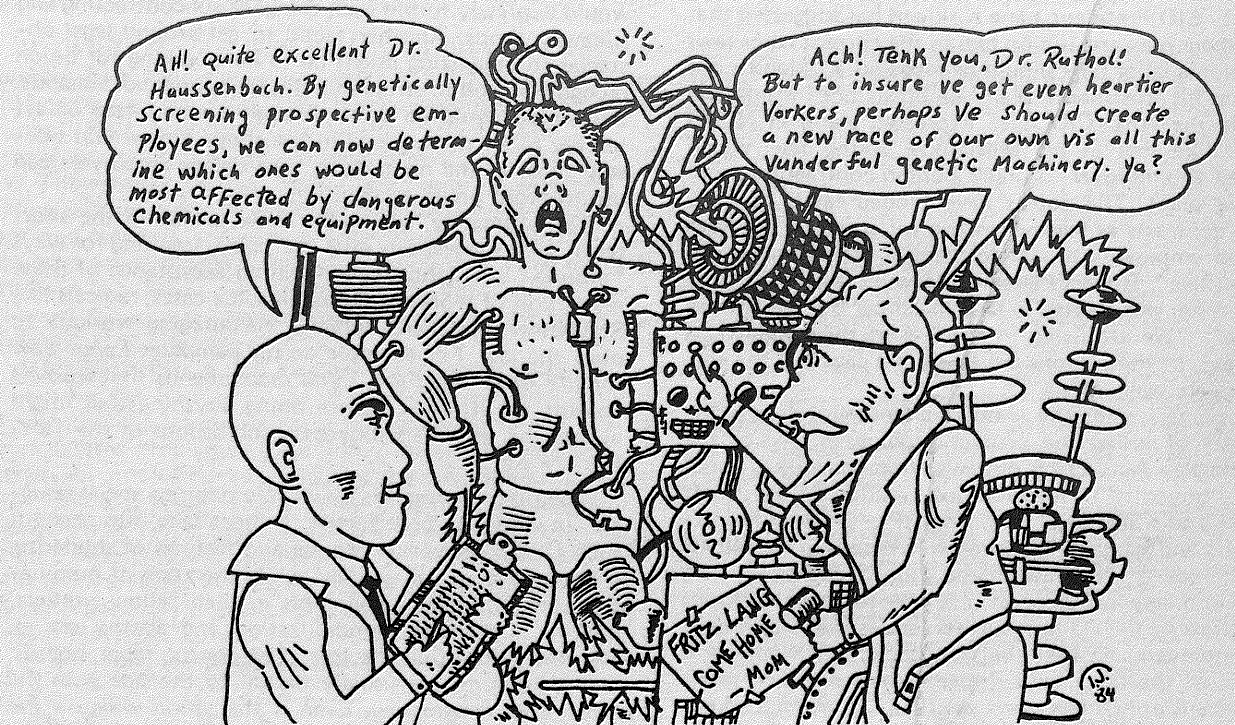
## Monkey See, Monkey Do

Once upon a time, in a land on a distant, uninhabited section of the planet Earth, lived a group of monkeys. They lived primarily on bananas, with each monkey getting an equal number of bananas and doing an equal amount of work. Peace and harmony prevailed as everyone worked together to make their lives as rewarding as possible.

This went on for millions of years until one monkey, who was bigger and meaner than the others, decided to take over, and told all the other monkeys that whenever they picked bananas, they should give all the bananas to him first. (Rumor has it that Henry Ford and John D. Rockefeller are descended from this monkey, though modern-day workers insist that monkeys have twice the intelligence of these two.)

Anyway, the other monkeys objected to this show of force, but each was afraid to do anything about it. Still, the king monkey knew there might be trouble if he tried to stockpile all the bananas and dole them out himself. So he hired two of the others, for two extra bananas a week, to guard the surplus bananas that were rapidly piling up in the storage caves. The king kept about a fifth of the bananas for himself, though he couldn't eat even a third that many.

Finally the other monkeys decided to get together, and staged a protest in front of the storage cave. The king monkey gave them a permit and allowed them to march round the cave with signs saying "We Want Equality", "Bananas for Use, Not for Profit", and "No Nukes". The latter sign was millions of years ahead of its time, but as the monkey who carried it said, "What the hell?"



DuPont also maintains a screening program, initiated in 1972 at the request of the Black DuPont Employees Association. Blacks are not *required* to take the test, and the company doesn't "officially" deny jobs to people found to be carriers. They are instead offered placement in areas free of certain hazardous chemicals.

Critics of this practice are not concerned only with its racial implications. The other factor raised by DuPont's program is that the firm may be using genetic screening to avoid cleaning up the workplace. In most cases the cost is considerably less than that of proper reduction of toxic materials. Rather than make a job safe for all, a company could exclude high-risk individuals, penalizing them rather than its pocketbook. In the real world, where no test is 100% accurate, many people could lose out on employment with the slip of the tip of a pipette despite having "good genes".

Furthermore, many genetic susceptibilities merely increase one's chances of developing disease by a certain statistical percentage. They are not pass/fail indicators. Eliminating people with high-risk potential will still leave a substantial number of people contracting occupational diseases, but the company will be able to argue that it is "doing everything it can".

So, what to do? Research on genetic screening will proceed, and techniques will become more and more refined. That much is inevitable. It may be of great benefit to individuals to know exactly what risks they are taking—provided the decision to take such risks is theirs alone. And provided such information isn't used as an excuse to avoid risk reduction. Genetic screening could be handled through either union-run or community-co-operative health clinics, and the information thus obtained would remain confidential. Several such occupational-health institutions have grown up over the years.

The financing of these clinics is problematic. A case could be made for putting such programs in place as an element of universal medicare, with all the political consequences that would entail. A more desirable option would be financing by co-operative/union foundations outside of government control. A good public case could

be made that such foundations, since they provide social services the Government is unwilling or unable to provide, should receive donations which are not only tax-deductible but also deductible from taxes. Combine this with proof that services can be provided *cheaper* by this method than by State expenditure, and you have a powerful political weapon.

Of course such institutions would have to look toward a much wider field of medical services than just genetic screening or even occupational health. But union interest in such matters could not only help members, but also do much to overcome the negative public image many unions have, for such clinics would be open to members and non-members alike. They could even provide a valuable focus for organizing the unorganized, as was demonstrated by the community clinics in the Portuguese Revolution of the mid-'70s. But therein lies the rub, for a majority of the work force remains outside the union movement. Prevention of misuse of new scientific techniques such as genetic screening requires direct action on the job, not just in the community. Let us hope that facing a blood test, as well as the usual interviewer with the personality of a king cobra, will convince more people of the IWW's message of organization for all.

Pat Murtagh

**INDUSTRIAL WORKER** Second Class Postage  
3435 N. Sheffield Avenue Paid at  
Chicago, IL 60657, USA Chicago, Illinois 60657  
ISSN: 0019-8870

TO:

Unfortunately, this story has no happy ending, though there have been many uprisings by the masses. So it's up to you who are reading this to turn an insane system into a free and democratic one. No more "Monkey see, monkey do."

Special thanks to the fellow workers who have passed along the foundation of this story through the years.

Bruce Kayton

### THE UNCONVENTIONAL WISDOM

This is being written on the eve of the Presidential election. Which has no great significance, except that if it doesn't get done by this time it is going to be flirting too darn close to missing a deadline. The pollsters have already re-elected the President for us anyway, so what is significant?

Say, is there any record anywhere indicating that the President ever worked in any productive capacity at any time in his life? Maybe there's a symbolism there. For a society bent on supporting a parasite class royally, he could be the ultimate personification.

The IWW stance is apolitical. The dictionary I'm using says that the letter "a" used as a prefix, as above, can mean "apart from; unconcerned with". The IWW, as far as I know, has never imposed any prohibition forbidding a member to participate in politics. It's just not considered the most effective way to spend one's energy.

It has been said that most people "vote their pocketbooks". Those on a comfortable income level may vote their pocketbooks, but the rest vote their frustrations. To turn their thinking away from bombast and bullshit and toward intelligent study of why those frustrations exist is one hellacious task.

Well, when there's a job to be done . . .

Pervicacia