



INDUSTRIAL WORKER

INDUSTRIAL WORKERS OF THE WORLD

★ EDUCATION ★ ORGANIZATION ★ EMANCIPATION

VOLUME 82, NUMBER 4, WN 1463

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, APRIL 1985

25 CENTS

Packinghouse Workers Under Attack

Packinghouse workers across the country have been taking a beating over the last two years, as the meat-packing industry turns on its workforce to maintain profitability in the wake of slumping sales and low-wage non-union competitors.

Although the industry remains highly organized, a spiral of wage cuts has set in, with each round of concessions used to force new pay cuts. The United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW), the dominant union in the industry, is well placed to resist such attacks through its strength in supermarkets, but has generally gone along with the concessionary trend.

The result has been wages that have fallen from a high of as much as \$20 an hour to an industry average of about \$8.25 today. No major packinghouse now pays wages higher than \$9.50. These wage cuts have been combined with drastic speedups and deterioration in working conditions and plant safety, and in some plants two-tier wage systems are being implemented with new hands paid substantially less.

These attacks began with unionized companies shutting down—sometimes under cover of bankruptcy laws—and re-opening as low-wage, non-union shops. This has happened most notably at Armour Foods (sold by Greyhound to the giant ConAgra company last year), where 13 of 16 plants have gone non-union and now pay only \$6 an hour. At the three plants where the UFCW remains in place, wages have been cut from \$10.69 to \$8.25 an hour, although an arbitrator has recently ruled that Armour owes back wages totaling 4.1 million to some 750 workers because the unilateral pay cuts violated the union contract.

The ruling, which will probably be delayed pending appeals, would set present wages for 300 workers at a meat-canning facility in Fort Madison, Iowa at \$8.75, and raise wages for some 450 workers at an Illinois soap factory working under the same contract to \$11.04.

Although the UFCW is planning to launch a nationwide boycott campaign against Armour, which now pays the nation's lowest packinghouse wages, it has taken no action to encourage its 1.3 million members—most of whom work in retail food outlets—to refuse to handle Armour products. And Armour is not alone in attacking its workers.

George A. Hormel and Company, one of the last big firms paying the \$10.69 rate, cut wages last October to \$8.25, even though it has the second-highest profits in the industry. At most Hormel plants, the UFCW initially resisted the unilateral cuts, but ultimately agreed to renegotiated contracts at eight plants calling for \$9 now and \$10 next year. Hormel workers in Austin, Minnesota, however, refused to agree to any pay cuts, and Hormel cut their wages to \$8.25.

Hormel's Austin workers feel betrayed by both their union and the company. In 1978 they signed a long-term contract containing major concessions, including the elimination of long-standing incentive bonuses, a 20% speedup, and a payroll-deduction plan through which workers paid an average of \$12,000 each into a fund that amounted to a multi-million-dollar low-interest loan to help the company build a new plant. Workers agreed to these concessions believing that they would make their jobs safe. Now they are learning the hard way that giving in to the bosses only invites new attacks and cutbacks.

Hormel executives are reportedly reluctant to venture into most of their plant due to harassment from many of their 1750 unionized workers following the latest 23% pay cut. The local union appealed the pay cuts to an arbitrator who ruled that if Hormel's chief rival, the Oscar Mayer division of General Foods, would cut its wages, then Hormel could too. Oscar Mayer was quick to accept the invitation. In Chicago, an arbitrator has ruled that these cuts are illegal and ordered restoration of the old wage and back pay, but workers continue to earn only \$8.25 while the case drags through the courts.

Meanwhile, Hormel's Austin workers are seeking the right to strike through an arbitrator, in order to avoid devastating fines should they walk out to protest the pay cuts. The local is also launching a corporate campaign against Hormel despite opposition from the UFCW international, targeting First Bank, the country's 17th-largest bank holding company, which has provided Hormel with a 75-million-dollar line of credit, holds much of the company's stock, and is represented on Hormel's board of directors. The local hopes that by bringing pressure to bear on First Bank (which has 152 branches in six states) through picketing, withdrawing bank deposits and pension funds, and other actions, it can get the Bank to force labor-policy changes on Hormel.

Canadian meat packers have been facing similar attacks. A thousand workers at Gainers in Alberta accepted a two-year wage freeze for current employees and a 40% wage cut for new workers last July. But when faced with similar demands, workers at Burns Meats in Winnipeg, Manitoba and Canada Packers of Toronto walked out. The Burns strike has seen major confrontations on picket lines as management has been forced to back off on its threats to re-open with scab labor. Some 3700 UFCW workers employed at Canadian Packers' 12 plants struck despite the recommendation of union leaders. Canadian is the largest meat packer in the country, and posted a net profit of \$25 million in 1983, but still demanded that its workers take a two-year wage freeze, a 25% pay cut for new hands, and other concessions.

Workers in many plants are pushing for new strategies to resist the bosses' offensive. In Chicago, Oscar Mayer workers picketed their union hall because their UFCW Local 100 refuses to honor their petitions to call a meeting for a strike vote to fight the pay cuts, and are taking up collections to aid strikers at Oscar Mayer's Sherman, Texas plant.

Increasingly, workers are questioning the UFCW's strategy of appeasement and accommodation in the face of this onslaught on their living standards and working conditions. Although the UFCW still represents 100,000 meat packers, most of these workers have taken pay cuts either with the union's agreement or through unilateral action. Rather than organize workers at the non-union plants that are springing up across the country, paying wages as low as \$5 an hour, or striking to block the pay cuts, the UFCW has been relying on arbitration and legal action.

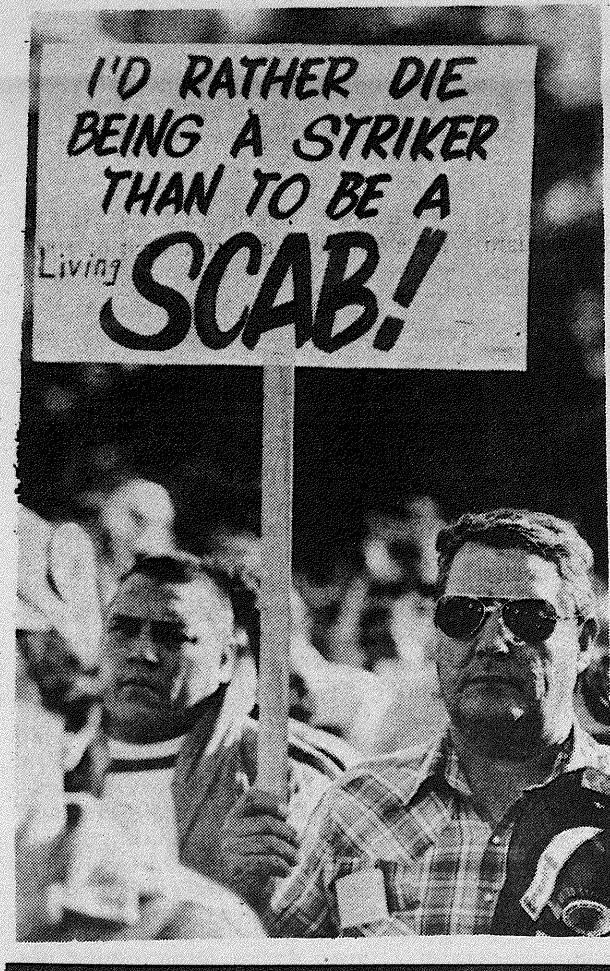
In at least one plant, the Los Angeles Oscar Mayer plant, it has ordered its members to scab. Last October Operating Engineers Local 501, one of three unions representing workers there, walked off the job rather than accept Oscar Mayer's demands for massive concessions. UFCW Local 274 then negotiated a new contract calling for a wage freeze, and directed its members to cross Lo-

cal 501's picket lines. One worker was fired when he refused to continue scabbing on his fellow workers, and joined the picket line instead. About the same time, UFCW members learned that their "freeze" contract included undisclosed cuts in health and dental benefits. Reportedly, production has been reduced substantially as a result of direct action on the plant floor.

Across the country, packinghouse workers are now reaping the fruits of their earlier agreements to concessions and failure to build militant, democratic unions. In Austin, the concessions were used to finance a new hundred-million-dollar automated plant where machines and robots now do jobs that once required hundreds of workers. Throughout the industry, wage cuts have been used to justify still more cuts and ever-intensifying attacks against workers. And in many cases, workers have agreed to massive pay cuts only to be thrown out of work a few months later.

And so once again we see that the old IWW adage still holds true: "The working class and the employing class have nothing in common." Until we succeed in organizing as a class, and exercise our power over production and distribution to defend our interests, the bosses will continue to pick us off by ones or twos (or, as at present, by the score).

JB



COKE BOYCOTT OFF

The boycott against Coca-Cola (see article last issue) has been suspended following the signing of a February 1st agreement between the company's Guatemalan franchise and the union representing workers at the Guatemala City bottling plant. The new agreement contains a number of concessions—absolving the former franchisers and the Coca-Cola Company of their earlier contractual obligations (which had not been met) and allowing some 85 workers to be laid off, among other changes to the former agreement—but guarantees that the plant will re-open March 1st, guarantees job security for 265 workers, recognizes the union, and promises payments to the union to cover costs incurred during 1984 and compensation for the 85 workers.

This is the third major agreement made by the Coke company to guarantee its workers' rights. The company violated the terms of the earlier agreements, forcing an international boycott and occupation of the bottling plant. The workers will remain in the plant until it re-opens and the situation returns to normal.

Workers Locked-out for Honoring Picket

OREGON PAPER-MILL STRIKE CONTINUES

The paper industry and all wood-related industries in the Northwest are in financial trouble. Naturally, they are taking it out on the workers. Crown Zellerbach, for one, trying to cut their losses in the paper industry, have not only ordered a 20% across-the-board reduction in force, but also built a massive new paper mill which allows them to put additional pressure on the workers at the older mills (which also happen to have the most militant locals in the Association of Western Pulp and Paper Workers).

In response, when Crown Zellerbach workers in Antioch, California walked off the job August 14th, 1984, the 500 union employees of Crown's West Linn, Oregon paper mill honored a picket line set up by Antioch strikers. The pickets from Antioch left West Linn August 16th, but Crown officials said union members would

not be allowed back to work unless they provided written assurance that there would be no further work stoppage connected with the Antioch strike.

The union president said the union could not provide such assurance "because the people at Antioch have a right to picket that mill... and the way we're structured we don't have the authority to say those pickets will not be back."

Union members contend that they are victims of a company lockout because they offered to return to their jobs but were denied entry to the mill. Crown officials have taken the position that the workers are on strike, and are operating the mill with supervisory personnel working 12-hour shifts. In late January the scabs' departure from the mill was delayed as nearly 200 pickets blocked an exit and threw eggs at them, and a station wagon was sprayed with paint. The local police made no arrests.



Every now and then even a union buster is capable of pulling in his horns. The Buckaroo Statesman wanted some live entertainment for his inauguration this January, and true to form non-union entertainers were asked for. An ad was placed in *Backstage*, a trade weekly for show-business workers, for entertainers to participate in the inaugural festivities. Though travel, lodging, and feeding expenses were assured, potential respondents were informed: "A fee will not be paid for your participation."

A resounding cry of indignation was heard from the heads of Actors' Equity, the American Federation of Television and Radio Artists, and the Screen Actors' Guild. The SAG were especially PO'd at their erstwhile union brother, who was their top piecard back in the '40s and '50s.

Subsequently a statement was issued by the Presidential press secretary that the Prez didn't know anything about such goings-on. It seems they were the brainstorm of one of the Prez's show-business buddies, some dude by the name of Sindicatra or something like that. Anyway, the assurance was made that the entertainers would be justly compensated for struttin' their stuff for His Nibs. No mention was made of the show-business buddy getting any flack from the show-business piecards, and we can only speculate.

These old gray hairs remember that union busting has been going on for some time, though not as blatantly as these last few years. Having been a shop committeeman in the years when I was gainfully employed, I can well remember that the ink was hardly dry on the latest negotiated contract when the boss began sneaking in little violations here and there. Interestingly enough, labor-management agreements have one big thing in common with Indian treaties: The ones who violate either have the clout and muscle to do so, without any court of higher appeal to strike them down.

If all the Indian treaties had been lived up to, Ronnie and his unbroken line of WASPs might never have seen the inside of the not-so-White House. If all the labor-management agreements had been lived up to, that house could have been painted red. If the dog hadn't stopped to lift his leg, he could have caught the rabbit.

I remember the antediluvian days of my childhood when a slightly older peer of mine was trying to sell me a rabbit's foot, doing his best to convince me that said rabbit's foot would bring me oodles of good luck. Whether I was motivated by precocious wisdom, or the prospect of an ice-cream cone outweighed any consideration for future security, I stumped him with the question: How come it didn't bring any luck to the rabbit, who had four of them?

It is rumored that one of the scientists in the Department of Agriculture has been working on a new hybrid: a cross between a turnip and a sponge. Reputedly it tastes like Hell, but it can hold a lot of catsup, which as you know is considered in certain quarters a nourishing vegetable. It should come as no surprise that the quality of education has been taking a nosedive along with the quality of school lunches.

There are those who would also want to comment on the quality of statesmen, but I remember my Uncle Hornplanter telling me what a great place this land was 400 years ago, when there were no statesmen, and I can't help but agree with him.

The only state I could possibly be loyal to is the state of well-being. All other states I can gladly forget about.

C. C. Redcloud

'60s POLICE SPYING DOCUMENTED

Over a hundred US police agencies joined the now-supposedly-defunct Chicago Police Department "red squad" in its efforts to spy on political, civic, and anti-war groups, according to records released to lawyer Richard Gutman after a 10-year suit. Gutman says this is the most extensive and widespread documentation ever of police spying throughout the country, proving that it was a nationwide activity and not just a Chicago phenomenon. The participants included 100 municipal police departments, 26 state law-enforcement agencies, 16 county sheriff's offices, and 17 other public and private agencies.

Among the examples from the Chicago area, Chicago police provided Highland Park police with a listing of the meetings attended by an activist rabbi, the publications he received, and the petitions he signed. Woodbridge police gave Chicago police four pages of license-plate numbers from a gathering of anti-war activists at a Du Page County farm in late 1968; and Chicago police provided Naperville police with information on one of the farm's owners. Through similar channels Evanston police got photographs of participants at an anti-war demonstration at Northwestern University, and Army Intelligence agents in Evanston were told of a Vietnam veteran's anti-war remarks on a TV show.

Editorial:

Central America: Another Vietnam?

One might think our politicians and economic decision makers would have learned their lesson in Vietnam; but since their valiant adventure on the tiny Caribbean island of Grenada, they seem to have gotten their spunk back. Anybody but the politicians and the boob-tube watchers they hoodwink up here can plainly see that the people of countries like Guatemala and El Salvador are no longer content to live under the local oligarchs and foreign capitalists who have oppressed them for over a century. And these oligarchs would have sought safe refuge in Miami Beach or along the Southern California coast long ago if it were not for huge chunks of US working stiff's withholding taxes buying the guns to keep them in power.

Two generations ago it was the apathy of the working class in Germany that gave carte blanche to the rise of Adolf Hitler and the subsequent holocaust. Today the American working class is in a similar position. Already they have the debacle in Vietnam to their credit, not to mention the 58,000 US soldiers who came home in pine boxes and the millions of Vietnamese, Laotians, and Cambodians killed, maimed, or made homeless. We need not even go into those ex-Servicemen who are succumbing to the long-term effects of the defoliants that were used by the Military over there. The working class of the United States has more at stake than just the inevitable loss of its young men fighting unpopular wars in Central America.

US workers have lived in comparative luxury that was won only after generations of union struggles. We should be acutely aware that there are workers in other countries who are making a long-standing attempt to better their own conditions. (Never mind how bad the eco-

omic situation is up here with all the union-busting that has been going on for the last decade.) Our workplace conditions, as bad as they are (for those of us who are still working), are paradise compared to those faced by workers in El Salvador, Guatemala, and other countries whose dictatorial regimes are being enthusiastically supported by the power elite and their politician pimps up here. If the workers of those countries succeed in overthrowing their exploiters, it might mean an end to the supply of cheap underpaid labor so beloved of our defenders of "democracy". True democracy and human rights have nothing to do with the interests of those who support the Central American tyrannies.

If the movements of the Central American workers are successfully crushed by the military aid that is paid for out of our taxes, be assured that even more US workers are going to be walking the streets. Workers who live in more affluent countries are morally obligated to oppose the exploitation and suppression of workers in poorer countries who are trying to better their conditions, especially if their own politicians and capitalists are using the money they worked for to support that exploitation and suppression.

It is up to every worker in the US to vehemently oppose the military adventure in Central America. If the workers in other countries can successfully better their own conditions, it might put an end once and for all to the supply of cheap labor our union-busting employers use as a club against us, and teach them to show us a little more respect.

Carlos Cortez

Wobbly Art Exhibit in Chicago

The IWW's Chicago General Membership Branch is hosting an exhibition, "Wobbly: 80 Years of Rebel Art", to run through the month of May 1985. It will be held at the United Electrical Workers Hall at 37 South Ashland Avenue in Chicago, on the strip popularly known as "Union Row".

The opening reception will be at 6:30 pm Wednesday, May 1st. 1985 marks the 80th anniversary of the Industrial Workers of the World, and this exhibition presents a historical perspective on both the IWW and the labor movement in general.

For many decades the offices of the *Industrial Worker* have been accumulating the original cartoons and graphics of many artists of widespread talents who have sent in their contributions to graphically enhance not only the *Industrial Worker*, but also many other IWW publications. Fortunately a sizable portion of these original works have survived the various moves and cleanups that

Around Our Union

SPOKANE, WASHINGTON: Fellow Workers Utah Phillips and Mark Ross presented IWW songs and stories in a benefit concert March 2nd, raising funds to support the activities of a South African anti-apartheid activist who will be spending the next few months speaking at schools and to local organizations in the Pacific Northwest on the current situation in South Africa and the struggle against apartheid. A large selection of IWW literature was on hand for the event, and several copies of the *Industrial Worker* were distributed.

NEW YORK: IWW member Marion Wade led a session on "Making Labor History Come Alive: Teaching Through Song" at a Cornell University workshop for rank-and-file activists and staff members of local unions. Marion's performance, including many Wobbly song favorites, was enthusiastically received. The Branch is also in the process of printing up silent agitators to spread the message of industrial unionism to New York's wage slaves, and recently co-sponsored a benefit for striking British miners which raised nearly \$900.

ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN: 40 Wobblies and friends gathered February 9th to celebrate the ratification of a new contract for our People's Warehouse IU 660 Job Branch. Warehouse workers gave bargaining-team members long-sleeved red T-shirts with the IWW symbol and IU 660 over the left breast, and "One Big Union" emblazoned across the back. On February 3rd Southeastern Michigan Wobblies gathered for the Ann Arbor-Detroit General Membership Branch meeting. The Fellow Workers decided to change the Branch's name to the Southeastern Michigan Branch, discussed a number of organizing efforts under way locally, decided to start a Branch newsletter and take other steps to increase local IWW activity, discussed the possibility of organizing a 600 Department conference in Ann Arbor this summer, and decided to initiate a series of discussions on the need for a shorter workweek. Also in Ann Arbor the University Cellular IU 660 Job Branch has ratified a new contract. We hope to have an article on this in the near future.

the IWW Headquarters have undergone. There is also a sizable collection of photo-engraved plates that were made from these cartoons, as well as many of the linoleum blocks that were printed directly from the flatbed press onto many editions of the *Industrial Worker*.

A few of the originals from this collection are currently touring Europe in the German-sponsored exhibition "The Other America". Outside of reproductions of earlier work, all these original cartoons and graphics are from the years since the First World War when IWW halls and offices all over the country were raided and the material confiscated. These post-World War I works dramatically reflect the myriads of problems and concerns that had an important impact on the labor movement.

This free exhibition will run through the month of May, but will be open only on weekdays from 12 to 6. (The curators preferred a union hall rather than a commercial gallery, for reasons of both economics and compatibility.) The UEW Hall is also the site of one of the outstanding labor murals in the country.

Because of the aforementioned plates, the curators are printing a limited-edition brochure that will be available for purchase at the Hall. Finances permitting, there will also be some folios of graphic works.

The labor-archives division of one of the universities has made a bid for this collection, but at present we wish to keep it at the disposal of the IWW membership, possibly for a traveling exhibit. While the events expressed in these works may now be history and the style of execution dated, these ingenious works of art have a continuity that ties in with our present-day concerns, and thus serve a much-needed educational function.

Alfredo Nuberoja

*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. 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 published monthly and is mailed without a wrapper to reduce expenses, but a wrapper can be requested.

Editorial Collective: Carlos Cortez,
Mike Hargis, Penny Pixler, Fred Thompson
General Secretary-Treasurer: Jon Bekken

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

NOTICE? DID YOU NOTICE? DID YOU

SYSTEM SETS CO-WORKERS AT ODDS: Harassment from co-workers this winter forced two Boston housing inspectors to quit volunteering their time to handle weekend complaints about unheated residences. One inspector quit volunteering after the first weekend, and the other quit after getting more than 100 harassing phone calls from her co-workers accusing her of taking work away from them. Only under capitalism could such a situation arise.

MILITARY REPRESSION IN ARGENTINA: When Raul Alfonsín took office in late 1983, many hoped that the nightmare of military repression in which an estimated 30,000 Argentinians had disappeared was over. But few believe that today. The repression continues, though it is more selective than in the heyday of mass arrests and disappearances. Most of the victims are people engaged in organizing unions, student councils, or church groups. Government officials say the assaults, bombings, kidnappings, and torture are the work of the "unemployed", a euphemism for the paramilitary and parapolice squads that operated under the previous regime and continue to operate under the sponsorship of the current military. Considering themselves the "natural custodians of Argentina", the Armed Forces have thrown out three elected governments since the 1930s. Judging from their ominous talk about Alfonsín's "pornographic democracy" (the Right's pejorative phrase for a system that allows free speech), they may well be planning to make his their fourth victim.

US AND SOUTH AFRICA: Connecticut, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, and Nebraska have restricted investment in companies that do business with South Africa. The New York City Employees Retirement System has voted to sell its stock in such companies, a move that could involve the sale of up to \$665 million worth of securities. The Johannesburg *Sunday Express* reports, however, that the rand's plunging exchange rate has helped spur a 29% increase in American visits that average two weeks at the cost of at least \$2500 per person.

BLACK AND WHITE: On an interview with Voice of America radio, President Reagan reiterated his belief that some black leaders are trying to divide the US into "a black America and a white America", and said they tend "to keep the people stirred up as if the cause still exists". The President also accused unnamed black leaders of "creating an ill will and a feeling that grievances still remain". Fancy that. Of course, the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities has reported that "the average black family in every income stratum—from the poor to the affluent—suffered a decline in its disposable income and standard of living since 1980", that the current poverty rate among blacks is almost 36%, the highest since 1968; and that while long-term unemployment among whites has increased by only 1.5% since 1980, among blacks it has increased by 72%.

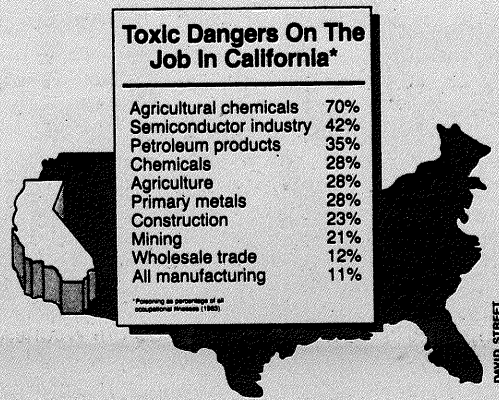
BRITAIN EVICTS MISSILE PROTESTERS: Some 2,000 police and troops evicted about 150 protesters from the site of Britain's second cruise-missile base in Molesworth in early February. As the protesters were removed from the site, the Army put up a seven-mile-long barbed-wire fence and began bulldozing the site in preparation for the planned arrival of 64 US cruise missiles. The protesters said their campaign would continue.

BALANCE: Recent court decisions in Israel sentenced Avino'am Katrieli to 15 months in prison for providing rifle silencers to an anti-Arab group that attempted to blow up a mosque, while a 17-year-old Palestinian who waved his flag in public was sent up for 18 months. Also, No'am Yinon got 18 months for transporting 50 land mines from the Golan Heights to the West Bank for the Jewish underground, while an Arab who slapped a Jewish child was jailed for a year.

REAGAN SMEARS ANARCHISTS: In referring to the people who are bombing abortion clinics, our exalted President took the occasion to "condemn, in the strongest terms, those individuals who perpetrate these and all such violent anarchist activities". Besides slandering anarchists, Reagan's language avoided the word "terrorist", which would have given the FBI authority to enter the investigation of the bombing on a full-scale basis. On the other hand, FBI director William Webster says the clinic bombings did not constitute terrorism because they were not "acts of violence committed in furtherance of an attack on a government", and because it has not been established that the perpetrators belong to a "definable group".

In 1983, two abortion clinics were bombed. In 1984, two dozen. Normal inflation? At any rate, members of the National Organization for Women began occupying a number of clinics that would normally be empty at night, fearing that Reagan's inauguration and the 12th anniversary of the Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion (January 20th) would bring on a new wave of bombings.

FITNESS: Noting that there are now "a great many who want to practice rhythmic gymnastics" in Ethiopia, the Soviet news agency Tass announced last February that Ethiopia and the Soviet Union have signed a new sports agreement calling for Soviet advisers to help develop aerobics in that drought- and famine-stricken country. Tass quoted an official of the Ethiopian Sport Commission as saying: "We are planning to carry out a large amount of work to improve the conditions for the population to go in for various sports, and to attend physical-training classes." Perhaps they will start by feeding them?



In 1983, only agricultural workers in California were more likely to suffer on-the-job poisoning than workers making semiconductors. In Silicon Valley, the home of California's high-tech electronics industry, more than 60 public and private wells have been shut down because of water contamination from underground solvent storage tanks.

AUSSIE "LABOR" GOVERNMENT ATTACKS WORKERS

The current Australian "Labor" Government provides yet another example of the total bankruptcy of Social Democracy as either a force for social change or a defender of workers' interests. The wages accord is a particularly potent example of how the Government suppresses working-class struggles, managing the economy to facilitate the onslaughts of Capital.

With nearly the entire union officialdom locked into the so-called Prices-Income Accord, workers are facing the consequences of two years of frozen wages. Meanwhile, despite the juggling of the figures by ALP bureaucrats, unemployment continues to rise. Entire industries are being "rationalized" with the introduction of new technologies and mass firings.

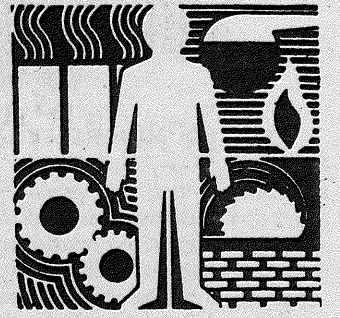
In the face of this onslaught, the handful of unions and worker groups who have tried to fight back have found themselves isolated and vilified by the various union councils and the Australian Council of Trade Unions. However, a number of cracks have begun to appear in this rotten ALP/ACTU accord. After four months of struggle by 140 workers at the Rosella-Lipton food-processing plant, workers recently won a favorable settlement. Originally striking in reaction to some firings, workers then put in a 5% pay claim and mounted a mass picket of the plant. In addition to violent assaults on the picket line, they also faced ceaseless attacks from the media and the ACTU, but succeeded in winning their demands despite this united government/trade-union/employer front.

Government workers held mass meetings throughout Australia this January, voting overwhelmingly for direct action on the job to win the pay hikes they deserve. This direct action would include "work to rules" and total bans on major government revenue collection. At last report, these workers had staged only a token one-day protest strike; but as more and more workers come to realize their power, the potential for militant struggle to win their demands continues to grow.

(from *Rebel Worker*)

Fred Thompson's

labor in north america



Last year 89 more US shoe factories shut down, laying off 2,000 workers as shoe imports rose to 72% of the US market . . . The President's Commission on Industrial Competitiveness issued a report titled "The New Reality" on how the US is losing its market in high technology as well as in steel . . . Auto workers note that the agreement to limit auto imports raises car prices and profits to the big three to \$9.8 billion . . . As the dollar keeps buying more francs, pounds, marks, and yen, it gets harder to sell US goods abroad, and stores here find it more profitable to sell imports . . . Bendix tells its workforce that the auto industry has become global, so they will have to compete at "world parity" or expect more layoffs.

A century and a half ago, as canals and railroads began to put American workers living in different cities into competition with each other, they found out after a generation or so that it made better sense to back each other up across the country than to try to restrict the sales of each other's products. In today's electronic age, transnationals keep books in one country to record the sales in another country of the goods they had us produce in several other countries. We need to organize and act accordingly. And union policy is an old, old dispute going back to (1) the legendary petition of the candle makers to keep out the sun so they could prosper and thus spread prosperity to all, and (2) the labor reply of those days that free trade meant competing with places where increased production cost only a few more lashes of the whip.

OCAW (Oil, Chemical, and Atomic Workers) and two other unions at Merck and Company, an international drug firm, have set up a Merck Inter-Union Council to spread the word in Europe that they are on strike against a two-tier wage system that threatens to replace experienced workers with lower-paid novices as soon as they learn the ropes. They point out that wages run to only about 5% of drug costs, and that such companies can set up production almost anywhere in the world. OCAW is also battling BASF AG, a West German multinational, for locking out 400 union members at its plant in Geismar, Louisiana last summer. BASF has also broken the union's local at Wyandotte, Michigan and decertified units once held by the Teamsters and the Steel Workers. So OCAW is asking unions in Germany to help it win its battle.

In June the contracts of a number of unions that have been bargaining jointly with various copper companies will expire, and the companies are asking for wage cuts of as much as \$6 an hour and other givebacks. The company stand is stiffened by the experience with Phelps-Dodge and the fact that copper can be produced cheaper under dictatorships in Chile and Africa.

A couple of weeks after International Harvester settled a two-day strike with the UAW for a retroactive 3 1/2% plus 2.25% next October, it announced that it was shifting 1400 jobs from Illinois and Iowa to Scotland and France, and selling other plants to Tenneco and Case. Caterpillar also announced the layoff of 6200 salaried hands and 18,000 hourly union employees, and plans to get rid of more plants by 1988.

When Sierra Designs of Oakland, California told its workers that its tents and backpacks would henceforth be made in Texas, Taiwan, and Korea, they set up a boycott. As a result, the CML conglomerate that owns Sierra Designs (and that in turn is largely owned by Reader's Digest) agreed to contribute equipment and supplies so the laid-off workers could set up their own business.

The United Mine Workers finds that if you are employed in a mine with 50 or fewer employees, you are four times as likely to be killed as if you work in a larger mine, and also that the death rate for non-union miners is three times that for union miners—for small mines are less likely to be union. Yet the worst mine disaster of the year occurred at the Wilberg mine in Utah, where 19 UMWA members and 8 management men were killed during a drive to set a new production record.

Unionism spreads on college campuses. At Stanford the SEIU local beat an administration effort to decertify it two-to-one. At Columbia UAW District 65 has succeeded in organizing the clerical workers. At Yale, the Hotel and Restaurant Workers won a 35% raise in the second phase of their intermittent strike. The raise had to be large to approach pay equity on jobs held mostly by women.

The National Council on Pay Equity arranged for a national survey of over a thousand workers in which 83% said that the gap between the wages of men and women needs correction, and 60% thought that women's jobs would pay more if men held them.

Unions in Los Angeles built a shelter on the skid road with four days of volunteer labor. There are some 40,000 homeless on the streets of Los Angeles, and the city has promised a more-permanent shelter this summer.

Preamble 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 INTO 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 INTEREST OF THE WORKING CLASS UPHOLD 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 A STRIKE OR LOCKOUT IS ON 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 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 EVERY-DAY STRUGGLE WITH CAPITALISTS, BUT ALSO TO CARRY ON PRODUCTION WHEN CAPITALISM SHALL HAVE BEEN OVERTHROWN. BY ORGANIZING INDUSTRIALLY WE ARE FORMING THE STRUCTURE OF THE NEW SOCIETY WITHIN THE SHELL OF THE OLD.

WORLD LABOR NEWS

BRITISH MINERS' STRIKE IN PERSPECTIVE

Won or lost, the year-long strike by 120,000 members of the British National Union of Mineworkers marks a major shift in the relationship between labor and management (which in this case is the Government): partly economic, partly political, and partly technological.

Britain's coal production has been declining for years. Between 1954 and 1978 it was cut nearly in half because of competition from imported oil, which was cheaper until the 1973 oil shock. Coal was still the dominant fuel for power production, however, and the 1974 miners' strike forced school and factory closings and ultimately brought down the Government.

It is not surprising that the British ruling class sees the power of organized labor as a foe to be crushed at all costs: even the \$123 million a week the strike is costing in additional oil purchases, lost industrial productivity, and police overtime. Indeed, the Ridley Report, drafted by a Tory policy group and quoted in the *Economist* in 1978, indicates that the Government had been planning for this confrontation for years.

In September 1983, Ian MacGregor, former head of British Steel, was made chairman of the coal board. MacGregor, who had halved the steel industry's workforce, set about "nationalizing" the coal industry in a similar fashion, laying off workers at the rate of 450 a week and ordering five "uneconomic" pits to close. The miners concluded that their survival was at stake, and resorted

to their most effective weapon—the strike.

For the Tories, the closings are part of a strategy to denationalize basic industries. They would like to sell all the pits to private investors, as they did with British Telecom last year. During the strike the Government has been burning oil reserves and rushing nuclear-power plants into operation, and it is likely to increase its use of oil and nuclear energy to generate electricity. Power multinationals like Shell Oil and British Petroleum have been lobbying strenuously for a switch to oil, even though it costs a third more than coal. Nuclear-power plants would provide the makings for Britain's own nuclear weapons, and would be staffed by white-collar employees with no tradition of organized militancy. In the unlikely event that they struck, the Prime Minister could break the strike by declaring a national emergency on the ground that the industry was vital to the national defense.

Meanwhile, the Thatcher years have taken their toll in union solidarity, what with right-wing leadership and a rank and file fearful of losing their jobs in the face of widespread unemployment (3.2 million jobless out of a total population of 55 million). Some members of the rail unions have refused to handle coal, oil, or iron ore, and there have been two nationwide sympathy strikes by dock workers and a short-lived strike threat from mine-safety inspectors. But that has been it. In the face of working-class disunity, The Government has been free to unleash upon miners the police brutality formerly re-

served for blacks and Irish Catholics. As of early February nearly 10,000 miners and sympathizers had been arrested. Each miner convicted received a letter of dismissal from the coal board.

One reason the miners have been able to hold out so long is that they have mapped new sources of strength and solidarity. In the US, male strikers' wives have formed effective auxiliaries during strikes; but until the current strike, this wasn't "done" in Britain. Soon after the beginning of the strike in March 1984, however, the miners' wives opened soup kitchens. Then they began raising funds and "twinning" with local branches of the Labor Party and the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament. As they gained more confidence, the mining women joined the picket lines and addressed rallies around the country and abroad.

In addition, Third World organizations in Britain have offered their support. The Camden Black Workers raised money and sent delegations to the pit villages. A Turkish group from North London brought shish kebab. Most mines are located in largely-white areas, and although many families living there are deeply class-conscious because of their own histories, they have little exposure to people of other races. The delegations have expressed the common interests of all workers, as did the donation of 500 rand by the South African National Union of Mineworkers, beleaguered and threadbare as it is.

(adapted from the *Nation*, Volume 240, Number 4)

STRIKES ROCK IRAN

In the last half of 1984, more than a hundred strikes swept across Iran, hitting many industries vital to the continuation of the fratricidal war in the Persian Gulf. These strikes broke out despite the Iranian regime's suppression of the labor movement, and represent the first outbreak of mass discontent since 1979.

There is extensive cause for discontent. The war with Iraq which has been raging for about three and a half years has left at least 300,000 dead, and the economy in shambles. Inflation is currently running at 400%, and a full day's wage for an average worker (just over \$5 US) can barely purchase a pound and a half of rice.

One of the most significant strikes took place in Isphahan, where more than 20,000 iron workers struck on November 25th over the imminent layoff of 5,000 workers and staff. This layoff was a direct consequence of the Government's decision to lease the iron plant to private business interests as a cost-saving move. The strike continued through December, when workers took the entire management hostage.

Among the demands advanced by the strikers were continued employment for the 5,000 workers; the immediate release of all imprisoned strikers; safer working conditions, institution of a job-security system and a wage scheme based on ability, merit, and seniority; wage increases in line with inflation; lower prices for goods and services; dismissal of the board of directors; and legislation prohibiting arbitrary practices by employers.

Reasonable as these demands were, the Iranian Government refused to negotiate, instead sending in commandos to break the strike. At least 10 workers were executed inside the factory as an example to their fellow workers, and several were arrested. These tactics succeeded in crushing this strike in early January. The number of strikers still imprisoned, and whether they are still alive, remains uncertain due to severe censorship within Iran.

Although workers played a vital role in bringing down the Shah's government, enabling Khomeini to come to power, they have secured no benefits from this regime. Women workers have been victims of special indignities as the Government tries to subject them to oppression even more brutal than that practiced under feudalism; all organized opposition has been crushed; and the Government has outlawed all workers' organizations and banned strikes. Labor legislation passed in early 1984 establishes "guidelines" which bosses are encouraged to comply with. Thus the entire range of vital issues ranging from minimum wages to working hours and safety standards are left to the discretion of individual bosses.

Yet bleak as the situation may seem, the quiet of the grave has not yet descended on Iran. In spite of the murderous repression directed against them by the religious autocracy, workers continue to fight for their rights. And though the Government can shoot and imprison its subjects, it cannot make iron or grow crops with bayonets.

The struggle will be long and hard, but one day Iran will be free. In the meantime, the atrocities of the Islamic autocracy must be given the widest possible international exposure and condemnation, and we must find concrete ways to demonstrate our international solidarity with our fellow workers in Iran.

(information from *Strike!*)

"TORTOISE" STRIKES IN BRAZIL

Metal workers in Sao Paulo have engaged in a series of slowdowns, which they call "tortoise strikes", as part of a campaign for increased wages. Several auto plants in Sao Bernardo were brought to a standstill, as workers



Over 80 persons were arrested and at least 60 injured in late January when Manila police violently broke up dem-

onstrations in support of the ACTO transport workers' strike.

deployed new tactics against employers.

The metal workers are demanding an 83% pay hike to restore purchasing power to 1983 levels. The Sao Bernardo auto workers are also seeking a reduction in work time and improved job security. Last year some 6,000 jobs were lost in the auto industry, though production increased by 4%.

SOUTH AFRICAN POLICE CLAMP DOWN

In clashes between police and black demonstrators in townships outside Cape Town, Johannesburg, and New Brighton February 18th, South African police wounded some 120 demonstrators and killed at least 16. A South African reporter on the scene says police were "swinging bodies like carcasses" into armored vehicles after the attacks, but is unsure whether the victims were dead or merely seriously injured, though "they were certainly inert". These demonstrations were the latest in a series of incidents that have broken out across the country as police attack strikers and demonstrators in their efforts to squash the rising tide of revolt.

Following the latest clashes, police arrested several leaders of the United Democratic Front, a multi-racial organization that has played the major role in organizing demonstrations against apartheid in South Africa and in building the highly-successful boycott of last year's "elections". At least six UDF activists were arrested on February 19th, joining several others already in jail. All are scheduled to go on trial for "treason" sometime in March, but details were not available at press time. If convicted, they could be executed.

BRITISH MINERS IN JAIL

During the ongoing miners' strike, 17 miners and one farm worker have been sentenced to jail terms ranging from two to five years for strike-related activities. As many as 100 more unionists are in prisons throughout Britain awaiting trial, according to information received from the Direct Action Movement, the British section of the International Workers Association.

CANADIAN UNIONISTS WIN PAID CHILD CARE:

The United Auto Workers at Canadian Fab, a subsidiary of American Motors Canada, are the first industrial workers in Canada to win a company-paid child-care provision in their contract. The company agreed to put 2¢ an hour into a child-care fund and to work with the union in setting up the program. About 90% of the Stratford, Ontario company's 1400 employees are women.

BANGLADESH STRIKES.

Anti-Government strikes by doctors, engineers, lawyers, and students paralyzed several Government offices in Bangladesh in early February, and prompted the closing of colleges and universities. The Bangladesh Supreme Court was closed after a sit-in was staged by lawyers demanding an end to the military government of H. M. Ershad and a return to civilian rule.

MASS ARRESTS IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC:

In late January, Dominican Army troops arrested hundreds of demonstrators in Santo Domingo as protests against the Government's latest austerity measures spread across the nation. The troops also occupied low-income neighborhoods in Santiago, the nation's second-largest city, after small businesses shut down in a 24-hour strike protesting the 34% jump in gasoline prices and a hike of more than 20% in food prices. In the first week of February, a strike by shopkeepers and transport workers shut down Santo Domingo's main business district and widespread closings were reported in other cities in protest of the austerity program demanded by the International Monetary Fund in return for restructuring the country's foreign debt.

JAIL BREAK-IN:

In Brazil's coastal city of Salvador, according to Rio de Janeiro's *Brazil Herald*, a jobless resident has provided a new sign of hard times: an attempt to break into prison. Marcelo Valentin was jailed after convincing police that he was an illegal alien from Korea. But then he slipped inadvertently into his native Portuguese and "confessed having faked the story... knowing that red tape could delay his expulsion [and] he would not have [to worry about] earning a living."

DEMAND THE DE-REGULATION OF LABOR:

The Decline of US Unionism

The bare statistics are dismal enough. Between 1980 and 1984, the percentage of US workers represented by unions dropped from 23% to 18.8%, down from a peak of 35.5% in 1945. In the goods-production sector of the US economy—a union stronghold since the '30s—union membership fell from 30.5% to 24% from 1980 to 1984. In the service sector, scene of a number of organizing drives in recent years, union membership fell from 13.5% to 10.5%. Only among government workers has union membership held somewhat steady: from 35.9% in 1980 to 35.7% in 1984.

The most recent Bureau of Labor Statistics survey shows substantial declines in union membership among both women and men. In 1984 13.8% of working women belonged to unions, as against 15.9% in 1980. Today 23% of working men belong to unions, down from 28.4% in 1980 and 29.6% in 1977.

In 1984 the median weekly wage of unionized workers 16 or older was \$405, as against \$303 for non-union workers. For male union members the wage was \$444, against \$362 for male non-union members. For female union members it was \$326, against \$251 for their non-union counterparts. For black male union members it was \$399, against \$253 for black non-union members. For black female union members it was \$303, against \$218 for black female non-union members. These figures show that while unions have not succeeded in equalizing wages, they do lift them. But that is not enough.

Recent polls indicate that only a third of non-union workers would vote for a union if the chance arose. Until recently, surveys had consistently found substantial majorities of non-union workers supporting unionization. Thus contemporary business unionism not only has failed to organize the US workforce, but also has failed to convince them that it would be in their interest to organize.

And in 1984, major contracts yielded pay increases averaging only 2.4% in the first year of the agreements and 2.3% annually over the life of the pacts, substantially below the official 3.5% inflation rate. This was the third straight year that pay increases declined; in 1983 first-year gains averaged 2.6%, down from 3.8% in 1982. These figures, gathered by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, include only contracts covering at least a thousand workers. The BLS reports that just over 75% of these workers actually had wage gains averaging 3.8%, while nearly 20% had no wage changes. The remaining 5% dragged the average down nearly a point and a half through massive concessions!

The Rise and Fall of US Labor Law

Many blame the current crisis on President Reagan and his anti-labor appointees to the National Labor Relations Board, but labor's difficulties were already acute when Reagan took office. Decertification elections to oust incumbent unions rose from about 200 a year in the 1950s and '60s to almost 900 a year by the end of the '70s. At the center of labor's problems is not the Reagan NLRB, but the Taft-Hartley Act of 1947, and more centrally the attitudes and divisions of US labor that led to acceptance of the Act. "Repeal Taft-Hartley", once a powerful rallying cry in the labor movement, is now a forgotten echo.

The Taft-Hartley Act came a dozen years after the Wagner Act, which established the NLRB and the system of state certification of unions. The Wagner Act also guaranteed workers' right to organize and charged the NLRB with encouraging collective bargaining. Although the Wagner Act was approved in 1935, it did not take effect till the Supreme Court upheld its constitutionality in 1937. By that time workers had already staged a nationwide textile strike in 1933, general strikes in San Francisco and Minneapolis in 1934, sit-down strikes in Akron and Toledo in 1935, and the 1936-37 Flint sit-down strike that organized General Motors.

Thus the Wagner Act merely ratified freedoms that millions of workers had already claimed in the shops, on the picket lines, and in the streets. While some members of Congress may have voted for it out of conviction, others—like Franklin D. Roosevelt and the Supreme Court majority—were moved by a fear of uncontrollable industrial strife. With the strikes and sit-downs, employers could not go to sleep certain that their workers would show up in the morning. The chief purpose of the Wagner Act was to restore stability to a shaken system of labor relations, as the more far-sighted domestic capitalists began setting their own house in order in preparation for a shooting war with their foreign counterparts.

But the Wagner Act did lead millions of emboldened workers to flock to the new unions of the Congress of Industrial Organizations, and to the older unions of the American Federation of Labor. Organized labor's ranks more than tripled between 1935 and 1945, from fewer than 4 million to almost 14 million by the end of the Second World War.

The Postwar Turning Point

Although labor leaders co-operated with business during the war, rank-and-file workers had not forgotten their 1930s militancy—as evidenced by the more than 14,000 wildcat strikes between Pearl Harbor and V-J Day.

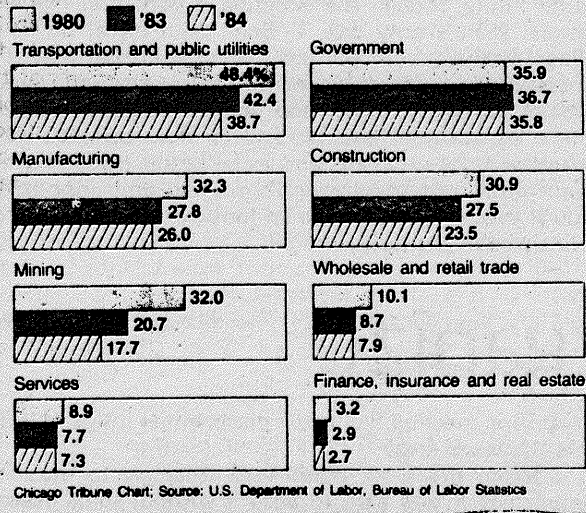
Beginning in the autumn of 1945 and continuing for raised prices enough to net it more than twice what it

the following year, the US experienced more labor strife than at any other time in its history. In 1946 four and a half million workers struck at a loss of 113 million work-days, four times the number of days lost during 1937—the peak year for the CIO organizing campaigns. When 3,000 machinists at the Yale and Towne lock-manufacturing company in Stamford, Connecticut walked off the job in December of 1945, workers in other union shops supported them. Some 10,000 unionists from across the city marched in solidarity with the machinists; the musicians' local supplied a band; and the dancing in the streets (along with the marches and speeches) effectively stopped work throughout the city for the day.

One year later, on the other side of the continent, workers in Oakland, California staged a two-day general

Union membership

In percent of all workers by employment sector in the U.S.



strike. The walkout began with a strike by the retail clerks, mostly women, at two downtown department stores. Early in the morning of December 3rd, 1946, bus and trolley operators, along with their passengers (many of them first-shift factory workers) saw the Oakland police escorting trucks through the picket lines into the loading zones of the department stores. The unionized transport workers stopped their vehicles and went to the aid of the retail clerks, accompanied by many of their passengers. Word spread to other union shops, and more workers—without authorization from union leadership—filled Oakland's business district to protest the police action.

Nor did the union leadership lend their support as the strike spread across the city. They negotiated a settlement with the city officials, who promised not to use any more police to help management break strikes. The retail workers, however, were left to fend for themselves. On the third morning, the AFL Central Labor Council sent sound trucks into the streets to urge the workers back to work. The CIO was silent.

The labor unrest in 1945 and 1946, extensive as it was, revolved primarily around basic bread-and-butter issues. Of all the labor leaders, only Walter Reuther of the United Auto Workers challenged the right of management to set prices. He insisted that General Motors could raise wages without a price increase, and to press his point he challenged management to open its books for union inspection. This demand, which would have been a blow to so-called "management rights", was turned down flat, and some 200,000 GM strikers went out on strike in November 1945. They were followed by 700,000 steel workers, 400,000 coal miners, 300,000 rail workers, 200,000 electrical workers, and 200,000 maritime workers. President Truman threatened to see the Military to keep the merchant fleet and railroads moving and to take temporary control of the mines to maintain soft-coal production, but the miners jeered: "You can't dig coal with bayonets."

Still, in February 1946 the strikers settled for a cross-industry raise of 18.5 cents an hour. Though the auto workers won a wage increase, they failed to gain access to GM's books or to extract a promise from GM not to raise prices. This proved to be a strategic defeat for organized labor. As part of the steel settlement, US Steel paid out in wage hikes, and other corporations followed suit.

Taft-Hartley and the Cold War

But labor militancy—spurred by the high inflation that it was accused of causing and disclosures of wartime profiteering by many of the same corporations which most vehemently opposed wage hikes—provided ammunition for accusations that the unions had become "Big Labor", rivaling the power of "Big Business". Both the CIO and the AFL had tried to organize the Southern textile industry in the late '40s, but almost from the start of the organizing campaign the AFL had red-baited the CIO in order to curry favor with corporate leaders. As the victors of World War II fell out—which would have happened even if Russia had remained czarist—all US progressives were subject to the accusation of being "pro-Russian".

The 1947 Taft-Hartley Act—which Truman vetoed but didn't hesitate to use—put a "right to refrain" from

union activity on a par with the right to organize and bargain. In its key section, 8(c), the Taft-Hartley Act codified anti-labor court decisions allowing employers to launch workplace campaigns against unionism. The Act also gave the President authority to obtain strike-breaking injunctions; permitted states where employers maintained a tight grip on government to enact "right to work" (for less) laws; outlawed solidarity job actions; allowed strikebreakers to vote in NLRB-run elections; and required loyalty oaths from elected union officials—a provision later revoked, but not before it was used to sow divisions in the labor movement.

Opportunists and "cold warriors" within the labor movement seized the chance to gain respectability and at the same time get rid of radical rivals and dissident activists, enough of whom had belonged at one time or another to the Communist Party to enable the whole lot to be tagged "un-American". In 1949 and 1950 the CIO expelled 10 member unions, including the West Coast Longshoremen and the Mine, Mill, and Smelter Workers (featured in the movie *Salt of the Earth*). With the activists out, business unionism became the order of the day. Demoralized unions were prey to gangsters and racketeers who pocketed members' money. Sometimes corruption and anti-Communism went hand-in-hand, as was the case with International Longshoremen's Association president Joseph Ryan. From 1947 till he was exposed in 1953, he regularly dunned shipping companies for a secret fund to keep "communist" labor organizers off the docks. Other unions also became involved in Cold War politics, assisting the CIA in working to tame labor movements around the world.

Aftermath and Resurgence?

In comparison with pre-World War II unions, post-war unions saw an upward shift in power within each union, till union members could count themselves lucky if they were able to vote on contracts. Drives to recruit workers in non-union industries died down. The long postwar economic expansion made possible by the destruction of other industrial nations brought modest pay raises and employer-paid health insurance to unionized workers without the need for rank-and-file militancy. The combined AFL-CIO seemed to have enough clout in the Democratic Party to insure appointees to the NLRB who would hand down an occasional pro-labor decision. Labor leaders began talking about "worker-management" partnership, and a false sense of security set in.

Today, when plant closings and product-line transfers are rampant and union-busting has reached new levels of sophistication, the folly of relying on the labor laws and the NLRB has become plain even to business unionists. But they can't see beyond it.

Everyone agrees that unions must organize the unorganized, but only a few of the service-workers unions are even trying it. Everyone agrees that democratizing unions is critical to igniting their mass base, but the AFL-CIO continues to turn the screws on union dissidents. The AFL-CIO leadership remains largely a white-male gerontocracy in which the top slots turn over only upon death, disability, or indictment. Everyone agrees that unions must defend worker interests in areas other than wages and cash benefits, but AFL-CIO interest in worker health and safety is minimal. Everyone agrees that unions need to reach out and make contact with allies outside the labor movement, but at a time of increasing public concern about nuclear weapons, military buildup, and US intervention in Central America, the AFL-CIO has barely reconsidered its long-standing commitment to the Cold War.

In short, faced with grave challenges and a hostile environment, the leadership of the labor movement, if not its rank and file, have responded to labor's current predicament in a desultory and self-defeating way. While the situation is not as bad as that of the '30s (yet), the militancy of labor in the '30s and around the turn of the century shows what needs to be done. It is not a new unionism that we need, but the militant rank-and-file unionism that the IWW has always stood for. The AFL-CIO type of unionism has been tried, and the empty results are all around us in the decline of the working-class standard of living. The working class must (re)organize itself, kick off restraining laws against sympathy strikes, and fight. Today, better working conditions, a shorter workweek, and higher pay. Tomorrow, as we chip away at the decision-making powers of boss and state, a new economic system!

plp



Some Rebel Humor

We quit burning witches when it became ridiculous, not to the witches and their prosecutors, but to many of the rest of us. If we survive our H-bombs it will probably be because the generals and statesmen have somehow been reduced to their unadorned, ridiculous selves. Humor is a defensive weapon we need for our survival.

Fred Wright died in December, but *UE News* has published a couple of hundred of the cartoons he drew for it, often lifted by us and other labor papers. The need for them will keep them circulating. Example: two tycoons looking down at a parade of people demanding work, with the caption "What are they complaining about?" We haven't worked a day in our lives." Or that brief illustrated essay on Reaganomics: a tycoon saying "To restore prosperity—lower my taxes—so I can buy new machines—which will make more products—with fewer workers", passing out a layoff slip in that last panel. The book gets its title, *So Long, Partner*, from a cartoon of the boss as he hands a layoff slip to his "partner in production". It's \$4.95 plus shipping from the UE Book Department, 11 East 51st Street, New York 10022.

Life and Deeds of Uncle Sam is a reprint of Oscar Ameringer's 1909 pamphlet which, as Paul Buhle's preface notes, reached more readers than any other history book until Beard's *Rise of American Civilization*. Ameringer's humor is usually expressed in the plainest possible statements: "These school histories are fairy tales with the 'once upon a time' left out and dates inserted." Or "The mule gets his pay in keep and the worker gets his keep in pay." He cuts through the rhetoric of the Constitution by noting that the will of the people can be put aside by the House, the Senate, or the President, and that

"the will of the people and the House of Representatives and the United States Senate and his excellency the President may be vetoed by five petrified, musty old corporation lawyers who are, as far as popular control is concerned, as far removed from the people as the man in the moon is removed from the rat-terrier that barks at him."

The Kerr Company offers this reprint at \$3.95, an appropriate companion to its recent reprint of Ernest Riebe's Mr. Block cartoons. It is available from the IWW.

ft

Labor's Joke Book, edited by Paul Buhle, Workers' Democracy, PO Box 24115, Saint Louis, Missouri 63130, 64 pages, \$3.95

There is often nothing better than a joke to get a point across and to provide a break from the tedium of our jobs. And as this book notes, some of the best labor humor has come from the IWW. This new book presents several cartoons, a few jokes, and some stories. Some are quite funny, though the selection is quite odd (for example, there's only one T-Bone Slim piece, no IWW songs, nothing from the pen of Ernest Riebe). But this is essentially a joke book written for academics. There's almost as much analysis and introductory comment as there are jokes. There are several more cartoons than jokes, and the cartoons tend to be better (though a few seem quite out-of-place). This is the only joke book you'll ever run across with an index and a statement of principles in the back.

JB



REVIEW

International Labour Reports, published by May Day Publications (a workers' co-operative), 300 Oxford Road, Manchester M13 9NS England

International Labour Reports is a well-illustrated 28-page magazine featuring in-depth news, analysis, and letters on the worldwide labor situation. Recent articles have included "Workers and the World Debt Crisis", "Labour Militancy in the Philippines", and "Comparing Pay Packets—Worldwide", plus regular reports on individual companies, international trade unionism, repression, and more. ILR appears six times a year and is supported by a wide range of labor groups and individuals. Subscriptions are \$10 a year in the United Kingdom and \$20 a year in the US (airmail). Well worth checking out.

How Not to Organize

Fellow Workers:

I would like to share with you an account of a union vote which took place recently in Millville, New Jersey.

Our local union Council 18 of Cumberland County, New Jersey recently moved to affiliate itself with the Communication Workers of America (CWA) Local 1044. The vote was confined to the employees of the City of Millville, one of the last blocks of municipal workers who have not affiliated in Cumberland County.

I went to the first organizing meeting that was called. Out of 118 employees, 15 showed up. Our Council 18 reps said they had contacted everyone, an obvious farce since no new employees were ever contacted. The CWA 1044 people introduced themselves and tried to explain the benefits of affiliation. But their presentation was monotone and inspired only a few questions.

I personally called the CWA local three times in the first week. (Since it was over 60 miles to their office, driving there was out.) I never got one call returned. I finally began to receive rudimentary material two weeks after I had originally asked for it. At this point *not one*

organizing meeting had taken place, either inside or outside the work area.

I found my work group very receptive to the new union, put it was hard to push it without some decent literature. Anyway, I found that after talking with everyone I had an 80% positive vote for affiliation. Another week passed, and I started receiving more material from the local. I called a fourth time and asked when the union rep would be down for a meeting. The secretary was polite, but I never got a call back or talked directly to the union people.

A third weekend passed, and when I got back to work Monday I learned that the vote was set for that week. The CWA people had not once shown their faces in or out of the workplace; had not once helped organize, call, or muster support; had not even returned calls—and *now* they wanted a vote!

The voting was to be done through mail ballots: no polling place, no last-minute solidarity push to plan for. I also found out that none of the new workers were registered to vote in this election, since they had been non-

voting, non-dues-paying members of Council 18.

At this point I still thought there was a good chance that we could win the election. There was one other worker in our building who was helping push for the union, and I asked her if we were ever going to have the organizing and steering-committee meeting I had been told about. She said that as far as she knew, we were the only two people organizing. That day I went to as many employees as possible trying to get votes. Many of the other workers were totally confused, since neither the Council nor the Local had ever contacted them about anything.

When the vote came three days later, we lost 107-79. Then I finally got a call from Local 1044. The union rep wanted to know what had gone wrong. I told him to see if it was legal for new members of the union to be denied the vote. He told me to write him a letter. I didn't, and he never called back.

Fellow Workers, the corruption, apathy, and uninterest of these so-called unions should be analyzed as much as possible. We should support and organize the IWW as much as possible. We need an alternative to the corrupt locals, and the best choice is the IWW. So remember: Don't mourn, organize!

In solidarity,
Gary Vendetti, X333986

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
() Abolish the Wage System (ND)	.50
() 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
() Didactic Verse (by Henry Pfaff)*	2.00
() The Grievance*	.95
() Workers of the World Awaken (sheet music)	.50
() We Have Fed You All for a Thousand Years (LP) (ND)	8.50

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
() Mr. Block: 24 IWW Cartoons*	4.95
() Haymarket Revisited* (ND)	3.00
() Joe Hill (by Gibbs Smith)* (ND)	11.95

*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.

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 500, 3¢; over 500, 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.
IWW baseball caps (one size fits all): \$4 each, add \$1 each for shipping. University Cellar IU 660 Job Branch (checks to IWW), 341 East Liberty, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48107.

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

THE WHEELS OF JUSTICE GRIND SLOWLY

Newark, New Jersey (AP): Calling it the "Purloined Potty Paper Caper", a judge has ordered back pay and reinstatement for a department-store employee fired for taking a half roll of toilet paper worth 11¢ to clean his car windows.

US District Judge H. Lee Sarokin ruled on January 23rd that Schlesinger's Department Store in Western New York should give Enrique Cuevas his old job back and pay him an amount to be determined by an arbitrator. A lawyer for Cuevas says \$25,000 in back pay is at stake.

The dispute was submitted to arbitration, but Schlesinger's general manager Vincent DeGennaro, the man who fired Cuevas, was fatally shot by another employee he had fired while en route to an arbitration meeting in November 1983.

[This story was carried on Page 2 of the Greenfield, Massachusetts *Recorder*. Too bad Cuevas is stuck with an arbitrator's decision.]

WHY JOIN THE IWW?

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

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

British Deathlist

Every film buff knows that the American CIA maintains a death list, and that death lists are the common political coin of Russian and South American states. But no one within Britain's sea-girt isles believed for one minute that Britain's old-school-tie-oriented Secret Service would eliminate a problem by delivering the old whammy of a well-aimed bullet. Yet in the trial of civil servant Clive Ponting, accused of leaking Watergate-style documents concerning the sinking of the Argentinian aircraft carrier *Belgrano*, the question of whether the British Secret Service murdered 78-year-old Hilda Murrell continues to loom.

The murdered body of Murrell, a militant anti-nuclear campaigner and relative of a naval officer who was part of the task force responsible for the *Belgrano's* reaching land by the shortest distance between two points, was found in woods far from her home after the house had been ransacked and only one thing of value removed: the final draft of a paper she was to have read out at an anti-nuclear-plant enquiry.

Her death was quickly dismissed by the authorities as the work of a run-of-the-mill burglar who somehow took nothing of value but a dead body and a single protest document. But the notes or records concerning the *Belgrano* sinking claimed to belong to Miss Murrell's ex-Royal Navy relation have yet to surface, like a corpse in a stagnant pool, while a happy-time press and public await the chance to view still more dirt under upturned stones.

We can spread out our hands and smile wryly into the dark interiors of our Guinness glasses, having just read that Ma Thatcher's Tory lunatic squad has decided for purely economic reasons to establish an official death list, and I am one of the tens of thousands officially designated worm bait in Ma Thatcher's war against economic inflation. "Words, words, words" you may cry, but cry that to 44-year-old Derek Sage, who went for his twice-weekly life-saving dialysis treatment at Churchill Hospital only to be turfed out by the medical top brass because "his quality of life was too low", and left with only 10 days to live.

What was the nature of Sage's "low quality of life"? It was simply that, like me, he was a working-class slob and would never be likely to win the Nobel Prize or write the Book of the Month and did not shower every day. So he was casually marked for death by the highly-paid medical parasites stereotypical of all those death-or-glory soap operas. Comrades, Derek Sage's sole crime was that he was of the millions who labor in the fields to feed those who condemn them to death, and lay the bricks of the very hospitals that throw them out.

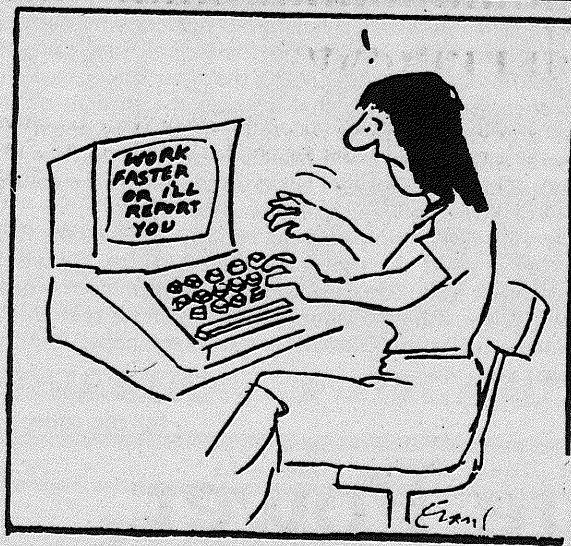
At this moment in time Derek Sage is still living, for a charity has agreed to pay his costs at a private profit-making hospital. But it has been officially laid down that due to economic cuts, the old and sick in need of life support within Britain's National Health Service can no longer expect or hope for the treatment or the salvation that was the prayer and the ideal of all those generations of men and women who marched and bled for a good and just society within which their care for each other would be paramount.

In 1945, after five years of bloody war, the people of Britain had a right to believe that in the National Health Service they were seeing the first flower of that good and just society wherein sickness would no longer be a crime. But today the political and medical elite that fought against it from the start are happily destroying Britain's Health Service, and Derek Sage was to be their first "official" sacrifice.

Arthur Moyses, London

CRIME AND PUNISHMENT

1984's Comprehensive Crime Control Act—a broadside attack on civil liberties—has already started to have an effect. Eight New York political activists were held in jail for two weeks and denied bail under the "extremely dangerous to the community" provision of the Act, though none had previous criminal records and they were arrested for *thinking of* freeing a black revolutionary currently in prison. Anti-nuke activists can be charged with a violent felony for "damaging or disrupting an energy facility". Grand juries have been ordering people from radical groups (FALN, John Brown Anti-Klan Committee, New African Liberation Movement, Puerto Rican Socialist Party, attorneys, and the like) to answer all questions about their group or go to jail.



IW SUSTAINING FUND

(Received During January 1985)

Steve and Nancy Kellerman (Jamaica Plains, Massachusetts)	5.00
A. L. Nurse (Thompson Falls, Montana)	100.00
Jesse Carlton (Charlotte, Vermont)	5.00
Jack Rosenquist (Boston, Massachusetts)	4.00
John Gildersleeve (Fort Bragg, California)	10.00
Ed Mann (Youngstown, Ohio)	4.00
Switchman (Long Beach, California)	10.00
John Spitzberg (Germantown, Maryland)	50.00
George LaForest (Rockford, Illinois)	5.00
Armando Almeida (Toronto, Ontario)	7.00
Ray Davies (Hadley, Massachusetts)	1.75
John Bonsignor (Montague, Massachusetts)	1.00
Switchman (Long Beach, California)	10.00
TOTAL	212.75

Many thanks, fellow workers, for your generous support. (The *Industrial Worker's* loss for January was \$277.18.)

And by 1989 parole will be abolished for federal offenses.

I was alarmed at all these government infringements on the human race till I read the local newspapers and watched some TV news assuring me that I was now safer and that crime would take a nosedive. Somehow, though, this all reminded me of reports throughout the '60s and early '70s that the Vietnam War would be won in only two weeks, two months, or two years.

I didn't feel any relief at all, and when I made out my rent check and saw how little was left in my savings—88¢—I was ready to hit the ceiling. Why don't the police arrest the landlord once he cashes my check, charging him with extortion, not to mention sabotage (in regard to the condition of the building)? And why stop at that?

Bruce Kayton

THE UNCONVENTIONAL WISDOM

A recent headline trumpets: "Middle Class May Be Vanishing Breed". The headline is misleading, however, as it says not that the middle class is vanishing, but that a segment of the working class that has attained decent wages is vanishing as low-paying jobs in service industries replace better-paying jobs in manufacturing. From Pillar of the Community to Welfare Bum in one wave of a dismissal slip.

Meanwhile, Establishment publicists keep up their supercilious prattle to the effect that there is something unworthy about the unemployed and something suspect about the under-employed, implying that people in those predicaments prefer living off public handouts bought by workers' taxes to working for a living themselves.

Surely, in this time of robots replacing humans, multinational conglomeration, and trade unions in retreat, there must be a growing awareness out there that class-collaborationist unionism has run its course. Surely there must be a growing number of workers ready to study the sort of unionism that aims at ending the wage, price, and profit system, to the end that each worker will work as much as it takes to provide for the comfort and happiness of the whole population.

If you really don't want the future working class, including your own descendants, to be paupers serving princes, you'll study...and prepare to act.

Pervicacia

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 IU 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. R. M. R. Kroopkin, Delegate, 3924 1/2 Park Boulevard, San Diego, California 92103. San Francisco Bay Area General Membership Branch: PO Box 40485, San Francisco, California 94140. Santa Clara Valley IWW: PO Box 9249, Suite 194, San Jose, California 95157. 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: General Defense Committee, Arthur J. Miller, Secretary, PO Box 6130, Kansas City, Kansas 66106. Wichita: IWW Delegate, PO Box 522, Wichita, Kansas 67201. Lawrence: Jovan Weismiller, Delegate, 917 Ohio, Apartment A, Lawrence, Kansas 66044.

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

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 East 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 M1A 2L4.

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

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

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

WASHINGTON: Bellingham General Membership Branch, PO Box 1386, Bellingham, Washington 98227. 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 99862, (509) 525-0066.

WISCONSIN: Madison General Membership Branch, c/o 514 South Baldwin, Madison, Wisconsin 53703.

WHY NOT?

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

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

Dear Reader:

The *Industrial Worker* is the official organ of the Industrial Workers of the World. That being the case, its editorial collective, made up of volunteers from the Chicago Branch who do the editing, writing, and layout in our spare time, is under the general supervision of the General Executive Board of the IWW and receives its mandate from the IWW General Convention.

Our purpose in putting out the *IW* is to provide news and analysis of events and issues of concern to workers world-wide. We are not so much interested in exposing the crimes of capitalism as we are in highlighting acts of resistance to exploitation and domination. In this regard

we are very interested in having our readers, whether they be members of the IWW or not, participate in this project by sending us news of activities that they are engaged in, or otherwise know of, that uncover the struggle of the new society to be born. Anything from a slowdown to a general strike, from a one-hour wildcat to . . . you name it. If it's something workers are doing to gain more control of their lives, we want to know about it.

If you don't think you can write it, send us the facts and we'll see if we can work something up. We would prefer that you "do it yourself", in your own words. It's time we workers found our voice. Please take this as a sincere invitation. The *IW* is a workers' paper, and this means you.

Mike Hargis,
for the collective

Victims of State Power

ATOMIC VICTIMS LOSE LEGAL CLOUT: A measure that slipped through Congress virtually unnoticed last fall apparently makes it impossible for veterans and their relatives to win lawsuits seeking compensation for cancers allegedly caused by atomic-weapon tests. The new legislation gives government contractors immunity from liability for any harm done, including cancer caused by radioactive fallout, in atomic-weapon testing. Because the Supreme Court ruled in 1950 that the Federal Government could not be sued for injuries "incident to military service", the new law leaves veterans who have cancer which they think was caused by fallout from tests with nobody to sue.

The law, part of a bill authorizing \$297 billion for Defense Department programs, also raises new hurdles for civilian fallout victims who have sued contractors in connection with the atomic-testing program. The bill converts any suit against an atomic-testing contractor into a suit against the US, which comes under the Federal Tort Claims Act, which provides no right to trial by jury, no possibility of punitive damages, and in the case of veterans, no chance of winning.



COLD-WEATHER CRIME: When sub-zero weather in New York caused two people to freeze to death in their apartment this January and brought 10,189 calls to city authorities complaining about inadequate home heat, the *New York Times* ran an article quoting a police spokesperson as saying "Usually crime does go down in this kind of weather." Apparently a teenager's demanding \$5 on the subway is considered a crime, but a landlord's allowing people to freeze to death is not.

UNWANTED KIDS IN JAIL: The American Civil Liberties Union has filed suit on behalf of an average of nearly 30 children, some as young as 10, who are legally held each month in the Cook County, Illinois juvenile facility. In each case, a judge has ordered that the youth be released into the custody of a parent or guardian who has not shown up, with the result that the youths have not been released. The children have been arrested for crimes ranging from truancy and vandalism to violent assault. They have been acquitted, have served

the required time for their offenses, or have been temporarily released pending trial. Proposed solutions include forcing parents to accept custody, increasing neglect prosecutions against parents, establishing a residential shelter, amending laws that govern juvenile justice, or some combination of the above. In New York City, such children are simply released. "There have been times when we've simply given them cab fare home," said a spokesperson for the New York Department of Juvenile Justice.

IN LOCO PARENTIS: Professor Kamisar once defined it as "a Latin phrase meaning 'to violate people's rights'". In mid-January, the Supreme Court ruled that a Piscataway, New Jersey high-school official had acted properly when he searched the purse of a student whom he had "reasonable grounds" to suspect of smoking cigarettes in a school lavatory.

"The decision is apparently written in good faith [sic], but where it is wrong and disappointing is in the trust it places in school officials," says Martin Guggenheim of the New York University Law School. "What it really means is that school officials have a license to do as they wish."

"'Reasonable suspicion' in the courts is no more than a hunch, and I don't think this is an appropriate standard when student rights are involved," says Gerald Lefcourt, a New York lawyer who handles many search-and-seizure cases. "If school officials take an aggressive approach, students' privacy rights will almost evaporate."

ANTI-DRAFT CLASH IN NICARAGUA: According to residents of Nagarote, a town of 15,000 25 miles from Managua, several dozen Sandinista recruiters staged a raid shortly after Christmas on a number of houses in the

INTERCEPTED MAIL

Mail addressed to the IWW and the *Industrial Worker* is regularly being returned to its senders stamped "Addressee unknown". If this should happen to you, please try again, and enclose the original envelope so we can file another complaint with the Post Office. Also, it has been brought to our attention that last month's issue of the *Industrial Worker* (March 1985) was delayed in delivery, and may not have been delivered at all in some instances. If readers would let us know the date they received that issue, it would aid our inquiries into this matter.

town where military deserters or draft resisters were believed to be hiding. In many cases their information was correct, but parents and neighbors put up fierce fights to prevent their sons from being taken. According to a Sandinista army spokesperson, about 30 Nagarote youths were arrested and sentenced to six months in jail for either draft resistance or assault.

Nicaraguan law requires that all males 16 to 22 register for military service. Since the law took effect in January 1984 there have been sporadic protests against conscription, but the one in Nagarote was the most generalized.

GERM TESTS: Going through my extensive filing system (I always empty the wastepaper basket in January whether it needs it or not), I found two clippings. The first, from early December, was a report on some de-

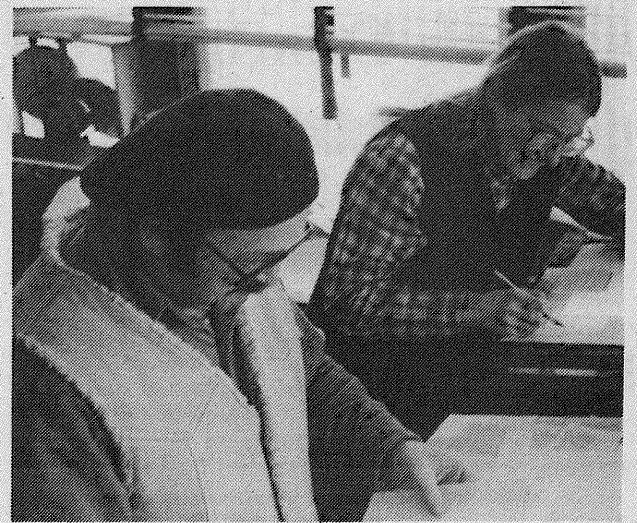
May Day is Coming

Plans are already afoot for the hundredth anniversary of May Day 1886 and the Haymarket tragedy that grew out of it. But World Labor Day (May 1st, 1985) comes first, so it's time to remember its history.

The first World Labor Day was May 1st, 1890, a date set at the International Labor and Socialist Congress that had convened in Paris on July 14th, 1889, the centenary of the fall of the Bastille. The first day of May was chosen at the urging of Samuel Gompers, head of the AFL. Unions in America had already established the First of May as a customary day for widespread strikes—a practice that originated among the New England building trades, as the day to either set new terms for the new building season or go on strike. That 1889 Paris congress had decided some specific day should be set in 1890 for simultaneous demonstrations in all countries to counter the argument that granting a shorter workday in one country would shift the work abroad. When Gompers' envoy arrived to ask for re-inforcement of the eight-hour-day struggles planned for American cities on the coming First of May, that date was agreed on. (One can find all the details in an essay by Professor Sidney Fine in the Spring 1954 issue of *The Historian*.)

April 30th has been the expiration date for many building-trades contracts through the years because of this tradition and the weather behind it. There were many May 1st strikes before the widespread ones of 1886, including one in Chicago 19 years earlier, on May 1st, 1867: a general work stoppage and a massive parade that resulted in an eight-hour day that did little good. (Except where unions could prevent it, the 10-hour day persisted with the same daily pay, only now calculated to count the last two hours as overtime.)

That first World Labor Day had been planned for the year 1890 only, but response was so enthusiastic that it has been World Labor Day ever since except, strangely, in this land that gave it birth. Here legislation in 1894 set the first Monday in September as Labor Day, but throughout the years the IWW and others who know the importance of trans-national labor solidarity have kept May Day alive. We should not let militaristic displays in any land on May Day dissuade us from joining in a declaration of global labor solidarity against the corporations that would have us undermine each other's pay and the generals who would have us kill each other's kids.
f.t.



Fellow Workers Mike Hargis and Penny Pixler help put together another issue of the *Industrial Worker*.

SCIENCE AND CHILDREN

In this age of science and technology, most American children show little interest in studying science. They use technology without understanding it. And they come to school with their view of science and technology already distorted by much of what they have seen on television, particularly on Saturday mornings, during the networks' only remaining regularly-scheduled children's programs.

The airwaves are full of phony science: X-ray bracelets with magic powers and the like. In the Saturday-morning cartoon glut a large share of the technological devices serve as weapons, merging science and violence in children's minds. In these early introductions to science, problems are solved by dumb luck, with the hero pushing the right button at random. When science looks either dumb or dangerous, it is not something you want to do when you grow up.

When the children reach school, the science education they receive is not likely to inspire them. Paul DeHart Hurd, professor emeritus of science education at Stanford, estimates that more than half of all children complete sixth grade without ever having experienced a well-taught science class. By the end of third grade, almost half say they would not like to study any more science. And by 10th grade, two-thirds of all students still in school are not confident of their ability to learn science.

Even at its worst, however, the situation offers great opportunities. For example, one high-school teacher in New York asked his chemistry class to analyze the "new and improved" brand of television-advertised antacid and compare it with its earlier, unimproved version. "No difference", the students reported. After much correspondence and re-testing by the students following Food and Drug Administration procedures, the manufacturer conceded: "How remarkable! Your results duplicate ours exactly."

INDUSTRIAL WORKER
3435 N. Sheffield Avenue
Chicago, IL 60657, USA
ISSN: 0019-8870

Second Class Postage
Paid at
Chicago, Illinois 60657

TO:

classified Pentagon documents released to the Church of Scientology. In 1964 and '65 the Army sprayed *Bacillus subtilis* bacteria on bus and airplane passengers in the District of Columbia as part of a series of tests simulating germ-warfare attacks. The tests were designed to see how a disease would spread if it was released where travelers congregated.

The Army planned similar tests in Chicago and San Francisco, but the documents were censored and it could not be determined whether those tests occurred. A clipping from two days later showed the Reagan Administration asking the US Court of Appeals to lift a ban against taking genetically-engineered microbes out of laboratories for field tests. Earlier in 1984, a district judge had barred the National Institute of Health from authorizing any more experiments that would release such organisms into the environment till environmental-impact statements are issued. Allegedly, the NIH experiment involved putting the microbes on potato plants to protect them from frost.

COURT STRIKES DOWN NOISE REGULATIONS

A federal court in Virginia has struck down OSHA's noise standard, which was already substantially watered down by the Reagan Administration. The standard required employers to monitor the hearing of workers exposed to an average of more than 90 decibels, and to refer them to a doctor if their hearing had deteriorated. An industry trade group sued to overturn the rule on the ground that a worker's hearing could deteriorate because of noise away from work, and the court agreed 2 to 1. The dissenting judge argued: "Breathing automobile exhaust and general air pollution isn't healing to a wounded lung, [but] that hardly justified failure to regulate noxious workplace fumes that inflicted the primary wound."