

INDUSTRIAL WORKER

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WORLD LABOR
NEWS

★ ORGANIZATION

INDUSTRIAL WORKERS

OF THE WORLD

★ EMANCIPATION

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U S Labor Resists Capital

POLICE ATTACK STRIKERS

Clouds of tear gas rise in the air; men, women, and children scatter as riot-clad police fire rubber bullets and wooden pellets into the crowd; an elderly man is pulled down from the bed of a flatbed pickup and beaten to the pavement by the "security forces". Northern Ireland? South Africa? Guatemala? No! This is Coshoc-ton, Ohio in the heart of Middle America.

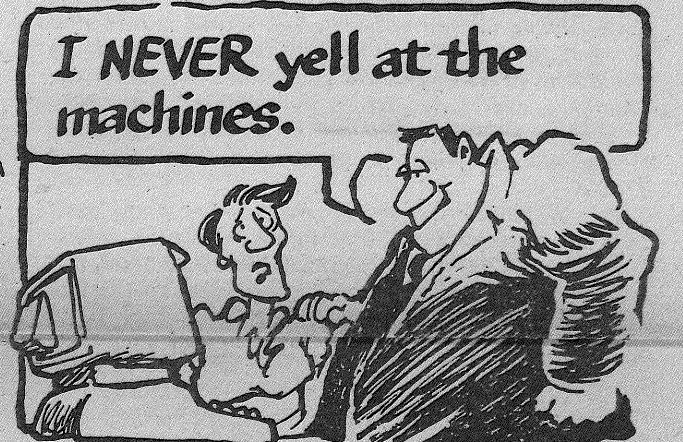
On Labor Day, September 7th, around 1500 trade-unionists, relatives, and friends rallied in support of the 186 workers who have been on strike against the Stone Container Company since August 17th in opposition to company efforts to make work-rule changes and to take away their Christmas holiday and premium pay for weekend work.

The authorities claim that the police assault was provoked by strikers throwing rocks and women and children storming the plant gates, charges that the rally participants firmly deny. On the other hand, local police came to the rally prepared for battle, re-inforced by a contingent of sheriff's deputies brought in from surrounding counties and company gun thugs who had been imported at the beginning of the strike. The police attack, which resulted in 13 arrests and the ransacking of the union's strike headquarters, was clearly aimed at paving the way for two busloads of scabs.

Clearly violent repression of workers who stand up for their rights is not confined to the so-called Third World.

IP STRIKE AT CROSSROADS

The attack on paper-industry workers continues, with flexibility as the bosses' battlecry. Last year more than 300 workers at the Boise Cascade mill in Rumford, Maine were thrown onto the scrapheap following a bitter three-month strike of over 1200 workers that failed to make



Carol Simpson © 1987

the bosses back down on their demands for changes in long-established work rules. In that strike (see the September and October *IWs*) scabs were brought in to keep the plant running during the walkout, and they ended up staying when Boise declared an "impasse" in negotiations and implemented their final offer.

Inspired by this boss victory, the International Paper Company decided to try for the same basic objective: elimination of jobs through "flexibility" (the ability of management to move workers around a plant at will regardless of skill or seniority, combination of jobs, and the like). Workers took up the challenge and struck in

DePere, Wisconsin; Gardiner, Oregon; Jay, Maine; and Lock Haven, Pennsylvania; and were locked out in Mobile, Alabama. Now International Paper has declared an "impasse" and has implemented its final offer at the Jay mill, where workers have been out since June 1st. Nearly a thousand workers stand to lose their jobs at this facility because IP refuses to discuss the issue of the 800 to 1000 scabs brought in to break the strike. (Some 1250 workers are on strike.)

As of this writing (October 23rd) the outcome of the struggle is still unknown. But if the workers in Jay are forced to surrender, it can only hurt the chances for success of other striking locals. It is instructive to note, however, that more and more employers are resorting to the ploy of declaring an "impasse" in negotiations and imposing their take-away demands.

Apparently the bosses consider collective bargaining a dead issue. So workers will have to devise ways to impose *our* will on the employers. Turnabout is fair play.

BASF CHANGES TACTICS

The longest lockout in US labor history entered a crucial stage last September when the German-based BASF Chemical Corporation in Geismar, Louisiana announced that it was calling back to work 235 operators who have been locked out since June 1984. Originally 367 members of Oil, Chemical, and Atomic Workers Union Local 4-620 were locked out when union members refused to accept company demands for concessions. The company's plan would eliminate the jobs of 110 maintenance workers whom BASF intends to replace with outside contractors. In addition, the company's implemented contract would allow it the right to replace any of the (continued on Page 3)

World Auto Workers Meet

INTERNATIONAL CAR WORKERS DISCUSS STRENGTHENING UNIONS

On October 13th and 14th, representatives of 750,000 workers in the automobile industries of 10 countries in Asia and the Pacific met in Korea to discuss strengthening union organization in the region. Union leaders from Australia, India, Indonesia, Japan, Pakistan, the Philippines, South Korea, Taiwan, and Thailand were joined by representatives of the US and West Germany.

The International Metalworkers' Federation, which organized the conference, stressed support for Korean strikers, who have been subjected to a wave of arrests since September. The IMF is especially concerned about the fate of Kwon Young Mok, union leader of the Hyundai engine plant in Ulsan, and Lee Hyong Gon, president of the Federation of Hyundai Industrial Unions. A number of elected leaders of newly-formed unions representing workers in the Daewoo car company (50% owned by General Motors) also have been arrested.

"It is the same old story we have seen repeated in labor-union history hundreds of times," said IMF general secretary Herman Rebhan. "Workers rise up against intolerable conditions and arrogant managers. To begin with, the government and employers say they are willing to recognize their claims and begin negotiations; but when it comes to real negotiations the employers are not willing to offer meaningful economic improvements, while the government will not accept that working people have a right to a democratic say in how the economy and society are organized."

Concerning Asian auto workers in general, conference representatives pointed out that the Asian auto industry

is more widespread than is commonly realized, despite the overwhelming dominance of Japan. According to the IMF survey, Japan has 12 companies manufacturing or assembling cars, India 8, Taiwan 8, Malaysia 6, South Korea 6, and Australia 5, while Indonesia, New Zealand, the Philippines, and Thailand all have plants assembling cars from knock-down kits or parts-making operations.

The key factor for the auto industry has been the rise of the yen and consequent transfer of Japanese production to other Asian countries. The IMF report declares that Japanese multinationals "turn out to be exactly the same as American, British, French, German, or any other multinationals". According to the IMF, for some of the Japanese auto companies, "Humans exist only to be skillfully manipulated to fulfill a company's productive needs before anything else is considered."

As a union strategy for auto workers in the region, the IMF urges reduced working time and increased domestic demand. With the exception of Australia and New Zealand, Asian car workers put in far more hours than their European and American counterparts, and have far fewer holidays. The IMF report also points out the startling difference in domestic demand between car-assembling Asian countries, which reflects the extremely-low wages in many countries. While Japan has one car for every 2.6 persons, for example, South Korea has one for every 78 and India one for every 683.

The International Metalworkers' Federation represents 14 million metalworkers in 70 countries worldwide. Some three million of these are workers in the automobile industry, and the Geneva-based Federation acts as the international co-ordinating body for automobile unions.

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AROUND OUR UNION

A GOOD WAY TO SPEND MAY DAY

What were you doing May Day? Well, Fellow Worker Bob Young decided to celebrate the international workers' holiday by filing a charge with the NLRB (National Labor Relations Board) against his employer, the Green Chimneys Children's Services Incorporated, for his illegal dismissal because of his union activities (a violation of Section 8 (a) (1) and (3) of the National Labor Relations Act. FW Young also charged that his boss violated Section 8 (a) (1) of the Act by interrogating him concerning his union-related activities.

Within six weeks the NLRB made a settlement agreement, which was to have the company not only re-instate the worker but also compensate him for the loss of pay he may have suffered.

This fellow worker did not do this on his own. It was his union that got his job back. Fellow Worker Paul Poulos was there with Bob when he went to the NLRB in New York City. He was there in the name of the Union that makes us strong.

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Colorado Mine Communities Enjoy Wobbly Art

On September 27th the IWW art exhibit was moved from the Walsenburg Mining Museum in Southern Colorado to the City Council chamber in Lafayette, Colorado, some 20 miles north of Denver. The City Council met September 20th surrounded by militant rebel art.

On Saturday, September 19th, the film *The Wobblies* was shown in Walsenburg's City Council chamber. Among those viewing the movie were a few retired miners who belonged to the IWW in 1927-28, when the Wobblies shut down all of Colorado's coal mines except for the Columbine near Lafayette in the northern coal fields. On September 30th we showed the film to the Lafayette miners, many of whom remembered the IWW strike of '27 and '28.

This Wobbly strike of the coal mines was the most total and successful strike Colorado had ever experienced. Some 1200 miners had laid down their tools, and only the Columbine continued to produce. This Rocky Mountain Fuel Company mine was owned by the most progressive of all the Colorado coal operators, Josephine Roche. Roche had just won control of the Rocky Mountain Fuel Company, and was in fact pro-union; but she continued to produce coal because the Company was in serious financial difficulty and about to go into receivership. The IWW began to concentrate on this mine to make the shutdown complete, and pickets marched to the mine every day to try to get the scabs out. Josephine Roche gave orders that they were to be allowed to picket, and often provided coffee for the strikers. She wanted no violence.

But reactionary miners from the southern coal fields and bloodthirsty military men, veterans of the Ludlow Massacre of 1914, wanted a showdown with the IWW. They persuaded the Governor of Colorado to send state "rangers" to the Columbine against the specific orders of Josephine Roche. The "rangers", many of whom had spent the night drinking, moved onto the Columbine property the evening of November 20th, and when the

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION SIGN VANDALIZED

Sometime during the night of October 26th, unknown persons ripped down the IWW sign outside the General Administration office, scribbled "White Power" and a swastika on it, and shoved it under the door. Similar harassment has been reported by various Chicago bookstores in the last couple of years.

WOBBLIES AGAINST McTOXICS

Members of the Chicago IWW Branch joined Earth First!, Greenpeace, and Citizens' Clearinghouse Against Toxic Waste in a large demonstration against McDonald's Restaurants October 23rd, protesting the food chain's continued use of toxic styrofoam containers. A leaflet headed "Hold the Toxics!" explained that McDonald's distributes a million foam containers daily, producing 50,000 cubic feet of waste. The containers, moreover, are made with the very chemicals suspected of destroying the ozone layer, and therefore of causing severe environmental damage and skin cancer. The Chicago demonstration was one of hundreds of anti-McDonald's actions around the country that weekend.

unarmed pickets arrived at the Columbine gates the next morning they were met by Colorado "rangers" armed with machine guns. Six were killed and thirty wounded.

In the northern fields the strike was ended and the men went back to work. They got a 50-cent-a-day pay raise (from \$6 to \$6.50), checkweighmen, and grievance procedures. Josephine Roche signed the first permanent union contract in the Colorado coal fields with the United Mine Workers. John D. Rockefeller was furious with Rush for recognizing the union, and tried to drive her out of business. The southern fields went back to work in February 1928 with a dollar-a-day pay raise. No other coal fields in the US won pay raises between 1928 and 1930.

Though the Wobblies had won a very-significant victory through effective organizing, many fantastic rumors about the IWW were spread among the miners by the mine owners and the UMWA, so that even today the true importance of the victory is not appreciated by the miners. For this ex-miner, however, it was a pleasure to hang the art and show the movie in the Walsenburg Museum and the Lafayette City Council chamber last month, and I wore my Wobbly button proudly.

The art show will now move to Boulder, Colorado, where it will be accompanied by the movie and IWW songsters Mark Ross and "Utah" Phillips for a three-day Wobbly festival. Because of the art, we're getting a lot of good press across the state, selling a lot of literature, making many new friends, and building a branch.

Hormel striker Denny Mealy will be in Colorado to represent the proud P-9ers at the Boulder festival, and all proceeds will be used to make Christmas a little merrier in Austin, Minnesota this year. Please dig down and send a donation to the Austin United Support Group, 711 4th Avenue Northeast, Austin, Minnesota 55912. Put a smile on a child's face this Christmas. And by the way, let's hear those keys jingle.

Gary Cox

Not too surprisingly, the IWW's efforts to organize working-class prisoners have provoked howls of rage throughout the employing-class media. Reprinted below are a typical editorial on the subject, expressing the bosses' view of the question, and a working-class reply by Fellow Worker Mike Donovan of the New York IWW General Membership Branch. The struggle continues!

Boss Press Attacks

NO UNION FOR INMATES

It must come as no surprise to veteran prison officials that a few inmates at Lucasville prison in Southern Ohio have come up with the novel notion that they deserve to be represented by a labor union.

Prisoners pushing the campaign—it is another attempt by inmates to soften the conditions that are part of punishment—note that they are paid a maximum of only \$24 a month while turning out license plates, road signs, and other items.

Unfortunately for the agitating inmates, the labor organization that is interested in representing them is the Industrial Workers of the World, or the "Wobblies", a left-wing group that flourished at the turn of the century but is now limited to a handful of true believers. Prison officials are attempting to discourage the group by limiting contact between the IWW and the inmates.

The effort is little more than a power grab by inmates. Unionization runs counter to the point of incarceration, which is to deny inmates the normal rights and privileges they would enjoy on the outside. If reform is necessary in the Ohio prisons, it should be limited to cleaning up the most-repellent problems. The emphasis should be on rehabilitation, not on enriching the inmates in any way.

Outside prison walls workers can pressure their bosses through strikes or other job actions. But inmates should enjoy no such leverage, and they certainly do not deserve the rights accorded free men and women. They would be better advised to concentrate their efforts on behaving in such a way as to survive the harsh realities of prison life and merit earlier parole.

(from *The Blade*, Toledo, Ohio)

Wobs Respond

(To the editor of the *Toledo Blade*):

I have just read your editorial entitled "No Union for Inmates" and would like to address the misimpressions you have created both about prisoners and about the Industrial Workers of the World.

You state that prisoners are paid a maximum of \$24 an hour to produce "license plates, road signs, and other items". In fact, the prison system in Ohio produces 334 different products and takes in \$15 million annually. This is no mere cottage industry, but an industrial organization that profits from the work of incarcerated men and women. The penal industrial system made workers out of prisoners, and the IWW is contending that as state workers they are covered by state laws that were passed as protection for these workers.

The IWW is operating under no illusion as to the reason these people are imprisoned, but the punishment for the crimes committed in Ohio is incarceration—not, as is our contention, exploitation of their labor. It is on these grounds that the IWW has attempted to bring unionization to the prisoners of Lucasville. The *Blade* editorial fails to point out that unionization has a healthy side that we feel would benefit prisoners, prison administrations, and society at large. By instituting a grievance system, many of the tensions endemic to prisons could be diffused by rational discussion rather than by the one-sided imposition of discipline, which exacerbates rather than alleviates problems.

In addition, the IWW cares about its members, and if the prisoners are allowed the right to organize they will be introduced to a union concerned about those problems in our society that have helped land these men and women in jail in the first place. Addressing problems in a way that allows for their solution rather than claiming that there are no solutions can only help in the rehabilitation of these prisoners.

The Wobblies may be but a "handful of true believers", but the ideals upon which this union was founded are as true now as in 1905, when the IWW was begun. We may be fewer in number, but we are out there and we are offering ourselves as an alternative to a labor movement that is dead in the water. Had the IWW not been the victim of government oppression, something our Government claims happens elsewhere but not in the United States, the situation of workers in this country would be not quite as bleak. Wobblies have never had much tolerance for the oppression of the poor and the weak in our society. I, for one, am proud of my affiliation with the IWW, and I welcome the opportunity to call Ohio prisoners my union brothers and sisters.

Mike Donovan
Corresponding Secretary
New York General Membership Branch

The Electronic Foreman

An article in the July 1987 edition of the United Auto Workers magazine, *Solidarity*, reports that millions of workers today "are routinely monitored on the job, frequently without their knowledge. Those who work with computer equipment such as word processors are most likely to be watched... though the use of video and phone" surveillance is also increasingly common in both factories and offices.

The National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health figures that about 10 million out of 15 million workers who use video display terminals regularly on the job are monitored in some way, while a professor at Columbia University found that 98% of the 110 sites he surveyed used computers to monitor their data- and word-processing workers.

In the trucking industry, microchips have made possible cheap, calculator-size computers that automatically record speed, drive and idle times, and gear-shifting patterns—giving companies an unprecedented amount of control over work patterns. The device, developed by Rockwell International, is called Tripmaster—and is no doubt one of the civilian applications of military research and development the Defense Department likes to tout as partial justification for its budget.


A General Dynamics plant in Pomona, California installed a system to videotape workers in order to "cut down on the milling around and movement of people", but removed it after the union threatened to strike.

Other systems enable employers to count keystrokes per second and phone calls per minute, to compare one worker's performance against another's, to warn workers when they are falling behind quotas or their "competi-

tors", and to otherwise force dramatic speedups. Computers can also regulate the pace employees work at by automatically presenting their next task.

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AN INJURY TO ONE IS AN INJURY TO ALL

ONE UNION ONE LABEL ONE ENEMY

Industrial Worker

Carlos Cortez, Mike Hargis, Penny Pixler

General Secretary-Treasurer: Penny Pixler



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Striking New York Giants walk a picket line outside the Giants stadium in New Jersey, supported by farm work-

ers, United Food and Commercial Workers, striking NBC TV technicians, and members of other unions.

NFL Players Strike Victim To Organized Scabbery

WHAT MEANS THIS STRIKE IN FOOTBALL?

Commentator after insipid commentator remarks that the six-figure salary of the average National Football League player disqualifies him from being a "real trade-unionist". Few pause to notice that the eight- or nine-figure annual incomes of owners clearly establish them as "real capitalists". But whatever the fantasies of the football-hawking television media, the players' walkout, defeated after nearly a month of picketing, was a real and all-too-typical strike.

The degree of media-management collusion during the strike matched the remarkable current American standards in this regard. League figures on average salaries were endlessly reported as truth. During the first Sunday of scab football, the pitifully-small crowds were said to be unimportant because television viewership was only slightly off. The next week the television audience plummeted, and suddenly the slightly-rising stadium crowds became the favored index of the popularity of scab football. The electronic media, in direct collusion with management since it chose to air, hype, and pay for the scab games, reportedly featured false reports of the strike's end. The small numbers of defectors received star treatment, and the fact that the strike was 93% solid for three Sundays was lost in the shuffle.

The extent of union scabbing also made the strike drearily familiar. The Players' Association has an unfortunate record of ignoring the strikes of others. Even this season, its members have continued to grant interviews to NBC stations, despite the bitter strike there. In Saint Louis, just after a small number of unionized ticket sellers honored the Cardinals' picket lines, several striking Cardinals laughingly crossed a ticket sellers' picket line

Electronic Foreman

(continued from Page 2)

The resulting pace can be hectic. San Diego-based Pacific Southwest Airlines, for example, allots its 200 reservation agents 109 seconds a call, and 11 seconds between calls in which they are expected to catch up on paperwork. Workers are penalized if they are unplugged for more than 12 minutes a shift. At Northwest Orient Airlines in Minneapolis, data-entry workers are required to maintain a pace between 9,000 and 16,000 keystrokes per hour.

These kinds of demands create an enormous amount of stress. A NIOSH study of San Francisco Blue Cross clerical workers in 1980 found that heavily-monitored workers were far more depressed, irritated, tired, and angry than those who were not. Many workers in heavily-automated environments are literally getting sick from the workplace, experiencing dizziness, headaches, and muscular aches.

The four-page article ends by calling for legislation to control electronic monitoring and surveillance of workers, and quoting at length (under the subhead "UAW Delegates Act") a resolution approved at the UAW's latest convention which "recognized the importance of new technology to the nation's economic health, but noted that with any new technology come costs as well as ben-

efits".

at a local theater. A few AFL-CIO leaders offered some aggressive talk regarding "shutting down" the ballpark areas on game days. But labor mobilizations—and it would not have been hard to mobilize workers to march alongside football stars—were usually small and ineffectual. In most cities unionized workers involved in running and maintaining the parks apparently went in, although some unions reportedly advised doing work early when possible or finding alternate entrances to avoid directly crossing picket lines.

If the strike exposed the sharp limits of solidarity within the labor movement, it also lay bare the utter hypocrisy of the owners. A collection of cowboy capitalists who in lighter moments trumpet the virtues of "free enterprise", the owners toughed out the strike by pretending that Adam Smith had never been born and that a free labor market would ruin "the game". Ah, "the game"! In protecting football and its traditions, the owners sponsored three weeks of ridiculous amateur football, insisted that these games count in the standings, and saw to it that scabs now own important club records in several cities. The last of the scab games came after the union's capitulation and resulted from a lockout by management. The defense of tradition is a curious thing.

If the union had exposed the game to such contempt—by returning to work but speaking ominously about "striking on the job"—the cries of the media would have been deafening. But it would have made for an interesting season. "He's at the 40, the 30, the 20, the 15. He's engaging in direct action. The ball is loose...."

Dave Roediger

efits".

The resolution (as quoted) details many problems caused by the new systems being introduced by management, warning that "machine-centered process design is readying a 'final solution': the workerless plant". They object that such a solution is expensive and is "fraught with dangers for workers and our society". (Whatever they mean by the latter, as the latest figures show the working class accounting for some 70% of the population.) But nowhere in the five paragraphs following that subhead is there any suggestion that workers use their industrial power to affect the course of technology design and introduction. Indeed, there is no discussion of proposed action of any sort at all!

And the UAW seems as concerned by the prospect of less work (for which there is a ready solution at hand—cut the workweek to spread the necessary work around and give us all more free time in which to live our lives) as by the prospect of employers driving us to an early grave by spying on us as we work and forcing the pace to unsustainable levels.

So long as we leave the bosses in charge of the factories we build and operate, they're going to keep running them in ways contrary to our needs and interests—in ways that actually endanger our ability not just to earn a living, but to live at all. Politicians aren't about to (or able to) do anything to change this—it's up to us. How about it, fellow workers? Are you with us?

U S Labor ...

(continued from Page 1)

returning operators with temporary workers, would impose selective wage cuts, and would do away with the seniority system.

The plan was to go into effect by October 27th. But after three years of battling to break the lockout and to resist BASF's take-away demands, Local 4-620 is not hanging up the gloves. It intends to continue the fight to return all of the locked-out workers to their jobs.

SETTLEMENT AT IBP

Meatpackers at Iowa Beef Processors won a small victory against concessions recently with the ratification of a four-year agreement at IBP's flagship plant in Dakota City, Nebraska. The agreement gives the 2800 members of UFCW Local 222 their first pay raise since 1981, as well as improvements in job safety, health insurance, and retirement benefits. Most important, however, is the fact that all workers will be returning to work—a significant victory in an era when defeat often means the loss of one's job to a scab. The strike began in December of 1986 when workers refused to give up concessions adding up to about \$2,000 per worker.

JOHN MORRELL STRIKE GOES ON

Some 3700 workers remain on strike against the John Morrell Company in Sioux City, Iowa and Sioux Falls, South Dakota. Wage and benefit cuts and job safety have been the motivating force behind this walkout, which began last March when the 900 members of UFCW Local 114 in Sioux City hit the bricks. They were followed in May by the 2800 members of Local 304A in Sioux Falls, who struck in sympathy.

The UFCW International's strategy in this battle is relying on a corporate campaign against Morrell's parent company, United Foods, and a rather lackluster consumer boycott. This, however, has done little to dissuade the scabs—more than 1600—who have sold themselves to break the strike.

In an interesting sidelight, the UFCW International sponsored a "solidarity" rally/rock concert in late August for which 15,000 turned out—according to UFCW officials. However eyewitnesses claim that fewer than 5,000 turned out, and that the rally organizers seemed more interested in promoting Coors beers than labor solidarity. In addition, UFCW security people were stopping all cars entering the rally grounds with an eye out for supporters of Local P-9 of Hormel fame. Apparently the ghost of P-9 still haunts the waking hours of UFCW officialdom.

In any case, the 3700 embattled workers at the John Morrell plantations require our solidarity. Boycott products with the brand names John Morrell, Krey, Nathan's Famous, Partridge, Peyton's, Rath Blackhawk, Rodeo, and Tobin's First Prize.

CHICAGO TEACHERS GO BACK

Around 29,000 Chicago schoolteachers returned to work October 5th following acceptance by the Chicago Teachers Union (CTU) of a two-year accord with the Chicago Board of Education, putting an end to the longest strike in the history of Chicago education. The agreement gives teachers a 4% pay raise this year, and another 4% next year if funds are available (which is highly unlikely). In addition, there will be a reduction in class size—a major pillar of the CTU's demands. Reducing class size will hopefully free some teacher time for individual instruction and force the hiring of additional instructors to pick up the overflow. This too, however, is highly unlikely given budget constraints (read "penny-pinching bureaucrats") and the fact that some 1700 classroom teachers will be out on the streets as a result of this contract.

In a fit of vengeance, the Board of Education declared that in order to come up with the money for the teachers' raise (the Board had originally wanted to cut teachers' pay by 2%) it was going to have to eliminate 1800 jobs from the budget. Many of these posts—counselors, assistant principals, low-level bureaucrats—are held by certified teachers, many of whom have not set foot in a classroom in years, who would be laid off and given an opportunity to bump lower-seniority teachers. Understandably, this has outraged many rank-and-file union teachers who vowed to vote against the agreement. But given the nature of things, once back in the classroom the prospect of resuming the strike was virtually nonexistent, leaving many rank-and-file teachers uncertain about their future.

Mike Hargis

1988 IWW CALENDAR

The new 1988 IWW Calendar features 12 of the funniest and hardest-hitting Wobbly cartoons by some of the greatest labor cartoonists of all time—including Centralia class-war prisoner Eugene Barnett, Ralph Chaplin, Carlos Cortez, Ern Hanson, William Henkelman, Joe Hill, Ernest Riebe, Sam, C. E. Setzer (X13), "Dust" Wallin, and Art Young, along with dozens of smaller illustrations and hundreds of radical-labor anniversary listings. Get this class-conscious cartoon calendar and laugh at the bosses all through 1988. \$5.50 postpaid from IWW Headquarters. Order extras for your friends and fellow workers!

LEFT
SIDE
LEFT
SIDE
LEFT



There had been a flap with a TV station in bluenose Boston, the city of censorship fame over the airing of condom ads as a public service in hope of stemming the spread of the AIDS epidemic. The general manager of this station, in explaining his decision not to run any rubber ads, said: "We are not for rent. Those condom manufacturers are just out to make profits." Immediately following this stirring declaration was a commercial for Dow Chemical.

Boston is where they used to put lacy pantaloons on the legs of pianos during public recitals, and would later censor writers like H. L. Mencken. Censors seem to be a special breed of people apparently descended from the early Pilgrims, the initial invaders of the land that came to be known as New England. Those are the charming people whose successful colonization we here at State-side are celebrating this month.

It seems they would have starved to death were it not for some nearby Indians who took pity on them and showed them how to survive the New England winters. Yet it is said that the good Pilgrims fell on their knees and then fell on the Indians. They might not even have been saved by the Indians had it not been for one by the name of Squanto who spoke some English. He not only assured the Pilgrims that they would not be eaten alive, but also served as interpreter between them and the other Indians. Your scribe recalls an artist friend in Milwaukee who on Thanksgiving Day hung a sign in front of his gallery that proclaimed: "Squanto was a fink."

I recall one wag referring to the Pilgrims as being as pleasant as a teenage circumcision, and his was a classic of understatement. The good Pills, once they saw what excellent farmers the Indians were, proceeded to raid the granaries of their non-Christian neighbors to increase their own larders. There is nothing like the Protestant "work ethic" to inspire history.

Not only did the Pilgrims rob the Indians of their winter food supply, but they took many of the young Indian men and women they captured back to nearby ports to sell to the slave traders, and that's one of the reasons so many black Americans have Indian features. Another reason is that many ante-bellum slaves, in escaping their masters, found refuge among the Indians.

The "history" we have been taught in grammar school has sadly shortchanged the Indians, kidnapped Africans, and a few other minorities. Every European settler would have perished had it not been for the Indians who saved their derrieres from starvation by teaching them agricultural techniques that were suited to the ecology of the new continent. Without the free labor of the kidnapped Africans there would have been no agriculture to enable the settlers to form an economy of their own so they could later declare their "independence".

It should also be remembered that at that time Europe was undergoing a series of famines, and the new food products they learned of from the people of the Western Hemisphere saved the masses of Europe from certain starvation and the European ruling classes from probable revolution.

Yes, it can be said that the Western Hemisphere peoples, along with the kidnapped Africans, contributed far more than their share toward bringing about capitalism and the "modern age". Personally, I think it would be much nicer to be remembered for cornpone and succotash.

In case anyone missed a news item from this spring, here's a wee bit of the sublime to add to the ridiculous: Russia's top banana, Gorbachev, told a group of visiting Freedomlanders that their top banana had assured him a few years earlier that the US would cast aside any ideological differences and join forces with the USSR in the event of an invasion of this planet by aliens from outer space. Gorby himself thought it was a little too early to worry about such an intrusion. Which goes to show that when some folks have nothing else going for them in matters of social use, they can always become statesmen.

As you gorge yourself on chemically-fed turkey while enjoying your four-day weekend this month, give a small thought to all the statesmen who for so many years have been impeding human progress.

C. C. Redcloud

LEARNING TO BE STUPID? A July survey found 37% of college graduates favoring aid to the *contras*. While that's not very many, only 23% of those who failed to graduate from high school backed *contra* aid. It just goes to show that a person's education is a better indication of class than of intelligence.

A DOLLAR AIN'T A DOLLAR ANYMORE: The Council on International and Public Affairs reports that average real wages are now below 1962 levels. Real wages (take-home pay adjusted for inflation) have been falling ever since 1972.

MILITARY SPENDING gobbles up 55% of every federal income-tax dollar, absorbs 75% of all Research and Development money, and employs a third of all top US scientists and engineers.

A SHELL BOYCOTT Week of Action took place November 7th through 14th, with groups leafleting Shell stations to inform consumers of the boycott, phoning Shell's toll pay number, and pressuring local governments to cut off contracts with Shell. Royal Dutch/Shell is the biggest of the multinationals, with operations in South Africa and parent companies in the Netherlands and the United Kingdom.

DID YOU NOTICE?

CONCERNING THE STOCK-MARKET PLUNGE: "For six years we've had a yuppie, grab-the-buck economy," said Allen Zack, director of publications for the United Food and Commercial Workers. "I think people are starting to realize something about the allure of riches: It only happens to the very few."

ONE AND A QUARTER MILLION AMERICANS— the upper .5% of the population—own more of the nation's wealth than the 210 million people in the bottom 90%.



DUTY'S WAY IS PLAIN

Onward, Christian soldiers!
Duty's way is plain!
Slay your Christian neighbors,
or by them be slain....

The Bible-thumping evangelists who have been trying to force "moments of prayer" down the throats of schoolchildren in the United States have been enjoying a field day in Central America. It's no coincidence that the push toward desecularization Stateside and the fundamentalist proselytization in Central America are happening at the same time.

The Catholic Church has long been considered the buffer between the banana-republic landowners and the starving peasantry, but apparently no longer merits the confidence of outside investors who feel that that venerable institution is not doing a good job of keeping the howling masses at bay. With the growing phenomenon of revolutionary theology whereby many members of the cloth have taken their christianity seriously and cast their lot with the poor people, the market manipulators have been looking toward more-reliable purveyors of spirituality. This is evidenced by the assassination of an archbishop by the puppet government in El Salvador because of his stand for workers' and peasants' rights. The fact that another priest happens to be a minister of culture for the Sandinistas in Nicaragua is further vindication for such lack of confidence.

Ever since the Monroe Doctrine declared that the Western Hemisphere is strictly Uncle Sammy's turf, there has been interference in the political and economic destiny of all those living below the Rio Bravo. A revolution was fomented by American capital in which Panama seceded from Colombia so the Panama Canal could be dug, giving the US a major toehold on World shipping. When Mexico was having its revolution, the Yanks were continually butting in. Liberal elected governments in Guatemala and Chile were overthrown through the manipulations of the CIA, as those less-repressive regimes somehow posed a threat to the cheap labor supply and the security of outside investments.

The establishment of outside investments from the United States is having a deleterious effect on the lives and economy of the people in Latin America. In Central America much land that was formerly used for subsistence farming has been taken over by the cattle industry, which has found a vast market in the Stateside hamburger emporiums. Since it uses up lots of land and very little labor, cattle raising is made to order for bosses on both sides of the border.

Many of the people who raised their own corn and beans on this land have been forced off into crowded city slums. The erstwhile farmer sees an acre of land being used to support one cow when that acre could grow enough corn, beans, and chili to support two families, and resentment clearly builds up. The present Central American agriculture is producing nowhere near the potential of the land value. Much is being wasted to supply fast-food emporiums in the US at the expense of the people of Central America.

Throughout these former farmlands displaced farmers have been rising against their sellout governments, and while largely confined to the mountains they constitute a serious threat to the vested interests these sellout governments represent.

The Catholic clergy that formerly kept the peasantry in line for the local landowners is now, if not neutral, on the side of the *peones* who are suffering under the yoke of outside investors. While in former years local

politicians kept the *peones* in line to promote the pols' personal interests, they now do so for the rewards of the Yankee dollar. But those dishing out the dollars think the local pols require more than economic and military aid. The Colossus of the North is furnishing spiritual aid as well.

A prominent Guatemala businessman who boasts that he was a Green Beret officer in Vietnam now also boasts of a religious revolution under way in Central America. Traditional Protestant churches of the United States, such as the Methodists, Presbyterians, Lutherans, and Baptists, all have their representatives in Central America. The biggest push is with the fundamentalist evangelizers who believe in a literal interpretation of the Bible and apply that interpretation to society and politics. They reject those Christians who see the gospel as a call to social action. And they certainly reject the thousands of priests and nuns who, after the Medellin Bishops Conference of 1968, changed the focus of their work to concentrate harder on the poorer communities of Latin America.

These fundamentalists, Pentacostals, and neo-Pentacostals all preach a pie-in-the-sky salvation to the poor, exhorting them to work hard and obey their masters that they may reap their rewards in the Hereafter. It takes no great genius to determine that the same folks who are financing the *contras*, as well as the politicians of Guatemala, Honduras, and Salvador, are also picking up the tab for the invasion of these pie-in-the-sky pilots.

Needless to say, all these evangelists are supporters of the *contras* and the US Government's policy in Central America. While their spiritual concerns are above such things as social justice in the here and now, they preach the holy war against communism. (To be a good christian is to go out and kill as many godless communists as possible.) Thus a pat solution and rationalization is offered to the masses of hungry displaced farmers: They have only to blame those communistic rebels.

These evangelistic groups are financially supported in their efforts by guess who—and by guess whose bite from their paychecks. As they enter new fields of conversion, they always bring an array of handouts such as surplus food, pills, and old clothing. The food often comes from the US Government's Food for Peace program and from Stateside corporations looking for tax write-offs.

Thousands of boxes of a dietary chocolate pudding called "Slim Fast—The natural way to lose weight" are being handed out to those who need anything but a diet. The old phrase "rice christian" is rapidly being replaced by "Slim Fast christian". And those who are still hungry are told that they are in that condition because they have not received full salvation. Full salvation, depending on which region they happen to be starving in, means joining the *contras* or one of the various death squads that terrorize those who have not yet been converted to the true path of righteousness.

Most of these hungry displaced people are Indians who have been converted to nominal Christianity by the Spanish priests. The Indians have a deep spiritual identity with the land, and the old priests did not completely wean them from their chosen ways, as they were needed to work the fields for the landowner class, even if they were reduced to peonage. But now that corporate farming and cattle ranching have done away with the necessity for field hands, your withholding tax is helping to promote such new spiritual values as the Protestant work ethic.

Alfredo Nuberoja

FACTS FROM THE TRUE NORTH

The latest World Labor Report from the International Labor Organization says there are 31 million jobless in industrialized countries, and the outlook for workers remains gloomy. Real wages for most workers in Latin America and African countries south of the Sahara have decreased by as much as 40%.

For years the "educators" in North America have tried to brainwash us by telling us that classes just don't exist anymore, because "we are all middle-class" or "we are all workers". The educational system and the media both reinforce this liberal view of society. It's an easy way to camouflage the stark reality of class inequality by implying that workers and bosses have common interests, and that capitalists are "workers too" and work hard for the money they "earn". But a sharp look at the inequality of workers in Canada dispels any such notion.

In 1985, according to a *Globe & Mail* survey, Canadian workers' wages rose an average of only 3.8%, while the salaries of business executives increased an average of 22.5%. But take a look at some of the "salaries" of the upper class. For example, Seagram's chairman Edgar Bronfman got a whopping 680-thousand-dollar bonus that raised his 1985 income to \$1.4 million, while Bell Canada chairman A. Jean de Grampre, whose official salary is a "modest" \$882,100 a year, got a pension contribution of \$380,000, plus another \$500,000 from Northern Telecom, to provide him with an additional \$9,000 a month when he reaches 65. Do today's economists mean to tell us that these men "earn" that money the same way wage workers earn theirs?

Here are a few more executive salaries from 1985:

J. M. LeClair, chairman of Canadian National Railway, \$290,000; S. R. McInnes, chairman of Carlin O'Keefe, \$401,000; David Culver, president of Alcan Aluminum, \$702,000; C. F. Baird, chairman of INCO, \$819,000; G. R. Albino, chairman of Rio Algom, \$1,040,000.

The corporations these people represent also make a good buck from generous Government handouts. It's Welfare for the rich. For example in 1986, Domtar Incorporated requested a hundred-million-dollar interest-free loan to modernize its mill in Windsor, Quebec. A 200-million-dollar loan went to South Korea's Hyundai Motor Company, even though the Company planned to open its Quebec plant without assistance. Then the Government handed Hyundai another 300 million it didn't even ask for.

An interest-free loan of \$7.65 million was given to Libbey-Owens-Ford (a subsidiary of LOF Glass of Canada Ltd) at the same time LOF was making a multi-million-dollar loan (not interest-free) to another company. Other corporations getting more money included American Motors (60.5 million); General Motors (22 million), and the Mitel Corporation (20 million).

On the other side of the fence, in 1985 a family of four living in an urban center of 500,000 people or more was considered by Statistics Canada to be living in poverty if the household income was less than \$20,821. A family of four on general welfare received only \$11,130—46.5% below the Stats Can poverty line. I wonder how many of them were given interest-free loans to ensure they could get by.

Len Wallace

Palestinian Unions Challenge Israeli Regime

When Israeli authorities implemented their "Iron Fist" policy in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip two years ago, one of the chief targets was the Palestinian labor movement. Claiming that the unions were fronts for the Palestine Labor Organization, 21 activists, including more than half the executive committee of the militant Workers Unity Bloc, were thrown in jail in the space of a few months. At least a half dozen union leaders are now being detained, while 21 others are restricted to their hometowns. The Israeli Army frequently raids union offices, confiscating union materials and harassing union members.

There are now more than a hundred unions active in the West Bank, including a growing percentage of the 120,000 West Bank and Gaza workers who daily cross the Israeli border in search of work, and who are not protected by Israel's largest union federation, the Histadrut. The Histadrut does not allow Palestinian workers to join the federation—though reduced membership dues are deducted from their paychecks—on the ground that it wishes to avoid the appearance of supporting the annexation of the occupied territories—a position that has not stopped union-owned construction companies from taking government contracts to build settlements on the West Bank.

Palestinian workers generally commute long hours to work, and suffer from discrimination and substandard working conditions. The Palestinian unions' main focus

is on providing benefit programs, though there have been a number of brief strikes in recent years. These unions are explicitly political and class-collaborationist, seeking to form an alliance with Palestinian businessmen. An official of the Progressive Workers Bloc argued that "we have to strike a kind of balance between the national and the class struggle and help the local national industries . . ." though there have been some strikes against employers paying below-subsistence wages.

Though some have sought to compare these unions to South African unions, there is little resemblance. A Workers Unity Bloc leader explains that his "union" federation is "like a political party, but since we cannot have parties, it is not a party". The unions are closely aligned with the PLO or its factions, and aspire to function along the lines of other politically-dominated unions around the world. (Though the fierce government repression makes even this minimal and inadequate form of unionism extremely difficult.) Not only do they collaborate with Palestinian employers, but these unions make no effort to unite with the Israeli workers who work the same jobs in a joint struggle for better conditions. As long as workers on both sides of this seemingly-interminable conflict continue to identify their interests in racial or national terms, instead of identifying and acting on their common interests as workers, there would seem to be little hope for progress toward genuine peace.

JB

GENERAL STRIKES!

On October 28th, the United Front of Laborers, Ecuador's largest labor group, called a general strike to demand the dismissal of Interior Minister Luis Roles. Congress impeached and convicted Roles in September on charges of violating the rights of political prisoners, but President Leon Febres Cordero kept him in office. The night before the strike the President declared a state of emergency, suspending constitutional rights and imposing censorship, sending riot police into the streets, and assigning soldiers in combat gear to guard government buildings.

Spokespersons for the United Front, which claims 200,000 members from half of Ecuador's unions, said more than a million workers joined the strike, supported by 800,000 students and farm laborers. There are about 350,000 unionized workers in Ecuador, which has a total population of 10 million.

This was the sixth general strike against the government of Febres Cordero, and the first in which the President declared a state of emergency. Two radio stations have refused to continue broadcasting in protest of the censorship.

In Guayaquil, Ecuador's chief port, 18 union leaders and strikers were arrested. In Quito police wounded two strikers, and another striker was hurt by an exploding tear-gas canister. Five Quito strikers were arrested.

*

On October 7th a 24-hour general strike was called in Chile by the National Workers' Command, an umbrella group of anti-Pinochet labor unions, to protest the military regime. The organization of small-factory workers in Santiago said more than half their employees came in late because busses didn't start running till 8 am. Classrooms were empty in many schools, and attendance was sparse in others. Although commerce was reported

to be functioning during the morning, most businesses did not re-open after the long lunch break. By sundown most bus and taxi drivers had joined the strike.

Three people were killed, including a two-year-old child who was shot by police in the Penalolen neighborhood of Santiago, where police had attacked demonstrators behind burning barricades. At least three other people were wounded by the police. In all, some 285 persons were arrested in Santiago and at least 50 in Valparaiso.

Most Chilean political parties opposed the strike. The Christian Democrats, the country's largest, decided in the summer of 1986 to halt all "street mobilizations", fearing that demonstrations and other street activity would only push many people into the Pinochet camp. With the exception of the Communists, most of the Government's political opponents are focusing their efforts on a voter-registration drive, which they hope will give them strength to negotiate with the armed forces for a democratic transition of power, or failing that, to defeat General Pinochet in a plebiscite expected next year.

*

On October 13th, labor unions called a general strike in Colombia to protest the assassination of Jaime Leal, president of the Patriotic Union, two days earlier. Leal's death was the latest in two years of violence during which 460 leftists have been killed.

In Bogota, militants barricaded the streets with barrels and burning tires, and busses were reported set on fire in the northwestern town of Medellin. A 13-year-old boy was shot dead in the Central Colombian town of Barrancabermeja and his father severely wounded when soldiers tried to break through a roadblock of burning tires.



This is the season of falling russet leaves, sad-eyed poets "half in love with easeful death", and political-party conferences. And through that hell in Brighton, Neil Kinnock and Britain's Labour Party Executive have blustered to another safe year. Slightly white around the gills but with a massive judas-delegation yuppie vote to sneer them on, Britain's mass working-class party, with its trade-union block votes and housekeeping money, has "taken another giant stride for mankind" by inching up the derriere of American-style trade-unionism. And between the standing ovations the Labour Party leadership rubber-stamped every evil of Ma Thatcher's Tory Administration, from the selling off of State-owned social services to the selling off of working-class-built and working-class-rented houses.

The Kinnock version of Britain's Labour Party is desperate for office after three defeats, and he and his advisors see their only chance in an abandonment not only of "ol' Glory", the revolutionary red flag, but also of emotional and historic socialist beliefs, with every worker a little capitalist guided from the cradle to the grave by a paternalistic/maternalistic State political party modeled on Germany's Social Democratic "till death do us part" way of life. Neil Kinnock's thinking on this sad matter is that with a Tory Government breast-feeding an increasingly-affluent middle class, political power can only be won by pandering to their needs and greeds. But history, that poor ol' time-hammered bat, tells us that whatever the non-productive middle class take can only be by literally robbing the great mass of the laboring class.

These are not just emotive words, but a simple statement of truth. For while my Lord and Lady within the castle dine high upon the hog, no one ever grew a potato behind the castle's guarded gates. In Britain this very day the rented homes of thousands of working-class people are being taken from them that they may be sold off, all repainted and tarted up, to the middle class as they visibly move into working-class housing areas. Working-class hospitals and social services are destroyed that the tax cuts Ma Thatcher promised her middle-class rabble may be honored; and comrades, she has cut a lot of taxes for the wealthy of this poor world.

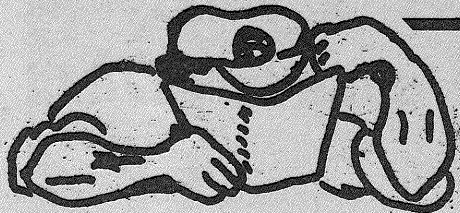
And Neil Kinnock wants the vote of scum like this, in the belief that once he has been handed the gold-plated key to the Prime Minister's personal dropout zone or Little Boys' Room, to give it its official title, we can all go back to socialist principles. But once in power you must become the creature of those who chose you for leadership, be you Thatcher, Reagan, Hitler, our young two-fisted fighting liberal, or the leader writer of the *Times* or Greenwich Village "fart for art". But as in all matters pertaining to the working class, the British national press—as any national press in any age or in any society must do—went seeking out any nonconformist troublemaker they could find. And they believed they had found one in the form of Linda Bellos, who stated at a fringe Labour Party meeting in Brighton: "I predict that so long as we are ruled by Thatcherism, gas chambers will be here within seven to ten years for lesbians, gay men, blacks, and socialists."

Linda Bellos is the leader of the London Lambeth Council, and that working-class area is in a permanent state of ideological warring factions that argue in and out of the council chamber both vocally and physically. The national press seek the odd remark and the odd performance like jackals seeking rancid meat, and Linda's Thought for the Day that gas chambers will soon replace lavatories is forgettable as no more than excitable seaside political rhetoric. In my lifetime I have seen the uniformed fascist blackshirts marching through the streets of London, and I have seen political deaths within the battlegrounds of the Second World War, and we fought in the streets and in the fields and we survived—yes, we survived.

For the laboring masses of the World it is an endless struggle against power and greed, and each generation has to fight it anew. In 1337 the English Government of the day introduced the iniquitous poll tax so that the peasant would have to pay the same house tax as the rich man—and for each individual in the house irrespective of income. The peasants revolted and marched on London in the 1337 peasant revolt against that evil tax, and in 1987 Ma Thatcher's Tory Government are determined to introduce it again within the next few years, with the poor man and woman in a slum dwelling paying literally the same tax as the penthouse millionaire. Linda, these are the historic battle lines to unite the working class to stand and fight on, and all the rest is happy-time weekend revolution.

Arthur Moyse, London

IN CALIFORNIA, a 1986 study found 12 counties where not one obstetrician was willing to see a patient on Medi-Cal, the state's medical program for the poor. THE WORLD'S WOMEN, collectively, spend nine million hours a day carrying water.



Books for Union People



ANARCHY & POETRY

A Decade of Anarchy (1961-1970), edited by Colin Ward, Freedom Press, London, distributed in the US by Charles H. Kerr Publishing Company, 1740 West Greenleaf, Chicago, Illinois 60626, \$10

One of the best little radical publications of the 1960s was the monthly journal *Anarchy*, edited by Colin Ward and published by London's Freedom Press. Between 1961 and 1970, 118 32-page issues appeared, each with a bright and striking cover by Rufus Segar. *Anarchy* was among the most-popular periodicals available at IWW headquarters early in that decade, and later at the Chicago IWW Branch's Solidarity Bookshop.

This 283-page anthology includes many of the journal's best articles, divided into six sections. "Restatements" features texts linking anarchist ideas to various contemporary problems by George Woodcock, Paul Goodman, Nicolas Walter, and other writers, including an especially-interesting piece on "Primitive Societies and Social Myths", by Kenneth Maddock, an anarchist anthropologist from New Zealand. Section II, "Experiences", focuses on first-hand accounts of events and situations; one of these, H. W. Morton's "Black Anarchy in New York"—on the New York Blackout of 1965—originally appeared as a *Rebel Worker* pamphlet produced by the Chicago IWW Branch.

In the section on "Work", Geoffrey Ostergaard writes penetratingly on "The Relevance of Syndicalism", and Keith Paton, in his rambling, reflective, and suggestive "Work and Surplus", challenges all politics that make concessions to the work ethic.

Fresh visions of non-repressive schooling are offered in the section on "Education", the area in which anarchist theory and practice have exerted perhaps their

greatest influence. In the articles on "Deviance", Tony Gibson looks "Toward a Libertarian Criminology", and Sally Anne sympathetically examines the significance of female delinquency.

Although *Anarchy* did publish material on broader environmental ecological issues, the section on "Environments" is devoted to social struggles in cities. Robert Swann's article on "Direct Action in the Urban Environment", Nicolas Walter's "The New Squatters", and Brian Richardson's "Freedom and Environment" are among the most-stimulating essays in the book, bristling with notions as fresh as tomorrow despite the fact that they date back some 20 years.

Indeed, the up-to-the-minute actuality of this entire anthology is remarkable, and a tribute to the daring and lucidity of our friends at Freedom Press over the years. T-Bone Slim once wrote that "Freedom is what makes life worth fighting for." Evidently what is written and done toward realizing freedom never grows old.

Franklin Rosemont

Weather Report: Poetry by Brian Burch, HMS Press, PO Box 7, Station D, Scarborough, Ontario M1R 4Y7

For Christ and Kropotkin: Poetry by Brian Burch, Unfinished Monument Press (IWW shop), Box 67, Station H, Toronto, Ontario M4C 5H7, \$4

The IWW in all its turbulent history never lacked for poets or other cultural workers, and Fellow Worker Brian Burch is one more name in a proud roster of creative activists.

These two modest chapbooks afford the reader an insight into the life of one of our members, whose commitment and personal philosophy are well documented here. He describes himself as a "Christian Anarchist", and if any readers may hold that this is a contradiction in terms, let them remember those early Christians who were thrown to the lions for their refusal to knuckle under to the system of that day.

The fact that one of the chapbooks is published by an IWW shop merits the consideration of all the Fellow Workers who receive this paper. However his language and mode of expression impel this writer to give his enthusiastic recommendation. No finer enticement can be presented here than the following stanzas from the poem "Steel Town Blues":

it still goes on
and the mounds of slag
roll on forever
at 3:00 a.m. in the sault

voices of cottagers on the lake
and children in the park
have been chilled
by the process of steel....

It is hoped that this is merely a forerunner of many more fine volumes.

Carlos Cortez

FOR FULL-TIME WORKERS, men's weekly earnings from their early 20s to the peak earning years of 45 to 54 nearly double, from \$264 to \$505. Women's weekly earnings during the same period rise by only a third, from \$230 to \$308.

MATEWAN

This movie is about a coal strike in the small West Virginia town of Matewan in the early 1920s. Faced with a cut in the piece rate for each ton of coal hauled out of the mine, the local miners go on strike. However the Italian miners, who were imported immediately after the outbreak of World War I to break a previous strike, do not, thus creating much ill feeling among the locals. On top of this, the company brings in black miners to replace them, thus creating racial hatred.

This ancient plan to divide and conquer nearly succeeds, except that an unnamed union in Pittsburgh (most likely the UMW) sends down a former IWW organizer (who just got out of Leavenworth) to help the miners. In the spirit of the One Big Union, the ex-Wobbly helps to bring the three groups of miners together, and they shut down the mine. The owners' response is to send for gun thugs, throw the miners out of their company-owned housing, since they can't pay the rent, shoot up their tent camps, and kill a couple of them. The final showdown in the movie is between the miners and the gun thugs—not the mine owners.

From a cinematic point of view, the movie is quite well done. The photography and acting are very good, though except for James Earl Jones the actors and actresses are largely unknown. The film also does a good job of portraying the social, political, and economic environment in which the miners lived, worked, and died.

However the movie has two major shortcomings. The first is that it depicts the conflict primarily as a battle between the miners and the gun thugs. The mine owners lurk in the background but are never really seen on the screen, and no attempt is made to explore their views

NEW JERSEY PUBLIC-SCHOOL EMPLOYEES FORCED TO END STRIKE

Public-school employees in Elizabeth, New Jersey ended their 27-day strike on October 5th, returning to work just hours before court-imposed sanctions would have cost them their jobs. About 2,000 teachers, cafeteria workers, aides, bus drivers, custodians, and other employees trickled back to the district's 22 schools just before the 8:30 opening bell.

On September 17th a Union County Superior Court judge warned the strikers that they would forfeit their jobs if they refused to end their walkout. He also imposed daily fines starting at \$10,000 against the union for disobeying his order to return to work. The fines, doubled each day, had reached the millions by October 5th. In addition, the strikers face fines of two days' pay for each day they stayed off the job—a total of 30 days' pay.

The issues in the strike—primarily salary—will be submitted to a factfinder and then to mediation and continued negotiations between the Board of Education and the Elizabeth Education Association, the union representing the school employees. Bargaining sessions failed to force the workers to accept the school board's offer of a 20.5% pay raise over three years, and they continued to press their demand for a 17% hike over two years.

about the striking miners. Second, by focusing solely on the immediate conflict, the film seems to indicate that the problems involved are purely local in origin, as opposed to being generated by the nature of capitalism itself. What is especially lacking is any discussion of the dire straits in which the bituminous-coal industry found itself after 1920. The price of bituminous coal began to fall drastically that year, as did the average number of days a mine operated and the total production. Finally, in the years 1922 to 1924, none of the coal companies made a profit.

The principal cause of this state of affairs was that petroleum, natural gas, and water power were replacing bituminous coal as a supplier of energy to the economy. Faced with intense inter-product competition, the coal owners fought back the only way they knew how under

capitalism—exploiting their workers even more by reducing their piece rates, making them work in increasingly-unsafe conditions, and controlling their lives outside the workplace. Thus for the miners to improve their lot in life they could not just fight the gun thugs (as the movie implies) or even force the mine owners to pay them higher wages (since if they did the owner might shut down the mines—which was actually happening at the time). Instead, the miners needed to attack the economic system as a whole. If workers are to have a better life, they must destroy the capitalist system, and not just slug it out with gun thugs. The film doesn't place the Matewan strike in this context, but hopefully the viewer will.

In spite of these criticisms, *Matewan* is a very-good movie and should be seen by all workers. Fred Lee

UAW ACCEPTS PACT WITH GM

On October 25th, United Auto Workers voted 80.7% to accept a new three-year contract with the General Motors Corporation, with about half the membership voting. The agreement is patterned on the one negotiated at the Ford Motor Company in September.

The GM pact focuses on job security, a major issue this year for the UAW, which has seen its membership drop from a peak of 1.5 million to the current total of a million. Under the new agreement the company will guarantee not to close any plants and not to lay off any of its 335,000 workers for reasons other than sales declines for the life of the contract, as long as the company's costs do not exceed \$1.3 billion. Not included are the 11 plants, with about 30,000 workers, that GM said last fall it would close.

As at Ford, workers at GM will get a 3% pay increase in the first year of the contract, and lump-sum payments equivalent to 3% in each of the latter two years. These lump-sum payments will not add to the base wage on which future raises would be calculated. Assembly-line workers at GM now earn just under \$14 an hour.

GM also agreed to change its profit-sharing system

to a formula similar to the one in effect at Ford. Under the old formula GM paid nothing in profit sharing last year, despite 1986 earnings of almost \$3 billion.

One of the key provisions from the company point of view is the UAW agreement to establish joint union-company committees at each plant to improve productivity by changing work rules, reducing the number of job classifications, and switching to the "team concept" of work.

Although any changes in work practices will supposedly be voluntary, some local union leaders are afraid the union co-operation will lead to one group of workers being played off against others.

"I have serious concerns about this competition committee," said Donnie Douglas, president of Local 584 in Pontiac, Michigan. "Six months down the road, we'll see enhanced whipsawing as each plant comes up with different proposals. It will be brother against brother."

UAW president Owen Bieber didn't seem to harbor any doubts, joining with GM officials to emphasize that the deal represents a new level of agreement between once-hostile sides.

BOSTON BUS STRIKE ENDS

On October 10th union officials announced an agreement for Boston school bus drivers, ending a month-long strike. William Foley, New England district director of the United Steelworkers Union, which represents the drivers, declined to disclose the details of the agreement, but said it was signed immediately by the union and representatives of private-school bus operators that serve the public schools. There is no indication of a ratification vote.

NEW ENGLAND RAIL STRIKE

Members of the Machinists and Aerospace Workers, District 22, walked out October 5th in a 10-hour strike protesting layoffs and the hiring of non-union workers. The union's district president, Joseph Burns, said the strike was a reaction to the layoff of 32 Amtrak maintenance workers without 30 days' notice and Amtrak's

failure to consult the union before leasing a shop to the Tokyo Car Company, which is bringing in its own non-union employees to assemble, test, and service 54 railroad cars.

The strike was honored by most non-maintenance Amtrak employees, including train engineers. It forced the cancellation of one train traveling from New Haven to New York, and delays on others. The strikers went back to work after a district-court judge granted Amtrak's request for a temporary restraining order, ruling that the issues were subject to arbitration under federal law.

TWO-EARNER MAJORITY: In 1986, 54.5% of all US couples had two breadwinners, compared to only 33.5% 15 years earlier. In 1971, just under 50% of US women between 25 and 55 worked outside the home; 15 years later, 66.6% did. But implementing housework equality with the two-earner family remains a problem.



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CALIFORNIA. San Francisco Bay Area General Membership Branch, Box 40485, San Francisco, 94140. ★ Richard Ellington, Delegate, 6448 Irwin Court, Oakland 94609. 415-658-0293. ★ San Diego IWW Group, PO Box 16989, San Diego 92116.

COLORADO: Gary Cox, Delegate, Box 478, Johnstown 80534.

FLORIDA. Fred Hansen, Delegate, Box 824, New Port Richey, 33552.

GEORGIA: Atlanta IWW Group, PO Box 54766, Atlanta 30308-0766, 404-257-1838.

ILLINOIS. Chicago General Membership Branch (Fred Lee, Sec'y), 3435 North Sheffield, Suite 202, Chicago 60657. 312-549-5045. Meetings first Sunday of each month at 1 pm. ★ Chicago General Defense Committee Local 2 (same address as Chicago Branch). ★ Champaign-Urbana IWW Group, Box 2824, Station A, Champaign 61820.

KENTUCKY. Louisville IWW Group, 2024 Baringer Avenue, Louisville 37581.

LOUISIANA. Shreveport IWW Group, PO Box 37581, Shreveport 71133.

MARYLAND. Baltimore IWW Group, PO Box 33528, Baltimore 21218.

MASSACHUSETTS: Boston General Membership Branch Box 454, Cambridge 02139, 617-522-7090. Berkshire Learning Center Job Branch, 35 Curtis Terrace, Pittsfield 01201.

MICHIGAN. Southeast Michigan General Membership Branch, 42 South Summit, Ypsilanti 48197. 313-483-3478. Meetings second Monday of each month at 7:30 pm in Room 4001 of the Michigan Union. ★ University Cellar I.U. 660 Job Branch, 425 South Summit, Ypsilanti, 48197. ★ People's Warehouse I.U. 660 Job Branch, c/o Sarah Rucker, 727 West Ellsworth Road, Ann Arbor 48104. ★ Delegate, 415 Ethel, Grand Rapids 49506. ★ Delegate, 1101 Cottage Row, Hancock 49930.

MINNESOTA. Minneapolis-St. Paul General Membership Branch (Nancy A. Collins, Delegate), PO Box 2245, St. Paul 55102. Meetings third Wednesday of each month.

MONTANA. Western Montana General Membership Branch Hall, 415 North Higgins, Room 104, Missoula. Open Monday through Saturday, 12-5. 800-443-5458 or 406-721-3000. A. L. Nurse, Delegate. Address all correspondence to IWW Branch, PO Box 8562, Missoula 59807.

NEW YORK. New York General Membership Branch, Box 183, New York 10028. ★ Rochelle Semel, Delegate, PO Box 172, Fly Creek 13337. 607-293-6489 or 212-662-8801. ★ Jackie Panish, Delegate, PO Box 3304, Church Street Station, New York 10008-3304. 212-868-1121. ★ John Hansen, 302 Avenue C, Brooklyn 11218. ★ Henry Pfaff, Delegate, 77 Eckhart, Buffalo 14207. 716-877-6073. ★ Robert Young, Delegate, Box 920, Wingdale 12594. ★ Joe O'Shea, Delegate, Winkler's Farm, Towner's Road, Carmel 10512.

OHIO. Southwest Ohio General Membership Branch and General Defense Committee, PO Box 26381, Dayton 45426.

OREGON: R.M.R. Kroopkin, Delegate, 83650 Highway 99N (15), Creswell, Oregon 979426.

PENNSYLVANIA. Tom Hill, Delegate, Box 41928, Philadelphia 19101.

SOUTH CAROLINA. Harbinger Publications I.U. 450 Job Branch, 18 Bluff Road, Columbia 29201. 803-254-9398.

TEXAS. Gilbert Mers, Delegate, 7031 Kernel, Houston 77087. 713-921-0877.

VIRGINIA. Delegate, 902 C, North Gaskins Road, Richmond, Virginia 23233.

WASHINGTON. Bellingham General Membership Branch, Box 1386, Bellingham 98227. ★ Seattle General Membership Branch, 3238 33rd Avenue South, Seattle 98144. ★ Spokane IWW Group, PO Box 1273, Spokane 99210. ★ Tacoma/Olympia General Membership Branch, 2115 South Sheridan, Tacoma 98405. 206-272-8119.

WISCONSIN. Madison General Membership Branch, 1846 Jenifer, Madison 53704. 608-251-1937 or 249-4287.

Australia

Delegate, 417 King Street (1st Floor), Newton, Sydney.

Canada

Vancouver General Membership Branch, PO Box 65635, Station F, Vancouver, B.C. V5N 5K5. ★ West Kootenay IWW Group, Box 941, Nelson V1L 6A5. ★ J. B. McAndrew, Delegate, 7216 Mary Avenue (1204), Burnaby V5E 3K5. (604) 522-6867.

Great Britain

Delegate, 13 Wolsey Street off Heslington Road, York, YO 5BQ, England.

WOBBLY T-SHIRTS AVAILABLE

The San Francisco GMB is selling red Wobbly T-shirts with a black logo and "Industrial Workers of the World" on them. They have some small, some medium, and lots of large and extra large. They're asking \$10 plus postage.

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 UPHELD ONLY BY AN ORGANIZATION FORMED IN SUCH A WAY THAT ALL ITS MEMBERS IN ANY ONE INDUSTRY, OR IN ALL INDUSTRIES IF NECESSARY, CEASE WORK WHENEVER 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.

IW SUSTAINING FUND

(Received July 11th Through October 21st)

Art Nurse, Montana	100.00
X18584, New York	10.00
Mary Ann Jasper, Texas	10.00
William F. Johansen, California	15.00
Kenneth Smith, Wisconsin	4.00
Tacoma-Olympia Branch	10.00
Gilbert Mers, Texas	30.00
Charles Kimble	4.00
R. M. R. Kroopkin	20.00
Iowa S.P.	10.00
George LaForest, Illinois	5.00
Terence Cline, Ohio	10.00
Boston Branch	25.00
Leonard Grbinick, Ohio	25.00
Bruce Jensen, Washington	35.00
Kevin, Canada	20.00
Leon Maclean, Arizona	2.00
Franklin Devore, California	3.00
David Frazer, Colorado	10.00
Robert Young, New York	5.00
X18584, Florida	10.00
A. B. MaKay, Canada	18.00

In Memory of Fred Thompson

Jenny Velsek, Illinois	50.00
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P. Penev, Canada	10.00

In Memory of Dick Parker

Steven McChristian, Minnesota	10.00
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In Memory of Joseph Murphy

Steven McChristian, Minnesota	10.00
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In Memory of Uncle Henry

Edward Gallob	15.00
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TOTAL 486.00

Many thanks, fellow workers, for your generous support.

WHY WE WANT YOU TO JOIN THE IWW

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

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

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

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

JOIN THE UNION

BOOKS

FOR UNION PEOPLE

IWW PUBLICATIONS

- One Big Union (about the IWW) 1.25
- The General Strike (by Ralph Chaplin) 2.50
- IWW Songs: The Little Red Songbook 2.50
- Collective Bargaining Manual 2.50
- Workers' Guide to Direct Action35
- Unions and Racism 1.00
- Metal Workers' Guide to Health and Safety50
- A Quiz on You and the Arms Race10
- The IWW: Its First Seventy Years (cloth)15.00
- The IWW: Its First Seventy Years (paper) 4.95
- Joe Hill: IWW Songwriter 1.00
- History of the IWW in Canada50
- The Rebel Girl (sheet music) 1.00
- We Have Fed You All for a Thousand Years (LP record—no discount) . . . 8.50
- IWW Preamble and Constitution 1.00

IWW POSTERS — \$10 each postpaid

- Lucy Parsons
- Joe Hill
- General Strike
- Fat Cat
- Huelga General
- Draftees of the World, Unite

IWW BUTTONS

- Build Militant Unionism75
- For More of the Good Things of Life75

BOOKS FROM OTHER PUBLISHERS

- Bye! American—Labor Cartoons by Gary Huck & Mike Konopacki 7.95
- Memoirs of a Wobbly by Henry McGuckin5.95
- Haymarket Scrapbook 14.95
- Haymarket Postcards (complete set of 31)12.00
- Reasons for Pardoning the Haymarket Anarchists by John P. Altgeld3.95
- Crime and Criminals by Clarence Darrow 2.50
- You Have No Country! Workers' Struggle Against War by Mary E. Marcy 4.50
- Dreams and Dynamite (poems by Covington Hall) 3.95
- Mr. Block: 24 IWW Cartoons 4.95
- Rise and Repression of Radical Labor 3.95
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- Lucy Parsons: American Revolutionary 6.95
- Autobiography of Mother Jones 7.95
- The Right to Be Lazy by Paul Lafargue 2.75
- The Head-Fixing Industry by John Keracher 3.00
- Soul of Man Under Socialism by Oscar Wilde 3.95
- The Life of Thomas Skidmore by Amos Gilbert 3.95
- Labor Law for the Rank-and-File 2.50
- Didactic Verse by Henry Pfaff (IWW humor) 2.00

DISCOUNTS ON BULK ORDERS

40% discount on prepaid bulk orders of five or more copies of any item on this list, unless otherwise indicated. 30% discount on similar orders that require invoicing. Postage will be added to all orders that are not prepaid. Please allow three weeks for delivery.

AVAILABLE FROM IWW LOCALS

- A Worker's Guide to Direct Action. 50¢ from New York IWW, P.O. Box 183, NY 10028.
- Fellow Union Member. 10¢ each; 5-15 for 5¢ each; 16-500, 3¢ each; over 500, 2¢ from Tacoma/Olympia IWW, 2115 S. Sheridan, Tacoma, WA 98405.
- Introduction to the IWW. 10¢ each; bulk rate 40%, prepaid, from San Francisco IWW, P.O. Box 40485, San Francisco, California 94140.
- Solidarity Bulletin (monthly publication) \$10 a year from Vancouver IWW, P.O. Box 34334, Station D., Vancouver, B.C. Canada V6J 4P3.
- Amnesty for British Miners (enamel and gold buttons) \$10 each from Chicago IWW Branch, 3435 North Sheffield, Suite 202, Chicago, IL 60657. (All proceeds to British miners.)

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 3435 North Sheffield, Suite 202,
 Chicago, Illinois 60657

There's a Reason WHY INDUSTRIAL UNIONISM AND THE WORKERS REPUBLIC WILL TRIUMPH

??????? DID YOU NOTICE ????????

SPANISH UNION SPLITS with Socialist Party: The General Workers Union, Spain's largest union and long-time Socialist Party ally, may have parted company with the Socialist Party this October when Nicholas Redono, the Union's general secretary, resigned his parliamentary seat in protest of the Socialist Government's proposals to limit wage and benefit increases in hope of fighting inflation. The Government has proposed salary hikes of 4%, while the Union wants 5.5% with more money for retired people and the unemployed. The Socialist Union joined its communist counterpart the Workers Commissions, Spain's second-largest labor union, in a call for protests.

MILITARY-INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX: Of the new technologies that may be spawned by the discovery of materials that will super-conduct electricity at temperatures well above absolute zero, what will you bet that the first applications in the US will be military? And don't swallow the "spinoffs" line. If spinoffs were better than direct research and development, the Military would be using the spinoffs of civilian R&D.

ANTICS WITH SEMANTICS: Why is the label "promiscuous" applied so often to women, gay men, and teenagers, and so seldom to straight adult men?

CLASS, SEX, AND MEDICAL SCHOOL: In 1970, fewer than 8% of US physicians were female; today 14.6% are female, as are some 30% of all medical students. The class composition, however, did not change; most of the women as well as the men students came from the 20% of the population whose parents were in the professions.

Glances

SUDANESE PROTEST IMF PRICE HIKE

On October 19th, 10,000 people marched through Khartoum, Sudan to protest the rise in food and fuel prices. As is usual with food-price increases in the Third World, the International Monetary Fund was involved, this time with forcing an agreement on the Sudanese Government to devalue the Sudanese pound.

ANTI-NUKE PROTEST IN BULLFROG

On October 21st, 23 anti-nuclear activists successfully occupied part of the Bullfrog County section of the Nevada Test Site. The 12-person support group for this action included a Native American Shoshone man who issued entry permits since the US Government had violated treaties which clearly show that the land belongs to the Shoshone.

Bullfrog County was created by the Nevada Legislature this year as part of the state's bid to have the Federal Government site a nuclear-waste repository in it. The County has zero population, and hence no law-enforcement or judicial system. The American Peace Test people who staged the occupation did so partly because if they were to be arrested within Bullfrog County, they might have to be prosecuted in a federal court.

The *IW* staff want to thank FW Joel Lewis for sending this information in.

CAPITALISM AT WORK

Many people hoped that biotechnology would usher in a new non-chemical era in agriculture, as plants could be bred to be more resistant of insects and disease, instead of being doused with pesticides and herbicides. But no such luck. The *Chicago Reader* reports that scientists at the University of Wisconsin are trying to add a gene to popular trees (grown for paper) that makes them more resistant to weed killers. Thus the growers can dump more poisons on the fields without hurting the trees. The next step may be to breed more-resistant people.

20 MILLION AMERICANS STILL HUNGRY

A study released in late October by the Physicians' Task Force on Hunger in America concluded that some 20 millions suffer chronic inadequacy in their diets, especially infants, the elderly, and former blue-collar workers who have dropped out of the manufacturing sector and into the service sector. The report was based on field investigations in four areas of the US: Texas and Louisiana, where the oil and natural-gas industries are in decline; Minnesota and Iowa, where the family-farm system is being destroyed; Pennsylvania, Ohio, and West Virginia, where many once high-paying steel and mining jobs have disappeared; and California's Silicon Valley, where service workers, including many immigrants, earn minimum wages amid the wealth of high technology. A former Administration official criticized the study on the grounds that there were no "official" data on hunger and that the authors were physicians, not economists.

Martin Anderson, a domestic and economic policy advisor to President Reagan from 1981 to 1982, said "Numbers like that are potentially misleading in the hands of non-experts. If they are charging that supply-side economics contributed to hunger in the US, they have to say that about the greatest five-year economic expansion in the history of the US in terms of jobs and 59 straight months of upward growth."

SOLIDARITY RE-ORGANIZES: On October 26th, the outlawed Polish union Solidarnosc announced that it was dissolving its underground "co-ordinating committee", established when the union was banned after December 1981, and its public "provisional council", formed last year. Both bodies are to be replaced by a national executive committee headed by Lech Walesa. The union also called on Poles to boycott a referendum issued by the Government, the first in 41 years, saying that the Government had missed its chance to give the people a genuine choice on the economy.

MINE WORKERS PUT LABOR IN THE LIBRARY: Concerned that the public had no access to accurate information about organized labor in Warrick County, Indiana, members of the United Mine Workers have provided the local library with nearly 70 volumes and 20 videotapes on various labor topics.

THE UNITED STATES, with 5% of the World's population, consumes about 30% of the World's resources.



Brian Willson leads anti-war rally in Concord, California.

CALIFORNIA ANTI-WAR PROTESTS CONTINUE

Peace activist Brian Willson has returned to lead a massive anti-war rally at the Naval Weapons Station in Concord, California in late September, demanding an end to the US Government's illegal shipment of arms to Central America. Willson lost both his legs at the same site on September 1st when a naval munitions train ran over him as he knelt on the tracks protesting US aid to the *contras*. Four days later nearly 10,000 angry demonstrators assembled there in solidarity with Willson and the anti-war protest. Some of the demonstrators tore up the rails and ties where the "accident" took place.

Although it has been shown that Navy officials ordered the train crew not to stop, neither the officials nor the crew are being prosecuted. The local district attorney has stated that the tragedy was the result of "misunderstandings", and has placed the blame squarely on the demonstrators. With the generosity typical of the boss class he has added that he will not press charges against Willson.

Meanwhile, the anti-war struggle continues to escalate. Some 400 people stormed an ROTC building in Berkeley in September, smashing windows and defacing walls. There were no arrests. The Nuremberg Action Coalition, which is co-ordinating the Concord demonstrations, is continuing its policy of civil disobedience and direct action against the war machine.

A fund has been established c/o Larson and Weinberg, attorneys at law, 523 Octavia Street, San Francisco, California 94102.

THE TOP 50 NUCLEAR-WEAPONS CONTRACTORS

Allied Signal, AT&T, Boeing, DuPont, Eaton, EG&G, Emerson Electric, FMC, Ford Motor, GenCorp, General Dynamics, General Electric, General Motors, Goodyear, Gould, GTE, Harris, Hercules, Honeywell, IBM, IIT, Litton, Lockheed, LTV, Martin Marietta, McDonnell Douglas, Monsanto, Morton Thiokol, Motorola, National Distillers, NL Industries, North American Phillips, Northrop, Penn Central, Raytheon, RCA, Rockwell International, Sanders Associates, The Singer Company, Sperry, Teledyne, Tenneco, Texas Instruments, Textron, TRW, UNC Resources, United Technologies, USX, Westinghouse

Compiled by Nuclear Free America based on 1984 data. The NFA people at 325 East 25th, Baltimore, Maryland 21218, are calling for a boycott of Morton Salt.

FREE ENTERPRISE AND HUMAN RIGHTS: The AFL-CIO Executive Committee announced recently that the winner of the 1987 George Meany Human Rights Award (an oxymoron if there ever was one) was South Korean politician Kim Dae Jung. The AFL says he got the award because of his support for "institution of a truly free-enterprise economic system" in that country.

SCANDINAVIAN WORKERS seek 30-hour week: Reflecting the movement in Europe for a shorter work-week, women workers in Norway and Sweden are pressing for a 6-day, 30-hour week, which they feel will give them more equality with male workers.

IF NORTHERN ILLINOIS were independent, it would be the third most nuclear-dependent nation in the World, after France (with 70% nuclear-generated electricity) and Belgium (with 67%). In 1986, Commonwealth Edison generated 60.4% of Chicago's electricity by heating water with split atoms.

HOURLY COMPENSATION in the US rose by the smallest amount in 25 years in the first quarter of 1987.

Latin Shorts

SALVADORAN RIGHTS ACTIVIST SLAIN

On October 26th the president of the Non-Governmental Human Rights Commission, Ernesto Anaya, was shot dead. Anaya was the fourth member of the Commission to be killed since 1980. For security reasons, the Commission keeps the identities of its members secret, except for the spokespersons and a few other leaders.

SALVADORAN UNIONS protest new amnesty: The Salvadoran National Assembly approved an amnesty October 28th, pardoning "any crime committed by anyone for the motive, occasion, or as a consequence of the armed conflict". It was altered at the last minute at the insistence of the Catholic Church to exempt the killers of Archbishop Oscar Arnulfo Romero, slain March 1980 while saying Mass. The amnesty, opposed by human-rights groups and leftist insurgents even though some captured guerrillas may be freed, was taken as a confession by the Christian Democratic Government that it is powerless to stand up to the Military. Union spokespersons said it was impossible to "forgive and forget" massacres of civilians by military death squads. Unions and student groups organized a march to the headquarters of the Military high command, but were stopped by riot police and soldiers carrying automatic rifles.

CARIBBEAN UNDER THE GUN

Since the US invaded Grenada in 1983, the role of the US Military in the Caribbean has increased dramatically. Military aid to the Dominican Republic, the Eastern Caribbean, Haiti, and Jamaica rose from \$3.6 million in 1980 to \$21 million in 1986. Troops from Belize, Guyana, Haiti, Surinam, and Trinidad have been trained via the US International Training and Education program. The US Military in Puerto Rico has been given a greater role in military training and surveillance throughout the Caribbean. In December 1983, US teams began to train and arm newly-established paramilitary Special Service Units (SSUs) in Antigua, Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, Saint Kitts, and Saint Lucia. The SSUs have been included in the regional war games that the US stages annually.

"The SSUs," said one observer in Dominica, "are an attempt to create a monolith within the Eastern [Caribbean] regional police forces that will be more loyal to the US than to locally-elected governments." That is already the case with the military in most Latin American countries.

BRAZILIAN UNIONIST LOBBIES WORLD BANK

The fourth attempt on his life took place in July, Francisco Mendes Filho reported through an interpreter. This time, Mendes explained, the would-be assassin, a thug who was hired by landholders, slipped on a loose board while climbing up the side of the union hall, and fled when the noise awakened people inside.

Mendes, a rubber worker and president of a rural union, made himself a target for some of Brazil's large landowners by trying to halt the destruction of Amazonian rain forest in Acre Province, where trees are vanishing as land is cleared for large cattle ranches. He came to Washington DC in late September to join environmentalists lobbying the World Bank to finance different kinds of projects in the Amazon basin. The projects would make use of rubber, nuts, medical plants, and other products furnished by the rain forest itself, instead of cutting down the trees.

Mendes said the people of Acre did not want to repeat the experience of nearby Rondonia Province, where roads were driven into the heart of the forest to open the way for forest clearing and settlement from outside. "In places where there are supposed to be rubber trees there is only cattle pasture, and much of the state is already turning into a desert," he said, explaining that the soil of the rain forest has proven unsuitable for long-term ranching and agriculture. The only people who have benefitted from the rain forest, he said, are a handful of landholders who control most of the land.