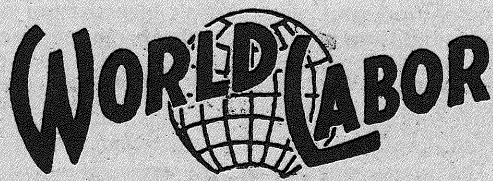


INDUSTRIAL WORKER

★ EDUCATION



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INDUSTRIAL WORKERS

NEWS

OF THE WORLD

★ EMANCIPATION

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WORKERS BATTLE TYRANNY

Strike Wave Floods Korea

Long months of student protests this year wrung a number of concessions from the Korean Government, but the Government's June promise not to interfere with labor activity unleashed a flood of pent-up labor militancy. In 1980, after several years of increasing insurgency, Korean unionism was smashed by the incoming Chun junta, fresh from killing 3,000 people in Kwangju. In the early '80s, strong unions were broken up and replaced with company unions, based on the American model touted by the AFL-CIA tentacle in Asia. Union organizers were sent to "re-education" centers. College students were forbidden to get jobs in factories, lest they be union agitators—surely the highest compliment students have been paid in some time.

With organized labor broken, employers imposed draconian working conditions and kept wages down to make South Korean products cheaper abroad. In 1986 workers in South Korea were forced to put in the longest average workweek in the World (54.4 hours), yet received an average monthly wage of only \$370, according to the pro-Government Federation of Korean Labor Unions. The average wage for all South Korean industries was \$1.75 an hour. Productivity has nearly doubled since 1980, although wages have risen less than 40%.

But in late June the workers followed the students out into the streets, and by early August sit-ins had been staged in 80 plants in Changwon, Masan, Pusan, and Ulsan. In Taebaek, hundreds of coal miners occupied a railway station, halting trains linking Seoul and eastern South Korea for more than 15 hours despite police tear-gas attacks. In Kwangju bus drivers went on strike, and strikes in 20 parts factories forced Korea's largest automaker, Hyundai Motors, to shut down indefinitely. Even the main fish market in Pusan, the country's largest port, closed down when 600 fishers staged a sitdown for more pay and smashed market furniture when police fired tear gas at them. About a thousand workers at Bingrae, a major candy factory near Seoul, staged a sit-in.

By August 13th, news reports said new strikes or labor disputes had begun at 79 plants, and 40,000 workers were on strike. These figures did not include the 25,000 miners already on strike at 18 coal mines in the northeast, or the strikers at several newspapers where reporters demanded that the news be covered with less internal censorship.

A striking autoworker interviewed outside a factory in the southern industrial town of Changwon reported that he made about \$288 a month (230,000 won) and often put in 12-hour days seven days a week. "While we work," he said, "executives play golf. When I think about the gap between the factory workers' salaries and the white-collar workers', I feel very angry." The walls of the factory were spray-painted with slogans calling for higher wages and free choice of union representation.

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400 Working Inmates Choose IWW

Some 400 working inmates of the Southern Ohio Correctional Facility in Lucasville have signed petitions authorizing the IWW to represent them in collective bargaining with their employer, the State of Ohio. The inmates currently receive between 13 and 18 cents an hour—around \$24 a month—for making furniture, stuffing pillows, and sewing American flags.

These imprisoned fellow workers have chosen the IWW because of the Union's fighting traditions of solidarity and direct action, and especially because Wobblies have always championed the cause of the most oppressed sectors of the working class.

Prison bosses have responded predictably to the unionizing drive. Like bosses everywhere, these gun and tear-gas exemplars of capitalist law 'n' order have resorted to all sorts of illegal dirty tricks to keep the IWW out at all costs. IWW red cards have been confiscated, inmates' correspondence with Union organizers has been intercepted, and IWW literature has been censored or



AP Laserphoto

Nearly 300 striking employees of an industrial plant in the Changwon Industrial Complex along South Korea's southern coast clash with riot police.

S A Workers in Fight of Their Lives

As I write these words, 78 National Union of Mine-workers (NUM) activists—including every single officer of the union's Klerksdorp local—are appearing in court on charges of subversion and conspiracy. More than 120 other NUM activists have been arrested by the South African regime, which is trying to crush a mineworkers' strike that threatens to cut off South Africa's gold exports—accounting for 60% of the regime's foreign-currency earnings.

The strike, involving some 350,000 gold and coal miners at 52 mines (of 99 affiliated with the Chamber of Mines), is the NUM's first national strike and South Africa's largest legal strike ever. The first miners struck August 9th, demanding a 30% pay hike, danger pay (as scores of miners are killed on the job each year), and

increased death benefits. The Chamber responded to these demands by unilaterally raising wages 15 to 23% and breaking off negotiations. The NUM had originally expected only 200,000 miners at 46 mines to join the strike, but tens of thousands of non-union miners have joined. The *Johannesburg Star* reports that the union rejected a proposed profit-sharing scheme as a ploy to co-opt workers and increase their exploitation. (Faced with an increasingly-combative labor movement, employers are increasingly turning to profit-sharing and workers'-participation schemes in hopes of boosting productivity and ensuring labor peace.)

At presstime some 250 strikers have been injured in police attacks on union meetings and picket lines. Police have used birdshot, rubber bullets, and tear gas in efforts to break up union meetings, hospitalizing several miners. Over 75 strikers were wounded near Johannesburg when police and mine security guards fired on 700 strikers meeting outside their residential hostel at an Anglo-American Corporation mine, sending eight to the hospital. Security guards at Johannesburg Consolidated's Randfontein Estates forced miners to return to work at

(continued on Page 6)

seized.

The union-minded inmates of Lucasville have not, however, allowed themselves to be subdued by this campaign of State-sponsored harassment. On the contrary, and notwithstanding the fascistic restrictions placed on their freedom of action, our fellow workers behind bars have boldly kept up the Union offensive. Most recently, IWW in-house organizers John Perotti and John Steward, aided by Paul Poulos of the New York IWW General Membership Branch, have filed an unfair-labor-practice suit against the jailhouse employers. (Further details will appear in the next issue of the *IW*.)

This IWW organizing drive by workers in prison has received widespread attention in the media. It has been written up in the *New York Times* and in just about every Ohio daily, sometimes in full-page stories, and wire services have carried the news around the World.

The struggle continues!

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WORLD LABOR NEWS



STRIKES HIT PANAMA

A series of strikes have rocked Panama, as public opposition grows against the government controlled by General Noriega. On July 27th and 28th, labor unions called a highly-successful two-day general strike during which the General closed three opposition newspapers and ordered helicopters and troops to attack the home of his former second in command, Colonel Roberto Diaz Herrera. Herrera detonated the current crisis in early June when he accused Noriega of assassinating political opponents, rigging elections, and fostering widespread corruption. In an attempt to defuse future strike activities by splitting the labor movement, Noriega ordered July 29th that government employees, who number over a hundred thousand in a total population of just over two million, would receive part of their annual year-end bonus then instead of just before Christmas.

A second general strike, on August 17th, was less successful. However many of the stores that opened in the morning closed by noon, citing a shortage of employees and customers.

UNEMPLOYED YOUTH RIOT IN SWEDEN

Nearly a thousand unemployed working-class youth rioted for five consecutive nights during mid-August in downtown Stockholm, Sweden—the country's largest riot in decades. Many large plate-glass windows of fashionable shops were smashed and much merchandise was stolen, with damage estimated at hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Sweden's governing Social Democratic politicians have preferred to place the blame for the rioting on parents rather than on the Government's stifling economic program, which offers young people nothing but austerity and more austerity. And the Stockholm City Council is considering increasing the number of public concerts for the purpose of "distracting the youth". Meanwhile, they have increased the number of police patrolling the streets.

LATIN AMERICAN MARKETS

There is concern among some economic analysts that because of its growing debt burden, Latin America will not be able to maintain its normal purchase of 15% of all the merchandise the US sells abroad each year. This is especially scary, the analysts claim, because the US needs to find someone to buy its goods so as to bring down its 44-billion-dollar trade deficit.

The Democratic response to the imposing crisis is to extend more debt (credit) to Latin America so it can buy US goods, while the unofficial Republican response is to send in the Marines and force Latin America to buy more US goods. However the more-reasonable responses to the trade deficit—such as creating a larger domestic market through a radical redistribution of income and reducing unemployment, controlling the foreign-investment policies of US corporations, or developing a national economic plan to deal with the problem—are not being considered because they would place restrictions on the bosses that they would claim are unacceptable.

Moreover, such a policy could also question the investment decisions made by the bosses, which essentially must be done. That is, under capitalism, bosses have the right by law to freely move their capital from one location to another, much as an individual has the right to move a savings or checking account from one bank to another. Of course in the case of bosses, this results in destruction of lives and communities; but that is incidental to the nature of capitalism.

If workers' lives and communities are more important than the almighty dollar, then it is necessary to destroy the legal right of bosses to freely move their capital—which can only be done by workers' taking control of the capital or the investment process. A national policy based on grass-roots organizing could do this, but one does not have to create a new social organization: Has not the IWW always advocated the workers' taking control?

Fred Lee

SALVADORAN UNIONIST WOUNDED IN NEW WAVE OF REPRESSION

On May 31st, Julio Portillo was shot by Government security forces while taking part in a peaceful demonstration in front of the Mariona prison in San Salvador. Despite his serious condition he refused to be taken to a public hospital, fearing it would not be safe. Portillo, an executive both of the teachers' union ANDRES and of UNTS, the broadest coalition of Salvadoran workers to date, was yet another victim of the country's latest round of repression.

AFL-CIO ENDS COORS BOYCOTT

On August 20th, the AFL-CIO ended its decade-long boycott of Coors Beer. The boycott began in 1977, when 1500 members of Local 366 of the now-defunct Brewery, Bottling, and Allied Industrial Union walked out in a dispute over the company's desire to subject employees to polygraph or lie-detector tests. Eventually Coors replaced the strikers with scabs, and the National Labor Relations Board de-certified the union. Officials of Coors and the AFL-CIO said the agreement removed obstacles to allowing federation unions to try to organize workers in the company. An AFL-CIO spokesperson denied rumors that a possible Teamsters organizing drive at Coors helped spur the new accord with the company.

SPANISH UNION RELEASES WOMEN'S REPORT

On August 15th, the women's department of the General Workers Union, Spain's biggest labor organization, said 84% of women surveyed had experienced some form of sexual harassment. Nearly a third said they had been bothered by "unwanted physical contact" or by sexual solicitation and phone calls. More than half reported unwanted non-verbal sexual advances.

The survey questioned 772 workers, including Government employees, white-collar workers like journalists and flight attendants, and workers at hospitals, hotels, and industrial plants. The survey found that new and younger employees were more likely to be harassed by male co-workers, as were women who were divorced, separated, or widowed, non-practicing Catholics, and atheists. Journalists and flight attendants said they were bothered most by their bosses and immediate superiors. Wage and promotion discrimination was most noticeable in manual-labor and blue-collar jobs, but was widespread throughout the whole private sector.

An article in the *New York Times* mentioned that the Spanish report recommended new laws to prohibit sexual harassment and programs to make employers aware of their responsibilities, but didn't say what, if anything, the report suggested that the General Workers Union do.



OFFICIAL NOTICE

The IWW will be holding an official conference September 5th and 6th at the Trout Lake Community Center in Vancouver, British Columbia. For details contact the Vancouver IWW, Box 65635, Station F, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada V5N 5K5, (604) 876-8438.

4500 CLASS-WAR PRISONERS

A new report by the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions concludes that during 1986 and the first months of 1987, more than 200 people were murdered because of their union activities. The ICFTU's annual Survey of Violations of Trade Union Rights reports that over the same period some 4500 unionists were imprisoned—some for a few days, others for years on end. Abductions, disappearances, torture, invasions of union premises, and death threats are also increasingly common.

The survey cites 55 countries by name, concluding that while the most-flagrant violations are being committed by dictatorships of the right and left, many "democratic" countries have no qualms about attacking human rights.

South Africa holds the record for recent arrests of unionists—about 3400. Brazil, however, is far and away the leader in killings—some 190 activists from rural workers' organizations were killed last year at the behest of large landowners.

Some 300 Turkish unionists have been sentenced to prison terms of up to nine years, and nearly all affiliates of the DISK labor federations are being forcibly dissolved by the Government. In Paraguay, hundreds of workers were arrested during May Day demonstrations. Death squads continue to murder union activists in El Salvador and Guatemala.

Last August Mark Morozov, an activist in the Free Interprofessional Association of Workers (SMOT), died in jail. Five other SMOT leaders are still imprisoned, and another is being held in a psychiatric institution. Independent unionists freed under the amnesty law are required to sign a declaration pledging to abstain from any independent union activity.

Other countries named in the report include Bolivia, Britain, Canada, Chile, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Iran, the Netherlands, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Pakistan, Poland, South Korea, Surinam, and Tunisia.

What can be seen from this report is that the bosses around the World—regardless of their political stripes—do not hesitate to trample underfoot the basic rights of our fellow workers. Only the organized solidarity of our class can guarantee basic union and human rights.

BACK IN THE USSR

Yegor Volkov has been confined in the Blagoveshensk Special Psychiatric Hospital for 19 years for organizing a strike among his fellow construction workers.

In 1967, Volkov's fellow workers struck because their pay was only 10% of their contracted wages. The strike was successful, but a month later wages were cut again and Volkov organized a second strike. He was then arrested for distributing "anti-Soviet propaganda", tried in absentia, and sent to Blagoveshensk. In 1983 and again in 1984 doctors recommended that he be discharged, but the court refused.

Amnesty International has recognized Volkov as a prisoner of conscience. Fellow workers are urged to write letters of protest to the Soviet authorities handling the Volkov case, demanding his immediate release.

Please write to Dr. Georgi Morozov, Director, Serbsky Institute of Forensic Psychiatry, Kropotkin Lane 23, Moscow, USSR; and to Dr. Ludmila Butenkova, Chief Doctor, IZ-23/1 SPB, Blagoveshensk, Amur Region, USSR 675000.

UNIONISTS KILLED IN COLOMBIA

In July and August a number of labor-union and civic activists were killed in Northeastern Colombia. Most of the victims had helped organize the *para civico* (civic strike) of June 1987, when a number of small towns and rural communities blocked roads and shut down stores and offices to dramatize their demands for better water, sewage, and health and energy services. All of the dead were reported shot by *sicarios*, hired gun thugs believed to be working with the co-operation or acquiescence of the Army or the security forces.

Among those killed were Hernando Sanguino, leader of the Teachers' Association of North Santander; Euclides Garzon, former leader of the main oil workers' union; Bernardino Garcia, member of the board of the gas workers' union; and Marcos Sanchez Castelon, president of the Asociacion Pro-defensa de Santa Marta, a human-rights and ecology group. Juan Ballesteros, president of the association of street vendors, was wounded during the attack on Sanchez Castelon.

GENERAL STRIKE IN BANGLADESH

A 54-hour general strike ended in Bangladesh July 24th, but opposition leaders immediately announced a new series of protests against the plans of the government of General Ershad to allow military officers to serve on district councils. At rallies that drew crowds despite a torrential monsoon downpour that flooded the streets, leaders of two opposition alliances called for several days of public mourning to mark the deaths of eight people killed in clashes with police during the strike.

UNIONISTS ARRESTED IN BURKINA FASO

Amnesty International has received reports of a wave of arrests of labor unionists in towns throughout Burkina Faso (formerly Upper Volta) in June. Relations between the Government and trade unions in this African country have deteriorated, especially since April 1987, when the Confederation Syndicale Burkinabe (CSB: National Union Confederation) complained to the International Labor Organization about restrictions on union activities. On May 1st, the CSB and other union confederations are reported to have published a communique protesting against restrictions on democratic and human rights and against deteriorating working conditions. There have also been reports that some of the arrestees were ill-treated while they were being detained.

AN INJURY TO ONE...

Two British unionists active in the support of Wapping printworkers in their strike against Murdoch's News International now face charges carrying up to three years in jail. Sue Faulkner, a NUPE shop steward, and Ross Galbraith, a TGWU branch secretary, were arrested and originally charged with damaging a TNT lorry used to carry scab papers. The charge was later changed to "conspiring with person or persons unknown to cause damage to TNT Newsfast Ltd...", a nebulous charge that is difficult to defend against, as no specific acts are alleged. A defense committee is working to publicize the case and get charges dropped. They can be contacted at (and donations sent to) the Leicester 2 Defence Campaign, c/o Leicester and District Trades Council, 138 Charles Street, Leicester, England.

Amnesty International is asking that courteous letters urging the release of the following persons, imprisoned solely because of their union activities, be sent to the appropriate authorities to help secure their release or ameliorate their conditions of imprisonment:

Jorge Herrera, legal advisor to several Guatemalan unions, "disappeared" after his abduction in Guatemala City on July 26th, 1986. The new civilian government disclaims any knowledge of his whereabouts, but so far has failed to investigate the thousands of "disappearances" and political killings that occurred under previous governments (and continue to a lesser extent today). Letters asking the Government to establish an independent investigation into Herrera's whereabouts should be sent to S. E. Vinicio Cerezo Arevalo, Presidente de la Republica, Palacio Nacional, Guatemala City, Guatemala.

Kim Mun-su, a founding member of the Seoul Federation of Labor Movement, was arrested by South Korean authorities on May 6th, 1986, and has reportedly been tortured in custody. Specific charges against him include publishing statements in the Movement's newspaper critical of the South Korean and United States Governments, and taking part in illegal demonstrations. Letters appealing for Kim Mun-su's release and an impartial investigation into reports that he was tortured while in detention should be sent to Kim Sung-ky, Minister of Justice, 1 Chngang-dong, Kwachonmyon, Shihung-gun, Kyonggi Province, Republic of Korea.

Vladimir Gershuni, a Moscow stonemason and leader of the unofficial "Free Inter-Professional Association of Workers", has been held in a psychiatric hospital for five years. The Association advocated independent unions, compiling and distributing 35 lengthy bulletins about the conditions of Soviet workers. Some 20 members have been imprisoned or confined in mental hospitals, but doctors have recommended Gershuni's release. Letters urging his release should be sent to Dr. Yevgeny Chazov, SSSR, 103051 Moskva, Rakhmanovsky Pereulok 3, Ministerstvo Zdravookhraniya, SSR Ministry, Chazovue, Ye, USSR.

U.S. LABOR STRUGGLES ON

A SORRY TALE OF UNION SCABBING

Broadcast technicians have been on strike against NBC television for weeks, in a struggle undermined by a kind of union scabbing so common that it no longer even draws protests from strikers. While members of the Association of Broadcast Employees and Technicians (NABET) walk picket lines and call for a boycott of NBC, newswriters, directors (who recently settled their own dispute with the company), actors, and other network employees blithely cross picket lines without a second thought.

NBC is demanding deep concessions, including a two-tier pay scheme, contracting out of union jobs to temporary workers, and layoffs. While NABET has picketed aggressively, including pickets of NBC scab crews as they cover news stories (a tactic that even a judge has ruled constitutes "interference with news coverage" and that has resulted in arrests), most of the support they have received has been strictly symbolic.

Though some politicians and entertainers have declined to appear on NBC while the strike continues, the top-rated Bill Cosby has contented himself with recording his show in another station, thus involving even more workers in breaking the strike as they help keep NBC programming on the air.

Broadcast workers need industrial organization. Because they are currently organized into trade unions instead, and because trade unions are incapable of standing together, each trade fights its battles (and suffers its inevitable defeats) separately. It's precisely this sort of antiquated, divisive organization that the IWW Preamble speaks of when it notes that "The trade unions are 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 to defeat one another in wage wars."

JB

BENZENE AND EUGENE FOLLADOR

The effort to have the Occupational Safety and Health Administration limit exposure to benzene began in 1977, when OSHA first said it believed such exposure could increase the incidence of leukemia and other diseases in workers.

In those days, steelworker Eugene Follador did not know much about benzene. It was just one of the by-products he came across as a carpenter at the coke plant in Clairton, Pennsylvania, owned by the US Steel Corporation. He did not learn much about benzene in all the time the lawyers and bureaucrats in Washington were fighting the issue out in the courts. In 1980 the Supreme Court rejected a proposed benzene rule, and another long bout of legal maneuvering began.

In early 1986 Follador noticed that his walk up the hill after work was tiring him as it never had before. But he was turning 60, so he chalked it up to age. Then a toothache sent him to a dentist, and finally to doctors who told him that his tiredness stemmed from leukemia. Through their tests and questions he learned of the connection between the benzene he had never thought about and the disease they said he had.

In the spring of 1986, members of Follador's union asked him if he would go to Washington to testify at an OSHA hearing on a proposed new benzene rule. He consented, but got too weak to make the trip, and the hearings went on without him.

Eugene Follador died on April 4th, 1986, and as of this writing OSHA has not yet issued its new rule. So how about some on-the-job action by Follador's co-workers to get rid of the benzene they're still being exposed to?

BOYCOTT HORMEL PRODUCTS

Spam is Hormel's best-known product, rated 4 on a scale of 172 by the Center for Science in the Public Interest. Even if you're not boycotting it out of labor solidarity, you should consider shunning it for reasons of health. Other Hormel products include Little Sizzler sausages, Cure 81 hams, Hormel pepperoni, Di Lusso salami, Mary Kitchen hams and Dinty Moore stews, Jennie-O turkeys, Farm Fresh catfish, and Dubuque products. Burger King uses Hormel bacon, and Pizza Hut uses Hormel pepperoni and sausage.

Besides these products, Hormel and Company, based in the company town of Austin, Minnesota, is noted for producing mangled and amputated hands and fingers and injured backs and limbs in its workers. Then the Company slashed wages by 23% and gutted benefits, forcing its employees out on strike. Unable to starve them out, Hormel (with the aid of a thousand National Guardsmen) replaced the union members with scabs six months into the strike and fired strike supporters from other plants—leaving 1400 workers without jobs.

Since then Hormel products have been plagued with problems. The Company was forced to recall cans of Chunk Breast of Chicken from 22 states. In short, health hazards and human suffering are packed in every can. So don't eat Hormel products until the Company cleans up its act.

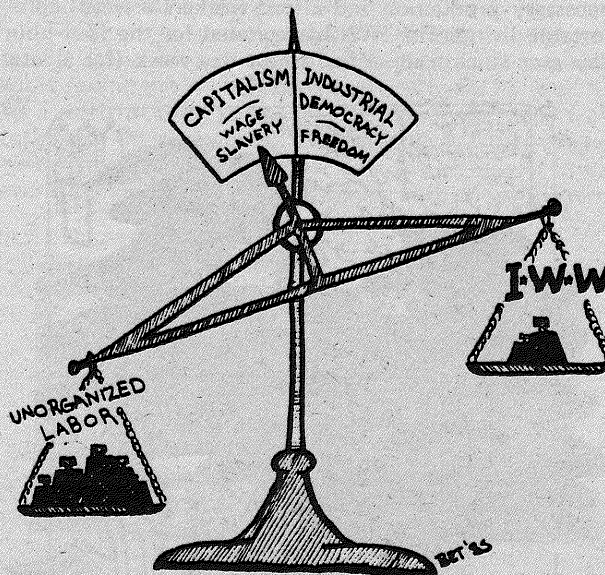
Send contributions to help hold Hormel accountable and requests for leaflets to the Austin United Support Group, PO Box 396, 711 4th Avenue Northeast, Austin, Minnesota 55912.

AUSTIN MURAL COMMITTEE NEEDS SUPPORT

In the course of the fight against the Hormel meat-packing company in Austin, Minnesota, workers created a 16-by-80-foot mural to give visual representation to labor's struggles and hopes. In October 1986, the mural was defaced by friends of Hormel, who also launched a court suit to be allowed to totally eliminate the mural. The Austin Mural Committee is appealing to art lovers and supporters of workers' rights for donations to win the right to restore the mural. Contributions can be sent to the Austin Mural Committee, PO Box 891, Austin, Minnesota 55912.

SUPERMARKET CLERKS STRIKE CALIFORNIA GROCERY CHAIN

Some 450 supermarket clerks struck the Ralph's supermarket chain in California August 8th, while union and management officials continued negotiations on a proposed contract between six supermarket chains and some 45,000 employees.



TIP THE SCALES TO FREEDOM

WOMEN MINERS HARDEST HIT

The US coal-mining industry has been declining hand in hand with the steel industry, and the women whose livelihood depends on it have suffered disproportionately. More than half of the 3800 women hired since 1973 to work in the mines have lost their jobs under last-hired, first-fired austerity measures.

As Cosby Totten, a coal miner laid off since 1982, related: "I bought a brand-new color TV when Carter was President, and Reagan gave me the time to watch it."

But the Appalachians have few career opportunities for out-of-work women. Many communities practically fold when their mines are shut. Cary, West Virginia, for example, turned off its street lights, dismissed all but one of its police officers, and closed its new swimming pool after the closing of its US Steel mine.

Ms Totten can't even get back the factory job (which paid \$2.45 an hour at the time) that she left to become a 15-dollar-an-hour shuttle-car operator at the Consolidated Coal Company in Bishop, Virginia. The company where she worked has let go half its workforce.

TV NEWS OF UNEMPLOYMENT

University of Maryland professors Steve Barkin and Michael Gurevitch recently published the results of a study of television news coverage of unemployment in the first six months of 1983. The study covered a period when official Government statistics put US unemployment at more than 10% (some 11 million workers). All three major networks' evening newscasts were included in the study, which found that TV news coverage consistently misrepresented the character and extent of unemployment, particularly by focusing on unemployment in the manufacturing sector even though many more unemployed people usually worked in the service sector, and by downplaying unemployment in the Sunbelt and the Northwest.

Television news, not surprisingly, has hardly ever attributed unemployment to the nature of our economic system or to the employing class's drive for increased profits. Instead, the most-popular theme (accounting for a third of all primary themes) underlying unemployment news has been the notion that the economy is "driven by elemental forces that no one can control" and hence "there is not much to do but wait it out". The claim that unemployment was getting better came in a distant second—no other theme even came close.

Like other news, unemployment stories rely heavily on government sources and "do not attempt to locate the causes of unemployment and do not offer explanations; unemployment, and the economic cycles that produce it, are depicted as natural forces residing outside the realm of social control...."

PLANT SHUTDOWNS

Because the Senate took the plunge and approved the first federal legislation requiring employers to give workers advance notice of plant closings, there has been discussion in various left papers, like the *Guardian*. The commentators loudly argue that all plant shutdowns should be contested, which on the face of it sounds quite reasonable—though if the plant being shut down produced rubber bullets or nasty whips used by the police on labor organizers in some foreign land, then I might favor having the plant close and wonder why the workers there did not refuse to make such items.

Moreover, plant shutdowns could come about simply as a result of product innovation, as with the plants that make carbon paper and manual typewriters. And finally, plant shutdowns could come about through technological innovations, such as the introduction of robots into the production process.

Thus plant shutdowns have been a part of the industrial scene since its conception, and could be largely prevented if all technological innovation were eliminated. But this would result in a society in which the products consumed never changed—and what a boring society that would be.

The commentators also argued that plant closings should be dealt with via grass-roots organizing around the plant. While this is fine and certainly preferable to some labor bigwig's calling the shots for the workers in the affected plants, it is not sufficient. A national policy is necessary, and by this I mean a policy that covers the entire country and affects both plants about to be closed down and those that are not. A national policy based on grass-roots organizing could truly determine the merits of closing a plant, and could make recommendations to that effect if it is suspected that the plant may be hazardous to workers' health.

NEW UNION FOR US AIR CONTROLLERS

Voicing the same complaints that led to the PATCO strike six years ago, the nation's air controllers voted overwhelmingly to form a new union. The controllers, who took the places of the fired Professional Air Traffic Controllers Organization members, have begun to sound like them, complaining about stress, overtime, and poor equipment as the skies have grown more crowded, with 13,665 controllers trying to do the work that 16,375 did before. The vote was 2 to 1 to accept the national Air Traffic Controllers Association as the new union. They promised, however, never to strike.

DRUG TESTING: FOR HEALTH AND SAFETY, HARASSMENT, AND INTIMIDATION?

Members of the International Woodworkers Association will not be run over by the drug-testing bandwagon now rolling through corporate America, said IWA national president Bill Hubbell in response to a drug and alcohol testing program about to be imposed on IWA members by Willamette Industries.

The proposed program would affect about 700 members of IWA Local 3-265. Under the Willamette program a worker would be required to submit to a blood and/or urine test if the company believes he or she is "not drug or alcohol free based on his or her behavioral conduct". (Examples of suspect conduct include erratic behavior, temper tantrums, excessive drowsiness, slurred and/or incoherent speech, and excessive absenteeism.)

"Suspect" employees would be suspended without pay pending test results. "Suspect" employees who refuse testing would be subject to immediate termination for "insubordination". Willamette would also reserve the right to search employees' persons and/or property on company premises with drug-sniffing dogs, private investigators, government agencies, and blind or random drug-testing procedures. Failure to allow a search of the employee's body or property would result in immediate discharge for "insubordination".

"The drug-testing proposals we've seen so far seem to be designed for harassment and intimidation," said Hubbell. "When employers want to turn dogs loose on our members and suspend 'suspects' without pay, it makes me think about Nazi Germany more than the US. If a job steward gets mad at a foreman are they going to accuse the steward of having a 'temper tantrum' and make them pee in a bottle?"

Arguments against drug testing based on the United States Constitution—unreasonable search and seizure (Fourth Amendment), self-incrimination (Fifth Amendment), and invasion of privacy (Fourteenth Amendment)—are not applicable in private-sector employment situations because they protect only against actions by the Government. A number of highly-publicized court actions have been brought—and won—by public-sector unions against government agencies on various levels, but the same constitutional arguments do not apply to employees of private firms. In other words, you check your constitutional rights at the plant gate.

As a union member, however, you have protection that is not available to non-union workers. Since drug testing is a condition of employment, it is a mandatory subject of bargaining between the union and the employer.

(excerpted from the June 26th, 1987 *Woodworker*)

LEFT
SIDE
LEFT
SIDE
LEFT



Last month an observance was held by various people around the World celebrating the coming of a new age. This observance was based on a number of ancient prophecies, including one by the Mayans, who invented the most-perfect calendar system known to humankind, to the effect that this year is to usher in an epoch of harmony and peace. Ironically, the ancient European prophet Nostradamus predicted that the end of the World would come in the year 1987, but since he was using the old calendar we will have an extra week's grace added to the short time we have left.

The tenth anniversary of Elvis Presley's death has been celebrated in true contemporary consumerist fashion. As a young man, he rose from humble beginnings to become a millionaire, making a few other folks millionaires in the process. These merchants of pop culture whittled years off Presley's normal life span in their zeal to exploit his talents, and are still raking in millions on his corpse 10 years after his death.

While this column will not go into the merits of their comparative artistic talents, Elvis has joined an impressive company of historic figures who are still making money for someone else long after their early demise. Mozart died at an early age to be buried in a pauper's grave, but his talent is still enriching those who have no other creative ability than a knack for making money. Vincent van Gogh, who died penniless in an insane asylum, never saw as much money in his whole life as his single paintings have long been selling for, and some of his single canvases have recently sold for what would be a fantastic fortune to the average human.

At least Elvis managed to accrue some economic affluence of his own during his short lifetime, but was he any more happy or creatively fulfilled at the close of his life than his aforementioned colleagues?

Here in the Windy City, months of unseasonably-hot weather culminated in a weekend inundation that left many Chicagoans with flooded basements, no electricity, and polluted drinking water. As your scribe pens these words, the water is now safely out of his basement and his water-soaked belongings have been either salvaged or thrown in the garbage. But many who are paying even higher mortgages in the western suburbs are still boiling their drinking water and wading knee-deep in their living rooms till they can drive their cars on streets and parking lots that are no longer lakes.

Our two-legged species have indeed developed a formidable technology, and have been enjoying technological conveniences that so-called "lower creatures" have never imagined. But despite all that, a bit of cantankerousness on the part of Mother Nature can play more hell with our lives than with those of the lesser creatures that share this planet. Could it possibly be that these "lower creatures" have more equality among themselves?

Your humble scribe, despite having his head in the clouds, always likes to have his feet firmly planted on *terra firma*, and has always been strongly disinclined to place his derriere in a flying machine, despite all assurances that the "friendly skies" are the fastest and safest way to travel. The recent fate of 153 passengers happily en route to the Sunny Southwest having their corpses strewn along the expressway adjacent to their point of departure only further confirms the aforementioned disinclination. This incident and whatever others may occur between the time this is written and the time it sees print will be but a small addendum to the litany of air crashes, collisions, and near misses reported during the last few months.

Ever since the ex-cowboy actor who found himself a posh retirement home on Pennsylvania Avenue decided to do his union-busting at the top level by firing flight controllers, the "friendly skies" have been getting less friendly. When you go to a restaurant with a large turnover of underpaid help, you can expect to be annoyed by the sight of a fingernail in your salad or a cockroach in your meat loaf; but far more annoying is the prospect of being spattered against the fuselage of another plane or being picked up from an expressway in a basket.

Come to think of it, the so-called "lower creatures" do have more equality among themselves. Where and when did our species screw up, and when in Hell are we going to do something about it?

C. C. Redcloud

Mourn not the dead... but rather
mourn the apathetic throng—
The cowed, the meek—
who see the world's great anguish
and its wrong—
And dare not speak.

In Our Opinion

LET'S CUT THE WORKWEEK

In February of 1920, IWW miners at Park City, Utah struck for the six-hour day (also demanding higher wages and better working conditions). They didn't get it, but theirs was the first recorded strike by an American labor organization for the six-hour day.

A decade after that pioneer Wobbly strike, the American Federation of Labor came out for the six-hour day. By the 1940s, this demand seemed so modest and inevitable that even the US Senate passed legislation to make the six-hour workday the law of the land. But the bill was tied up in the House, and ultimately killed there, at the behest of one Franklin Delano Roosevelt—later to be ensconced in the history books as a "friend of labor".

The AFL has since quietly dropped the issue, and in recent years we've been seeing the gradual erosion of even the 40-hour week for many workers. Indeed, it's increasingly commonplace for unionized workers to work 50- and even 60-hour weeks, while fellow workers who just a few months before worked the same jobs starve on unemployment waiting for a recall that never comes.

The IWW too no longer calls for the six-hour day—but for a very-different reason. In the late 1920s and early '30s careful investigations established that four hours of work a day was more than sufficient to sustain necessary production and afford workers a (very) comfortable living. The IWW has agitated for the four-hour day ever since, calling for a four-day week (for a total

16-hour workweek) when continuing increases in productivity made this practical.

But if 16 hours a week is sufficient to meet our needs and to keep the machinery of industry in shape, what happens to the other 24 hours a week that we work? It goes into profits: to pay an army of supervisors to boss us around, to prop up vast industries devoted solely to keeping track of the flow of profits (such as banking, insurance, and much of the so-called information industries), to sustain our governments and other like-minded parasites, to maintain a global police force to ensure the flow of profits, and to develop and keep in place ever-more-efficient schemes for eliminating all life on our planet.

Perhaps you could think of something you'd rather do with those 24 hours a week—I suspect most of us could. But until we build One Big Union and enforce our right to control the number of hours of our lives we spend working, we'll continue making what amounts to a gift of three days a week to sustain the employing class in the manner of life to which they've become accustomed.

It's our turn.

Jon Bekken

(Information about the Park City strike is taken from Justus Ebert's "IWW in Theory and Practice" and from Gambs.)



IT'S NOW CALLED VOLUNTARY COMPLIANCE!

OSHA FINES MEATPACKERS ON SAFETY

It would be nice to think that the record 2.59-million-dollar fine that the Occupational Safety and Health Administration slapped IBP with indicates that OSHA is turning over a new leaf and really taking an interest in workers' occupational safety and health. More likely, however, it just means that criticism of OSHA's failure to inspect workplaces, failure to do follow-ups when it does find violations of safety procedures, and willingness to reduce fines for such violations after informal meetings with guilty employers has forced the agency into making some token gestures.

IBP, the nation's largest meatpacker, with sales of more than six million a year, was charged with "willfully failing" to record 1,038 job-related injuries and illnesses at its plant in Dakota City, Nebraska from January 1985 through December 1986. Among the unreported injuries and illnesses cited by the agency were knife cuts and wounds, concussions, burns, hernias, fractures, and carpal-tunnel syndrome—a painful and crippling disease often caused by repetitive motion.

Reportedly, one factor in OSHA's decision to impose the fine was "the fact that the company altered its injury and illness logs for 1985 and 1986 after denying federal inspectors access to the plant's records for December 1986".

Death on the Job

In late July, the Federal Government's first compilation of occupational deaths in the US found that mining and construction jobs are the riskiest. A total of 32,342 Americans died at work from 1980 to 1984, according to the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), which arrived at that figure by surveying death certificates. In 1984 employers mentioned some 3750 on-the-job deaths in their annual Occupational Safety and Health Administration filings, but OSHA has no organized program to ensure that the filings are accurate, and rarely punishes companies that do not comply. The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health estimated the 1984 death toll at 7,000.

Given the pattern of consistent government and industry under-reporting of job deaths, particularly by OSHA, one must regard all official pronouncements with suspicion. The official figures are that an average of 315 mining deaths occurred from 1980 to 1984, for an annual fatality rate of 30.1 per hundred thousand workers—more than triple the overall national average of nine deaths per hundred thousand. The second-riskiest occupation was construction, with 23.1 deaths per hundred thousand.

Given the sex-segregation of the US workplace, it is not surprising that men, who make up 52% of the waged population, accounted for 95% of all on-the-job deaths. Among women, 42% of on-the-job deaths were due to homicide, compared to only 11% for men.

The study found that Wyoming, Alaska, and Montana had the highest average occupational fatality rates, while Massachusetts and Rhode Island had the lowest.

1984 was the last year of this study by NIOSH, but OSHA figures show a surge in the rate of work-related injuries and illnesses—up from 7.6 per hundred workers in 1983 to 8 per hundred the next year. The injury rate was about the same in 1985, and some experts predict another jump when the figures for 1986 are released this fall. Given the close ties between injuries and deaths on the job, one can only expect that more workers will be shown to have died on the job when the latest figures come out.

KILLING US ON THE JOB

Safety on the job has gotten so bad that even the Labor Department admits things are out of hand. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) never was much good at protecting workers, but a Labor Department draft audit reports that OSHA has fallen short of its normal standards at all stages of the enforcement process: workplace inspections, follow-ups, and setting penalties.

Many offices have virtually halted inspections of high-risk factories, while OSHA often takes over a month to investigate complaints of unsafe conditions. Follow-up inspections to ensure the elimination of identified hazardous conditions almost never occur. Indeed, OSHA has closed files on identified health hazards even where employers report that violations continue.

In an effort to avoid appeals, OSHA is negotiating compromise settlements. In one case, a construction contractor was let off on a violation that had killed a worker with a 700-dollar fine (reduced from the original \$1400).

The above is sharply condensed from a report in the *Guardian*. It goes to show that workers just aren't safe trusting in politicians and employers to ensure safety on the job. When you rely on others to enforce safe working conditions, you have nothing to fall back on when there's a change in administrations. But if we workers organize ourselves, and refuse to work unsafe jobs—or re-organize them ourselves to make them safe—we can make it stick.

JB

★ EDUCATION ★ ORGANIZATION ★ EMANCIPATION

AN INJURY TO ONE IS AN INJURY TO ALL

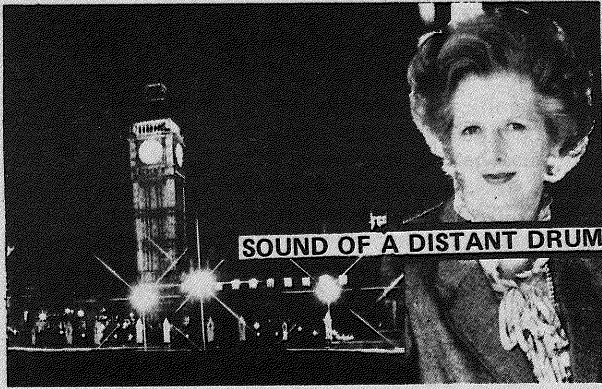
ONE UNION ONE LABEL ONE ENEMY

Industrial Worker

Carlos Cortez, Mike Hargis, Penny Pixler

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One of America's cottage industries is rounding up migratory Mexican "wetbacks" and shipping them back to the romantic poverty-stricken land of fermented cactus juice and the bullet as the final social arbiter. As in all things from the atom bomb to mass unemployment and TV game shows, we in Europe are ever ready to follow in the footsteps of the master; and I speak as no more than a small rusty nail embedded deep in the back axle of the European hearse. As mass unemployment rose, the European political godfathers put into practice that most-ancient of religious, political, and social solutions: kicking out the working people they had invited in when they needed skilled or unskilled labor. The Germans are as ever perpetuating their historic role as bureaucratic clowns in rounding up the Turkish workers they imported to ship them "home". The French are chasing their Moroccan working force in and out of every photogenic slum alley, while the Tory government of Ma Thatcher (Ron's secret love) has gone on record that it is no longer legal to hide in a church in search of sanctuary.

Only the Japanese industrial capitalists have persevered with their strained smiles, with a hara-kiri knife in one hand and a samurai sword in the other, and a union contract gripped between their aching teeth; for in the Sun God wisdom of their boardrooms they saw the answer to their labor problems in the import of Western human labor and the export of factories into the Western world of mass unemployment. But in Britain and America the imported Motown Japanese factories where they were called on to man the conveyor belts got the imperial thumbs down from the British and American workforce. In Smyrna, Tennessee the American workers at the Nissan Motown plant have found that they are back to the days of Henry Ford's old-time industrial dealings, in that as with old Henry's Model T the workers cannot keep pace with the time-and-motion demands of management, the throwing out of injured work people, and the inevitable persecution of those who protest. That the Smyrna American plant has in many cases surpassed the production levels of its home-brewed Japanese counterpart is held to be the result of giving the Tennessee lads and lasses workloads that would drive even Nissan "advisers", conditioned to treating Japanese men and women as expendable blood-and-guts machines, to the lonely solitude of their boardroom lavatory to rest their astonished faces against the cool tiles.

The story might well have been the same at Britain's Nissan Motor Company Sunderland car plant. But in Northern Britain the pressures of alienating work—the daily craptalk given by the top brass as unpaid overtime, the ritualistic bowing, the bullshit of everyone wearing the same type of uniform no matter what their pay, the sweetheart union deals and constant demands by an invisible authority for more and more production—have gotten the raspberry from the British "Georgie" workers as their hundred cars a day roll off the conveyor belts, so that the Japanese managers have decided the British workers are lazy and indifferent to the production and well-being of the Japanese commercial empire. And good luck to the Georgie workforce; for comrades, we have only one life to live, and it was never meant to be wasted in a dark dank mine or doing faster and faster time-and-motion movements at a conveyor belt.

Yet all is not Disneyland for the people of Britain—omitting the parasitical middle class and the neurotic nova super rich "cos they ain't real British like us", for Ma Thatcher is rushing her bill through Parliament to increase the local taxes for the socially deprived and house the overcrowded working class, and to introduce water meters into every private "home". And Arthur Scargill of the fighting NUM coal miners is playing his cards close to his chest as he battles against the demands by Sir Robert Haslam of the British Coal Board for a six-day workweek throughout the coal-mining industry, with threats again of mine closures—but this time with a scab union waiting to move in on any striking miners. While in London the public-transport workers, having gone through all the legal arguments against having their wages cut and being forced to work longer hours, were told by the bewigged and berobed London high court that they had a losing case, and the bus workers have (by a vast majority) voted for one-day strike action—the most-useless strike action, comrades, that workers can take. But whatever action they take, I know and they know that Ma Thatcher has given the public bus service and its workforce the ol' hara-kiri as she sells off bus routes all over London to any cowboy willing to roll.

Arthur Moyle, London

WHERE THE BRITISH LEFT OFF: Whether in Africa, Asia, Latin America, or the Middle East, US foreign policy has pursued actions that are illegal under US law and almost invariably repugnant. And they have to be: The demands of empire require global stealth, deceit, theft, assassination, and torture.

Independent Unionism in Eastern Europe

Despite tremendous odds, workers in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe continue to organize against the Red dictatorship—a resistance that takes many forms including independent unions, underground newspapers, and peace and human-rights groups. As the Soviet Union and its Eastern Bloc satellite states continue on their course of economic "reform"—which largely entails the restoration of the profit motive and renewed attacks on workers' living standards—these struggles can be expected to intensify.

In Bulgaria, the workers are increasingly resorting to strikes. Workers at the Iskar engineering factory near Sofia struck against management-imposed wage cuts earlier this year. On May 5th, the Communist Party daily, *Rabotnicheskio Delo*, carried its first official report of a strike. Engineering workers in Mezdra, northeast of Sofia, stopped work for a week to protest wage cuts and "insensitive" management.

Kosta Andreyev, a leading Bulgarian "union" official, argues that strikes have been thought "impossible in a socialist society" for far too long. He criticized the Iskar plant "union" for failing to support workers against management's "old methods". Nor are these disputes isolated incidents. Andreyev conceded that at least 368 strikes occurred in Bulgaria over the last five years.

In Yugoslavia, strikes erupted in February and March against a Government austerity scheme that froze wages while raising the price of basic fuel and foods 25 to 60%. As a result of these strikes (and slowdowns in many factories) the Government has since announced wide-ranging exemptions to the wage freeze. Yugoslavia's longest strike ever ended in May when 1700 miners at the northwestern



Labin mines returned to work after a 33-day stoppage in which five million dollars' worth of production was lost.

As in other Eastern Bloc countries, workers have few effective organized channels through which to press their grievances. Though union leaders did speak out against price hikes for essential foods, they worked hard to halt the strike wave, arguing that strikes are "methods of struggle inappropriate to a society in which the working class rules". Consequently, workers are more likely to take covert industrial action, including slowdowns, sabotage, deliberately-shoddy work, and persistent sick leave. "We can always work less than you can pay us" is a common saying.

In Poland, the Government has succeeded in re-establishing official unions (which collapsed under competition from Solidarnosc) in the form of the OPZZ. General Jaruzelski, speaking to the OPZZ's founding Congress, termed the "union" a vital element of stabilization. Yet to retain some semblance of credibility, the OPZZ has been forced to speak out against Government plans to raise food prices, warning that present austerity policies will lead to renewed workers' protests.

The Government is also working on a scheme to import "guest workers" from Vietnam as cheap labor to help prop up Poland's ailing economy. *Polityka*, a major Polish weekly, published an article May 23rd urging the importation of over 200,000 Vietnamese. "They could work primarily in those areas which do not require much skill... [where] work is not considered so attractive... There is no need to pay them family allowances, and they can be housed in workers' hostels... Their needs and aspirations are, as a rule, substantially more limited than those of Polish workers." Some 200,000 Vietnamese are already working in Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, East Germany, and the USSR under similar arrangements.

New labor laws have made dismissals easier and introduced penalties against workers who change jobs. The withdrawal of the five-day week won by Solidarnosc in 1981 has been legally extended till 1990. Yet the Solidarnosc underground remains active, and imposes very real limitations on what the Government can hope to get away with. Hundreds of underground papers continue to circulate, Solidarnosc supporters are active in workers' councils, and even the official OPZZ "union" is not safe. Earlier this year, metalworkers at a Polish clutch factory joined the OPZZ en masse after the Government shut down their workers' council (headed by an open Solidarnosc supporter, Kazimierz Obsadny), and elected Obsadny head of the factory branch. In retaliation, the authorities are reportedly planning to convert the factory to a nail-making plant.

Resistance continues on other fronts as well.

Freedom and Peace is an anti-militarist group that opposes the arms race, environmental destruction, and State repression, and has developed ties with independent peace and disarmament movements in both Eastern and Western Europe. Nine Freedom and Peace activists were fined \$245 each (a sizable sum in Poland) for demonstrating outside a concert demanding the right to re-

fuse military service and the release of religious dissenters jailed for invoking that right. Such open demonstrations are increasingly common despite Government repression.

The Movement for an Alternative Society (RSA) is a militant anarchist movement based in Gdansk with a large following among that city's working-class youth, particularly those into punk music. Both RSA and Freedom and Peace have organized large-scale resistance to military conscription, and several hundred RSA members joined Gdansk's 1985 May Day demonstration, marching with black flags emblazoned with the slogan "Solidarity Fights".

Even in the Soviet Union itself, the Red dictatorship has not been able to completely suppress demands for workers' self-management and freedom. The December 1986 edition of *Voice of Solidarity* carried a report by Taraz Kusio on the left-wing opposition in the USSR, from which the following is extracted:

"Since the 1950s various socialist groups, describing themselves as a 'left opposition', have published samizdat journals arriving at conclusions about the system which are particularly disturbing to the Soviet authorities. Unlike other forms of Soviet dissent, left-wing opposition challenges the legitimacy of the regime in the name of true socialism.... In October 1978 the KGB rounded up the leaders of a 'left opposition' group in Leningrad", sentencing one to seven years' imprisonment while another was committed to a psychiatric hospital. A year later, three anarcho-communists from that city were arrested and charged with "hooliganism".

Other socialist oppositionists—including young members of the Soviet elite—have been rounded up in Moscow, where samizdats with titles like "Socialism and the Future" and "Left Turn" are published. Kuzio reports that these activists draw on "Eurocommunist", New Left, and Trotskyist writings, arguing "that the present ruling elite is self-perpetuating, based on privilege.... A strong influence on the left opposition in the USSR is that of Solidarity in Poland...."

Workers too have reached similar conclusions about the problems inherent in the "Soviet" system. "In 1981, Ukrainian worker Mykola Pohyba wrote from prison in defense of workers' rights: 'I am not alone in my endeavor. The situation in the Soviet Union is right for the founding of independent labor unions... which would prove effective in solving the problems with which the working class is faced.' Pohyba describes himself as a worker 'relegated to the lowest rung of the Soviet social ladder'... who has concluded that the USSR is 'not in the least socialist' and that he and his fellow workers are exploited by 'the state-party bourgeoisie which is in its service, and is the one wielding the real power in the country'". He looks on Solidarnosc "as an example of how the working class 'is capable of leading the struggle for its rights and freedoms'...."

"The unofficial trade union SMOT, active clandestinely since the early 1980s [when several SMOT activists were imprisoned], described how 'the mutual distrust and alienation between the party and the elite living in luxury is reaching dangerous limits, and an ever-growing number of Soviet citizens recognizes that finding a way out of this dead-end situation is possible only by changing the very essence of the socio-economic system'. Predicting increased worker discontent and social conflicts, SMOT concludes that 'there is a limit to everything, including people's patience. The people can be ignored no longer....'"

Earlier this year, two members of SMOT's Council of Representatives—Lev Volkhonsky and Roslav Evdokimov—were released from concentration camps by the Soviet authorities. Volkhonsky was first arrested in 1979; on his second arrest (in 1982, for his efforts to organize Soviet workers into independent unions) he was condemned to five years in a concentration camp followed by four years in internal exile. Volkhonsky was released as part of the Soviet authorities' "liberalization" campaign despite his refusal to repudiate his union activities.

Vladimir Borisov, expelled from the Soviet Union in 1980 for his activities in SMOT, notes that while it is too late to help the two SMOT members who died in captivity, "We will fight for those who are still living, and those in detention." SMOT's Council of Representatives has issued an appeal to independent unions and human-rights groups to write the Soviet authorities to seek the immediate release from prisons, psychiatric hospitals, and concentration camps of SMOT members V. Guerchouni, V. Senderov, A. Sitynsky, A. Skobov, and V. Skvirsky. Letters should be sent to the Soviet Embassy, 1125 16th Street Northwest, Washington DC 20036.

Volkhonsky and Borisov are optimistic toward the future: "The time for liberation will come sooner, rather than later." Our fellow workers in Eastern Europe continue to show their determination to win what is theirs by right. It's up to us to do what we can to aid them in this battle.

(This article has been condensed from material in *International Labour Reports*, Number 22, and *Liberarian Labor Review*, Number 3. The IWW is still collecting funds for the Solidarnosc underground, forwarded via London's Solidarnosc Information Office. Contributions may be sent to the IWW office in Chicago. A two-dollar voluntary Solidarnosc assessment stamp is available from IWW delegates.)

Revolutionary Union News

Solidarity with the Workers of Puerto Real

The National Committee of the Spanish National Confederation of Labor (CNT), a section of the IWA, has sent us the following message about the struggle sustained by the workers of the Puerto Real shipyards in the province of Cadiz. They are fighting the industrial reconversion imposed by the Socialist Government on the iron-and-steel industry, and ask for help from the sections of our International and other workers around the World to maintain their struggle in the face of the difficult situation created by their strike.

The current struggle was initiated by the iron and steel workers belonging to the Local Federation of Syndicates (unions) of the CNT-IWA in Puerto Real. They have promoted decision making in assemblies and direct actions such as the regular blockade of access roads to the town. This has led to violent confrontations with the forces of "public order", which have been given widespread publicity in the press and on television. What the media have not mentioned, however, is the role played by the anarcho-sindicalist workers of the CNT-AIT who began the fight and succeeded in drawing in the other unions and the Puerto Real populace.

The message of the National Committee of the CNT-IWA is as follows:

SOLIDARITY WITH THE STRUGGLE OF PUERTO REAL

Fellow Workers, we are witnessing here an exemplary struggle, for various reasons:

(1) It is a social struggle that has united the working class despite political and religious beliefs, and as such is being fought within the traditional revolutionary context of the struggle of the working class for its own emancipation.

(2) It has made the population of Puerto Real aware of the close relationship between the social and economic interests of the workers of the Matagorda shipyards in Puerto Real and their own interests. As a result, the population, especially the women, have organized to actively support the struggle of the workers. Now the cordon of isolation that the strategy of capitalist organ-

ization tried so hard to impose has been broken. The bureaucrats have not succeeded in their attempt to create two different and disconnected ways of life, making it possible to clearly see and identify the problems that deeply affect all members of the community.

(3) In Puerto Real the workers are striking the true Achilles heel of bureaucratic capitalism, exposing the weakness and ineffectiveness of the "official" unionism tied to capitalist interests. The structure of the "company committees" that shelter this bureaucratic unionism as part of the capitalist system has been surmounted by the spontaneous action of the workers. On the contrary, the methods of the CNT-IWA have drawn their strength from reason and struggle, setting a new example for workers' struggles in the immediate future.

(4) Through the struggles of Matagorda and Puerto Real generally, the working class has regained something that has been lacking for a long time: the will to engage in positive actions and a sense of responsibility to the community for the actions engaged in. Something is happening here that is needed in all social struggles to raise the morale of the people: the association of the interests of the workers with the interests of the population. Puerto Real without the shipyards is nothing. This has meant that everyone has gotten deeply involved in the fight, with a degree of conviction that has considerably strengthened their claims.

(5) The shipyards in Puerto Real form a part of the nationalized shipbuilding group Spanish Shipyards Company Incorporated (AESAs), which in turn is integrated into the State-controlled National Industrial Institute (INI). As such this battle could become a pilot struggle for all of these industries, demonstrating new weapons and strategies, in contrast to the struggle in the Mediterranean Iron and Steel Industries of Sagunto (in the province of Valencia), which failed because it was led into a dead end by the bureaucratic General Workers Union (UGT) and the Workers Commissions (CCOO), whose respective company committees defended the interests of the Government rather than those of the workers they represented.

(6) It is also a social-labor confrontation of interna-

tional significance. The underlying problems in the fight against the savage reconversions are defense of workers' jobs, reasonable distribution of available work, reduction of working hours, realization of the social function of machines and automation (control of people over technology, not the other way around), humanization of work... all of which means that this is a fundamental struggle involving all workers of the industrialized world. Puerto Real can become the beacon not for Spanish workers alone, but for all of the workers of the World.

(7) It is for these reasons that this head-on struggle, which requires immense effort, sacrifice, and expense, should be morally and materially supported by all members of the International Workers Association, and by all other workers of conscience who are reached by our voice. The National Committee of the CNT-AIT appeals to the entire working world, through the IWA, to support the workers of Puerto Real.

All economic aid should be sent to Account Number 3300002235 of the Savings Bank of Cordoba (Caja de Ahorros de Cordoba) in Puerto Real, held by the Federación Local de Sindicatos, CNT-AIT, Puerto Real.

Letters and telegrams protesting the repressive situation and the lack of interest in finding solutions to workers' problems should be sent to:

The President of the Spanish Government, Felipe Gonzales, Palacio de la Moncloa, Madrid.

The President of the National Industrial Institute (INI), Plaza de Marques de Salamanca Numero 8, 28006, Madrid.

The Ministry of Industry, Paseo de la Castellana Numero 16, 28046, Madrid.

The Director de Astilleros Espanoles de Matagorda en Puerto Real (Cadiz).

The embassies and diplomatic centers of Spain.

Jose Luis Garcia-Rua, General Secretary
National Committee of the CNT-AIT

Korea...

A 29-year-old former garment worker who gave her name as Miss Kim said she had begun working at 11 because her parents, who hired themselves out by the day as farmhands, could not make enough to support their family. She was too young to work legally, so her supervisor registered her under an identity card borrowed from an older neighbor. "My memories are sad," she said. "My job was to finish garments. The work was late at night, and I remember sitting alone in a corner of the factory, working." In her last job, she earned the equivalent of \$4.50 for an eight-hour day making headphones in an electronics factory.

By the middle of August, the Labor Ministry said 229 workplaces were on strike. Many of these strikes have been short, with bosses offering raises of about 10% or bonuses of up to 25%. As soon as a strike is settled at one company, the workers in another company walk out.

On August 17th, more than 20,000 workers in Ulsan climbed over a barricade and occupied factory buildings and a shipyard operated by the Hyundai group, the nation's largest conglomerate. At least 30 workers were injured in street battles with police, who fired tear gas. The workers seized the buildings after they had been locked out by Hyundai, which shut its Ulsan plants early that morning. The auto plant at Hyundai Motors, where Excel cars are made, remained shut.

Most of the country's leading conglomerates—which account for 50% of South Korea's exports—had been forced to shut factories for at least a few days because of strikes by either workers or suppliers. Of all the conglomerates, Hyundai was hit the hardest, as its workers were fighting for the right to unionize. Hyundai had long taken a tough anti-union stance, and until the current strike wave Hyundai employees had no union. The workers in several Hyundai companies quickly formed their own plantwide unions, then formed one union that would represent all the companies in the Hyundai group. But Hyundai refused to negotiate.

At the time of the *IW* deadline (August 20th), the situation at Hyundai, South Korea's largest conglomerate, took a new turn as Hyundai officials agreed to recognize the independent unions formed by employees. Seven of the conglomerate's key subsidiaries re-opened as the workers returned to work.

On August 19th, labor disputes continued at more than 420 Korean plants, and new strikes took place at 87 companies. Riot police attacked striking workers in several cities. Some 2,000 workers at Daewoo Shipbuilding and Machinery, Korea's second-largest shipyard, clashed with tear-gas-throwing police. At Taecho, rail traffic was blocked by 400 striking miners, but riot police fired tear gas at 400 other miners who blocked a section of highway.

The workers' actions have not yet reached the status of a general strike. But whatever happens, both the local bosses and the boss class as a whole have been taught a lesson in the true cost of South Korea's "economic boom". May the Korean workers' example be followed throughout the Third World.

South Africa...

gunpoint. Other mines have threatened mass firings if mineworkers do not abandon the strike, and scores of miners have been fired for alleged sabotage. The NUM has been evacuating workers from hostels on mine property to protect against intimidation and violence, and has pledged to take over any mines shut down in response to the strike.

EXPAND THE STRIKE

Amid repeated Government threats to suppress the strike and South Africa's non-racial unions, plans were under way to expand the strike. NUM members at South Africa's Rand Refinery voted 121 to 1 to join the strike, though they had not yet walked out at presstime. Strike action would be illegal under South Africa's restrictive labor laws. The refinery processes all of South Africa's gold into the form required for international markets, so strike action could well force mine owners—who built up large backlogs of coal and gold ore before the strike began—to capitulate. Strike votes were also under way at 12 other platinum, chrome, uranium, and diamond mines.

The strike is a key part of the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU) living-wage campaign (see the August 1987 *IW*). COSATU is demanding a national minimum wage of four rand an hour (slightly over \$2). Black miners earn an average of \$200 a month, less than a fifth of the amount earned by their white counterparts (who supervise and do blasting) and only three-fourths of the average industrial wage. COSATU warned on the eve of the strike that Government action against the mineworkers could lead to sympathy strikes in other industries.

Some 15,000 workers at the Government-run South African Coal, Oil, and Gas Corporation (SASOL) struck in solidarity August 17th, but the strike was quickly suspended after members of the COSATU-affiliated Chemical Workers Industrial Union were attacked by management goon squads armed with iron bars and other weapons. The union reports that two workers were killed by goon squads at SASOL's Secunda mine.

The mineworkers' strike began amid a wave of strike action. More than 30,000 workers in steel manufacturing, oil-from-coal processing, and the auto and chemical industries are involved in strikes and other industrial actions. Some 11,000 members of the National Union of Metalworkers (NUMSA: a COSATU affiliate) struck in late July, following an illegal one-day strike earlier that month joined by 50,000 workers. A thousand furniture workers won re-instatement for 400 sacked co-workers through a one-day strike against the Transvaal Mattress Factory. Days before the latest action, four miners were killed when mine security fired on what management termed an illegal strike.

DEATH SQUADS

The Government is cracking down on the increasingly-combative labor movement. Proposed laws would em-

power South Africa's Industrial Court to order unions to compensate employers for lost production resulting from illegal strikes and other "unfair actions", abolish workers' rights to appeal dismissal in such cases, and outlaw political strikes. The *Financial Times* of England reports that South African business is alarmed by another Government plan, which would require companies to deduct back rent for state housing from paychecks. Some three million blacks are participating in an anti-Government rent strike, and the regime is owed some 135 million dollars. Employers fear that such deductions would lead to increased labor strife.

More than 2500 people joined an August 8th funeral service for Eric Mntonga, bludgeoned to death in late July by South African death squads. Mntonga was a former branch chairman of the COSATU-affiliated South African Allied Workers Union (SAAWU) and an official of the United Democratic Front. At the time of his death he was employed as co-director of the Institute for a Democratic Alternative for South Africa, established in an effort to bring black and white South Africans together. Mntonga's death is but the latest in a series of assaults and murders of union and community activists by death squads tied to the South African Government and its puppet *bantustan* regimes.

Writing about a strike thousands of miles away while it is still under way is a thankless task. As you read these words the strike may already have been settled, the Government may have intervened militarily to crush the strike and re-open the mines at gunpoint, or the strike might be dragging on. (Though the Government can't afford to let it continue very long, as the lost foreign-exchange earnings are critical to South Africa's depressed economy.)

But one thing is certain. More than three-fourths of South Africa's exports are derived from mining. South Africa's 600,000 black miners, properly organized, have the power to cut off those exports—and to bring the apartheid economy to a halt. Car bombs, guerrilla warfare, parliamentary maneuvers, and multi-class alliances fade into insignificance (in terms of transforming South African society) when compared to the immense power in the hands of South Africa's workers. And the workers increasingly recognize this power and are determined to exercise it not merely to improve conditions on the job, but to build a better society. Whether they succeed will depend on whether they are able to maintain independent rank-and-file unions, strengthen their organization, and continue to fight even after apartheid is overthrown and a new regime (speaking the language of national unity and perhaps even claiming to rule in behalf of the working majority) is installed.

As always, our South African fellow workers need our solidarity. Readers are urged to send letters to the South African Embassy (3051 Massachusetts Avenue Northwest, Washington DC 20008) demanding the immediate release of all union activists detained in connection with the strike (especially the Klerksdorp 78); an end to the harassment of South Africa's labor movement; the right to organize and strike without Government interference; and an end to the use of police and military forces to break up union meetings or break strikes. Now is also the time for transport and other workers to refuse to handle South African goods. South Africa's workers are in the fight of their lives—and with our help they will win.

Jon Bekken



DIRECTORY

of IWW Branches & Delegates

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ALASKA. Ruth Sheridan, Delegate, 4704 Kenai, Anchorage 99508. ★ Barry Roderick, Delegate, Box 748, Douglas 99824.

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. ★ General Defense Committee (Arthur J. Miller, Sec'y), PO Box 2576, San Diego 92112.

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 (Jeff Stein, Delegate), 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.

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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.

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.

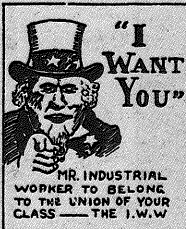
BETWEEN THESE TWO CLASSES A STRUGGLE MUST GO ON UNTIL THE WORKERS OF THE WORLD ORGANIZE AS A CLASS, TAKE POSSESSION OF THE EARTH AND THE MACHINERY OF PRODUCTION, AND ABOLISH THE WAGE SYSTEM.

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 UPHOLD ONLY BY AN ORGANIZATION FORMED IN SUCH A WAY THAT ALL ITS MEMBERS IN ANY ONE INDUSTRY, OR IN ALL INDUSTRIES IF NECESSARY, CEASE WORK WHENEVER A STRIKE OR LOCKOUT IS ON IN ANY DEPARTMENT THEREOF, THIS 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.



Wobbly Art Visits Denver

It has been many years since the IWW has made news in Denver. The art show received very-favorable reviews in two of Denver's larger newspapers, with a combined circulation of over 500,000. In the two weeks it has been on display, nearly 500 people have seen the art exhibit and over 200 have stayed to see the movie *The Wobblies*. Requests are still coming in to show the film, so we are making arrangements to show it again. In addition, a lot of IWW and "Boycott Hormel" literature found its way out of the gallery.

Due to the good press the exhibit received, many old rebels came down to browse and share stories. One, a veteran of the Spanish Civil War and one of the first contingent to leave the US for Spain, served with Berneri until the latter's assassination in 1937. While he stood looking at Joe Hill's postcards, tears came to his eyes.

"You can't know how good it makes me feel to know that the struggle continues—that I am not alone. Sometimes I feel so isolated. Maybe our sacrifices years ago were not in vain. Please thank whoever went to the trouble of preserving this art and thank all of you for sharing it with us."

This was the mood of many of the "old rebels", and many young rebels as well. So, from Denver, thank you, Carlos.

The exhibit and movie will move in September to the Miners' Museum in Walsenburg, Colorado, where it will be shared with many families who were or knew victims of the Ludlow Massacre, and with miners who have been on strike for more than a year and have not forgotten their courageous roots.

The IWW is coming back.

Gary Cox



THE FOLLOWING IS AN EXAMPLE OF
(A) DANGEROUS MORAL RELATIVISM
(B) DANGEROUS MORAL ABSOLUTISM

The American Federation of Teachers' Education for Democracy Project is upset over questions like the following, from the National Assessment of Educational Progress:

"'People have no freedom in China,' Maria insists. There is only one party in the election, and the newspapers are run by the government.' 'People in China do have freedom,' Ming insists. 'No one goes hungry. Everyone has an opportunity to work, and medical care is free. Can there be greater freedom than that?' What is the best conclusion to draw from this debate? (A) Ming does not understand the meaning of freedom. (B) Maria and Ming differ in their opinions of the meaning of freedom. (C) There is freedom in the US, but not in China. (D) People have greater freedom in China than the US."

According to the NAEP, but not the AFT, the correct answer is B.

DID YOU NOTICE?

WHAT THIS COUNTRY NEEDS is a National Child-In Day, with parents bringing their kids to work and letting them crayon the walls till the company provides child care.

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 1.75
- Collective Bargaining Manual 2.50
- Workers' Guide to Direct Action35
- Unions and Racism 1.00
- Metal Workers' Guide to Health and Safety 50
- A Quiz on You and the Arms Race 10
- 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 Canada 50
- 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 Union 75
- For More of the Good Things of Life 75

BOOKS FROM OTHER PUBLISHERS

- Bye! American—Labor Cartoons by Gary Huck & Mike Konopacki 7.95
- Memoirs of a Wobbly by Henry McGuckin 5.95
- Haymarket Scrapbook 14.95
- Haymarket Postcards (complete set of 31) 12.00
- Reasons for Pardoning the Haymarket Anarchists by John P. Altgeld 3.95
- 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
- The Flivver King: A Story of Ford-America by Upton Sinclair (50th Anniversary Edition) 7.95
- 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

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- 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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Attack on Wages Continues

BONUSES VERSUS WAGE HIKES

Seeking to beat down labor costs, thousands of companies are changing the way they increase workers' pay. Instead of annual increases, millions of workers in industries as diverse as supermarkets and aerospace are receiving cash bonuses—and getting shortchanged thereby.

These bonuses take many forms and names—profit sharing, gain sharing, lump-sum payments, pay for performance. But all of them have two things in common: They can vary with a company's fortunes, disappearing in hard times; and they are not permanent. Because they are not folded into base pay, there is no compounding over time.

A 10% annual bonus brings a worker less money after three or four years than a 3% annual raise would, because the dollar earnings of the 3% pay raise, compounded annually, get bigger and bigger. In addition, when base pay doesn't rise, neither do the important benefits linked to it, including overtime, vacation pay, severance, and some pensions.

Before 1983, cash bonus payments for both blue- and white-collar workers were so spotty that the Bureau of Labor Statistics didn't bother to include them. Today 40% of all workers covered by major union agreements have bonus provisions, many of them in the form of one-time lump-sum payments that take the place of pay raises. These bonuses have averaged about 10% of the workers' base pay annually, or more than double the usual wage increases that have been negotiated by US unions in the '80s. But in the long run they mean less for the workers and more for the bosses, and allow business unions to urge them on their members as a concealed pay cut, in return for alleged job security.

The spread of the bonus raise system is contributing to the flattening of US wages. Total compensation—pay plus benefits, adjusted for inflation—grew by a scant .3% for all American workers in the year ending March 31st, and only 1.8% in the previous year.

US WORKERS EARNING LESS

Average wage gains for workers in industry have sunk to an 11-year low of 3% despite an upsurge of union pay increases, the Labor Department revealed in July. Both hourly wages and total compensation, including benefits, rose 3% from June 1986 through June 1987, as against 3.7% and 3.8% respectively from mid-1985 to mid-1986. As inflation creeps higher, with the Consumer Price Index rising about twice as fast as it did 10 years ago, the feeble wage hike can be seen in perspective. Allowing for the rise in consumer prices, factory workers' real spending power fell 2.9% in the second quarter of this year relative to inflation. In the meantime, the productivity of US workers has risen an average of 4% a year since 1981.

WOMEN'S EARNINGS AS A PERCENTAGE OF MEN'S FOR FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES

	Retail Trades	Manufacturing	Banking
Sweden	92.2	72.1	n/a
Norway	80.6	65.0	76.3
Australia	79.6	71.1	70.4
Finland	79.3	73.8	76.0
West Germany	64.9	66.4	77.4
Switzerland	63.0	66.4	78.2
United States	60.0	61.4	45.5

MATERNAL MORTALITY RATES (per 100,000 live births as of 1982)

Canada	1.9
Israel	3.1
Hong Kong	3.5
Sweden	4.3
Finland	4.5
Ireland	5.6
Netherlands	6.4
England and Wales	6.7
Kuwait	7.4
Belgium	7.5
United States	7.9

INFANT MORTALITY RATES (infant deaths under one year per 1,000 live births as of 1986)

Finland, Japan, Iceland	6.2
Sweden	6.3
Denmark, Switzerland	7.7
Norway	7.9
Netherlands	8.3
Canada, France	8.5
Hong Kong	9.2
Singapore	9.4
Australia	9.6
Ireland	9.8
England and Wales	10.1
East and West Germany	10.3
United States	10.6

(Note: (1) In Australia, aboriginal infant mortality rates in 1982 were estimated at 30 per thousand live births. (2) In the United States, black infant mortality is twice that of whites.)



J.B. Pictures/Victor Hinterlang

Workers and peasants demonstrate in San Salvador, where unemployment and inflation are rising. A cosmetic dropping of the country's long-standing state of siege permits

workers to express their dissatisfaction aloud; but as the Government's attempted murder of Julio Portillo shows, the death squads are still targeting union leaders.

Did You Notice?

SCIENCE AT WORK: Between 1870 and 1910 most North American whooping cranes were killed. In 1922 a Saskatchewan game warden found what was thought to be the last whooping-crane nest. He killed the chick for use as a specimen, and pocketed the remaining egg.

THE PENITENTIARY at Marion, Illinois enjoys the dubious distinction of being the first in the US to be investigated by Amnesty International. On June 4th AI released its findings that conditions at Marion amounted to "cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment", in violation of the minimum UN standards for the treatment of prisoners. On October 29th, 1986, the US Bureau of Prisons formally opened a special facility for "high security" women prisoners in Lexington, Kentucky. The conditions there are even harsher than those at Marion, and have aroused suspicion that they may be part of an experiment in brainwashing and behavior modification. AI is now inquiring into the Lexington facility, but the results will probably be given as little publicity in the boss press as the Marion investigation.

WE MAY BE NUMBER ONE: Ten years ago, critics of the US criminal-justice system often said that among industrial nations, only South Africa and the Soviet Union imprisoned a higher proportion of their people than the US. Today this may no longer be true. The US incarceration rate—the number of prisoners per hundred thousand residents—was 179 in 1980, and 201 in 1985. White Americans are being incarcerated at the rate of 114 per hundred thousand, black Americans at more than 700 per hundred thousand. That means more blacks go to jail in the US than in South Africa.

CRIME, JAIL, AND RACE: Crime rates have nothing to do with incarceration rates. Of the 10 states with the highest rates of violent crime, only Arizona, Maryland, Nevada, and South Carolina also rank in the top 10 for incarceration. Jailing rates for the other states with the highest crime rates are way down the list: New York is 20th, California 21st, and Illinois 26th. But 9 of the 11 states of the Old Confederacy are among the top 16 for incarceration, while the top 20 also include the former slave states of Delaware, Maryland, Missouri, and Oklahoma. The relationship pointed out by William Nagel in the '70s still holds: States with large non-white populations—even those with low crime rates—have large prison populations.

LOUISIANA LEADS surge of executions: Over June and July, Louisiana executed people at the rate of almost one a week. With 18 executions nationwide so far this year, it seems likely that more inmates will be killed in 1987 than in any other year since the Supreme Court re-instated the death penalty in 1976. (The previous high was 21 in 1984.) Louisiana's situation is typical in many

Did You Notice?

ways. Most of the US total of 86 inmates executed since 1979 have been in Southern states, and 75 of those were convicted of killing a white, even though almost half of all homicide victims are black. Of the 14 inmates executed in Louisiana since the death penalty was re-instated, 13 involved murder cases in which the victim was white.

OPEN THE THESAURUS: If nothing else, the Iran-contra hearings broadened the American vocabulary with synonyms and euphemistic phrases for the word "lied".

TENANT UNIONS, ANYONE? In 1986 the Cook County Circuit Court fined Chicago landlords and property managers \$1,291,306 for violations of the housing codes. As of July 1987, not a penny of those fines had been paid. One doubts that any of the violations have been corrected, either.

SEGREGATION IN EDUCATION: The level of segregation of black students in the US remained virtually unchanged from 1972 to 1984, with nearly two-thirds of blacks attending predominantly minority schools. Nationwide, the percentage of Hispanic students attending predominantly minority schools is on the rise. Meanwhile, only 6.9% of teachers are black, down from 7.8% in 1981 and 8.1% in 1971.

A STATE SUIT over Latin American "training missions" by the National Guard was thrown out of court in early August. A federal district judge ruled that state governors have no constitutional authority to prevent the Federal Government from using National Guard contingents on road-building projects in Honduras.

WHAT EVER BECAME OF the insurance crisis? According to *Illinois Action* (Spring 1987), a publication of the Illinois Public Action Council, it became a profit bonanza for the insurance industry. "Insurance spokespersons throughout last year claimed the industry lost \$5 billion in 1985.... But the Insurance Services Organization, the insurance-company trade group, now admits that the industry earned at least \$2 billion, while the General Accounting Office of Congress puts the figure at \$9.2 billion. In 1986 that profit more than doubled... [reaching] close to \$19 billion—paid for by all of those school districts, municipalities, day-care centers, and small businesses that had to cut back on programs last year."

RACIAL STEREOTYPING in the US: Outstanding white athletes are labeled "hard-working" and "intelligent", but outstanding black athletes are "natural".

HE WHO PAYS THE PIPER: Afforded First Amendment rights under the legal fiction that corporations are "persons", corporate utterances on political and social issues flood the country, in addition to the \$102 billion the same corporations spend on advertising annually.