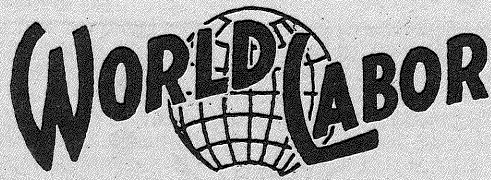


# INDUSTRIAL WORKER

★ EDUCATION



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INDUSTRIAL WORKERS

## NEWS

OF THE WORLD

★ EMANCIPATION

VOLUME 84/85, NUMBERS 12/1, WN 1494/95

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## WORKER'S DEATH SPARKS STRIKE

When Richard Hopkinson, a 49-year-old veteran employee of the Boston and Maine Railroad, fell to his death on November 9th in what should have been a routine freightyard switching operation, some 1200 of his New England co-workers struck. After several serious safety incidents in early November, United Transportation Union officials requested a meeting with railroad management. Later that afternoon, Hopkinson was killed.

Veteran employees walking a picket line in South Portland, Maine described their work as a daily struggle to avoid being injured. They explained that the company neglected maintenance of engines and tracks, and some workers were not given sufficient training. According to the Federal Administration, the railroads operated by Guilford Transportation Industries—Springfield Terminal, Maine Central, and the Boston and Maine—have an accident rate that is "substantially in excess of the national average". The company has recorded 10.8 accidents per million train miles operated, as against the national average rate of 5.33. Guilford's injury rate is higher too.

On November 20th the United Transportation Union filed a complaint in federal district court seeking a preliminary injunction to order Guilford to provide safe rail cars, engines, and tracks and to refrain from assigning undertrained workers to dangerous jobs.

A week after the workers began their strike, a Springfield Terminal tank car—the last on a 14-car southbound freight—derailed and demolished a 12-thousand-dollar switching device. The company immediately accused the union of sabotage, but union officials pointed out that the accident might have been prevented if a staffed caboose—now a discontinued practice—had been attached to the train.

The strike is the latest round in the Guilford workers' long-time struggle with management. In a 1986 strike, 123 members of the Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees protested a 20% proposed pay cut. The strike spread across New England, involving 3,000 before it was ended in May when Congress intervened to avert a nationwide rail shutdown.



Railworkers picket outside a Guilford yard in Bangor, Maine to protest cutbacks that led to a workers' death

## UFO-CIA Meet: Business Unionism As Usual

The AFL-CIO concluded its recent 17th national convention in Miami Beach promising more of the same. Were it not for the fact that the union membership has been falling dramatically over the last 10 years (now down to a meager 15% of the US workforce), that real wages are plummeting (workers today earn no more than in 1973), and that the labor movement is facing sweeping challenges from the employing class (in the form of new technologies, global economy, and fierce union busting), perhaps that would have been enough.

Seizing the headlines, of course, was the decision to re-affiliate the International Brotherhood of Teamsters. The Teamsters were expelled from the AFL more than 30 years ago for excessive corruption, and there is no evidence that the Teamsters have grown any less corrupt in the intervening years. But as the AFL-CIO finds its dues base declining—with more than a million members dropping out over the last four years—it has apparently become more willing to turn a blind eye to labor racketeering (while it never did object to the blatant and vicious suppression of its members' most-basic rights). Thus the *AFL-CIO News*, in reporting the re-unification, claimed that the Teamsters had originally been expelled "for failing to abide by the Federation constitution", making no mention of the corruption issue.

While the affiliation of a million and a half Teamsters should improve the revenue picture somewhat, it will do little to restore the Federation's tarnished image. But not to worry: Lane Kirkland has a plan.

Among the new programs approved by delegates was a 13-million-dollar "Union, Yes" public-relations campaign. The two-year campaign will feature television commercials designed to portray unions as a vital part of American life, helping to keep America strong. The AFL-CIO apparently hopes this will result in increased support for the union label, greater political clout, and revitalized organizing efforts. But surely it would be cheaper and more effective to deal with some of the root causes of labor's image problem—lack of union democ-

racy, failure to organize the bulk of the working class, and lack of any vision more inspiring than Gompers's infamous "more".

### Unrelated Business Activities

The AFL-CIO's associate-membership and union-benefit programs are, meanwhile, picking up steam. What the AFL-CIO calls a "new union thrust"—the provision of credit cards, travel service, health insurance, and the like—has been aggressively marketed both to members of AFL-CIO affiliates and to newly-created associate members (under a program whereby workers not under union contracts can pay a reduced dues rate in exchange for access to insurance and credit cards—a tactic originally developed by public-sector unions to develop and sustain on-the-job membership while they sought the legal right to collective bargaining).

The AFL-CIO has sold more than a million credit cards, touting the cards' relatively-low interest rate. The Federation is also providing health and life insurance, and is exploring entering the auto, home-owners, dental, and death-insurance markets. Perhaps most lucrative of current offerings is the "no-fee travel service", whereby union members can purchase airline tickets and make other travel arrangements on terms virtually identical to those offered by any travel agency in the country. It's not clear whether the massive profit potential of this "benefit" will be shared by the AFL-CIO, or whether Trans-National Group Services (the Boston-based national travel agency that landed the contract) will get the windfall.

More in line with union goals is a proposal currently under consideration to offer "affordable" health insurance during strikes and layoffs. In just two years, the AFL-CIO has mustered an impressive array of business ventures under the umbrella of its Union Privilege Benefit Program (which operates as a non-profit corporation formed to "extend the benefits of the labor movement

from the workplace to the marketplace"). Yet what all this activity has to do with unionism is no clearer today than when the program was launched in 1985.

### Political Action

While there was brave talk of "landmark organizing victories" in the last two years, it's clear that the AFL-CIO brass are banking on political action to save the day. Senator Edward Kennedy was the featured speaker (but just one of a host of politicians eager to court the labor vote who appeared before delegates). Resolutions were approved calling for increased emphasis on political activity, building local and state labor councils so they can more-effectively intervene in the political process, renewed OSHA activity on workplace health and safety, right-to-know laws, and protectionist legislation.

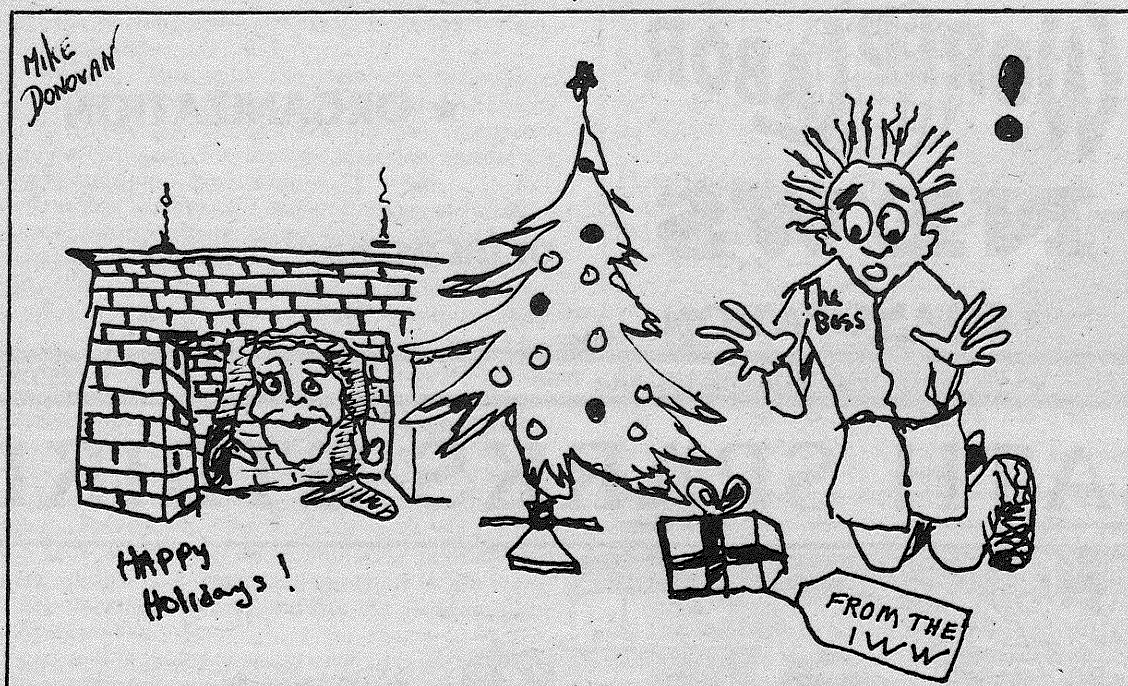
Just how it is that the AFL-CIO has managed to retain its faith in the efficacy of political action despite decade after decade of defeats in this arena (where even labor's occasional "victories" often turn out in the long run to be defeats) is unclear. One might think that even the AFL-CIO brass would eventually come to realize

(continued on Page 4)

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## SEASONS GREETINGS From the IWW



## AROUND OUR UNION

Dear Fellow Workers:

The beautiful Fountainbleau Hotel in Miami Beach, Florida was this year's site for the AFL-CIO National Convention. The temperature wavered slightly as the breeze blew lightly off the aqua-tinted ocean. Endless miles of plush carpet and marble floors filled the halls of the convention center. Delegates and their wives, decked out in exquisite attire, were often seen strolling in the sun along the Atlantic boardwalk. On the convention floor, television cameras were strategically placed so delegates could view the speakers as their pictures appeared on a large screen at the front of the floor.

On Monday, October 27th, six individuals arrived in Miami Beach to attend this year's convention. These six, supporters and members of Local P-9, have all been involved in the 27-month strike against Austin Hormel. By their physical presence alone, the P-9 contingents discredit the lies being perpetrated by the leadership of the United Food and Commercial Workers.

Since May 1986, when trusteeship was imposed on Local P-9, and September of the same year, when a sweetheart contract protecting scabs was foisted on the union, the leaders of the UFCW have spread vicious lies in an effort to end one of the most innovative strikes in recent history, claiming either that all strikers had returned to work or that the UFCW was doing everything possible to ensure that they would.

In response, a special leaflet was prepared by P-9 for delegates attending this year's convention. This leaflet was designed to draw attention to an individual who is a top contender for the presidency of the AFL-CIO. Several points are made in the leaflet pertaining to the devastation this person has brought to the labor movement. Part-time employment, scab organizing, and increased union dues are only a few.

With leaflets in hand, the P-9 group entered the elegant lobby of the Hotel. Many leaflets were distributed prior to the noon recess, precipitating a barrage of mixed emotions. Many delegates commended P-9 for its persistence in the labor dispute, while others were confused by the lies they had been told. There were even some delegates who protested the presence of not only P-9, but also the leaflet, which was aimed directly at their boss, William Wynn, president of the UFCW.

At first sight the UFCW officials focused on the P-9 group with a scare tactic designed to intimidate the leafleters. Sport coats were unbuttoned to reveal sizable pistols tucked into the pants at belt level. By this time the convention floor had recessed for lunch. Seeing that most delegates were expecting the P-9 leaflet, frustration ran high for the UFCW delegates.

At one point a UFCW vice-president emerged to confront the president of Local P-9, Jim Guyette. Ranting and raving, Louis DeVries, president of UFCW Local 431 (Davenport, Iowa), began shouting at Guyette till he saw that his tactics were useless. Unable to make any impact, DeVries chose violence to enhance his position. When his first punch glanced off Guyette's chin, DeVries became enraged and launched a second attempt, only to have it ducked by Guyette. The second blow did not go amiss, however, landing squarely on the nose of another UFCW official. Bleeding profusely, this delegate was led away by one of the Hotel staff while DeVries was restrained by members of his own organization.

The confrontation had not yet reached a climax, however, as Mrs. DeVries, frustrated by the futility of her husband's efforts, leapt forward to slash at Guyette's face, whereupon she too was quickly taken away.

Soon the Hotel officials and their security men loomed over the scene, informing the P-9 delegates that they were being ejected at the request of the AFL-CIO. One can only assume that this decision had not required a majority vote.

After being escorted to the public sidewalk, delegates leaving the Hotel for lunch approached the leafleters, asking for either the controversial literature or the literature that was becoming a collector's item.

Persistence has been one virtue that has helped make the P-9 fight one of the most prominent in labor history. Not to be intimidated, P-9 returned to the convention each day to distribute the truth.

With first-hand experience of the tactics being employed by William Wynn and his associates, workers all across the nation must be aware of the grim future of the working class if it continues to be subjected to top-down leadership by individuals of this sort.

Assault charges were filed against both Mr. and Mrs. DeVries with the Miami Police Department, but the outcome is apparent. The sexist profanity used by the vice-president of the UFCW, Jay Foreman, to one of the female P-9 supporters will only intensify this fight. We are all workers, not foreigners or whores as Mr. Foreman implied.

Victim of the UFCW Leadership  
Denny Mealy, fellow worker



### IN NOVEMBER, COLORADO REMEMBERS

First, I would like to correct a couple of typos in last month's report from Colorado to stop all the angry mail I've been getting. Twelve thousand Colorado miners stopped work in the 1927 IWW coal strike, not 1200 as reported. But the error that caused the most confusion was a real blooper. The article as printed read, "but reactionary miners from southern coal fields and blood-thirsty military men, veterans of the Ludlow massacre of 1914, wanted a showdown with the IWW." It should have read "reactionary mine owners", not miners. A very real difference. Picky, picky readers.

In November we sponsored two public forums on the "Columbine Massacre": one in Denver and one in Lafayette. The latter was the most interesting, as the City Council chamber was packed, and half the audience were locals who had lived through the Massacre, including several miners who had carried IWW cards during the strike. The forum sponsors became the students. It was a bit like teaching grandma to bake cookies. The Lafayette Miners' Museum brought a large display of old coal-mining equipment, including the Columbine Mine whistle of 1927 with a bullet hole in it. We are pursuing the possibility of working with local historical societies to establish a memorial to the IWW pickets killed at the Columbine.

Gary Cox

### OCTOBER IN COLORADO

On October 9th through 11th we held a festival in Boulder that attracted more than 700 people to view the IWW's traveling art exhibit, see the movie *The Wobblies*, and enjoy down-home labor music. Fellow Workers Mark Ross from Missoula, Montana and Utah Phillips from Spokane, Washington played to a full house on the 11th, and left the crowd begging for more. We have sold over \$500 worth of IWW literature and T-shirts and signed up 10 new Wobs.

P-9er Denny Mealy from Austin, Minnesota was on hand for the festival, as all proceeds will be used for the striking meatpackers. He was able to speak to hundreds of people, and along with IWW material a great deal of "Boycott Hormel" literature left the gallery.

*The Wobblies* was also shown in October to a crowd of 75 at the Boulder Peace Center and a group of coal miners in Erie, Colorado, site of the 1927 Columbine massacre.

We have red 100%-cotton T-shirts (M, L, and XL)—with the IWW universal logo in black circumscribed with "Industrial Workers of the World" and "International Labor Solidarity" below the logo—on sale for \$8.50 each (including postage) or \$8 each if you order more than 10. All proceeds go to P-9.

Hormel has a "free" gift catalog called "Austin Street Market" that can be ordered by calling 1-800-228-5000. It's free to you, but costs them \$3 plus postage. In the back of the catalog is a form to fill out if you want to cancel future catalogs, including a space for the reasons you are not pleased with Hormel products. Can you think of any? Order some for your friends as well. Merry Christmas, Dick Knowlton.

In Denver we're putting up "Boycott Hormel" billboards, and they cost plenty. Any of you who can help us with donations, or who would like to order IWW T-shirts, please write to Gary Cox, PO Box 478, Johnstown, Colorado 80534. We can't reach these parasites with cattle prods, but billboards will serve the same purpose.

Gary Cox



### CLASS-WAR NEWS FROM BEHIND BARS

A new IWW *General Defense Bulletin* has just been issued by General Defense Committee Secretary Jackie Panish in New York. The lively 14-page issue features a short "History of Lucasville"—the Ohio penitentiary where the ongoing IWW prison workers' organizing drive began some months ago—that provides useful background information on the important struggle taking place there today under the Wobbly banner. Also included are detailed updates on the situation of class-war prisoners Avi Naftel and Leonard Peltier, and shorter features on anti-draft activist Gilliam Kerley (sentenced to three years in Leavenworth for refusing to register for the draft) and on political prisoners in South Africa.

Among several interesting reprints in this *GDC Bulletin* is an ominous *New York Times* editorial, "Why Not Put Prisoners to Work?"—a fiendish proposal that reads like something out of Jonathan Swift or Woody Allen, except that these guys at the *Times* aren't kidding. This editorial demonstrates that those who have appointed themselves our rulers have plans—as hideous as they are grandiose—to exploit the "long-overlooked labor pool" now idle behind bars throughout the Land of the Free. "Prisons still have something to offer business," we are told. "Convicts are available on any schedule."

For a copy of the *GDC Bulletin* and information on joining the GDC, write to Jackie Panish, Secretary, General Defense Committee, PO Box 3304, Church Street Station, New York, New York 10008-3304. Contributions to defray the cost of postage and photocopying would be appreciated.

### FRED THOMPSON'S ASHES SCATTERED

Friends and fellow workers of the late Fred Thompson gathered Sunday, November 15th, at the famous Haymarket Martyrs' Monument at Forest Home (Waldheim) Cemetery in Forest Park, Illinois to scatter his ashes. A long-time IWW organizer, editor, and historian, and one of the many Wobblies sentenced to San Quentin for "criminal syndicalism" in the 1920s, Fellow Worker Thompson died in Chicago last March at the age of 86.

The master of ceremonies for the occasion was well-known poet, artist, and IWW Chicago Branch member Carlos Cortez, who reminded the assembled throng that Thompson's ashes were being scattered on a site long hallowed not only by the graves of the Haymarket martyrs, but also by the ashes of many old-time Wobblies, including Joe Hill, Big Bill Haywood, Lucy Parsons, and, in more-recent years, Art Boose and Carl Keller.

IWW General Secretary-Treasurer Penny Pixler spoke movingly of Fred Thompson's thoroughgoing internationalism. Mike Hargis of the IWW Chicago Branch related the Union's ongoing struggle for working-class self-emancipation to the earlier struggle of the Haymarket anarchists, judicially murdered by the State of Illinois a hundred years ago on November 11th. Chicago Branch member Franklin Rosemont noted Thompson's role in reviving the 101-year-old Charles H. Kerr Publishing Company—the sole living link to Chicago's burgeoning labor radicalism of the 1880s—and his efforts, both as a practicing historian and as a founding member of the Illinois Labor History Society, to help working men and women discover the history of their own class. Virgil Vogel spoke on Thompson's long association with the socialist movement, in Canada in his youth and more recently as a member of the Socialist Party in the US.

The ceremony was brought to a rousing conclusion as IWW General Executive Board Member Nancy Arthur Collins led the crowd in singing "Solidarity Forever".

Ten days later, on November 25th, Fellow Workers Art Nurse, Richard Orton, Jerry Papa, and Mark Ross of the Missoula, Montana IWW Branch scattered some of Fred Thompson's ashes in a special ceremony at the grave of the illustrious IWW martyr Frank Little at Mountain View Cemetery in Butte.



# North American Labor News

## SWEATSHOPS SPREAD IN NEW YORK

Less than a century after the Triangle fire and the toughened labor movement that followed it, sweatshops are thriving in New York City once again. From storefront factories along 103rd Street to basements in Brooklyn, lofts in Chinatown, and garages in Queens, as many as 3,000 sweatshops operate in the city's five boroughs. Garment-industry leaders attribute this burst of activity to a wave of immigration that has created a vast exploitable labor force, and to a chronic lack of enforcement by federal, state, and local agencies.

In August the State of New York created a task force to stop the proliferation of sweatshops, defined as factories that "take liberties with every law—safety, minimum-wage, child-labor, compensation—to get a competitive edge".

Jay Mazur, president of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union, which has seen its membership fall 40% in New York City over the last decade, said that while he believed the task force represented a "genuine attempt" to solve the sweatshop problem, he was not optimistic about its chances of success. "The problem is so vast it will require more of an effort than the State is capable of making. What is needed is the effort of the Federal Government, which has been remiss."

Mazur was not quoted as mentioning the role union organizing played in curbing the early sweatshops, nor did he suggest that the International Ladies Garment Workers might itself have been remiss in its efforts to end sweatshops by organizing the workers.

## LOGGING INJURIES AT RECORD HIGH

The injury rate among loggers in Washington and Oregon usually runs about one in three. This year, with timber production and profits approaching record levels, the forests of the Northwest have become killing grounds unlike any year in recent memory. Even with a drought that occasionally closed the forests, 23 loggers had been killed in Washington State by the end of November. By that time last year, only nine loggers had been killed.

The money has never been good in the softwood forests, even in boom years like 1987. Last year, after a long recession and a bitter strike broke the spine of several towns in the valleys of the Cascades, union loggers took a pay cut of about \$4 an hour. Now many loggers say the only way to make up the lost money is to work faster. Some blame the pressure of a new wage structure that offers bonuses to those who produce more for this year's upsurge in accidents. But if the bosses are making record profits on wood sales, working slower might bring wages up faster and less dangerously.

## 700 NBC WORKERS FACED WITH DISMISSAL

After breaking the longest strike ever waged against it, the National Broadcasting Company announced in early November that it will eliminate some 700 network jobs by the end of 1988. Though NBC has been streamlined by employee dismissals since being acquired by the General Electric Company in 1986, and is the most successful of the three major broadcast networks in ratings and income, the newly-announced job reductions reflect the stated GE policy that streamlining is a corporate task that is never finished. About half of the first 200 jobs cut belonged to union members who had walked out in June.

"The strike was a laboratory," explained NBC News president Larry Grossman. He explained that during the strike NBC News staffers learned to carry on without a third of their co-workers. According to NBC executives who asked reporters not to identify them, all future job cuts will be made from within the ranks of the union.

## NLRB Horror Story

In the spring of 1980, the Alliance Rubber Company choked off an organizing campaign at its Hot Springs, Arkansas plant by giving polygraph "lie detector" tests to its workers and firing 15 who admitted to supporting the local union, an affiliate of the carpenters' union. In 1982, a National Labor Relations Board administrative-law judge ordered the 15 fired workers re-instated with back pay. He found the company guilty of "coercive interrogation and threats of economic reprisals" against union supporters that were "carried out by its supervisors and agents".

The company refused to comply and requested an NLRB review. But the normally-slow process of review by a three-member panel stretched out over more than five years. Finally, in September 1987, an NLRB panel issued a 2-to-1 decision upholding the back pay and re-instatement order. But one of the 15 workers has died, and at last report the company had still not complied. So the NLRB will now have to obtain an enforcement order from a federal appellate court to make its decision stick. That could take a year or more—and even much more if company attorneys use every legal trick to contest the ruling.

The case has become a horror story on the weakness of federal labor law and NLRB enforcement procedures, as well as the use of lie-detector tests as a union-busting tool. The only solution is for workers to rely on their own strength and militancy, with whatever solidarity can be garnered, to avoid the law's delay.

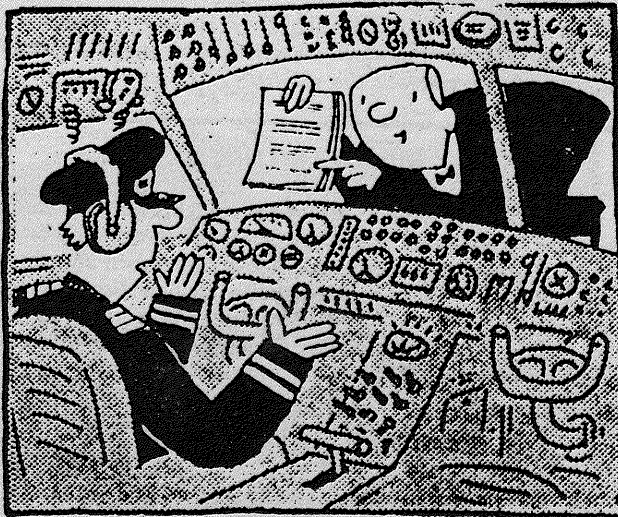
## HOTEL MAIDS OFF THEIR KNEES

In early December, nearly 60 maids at Boston's luxurious Copley Plaza Hotel were ordered to put aside their mops and start scrubbing floors by hand. "A maid is a maid, and that's just what she has to do," said Alan Tremain, president of Hotels of Distinction, which operates Copley Plaza for its owner, the John Hancock Mutual Life Insurance Company.

The maids' union, Local 26 of the Boston Hotel and Restaurant Workers Union, disagreed: "The scene of a white male sitting in a hotel room reading the *Wall Street Journal* while the black maid is in the bathroom on her hands and knees is just preposterous." Union protests and a complaint by the Boston chapter of the National Organization for Women forced the hotel to issue mops.

## QUEBEC ALUMINUM WORKERS STRIKE

Workers in an aluminum smelter in Shawinigan, Quebec may have been sold out by their own union when it asked for a government conciliator in an effort to resume negotiations with the company. The 485 workers were themselves putting pressure on the company to negotiate by staging four one-day strikes in three weeks in November to express their concern about work schedules and pay.



## PAN AM Deal Reported

As the *IW* goes to press (December 10th), Pan American World Airways has struck an 11th-hour deal with its pilots that could undermine a year-long attempt by some of the airline's unions to find a buyer for the carrier and replace its current management.

Earlier this year, Pan Am proposed a plan that called for \$180 million a year in concessions from all five of the airline's unions. Four of the unions—pilots, flight engineers, flight attendants, and teamsters—rejected the proposal and instead formed a coalition that hired investment banks to find a buyer for the airline. The carrier's largest union, the Transport Workers, did not join the coalition, and has been seeking to negotiate a new contract with management.

The coalition had persuaded the Pritzker family, the owners of Braniff Incorporated, to make an offer for Pan Am. However sources inside the pilots' union said many pilots feared that Braniff's chairperson, Jay Pritzker, might try to impose the Braniff contract on Pan Am pilots. Accordingly, the pilots and Pan Am reached an agreement on a new four-year contract that would give the pilots a certain percentage of stock in return for a 16% salary concession.

It's not surprising that pilots, some of whom make more than \$100,000 a year, would be more willing to make substantial wage concessions than flight attendants, who make \$25,000. But even if all the unions had stuck together and gotten Braniff to buy their section of Pan Am, all they would have gotten was a change of bosses. Indeed, the biggest incentive the coalition had to dangle in front of would-be buyers was a promise to make large concessions in work rules and pay.

## US SEEKS TRUSTEESHIP FOR ROOFERS UNION

On December 2nd the US Government asked a federal judge to place in trusteeship Local 30-30B of the Roofers Union, whose business manager, Stephen Traitz Jr., and 12 union associates were convicted of aspiring to bribe judges and embezzle union money. Local 30-30B represents some 2,000 members employed in roofing, waterproofing, and related jobs in Delaware, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania.

Government interference in the affairs of US unions is a growing trend. But taking over a union in the name of curing labor racketeering does nothing to cure the basic problem—namely the lack of union democracy. Furthermore, insofar as a Government-run union is unlikely to promote its members' interests very vigorously, since it is in the workers' interests to inconvenience the powers-that-be, union membership itself may become a racket.

## UNION RIGHT OF ACCESS UPHELD

In November, Chemical Workers Local 271 of New Jersey won a long-running federal-court battle for the right to make an on-the-spot investigation of a workplace explosion that killed one union member and injured four others.

The fatal explosion took place February 21st, 1987 at the Hercules plant in Parlin, New Jersey, where nitrocellulose, used in dynamite and solid rocket propellants, was being made. At Local 271's request, the international union sent an experienced industrial hygienist from its staff to inspect the accident site and conduct tests to determine the presence of toxic or hazardous fumes. When the hygienist arrived the day after the accident, management barred the gates, saying that only Hercules employees could enter. Management claimed the right to exclude "outsiders" from the accident site as a safeguard against disclosure of trade secrets involved in the manufacture of nitrocellulose.

The Local appealed to the National Labor Relations Board, whose administrative-law judge ruled in favor of the union, but the company still stalled. The NLRB was forced to seek appellate-court enforcement of its order granting the right of access to union representatives. To the company's claim that the data the union sought, such as air samples, could be provided by management, the three-judge appellate panel said that the union has the right to do its own testing, and that "total reliance" on the company would be especially objectionable in circumstances where the lives of workers might be at risk.

By that criterion, one might consider the union's total reliance on the NLRB objectionable.

## WEYERHAEUSER UNIONS MEET

Facing up to the fact that they can no longer "go it alone" against the giant corporations in the forest-products industry, representatives of all 10 International Woodworkers Association locals representing Weyerhaeuser workers, along with leaders of the Lumber Production Industrial Workers (LPIW), the Southern Council of Industrial Workers (SCIW), and the United Paperworkers International Union (UPIU), met in Nashville November 12th and 13th to plan long-term bargaining strategy against the Weyerhaeuser Corporation. The meeting was the second one UPIU has participated in with the IWA, LPIW, and SCIW, and the first attended by a full complement of IWA local leaders.

"All our members have lost quite a bit in wages and benefits over the last six years," said IWA National President Bill Hubell, "and the only way we are going to reverse that trend is by working together in the future. We can't just focus on our own bailiwick anymore."

## DRUG TESTING MARCHES ON

Like the Red Menace of the early '50s, the current drug hysteria has led to a loyalty oath—this time the urine test. In early November the Department of Transportation disclosed that it had begun random drug testing of its employees. Until now, only supervisory employees who volunteered to participate were known to have been tested. The new testing was disclosed in response to a reporter's questions.

Of the first 221 employees tested, one was believed to have used illegal drugs. But whatever the results, the American Civil Liberties Union and the American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE) contend that the tests represent a violation of workers' constitutional rights. Both groups say the program is thought to be the first in the US in which civilian government workers not employed by military or law-enforcement agencies have been subjected to compulsory random tests of their urine specimens for evidence of drug use.

An ACLU lawyer said that federal appeals courts had so far upheld drug testing, but he hoped the case would be appealed to the Supreme Court. Janice Lachance, a spokesperson for the AFGE, whose attempts to block random testing have been rebuffed by lower courts, said the union had not decided whether to take its case to the Supreme Court. While the union objects to random testing, spokespersons have said the union would not object if someone was required to take a drug test after an accident.

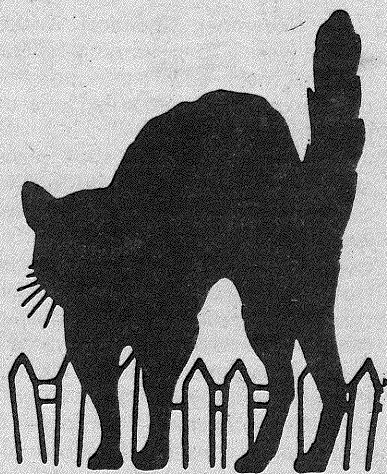
Meanwhile, on November 17th, a three-judge panel of the US Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia unanimously rejected the argument of a school-bus attendant that urine testing for drugs can be conducted only if there is "probable cause" to believe that the person being tested had used drugs. The plaintiff had been dismissed from her job after chemical analysis of her urine suggested that she had used marijuana. The plaintiff denied it, and indeed between the margin-of-error figures for standard drug tests and the cases of mis-handling of urine to be tested, Northwestern University estimates the failure rate for such tests at around 25%.

The Federal District Court in DC held in February 1986 that the worker's dismissal on the basis of a single confirmed drug test was "arbitrary and capricious", and ordered her re-instated with full back pay, seniority, and benefits. The school district accepted most of the district court's order, but challenged the portion of the ruling that would have prohibited drug testing except where there was probable cause to believe that an employee had used illegal drugs.

One of the members of the appeals court that upheld the random testing was Douglas Ginsburg, briefly a nominee for US Supreme Court justice until it was disclosed that he had smoked marijuana while on the faculty of Harvard Law School.



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Yours truly was recently at another conference. This was not a labor or political conference in the strict sense of the word, even though it represented what yours truly considers the best kind of politics.

It was a conference of artists, both visual and non-visual, who belong to some ethnic or racial minority and are banding together because they are not only getting the short end of the stick economically, but are being passed up in cultural areas as well. Here in Freedomland, where much less of the national wealth is spent on culture than in other countries, funding for creative artists, public or private, is least available to those who are most in need of financial help.

Ethnic minorities in Freedomland invariably belong to the less-economically-advantaged sector of society. For them the exorbitant costs of art materials are a further discouragement to the pursuit of creative endeavors. Your scribe, who indulges in such endeavors himself, is left with the unmistakable impression that such things as creative expression are more or less the bailiwick of those who belong to the upphah classes.

Our esteemed cowboy-actor President said at the onset of his tenure in office that he saw no need for government support of the arts, as he felt that the "private sector" was already doing an admirable job of providing such support.

The arts for centuries have been at the mercy of private sectors that have usually treated the achievements of creative expression as just another commodity. While Vincent van Gogh, who had never seen more than a few hundred dollars in one chunk during his lifetime, died in an insane asylum, the patrons of the arts were paying fantastic prices for the works of people who had died of starvation. Now that almost a century has passed since van Gogh shuffled off this mortal coil, single canvases of his are selling for millions of dollars to "anonymous" purchasers. It's just as well that these purchasers chose to remain anonymous, for even if they had chosen to emblazon their names on the popular media, time would eventually have accorded them the obscurity they deserve.

Rembrandt died a poor man, but who remembers the names of any of his patrons, or whoever happened to be the ruler of his part of the World? Who remembers the names of the rich men who controlled the economic life of the German people when Bach composed his immortal works, and how many could name the movers and shakers when Walt Whitman wrote his poetry without consulting their history books?

Under our present economic system, every creative person is a "minority" as long as the creative endeavor of the human spirit remains just another commodity for those in economic power.

During the opening session of this conference of minority artists, there was a lament that creative people who belonged to racial minorities were largely overlooked by the "art establishment". Your scribe suggested that "minority" artists would do better to think in terms of forming their own "art establishments" by banding together in a spirit of mutual aid. Your scribe reminded the assembled artists from different backgrounds that their artistic traditions had grown and flourished centuries ago without any leisure class of patronizing connoisseurs, long before the current class of patrons had even evolved through the neglect and oversight of the masses of humanity who are the real creators of this World's wealth, and these admonitions did not go unheeded.

During a special reception at the close of one day's session, there was a unique recital by an ethnically-diverse group of musicians as this writer has ever had the privilege of hearing. If the reader can imagine the composition of a musical group composed of Chinese stringed instruments, Flamenco guitar, African drums, Black American blues guitar, Hindu flute, Indonesian harp, and oriental and ballet dancers, along with a Winnebago drummer and singer, he or she might well wonder how any harmony could result from so diverse an aggregation. Yet all of these seemingly-incompatible musical modes came together in a harmonious whole without subverting the unique elements of any of these musical traditions, at the same time creating something new.

C. C. Redcloud

**SPANIARDS PROTEST US BASES:** On November 1st, at least 70,000 people marched through Madrid for the second Sunday in succession calling for an end to Spain's 34-year defense agreement with the US. If the agreement is not renewed by May 1988, the 13 installations that base some 12,500 US troops would have to be dismantled within a year.

## IMMIGRATION LAWS HIT



Tribune photo by Chuck Berman

Chicago marchers protest current US immigration laws November 7th, pointing out that with or without documents, workers create the wealth.

### DID YOU NOTICE?

**MILITARY PROFITS:** Profits of US military contractors in the early '80s exceeded those of non-military firms. Defense contractors average a 20% return annually compared to 13% for comparable civilian firms. Also aiding weapon makers were loopholes that, until 1986, enabled munitions giants like General Electric and Westinghouse to avoid all taxes on billions of dollars in profit.

### MISCELLANEOUS SHORTS

#### PRESSER AN FBI INFORMER SINCE 1974

Jackie Presser, president of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, has been providing the Federal Bureau of Investigation with information ever since 1974, according to documents filed in Cleveland's federal court during the trial of Presser, Harold Friedman (head of Teamster Local 507), and Anthony Hughes (recording secretary of Local 507) for a payroll-padding scheme. The defense lawyers are claiming that the FBI authorized the scheme to gather information about organized crime.

#### OUT OF THE HORSE'S MOUTH

In November, on the 25th anniversary of the forming of the American Institute for Free Labor Development, AFL-CIO president Lane Kirkland blurted out the truth, calling the AIFLD's work "a mission as old as the American labor movement itself". And indeed, finks and spies and sellout unions have been part of the US labor movement from the beginning. But along with those who would housebreak labor for the bosses, the US labor movement has always included unions and activists fighting to save labor from wage slavery.

(continued from Page 1)

## AFL-CIO Convention

that the only place the labor movement has scored any lasting gains has been in industry, through organization on the job floor. But somehow these fakers always seem ready to squander labor's resources on one more go at rubbing elbows with politicians.

This shortsightedness was especially evident in the discussion of employment. Delegates backed resolutions calling for effective job training and education to combat unemployment, federal full-employment policies, plant-closing legislation, job-placement services, and federal support for quality day care. The AFL-CIO explicitly argues that workers are ill prepared for the new jobs created by new technology (in fact, of course, the new technology has eliminated the need for millions of skilled jobs, reducing many workers to unemployment or to boring, repetitive jobs), and lack the support services necessary to find employment. Yet all the legislation in the world can't change the fact that employers are re-organizing industry to require fewer workers and to reduce their dependence on skilled labor.

All that federal job-training schemes can hope to accomplish is to increase the number of workers chasing after the few remaining well-paid jobs. Delegates apparently did not discuss the need for reducing the workweek (although 50 years ago the AFL went on record backing the 30-hour workweek), resisting job-displacing technologies, or helping fellow workers in other countries improve their economic conditions (thereby reducing employers' ability to play workers in different countries off against each other).

**FOOD HANDOUTS TO BE CUT:** Government policies to reduce surpluses of cheese, milk, and rice have succeeded so well that the Reagan Administration plans to cut distribution of these commodities in half in the coming year. On the average, 15 million to 18 million people get handouts of such commodities each month, 98% belonging to households making less than \$15,000 a year and 44% to households making less than \$5,000. One hopes the number of impoverished, hungry people in the US will drop to half its current number.

\*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

General Secretary-Treasurer: Penny Pixler

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International "Solidarity"

Delegates did back down somewhat on the AFL-CIO's traditional unconditional support for US foreign policy, backing the Arias Central American peace plan and the right of Salvadoran and Nicaraguan refugees to temporary political asylum. But delegates backed the Simpson-Rodino immigration plan and "limited" deployment and testing of Star Wars (the Strategic Defense Initiative), and re-affirmed the Federation's policy of refusing contact with communist-controlled unions around the world. (Many of our fellow workers, unfortunately, are in unions dominated by the Communists or by other political parties; yet while such unions cannot adequately defend workers' interests, how are working-class interests advanced by refusing contact across the board?)

Delegates also backed Israel as a "beacon of civility and democratic rule" (surely a surprise to those living under military occupation and/or deprived of their most-basic rights because of their race), re-affirmed support for the Trade Union Congress of the Philippines, and called for strong sanctions against South Africa.

V. David, general secretary of the Malaysian Trade Union Congress, was arrested (along with 70 other opposition figures) upon his return from an AFL Conference on International Affairs preceding the convention. (The Malaysian Government also closed three newspapers and banned public assemblies.) While in the US, David blasted the operations of foreign corporations in Malaysia's Free Trade Zone, where workers are denied the right to organize and are paid as little as \$70 a month for long hours of grueling labor.

J. B.



# WORKERS RESISTANCE

## FIVE-DAY GENERAL STRIKE IN LEBANON

Lebanon's trade unions called off a five-day general strike November 9th after the Government pledged that the workers' demands would be met. But Antonine Bechara, head of the General Labor Federation, pledged to renew the walkout if officials renege on a promise that a special committee would seek to increase the value of the pound (the national currency) and protect the buying power of the workers' wages.

## ISRAELI BROADCAST WORKERS STRIKE

Israeli radio and television workers walked out on strike in early October, demanding a 30% raise from the state-owned stations. Even though the stations are shut down, however, it's hard to silence radios and TVs. By adjusting their antennas, TV owners can pick up Cypriot, Egyptian, Jordanian, and Lebanese stations. Jordan even expanded its Hebrew-language news broadcast to take advantage of the situation to pick up Israeli listeners. Thus the strike dragged on into November.

## CLASS STRUGGLE IN EASTERN EUROPE

The official *Moscow News* carried reports on two strikes by Soviet workers in recent months. In late September bus drivers in the town of Chekhov, around 40 miles outside Moscow, struck to protest a new wage scheme. The entire bus system was shut down by the "incident" (admitting that it was a genuine strike was apparently too much for our intrepid journalists), and management was called onto the carpet by local Party officials who, according to *Moscow News*, quickly settled the strike. A three-day strike broke out in early October at the Likino bus plant, protesting speedups, piece rates, and wage differentials.

In Yugoslavia, nearly a thousand construction workers in Skoplje struck June 14th to protest a two-month delay in wages, while workers at the nearby Illenden construction enterprise staged a march to local Party offices to publicize their grievances. The average pay for these construction workers is a paltry \$55 a month.

Poland and Yugoslavia are both attacking workers' living standards by boosting prices. On November 15th, the Yugoslav Government announced sharp increases in the prices of basic foodstuffs and other necessities—in some instances as much as 200% to 300%—and froze wages. (The price of milk was doubled, electricity and coal went up 65%, and the price of gasoline was tripled to \$2.80 a gallon.) An earlier wage freeze sparked strikes involving more than 150,000 workers. The current austerity measures were hotly debated, with a handful of members of parliament voting against and Party leadership in Slovenia calling for the prime minister's resignation.

Meanwhile, Polish authorities are pushing through more-modest price hikes, and captured the last of the well-known Solidarnosc activists, Kornel Marawiecki, November 10th. Marawiecki is charged with using false identity cards, but Government spokespersons quickly announced that he was suspected of smuggling equipment into Poland "for subversive and anti-Socialist activities".

Among the stated objectives of "Glasnost" boosters in the Soviet Union and its puppet states is "economic reform". This "reform" amounts to an attempt to boost labor productivity through piece rates, speedups, profit sharing, and what is being called "self-management" (more accurately a scheme whereby plant management is given greater autonomy and wages are tied to productivity). These recent strikes—and it seems likely that if two have been reported there were many more—are an indication that our fellow workers in the Eastern Bloc won't take these "reforms" sitting down.

## YUGOSLAVIAN WORKERS WIN WAGE HIKE

In mid-November the Government of Yugoslavia sharply increased the price of basic foodstuffs and other necessities and froze wages in an effort to reduce 140% inflation. Prices were raised—in some cases doubled or nearly tripled—on gasoline, milk, sugar, flour, cooking oil, transportation, electricity, and other services at the urging of the International Monetary Fund. The IMF insisted that Yugoslavia eliminate price subsidies as a prerequisite for re-financing its 20-billion-dollar foreign debt.

Two days after the price hike and wage freeze, several thousand foundry workers in Macedonia, the country's poorest republic, won wage increases after demonstrating in the streets. Witnesses said more than 5,000 workers marched on the regional parliament in Skopje, demanding the raise they had been promised and then denied because of the freeze. After an emergency session of the Macedonian parliament, the Government promised the workers that their wages would be raised to the average of foundries throughout Yugoslavia.

## GENERAL STRIKE IN HAITI

On December 7th, most stores and offices in the Haitian capital of Port-au-Prince were shut and most factory workers stayed away from their jobs to protest the Government's suspension of national elections the week before, after at least 34 people trying to vote were killed by Government-backed thugs.

The strike was called by several presidential candidates and the country's three largest labor organizations: the Autonomous Confederation of Haitian Workers, the Association of Public Employees, and the Association of Public Transport Workers. The country's schools closed after the election violence, and all but one of the major radio stations—the principal source of news for most Haitians—were intimidated off the air.

Support for the strike was widespread—remarkable in a country so poor and at a time of year when traditionally Haitians are particularly concerned about earning money for Christmas. In other strikes supporters had broken windows of jitney busses and cars on the street and thrown up roadblocks. Large numbers of troops on the streets may have been a factor in preventing this show of support.

The general strike is only the first show of organized opposition to the military government. There is no indication that the forces opposed to the Government—the unions, human-rights groups, the Catholic Church, the candidates—are prepared to give up. More likely they will regroup and try new strategies in the ongoing struggle for a better life.



"Tools down—we want a living wage." Members of the Food and Allied Workers' Union demonstrate outside their plant.

## CAPE TOWN BREAD WORKERS STRIKE

More than a thousand members of the Food and Allied Workers' Union (FAWU) of South Africa went on strike in October at four of Cape Town's six main bakeries, leaving the peninsula with less than half its usual supply of bread. The union demanded a basic wage increase of \$16 a week. The struck companies are offering only a little more than half that amount.

Management personnel at the struck plants are producing a limited amount of bread. One of the struck companies got a restraining order against 141 workers who began a sitdown strike in their plant. The latest word: Some strikers have been informed that they have been permanently discharged, causing the FAWU to suspect that the bosses seek a protracted struggle.

## STOCK OFFER REFUSED BY SOUTH AFRICAN MINERS

Anti-apartheid South African unions promptly rejected offers of free stock shares in the country's largest union, demanding that the money go instead to higher wages. The Anglo-American Corporation, a giant South African industrial and mining conglomerate, recently announced a 240-million-dollar plan to make stockholders of its 250,000 employees, most of whom are black. The shares would be held in trust by the company for the employees, or they could sell their shares. (Apparently, they could not vote them.)

Cyril Ramaphosa, general secretary of the National Union of Mineworkers, branded the offers as "political and economic blackmail". The money being made available by the corporation, he said, "could have been used to increase workers' wages." Ramaphosa referred to the mining strike earlier this year, which cost gold-mining companies an estimated \$150 million.



## SOUND OF A DISTANT DRUM

One knows Time's Winged Chariot has arrived and is clamoring for one's custom when those with whom one rubbed shoulders at the bar or demonstration write their memoirs. One reads the reviews in the literary supplements of the Sunday bladders, and whispers lies, lies or true, true according to one's part in yesterday's drama. And seated in one's nightshirt with the gas fire full on, one's pet mongrel in the other armchair, and a pint of Guinness in one's hand, one feels the trembling of one's heart and wonders whether death be far away, then turns a page to read how Prince Charles and Princess Di are getting on with their marital punch-ups.

This week's Top of the Top Ten is Tariq Ali. And as international revolutionaries go Tariq never really arrived, for he blossomed during the period of Flower Power when buttercups, the printed battle to use a rhyme for luck, and the Rolling Stones occupied our time. It was the period of the personality cult of Ali, Debray, Tynan, Carmichael, Rachman the evil landlord of Notting Hill, Malcolm X, Daniel Cohn-Bendit, and others. For while London was short on barricades, the old town was never short on holiday marches from CND to Americans Out of Korea/Vietnam, and always "Forward, comrades, to the American Embassy".

What makes Tariq's book (*Street Fighting Years*) is the automatic response of the reviewers. That the right-wing media should treat it with contempt, ridicule, or patronizing indifference in relation to its subject must be expected, but as one might anticipate with a book on this subject, they haul out of their reviewers index the sour ancients who once in their simpering late youth played tip-tap-toe with the weekend left at some secluded saloon bar or interesting dinner party. No aged vicious ex-communist or one-time member of the British Labour Party who has kissed arses and crawled into the House of Lords or SDP or Thatcherite Conservative Party, but a moderate member of the Labour Party who does not believe in hanging but does feel that the working-class trade unions really do have too much power, that violence on picket lines except by the police should be illegal, and that despite her faults Mrs. Thatcher has a point in relation to our high taxes.

Tariq was built up by the right-wing media to scare the TV-viewing middle class witless, and it worked. And now the same media are doing a simple and swift hatchet job to destroy a reputation the poor sod never had. We read how Mary McCarthy "had the temerity" to stand up to him mouthwise, and how according to the reviewer of the hour Tariq joined an international Marxist group with only 40 members. But Jesus started with only 12, so who's counting?

The battle in Grosvenor Square against the American Embassy is dismissed as a seemingly "harmless ritual" (the old sneer of "after I left the whole thing simply collapsed"). In the light of today's street riots, where bloody death can now mark the scene of the action, as both sides have learned from the futile violence of Northern Ireland, the pre-war Battle of Cable Street, when the people of London halted the police-guarded, black-shirted Fascists' intended march through the working-class east end of London, has now moved into historic art and myth minus medals, and in the bitter and murderous '80s the Battle of Grosvenor Square to capture the American Embassy may likewise be seen and remembered as a series of brutal street battles peculiar to the times. But comrades, "her privates we" do not dictate the order of battle, and while Mary and the rest fan the wrinkled brow with a paid-up house mortgage, bank book, and DAR speaking-tour contract, let us say that we were there and let us affirm that we must still be within the picket and within the demonstration.

When reviewers sneer at the men and women of the period Tariq Ali writes of, they fear to acknowledge—nay, strive to ignore—that their failures are the dead bodies that now litter the streets. For the street battles in the small islands of Britain are no longer just theatre of the streets for these pot-bellied aged hacks to sneer at. So let us boast of old scars and glorious battles, and on beer-puddled Nag's Head pub tables redraw the "line of attack". But comrades, "though we are few and they are many", to misquote Shelley, though they seek to ridicule the small banner, though the scabs and police can shunt aside the tiny picket group, though anger and futility may grip the heart as the police move forward in riot-shielded lines, and though the guilty scum laugh down at us from their high windows, let us know that our cause is just and cry "I am here!"

Arthur Moyses, London

WHAT WOULD ARMS CONTROL mean to people who own war stocks?



BOOK REVIEWS

# Labor Law!

*Labor Law Handbook*, by Michael Yates, 1987. Order from South End Press, 116 Saint Botolph Street, Boston, Massachusetts 12115. \$8 paper, \$25 cloth.

This is a readable, understandable, and short introduction to labor law. The title is somewhat misleading. It's not really a "handbook"—meaning a big, complete reference work you could go to for answers to all kinds of questions—but rather a short outline of the most-important points. If you find labor law as dreary a subject as I do, you'll be grateful for its shortness and readability. It gives facts we need to know while inflicting a minimum of pain.

The most-important service a book like this can provide is to show workers in different jobs and situations how the law applies to them. Yates's book does this very well, by giving clear summaries of the various laws and answers to commonly-asked questions. It has a glossary of important legal terms and a case index of important court decisions. It gives good coverage to jobs—such as those in farming, railroads, and government—that are *not* covered by the National Labor Relations Act, but may be covered by other laws. So a worker in almost any industry or organizing situation can find out exactly what his or her legal position is. (The legal position is, of course, never very good.)

Yates is very clear on the limitations of the law and on the reasons for these limitations. In a brief but to-the-point review of labor history, he shows the kind of progress unions have made in a century and a half. At first the legal system tried to destroy the unions, and this worked pretty well till large numbers of workers showed themselves ready to fight—and spill blood if needed—for the right to organize, whereupon the Government "generously" granted that right. As things calmed down, however, the Government and the courts began adding limits, exceptions, complications, and loopholes—designed to make the unions first tame, then weak, and ultimately (they hope) dead.

This leaves us where we are now—with organizing rights restricted, in very complicated and sneaky ways, to certain workers and limited activities. Union busters are cashing in on this situation, helping employers use the laws and trickery to break down organized labor. Yates concludes that unions need to fight for better labor laws, and ends his book with a chapter titled "Labor Law Reform". He appeals to organized labor to "get

aggressive... develop a progressive, anti-corporate, and popular program... work tirelessly to get its message across to the people and build coalitions with its natural allies" (Page 162).

His argument for law reform has two main thrusts: that unions need to campaign specifically for laws that make organizing easier, and that in order to win better labor laws unions will need to be part of coalitions with other organizations, lending support to causes such as minority rights and environmental protection. He does not deal with the problem that this kind of reform effort often ties the unions to a capitalist political agenda. But unlike many "progressives", he is *not* saying that unions should follow some political party. Instead, he is saying that labor should organize to demand specific measures that would benefit both unionized and non-unionized workers.

This book is well worth getting for its legal information, and its broader historical and social commentary is worthwhile reading as well.

"IBM"

READERS' SOAPBOX

On September 9th, the *News-Pilot* of San Pedro, California ran a picture of an early-1920s labor rally they attributed to the CPUSA. Art Almeida of San Pedro wrote a letter to the editor of the paper questioning the accuracy of the information accompanying the picture. The text of his letter is as follows:

Editor:

Your feature centennial photo on September 9th showing a large gathering at Fourth and Beacon Streets contains, in my opinion, some errors.

Although certainly there were Communists living in San Pedro during the early 1920s, based on years of research I doubt very sincerely that it was a Communist rally. If anything, it was a photo taken while the 1923 maritime strike was shaking up the town and the establishment.

The strikers were led by the radical, but not Communist, Industrial Workers of the World, commonly referred to as the Wobblies. They defied the Los Angeles Police Department by calling for mass demonstrations on public streets. After some time of turmoil the police allowed them to meet, but only on private property.

Thus was born Liberty Hill. But soon after, the chief of police reneged on his word and started arresting speakers as they mounted a wooden stage. Upton Sinclair—muckraker, writer, socialist, and famed personality—was arrested for quoting part of the Bill of Rights.

In his book *On the Battle Lines: 1919-1939*, author Art Shields gives a detailed account of the agitation that took place at this time.

As an eyewitness and participant, Shields in every incident credits the IWW as the tactical and aggressive leaders of the strike. At the strike's end he left San Pedro, and soon after joined the Communist Party of the United States.

During the struggle many were arrested, mostly Wobblies, who were tried under the Criminal Syndicalist Law, designed specifically by the downtown Los Angeles anti-labor forces and legislated in Sacramento in 1919. Those convicted were sentenced to either San Quentin or Folsom prison.

They declared themselves political prisoners, victims of a suppressive society.

Today Liberty Hill stands no longer. A leveled land with a grayish-colored building across the street from the Grinder on Harbor Boulevard offers little testimony to the viewer of one of San Pedro's most-historic events in labor history.

According to Shields, 5,000 workers were involved in the strike and the demonstrations that took place. Strikers who were arrested were taken to the then-existing City Hall and jail where the present Municipal Building is located. The basis for Sinclair's play "The Singing Jailbirds" was inspired by the defiance of the Wobblies, who sang their radical and revolutionary songs as a sign of solidarity for all to witness.

There were some short-lived benefits at the beginning, but in the end the maritime strike was lost. The black period for labor that followed lasted almost a decade.

But in 1933, when labor gained the right to organize under the National Industrial Recovery Act, the Wobblies resurfaced, and they were a militant factor during the 1934 maritime strike. The strike started in San Pedro on May 9th, 1934, and culminated in a stunning victory for maritime unions on July 5th (Bloody Thursday) in San Francisco.

The November issue of *Rock & Roll Confidential* (\$21 a year from R&RC, PO Box 1073, Maywood, New Jersey 07607) reports political censorship by California radio stations.

Willie Nelson, Joni Mitchell, Kris Kristofferson, and others performed at an October 20th benefit in Costa Mesa, California for class-war prisoner Leonard Peltier. Two days later a country station (KQLH) in San Bernardino announced the removal of the above performers' records from their playlists "as long as there is a public association with that type of concert".



*An Injury to One is an Injury to All!*

# DUMP THE BOSSES!

## AN IWW CARTOON CALENDAR FOR 1988

### INDUSTRIAL WORKERS OF THE WORLD

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







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**CALIFORNIA.** San Francisco Bay Area General Membership Branch, Box 40485, San Francisco, 94140. ★ Richard Ellington, Delegate, 6448 Irwin Court, Oakland 94609. 415-658-0293.

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

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

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

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

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

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

**MARYLAND:** Baltimore IWW Group meets every second Sunday at Citizen Action, 2500 North Charles Street, 3rd Floor, 2 pm. ★ Rafi Bey, Delegate, 235-3936. Correspondence: IWW, 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, 42 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.

**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.

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**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 54, Balfour, BC V0G 1C0. ★ Brian Burch, Delegate, 44B Spruce Street, Toronto, Ontario M5A 3H9. ★ J. B. McAndrew, Delegate, 7216 Mary Avenue, (604) 522-6867.

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

## Preamble of the Industrial Workers of the World

THE WORKING CLASS AND THE EMPLOYING CLASS HAVE NOTHING IN COMMON! THERE CAN BE NO PEACE SO LONG AS HUNGER AND WANT ARE FOUND AMONG MILLIONS OF WORKING PEOPLE AND THE FEW, WHO MAKE UP THE EMPLOYING CLASS, HAVE ALL THE GOOD THINGS OF LIFE.

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

WE FIND THAT THE CENTERING OF THE MANAGEMENT OF INDUSTRIES INTO FEWER AND FEWER HANDS MAKES THE TRADE UNIONS UNABLE TO COPE WITH THE EVER GROWING POWER OF THE EMPLOYING CLASS. THE TRADE UNIONS FOSTER A STATE OF AFFAIRS WHICH ALLOWS ONE SET OF WORKERS TO BE PITTED AGAINST ANOTHER SET OF WORKERS IN THE SAME INDUSTRY, THEREBY HELPING DEFEAT ONE ANOTHER IN WAGE WARS. MOREOVER, THE TRADE UNIONS AID THE EMPLOYING CLASS TO MISLEAD THE WORKERS INTO THE BELIEF THAT THE WORKING CLASS HAVE INTERESTS IN COMMON WITH THEIR EMPLOYERS.

THESE CONDITIONS CAN BE CHANGED AND THE INTEREST OF THE WORKING CLASS UPHELD ONLY BY AN ORGANIZATION FORMED IN SUCH A WAY THAT ALL ITS MEMBERS IN ANY ONE INDUSTRY, OR IN ALL INDUSTRIES IF NECESSARY, CEASE WORK WHENEVER A STRIKE OR LOCKOUT IS ON IN ANY DEPARTMENT THEREOF, THUS MAKING AN INJURY TO ONE AN INJURY TO ALL.

INSTEAD OF THE CONSERVATIVE MOTTO, "A FAIR DAY'S WAGE FOR FAIR DAY'S WORK," WE MUST INSCRIBE ON OUR BANNER THE REVOLUTIONARY WATCHWORD, "ABOLITION OF THE WAGE SYSTEM."

IT IS THE HISTORIC MISSION OF THE WORKING CLASS TO DO AWAY WITH CAPITALISM. THE ARMY OF PRODUCTION MUST BE ORGANIZED, NOT ONLY FOR THE EVERY-DAY STRUGGLE WITH CAPITALISTS, BUT ALSO TO CARRY ON PRODUCTION WHEN CAPITALISM SHALL HAVE BEEN OVERTHROWN. BY ORGANIZING INDUSTRIALLY WE ARE FORMING THE STRUCTURE OF THE NEW SOCIETY WITHIN THE SHELL OF THE OLD.

## IW Sustaining Fund

Thanks to Fellow Worker Maurice Anderson for his contribution to the IW Sustaining Fund: \$10 in Memory of Fred Thompson, \$10 in Memory of Kid Murphy, and \$10 to the IW General Fund.



Italian workers march through the streets of Rome on November 25th as part of a general strike against the Italian Government's deficit-reduction program.

### WHY WE WANT YOU TO JOIN THE IWW

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

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

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

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

# BOOKS FOR UNION PEOPLE

## IWW PUBLICATIONS

- One Big Union (about the IWW) . . . . . 1.25
- The General Strike (by Ralph Chaplin) . . . . . 2.50
- IWW Songs: The Little Red Songbook . . . . . 2.50
- Collective Bargaining Manual . . . . . 2.50
- Workers' Guide to Direct Action . . . . . .35
- 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 Unionism . . . . . .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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40% discount on prepaid bulk orders of five or more copies of any item on this list, unless otherwise indicated. 30% discount on similar orders that require invoicing. Postage will be added to all orders that are not prepaid. Please allow three weeks for delivery.

## AVAILABLE FROM IWW LOCALS

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

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

# JOIN THE UNION



### LABOR WORKSHOP AT TENNESSEE CONFERENCE

On the weekend after Thanksgiving, the Southeast Anarchist Network held its first regional conference in Knoxville, Tennessee. The workshop on labor issues was well attended by IWW members from Georgia and Louisiana as well as anarchists/syndicalists from North Carolina and Tennessee.

The meeting began with the Network's affirmation of boycott and strike support. Concerning the AFL-CIO and other "boss unions", a consensus was reached to support the rank and file in their struggles against the bosses and for union democracy.

The practical aspects of a labor campaign were talked over. In organizing efforts, all the workers should be approached on an individual basis. And the importance of solidarity was stressed at the workshop. Solidarity is important not only for those organizing, but also for those already in a union. Solidarity can often determine whether a strike is won or lost. Union workers need shop-floor solidarity so they can have a structure to fall back on and continue the struggle if they are sold out by union bureaucrats.

In keeping with the notion that our jobs are only a part of our lives, there was a lengthy and informative discussion on working-class neighborhoods. The group believed that the cultural and community development of where we live is as important as action at the workplace. A number of ways to improve life away from the job were examined.

Co-ops and buyouts were brought up. While more co-ops should be developed, those at the workshop felt there should be a unionization campaign within existing co-ops to maintain democracy. The main problem with buyouts seems to be the continued division of labor between blue-collar and white-collar workers. One proposed solution to this problem is the rotation of "brain" and "muscle" work to allow the workers to absorb the role of management.

The workshop concluded with individual accounts of direct action on the job and shop-floor solidarity, and how such actions can bring about "little victories". The ideal situation is a 100%-organized job; but since that is seldom the reality, the actions of a handful of militant workers can sometimes bring about better conditions and greater job safety. The workshop was beneficial to less-experienced workers, because the ideas of the more-experienced direct-actionists may have shown them how to gain a certain level of power in their workplaces.

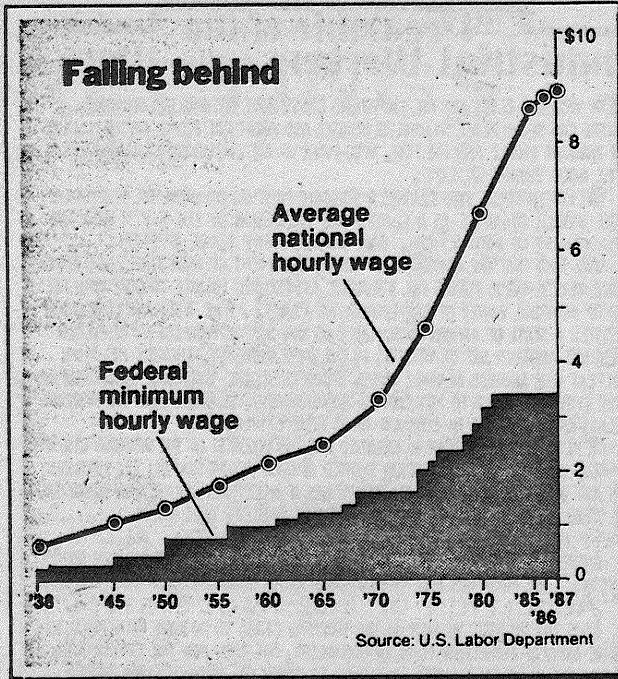
Since the workshop was an informal discussion, it turned out to be educational as well as instilling a sense of vigor and purpose in those participants who are active in the class struggle.

Ben E. Trant

### ONLY 25% OF JOBLESS GET BENEFITS

Almost 75% of the nation's jobless workers received no unemployment insurance in October, the worst percentage in more than 30 years, according to the Center for Budget and Policy Priorities. In October, when the official civilian unemployment rate was 6%, at least 5.1 million unemployed did not get benefits, while according to Labor Department figures, only 1.7 million did get them.

Part of the problem stems from federal restrictions imposed in 1981 on the extended unemployment-insurance program, which provides for 13 extra weeks of benefits to long-term jobless workers. No state now qualifies for such extended benefits. Furthermore, a program begun in the 1982-84 recession to use federal tax money to aid the unemployed is no longer in effect.



### CANADIAN WOBBS FIRED

The last week in November and the first in December, two new Wobbs were fired from their jobs without notice at the Women's Hospice of All Saints Anglican Church in Toronto, along with four other hospice workers. In all, five out of seven of the hospice's full-time workers and one relief worker were fired and banned from setting foot on church property, in what the Toronto IWW Group feels is an attempt to head off organizing efforts. At the request of the Toronto Wobbs, letters protesting the firing were sent from the General Administration to the ministers involved. Further developments will be reported as they arise.

As the number of IWW organizing campaigns and shops grows, we'll be encountering management opposition more often. At this point, solidarity and publicity are the only two pressures we have against the bosses, but as our strength grows we can bring more to bear.

### New IWW Shop

The General Administration would like to welcome the newest IWW shop—Coreris Cabinets, IU 420—into our ranks. The six-person custom-woodworking concern is in Emeryville, California, and negotiations with the boss are under way.

### Resignation Statement

With this issue of the *Industrial Worker*, I will be taking leave of the Editorial Collective. My reasons for doing so are many, but basically I feel that the time has come, after 10 years, for others to step in and take on the job of producing the IWW's public voice.

This resignation does not mean that I am severing my ties to the paper completely, and I hope to contribute an article from time to time. In the meantime I wish all those who continue to put out the *IW* the best of luck.

Mike Hargis

### GM AND FORD PACTS PROVIDE CUSTODIAL CARE

In the contract the United Auto Workers signed with Ford and General Motors this fall was a little-noticed clause pioneering a new type of benefit to cover the cost of non-medical custodial care that would enable employees or retirees whose health is severely impaired to live at home. The pilot program "will assist the severely impaired in performing what for them are difficult activities of daily living," the union said in its summary of the contract. This long-term-care benefit plan—believed to be the first employer-financed program of its kind—would cover people handicapped by Alzheimer's disease, for example, and those with a major injury who do not need constant care.

Although the new benefit will be limited to relatively-few workers at first, the fact that one union won something useful will be enough to encourage other workers to demand it.

### THE RICH GET RICHER...

In November a report requested by Senator George Mitchell of Maine shortly after the 1986 tax law was enacted was released by the Congressional Budget Office. The poorest 10% of Americans will pay 20% more of their earnings in 1988 than they did in 1977, and the richest 1% will pay 19.4% less. In an analysis of federal tax burdens, the non-partisan research agency estimated that the population as a whole paid 22.8% of income in federal taxes in 1977 and would pay 22.7% in 1988. The poorest 10% of taxpayers will see their income-tax liabilities decline, but that improvement would be offset by increases in excise taxes and Social Security deductions.

Although the tax overhaul of 1987 is expected to make the system somewhat more progressive, ability to pay will still be less of a factor than in 1977.

At a news conference announcing the report, Senator Mitchell said the shift in income has been even more striking than the changes in the tax burden. "Average real income has increased in this country, not because average working-class families are better off, but because the highest-income families have had such a tremendous increase in their incomes."

By the end of 1988, the Budget Office says, 80% of families will have seen their income decline since 1977 when adjusted for inflation. But the richest 10% will see an average increase of 16%, the top 5% will see an average increase of 23%, and the top 1% will see their income increase by 50%.

Supporters of President Reagan's strategy say these policies mean that a significantly larger share of the tax burden is now paid by upper-income Americans. But Senator Mitchell observes: "That argument conveniently overlooks the fact that the wealthy now claim a much-larger share of the national income. Their income has increased to such an extent that even though they received disproportionate tax cuts, they contribute more tax revenues."

### ... AND THE POOR GET POORER

Statistics don't mean what they used to. On one hand the papers are trumpeting the news that unemployment has fallen to 5.8%, down from 10% in the early years of the Reagan Administration, presumably as a result of the rise of manufactured-goods exports, apparently caused by the fall of the dollar. But if unemployment has really fallen, one would think that at least a little prosperity would be trickling down. But it isn't.

In November, the US Census Bureau reported that 33.1 million Americans—14% of the total—were poor in 1985. Of the 10.8 million Americans who lost their jobs, owing to plant dislocations and layoffs between January 1981 and January 1986, nearly a third were still unemployed at the end of the period—and more than 30% were working for 80% or less of their previous salaries. A tenth held part-time jobs only.

Despite easy talk about "lazy bums", 41.5% of all poor people over the age of 14 had a job in 1986. The "working poor" are the fastest-growing segment of the poverty population—8.9 million in 1986, compared with 6.5 million in 1979. The number of full-time year-round who are poor has increased from 1.36 million in 1976 to 2 million in 1986.

Children are the poorest age group, constituting 13.6% of all those in poverty. In 1986, 20.5% of all American children, and almost a quarter of those under six, lived in families with income below the poverty line: \$10,989 for a family of four in 1985.

### SIX STATES BOOST MINIMUM WAGE

Since 1981, the federal minimum wage has been frozen at \$3.35 an hour, which translates into an annual income of less than \$7,000—well below the 1986 poverty threshold of \$8,741 for a family of three. Recently, several states have been overriding the federal standard by adopting higher minimum wages of their own. In October Connecticut raised its minimum wage to \$3.75 an hour (to be raised to \$4.25 October 1st, 1988), becoming the sixth state this year to set a minimum wage that exceeds the Federal Government's. (Alaska and the District of Columbia already had higher minimum wages.) Two more states will raise their minimum wages above the federal level January 1st, and three others are being pushed to adopt such increases.

**Anarchist Songbook**  
 Submissions are being sought for the first edition of the *Q* Songbook due to be available in Spring 1988. Send your favorite protest, feminist, gay, anti-nuke, drinking, redbaiting or any other song with tune or sheet music to:

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