

# INDUSTRIAL WORKER

*Industrial Workers of the World*



Colorado Wobblies celebrate formation of Branch and opening of the new IWW Hall in Denver

## COLORADO WOBS ORGANIZE BRANCH

In December Colorado was hit with cold temperatures and deep snows; but the IWW prospers in rugged conditions. We formed a branch in December and opened an I.W.W. office at the Radical Information Project Bookstore at 2412 E. Colfax Avenue, Denver Colorado 80206, phone 303-388-1065. We will staff the bookstore from 9:00 a.m. to noon each Saturday for the present.

Denver-Boulder now has three IWW print shops: P&L Printing and Wapiti Press in Denver and Black Sheep Press in Boulder. We have been invited to speak on the I.W.W. at three universities.

In January we have been invited to speak at a public forum on Joe Hill at Colorado University. On January 31 we will present a public forum in Boulder on the Spanish industrial co-operatives. We will show the BBC video "The Mondragon Experiment" borrowed from the Vancouver Branch. Excellent video. Thanks, Vancouver.

From March 11-20, some of our Wobblies will be participants in a mass occupation of the Nevada Test Site. The sponsor is American Peace Test which staged the massive Mother's Day action last year. Part of the workingclass struggle is to end nuclear testing and thus the nightmare armsrace. A "Labor Taskforce Conference is on the schedule for March 13. For more details, contact American Peace Test, P.O. Box 26725, Las Vegas, Nevada 89126, or this Branch, and see you there!

IWW songster Mark Ross, from the Missoula Branch, has offered to come down and help us put on a May Day program on May 1.

On May 20 and 21 our branch will help the Colorado Labor Forum put on a Second Annual Labor Concert. Last year we raised \$8,000 for P-9 with a concert. This year will expand the concert to two nights, show labor videos, and we plan to hang the Kono-packi-Huck labor cartoon art show at an art gallery in Boulder—more of a festival this year. We plan to divide the proceeds with P-9 and with the C.O.B. Union in Bolivia.

We wish to thank all the Fellow Workers who have sent donations to help us keep our "Boycott Hormel" billboards up. A \$5.00 donation pays for one billboard for one day.

We have plenty of red, 100% cotton IWW T-shirts for sale for \$8.50, size M, L, and XL.

We also have the most definitive book ever written on the Ludlow Massacre, *Out of the Depths*, for \$9.00 plus \$1.00 postage.

Donations for billboards, T-shirts and book orders should be sent to: Gary Cox, P.O. Box 478, Johnstown, CO 80534. Make checks payable to Colorado Labor Forum. All proceeds go to P-9.

## PRISONER-WORKERS! JOIN THE IWW!

*The IWW's ongoing efforts to organize wage-earning inmates at the Southern Ohio Correctional Facility in Lucasville have provoked outbursts of rage and fear in the capitalist press, not only in Ohio but throughout the U.S. More importantly, the activity of our imprisoned fellow workers has inspired prisoner-workers elsewhere to think about the benefits of unionization, and some have started organizing campaigns of their own.*

*Many working men and women, outside the prison walls and within, are asking: What can a union do for prisoners? What can prisoner-workers do for themselves? The following leaflet issued by our fellow workers in SOCF answers these questions.*

The Prisoners Organization Project is the prison-organizing arm of the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW), centered in the Southern Ohio Correctional Facility (SOCF) in Lucasville, Ohio. Our aim is to organize and unite all prisoner-workers into One Big Union.

As un-united wage-slaves in prison we are treated like cattle, forced to work for the State for ten cents an hour, and to eat food unfit for swine. As an organized unit of the IWW we can demand better wages and better living and working conditions; we can demand to be treated like human beings.

Organizing our fellow workers in the IWW will give us the collective power to demand fair and equal treatment for all inmates. Active participation in a democratic union will also help us become productive members of the working class when we are released from prison.

United as one in the IWW, we would no longer have to fear the threat of prison

## GENERAL STRIKE HITS ISRAEL

A wave of unrest has been sweeping Israel and the Occupied Territories, as Palestinians demonstrate and battle the Israeli troops and police who break their demonstrations up. Several Palestinians were killed, and hundreds arrested, in weeks of demonstrations that continue as the IW goes to press. Notably active in the protests have been Israeli-Arabs who, although granted citizenship and the right to vote, are second-class citizens and have come to identify strongly with the Palestinians in the territories.

Arab towns and villages in northern Galilee and other parts of pre-1967 Israel were closed down, and shops shuttered, by general strikes, as were those in the West Bank, Gaza and East Jerusalem. "More importantly," observed the *New York Times*, "the vast army of Arab laborers who wait on tables, pick vegetables, haul garbage, lay brick and perform most of Israel's menial work stayed home. More than 100,000 workers from the occupied territories go into Israel each day, in addition to the Arabs living there, filling a vital role in the Israeli economy."

Economic targets have been hit not just by strikes, however. Israeli-owned banks in the Arab sections were particular targets in the rioting. At one bank, computers were smashed, records destroyed, and checks and other papers ripped and scattered about.

So many Palestinians have been arrested that the army was forced to open a new prison camp in the hills outside Hebron, as the military prisons were already full to the bursting point. The army ordered the closing of several hundred schools and universities, banned the largest selling Arab newspaper

from circulating, and blanketed Palestinian areas with military patrols. So severe was the crackdown that even the U.S. government joined in international criticism. Fifty Israeli teenagers about to be drafted into the army told the Defense Ministry that they will refuse to serve in the West Bank and Gaza, while some 120 reservists announced their refusal to aid in putting down the unrest, the first wave of conscientious objection in Israel since the invasion of Lebanon in 1982.

Yet amidst such hopeful signs that at least some Israelis are coming to recognize the importance of peace with their Palestinian neighbors, others are calling for an intensified crackdown. "There will be no mercy shown," a military official told the *Jerusalem Post*. Right-wing members of the Israeli Parliament, angered that Palestinians holding Israeli citizenship joined the general strike, called for the reimposition of military law. And Defense Minister Rabin ominously announced that "the longer the disturbances continue, the greater will be their suffering."

This latest wave of unrest has apparently, like its predecessors, focussed on rock throwing and street battles in which the (infinitely) better armed Israeli troops are virtually invincible. Yet the general strike (even though it appears to have lasted for only a few days) had, according to news reports, much greater effect in shaking the regime. The Israeli economy is dependent upon the labor of Palestinians, and it is here that their power lies (particularly if they can succeed in organizing across the sectarian lines that presently divide the population in this troubled region to mount a joint struggle to build a truly free society).

—J.B.

administrators to punish individual inmates for protesting our intolerable living and working conditions. No longer would the arbitrary and capricious acts of prison officials go unchallenged. The administration can't put all 2400 of us in solitary!

Think about it, Brothers and Sisters! Who operates the multi-million-dollar Ohio Prison Industries? We do! Without our labor the OPI—as well as the prison offices, kitchen laundry and maintenance—would have to be run by guards. Isn't our labor worth more than the \$12 and \$40 a month we receive now? At present, those of us who are forced to live off our State pay cannot even afford to supplement the garbage served to us as food. We cannot afford to buy personal hygiene articles, stamps, cigarettes or coffee because of the constantly rising prices at the prison commissary.

The IWW is currently fighting to have inmate wage-earners recognized as *public employees*. If we are recognized as such, we shall be legally allowed to unionize. We will receive at least minimum wage for the sweat and labor the administration has been getting out of us for peanuts.

With union protection, we will have something to say about our on-the-job health and safety conditions. Prisoner-workers will no longer be maimed and disfigured by the mshraked and gerryrigged machines that we are now forced to work on in the OPI. Prisoner-workers will no longer have to die in their cells because of inadequate or non-existent medical treatment.

Unionization would also put an end to the prison system of favoritism and bootlicking. As organized prisoner-workers we will demand respect and get it. The administration will have no choice but to listen to our grievances *and to act on them*—otherwise the prison industries will shut down and the prison bosses will have to hire more guards to scab on us.

To those of our fellow workers who may be unfamiliar with the IWW, we point out that it was founded in 1905, and was the first union to aim at the organization of all working people into One Big Union. The most democratic of all unions, the IWW believes that working men and women should enjoy the wealth they produce instead

(continued on page 8)

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## Editorial



## A REAL UNION for ALL WORKERS

Our office dictionary defines *labor union* as "an association of workers to promote and protect the welfare, interests and rights of its members." How many unions live up to this definition?

Intentionally or otherwise, most so-called "unions" spend most of their time and their members' money not promoting and protecting, but weakening and injuring the welfare, interests and rights of their members. It's sad but true: Most "unions" aren't really unions at all. And how could they be, when their very structure forces them to divide workers rather than unite them? Moreover, the underlying philosophy of most unions supports rather than challenges the squalid system of wage-slavery, the deadliest enemy of all workers everywhere.

The IWW is different. And two of the things that make it different provide the key to many other differences.

First, the IWW is the *only* labor union that is open to *all* workers: male and female, skilled and unskilled, employed and unemployed, imprisoned and "free," regardless of race, nationality, religion, age or sexual preference. Our goal of One Big Union would make classwide workers' solidarity not only a beautiful slogan but a global reality.

Second, the IWW is the *only* union (in North America, at least) that calls for the abolition of the wage system. The IWW not only promotes and protects its members in the everyday struggle for higher wages and better conditions, but also fights against the bosses' social system and aims to do away with this rotten system altogether. Instead of the business unions' conservative motto, "A fair day's pay for a fair day's work," we say: *Abolish wage-slavery!*

These two basic differences are the source of many more. For example:

- The IWW doesn't cross other unions' picketlines. Can any other labor organization in North America make this claim?
- The IWW doesn't make sweetheart contracts or other crooked deals with bosses or crime-syndicate hoodlums.
- The IWW doesn't use its members' money to promote environmental devastation, racism, nuclear proliferation, military dictatorship, religious superstition or the Boy Scouts.
- The IWW doesn't lick the boots (or line the pockets) of politicians, arbitrators or other parasites.
- The IWW doesn't extort outlandish initiation fees or sky-high dues from its members, and doesn't pay its officers exorbitant salaries. (Initiation is five dollars; monthly dues are five dollars for the employed and two for the unemployed. Our General Secretary-Treasurer makes six dollars an hour.)
- The IWW doesn't hold its conventions in plush resorts, far from its membership.
- The IWW doesn't have a cumbersome bureaucracy to persecute and expel dissidents or otherwise impede its members' democratic participation in union affairs. The General Secretary-Treasurer and seven-person General Executive Board are elected for terms of one year. Union policy and other organizational matters are decided by referendum vote of the entire membership. This union is strictly rank-and-file.

If you belong to the working class, the IWW is the union for you. If you're already a member of another labor organization, don't let that stop you: Lots of us are "two-card" Wobblies.

Together we can do many things that none of us can do separately. Join the IWW today!



One of several billboards maintained by Colorado Wobblies.



## LETTERS



### Greetings from Iran...

Dear Friends in the IWW,

I am an immigrant Iranian worker, and just recently came to the U.S. I was in Europe before that, and in England a fellow Iranian told me that you were still around and gave me your address. We had heard about the heroic IWW in Iran, but the general impression was that you guys were not any more—that you vanished along with the radical days of the American political scene. Well, to here that you're still working is more than good news.

Presently I am unemployed, but I would very much like to read your publications. If you can start me a subscription and bill me later, it will be of great help. I can also send the news you print back home, to let more people in Iran know about you and your history.

In any case, please accept my comradely greetings, which are also the greetings of the Iranian workers.

In solidarity,

[name withheld]  
Pittsburgh, PA

### Organizing Prisoners...

Dear Fellow Workers,

Prisons are the worst examples of nearly everything I can think of that applies to civilization. I cannot see true Justice without involving prisoners. The men and women on both sides of the bars are being victimized in the worst possible ways. And things just get worse. The only way to break that insidious set of attitudes is to do what the IWW is best at: the Restoration of Human Dignity. And if the IWW is the one organization to acknowledge this, it may be the best hope of getting something done about it.

But where do we start? Simple: *With the inmates.* A human needs dignity. No human can advance self without it. Prisoners can't manufacture it. It's one of the reasons why many of them are in prison in the first place: no self-esteem, no place to go, nothing to be and no damned hope. Is it any wonder that many of them have such little regard for human life? If a person is called garbage long enough, treated as garbage and taught nothing but how to be garbage, that person for all intents makes himself or herself become garbage. So now we have these garbage-dumps all over the country: Marion, Lucasville, Joliet, Folsom and numerous worse local prisons (and believe me, the local ones are the worst).

Now, what can be done to start the first step toward Humanization? Here's one way: ORGANIZE! That means folks who have dignity, honor and respect teaching those who don't have these things to get them, under the banner of a symbol whose very words mean these things: the Industrial Workers of the World. Let our members get in there and say, "Here's how, Brother," and "Here's how, Sister."

As for the problems of surveillance and official pressure, hell, that's here now. It has always been the case and must never be used as an excuse for stopping the advance of the Union.

Every Wob I know is an organizer, an agitator and a seeker of Justice and Peace. We're all activists. And if the prisoners want us there, we have to be there.

Yours for the OBU.

Jim Barclay  
Worcester, MA

### Tree-Spiking and the Press...

Earth First!, the radical ecology activists' movement, never hesitates to give credit to the IWW for developing the tradition on which EF! bases its direct-action tactics in defense of Mother Earth. Tree-spiking is a favorite EF! means of discouraging rape of public lands and protecting remaining old-growth and wilderness areas. Foreign objects in logs cause breakdowns at the sawmill, increasing costs, and discouraging mills from buying timber from areas protected by spikers.

Recently Earth First! has been attacked for tree-spiking by both the bourgeois press and other ecology groups. The criticism results from publicity surrounding an accident in a northern California mill in which a sawblade shattered when it hit a spike and a worker was seriously injured by the flying debris. EF!'s response has been basically to deny that the spike could have been one of theirs, and they make a pretty good case. However, I was raised here in logging country, and it seems to me the questions shouldn't be "Is it OK to spike trees?" or "Who put the spike in?" but rather, "Why wasn't the worker protected against accidents?"

All kinds of things get into tree trunks—barbed wire from an old fence can get overgrown and deeply embedded, even nails from a sign or a camper's clothesline. Cedar trees will even pick up large rocks and carry them in a limb crotch as

they grow, eventually burying them deep in a trunk. That's why sawblades are supposed to be changed before they get brittle enough to shatter, and why shielding is supposed to be in place to protect the saw-operator when something is hit, whether the object was placed there by nature or saboteur.

I've heard some of my friends and neighbors who run small home sawmills for extra income bitterly complain about how OSHA officials come around and harass them about safety requirements and let the big mills get off free. But none of the articles I've seen in the papers have questioned the safety standards at the mill in question. Let's hope our friends in Earth First! haven't fallen into the trap of letting the press define its politics as putting ecology ahead of workers, when the real issue here is worker safety, not the ethics or tactics of direct action.

Barb Hansen  
Tacoma, Washington

### Have You Read the New GENERAL DEFENSE BULLETIN?

A few copies of the IWW's new *General Defense Committee Bulletin* are still available. The issue contains an abundance of important news on struggles of class-war prisoners, including a useful summary of the IWW organizing campaign among prisoner-workers at the penitentiary in Lucasville, Ohio. Write for a copy and for more information on joining the GDC (the oldest labor defense organization in North America, founded in 1919) to Jackie Panish, GDC Secretary, P.O. Box 3304, Church Street Station, New York, N.Y. 10008-3304. Donations to help pay for printing and postage would be appreciated.

In a recent letter to the *Industrial Worker* the GDC Secretary notes that "the response from the Wobblies and subscribers to the *IW* to the new *GDC Bulletin* has been very encouraging. One/two letters a day are still coming in, some enclosing donations, requesting copies of the *Bulletin* and information on the GDC.

"We are also getting a shipment of donated 'slightly damaged' books from the Charles H. Kerr Publishing Company in Chicago; these will be distributed to prisoners as part of our ongoing Prisoner Education Project.

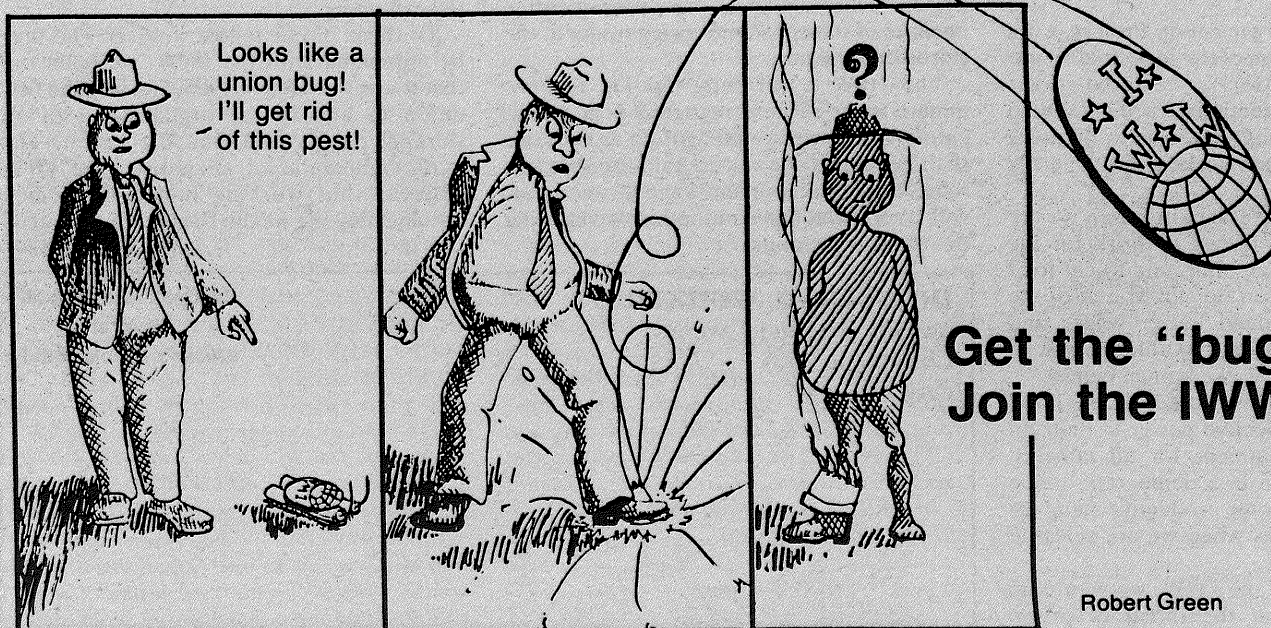
"We would also like to thank all those who donated money to the John Perotti Defense Fund. Fellow Worker Perotti is currently recovering from a fire in his cell, which resulted in burns on his hands and feet.

"Hope this is a better year for all! — In Solidarity, Jackie Panish."

### EXHIBIT AT MOMA

The Museum of Modern Art in New York City will be holding an interesting exhibit from January 27 through April 19 of this year. The exhibition, titled "Committed To Print," features social and politically oriented graphic work from around the country. Represented in the exhibit will be 16 art collectives and 108 individual artists, including *Industrial Worker* staff member Carlos Cortez.

This is the first such exhibition of socially-oriented art held in this country in a major museum in many years. Plans are being made for it to go on tour after the New York showing. The Museum of Modern Art is at 11 West 53rd Street in New York City.



Robert Green



## INDUSTRIAL WORKER

ONE UNION ONE LABEL ONE ENEMY

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**American Economists Meet:**

# BLACK MONDAY BLUES

American economists recently held their annual meeting in Chicago. While most of the papers presented at the meetings concerned themselves with very narrow and uninteresting economic topics, the one that dealt with real world problems and thus stood out the most (and which had nearly 1000 economists and reporters in attendance) was sponsored by URPE (Union for Radical Political Economics) and dealt with the crash of 1987 or Black Monday. On the podium were such noted economists as John Kenneth Galbraith and Paul Sweezy. Their analysis of Black Monday is as follows:

The Dow Jones industrial average plunged 22.6 percent on Monday, October 20, 1987. President Reagan and other conservatives will have us believe that this was simply profit taking, and that the economy is sound. (They would have to be utter fools if they believed such drivel.) Investors concerned about the fragility of the U.S. economy and the future of the global economy, dumped their stocks that fateful Monday. Many stock market pundits placed the blame for the sell-off on technical factors such as computer trading. The gloom and doom of investors was based on the fear of an impending recession. Interest rates were rising in the United States. An expected mild recession, while cause for concern, was not the issue. Rather, it was the sense that given the fundamental weakness of the U.S. economy, a slight downturn could mushroom into a severe economic crisis.

American society is deeply in hock. The debt build-up is out-racing general economic growth. The debt to GNP ratio has risen to levels not seen since the era of the Great Depression. It was 1.3 in 1981. By 1986, it

had reached 1.7 and is now approaching 2.0.

Consumers, corporations, and the federal government are falling further into debt. Since 1980, consumer debt, including consumer credit and home mortgages, has virtually doubled. In 1980, it was approximately 1.3 trillion dollars. The estimate for 1987 is almost 2.5 trillion dollars.

For some consumers, debt is the vehicle to a Yuppie lifestyle. But for other people, it is their only means for trying to maintain a standard of living ravaged by Reaganomics.

Many workers lost their jobs in the war against inflation. In 1982 and 1983, the unemployment rate reached heights not experienced since the 1930s. Today, at 6 percent, the government's published rate, unemployment remains high by historical standards. And many of those lucky enough to have retained their jobs have seen their real wages decline.

Corporate debt has also risen dramatically with more than 60 cents of every dollar of internally generated funds going to service the debt. This is much higher than normal during periods of economic expansion. Reagan's belief in the perfection of free markets has created a climate conducive to corporate takeover binges and the proliferation of junk bonds and other wasteful debt.

The deficit spending of the federal government is, by now, well known. Massive tax cuts for the wealthy and increased military spending, important elements of Reagan's conservative agenda, have caused the federal budget deficit to soar from 79 billion dollars in 1981 to over 200 billion dollars per year from 1983 to 1986. The national debt has grown from 1 trillion dollars in 1981 to 3.13 trillion at the end of 1986.

Debt, in and of itself, is not necessarily bad for the economy. For example, through deficit spending, the federal government could rebuild the nation's crumbling infrastructure. The Reagan administration has chosen not to do so.

Moreover, it is clear that the large federal budget deficits combined with the ballooning of consumer debt has maintained the demand for goods and services. The 60-month-long expansion is intimately connected with the debt explosion.

From 1981 to 1986, bank failures rose from 10 to 138. This year approximately 200 are expected to close their doors. Such figures have not been seen since the Great Depression.

The debt burden is compounded by the low and falling level of domestic savings. The savings rate slid to 2.5 percent in the third quarter of this year, well below its historical 7 percent. As savings have dropped, foreign money has increasingly financed the debt. Yet that source of financing can be withdrawn very rapidly.

If this were to happen, either interest rates would rise very rapidly to induce Americans to hold the debt or the Federal Reserve would have to purchase the debt, leading to a sharp increase in the money supply. Both of these options are likely to turn the economy downwards. Rising interest rates would hurt interest sensitive sectors of the economy, such as housing construction. A massive expansion of the money supply would lead to a rapid fall in the value of the U.S. dollar and an eventual rise of interest rates to stem the loss of foreign capital.

Wall Street is calling for a decline in the federal budget deficit. Yet reducing spending

or increasing taxes could push the economy into a recession or worse, given the underlying financial fragility.

The economic contraction may occur anyway, regardless of what the federal government does. The Crash of 1987 wiped out huge amounts of wealth. Those who have seen their portfolios shrink will become more cautious investors.

Expansionary fiscal policy would be called for. Yet any further increase in the federal budget deficit would send shivers up the spine of the financial community. Other countries could expand their demand for U.S. goods and continue to finance the U.S. debt. However, without a reversal of the rising debt to income ratios, this will only delay the inevitable downturn.

The Crash of 1987 was not simply profit taking but a reflection of the economy's real condition.

**\$4.25 CALIFORNIA WAGE FLOOR**

December 20, California raised the state minimum wage to \$4.25 an hour, the highest in the U.S. The 27 percent increase will take effect July 1st. The new level, which directly affects an estimated 600,000 workers, amounts to an annual income of \$4,840 for someone working a 40-hour week, compared to slightly less than \$7,000 under the old minimum. The rulings by the state's Industrial Welfare Commission also sets a lower minimum wage of \$3.50 an hour for workers, such as waitresses and waiters, who earn at least \$60 a month in tips. Labor leaders vowed to fight the two-tier minimum wage system.



## TORONTO WOBS FIGHT FIRING

As reported in last month's *IW*, Mary Ellen Kappler and Laura Rowe, two members of The Industrial Workers of the World, were among the four full time and one relief worker fired by All Saints Women's Hostel during the last week of November and the first week of December. Since then one relief worker and one additional full time staff member were suspended for a month and told they would only be allowed back if they agreed to support management actions and all relief workers were told they were no longer on the relief list but were welcome to reapply.

On Tuesday, December 1st, four full-time workers—Mary Ellen Kappler, Pat Inness, Debbie Gough and Gina Hayden—and Ruby Wood, a relief worker, made a presentation to The Board of Directors of All Saints Anglican Church and Community Centre, which runs the women's hostel, outlining some staff concerns about the abuse of process that occurred with Laura Rowe's firing; the need for better training of staff so that they could help the women in shelter become self-reliant and not dependent on hostel staff; some irregularities in the hiring of a friend of Dan Robillard, their immediate supervisor, to a new position when the staff had been told that the number of full time staff would have to be reduced due to budgetary restraints and some management decisions that hurt the lives of the women living in the hostel and the dignity of the staff. The next day, the five women were called to meet with Reverend Brad Lennon, the executive director of the Centre, where the full time staff members were formally fired and all five were told they were banned from the property. Ruby Wood was later

informed that her job was gone but she could reapply for the relief list.

Two other women, who had informed the Board that they were going to make a separate report, were suspended and told that they could return to work in one month if they would sign a statement agreeing to support management. These two women, full-time staff member Cyndy Power and relief worker Doris Power, are placed in very difficult situations.

Mary Ellen Kappler, Laura Rowe, Doris Power, Ruby Wood, and Pat Inniss are all



mothers who have children and are the primary income source for their family. Reverend Brad Lennon has shown a true Christian heart by firing or suspending these women just before Christmas.

Discussions about unionizing and wanting to have a voice in the running of a women's shelter should not result in disciplinary measures, let alone firings and suspensions. It seems that the Anglican Church wants to treat its employees the same way J.P. Stevens does.

People who wish to express solidarity with the women are asked to send letters to The Reverend Brad Lennon, All Saints Anglican Church, 315 Dundas St. East, Toronto, Ontario, M5A 2A2 and Ms. Mary Allen, Chair of the Board, All Saints Church and Community Centre, 315 Dundas St. East, Toronto, Ontario, M5A 2A2, asking for information about the recent firings and suspensions, as well as the barring from the property of All Saints of former staff, and for information about how the injustices are being rectified. Copies should be sent to Rev. Terrance Findlay, Anglican diocese of Toronto, 135 Adelaide St. East, Toronto, Ontario M5C 1L8.

Please send copies of all correspondence sent and received to Toronto I.W.W., 44B Spruce St., Toronto, Ontario M5A 3H9. Donations, payable to Toronto Industrial Workers of the World, would help to cover the cost of fighting the dismissals or, if requested, would be used to help pay some of the living expenses of the fired women.

For more information contact Brian Burch or Mary Ellen Kappler at 416-967-5822 or write to Toronto I.W.W., 44B Spruce St., Toronto, Ontario M5A 3H9.

**IWW ELECTION RESULTS**

The following officers were elected to one year terms of office in a referendum election held in December 1987:

Paul Poulos is now the General Secretary-Treasurer of the IWW. Filling the positions for the union's seven member executive Board are: Nancy Arthur Collins (MN), Ben Trant (LA), Sandra Nichol (BC), Allan Anger (WA), Fred Lee (IL), Tim Wong (WI) and Penny Pixler (IL), with RMR Kroopkin (CA) serving as the first alternate.

All the Union officers are unpaid with the exception of the General Secretary-Treasurer whose responsibility it is to administer the day-to-day operations of the Union's headquarters in Chicago.

The Union's members defeated a referendum proposing that the size of the Executive Board be reduced to five with staggered terms of office. Also defeated was a referendum to relocate the Union's headquarters in Bellevue, Washington. Both were soundly defeated.

**WORKING HARDER, BUT EARNING LESS**

U.S. workers continued to bear the brunt of the economic "recovery," with real wages falling 1.3 percent in the 12-month period ending in November. Average weekly earnings rose 3.2 percent over the year, but that modest gain was wiped out by a 4.6 percent increase in the cost of living. Since November, 1978, workers' buying power has been cut by a sharp 10.4 percent, measured in constant 1977 dollars. And all forecasts indicate that workers will do even worse in the coming year.

Much more of this recovery, and we won't have to worry about losing our jobs—won't hardly be worth going in to work anyway.



# LABOR IN NORTH AMERICA

## LIBRARIANS STRIKE IN OPPOSITION TO CENSORSHIP BILL

On Thursday, December 10th, more than 500 Toronto Public Libraries librarians walked off the job to attend a study session on a proposed Canadian government law that would ban almost all forms of sexual descriptions. This proposed law, Bill C-54, is being labeled as an "anti-pornography" law but would prohibit any work involving people under 18 that "incites, promotes, encourages or advocates" sexual activity (*Romeo and Juliet*, for example?).

Over the past ten years current laws have been used to 1) attack a feminist art display at Pages bookstore in Toronto; 2) harass the Body Politic—a well-respected gay magazine; 3) censor and limit the presentation of the anti-pornography film, *This is Not a Love Story*, and 4) attack an anti-pornography organization in Winnipeg. Strengthening such laws would result in still greater repression, especially here in Canada where the children's sex education book, *Show Me*, Kurt Vonnegut's *Slaughterhouse Five*, Margaret Lawrence's *The Diviners* and even dictionaries have been attacked by various courts and school boards.

The librarians' walk-out is the first non-economic strike in Toronto in ten years.  
—Toronto Wob

## UNIONS BARRED ACCESS TO DATA BANKS

The January, 1988 issue of *CWA NEWS* reports that Dun & Bradstreet, the world's largest data base supplier and financial and credit-rating service, has cut unions off from access to much of the information in its computers. Though Dun & Bradstreet has long had restrictions on labor union access to D&B credit ratings, it has recently extended the restriction to a file of financial records on 700,000 corporations. (The date is barred to some 240 customers, including unions, who had been accessing D&B data bases, for a fee, through Dialog Information Services, a subsidiary of the giant Lockheed Corporation and the largest U.S. provider of data bases.) Unions had used the information for collective bargaining and organizing purposes.

The CWA links this cut-off to the increasing privatization of information, noting that a great deal of information that had previously been made freely available by the government is now available only through private companies at hefty prices. "The deepening reliance on information and technology," they note, "gives private information vendors stronger control over information and how it is disseminated... Vital information [is not only being] restricted on the basis of ability to pay, but also on the basis of political ideology."

## UNIONS BETTER OFF IN PUBLIC SECTOR

Nowhere are U.S. unions doing well. Public sector unions, however, are in the '80s holding on better than private sector unions. According to Bureau of Labor Statistics, the average pay increase in contracts negotiated by unions representing state, county and city workers in 1986 was 5.7 percent. But unionized employees in the private sector won only 3.2 percent pay hikes in 1986. In 1986, only 14 percent of all private non-agricultural wage and salaried workers were organized, a level close to that in the Great Depression before the passage of the National Labor Relations Act. But 33 percent of state and local employees, allowed in most states to organize only since the mid-60s, paid dues in 1986.

"The truth is that public employers are not as free to manipulate their workers as private employers, because they have to answer to the public and to elections," said Rex Hardesty, director of information for the AFL-CIO.

## THE WORKING POOR

Nationwide in 1986, according to the Census Bureau, two million adults were poor although they worked year-round at full-time jobs. That is 52 percent more than in 1975 and 22 percent more than in 1980. Working full time on the federal minimum wage, \$3.35 an hour since 1981, brings in only \$3,968 a year, which is only 80% of the income needed to lift a family of three above the poverty line. The vast

majority of the working poor are white, two-thirds are male and more than half live outside metropolitan areas. Some 6.9 million additional poor people worked either part time or full time part of the year.

## GRAPE BOYCOTT GAINS SUPPORT

In late December, environmental, consumer and public health groups joined the United Farm Workers in a Washington press conference urging support for the union's boycott of table grapes sprayed with pesticides. Cesar Chavez, president of the UFW, renewed the union's call for banning the pesticides Captan, Dinoseb, Myethyl Bromide, Parathion and Phosdrin as a danger to winery workers, residents of agricultural communities and consumers who eat the grapes. One of the pesticides, Dinoseb, has already been banned from all crops except peas, chickpeas and lentils. It has been found to cause birth defects to pregnant women and sterility in males. Ralph Nader, the consumer groups' spokesperson, urged the 30 largest grocery chains to voluntarily support the boycott. The grape boycott, which began in 1984, is the third called by the union since it was formed in the 60s, but the first with health and safety goals.

## CAN THEY REALLY VISIT NOW?

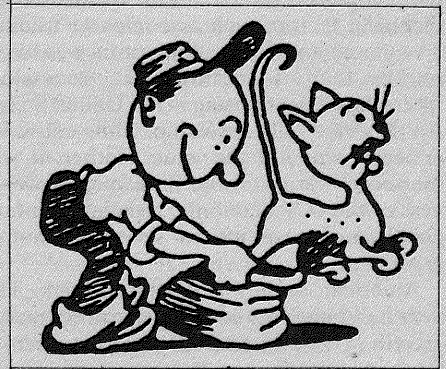
In late December, President Reagan signed a revision of the McCarran-Walter Act which will prevent immigration officials from barring foreigners because of their political beliefs for at least the next 14 months. The 1952 McCarran-Walters Act has been used repeatedly to prevent alien subversives from setting foot on Freedomland's sacred soil; among the more recent excludées are Hortensia Allende, the widow of Chilean president Salvador Allende Gossens; Bernadette Devlin McAlisky, the Irish political activist; Dario Fo, an Italian playwright, and the Mexican writer, Carlos Fuentes.

## WATSONVILLE WORKERS SAY NO TO UNION SCABBING

Watsonville, California cannery workers, recently back on the job following a grueling 18-month strike, have refused to process four million pounds of broccoli that the struck United Foods plant in nearby Salinas could not handle. Each shift held in-plant assemblies, voting 195 to 5 to refuse to handle the scab goods.

These fellow workers' refusal to engage in union scabbing is an example to the rest of the labor movement, and is particularly striking given that work is very scarce in the canneries these days, with most working only sporadically and hundreds more on indefinite lay-off. By taking the scab work, these hard-pressed workers could have gained a month or more of work.

The company was unable to get its broccoli processed, and had to sell it raw on the open market.



## AND CARRY A UNION CARD...

You've read before, in this paper, of the AFL-CIO's bold new scheme to win members by peddling cheap credit cards. We've asked, more than once, what such efforts have to do with unionism.

Well, last August the Communications Workers of America filed unfair labor practices with the NLRB charging that the Bank of New York (which issues the AFL credit cards, pocketing a tidy profit in the process) had fired two CWA members for union organizing efforts. In October, the CWA filed another complaint, after the bank suspended three workers in retaliation for a job action. The CWA launched an organizing drive at the bank's Newark, Delaware credit card operation last April. The CWA sought a neutrality agreement from the bank, but despite having issued more than 1 million credit cards to AFL members, the bank refused.

The bank has responded to the organizing drive by firing and harassing union supporters, cutting the work week (from 40 to 37.5 hours) and two pay hikes. But even after the pay hikes, none of the workers have an income sufficiently high to qualify for the credit cards they issue. The CWA has urged its members to protest to the bank. Thus far, the AFL-CIO has done nothing to support these fellow workers—though it is continuing to promote its credit card.

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## NORTHWEST LONGSHOREMEN STRIKE

January 14 and 15, 3800 members of the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union struck for 38 hours all 12 Washington and Oregon ports in protest of a forest products company's threat to use non-union labor to load its ships. The work stoppage was aimed at I.T.T. Rayonier, a subsidiary of I.T.T. Corporation, which had wood sales of \$800 million in 1987. Rayonier has been exploring the possibility of hiring up to 2000 non-union stevedores through Reliance Marine Inc., which is 30 percent owned by Rayonier.

The shutdown of the ports was a rare demonstration of the continued power of the dock workers union at a time when many other unions are in retreat. Union longshoremen earn a minimum of \$19.43 an hour at the ports, which have had only one major strike in the last 37 years. No nonunion crews have worked on the docks in more than 50 years.

"We're going to do everything we can to contain this problem," said James Herman, president of the ILWU. "If just one port is allowed non-ILWU workers, then it could spread like a disease." Herman said the reason there had been waterfront stability on the west coast for so long was that all the ports had the same union scale. "Our power is our unity up and down the coast."



This past year one unwise individual was sent up the river for merely threatening to contaminate shelf products in the supermarkets. It is not known what this individual's motivation was, but coming after a rash of poisoned products by unknown sources, it was probably this loser's manner of having his own little ego trip. One can only assume that the person who only threatens to do harm to others is every bit as unbalanced as the one who actually does harm to others. Outside of acknowledging that individuals like those who would knowingly contaminate food or medical products are unbalanced, one can expend little sympathy on them when they receive their punishment.

However, this past month we had the pleasure of witnessing the results of corporate callousness on a grand scale. Some company buys a second hand storage tank and moves it to another city where it collapsed, sending a gigantic oil slick down two rivers and polluting the fresh water supply of millions of people. This has been one time when the results of corporate indifference had received wide publicity on the news media. But the tragic reality is that this one notorious incident has long been overshadowed by so many examples of corporate indifference that received no publicity at all and their only testimony is the increasing deterioration of our atmosphere, land and waterways. In this planet of ours there are metropolises where large amounts of the human inhabitants die every year from air pollution.

One unbalanced individual who on his own, intentionally contaminates medicine or food products is justifiably made to pay for his misdeed but what about those who, in the interests of making even greater profits, threaten the continued existence of all living things on this Earth? Where are the courts or tribunals that deal with them? I believe the reader can surmise the answer to that question as well as I can.

Those who murder on a grand scale are immune from any such tribunals because, besides owning the Earth, they own all courts, tribunals or whatever agencies exist that are supposed to mete justice to miscreants. However let us not throw up our hands in dismay and say no such tribunal exists, for it does exist and if we want to know where, we have only to look in our mirrors.

Two generations ago one individual's name became impressed on our collective memory because of the enormities associated with his name. Those who are repulsed by his deeds refer to him as a mad man and those who admire him said he had a brilliant mind. The sad truth is that Adolf Hitler was both. To be able to have conned as many people as he did in order to attain the level of infamy that he did required a perverse but acute intelligence, but the guilt does not rest on his shoulders alone. One person alone cannot commit a crime, large or small, one person always needs collaboration and acquiescence.

So with these corporate polluters of our Earth, air, water and lives. They too, are not only brilliant but well educated. Fool yourselves not, they know more about labor history and labor's best interests than the publishers and readers of this paper. They went to school to carefully study every argument against themselves. They are well schooled in the history of strikes and labor struggles. The successful general is the one who knows what the general on the other side is thinking as the successful boxer knows his opponent's next move.

The successful exploiter always makes sure the exploitee doesn't think far enough ahead. Why else is it that history books mention Caesar and never Spartacus; or Teddy Roosevelt and never Bill Haywood? Is it because they never heard of them?

Yes, these corporate polluters are better versed in the delicate ecological balance that keeps our Earth together than you or I, but unlike you and I to whom this Earth is our home and protection, to them the Earth is but one more money-making commodity. They are indeed criminals but their criminality is greatly overshadowed by the criminality on the part of the great numbers of us two-legged creatures who by our acquiescence, give license to dispoil our Earth and our lives.

There is a higher court than the courts these corporate despoilers own and control. When we two-legged miscreants decide once and for all that this Earth of ours is for all living creatures and not the plaything of a few corporate emperors, that shall be the highest tribunal of all.

... but rather mourn the apathetic throng,  
the cowed and the meek;  
who see this World in all its wrong  
and dare not speak!

—C.C. Redcloud

MY COMPANY WANTED TO IMPLEMENT A DRUG TESTING PROGRAM....



BUT THE WORKERS AND UNION ARE AGAINST IT....



SOME NONSENSE ABOUT THE CONSTITUTION, CIVIL RIGHTS, AND COLLECTIVE BARGAINING!



I WONDER IF THERE'S A TEST TO DETECT DEMOCRATIC DEPENDENCIES!!



LEWIS HUCK  
HUCK KIMBROCK



# WORLD LABOR NEWS

## POLES ORGANIZE DRAFT RESISTANCE

In December about 20 members of Poland Freedom and Peace group held a month long hunger strike in Warsaw to protest the detention of 100 youths for refusing military service this fall. The action by the antiwar and ecology group is part of a wider move to develop contacts with people interested in draft resistance in Eastern Europe. Supporters of the Warsaw action said similar protests were also organized in December in the Ukrainian city of Lvov, where members of a Russian antiwar group were detained when they demonstrated for institutionalized alternative service and the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan. At present, Poland does permit some young men to work off their armitime in community service, in hospitals or homes for the aged. But such service is usually permitted only in cases of physical disability that renders a person unfit for military duty.

## SPAIN OUSTS U.S. JET FIGHTERS

Unyielding pressure by the Spanish working class has forced Spain's Prime Minister Gonzalez to honor his 1986 promise to reduce the U.S. military presence in Spain in return for a referendum endorsing Spain's membership in NATO. Three squadrons of F-16 fighters, 72 in all, are to be withdrawn from the Torrejon air base outside Madrid, U.S. officials announced January 14. Defense Department officials said it was doubtful that another NATO country, such as Italy or Turkey would accept basing the planes in their country, and that the planes would probably have to be returned to the U.S. Unfortunately the U.S. government will probably wring a new defense treaty out of the Spainards, allowing the U.S. continued access to the naval port of Rota, near the Strait of Gibraltar, to two small air bases in southern Spain and nine communications installations. One hopes workers in other countries will redouble their efforts to force out U.S. military bases.

## ARAB WORKERS IN THE ISRAELI ECONOMY

Those on top of an economy prefer to notice those on the bottom as little as possible. So it came as a surprise to many Israelis the extent to which Israel's economy was upset when the Arabs stopped working. Although they account for less than 10 percent of the Israeli labor force, Arabs dominate certain fields, such as construction, agriculture, and sanitation. In these areas, their absence has been palpable during the recent unrest, as a combination of riots, strikes and curfews that kept whole communities from leaving their houses for days at a time even to get food kept Arabs from their jobs.

With 37 percent of the country's construction workers coming in from the colonized territories of Gaza and the West Bank, the building business is the most vulnerable. In Tel Aviv, Arabs account for all the city street cleaners, many of the cooks and dishwashers and about one-third of the factory workers, particularly in the food processing and textile plants.

Even Israel's Jaffa oranges are picked and packed by Palestinians, and citrus growers demanded that the government replace the Palestinians with Portuguese and Turkish scabs. Other proposed scab sources are students, soldiers or unemployed Lebanese who live in Israel's newest acquisition in south Lebanon.

## LABOR REPRESSION IN SOUTH AFRICA

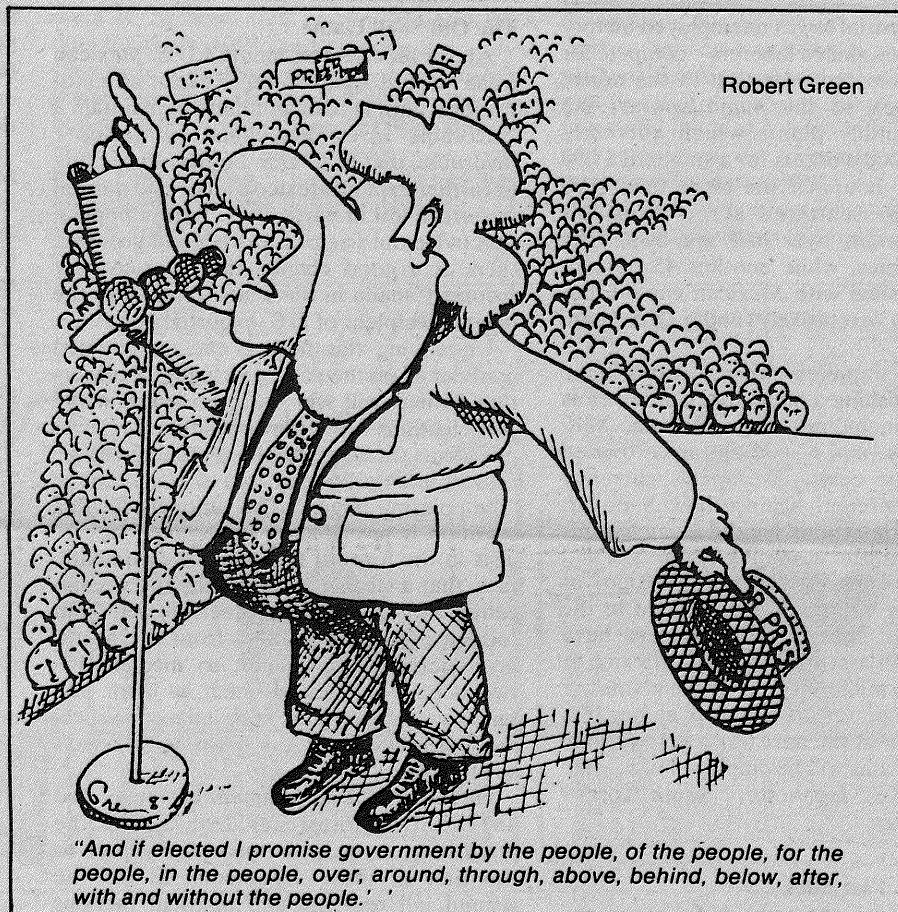
Moses Mayekiso, general secretary of South Africa's National Union of Metalworkers (NUMSA-COSATU), went on trial for sedition and treason October 19th. The judge quickly ruled out the death penalty, customary in such cases, but has a history of imposing long prison sentences against opponents of the apartheid regime. Several observers from COSTAU and the International Metalworkers Federation attended the trial's opening session to show their solidarity with the defendants (Moses is being tried with four co-defendants—his brother Mzwanele, Obed Bapela, Richard Mzameni Mdakane and Paul Ndlove Tshabalala). The trial was adjourned November 20th, and is scheduled to resume this month. (Meanwhile, Febru-

ary 19th marks the first anniversary of Commercial, Catering and Allied Workers Union leader Amon Msane, detained without trial. Labor activists have been working to pressure 3M, Msane's employer, to press for his release.) Letters demanding that charges be dropped and that the government abandon its campaign of harassment and repression against South Africa's independent labor movement should be sent to Ambassador J.H.A. Beukes, Embassy of South Africa, 3051 Massachusetts Avenue, Washington D.C. 20008.

## ORGANIZER GUNNED DOWN IN MANILA

Mario Villar is the latest fatality in the war the Philippine military is waging against labor activists. On November 5, 1987, Villar was gunned down on the streets of Manila, only a few blocks away from President Aquino's Malacanang Palace. Villar was an organizer for PISTON, the progressive bus and taxi drivers' union, which led the general strike just before the military's coup attempt in August. It is believed that the assassins were after Mario's brother Leto, a prominent Kilusang Mayo Uno (May First Movement) leader.

last year. One hundred and fifty or more labor, environmental, political and human rights activists were among those arrested—most under the terms of the Internal Security Act which allows detention without trial for an indefinite period on grounds of national security. Among those arrested are Dass Arokia, chair of the Worksite Committee at Ford and secretary of the Transport Equipment and Allied Industry Workers Union, and councilmember of Sahabat Alam Malaysia—an internationally known environmental organization that has played a major role in promoting international workers solidarity in the region. Also arrested were V. David, Secretary-General of the Malaysian Trades Union Congress; Julian Jeyaseelan of the National Union of Commercial Workers; Dr. Chandra Muzaffar, President of the human rights organization Aliran; Harrison Ngau, a Sahabat Alam Malaysia official active in organizing opposition to massive corporate logging on native lands; and Hew Yoon Tat, of the Perak Anti-Radioactive Campaign, which is mounting a concerted campaign against nuclear dumping. Fellow Workers are urged to write, demanding freedom for Dass and the other



## NEW THREATS GIVEN ANTI-APARTHEID JOURNALS

In January the South African government threatened to pre-publication censor or close five of the country's most forthright anti-apartheid journals. The publications include a daily newspaper, the *Sowetan*; three weeklies, the *New Nation*, the *Weekly Mail and South*, and a monthly journal with a strong left-wing bent, *Work in Progress*. In his warning to the *Weekly Mail*, the home affairs minister complained that the newspaper had promoted the image of the African National Congress with articles that described Govan Mbeki, a former chairperson of the Congress recently released from prison, as a widely accepted leader among black people. The minister accused the *New Nation* of fomenting "hatred or hostility" for government security forces by, among other things, referring to actions taken by the forces as "raids." In addition, he said that the newspaper had fostered "the breaking down of public order" by supporting a clemency campaign on behalf of 32 men condemned to death by South African courts for their involvement in politically motivated killings.

The latest issue of the *Weekly Mail* went further than any other publication in its coverage of the arrest of three white soldiers in Cape Town, saying that the men had uncovered information about a "dirty tricks" plan to discredit the country's struggling anti-conscription movement.

## AN INJURY TO ONE IS AN INJURY TO ALL...

**MALAYSIA:** The Malaysian government launched a nationwide crackdown against opponents on October 27th of

detainees. Address letters to Dr. Mahatir Mohamed, Prime Minister, The Federation of Malaysia, Prime Minister's Department, Jalan Dato Onn, Kuala Lumpur 50480, Malaysia. Sympathy cards to the families of detainees can be sent care of 114 Jalan SS4/10, 47301 Petaling Jaya, Selangor, Malaysia.

## FREE BUSES IN LIECHTENSTEIN

As of January 1, 1988, the Principality of Liechtenstein became the first country in Europe to offer free mass transit in a bid to discourage private vehicles being used for commuting and to combat pollution. For a one-year trial period, buses to and from the capital and the 10 other villages of Liechtenstein can be used free of charge.



**LONDON**—Two things bedevil my mind at the beginning of each New Year. The first is the obvious one of when will the remains of the cold turkey finally finish and the other, but more important, is to find out if I have been granted a Life Peerage in the Queen's New Year's Honours List. The grey remains of the unfortunate turkey still continue to cry vengeance among the greens and the potatoes but Queen Elizabeth II and Ma Thatcher of their most glorious majesties have not deemed to honour me with the ermine and a seat in the House of Lords.

But as Ron would say with an arthritic wave of the right hand to the vanishing dollar, "Another day, another day." For Ma Thatcher, though she has degouted the British trade union movement, destroyed north Britain's industrial base, created the greatest mass unemployment Britain has ever known, crippled Britain's national Health Service so that adults and babies are claimed to have died because of lack of medical help, demonstrated that Britain's lower middle class teachers of working class schools are a joke in relation to industrial action and even forced the highly paid medical consultants to stand on the stones outside their hospitals in protest at the closing of ward after ward, still rides high on the hog in the popularity polls. One may weep but the answer is very simple. As every right wing political boss from Caesar to Capone has done, she has given her customers what they wanted.

In every society in the world and in every stage of human history, that customer is the vast technological controlling, bureaucratic administration media-controlled middle class. To the cries of Pete and Charlie within the Nag's head pub of "Calm down, Arthur, calm down," let us face the obvious that the western world has at this moment in time no alternative to offer the dispirited mass working class. The answers are there but after years of incompetent self-elected leaderships and betrayals, the right rules us by default.

If you think that I cry havoc into an empty beer glass while lionesses whelp among the tombs, then let us accept the figures that 2,400 working class school teachers' have been kicked out of the teachers union for refusing to obey the official strike action. Since 1979 Britain's largest union, the TGWU, has lost three million members. Even the rightwing GMB and ATU union boss felt called upon to openly attack Kinnock, Britain's Labour Party leader, for his "lethargy" and "basking in the satisfacion of a new image," and when the rightwing protests, comrades, then somewhere there is failure on the agenda. This day it has finally reached its surrealist level when the patients in the dermatology war at Wolverhampton's New Cross hospital, with the full support of the top ranking dermatologist consultant, tied themselves to their hospital beds to prevent the management from closing their hospital ward.

That two surgeons had a physical fight over the unconscious body of a patient lying on the operating table, and the need for an anaesthetist, two nurses and a junior doctor to separate them, may be pure Marx Brothers and never Doctor Kildare, yet it demonstrates the tragic joke of Ma Thatcher and the stories in the destruction of Britain's Health Service. In Dagenham, Britain's Motown, the Ford workers are preparing for their pay strike over a 'final' 6.5 percent pay raise while Britain's postal workers lick their wounds for the second time they have been sold down that river by their top union brass.

The Postal workers sought a three-hour cut in their working week and in the regimental required 'secret ballot' they voted overwhelmingly for strike action in support of a cut. They pulled an odd wildcat strike here and there to liven up the union top brass. The latter, 'after due negotiation,' informed the workers that management had agreed to their demands and would cut their working week, not by three hours, but by one-and-a-half hours and, furthermore, it would be paid for out of the postal workers' own pockets by 'speed and motion' and staff reductions. As the result of this second massive betrayal, most postal workers feel that they would have been better off if they had never put in for a cut in the hours of their working week. Meanwhile the union bosses slip off back to their warm offices and breathe a well worn sigh of relief that their danger has passed for one more year. But if you have tears to shed, prepare to shed them for Britain's Father Christmas, for in Edinburgh, the cultural homing ground of the American tourist, the poor old sod was only paid \$4.0634 an hour for bringing joy and comfort to the children in the big stores and two pints of Guinness cost \$4.70000 ad infinitum according to the publican. So....

Arthur Moyses



# WHOSE MEXICO IS IT?

The many and varied afflictions of the Mexican workers, *campesinos*, and the rural unemployed are much worse than can be accurately assessed in statistical terms. Statistics alone could hardly explain the relative stoicism with which they have reacted to the recent economic crisis and the intensified austerity measures imposed in its aftermath. Although workers do not hesitate to denounce the government of Miguel de la Madrid Hurtado as "thieves" who have "fed us a mountain of stories and programs," there is little doubt that de la Madrid's personally-chosen successor for the presidency, Carlos Salinas de Gortari, will win the election held this July.

Salinas, a 39-year-old Harvard-educated economist, is the most prominent figure among what has been characterized as an emerging generation of technocrats whose place in the PRI (Institutional Revolutionary Party) trough has increased substantially under de la Madrid's patronage. As Budget and Planning Minister, Salinas is considered the architect of de la Madrid's economic policies. With his anti-union credentials and his proven ability to impose and maintain harsh austerity measures, he is highly regarded by both the IMF and the Reagan administration.

## External Debt and the Plummeting Peso

Less than two weeks after Mexico, the United States Treasury and Morgan Guaranty Trust announced plans for a joint effort aimed at reducing Mexico's \$107 billion foreign debt, U.S. and Mexican trade negotiators embarked on a course which may expand trade activity between business interests in the two countries. With its "large labor force" and abundant natural resources, said one report, Mexico can help the U.S. in the area of "global competitiveness," while U.S. capital and technology "would help Mexico realize its development ambitions."

The economic measures adopted as a result of the November 18 plunge in the market value of the peso (a drop of 32.8 percent) were announced in mid-December. Maximum tariff duties were reduced almost 50 percent to protect importers, while price controls were lifted on public-sector commodities and services (gas and sugar prices increased over 80 percent in one day). A 22.2 percent controlled devaluation of the peso was enacted December 14 to reduce the wide gap between the controlled and free market rates. Additional measures included severe restrictions on public spending, reduction of subsidies and an anticipated speed-up in privatization of government-controlled industries as a means by which to reduce the public-sector deficit. Workers who were expecting a 46 percent retroactive pay hike were stunned when Fidel Velazquez (Don Fidel, the 87-year-old leader of the PRI-affiliated *Confederacion de Trabajadores de Mexico*) announced that he had agreed to the government's offer of a non-retroactive increase of 15 percent in mid-December to be followed by a 20 percent hike effective January 1.

## Institutionalized Austerity

For the Mexican worker these measures are far from unprecedented. In the five years since the 1982 economic crisis, 1000 workers *per day* have lost their jobs, wages have fallen an average of 60 percent, and the peso's buying power has dropped (prior to the November 18 plunge) by 45 percent. In 1982 the dollar could buy 100 pesos; as of mid-January the dollar was equal to 2250 pesos. Though some experts were predicting a leveling-off of the inflation spiral in August when it had reached a 125 percent rate, at the end of November inflation had risen to 135 percent, and to 144 percent by mid-December.

The price of the tortilla, the staple food item for the majority of the population, rose by 416 percent between 1982 and 1986, beans increased by over 750 percent, and bread an astounding 1800 percent. As a result of the 1982 crisis, income disparity in Mexico has greatly worsened since the last official figures were taken in the late 1970s when 10 percent of the population controlled almost 40 percent of the country's capital, and the poorest 30 percent of the population shared only 6 percent of all total income. There was an estimated working population of 27 million as of 1987, compared to an unemployment rate of 18 percent (over 6 million persons are jobless; an additional 12 million, however, are estimated to be earning a sub-adequate wage). One million young Mexicans will be attempting to enter the workforce for the first time this year.



In the industrial towns unemployed factory workers—even skilled laborers—compete for jobs as waiters and orderlies. In the north, workers flock to the *maquiladoras*, the border assembly plants which currently employ 300,000 workers for a standard \$1.50 to \$3.00 per hour. Of the more than 1000 *maquiladoras* scattered across Mexico's northern border, over half are owned by U.S. companies, while another 45 percent were established with Mexican capital, but work almost exclusively under U.S. contracts.

Recently, Japanese corporations have begun establishing a niche for themselves as companies including Sanyo, Honda, Matsushita, Sony, and Mitsubishi are attracted by low labor costs. As Japan's currency increases in strength against the U.S. dollar, Japanese corporations see the *maquiladoras* (together with the attending tax breaks and tariff exemptions provided by Mexico) as the only way to remain competitive in the U.S. market. Thus far the Japanese have established 19 assembly plants in Mexico at a cost of \$16 million, and 20 more plants are expected to be set up this year alone. It is expected that in the next ten years over one million Mexicans will be employed in *maquiladoras* by U.S., Japanese or South Korean manufacturers.

## High Stakes, Fast Bucks

In recent months some U.S. banks and corporations have been experimenting with profit-making deals which do not require the exploitation of cheap labor directly, but depend to a great extent on Mexico's struggle to keep up with interest payments on its \$107 billion foreign debt. "Debt-equity swapping" is a means by which a company interested in investing in Mexico can purchase an outstanding Mexican loan for a fraction of its face value (this value determined by the market's faith in the likelihood that it will ever be paid) and presenting the loan, in dollars, to the debtor bank at its face value. The bank then pays the corporation in dollars for an amount less than the face value of the loan, but more than the loan was purchased for in the secondary market. Thus, the foreign corporation has subsidized its Mexican investment, the Mexican bank has erased its loan, and exchanged pesos for dollars in the process.

U.S. and foreign profiteers are increasingly using the debt-swapping mechanism to subsidize their pre-existing enterprises, pay off their own Mexican creditors or, as is more common, buy up Mexican properties (such as factories, hotels, forest land, even pension-fund companies) at bargain prices. The Chrysler Corporation, one of the biggest foreign companies in Mexico, recently used pesos it earned in debt-swapping to pay off a local debt owed by its subsidiary, with enough left over to expand a Mexican plant which makes Chrysler LeBarons. The deal increased Chrysler's exports by 40 percent over its 1985 exports which totaled \$1 billion. The \$100 million investment cost Chrysler just \$65 million, providing them with \$35 million in profit even before an investment had been made. "Sweet are the uses of adversity," quoted *Fortune* magazine's August 1987 issue as it celebrated the new Latin American gold-rush. Other successful debt-

swappers include Bankers Trust, CitiBank, Amex, Club Med and the United States Treasury.

With the Morgan Guaranty Trust acting as Mexico's agent, foreign creditors are being offered the chance to tender their loans at a loss (the face value of the loans determined by the market) in exchange for 20-year guaranteed U.S. Treasury Bonds, called zero-coupon bonds because instead of paying periodic interest they are being sold to Mexico at a fraction of their redemption value. Mexico is purchasing the bonds out of its cash reserve of about \$15 billion.

So far, however, few creditors have jumped on the bandwagon, while many critics are pointing out flaws in the scheme. If several creditors do opt for the Treasury-backed bonds, it is certain to have a favorable effect on the secondary market value of remaining loans; that is, the lower Mexico's foreign debt becomes, the greater the likelihood that Mexico can pay off its creditors, a factor that will increase the value of the loans remaining in the hands of foreign creditors. Even more significant is the feeling among international bankers that even a partnership of this scope can do little more than ease the burden—just minimally—of Mexico's yearly interest payments on the remaining debt.

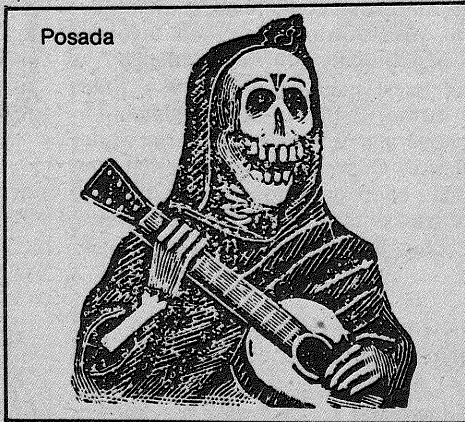
## The Old Shell Game

Above all else, last month's U.S.-Mexican trade accord signifies the Reagan administration's faith in Salinas' ability to maintain a "favorable" investment climate in Mexico—favorable, that is, to U.S. businesses seeking to further exploit Mexico's labor and natural resources (oil in particular). With a population twice the size of Canada's and growing, there is a good chance that Mexico may surpass Canada in the years to come as the biggest recipient of U.S. exported goods.

Underlying this faith is the unmitigated confidence on the part of virtually all players that Salinas will win the presidency in the July elections with little opposition. Mexican presidents traditionally choose their own successors in a tradition known as *el dedazo*, or "the pointing finger." The rationale for this tradition is provided by government apologists in the form of two general arguments: first, that a strong, centralized party organization is necessary to protect Mexico from foreign invaders (invaders from the north, presumably), and second, to mediate between opposing groups such as labor and business, or between regional or political factions that might do harm to Mexico's sovereignty.

Of course, the government has never had any need to foster any fear among the population in order to provide support to the first of these arguments; as for the second, all regional and political factions have been tamed through assimilation. Traditionally, peasants and workers alike have perceived a need for a strong political apparatus to mediate conflicts between them and the economic bosses. In turn, the laborer and the *campesino* have traditionally been counted on as the unwavering pillar of the PRI's electoral strength. Police and paramilitary harassment of the members of independent labor and peasant organizations is widespread, though overshadowed by the severity of such brutalization as practiced by Mexico's neighbors to the south. In a July 1986 protest over gubernatorial fraud in Chihuahua, military forces were unleashed to disperse crowds who had filled the streets. Occasional demonstrations of the PRI's ability to call out the military, together with a near first-hand awareness of the excesses of repression through Mexico's cultural and geographical proximity to its ravaged Guatemalan neighbors might explain, up to a point, the lack of independent voices calling for democratization.

Whose Mexico is it, anyway? Even before de la Madrid's formal nomination of Salinas as the PRI presidential candidate, leaders



from within the ranks of the PRI began expressing among themselves concerns that the present governing hierarchy has become politically bankrupt and excessively authoritarian. Dudding themselves *Corriente Demografica* (The Demographic Current), they openly challenged PRI authoritarianism, calling for greater pluralism within the party to be achieved by a broader and more confrontational electoral process, going so far as to propose the nomination of six presidential candidates. The leader of The Democratic Current, Cuauhtemoc Cardenas Solozano, left the PRI in October to run as the presidential candidate of two separate leftist parties, the *Socialist Workers' Party* and the *Authentic Party of the Mexican Revolution*. Other candidates include Heberto Castillo, candidate of the *Mexican Socialist Party*, and Rosario Ibarra, a human rights activist and candidate of the Trotskyist *Revolutionary Worker's Party*.

The urban workers' and *campesinos'* response to these quarrels among the politicians is not yet clear, but this breakdown of the PRI's machinery of state surely indicates something more than a momentary crisis of bureaucracy. In any case, Mexico's producing class has revolutionary traditions of its own (Emilio Zapato and Ricardo Flores Magon are vastly better known south of the Rio Grande than Eugene Debs and Vincent St. John are known in the U.S.A.) and it will be interesting, to say the least, to see what our fellow workers there will decide to do in the coming months.

For the moment, however, it appears that Mexico belongs to Salinas and to those whose interests will be served by the continuance of the poverty and expropriation which have characterized the austerity measures of the past six years. It has become a cliché to speak of the "two Mexicos"; like a crafty street-peddler, the Mexico of Carlos Salinas has much to offer anyone looking for bargains. Following the Salinas nomination, the Mexico City weekly *Proceso* ran an article headlined "The Farce Has Ended," and commented that Salinas represents to Mexicans "the disqualification of criticism... the imposition of an official version of the truth as only valid opinion..."

—Brian Myers



## A Unionist's Dog

Four employees were having their lunch break at a factory. Only one of them belonged to a union. The other three, being classified as "skilled," were considered part of management and did not belong to a union. They were discussing how smart their dogs were. The first, a maintenance engineer, had a dog named T-Square. He laid some graph paper on the floor and put a pencil in T-Square's mouth and told him to draw a square, a circle and a triangle on the paper which T-Square did with no difficulty.

The next man, the accountant, whose dog was named Slide Rule, got a dozen cookies and told his dog to divide them into piles of three. Slide did it without hesitation. The third man, the chemist, whose dog was called Precision, got a quart of milk and a ten-ounce glass and told Precision to pour seven ounces of milk into the ten-ounce glass which Precision did with precision.

All three agreed that their dogs were equally smart. They then demanded of the union man if his dog was the equal of their dogs. The union man called over his dog, whose name was Straight Time, and said, "Show these guys what you can do!" Straight Time went over and ate the cookies, drank the milk, relieved himself on the graph paper, humped the other three dogs, maintained that he sprained his back while doing so, filed a grievance for hazardous working conditions, applied for Workman's Compensation and went home on sick leave.

The moral is: Don't be fooled by fancy job classifications—make sure you have a good union behind you.

—Ivan Grozni



NONE GENUINE WITHOUT THIS SIGNATURE  
*Industrial Workers of the World*

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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.

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

## Preamble of the Industrial Workers of the World

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

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

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

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

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

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



Mr. Block by Ernest Riebe

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- 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.
- Abolish the Wage System (pamphlet); 50¢, available from Vancouver IWW, P.O. Box 65635, Station F, Vancouver, B.C., Canada V5N 5K5
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# A LETTER FROM BIG BILL HAYWOOD

In the course of a labor oral history project at Chicago's Roosevelt University in the early 1970s, it was learned that Elizabeth Service, wife of one of the interviewees, had been the secretary of IWW co-founder William D. "Big Bill" Haywood at the time of the U.S. government's illegal raids on IWW halls throughout the country in 1917.

Ms. Service generously gave the interviewer a letter Fellow Worker Haywood had written her during his stay at Cook County Jail. This previously unknown letter is of particular interest for its account of Haywood's early years and the expression of his views on war. Although it was briefly excerpted in Peter Carlson's biography, *Roughneck: The Life and Times of Big Bill Haywood*, this letter is published here in its entirety for the first time. We think readers of the *Industrial Worker* will enjoy this important communication from one of our Union's outstanding pioneers.

—Fred Lee

Cook County Jail  
Chicago, IL  
September 5, 1917

Dear Elizabeth,

Sometime in the future you can in some way see that the information I am going to give you now is conveyed to Judge Kenesaw Mountain Landis. I am not presenting these facts with any idea of obtaining clemency, or for any other reason except that at some time I want him to know the ancestry of at least one of the men he condemned to prison for twenty years, which to a man of my age practically means the rest of my natural life.

I may interject, my forebears have all been soldiers. My mother's father was a Scotchman, Henry George Legg, an officer in the English army. He was in the African

War of 1806, married an Irish girl, my mother—born on the Cape of Good Hope, November 30, 1850. The mother of Henry George Legg was a Lady Stuart, who it seems never forgave her son for having married below his rank. He never returned home, having succumbed in Africa, his death superinduced by a bullet wound. My grandmother married again and during the gold excitement of California made their way to America, crossing the plains in prairie schooners, landed in Salt Lake City, Utah, where sickness overtook the family and there they remained.

My father was a pioneer, went West when only a boy, was a Pony Express rider, fought Indians while carrying mail, precious burdens of commerce and love. In Salt Lake City he met my mother. They were married in January, 1866, if my memory serves me correct. On Christmas of the same year my sister, Elizabeth, was born. February 1869 came myself, many times since termed the stormy petrel, among the first if not the only first gentle male child born in Salt Lake City. Three years later my father died of pneumonia, aggravated by a bullet wound. I remember as young as I was of digging arms length down into the mound of his grave at Camp Floyd, now the site of the great mining camp, Mercur Utah.

As a tribute to my father and the Pony Express riders, when they at Denver, Colorado were considering a monument typifying the men of mountain and plain, I then in prison at Boise, Idaho, wrote a suggestion describing the noble, daring work of the Pony Express rider. Gilbert, the cartoonist, drew a picture of the monument I described, and Damon Runyon wrote a poem. The three, my story, the picture and the poem were run together in the *Denver Times*.

Whether my idea was in any way responsible or not, there stands at the foot of the Capital in Denver a beautiful monument of a Pony Express rider.

Some time I may tell of other monuments in Denver, for instance the giant smelter smokestack that stands as one of the highest structures in the world, a monument to the fight for eight hours.

But to the story of my paternal forefathers. My grandfather died at Fairfield, Iowa, a veteran of the Mexican and Civil Wars. My uncle Thomas Jefferson Haywood was buried just a few years ago with all military honors at Des Moines, Iowa at the same place I think my uncle Richard Messick.

My great grandfather was in the War of the Revolution, is buried at Mount Vernon near Washington, D.C.

A more distant relative, Samuel Haywood, was one-time owner of a large part of where Boston, Massachusetts stands. Bishop Dudley and Captain Wells tried many times to have Grandmother Haywood look after her interest in this property.

It is said by members of the Haywood family, who have given more attention than I to this genealogical [data], that Thomas Heywood, Jr., South Carolina signer of the Declaration of Independence was an ancestor of mine.

Though the name is spelled differently it is possible that all were of the same breed.

A casual survey of this letter will show that war robbed me of a father. I never knew the joy of being danced on a grandfather's knee. With me, if it existed in my fathers, the love or the thought of righteousness in political wars stopped. Nor was it sentiment alone that tempered my determination, though I have ever nurtured in my heart a great love for my father.

But it is the knowledge I have gained of the meaning of war, of the economic determination of ruthless slaughter, that has caused me to hate war as an institution.

That is why I hope that this war will forever crush Prussian junkerism, compel amalgamation of nations and the establishment of a world wide industrial democracy.

You, little woman, better than most anyone, understand these my personal, innermost feelings.

That is why I am asking you to keep this letter and when themad, bitter world throws off some of its hatred, when peoples of different tongues, colors and creeds can look each other in the face with a deep sense of understanding, realize that the earth is for the use and happiness of all human beings alike.

Then even a man like Landis will know the meaning of the words of one great martyr, "The world is my country, man is my brother, to do good is my creed."

So I am taking this second hand method of writing the Judge a letter first as to who I am, second as to what I stand for, which is as a matter of truth what we all stand for.

You can take excerpts from this, covering these points and send them to him some time in the future.

It may cause him to realize that courts are not infallible and that the world's greatest law is humanity. No part of this letter can benefit any of us. The Judge has done his "bit" but he is on the bench for life. It may cause him to think should another such case come before him.

Trusting that you will not feel that I am imposing too much upon you, there is lots of time for this. May I always remain your friend.

William D. Haywood

## BOOKS

**STILL UNDER THE THUMB**, Brian Burch, Samisdat (Box 129, Richmond, Vermont 05476), \$2.00.

**DAILY DIFFERENCES**, Poems and Photographs, Edwals, Gloor, Goldenstern, Harris, Pixler, Smith, White and Wisenberg, One Potato Press (Feminist Writers Guild, P.O. Box 25477, Chicago, Illinois 60625), \$4.00.

Two more modest but excellent little volumes of poetry have become available to those who like their muse with a day-to-day economic slice of life thrown in. The fact that the number of poets who are able to make a living writing poetry can be counted on the fingers of one hand with enough fingers left over may well account for poetry being the least prostituted of the arts. That more than explains why poets have always enjoyed a soft spot in the hearts of those associated with the Wobbly Press.

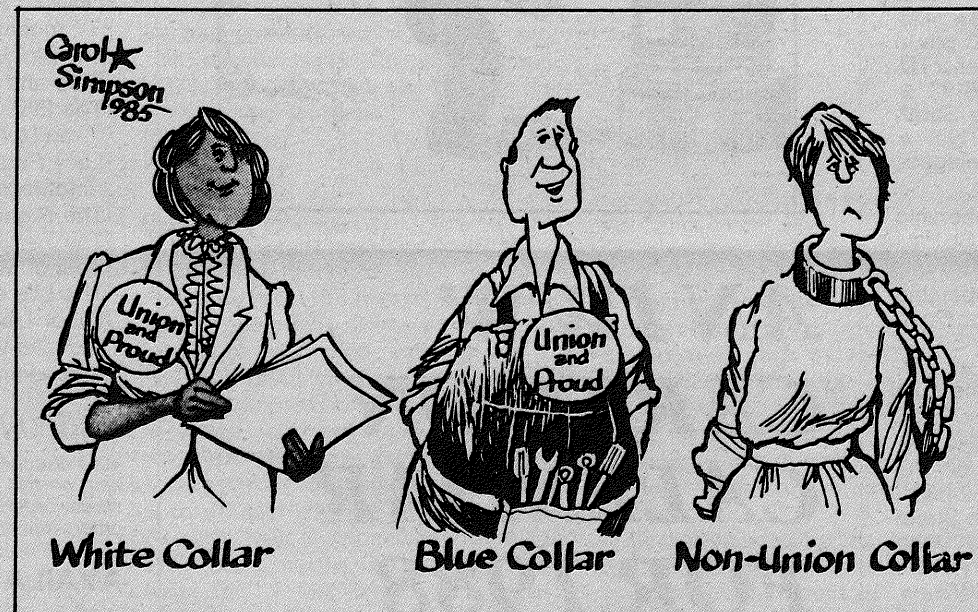
The fact that Fellow Workers are involved in both these publications makes this reviewer particularly proud and further affirms his faith in poetry as another weapon in the struggle for complete emancipation.

*Still Under The Thumb* is yet another collection of poems by our Canadian Fellow Worker Brian Burch who is apparently a prolific writer whom it is trusted, his first three books are only but a tip of the iceberg. Again he captures the day-to-day realities of life under a system that is in much need of improvement. The title poem tells of his running afoul of the authorities during his years as an anti-war activist and now that he has a young son, he still feels the pressure.

To his father he writes, "Working class to you wasn't a leftist catch phrase... / You worked / And still don't accept a system / that keeps you from the rewards / your labor has earned."

*Daily Differences* is the fruit of the Poetry Workshop of the Chicago Chapter of the Feminist Writers Guild, a non-profit organization open to any woman who takes her writing seriously. With excellent photographs by Jane Smith, this attractive volume of 50 pages presents an array of observations from the female perspective. Because the art of poetry has the capacity of transcending the varieties of experience, the poems here while avowedly feminist, should be just as enriching to those of the masculine persuasion.

While all the poems here are worthy of the reader's appreciation, it must be pointed out with pride that one of the poets is our former General Secretary-Treasurer Penny Pixler. Hers is the keen perception of the



day-to-day work experience. The poem, *Chicago Workday*, which appeared originally in the *Industrial Worker*, while documenting one day's experience, has the scope of an epic work. In *Journeys From The Heartland* she tells of the farmers from her childhood in Iowa demonstrating in the cities as did the war protesters of a generation ago. But from

her *Job Wrung Stanzas* is this little gem that should pique the poetry lover's interest: "Spring comes in / with the second shift, / jackets in hand."

One way of enduring the indignities of our present system is to write poetry about it. The IWW has produced its share of bards, indeed.

Carlos Cortez

## LABOR LAW IN ACTION

Twenty-five hundred Seattle bank workers have been waiting for nearly ten years to get a contract from Seattle First National Bank (since bought up by BankAmerica Corp.). The workers were originally represented by an independent union. When management cancelled their contract in 1977, slashing wages and benefits, they decided to affiliate with the Retail Clerks (now part of the United Food & Commercial Workers) hoping to get extra strength behind them.

Management refused to recognize the union, and refused to bargain a new contract. The union went to the National Labor Relations Board—and has been there ever since. In 1979, the NLRB ordered management to negotiate; the bank appealed to the courts. Then the Board took the case back for reconsideration—it's been seesawing back and forth between the courts and the Board ever since. The Supreme Court unanimously backed the union's demand for recognition and bargaining in 1986. UFCW President Wynn took a break from breaking the Hormel strike to hail the decision as "a victory for sanity... for the nation... for the democratic process..."

But the story doesn't end there. Seattle-First didn't head back to the bargaining

table—they went back to the NLRB with a new argument. To quote the *AFL-CIO News* (which reported this sorry tale in its January 2nd issue), "So much time had passed since the affiliation election, the bank contended, that there's no proof the union still represents the majority of its employees..." The bank wants the union decertified, at least a new election. So it's back to the NLRB and the courts for these workers who've been at the mercy of the government and the bosses for ten years this spring.

The *AFL-CIO News* pins the blame on the Reagan board and inadequate labor laws. But, while it's certainly true that any worker who relies on labor law or the NLRB for justice is pretty much assured of getting a raw deal, doesn't the 'union' have to take some of the blame? Seems to me there's something wrong with a "union" that leaves its members twisting in the wind for ten years while it puts its trust in lawyers and the courts. (Of course, pretty much any business union would do the same.) Whatever happened to using our industrial power, to direct action on the job?

Anyone for revolutionary industrial unionism?

## PRISONERS!

(continued from page 1)

of giving almost all of it away to the bosses as we do now. As a revolutionary union, the IWW's basic principle is that the working class and the employing class have nothing in common, and that the workers of the world should organize, take over the industries, and abolish the system of wage-slavery.

In addition to its ordinary union functions the IWW also has its General Defense Committee, complete with experienced legal defense teams, to protect union-organizers and workers from police harassment and other oppression.

Most of you at SOCF know those of us here who have already joined the IWW. Our ranks include many who are well known as prison activists, men who have put their lives on the line on numerous occasions to help change the prison system for the benefit of all inmates. You know us; you know where we stand. Now we are asking you to join us, to join the IWW so that we can unite and force the administration to give us the decent treatment and conditions that we deserve.

The IWW has already done a lot for us—a lot that is not known to many prisoners because of official obstacles to prison communication. The IWW has organized letter-writing and petition campaigns to protest the cruel and unusual punishment we receive here. The union has donated books and funds to help us in our civil suits against the prison bosses. The Union has also provided books and funds for our Prisoners Education Program.

The IWW has already helped us bring about positive change in this prison. But now more than ever we need to *organize!* We need *all* our brothers and sisters in prison to join the IWW. The time has come for us to join together to make *our own* decisions as to our treatment. We need the IWW and the IWW needs us.

Over 400 of you have signed our petitions demanding recognition of the IWW as the Union of your choice. But 400 is not enough! There are over 2400 of us here at SOCF, and we need all 2400 to stand together as one!

All Brothers at SOCF and all Sisters at Marysville who recognize the need for change, the need to decide on our own destiny, the need to be treated as human beings, and who wish to join *our own* Union, please contact:

John Perotti, SOCF 167712, P.O. Box 45699, Lucasville, Ohio 45699-0001; and IWW Southwest Ohio General Membership Branch, c/o Reuben Slaten, P.O. Box 26381, Dayton, Ohio 45426.