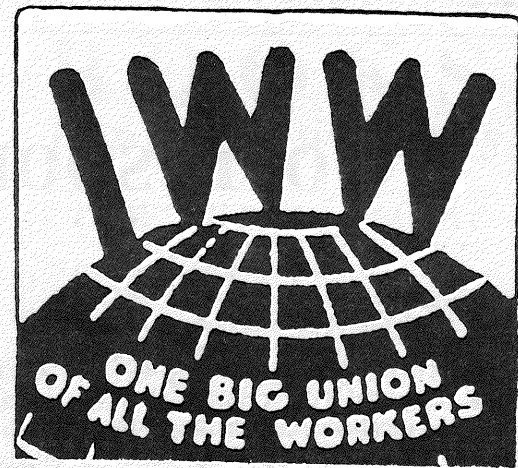


# INDUSTRIAL WORKER

*Industrial Workers of the World*



VOLUME 86, NUMBER 1, WH 1508

JANUARY 1989

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## Columbine Update . . .

The Colorado State Historical Society, after five months of enthusiastic support for our memorial project, suddenly found the wording "too specific" and withdrew its offer to build the monument for us. An uncomplimentary article on their withdrawal published in *Westword*, a Denver weekly magazine, caused the State to make a counter proposal for wording which gutted the pro-labor sentiment of the memorial. A committee made up of members of the IWW, the UMWA, the CLF and the Erie and Lafayette Historical Societies rejected the State's proposal in record time. Political heat?

The memorial will be built instead by P-9 meatpackers, muralists, and Wobblies Denny Mealy and Dan Allen. Denny says this will be a labor of love built by strikers betrayed by the UFCW in Austin, Minnesota for the strikers shot down at the Columbine Mine at Serene, Colorado.

Five of the six killed at Columbine are buried at Lafayette Cemetery in plots purchased by the IWW. They are: John Davies, Space #265; Frank Kovich, #266; Nick Spanolakis, #239; John Eastanes, #238; and Mike Vidovich, #263. The sixth Columbine victim is buried in a private plot in Louisville, Colorado, a few miles away.

The IWW purchased eight plots in the Lafayette Cemetery in 1927 in which a sixth man, Joseph Collanado, is buried in Space #236; but there is no record of his being killed at the Columbine Mine. If anyone has any knowledge of this fellow worker or why he is buried in an IWW grave, please contact the Denver-Boulder Branch.

Two of the eight spaces are not occupied, but remain IWW property. As 20-30 pickets were wounded, the IWW was not sure how many graves would be necessary. None of the six graves is marked in any way. This will be our next project. Any further donations, as well as excess memorial contributions, will be used to provide grave markers for these unsung miners.

The memorial unveiling ceremony will be held Saturday, June 10. We have asked for a symbolic amount of Joe Hill's ashes to be scattered at this time on the miners' graves. Wobblies Utah Phillips, Art Nurse, Mark Ross, Dakota Sid and Ellen Klaver have been asked to provide the spirit. We hope they can all make it. On Sunday, June 11, the United Mine Workers will hold the 75th anniversary of the Ludlow Massacre at the Ludlow Monument. This allows persons coming to eastern Colorado for either event to attend both. Terry Benson, president of District 15 UMWA, has said he will encourage all his members to come a day early and attend our ceremony. A visit to the Ludlow site is an emotional experience.

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## NEW FEATURE

News and Views

from Canada

Inside

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## LOCKED OUT!



### Break The BASF Lockout

Chemical workers in Geismar, Louisiana are now in the fourth year of fighting back against the longest running lock-out of workers in the US. During the 1984 contract negotiations with Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Local 4-620 (OCAW) the world's second largest chemical producer -BASF- issued a set of impossible demands -- slashing wages and benefits, destruction of the seniority system, and the right to replace any OCAW member with "contract" workers at any time for any reason -- on which it refused to compromise. Then, two hours before the end of the contract, BASF officials walked out of negotiations. At the same time the 370 workers at the Geismar plant were hustled out the plant gate and the lock out began.

OCAW negotiators recall that in 1984 Louisiana's unemployment rate was the highest in the nation. Referring to the area's depressed economy, one BASF official announced, "We've got the stick. We're going to beat the shit out of you."

BASF's Geismar billion dollar plant is the largest of its 80 facilities in North America and accounts for half the company's profits here. Louisiana workers produce a quarter of all petrochemical production in the US. Most of that work is done in the Mississippi bayou area known as "Cancer Alley" for the toxic effects discharges from the many chemical plants located there have had on people.

In addition to reaching out to BASF worker's world-wide, the OCAW local has forged strong alliances with several local and national environmental groups.

Locked-out workers and community members concerned with BASF's environmental terrorism have monitored air and water. These research efforts have produced some reforms and penalties, but more importantly have led to an increasing community awareness of the real costs of industrialism and the practices of BASF.

BASF has an especially evil history. The company was created by an order of the Nuremberg War Crimes Court to break up the IG Farben cartel which had been formed in the late 1800's.

IG Farben was instrumental in initiating both World Wars. During WW1 superprofits from munitions production filled Farben's coffers. The manufacture and promotion of poisen gases was especially rewarding for the chemical giant.

The Nazis and Farben grew strong together in the twenties and thirties. Huge government subsidies were provided to increase Farben's production capabilities. Knowing where the Reich's armies were

continued on page 5

## Windmills and Utopia

### COMMENTARY ON NEWS COVERAGE

Recent A.P. Wire stories about the IWW (the International Workers of the World, of course!) called us a "Utopian" labor movement that continues to "chase windmills". No doubt many a 'bo passed the long hours on a fast rattler imagining a better world where "all the cops have wooden legs" and "all the hens lay soft-boiled eggs"; such a whimsical life could only be found in the Big Rock Candy Mountains. When you're hungary, broke and carry all your possessions on your back, it's natural to dream about a better world. But the vision of industrial unionism -- the vision shared by a hundred-thousand-workers at the time of the first world war -- is anything but utopian. Utopians imagine the perfect political and social order. We merely seek economic justice. Utopians dream of a society that cures every inequality, that smooths every ruffle, large or small. We plan only to overthrow that Grand Canyon of ruffles in the economic landscape, wage-slavery. Industrial unionists fight their battles in the trenches. Industrial unionists are not utopian.

Our friends the socialists have issued yet another "call for papers" in their continuing cerebral attempt at constructing the perfect ship of state within the Coca-cola bottle of capitalism. We Wobblies anticipate the day when the capitalist's Coca-cola bottle will shatter on the shoals of conspicuous consumption, ecological disaster and diminishing resources. The best-planned architecture for the ship of state will thus be without foundation. In the days preceding the fall, industrial unionism will have grown to meet the challenge of building the new world in the shell of the old. The reconstruction will proceed from the bottom up. We'll welcome the views of the socialists, but we'll already control the means of production. Are the socialists therefore utopian? Perhaps, but I think not. They have their purpose, we have ours.

What, you may ask, makes us certain that ultimate victory will pass within our grasp? Capitalism itself. It has become the dominant economic process in a world of limited resources. Yet capitalism relies on ever-expanding markets, ever-increasing exploitation of resources. Karl Marx believed that the abject poverty of the proletariat was the primary driving force behind

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#### INDUSTRIAL WORKER

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

# Correspondence

Dear Editor,

San Francisco Wobblies are concerned with the *Industrial Worker's* decision to publish uncritical coverage/endorsement of Earth First! in this year's May issue. We are further disturbed by the editors' decision not to print F.W. Prisco's excellent article outlining the controversy in which EF! has become involved recently. We now resubmit for your consideration that piece.

On the pages of *Utne Reader*, *Fifth Estate*, and elsewhere, serious charges have been made against EF!'s self-appointed leaders, Dave Foreman and Edward Abbey. These include charges of racism, sexism, homophobia, and sheer misanthropy. Whatever one believes about this so-called "dep ecology" debate, the debate itself must at least be acknowledged in any discussion of EF!

While we applaud the courage and ingenuity of many EF! activists, and agree that direct action in defense of mother earth is entirely appropriate, we must take issue with a group whose leadership is accountable to no one. If there is no structural means within Earth First! to remove irresponsible leaders, then the group itself must reluctantly be abandoned as incompatible with Wobbly ideals of rotating leadership and recallability.

We support the right of the IW editorial staff to operate as a more-or-less autonomous collective. We would simply request in the future that a more balanced and critical approach be taken with groups and issues such as this. Otherwise, keep up the good work, and please up our monthly shipments of the IW to fifty copies.

In Solidarity,  
Jess Grant for the  
San Francisco Branch

*(Editors' Note: The IW collective is committed to presenting all sides of controversial issues. The article by F.W. Prisco mentioned in the above letter from the SFGMB can therefore be found elsewhere in this issue.)*

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

On behalf of UAW Local 592, I thank you all for the time and consideration taken to assist us in putting together educational material about the IWW.

Enclosed please find a copy of the November edition of the *592 Tribune*. I'm a fork truck driver, not a scholar or a historian. I sincerely hope that the articles do justice to your fine organization.

There is no doubt that workers need to know where they have been, in order to have a clear idea about where they are headed. The wobbly philosophy of action on the shop floor has stood the test of time.

Here's to enjoying the fruits of our labor.

Fraternally yours,  
Tim Mills  
Education Committee  
UAW Local 592  
112 N. 2nd Street  
Rockford, IL



Dear Comrades:

I found December's "Left Side" extremely offensive in it's blasphemous cacophony against Jesus and Mary. It was tasteless and unnecessary, an error in judgement of both author and editor.

Your brother  
in Christ,

David Burford  
X337311

continued on page 11

## Preamble of the Industrial Workers of the World

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

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

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

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

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

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

## GST Editorial

From the Outgoing General Secretary Treasurer

The new year will bring with it a newly elected General Secretary Treasurer (GST) of the Union. As the outgoing GST, I want to thank all those fellow workers and friends who contributed their time, energy, and dollars to the *Industrial Worker*, IW.

Looking briefly back at 1988, our readers saw changes in the IW, both in terms of style and content, each of which stirred a certain amount of controversy. I suppose that's because all of us involved in the publication of the IW come with new ideas and perspectives as we become part of the IW collective. And change, itself, carries with it controversy. All of us who have been able, to some degree, to influence change in our publication share

common goals. We work to keep the IW on the cutting edge of current issues and developing trends in labor and to provide those of us who do the world's work with information and resources to enable us to make a difference through Direct Action.

I personally look forward to the new ideas and perspectives which the 1989 Administration will bring with it in promoting our common union goals.

It's great to be part of a Union that welcomes and invites its members to shape its publications and which is not threatened by change.

Paul Poulos  
1988 General Secretary Treasurer  
IWW

From the Incoming General Secretary Treasurer

## ORGANIZE!

(Play Loud)

The eighties have been tough. Working people have died, starved, lost their work and homes. CIA White House. Low-intensity war everywhere. Corporations pillaging cities. In North America 1984 came and stayed.

The people have grown stronger too. Victories are few, hard fought and incomplete for the rank and file. But our numbers grow. And we learn through experience.

Wobbly lore tells us that all Wobblies are organizers. So get out and sign up some organizers.

And then do it again. People join for action and companionship -- our branches need to be productive and enjoyable. Our actions direct and meaningful. We can have 3000 members in two years if we reach out for and welcome new members. There are millions of North Americans ready for an alternative that works. People who are scared of where this broken roller coaster of an economy built on alienation is headed. People who know there's a better way. Part of how people are getting there is through a growing rank and file union movement, informed by feminism and the civil rights struggle, that bears much resemblance to much that is Wobbly. There is a place for our union -- not just in history -- but in making history.

And have you heard? Patti Smith is back with an album called *Dream of Life*. She's been raising children and honing her craft. Crank up the volume and listen to her new anthem:

*...and my senses newly opened  
I awakened to the cry  
that the people I have the power  
to redeem / the work of fools  
...the power to dream / to rule  
to wrestle the world from fools  
its decreed the people rule  
LISTEN*

*I believe that everything we dream  
can come to pass thru our union  
we can turn the world around  
we can turn the earth's revolution  
we have the power  
People have the power..*

And Joe Hill is back. Trusting us to "let the merry breezes blow (his) dust to where some flowers grow. Perhaps some fading flower then would come to life and bloom again." From Austin to Watsonville and Managua to Soweto there are many flowers in our movement. And Joe's own union may be ready to bloom again. Join us.

Jeff Ditz.  
1989 General Secretary Treasurer  
IWW

(Beginning next month)

## SUBMISSIONS POLICY

The deadline for copy for each edition is the fifteenth of the month. Important articles arriving after that date, but before we go to press, will be considered for inclusion in that issue, but we cannot guarantee their timely publication after deadline.

All copy should be typed and lines double spaced with 1 inch margins all around.

We encourage letters to the editors in response to articles appearing in the *Industrial Worker*. We only ask that they be kept brief and to the point and avoid personal invective.

The editorial collective tries to answer correspondence but a lack of time and person power (we do this after our regular working hours) prohibit us from answering all who write. We ask for your patience. Submit your letters and articles early!

The Editors

*It should be understood by members and others who read this paper that it is the policy of the IWW to designate as official any articles which have the regular official sanction. Anything not so designated is not official.--All other matter contained herein is the mere personal expression of the individual or individuals writing or editing the same.*

## INDUSTRIAL WORKER



Editors:  
Carlos Cortez, Phil Ames, Mike Hargis

General Secretary-Treasurer:  
Paul Poulos

ONE UNION ONE LABEL ONE ENEMY

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## Columbine Update . . .

continued from page 1

Read *Out of the Depths* before you come. We still have these books on sale for \$10 each.

Send contributions for grave markers to: Gary Cox, PO Box 478, Johnstown, CO 80534; make checks payable to Columbine Memorial. For *Out of the Depths* orders, same address, make checks to Colorado Labor Forum.

Gary Cox.

### COLUMBINE UPDATE UPDATE:

At their meeting of December 14, 1988 the members of International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 2300 of Westminster, Colorado voted to donate \$500 toward the building of the monument to commemorate Colorado's labor martyrs that died in the Columbine Massacre of 1927.

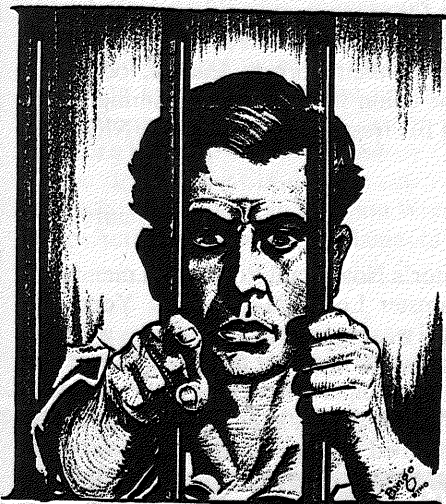
Subject to the approval of the International, this donation will increase the donated funds for the monument to just over \$3100. We have Fellow Worker Richard Hill, a member of Local 2300, for bringing the issue before his local.

### Onward to Pennsylvania!

Fellow Worker Meir Israelowitz is sending out a call for any and all foot-loose Wobs who would be interested in participating in an organizing drive in the western Pennsylvania area. Food and lodging can be arranged. Contact him at 5709 Forbes Ave., Pittsburgh PA 15127. (412) 422-3633.

### LETTERS OF SUPPORT NEEDED FOR LUCASVILLE FELLOW WORKERS

Conditions here at Lucasville, Ohio's prison remain brutal. I have recently sent a 30-page petition to Amnesty International in London detailing the gross violations of human rights that have occurred at Lucasville over the past several years. More than 100 Fellow Prisoners, including many Fellow Workers, signed the petition. Now we would like readers of the Industrial Worker and other supporters on the outside to write letters to Amnesty Inter-



national, asking them to take action on the Lucasville prisoners' petition. Guards have murdered inmates, there is regular harassment of political activists by charging them with imaginary violations of the rules and putting them in isolation cells, and even a copy of the prisoners' signatures on the petition itself was not allowed back into the prison because the warden doesn't approve of petitions. Please write to Amnesty International, International Secretariat, 1 Easton Street, London WC1X 8DJ England. Thank you.

John Perotti, #167-712

**SOLIDARITY**

# IWW BRANCH NEWS

**NEW YORK:** The Botto House/American Labor Museum in Haledon, NJ is planning a beef and brew bash with the IWW to celebrate Big Bill's birthday on February 4 (the Botto Big Bill Beef/Brew Birthday Bash). FW Mel Most, who discovered the federal historic landmark, has begun working on the construction of a bronze plaque commemorating the 1913 Paterson Silk Strike, emphasizing the IWW's role in that historic strike.

FWs Larry Otway and David Zatz spoke at a W.S.A. (Workers' Solidarity Alliance) forum, and FWs Sam Dolgoff and Mel Most spoke at the Anarchist Switchboard. FW Mel informs us that Chumley's restaurant at

Bedford and Barrow, founded 40 years ago by a Wob, will be hanging an IWW poster on the wall this month.

Finally, the New York IWW's magazine, *Rebel Voices*, is still on sale, at 75 cents a copy (bulk discounts available) or \$2.50 a year. Prices are expected to go up to \$1.00 a copy or \$3.50 a year when the First Quarter 1989 issue comes out.

David Zatz  
New York IWW

**DENVER/BOULDER:** Direct Action and Solidarity in Colorado! In an unprecedented meeting, all newspaper



"Wobbly" designer license plates? "Yes!" says Colorado Wob Gary Cox as he proudly motors around displaying the Christmas present from his wife, though it has been rumored: "Is she really after his life insurance?"

## Election Results Official Ballot Committee Report

We the undersigned members of the Chicago Branch in good standing counted the ballots in the elections for 1989 General Administration offices and found the following:

There were 162 ballots cast and counted. The results of the balloting were:

For General Secretary-Treasurer:

Jeff Ditz (Detroit, MI)	88 votes
Richard Linster (Madison, WI)	61
Write-In (Mike Hargis)	1
Abstentions	12

For General Executive Board (In order of votes received):

Gary Cox (Denver, Co)	124 votes
Rochelle Semel (Fly Creek, NY)	121
Sandra Nichol (Vancouver, BC)	97
Barb Hansen (Tacoma, WA)	94
Pat Klees (New York, NY)	76
Phil Harris (Atlanta, GA)	71
David Zatz (New York, NY)	67
Doug Slaton (Dayton, OH)	64
Myron Price (Madison, WI)	61
Fred Lee (Chicago, IL)	59
Penny Pixler (Chicago, IL)	56
Ben Trant (Shreveport, LA)	40
RMR Kroopkin (El Cerrito, CA)	30
Greg McDaniels (St. Paul, MN)	28
Jon Bekken (Champaign, IL)	27

Referendum Question:

Resolutions to be voted upon at convention must be presented to the membership through the GOB at least two months before the convention convenes to

allow proxy votes to be gathered on the issues involved. Resolutions submitted to the convention that have not been published in the GOB as described above must only be voted on if the convention body determines through majority vote that their content is of such an emergency nature that it would effect the operation of the union.

YES 116 votes NO 24 votes  
ABSTENTIONS 22 votes

Signed this 28th day of December, 1988,

Michael J. Hargis X328826 IU450  
Philip Ames X334180 IU450

The General Administration Officers for 1989 are:

General Secretary-Treasurer: Jeff Ditz  
General Executive Board: Gary Cox, Rochelle Semel, Sandra Nichol, Barb Hansen, Pat Klees, Phil Harris and David Zatz.

General Executive Board Alternates (by order of votes received) are:  
Doug Slaton, Myron Price, Fred Lee, Penny Pixler, Ben Trant, RMR Kroopkin, Greg McDaniels and Jon Bekken.

It shall also be the policy of the IWW that all resolutions submitted to convention for consideration shall be presented to the membership at least two months before the convention convenes through publication in the GOB, the validity of other resolutions shall be determined by the convention body.

crafts met as the General Council of All Newspaper Unions to lay out strategies and tactics to support Mailers Local 8 in their struggle against a 25-50% wage cut. Denver-Boulder Wobs attended as observers. A strong tendency existed throughout for Direct Action tactics as opposed to the more conservative forces pushing for appeals to the politicians.

Of the more above-board highlights: On December 14th, Chief *Denver Post* Management Negotiator Banneman's house was picketed by candlelight. December 18th, the exclusive ski resort town of Vail was ruffled from picketing by the Newspaper unions to force the *Denver Post* to withdraw support of an International Sky Race set for February.

In other Branch news: The Columbine Memorial is moving ahead with or without State support or roadblocks with an event planned for June 10 featuring Wobbly entertainment. (See article elsewhere in this issue.)

One disappointing note: Dorothy King, homeless advocate, lost her own home in what appears to be arson. Earlier this fall she knocked HUD, the City of Denver, and conventional society on their rears in a Direct Action takeover of vacant HUD homes and had to be removed by the police forcing HUD to negotiate with Homeless organizations (even though HUD is still stalling).

Denver/Boulder IWW

**VANCOUVER, B.C.:** A worker-owned co-operative engaged in distributing an electronic magazine is Vancouver's newest IWW job shop.

Mac Underground Pacific, a two-person co-op handling distribution for an electronic information service aimed at Macintosh computer users, is a 100 percent IWW operation. "The values and ideals put forward by the Wobblies are what we want to adhere to," explained Les Smith, in outlining why Mac Underground Pacific has applied for an IWW union shop card.

Smith said he and co-participant Darren Atwater both believe strongly in co-operatives and collectives as a means of organizing the workplace. So becoming an IWW shop makes sense. (Atwater was featured in the November Solidarity Bulletin, in a profile of the Vancouver Community College newspaper *The Gleaner*, whose employees form another small IWW shop.)

Mac Underground Pacific's application for an IWW shop card will go before the Dec. 19 monthly meeting of the Vancouver General Membership Branch, and from there will be forwarded to the Union's General Executive Board. The Union's constitution permits workers in producer co-ops to join the IWW, "provided that those co-ops are not exploitative and do not undermine wages."

Smith said Mac Underground Pacific will be the subscription service for people wishing to receive the computer magazine, known as *Mac Underground*. The magazine, accessed via telephone lines and a modem, is produced in the U.S. and includes advice for Macintosh users, information on how to solve certain problems, plus information on new hardware and new programs.

Mac Underground Pacific can be contacted c/o 6591 Victoria Dr., Vancouver, B.C.

Also in Vancouver: A screening of "The Wobblies", a 90-minute video on the early history of the IWW, will be presented January 25, 1989 at 8:00 pm at La Quena Coffee House, 1111 Commercial Drive.

The video is the second offering in the IWW's 1988-89 Winter video series. Admission is free.

Solidarity Bulletin  
Vancouver, B.C.

Give to the  
**INDUSTRIAL WORKER**  
Sustaining Fund

# For Business Unions - It's Monkey Business

## Crime Bosses Bilk Workers

### \$10 Million in Teamsters and Sheetmetal Benefit Funds Ripped-Off

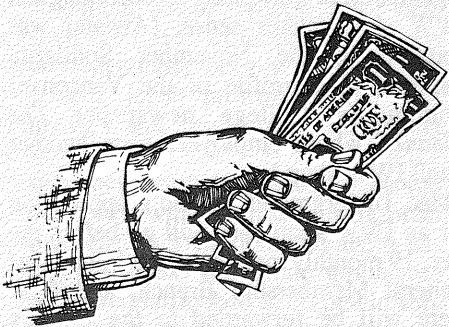
The Pension and Welfare funds of two New York local unions were bilked of \$10,000,000 in what Federal authorities describe as the largest criminal union fraud ever prosecuted by the U.S. Justice Department.

The unions of Local 810 of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters in New York City and Local 38 of the Sheetmetal Workers International Association in Peekskill, New York. Both locals used the now defunct First United Fund as the money broker and financial advisor to invest Pension and Welfare Funds.

First United helped themselves to excessively large commissions on \$100 million in union funds deposited in secret bank accounts. The illegal commissions and lowered yield on the benefit fund were reportedly concealed from union trustees.

U.S. Attorneys Bruce Maffeo and Alan M. Friedman who tried the case said that commissions amounted to kickbacks and that some of the money was split with officials in Teamsters Local 810 and some was used to buy luxury items for the defendants.

Guilty of 83 counts of taking \$10 million in illegal commissions, accepting kickbacks, and racketeering is Martin J. Schwimmer, a 44 year old consultant to First United Fund. The chief prosecution witness against Schwimmer was his partner in the scheme, Mario Renda. Renda, who served as President of the First United Fund, pleaded guilty back in May, 1988 and promised to pay the government the \$4.2 million that he received.



### Feds Indict Union and Employer Racketeers in Conspiracy to Sell Workers' Rights

While the working members of Local 66 of the Laborers International Union of North America (LIUNA) were doing some heavy lifting, it appears that their corrupt union officials and organized crime associates were doing some lifting of their own.

In December, 1988 three key Local 66 officials were charged on a 51-count racketeering indictment with regularly extorting \$113,000 in payoffs from contractors from 1980 to 1987, while selling out their members.

With 1200 members, Laborers Local 66 is the largest construction workers' union on Long Island (N.Y.), and according Brooklyn Organized Crime Strike Force Chief Edward MacDonald, "Local 66 is owned lock, stock, and barrel by the Luchese crime family."

MacDonald charged that corrupt union leaders "systematically bled thousands of dollars in illegal payoffs from construction contractors" since 1960, and shared the cash with Mafia Boss Antonio (Ducks) Corallo.

According to the indictment, Corallo and Underboss Salvatore Santore resolved disputes at construction sites and shared in the cash payoffs while ruling the corrupt operation of the union.



The racketeering indictment named Local 66 union officials: Peter Vario, 44, Vice-President and Administrator, who is a member of the crime family and the nephew of the late Luchese capo Paul Vairo; and Michael La Barbara, Jr., 51, and James Abbatiello, 58, both of who also serve as trustees of the union's benefit funds.

Employer Silvestro Spilabotte, 55, a contractor who owns DeSantis 2 Construction Corporation of Amityville, N.Y. was also charged with racketeering. In addition, Spilabotte enjoyed a position as "caretaker" of Local 66's Benefit Funds as an Employer Trustee.

### Commentary on Business Unionism and Labor Racketeering

Our readers should note that the U.S. Justice Department issued a report some *ten years ago* which named five U.S. based international labor organizations as being controlled by organized crime or under their influence. Among the five named were the International Brotherhood of Teamsters and the Laborers' International Union.

### There is Only One Loser

Corrupt union officials, working in concert with their corrupt employer counterparts, outside brokerage and investment advisors, and organized crime associates, bilk working union members out of countless millions from union treasuries and benefit funds.

Labor-Management collective bargaining agreements (contracts), which were meant to establish workers' rights, wages and conditions of work on the job, become worthless in a corrupt labor-management business environment. Union business shifts in this corrupt setting from preserving high wages and standards for union members to the outright sale of such standards by mutual agreement between company and union bosses. Pure and simple, the process is a business transaction whereby the employer benefits by huge cost savings through the relaxation of work rules and the guarantee from the union of "labor peace."

For the business union official, a labor contract thus becomes a tangible, marketable commodity up for sale --and sell they do-- to employers waiting with fistfuls of bucks.

There is only one loser in this unholy business alliance: the dues paying union member.

### Union Pimps Invite Government Trusteeship of Unions

Such union pimps do more to kill the labor movement in the U.S. than the antics of any single anti-union boss. And it is precisely these union pimps who are inviting federal intervention in union affairs through successful prosecution of racket-ridden labor unions under the RICO statute (*Racketeering Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act*) resulting in court-ordered government trusteeships over unions.

### "Good Folks in Labor" Do Zilch

The "good folks in labor," however, comfortable and well-suited by Brooks Brothers, have watched with open eyes and tight lips and have done absolutely zilch in terms of cleaning up their own house.

The AFL-CIO, for example, disbanded its Ethical Practices Committee in the late 50's, and more recently welcomed back into its fold the infamous International Brotherhood of Teamsters whose former President Roy Williams was convicted of bribing a U.S. Senator, and who admitted to being controlled by organized crime chieftans in Kansas City. During the AFL-CIO/Teamster welcoming back ceremony, IBT President Jackie Presser was indicted for labor racketeering in connection with looting his Cleveland Teamster local treasury of hundreds of thousands of dollars paid to no-show union employees.

Yet these same good people joined by their "progressive" political friends and allies, are screaming the loudest at this government "intrusion" into union affairs.

Working people held captive by these business and corrupt labor organizations do not relish the Feds sitting at the helm of their unions, particularly since the U.S. has winked at labor-management corruption or turned its back on it for decades in order to preserve industrial peace.

### Corrupt Union Infrastructure Defeats Government Trusteeships

Legislators, federal prosecutors and the courts have yet to recognize the nexus between the absence of union democracy and the proliferation of labor-management corruption. Skimming off the top layers of union racketeers and leaving in place their subordinate corrupt counterparts in the union is not a solution. Federal prosecutors and the courts totally minimize the influence and control which these racketeers hold over union affairs. Through the union infrastructure of appointed stewards, hired business agents, wiseguys and favored stooges who still remain in place, these union officials still wield their power. Simply "holding elections" within this infrastructure will only replicate the same situation with a different cast of characters at the top.

### Rebel Voices THE NY IWW MAGAZINE

Comics • News • Songs •  
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Much Propaganda

Available from David Zatz,  
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Apt 810, New York, NY  
10027 (212) 666-7484, for  
75¢ a copy or \$2.50 a year.

### A Far-Reaching Remedy Needed

The seriousness and widespread nature of the problem demand a more far-reaching remedy, and one which will readily provide union members with the means and opportunity to set their own house in order; no such means and opportunity now exist.

The weak provisions of Title 1 of the Labor Management Relations and Disclosure Act (LMRDA) which establish a statutory "Bill of Rights" for union members has proved useless as a realistic vehicle for captive union members to break free of the vise-like-grip of the organized corruption which pervades huge sections of organized labor in the U.S.

Similarly, The National Labor Relations Act (NLRA) has been rendered useless by the National Labor Relations Board's reticence and narrow pleading of the Act and its refusal to recognize the chilling effect mob infiltration of labor unions has on a union member's ability to exercise his/her Section 7 rights under the Act.



### Its Time to Kick Some Ass

If the government was serious about its concern it could have provided a solution by beefing up both the LMRDA and the NLRA rather than grandstanding and flexing its muscles with stopgap measures.

This writer has seen enough to know that there is no remedy in sight from "the outside." The situation is sufficiently compelling for union members in these organizations to gain their freedom by physically ousting their corrupt leaders, occupying their union halls, and proclaiming a rank and file trusteeship of *THEIR UNIONS*.

Paul Poulos

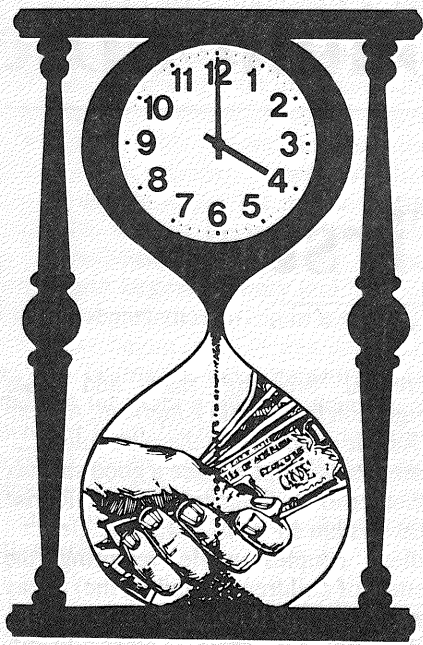
Editor's Note: Paul Poulos is a member of Teamster Local 814 in New York. The Local was placed in trusteeship by a Federal court a year ago after the conviction of four of its principal officers for labor racketeering and a jury finding that the Local was controlled by the Bonanno crime family.

**HEY, GEORGE BUSH!  
READ OUR LIPS!!**

- LABOR LAW REFORM
- MINIMUM WAGE HIKE
- FAMILY LEAVE
- CHILD CARE
- NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE
- PEACE IN CENTRAL AMERICA
- ARMS CONTROL



## Time for a



## FOUR HOUR DAY

### Windmills and Utopia

continued from page 1

social upheaval. Karl Marx never met a suburban factory worker threatened with the repossession of his Chevy Blazer and his house when the natural resources began to peter out. The deficits are mounting, and the squeeze is already on the middle class. The concept of industrial unionism simply must be circulated in our factories in order to gain widespread acceptance.

So we're not utopian. What, then, of tilting at windmills? That's where we need to do some work. The IWW has reason to commemorate an honorable, creative and memorable past. Our martyrs will remain an inspiration for all time. Yet the future beckons. How many fellow workers in this age of consumer-based economies can identify with the fight for a pork chop? Through the agitation of unions and reformists, welfare capitalism has largely satisfied that need. If the average worker today should find herself skipping a meal, she has the option to hock the TV. How many potential members have a romantic vision of riding the rails? Who knows what sort of life a bindle-stiff lived? Workers today are concerned about other issues. The efforts by some of our fellow workers to publish pamphlets for canvassers and fast food employees are right on. That's one tactic for growth that deserves more of our attention. Another is reorganizing the already-organized industrial workers. The trade union movement with its top-heavy bureaucracy has become woefully inadequate in this sophisticated era of union busting consultants and "world class" management. How should we deal with Quality of Work Life programs that brainwash workers to identify with the company rather than the union? How about profit sharing that doesn't really share the profits? How about quality circles, or employee stock ownership plans? The capitalists have recognized the precariousness of their conspicuous consumption, and they've decided to share a little bit of their wealth to forestall dissent. Sometimes they share only the effluvia left behind after the gold coins have been removed from the vault, but so far the baby boom only suspects that its "birthright" has been spent. The trickle down strategy may even succeed in befuddling many workers right up until the crash. The rest of us need to prepare for the occasion.

Nostalgia is clearly one of the attractions of the IWW but we also have an obligation to deal with current economic realities in our factories, shops and mills. If we live too much in the past we will miss the golden opportunity of industrial unionism in the modern era. The future of the IWW depends on the new blood that even now is coursing into the veins of the industrial unionism movement. Train's already left the station, passin' by the hobo jungles. Time to swing aboard. The future beckons, fellow workers!

Richard Hill.

## BASF Lockout

continued from page 1

headed, Farben's officials would visit chemical companies before the invasion to make (extremely low) buyout offers for chemical plants. If the buyout was refused Farben would simply wait for the invading armies to turn the plants over to them unharmed.

The Nazis and Farben worked together to build a huge production plant at Auschwitz, Poland. The site was far from the war's western front and had a ready labor pool in the concentration camp located next to it. 300,000 people worked in the plant. 25,000 died on the job. The rest worked about three months each and then were shipped to a death camp.

Otto Ambros, director of the Farben plant at Auschwitz, wrote his superiors in early 1941, "Our new friendship with the

SS is proving to be very profitable."

In 1946, Otto Ambros and eleven other executives of IG Farben were found guilty of mass murder, slavery, imprisonment and other war crimes. None hung. Few did time. They did not lose power.

From 1971 to 1979 Deiter Ambros, son of war criminal and Auschwitz murderer Otto, served as the head of BASF's North American operations.

Early in the 1970's the son of a corporate vice president operated as an open neo-Nazi on the shop floor of at least one US BASF plant. This individual's activities were protected by lower level management until direct action and solidarity among the rest of the workers drove him out. After this confrontation the plant manager confirmed to workers that neo-Nazi-ism was common among the corporation's highest executives.

Deiter Ambros appears to have been successful at promoting a political climate and style of labor relations which his father

would recognize.

BASF consumer products -- BASF brand computer diskettes, video and audio tape, Lurotin vitamins, and Alugard anti-freeze -- are easy to replace with a different brand for boycotters.

Information on the BASF boycott is available from OCAW Local 4-620, PO Box 98017-4A, Baton Rouge, LA 70898. Or phone 1-800-548-4740 or 504-769-7939.

"Locked Out!", a 53 minute VHS video tape documentary for home or group viewing, is available for \$20 from OCAW, PO Box 2812, Denver, CO 80201.

Ronny Green.



# This Is Where It's At! Our brothers and sisters at Local 1010 are in a battle over safety issues. No One Should Risk Life For Wages!

Page 2

December, 1988

## Editorial Comment

"L.M.P.T.'s", "Gainsharing", "J K" Teams. These are a few of the ways in which Inland is making feeble attempts to show how concerned they are about their employees. These maneuvers are just cheap cosmetic tricks to try to fool employees into believing that "Inland loves us". But their beautification project is failing. The company doesn't seem to realize that we are not really interested in listening to their idle chatter. We want to see results. Specifically we want to see a safe and healthy working environment. Inland itself admits in its Nov. 11th, edition of the Inland Steelmaker... "the rate of total injuries shows no improvement. How can the company expect any improvements in safety when there is no change in their safety program."

It has been 4 or 5 years since a union brother was killed at #2 B.O.F. when he fell through some loose grating. Inland's response to this fatality has apparently been unproductive, considering that "In August, Joe Corso, President of Inland Steel Products Co., commissioned a team to address the issue of fall injuries caused by missing or insecure floor plate and grating. [quoted from the Nov. 11 edition of the Inland Steelmaker] How long will it take this team to "address the issue"? How many people will have to be hurt or killed before the problem is eliminated?

It was also stated in the Nov. 11, 1988 edition of the Inland Steelmaker that "almost half of the accidents resulted from taking an unsafe position or posture, and 'failing to secure against unexpected movement' ". The company doesn't seem to want to admit that, although we are good, we are not psychic. If a movement is "unexpected", how can we be "expected" to secure against it. Sounds like more rhetoric to me.

That should be enough "food for thought" on safety. Let's talk about some health related issues that Inland has or has not done. As employees of Inland Steel we, at one time, were able to expect to have clean and sanitary locker and washroom facilities available for our use. Due to

Inland's desire to increase its profits many of the janitorial positions have been eliminated. I think you'll find that although our working areas aren't being kept as clean as they had been management's facilities are as clean as ever. The reason for this is clear insight of Inland's philosophy of "sharing the burden" in the crisis in the steel industry.

As much talking as Inland does, with the lmpt's and other little get togethers that they have, to promote worker awareness and concern about their jobs, you would have thought that they would have made us aware of the hazardous conditions that we are being made to work in.

Case in point, the employees working in the Mobile Maintenance Department have recently found out that they were working in lead contaminated areas. The company never told them. They found out on their own. You would have thought that once they got caught Inland would have done what they were supposed to

do. They decided instead to bring in their "legal eagles" from the Union Relations Department and argue a matter of semantics. How many other areas are people working in unhealthy or unsafe conditions without being made aware of the dangers? Safety first!

The jig is up. We see what is really under the company's mask, i.e. L.M.P.T.'s J-K teams, etc. It's not a pretty sight. As is, and has been quite evident "The proof is in the pudding". From what I've tasted, the pudding isn't worth feeding to the hogs. The situation in the mill is the same as it has always been. We cannot rely on Inland to provide us with working conditions as safe and healthy as they should. It is up to us to make sure that we return home each day that we work, and to make sure we get there in one piece. We have to make sure that we're not being exposed to toxic materials that will slowly kill us and/or our families.

Gordon E. Beck Jr.  
Editor

In October, we experienced the trauma of a union sister being killed on the job. The cause(s) of her fatality are still being investigated by IOSHA, the union Safety Committee, and the company. We the members and officers of Local 1010, express our sympathy to the family and friends of Delores Horvath.



LOCAL 1010  
**Steelworker**



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## Book Reviews

### WORK WITHOUT END:

**Abandoning Shorter Hours for the Right to Work.** By Benjamin Kline Hunnicutt. 1988: Temple University Press (Temple University, Philadelphia Pa. 19122) \$39.95

This book by a Professor of Leisure Studies at the University of Iowa lends unexpected scholarly support to the polemics against "work" in the August *Industrial Worker* (actually, it was not genuinely useful or creative activity that was under fire in that issue, but exploitative overwork, environmental despoliation and, above all, the pathological "work mystique" which makes economic competition the dominant value in life today).

Professor Hunnicutt surveys the history of the workers' struggle for "the progressive shortening of the hours of labor," including the eight hours movement and later movements carrying into the depression period of the 1930s. He surveys the theoretical arguments that ranged unionists and their intellectual allies against the mouthpieces of business and finance in the running controversy over the workday. He discusses at length the ups, downs, and final "technical knockout" of the 30-hour-week movement of the depression, which lost to the combined forces of capital and a compliant Roosevelt administration that had earlier on supported "30 hours" legislation. Pointing to the absence of any strong workday reduction initiatives after the depression and the World War Two period, Hunnicutt wraps up his argument that the once passionate workday crusade came to an end in the 1930s and has been replaced by a deliberate, compulsive "work ethic" that is not ethical at all, but economy through over-production for over-consumption. He notes that with this change in place the workday has actually been increasing. In the author's view, the New Deal leaders, and eventually the growing labor establishment itself, switched from 30-hours "to share the existing work" to a strategy of time-intensive mass production of leisure goods to offset unemployment. Consumption was deliberately divorced from needs in order to make it an economic end in itself. Whether this was the whole story or not in the thirties and forties, it seems true today that the consumption of "luxury" goods has been a major prop inducing some workers to accept an over-long workday, and excessive overtime to boot. Since it is capitalist industry that, like a genie, provides these goods that further weld the workers to the system, it is doubly baffling to radical labor theorists, who want to counterattack but find themselves repelled again and again. Herbert Marcuse, whom Hunnicutt cites at the end of his book, devoted much of his later thinking to this problem.

Although his style is not enthusiastic, Professor Hunnicutt appears to favor the idea of workday reduction, and the philosophy behind it. The greatest fault in his book, however, is that he approaches it almost entirely from the perspective of mainstream, centrist unions, politicians and intellectuals. He thus leaves out of consideration the one organization that has fought most steadfastly in the tradition of the original eight hour movement. That organization, with its down-to-earth, *hands-on* approach to the utopian imperative, is, of course, the IWW.

Thus far Professor Hunnicutt. But let us add, on our own, that the worm turns. The accelerating consumer society has evolved to the point where it is far more time-intensive than the production process. The personal and luxury goods that this society has multiplied need time for their use. Also, the "values" that capitalist society has promoted in its

continued on page 7

# The Controversy that Wouldn't Die

## IWW - Workers First

The May 1988 *Industrial Worker* did not commemorate the events which began 20 years ago in May 1968, when workers and students rose up over a wide spectrum from Paris and Prague to Mexico City and the USA. The paper's editors chose instead to tell us that the colors of May Day are Green as well as red and black and the IWW has suddenly become friends with the radical environmental group, Earth First!

In a supposedly democratic union you'd think that such a change would have been debated among the members, at Convention or on the pages of the GOB. On the contrary, as San Francisco branch treasurer I can attest that our members were never informed. We first learned of it from the May IW itself and not from the May Day edition of Earth First!'s own newspaper, which had almost nothing to say about the IWW. Our new-found alliance with EF! is obviously a much bigger deal for us than it is for them.

So --the questions are-- was the pro-EF! slant of our May newspaper approved by the Executive Board? Or was it a unilateral --and therefore undemocratic-- decision by the IW staff?

The time has undoubtedly come to put ecology and defense of Mother Earth on the revolutionary agenda, but not at the expense of our roots, which are in the working class. The "deep ecologists" of Earth First! are to be commended for bringing the IWW's tradition of direct action into the environmental movement, which had gotten bogged down in reformist politics. At the same time, the May IW was less than forthcoming because it implies that EF! and the IWW are in total agreement on all issues.

In the words of EF! editor Roger Featherstone, "...there's a wide range of opinion within EF!, but we can work together on certain things without having to see eye to eye with them on everything." I feel exactly the same about EF! I am willing to join with them on certain projects, even though there are some serious differences between us which the May IW said nothing about.

EF! people sound like neo-Luddites. In 19th century Britain, the Luddites were driven off the land into factory wage slavery and fought back by destroying machinery. At the time a pre-industrial society still existed for them to fall back into. The Luddites acted in the name of "Ned Ludd," which recalls an ancient god or king of the Celts and which EF! likes: Their newspaper comes out on the pagan holidays of northern Europe, such as May Day and Hallowe'en.

The IWW has tried to protect the environment by eliminating unnecessary production, as expressed in the slogan PRODUCTION FOR USE INSTEAD OF FOR PROFIT. EF! appears to want no industrial production at all and even claims that human beings are not the most important living species.

"The Fifth Estate" newspaper of Detroit is also pro-Luddite and skeptical of technological progress. Both EF! and TFE would probably say that the industrial unions are useless, if not harmful. Both may be hyperbolically accused of wanting to go back to the Stone Age, while retaining their typewriters and gasoline-powered motor vehicles.

To my surprise, "The Fifth Estate" --in its Fall 1987 and Spring 1988 editions-- has come out against Earth First! Even more astounding, TFE, in distinguishing its own position from EF!'s, is saying things that the IWW should have been saying. For example, TFE rejects the slogan MALTHUS WAS RIGHT!, which EF! offers for sale on a bumper sticker --how can the IWW accept this slogan?

Cambridge professor Thomas Malthus (1766-1834) wrote with the intention of refuting his contemporary, William Godwin. Under the influence of the French Revolution, Godwin resigned from the Protestant ministry, married the feminist Mary Wollstonecraft and advocated a society based on equality and the abolition of private property, he has been called "the Father of Anarchism."

Godwin must definitely be counted among the antecedents of the IWW. In reply to him, Thomas Malthus argued that the population will always tend to grow faster than the food supply. The human race is doomed to eternal poverty; since, if you raise wages, workers will only have more babies and there won't be enough food to feed them.

19th and 20th century capitalists have seized upon Malthus --or on their narrow understanding of him-- as a justification for perpetual inequality. In the name of Malthus, millions of human beings have been condemned to want; because of him, economics has come to be known as "the dismal science." The fictional miser Scrooge was in favor of war because "it will reduce the surplus population"; Dickens, in his portrait of Scrooge, was satirizing the capitalist interpretation of Malthus.

The Wobs who preceded us fought for the principal of worker supremacy over industry, which, they believed, will eliminate shortages of food. Evidence has been presented that a higher standard of living will reduce the birth rate and population growth has indeed slowed in the industrial West, at least within the middle and upper classes.

It has been argued that population will stabilize if the goals of gay liberation and feminism are achieved, especially if women are freed from the economic and social pressures that force them into too many pregnancies. A large population can in fact be seen as serving the interests of the ruling class: by providing cannon fodder for wars and an army of surplus welfare recipients who can be drawn upon as scabs.

EF! doesn't see it this way at all. For EF! the struggle of the workers against their bosses is at best secondary to the protection of trees. Many EF!ers have even welcomed the AIDS epidemic, because --a la Scrooge-- they think it will help thin out the population. (See the *Utne Reader* for May/June 1988 as well EF!'s own publication.) Yet EF! doesn't seem to welcome gays for decreasing the birth rate.

I am sure that the self-organized workers of the world will be able to protect both trees and their own interests, keep the birth rate at a healthy level and meet the challenge of diseases like AIDS. For this to happen workers must clearly understand that their enemies are capitalism and the state.

EF! and *The Fifth Estate* have both provided valuable insights on the limits and limitations of technology; but, in insisting that the principal enemy is technology alone, they have helped the real culprit -- Big Business-- to divert attention from itself.

Edward Abbey is the author whom EF! loves most. In his *One Life at a Time, Please*, there is an essay on anarchism that most Wobs would probably agree with in many respects, as I do. Unfortunately, Abbey's book also contains these paragraphs:

Or consider the interesting question of immigration, race and culture: if we who still form the majority in America really care to preserve our democratic traditions, derived in the most part from our European heritage and ancestry, then we must be willing to reevaluate the possible effect of

differential breeding rates and mass immigration from Latin American, African and Asiatic countries on these traditions.... My answer is simple: Place a good stiff tax on motherhood. Penalize parents. Revise the tax system so as to reward singles and childless couples while requiring the begetters of children (including me) to pay more, not less, taxes.

Why not, for example, offer a brand-new Mustang convertible to every girl who consents to having her fallopian tubes tied in a Gordian knot? This would be much cheaper. . . than the present system of welfare payments to those. . . who have reached the conclusion that being welfare mothers is the only career open to them. It would have the additional benefit of eliminating from the gene pool those stupid enough to consent to such a deal.

In some of his other writings, Edward Abbey has clearly and meritoriously shown that the US Forestry Service is in effect a capitalist tool which helps corporations exploit public lands. In spite of that, and in spite of his kind words for anarchism, Abbey does not ever call for direct union action by the workers in industry, not even loggers.

Instead, he relies ultimately on governmental solutions: closing the US borders to (non-European) immigrants controlling birth by means of bribery -- offering new cars to "girls" who will agree to being sterilized. Since we can be sure that Detroit will never give these cars away for free, the federal government would have to purchase them out of tax money taken from workers.

To speak of "differential breeding rates" among women of color is racial nonsense. There is no evidence that Third World women are biologically or genetically prone to have more babies than white women. It is not race but capitalist-induced poverty which accelerates the birth rate and causes immigrants to flock here in great numbers from "South of the Border" and overseas.

In defending the southwestern desert against corporations and government, Abbey has brilliantly exposed the sham of US democracy. Yet as soon as immigration becomes the topic, he cries fear that our "democratic traditions" (derived, of course, from Europe) will be overwhelmed by dark-skinned hordes. And as he goes, so probably will most of EF! If we were to swallow their ideas uncritically, we would have to dissolve the IWW or change its name to the Industrial Workers of America.

My complaint however is not against Abbey and EF! as much as it is against the IW editors, who have not told readers everything that should be known about the deep ecologists. It would have sufficed to include a conspicuous disclaimer, in words to this effect: "While saluting Earth First! for their bold and imaginative defense of the earth, we must repudiate any EF! members who have substituted *Malthusian* methods of population control and a racist immigration policy for class struggle against capitalism."

That no such disclaimer was printed is, in my opinion, a serious mistake.

Louis Prisco  
X327194

*Editor's Note: the above statement was by a fellow worker expressing the sentiments of many members. Now that both sides of the issue have been heard it is hoped that the issue may rest in peace. It is also hoped that EF!ers who have joined the IWW understand that they are welcome in our ranks as we are a diverse organization representing many tendencies.*

**Coors Vote, Golden, Colo. Dec. 16--** a vote for union certification was taken at the Adolph Coors Company. Coors has 1600 brewery workers, who voted 1,081 against and 413 for, affiliating with the Teamsters Union. Issues were centered around wages and pensions with Coors successfully convincing the majority of workers that they were unable to pay the higher wages and benefits offered by larger breweries such as Anheuser-Busch. Coors is the nation's fourth largest brewery and has not had union representation since a twenty-month strike begun in 1978 was defeated. Also, the Teamsters have agreed not to reinstitute the nation-wide boycott they maintained from 1979 until 1987 when it was lifted by an agreement between the Teamsters, the AFL-CIO and Coors. . . Just the same, who wants to drink non-union beer anyway?



**Ban on Work in the Home Lifted--** On Jan. 9, the 45-year-old ban on the manufacture of most clothing and jewelry in the home will be lifted by the Reagan Administration. The products involved are gloves, mittens, buttons, buckles, embroidery, handkerchiefs and jewelry. Regulations prohibiting this work were enacted in the 1940's in an effort to combat sweat shop conditions. The 173,000 member International Ladies Garment Worker's Union has vowed to fight this action in the courts. ILGWU officers call the move a "green light to exploit workers" where "unscrupulous employers can and will force homeworkers, most often non-english-speaking immigrants and nearly always women, to accept below-legal wages, work long hours, forgo elementary safety precautions and even draft underage children to work."

**GENERAL STRIKE IN SPAIN, Madrid, Dec. 14--** Eight million workers walked off the job in a one day general strike, the largest strike action in Spain since 1934. Last month the socialist General Worker's Union (UGT) and the communist-led Worker's Commissions (CC.OO.) united for the first time in a call for a general work stoppage when the government proposed that businesses be permitted to violate minimum wage laws "for the purpose of fighting unemployment". The unions maintain that the government's policies have provided an extended boom for business while offering no improvement to those who provide the labor. . . So it goes.

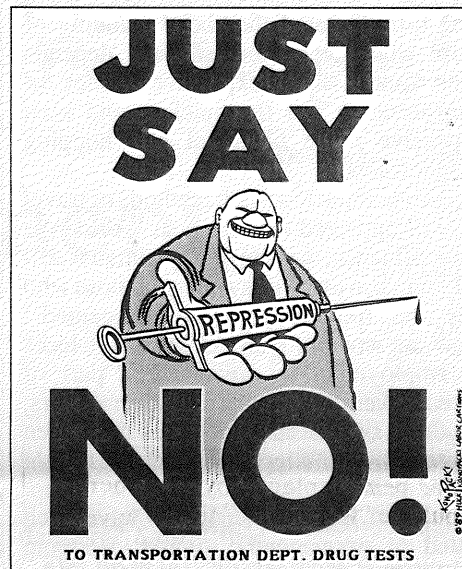
**On a Similar Note; Wash. Dec. 12--** During the longest peacetime boom in US history, 9.7 million workers have lost jobs due to plant closings and layoffs, according to government figures. Between 1983 and 1988, 4.7 million of those losing work were tenured workers having been on the job more than three years. Seventy percent of the laid-off workers have found new employment with 44 percent of those reemployed having to accept substantial pay cuts to do so. Marvin Kosters, an economist for the American Enterprise Institute calls these figures "normal" . . . Hope you're next, Marvin.

## Of Interest to Unionists

**Union Leader Murdered, Brazil Dec. 23--** Francisco Mendes, who was the first to organize rubber tappers in the Amazon into a union has been murdered by gunmen contracted by local landowners. Mr. Mendes is the seventh organizer killed this year while fighting to save the rain forest from ranchers and developers. While Mr. Mendes' union in Xapuri has only 3000 members, the movement is believed to have grown to over 30,000. Engaging their foes with Direct Action, the rubber tappers and their families often sit in front of bulldozers to prevent landowners from illegally knocking down trees. Conservationists praise the rubber tappers as skillful managers who harvest the forest without seriously damaging it. Francisco Mendes was shot point blank in his bathroom while under police protection. . .

**Frank Lorenzo's Chess Game with Labor, Wash. Dec. 15--** the Airline Pilot's Association and the Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers continue in a bitter stalemate with the management of Eastern Airlines, i.e., its parent Texas Air and Mr. Frank Lorenzo. Mr. Lorenzo, since his takeover of Eastern and Continental has embarked on a revamping of the airlines causing the layoffs of thousands of workers, cutbacks in salaries and increased workloads in a bid to break the unions. In early December the Pilot's Union asked the Department of Transportation to open an investigation as to whether Eastern was safe and it's management fit to run an airline. The department has responded negatively, admonishing the unions for "a transparent attempt to put pressure" on Eastern management by citing false safety concerns. Even so, FAA investigators have stated that they find the antagonisms between management and labor so deep that they could pose a threat to flight safety. . . Feeling Lucky? Fly Eastern.

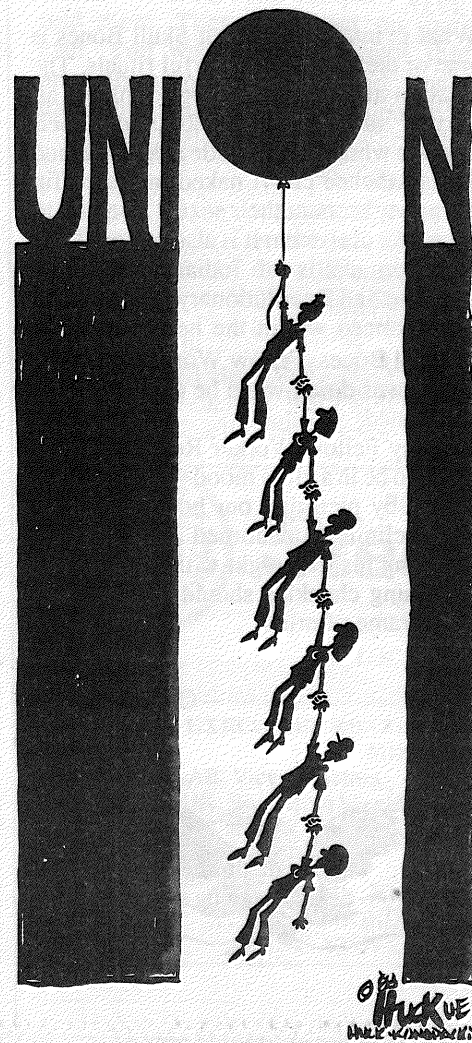
**Late Development, Wash. Dec. 23--** Labor Secretary Ann Dore McLaughlin announced her intention to start hearings for lifting the remaining home work restrictions. "My intention all along was to go with a two tier approach," she said, "because women's apparel was more controversial, the idea was to do more of a negotiated rule-making there after getting six or eight months experience with the others." Labor Department officials also let out that in late October she received a letter from Vice President Bush saying, "I am looking forward to the next step." Susan Cowell, a vice president of ILGWU said, "The sense we had always gotten was that Bush was very much a part of this initiative. Without a ban there is no hope of enforcing the Fair Labor Standards Act in this industry." It is estimated that hundreds of thousands of people are employed as home laborers in violation of the act, which has been poorly enforced by the present administration.



**Black Lung Ruling, Wash., Dec. 6--** the Supreme Court has ruled that the Federal Government has improperly denied benefits to tens of thousands of miners with symptoms of black lung disease. At the same time it was ruled that the Labor Department is not required to reopen old cases where appeals were not filed even though the original denial of eligibility was arrived at unfairly. As a result, only 7,000 miners out of the 100,000 affected will be able to benefit from the decision. . . Justice by the teaspoon.

**A Bigger Battle Seen--** the AFL-CIO has also called for a ban on clerical work in the home. With the advent of computer terminals, phone links and other new technology, employers have been experimenting with assigning work at home in an attempt to lower overhead, evade rents and inspire an atmosphere impossible to regulate or monitor. A 1930's study on the issue concluded, "Low wages, unregulated hours, poor working conditions and child labor are familiar aspects of this system of production."

**Local 560 Votes, Newark, Dec. 7--** A reminder to the Feds on Pearl Harbor Day that they can't wield their power but they cannot invoke democracy by decree. Rank and file control has to come from the rank and file, not from above, until the rank and file becomes fed-up-enough with situations to run their own show, there will be no democracy. And that is the way it has gone in Teamster's Local 560 after two-years of federal trusteeship. In the vote for officers to represent local 560's 7,850 members, only 62 percent or 4,715 members voted, of those ballots only 4,531 were deemed eligible. The Danny Sciarra ticket, heir to the "Tony Pro" Provenzano machine, referred to by the New York Times as a "world of associates whose talents lay in beating other men with hammers, in selling labor peace to the trucking industry, in garrottes and guns and the clever use of garbage grinders and incinerators to make enemies disappear" won handily with 2,842 votes. That is 60 percent of the votes cast but only 37 percent of the rank and file, hardly the kind of mandate Sciarra is boasting nor the expression of participatory democracy for which others had hoped. "Tony Pro", the man who went from being a \$10-a-week Hackensack truck driver in 1934, to local 560 president ruling through a platoon of leg-breakers, to convicted murderer and extortionist, couldn't contain his joy with Sciarra's victory and died from a heart attack on December 12 while serving time in the federal pen. . .



**Six-Hour-Day Strike, Rio De Janeiro--** In November workers occupied Brazil's largest steel mill in Volta Redonda. Three-thousand strikers armed with iron bars, molotov cocktails and rocks barricaded themselves inside the plant and refused to leave, after the work force of 18,000 walked off the job demanding a 26 percent pay increase and a reduction in workhours from eight to six. Troops had stormed the plant unsuccessfully but killed several strikers.

## Of Interest to Unionists



### Book Review

continued from page 6

own defense demand an "investment of time." Thus pressure to consume, job stress, and "value-serving" are all rampant. The better paid workers, along with professionals and others in the vital consuming group may no longer desire genteel leisure to read Aristotle or Zola, but they do need increased time off for compliance with the social rituals of peers, family, church (for some) and physical exercise. Above all they need this increase of leisure time to make any real use of consumer items that are of themselves time-intensive, no longer mere casual distractions. Besides the familiar automobile, this class of widely distributed goods includes sporting equipment of all kinds, motorcycles, elaborate audio and video equipment etc. All of these items, into which many workers have sunk a lot of money, wisely or not, come ingeniously packaged; the package, however, does not contain the most essential component of all - time to do it. Thus if one asks the typical worker - consumer - homeowner how many hours of work ("job work") they

would prefer to put in each day, they usually reply, "six" or sometimes five. There seems to be a huge latent constituency for a 30-hour or 25-hour work-week out there. For a great many of those newly employed in service jobs, this is a reality already, although the pay and other rewards are truly "minimum." The situation could give union organizers a needed hook into the industries where those consuming workers, who need time off, and the service workers, who need better wages, are concentrated. It is probably only a matter of time in fact before capital itself realizes that the consumers' lives are already supersaturated with unused or little-used goods, and that in order to push more onto them it will be necessary to give them more time by shortening the work-day across the board. Labor had better hurry up and seize on this issue, so as to make the shorter day (at better pay) a feather in the cap of unionism. Otherwise, if the bosses implement it their way, it will surely become a device for diluting union presence and strength in the workplace. They know well how to do this, having done it with a vengeance in the service industries already.

Joseph Jablonski



Half a decade past 1984 and Orwell has been right on the button all the way. In the more things change the they stay the same department, we find that the bindle-stiff of old is still among us. For those of you who do not belong to the geritol set a bindle is a bandana wrapped around one's worldly possessions and tied to the end of a stick which facilitates hopping on freight trains. Not all freight train hoppers carry bindles with them but the term has been applied to them nevertheless.

Other words such as 'bo, bum or tramp have also been bestowed on those who move from one part of the country to another. The aforementioned terms have long differentiated the social standing of those whose economic survival depends upon quick and inexpensive modes of transportation and the quickest and least expensive mode of travel was hopping freight trains.

Lest one think that such methods of travel have disappeared with the post World War Two affluence, the side door pullman is still very much in use. Today many of those who ride the freights are "undocumented" Mexican workers going to possible places of employment in the northern part of Freedomland. Within the past several years, hundreds of thousands of aliens have been apprehended "illegally" riding freight trains, from such border cities as San Diego, Yuma and El Paso. Hundreds have been killed or permanently injured. Hopping freights has always had its hazards and the latest up-to-date high speed freights have not diminished those hazards any.



### ECONOMIC GOAD

The economic urgency of supporting families back in Mexico and the constant wariness for immigration agents makes for a desperation that can too easily disregard otherwise normal safety precautions and the result is a high rate of death and injury. The so-called amnesty extend to those who could prove residency requirements in Freedomland has done nothing for those who cannot prove the required residency nor does it do anything for those who continue to come up here as the buying power of the Mexican peso continues to drop. Two years ago 208 pesos was worth one Freedomland dollar but now the dollar costs ten times as many pesos.

Linda Wong of the Los Angeles Coalition for Human Immigration Rights logically states that "What drives people across the border is poverty in their homeland.....and.....no amount of border patrol will change that fact".

### BORDER GAMES

Immigration departments from their top echelons on down to their brutish underlings are not distinguished by their logic and that applies just as well to Freedomland's immigration department. In the book, *Sanctuary: A Story of American Conscience and the Law in Collision*, the author, Ann Crittenden compares the government to the kid who owns the football, who makes and breaks his own rules according to his convenience.

How else can it be explained that Cubans are legitimate political refugees while Salvadorenios and Guatemaltecos are only economic refugees. These babies seem to forget that North America has a European face because of three centuries of economic refugees.

### SKULL AND BONES

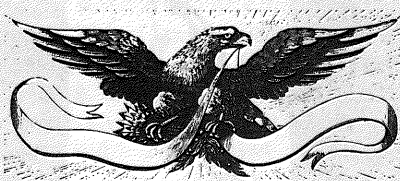
Rejoice and be glad, this is the month that Freedomland's new top banana gets sworn in along with his distinguished record in the CIA and all that. There are those who question the propriety of any ex-director of the CIA being chief executive of the Earth's only hope for freedom but their's are only voices in the wilderness.

What is important is that we are being fronted once more by a solid true blue son of Freedomland. Though a member of the entrepreneurial elite he has proven himself capable of being one of the good ole' boys down in the bible and grits belt. At the same time he is a Yale man, even having belonged to one of that hallowed institution's exclusive inner societies by name of Skull and Bones. Tucked away among the cloistered halls of New Haven is a venerable stone building where behind a padlocked door remain the secrets of this elite collegian society whose latest distinguished member is none other than the prez himself. When four years ago Georgie the Bush was sworn in as Vice President he was sworn in by a fellow Bones member, Associate Justice Potter Stewart of the class of 1937.

What is interesting about Skull Bones is some of the disclosed colorful rituals. The initiation alone is something to marvel at. Initiates are given \$15,000 on their initiation where they wrestle naked in a mud pile and thence crawl naked into a coffin where they recount their sexual histories to their upper classmen. It is also rumored that the stolen skulls of Indian War Chief Geronimo and Revolutionary Pancho Villa are ensconced within the headquarters of Skull and Bones. Fellow Worker Joe knew what he was doing when he gave orders to be cremated.

Anyway Fellow Worker Readers, if you happen to be in a glum mood you can amuse yourself by picturing our honorable chief exec reclining unadorned in a coffin recounting his first night with Barbara and the ensuing chuckles should put you in a lighter frame of mind.

C. C. Redcloud



## Conference On Workers' Self-Organization Revisited

### ANOTHER WOB'S VIEW OF THE CONFERENCE ON WORKERS' SELF-ORGANIZATION

The St. Louis conference, on the one hand, raised an interesting variety of viewpoints. On the other hand, the lack of focus meant that little, if any, headway was made in either defining the questions or the solutions involved.

On the matter of what the key issues were, there was little agreement. To some (perhaps most) participants, self-organization of workers amounts essentially to increasing rank-and-file democracy and participation in existing unions. Most participants saw self-organization as the empowerment of workers, regardless of the context or strategy/revolutionary implications. Others viewed self-organization as the development of mass workers actions and organizations independent of unions, as well as orthodox parties. I thought it ironic that those who fell into the former definition, which strikes me as liberal and gradualist, tended to come from the ranks of the anarchists at the conference, while the Marxist-oriented participants tended to identify with the latter notion. I was disappointed with how this basic issue was addressed--sort of indirectly-- since I had hoped that the point of departure for discussion at the conference would be not whether to develop extra-union/revolutionary struggle, but how to.

It follows that there was a wide variance in ideas for organizing. At the main session addressing this question, several viewpoints were represented. The chair, Pete Rachleff, indicated in opening remarks that the hard issue now is what we in the U.S. do given that so much of the mass industrial class base has been eroded/exported--i.e., how we organize for revolution in a post-industrial society. The panel members had, in my view, little to say about this important question. Pete Winkels, from P-9, described the solidarity there; Mike Walsh, an SEIU staff organizer,

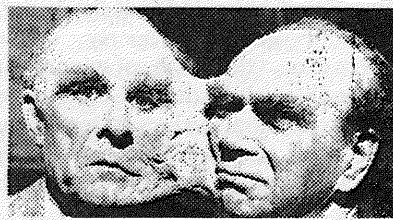
spoke only about the nuts and bolts of traditional union organizing; and Dana Frank, a labor teacher, said we should concentrate more on service-sector organizing of women and people of color into unions, as she described the organizing drive at Yale University.

The problem again was a lack of clarity by participating individuals and organizations. It seems to me that a common starting point should have been the classic theory that the conditions of labor among industrial workers causes particular phenomena when properly developed: the collective seizure of the means of production and new production based on direct workers' control. From this, the seminal issue for radical, anti-elitist organizers in this day would be: does this possibility still exist as the basis for the revolutionary transformation of society, and if so, how can we enhance it, and if not, what do we do now? This was not a common thread, nor did it even seem to be something consciously accepted by most people at the conference, and the rest of the meeting suffered accordingly.

This didn't have to be so. More preliminary work by conference organizers might have helped. It seemed that the organizers were more interested in broadening the base of the conference to enhance attendance, which would account for the wide spectrum of organizations co-sponsoring. It didn't work: the biggest crowd was 50.

Or perhaps this problem is endemic in this political circle. It appeared that many participants were satisfied to project a vanguard-free workers' movement, period. This explains the lack of strategic appreciation around the issue of racism. Suffice it to say that the conference was square on the matter of opposing vanguard parties and elitist ideologies, but we need to get a lot further down the road than that; neither conference this year has helped much.

Lowell May  
Denver-Boulder IWW



## Book Reviews

continued from page 9

in 1879 as consisting of "a regular German-Scandinavian, Bohemian-American crowd... a howling, whooping mob... such as only a Socialistic community could bring out or would tolerate." Nelson shows how and why those of various ethnicities united under red and black banners and what distinctive ethnic groups brought to the movement. Never romanticizing, he also shows how ethnic and religious fragmentation hurt the labor movement, especially as Irish Catholics were isolated in the Knights of Labor.

The "Socialistic community" hated by the *Tribune* depended on the mobilization of ethnic culture and the creation of new forms which united diverse cultures. Thus Nelson pays close attention to "dancing and picnicking anarchists," as well as to the drinking, singing, parading and self-education of radicals. Particularly acute are his observations on the role of atheism and freethought within Chicago's left. Like Iain McCalman's *Radical Underworld: Prophets, Revolutionaries and Pornographers in London, 1795-1840* (Cambridge, 1988), Nelson's work suggests the tremendous diversity of the radical heritage.

Although the sections on the political (and anti-political) thought of the labor leftists in *Beyond the Martyrs* are

sometimes shrewd and insightful, they are the weakest parts of the book. Nelson pursues what is probably a false question. He asks at length whether the movement in Chicago was anarchist or socialist. He concludes that it was socialist - that "Bakunin never slept in Chicago." He even seems to accept the position, fashionable in new labor history circles but quite indefensible for the vitally important 1883-86 years, that the movement had "political republicanism" as a central goal. But Nelson's views are uncertain on these points. On the dust jacket blurb the activists are socialist but in the title they are anarchists. When, in the early 1880s, the movement clearly considered itself anarchist *and* socialist, Nelson assumes that this was the stance of a young formation needing to "clarify" its views.

A more fruitful approach might accept that the blurring of anarchist-socialist distinctions grew out of the realities of the period and was a mature, sophisticated stance on the part of the experienced radicals. From 1881 through 1886, it was not the line between anarchism and socialism but the lack of such a line which made the labor left important in Chicago. The philosophy of socialism *and* anarchism undergirded tremendous dynamism within the movement. The combination proved ephemeral in the atmosphere of defeat and repression after Haymarket but, as Sal Salerno's work shows, it was not without its lasting impact. The somewhat idealist cast of the "socialist or anarchist" sections of *Beyond the Martyrs* contrasts sharply with Nelson's success elsewhere in this superb book at showing how movement ideas grew out of workers' culture and of practical experience in labor struggles.

Dave Roediger



# Down Under: Mackie from Australia

Post Office Box 322  
Newport Beach 2106  
Sydney, Australia

December 13, 1988

Greetings Fellow Worker,

I write to you to ask for Delegate status for the Sydney area in order to commence organizing the re-opening of an Australian Branch of the IWW.

I can find no other financial members of the IWW here in Sydney. There are a lot of gabby assholes, hoary old geriatrics (I'm only 74), who claim to be or have been members of the IWW but it is only the proud exploits of working class solidarity going right back to the days of June 27, 1905 that has captured the imagination of these good souls.

I am one of those Wobblies who traveled across the Nations to get to a union meeting -- many times in my life -- and kept financial in one union or another -- and nurses my KOR red card next to my heart until the dirty mongrel state police ransacked my digs in my absence down in the mines.

The person you term "delegate" at King Street has long ago defected to the Anarcho-Syndicalist Federation (IWA) which terms itself the "Australian Section of the International Workers' Association." That is not the IWW per se. They've just gobbled up the IWW philosophy along with a mish mash of rebels who comprise the Australian Anarchist Movement. They are all good people and our nearest friends. BUT IT'S STILL BLOODY POLITICS IN THE EYES OF THE WORKERS (who know no better) and Australian workers have had such a gutful of their sellout by their own "Labour Party" (in government at present) that they are extremely cynical of anything that smacks of politics. And of course after witnessing ad infinitum the stupid bloody circus that has recently gone on in "The Land of the Free and the Brave" (The Greatest Demockery on Earth) they are a hell of a lot wiser about the shit of politics. At least one hooray for television!

Well anyway, I know a lot of good Rebels in all the conservation movements, anti-war, anti-nuclear (especially anti-nuclear ships in Australian ports), plus oodles of protest movements (even kids against crook politicians' movements and strikes), a lot of academics (apolitical), yes -- and even rebel politicians. In other words, I'm going to attempt to round up all the Rebs into an OBU type of affiliation and push for a journal??? called *Solidarity*. (Not a Pope ring kissing Solidarnosc caper.) A good old No Politics, No Religion Wobbly Direct Action paper to fan the flames of the

much discontent that's around at the moment. (and especially among the general geriatric community.)

Now let's have a bit of ACTION on this. I can see by the tone of the October *Industrial Worker* that our friends the Anarchists, and I use the word *friends* unreservedly, are pretty well married up with us over there, so I don't want my opinions about these things to colour your judgements.

I am sending to Brian Meyers at "International Headquarters" \$70 to cover the cost of your telephoning each other to discuss my application. That's \$10 each, so don't talk all bloody day on the line. My first move will be to get 15 members signed



Pat Mackie: Carrying IWW principles with him for some 54 years. Fellow worker Mackie led the longest industrial struggle against the toughest boss -- ASARCO -- in Australia. Mackie claims he owes his tenacity to "his rebel Irish streak and Wobbly spirit."

up in order to apply for a Charter.

Then we will have to talk about a bug of some kind, the same as the IWW buttons, only IWW-OBU Solidarity around the circumference and selling these buttons to all and sundry members of unions and all protest movements, and then getting unions and movements to affiliate with the IWW branch for a small fee and we permit them to use the bug on their letterheads.

We have got a pretty strong, well-entrenched Union Movement in this country with most of the piccards being attached to one political party or another, e.g., three different Communist parties, the "left" and the "right" factions of the Labour Party, the Groupers (Catholic Action fanatics, and VERY dangerous),

Even the academic studies are highly readable. Though the subject is far from exhausted, we now have a group of books which begin to do justice to the importance of the Haymarket events and the Haymarket martyrs.

Nelson's distinctive contribution is to adopt the broadest, deepest and most innovative approach to the study of the Chicago anarchists and the Haymarket events. He nicely re-tells the story of the May 1, 1886 eight-hour day strikes, of the Haymarket events, and of the subsequent legal frame-up and murder of the International Working People's Association leaders. But the focus is on placing these events in the context of American and transatlantic radical culture at the end of the nineteenth century.

Nelson, who has read diligently in the foreign language sources on Chicago labor history, evokes the internationalism of the city's anarchist/socialist movement. The *Chicago Tribune*, antilabor then as now, described a radical festival

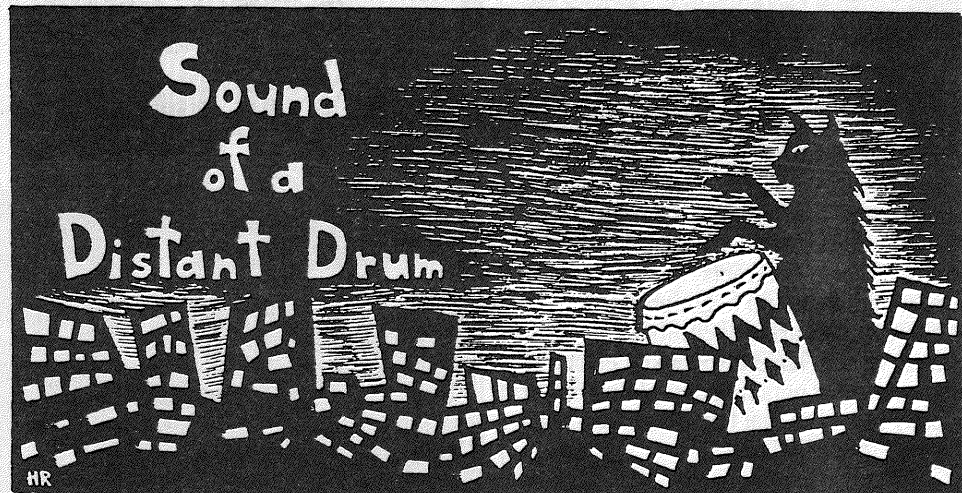
Liberal Party followers, like your Republicans, and an assorted bunch of self seekers, and a good sprinkling of would-be Wobblies if there was a branch here. Most of our bigger unions are Communist Party controlled, but I never blaggard them. Its the rank and file of every outfit that we aim at and the more workers that wear a Solidarity button the better.

Anyway (!) one thing at a time. I am presently in the ring with a publisher who thinks my book is the best thing since "sliced bread" so it looks like I will be getting a lot of national publicity again so I want to use it in getting the IWW re-organized before I kick the bucket. I'm presently painting to get some money. I'm earning a bit over \$500 for a 38 hour week. I could get up to \$700-800 if I wanted to work OT.

I have bought a Commodore Amiga computer and a Sharp SS7750 photocopier which does A3 size photocopies (the size of the IW) so I can send out some sample articles to the various relevant bodies and drum up some market for the IW here as well as the Solidarity thing. Then I'll be addressing a lot of unionists all over Australia and Jesus can I talk! The Irish bullshit pours out of me even better than Jesse Jackson, only the revolutionary kind of tub thumping.

I'm looking forward to it. Meantime Congratulations on your resurgence and the great looking IW. Good stuff. You are all doing a great job. I'm proud of youse all.

Fraternally  
Pat Mackie.



It is December and the roofs of the houses shine with the grey rain from the sullen sky and on the steps of the hospitals all over Britain uniformed nurses stand on strike pickets. Their cause is just and their case is honest and simple. For generations nurses have been morally exploited, for no matter how low the pay or how long the working hours, they were always told that they must not strike because they are "dedicated". It had to end and finally Britain's nurses took strike action and with full emotional public support. Ma Thatcher fought them, but for political vote catching reasons she had to give way and Clarke, her Health Minister, announced to a cheering populace that the nurses were going to get a "fantastic" pay rise. The nurses cheered and went back to the bed pans. But what Ma Thatcher did was to have all nurses "graded" and in all graded groups only one appointed nurse could have the "fantastic" pay rise.

At its simplistic it is as though all workers on a conveyor belt were given a "fantastic" pay rise but that "fantastic" pay rise is only given to every tenth worker, it being deemed by management that every tenth worker should be held responsible if the conveyor belt broke down.

The nurses, at this moment in time, are standing on mass picket lines outside the hospitals demanding their "fantastic" non-paid pay rise and not a political con game. Clarke, as one of Queen Elizabeth II's Ministers, is behaving in public like the fool he is in private, for on TV he is raging that the striking nurses are the creatures of sinister political forces and that the various regional authorities should take the nurses to court to break their union as Ma Thatcher did with the miners and the seamen; but at this moment in time, in grey rain, the uniformed nurses are standing their ground.

In Motown the Ford company are now so confident of their political/managerial strength that today they sacked Mick Gosling, the 36 year old 1107 union branch chairman, for speaking against "official" union policies, inciting strike action and "concealing the fact that he has a first-class honors degree" from Kent University.

In the coal fields, two more mines are to be closed down in the South Wales area with 1,411 men out of a job, bringing the mining jobs in Wales down from 271,000 to 6,000. Think on that, comrades. A rich seam is being opened up in southern England to centralize coal production with a scab union, a sweet-heart contract, and an agreement to revert to the six day working week for three weeks, with one week off in four, and that could be worked as overtime. And Arthur Scargill of the fighting, militant

National Miners Union, is taking his 90,000 miners into the womb of the 1,300,000 member transport union.

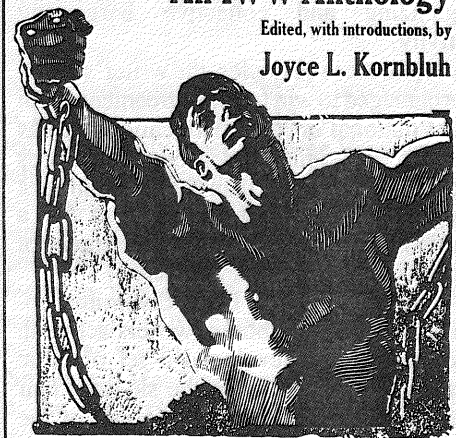
Meanwhile, in those small back rooms, Britain's Communist Party continue to move up, or is it lateral, as Ken Gill takes over the secretaryship of the 653,000 elite white collar Science and Finance Union, come the retirement of "your smiling" Clive Jenkins, the champagne-sipping, all purpose revolutionary-in-thought-if-not-in-action.

Arthur Moyse

## Rebel Voices

An IWW Anthology

Edited, with introductions, by  
Joyce L. Kornbluh



Culled from Wobbly periodicals from the movement's founding convention in 1905 to the present, *Rebel Voices* presents pamphlets, stories, songs, poems, cartoons and illustrations that bring the story of the "minutemen of industrial unionism" to life in native accents. The IWW made lasting contributions to our language, folk music and literature.-  
*Detroit Labor News*

edited by

Joyce Kornbluh

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## Book Review

### Beyond the Martyrs:

A Social History of  
Chicago Anarchism, 1870-1900.  
by Bruce C. Nelson. New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press, 1988.

With the publication of this excellent book, the Haymarket affair becomes the best-studied labor event in United States history. Nelson's work joins the solid older accounts provided by Henry David in *History of the Haymarket Affair* (1936) and Paul Avrich's recent and elegant *The Haymarket Tragedy* (Princeton, 1984) as a major scholarly treatment of the May 4, 1886 bombing and police riot in Chicago. Alan Calmer's overlooked *Labor Agitator: The Story of Albert Parsons* (1937) and *Haymarket Scrapbook* (Kerr, 1986), edited by myself and Franklin Rosemont, provide more popularly-styled accounts.

# Writers Form National Union

At a time when labor organizing of any kind is increasingly difficult, a five-year-old organization of writers is making surprising gains among workers who are primarily independent contractors.

The 2,500 member National Writers Union (NWU) was formed by disgruntled authors, journalists, poets publicists and other writers employed on a free-lance basis. Outside of Hollywood, where TV and movie script-writers have long been represented by the powerful Writers Guild, free-lancers have never before had an organization that attempted to function like a union.

As a result, book publishers, newspapers, magazines and other purchasers of free-lance material have been free to treat writers pretty much as they pleased. The use of literary agents by well-established writers has enabled them to negotiate individual book deals and magazine assignments on somewhat more favorable terms. But the vast majority of free-lancers have been forced to accept whatever rates, conditions and contracts are offered to them with little or no negotiation.

When disputes arise over money or other matters, writers have also lacked effective mechanisms for pursuing complaints, short of costly litigation that few free-lancers can afford.

## CONFERENCE HELD

In 1981, "The Nation" magazine sponsored a national writers conference to discuss these and other problems. There was much enthusiasm for unionization, so the National Writers Union was launched two years later. But, because writers have few of the attributes of traditional unionized workers, many observers thought the task of organizing them would prove impossible.

Free-lancers, for example, typically work at home, not as part of a group of employees that comes together every day to toil under the same roof. Many don't even write for the same publication on a regular basis, contributing instead to a wide range of media outlets. Under federal labor law, free-lancers are considered to be independent contractors, not "employees" who have legal protection for their organizing and collective bargaining activity.

Despite these obstacles, the writer's union has managed to win formal agreements with eight national or local publications. It has pursued individual and group grievances that recovered more than \$200,000 in fees for its members. And it is about to start a national campaign for better treatment of authors by major book publishers.

According to NWU Book Committee co-chairman Bob Claiborne, writers active in the union have developed a set of basic demands summed up in the slogan "Fair Pay and Fair Treatment." As part of the

campaign, the union hopes to get at least 1,000 published book writers to sign an "author's pledge" seeking non-returnable advances, faster payment of royalties and money for subsidiary rights, more detailed royalty statements and compulsory arbitration of contract disputes.

Claiborne says the union "is also gathering information for a national, computerized data bank on publishers' contract practices, which will supply both the union and its individual members with up-to-date facts on just who in the industry is doing what, businesswise, to whom."



Once the data bank is operating, the NWU will present annual awards for the best and worst agreements with publishers, he reports.

The 470 member Boston affiliate of the NWU is performing a similar service for its journalist members this fall with the publication of its "Insider's Guide to Free-Lance Writing in New England." According to Barbara Beckwith of Cambridge, co-chairperson of the Boston local, the guide will provide "pay and policy information on over 100 publications, plus critiques of the top 21 and several chapters of writer-to-writer advice on free-lancing."

Noting that the NWU's recent "Payment-on-Acceptance Campaign" has resulted in seven Boston-area publications changing their practice of payment-on-publication, Beckwith predicts that the "Insider's Guide" will become the basis for "pressing for better pay and policy at other area newspapers and magazines."

"Our goal, like the national's, is to improve the working conditions of writers by acting collectively on the problems we face," Beckwith says. "To change the status quo, we pursue member grievances and negotiate agreements and contracts with publishers. We also conduct workshops and conferences, foster support groups, and hold regular social events."

Members of the Boston local (and its New Hampshire and Western Massachusetts "sub-groups") keep the organization functioning by volunteering to serve on specialized committees for journalists, book authors, and writers for small presses which publish collections of poetry and short stories. Members seeking help in their individual contract negotiations with publishers can consult the local's Contract-Agent Advisory Group. Those with complaints of unfair treatment by a particular publisher or editor bring their cases before its Grievance Committee.

All members also receive a monthly newsletter called "Rough Draft" and the union's national publication, "American Writer." Membership benefits include access to two comprehensive health insurance plans at group rates, a credit card program, and discounts on computers and car rentals.

Dues for the organization vary according to income. Membership information can be obtained by contacting the NWU's Boston Local, P.O. Box 1073, Harvard Square Station, Cambridge, Mass. 02238 or its national office at 13 Astor Place, New York, N.Y. 10003. (212) 254-0279. Copies

## THE COLUMBINE CAMPAIGN

They shot 'em down to break the strike.  
They left 'em in the dirt.  
Five were dead of bullet wounds  
And twenty more were hurt.

It was a crisp November morn'  
Out Colorado way,  
And just a footnote in the news  
Said workers died that day.

Now three score years have come and gone  
But fellow workers know  
The awful price coalminers paid  
For Rockefeller's dough.

We workers always pay the price  
In this and other lands.  
Wherever there is greed you'll find  
Blood on the boss's hands.

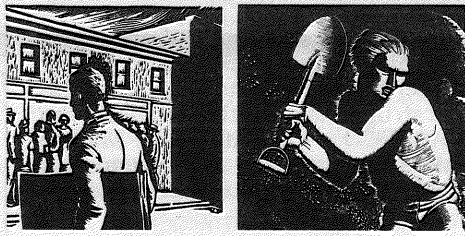
But vested interests once again  
Have gone to the attack!  
They don't want Rockefeller's crimes  
Enshrined on a bronze plaque.

The company will do their best  
To hide the bloody cost  
In workers sacrificed to greed,  
In lives to profit lost.

We've paid their price in sweat and blood.  
'Been true since who know when.  
In honoring our dead it seems  
We'll pay their price again.

poem by Richard Hill and Steve Chmielowicz

Donate, fellow workers. Let's build a monument! Send contributions to Gary Cox, P.O. Box 478, Johnstown, CO 80534.



of the Boston local's "Insider's Guide to Free-Lance Writing in New England" are \$7.95 each, plus \$2 for postage.

James Connolly

(Editor's Note: The contents of this column are intended as information on activities of other unions and, as such, are not intended as endorsements.)

# Wood Factory Blues

continued from page 12

furthermore has not yet learned how to fill our a grievance form.

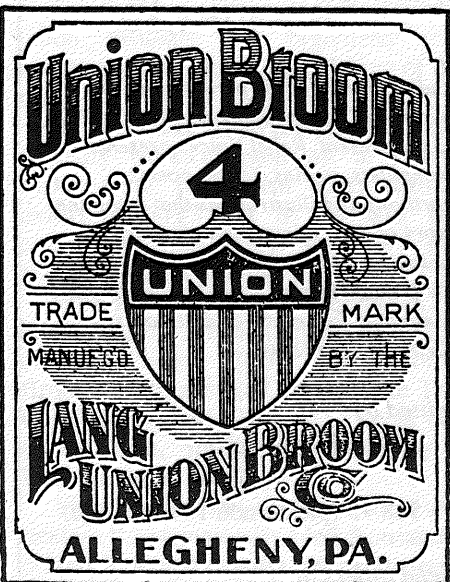
The steward's primary duties seem to be speeding up production and getting people to do jobs for which they have not been properly trained. I was injured when the bit on the high-pressure drill I was using broke and thus twisted my elbow. The steward insisted the Workers' Compensation Board would never take the case and I was not seriously hurt. It's amazing! He isn't a compensation appeals attorney yet he knew off the bat WCB would disqualify me. He isn't a doctor or first aid attendant, and never once inspected my swollen elbow, yet he had my condition figured out. Marcus Welby, M.D., eat your heart out. When the company stalled on filling out their WCB forms, I filed a grievance myself and settled the problem. I told the steward what I thought of him in very vulgar terms. I guess he got the message since we never spoke again.

The senior group's central character is the shop foreman. His extremely unpleasant behavior has resulted in him being physically threatened by people he harasses. On one occasion he took a few punches from an employee he was trying to intimidate--the case went to arbitration and the employee won! However, the worker then quit, as many people do. It is this high turnover which keeps the small group of Steady-Eddies is an influential position.

Why did I stick around for almost a year? Hope is the reason. The contract was up for negotiation and a bunch of us were trying to change the situation there, possibly through strike action since WK has never had a strike. We managed to get \$1.60 an hour raise over two years and some work rule changes--less than half of what we were demanding. For me, considering the conditions under which I started, it wasn't good enough. However, the crew was obviously not ready to fight for more. We accepted a very compromised contract. The vote was 22 for, 11 against. Only 10 "no" voters are still working there; I have gone on to better things, like unemployment insurance.

Several other employees will be leaving throughout the fall, so there will be openings at WK. But all you people desperately looking for work, take my advice. Look somewhere else.

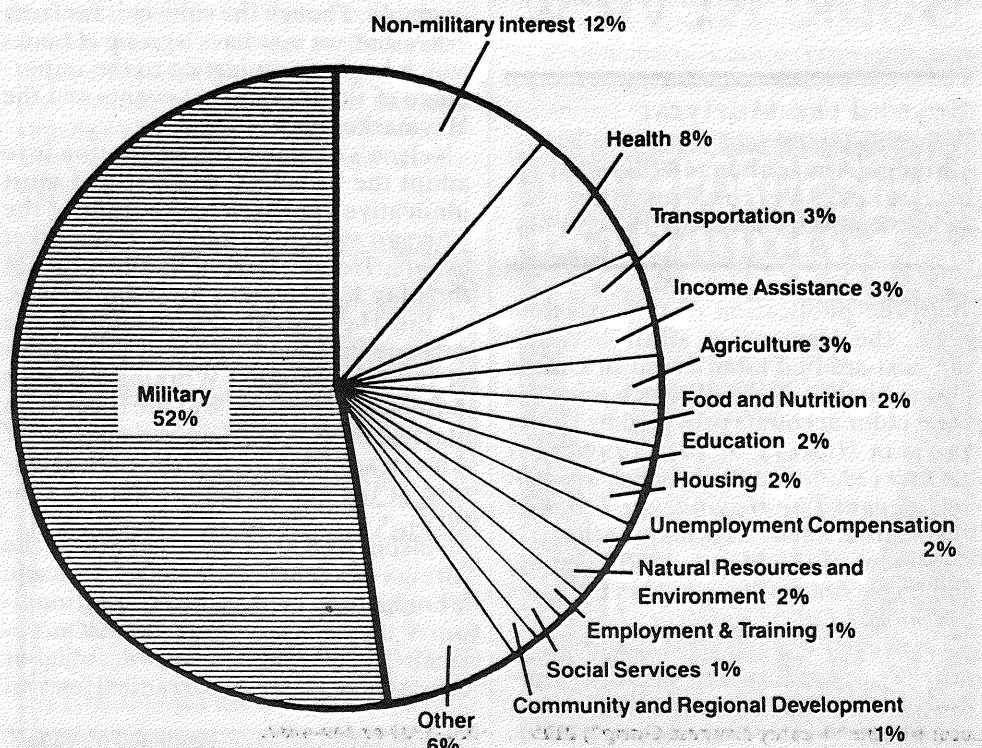
Marco Procaccini  
(from Solidarity Bulletin, Vancouver)



Broom Shop, Western Penitentiary of Pennsylvania, 1896. Convict labor hired out, contrary to law, to Lang Bros., broom manufacturers of Allegheny, PA. Goods sold to the U.S. government through middlemen. Labels bear legend: "Union Broom."

# 52% Of Your Federal Income Tax Dollar Goes To The Pentagon

This "pie chart" reflects the true division of your 1989 Federal Income Tax dollar.



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of IWW Branches & Delegates

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**ONTARIO.** Toronto General Membership Branch, 20 Kensington Place, Toronto Ont, M56 2K4. (416) 591-7577.

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Meets 2nd Wednesday each month. Regional Organizing Committee, Greg Buckingham, Chair, Rt. 1, Box 137 A, Arvon, VA 23004.

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**MONTANA.** Western Montana General membership Branch, 415 N. Higgins, Room 104, Missoula. Open Monday thru Saturday, 12-5. (800) 873-4000 or (406) 721-3000. A. L. Nurse, Delegate. Address all correspondence to IWW Branch, PO Box 8562, Missoula, 59807.

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## CORRESPONDENCE

continued from page 2

Fellow Workers,

FW Harris' articles in the most recent *IW* ("The IWW: Home of Industrial Unionism" and his review of the latest, and second-rate, Haywood biography) display a distressing ignorance of anarcho-syndicalism. The IWW is, of course, open to all wage slaves who share our commitment to revolutionary industrial unionism irrespective of ideology. But one would hope fellow workers would take the trouble to learn what syndicalism is before denouncing it.

Syndicalism, quite simply, means unionism. In this country, as in England, it is generally taken to refer to a unionism that is not content with winning better conditions today but also organizes to take control of industry and operate it in our own interests. (Elsewhere, and often here in the States, this is known as revolutionary or anarcho-syndicalism.) If this sounds familiar, its because the IWW Preamble makes it clear that the IWW is



precisely this sort of union.

Anarcho-syndicalists, contrary to FW Harris's ignorant screed, do not advocate "boring-from-within" the business unions, as such tactics are utterly incompatible with our goals. Nor is the IWW simply an industrial union. Rather, the IWW has always advocated Revolutionary Industrial Unionism, arguing (in a pamphlet by that name published by the IWW many, many years ago) that "the revolutionary struggle is a struggle for the control of industry. It is the logical continuation of the daily struggle... for better conditions, higher wages, and shorter hours... The IWW is bitterly fought by the employing class not only because it is the most effective means for... improving conditions..., but because it is the only possible means for the complete transfer of industrial control."

While I'm writing, I must protest FW Poulos's advocacy of government intervention into internal union affairs in the October issue. When the government claims for itself the power to decide who will be allowed to hold union office, we need not wonder who this intervention

will be directed against. Sure, they might start by taking out a few unsavory hoods, but ultimately such powers will as always be directed against those who believe in militant unionism and direct action. Without the protection offered by the government (the Wagner Act prohibits workers from selecting representatives of our choosing and establishes the principle of government-controlled unions, Taft-Hartley bars union solidarity, and Landrum-Griffin imposes a host of workers from selecting representatives of our choosing and establishes the principle of government-controlled unions, Taft-Hartley bars union solidarity, and Landrum-Griffin imposes a host of restrictions on who unions can elect to office and how we should conduct their affairs), workers would be better able to take on mob-run and undemocratic unions. Faced with a choice between mob-run and government-run unions, the right answer is none of the above.

Jon Bekken, X331117

To the Editor,

I am truly honked with the value judgment made in the Nov., 88 issue's story, "National Archives to Release Joe Hill's Remains." In this unbylined story someone has made the god-awful statement that Joe Hill was "more than just a Wobbly poet. He was also a very active union organizer."

To be fair to him, Joe Hill was primarily a wandering minstrel in the medieval sense and he organized workers primarily through his songs. He probably did, and is still doing, more union organizing through his songs than anyone of his time, so to belittle his work as "just a Wobbly poet" is to imply that his major contribution to the working person was somehow second-class. To then add that he was a "very active union organizer" betrays a value system in which some work is more valuable than others and that (by logic which escapes me) being a song writer/singer union organizer is not quite as important as being an organizer who cannot write or sing.

To make matters worse, in that same issue *IW* printed some of Joe Hill's last letters, in one of which he wrote of himself that "have been busy working on a song named "The Rebel Girl" (Words and Music), which I hope will help to line up the women workers in the OBU...." Obviously, Joe Hill thought of his union organizing work as songwriting and singing. Didn't you read the stuff you printed?

If you don't read the historical documents you print, and you don't think being a singer-songwriter is as important as "union organizing," then why waste a tree putting it in your paper?

Wizard Marks  
Minneapolis

## AVAILABLE FROM IWW LOCALS

- Out of the Depths (best book on the Ludlow Massacre). \$10 postpaid from Gary Cox, PO Box 478, Johnstown, CO 80534. Checks payable to the Colorado Labor Forum. (All proceeds to P-9).
- A Workers' Guide To Direct Action. .50 from NY IWW, PO Box 183, NY 10028
- Introduction To The IWW .10 each; Bulk Rate 40% prepaid, from San Francisco IWW, PO Box 40485, San Francisco, California 94140.
- Solidarity Bulletin* (monthly publication) \$10/year from Vancouver IWW, PO Box 65635, Vancouver, BC, Canada, V5N 3K5.
- Wobbly T-Shirts, \$10 postpaid from Denver-Boulder IWW Branch, P.O. Box 478, Johnstown, CO, 80534.

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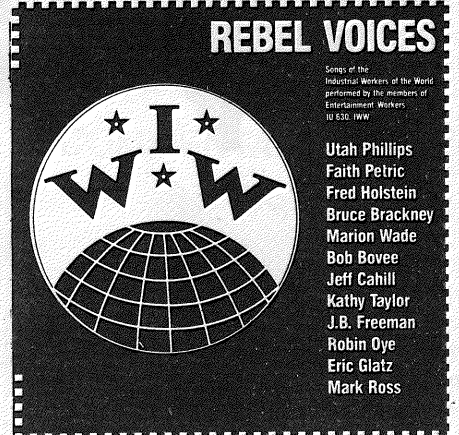
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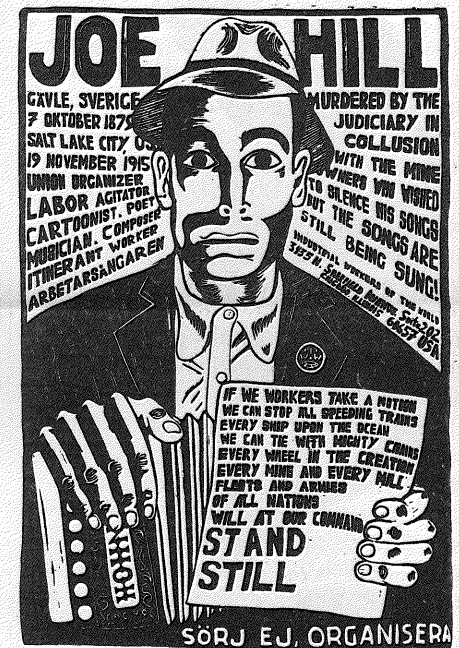
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# BULLETIN

News and Views from Canada

## 1989: New Year, Same Old Crap

Many establishment economists have predicted a major recession in 1989, and it is easy to see why. Capitalism has expanded itself out of a job; the entire world is now locked into dollar domination, there are no more "primitive" countries or undiscovered resources left. Some capitalist now owns every tree, rock, fish, and underground oil deposit. The last bits of rainforest have been targeted for destruction.

Even in China and the USSR, where the elite state has always acted as exclusive owner and capitalist controller of the "socialist" society, the creed of "me, first!" has opened inroads. With MacDonalds in Prague and Moscow, for example, and Coca-Cola in Peking, the rest is history.

Nothing new is left to discover and exploit in the customary way. There is, of course, all of extraterrestrial space with its infinite stars and planets which may yet be exploited, but major capital has not yet turned in that direction, perhaps because of a general lack of creative imagination on the part of capitalists. Instead, what is taking place is a turning inwards; a general attempt to find previously overlooked sources of profit, and to levy new charges for what previously was free (e.g., post office privatization, museum admission charges, bottled water, phone sex.)

So it is easy to see that, with nowhere to go, the creed of greed is starting to consume itself from the inside. Humans, of course, are fodder before the leviathan of capital, so expect increased poverty, homelessness, hunger and fewer jobs, with a widening split between high-paid high-tech jobs and low-paid low-tech work. The traditional craft trades (e.g., plumber, carpenter, welder)

will dwindle as technology changes, though there will always be some demand. Here in Canada we can expect what wage jobs there are to be under American managers as the big chains move in under the Mulroney sell-out deal.

Consumer prices will continue to rise while jobs become scarcer and wages remain low for the majority. Additional charges and taxes will be imposed on the public, while rules will be tightened for welfare, UIC, and pensions. Expect more housing ghettos for the poor, sponsored by government but run for profit by private companies. Food banks are here to stay. Public budgets will be reduced while university costs will rise; for poor children, education will tend toward mere work-training and submissiveness conditioning.

Expect more police surveillance, censorship, and control by overt, covert, and psychological methods, as local, national, and international police forces perfect the coordination of their info-networks and high-tech snoop devices. Corruption and graft within the police departments will increase due to deteriorating social conditions and increased police powers, which will be further broadened by new laws. The Canadian Police will become more directly subordinate to U.S. police. There will be more extensive use of electronic tag bracelets (and soon to come, surgical implants) as a way of monitoring potential troublemakers. U.S. and NATO military test and exercise activities will increase in Canada.

All of this, of course, against a backdrop of increasing toxic pollution abetted by frequent accidental spills and explosions; continuing major earthquakes throughout

1989 aggravated by underground nuclear bomb tests; and freak crop-destroying climatic aberrations caused by greenhouse effect, ozone depletion, and rainforest destruction.

Do not expect governments to alleviate any of these problems, though they will be forced by economic necessity to take some measures to control pollution. It is a time when people are going to have to put the heads and hands together and do what they can for themselves. For more and more people, direct cooperative action will become the only way to obtain food, shelter, medical care, daycare, and other necessities. Both wealth and technology will be accumulating into fewer hands at the top; Therefore it will be helpful to liberate both wealth and technology into the hands of the people. Look for the growth of food co-ops, free schools, community networks, and squatting, along with the inevitable street gangs, prostitution, and toxic substance abuse.

In reaction to repression and recession, people will become more inclined to form organizations devoted to direct action. The solidarity to be found in the IWW will be attractive as unemployment increases, though fighting for better conditions on fewer and fewer wage jobs is a losing, albeit necessary battle. The IWW will grow in 1989 and beyond, provided Wobblies can be flexible and creative enough to pose real solutions to very real and present problems.

Ottawa 88-12-15 MV

### Wood Factory Blues

Many people believe that in B.C. the wood products industry is pretty much "run of the mill".

The image is of well-established, profit-making companies, almost all unionized, with hard work, decent wages, good benefits, some employee rights and tough unions (well, tough-talking unions).

Does this, in reality, constitute paradise? Nope. Are these conditions even standard throughout the entire industry? Not really.

Take the WK Corp., a board lamination and furniture assembly mill in Langley, where I have had the "opportunity" to work recently. WK are the initials of the owner's name: Wilhelm Kreyhenbohm, which in German probably means Rich Parasite With Big Ego.

The owner definitely lives up to this description. Reportedly, Mr. W.K. brings in \$4 million a year clear after every expense, i.e., profits. However, he insists he's broke because he is putting his three children through university. At \$4 million a year, I guess he's having a private university built just for them.

The mill is divided into two companies (for tax purposes): board lamination and furniture. The former is the most profitable since it is the only major operation of its kind in western Canada, grossing \$50,000 a

### Wood Factory Blues

day in production revenue.

The latter is also a big money-maker in terms of production. However, on the books it shows a loss since Mr. W.K. sells laminates to his furniture company at over twice the price that he sells the same laminates on the market.

When I was dispatched to WK in August 1987, I began working as a furniture packager but quickly moved on to assembly. Building "Econoline" office desks soon became my specialty. WK management was complaining that the \$57 cost in labor and materials involved in building each such desk was too high. Thus, faster production was needed. My innate curiosity led me to ask a sales manager how much the company gets for each desk it sells. I learned, to my unpleasant surprise, the selling price is \$160 to \$200 per desk! And what is the retail price? Two hundred and fifty dollars or higher. Maybe they should change "Econoline" to "Theft line".

What about the wages? To start, there are probationary \$6.50 and \$7.00 and hour scales most employees have to work at. I worked at the \$7 rate for three days before moving up to the regular base rate of \$10.67 an hour, and then to \$11.07 an hour for working on the board side. Some workers have been stuck at the \$7 and hour for up to

### Wood Factory Blues

40 days. Furthermore, when I started I was shocked to learn there was no first aid attendant on the site. There are 33 workers and not first aid attendant. Two weeks later, after some of us new slaves had made a fuss, the company sent a senior employee and manager's son to first aid training school--at his own expense, of course.

By now most of you readers have concluded that this is a non-union firm, right? Wrong. WK employees are members of the Carpenters' Union industrial shop local 1928. It's not a bad local as far as business unions go. It is fairly open and democratic, has a conscientious executive, holds regular meetings and actually does some organizing. Most of its shops pay fairly well, at least considerably better than WK.

What makes WK Corp. so different is firstly, it has not been unionized for very long--only five years. Secondly, and most importantly, a small but influential group of senior employees are, as the business agent so eloquently put it, "so far up the company's ass they'll never see daylight again." This small group exists almost exclusively on the furniture side, where most of the employees work. The shop steward is Mr. W.K.'s personal friend, who

continued on page 10