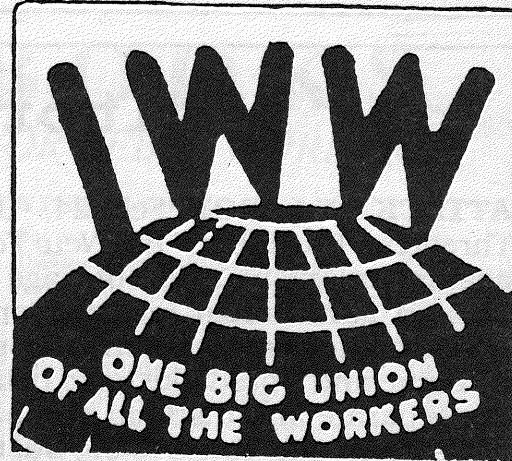


INDUSTRIAL WORKER

Industrial Workers of the World



VOLUME 86, NUMBER 3, WH 1510

MARCH 1989

50 cents

Northwest Wobs Form Organizing Network

At a meeting in Olympia, Washington on February 11th, IWW members from five NW cities formed a communication network to promote and extend an organizing drive covering employees at the progressive non-profits or the public service industry. This organizing drive began last summer with the attempt by Seattle Greenpeace phone bank employees to form a job branch at their workplace. Greenpeace responded by firing the workers and closing the phone bank. In the fall, employees at the Portland offices of Oregon SANE and Oregon Fair Share won NLRB elections establishing IWW job branches at their workplaces. Contract negotiations are currently underway at both these Portland locations.

The February 11th regional organizing meeting was the second in a series of quarterly meetings designed to create a unified movement of workers in the progressive non-profits. The first meeting, held in Portland last fall, brought together workers from three NW cities and initiated the move toward a coordinated organizing drive. The third meeting which will be held in Vancouver, BC at the west coast IWW conference on April 29-30, will feature a workshop on organizing in the non-profits.

The recent meeting in Olympia began with a series of city reports. The Seattle report first described the ongoing activities of the Seattle Greenpeace Workers Organizing Committee which is now functioning as a subcommittee of the Seattle Progressive Non-Profits Organizing Committee. Reports were then given on organizing efforts at Puget Sound SANE and WASHPIRG. The Seattle report concluded with the good news that employees of the Freedom Fund in Seattle are applying for IWW job branch status.

Olympia fellow workers reported on the Olympia Food Co-op and an ill-fated organizing drive last year amongst Olympia employees of the United Food and Commercial Workers Union. A fellow worker from Vancouver, BC reported on contacts they have with workers at a number of progressive non-profits in Vancouver. Finally a Portland fellow worker reported on the current contract negotiations at Oregon SANE and Fair Share. He also described an organizing trip he recently made out of state where he signed up some workers at the offices of an environmental group.

Following the city reports, discussion continued on page 8

"GUILTY GUILTY" - EARTH FIRST! / IWW GREENHOUSE DEMO



Following the California rendezvous EF'ers blockade the entrance to a Simpson Pulp Mill in Eureka, Ca. on September 19, 1988. Photo by Joe Campa.

The best thing about our regional Earth First! gatherings are the demonstrations afterwards. I mean, as long as you've got 200 yahooping Earth First!ers together, you might as well do an action. So, in keeping with this venerable tradition, our California Rendezvous last September decided to go for an all-day roving picket line with the theme of the Greenhouse Effect. We whipped up a few big banners saying "Guilty Guilty-Greenhouse Effect Violator," and prepared some indictment forms to lay on the perpetrators.

We had plenty of violators to pick from, but time constraints forced us to limit it to four --Simpson Pulp Mill, Pacific Lumber Corp., Eel River Sawmills, and a public hearing on offshore oil. Simpson was the most dramatic. Truck drivers were surprised by the sudden appearance of a raggedy mob, just back from three days in the woods, blocking the entrance road to the Simpson plant. The first truck stopped and we ran over to tell the driver that the IWW says take a break on us. That was fine with him, and he kicked back to enjoy the show. The driver coming the other direction, though, didn't take it so easy. No damn hippies were gonna stop him from going to work --he was going to ram our line. "Stop Mr. Block!" chanted the crowd, but the truck kept coming until Earth First!er Corbin Solomon courageously dove under the front wheel of the moving semi. The driver stopped, cursed, then rolled forward. Our line held firm, and people started yelling "Brian Wilson!" as the truck wheels came within feet of Corbin's body before it finally stopped.

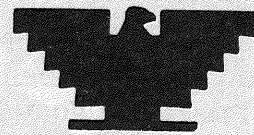
IWW rep Billy Don Robinson jumped up on the truck's running board to talk some sense into his fellow wage slave. But Mr. Block wasn't in a talking mood, and took a swing at Bill Don. "No jobs on a dead planet!" chanted the crowd, as the standoff continued for 30 minutes, with trucks backed up down the highway in both

directions. Finally the police showed up and ordered us to leave. Since we had more work to do that day, we cheerfully obliged, jumping into our cars loudly announcing "Eel River Sawmills next!" Then we proceeded to Pacific Lumber Corp., skipping Eel River for now and losing our police escort.

At Pacific Lumber we paraded around their quaint 19th century company town singing "You can't clearcut your way to Heaven" and "Where are we gonna work when the trees are gone?" Eventually we ran into a hastily assembled counter-demonstration of loggers' wives carrying signs that said "Earth First! is the Worst!" The Earth First! women immediately responded by calling a women's action, and, with the men staying back, we

continued on page 9

Partial Victory for United Farm Workers



Captan, one of five dangerous pesticides the UFW has been seeking to have banned, has been barred from use on 42 fruits and vegetables as of Feb. 16 by the Environmental Protection Agency.

However, even as this is a step forward, it is bittersweet for Cesar Chavez's UFW, since *captan* is still permitted for use on a group of 24 fruits and vegetables, including grapes which were the major target of the union. In permitting the fungicide to continue being used, though not as widely, the EPA has enacted a new policy of "negligible risk." They define "negligible risk" as no more than a one-in-a-million

continued on page 4

Inside

Of Interest to Unionists	Page 4
Mail Handlers	Page 5
Labor Rulings	Page 6
Meatpackers	Page 7
Agricultural Workers	Page 9
Haymarket Heritage	Page 10
Canadian Constitution	Page 12
Solidarnosc	Page 12

Liberty of circulation is as much a part of freedom of the press as liberty of publication.

Justice William O. Douglas

INDUSTRIAL WORKER
3435 N. Sheffield Avenue
Suite 202
Chicago, Illinois, 60657
ISSN: 0019-8870

Second Class Postage
Paid at
Chicago, Illinois, 60657

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Just Out

Direct Action Bulletin

The Voice of the Toronto IWW

Help support this new
Wobbly publication.

Rates are \$24. for twelve issues.

Order from:

Toronto IWW
26A Oxford St
Toronto, Ontario
Canada M5T 1N9

Editorial

ATTACK ON LABOR, Feb. 24, -Under the headline "Labor Threatens President," the *New York Times* today came out against unionism, a decent wage and the right to negotiate without government intervention. The editorial supports union-buster Frank Lorenzo though it didn't mention him by name and would like us to believe his corporate entities are separate and distinct; do not forget that while a good newspaper, the *Times* is big business also.

We have watched Frank's takeaway game over the past couple years. His add and subtract juggernaut of bookkeeping schemes making millions here while screaming labor is killing him there. Now the *Times* cries foul (their unbiased way of protecting those ad dollars) because baggage handlers at Eastern, they report, get \$45,000 in compensation. In terms every American can understand: tell us the take-home. Tell us Frank's take-home; tell us your take-home Mr Editorial Writer. Do you sweat for your pay; do you even believe in what you're doing?

The *Times* goads President Bush "to stand up with equal courage" as Mr Reagan had against PATCO, he is not conservative enough, he needs their liberal consul. And then they go off to condemn measures of solidarity proposed by Lane Kirkland (that rail workers would stage sympathy strikes in support of Eastern workers) and further try to demoralize the rail workers by saying it is a bluff as "rail and airline unions are the only unions legally permitted to stage such secondary boycotts. But. . . are not likely to risk losing this precious leverage. . ." Let us remind this literary hired-gun: it is only leverage if it can be used! Further, labor rights are not delegated nor legislated, they are won.

"Capitulating to these demands could make the traveling public pay"; scare tactics, look clearly. Not new demands, Eastern workers oppose what would be taken back from existing contracts while Lorenzo rapes Eastern routes to the benefit of his other holdings. Will Frank smoke a cheaper cigar, drink a lesser wine when Eastern workers can't make their mortgages? Public pay? Frank wants us all to pay. . . him!

Industrial Worker

ONE UNION ONE LABEL
ONE ENEMY



The Editorial Collective

Carlos Cortez, Mike Hargis, Penny Pixler, Ingrid Kock, Phil Ames.

Correspondents

Stan Anderson, Seattle; Phil Harris, Atlanta; Denny Mealy, Austin; Richard Hill & Gary Cox, Denver; Rochelle Semel, Fly Creek; Paul Poulos & David Zatz, New York.

General Secretary Treasurer

Jeff "Bigfoot" Ditz

The *Industrial Worker* (ISSN 0019-8870) is the official organ of the Industrial Workers of the World, 3435 N. Sheffield, Suite 202, Chicago IL 60657. Unless designated as official policy, articles in the *Industrial Worker* do not represent the official position of the Industrial Workers of the World. No paid or commercial advertizing accepted. The *Industrial Worker* is published monthly and is mailed without a wrapper to reduce expenses, but a wrapper may be requested. The deadline for all copy is the fifteenth of every month. Subscription rates: \$6 per year; \$11 for two years; \$16 for three years.

WOMEN UNITE!

The May Day issue is your issue of the *Worker*! In honor of May Day and in honor of the contributions women have made to the labor movement; we will be having a special women's issue. We need your work: articles, photos, thoughts, cartoons, essays, letters, reviews to fill this issue! Make this issue a success! Contribute by April 15.

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.

SUBMISSION 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

CORRESPONDENCE

HELP!

Dear Sister and Fellow Workers,

Okie Doke Press is pleased to announce the forthcoming book: *Wobbly Poets/A Selection of I.W.W. Poetry*. Edited by L.E. Cornelison. The scheduled publication date is October, 1990.

A list of poets presently typeset follows: Tom Wayman, Henry Pfaff, Brian Burch, Penny Pixler, Utah Phillips, Carlos Cortez, Eugene Nelson, Dorice McDaniels, Harry Siitonen, Pete Posthumus, Robert Young, L.E. Cornelison, Covington Hall, Joe Hill, Matilda Robbins, Arturo Giovannitti, Joe Murphy, Daniel Liston, Matt V. Huhta, Ralph Chaplin, Harry McClintock, Vero Moller, Jim Seymour, Dennis Crowley.

I need Biographical information on Matilda Robbins (especially her year of birth). I need Bio's on Jim Seymour, Dennis Crowley, and Vera Moller in the worst possible way to make the book complete.

There is a critical shortage of female poets both living and dead in this anthology. I need information on Laura Tanne and Jane Street also. I have requested information from your office and branch for the last year and a half. I think that this book will be a source of pride for our organization, but only if it is complete. I have worked hard and spent both monies and time on this project. Please help me with the aforementioned information.

In camaraderie for the OBU,
L.E. Cornelison X334545

P.S.: I think that I have now obtained a grant for the book.

(Eds. Note: Can anyone out there help F.W. Cornelison out with the Bio material he needs? Send it here and we'll forward it to him. Thanks.)

Dear Editor,

This is in response to the article in the Jan '89 IW, "Windmills and Utopia", by FW Richard Hill. In the article, Richard defends the Wobs, against the ruling class media's attempts to make the IWW, and all it stands for, separate from working folks. That is terrific!

Richard's article is a call to action, and cautions against 3 main strategies that may get in the way of such action. On the contrary, his given alternatives include these very strategies.

First, Richard cautions against intellectualism. He opposes socialism's "continuing cerebral attempts". But then he suggests alternatives that appeal to the intellect.

Richard's alternatives are leafletting, and "reorganizing the already organized". Both of these depend on their impact on the intellect.

Intellectualism can be good and bad. I don't endorse "know-nothingness". The P9ers, on the other hand, did not respond radically to leaflets, but to their own experience.

Second, Richard cautions against the economic crisis theory of revolution. But then he suggests alternatives that rely on crisis theory.

Richard warns that the deficit is here, that the trickle down theory will be "befuddling workers right up until the crash", and that we must "prepare for the occasion".

I'd like to suggest that the crisis theory negates workers' revolutionary side (the heart/passion, the side the IWW has a history of appealing to), and acknowledges only its superficial consciousness (the consciousness most susceptible to the influence of the rulers' culture).

Finally, Richard's third caution warns us not to "live too much in the past". But then he suggests alternatives that repeat

past mistakes.

Richard suggests that to get with the times, we must realize that today's workers are the better off, white, American middle class, that can "hock T.V.s" if hungry (which most, in fact, can't). Chosing this base is repeating a past mistake.

I admire Richard's courageous call to act. But perhaps acting without enough thinking, led to his contradictions. This is a good example of why, now, more than ever, we need no just to act, but to think, debate, strategize.

I applaud Richard's call, and his cautions, but for different reasons, and propose a different alternative.

There's merit to the view that top-downism ruins things. Often, all this leads to, however, is silly arguments about chickens and eggs (is "horizontalism" contingent on solidarity between workers of all colors and levels of privilege, or vice-versa, etc.).

I'm more moved by views dealing not with the organizational, but with the real-world causes of worker disunity. The most widespread and basic cause that is see, has to do with racial and national privileges.

It wasn't verticle structures that put U.S. workers on the hysterical bandwagon against Gadhafi, Grenada, or Iran. It was and is racism, and national chauvinism.

There are many examples in history when black movements showed more revolutionary and radical elements than any thing else, having the leading edge on challenge to capitalist society. A few are black reconstruction of the south, and the 1960's black movement.

White labor's choice to defend privilege, rather than support these movements, however, is not just a history of several examples, but a whole history, I think.

This long standing problem of white northern Americans, makes them identify more with their white rulers, than their black, brown, red and yellow fellow workers. And they'll continue to act less like workers, and more like defenders of privilege, until they join the lead of the under-privileged, blacks, etc.

I hear people ask why the IWW's numbers have dwindled, what went wrong. Some attribute it to business unions, violent state repression, etc., which are valid obstacles. I think the answer, however, lies in our history; its lack of true solidarity.

The IWW has always wanted to defeat capitalism, and all its dehumanizing effects. We want to replace the degradation and meaninglessness of "work", with "creative activity".

And the IWW has always known that the key to doing this is solidarity. But not middle class, white solidarity, true solidarity.

True solidarity is contingent on anti-(not just "non")racism and anti-national chauvinism.

I wish for us all, fellow workers, solidarity forever!

Sincerely,
Dexter C. Herda

Mail Handlers

Dear IW,

If democracy is good enough for our government why isn't it good enough for our unions? According to *Newsday's* February fourteenth business section, while King Arthur A. Coria was turning over power of the Laborers International Union of North America to Prince Arthur E. Coria, one of their colonies, the Mail Handlers Union was in revolt! Why would the Mail Handlers Union want to separate themselves from their parent union? *Newsday's* article stated that the Mail Handlers Union had just held their first rank and file election. They want a democratic union. Just an old fashion

continued on page 3

DEVILS' ADVOCATE SPEAKS

EDWARD ABBEY STRIKES BACK!

Dear Editors:

In your January 1989 issue, Mr Louis Prisco repeats the same old slanders against Earth First! and me that Professor Murray Bookchin began about a year ago, namely that we are some kind of "racists" and "eco-facists" because we oppose further mass immigration into the USA. Actually this charge is worse than slander: it is simple intellectual dishonesty. In my case at least, every time that I've ever brought up the immigration controversy in public I have emphasized the fact that I am against *all* immigration, legal or illegal, from *any* source.

(Temporary shelter for individual political refugees is another matter.) In opposing immigration I am on the side of the majority of blacks, naturalized hispanics and the overwhelming majority (92% according to the polls) of native born American working people. Almost all American workers are against immigration and for good and obvious reasons: continuing immigration creates a large, growing, docile labor force. Commercial interests love that condition; people who have to struggle for decent jobs do not. Now if Mr Prisco is in favor of immigration let him have the honesty to say so; and to offer us his reasons.

Mr "X-327194" Prisco's other complaints are equally stale and predictable. E.g., if he thinks that American democratic ideas and traditions --however dishonored in practice-- do not come from our European heritage (including classical Greece), then precisely where, in his belief, *do* they come from? The Aztec Empire? Zaire? Mexico? Uganda? Japan? Hong Kong? Haiti? Chile? God?

He also objects, on grounds not specified, to my modest proposal of economic incentives as a possible solution to the teenage pregnancy disgrace and the public welfare shambles in general. (I was a welfare worker, for nearly two years, in Jersey City and Brooklyn; I know what I'm talking about.) I suggested that we offer definite financial rewards to girls and young women who avoid pregnancy (by any means they choose) and thereby succeed in escaping the welfare trap. A modest proposal indeed but Mr Prisco doesn't like it. Then what would he propose instead? Moral suasion? Bible study? Compulsory sterilization? AIDS? Starvation? Walling in the ghettos, as in medieval times, and simply forgetting the inhabitants?

"Well no," he'll say, "none of the above. What we need is socialism, or an urban Marshall Plan, or a Full Employment Policy, or some other traditional liberal program." Welfare, in other words, only a lot more of it. Well, maybe. I might go along with some of that. But in the meantime, what? In my essay in *ONE LIFE AT A TIME* I was suggesting something immediate and practical which could probably muster popular support, here and now in America. Mr Prisco complains that working people --taxpayers-- would have to finance my program of birth-control bribery. Quite true. But whom or who does he think pays for the welfare system as it is?

As for "differential breeding rates", another phrase that upsets Mr Prisco (there's nothing that most people hate more than plain honest language), I was referring, obviously, and as the context makes clear, to cultural not racial differences. The worst over-breeders in North America, for example, are not the Mexicans but the Utah Mormons --a notoriously Nordic folk. And while quoting out of context and jumbling sentences from entirely different essays of mine, why didn't he have the honesty and fairness to quote my suggestion that the

poor women of Latin America *rebel* against the servitude of perpetual pregnancy? Those women have many enemies to contend with: their own men, their own corrupt, cruel and squalid society, the infernal meddling of foreign medical missionaries, for example --but perhaps their worst enemy is their own church and their own Pope.

And so on. As the *IW* reader may have gathered by now, the questions raised in my essays that most offend old-line Marxoid dogmatists like Bookchin and Prisco are questions based on the premise that human over-population is bad: bad for the earth, bad for wilderness and non-human forms of life, bad for workers, bad for human beings --a threat to all freedoms including the most basic: space; openness; room enough for a life without squalor. Marxists, like capitalists and Catholics, have never been able to accept this premise, plain though the truth of it is to everyone else. They will not face up to the necessity of human limits. They persist in their traditional beliefs that some kind of social reorganization, or more industry, technology and "Growth", or improvement in moral standards, can somehow solve all of our political, economic, environmental, personal and public difficulties. But this is not thinking; this is merely a reflex doctrinaire response to problems that are genuinely novel and more complex than any human culture has had to confront before.

My real crime, therefore, is raising heterodox questions that require painful thinking --or even more painful re-thinking. Ideologues have gone beyond thinking, and they fear pain. Therefore they react to challenge not by honest and workmanlike intellectual debate but by relapsing at once into the easy habit of name-calling. Name-calling, however, is a self-revealing form of offense: the worst "racists" and "elitists" and "sexists" and "terrorists" and "eco-facists" etc. at large on the American scene today are those polemicists who habitually use such jargon when attacking anyone who questions their doctrine.

One more point: contrary to the belief of Mr Jess Grant (*IW*, Jan '89), the Earth First! movement has no leaders, self-appointed or otherwise. EF! began in the Southwest as a spontaneous uprising against the destruction of American wilderness; and it continues as an international and truly de-centralized revolt against the destruction of our planet by industrial expansion, the growth-mania, over-population and human greed. (Population growth, in my view, is merely one more aspect of greed: the urge to dominate everything, human and natural, by submerging all that is beneath a crust of cultural institutions, i.e., beneath cities, towns, farms, roads, machinery, technology, zoos, police, armies, computer networks, factories, prisons, powerlines, vapor trails, smog, noise, garbage. . .)

Or so I see it, these days. Speaking only for myself, that is. Not as leader or guru for anything or anybody, I mean. Like most others in Earth First! I wish neither to lead nor to be led. Or phrasing it a little differently in *Earth First!* we are all leaders.

Yours fraternally,
Edward Abbey

Give to the
INDUSTRIAL WORKER
Sustaining Fund

Commentary . . .

Breaking Out of Illusion

ECONOMICS. Its a vital element in a central nerve of capitalist ideology that runs through the soul of many a worker. And no wonder, our ears are continuously drubbed with NEWS concerning various economic INDEXES; Wholesale Price Index, Retail Price Index, GNP, Prime Rates, Balance of Trade, and of course, UNEMPLOYMENT.

We know who really benefits from employment. Employment is production and that spells PROFITS for the big boss. Meantime, for producers, it means wage slavery. Still, wage slavery has traditionally been far more attractive than the painful destitution associated with joblessness. Indeed, this historical phenomenon has provided the basis for an emphasis on UNEMPLOYMENT as THE economic INDICATOR that truly represents the interests of working people. However, with the serious erosion of wages that has occurred in the last 15 years, wage slavery can no longer assure us of being free from such destitution. The economic realities of today make it increasingly clear that ECONOMICS and its INDEX charades has little to offer working people.

UNEMPLOYMENT is at its lowest point in about 10 years. This is but one of a multitude of INDICATORS constantly regurgitated over the air-waves, providing us undeniable testimony that a strong economy is good for workers. We are so deluged with this NEWS, it can become quite convincing. Yet, there remains in the minds of FWs a nagging reality that our personal economy is not recovering.

Underlying lower UNEMPLOYMENT rates are loudly flaunted statistics on Job Creation. The fact that most of these new jobs are accompanied by sub-livable wages doesn't seem to dampen the trumpeting of a RECOVERY. The price a household pays to keep up with the bills has risen from a forty hour work week to eighty. And since many of these jobs created by the RECOVERY are part-time; it's impossible to even work the eighty.

Infested with fatal contradictions, Capitalism is its own terminator. The fact that PROFIT margins depend on both Consumption and Oppressed wages presents the internal dagger which will ultimately penetrate the heart of Capitalism. Working people have a choice. We can continue in disarray, embracing the illusions of ECONOMICS and its INDICATORS which falsely represent the interests of working people; or we can build a revolutionary society withing the shell of the old. In this new society lies the resolve of workers to unite under the goal of production for the producers, not for PROFIT. In developing this new society, we will be preparing for, indeed encouraging the death of the old....

John Smith

continued from page 2

Correspondence

union run by the rank and file, not by the bosses. And when I say bosses, I mean that now we have a new boss, the guys that run our unions, that don't have to answer to us since we have no say in the elections anyway. To the mail handlers, good luck and don't give up. To every other union member, take a lesson from the mail handlers and DUMP THE UNION BOSSES OFF YOUR BACK.

Yours for the OBU
Brian Mahoney X337526To the Industrial Worker Collective
Dear Fellow Workers,

I am happy to see that the *IW* editors have at last published my critique of the May 1988 Earth First! edition. There are a couple of things however which prevent me from fully enjoying this happiness.

First, the misspellings. The manuscript I typed and sent out was nearly 100% free of spelling errors, yet the *IW's* version was so orthographically inaccurate that it was a rough row for me to look at it.

Second, the *IW* version did not make any clear distinction between my words and those of Edward Abbey. There are two ways for a writer to signify that he is quoting another writer. He can present the other writer's text in either a different size type face or in quotation marks.

The manuscript I sent had Edward Abbey's remarks in a smaller size type

than mine. Incredibly the *IW* published my words and his in the same size type and his words were not in quotation marks, as if I had said what he said or vice versa. I fear this could leave us open to charges of plagiarism.

For that reason I strongly hope that a clarification will appear in the next edition.

In Solidarity,
Louis Prisco

To the Editor,

Contrary to FW Burford, I found December's *Left Side* column anything but blasphemous.

First, what was said about the placement of Christmas was more or less correct. The Church's festivals are not necessarily placed for historical reasons; that is not their point.

Second, the writer of the *Left Side* is free-along with many Biblical scholars-to engage in speculation upon the events the Biblical Birth Narratives. Those accounts are at odds with one another for many reasons. Translation affects the accounts read in the Bible, for one thing, and the independence of the accounts inevitably brings inconsistencies. Moreover, sources from the Old Testament available to the writers of the Gospels bring some things in to doubt, such as the virgin birth. But, this "hisoricity" is not the point either.

continued on page 10

Of Interest



To Unionists

National Guard Called in Hospital Strike, Cranston, R.I., Feb. 20- In combat fatigues troops were sent to bathe and feed patients at General Hospital after AFSCME Local 1350 walked off the job in a pay dispute with the 480 bed long term care facility operated by the state. The Local which has about 1300 members, half of whom work at General Hospital vote by a margin of 4-to-1 against a 53-cent-an-hour raise offered in return for concessions on staffing, including less overtime and greater leeway for management in transferring staffers from ward to ward.

Wage Reductions at Morrell, Sioux Falls, Feb. 20 - John Morrell and Company, infamous for anti-labor policies and a caliced disregard for safety, has imposed a four year contract lowering wages for 2000 workers up to 18 percent.

The plant which is organized by the United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW), representing a workforce that is half composed of the scabs that were used to break the UFCW strike of a year and a half ago, has been without a contract since Nov. 20. Morrell declared negotiations had reached an impasse and imposed its own four year contract after 99 percent of voting union members had rejected it. The UFCW stated it *would not strike* (!) while lamenting that the contract "virtually destroys 50 years of bargaining" and will ruin the standard of living for Morrell workers. The average wage now goes from \$9.75 an hour to \$8.00 an hour.

In November, Morrell was fined 4.3 million dollars for safety violations at its Sioux Falls plant by OSHA. OSHA cited statistics showing that 40 percent of the plant's 2000 workers had suffered cumulative trauma disorders during the preceding year.

The Smell of Victory, Dallas, Feb. 1- BEI Defense Systems is taking out scratch-and-sniff advertisements in trade publications to promote its "extraordinarily lethal" Flechette rockets. The casual browser gets a whiff of cordite.

GUATEMALAN WORKERS OCCUPY FACTORIES; As of mid January, Guatemalan workers continued their occupation of Play Knits' (Liz Claibourne labels) textile plant and Pestrosteel's (formerly Heleno Plast) plastic bag plant.

The Play Knits occupation began in October, 1988, when in reprisal for union activities by the workers, the company removed equipment, including more than 300 sewing machines, from the factory. Over 500 employees were left jobless and without having been paid back wages, much less severance pay. In an attempt to force management to recognize their just demands, the workers occupied the plant, with 105 continuing the occupation into 1989. The factory was set up 1986, to sew Willi-Wear sportswear on contract for Liz Claibourne brands in New York. According to the workers, the company also has operations in South Africa.

Letters of support may be sent to:
UNSI TRAGUA

11 Calle 8-14, Zona 1
Edificio Tecun, Of. 34
Guatemala, Guatemala C.A.

THE PETROSTEEL SIT-DOWN strike began November 16, 1988, after management suspended eight members of the workers' union executive committee. At the start of the occupation the workers were threatened at gun point by the security guards, but the arrival of other people defused the situation. On the day following the occupation the workers asked management to negotiate. The response of the general manager was to kick one of the union members. In mid-December 1988,

continued on page 5

Northwest Wobs Call for Support to Keep Louisiana-Pacific Mill Open

"Activists have always touted that sustained yield equals sustained jobs. Therefore, by keeping the mills open forever, we would logically have to ensure forests forever to keep them going."

IWW and EF! member Darryl Cherney and other Northwest Wobs and radical ecodefenders have joined forces to take on the anti-labor, anti-environmentalist Louisiana Pacific lumber corporation and to prevent the corporation's planned closure of a Potter Valley mill in April. Cherney has made an important 12 point proposal to

they have in fact increased their workforce by 33% and nearly tripled their cut over 1985 levels. Another case is LP's closing of the Potter Valley mill which doubled its shift only five years ago."

Cherney asks: "When will northcoast citizens learn that artificially increased production leads to massive busts shortly thereafter? With production and profits at an all time high, industry's criticism of environmentalists can only mean one thing: the bust is well on its way."

Cherney likens the industry's complaints about environmentalists to "a baby crying about a booboo on its little

employees, who are currently attempting to buy back the company, would not defend the policies of corporate raider Charles Hurwitz.

Cherney mailed his pitch to LP spokesperson Glennys Simmons and has some words of concern about her job: "Glennys will be one of the first to go when LP closes their Ukiah mill. They already have a PR person, Shep Tucker, in Humboldt county. Besides, PR is one of LP's lowest priorities. Look how they announced layoffs just before Christmas, after many people had begun their shopping," said Cherney. "LP's treatment of their employees is reflective of their forest management. They can't tell us whether they can keep their people employed four months from now, and they expect us to trust them with long range forest management."

continued from page 1

Partial Victory for United Farm Workers

chance of getting cancer over a 70 year life span from contact with residues of cancer causing chemicals on foods. Yet, even b, EPA figures, the aggregate risk from consuming several contaminated foods becomes one in 100,000. Farm workers will still suffer direct exposure working daily with the affected crops in the field. Thus, while the UFW led the fight against *captan*, the new rules are intended only to reduce risk to the consumer.

Beside the now acknowledged cancer risks, research by Dr. David Schwartz of the University of Washington in Seattle, published in 1988, indicates a strong link between *captan* and birth defects, specifically limb reduction. Dr. Schwartz's



Nature Calls

Gladys Simmons, a Public Affairs Officer of the Louisiana Pacific Corporation

Cherney, who is a prominent environmental activist and songwriter, says that he is tired of the mainstream press trashing environmentalists as being anti-labor and of mill owners who blame environmentalists for mill layoffs and shut downs. He points to one industry spokesman at a gathering of the Eureka Chamber of Commerce in mid-December who was quoted as saying that environmentalists are making life difficult for the timber companies as they spend time and money fighting lawsuits instead of spending time and money in the forest cutting down trees.

With the second highest nationwide timber cut being reported (12.6 billion board feet) and Mendocino County reporting nearly triple the timber revenues from last year's cut on National Forest land, Cherney finds it "repulsive that industry is blaming environmentalists for shortages that overlogging is creating."

Cherney comments: "While MAXXAM/Pacific Lumber bemoans four lawsuits filed against them as anti-labor,

finger. LP has million dollar publicity budgets, dozens of attorneys on retainer, high paid lobbyists in Sacramento and Washington, Representative Bosco and Assemblyman Hauser in their pockets, a stranglehold on the workforce, and ownership of millions of acres of timberland. Should a lawsuit tie up 1/10th of one percent of their timberbase, you can hear them howl for miles."

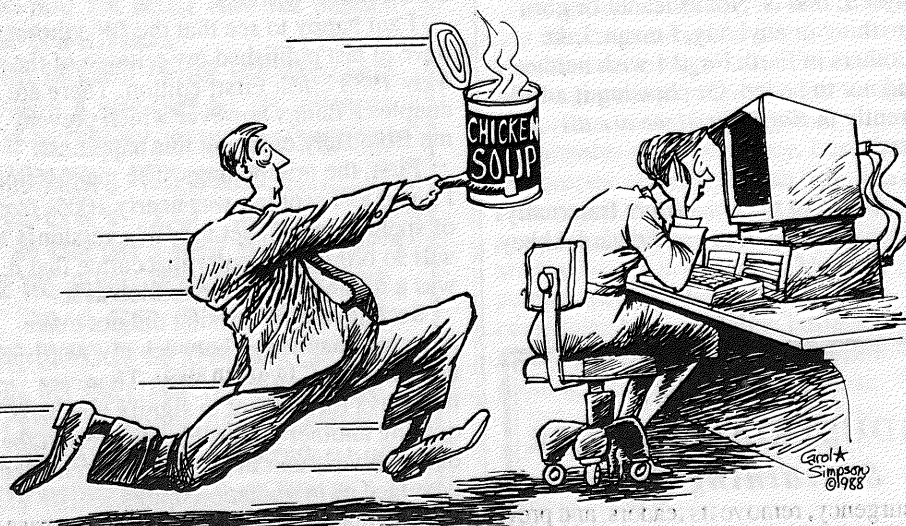
"I'm asking environmentalists to fight to keep LP's Potter Valley mill open," said Cherney. His proposal which has already challenged the industry's traditional public relations defense, has also challenged environmental circles, and has been greeted with enthusiasm from members of the Sierra Club, the Northcoast Greens, the Mendocino Environmental Center, the Wilderness Coalition, Save the Northfork and the International Woodworkers of America.

Cherney also believes that workers are coming to see the importance of environmental concerns. At a recent Earth First! demonstration, MAXXAM/PL actually imported counter demonstrators from other companies because their own



team identified 237 cases of birth defects among women who lived and worked in 12 California counties where *captan* use is high.

The 24 fruits and vegetables on which *captan* use is still permitted are: almonds, apples, apricots, blueberries, celery in plant beds, cherries, dewberries, eggplants in plant beds, grapes, green onions, lettuce, mangoes, nectarines, peaches, pears (post harvest), peppers, pimentoes, plums, prunes, raspberries, spinach in plant beds, strawberries, taro, tomatoes in plant beds and all seed treatments. The dilemma now faced by the consumer is whether to deprive oneself of all these savories or purchase them and risk cancer while tacitly supporting growers against labor.



Text of Cherney's Proposal to Louisiana Pacific Corporation

Dear Glennys,

As promised, here is my first proposal to Louisiana Pacific regarding keeping the Potter Valley Mill open. I would appreciate it if you or someone from your outfit could address the points and questions below so that I can relay to my associates whether or not Louisiana Pacific is even interested in keeping its mills open in Mendocino County and in Northern California, in general. While I'm sure you understand there is a certain public relations value in what I am proposing, let me fully assure you that this is not a ploy. I have encountered nothing short of unrestrained enthusiasm from many of the top activists I have approached thus far. It has always been the position of most activists that a healthy forest and forest industry is our goal. So, tell me what you think:

1. Let's keep all LP mills open forever, with a sustained number of jobs. Let's focus on the Potter Valley mill for starters.
2. Currently, zero acreage is tied up by lawsuits and no down time has been suffered from burn salvage appeals in Mendocino County by your company. Could you please explain why your company feels that these are responsible for your mill closure.
3. Whole logs are being exported overseas. Does your outfit export and how many mill jobs could be saved if you didn't?
4. A coalition of timber experts is being assembled to present LP with suggestions for keeping Potter Valley mill open. It consists of loggers, millworkers, carpenters, furniture makers, environmentalists, public relations experts and labor relations people. Will you open your mill and your books for this group, after you have met with them and approve of them, of course?
5. Where do you plan on taking the equipment in Potter Valley, should the mill close?
6. What bearing does the toxic dump have on the mill closure. Could you provide a detailed plan for its clean up.
7. John Lewellan of the Greens is developing a 700 year forest plan. Do you have any long term plan that you are willing to share? You've stated that taking Trout Creek out of production deprived Potter Valley of three months worth of work. Could you please address employment with a somewhat longer term vision?
8. Are your short notice mill closures actually secret long range decisions, and if they are not, can you tell me if our forests are managed with the same short term approach?
9. Can you make public an inventory of your Mendocino timberlands so we can see how much you actually have left? As LP is a public company who logs a good deal on public land, wouldn't it be true that you have some responsibility to report to the public?
10. LP has vigorously complained about the bidding process. What is LP's opinion of the free enterprise system? As you are requesting relief on stumpage prices in the face of diminishing forests and increased demand, both of which you have created, is it not contrary to the capitalistic system you espouse to ask for a public dole out? Also, do not many of the timber operators who outbid you take their trees to your mills to be logged, thereby not affecting your mill production as much as you claim?
11. Is LP interested in growing quality sawlogs that do not require toxic glues and preservatives, like waferboard and plywood do?
12. While Joe Wheeler has accused "tree huggers" and such as being lawbreakers, how do you explain LP's superfund listings and lost civil lawsuits as they relate to LP's ability to abide by the law?

I am looking forward to hearing your response...For the working men and women, I remain,

Darryl Cherney

Mail Handlers Demand Democracy

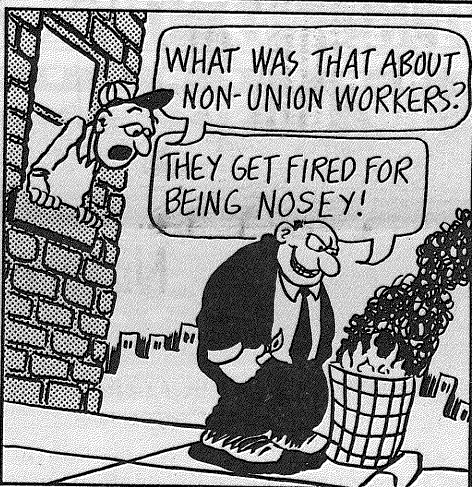
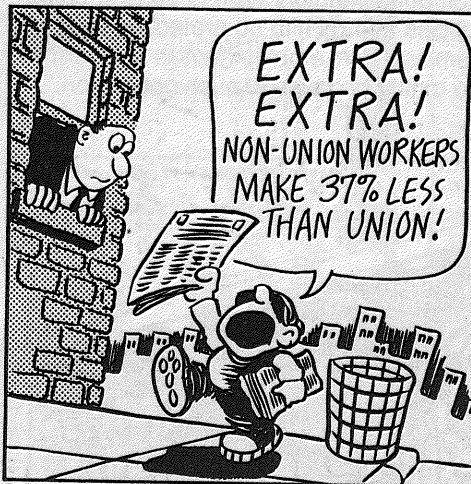
Very few American union members have the right to vote directly on their national union leaders. With the exception of the Mine Workers, Steel Workers, Postal Workers and Letter Carriers, almost no unions conduct one-member, one-vote referenda on their top officers.

The preferred, but less democratic, method of election is at national union conventions. Rank-and-File members elect local union delegates to represent them at these gatherings, held every three, four, or five years. The delegates, in turn, choose the officers and executive board.

To the extent that any unions have been changing their election procedures in recent

Mail Handler members from securing greater autonomy in a referendum vote which was scheduled for January (see update below - Eds.). The AFL-CIO--ignoring LIUNA's unsavory reputation and high rate of labor-racketeering convictions--has weighed in on Fosco's side.

The conflict has its roots in a 1968 merger between LIUNA and the Mail Handlers, one of several federal employee groups that bargained with the Post Office. Relations between the two organizations have never been good. Most Laborers are construction workers employed by local contractors around the country. While the union



years, the trend has been away from referendum votes. The International Union of Electronics Workers (IUE), for example, once held national mail-ballot elections involving its entire membership. In the mid-1960's, this procedure enabled challenger, Paul Jennings, to unseat the IUE's founding father and first president, James Carey. Since that contest, however, the IUE has changed its constitution and switched to convention elections.

Referendum Vote Is Key

Among union dissidents in organizations known for their top-down control of national conventions, the referendum vote is a key reform demand. members of the Teamsters for a Democratic Union (TDU), have campaigned for this goal since TDU was formed in 1976 to clean up the scandal-scarred International Brotherhood of Teamsters.

Now, TDU has been joined by the 40,000 long-suffering members of the National Postal Mail Handlers Union (NPMHU), an affiliate of the Laborers International Union of North America (LIUNA). As part of an increasingly bitter battle between the Mail Handlers and LIUNA, reform leaders of the NPMHU have proposed changes in the structure of their union that would give members the right to elect their top officers and would make the Mail Handlers one of the more democratic labor organizations in the country.

In addition, Mail Handlers have become the first LIUNA members to mount a major public challenge to the Laborers' well-documented, Teamster-style corruption and organized-crime ties.

Not surprisingly, LIUNA President Angelo Fosco has attempted to crush the NPMHU insurgency, remove its leaders, and prevent

represents many minority workers, the leadership has always been predominantly white, conservative, and securely under the control of the Fosco family that have treated LIUNA's presidency as a private, nepotistic preserve.

Mail handlers are more than fifty percent black or Latino and all work for the Postal Service. Their current national officers--President Glenn Berrien and Secretary-Treasurer Marion Write--are progressive, young black trade unionists, committed to rank-and-file control and the protection of membership rights.

The current legal and political dispute over the Mail Handlers' future began in 1985, when Fosco tried to raise their per-capita dues. Most Mail Handler local leaders opposed the move because they were dissatisfied with LIUNA's poor servicing and heavy-handed role in the contract negotiations. The dues revolt and general discontent led to talk of disaffiliation.

Fosco pre-empted any breakaway by suspending Mail Handler autonomy. For the next two years, the affairs of the group were run by an appointed trustee, loyal to Fosco, who implemented the contested dues increase unilaterally. Forced by federal law to end the trusteeship and permit delegate election of new Mail Handler officers, LIUNA has been faced with renewed challenges to its authority since 1987.

Last fall, for example, Berrien and Wright convened a special convention at which Mail Handler members considered more than 500 changes in their old constitution. In addition to creating a referendum voting procedure, the reform amendments they adopted would restore rank-and-file control over bargaining and contract enforcement.

continued on page 12

Of Interest



To Unionists

continued from page 4

the government declared illegal. On January 9, 1989, the electricity at the plant was turned off. At the end of January, 50 workers, including 15 women, remained inside the plant.

Rank-and-File Action Shakes Up Italian Piccards. Since 1987 Italian workers, particularly those in the public sector, have engaged in an increasing number of wildcat strikes that have the leaders of the three major labor federations scrambling to find ways to regain control of over a restive rank-and-file.

While the hours lost to strikes in this period is greatly reduced from the early 80s, the number of workers involved in strikes has grown.

The hours lost to strikes in 1987, for example, were one-fourth of those lost in 1980; but, the number of workers taking part in strikes in 1987, 4.2 million, were 17 percent higher than in 1986.

The strikes, usually lasting for short periods, are organized by autonomous shop floor committees, known as cobas (comites di base), outside of, and often against, the structures of the unions which are seen as being hopelessly undemocratic. They have involved airtraffic controllers, airline pilots, flight attendants, railway machinists, teachers, television performers, physicians, ferryboat captains and even lay workers at the Vatican.

In an attempt to regain control of the situation the unions have supported a proposed law for the regulation of strikes in the public sector and have tried to paint the cobas movement as being divisive and elitist.

Although shaken by the cobas movement and the decline in their old base in basic industries due to economic restructuring, the reformist unions still have some clout. In December just the threat of a four-hour general strike forced the government to withdraw a fiscal program that would have raised taxes for workers while ignoring the widespread tax evasion of the middle class.

What is happening in the Italian labor movement is also happening elsewhere in Western Europe. France and Spain, while experiencing a decline in union memberships due to economic changes have also seen a development of wildcat movements among workers who are increasingly aware of the weakness of traditional, undemocratic union structures. Cobas in Italy, coordinations in France and general assemblies in Spain all bear the common project of struggle self-managed by the rank-and-file of labor. Keep your eyes on them.

Economic Hard Times in Hungary have caused even the usually tame, government controlled Central Council of Trade Unions to make noises like a real union. On February 8 the CCTU general secretary, Sandor Nagy, told a workers' rally that the union would ask the government to renegotiate prevailing wage agreements and that he would urge the state to adopt a policy to deal with growing poverty in the country, including the issuing of food stamps to the poor.

Nagy's pledge came after an official government report spelled out the continuing decline the standards of living in the country. Real wages had dropped by 6 to 7 percent in the past year while consumer prices had risen 15.7 percent overall and by 17.9 percent for necessities. Unemployment now stands at 15,000 and is expected to go up sharply when economic restructuring eliminates from 50,000 to 100,000 jobs as "unprofitable" state enterprises are closed. Unemployment compensation will soon be made available for the first time since World War II. Until recently full employment has been a basic guarantee; but, economic "reform" has its price, and we know who will end up paying.

SUPREME COURT LABOR RULINGS

In Two Cases, High Court Tosses Out Business Unions' Arguments for Limiting Members' Free Speech Rights

Each day battles rage internally within business unions with both union members and some of the more enlightened business union officers challenging the highly autocratic and undemocratic practices which plague their labor organizations.

These fighters, pressing in their own way for more responsive unions and the expansion of union members' internal rights, are confronted by highly entrenched union bureaucracies on the local and international levels, both of which have keen and equally passionate desires to narrow and restrict the internal and statutory rights of members within their respective unions.

Many of these battles are fought in the courts far removed from the everyday lives of working people, yet the decisions which emerge from the courts which so vitally effect working people rarely reach them. The names of the parties to these court proceedings, the positions of the parties, the issues and rights involved, and their resolutions, similarly get parked on the shelves of legal libraries which provide little or limited access to the working public.

We offer this general analysis of two recent U.S. Supreme Court decisions in Lynn and Reed which concern Section 101 (a) (2) of the Labor Management Reporting and Disclosure Act (LMRDA), titled "Freedom of Speech and Assembly," solely for the purpose of providing information. We do so not as attorneys and certainly not as advocates of the legal system as the exclusive means of effecting change.

We urge union members and other workers to visit a nearby law library to read the full text of the decisions in these cases since we have only highlighted here what we felt to be certain of the more significant aspects of these cases. Readers are invited to comment and also to submit case law which advances the rights of union members or would otherwise serve the cause of union democracy.

SHEET METAL WORKERS' INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION ET AL, V. EDWARD LYNN

This is a case about how fellow workers watching "too vigilantly" over the interests of a union can incur the wrath of top officials in a business union--and how they fought back.

THE CASE OF LYNN AND THE SHEET METAL CLUB

In 1981, Edward Lynn was elected to a three-year term of office as business representative of Local 75, Sheet Metal Workers' International Association (Local). The Local is affiliated with the Sheet Metal Workers' International Association (International).

Lynn was a good organizer and with the help of his concerned fellow workers, formed a club within the Local to discuss and strategize around the Local's severe financial problems. The Sheet Metal Club, as they called themselves, researched the spending pattern of Local 75 as compared to two other area sheet metal locals, using Department of Labor statistics. And they discovered that their officials were spending more of the members' money than their sister locals.

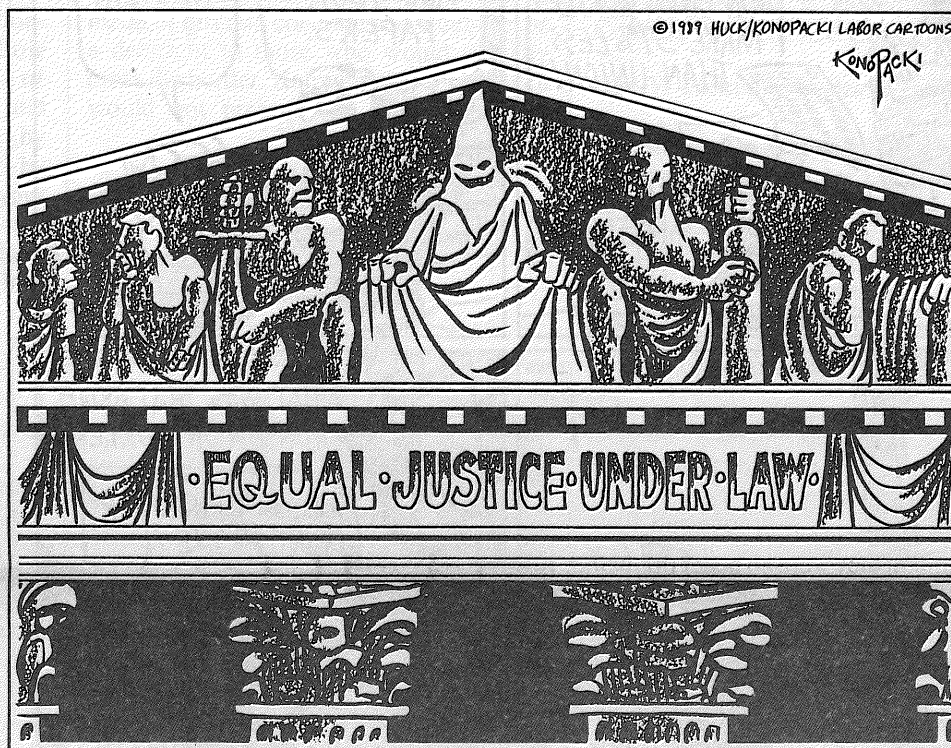
STOP SPENDING MONEY

The Club took the position, based on their research, that if the officials spent less money there would be no grave

financial problems in Local 75. Local 75 officials had a different idea--a dues increase--which they attempted to push through with three successive proposals, all of which the membership defeated.

LOCAL SEEKS INTERNATIONAL'S HELP

In 1982, after a dues increase proposal had been defeated for the third time, the Local's officials, Lynn among them, wrote to the International's General President asking that he "immediately take whatever action (is)...necessary, including, but not limited to, trusteeship to put this local on a sound financial basis."



The International's General President's response was to place Local 75 under a trusteeship and delegate authority to a Trustee, Richard Hawkins, "to supervise and direct" the affairs of the Local. This authority included, but was not limited to, "the authority to suspend local union...officers, business managers, or business representatives."

THE TRUSTEE AGREES WITH THE BUREAUCRATS

Hawkins was on his Trustee job for no more than a month when he decided the Local needed a dues increase to improve its financial condition. Since Hawkins didn't have the authority to impose such a dues increase unilaterally, he submitted a proposal to the Local's Executive Board which--no surprise--approved it.

PLAY BALL--OR ELSE

The General Executive Board then scheduled a special meeting to put the dues increase proposal once more to a membership vote. Hawkins called Lynn in, and told him that he expected him to support the dues increase proposal. Lynn stuck to the "Club" position--the General Executive Board should first make a commitment to reduce expenditures. Trustee Hawkins refused to provide this commitment. Therefore, when the membership meeting was convened, Lynn got up and spoke against it, and subsequently, the proposal was defeated by the membership in a secret ballot vote.

LYNN FILES SUIT

Lynn was notified by Hawkins five days later that his outspoken position against

the dues increase had cost him his business representative position for an "indefinite" time period. Lynn proceeded to fight his removal from office through all the intraunion mechanisms, and when these remedies were exhausted, he sued in District Court under Section 102 of the LMRDA, 29 U.S.C. and 412, claiming that his removal from office violated Section 102 (a)(2)-- the free speech provision of Title 1.

The District Court ruled against Lynn, citing *Finnegan v. Leu*, that a "union member's statutory right to oppose union policies affords him no protection against dismissal from employment as an agent of the union because of such opposition."

COURT DISTINGUISHES BETWEEN ELECTED AND APPOINTED UNION OFFICERS

But the Court of Appeals, 9th Circuit overturned the lower district Court's ruling. According to the Appeals Court, the crucial factor in the Lynn case that was different than *Finnegan v. Leu*, was that Lynn was an *elected* officer, not an appointed one.

The Appeals Court concluded that the removal of an *elected* officer "can only impede the democratic governance of the union...Allowing the removal of an elected official from exercising his free speech rights would in effect nullify a member's right to vote for a candidate whose views he supports and would impinge on the official's right to speak... for himself as a member" of the union.

The U.S. Supreme Court affirmed the Appeals Court's judgement by finding that Trustee Hawkins indeed violated Lynn's Title 1 rights when he removed him from office.

THE SUPREME COURT SENDS A MESSAGE

The Supreme Court noted that "whether such interference with Title 1 Rights gives rise to a cause of action under Section 102 *must be judged by reference to the LMRDA's basic objective:* (emphasis added) --"to ensure that unions (are) democratically governed, and responsive to the will of the union membership as expressed in open, periodic elections."

COMMENTARY

This Supreme Court ruling, in our opinion, denotes a change in the Court's handling of Title 1 violations. The Supreme Court's decision should serve as a message to the lower courts to *weigh the specific violation against the over-all objectives which Congress hoped to achieve in passage of the LMRDA-- democratic governance of labor unions responsive to the will of the membership.*

REED V. UNITED TRANSPORTATION UNION, ET AL

Reed, the Secretary and Treasurer of Local 1715 of the United Transportation Union, was an outspoken fellow who had been openly critical of the Local's President. The conflict came to a head when Local President Harden decided to disallow reimbursement to Reed for "time lost" in carrying out Reed's union duties.

PRESIDENT FIXES RULE

Harden ruled that Reed wasn't entitled to reimbursement because he didn't get advance approval for carrying out the work that caused him to lose time. He also contended that Reed's salary as Secretary and Treasurer of the Local was meant to include expenses for his carrying out his union duties.

REED WORKS TO RULE

Perhaps union President Harden forgot that Reed was Treasurer of the Local, because Reed then commenced to apply the "prior approval" policy to the expenses of the President and other officers of the Local, by denying their unapproved claims. Local President Harden responded by overruling Reed's decisions and by denying Reed's subsequent attempts to reinstate his disallowed payments.

REED CITES HARASSMENT

Sec. Treasurer Reed alleged in a series of letters to President Harden (the last dated August 2, 1983), that his expenses had been denied because he had been critical of the President and that such retaliation for his criticism of union affairs amounted to harassment and violation of Reed's Title 1 LMRDA rights.

Although Reed threatened to sue under the Act, he did not, indeed, file his suit until August 2, 1985--some two years later.

UNION CHALLENGES REED'S SUIT AS UNTIMELY

Reed's *delay* in filing suit (in the Western District Court of North Carolina) against the Local and various of its officers, became the basis on which the union sought to have the case dismissed in Court.

The Union argued that the Court should dismiss Reed's case as being untimely filed and beyond the statute of limitations. The Union attempted to persuade the court that it should apply the 6-months' Statute of Limitations which the Court has assigned to 301 (Duty of Fair Representation) suits, as in the infamous *Del Costello v. Teamsters* ruling.

DISTRICT COURT REJECTS UNION'S ARGUMENT

The District Court rejected the union's argument, holding that Reed's actions were more related to a *civil rights claim* continued on page 7

Lessons in Labor

Organizing the Meatpackers

Part Two: The CIO

Throughout 1935 the organizing efforts of the Independent Union of All Workers had grown to extreme proportions. Packinghouses throughout Minnesota, Iowa, North and South Dakota had been organized by the Austin Hormel-based union.

The drastic need to form international relationships within the packinghouse industry were soon recognized throughout the midwest. Talks with the AFL were

Industrial Organizations. In May of 1937, Hormel workers in Austin voted to join the new CIO and were followed by a number of packinghouse unions across the nation.

In the fall of 1937, the development of the Packinghouse Workers Organizing Committee was provided by the new CIO membership.

With former mine workers' officials at the helm, turmoil developed early within the PWOC. Chairman Van A. Bittner by



stalled when the IWW influenced meatpackers learned the AFL had granted full jurisdiction of the packing industry to the then Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmen.

John L. Lewis developed the Committee for Industrial Organization after the disastrous 1935 AFL convention.

Packinghouse unionists throughout the midwest saw the possibility of joining with other industrial unionists under the theme of One Big Union. The possibility of a militant international union controlled by the rank and file enticed IUAW Central Assembly President Joe Voorhees to begin talks with Lewis. Making an offer of locals from Minnesota, South Dakota, and Iowa, Voorhees tried to capture the interest of the CIO to begin organizing the packing industry. Turmoil ensued with rumors coming from the AFL that the packinghouse unions were "company unions," and John L. Lewis refused to take any position on the future of the meat packers.

In August of 1936, the executive board of the AFL withdrew all support to the CIO which gave birth to the Congress of

1939 had forced out of the PWOC such leaders as Joe Ollman, who was instrumental in the Austin organizing, and Don Harris who had become national director. Packinghouse workers were angry with the thought they were no better off than with the AFL, not being allowed to choose their own leadership.

By November 1940 all hell broke loose with the dismissal of national director Hank Johnson. Many locals began to withhold their dues until May 1941, when Philip Murray, president of the CIO eliminated Van Bittner and secured UMWA leader J.L. Lewis.

Following the restructuring of the PWOC, massive organizing efforts would force the CIO to look at the packinghouse industry as an international organization, but it wasn't until October of 1943 that the local unionists actually got their way and were granted an international union charter.

Austin was widely recognized due to the election of Wobbly, Frank Ellis to the vice presidency of the first international union of packinghouse workers.

Denny Mealy

The Purpose of the Unionist

-----In 1935, two years after the founding of the IUAW, the publication of the Unionist was initiated in Austin. On the cover page was a statement of intent, it bears reprinting.

Our union was organized in July, 1933. Since that time it has spread into a number of cities in five states.

The Union has been suffering by not having an official organ to express its views, to give to those interested its stand on the vital issues which confront us. Therefore, since the last convention steps have been taken to start a union paper to be the official organ of the Union, owned, controlled, and issued by the Union. With this issue the Union paper, the official organ of our Union, makes its bow.

The growing importance of our Union entitles it to have a voice in the affairs of every community where it is located and in the affairs of the state and the nation. In line with the history and tradition of the Union this paper will be radical and militant, dynamic rather than static, alive rather than asleep.

Also in line with our organization the paper will be a democratic institution. It will be responsible to the members of the organization. Committees will be

charged with the administering of the affairs of the paper.

The prospects of war staring us in the face and organized drives being made on unions and especially radical unions with the unemployed still stauking the streets and the cost of living rapidly rising, the task of the Union and this paper, its spokesman, is a tremendous one.

We are in the battle in support of all union and especially industrial unions. We will fight for farmers and workers and will aid representatives of them in times of trouble and strife. We will fight incessantly "Law and Order Leagues," "Citizens' Alliances," "Secret 500's." We will promote workers education, forums, discussions and other activities. We recognize that we are under a system which perpetuates wage slavery and to emancipate the wealth producers, we will defend the right of free press, free speech and lawful assemblage.

All of this cannot be accomplished unless organization, education and fraternity. While we cannot hope to be successful working individually, by combining our efforts the most beneficial results can be obtained. In union there is strength.



Minnesota State CIO Victory Convention 1942

HIGH COURT

continued from page 6

than an unfair labor practice charge, and therefore was governed by; North Carolina's 3-year Statute of Limitations for personal injury actions.

APPEALS COURT OVERTURNS DISTRICT COURT'S RULING

The Union successfully overturned the decision favoring Reed in the Court of Appeals for the 4th Circuit, which brought the whole shooting match and Reed finally to the U.S. Supreme Court.

SUPREME COURT REJECTS 6-MONTH TIME BAR IN TITLE 1 CLAIM

The U.S. Supreme Court reversed the Appeals Court decision holding that, "101 (a)(2) claims (under Title 1 of the LMRDA) are governed by (the broader) State general or residual personal injury statutes..."

In the Supreme Court's analysis of the Reed case, it stated, among other things, that "We have on previous occasions considered the history of Title 1 of the LMRDA and have concluded that 'Congress modeled Title 1 after the Bill of Rights, and that the legislators intended 101 (a)(2) to restate a principal First Amendment value--the right to speak one's mind without fear of reprisals.' ...Congress considered the protection afforded by Title 1 to free speech and assembly in the union context necessary to bring an end to abuses by; union leadership that had curtailed union democracy..."

Further, the Supreme Court noted, "Because 101 (a)(2) of the LMRDA is modeled on the First Amendment to our Constitution, there is an analogy between Section 101(a)(2) claimers, Section 1983 claims, and state injury actions."

COMMENTARY

In the writers' view, the U.S. Supreme Court in the Reed case, lifted one of the

most long-standing and difficult hurdles which barred union activists from securing their rights under Title 1 of the LMRDA--quite simply put--TIME. Time to "identify the injury," time in "deciding in the first place to bring suit against and thereby antagonizing union leadership," time to find an attorney, and time to gather funds for litigation--all of which generally require more than six months. It was this very time factor which business unions relied on in the past to defeat the free speech provisions of Title 1.

Reed is still fighting time, because what the U.S. Supreme Court decided in 1989, six long years after REed wrote his last letter to his union president, is only now being remanded back to the district court for a trial with regard to the MERITS of his Claim.

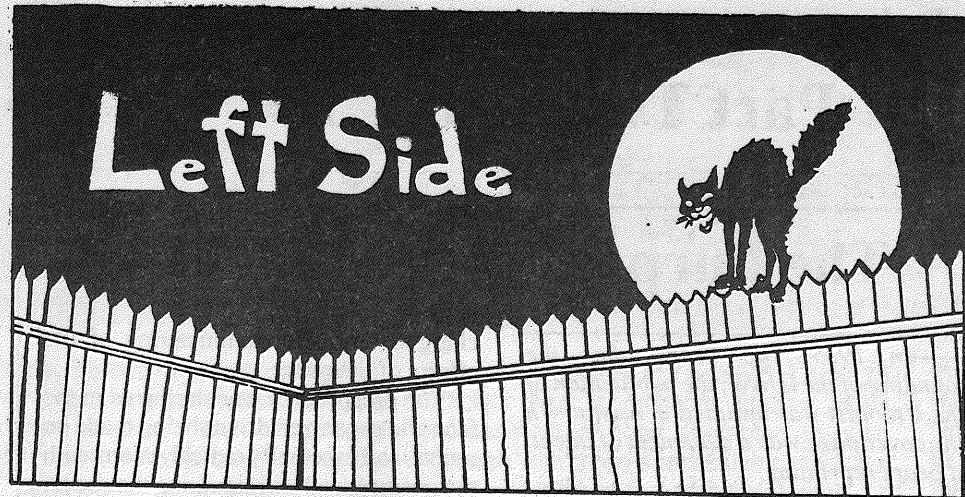
Union activists recognize that this is not a little case of a union treasurer's expense chits being denied by a president he criticized. *Because of Reed, business unions can no longer rely on their sure bet that they can cite a 6-months' Statute of Limitations to effectively quash their members' rights.*

NOTE* For obvious reasons, the full text of the LMRDA does not appear in this article. To obtain a copy, contact the U.S. Department of Labor in Washington, D.C.

By Paul Poulos and Rochelle Semel

Former Chair of the GEB in the 1930s Dies

On January 28, 1989, Arthur Weinberg died at the age of 73. Weinberg was a member of the Union during the 1930s and 1940s; he was also Chair of the General Executive Board in the late 1930s. In 1957, he wrote the book *Attorney for the Damned*, a collection of Darrow's greatest summations, which was on the New York Times' bestseller list for 19 weeks. At the time of his death he was working on a book with his wife about the early women of Chicago's Hull House. Weinberg knew Fred Thomson well and gave a short speech at his memorial service.



Some months back this column carried a little item to the effect that many wars are still going on with the result that a lot of the readership wanted to know what your scribe's sources were. Your scribe had apologized in a subsequent issue that since he discards his notes after writing his column, he did not remember the source. Through the kind offices of a Motor City Fellow Worker I have a book before me that states that there are forty wars now in progress around our World, involving more than one quarter of this planet's nation-states. The name of the book is "Low Intensity Warfare" that tells of counterinsurgency, proinsurgency and antiterrorism in the eighties edited by Michael and Peter Kornbluh, published by Pantheon and presumably available at your local bookstore. Within this tome are explained the new interventionism, interventionist impulse and "low intensity" warfare. Also mentioned are Nicaragua, the Phillipines, El Salvador and Afghanistan. Your scribe having not as yet thoroughly read this book is not making a critique; only stating the availability of same.

However I can with clear conscience recommend a periodical by name of Utne Reader from whence I frequently glean tidbits for this column. It takes on where Mother Jones leaves off and is well worth looking into. It is \$18.00 a year (six issues) and can be ordered from P.O. Box 1974, Marion, Ohio 43306-2074.

This is the rag that informs its readership that if Freedomland recycled only half of the newsprint that was consumed annually, it would divert enough scrap from landfills to load up 3,200 garbage trucks every day. One cannot help but wonder if all the newsprint were recycled, what a great beautification to the environment would result from the subtraction of 6,400 truckloads of scrap, not to mention how much forest we could be left with. As it is, much of the beautiful forests along the highways out West are only the front of the road concealing acres and acres of denuded mountainsides.

6,400 less truckloads of waste paper is a pretty pleasant possibility. Who knows how many more truckloads of waste we could rid ourselves of if we could convince ourselves and our manipulators that we could well afford to divest ourselves throw-away bottles and containers, especially those made of non-biodegradable plastic.

To impart upon the gentle reader something ominous about plastic, one small example comes to mind. In other countries where burial customs are different than those of Freedomland, there are those who disinter their departed after a year so the bones can be re-intered in a smaller space which is quite practical considering that these other countries, having upwards of a thousand years more of history than Freedomland, could by now have all their land area taken up by cemeteries.

Usually nothing is left of the departed but the skeleton as whatever clothing there was has turned to a fine powder with the exception of nylon stockings which are still in pristine condition. Those of you who have observed McDunghill wrappers laying in the dirt for months with every rainfall restoring them to their original pristinity may wonder how long it will take before we are overtaken by plastic. Those of you who have tried burning your old plastic know what a god-awful stench ensues. Paper can be recycled as can glass, wood and metal, but how in the ever lovin' Hell can you

recycle something that is indestructible? If one is looking for a pox on our existence: Just one word: plastics.

However, there is the possibility as well as inevitability of a real big land-fill project provided the federal government follows through with its latest brainstorm. The federal government, in its zeal to curb illegal immigration is contemplating digging a lengthy ditch, fourteen feet wide and five feet deep along the border near San Diego, California. Said ditch would be made of dirt and concrete and would act as a deterrent to those who would illegally cross the border. Knowing that such a ditch would not present too overwhelming a



deterrence to those who are anxious to partake of some of the bounties that are to be found in Freedomland, one can wonder if some construction contractor has managed to wheedle some clout with the federal government. Such a ditch would indeed line the pockets of excavation contractors and the concrete companies but can you imagine the discomoboration on the part of border patrol agents when they see their precious ditch filled up with discarded tamale wrappers and old huaraches?

Human history on this planet has been one of migration of many different races over many different areas of our Earth and has resulted in a rich variety of human culture. The richness of human culture has spread itself around our little planet in spite of the various restrictions and regulations that have been imposed by hosts of narrow minded nationalists throughout our turbulent human history.

My Uncle Hornplanter has on occasion wryly remarked that it was a pity that the Mayflower was not eaten by a sea serpent or swallowed up by the Bermuda Triangle. It was Dick Gregory who said that the only thing wrong with Uncle Hornplanter's people was that they had a lousy immigration policy.

It has been long assumed that such ideologies as socialism, communism, collectivism and anarchism were the inventions of European Western Civilization but it is interesting to notice that these various liberation ideologies did not crop up in Europe until after contact on the part of European explorers with Western Hemisphere peoples. It is known that the writers of Freedomland's constitution had been schooled by the elders of the Long House Confederacy and that from Lewis Henry Morgan's writings of this and other Indian Confederacies, Karl

continued on page 9

IWW BRANCH NEWS

Northwest IWW Conference in Vancouver on May Day

Vancouver, BC, CANADA (WNS) The Vancouver Branch of the IWW will be hosting a two-day conference of Pacific Northwest Wobs on Saturday, April 29 and Sunday, April 30. The conference will partially focus on the recent organizing campaign among workers at progressive non-profit organizations in the region. Invitations will be sent out as soon details have been worked out.

The Branch also plans to hold its annual May Day open potluck dinner as usual on May Day.

Chicago General Membership Branch

On March 18, from 2:30 to 5:00 the Old Town School of Folk Music and the Chicago GMB will host a record party for *Rebel Voices*. Old Town will provide a table full of literature. Of course, Flying Fish will provide the records and tapes. The Branch also hopes that it can display Carlos Cortez's 'Wobbly Art' exhibit.

UFCW Picketing Fades in Bellingham

Bellingham, WA (WNS) The IWW members employed by Local 44 UFCW (United Food and Commercial Workers' Union) in nearby Lynden, WA have been quitting or cutting back on their working hours. Local 44 officers have been completely unresponsive to requests from the paid informational pickets for improvements in working conditions.

The pickets, members of IWW Public Service Workers Industrial Union 670, have been employed by Local 44 to carry picket signs and encourage shoppers to take their business to a unionized store. They were highly successful at their first target store last fall, but efforts have lagged of late. The three workers joined the IWW last December.

The IU 670 bunch requested formal recognition from Local 44 in mid-January. They have also asked that the UFCW make arrangements for toilet facilities and places to get out of the frigid weather. Local 44 organizer Mike Hatfield has passed requests on to the President, Pat Finn. No response has been received from Mr. Finn. As a result of the stonewalling, the pickets have "curtailed" their activities. One has quit outright; the other two are working only one day a week.

The pickets have wanted more information from the UFCW about conditions at the store so they could talk to customers more effectively. (Remember, this not a strike but an informational picket.) The Local's approach, however, is that dumb pickets are somehow more effective than informed pickets. The \$5.00/hour pickets, seeing that the Local is not serious about their picketing campaign have cut back their picketing activities. All are still members of the Bellingham IWW.

In other Bellingham IWW developments, interest in the union continues to grow. A number of new members have ideas about organizing with their fellow workers into the IWW, and the list of potential organizing targets gets longer. The branch is buzzing with excitement.

Dave Tucker

Denver-Boulder

Denver-Boulder, CO (WNS) The Columbine Monument effort is picking up steam. The coalition proposed new language (still pro-worker, it also acknowledges the importance of coal mining to the region). Having described the previous language as "too narrow", the Colorado Historical Society took some heat from the local labor organizations. But the Society singled out a critical letter in the weekly *Westword* from Joanna Sampson, a historian of Colorado coal mining, that influenced their decision. She wrote, "The Columbine story is about the struggle of common workers against industrial giants

who were so powerful they secured the backing of the state of Colorado itself to maintain the conditions they found to be financially advantageous in their mines. Pro-worker, pro-union the language wanted on the marker near Erie may be, but the history written that November day at the Columbine mine was also the history of democracy." The State hastened to accept the new language. Following this success, the coalition has obtained press coverage and new offers of donated funds.

"What's Left?" That's the name of a quarterly newsletter being produced by the Radical Information Project, the Denver-Boulder IWW and others. It will function on the partnership of radical politics and the labor movement in Colorado and elsewhere. R.I.P. Bookstore, 2412 E. Colfax, Denver, CO 80206. Its free, but donations are accepted.

The wages of the Mailers of the *Denver Post* were cut by as much as fifty-two percent. The *Post* refused to meet with them. The Mailers planned to seek attention for their cause at the opening of the world skiing events in Vail. Suddenly, in return for a promise of no picketing before the eyes of the world, the *Post* changed its tune--sure, they'd be happy to meet. The *Post* used the meeting to repeat its position that nothing was negotiable. The opening of the skiing events came and went. The Mailers missed their chance.

The Branch has approved four new leaflets for organizing, and more are in the works. Information about these pamphlets will be forthcoming. Comments are invited.

Rare, quality out-of-print used books--Sacco and Vanzetti, Joe Hill, Jack London, John Reed, Chomsky, much more. Contact Steve Wilson's South Pearl Books, 1509 South Pearl Street, Denver, CO. Phone 303-698-9049. Steve also carries the *Industrial Worker*.

Richard Hill

continued from page 1

Northwest Wobs Form Organizing Network

turned to the proposal for an organizing network. This proposal was adopted unanimously. The first organizing bulletin will be coming out immediately. The first outreach publication, entitled "A Union for Non-Profits?", was discussed and the proposed test and lay out were approved. Five hundred copies will be printed initially. Plans were then made for workshop to be held in April at the Vancouver, BC IWW conference. After adjourning, the participants retreated to a neighboring tavern for further informal discussions.

Stan Anderson

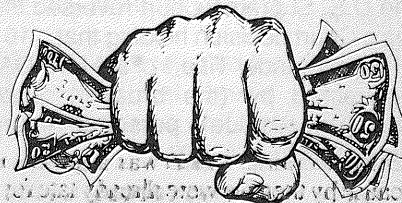
Sustaining Fund Contributors

In Memory of Fred Hansen

Sylvia Harrington	\$100.00
Arthur Nurse	\$50.00
Brian Myers	\$20.00

In Memory of Arthur Weinberg

Esther Oyler	\$10.00
--------------	---------



continued from page 12

SOLIDARNOSC

benefit the Polish workingclass any more than privatizing nationalized industries in Britain, France, Spain, or Bolivia has benefited workers in those countries. By definition, restructuring means a frontal assault on the workingclass and its conditions of life. To not recognize this elementary fact of class conflict is to disarm the workers movement.

But even if Walesa and his christian democratic advisers don't see this reality (or believe that they can get around it by playing parliamentary games) there are others in Solidarnosc who do. As the round-table talks were getting under way in February some 8,000 coal miners in Belchatow, about 90 miles southwest of Warsaw, struck for higher wages. The spontaneous strike was immediately denounced by the government as an attempt to sabotage the talks, and Solidarnosc's national commission was quick to send a delegation to get the workers back to work. In fact, since the end of the August strikes, the number of violent strikes and street demonstrations have been on the rise. In December there were more than 173 strikes recorded. Clearly, the combativity of the Polish workingclass has not diminished and Solidarnosc's moderate wing will have increasingly difficult time in containing it.

This militant, syndicalist opposition formally announce itself in December with the publication of a position paper by the "working group". The "group" is composed of pre-Solidarnosc union oppositionists like Andrzej Gwiadza, president of the Free Trade Union WZZ from 1978 to 1980, and later vice-president Solidarnosc during its legal period; Anna Walentynowicz, WZZ militant whose sacking in August 1980 led to the historic occupation of the Lenin Shipyards; and a number of other ex-WZZ militants who later formed the radical, self-management tendency of Solidarnosc.

The position paper touched on many subjects and included a denunciation of the West as being no less exploitative of labor than the state capitalism of the Soviet type (in sharp contrast to usual praise for Western economy one often runs into in the Eastern bloc oppositions). The paper also criticized the Catholic Church's politics, accusing it of harboring a new class of entrepreneurs who, "...upon becoming owners of private enterprises, would also become the resolute enemies of unions...". It affirmed the division between the partisans of Walesa and those who have remained faithful to the original ideals of Solidarnosc. The "group" also called for the formation of fighting unions in all private and state enterprises to struggle for better wages and against a lengthening of working hours. It called for a ban on exporting raw materials, energy, food, industrial products and, above all, labor. Finally it called for support to the street demonstrations of the youthful radicals rather than wasting time in religious ceremonies.

The emergence of this syndicalist current is a clear challenge to the politics of class collaboration being practiced by the "citizens' committee". Events in the next few months will determine which road Solidarnosc will take.

Mike Hargis

Guatemalan Agricultural Workers Launch Massive Strike

In a remarkable display of unity and disciplined militance, 50,000 agricultural workers in Southern Guatemala have gone on strike, paralyzing, and in some cases, temporarily seizing more than 30 major agro-export plantations in the Esquintla, Retalhuleu, Suchitapequez and Quetzaltenango regions of the country.]

The strike, which began on Jan. 23, was called by the semi-clandestine Campesino Unity Committee (the CUC) and the national federation of trade Union and Popular Action (UASP). According to a CUC press conference held on Jan. 24 in Guatemala City, the primary demands of the strike are a doubling of the minimum wage (to approximately \$3.50 US a day) and an improvement in the slave-like working conditions on the fincas.

The coordinated region-wide action is the first major agricultural workers' strike since 1980, when the CUC organized a nationwide two week work stoppage that succeeded in raising plantation workers' wages from 40 cents per day; to approximately \$1.12.

Following the 1980 strike a tremendous wave of repression swept the country. Agro-export producers fired 10,000 of the strikers and the Guatemalan Army and right-wing death squads launched a murderous campaign of retaliation, both in the agro-export zone of the South and in the mountainous highlands of the North, killing thousands of people and forcing the CUC to go underground.

The CUC re-emerged from the underground only last year, appearing in May Day demonstrations in Guatemala City and several provincial capitals. Since that time the CUC has become increasingly active, despite assassinations threats by finca owners' gunman and military officials. Recently CUC organizers have been seen handing out leaflets on the plantations and encouraging the primarily indigenous workforce to band together and demand their rights. On Jan. 24 the CUC published a position paper in the national press, run in the form of a paid advertisement, which explained quite clearly how the current wage levels of agricultural workers make it impossible to survive. Throughout 1988 and continuing through the strike, the CUC has received overwhelming support from trade unions, progressive activists, students, and the human rights movement.

The strike in the Pacific Coast region is centered principally in the sugar cane plantations and in the sugar refineries where the work force earns an average of \$.87 to \$1.75 per day, according to the UASP. Coffee and cotton plantations have also been struck. The central demand of the strike, for a doubling of the minimum wage, has been flatly rejected by UNAGRO, the national association of agro-export businessmen.

Finca owners and President Vencio Cerezo denounced the strike as illegal, and as being led and promoted by "extreme left-wingers". On January 24, President

Cerezo acceded to plantation owners demands and sent in thousands of troops and National Police to quell the rebellion and occupy the fincas. On Jan. 24, according to reports in El Grafico and Prensa Libre striking workers occupying sugar refineries in Escuintla were violently dislodged by armed police. Hundreds of strikers fought back, building barricades, throwing stones, and attacking trucks that tried to cross the picket lines. Riot police, wearing gas masks, fired hundreds of tear gas canisters and clubbed workers to the ground in

Guatemalans have been murdered or disappeared, giving the country the dubious distinction of being the worst human rights violator in the hemisphere. Critics point out that the 150-million-dollars per year in US aid is instrumental in keeping the country's repressive system functioning. According to reports in the national press and the news organization Enfopress, over 100 civilians a month are being murdered or kidnapped.

As of now, the CUC is holding firm in its demands and the strike continues. The country is holding its breath in hopes that a blood bath can be averted, but the military occupation of the area --stopping all cars and buses, and occupying the major fincas one by one-- are not encouraging. On Jan. 26, CUC held a press conference in the office of the UASP in Guatemala City and issued the following statement:

"The agricultural workers' struggle has its roots in the misery and hunger in which our people live, in the grand injustices of suffering that we must endure, and in the high cost of living and constant discrimination. Farmworkers do not earn money like the ministers and deputies of the government, like the president. We do not have money like the plantation owners. These people know nothing of the hunger and pain of a community that is struggling tirelessly to obtain justice, liberty, and peace."

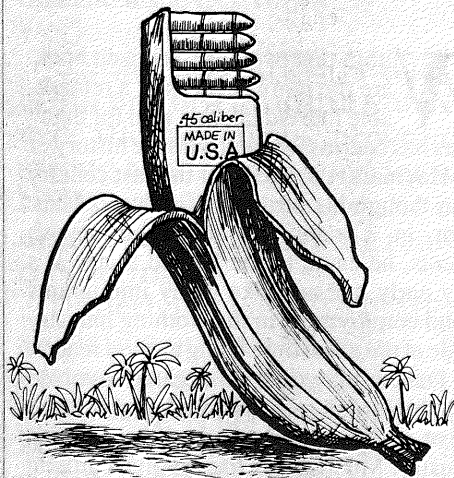
The CUC went on to denounce the military occupation of the Pacific Coast region, and pointed out that thousands of strikers were being dismissed. Thousands more were being forced to work at gunpoint. The Guatemalan press on Jan. 27 listed no fewer than 10 murders and attempted murders of campesinos in the conflictive zones of the South--all of which took place the preceding day.

The UASP and the Archbishop of Guatemala, Rodolfo Quezada Toruno, have called for the plantation owners to enter into dialogue with the strikers. As of press time, President Cerezo has refused to call for negotiations.

by Jon Reed,

Guatemala City, Guatemala Jan. 28 1989

NOT JUST ANOTHER BANANA REPUBLIC



See the Real Guatemala.

Agency Tours

Langley, Va.

Carol Simpson © 1988

clashes that took place in over a dozen locations. As National Police occupied the sugar refineries and major plantations, roving bands of militants began setting fire to sugar cane fields and delivery trucks and damaging farm machinery, causing almost a million dollars in losses according to news reports on Jan 26.

In a press conference called on January 26, General Hector Gramajo, Minister of Defense, denied that the CUC had any chance of success, and stated that the CUC had direct connections with the EGP (Guerrilla Army of the Poor) organization based in the northern highlands of Quiche. Gramajo blamed the turmoil, in an incredible statement, on a mere band of "13 armed leftist extremists," whom he claimed had forced the thousands of campesinos to go on strike.

Trade union, student, campesino, and human rights groups have denounced Gramajo's statements as preposterous, and have pointed out that recent government slander directed against the progressive movement is setting a dangerous precedent that could lead the country back to the bloody carnage of the early 1980's.

Recent reports by Amnesty International and Americas Watch have called attention to the rise in politically inspired killings, kidnappings and human rights abuses in Guatemala. Since the US-sponsored military coup in 1954, over 140,000

oil hearing. Although this was an official state hearing, it somehow must not have gotten onto the liberals' computer network. In contrast to earlier oil hearings where 2000 people showed up to protest offshore oil, hardly anybody came to this one. The testimony was stultifying, with the shirt-and-tie bureaucrats droning on about mitigating impacts and overriding economic benefits. Finally our turn came, and Earth First!/IWW songwriter Darryl Cherney took to the podium guitar in hand. We unfurled our banners as he began singing "We're All Dead Ducks", with Earth First!ers in the audience quacking on the chorus and dancing in our seats.

We woke up the hearing, but not enough, because a speaker shortly afterward contended that sonic booms underwater (used in seismic testing to locate oil) don't

affect marine mammals. So on cue we all yelled "Sonic BOOM!" at the top of our lungs. The startled bureaucrats started to chastise us, but Darryl just gave them an innocent look and said "Oh, I'm sorry. I thought you said sonic booms don't affect mammals!"

By then the day was winding down and so were we. We stood outside in the cold and huddled in a circle and sang for a while. Then, as the sun slowly set on the golden California clearcuts, we went our separate ways, home to our cabins and communes to smoke a joint, drink a beer, and get ready for the next blockade. The earth First!/IWW alliance had pulled off our first joint action, and we were ready for more.

Judi Bari

IWW-Earth First! Local #1

continued from page 8

Left Side

Marx received his inspiration and concept of the classless society.

The truth of the matter is that the Europeans themselves had at one time an egalitarian society as did the American Indians as the coming together of people on a co-operative basis is what enables people to settle down to a communal life and develop civilization and culture. But somewhere along the evolutionary path a wrong turn was taken. When those who considered themselves better than the others were successful in convincing the others that they indeed were better, ultimately succeeded in establishing a class society. It is that class society that has resulted in a quarter of our Earth's human population being at war and our rich bounty of natural resources being imperiled by capitalistic over-production.

It is incumbent on the part of those of us who produce the goods to reassess our concept of history and take a look at who are the real primitive and backward peoples.

When are we going to stop going backwards and start stepping forward?

C.C. Redcloud

continued from page 1

"Guilty Guilty"

approached the women one on one. We talked about how we had kids too, and how Pacific Lumber wasn't interested in their families' futures. This tactic seemed to take them so off guard that they stopped yelling at us, and, with the intervention of the local minister, agreed to set up a conciliation meeting between Earth First! and Pacific Lumber employees in the near future.

So it was on to our next target. We hung "Greenhouse Effect Violator" banners on the mile-long Eel River Sawmills logdeck without incident, which was a good thing because by then we were already late for the

MAY DAY 1989

The *Industrial Worker's* May Issue is your chance to send messages of Solidarity across the globe (no commodities or ideologies please). Celebrate our May Day issue with us and contribute to your worker's newspaper! Our rates are \$12 per column inch, \$36 for four column inches, \$60 for half a column, and \$120 for half page ads. Please include \$10 fee if the ad is not camera ready. Copy Deadline-April 10th.

Juice For Fred Hansen

Tubes Choked;
Pump Broke;
Wires Fried;
Lights Died;
Whole Damned Place
Went Dark.
Wha'd' We Do Now?
Been Around So Long
No One's Thought How
To Get By Without
This One.
Get Another? Hell!
They Don't Make 'Em Anymore!
This Model Ain't Been In The Catalogue
Since I Started Here.
"Well, Figure It Out. Look,
Here's What You Do. Why Don't You
Round Up The Crew, Look
At The Whole Thing Real Close
Find Out How It's Held Up
So Good, So Long And Build Another?"
Can't. Already Know All That. Got
The Same Parts As That One. And
The One Over There. *Just Don't Know
What This One Ran On.*
Some Kinda Juice. Secret Formula.
Prob'ly Lost.
"Ain't Lost. There's One Near Like It
In Montana. One Over In Atlanta,
Another In Chicago.
Look. You Go There. Find 'Em
Study Out That Juice. Bring Some Back,
Much As You Can Haul.
Get To It NOW, Quick! We Gotta
Get Things Moving Around Here!"

by Utah Phillips

Book Review Haymarket Heritage

HAYMARKET HERITAGE

The Memoirs of Irving S. Abrams
Edited by Dave Roediger & Phyllis Barnes
Paper Binding \$9.95
Hardbound Library Binding \$24.95
Charles H. Kerr Publishing Company
1740 West Greenleaf Avenue, Suite 7
Chicago, Illinois 60626

We are called dreamers and utopians, but without the utopias of other times men would still live in caves . . . We must continue our efforts for a free society so that all our advancements shall benefit all the people

-Irving S. Abrams

Within this 64 page oversized book are the reminiscences of a remarkable individual, one who for many years has been associated with the history of the Haymarket Tragedy of the last century even though his birth was five years later. Born in London of converted Jewish parents, he came to the United States at a very early age and like many immigrants found employment in the clothing industry while at the same time being an avid reader.

During his youth he became involved with the Jewish socialist bunds and became active in the unionization of the clothing industry. Much of his life revolved around the immigrant Jewish cultural life, and he gives an account of the early Yiddish theater and the Yiddish literary scene. While working and being active in union organizing, he also studied towards attaining his law degree.

He enjoyed a long and close association with the Industrial Workers of the World since his sympathies were anarcho-syndicalist. He had little use for the bureaucratic type of establishment unionism, and some of the labor movement's revered figures are appropriately taken to task in his reminiscences. As a youngster in Rochester, New York, he had first read about the Haymarket Tragedy and seen pictures of the monument erected in

Waldheim Cemetery in the memory of those who died in that incident. In later years he became chief custodian of that monument.

During his long life as a union organizer, labor lawyer, speaker on labor history and many other pursuits he had made the personal acquaintance of many of the people who shaped the labor history of the early part of this century. His activity in the organizing of the clothing and needle trades brought him in contact with some of the big names of the early unionists in that industry such as Sidney Hilman, Jacob Petofsky and David Dubinsky who like himself were immigrants. He was also on intimate terms with Lucy Parsons and Nina Spies, widows of Haymarket Martyrs, Emma Goldman, Dr. Ben Reitman, Scott Nearing and Fred Thompson. These memoirs of his read like a who's who of labor history.

On the back of this book are thumbnail biographies of all these people including Mother Jones, Carlos Tresca, Joe Ettor, Arturo Giovannitti, Vincent St. John, Bill Haywood and many others without whom labor history in the United States as well as

the World would have been quite different.

His most noted achievement has been with the Pioneer Aid Society which later, with the amalgamation of the Jewish and Italian anarchist groups, became the Free Society, and in later years, he was synonymous with the upkeep of the Haymarket monument. He had become well-known as a speaker at labor and labor history forums where his dynamic delivery was to provide inspiration for many young up and coming radicals. His simple account of his own personal involvement is an eloquent testimony not only to his own life, but also to those with whom he was long associated.

This book has been printed with extra wide margins that provide ample space for footnotes that ajoin his own remarks as well as being replete with photographs and graphics of the period. This book is indeed a valuable addition to any labor historian's library as well as that of any class-conscious working man or woman and merits the unqualified recommendation of this reviewer.

Punapilvi

continued from page 3

Correspondence

I am a third-year student of Luthern Theological Seminary in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. After reading the *Left Side*, especially the line, "Practicing Christians beat professed Christians anyway". I am convinced that my old friend "C.C. Redcloud" should be a theological professor! For that line IS the point of Christianity. Practice your Christianity, Fellow Worker, and don't worry about professing it.

Solidarity,
Rob L. Oye

Praise

Dear Editors,

The February issue of the *IW* was outstanding. Good blend of labor news. Denny Mealy's article on the organizing of P-9 in Austin was very interesting. Hope he writes more on the meatpacking industry. Ted Dyments *Taking Your Politics To Work* was superb. Hope he writes more, I like his style. Keep on keeping on-

In Solidarity,
Gary Cox

Dear Industrial Worker,

Your IWW organization has a long, long way to go to be of any use to workers.

First of all--pension reform. I've had 80 or 82 jobs since age 18. All of the money vested for my pension from those employers is lost because I was not with any one of them long enough to gain a pension benefit. I don't care if you work 3 months for an employer. If you earn a \$5.00 per month credit toward your pension you should be able to collect it at retirement age.

That includes military service. If you stay 20 you get your pension. Anything less you lose to the pension fund and I'd hate to guess how many nuclear weapons the government is building with unclaimable pension money. Less than one quarter of workers with over 5 years seniority in a company get to collect pensions. Most die, quit, get disabled or are fired or, in my case, get shut out by permanent close down. Too many companies have a sideline business of not meeting their pension responsibilities and running off with trillions in pension funds. In fact it's more lucrative than building a product and selling it at a profit. It's even a better sideline than Union busting. It's more profitable.

The present day pirating and takeovers

of companies is targeted for the most part at the fat pension funds, leaving those who labored over the years with nothing to live on but a mixture of hope in god and utter despair, plus a few crumbs from social agencies, but usually ending up with a steady deterioration of mental/physical health and untimely death ensuring in their dependents another generation of empty pockets, bleak outlooks and condemned futures.

Second of all the IWW Constitution (if there is one) must establish a common thread that runs through all groups for the glue that holds the enemy together is profit and they all cling to it like flies on a manure pile, but the worst end of the profit pursuit is that the workers get crushed in its wake. In other words, don't share the wealth.

The super rich capitalists do more than keep wary eye on unions, organizing or efforts to obtain higher wages. They make it a 24 hour, 7 day business to stomp labor into the ground and the best tactic they have in their union busting arsenal is pension robbery. The more labor that walks the street with empty stomachs the better it is for the fat cats in their plushy carpeted homes. John Paul Getty (oil tycoon) has his private art museum filled with millions of dollars worth of paintings which he only got to see on occasion. I'd say things are a bit uneven.

Randall Burnell

Lowell May Responds to Wetzel

Editor

I certainly did not mean to "puzzle" Tom Wetzel or anybody else with my criticisms of the St. Louis Workers Self-Organization Conference (See January *IW* for my report and February *IW* for Tom's letter to the editor). In fact, my report was written for our Denver-Boulder IWW branch discussion, not the *IW*.

My position about the Conference has two seemingly contradictory points:

First, the one expressed in my report, that most Conference participants identified the main take as the general empowerment of workers, without regard for making the necessary political/organizational break with conservative unions, parties, etc.

Second, that it's not enough to just seek an organizational change, because a change from conservative, hierarchical organizational structure to a revolutionary one presupposes a change in consciousness.

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, THUS MAKING..... AN INJURY TO ONE AN INJURY TO ALL.

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

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

DIRECTORY of IWW Branches & Delegates

CANADA

BRITISH COLUMBIA. Vancouver General Membership Branch, PO Box 65635, Station F, Vancouver BC V5N 5K5.

ONTARIO. Industrial Workers of the World, Toronto Group, 26a Oxford St., 2nd Fl., Toronto, Canada M5T1N9.

GREAT BRITAIN

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

UNITED STATES

ALASKA. Ruth Sheridan, Delegate, 4704 Kenai, Anchorage, 99508

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

COLORADO. Denver-Boulder General Membership Branch, 2412 E. Colfax Ave., Denver 80206, (303) 388-1065. Open Saturdays 9-12noon. Meetings at 7pm, second Sunday of each month. Educational forums monthly (call for date, time, and location). Dave Frazier, Branch Sec'y, Box 6, Rollinsville 80474, (303) 494-4809. * Dexter Herda, Delegate, 910 E. 8th Ave #202, Denver, CO 80218, (303) 832-7602. * Lowell May, Delegate, 2201 Eliot, Denver, CO 80211, (303) 458-0870.

FLORIDA. Fred Hansen, Delegate, Box 824, New Port Richie, 34656.

GEORGIA. Atlanta IWW Group, PO Box 54766, Atlanta, 30308-0766. (404) 378-5542.

ILLINOIS. Chicago General Membership Branch, Abraham Bassford, Branch Sec'y, 3435 N. Sheffield, Chicago IL 60657, (312) 549-5045. Meetings 7:30 pm first Friday each month. * Champaign-Urbana IWW Group, Box 2824, Station A, Champaign 61820.

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

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

MARYLAND. Baltimore Area General Membership Branch, PO Box 33528, Baltimore 21218. Rosana Marino, Branch Sec'y. Meets 2nd Wednesday each month. Regional Organizing Committee, Greg Buckingham, Chair, Rt. 1, Box 137 A, Arvonnia, VA 23004.

MASSACHUSETTS. Boston Area General Membership Branch, Box 454, Cambridge 02139. (617) 469-5162. * Berkshire Learning Center Job Branch, 35 Curtis Terrace, Pittsfield, 01201.

MICHIGAN. Southeast Michigan General Membership Branch, 42 South Summit, Ypsilanti 48197. (313) 483-3478. * People's Warehouse IU 660 Job Branch, 727 West Ellsworth Road, Ann Arbor 48104. * Grand Rapids IWW, PO Box 211, Comstock Park 49321. * Ann Arbor Tenant's Union, 4001 Michigan Union, Ann Arbor MI 48109, (313) 763-6876.

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

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.

NEW YORK. New York General Membership Branch, Box 183, New York 10028. * Rochelle Semel, Delegate, PO Box 172, Fly Creek 13337. (607) 293-6489. * Jackie Panish, Delegate, PO Box 372, Rego Park, 11374. (212) 868-1121. * John Hansen, 302 Avenue C, Brooklyn, 11218. (718) 854-2692. * Robert Young, Delegate, Box 920, Wingdale 12594. * Joseph O'Shea, * Delegate, Winkler's Farm, Towner's Road, Carmel 10512.

OHIO. Southwest Ohio General Membership Branch and General Defense Committee #1, PO Box 26381, Dayton 45426. * SW Ohio General Defense Committee Local #3 c/o John Perotti #167712, PO Box 45699, Lucasville 45699-0001.

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

SOUTH CAROLINA. Harbinger Publications IU 450 Job Branch, 18 Bluff Road, Columbia 29201. (803) 254-9398.

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

VIRGINIA. Richmond IWW Group, PO Box 4584, Richmond, VA 23233-8584. (804) 353-4023. * Greg Buckingham, Rte. 1, Box 137A, Arvonnia 23004.

WASHINGTON. Bellingham General Membership Branch, Box 1386, Bellingham 98227. * Seattle General Membership Branch, 3238 33rd Ave. South, Seattle 98144. *

Spokane IWW Group, PO Box 1273, Spokane, 99210. * Tacoma/Olympia General membership Branch & General Defence Committee Local #4 (the "Wesley Everest Gang") 2115 South Sheridan, Tacoma 98405. (206) 272-8119.

WISCONSIN. Madison General Membership Branch, PO Box 2605, Madison, 53701. (608) 251-1937 or 249-4287.

AVAILABLE FROM IWW LOCALS

-Out of the Depths, the true story of the Ludlow Massacre, \$10 postpaid (All proceeds to P-9); Wobbly T-Shirts, \$10 postpaid, from: Gary Cox, 11548 Community Center Drive #53, Northglenn, CO 80233.

-A Workers' Guide to Direct Action, \$.50 from: New York IWW, P.O. Box 183, New York, N.Y. 10028.

-Introduction to the IWW, \$.10 each, bulk rate 40% prepaid from: San Francisco IWW, P.O. Box 40485, San Francisco, CA 94140.

-Solidarity Bulletin, monthly, \$10 a year from: Vancouver IWW, P.O. Box 65635, Station F, Vancouver, B.C. Canada V5N 3K5.

-Direct Action Bulletin, \$24. for 12 issues from: Toronto IWW, 26A Oxford St., Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5T 1N9.

continued from page 10

Correspondence

I know neither of these positions are exclusive to people who identify themselves as anarchists (Stan Weir's proposals, including those in the *IW*, fall into the changing organizations strategy, for example), but it seems to me that one or the other tended to be favored by the anarchists, and I think they're both part of a single mistake.

The jist of the matter is this: anti-democratic organization is a reflection of, not primarily a cause of, a conservative workingclass "movement". This is not to say that the workingclass is conservative. *Ideas & Action*, and Tom in particular have done some excellent pieces about the dialectics of workingclass organization. This notion must be applied generally to the workingclass in industrialized countries: our workingclass sections are neither revolutionary nor conservative, they are both.

One (reactionary) consciousness is derived from our indoctrination and discipline as wage-slaves, and--particularly in our society--on the rewards white workers receive for racial and national solidarity with white rulers. Another, opposite consciousness arises out of our rebellion against our exploitation, and our tendency to replace oppression with a collectivist, egalitarian new society.

This revolutionary consciousness, or embryonically revolutionary consciousness, which is normally suppressed in capitalist culture, breaks out oftentimes and can, with appropriate solidarity, develop into a full-fledged movement, complete with a revolutionary program (plan of action) and mass revolutionary organization independent of, and in opposition to, the conservative institutions of the old order. The point I want to emphasize here is that such a movement will not develop unless it breaks with the old organizations, but the main requirements for igniting the movement are the development and generalizing of consciousness and struggle, and not the substitution of one organization for another.

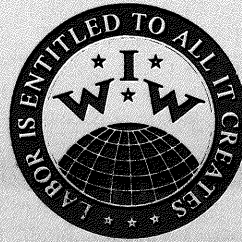
Tom's presentation at the Conference did raise some of these important issues, but to too great an extent he simply counterposed the radical to the conservative unions in revolutionary Italy of 1919+. He made some sympathetic references to Antonio Gramsci (without identifying him as a leading member of the Socialist Party), but Gramsci's most important legacy, from which most of what I argue here is derived, were not developed. I think this is because Tom put so much emphasis on the organizational aspect of a struggle, rather than the process of consciousness development. In this case, Tom's presentation was in some ways better than, in some ways the same as, the bulk of the Conference. The implications of the different

approaches are important. Too often, those who focus just on empowerment end up encouraging their fellow workers in the useless and debilitating task of reforming outdated organizations. Those who focus on providing organizational alternatives to the class become dismayed that workers don't automatically flock to the organization. This is true whether one defines oneself as an anarchist, marxist, or whatever. The next, and less desirable, course of action for such people is to rely on trying to educate workers about the need for better organizations, a temptation that FW Hill seems to have fallen prey to in his January *IW* article. As soon as we adopt this approach, we do what both the capitalist class and the orthodox party-ites do: we view and treat the workingclass as the object of the goals we perceive for them.

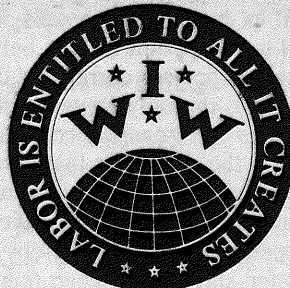
On the other hand, if we realize that revolutionary consciousness already exists in the class, and in each member of it, by virtue of the relationship to capitalist production process, we can focus on identifying and developing those struggles/actions which simultaneously rebel against the old and create or foreshadow the new society. In doing so we can be agents of change whereby the workingclass emancipates itself ("fan the flames"), which is the difference from orthodox party intervention. And the development of "grassroots organization" is a byproduct of this process, not the idol to which it must bow.

Lowell May X333245

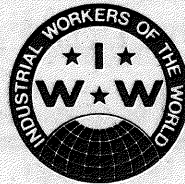
Wobbly Buttons



1 1/4in. black on red, circled with gold type



1 1/2in. black on red



1 inch black on red, membership pin

All are \$1.00 each.

Subscribe to the Industrial Worker

Name _____

Street _____

City _____

State/Province _____ Zip/Postal Code _____

Enclosed is:

\$2 for a 6-MONTH introductory subscription

\$6 for a ONE-YEAR regular subscription

\$8 for a one-year library subscription

\$11 for a TWO-YEAR regular subscription

\$16 for a THREE-YEAR regular subscription

\$_____ as a donation to the IW

Sustaining Fund

\$_____ for publications listed, as indicated

PLEASE SEND ALL ORDERS TO:

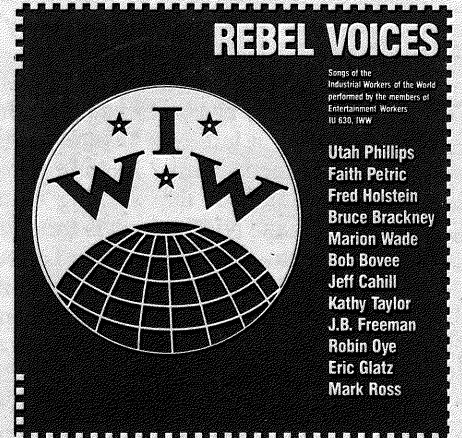
I.W.W.

3435 North Sheffield, Suite 202
Chicago, IL 60657

BOOKS FOR REBEL WORKERS

IWW PUBLICATIONS

One Big Union (about the IWW).....	1.25
The General Strike (by Ralph Chaplin).....	2.50
IWW Songs: The Little Red Songbook.....	2.50
Collective Bargaining Manual.....	2.50
Workers' Guide to Direct Action.....	3.50
Unions and Racism.....	1.00
Metal Workers' Health & Safety.....	50
A Quiz on You and the Arms Race.....	10
The IWW: Its First Seventy Years	
by Fred Thompson cloth 15.00; paper 4.95	
History of the IWW in Canada.....	50
The Rebel Girl (sheet music).....	1.00
IWW Preamble and Constitution.....	1.00



Rebel Voices
(LP record/IWW Songs - no discount) 8.95

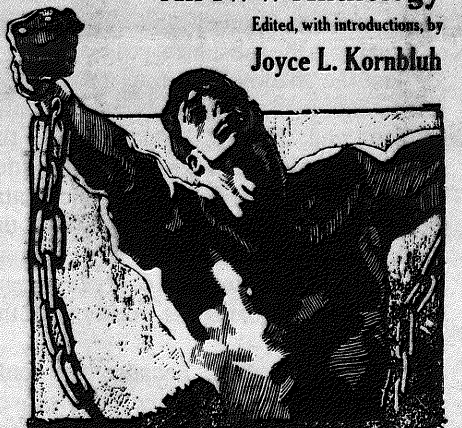
IWW POSTERS by Carlos Cortez

Lucy Parsons Joe Hill General Strike.
Fat Cat Huelga General Ben Fletcher
Draffees of the World, Unite
\$10.00 each postpaid

Rebel Voices

An IWW Anthology

Edited, with introductions, by
Joyce L. Kornbluh



BOOKS FROM OTHER PUBLISHERS

Rebel Voices: An IWW Anthology	
by Joyce Kornbluh.....	18.95
The Yale Strike of 1984-84.....	5.95
Roll the Union On: Pictorial History of	
Southern Tenant Farmers' Union	
by H.L. Mitchell.....	7.95
Bye! American - Labor Cartoons by	
Gary Huck & Mike Konopacki.....	7.95
Memoirs of a Wobbly by Henry McGuckin.....	5.95
Haymarket Scrapbook.....	14.95
Haymarket Postcards (set of 28).....	12.00
Altgeld's Reasons for Pardoning the	
Haymarket Anarchists.....	3.95
Crime and Criminals by C. Darrow.....	2.50
You Have No Country! Workers' Struggle	
Against War by Mary E. Marcy.....	4.50
Dreams and Dynamite	
(poems by Covington Hall).....	3.95
Mr. Block: 24 IWW Cartoons	
by Ernest Riebe.....	4.95
Life & Deeds of Uncle Sam	
by Oscar Ameringer.....	3.95
Rise and Repression of Radical Labor.....	3.95
The Flivver King: A Story of Ford-America	
by Upton Sinclair.....	7.95
Lucy Parsons: American Revolutionary.....	6.95
The Right to Be Lazy by Paul Lafargue.....	2.75
The Head-Fixing Industry by J. Keracher.....	3.00
The Soul of Man Under Socialism	
by Oscar Wilde.....	3.95
The Life of Thomas Skidmore.....	3.95
Labor Law for the Rank-and-File.....	2.50

DISCOUNTS ON BULK ORDERS

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

Please add 10% extra for postage.

WHY THE NDP WILL ALWAYS LOSE (EVEN IF THEY WIN)

Robert White, head of the Canadian Auto Workers and a radical maverick compared to other union bosses, is awful sore at the New Democratic Party (NDP). His feelings were made public in a recent seven page letter complaining how labour leaders like himself were upset and angry "as we watched the disintegration of what should have been the New Democratic Party's finest hour."

He criticized NDP leader Edward Broadbent's stand against Free Trade for being so wimpy it left even Liberal leader John "Bay Street" Turner looking like a genuine champion of the working class. White accused the NDP, which is formally affiliated with the Canadian Labour Congress (CLC), of turning away from its roots in a bid for "respectability" and power through a campaign which was structured "to distance itself from the labour movement, both in appearance and issues." He summed up the problem by asking, "Are we going to be a party that tries to finesse our way through, with the thought that we will be a serious contender for the government of Canada, or are we going to be a party that clearly knows the importance of representing working people...?"

While the NDP is torn between those wanting to seize power in order to be ethical, and those wanting to be ethical in order to seize power, the IWW continues to offer this bit of horse sense:

Wobblies have forever been scorned by the Leftoid politicians for their anti-Political beliefs. But the IWW has a clear position: workplace and community organizing is the substance, political parties are just the shadow. If strong progressive forces involved themselves in the daily "bread and butter" concerns of the population, these progressive attitudes would be reflected in any incidental elections. No matter how honourable the candidate, the process itself is so corrupt that casting that ballot once every few years is essentially choosing the master with the shortest whip.

Politics is a sham because the only candidates on the slate have been chosen from a managerial class (if Broadbent at one time did an honest day's work, he has long been separated from working class reality), and are already whittled down to an acceptable few by special interest groups whose judgement is beyond the influence of common people. It is further a sham

because voting once every few years, for someone you don't know, who promises to do your fighting for you, by making decisions on matters as varied and complex as life itself, is a profoundly *vampiric perversion* of our democratic potential.

However cynical we are about social justice through the laws and elections created by and for our masters, the IWW remains a pragmatic bunch and leave it to each individual to make up their own mind whether the use of a fundamentally rigged system is the crime, or whether the crime is wasting an opportunity to stop a few more "developers" & get slightly more aid to single moms.

The question for us has never been how to *seize power*, but how to build a federation of grassroots community and workplace organizations which, through their own proven strength, can *repossess and defend* the responsibilities that were stolen by the corporate-and-state-capitalists.

In other words, if "it is we who ploughed the prairies, built the cities where they trade, dug the mines and built the workshops, endless miles of railroads laid," then it's our own bloody business whether we *should* plough the prairies in ways that are turning lush land into desert, or *should* build cities that are not fit to live in, or *should* dig mines on land ripped off indigenous peoples (etc.), and not the decision of some money-puppet who doesn't fly about the families, communities, and eco-systems that are pulverized by the process. We are the working class; we are what makes society run; we're not asking for equal representation among the bureaucratic caste, we are announcing an open season on all parasites in the stretch limos.

Any political party that dares presume the wisdom to make our choices for us is doomed to disappoint its true believers. If the circumstance are corrupt by their very construction, the only route possible is to *create our own circumstances*. This means that we do the one thing that gives us the power to fight Capital: we organize mass economic and social resistance. If our vision of a cooperative world can thereby reach the other wage-slaves who keep this beast of steam and iron running, then we have pierced the dragon's heart.

from *Direct Action* - Bulletin of the Toronto IWW

Constitution

Canadian Draft in the Mails

Copies of a draft version of a Canadian I.W.W. constitution were mailed to Canadian Wobblies during the last week of January.

"If you're a Canadian I.W.W. member in good standing and for some reason haven't received your copy of the draft Canadian I.W.W. constitution, please get in touch with Vancouver Branch right away and we'll mail you one promptly," said Fellow Worker Bill Culp of Vancouver. "The draft is set up for easy response and comments, but we want to get people's reactions and suggestions by April 1."

The mailing is the latest step toward autonomy for Canada's I.W.W. operations. In February of 1988 Canadian I.W.W. members voted overwhelmingly in favor of pursuing an amiable separation from the international administration currently headquartered in Chicago. The February referendum ballot authorized Vancouver General Membership Branch to "solicit Canadian I.W.W. members' participation in drafting a Canadian constitution and submitting it to a referendum of Canadian members."

"Vancouver General Membership Branch held a number of discussions on the constitution," Culp said, "and circulated a draft among its own members for further feedback. The draft mailed out in January incorporates a number of Vancouver ideas. But the constitution draft is wide open to change by any and all Canadian Wobblies, he emphasized."

The draft mailed out in January has a few major differences from the existing I.W.W. constitution. These changes include the elimination of the charges provisions, whereby members can accuse each other of violations of the constitution, etc. Also removed is the concept that an annual convention, rather than the membership as a whole, serves as the major legislative body of the union. To reflect a smaller Canadian membership, the Union's executive board is smaller.

Added to the Vancouver draft of the constitution is the idea of staggered terms of office for the executive board members and the Union's general secretary-treasurer. A new elected position, Union Trustee, is added as a supplement to the financial responsibilities currently held by the GST. Some reorganization of the material contained in the existing I.W.W. constitution also occurs in the draft.

from *Solidarity Bulletin* - Bulletin of the Vancouver IWW

MAIL HANDLERS DEMAND DEMOCRACY

The union's new constitution incorporates, word for word, the "Union Members' Bill of Rights" contained in the federal Landrum-Griffin Act, enacted in 1959 to promote union democracy.

As reported in NPMHU's own publication, "The Mail Handler Exchange", the convention "also passed a series of brave resolutions concerning organized crime and corruption. These include: prohibitions against 'hiring lawyers, accountants, consultants, etc. that have a known record of being influenced and/or dominated by organized crime'; a call to establish seminars that will educate local officers 'on how organized crime dominates and controls some sections of the labor movement'; and a commitment to 'present the AFL-CIO Executive Board with any materials that link agents of AFL-CIO-affiliated unions with organized crime.'"

This highly unusual agenda is understandably threatening to the Laborers, which the 1986 President's Commission on Organized Crime found to be tied to organized crime through "at least 26 locals, three district councils, as well as the International Union."

So far, the creative and aggressive legal work of Washington, D.C. lawyer Arthur Fox, a veteran of the teamster-reform movement, has kept Fosco from putting the Mail Handlers in trusteeship again. But lawyers for the AFL-CIO have just filed a "friends-of-the-court" brief supporting LIUNA's legal position over Berrien and Wright's.

The Mail Handlers deserve active support from the rest of the labor movement, not aid and comfort for their adversaries. As Association for Union Democracy Director Herman Benson observes, a Mail Handlers victory "would be the first big defeat of a suspect international leadership by a real rank-and-file insurgency." It would strengthen, not weaken organized labor, by removing practices and links to the mob.

James Connolly

(Editors' Update: On January 19 referendum ballots were mailed out to the 42,000 members of the Mail Handlers Union for the direct-election of their union officers.

An unprecedented decision by U.S. District Court Judge Oliver Gasch cleared the way by enjoining LIUNA leaders from proceeding with hearings to place the Mail Handlers into trusteeship.

The election pits Glenn Berrien against Fosco stooge Joseph Amma for the union's top post of national director. The results of the vote were unknown at IW press time.)

SOLIDARNOSC AT THE CROSSROADS

Having failed to destroy Solidarnosc through martial law and a seven year ban, the Polish government has changed its tack and is now attempting to draw the independent union into sharing responsibility for implementing the regime's economic "reforms" and the new hardships that these will entail for the Polish workingclass.

The immediate impetus for the government's change in attitude was the strike movements of May and August 1988. These mobilizations proved that Solidarnosc was still very much alive and that, if the government wanted to carry out its reforms it would have to rely on Solidarnosc's "responsible" leadership, headed by Lech Walesa, to contain workingclass resistance. For his part, Walesa has shown himself more than willing to play his assigned role of "labor statesman" by acting once again as a fireman working overtime to get striking workers back on the job. In early September, Walesa overstepped his mandate and unilaterally decided to call a

halt to the strikes that had begun in mid-August in exchange for a "promise" of round-table talks which would include the legalization of Solidarnosc on its agenda. A move for which he was roundly condemned by rank-and-file militants. Later on in the fall, he called for an end to the wildcat strikes which greeted the government announcement of its plan to close the Lenin Shipyards in Gdansk (the birthplace of Solidarnosc) which many workers saw as a union-busting ploy. For Lech and company everything had to be subordinated to the legalization of the union and the interests of the Polish nation.

In response to these concrete gestures the Polish United Workers' Party (PUWP) passed a resolution at its congress in January 1989 supporting the eventual legalization of Solidarnosc if the union's leadership would accept certain conditions: namely, an endorsement of Poland's "socialism" (ie, the political dominance of the PUWP), support for the government's economic reforms, and a two-year no-strike pledge. While the initial reaction of

Solidarnosc's leaders to the PUWP's proposals was cool, they eventually welcomed the Party's resolution as a step in the right direction and the basis for beginning round-table discussions on Poland's future.

In the round-table discussions which opened up in February the government laid out its program: incorporation of the Solidarnosc-led political opposition as a junior partner in the Sejm (Parliament) through "non-confrontational elections", thus guaranteeing PUWP's continued predominance; a program of economic restructuring aimed at stifling inflation and gaining control on Poland's \$38.9 billion foreign debt; and, the legalization of a presumably re-structured and "responsible" Solidarnosc.

Solidarnosc went into the talks ready for compromise. The KKS (national commission) accepted, in principle, the broad outlines of the government's proposals. They had little choice given the fact that many of the reforms being proposed by the government have also been

proposed by Walesa et al in the past, and there has always existed a tendency in Solidarnosc pushing the union towards transforming itself into a political party (a sort of Polish version of the christian democratic parties one finds in the West). This tendency crystallized this past fall, at the time of Britain's Prime Minister Thatcher's visit to Poland, as the "citizen's committee" made up of Walesa and his closest advisers.

Of course, Solidarnosc's leaders do not want the economic reforms to bring further suffering to the Polish people. "The costs of reform can no longer lower the social standards of living," the KKS has said. But how they will be able to prevent the state and private employers (who will become more numerous under the reforms) from forcing the costs onto the workingclass while giving up the strike weapon, in fact if not legally, is incomprehensible. The reforms, which boil down to selling off portions of state enterprises to private capital (both domestic and foreign), will not

continued on page 9