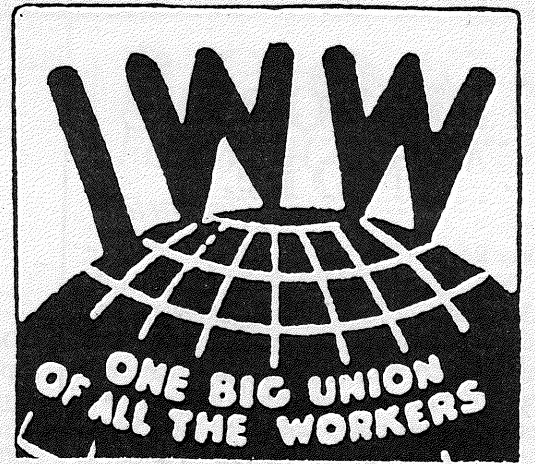


# INDUSTRIAL WORKER

*Industrial Workers of the World*



VOLUME 86, NUMBER 4, WH 1511

April 1989

50 cents

## IWW FAIR SHARE CANVASSERS BARGAINING

The I.W.W. bargaining unit of Oregon Fair Share, a public-interest canvassing group in Portland, achieved an encouraging success on Saturday, March 11th, 1989. After many weeks of hard work and long meetings, the bargaining unit came to agreement on a proposal for changing the oppressive working conditions of the phone canvassers there. A group consisting of eight members of the bargaining unit and three IWW representatives travelled to Salem, Oregon to introduce ourselves and our ideas to the State Council of Fair Share who welcomed our proposal with astonishing ease.

### THE PROCESS

At our meetings, we discussed how the workers could improve their jobs and strengthen the organization as a whole. The heaviest yoke canvassers wish to rid themselves of is the quota and deficit system. The nightly quota of \$95 was described by worker Tim Charlan as "the most amount of money you could ever hope to get." If the workers didn't get this sum from the people they canvassed, they accumulated what is called a deficit. The deficit is a cumulative paper debt to the organization. Delegate Billy Don Robinson pointed out that it's like "going in debt to the company store while doing piece-work." The tab can only be paid off by going over quota to compensate for the amount gone under quota. Only after achieving this unrealistic goal could the workers receive bonuses: Very few ever did.

The workers agreed that the best solution to the stress of deficit, described by a worker who quit because of it as "a ball and chain", was to collectivize the quota. In other words, rather than 10 workers each bringing in \$95 apiece per night, they would be responsible for soliciting \$950 as a group. The workers felt that this would relieve some of the stress that was crippling their job performance, and in turn improve the work of the whole organization. Confidence in the idea was supported by the fact that it had worked in the early '80s.

Non-union members expressed some fears about "accountability", i.e. everyone doing their share. However, the bargaining unit agreed that, with honest communication, every worker could balance each others fundraising over the months.

More problems with the exorbitant quota were unearthed by worker Joan DeNui. With a natural talent for numbers and experience in management as an accountant and analyst, Joan is one of our sturdiest assets. Going

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## EASTERN STRIKE: IS LABOR GETTING SERIOUS?



As the IW goes to press the strike against arch union-buster Frank Lorenzo and Eastern Airlines is ending its third week with no end in sight.

The immediate issue involved is Eastern's demand for wage and benefit cuts from its machinists of from 15 to 20 percent. The International Association of Machinists, which represents Eastern's 8,500 machinists, mechanics and baggage handlers, in contrast is demanding a wage/benefit package worth \$50 million in a bid to regain a little of the millions of dollars given up in 1983 and 1986 to save the airline.

So far nothing unusual in all this. What is unique however in this dispute is the level of solidarity displayed by Eastern's 3,500 union pilots and the 5,900 flight attendants in continuing to honor the machinists picket lines, effectively shutting down the company. What has welded these workers together, who in the past would have been more apt to scab on each other, is an intense hatred for Eastern owner Frank Lorenzo, who the unions accuse of being determined to destroy Eastern and break the unions. This what he did in 1983 after taking over Continental Airlines where Lorenzo used the bankruptcy laws to break the unions and re-organize the airline as an open shop.

Lorenzo is attempting to use the same gambit in the current dispute, filing for Chapter 11 bankruptcy shortly after the strike began counting on wearing down the strikers, particularly the pilots, in the six months the law gives him to present a company re-organization plan to the courts. The unions, for their part, recognizing that bankruptcy was a distinct possibility had hoped to use it as an opportunity to present their own plans for re-organizing the airline; but they can't for at least six months. What to do in the meanwhile? The unions are challenging Eastern management's competence to run the company before the courts. But this will not win the strike.

The unions are also seeking to find someone to buy Eastern who will guarantee jobs and give the unions a piece of the action in exchange for wage and benefit concessions. While corporate take-over artist Carl Icahn

was sniffing around he backed out early, apparently because he could not get deep enough cuts.

Now, one would think that past experience would have taught Eastern workers a lesson. It was the concessions granted by the IAM back in 1986 that paved the way for Lorenzo to acquire Eastern. The union gave up \$300 million dollars in concessions in exchange for a promise that Lorenzo would get rid of then Eastern CEO Frank Borman and guarantee jobs. Well, Borman stayed on until retirement and by the end of 1987 10,000 workers had been eliminated from the payroll. Apparently the lesson that "concessions don't save jobs" has not been learned by the leadership of labor.

Once again the fate of a strike boils down to maintaining a solid front on the picket lines...and spreading the strike. Yet as encouraging as the solidarity being shown by the pilots and flight attendants in continuing to honor the machinists pickets is, there is still a reluctance on the part of the official labor movement to do what is necessary to win. Early on, even before the strike began as a matter of fact, there were threats made about spreading the strike to railroads and other airlines by picketing and asking union workers not to cross. Such secondary boycotts, as they are called, are perfectly legal under the Railway Labor Act which governs labor relations in the rail and air transport

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## PRISON ORGANIZER FRAMED

In 1988, in response to allegations that guards beat and killed two black prisoners for touching two white nurses, IWW members at the Ohio Correctional Facility in Lucasville, in conjunction with their local General Defense Committees, drafted a 30 page human rights complaint with 200 pages of exhibits listing various human rights violations and naming names. Over 200 SOCF prisoners attested to the veracity of this document's allegations. SOCF officials confiscated the document in an effort to suppress the investigation but an IWW member was able to smuggle a copy through to the outside and into the London office of Amnesty International (AI), who are currently conducting their own investigation.

In retaliation to this damaging light shed on the Lucasville situation, IWW organizer and jailhouse lawyer John Perotti has been in-

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### and More

## 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.

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

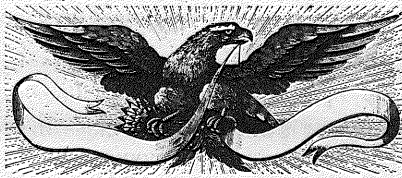
## EDITORIAL NOTE

Dear Reader,

The Industrial Worker is the voice of the I.W.W. and the I.W.W. itself is a heterogeneous organization whose membership holds many differing opinions on any number of topics. This collective seeks to provide a forum for the many voices of the I.W.W. membership as well as a source of information on the actions of that membership. The article that appeared on the front page of the March IW, "Guilty, Guilty" - Earth First!/ IWW Greenhouse Demo", has been criticized by some members of the I.W.W. as implying that there is some kind of formal alliance between the I.W.W. and Earth First! The Industrial Worker collective wants all readers of the IW to know that there is no such alliance.

The I.W.W.'s Constitution and By-Laws specifically forbids "...all alliances, direct and indirect, with existing political parties and antipolitical sects, and disclaims responsibility for any individual opinion or act which may be at variance with the purposes herein expressed." (Resolution on Political Parties and Discipline, page 49, IWW Constitution) Some Earth First!ers have joined the I.W.W., just as members of numerous political parties and anarchist groups have. One group of these Earth First!ers have taken to calling their group IWW-Earth First! Local #1, the propriety of which the IW collective is not in a position to judge. The IW collective hopes that the above clarification will be enough to convince one and all, once and for all, that the I.W.W. retains and will defend its complete autonomy from all political parties and antipolitical sects.

### The Collective



## Industrial Worker

ONE UNION ONE LABEL  
ONE ENEMY



The Editorial Collective

Carlos Cortez, Mike Hargis, Penny Pixler, Ingrid Kock

### 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 advertising 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.

# Correspondence

## Hill Responds

Dexter, in my view leafleting isn't an appeal to the intellect, nor is it outside the basic experience of the IWW. J.H. Walsh wrote in the Industrial Union Bulletin in 1908 that he was toting a hundred and sixty pounds of literature for distribution. Hundreds of thousands of copies of the 1908 Preamble alone have been distributed over the years. A typical tactic described in Kornbluh's Rebel Voices is, "In the year following Wheatland...the IWW blanketed California with stickers and circulars..." If the presses weren't running, then the presses weren't contributing to the One Big Union. The IWW pamphlets addressed working conditions, exploitation, possibilities—things that the workers understood intuitively. The intellectuals are contributing to the cause of socialism through their "call for papers", yet I see this as doing little to directly organize our factories, shops and mills.

I am perplexed by your statement, "Richard cautions against the economic crisis theory of revolution: Which of my writings expressed this caution? I do subscribe to economic crisis theory—on a local or world scale—as one of various mechanisms of social upheaval. Your reference to P-9 makes the point that a crisis intrudes upon a worker's psyche in a way that makes radicalization possible. Whether our friends from P-9 found out about IWW-style philosophy from pamphlets or from researching their own Wob history makes little difference. The workforce generally had not been radical, and they were radicalized (1) by knowing of possibilities and, as you stated, (2) by their own experience—a crisis experience. Change can and does come with the turbulence of the times, whether inflicted by Hormel, or on a grand scale—the "ten days that shook the world" came at the close of a brutal war.

My reference to middle-class workers was carelessly worded, and for that I apologize. The intent was that the AFL is losing ground, AFL workers are demoralized and searching for alternatives. Gradually, many of them are beginning to suspect what Wobs have always known—capitalism is a runaway train, and we're all in its path.

Richard Hill

*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.*

## SUBMISSIONS POLICY

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

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

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

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

Submit your letters and articles early!

The Editors

Dear I.W.W.,

I received my first edition (February issue) of your newspaper in today's mail. I just wanted to drop you a line or two to thank you, and let you know that I enjoyed the articles in your paper. I hope that you will continue to keep my name and address on your mailing list, as I will look forward to receiving your next issue.

In Solidarity,  
David Helfond  
#364727 Wynn Unit  
Rte 1, Box 1  
Huntsville, TX 77349



Dear IW,

Just a quick note to let you know that you're doing a great job. With each issue the I.W. gets better and better. Sure, there are some articles that I may not like (like all that Earth First Stuff), but that doesn't take away from the overall improvement. Keep up the good work.

In Solidarity,

X337664

## Good Work

Dear IW:

We commend Ted Dymnt for his excellent article, "Taking Your Politics to Work," and the Industrial Worker for featuring it in the February, 1989 issue. Those fellow workers contemplating an organizing drive will benefit from the answers Ted provides to the questions most commonly asked in the field (and they will be asked). This article, possibly in condensed form would make a very useful organizing pamphlet.

For One Big Union,  
Rochelle Semel

Editorial Collective:

Bravo Encore Edward Abbey! It is refreshing to find someone who understands the main problem of the "marxoids"-ignorance. Their reliance on unlimited technology resembles the believers' faith in god. As a rule Marxists display little knowledge of natural history and ignorance of forestry and agronomy, which like their upper class "enemies", they think they can disdain. Perhaps the influence of the Russian agronomist will stimulate some of this reactionary element to abandon delusions of power for the more pressing tasks of recycling, beautification, conservation, birth reduction, tree planting, etc.

E.G. Nassar

Note:

The Videotape of the CBS Dan Rather Show about the IWW prisoner issues at the Lucasville, Ohio facility has been misplaced. If any member has a tape of this show or knows of anyone who has taped this show, could s/he immediately communicate with:

Paul Poulos  
P.O. Box 172  
Fly Creek, NY 13337

## CNT Needs Solidarity

Fellow Workers,

The Spanish Government is out to crush the CNT-AIT, which needs our solidarity. The following is extracted from Solidaridad Obrera, CNT organ in Barcelona:

"Since the end of 1977, when the CNT refused to accept the class-collaborationist Moncloa Pact, a relentless campaign has been waged to destroy the CNT by all the entrenched parasitic, exploiting institutions ruling the oppressed people of Spain: the clergy, the all-embracing network of bureaucratic officials, etc.

"When the CNT refused to collaborate, its enemies created a phony, fictitious 'split' to wreck the CNT with the cooperation of the courts. Two ominous rulings by the courts illustrate the attitude of the judges. In the first decision, the judge ruled that the 5th Congress of the CNT (held in 1979-Ed.) was illegal and 'anti-democratic'. The fact is that 35 out of 500 delegates walked out of the Congress of their own free will. They were not expelled, and were given ample time to express their ideas. The judge then ruled that the fake Valencia Congress called by the few delegates who walked out of the Fifth Congress was a true and legal congress of the CNT.

"In the second decision, the judge ruled that the Fifth Congress acted in accordance with its by-laws and disqualified the fake Valencia Congress. But in a surprising turn around, he ruled that the so-called 'unity congress' called by the CNT fakers who usurped the name and insignia of the CNT was legal and valid. If, according to the second judge, there is no split who is being united?

"As a result, anarcho-syndicalism is in danger of being outlawed. The CNT will not be passive in this situation. It appeals to the conscience of all who want justice and will work for it. The whole world should know that if this social crime is consummated, making the CNT and anarcho-syndicalism illegal, the CNT will not be the only victim. It means that freedom will be mortally wounded. Those who planned and carried out this scheme, those who collaborated in this dirty plan, will be responsible for its negative, destructive consequences whether they participated actively or made this historic crime possible by their silence and cowardice."

The Spanish government is threatening to bar the majority CNT from using its name and to turn over to the fakers the CNT assets seized by Franco, the return of which has long been promised (all other unions had their assets returned many years ago). The CNT-AIT needs our help and solidarity in this critical period. Please let your readers know about this persecution, organize protests at Spanish consulates and offices, and/or send letters of protest to the Spanish Embassy (2700 15th Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20009). An Injury to One is an Injury to All!

Libertarian Labor Review Collective

## Joe Hill

Please announce...the availability of FW Joe Hill's ashes per Board motion #26. To clarify: Token amounts are available upon request to the board so as requests honor Joe's wishes (to scatter, not enshrine) and are in keeping with I.W.W. purposes. Folks must pay their own shipping costs—we're not going to trust the Post Office Again. UPS? Requests...(must be in)...by 7/31.

Thanks,

Barb Hansen

# IWW BRANCH NEWS

## Recyclers Join IWW! New Wobs in Berkely

Nine employees—a majority of the workers at the Recycling Center in Berkely—have joined the IWW. Jeff Hoffman, a new IWW delegate, stopped by the Chicago office in January to get some tips and the materials for organizing and then went back to California to sign up seven drivers and two loaders of the Berkely Recycling Center.

The nine workers have serious grievances against their employer including: low pay, few benefits and undemocratic working conditions. Hoffman says they decided to join the IWW because "Morale was getting low...we talked about going on strike but thought we should unionize first. Because of the kind of people we are; the IWW is the only union we could join."

The new wobs want the Ecology center to apply for more funds from the Berkely city government so that the workers can get a decent wage and benefit package. Hoffman says they'll have an NLRB election by mid-May.

## Champaign-Urbana Wobs Push Shell Boycott

As the winter snows melt and temperatures rise into the forties, members of the Champaign-Urbana IWW Group are preparing to resume picketing of local Shell stations in solidarity with our South African fellow workers. Wobs, working with a variety of campus and community groups, have already organized two well-attended pickets last year, as well as speaking on the issue on local radio and television, and distributing thousands of Shell Boycott leaflets.

## Disarm the Rich

Ottawa Wobs will be sponsoring an evening of music and discussion on Saturday, May 20th (SAW Gallery, 2 Daly Ave.). We have lined up some folksingers, including our very own wobbly songbird V.R. and a multiracial band. We want to show the IWW

video. This will be the first IWW-sponsored public event here in recent years, and we hope to promote the good cause of the One Big Union and sign up some new members.

The Saturday night gig will kick off a week of events centered around a mass protest of the weapons trade. A coalition of about 100 groups has formed to stage a march and rally at the site of ARMX, a giant international weapons exhibition by 300 companies which



will be attended by military officers, diplomats and police officials from 50 countries, including many who militarily attack their indigenous populations (Chile, Guatemala, Britain). Other events include a mock trial, a peace fair, dance, lectures, and anarchist video and performance art.

Wobblies will also help to put on a free soup kitchen during the week to draw attention to the poverty which exists in marked contrast to the rich men who waste and destroy the wealth created by labor and the earth.

We hear that ARMX sponsors (government and big business, who else?) are preparing a counter-P.R. campaign in which they boast of creating jobs. Anyone for the wages of sin...?

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## IWW FAIR SHARE BARGAINING

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down to the invoice level, Joan examined the expense reports of the previous management and found them to be bloated. The previous management had projected \$77 in expenses for every \$95 solicited by a worker. Joan's estimate is that only \$55 per \$95 is needed for expenses, and she said that her present estimate is quite conservative, providing room for error. Since the previous quota reflected what the present management admits to be inflated expense reports, the workers have adjusted it. They now expect to bring in an average of \$15 less, that is \$80 per person per night.

### FINAL PROPOSAL

After all the months of defining the problems and creating theoretical solutions, the bargaining unit agreed on a proposal to present to the state council. The essence of the proposal was a request to have a collectivized quota for a period of two months with a moratorium on firings related to the deficit. Through this trial period, we hope to generate statistical evidence that will make it easy for us to change our job conditions permanently in our upcoming contract negotiations.

We chose not to introduce our proposal for a reduced quota at the time for three reasons. First, we were slated for only half an hour to present our ideas at the meeting. Second, the figures were not boiled down to Joan's satisfaction at the time. And, third, we didn't want to hit the board members with all our ideas at once because we figured it'd be easier on both parties that way.

### THE MEETING

On, Saturday, March 11, we brought our proposal to the Oregon Fair Share State

Council, which meets six times a year. Since our time was so short, we expected only to open the dialogue. One of the middle management people at Fair Share had recommended that a sub-committee of the State Council, the budgetary review committee, would be an appropriate body to review the materials and make the decision. After a very minimal amount of hemming and hawing by some other council members, council member Phil Dreyer, a retired union activist, made an official proposal to the board that they accept our idea to let the workers redefine their conditions of work. When one board member reminded him that the budgetary review committee was to make that decision, he quite adamantly proclaimed that the council was one rung up the ladder from its sub-committee and was quite capable of making the decision. This was met with a spontaneous round of applause by the Wobblies, who could hear between the lines, "Let's cut through the bullshit and approve the solution!" In the discussion that ensued, many IWW comments were also met with applause by the council. Perhaps it was their way of thanking us for throwing some inspired energy into the normally sedate business of board meetings.

All we Wobblies expected to have to pay some deference to the god of bureaucracy, but we were surprised. With the persistence of Phil Dreyer, the board came to a swift, unanimous decision in favor of the proposal.

As butter on the bread, some board members even discussed introducing our system statewide if the experiment works in Portland. This was the first step in a series of forthcoming victories for the IWW in Oregon.

Leslie Hemstreet 332347

## Commentary

# How We Organize

Ralph Chaplin once told an audience of young activists that the IWW organizers and members of his day were no braver or wiser than anyone sitting in the room.

One of our Union's problems, oddly, is the very romantic and grand picture of IWW labor conflicts and the participation of Wobblies in them, painted in countless Wobbly memoirs and amplified by the labor historian class. Certainly, IWW participation in the early 20th Century labor scene is a great and continuing source of pride and inspiration for us and our early organizers will forever serve as role models in many ways to our new members.

But among us are newcomers to different sorts of workplaces for which we need, as Wobblies, to exert new strategies. Most Wobblies today are in service industries in which what they produce are often abstractions.

Their workplaces no longer have tophatted, cigar smoking bosses. In fact there may be no discoverable boss, just layers of middle managing supervisors—small cogs in the big wheel.

Their workplace issues may not be as dramatically clearcut as they were at Lawrence, Patterson, or Little Falls. The Wobblies themselves have changed from a group of itinerant laborers and immigrant workers to the third and fourth generations of those workers. We must acknowledge those changes without feeling that there is nothing for people like us to do anymore that would equal the organizing exploits of the past.

For some things never change under the economic system in which we find ourselves. There is still an employing class and there is still a working class. (with whom we have chose to throw in our lot.) Wealth is even more concentrated today in the hands of the few than it was in 1905. And the employer has become in many ways a greater menace—a faceless conglomerate giant—which makes our organizing tasks as large and challenging as any facing our IWW organizers of the past.

Elizabeth Gurley Flynn, Big Bill Hayward, Ben Fletcher and their ilk weren't born knowing how to organize and no one sent them to "organizing college." What they did have was a world view like ours and a commitment to change things around which we hope to equal.

### WHAT CAN I DO?

The many of us who are in today's workplaces which bear no resemblance to the plant or factory or mine of 1905, have a job to do.

## WOB PRISON ORGANIZER FRAMED

continued from page 1

dicted for felonious assault. Perotti has been forefront in all IWW activities at SOCF and has also won lawsuits against the prison for civil rights violations. He has spent 6 of the last 7 years locked in isolation for this activism yet he continues to persevere in his organizing efforts. The prison authorities call his activities "a threat to the security of the institution." Perotti has suffered other forms of retaliation, in particular, this current indictment for assault.

A prisoner, while walking down the range in the SOCF J-4 block, was stabbed in the stomach. Perotti happened to be locked in his cell in that block. No guards or prisoners saw Perotti stab anyone, nor do any even say they did. Yet John Perotti was charged with this stabbing that occurred no where near his cell.

The fact of the matter is that literally thousands of stabbings, prisoner-on-prisoner and guard-on-prisoner stabbings have occurred at SOCF since it opened in 1973 as Ohio's only maximum security prison. Only a small percentage of these incidents have resulted in a prisoner being indicted. Perotti was accused of the stabbing on September 25, 1988 - just days after AI started its investigation.

A Wobbly is the sort of union member who always has the union at heart. Because a Wobbly is that kind of union member there is one simple organizing objective which every Wobbly can meet. Wobblies should leave a workplace better than they found it. It may not be possible to run a traditional organizing drive "by the book," but it MAY be possible to develop a campaign around a single issue—to get the "boss" to provide frequent rest breaks for those who work in front of computers. To eliminate chemical toxins from the workplace. To change an irritating work rule. To get time off to cash your paycheck.

Or more importantly, you may be able to get fellow workers talking to each other and standing up together for their rights on the job.

The point is that on-the-job organizing is not ONLY organizing a bargaining unit, not ONLY gaining a contract with a grievance procedure, not ONLY getting the IWW in as the bargaining agent. It IS something all of us can do in any workplace—organizing ourselves as a class.

(The fringe benefit is that from such issue-oriented campaigns and from such communities we form within the workplace, traditional organizing campaigns often spring.)

### WHAT AND WHO IS THE UNION?

Too many union members have come to think of the administrative arm of the union, for example, the headquarters office, or the elected officers, or what they call "the international" or "the local" as the place and people who generate union activity. On the contrary, the union is the union membership, wherever they may be.

Too many union members believe that the workplace is the only place they can demonstrate their brands of unionism.

But Wobblies can do their "Wobbly thing" wherever they go. The workplace, yes, but also in our communities contributing to our goals of a more human society; by standing up against racism, sexism, ageism, speciesism, and all the other isms (and by working for all the good things in life), and even in our personal relationships by refusing to dominate, compete with, and subordinate our significant others.

All of us in the IWW today have as large and "romantic" and as potentially do-able a task as the Wobblies of yesteryear. We need not feel diminished by their achievements or the challenges of their time. We need only be as creative and committed in our own 1989 way as they were in their day.

Rochelle Semel

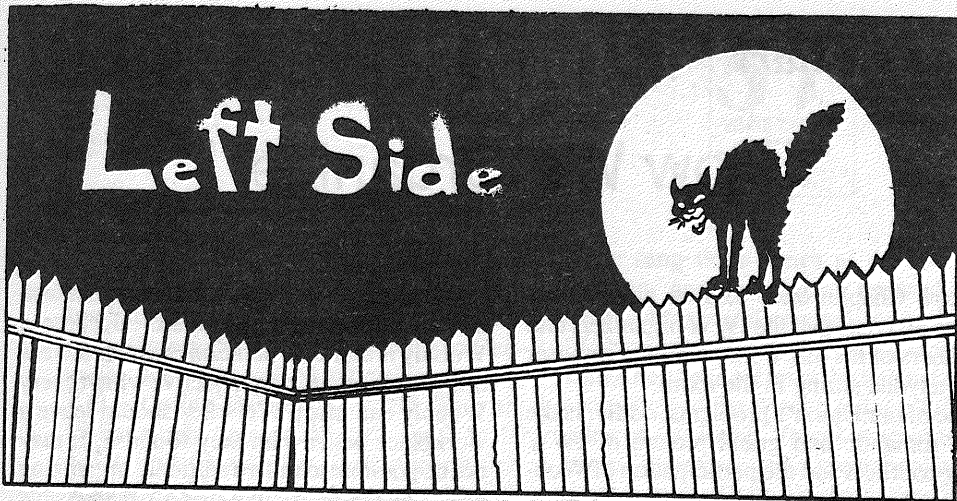
Since September 25, 1988, there have been 15 prisoner-on-prisoner stabbings and two guard-on-prisoner murders. Yet there have been no indictments.

The SW Ohio IWW General Membership Branch, with its two GDC locals, and attorney Jerry McHenry will show that Scioto County prosecutors and SOCF officials practice a policy of selective prosecution - prosecuting only those prisoners who are serious activists and "troublemakers" in the eyes of these officials. And facts will be presented to court that will demonstrate the impossibility of Perotti having committed this stabbing.

The trial is scheduled for June 19, 1989 if not dismissed for selective prosecution. Details of all conditions and human rights violations at SOCF will be brought to bear in this case.

For more information or to make a donation (General Defense Committee), contact:

General Defense Committee, Local #1  
D. E. Slaton, secretary  
Post Office Box 26381  
Trotwood, Ohio 45426  
Phone: (513) 837-4223



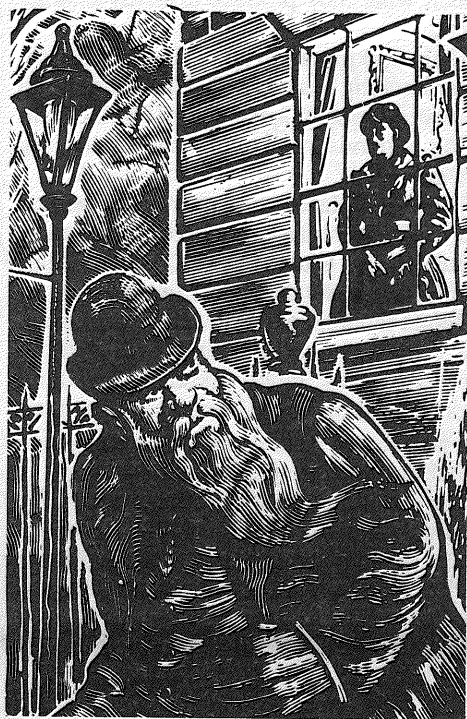
Now that it looks like the good weather is making its welcome reappearance here in the land of Creationism, it behooves us to pay a little attention to the defenders of the faith not only here in Freedomland but also to their far-flung colleagues in other parts of this World of ours.

The Ayatollah, in his fundamentalistic zeal, has put a million dollar contract on the hapless author who had the temerity to write a book that the good Ayatollah felt was complimentary to the Islamic faith. While one can understand the author's choice to make his whereabouts unknown, one has to marvel at the outburst of courageous integrity on the part of bookselling establishments here in Freedomland who have removed the offensive book in question from their shelves. The author may be quite justified in choosing not to gallantly flaunt his accessibility as history has provided the provident with many examples of what extremes the religiously-motivated will go to in order to chastise those whom they felt have offended their motivations.

Here in the city that is know as The City That Works even if many of its denizens do not, a related incident has been taking place. The School of the Art Institute that has a knack for stirring up controversial publicity for itself, has recently angered a number of professional veterans groups when one of the students made an installation where the banner of Freedomland was placed on the floor where those who chose to could walk on it. The members of these veterans organizations whom apparently remain quite unfazed by the increasing destruction of the environment, the pollution of the atmosphere and waterways, the rising tide of unemployment with its attendant rise of crime along with the hosts of homeless who have nowhere to sleep but on the streets, became quite upset that the stars and stripes could be walked upon by the irreverent who might be inclined to share this particular student's iconoclastic sentiments. Their indignation over the disrespect to the stars and stripes was not to be outdone by the Ayatollah's indignation over the disrespect to the Koran. As much as yours truly would likewise go into hiding knowing that there are only too many of his fellow humans who would jump at the opportunity of making an easy million bucks) and as much as he would be just as inclined to wave a red cloth in front of a raging bull as incur the displeasure of a host of professional jingoists, he is unequivocally opposed to any form of censorship. Anything that can't hold its own against a little criticism, humor or outright disrespect isn't worth much in the first place. Both aforementioned incidents provide unpleasant examples of the extremes of censorship coupled with an unhealthy religious fanaticism.

As there are booksellers here in Freedomland who have been intimidated by the Ayatollah into removing from their shelves that book that offends him, there are those booksellers who are removing items from their stock that may incur the displeasure of the Attorney General. The reason so shop owners are turning into mice is the "Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act" which goes under the acronym of RICO. (Notice the sneaky appeal to the xenophobically-inclined.) Ostensibly this act was to stop mobsters from channeling their ill-gotten wealth from criminal enterprises into legitimate businesses used as fronts. This law is of the most powerful ones on the books which gives prosecutors free rein to confiscate the inventories of any business that they feel launders money for organized crime. In

a newly found moralistic fervour, no doubt inspired by Jimmy Swaggert and the Bakkers, the RICO boys are going after bookstores and videotape store if perchance these establishments carry what they deem to be pornographic, seizing the owners assets and sending them off to jail. It is only necessary for one or two items to be considered "porno-



graphic" for the entire stock to be confiscated. Even James Joyce's "Ulysses" which was legally cleared in the 1930s as a literary classic is not safe from these born-again blue noses.

Now that much contemporary fiction contains sexually explicit passages, many booksellers are quaking in their boots over the RICO law. Because many video-cassette stores carry raunchy stag films, they have become a favorite target for the Reek-o guys.

Despite the fact that a lot of the material that is sold in video stores is so much crap and despite the fact that video stores are outnumbering bookstores, presaging future generation of de-facto illiterates, yours truly remains implacably opposed to any censorship. I would rather see completely un-deemable crap on the open market than give the censors a foothold because the same yoyos that would censor Hustler and Penthouse would gleefully shut down the Industrial Worker.

No person, no matter how high-minded he or she is, has the right to determine someone else's taste. I feel that if quality material is given equal space and availability it will ultimately win out over shoddy material. The reason that video stores are outnumbering bookstores is that the average Joe can rent a few hours canned visual entertainment for a few bucks while the price of even minimal quality printed material is going way out of sight. Your humble scribe now does all of his buying in the second-hand bookstores.

There is something inherently bad about a society where quality diversion is no longer available to those whose labor makes possible bookstores, art galleries, concert halls and museums. Though these institutions are made possible by the unpaid labor of workers, they must still pay admission if they want to enter them. The up and coming generations are more likely to be getting into trouble in the streets than to be finding uplift in cultural institutions.

C.C. Redcloud

## IWW NON-PROFIT DRIVE:

### Interview with Canvassers

Three canvassers who are part of the I.W.W.'s North-West non-profit organizing drive, Mark Enderly, and Elizabeth Bertuccio, of Sane, and Noal Merit, of Fair Share, were recently interviewed by the Portland radio announcer Christopher Phelps. Questions below were posed by Phelps and the three canvassers are identified in their responses by their initials.

Q: I'd like to begin by having people share their experiences, how they began canvassing, what canvassing is.

ME: Well I started canvassing two years ago for the organization Fair Share-the place where Noal still works. Canvassers are the front-line of an organization. We are the human link to members from the organization. We're the ones to articulate the program of the organization and through that motivate people either to continue their membership, increase their involvement or to become new members of the organization. That is part of the process of raising the money to make the organization work, and that is where most of the difficulties of the job come in is in maintaining a certain level of performance in fundraising.

Q: What conditions do you experience? What is it that made you want to have a union. What was it about your experience that was somehow unsatisfying? Usually, when unions are formed when workers have certain grievances they want to address?

EB: Oregon Sane started when Noal Merit was terminated from his employment. That's when work started for getting a union because the grounds for his dismissal were heresay and made-up after his termination. There were records that were not kept and put in his file after he was terminated. We real-

ized that we needed to have a union in Oregon Sane

Q: So there were no grievance procedures at Sane?

EB: There was a grievance procedure but it wasn't a grievance procedure. Noal was terminated for supposedly being rather abrupt at the door to members, and records were not kept by the office that these people had called. Records were inserted after he was dismissed. On one day, they said there were three phone calls that Noal Merit was not being very nice to people at the door. No records were being kept for specific days. It was just heresay. It was just a way of getting rid of Noal Merit who they saw as a threat because he is very outspoken and says what's on his mind, so that's when organizing started.

Q: Noal your at Fair Share, what kinds of things are going on there?

NM: You have to understand that these organizations-all of them are very similar in the fact that they profess to pose an alternative to what surrounds us in the society. That's all well and good, and in many instances they do present an alternative, but the internal contradictions of these organizations are such that many times what they espouse and what they practice are very divergent. There's a lot of



## EASTERN STRIKE

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industry. The threats were made in a dubious bid to get President Bush to intervene in the dispute. But the threats quickly vanished when, on the one hand, Bush counter-threatened that he would sponsor legislation to outlaw secondary boycotts in the industry and, on the other, injunctions barring rail workers from honoring machinists pickets or taking any other direct action in sympathy were issued by the courts. While challenging the injunctions in court the use of secondary picketing at railroads as a tactic has apparently been abandoned for fear that to use this most potent weapon in labor's arsenal would result in its being taken away. This could lead one to ask what good is a weapon that you never use because you're afraid of losing it?

Still, the display of solidarity shown by Eastern's workers is a sign that after a decade of concession bargaining and lost battles due to union scabbing and the isolation of struggles indicates the deepseated disaffection in the ranks of the official labor movement. The more militant talk and posturing of labor officialdom is a response to this unrest at the base. The labor fakers realize that to stem the ebbing tide of the labor movement they have to call on the ranks for support. This means granting the rank and file a chance to express its latent militancy. Strictly controlled, however. Perhaps a glimpse of labor's power will at last convince the employing class that the old days of labor-management cooperation are to be preferred to open class war.

Revolutionary unionists, on the other hand, should take the opportunity offered by this and every strike to fan the flames of discontent, promote class solidarity and organization, and raise the issue of the abolition of wage slavery.

Mike Hargis

hypocrisy involved in these organizations internally to the point where they operate on a hierarchical or authoritarian model very much like the surrounding society or culture that they profess to want to change.

I think what Elizabeth was talking about was just one sign of the injustice or hypocrisy, not just directed against myself but against many other people who preceded me. It didn't just happen with me. It happened before I got there, and it continues to go on after I've left. What happened at Sane is not necessarily unique as far as canvassers or so-called grass-roots fundraising organizations are concerned. I've heard similar problems with organizations like Greenpeace. The Pirgs are probably the worst as far as grass-roots organizations. They use people. They chew them up and spit them out.

One thing I do want to say is that Sane fabricated evidence, invented a reality which was not honest or ethical in its portrayal. It was a painful experience for me to go through that to be victimized in that way by an organization that professes to be different from what surrounds us in this culture.

Q: What kinds of things are you now trying to do as a union to stop the arbitrary action of administrators over canvassers?

EB: Last Thursday at Sane's board meeting, we submitted our contract proposal, a rough draft. This week, we were told on Wednesday we might possibly be terminated and that's three of the foot staff, three of the people that attend every meeting. Only one person who attends union meetings. Now the others will rally together and support the union if we are terminated.

Q: You think this is politically motivated

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## An Interview

because of the union drive?

EB: Yes

ME: There also have been claims filed with the NLRB regarding unilateral decision-making effecting conditions of employment at Oregon Sane and also non-follow through of stated evaluation process by the organization. These are two more things that are in the works right now.

Q: When you were considering unions, why did you think about the I.W.W.?

ME: Because their philosophy is to help people to do it themselves which ties in with the primary reason why most of the people working with Oregon Sane are doing that work and believe in belonging to the Union, and I believe the same is true with Fair Share.

Q: How do your union meetings work? How is that different than how traditional unions are set-up?

NM: I think we are just getting the union off the ground at Fair-Share. Sane has had a head start on us in that respect. The important thing to remember about the I.W.W. and why workers at these organizations can show some enthusiasm about the union is that it really is a democratic union and that the workers themselves are not removed from the process. The rank-and-file have direct input into what's going on in their workplace.

This is 1989 and we see unions like the Teamsters where workers have very little to say about what their union is or what conditions are in their workplace. Their so-called union representative is very out of touch with their daily reality, totally out of touch. That breeds disenchantment with labor unions in many workplaces now. Because the workers themselves have next to nothing to say about the process of their union.

Unions have changed in the last twenty or thirty years especially. Some of them have never changed. The Teamsters have a long reputation of being corrupt. It's been shown time and time again how corrupt it is. The Wobblies represent something really democratic. Something that people can rally around and feel that they're being represented directly. It's not a case of a hierarchy being in place. It's a rank-and-file union, a very democratic union.

ME: Our intention was not to set up yet another hierarchy or just a parallel hierarchy for dealing with certain problems that we had it



was to be a part of that process and to define that process.

Q: How does that work in practice. When you get together for meetings, what happens?

ME: As far as the actual meetings go, Oregon Sane is a small work-place, it's a small shop. Everyone who is a member of the union right now is a part of the bargaining unit. So, as such, they do consensus, come to decisions and operate as a bargaining unit. There aren't any logistic difficulties in operating a union.

Q: That's substantially different from the way orthodox unions work because they usually send in negotiating teams who negotiate and send a contract back to the local, and the local gets to vote on it, yes or no. But it's usually done by formula, and there's very little participation by workers in the local workplace.

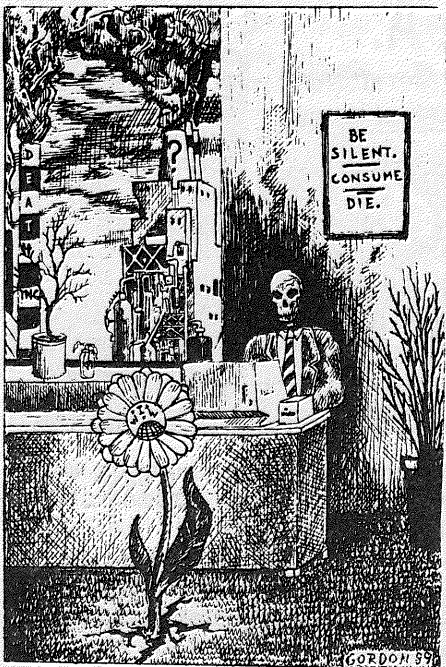
NM: I was once on a negotiating team for

united steel workers where the people from the local were elected by the local members. It was just a few people having input, it was not a democratic process; there was a lot of wheeling and dealing going on. The rank and file was not privy to it.

Q: And you haven't found that to be the case with the I.W.W.?

NM: No, and I won't let that be the case with the I.W.W. It's a very different process. It's not establishment. It's not maintaining the status quo.

Through the 1980s, we've seen tremendous attacks on the working class from Ronald Reagan, he's one of the greatest union busters to ever come along. The air-traffic controllers were the first example. His administra-



tion attacked workers vigorously as will the Bush administration. Organized labor is the AFL-CIO is sitting on their asses. They're beginning to rally, but the very nature of the bureaucracy and their hierarchy is so removed from rank-and-file workers that they're not going to be able to sort through their mess for a long time.

Q: Now, the problem that a grass-roots decentralized locally democratic union would have is that some regions or sectors of the economy can get set off against others by capitol; and so you want to have a national or international union at the same time that you want to have it locally controlled. You want to have solidarity at the same time that you have a lot of local control. How does the I.W.W. balance those concerns?

EB: Right now, there's only Fair Share and Sane that are members of the IWW that are canvassing in the U.S. I assume that we will be exhibiting solidarity among canvassing organizations because we work like shops. It's just really taking off. The ability to form a national network hasn't presented itself.

NM: It's a very tough problem to deal with in that people who do this kind of work in progressive organizations: Oregon Sane, Fair Share, the Pirs, Greenpeace have very similar problems here to what service workers are subjected to, to what kids who work for McDonalds are subjected to. The turn-over rate is tremendous. People come and go. It's like an assembly line where people come on the assembly line in one door and role out the other side in many instances a day or two later. For people to stick with these organizations for six months to a year or longer is truly remarkable. These organizations with their hierarchical models have exploited people's idealism. They've used people...

ME: With the result of a vast wasted of potential

NM: Most of the people coming into these jobs are young people who are having difficulty finding employment in this society. Young people in this culture are really up against it. Employment for youth is statistically higher than it is for older workers. Un-



British management at the Dagenham Motown are of a conveyor line of thought for they sacked Mick Gosling a 36 year old political and sociology graduate (I.W. Jan 1989) for not disclosing the fact that he had a university background when applying for a Ford's job.

The reason is not as simplistic as that however for Gosling was sacked by Ford's and dare one assume? with the silent support of the Ford union godfathers for challenging official union and Ford management over wages and working conditions. What is tragic about this affair is that when the Ford workers were called upon to vote to defend Gosling, by a piece of managerial wheeling dealing, the Ford Motown bosses refused to let the voting be confined for strike action on Gosling's assembly line fellow workers but ordered the voting to be by the whole of the Motown Sierra workers and the whole of the night shift. Gosling's sacking became a lost cause. No industrial action was taken, and Gosling has packed up his pack and philosophically accepted his 'sacking' by the Ford management.

It is easy to sit in the White Hart pub and be profound about these things but one has to accept that when workers feel that their job is on the line with an overseas management that bookkeeping-wise regards them as colonial peasants plus a vicious rightwing anti-working class government giving full support to management; they prefer to concentrate on the canteen-fried chips, beans, egg and sausage rather than the Marxist dialectic.

The Russian, Polish, British and Hitler German governments long learned the art of creating and funding puppet groups within countries they dominated from within and without and it is only within our life time that they used it in industrial relations. It failed in Poland and in Russia but Ma Thatcher and her toyboy Ron Reagan showed the totalitarian east how to make it work. Ron broke the American air traffic controller (PATCO) strike and Ma Thatcher created the rightwing cab miners union to break the British miners long strike and now for Ma Thatcher is the second and third bite on the poison cherry. Airline stewards and stewardesses to the number of one thousand have broken from the Transport and General Workers Union to form their own little cosy boss loving union. Jim Welsh, a cabin service director with British Airways, is acting as the breakaway Whiplash Willie and of his fevered brow he

claims that the T&G W U left-wing leadership no longer represents him and his friends. By pure chance Jim and his friends are not wandering Britain's cold streets crying for a bed for the night for by the purest of chances they have been provided with offices by "This is your pilot speaking" British Air Line Pilots' Association and now they wait for acceptance by the British Airline Bosses. Mary and Joseph should have been that lucky when looking for a bed for the night.

In Britain's coal fields among the underground miners pressure is on from outside whipped up by the usual right wing jackals demanding the sacking of Scargill as the N.U.M. miners leader. And this time the pressure could pay off for the political carrion fro Scargill wants to win strength for the deep seam miners by merging their 85,000 N.U.M. miners with the T&G.W.U. 50,000 workers in open cast coal mining, nuclear and power stations, gas and oil industries. But the pressure is on and Ron Todd the union boss of the T&G.W.U. who needs Scargill knows it. However Scargill has his own card to play in that he has in line a job with the Paris based International Miners' Organization which will give him entry from strength into the Polish and American union set ups. We can but wait and see which way Ron and Arthur will jump.

And who will buy Salman Rushdie's book Satanic Verses. And we drank in the White Hart and indulged in a little taking of the piss for like Spycatcher it is like the Sherlock Holmes' dog that did not bark, noticeable by its absence. What is disgusting about this whole affair in Britain is that just as the writers, actors, and versifiers in America and Britain milk the left for public applause in those good ol' nineteen thirties and then wept that the Communist Party had betrayed them so a large number of Britain T.V. pseudo intellectuals having screamed liberty and freedom for the written word are now frantically doing a Dunkirk in snivelling prose saying ah that new blasphemy laws should be brought in by Ma Thatcher to stop anyone taking the piss out of metaphysical fairy tales of pie in the sky. The barman of the White Hart bought me a drink, and Pete bought him one. Sadeyed seekers after truth came into the White Hart complete with beards and knapsacks asking ifa the book shop could be reopened.

Arthur Moyses  
London

employment for minority youth is even worse than it is for white youth. These organizations provide employment for a lot of people who otherwise would not have employment. AT the same time, its a Catch-22 because the employment is not usually long-term. A lot of the people who canvass for these organizations are students who work only one summer. So, its a hard position for people to be in.

Q: The other side of the coin is that people who canvass are supposed to be dedicated advocates of an issue or committed to a cause or involved in an organization or a group The minute that you start organizing-deviating from the norm..

NM: These organizations can take on the shape of cults. If you don't toe the line your ostracized, you're not following the Gospel.

ME: There seems to be a subtle suggestion that since we're all together fighting the supposed good fight maybe we should turn a blind eye to any problems that exist internally

and not try to make ourselves into the best possible organization as we see that being possible. Instead, we should focus our organizations only on those things that the organizations are focussing on and not on anything internal that could lead to the organization being something greater than it is right now. That's a very frustrating message to give to people who are very dedicated and motivated to affect change. That leads to the high level of attrition that Noal was talking about

Q: What do you think the ultimate significance of the canvassing crews being organized is?

ME: The case we're making is that our jobs are virtually impossible to do because of the lack of a cohesive comprehensive program in Oregon Sane right now. We feel that the majority of the members would be in support of our position. We feel comfortable doing whatever we have to do in order to take our case to the broader membership.

## LESSONS IN LABOR

## LUDLOW - 75 YEARS AGO

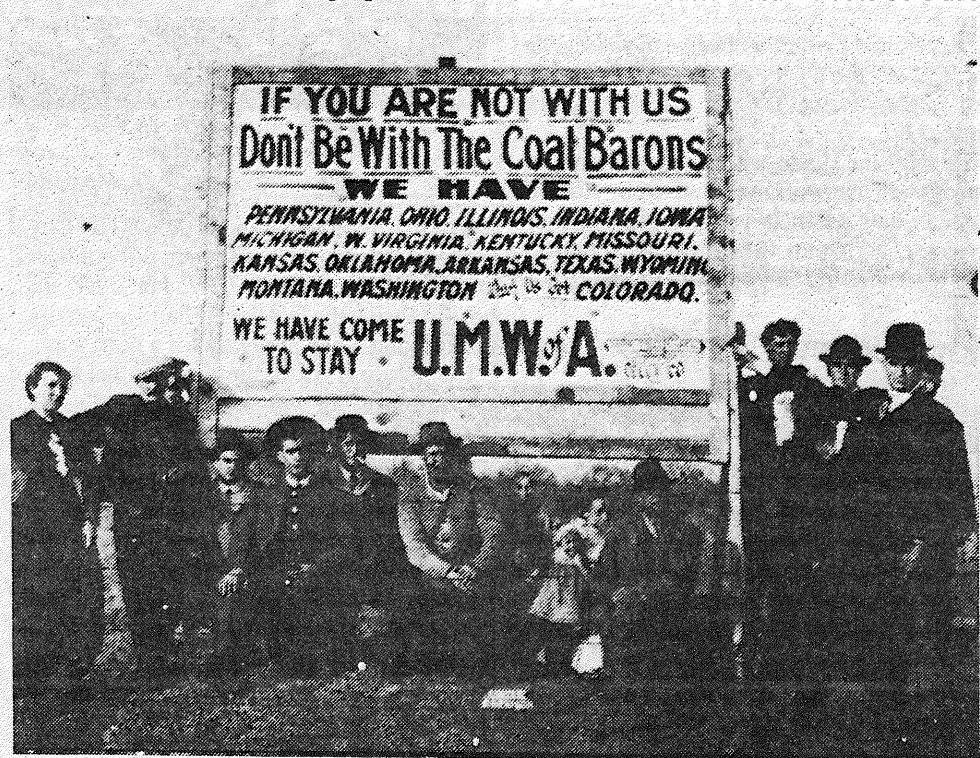
For Emma Goldman, the Ludlow strike represented a significant turning point in the struggles of American labor to assert its power and determination. She wrote to Margaret Sanger that the resistance mounted by striking miners and the support extended to them by unions all across the U.S. was "the most wonderful thing that has happened in this country." Many armed union men joined the miners in the ten-day war following the massacre. Tens of thousands more volunteered and were ready to march but were discouraged from doing so by the UMWA, whose officers did not want open warfare in Colorado. The fact was demonstrated, Emma declared, "that the only way workers can command respect is when they are ready to fight." I remembered her words on a recent trip to the southern Colorado coal fields.

While in Walsenburg to visit the new Mining Museum, I drove 15 miles farther south to visit the UMWA (United Mine Workers of America) monument at the site of the Ludlow Massacre. The monument sits in an open field just west of Interstate 25 at the foot of the coal-rich mountains in southern Colorado. The monument itself was placed directly over the spot where the bodies of 11 children and two women were found burned to death in a pit dug beneath a tent to protect the wives and children from the machine gun fire of the Colorado Militia. A new grave has been added recently—that of Mike Livoda, who was the principal UMWA organizer during the 1913-14 strike. Mike was a brave and uncompromising organizer who suffered many savage beatings from company thugs and local police. He didn't expect to live into the 1980's.

From the monument I followed the narrow gravel road west to the sites of the abandoned mines and stopped to pay tribute to the 121 men killed when the Hastings Mine blew skyward in April of 1917. Thousands of miners are buried in these southern Colorado mountains. Most were fresh from foreign countries, eager to earn their ways in this new land—the land of "the free and the brave"—freedom they never saw or experienced. Those miners who had families were never given decent burials; many single men who were killed in the mines were cremated in the coke ovens; and many others were just left sealed in the tombs of exploded mines.

Colorado was a mineral-rich "third-world country" in those days—still is—but in 1913 the rich made no bones about imperialism. They openly and arrogantly controlled and exploited Colorado. The state was owned primarily by John D. Rockefeller, there were some other junior members of the ruling elite, but John was the chief robber baron. he

owned C.F. & I. Steel in Pueblo. Steel needs coke, so he bought the coal mines. Coal needs railroads, so he bought the railroads. Capital needs labor, so he brought workers from all over southern Europe and Mexico. Capital also needs the State, so he bought politicians,



cops, thugs, and, of course, the press to cover all of it with flowery words. The miners lived in company houses, bought their goods with company script from company stores, went to company churches and company schools, and most were lucky if they made enough to pay the rent. Colorado was a corporate heaven.

There was no Bill of Rights or Constitution for workers in southern Colorado. Feudalism reigned supreme. You voted for whom you were told, said and did what you were told, or you were taken to the Colorado border, beaten, and told never to return. Sheriff Jeff Farr was Rocky's hired gun in southern Colorado, and he was king in Huerfano County for 20 years, thanks to Rocky's total corruption of Colorado's political system.

But John Lawson and Mike Livoda of the UMWA had a secret meeting in a dark canyon one January night in 1912, and that meeting started the unraveling of Rockefeller's strangle-hold on Colorado. In September of 1913, the owners decided to cut wages, and the miners struck. The miners were kicked out of the company houses, and they built their tent cities at the mouths of the canyons leading to the mines in an attempt to block the way of incoming scabs. There were dozens of tent cities in the southern Colorado

mountains in 1913-14, of which Ludlow was only one.

Rockefeller immediately hired the Baldwin Felts Detective Agency from New York and West Virginia, who brought thugs fresh from the wars in the eastern coal fields to Colorado

to terrorize the strikers. During the next six months, many strikers were killed and beaten but they could not be broken. The Colorado Militia was brought in under the guise of "protecting mine property." Slowly, company-hired thugs were changing into Militia uniforms. This conveniently shifted the economic burden and the responsibility of strikes from the mine owners to the taxpayers of Colorado.

On April 20, 1914, the "state militia" surrounded the Ludlow tent colony. In the preceding weeks and days, the Militia had searched the tents for weapons and had confiscated all they could find. The miners had managed to hide a few rifles and a small amount of ammunition but not enough to defend themselves against a well armed Militia. On April 20, the soldiers were under the impression that the miners were unarmed; so at 10:01 a.m. the Militia machine guns opened fire. All day long they riddled the tents with steel-jacketed bullets. The miners returned the fire as long as they had ammunition. As the sun began to set, the Militia attacked. The Greek leader of the Ludlow tent colony, Louie Tikas, approached the soldiers with a white flag in an effort to save the women and children. His head was caved in with a rifle

butt, and he was shot three times in the back for his efforts.

The soldiers poured kerosene on the tents and set them afire, shooting and bayoneting anyone who tried to escape. When the smoke cleared, 20 were dead, including the two women and eleven children found burned to death in the "black hole of Ludlow."

What followed was known as the "ten-day war." Armed and angry miners, joined by union men of other trades, converged on southern Colorado from all over the state. Greek miners came from New Mexico to avenge the death of Louis Tikas. They drove the Militia, the company thugs, the Baldwin Felts Detectives, and the scabs away and destroyed the mines. Armed miners wearing their red bandanas were in complete control of southeastern Colorado for 10 days. Federal troops had to be called in to disarm them.

Thanks to President Wilson's generous and timely help, the strike was broken and the men went back to work. There were some minor improvements won by the IWW strike in 1927-28, but Rockefeller would not deal with the UMWA in Colorado or any other union until after Roosevelt's National Industrial Recovery Act went into effect in 1933, and then only because the progressive NMU was making organizing progress in the West. Rockefeller chose the lesser of the two evils. He knew John L. Lewis would at least play by his rules. Most of the mines are closed now. Rockefeller bought oil companies. Ah-h, but times have changed, haven't they. Corporations are paternalistic now. Nothing like this could happen in this enlightened age.

I work in the oilfields of Colorado in the fall. Most of my work is for Amoco. Prevailing wages of \$5.00-\$6.00 per hour. Prevailing work week 80-100 hours. Last fall, my truck exploded. I was not hurt. This fall three trucks have burned or exploded. One fellow worker has been in a coma for three months and is not expected to live. Another had his arm and part of his stomach blown off. Another burned severely. Another's arms broken in several places and his scalp ripped off when he was caught in a power take-off. Get the picture? Who owns and controls Amoco? The Rockefeller family. So much for liberal bullshit.

On June 10 we will unveil the historical marker and gravestones for the Wobblies killed by Rockefeller agents on November 21, 1927, at the Columbine Mine.

On June 11, the UMWA will hold the 75th anniversary of the Ludlow Massacre. Come on out. Let's let Rocky know we never forget. We can put people up for the weekend. For lodging contact Gary Cox, 11548 Community Center Dr. #53, Northglenn, CO 80233, phone 303-452-7701. You can also order the best book ever written on Ludlow Out of the Depths, for \$10 (checks to Colorado Labor Forum) or send donations for the Columbine Memorial Fund to the above address. No, we haven't forgotten, Mr. Rockefeller, nor are we confused by your more subtle and complex company towns. We are patiently ironing our red bandanas and waiting.

Gary Cox

## Matewan Revisited

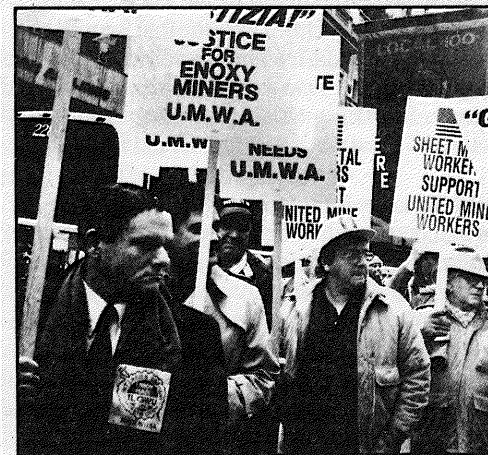
I called Charles "Hawkeye" Dixon, UMWA executive board member from District 30 (which includes Mingo County, West Virginia, and a town immortalized by the recent movie of the same name, Matewan) to get more information on the situation there now. District 30 includes much of the area in eastern Kentucky and western West Virginia that has made the words "coal miners" synonymous with "courage", "fortitude", "endurance", and "union." Harlan County, Blair Mountain, Matewan, Coal Creek, and Cabin Creek—these places bring pride, frustration, and tears to many miner's eyes. Many miners and most company guards at Ludlow served their apprenticeship in District 30.

Most of you are familiar with the long and bitter strike the union miners in this area have carried on against A.T. Massey, a subsidiary of Royal Dutch Shell and Flour Corporation, which also owns extensive holdings in South Africa. During this strike Massey turned Tug Valley into an armed camp, complete with armored personnel carriers and machine guns. During the strike a union hall was dynamited and picket lines were dynamited and shot up.

Also, during this strike, two scab truck drivers hauling coal for Massey were shot; one

died. Four union miners were convicted and sentenced to 40 years in prison for this murder. One other was tried in civil court by a jury and found not guilty. He was re-arrested and faces trial again on the same charge in a federal court. One would question their innocence were it not for the fact that the corporations always use this tactic against labor. Joe Hill, the Everett Massacre, Haymarket, Bill Haywood in Idaho, Goldfield, Nevada, Ludlow, Colorado—the list is endless. Arrest the victims and charge them with murder—the long and expensive trial will sap the union's treasury and its energy; union men will begin to doubt one another. It always works. Why not in Mingo County? Would the corporation benefit from having the scabs killed itself? Why not. They were also just "workers" and workers are a dime a dozen to corporations like Massey.

Many coal mines in this area were sold to Enoxy Coal Corporation, a subsidiary (I hate that word—subsidiaries, like cockroaches, breed and proliferate in dark, damp places) of ENI, an Italian government monopoly. Enoxy, to use a liberal label, is an enlightened, fatherly corporation. It hired John Smith of Massey Coal as president, and he



hired Asset Protection Team of Oakton, Virginia, as company guards. APT is owned by Charles Vance, Gerald Ford's son-in-law. Rather than negotiate with the UMWA, Enoxy hired these armed scum to keep union miners away from the mines. They carry AK-47 automatic rifles, grenade launchers, and they are planting Claymore mines. Some West Virginians might consider this an invasion of the U.S. by a foreign government, I would suspect. Maybe this is what liberals mean by improved and enlightened labor management. AK-47s are certainly an improvement over the rifles used at Ludlow.

The Rome-based Energy and Chemical Workers Union, which represents Italian ENI

workers, are picketing ENI in Italy and sent messages of solidarity to U.S. miners saying they had met with ENI officials demanding that the company negotiate with the UMWA. Can we do less?

Fellow workers, write to Charles "Hawkeye" Dixon, c/o Citizens for Justice, Box 8, Canada, KY 41519 with messages of solidarity and donations for the legal defense of the miners charged with murder. They have raised all but \$50,000 needed to appeal the convictions and to defend the fifth miner who faces a second trial.

If you have not seen the movie "Matewan," do so. It's available on video.

When I called Hawkeye, he said, "Sure glad someone out there cares. Sometimes we feel like we're all alone down here in these mountains, and we're getting our butts kicked." They've had their "butts kicked" for over 100 years now, and they just keep fighting. We salute you, Hawkeye, and all union miners. The memorial we are putting up in Colorado this June is for you all.

Gary Cox

# ORGANIZING THE MEATPACKERS PART III: SOLIDARITY

Once the Union of the Packing House Workers of Austin was securely tucked in with the CIO, the CIO Executive Board linked the union to its own "world of labor," affiliating them to the State Industrial Council of the CIO and to District 2 of the United Packinghouse Workers of America. Thus began the pullaway from traditional Wobbly theory. The UPWA's ultimate objective, outside of its organizing drives, was to work out a master agreement with the major packinghouses. Universal wages, hours, vacation pay, sick leave, grievance procedure, production schedules, and gang reduction were among the major areas to be negotiated.

Because of the rise in unionism in the industry, Jay C. Hormel was left with the ultimate decision, "If you can't beat them, Join them."

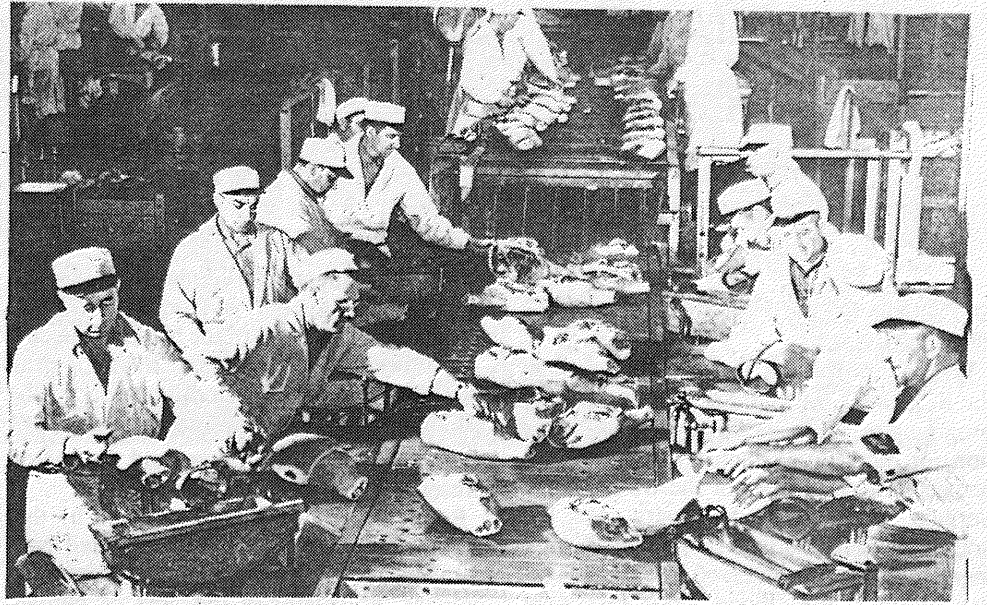
The first steps were developed through negotiations at the Austin-based plant. Guaranteed wages and joint earnings were the first two steps in the development of the master agreement. These changes in the views of Hormel management were clearly a result of the IUAW's direct action strike in 1933.

In 1944 a newly developed profit-sharing trust fund would complement the master agreement to place the Hormel Company in front of the average Packer-Management attitude. These agreements between the Austin-based union and Hormel set the stage for many years of labor peace. Hormel employees began to think of themselves as co-owners, sharing in the profits of the firm. Agreements were designed to make a collective effort to yield the greatest return for all.

Throughout the decade from 1940 to 1950 (following the conclusion of the working agreement) labor-management relations showed great improvements.

During an industry-wide strike in 1946, and again in 1948, an agreement was reached with Hormel guaranteeing that Austin workers would share the benefits of the "Big Four" packers. Hormel workers remained on the job but contributed 10% of their take-home pay for the duration of the strikes.

As long as a direct descendant of the Hormel family remained at the packing plant's helm,



workers found themselves quite content to work there. The improvements gained with the master agreement had established a new form of activist outside of the fights going on in the industry.

Hormel workers gave support to various strikes that sprang up throughout the mid-west due to management inability to accept the trend and upsurge of the labor movement.

Food banks were set up by Hormel workers with goods purchased from the company to

help the strikers. Picket duty was often shared by many Austin workers. Help in all forms was given to assist fellow unionists in the spirit of solidarity. For many years to follow, members of the Austin-based UPWA would find themselves at labor peace with the Hormel Company. (To Be Continued)

Dennis Mealy

## A NOTE FROM LABOR HISTORY

# At One Time Some Things Were Obvious

In this age of craven class collaboration, it is sometimes difficult to remember that there was a time when even many mainstream labor leaders recognized that the interests of workers and employers were irreconcilably opposed. While researching the 1912-13 Chicago newspaper strike (in which newsboys, stereotypes and drivers struck in solidarity with pressmen locked out for refusing concessions in pay and working conditions), I came across the following letter from John Fitzpatrick.

Fitzpatrick was president for more than forty years of the Chicago Federation of Labor, and a horseshoer by trade. Considered a

"progressive" trade unionist in his day, Fitzpatrick would sometimes drag his heels when ordered by the AFL to help crush rebellious locals attempting to defend their autonomy or to act in solidarity with their fellow workers. But he always knuckled under in the end, protesting bitterly when the United Garment Workers charged him with having supported a strike of Chicago textile workers (the UGW had a sweetheart deal on).

In 1919, shortly after the World War he supported had drawn to a close, Fitzpatrick was invited to speak at local graduation ceremonies. He wrote Principal Elizabeth Drew this response (13 January 1919):

"I received your very kind invitation to be present at your graduation exercises and address the graduates, and while I thoroughly appreciate the honor and privilege offered I am forced to decline because I am sure I would greatly jeopardize your position and bring censure and condemnation upon you from the ... Big Business interests that autocratically dominate our educational system.

"I would not undertake to deliver an address unless I was absolutely free to say what my conscience dictated and on an occasion of this kind I would have to denounce Kaiser Jake Loeb and the lickspittle creature that he is, doing the dirty work of the Marshall Fields, Julius Rosenwald, J. Ogden Armour and that coterie of business burglars who dodge taxes and mulct the people. "Then there is the Chicago Daily Tribune, nick-named the Chicago Daily Tribute by the Chicago Teachers' Federation because it daily exacts a tribute from the school funds, and I would have to quote figures from the Congressional Record wherein they publish the enormous amounts of money the Tribune has stolen from the school children through the midnight deals made with the then School Board. Surely this would be a good lesson for the children.... "I would have to refer to profiteers who stole millions of dollars from the people and the Government while they, the children, were giving up their candy money and scraping together a few pennies for the Red Cross. I would have to tell them of the figures presented by the Federal Trades Commission who reported to President Wilson that [meat-packers] Armour, Swift, Morris and Cudahy took out of their business in excess profits \$140,000,000 for 1915-6-7, and God knows what they made in 1918.

"Then I would have to tell about some of the salaries of the officials in the metal industry. One patriot took out in salary for one year \$364,326.73. This does not include his dividends in the company, it just represents his just share in wages for labor performed and he was only a vice-president of the company....

"Another story should be told to the children which the Commission presented to the President and that is in relation to the United Steel Corporation. The net income of this concern for 1917 was \$478,204,343. After deducting federal and excess profit taxes... they still had an item of \$244,738,909 to divide up. This is only one small corporation in the steel industry, which in one year's time took out nearly \$250,000,000.

"This Commission also reported... that con-

tractors made profits of 396 per cent; machine tool makers 788 per cent; coal operators 504 per cent; department stores 331 per cent... In July, 1918, the Treasury Department report to the Senate in response to Senator Borah's resolution for information on profiteering showed that leading all was food, and the excess profits for 1917 over 1916 was 2183 per cent, but why go on? I am not an advocate of the red terror in Russia nor the Bolshevik in Germany, but I do love the Sinn Fein in Ireland.

"I would try to close such an address by urging the children to forget the lessons of blind obedience and blind respect for authority which have been instilled into them at the mandate of Jake Loeb who is the tool of the noble band of patriots I have just enumerated and who are heavy laden with their ill-gotten gains coined out of the blood of the boys who died in the trenches in France, and I would feel well repaid if I aroused one spark of discontent, one spark of resentment against the commercialized educational system which is using our magnificent group of teachers and our splendid school facilities to deaden the minds of the youth and make them submissive. I would give anything to arouse a demand for a real democracy in education and the ending of the illegal, corrupt and criminal plundering of our school funds and school system.

"These are the things I think about and talk about and after reading them if you still wish that I address the graduates I will be glad to do so. Sincerely Yours, John Fitzpatrick."

Principal Drew, apparently, decided her students could do without such a lesson in the realities of an economic system which leaves workers to starve while grafters and exploiters enjoy all the good things of life.

Unions like the IWW were formed because of the terrible inadequacy of the AFL and kindred business unions to the task of overturning this state of affairs and instituting industrial democracy. In the intervening years, the labor fakers seem to have lost sight even of the problem (its solution always eluded them). The IWW's message of revolutionary unionism is thus more relevant than ever.

Jon Bekken

**REMEMBER**

**FALLEN WORKERS**

Workers' Memorial Day  
**April 28, 1989**

KONOPACKI  
 © 84 HUCK/KONOPACKI LABOR CARTOONS

# SOLIDARITY

## Of Interest



## To Unionists

## SUPREME COURT BACKS JOB DRUG TESTING

Washington, March 21 - In two decisions, the Supreme Court upheld the drug-testing programs began by the Reagan Administration for the railroad industry, and in most respects for employees of the US Customs Service. In the railroad industry case, the court upheld regulations subjecting all crew members on trains involved in serious accidents to mandatory blood and urine testing for drug use, without the need for any "particularized suspicion" because of the "diminished" privacy interests of the workers in the face of the Government "compelling" interest in detecting and deterring drug use on the rails.

In the case brought by a union of Customs Service employees, the court again ruled that the employees should achieve a "diminished expectation of privacy" "because successful performance of their duties depends uniquely on their judgement and dexterity."



## WHAT ATOMS FOR PEACE? -

"Every commercial nuclear power reactor is now a potential bomb factory," writes Dave Kraft in the Evanston-based Nuclear Energy Information Service. On November 18, former President Reagan signed Executive Order 12656, which allows "the commandeering of uranium, plutonium, and tritium from commercial nuclear reactors by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission in case of 'technical' or 'other' emergencies. With one stroke of the pen, Reagan accomplished what safe-energy activists have been attempting to accomplish for years - demonstrating that the notion of "Atoms for Peace" has been a convenient fiction, and that, in fact, there exists no real distinction between the peaceful and wartime atoms that the government is willing to commit to and respect."

## YUGOSLAVIAN MINERS' STRIKE PROMPTS CRACKDOWN

March 2, an eight day strike by coal miners in the southern Yugoslav province of Kosovo to demand the resignation of three Communist Party officials was answered by the Yugoslav State President imposing a partial state of emergency on the province. Among those arrested were two directors of the Trepca zinc mine where workers staged a sitin in support of the coal miners.

## US OPPOSES UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC PARLEY

March 7, the United Nations voted to called a special session on international economic issues, focusing on cooperation and growth in third world countries. Needless to say, the US was the only country to vote against it.

## PORTUGUESE DOCTORS' STRIKE,

Lisbon, Feb. 8 - Members of the Independent Doctors' Union began a three-day strike for a pay raise, strictly regulated working hours and better facilities in Portugal's hospitals and health centers. Only emergency cases were treated during the strike.

## GENERAL STRIKE IN GREECE

March 2, train, plane and boat workers joined the 24-hour general strike called by the country's largest union, the General Confederation of Greek Workers, halting transportation throughout the country. Altogether, some 1.5 million workers strike for higher pay.

continued on page 9

## HONDURAN LABOR ACTIVIST AND DOCTOR TOUR U.S.

Dr Juan Almendares, Former Dean of Medical School University of Honduras and Gladys Lanza, President of the National Electrical Workers Union (STENEE) are touring the U.S. until April 29. Both are leaders of the Honduran popular movement and critics of the U.S. military occupation and the contra presence in Honduras.

Both speakers have been targeted by the death squads and have been arrested and detained for criticizing their government's policies, especially in the area of human rights violations. Dr. Almendares was threatened as recently as Jan. 29. On returning from Bolivia outside of the Tegucigalpa airport, two armed men jumped in his car, and one of them pointed a gun at Dr. Almendares' head. The kidnapers told Dr. Almendares: "Nos te vamos a matar" ("We are going to kill you"). Dr. Almendares was then interrogated for 2 1/2 hours about an earlier assassination of a Honduran General Alvarez Martinez.

Wobblies should turn out for these two speakers in their cities. Given Gladys Lanza's position as President of STENEE and her role on the Executive Board of the United Federation of Honduran Workers (FUTH), her talk about unions and repression in Honduras should be particularly interesting for us. The itinerary of the two speakers with local contacts is printed below:

### Almendares-Lanza Speaking Tour Itinerary

Date	Place	Contact
April 1	Boston	617-646-9009
April 2-3	Indianapolis	317-283-3057
April 4-5	Racine, WI	424-637-4829
April 6	Milwaukee, WI	414-272-1657
April 7-8	Chicago	312-324-1711
April 9	Ann Arbor, MI	313-930-8082
April 10	Ft. Wayne, IN	219-422-8022
April 12	Louisville, KY	502-637-1422
April 13	Indianapolis	317-283-3057
April 14-17	San Diego	619-463-0721
April 18-20	Los Angeles	415-255-7296
April 21	San Francisco	415-255-7296
April 22	San Jose	" "
April 23	San Francisco	" "
April 24	Davis, CA	916-753-0199
April 25	San Francisco	415-255-7296
April 26	Portland, OR	503-239-9439
April 27-29	Seattle, WA	206-284-3189

## Poisoned Grapes in a Beautiful Valley

I spent the week of September 25-30 with a human rights delegation in Chile where we visited farmworkers in a valley 50 miles north of the capital city of Santiago. It was early spring, a beautiful time when trees were beginning to leaf out and snow still covered the 12,000 foot Andes mountains to the east.

During the ride up the valley, I didn't see cabbages, onions, beets and other early spring crops that used to grow there. Seventy percent of this fertile valley as now been converted to the raising of grapes for export. Miles and miles of grape vines supported in rigid rows extended into the horizon. The grape fields-completely surrounded by 10-foot high chain link fences topped by barb wire-gave the appearance of prison camps.

Chile, under the Pinochet dictatorship, has been converted into a "banana republic". Like the Central American dictators before him, Pinochet set in motion the conditions for the conversion of vast areas of arable land to the production of export fruit-largely grapes. Wealthy Chileans and transnationals manipulated their political connections to get cheap land and credit. In the process, they forced many thousands of rural families off their subsistence farms.

Agro-export in an underdeveloped country means hunger for many people in that country. In Central America, the people are hungry because bananas, sugar, cotton and coffee are grown for export instead of the beans and corn which once were the staple foods for domestic consumption. In Chile, the people are hungry because the very fertile valleys now produce grapes, apples, and other summer fruit for export instead of the grains and vegetables which were consumed by Chileans.

I visited the farm workers-in their cabin-like headquarters on a small demonstration farm on rented land. This demonstration farm, a project supported by a German Catholic religious order was established to keep alive the memory of the small subsistence plots which used to feed farm families throughout the year. There were rows of early spring vegetables: onions, cabbage and beets. Seedlings of more sensitive plants like squash and tomatoes were being raised in a plastic covered greenhouse. The farm had chickens, rabbits, a few goats and pigs.



Some of the farm workers in this valley who now have seasonal work as grape pickers had formerly owned small farms during the agrarian reform years of presidents Frei and Allende from 1964-1973. They used to raise fourteen kinds of vegetables. They also raised dairy cattle and had begun a cooperative dairy which provided children and pregnant and nursing mothers with two cups of milk a day for the first time in their lives.

In contrast to the present heavy use of chemicals by the grape growers, the farm workers had practiced organic farming and had not used sprays or fertilizers when they owned that same land. Instead, they fertilized with a compost made of animal droppings and vegetable trimmings. I saw one field which is now barren because it had been so heavily sprayed with the herbicide 2,4,5,T by the grape grower that nothings now grows there. The grape growers use 2,4,5,T heavily to eliminate the need to employ farm workers to weed around the grape vines.

The farm workers are concerned about the long-term adverse affects of the 2,4,5,T on the fertility of their valley soils. They are also concerned about how that herbicide may affect them and their children. 2,4,5,T was heavily used in Vietnam as agent orange. The farm workers also worry about the health effects of pesticides heavily used in Chile. These are aldrin, deldrin, lindane, parathion, paraquat, and captan. Pesticide poisoning both acute and chronic is an ongoing problem for farmworkers. Because of indifference to their

health and safety, farm workers are repeatedly exposed to hazardous pesticides. Farm workers have to spray chemical without masks, gloves and other protective clothing recommended on pesticide cans. Sanitary conditions compound the chemical hazards. Farm workers often do not have uncontaminated water to wash with after contact with pesticides. Pesticides from aerial spraying rain down on workers and their families. The drinking water may also be contaminated with pesticides. Grape pickers often get pesticide poisoning because before they cut the bunches of grapes, they have to taste an unwashed grape from each grape bunch to test for ripeness.

Pesticides pose a danger to consumers of Chilean fruit as well as to Chilean farm workers. The pesticides used in Chile are among the "Dirty Dozen" which consumers have been alerted to by the International Organization of Consumers Union (IOCU). Captan, parathion and methyl bromide are three of the five pesticides which the California farm workers are campaigning against in their renewed request for a boycott of California grapes. Methyl bromide is added to Chilean fruit when it arrives in the United States since all imported fruit is fumigated with methyl bromide upon arrival.

You can avoid eating poisons and help the Chilean farm workers by continuing to boycott Chilean grapes and other Chilean fruit.

Vivian Schatz,  
Reprinted from the Shuttle, the Newsletter of the Weavers Way CO-OP

### THE WOBBS ARE BACK

An ambulance parked in the street.  
Medics arrived, the boss to treat.  
They found him holding fast a note,  
And from the note, this is a quote:  
Dear boss, don't have a heart attack—  
But, by the stars, the Wobbs are back!

—Richard Hill



# RACISM AT W.A.R.

"What good has National patriotism done for the white race? Has it united our Folk? Has it set the white workers free from their chains of monopoly capitalist oppression? Has it strengthened our chance for racial survival? No, patriotism hasn't done one of these things." You will recognize this as confused racist tripe. It comes from a recent edition of the White Aryan Resistance (WAR) newspaper edited by Tom Metzger, Ku Klux Klanner and neo-Nazi militant of Southern California. But, you may ask, what appeals to people in this garbage? It's a question well worth asking, for this same kind of message attracted a mass following (including many workers) in Nazi Germany. This article will try to outline an answer to this question and also to suggest a means to prevent fascism from repeating the Nazi movement.

Working white people, exploited by their bosses, defensively patriotic and nationalistic, and unschooled in democratic self-management are especially susceptible to the propaganda of white supremacists and neo-fascists. This was the experience with the Ku Klux Klan and the Nazis of the 1920s and 30s. These workers, like Mr. Block, feel that they have done what they were told to do—that they have been "good" workers and citizens. But they still have not found the American dream or some equivalent. They feel exploited by the boss, spied upon by the government, threatened by job-seeking migrants and immigrants, lied to by the media. They are fed up with the system. And their anger turns to resentment and hatred.

The fascists propagandists enter the picture and manipulate this resentment for their own ends. It's obvious that capitalism bosses and government bosses can use this situation to keep workers divided and at each others' throats. And indeed, they have at times supported the white supremacist and fascist groups in this country. But such is not automatically the case, especially when fascist groups are weak and discredited. The true believers, however, are not beyond any sort of lie, manipulation or violence to gain dictatorial power for themselves.

Current U.S. fascist ideology believes that "White men built this nation, White men are this nation." (WAR '88, p. 9) This implies that people other than "white men" are taking over. "Life is a struggle between species (also read "races") for domination of the Earth. Species that lose the struggle to dominate become extinct." (WAR '88, p. 7) From this it's easy to see why these people are so persistently vicious to others different from them, for they believe its kill or be killed. They have fully internalized the ideology of domination and competition found in both nationalism and capitalism, but have focused it especially on racism.

The fascist groups will use whatever means they believe will create racial "solidarity." They will use language and tactics of the Left for their own advantage. For instance, and of interest to IW readers, the White Aryan Resistance newspaper uses Wobbly "Silent Agitators" and other familiar graphics throughout. Some of the IWW graphics are unchanged, while others are altered to fit their message of hate. Historically this is not new. The German Nazis (whose translated name is National Socialist German Workers Party) portrayed themselves as anti-capitalist to take advantage of the disappointment many workers felt about the Socialist Party's failure to deliver economic well-being after World War One. And Mussolini in Italy appropriated syndicalist language to gain a mass following.

Appealing to people's genuine wish to be free of domination by those more powerful is a constant theme in current fascist propaganda. For example, they explain that white workers are exploited by capitalists who pay "workers a wage worth less than the value of the commodities they create." (WAR '88, p. 4) Of course they would never admit in their pages that they owe a debt to Karl Marx! However, they channel this correct observation into racism by proclaiming that the capitalist class is first and foremost part of the "International Jewish Conspiracy." And since

they believe that life pits one race against all, the racists will oppose capitalism as long as they see that its not controlled by white racists.

As with their view of capitalism, the racist fascists believe that the government is "taken over" by "foreigners." Their code name for the U.S. government is "ZOG": Zionist Occupied Government. Their allegiance is only to a government that is white racist. They often hearken back to the "glory days" of the Confederacy. Hence you see Confederate



flags flying next to the U.S. flag at racist gatherings. To their resentment-beclouded eyes, the U.S. government makes common cause with the "communist conspiracy" that seeks to "mix" the races, create "one world," and otherwise weaken the white race's "struggle for domination and survival."

These lies, fantasies and hatreds can only thrive in an environment that discourages democratic self-government and human solidarity. As Wilhelm Reich correctly observed, "Fascism is the basic emotional attitude of the suppressed man and woman of our authoritarian machine civilization and its mechanistic-mystical conception of life." If people are practicing self-management at work, self-government in the community, and if that practice is informed by cooperation and solidarity with people of all colors and races, then fascist ideology can find no foothold on the emotions of the people. For it is this very feeling of alienation and disempowerment that is the seedbed for the fascist liars.

The IWW provides an antidote to the conditions that breed fascism and racism. The IWW struggles for the democratic ownership and management of the means of production by all the workers. This calls for the empowerment of each worker along with the honing of cooperative skills. And the IWW doesn't just mouth democratic platitudes. The union since its birth in 1905 has been fully democratic and controlled by the rank and file membership. Even decisions regarding strikes and other job actions remain the sole responsibility of the workers on the job site.

By calling for the abolition of the wage system, the IWW also looks to the inequality that breeds resentment where a few own most of the wealth and many are faced with hunger, homelessness or even just an endless struggle to make a decent life.

The IWW calls for solving this inequality through worker cooperation and solidarity, freely providing those who have need, not racial hatred. The IWW also stands proudly as the first fully-integrated labor union in the U.S. "There are two organizations in this country that have shown that they do care," wrote one of the founders of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) in 1913. "The first is the NAACP... the second organization that attacks Negro segregation is the Industrial Workers of the World... The IWW has stood with the Negro." The IWW has always opposed racism or any discrimination based upon color, race or nationality. Solidarity of all workers is central to the IWW.

April 22nd is a day for all Wobs and opponents of fascism and racism to show our solidarity. On that day a coalition will march from Coeur d'Alene to Hayden Lake, Idaho, nonviolently protesting racism and fascism in all its forms. Hayden Lake is home to Richard Butler and his Aryan Nation compound. He and his group has called for a "White homeland" in the Pacific Northwest and have been behind increased racist violence in the area. On the weekend of April 21-23, the Aryan compound will be the site of a national conference for Skinheads, young racist toughs beginning to be more organized throughout the nation.

For further information, contact the Citizens for Nonviolent Action Against Racism, 1517 7th Street, Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814; (208) 664-4825 or (509) 926-5099. Let's make a good showing of Wobs! Sources: Unions and Racism, Shelby Shapiro, IWW. The Invisible Empire, William Loren Katz; Open Hand Pub., Seattle. The Mass Psychology of Fascism, Wilhelm Reich; Farrar, Strauss & Giroux, New York. "Tear Down the Confederate Flag," Ben Trant; IW, April 1988. WAR '88, Vol. 7 #4; Fallbrook, CA.

—X331773

## Of Interest



## To Unionists

continued from page 8

### BRAZILIAN WORKERS STRIKE PAY FREEZE

March 14 and 15, Brazil's two largest labor unions, the Central Workers Union and the General Workers Central, called a 48-hour strike in protest of President Jose Sarney's anti-inflation policy, which has frozen workers' pay since January. The public bus fleet in Sao Paulo, the nation's largest city with 10 million people, was idled, but reportedly the city's subway continued to operate.

### ELEVEN WORKERS DIE IN TURKISH PAINT FACTORY

March 3, 11 workers were killed and 34 injured in an explosion in a paint factory near Istanbul, Turkey. The blast, apparently caused by a chemical reaction, destroyed the five-story building and two buildings next to it.

## The Face of the International Debt Crisis

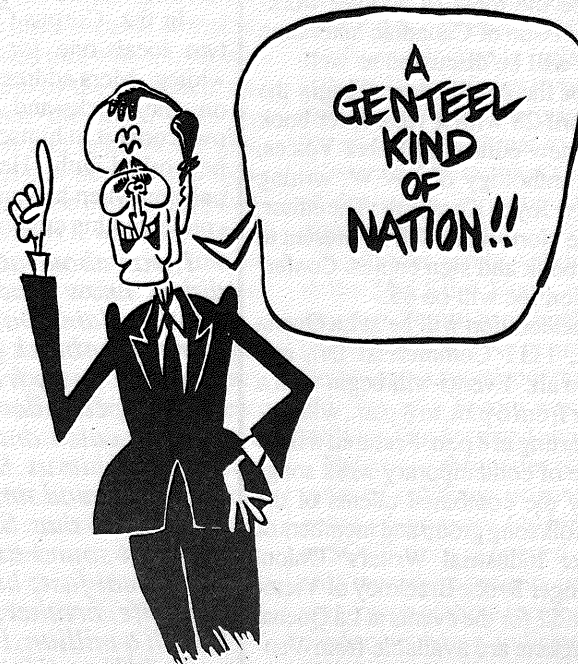
Half a million children died last year because families in the developing countries are sliding back into severe poverty after 40 years of progress, the United Nations Children Fund stated in its 1989 report. The report found that the world's 40 least-developed countries have cut education budgets by about 25% a head, and the proportion of 6-to-11-year olds in school is falling. Malnutrition among children is rising in many countries, apart from the outright famine situations. The Unicef report was released in New Delhi, half a world away from the 12-story glass and concrete tower in Washington, DC, which houses the 1,600 technocrats of the International Monetary Fund, who call the shots for scores of third-world countries.

It is easy to see the overt signs of the IMF activities; it has almost become a cliché that whenever you read about food riots, some new country has accepted IMF conditions for a loan. Indeed, the Fund is sort of a monetary descendant of the US Marines of not so long ago in the role of keeping far-off places in line so as to protect the interests of bankers in New York. The interest of the New York bankers, is, of course, to keep money flowing out of third world countries and into the banks with as little protest from the peoples being vampirized as possible.

But protest is rising, unorganized and spastic as it is. In March of this year, three days of riots in Venezuela in protest of the price increases recommended by the Fund led the country's president to assail the Fund as a "conspiracy of the great powers against the third world." A few days later in Trinidad tens of thousands of workers proclaimed a "Day of Resistance" against pay cuts the government had enacted after agreeing to an IMF loan.

It is not surprising the latest protests against the Fund come from Latin America. It is the area hardest hit by the capital outflows due to debt repayment. During the last five years, Latin American countries have paid a total of \$100 billion more in principal and interest to their creditors than they have received in new loans. To get the dollars needed to pay the interest they owe, Latin American governments are racking the poorest sectors of their populations, and children, the poorest sector of the poorest sector of the population are first to suffer. In Ecuador, the fall in per capital gross domestic product comes out to a 7% decline in living standards in the last seven years; for Mexico, the decline is over 10%. The hardest hit country in Latin America, Bolivia, has seen a drop of more than 30% in standard of living since 1980.

BUSH APPOINTS MOSTLY WEALTHY WHITE MEN TO HIS CABINET..:



OR HUCKE

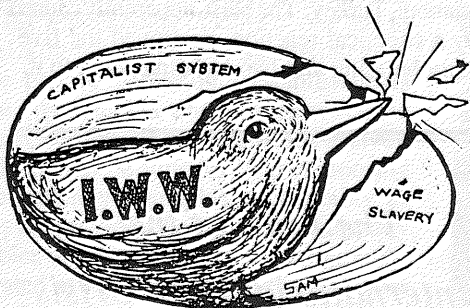
## Branch News

continued from page 3

### Denver/Boulder

Here in Denver/Boulder we now have five organizing leaflets available for distribution. Any branches out there interested in obtaining copies may order them through the Denver/Boulder General Membership Branch, 2412 E. Colfax, Denver CO 80206. They are .15 for single copies, .05 each for 2 to 10 copies, and .01 each for 10 or more copies.

Our efforts to erect a monument to the Columbine Mineworkers are about to pay off. The monument will be ready for unveiling and dedication June 10th. We also have plans to unveil individual gravemarkers for the victims of the massacre. Various tentative festivities are in the works for the big day including a pancake breakfast, a service at the cemetery for the unveiling of the gravemarkers and sprinkling of some of Joe Hill's ashes, the unveiling of the historic monument, a visit to the mine site, and finally a picnic at Erie Park in Lafayette with a Wobbly art



exhibition and music and partying into the night. All interested Wobs and others are welcome to join us, and we will try to make accommodations available.

The Denver Post Newspaper's Mailer union still suffers the 50% wage cut they received last fall. They've hit the streets again, with the Jobs with Justice Campaign, initiating large rallies against Eastern Airlines, as well as the Post. The mailers lost some of that initiative in February when the International Union (CWA) agreed to pull the Vail International Ski Championships pickets, in return for what appeared to be a worthless meeting with Post chief capitalist Dean Singleton. Singleton stonewalled that meeting, and the mailers have used the occasion to beef up the charges that the Post is bargaining in bad faith.

Dexter Herda

### Big Bill Birthday Bash

Over one hundred people attended a celebration of Big Bill Haywood's birthday at the Botto House/American Labor Museum in Haledon, New Jersey. The Botto Big Bill Birthday Bash, held on February 4th, included a speech by historian Steve Golin, singing by Joe Glazer, and a meeting of the New York branch of the Industrial Workers of the World. It was open to the public, and many local residents and college students showed up including a video-taping crew from Rutgers University.

Bloomfield College history professor Steve Golin described the Paterson Pageant and the role of the Wobblies in Paterson's silk industry to a standing-room-only audience.

When he finished his informative speech, members and guests crowded into the conference room for an "actual, modern-day IWW

meeting" of the New York branch. With Paul Poulos acting as chair and Brian Mahoney as recording secretary, the Branch conducted a full-scale business meeting in front of almost a hundred guests. Nominations were taken for Branch corresponding and financial secretary and an election committee was elected.

A motion on technical aspects of publishing Rebel Voices, the branch magazine, was also passed and copies of the financial secretary's report were passed around and explained by Poulos. With this open meeting, the New York Branch showed the attentive audience how the IWW works, giving these people new insights into the democratic methods and activities of the branch. Marion

**57**  
VARIETIES  
OF REASONS  
WHY EVERY WORKER  
SHOULD JOIN THE  
I.W.W.

Wade sang three songs at the end of the meeting, and Joe Glazer finished off the event with several original songs about the IWW and the Silk Strike. A literature table, which had been set up at the beginning of the event, helped the Branch to raise funds with sales of the Rebel Voices magazine, songbooks, literature, and a special collection of articles on the Botto House and the Paterson Strike. This collection was reprinted and donated by Mel Most, a Wobbly reporter who rediscovered the Botto House, which was later named a state historic landmark. As a whole, the event generated enthusiasm and revenue for both the IWW and the American Labor Museum, and helped to bring many people into contact with both the historian and the modern Industrial Workers of the World.

David Zatz

### Vancouver Wobs to Celebrate May Day

A Pacific Northwest I.W.W. conference April 28-30 on job organizing, a dance open to the public April 28-30 on job organizing, a dance open to the public April 29, plus a potluck dinner and entertainment May 1 will be Vancouver I.W.W.'s way of celebrating May Day 1989.

The Northwest regional conference, along with the April 29 dance, will be held at the Student Union Building of Vancouver Community College, Langara campus, 100 West 49th Ave. Performing at the dance will be Vancouver's all-I.W.W. band, The Tools, and Washington state's popular I.W.W. folk-singing group, Citizen's Band. Admission to the dance will be \$7 employed, \$4 otherwise for the public. Admission with an I.W.W. card will be \$5 and \$3. Invitations to the Northwest regional I.W.W. conference will be extended to all West Coast I.W.W. branches.

The conference is open to all I.W.W. members and interested people. On the proposed agenda are reports on recent job organizing activities. Special sessions will consider recent successes in organizing among employees of non-profit organizations in the U.S., as well as I.W.W. organizing experience with worker-owned co-ops and with co-ops or other non-profit groups with a paid staff. A session on I.W.W. organizing experiences with for-profit enterprises will be held as well. Since groups considering unionizing with the I.W.W. often simultaneously consider joining mainstream business unions, a session will focus on articulating why employees should join the I.W.W. rather than a business union. To assist in exploring this crucial issue, organizers from local business unions will speak and answer questions about what they offer prospective union members. A further session on organizing will examine the issue of government certification for bargaining units. Women in the I.W.W. will be the topic of another workshop. And the issue of Canadian autonomy in the I.W.W. will be discussed as well.

Plans call for the conference to begin the evening of April 28 with a Vancouver book launch of the new edition of Rebel Voices, the historical anthology of I.W.W. writing and art edited by Joyce Kornbluh. The editor, on a tour of the Northwest, will be present to introduce the book and sign copies. Conference registration fee will be \$5.

The May 1 celebration will be at La Quena coffee House, 1111 Commercial Dr., and will be open to all. Events will begin with a potluck dinner from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., with entertainment starting at 8 p.m. Featured will be a performance of contemporary work songs and poems by the combined talents of the Fraser Union folksong group and members of the Vancouver Industrial Writers' Union. I.W.W. folksinger Bruce Brackney of Victoria. Tickets are \$2 for the events at La Quena. All advance tickets are available from Vancouver I.W.W. at PO Box 65635, Station F, Vancouver, B.C. V5N 5K5.

## BOOK REVIEWS

### The Ups and Downs of a Rebel Longshoreman

Working the Waterfront

Gilbert Mers

University of Texas Press 1988

Gilbert Mers, a long time Wob and a labor activist in Texas where he worked as a lonshoreman, knows that the important labor history is to be found in workers' day to day struggles for safe working conditions, their risking jobs and livelihoods for justice, and their direct actions to challenge the bosses and the bureaucracy of the labor movement. *Working the Waterfront* is Mers autobiography-and he teaches us

lessons he learned along the way.

Mers recollects the day-to-day struggles and excitement of confronting management on the docks. He was elected business agent of his union local of the International Lonshoremen's Association (ILA), and one of the first challenges to his administration came during a loading accident which destroyed boxes of dried fruits. The workers and the union were routinely charged for such damage. The Boyd-Campbell company, the shipper of the fruit, insisted that unless the bills were paid, the workers who had "damaged" the cargo would be

*the toe of your shoe about a foot up my ass, please.*

Importantly, as Mers gains the respect of the other men on the docks as a labor organizer and is elected as an official of his local, he stands by his commitment to overcome racism and recognize the common purpose of workers, (it is in part his commitment to this idea of solidarity across barriers which attracts him to the IWW). The black local union had demonstrated solidarity by not placing gangs in the white local's hatches during the job action against the barring of workers from ships. When asked, Mers went along with the black local to the white management to protest similar actions taken against black workers. He caught flack from other members of the white union, but convinced them that racism benefitted only the management.

Mers book evokes the blood-and-guts element which surrounded much of the labor movement earlier in this century. When longshoremen on the West Coast were negotiating a new contract in 1935, they struck to include not only Texas ports and Lake Charles but also East Gulf ports. Mers describes the reaction of Corpus Christi men to initial attempts to break the strike:



barred from the ship. Often such accidents were caused by the conditions on the ships and not worker's carelessness. Mers' union decided that they would send only "barred" workers to the next Boyd-Campbell ship that came in. When a team of them showed up at the next ship, the foreman ordered the men off the ship. Other union members refused to take their place so work on the boat stalled.

As a result of the time and money lost by the work stoppage; the union forced the ship owners to retreat-not only were the barred men allowed to work on the Boyd ship, but this marked an end to the whole practice of charging and barring the lonshoremen.

In the Corpus Christi ILA there were two locals-one for blacks and one for whites. Mers addresses the issue of racism on the docks and his own efforts to overcome it in himself and among the men he worked with. He cites a turning point-one day when he was turning over bales of cotton and his crew was shorthanded:

*I was about at the point where I didn't know whether I could turn another damn bale over, when here came of the black guys and flat rolled that bale away from me to the work and helped pile it. Blessed relief! Time to catch one breath before the next load hits us. Seven or eight times the man found time between his own loads to do that. Seven or eight times may not sound like much when you say it real fast; but when it's saving your life, brother, you couldn't beat it with a million. I know. I was there. ...I told Van, 'If you ever hear me use the word 'nigger' again, p u t*

*Plans had been made in every port to quarter scabs on the docks. Our local members were defiant to the point of belligerence. A third, perhaps, were going armed. I was awed by it.*

The local police could not stand up to the union and could not get scabs into town. However, Governor Allred sent in Texas Rangers, a particularly ferocious bunch of men, to protect the scabs. Rangers killed and beat up strikers along the Texas Coast. Mers himself was warned of a kidnap plot against him-not an empty threat since similar kidnappings had happened on other docks. In a gutsy move, Mers took to arming himself with a slingshot and shooting out the lights of the scab's watchman post.

Mers saw the Texas labor movement through the relatively propitious atmosphere of the New Deal and through the tough times afterward. He clashed often with AFL leaders as he fought for the "One Big Union" of the Maritime Federation and was at one point even barred by the Texas Federation of Labor for his work to set up the Federation. Consistently sticking to his belief in the need for united labor-for longshoremen to be in solidarity with seamen and with workers on other docks; he challenged the prevailing trade-union spirit of the day. His opposition came from entrenched union bureaucracy, and Mers holds this bureaucracy responsible for the weak position of US labor today.

Mers has done us a great favor of recording his honorable history. We owe it to him to read it and learn.

Ingrid Kock

# 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 Flr., 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, Arvon, 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, Towners 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, Arvon, VA 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.

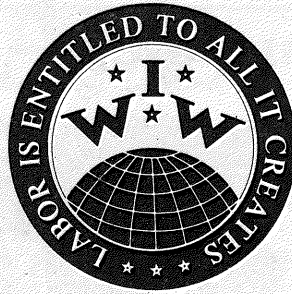
**-A Workers' Guide to Direct Action**, \$.50 from: New York IWW, P.O. Box 183, New York, N.Y. 10028.

**-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.

IWW BUTTONS \$1.00 each.



## 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.

## 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.**

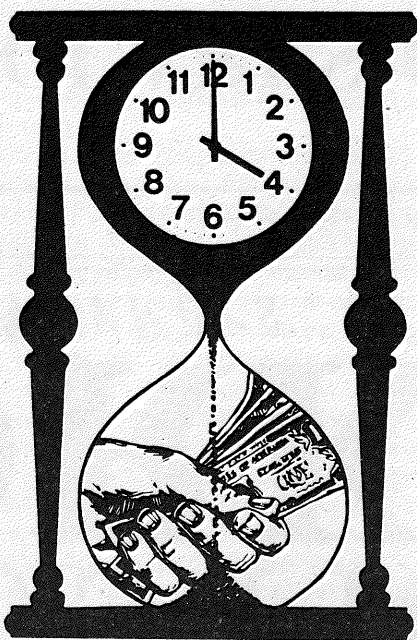
**WE FIND THAT THE CENTERING OF THE MANAGEMENT OF INDUSTRIES INTO FEWER AND FEWER HANDS MAKES THE TRADE UNIONS UNABLE TO COPE WITH THE EVER GROWING POWER OF THE EMPLOYING CLASS. THE TRADE UNIONS FOSTER A STATE OF AFFAIRS WHICH ALLOWS ONE SET OF WORKERS TO BE PITTED AGAINST ANOTHER SET OF WORKERS IN THE 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.**

## Time for a



## FOUR HOUR DAY

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- IWW Preamble and Constitution.....1.00

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Songs of the Industrial Workers of the World performed by the members of Entertainment Workers IU 630, IWW

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- Faith Petric
- Fred Holstein
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- Bob Bovee
- Jeff Cahill
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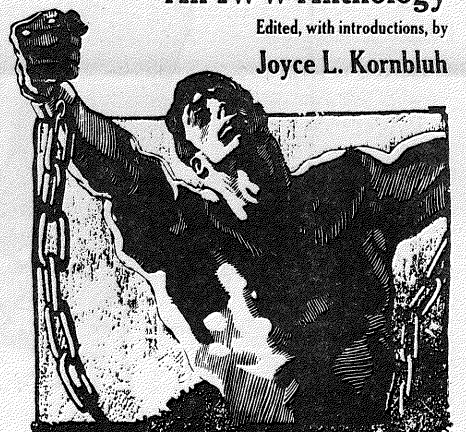
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# Rebel Voices

An IWW Anthology

Edited, with introductions, by  
 Joyce L. Kornbluh



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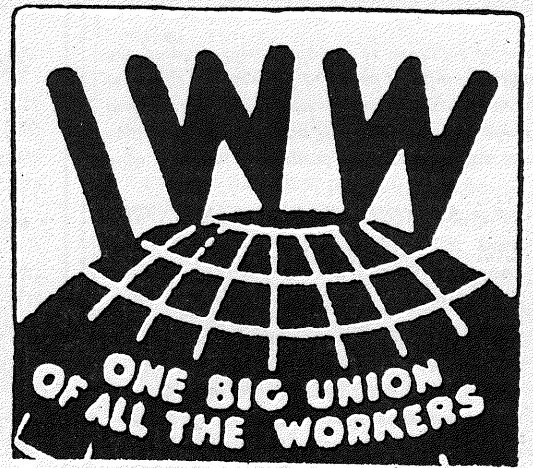
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# INDUSTRIAL WORKER

*Industrial Workers of the World*



VOLUME 86, NUMBER 4, WH 1511

April 1989

50 cents

## IWW DECLARES GENERAL STRIKE

### How Did They Do It Wonders Congress

### I Thought We Got Rid of Them Declares FBI

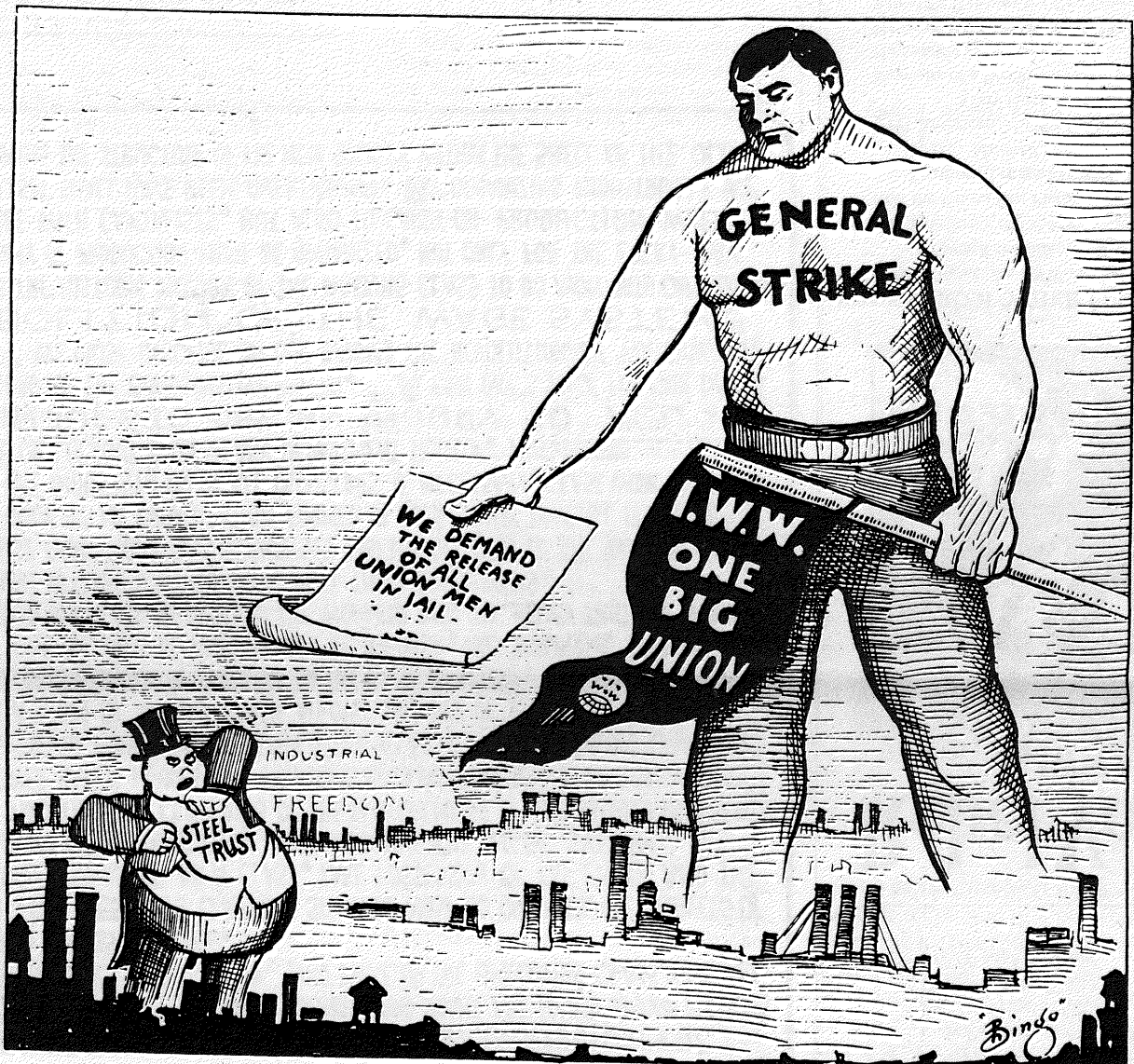
Dateline Chicago (AF wire services) It started when the Chicago office of the Industrial Workers of the World ordered a pizza. "They cut the wages again" moaned Tony, the delivery lad. "Second time in two years." We suggested between munching the black olives that the fellow should implement some direct action. "Like what?" he wondered. "Slowdown. Work to rule" we responded. "Never do" he cried. "They'd fire me." "Then declare a general strike" we kidded, hoping to cheer him up. "Tell 'em with each delivery that the IWW has declared a general strike." Tony grinned, thanked us for the tip and left. The rest is history.

### UNDERCURRENT LONG SEETHING

Before the major television networks went off the air they broadcast an interview with Harold Bartholomew Picard, official voice of the AF of L. the mouth of the labor movement described a long period of decline for American labor which has created a "seething undercurrent of hostility" among workers, he said. "Frankly we weren't aware it was this bad. Do you suppose the workers feel this way in other countries too?" The transmission was suddenly interrupted when power from the substation failed. A power company spokesperson later denied reports of sabotage.

### CHICAGO LOOP PARALYZED SONG LAW FOR YUPIES

Except for the bustle of workers hurrying to join the picket line, the loop is silent. The air is mysteriously fresh. The streets are peaceful as an elephant graveyard. Abandoned buses have become shelters for the homeless. Since workers in the petroleum and transportation industries voted to ignore no-strike clauses not a vehicle has moved. The city's cab drivers, always adept at handling tie-ups, have successfully established massive picket lines around police stations and there is not a badge to be seen. Workers have declared song law for yuppies—that is, any individual caught on the streets in suit and tie must sing three verses of Solidarity Forever! The mayor was heard grumbling about Haymarket solutions, but nothing more has been reported. National Guard troops have been stranded in the suburbs since the strike was called.



### STRIKE MAY LAST INDEFINITELY CONGRESS VOTES ACTION

Head of the National Chamber of Commerce I.M. Welbourne appeared in an interview on the Emergency Broadcasting Network today. "I don't understand it" he said, shaking his head sadly. "What did we do to piss them off?" Meanwhile Congress voted to use regular army for strike suppression. The Speaker of the House expressed doubts about the plan, however, saying "I got this uneasy feeling when I tried to get through to the Joint Chiefs of Staff. The J.C.S. secretary called me 'fellow worker'".

### PRESIDENT INCONVENIENCED

The President has been touring the nation in Air Force One. "I don't like landing on these country roads" he complained. "I never thought they could tie up the airports."

### PANIC ON WALL STREET

Stocks fell to record lows today as the market turned grizzly. A portly broker was heard to exclaim, "I learned at Harvard that labor could never do this to all my companies at once. I've lost millions. Millions! I ask you, what did I ever do to them? Reporters are calling it the Crash of April Fool's Day."

**"Which way to the unemployment line?"**  
— AFL-CIO Chief



**More Strike News Inside**